

**CT DEEP 2014
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 20
9/4/2014**



Common Carp (*Cyprinus carpio*)



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 is reported as fair to good, with bigger fish sometimes being hard to find. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (action's been slowing), Highland Lake, Pachaug Pond, Congamond Lakes, Burr Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam River, Bantam Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Babcock Pond, Amos Lake, Lake McDonough (boat launch now closed for the season), Winchester Lake, Stillwater Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, Mudge Pond, Leonard Pond, Lake Zoar, Rogers Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Halls Pond, Silver Lake (Meriden), Lake Hayward, Housatonic Lake, Dog Pond and Bishop Swamp. **Tournament angler** reports are limited this week due to the Holiday weekend, with reports from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fishing slowed over the last week, and not much size with only a few fish reaching even 2 lbs last week).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action is mostly on the slow side but fish are being caught, with reports from Lake Lillinonah, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Zoar, Coventry Lake, Bantam Lake and Colebrook Reservoir. Housatonic River smallmouth fishing really picked up with last week's warmer weather.

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported from the upper Housatonic River, Lake Lillinonah and Pachaug Pond.

CARP came to net from the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond and Squantz Pond. Successful anglers used popups & boilies in a pre-baited swim.

CHAIN PICKEREL fishing was good at Wononskopomuc Lake.

PANFISH are providing good early September action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include Lake of Isles, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Aspinook Pond, Halls Pond, Hayward Lake, Amos Lake, Ball Pond, Rogers Lake, Tyler Lake, Park Pond, Mudge Pond and Dog Pond.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Some good late summer fishing can still be found, try Crystal Lake (Ellington; target 25-30 feet early morning; reportedly very good), East Twin Lake (30-35 feet), Highland Lake (target 30 plus feet) and West Hill Pond (25-33 feet).

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).



TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing was generally slow to fair last week as warmer more sultry weather returned. Best fishing was reported from the West Branch Farmington River (very good) and Housatonic River (good). Conditions for the upcoming weekend will be variable. Saturday's forecast includes very warm, humid weather and some rain possible as a strong cold front moves in while Sunday (and next week) likely more comfortable for trout and trout anglers as cooler weather returns. Flows continue to be a tale of two states with ample flows in most areas in western CT and flows below typical levels in many eastern CT streams (*see stream flow graphic on page 3*). With rain and T-storms possible on Saturday, flows may however increase in some areas for Sunday.

Farmington River - Trout fishing has been very good and conditions should be fairly good for the weekend with Sunday likely the better day. Remember that last week DEEP stocked 2,000 trout. These fish are all brown trout (12 inch and bigger fish) with 500 fish stocked from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area, 1,000 fish stocked from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area to the lower Collinsville Dam, and 500 fish from the lower Collinsville Dam to the Route 177 bridge (Unionville).

Currently water temperatures are in the low 60's °F (mornings) and West Branch flows are moderate (275 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 26 cfs). An 8.5 foot 4 weight fly rod with a 12 foot leader and 6X tippet is recommended for this flow. Next week (Tuesday, 9/9), 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 (*Ephemera needhami*, #22-26, morning) are reported on the water. The other hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 20-24, mid-late afternoon), Light Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Sulfurs duns (*Heptagenia* spp., #14-20, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #16-18, 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).

Housatonic River – Trout fishing was good last week. Flows are clear, moderate and very fishable, currently 434 cfs at Falls Village and 532 cfs at Gaylordsville. A 9 foot 4 weight fly rod with a 9 foot leader and 7X tippet is recommended for this flow. Water temperatures have cooled a bit from earlier in the week and are back in the high 60's°F (and rising through the day). With more heat and some storms in the forecast for Saturday due to an incoming cold front, Sunday will be the better day to fish.

Hatches/patterns include White fly (*Ephoron leukon*, #12-14, dawn & dusk), Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#20-26, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peek month), Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Try Black Ants (#14-20,

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.



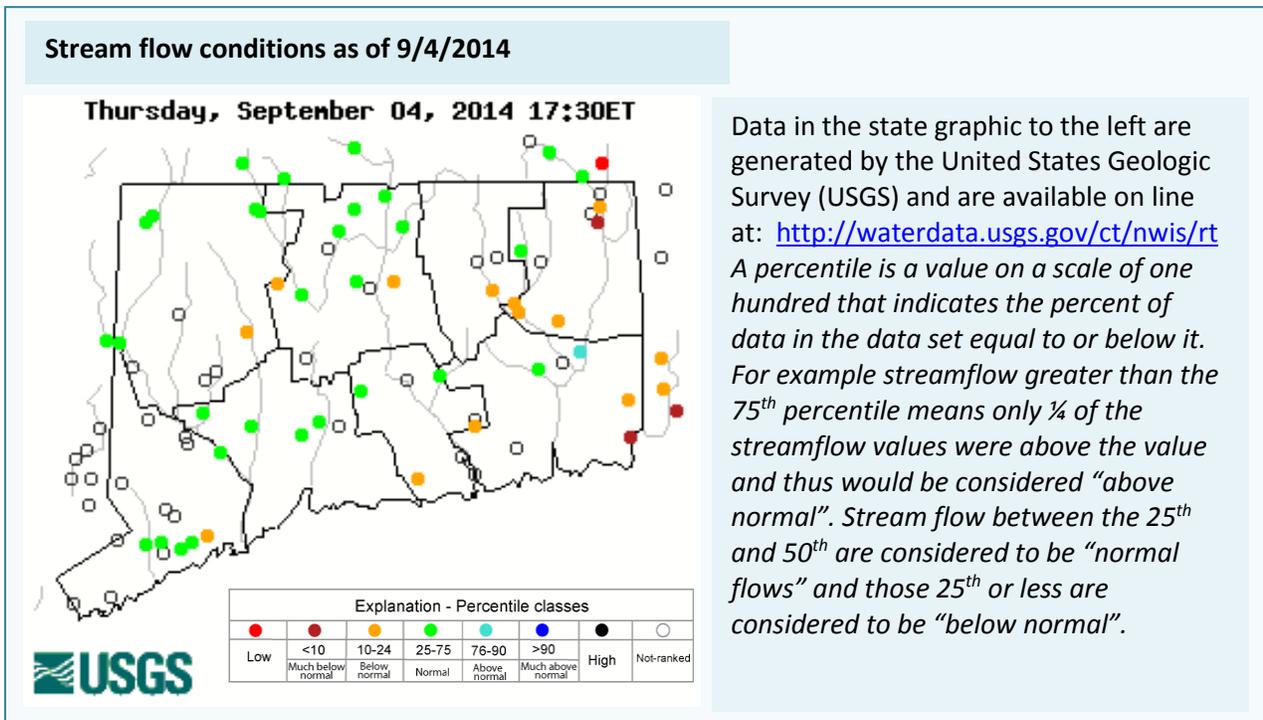
mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid-day). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Flows are a bit turbid and on the low side (but at typical early September levels) and comfortable for fishing, although access to some coves and back areas will be difficult. **CATFISH** action has been good of late. Cut bait in deep holes on the outside of bend has produced some nice fish (especially near brush piles). Try the Middletown to Portland area. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been fair to good with the coves and the main stem from Hartford to mid-river producing some fish. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing picked up somewhat due to the warmer weather in the Enfield area to Hartford area. Try the outside edges of the weeds. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** action has been good at times in the lower river coves but many anglers are finding tough fishing. Try the Haddam area. **CARP** are being caught on corn and dough balls in the lower river. **SNAPPER BLUE** action in the lower river is good. **BLACK CRAPPIE** catches were reported on small shiners in the back water areas of the coves (Wethersfield area).

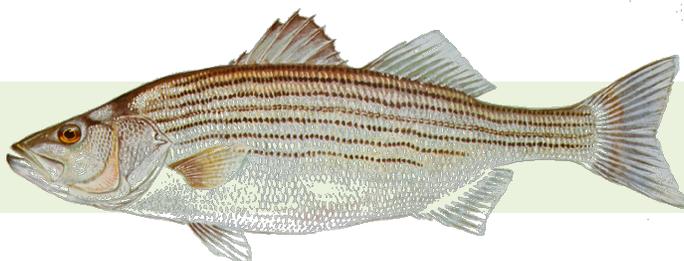
NOTES & NOTICES:

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



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 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.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the high 60's to mid 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 is now closed and the BLACK SEA BASS daily creel limit is now 8 fish per person.

STRIPED BASS fishing has improved overall and is rated good. With the abundance of bunker (Atlantic menhaden) throughout LIS, fishing for both **BLUEFISH** and stripers is looking good for an excellent fall run! Bluefish and striped bass can be found in the lower tidal rivers ripping through bunker schools. 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), 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. **SNAPPER BLUEFISH** fishing should be nearing peak in the tidal creeks and rivers where they are often found mixed in with **HICKORY SHAD**. Hickory shad fishing remains good to excellent in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier).

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is starting to wane down. Best bet for a doormat is in deeper water of 90+ feet. With the abundance of snapper blues around, try live lining a frisky snapper into the briny deep!

SCUP (porgy) fishing remains good to excellent! Any submerged structure in LIS will be holding these scrappy fighting fish.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is starting to kick into high gear as the fall season approaches. Humpheads can be found on structure such as rock piles, wrecks, and anywhere with gnarly bottom!

BLUE CRABBING is still hanging in there but the more popular areas have been picked over!

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

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](#).

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Common Carp & Striped Bass image courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.