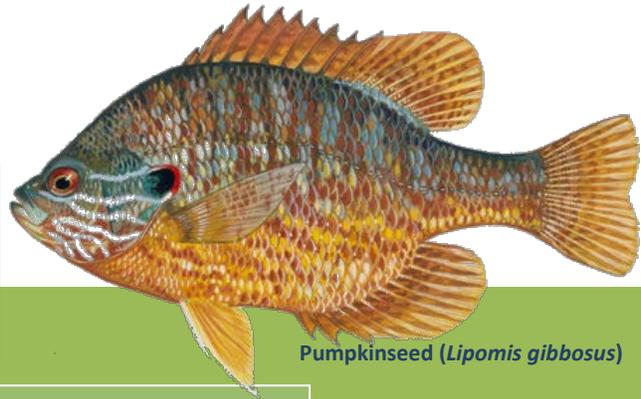


CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 14
7/24/2014



Pumpkinseed (*Lipomis gibbosus*)



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been fair to very good, with night fishing in full swing and producing many fish. Try black jitterbugs and surface poppers for some explosive strikes. Places to try include Bantam Lakecongamond Lakes, Ball Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Hanover Pond, Amos Lake, Mudge Pond, Gardner Lake, Mono Pond, Hatch Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Wood Creek Pond, Winchester Lake, Highland Lake, Park Pond, Pickerel Lake, Rogers Lake, Shelton Reservoir(s), Crystal Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Squantz Pond, West Hill Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Pattaconk Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Halls Pond, Griggs Pond, Bigelow Pond, Lake McDonough, Cedar Lake, Kenosia Lake, Mamanasco Lake, Lake Housatonic, Pachaug Pond, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Bashan Lake, Uncas Lake, Bishop Swamp and Lake Hayward. **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good action last, with some bigger fish including 5.04 lb, 4.39 lb and 3.87 lb fish; but slow earlier this week with only a 1.97 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (“poor” fishing, with a 2.07 lb lunker and mostly 1-lb fish at best), Lake of Isles (fair fishing, with a 3.34 lb lunker, the average per fishing was over 2 lbs each), Pachaug Pond (slow to fair, not much size with a 2.75 lb lunker), West Thompson Lake (fair to good, with some size including a 4.5 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair fishing, 4.13 lb lunker but not much else in size), Candlewood Lake (good at night, with 6.4, 5.2 & 5.2 lb lunkers), lake Lillinonah (slow day for most) and Lake Zoar (fair action, with 4.1 lb and 3.68 lunkers).

Some **SMALLMOUTH BASS** action reported from Mashapaug Lake, Coventry Lake, Upper Housatonic River (good action earlier this week, tough last week due to high flows), Gardner Lake, Colebrook River Lake, Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, West Hill Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Lake McDonough and Highland Lake. Fair to good river action reported from the Naugatuck River, Willimantic River, Coventry Lake, Upper Housatonic River (good action earlier this week, tough last week due to high flows) and Farmington River (Tarriffville). **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (tough), West Thompson Lake (not bad for one angler



Al Sonski, manager of DEEP's Kensington Fish Hatchery holding a broodstock Seeforellen strain brown trout. This fish is 37 inches in length and weighed 28 lbs, and is one of the fish from the 2009 year-class that will be spawned later in the fall. Following spawning, the remaining fish (spawning can be stressful, especially for older fish) will be stocked into selected waters.

targeting them), Bantam Lake (a few), Candlewood Lake (good), Lake Zoar (slow to fair for smallmouth, with 3.54 lb and 3.04 lb lunkers).

NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Quaddick Reservoir (sporadic action), Winchester Lake (try the north end), Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah (some nice catches reported) and the upper Housatonic River.

KOKANEE SALMON reports came in from West Hill Pond this week with night fishing with corn produced several fish.

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake, and Batterson Park Pond.

Excellent **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows reported at Park Pond and Shenipsit Lake.

PANFISH continues to provide very good action. In the shallows with bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners will make many young anglers happy. Your small local ponds are often great places for panfish, bigger waters to try include Birges Pond, Pierrpont Pond, Zeiner Pond, Lake Winnemaug, Lake Waramaug, Tollgate Pond, Valley Falls Pond, Hayward Lake, Amos Lake, Aspinook Pond, Dog Pond, Halls Pond, Shenipsit Lake, Glasgo Pond, Mudge Pond and Gorton Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions will again be variable this weekend with another brief warm-up and some storms possible. As for stream flows, it's a tale of two states. In eastern CT, flows in many areas are below typical late July levels, and in western CT, flows are generally above (well above in several rivers) typical levels (see wade (see stream flow graphic on page 4). Anglers can find stream flows for a number of areas at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt>. And with more hot & humid days popping up, anglers will find that early and late in the day are peak fishing times at this time of the year. Select your location carefully to avoid undue stress on the fish.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing beginning June 15. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Farmington River Fishing and conditions have been variable over the last two weeks due to rain events, with some good fishing reported, especially in the upper West Branch Farmington River. Currently flows are on the high side, 392 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 217 cfs. Conditions should improve this weekend as inputs from the Still River continues to drop and the West Branch clears. Morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Light Dark Hendrickson (*Ephemera needhami*, #22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #14-16, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #20-24, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners; hatch is coming to an end), Rusty Spinner (#12-24), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #18-22, evening), Light Cahills (#12-14), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-24, mid day, when windy/humid) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit

www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2014 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).



Housatonic River – The river has been difficult to fish for much of the last two weeks due to high flows. Flows had just cleared some and dropped to more fishable levels this week when storms in western MA again increased flows to difficult levels, currently 2,230 cfs at Falls Village and 2,950 cfs at Gaylordsville. Flows are beginning to again drop to fishable levels. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). Conversely, tributaries are in good condition for fishing. Morning water temperatures are in the low 70's °F.

Hatches/patterns. Alder Flies (#10-12), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and assorted caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Terrestrial season is here, try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#18-22, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). The Dobson Fly (#2-6) is active and anglers can use a black woolly bugger to mimic it.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Early morning anglers are still boating some good fish. Places to try include Mashapaug Lake, Coventry Lake (try evenings), Crystal Lake (7-8 colors, 6:00-9:00 am on blue/silver), East Twin Lake (orange/copper lures on riggers at 30-40 feet), Highland Lake (7 colors, center basin), Lake McDonough (riggers at 25 feet near the dam), Beach Pond (early; deep trolling streamers near causeway) and West Hill Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are a bit higher than is typical for late July, but very comfortable for boating and fishing, and making it easier to get into some of those often hard-to-get-into coves and backwaters. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been variable, ranging from slow to good. Try the Middletown to Haddam area. Fly fishing for these fish can be very exciting. Good numbers of **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught from Hartford on north (especially near the Bissell Bridge, and around Kings Island), and also downriver in the Salmon River area. **CATFISH** are being taken on fresh/frozen cut bait in the Middletown area. Targeting shallow areas near deep drop-offs at night seems to work the best. **CARP** action was excellent for anglers using Euro-style which brought several fish to the mat. Boilies and method with pop-ups, helicopter rigs & hair rigs did the trick. Action can be found in the Haddam Meadows area and downstream from pre-baited sites.

TIPS & TRICKS WHAT IS HARLING?

- ❖ A Scottish trolling method using weighted line.
- ❖ Targets fish in 10-15 feet of water.
- ❖ Works best early/late in the day.
- ❖ Rod can be a fly rod or boat rod (5') with a soft tip & trolling reel.
- ❖ The line consists of 2 colors of lead line with a tapered leader.
- ❖ Use mono for backing.
- ❖ It is an excellent way to target shallow drop-offs and edges of weed beds.
- ❖ The boat should move no faster than a walking pace.
- ❖ Gentle turns provide extra action to the fly or lure.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



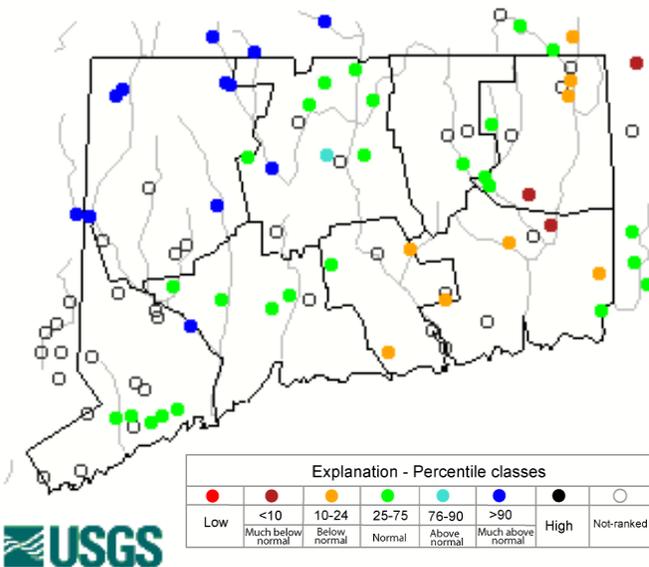
NOTES & NOTICES:

BESECK LAKE A 13 foot drawdown to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing.

BANTAM LAKE The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted on Friday, August 1 (raindate is Saturday, August 4), from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm at Sandy Beach in North Bay.

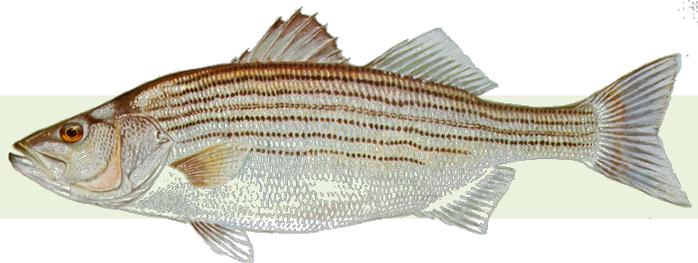
Stream flow conditions as of 7/24/2014

Thursday, July 24, 2014 19:30ET



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Even with fringe effects from Hurricane Arthur mixing up local waters and dumping a good amount of rain, surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to range from the high 60's to low 70's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing is in the summer doldrums. This means fishing from sundown to sunrise is the best time to fish for “cow” stripers. Bunker (Atlantic menhaden) schools are in the major tidal rivers and harbors with stripers following close behind. Look for hovering or diving ospreys which is dead giveaway for locating bunker schools. Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the “humps” south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

BLUEFISH fishing is about the same – fair to good. Again, look for schools of bait and the blues won’t be far behind. Bluefish locations include the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER** fishing is picking up in the tidal creeks and rivers.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair. Deeper (50+ feet) water is your better bet for keeper size fish. Fluke spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP (porgy) fishing gets better by the day and **BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is good on the major reefs and wrecks throughout LIS. Try the Fort Trumbull State Park fishing pier for some great shore fishing action!

HICKORY SHAD fishing remains good in the Black Hall River and the lower Connecticut River especially by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.

BLUE CRABBING has vastly improved in the tidal creeks and rivers!

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

*Don't forget about the **BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM**, for more information go to: www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing.*

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

In addition, Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please refer to page 60 of the 2014 CT Angler's Guide for [Connecticut Tides](#).

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
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79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
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*Pumpkinseed & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*