

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 18
8/21/2014



Green Sunfish (*Lepomis cyanellus*)



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Take someone fishing

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as slow in many areas. Night fishing is still producing some fish (try black jitterbugs and surface poppers). Waters to try include Billings Lake, Gardner Lake, Tyler Lake, Burr Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Shenipsit Lake, East Twin Lake, Candlewood Lake, Congamond Lakes, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Black Pond (Middlefield), Hatch Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Lake McDonough, Bishop Swamp and Dog Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Beach Pond (tough day, not many fish and not much size except for the 4.25 lb lunker), Lake of Isles (fair at best, with a 3.7 lb lunker), long Pond (fair fishing, with a 3.9 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair, with a 4.5 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair, not many big fish) and Lake Lillinonah (slow, with a 3.56 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS catches are reported at Lake McDonough, Colebrook Reservoir, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake and the upper Housatonic River (slow fishing for river smallies; fish are deeper than expected).

Tournament angler reports are from Beach Pond (very slow), Candlewood Lake (smallie action was slow-fair last week) and Lake Lillinonah (slow).

NORTHERN PIKE are reported from Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

KOKANEE SALMON – some action reported from East Twin Lake.

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

CHAIN PICKEREL are being caught at Congamond Lakes, East Twin Lake and Wononskopomuc Lake.

CATFISH – Generally slow with few catches reported in the recently stocked areas such as Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that's been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



PANFISH took some effort from anglers this past week. Targeting the shallows with bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners is normally a good method and small spinners and jigs can also be productive at this time of the year. Panfish are always a good way to get kids interested in fishing. Areas to try include Shenipsit Lake, Bishop Swamp, Zemko Pond, Allen Brook Pond (Wharton Brook State Park), Black Rock State Park, West Thompson Lake, Valley Falls Pond, Stroh Park Pond, Tollgate Pond, Martha Hart Pond (Doer Pond), Silver Lake, Sochrin Pond, Schreeder Pond, Sawmill Park Pond and Savin Lake.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - August trout anglers are finding some fair to good action for trout, with reports from Crystal Lake (Ellington), Coventry Lake, Highland Lake (second basin), Lake McDonough (south end), East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond (south end).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be good for trout fishing this weekend, with cool, comfortable weather forecast and generally adequate flows (although still lowest in eastern CT streams and generally higher in western CT - *see stream flow graphic on page 4*). Trout fishing was generally slow last week, but fishing on the West Branch Farmington, Farmington and Housatonic rivers was good to begin this week. At this time of the year anglers are advised to include terrestrial fly patterns in their offerings.

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 has been good (once flows settled down from last week's rain) and conditions should be good for the weekend. West Branch flows are clear and moderate, currently 328 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 51 cfs. An 8' 6" 4 weight fly rod with a 12' leader and 6X tippet is recommended for this flow.

Hatches/patterns include Trico (*Trycorythodes stygiatus*, #22-26, morning 6am – 10am), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs duns (#14-20, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa, #18-20 morning), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#18-20, midday in fast water), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, midday) 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 – Conditions for summer trout fishing should be excellent on the Housatonic, with generally cool weather in the forecast through the weekend, moderate water temperatures (currently in the mid 60's°F) and clear, very fishable flows (currently 565 cfs at Falls village and 834 cfs at Gaylordsville). A 9' 4 weight fly rod with a 9' leader and 7X tippet is recommended for this flow.

Hatches/patterns include the White fly (*Ephoron leukon*, #12-14, dawn & dusk – a few still left), Sulfurs (#16-18 dusk/dark), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#18-22, mid day in fast water) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), fish will focus on ants when they are on the water (after a rain). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns include white Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are clearing and a bit higher than typical for late August but very comfortable for fishing. Some **NORTHERN PIKE** are being taken at the confluences of rivers & streams, in the coves and in the mains stem near Middletown and in the Haddam Meadows area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being taken in the Hartford-Middletown area & in the coves along the lower river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported in the Enfield area (although action is on the slow side) area and near the mouth of the Farmington River. Sunfish and cut bait are producing some **CATFISH** action. Target outside bends in the river and the upstream side of deeper holes near structure.

NOTES & NOTICES:

BESECK LAKE A 13 foot drawdown to facilitate dam repairs continues.

LAKE LILLINONAH. A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Thursday (August 21) through Saturday (August 23)** in the far upper end of the "Shepaug Arm". This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

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

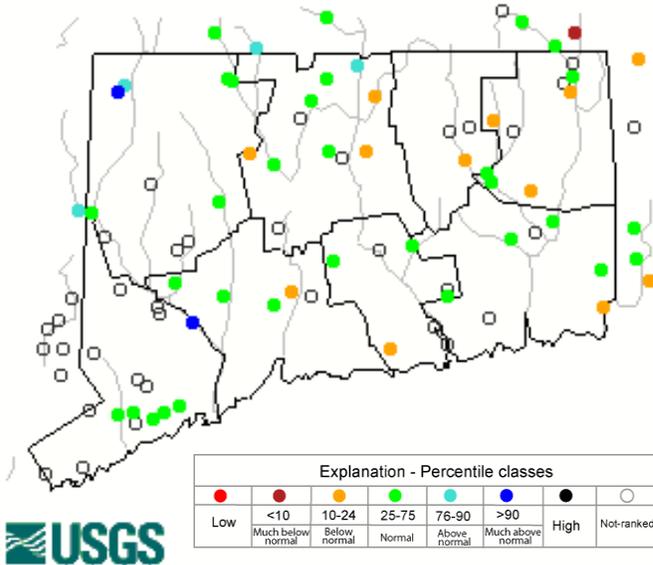
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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



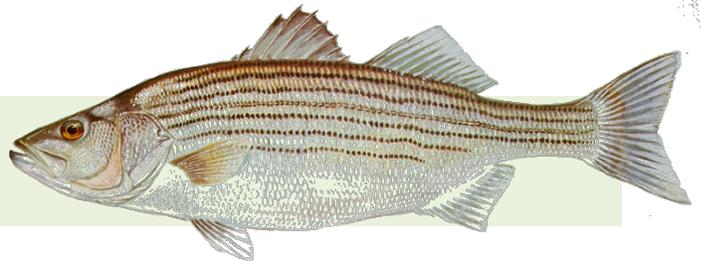
Stream flow conditions as of 8/21/2014

Thursday, August 21, 2014 17:30ET



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



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue in 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing remains fair to good. Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or scup on the reefs at dawn and dusk has been productive. Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and 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 and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower 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 has improved and is more consistent as it should be for this time of year. Larger bluefish weighing in the lower teens have been attacking bunker schools in the lower tidal rivers during dawn and dusk. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER** fishing has improved in the tidal creeks and rivers with fish measuring now about 4 to 6 inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair to good but you have to put your time in to land that big doormat. Live lining snapper blues is the choice method by fluke sharpies. The usual summer flounder 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 including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, 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 is good to excellent on the major reefs with hubcap size (15+ inches in length) fish being reported!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is still good on the major reefs. For those willing to travel, Block Island Sound is the place to be for humpback sea bass. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Madison to Branford have been consistent all season.

HICKORY SHAD fishing was red hot over the weekend in the Black Hall River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier).

BLUE CRABBING is fair to good in the tidal creeks depending on the location. The more popular spots have been "crabbed out".

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
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

*Green Sunfish & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*