

CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 27
10/15/2015



Smallmouth Bass (*Micropterus dolomieu*)



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INLAND REPORT

ATLANTIC SALMON - *Stocking Update.*

DEEP stocked another 296 Atlantic salmon this week. The **Naugatuck River** was stocked with 148 broodstock Atlantic salmon on Thursday, 10/15 (74 fish in the upper broodstock area and 74 fish into the lower broodstock area) and 148 broodstock Atlantic salmon will be stocked into the **Shetucket River** on Friday, 10/16. 120 of the fish stocked into each river range in weight from 2-6 lbs each (averaging 3.5 lbs each) and 28 fish for each river are larger, averaging approximately 8 lbs each. **This brings the total stocked this fall to 1,146 salmon.** Some additional fish will be stocked later in November following spawning in the Kensington Hatchery. *For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4.*

TROUT- *Stocking update.*

DEEP's fall trout stockings continue. From early September through mid-October, DEEP is releasing 29,000 "trophy" and "adult" sized trout into selected waters throughout the state. Approximately 5,000 are "trophy" size Brown Trout (all greater than 12 inches in length), 8,000 are "trophy" size Rainbow Trout, 1,000 are broodstock Brown and Brook Trout, and the remaining 15,000 "adults" are standard size (9-10 inch) Rainbow Trout. In addition to these fish, the Farmington River was stocked with 2,000 "trophy" size Brown Trout just before the Labor Day weekend. Note that stockings in a number of areas were delayed or postponed due to environmental conditions (primarily low to very low flows in many streams).

Rivers and streams stocked this week: in **western CT**, the **Naugatuck River TMA** (500 12" and longer Rainbow Trout) and **Saugatuck River TMA** (250 12" and longer Rainbow Trout).

Trout Parks stocked this week: The **Great Hollow Pond** (400 9-10" Rainbow Trout and 200 12" and longer Rainbow Trout) and **Black Rock Pond** (500 12" and longer Rainbow Trout) Trout Parks in western CT.

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at

www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.



TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions will be variable this weekend with crisp, mostly sunny fall weather in the forecast and some fall stocked fish in a number of rivers just waiting for anglers, but stream flows are well below typical mid-October levels in most areas throughout the state (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*). Try light line and leaders in these conditions. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River and Salmon River.

As a reminder, the rivers that were stocked this fall are the Moosup River TMA, Natchaug River, Salmon River (including the TMA), Shetucket River, Willimantic River TMA and Yantic River TMA in eastern CT, and the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River (Housatonic River TMA & Bulls Bridge TMA), Sleeping Giant TMA (Mill River – Hamden), and the Saugatuck River TMA.

Farmington River – Fishing was good last week, and conditions for this weekend should be fairly good. West Branch flows remain clear but are low, currently 66 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding 17 cfs. Water temperatures are in the mid 50's to low 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20) works well.

Housatonic River – Fishing continues to be very good and conditions for the weekend should be good. There's still plenty of trout (both holdovers and recently stocked fish), flows are clear and very fishable (easy to wade), but are getting low (currently 246 cfs at Falls Village and 315 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the low 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers, or nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Fishing's been slow at Highland Lake and fair at Shenipsit Lake (trolling over deep water, 40-50 feet). Good reports from the Wharton Brook and Black Rock Pond Trout Parks and fair at the Chatfield Hollow (Schreeder Pond) Trout Park.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is variable, mostly slow to fair, but some lakes have really improved in the last week. Best reports are from Quonnipaug Lake and Cedar Lake, with bass being found fairly shallow. Other places to try include Candlewood Lake, Winchester Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Lake Lillinonah, Bantam Lake, Congamond Lakes, Gardner Lake, Mudge Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock) and Pattagansett Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (tough fishing for most, 3.13 lb lunker), Billings Lake (fair to good, 2.7 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (fair at best, 3.74 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (slow to fair, 2.39 lb lunker).

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).



SMALLMOUTH BASS. Good reports from Highland Lake (keep looking for suspended fish in deeper water) and fair to good reports from Candlewood Lake (the roller coaster continues at this lake with a nice upturn in the fishing over the last week or so, look for fish at about 25 feet or so). **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (nice improvement this week, lunkers include a 4.62 lb smallie) and Pachaug Pond (always a few in the bags, 1.31 lb lunker).

NORTHERN PIKE. Look for pike fishing to really pick up with the cooler weather moving in. Places to try include Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Quaddick Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond and Winchester Lake.

WALLEYE. Good walleye fishing reported from Saugatuck Reservoir, also a few catches reported from Squantz Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is very fishable, flows are currently at typical mid-October levels and turbidity is fairly low.

NORTHERN PIKE continue to provide some action (nothing to write home about, but anglers are finding some fish). With even cooler weather coming action may get better. Try targeting coves and any structure for some action. Look for some schoolie and smaller keeper **STRIPED BASS** mixed in with bluefish at the mouth. **CARP** are being caught along the river from Hartford down to Haddam.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has improved some and **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing has really gotten better throughout the river.

NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill has begun – lake currently remains down approximately 12 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed until further notice** due to low water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Fragments of hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, was found floating near the boat launch in late September. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs began September 16. Launching of boats will be difficult to impossible.

LAKE HOUSATONIC (drawdown). The lake will be drawn down three feet from ~~Wednesday, October 14, through at least Friday, October 16, and possibly through Sunday, October 18~~, for maintenance. Launching trailered boats from the state boat launch will be very difficult to impossible during the drawdown. **10/16 Update – this drawdown was rescheduled to start next Monday evening (10/19) and will last several days.**

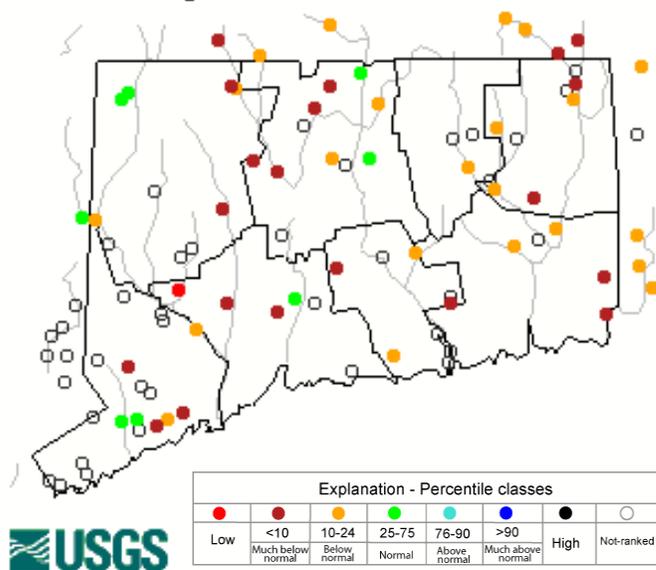
UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. **Lake Zoar** is scheduled for a drawdown from October 24 to November 1, **Lake Lillinonah** is scheduled for a drawdown from November 2 to November 8, and the winter drawdown of **Highland Lake** is scheduled to start in early November.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler’s Guide for trout regulations).

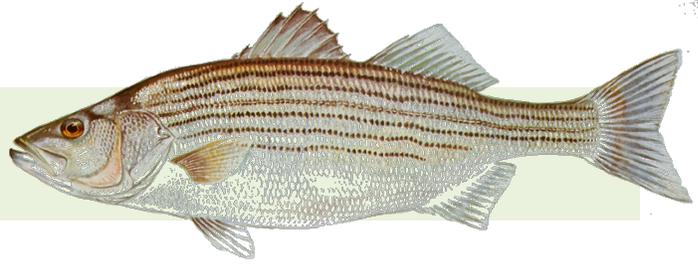
Stream flow conditions as of 10/15/2015

Thursday, October 15, 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 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) are in the mid 60'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>

REMINDER TO ANGLERS: Whales have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see the [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#) on our website.

Please note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

REMINDER TO ANGLERS: TAUTOG (BLACKFISH) SEASON IS OPEN.

STRIPED BASS fishing has improved as school bass migrate into the estuaries and tidal rivers. Larger stripers can still be caught on the local reefs and rip areas. Top water plugs along with live eels or bunker (Atlantic menhaden) on three-way or slider rigs have been the ticket. **BLUEFISH** fishing is also good with some bruisers weighing in the upper teens being reported! Fishing spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Pigeon Rip, Plum Gut, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor, 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 has slowed down but there are some large stragglers around.

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.

TAUTOG (Blackfish) fishing is good to excellent. It has been a steady bite. A 12 pounder off Bridgeport is the biggest reported. Any of the rocky reefs, rock piles, and wrecks in LIS will hold tog. Green, Asian or Hermit Crabs will work. Consider putting the crab (bait) on a jig (1/4 to 1 ounce). It's been a shallow water bite (6-30 feet). Togs will move deeper as the water cools.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP (porgy)

fishing continues to be excellent! Any of the rocky reefs will provide nonstop action. Fishing is good to excellent throughout LIS. Time is slipping away... so the time to go is now! Shore fishing spots for scup [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#).

ATLANTIC BONITO and LITTLE TUNNY fishing is still good. Points east are better as they migrate out of the sound. Watch Hill and Montauk has been red hot. Look for hovering and diving gulls and terns to give away their location. The key is...to match the hatch. The hatch can be really small (1 inch or smaller in the western sound). Use nothing more than 15 pound mono or fluorocarbon (smaller the better).

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>
Dolphinfish (Mahi Mahi)	56	37.25	Mike Epstein
Mako Shark	99	369	Steve Danis
Tautog	22.5	7.94	Andrew Lee

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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.