

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 16
8/7/2014



Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*)



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Take someone fishing

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair to good, with night fishing in full swing and producing fish for anglers (try black jitterbugs and surface poppers). Places to try include Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Black Pond (Woodstock), Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Beach Pond, Lake of Isles, Bantam Lake, Quinebaug Pond, Mashapaug Lake, East Twin Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Lake Wononskopomuc, Rogers Lake, Gardner Lake, Pickerel Lake, Lake Hayward, Congamond Lakes, Dog Pond, Crystal Lake, Ball Pond, Hatch Pond, Halls Pond, Lake Williams, Twin Brooks Park Pond, Park Pond, Burr Pond, Lower Bolton Lake, Stillwater Pond, Mudge Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Bishop Swamp, Red Cedar Lake, Winchester Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Moodus Reservoir and Bashan Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good fishing, 4.3 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (very good for one club, with great overall size - the average weight per fish was 2.5 lbs, with a 5.4 lb lunker), Powers Lake (only fair action, with a 3.2 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (good for some, miserable for others, 3.53 lb & 4.63 lb lunkers), Candlewood Lake (some, nothing over 3 lbs) and East Twin Lake (had to work for their fish, 3.9 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS are reported at Shenipsit Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Bantam Lake, Colebrook Reservoir, Congamond Lakes, Highland Lake, Lake Zoar and Lake McDonough. Some action reported for river smallies from the Naugatuck River and Quinebaug River, and the upper Housatonic is again fishable. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good, including a 3.75 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (not bad for those targeting them) and Pachaug Pond (some 3-lb smallies caught).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Winchester Lake. Reports of a 15 lb plus pike recently hooked at Pachaug pond.

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught at West Hill Pond (lures at 20-25 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).



CHAIN PICKEREL are fishing well in Lake Wononskopomuc and Bantam Lake.

WALLEYE catches are reported from: Lake Saltonstall and Mashapaug Lake.

CALICO BASS action (on small shiners) is reported in West Twin Lake, Park Pond and West Thompson Reservoir.

CATFISH – Summer catfish are being caught. Areas to try include Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Lake Wintergreen, Batterson Park Pond, Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

PANFISH - This season has been very good. Target the shallows with bobbers, worms or grubs. Small spinners and jigs have been very productive as well. Areas to try include: Winchester Lake (from the dam), West Side Pond (weed bed east side), Black Pond (Woodstock), Shenipsit Lake, Bishop Pond, Dog Pond (south of the boat launch), Quinebaug Lake, Schreeder Pond, Roseland Lake, State Line Pond, Griggs Pond, Billings Lake, Amos Lake, Halls Pond, Perry Pond, Park Pond, Norwich Pond, Morey Pond and Mono Pond.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing (and conditions) have been really variable this summer, with generally moderate temperatures but fluctuating flows. Delightful weather is in the forecast for this weekend, but stream flows remain a tale of two states, with flows in western CT generally well above typical summer levels and good for summer trout fishing, and flows in eastern CT well below typical levels and continuing to drop (see stream flow graphic on page 4). Terrestrial fly patterns are very important this time of the year and anglers are advised to include them in their offerings.

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 was good last week and conditions should be good this weekend. Water temperatures are in the low 60's°F in the morning (and rising some through the day) and West Branch flows remain moderate, currently 423 cfs at Riverton, with the Still river adding another 52 cfs. For these conditions it is recommended to use an 8.5 foot rod with a 6X 12 foot leader.

Hatches/patterns. *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, mid morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. #18 & *Baetis* sps.; #22-24, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #16-18), Cahill (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #16-18, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-16, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening) are successful patterns. Evening brings out a mixture of every bug on the water.

Housatonic River – Conditions continue to improve for trout fishing this weekend as flows continue to drop to more fishable levels, currently 1,480 cfs at Falls Village and 1,910 cfs at Gaylordsville, and water temperatures remain moderate (upper 60's °F mornings, rising to the low 70's°F mid-day).

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.



Hatches/patterns. The White Fly (#12-14, *Ephoron leukon*) has reportedly just begun to get started. If you have never seen it you are in for a treat. This evening hatch gets going around 8:00 pm and must be seen to be believed. Snowing is the best single word to describe it. The feeding frenzy that results is amazing. Additional hatches include Blue Wing Olive larvae (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening, mainly during overcast days), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12 has been active lately, fast water, evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Midges (#20-26) and stoneflies are found at tributary mouths. Golden stonefly nymphs (#6-14) hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Streamer patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (#2-12), Muddlers (#4-8), Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Anglers are finding some nice summer trout fishing in a number of lakes and ponds (remember that this time of year the small things make all the difference in fishing success). Places to try include Highland Lake (center basin), Colebrook Reservoir (6-7 colors near dam), Crystal Lake (target 20-25 feet), West Hill Pond, Mashapaug Lake and East Twin Lake (20-25 feet over 40 feet of water).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is on the turbid side, but comfortable for fishing/boating, with flows currently a bit higher than is typical for early August, making access into some areas easier than usual for mid-summer. Anglers are finding some **LARGEMOUTH BASS** in the Hartford to Haddam stretch of river and in the coves along the river, but action has been fair at best. Some **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being reported in the Enfield area on jigs & worms (also try wacky rigged Senko worms). For their size some anglers consider them the toughest fighting fish in our summer waters. **CATFISH** are being taken on cut bait and chicken liver. North of Hartford produced well last week with many fish being caught. An 11 lb plus cat was caught in the Enfield area. **CARP** fishing on homemade baits continues to be productive from pre-bait areas. Fish have been caught in the lower river.

NOTES & NOTICES:

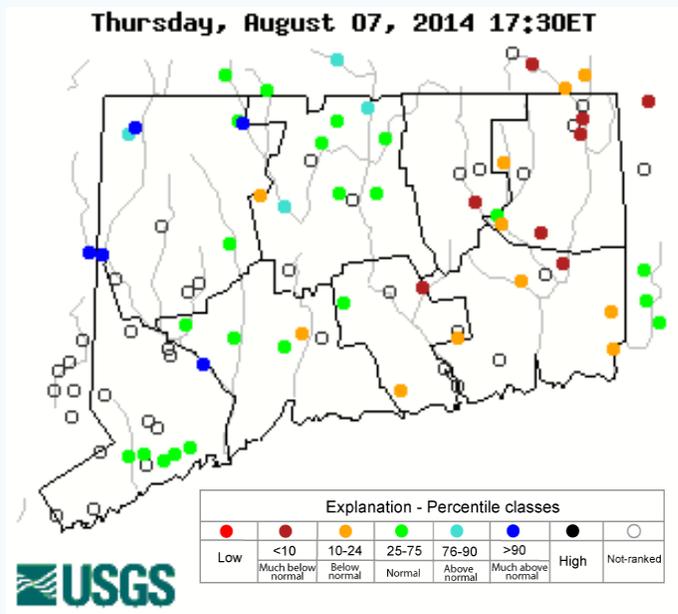
BANTAM LAKE. The annual Waterski Exhibition will be held this upcoming weekend in North Bay on Friday, August 8 (5 pm to sunset), Saturday, August 9 (1:30 pm – 5 pm) and Sunday, August 10 (1:30 pm – 5 pm). Boaters should use caution in this area.

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

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Windsor). A canoe/kayak race will be conducted from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 17 in the vicinity of the Bissell Bridge. The loop course runs from the small island just downstream of the Bissell Bridge state launch up the river to the Farmington river and then into the Farmington River to the Route 159 bridge. Start and finish will be near the Bissell Bridge launch (the launch will remain open to use by the general public).

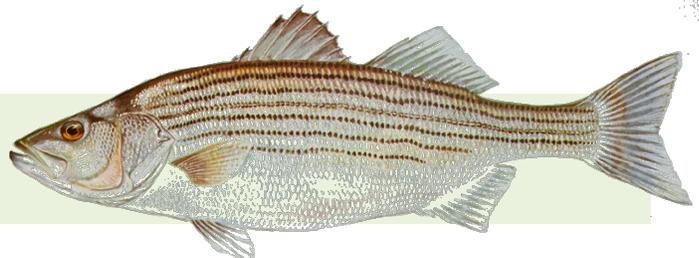
LAKE ZOAR. A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, August 9**, in the upper end of Lake Zoar (approximately the upper first mile of the lake below the Shepaug Dam). This event run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

Stream flow conditions as of 8/7/2014



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) remain in the high 60's to low 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>

STRIPED BASS fishing is good in the lower tidal rivers especially at dawn. Casting swimming lures, surface poppers, and bouncing jigs off the bottom in the shallows at low light has been productive. Also, live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden), hickory shad or scup on the reefs has been effective on “cow” bass. The usual striper 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, 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.

BLUEFISH fishing has improved on the major reefs and rip areas. Vertical jigging with diamond jigs in deep water locations and using fresh bunker chunk baits on three way rigs in shallow water has been the ticket. Typical bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER** fishing is good in the tidal creeks and rivers. The DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Fort Trumbull fishing pier are two great spots to bring kids to fish and crab.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good with fish measuring in the mid to high 20 inch range being reported. Summer flounder 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, Twotree 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 during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands.

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

BLACK SEA BASS fishing continues to be good on the major reefs and wrecks. The reefs from Madison over to Branford reefs have been yielding quality catches.

HICKORY SHAD fishing remains good in the Black Hall River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Both snappers and hickory shad can be found schooling together at these locations.

BLUE CRABBING is good to excellent especially for after dark crab foragers.

SPECIAL NOTES & REMINDERS

*Don't forget about the **BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM**, for more information go to: www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing.*

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](#).

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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*Yellow Perch & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*