

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 20
8/27/2015



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)



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INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally reported as good. Places to try include Congamond Lakes (pm), Candlewood Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Highland Lake, Halls Pond, Upper Moodus Reservoir, Union Pond, Bolton Lakes, Mohawk Pond, Dog Pond, Tyler Lake, West Side Pond, Winchester Lake, Park Pond, Rainbow Reservoir, Stillwater Pond, Billings Lake, Gardner Lake, Burr Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Shenipsit Lake, East Twin Lake, Hatch Pond, Bantam Lake, Mudge Pond, Coventry Lake, Pachaug Pond, Lake McDonough, Ball Pond and Cedar Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Beach Pond (fair action at best, nothing big, with a 1.78 lb luncker), Glasgo Pond (fair to good, a 4.7 lb luncker but not much else of any size), Long Pond (fair, with 4.76 lb, 3.5 lb and 2.15 lb lunkers), Pachaug Pond (fair to good, 4.2 lb luncker), Powers Lake (tough, with a 1.91 lb luncker), Candlewood Lake (fishing was fair to good for largemouth, lunkers included 5.2 lb, 5.18 lb, 5lb, and 3.9 lb fish), Lake Lillinonah (good, 5.22 lb luncker) and Lake Zoar (fair to good, with a 3.5 lb luncker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at Candlewood Lake, Lake Housatonic, Rainbow Reservoir, , Lake McDonough, Highland Lake and Bantam Lake. Good reports for river smallmouth from the Housatonic River, Naugatuck River and Quinebaug River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (smallie fishing is much better than it was a month ago, lunkers include 4.21 lb, 3.75 lb, 3.56 lb fish), and Lake Zoar (fair action, 4.1 lb and 3.46 lb lunkers).

Early morning **KOKANEE SALMON** catches are reported from East Twin Lake (15-16 inch fish) and West Hill Pond (target 30-35 feet).



SAVE THE DATE

Connecticut Hunting & Fishing Day

Saturday, September 26, 2015. 10 am-4 pm

Back by popular demand! On September 26, 2015 the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources and the sporting community will be at [Sessions Woods Wildlife Management Area](#) celebrating the many benefits of hunting and fishing (click on [Hunting & Fishing Day](#) for online information).

Fun activities for all ages are planned, along with educational programs, a live raptor program by Talons, workshops about hunting and fishing, and live music. Best of all, the event is free to attend!



NORTHERN PIKE are reported to be good in Winchester Lake, Lake Housatonic, Bantam Lake, and the small impoundments on the upper Housatonic River.

Several **CARP** were reported from Lake Lillinonah, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Squantz Pond and West Thompson Reservoir.

CHAIN PICKEREL are being caught at Wononskopomuc Lake, Mohawk Pond and Tyler Lake.

PANFISH are providing excellent late summer action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include Black Rock State Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Moosup Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Halls Pond, Crescent Lake, Crystal Lake (Middletown), Dog Pond, Hopeville Pond, Lake Kenosia, Lake of Isles, Winchester Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Roseland Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Billings Lake, Bishop Pond and your small local ponds (often great places for sunnie fishing).

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 2015 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Some lakes are producing good late summer fishing, with reports from Crystal Lake (Ellington; 7-8 colors; orange/silver), Beach Pond (blue/silver at 7-8 colors), West Hill Pond (south end) and East Twin Lake (riggers at 30 feet).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions for the weekend will be variable. Some cool nights should improve water temperatures, but as for flows, it's a tale of two states with flows at or above typical late August levels in much of western CT, and flows in eastern CT well below typical levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*). This time of the year terrestrial fly patterns are very important. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River (early/late).

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers. Additionally, a thermal refuge has been established on the Salmon River in East Haddam, located around a spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the unused paved boat launch at the state-owned property formerly known as the Sunrise Resort off of Route 151. The refuge includes all water within 100 feet from the end of the pipe as posted. The Salmon River refuge will be closed to fishing and access through September 15.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been good and conditions for the weekend should be very good. The cooler nights this week will keep water temperatures down some and recent rains in the upper watershed have refreshed flows. Currently morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F (and rising through the day into the 70's °F) and flows are clear and moderate (currently 826 cfs at falls Village and 834 cfs at Gaylordsville). A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended for these flows.

Hatches patterns include the Leadwing Coachman (#10-12, main evening hatch), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Midges (#20-24) and stoneflies are located at the mouths of streams. Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Try Ants (#14-16, mid-day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-16, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying

Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Farmington River - Fishing has been good (early and late in the day are the best times). Conditions on the West Branch should be good for the weekend, with clear water and moderate flows (currently 288 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 18 cfs). An 8 foot 6 inch 4-5 weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 6X tippet is recommended for this flow.

Hatches/patterns include the Trico (*Trycorythodes stygiatus*, #22-26, morning from 6:00am – 10:00am; spinner mainly), *Ephemerella needhami* (#16-20, early morning to early afternoon), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening in the Riverton area), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 20-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, evenings), Black Ants (#12-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-14, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #8-14, late evening).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows and turbidity increased some this week, but the river remains very comfortable for fishing and boating (and it'll be easier to get your boat into some of those difficult to access areas). **CARP** have come to the net in Hartford, Middletown, Rocky Hill (boat launch area) and Haddam Meadows area. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported in the Enfield (Kings Island) area, but action is slower than last year. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been tough at times, catches include a 4.1 lb bass. **NORTHERN PIKE** are being caught in the Hartford to Cromwell area. Night fishing for **CATFISH** in the Hartford-Middletown areas is very good. Fishing with chunk bait is producing some nice fish. They are coming in from the deep holes and the outside of bends. **BLUEFISH** are being reported in the mouth of the river. Anglers reported success in 30-50 feet of water.

ATTENTION FARMINGTON RIVER USERS.

Is that "didymo" that you may have seen on rocks in the river this summer?



Not exactly –But close. It's *Cymbella janischii* (another diatom).

Cymbella janischii is currently blooming in the West Branch Farmington River in the town of Barkhamsted. *Cymbella janischii* is related to Didymo and forms thick mats (2-4 inches thick) that can cover the substrate. *Cymbella janischii* closely resembles Didymo in that it produces long thin stalks and is commonly lumped as a "rock snot". To the naked eye, these stalks look light grey, fluffy, and some may form longer "tail-like" strands.

Anglers and all users of the river are urged to follow check, clean, dry methods to reduce the transport of *Cymbella janischii* (and all potential non-native species) from the West Branch Farmington to other waters around the state.

Cymbella janischii is endemic to the Pacific Northwest, where it can also form thick mats, and prior to its discovery in the West Branch Farmington River in 2012, had not been reported east of the Rocky Mountains.

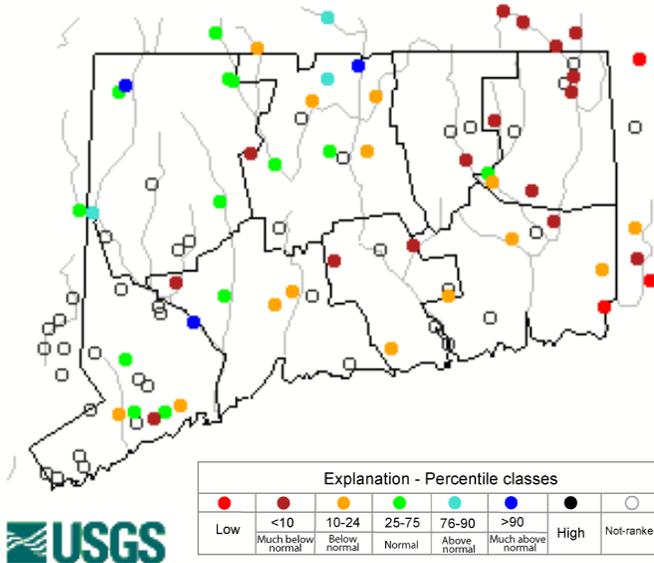
NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently down approximately 8 feet) following dam repairs and the state boat launch is closed.

LAKE LILLINONAH (waterski event). A water ski tournament for the disabled is scheduled for Saturday, **August 29** 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.

Stream flow conditions as of 8/27/2015

Thursday, August 27, 2015 19:00ET



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”.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

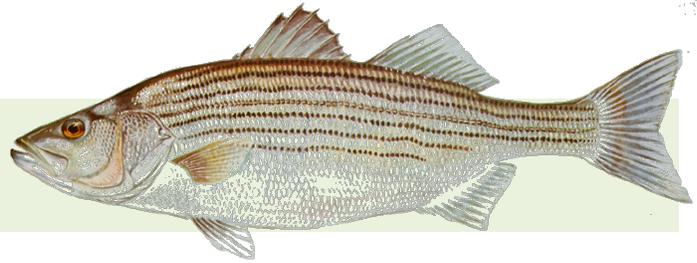
Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut’s public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

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

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



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue in the mid to upper 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>

SPECIAL REMINDER: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season will close September 1 and also the BLACK SEA BASS daily creel limit will increase to 5 fish per person on September 1.

STRIPED BASS fishing should improve around the "Full Sturgeon" moon along the shoreline and lower tidal rivers, especially at dawn as these large bass feed on menhaden during low light conditions. Fishing 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 (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor and the upper reaches, West Haven, 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. ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch and release when possible.***

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be good in the eastern and central sound (Southwest Reef), slower in the western sound. Fishing is consistent in the Race and Plum Gut. Also, large bluefish have been pushing bunker up into harbors and tidal rivers including the Thames River, Connecticut River, upper reaches of New Haven Harbor (West River, Mill River and Quinnipiac River) and the Housatonic River. Choppers up to 15 lbs have been reported. Other bluefish spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Harbor blues have been feeding on snappers in the lower CT River and providing some fast paced fun fishing for anglers (shore and boat).**

SNAPPER BLUES fishing continues to improve as they get larger and larger as the days go by. Fishing around the top of the flood tide has been better. Snappers are now approximately 4-8 inches in length. Look for the schools of "peanut" bunker and you will find the snappers.

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing continues to improve in the sound. Some very large "False Albacore" were recently caught in the eastern Sound. These small tunas are cruising around from Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point and west to New Haven. Dawn is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas. Try casting metal

Attention:

OUTDOOR GROUPS/CLUBS/BUSINESSES.

The upcoming **Hunting and Fishing Day**, September 26, 2015 is from 10 am to 4 pm at Sessions Woods Wildlife Management area and DEEP would like to invite you to attend.

There is no charge for the event and you can showcase your group/business/organization with a tabletop display.

If you are interested in attending, please contact Laurie Fortin at laurie.fortin@ct.gov.

For more information on the event go to: www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday.

(heavy) lures to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing remains fair to good especially in deeper water of 90+ feet. Live lining snapper blues in the deep water is an effective way to score on late summer doormats. Traditional 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, Two Tree 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, and south of the Norwalk Islands

SCUP (porgy) "**Reef Slammers**" are measuring 14-17 inches ("hubcap size") in length. Try fishing along fishing piers, any reef or rock pile in the Sound. Seriously, they are everywhere and easy to catch...go out enjoy the fast paced family fun action. Try **the Race/Valiant Rock**, Gardners Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic, Millstone, Two Tree island, (Bartletts and Hatchetts Reef). Porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible shore fishing locations: **Saint Mary's by the Sea**, Calf Pasture beach, Jennings and Penfield beach, Seaside Park, (Milford), Bradley Point Park (West Haven), New Haven, **Harkness State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Kimberley Reef (Guilford)**, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and **Fort Trumbull State Park**. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these excellent eating and fun catching "Reef Slammers". These "Panfish of the Sea" are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your local [bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information (see page 14 of the 2015 CT Angler's Guide).

BLACK SEA BASS fishing continues to be fantastic. Absolutely the best fishing in the Sound. The hot spots continues to be **The Race** during slack tide/**Lower Thames River Reefs/Goshen Reef/Falkner Island/Guilford/Branford Beacon/Southwest Reef/Middle Ground/Stratford Shoal**. Fishing over deep water structure/cobble/gravel in 90 to 130 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized "humpbacks on baited jigs or gulp. It's important to continue to move from structure to structure and fish around slack tide (stay close to the bottom) to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT Black Sea Bass regulations are as follows...14 inch min. length, 3 fish daily limit from June 1st to August 31 and a five fish daily limit from September 1 to December 31st**. Berkely Gulp swimming mullet (green or white) on a spro jig and squid with a spinner above works great for these tasty "Bucketmouths".

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing continues to be steady for this "hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins". Also, called "**Poor-Man's Lobster**", these fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at Connecticut's many

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION

To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website:

<http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **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 see page 60 of the [2015 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

BRACKISH WATER & SEA TURTLE INFORMATION

- Link to [IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON SEA TURTLES](#)
- [NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE](#) – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle with unavoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years.

shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 20 inches and “barking up a storm” (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is getting better...some nice 18 to 20 inch CT Tarpon have been reported. Try the Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Baldwin Bridge State Boat Launch, Clinton Harbor, lower Housatonic River and Fort Trumbull. These “CT Tarpon” providing outstanding/fun shore fishing for anglers. **Tie on a silver willowleaf lure or a small charteuse jig (add a 14-20 inch leader) with a slip sinker above the swivel along with light tackle (6-lb test main line).** Cast to current breaks/channels and retrieve the lure and hold on/have fun...

WHITE PERCH fishing spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), upper Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower **Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier)**, Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove, Hamburg Cove and Housatonic River. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings...just scoop them up and put them on a small hook.

BLUE CRAB fishing remains slow for keepers. There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (7 inches spike to spike). **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for most updated information (local hot spots), legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. **Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited.** Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Although you might catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Sharks, they are both protected prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information.](#)

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

NOTABLE CATCHES:

<i>species</i>	<i>Length (inches)</i>	<i>Weight (lbs)</i>	<i>name</i>
Black Sea Bass	22.5	4.4	Michael Kraemer
Striped Bass	45.5	44.2	Jennifer Zuppe
Striped Bass	43.5	39.8	Jennifer Zuppe
Striped Bass	43.75	38.5	Jennifer Zuppe

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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www.ct.gov/deep

Striped Bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.