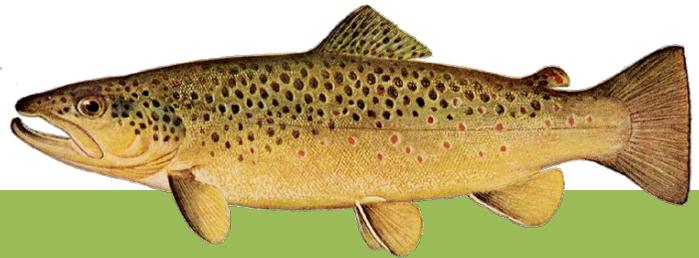


**CT DEEP** **2015**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 21**  
**9/3/2015**



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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**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](http://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

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Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally fair to good. Places to try include Congamond Lakes, Tyler Lake, Highland Lake, Shenipsit Lake, Candlewood Lake, Nod Brook WMA, Lower Bolton Lake, Bantam Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Mudge Pond, Pachaug Pond, Burr Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam River, Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Babcock Pond, Winchester Lake, Stillwater Pond, Leonard Pond, Lake Zoar, Gardner Lake, Crescent Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden/Middlefield), Silver Lake (Meriden), Lake Hayward, Housatonic Lake, Stillwater Pond and Bishop Swamp.

**Tournament angler** reports are Aspinook Pond (fair, nothing of any size), Gardner Lake (fair-good, with 4.88 lb and 3.9 lb lunkers), Long Pond (fair to good, with a 4.3 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (not bad, with a 3.94 lb lunker), (Quaddick Lake (good for largemouth, with two lunkers over 5 lbs each), Candlewood Lake (good, with a 3.97 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (fair action, 3.5 lb lunker).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** action reported at Candlewood Lake (action getting much better), Highland Lake, Bantam Lake and Colebrook Reservoir. River smallmouth action is good, with reports from the upper Housatonic River, Naugatuck River and Quinebaug River. **Tournament angler** reports are Aspinook Pond (a few in the bags, with a 2.35 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (only a few caught, with a 2 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (good for smallmouth, but they're not being found in the "usual" spots).

**NORTHERN PIKE** catches have been reported from Lake Lillinonah, Winchester Lake and Bantam Lake.

**CHAIN PICKEREL** were reported from Wononskopomuc Lake.

**PANFISH** are providing good early September action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include: Valley Falls Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Lake Wintergreen, Tollgate Pond, Tetreault Pond, Twin Brooks Park Pond, Mohawk Pond, Mudge Pond, Crescent Lake, Morey Pond and Hatch Pond.

### SPECIAL NOTE:

#### ANNUAL FARMINGTON RIVER LABOR DAY STOCKING.

There should be plenty of trout in the West Branch and main stem Farmington River for the Labor Day weekend with **2,000 brown trout (12 inch and bigger fish)** this week (*more information can be found in the Farmington River section on page 2*).

### 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!

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** - Conditions for trout fishing may be difficult in a number of areas, with only a slight break from hot weather and flows that continue to be below typical late summer levels in many areas throughout the state (and especially low in eastern CT – see stream flow graphic on page 4). Under these conditions anglers should take extra care with fish they plan to catch-and-release. Good to very good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River.

**Farmington River-** Trout fishing has been very good and anglers can look forward to even more fish in the river as this week **DEEP STOCKED 2,000 TROUT FOR THE LABOR DAY WEEKEND**. These fish are all brown trout (12 inch and bigger fish) with 1,000 fish stocked from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area (Route 219 bridge) to the lower Collinsville Dam, 700 fish from the lower Collinsville Dam to the Route 177 bridge (Unionville) and 300 fish along the “Larry Kolp Garden Plot” in Farmington (the stretch just upstream of the confluence with the Pequabuck River).

Water temperatures are in the mid 60’s °F (West Branch TMA, rising some during the day, and higher downstream). West Branch flows are clear and moderate, currently 298 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River providing another 11 cfs below Riverton. Farther downstream flows are shading a bit on the low side. An 8.5 foot 4-5 weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 6X tippet is recommended for these flows.

Next week (Wednesday, 9/9, through Friday, 9/11), DEEP expects to conduct its **annual electrofishing survey** of the West Branch Farmington River (subject to change depending on precipitation and flow conditions). Flows may be temporarily reduced and anglers may expect fishing in the West Branch TMA to be slow during and for several days following sampling.

**Hatches/patterns-** Trico Spinners (*Tricorythodes stygiatus* #22-26 in the morning) and Dark Hendrickson (*Ephemerella needhami*, #22-26, morning) are reported on the water. Other hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #10-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 20-26, mid-late afternoon), Light Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #10-20, early morning), Sulfurs duns (*Heptagenia* spp., #14-20, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; green #22-26, evening, summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, mid-day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-18, mid-day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid-day, when windy/humid) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #8-14, late evening).

### 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.

**Housatonic River** – Fishing continues to be good and conditions for the weekend should also be good. Currently flows are clear and a bit on the low side (250 cfs at falls Village and 297 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's °F (and rising through the day into the mid-70's °F). A 9 foot 4-weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended.

**Hatches/patterns** include Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), White fly (*Ephoron leukon*, #8-12, dawn & dusk), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Cahill (#12-14, evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Try Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, midday) and Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid-day). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening) patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - Anglers are finding fair-good late-summer action in some locations, with reports from East Twin Lake (25-30 feet fishing over 40 feet), Long Pond (streamers 25-30 feet) and Crystal Lake (Ellington; target 25-30 feet, fish are in a very narrow depth range, hard to target consistently, early morning).

## CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows and turbidity have dropped this week, with the river now down a bit below typical early September levels. The river is very comfortable for fishing and boating, although some of those tough to access places may be very difficult. **SNAPPER BLUE/STRIPED BASS** action in the lower river is good. **CATFISH** action has been good using cut bait near brush piles, timber, rock edges, near deep holes on the outside bend of the river. Try the Middletown to Haddam for some action. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing in the coves/mainstem Middletown to Haddam has been fair to good. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing remains good due to the warm weather. Give the Enfield to Hartford area try on the outside edges of the weeds. **BLACK CRAPPIE** angling on small shiners in the coves has been good.

## NOTES & NOTICES:

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

**GLASGO POND (drawdown).** A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs is currently scheduled to begin following Labor Day. Launching of boats may be difficult.

**RAINBOW RESERVOIR (drawdown).** From Wednesday, September 9, to Saturday, September 12, the reservoir will be drawn down 10-12 feet to facilitate inspection of power generation equipment. During this time, use of the state boat launch will be very difficult.

### LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

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

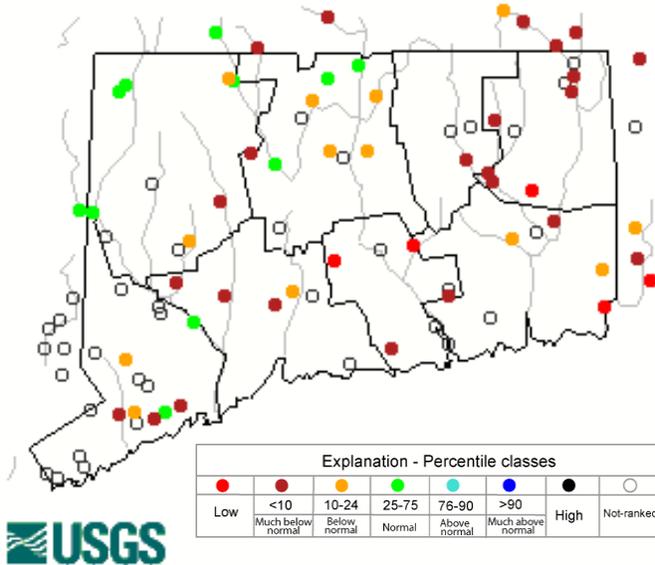
[www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general\\_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf)

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



Stream flow conditions as of 9/3/2015

Thursday, September 03, 2015 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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be “below normal”.

**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2015 CT angler’s Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).

**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.

## MARINE FISHING REPORT



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

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

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

**REMINDER: BLACK SEA BASS daily creel limit is 5 fish per person until Dec. 31, 2015.**

**STRIPED BASS** remains very good at dawn and dusk and also during the nighttime. Smaller sized bass can be caught during daylight hours (Griswold Point). 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 (maybe with that Humpback whale moving out...fishing will improve in the west). 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 blue fishing has really improved throughout the Sound. Find the birds diving for food and you will find these sub-adult bluefish (12-20 inches) feeding on snappers in the lower rivers and estuaries, providing some fast paced fun fishing for anglers (shore and boat).**

**SNAPPER BLUES** fishing is very good (finally) at many shore locations. They are getting larger and larger as the days go by. Fishing around the incoming flood tide has been better. Snappers are approximately 4-8 inches in length. Look for the schools of "peanut" bunker/bait and you will find the snappers.



**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](mailto:laurie.fortin@ct.gov).

For more information on the event go to: [www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday](http://www.ct.gov/deep/huntfishday).

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)** fishing remains good especially in deeper water of 90+ feet. A 33 inch, 16 pound doormat fluke was caught this week (unofficial state record). 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.

**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.

**SCUP** (porgy) "**Reef Slammers**" are measuring 14-18 inches ("hubcap size") in length. Seriously, they are everywhere and easy to catch...go out enjoy the fast paced family fun action. Try fishing deeper to catch those really huge scup. 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. You may have to move around and fish deeper as the season progresses. 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. Berkley Gulp swimming mullet (green or white) on a spro jig and squid with a spinner above works great for these tasty "Bucketmouths".

**ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY** fishing is sporadic...here today and gone tomorrow is the news. They are tough to spot in rough seas. Flat seas are the best for sight fishing. 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 (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.**

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** fishing continues to be fantastic from shore or boat. Also, called "**Poor-Man's Lobster**", these fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at Connecticut's many shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 22 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 slow, however some nice 16 to 21 inch "CT Tarpon" continue to be caught by those who try. 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 (6lb 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.**

**BLUE CRAB** fishing remains slow for keepers. There are some large "jimmies" (male crabs) being captured (8.5 inches spike to spike, Milford area). **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](mailto:deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov)

#### **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.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or [deep.accommodations@ct.gov](mailto:deep.accommodations@ct.gov) if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

#### **DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

*Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.*