

CT DEEP **2014**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 17
8/14/2014



Redbreast sunfish (*Lepomis auritus*)



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Take someone fishing

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally reported as fair to good. Night fishing has been productive. Try black jitterbugs and surface poppers. Places to try include Candlewood Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Dog Pond, Mudge Pond, Hatch Pond, Park Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Lake Saltonstall, Bishop Swamp, Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Winchester Lake, Congamond Lakes, Quinebaug Pond, Coventry Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Burr Pond, West Hill Pond, Tyler Lake, Griggs Pond, Crystal Lake, Anderson Pond, Billings Lake, Pickerel Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Aspinook Pond, Babcock Pond, Pachaug Pond, Lake Hayward, Quonnipaug Lake, Rogers Lake and Stillwater Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Beach Pond (fair action, but except for the 4.52 lb lunker, nothing of any size), Gardner Lake (fair fishing, not much size – and only a 2.4 lb lunker), Glasgo Pond (fair to good night action, with a 6 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good fishing, with a 5.04 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (good for largemouth, lunkers include 4.8 lb and 5.03 lb lunkers) and Lake Lillinonah (fair at best).

SMALLMOUTH BASS catches reported from Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Squantz Pond, Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake, Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Some good reports in for river smallmouth from the upper Housatonic River and the Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (smallie action slowed last week, but lunkers included several 4 lb plus fish) and Gardner Lake (a few).

KOKANEE SALMON catches were reported from East Twin Lake (early) and West Hill Pond (early and at night, fishing with corn). There have been some 15-16 inch fish caught. Target 30-35 feet with down riggers.

NORTHERN PIKE fishing success is reported from Bantam Lake.

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.





Excellent **CALICO BASS** action on small minnows is reported in Bantam Lake and Park Pond.

CATFISH – Good fishing may be found at Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), Lakewood Lake (Waterbury, fishing well), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Black Pond (Middlefield) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

PANFISH has been excellent this season so far. For some great summer time fun try shore fishing in shallow areas (your local ponds are often great places). Small grubs, worms or shiners and bobber will put fish in your creel. Larger places to try include Dog Pond, North Farms Reservoir, Long Pond, Ross Pond, Babcock Pond, Mono Pond, Halls Pond, Barber Pond, Farmill Reservoir, Red Cedar Lake, Fountain Lake Reservoir, Christensen's Pond, Enders Pond, Fitchville Pond and Glassgo Pond.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Trout fishing has been good, with reports from Colebrook Reservoir (25 feet), East Twin Lake (Mooselook Wobbler Thinfish silver/copper at 30 feet), Crystal Lake (Ellington, blue/silver at 8 colors), Beach Pond (rigger at 23 feet), West Hill Pond (south end, 25-30 feet), Highland Lake (orange/gold, second bay, 25-30 feet) and Lake McDonough (near the dam).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be fairly good this weekend. Generally good weather and moderate temperatures are in the forecast and high but generally fishable flows due to this week's rain in most areas (see stream flow graphic on page 4). This week's rain was especially helpful in eastern CT, where many streams had been below typical summer levels for some time. Good reports last weekend from the West Branch Farmington River (early/late), Housatonic River TMA (early/late), Salmon River, Little River (Oxford) and Mill River.

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 - Trout fishing was good to very good last week. Flows are clearing and on the high side due to Wednesday's rains, currently 220 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 696 cfs (but continuing to drop). If you're going out fishing Friday, the most comfortable fishing might be found above the Still River. Water temperatures have been in the low 60's°F mornings and then rising through the day. These higher flow conditions can warrant the use of an 8' 6" fly rod balanced for 4 weight line with a 12' leader and a 6X tippet.

Hatches/patterns include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-26 in the morning), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day), White

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).

Flies (#12-14) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening). Evening will bring out every bug on the water.

Housatonic River – Fishing was good last weekend, but conditions are again difficult to fish due to high flows, currently 2,140 cfs at Falls Village and 3,350 cfs at Gaylordsville. Flows are clearing and dropping, but will likely still be on the high side for this weekend (many tributaries should however be quite fishable). 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). Morning water temperatures are back in the mid 60's°F. These higher, more turbid flows can be matched with a 9 foot fly rod balanced for 4 weight line, and a 9 foot leader with a 7X tippet.

Hatches/patterns. The White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) hatch has begun. You really don't want to miss this one, use a White Wulff, #10-12. Other insects include Light Cahill (#12-14, evening) Isonychia (#10-12), Sulfur (#16-18) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Midges (#20-24) and stoneflies are located at the mouths of streams. Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. For streamers (morning & evening) patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish like streamers as they are effective right now.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

LARGEMOUTH BASS are being taken in the coves in the Middletown-Haddam area. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** were caught north of Hartford (Enfield-King's Island area using a small boat). Small bait, or 3-4 inch rubber worms on 3/8 oz football jigs were working well. **CARP** are being caught in the upper river on pre-baited 'swims'. Anglers are finding **CATFISH** by night angling in the Hartford to Middletown stretch (the bite is on cut bait). Try the outside bends in the river. Deep holes of the river are producing as well.

TIPS & TRICKS –CATFISH

- ❖ Can be a waiting game.
- ❖ Line goes through an egg sinker, tie on a swivel and a 3 ft. Piece of line with a # 4 or 6 circle hook.
- ❖ Use a 3 oz weight with 30lb abrasion resistant line.
- ❖ Toss out a live blue gill (hook it behind the dorsal fin) under a giant float or on bottom.
- ❖ Use a slow rod tip.
- ❖ You can slow down your rod even more with monofilament (stretchy).
- ❖ When you get a hit ... Don't remove the rod from the holder until it's loading up (line gets tight).
- ❖ Sunfish will start yanking like crazy when a catfish is around.

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.



NOTES & NOTICES:

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

CANDLEWOOD LAKE. CLA will be holding its annual “*Dragon Boat Races*” on **Saturday, August 16** from 7 am to 5 pm in the upper end of the New Milford arm (Lynn Deming Town Park). Additionally, set-up activities will be ongoing in this area on Friday, August 15 from 7 am to 7 pm. This area will be congested with participants and spectators.

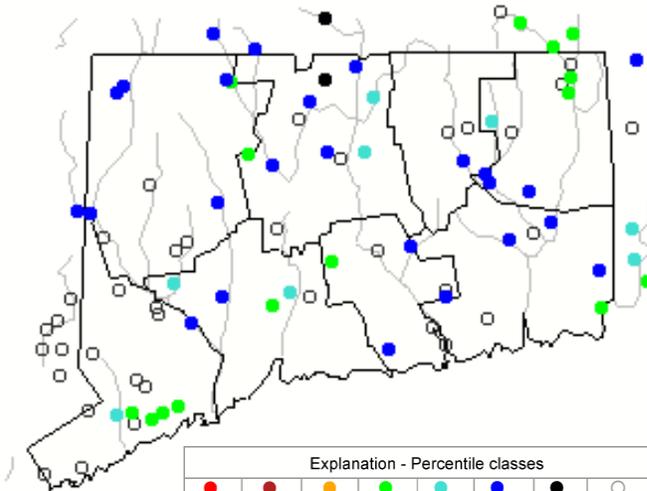
CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford). Riverfront Recapture will be holding its annual “*Dragon Boat Races*” on **Saturday, August 16** (8 am – 4 pm) and **Sunday, August 17** (8 am – 4 pm) on the CT River in Hartford between the Founders Bridge and the Charter Oak Bridge. Boat travel through the course area will be difficult during the race events, use extra caution or avoid the area.

COVENTRY LAKE. A Waterski Exhibition will be held **Sunday, August 17** from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the area just to the west (in front of) the state boat launch. The launch will remain open for use by the public and a lane will available to pass by the water ski area. Boaters should use caution in this area.

LAKE ZOAR. A water ski clinic for the disabled is scheduled for **Saturday, August 16**, 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 8/14/2014

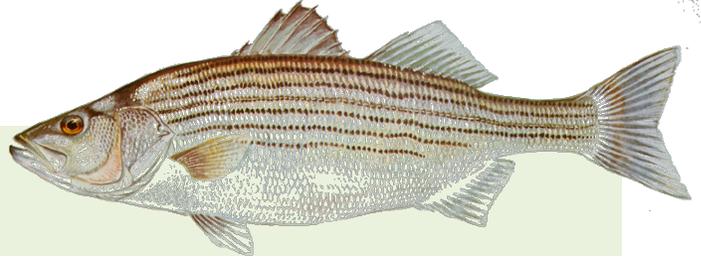
Thursday, August 14, 2014 19:00ET



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

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) continue 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 remains good with fish in the 40+ inch range being reported. Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or scup on the reefs after dark has been the ticket. Striper spots worth trying 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 is fair to good. Fish finder rigs baited with fresh bunker chunks has been effective for larger choppers. 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 fair to good in the tidal creeks and rivers. Fishing around the top of the flood tide has been better. Most snappers are about 4-6 inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing picked up over this past week with doormats weighing 7+ lbs being reported. Using live snapper blues for bait is the ticket for catching that trophy doormat! 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) and **BLACK SEA BASS** fishing remains good on the major reefs and wrecks throughout LIS.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair to good in the Black Hall River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Fishing around the top of the flood tide is best.

BLUE CRABBING remains good although the more popular areas have been hit hard. Try crabbing at lesser known spots to better your chances.

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**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep

*Redbreast sunfish & Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.*