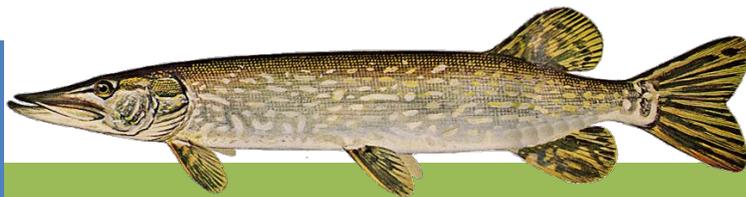


CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 10
6/26/2014



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)



Find us on
Facebook

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 generally good. Areas to try include Mashapaug Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Avery Pond, Hanover Reservoir, Hamilton Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Day Pond, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Batterson Park Pond, Black Pond (Meriden), Lake Lillinonah, Breakneck Pond, Hanover Pond, Griggs Pond, Lake Waramaug, West Hill Pond, Park Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Stillwater Pond, Squantz Pond, Maltby Lake 2 & 3, Wood Creek Pond, Pachaug Pond, Ball Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden) and Halls Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (fair fishing, with a 5.0 lunker), Long Pond (fair to good, 4.06 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair fishing, with a 6.1 lb lunker but not much else over 2 lbs), Pachaug Pond (good, with three 5 lb plus bass among the catches), Pattagansett Lake (fair to good, nothing 3 lbs or over in size), Quaddick Lake (fair to good fishing with some size, fish averaged 2.3 lbs apiece and a 4.23 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (good fishing, 3.6 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 5.4, 5.0 lb lunkers), Highland Lake (good action, lots of fish smaller than 1.5 lbs caught, 3.63 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (tough fishing, 3.47 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Colebrook Reservoir, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Candlewood Lake, Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar and Coventry Lake. Warmer temperatures have been bringing river smallie fishing to life, with some action reported from the Housatonic River and Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good fishing, lunkers include 4.11 lb and 3.68 lb fish), Highland Lake (not many in the bags) and Lake Lillinonah (slow-fair for smallmouth).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good at Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake and the upper Housatonic River.

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).



KOKANEE are being caught at West Hill Pond at 3 colors of lead line. Mooselook Wobblers, DB Smelt, Flash King lures (blue & silver) are producing during the day and still-fishing corn over lights is working at night.

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

PANFISH are providing non-stop action. This easy to catch fish responds well to worms, grubs, flies and small lures. Any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line is all you need to catch these fish. Try this simple project with the kids. It's called "Soda Can Fishing". Get an empty soda can and wrap about 50' of monofilament around it. On the end of the line tie on a small hook. About 6 inches above the hook attach a bobber. Pinch on a small split shot and you have a cheap fishing rig. Pull off about 10 feet of line and bait the hook. Now swing the line in a vertical circle and let it go into the water. You have just cast your simple fishing rig. Now catch some fish. The kids will love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours.

CATFISH fishing is reportedly going very well with many fish being caught at the state's catfish lakes. Some of these areas were stocked last month with catfish in the 4lbs range. Visit our webpage for more catfish fishing information:

http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2696&q=526474&deepNav_GID=1630. Places to try include Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), Black Pond (Middlefield), Maltby Lakes 2 & 3 (Orange/West Haven), Pattaconk Lake (Chester), Silver Lake (Meriden), Freshwater Pond (Enfield), Pickett's Pond (Derby), Hopeville Pond (Griswold), Quinebaug Lake (Killingly), Lake Kenosia (Danbury), Stillwater Pond (Torrington) and Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing conditions have been generally great for June, with adequate flows and many cool nights moderating water temperatures. Conditions for this weekend should also be good. Comfortable weather is forecast and some rain this week refreshed flows (with limited precipitation for most of the month, flows had been getting on the low side in many areas). Streams and rivers in most areas are now at typically late June levels (see stream flow graphic on page 4).

Success is being had with morning nymphing and evening dry/wet/nymph presentations. The standard lure, worms, & corn/mealworm combinations are consistently producing fish as well. Virtually every river insect is active and many are hatching right now so it's "Crazy Bug Time".

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River (fishing very well), Housatonic River (many big fish), Mill River, Hammonasset River, Hockanum River, Salmon River TMA, Tankerhoosen River, Shetucket River, Pootatuck River, Naugatuck River (Beacon Falls area) and Eightmile River (East Haddam, Lyme).

**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.



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 very good and conditions should be good for the weekend. West Branch water temperatures are in the lower 50's°F and flows are clear and moderate, currently 308 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 78 cfs. Visibility has been well over 48 inches. Longer leaders should be used, and a 6X tippet would be a good match for these conditions.

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.



Hatches include *Isonychia* (#12-14), *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] (#16, from 5:00pm to dark), Tan Caddis (#16-18, good all day), Sulphurs, (*Invaria* #16-18 hatches mid-day and *Dorothea* #16-18). Successful **patterns** include Light Cahill (#12-18), March Brown nymphs (#12-14), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32), Blue Quill (#16-18) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings).

Housatonic River – Flows have increased due to Wednesday night's rains and are currently high (2,350 cfs at Falls village) and challenging to wade. With additional passing storms and T-storms possible Thursday evening, flows may increase further. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop).

Hatches/patterns: Major insect hatches are here and are providing excellent fly fishing. Alder/Zebra Caddis (#10-12) are hot right now and Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12, late afternoon & evening), Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12) & Gray Foxes (#14-16) are producing as well. Green caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening) are on the water. Fish are holding in the pocket waters so don't miss this opportunity.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Trout are providing some nice early summer action with reports from Mashapaug Lake (riggers 20-25 feet), Colebrook Reservoir (riggers @ 25 plus feet), Lake Saltonstall, Lake McDonough (6-7 colors), Highland Lake (4 colors), Lake Wononskopomuc, East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond (3-4 colors), Beach Pond (early at 20-25 feet), Crystal Lake (Ellington; 7-8 colors, troll at 2mph), Mohawk Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock, 2-3 colors) and Coventry Lake (night, over green lights with corn/grubs).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

Recent rain has increased flows and turbidity, and the river is now above typical late June levels, but still fishable/boat-able. Top water catches of **STRIPED BASS** in the lower river continue with some fish in the 30 lbs size range coming to net. Multiple catches are occurring for some exciting action. Anglers in the mid to lower portion of the river were having good luck with **CATFISH** in the holes (see **TIPS & TRICKS** to the right). **CARP** are being caught throughout the river with a nice one reported from the upper river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are putting on a good show in the northern part of the River. Try top water plugs and 4 inch Wacky Style worms in motor oil or chartreuse for these feisty jumpers. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has slowed and finding big fish got tougher.

TIPS & TRICKS – LOCATING CATFISH

- ❖ Outside river bends form undercuts where big fish lie.
- ❖ Rock structures hold fish beside them.
- ❖ River bottom deep areas provide fish with secure holding areas.
- ❖ Tributary mouths attract pre/post spawn fish & provide cool water holding areas.
- ❖ Bottom channels can be used as travel routes by catfish.
- ❖ Riprap areas attract forage areas which means feeding areas.
- ❖ Floating log and debris attract baitfish which attracts catfish.
- ❖ Winds blow plankton toward the shore which attracts baitfish which attracts catfish.
- ❖ Deep holes in ponds are good during daylight as catfish are hiding from the bright sun.

NOTES & NOTICES:

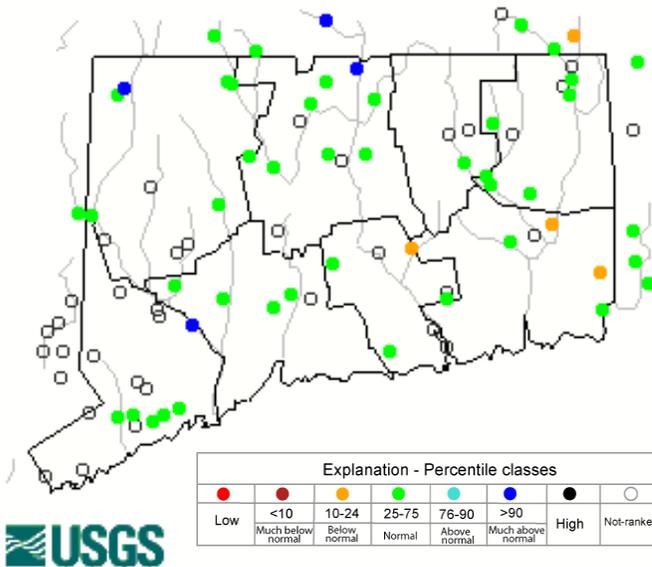
BESECK LAKE A 13 foot drawdown to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE. The annual fireworks display is scheduled for **Saturday evening, June 28** in the Danbury Arm.

LAKE ZOAR. A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, June 28**, in the upper end of Lake Zoar (approximately the upper first mile of the lake below the Shepaug Dam). 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 6/26/2014

Thursday, June 26, 2014 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:

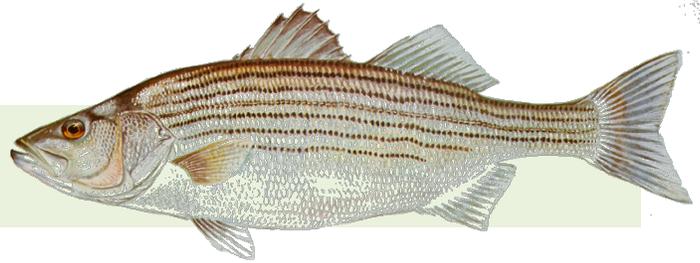
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

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



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 are in the low 50's to 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>

BLACK SEA BASS fishing season opened this past Saturday with some nice humpbacks exceeding 5 lbs being reported. Sea bass can be found in LIS over areas with structure including wrecks, rocky or gravelly bottom, or sand dune-like formations.

STRIPED BASS fishing is fair to good at the usual spots: Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, Cable and Anchor Reef, and the Cows off Stamford. Live lining bunker is the way to go but fresh cut chunk baits on three way rigs or casting live or dead eels after dark have been effective on "cow" bass.

BLUEFISH fishing is also good at any of the major reefs or rip areas. Bluefish spots include the Race, Sluicway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, bouys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Vertical jigging with diamond jigs has been effective in deep water areas such as "The Race".

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing was pretty slow over this past weekend. There were a lot of skates and searobins being caught along with many "throwback" sublegal size fluke. The usual fluke spots worth trying 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 to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, Norwalk Islands, and across over to Gardiners Bay and the Port Jefferson area (NY).

SCUP (porgy) fishing is fair to good on the major reefs throughout LIS.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the Black Hall River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor. Flood tide is better in the Connecticut River.

WEAKFISH fishing remains fair to good in New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point) over to Milford Point.

BLUE CRABBING is good in the tidal creeks and rivers from East Lyme over to Westbrook.

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>.

Special note- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM

The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program will run **May 1 through December 31** in 2014. Vouchers **have been available since May 1 at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below**. There is a limit of one voucher annually per fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most two vouchers by presenting valid fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a voucher by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). Vouchers will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

DEEP Offices/Facilities	Address	Town	State	Zip
Marine Headquarters M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043	333 Ferry Road	Old Lyme	CT	06371
Eastern District M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523	209 Hebron Ave	Marlborough	CT	06447
Western District M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	CT	06791
Franklin WMA M-F 8:30am-4:30pm, 860-642-7239	391 Route 32	Franklin	CT	06254
Sessions Woods WMA M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130	341 Milford Street (Rte 69)	Burlington	CT	06013
CTDEEP Main Office M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105	79 Elm Street	Hartford	CT	06106
Sherwood Island State Park M-S 8am-4:30pm, 203-226-6983	Route 1 north to the Sherwood Island Connector in Westport	Green Farms	CT	06838

The striped bass bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 inch to less than 28 inches) striped bass during May through December, both in the Marine and Inland Districts of Connecticut state waters only. The Bonus fishery was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Striped Bass Management Board which oversees the conservation of the species throughout its range. Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management plan currently allocates a 23,750 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut which is being used in this program to provide this additional recreational fishing opportunity since commercial striped bass harvest is prohibited in this state. The unused commercial quota equates to 4,025 fish available for harvest under this program.

Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: *“Share the Experience – Take Someone Fishing”*.

2014 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Voucher **0001**



To be completed upon harvest of a qualifying fish!

Date: / **2014**

(mm) (dd)

- This voucher is good for retention of ONE (1) bonus striped bass.
- ONE (1) bonus fish may be harvested per day.
- Valid May 1 through Dec. 31, 2014.
- Valid only in Connecticut State Waters.

Total length: **22" 23" 24" 25" 26" 27"**

Please circle one length. Drop fractional lengths; for example, mark 25 1/4" as 25"

I understand this voucher authorizes the possession of one bonus striped bass harvested today. I also understand this voucher is not valid until I have recorded today's date and the total length of the bonus striped bass I have harvested and until I have signed this voucher in ink and recorded my Conservation ID #. I further understand that any striped bass less than 28 inches total length in my possession without a completed and signed voucher is a violation subject to fine and suspension of my sportfishing and hunting privileges. I will return this voucher to DEEP Marine Fisheries within 48 hours of harvesting a bonus striped bass.

Sample Only!

Signature

Conservation ID #

Questions?
Web: www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing
Phone: 860-434-6043
E-mail: deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

A bonus striped bass is a striped bass at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches total length harvested from Connecticut waters between May 1 and December 31 and accompanied by a valid voucher.

The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass fishermen generally may want to hold onto a voucher to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawner" fish.

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- One voucher is good for one (1) bonus striped bass, and only one voucher may be used per day.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2014.
- Important: To be valid, the voucher card must be filled out and signed immediately upon harvest of a qualifying fish.
- Vouchers must be retained with the striped bass until the fish is taken to your home or other location where it is to be consumed.
- Mail the voucher back to Marine Fisheries. The voucher is already addressed and postage paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Vouchers are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of two (2) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

A total of 4,025 vouchers will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the vouchers. A limited number of vouchers will be reserved for programs such as "Take a Kid Fishing", "Take a Veteran Fishing", Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive vouchers.

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

*Bluegill & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*