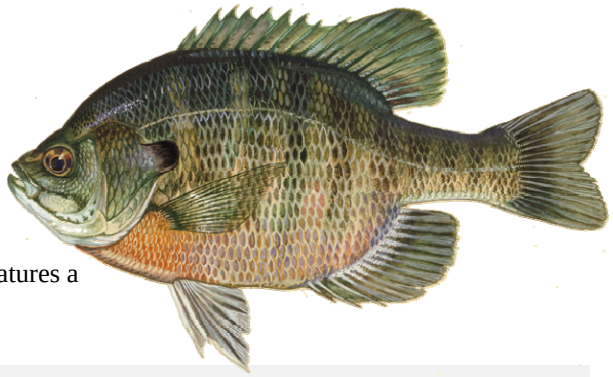
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 19
8/30/2012



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.

INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing was reported as generally good. Places to try include Winchester Lake (4 lb bass among the catches), Coventry Lake (6.1 lb largemouth caught here), Pachaug Pond, Congamond Lakes, Lake McDonough (20 plus fish for one boat), Mashapaug Lake, Bunnells Pond, Seymour Reservoir (#2 or #3), Lake Housatonic, Stillwater Pond, Middle Bolton Lake, Ball Pond, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Beseck Lake, Gardner Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Cedar Lake, Dog Pond, Bishop Pond, Billings Lake, and Park Pond. **Tournament reports** are from Pachaug Pond (fair, with a 4.65 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (good), East twin Lake (good, with a 4.7 lb lunker), Lake Zoar (fair, several 4 lb plus fish), Ashland Pond (a bit tough), Quaddick Lake ("unremarkable"), Glasgo Pond (tough but catches included 5.2 and 4.2 lb bass) and Lake Lillinonah (fair at best).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, the upper Housatonic River (very good here), Naugatuck River and Farmington River (Tariffville). **Tournament reports** are from Candlewood Lake (steady, with some 3-4 lb bass among the bags), East Twin Lake (a few smallies, but catches included a 4.5 lb smallie), Pachaug Pond (smallies continue to surprise anglers here), Lake Zoar (fair, catches include some 3 lb plus fish) and Lake Lillinonah (slow).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good at Winchester Lake and Bantam Lake.

Some **WALLEYE** are being reported from Batterson Park Pond.

CHAIN PICKEREL are being caught at Wononskopomuc Lake.

CARP have come to the net in the Hockanum River. They can also be found in Lake Housatonic, West Thompson Reservoir and Lake Kenosia.

PANFISH are providing excellent summer time action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Small local ponds are often excellent choice, bigger waters to try includeRed Cedar Lake, Griggs Pond, Roseland Lake, Winchester Lake, Black Pond (Middlesex), West Twin Lake, Tyler Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Beseck Lake, Rogers Lake, Billings Lake, Gardner Lake, Coventry Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Bishop Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

Connecticut River – A few **STRIPED BASS** are being caught in the lower river on tube & worm as well as on cut bait. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported in the Enfield to South Windsor area. Try the confluence with the Farmington River. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was fair to good in the coves from Middletown to East Haddam. Some **NORTHERN PIKE** are being caught in the coves (look for cooler water). Fishing for **CATFISH** in the Portland/Middletown area is producing well. Cut bait (chunking) near brush piles adjacent to deep holes and on the outside of bends. Try live lining a sunfish for some good action.

TROUT

Lakes & Ponds – Anglers are finding some good late summer trout fishing. Places to try include Crystal Lake (Ellington; 7-8 colors), Beach Pond (7-8 colors), West Hill Pond (5 colors) and East Twin Lake.

Rivers & streams – Trout fishing was generally slow last week. Although recent rains and several cool nights did improve conditions for trout fishing, in many areas flows (see page 5) the are again below typical late august levels (in several cases, well below) and water temperatures remain on the high side. Hatches typically slow now, so anglers should remember terrestrial fly patterns.

Farmington River – Flows continue to be clear and low, currently 84 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 20 cfs. Morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's°F, but rising through the day, and as you move downstream, into the low to mid 70's°F. **Due to the current conditions (elevated water temperatures, low flows) the annual pre-Labor Day stocking of the West Branch Farmington River has been postponed**. Conditions will be re-evaluated beginning next week, and stockings will occur when conditions are suitable.

Hatches/patterns include the Trico (*Trycorythodes stygiatus*, #22-26, morning from 6:00am – 10:00am; spinner mainly), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning to early afternoon), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening in the Riverton area), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella sps.* & *Baetis sps.;*#18, 22-26, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#20-32, morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema* i*thaca,* #12-14, evenings), Black Ants (#12-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-14, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #8-14, late evening).

Regulations reminder for Farmington River anglers.

- Anglers are reminded that beginning on September 1, those portions of the Farmington River Trout Management Area upstream from the year-round catch-and-release area to the Goodwin Dam, and downstream from the year-round catch-and-release area to the Route 177 Bridge in Unionville a**re catch-and-release only for trout until 6 a.m. on Opening Day, 2013.**

Housatonic River – Rains earlier this week and several cool nights have improved conditions on the Housatonic River, with morning water temperatures in the mid 60's °F this morning (Thursday, 8/30) and improved flows (currently 212 cfs at Falls Village and 358 cfs at Gaylordsville). With warmer, dry weather currently forecast through the weekend, anglers should expect low flows and warmer water temperatures to return.

Hatches/patterns - Successful patterns will include the Leadwing Coachman (#10-12, main evening hatch), White Wulff (#10-12), Light Cahill (#10-12, evening) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-16, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains).

ATTENTION ANGLERS –

- Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are now available online at www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.
- Bathymetry maps are now available online at www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

NOTES & NOTICES:

- **WYASSUP LAKE** (impossible to launch) remains drawn down.
- **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** has been drawn down 15 inches to facilitate ongoing dam repairs. The **pond remains open to fishing and car top boating access**, although the swimming area has been closed.
- **COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE –** Due to low water levels, anglers and boaters should check the USACE Colebrook River Lake website at www.nae.usace.army.mil/recreati/crl/crlhome.htm or call the Colebrook River Lake office (860-379-8234) for updated information concerning status of the boat launch.
- **BASHAN LAKE** – A sailboat race is scheduled for Sunday, September 2 from 1 pm – 3 pm in the southeast area of the lake (in front of the state launch). Use extra caution in this area during the event.
- **CONNECTICUT RIVER (Hartford)** – Riverfront Recapture will be hosting a US Series Title Power Boat Race on Friday, August 31 (12 pm - 5 pm), Saturday, September 1 (10 am – 5 pm, and Sunday, September 2 (10 am – 5 pm) on the river in Hartford downstream of the Buckley Bridge. **During these event, navigation of civilian boats through the river between the Buckley Bridge and the Charter Oak Bridge** will be prohibited (beginning one hour prior to any racing events).
- **LAKE MCDONOUGH-** The MDC boat launch facility closes for the season after Labor Day.
- **RAINBOW RESERVOIR** will be drawn down approximately 23 feet for maintenance beginning Tuesday, September 4, making the state boat launch unusable. Work is expected to be completed on or before September 28.
- **LAKE LILLINONAH** – We have received a number of inquiries from anglers about the status of the Route 133 (Steel Bridge) boat launch. The renovations scheduled for this launch won't occur until sometime in 2013, and the launch remains open for use until the project begins.
- **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** - We have received a number of inquiries concerning water levels during the months of September and October at Candlewood Lake. Many of these inquiries concern rather incorrect rumors of a deep drawdown occurring in September as First Light Power Resources performs some necessary maintenance including replacement of the penstock. **Anglers and boaters should be aware that a "deep" drawdown is not scheduled to occur this September.** The lake will however be brought down to the minimum "summer" level (as required under the FERC license) on or about September 10, approximately 4 inches lower than the current level of the lake. At this level ('summer" minimum) the launching of trailered boats (especially larger boats) may become difficult at the Lattins Cove state launch but the Squantz Cove state launch remains fully functional.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

Zebra mussels were recently (October, 2010) found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah.

Prior to this discovery, 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**.

This highly invasive mussel can disrupt aquatic ecosystems and is notorious for clogging water intakes and fouling boat hulls and engine cooling water systems.

For more information on zebra mussels and other invasive species, visit www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies.

The Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Any person with a disability who may need information in an alternative format may contact the agency's ADA Coordinator at 860-424-3194, or at deep.hrmed@ct.gov. Any person with limited proficiency in English, who may need information in another language, may contact the agency's Title VI Coordinator at 860-424-3035, or at deep.aaoffice@ct.gov. Any person with a hearing impairment may call the State of Connecticut relay number - 711. Discrimination complaints may be filed with DEEP's Title VI Coordinator. Requests for accommodations must be made at least two weeks prior to any agency hearing, program or event.

MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 70's °F. Check out the web sites listed below for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions and see page 5 for some recent water quality information.

http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html
http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/
http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html

Special Note: The tautog (blackfish) recreational fishing season's last day is on August 31st but will reopen again on October 10th.

BLUEFISH remains hot and heavy throughout LIS and fishing will only get better as autumn approaches!

STRIPED BASS night time fishery is the norm due to all of the marauding bluefish during the day. Live bait is the key for success but you have get by bluefish in order to score on a linesider. Also, bouncing three-way bucktail jigs on the bottom is another option instead of wasting those precious lively baits being chopped in half by bluefish. Stripers and chopper spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef, Thames River, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull Island, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point including Niantic Bay, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef including outer SW Reef, Six Mile Reef, the reefs off Madison, Guilford, and Branford, Falkner Island area, upper New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, the reefs around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Don't forget about hitting our coastal state parks for excellent shore-based fishing!

SNAPPER BLUEFISH fishing remains good to excellent in the tidal rivers. Snappers range in size as small as 4 inches to over 8 inches in length. Snappers are a blast to catch on light freshwater spinning gear and even on a fly rod! Snappers will wreck your gear so use flies you really don't care about trashing. Also, spin casting small willow leaf lures or kastmasters work well.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is still hit or miss. Deep water (100+ ft) drifting across tight contour gradients (drop offs) and river channels have been yielding good catches but locating these flatties is more than half the battle!

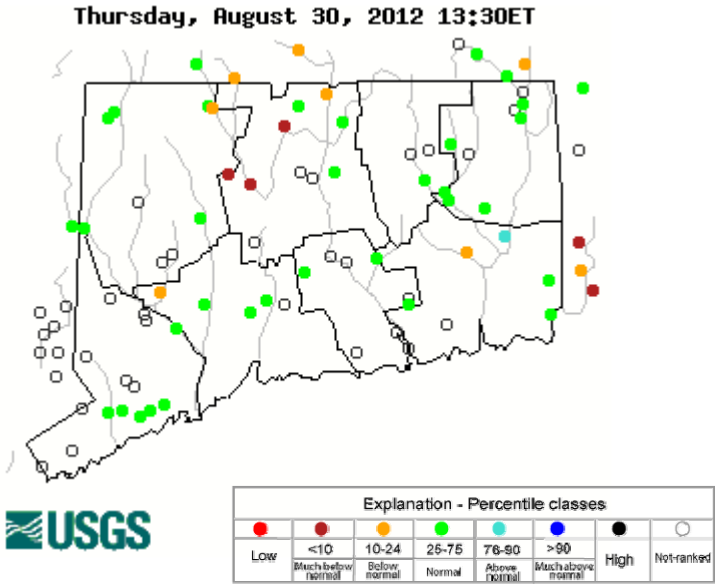
SCUP (porgy) fishing remains good to excellent with some slammer porgies being reported on a weekly basis! 15 to 17 inch scup are being caught on the local reefs. Just use a three way bottom rig with a small scup hook baited with a squid strip or clam will do the trick for theses hard fighting bruisers!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good to excellent but there are a lot of throwbacks (sublegal fish) being reported. When fishing deep water try to reel in slowly to reduce the swim bladder from over expanding for survival purposes on the sublegal throwbacks!

This week there has been no reports on **LITTLE TUNNY** or **ATLANTIC BONITO** but these speedsters can appear anywhere at any time especially during this time of year!

BLUE CLAW CRABBING is near peak along the coast!

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2012 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing .



Streamflow conditions as of 8/30/2012

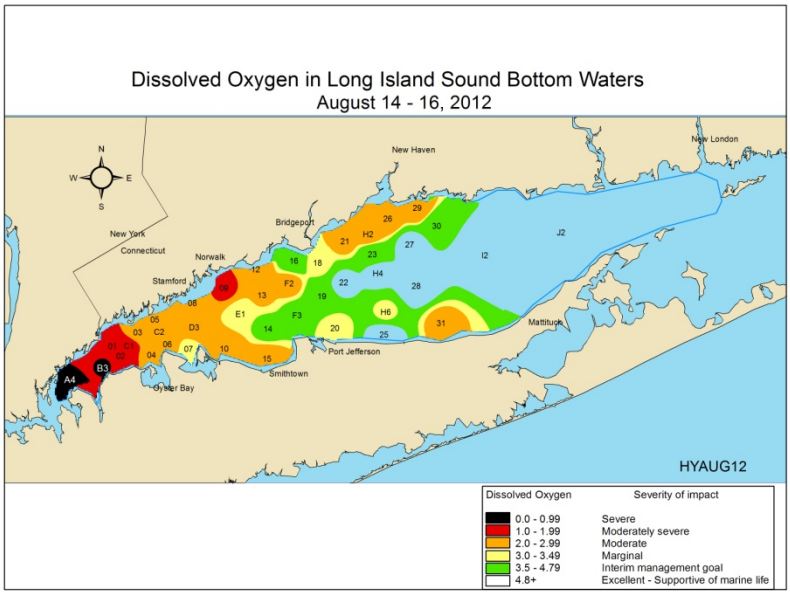
Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt

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".

CT DEEP LONG ISLAND SOUND WATER QUALITY MONITORING:

http://www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2719&q=325570&depNav_GID=1654

Monitoring of dissolved oxygen levels as well as other water quality parameters are the responsibility of the Long Island Sound Water Quality Monitoring Program within the Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse. The amount of oxygen in the water at the bottom of LIS is important for the survival and reproduction of a variety of organism which reside there. Examples include, flounder, fluke, lobster, crab, worms, clams, oysters, and other shellfish. Hypoxia is a condition of low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the waters of Long Island Sound that impacts up to half of the Sound's waters each summer. The primary cause of hypoxia is nitrogen enrichment that comes from a variety of sources throughout the Long Island Sound watershed, in particular sewage treatment plants, stormwater runoff and atmospheric deposition.



Bluegill and striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.