FISHING REPORT NUMBER 23
9/27/2012

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

TROUT *–DEEP BEGINS ANNUAL FALL TROUT STOCKINGS.*

From mid-September through mid-October DEEP plans to stock more than 29,000 adult trout of which 14,000 are trophy-size brown trout (12 inch and larger fish) and 15,000 are adult-size rainbow trout (9-10 inch fish). A total of 43,000 "yearling" trout (6-9 inch fish) are also scheduled to be released into selected waters this fall.

DEEP started off the 2012 fall stocking season last Friday (9/21) by stocking 750 brown trout and 2000 rainbow trout. The 750 brown trout were released into the **Mill River TMA** (Fairfield, 200 fish), **Saugatuck River TMA** (250 fish) and **Mianus River TMA** (300 fish). The 2,000 rainbow trout were stocked into **Gay City Pond** (400 fish) and **four Trout Parks**; **Mohegan Park Pond** (400 fish), **Chatfield Hollow** (Schreeder Pond, 400 fish), **Valley Falls Park Pond** (400 fish) and **Natchaug River** (400 fish).

This week DEEP expects to stock approximately **4,800 brown trout and 7,900 rainbow trout**. The brown trout (all 12 inch and larger fish) are being released into the **Salmon River** (900 fish in the TMA, another 400 fish below the TMA), **Willimantic River TMA** (300 fish) and Crystal Lake (Ellington, 500 fish) in eastern CT, and the **Housatonic River TMA** (upper TMA, 1,000 fish), **Sleeping Giant TMA** (Mill River- Hamden, 200 fish), **Squantz Pond** (500 fish), **Wolfe Park Trout Park** (Great Hollow Pond, 500 fish) and **Wharton Brook Trout Park** (500 fish) in western CT. The rainbow trout are being released into the **Day Pond Trout Park** (400 fish) in eastern CT and the **Housatonic River TMA** (upper TMA, 5000 fish) and the **Bulls Bridge TMA** (Housatonic River, 2,500 fish).

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

Rivers & streams – Trout fishing should be picking up. The fall stockings have started, temperatures continue to moderate, and flows in most areas are generally quite fishable, although they are dropping below typical fall levels again (*see state stream flow graphic on page 3*). With some rain in the forecast, flows may again increase. Anglers will find that streamers will play an important part. Try white, yellow & brown colors. Typical patterns include White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Nymphing has been productive lately. Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River and the Housatonic River (early & late remain best times).

Farmington River – Fishing was good last week and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers (1,500 brown trout stocked in mid-September). Currently, West Branch flows are clear and low (98 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 29 cfs). Water temperatures are in the low 60's°F.

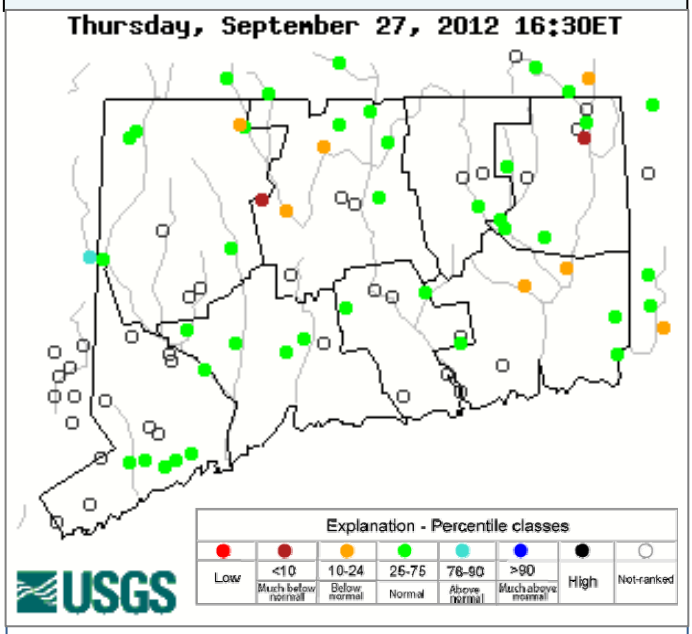
Hatches/patterns include include *Isonychia bicolor* (major hatch, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis sps.*, #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#16-30, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-26, mid day, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid day).

Housatonic River – Trout fishing should be good, with cooler temperatures, clear & very fishable flows, and 8,500 adult brown trout (12 inch and larger fish) and brook trout (9-10 inch fish) stocked this week. Currently flows are moderate (378 cfs at Falls Village and 572 cfs at Gaylordsville) and dropping some (some rain is in the forecast, so they may increase again).

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22 on cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening) and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#12-14, evening) and Sulfurs (#16-18, evenings). Also try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Sulfurs (#16-18), Black Beetles (#14-20, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid day, when windy/humid).

Lakes & Ponds **–** Lakes reporting some good trout fishing include East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Beach Pond.

Streamflow conditions as of 9/27/2012



Data in the state graphic above 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".

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as generally fair to good. Areas to try include Mashapaug Lake, Congamond Lakes, Lake Saltonstall, Quaddick Reservoir, East Twin Lake (some 4 lb plus bass caught), Candlewood Lake (morning is working well), Lake Lillinonah, Gardner Lake, Mattabassett River, Baldwin's Pond, Bantam Lake, Halls Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Silver Lake, Burr Pond, Cedar Lake, Morey Pond, Glasgo Pond, Bishop Swamp, Mono Pond and Mudge Pond. **Tournament reports** are from Candlewood Lake (good, a number of 3-4 lb bass), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (a bit tough), Quaddick Reservoir (fair, no real lunkers), Hopeville Pond (fair, catches include a 5.7 lb bass), Pachaug Pond (fair action with a 5.1 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (fair, lunker was only 3.6 lbs) and Beach Pond (slow, but a 6.7 lb bass among the bags).

SMALLMOUTH BASS catches reported at Candlewood Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mattabassett River and Naugatuck River. **Tournament reports** are from Candlewood Lake (fairly slow for smallies, they are in their typical September doldrums), Gardner Lake (slow) and Beach Pond (very hard to find).

NORTHERN PIKE catches have been reported from Bantam Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Pachaug Pond and the Mattabassett River.

Some Fall **WALLEYE** action is being reported from Lake Saltonstall.

PANFISH are providing excellentfall action. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Areas to try include: Red 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 – **BLACK CRAPPIE** action is improving in the coves up and down the river. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is also reported as improving. Areas to try include the upper river (some action on smaller fish), Salmon River Cove and the coves in the Hartford to Middletown sections of the river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the Enfield/Kings Island area and at the confluence with the Farmington River. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been fair to good in the coves near Hartford (good reports for Wethersfield Cove) and the Salmon River Cove/Haddam area (catches include some in the 3-4 range). **CHANNEL CATFISH** fishing is reported as good with many big fish being caught. Anglers should try cut bait or chunks near brush piles next to deeper holes on the outside edges of the river. Look for slower moving waters. **CARP**, which are gaining popularity, have drawn people from as far away as Europe as the quality of this fishery is generating many epoch battles. Fish in the 20-30 pound range are not uncommon.

ANGLERS - *ARE WE REACHING YOU?*

Help us learn how to better tell you about fishing in Connecticut and our many programs!

The Inland Fisheries Division would appreciate your time and effort to answer 10 short questions via this on-line survey about some of our current sources of fishing information.

Here's the link to the survey:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GM9BSQC

If you are unable to take the survey on-line and would still like to participate, feel free to send an email to mike.beauchene@ct.gov or call 860-424-4185 anytime. Thanks in advance for your valued input.

Your help is greatly appreciated!

NOTES & NOTICES:

- **WYASSUP LAKE** (impossible to launch) remains drawn down.
- **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.
- **RAINBOW RESERVOIR** has refilled.
- **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** - The lake level is down close to the minimum "summer" level (as required under the FERC license) to facilitate some necessary maintenance of the power facility including replacement of the penstock. 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.**
- **CONNECTICUT RIVER**- A rowing event (The Head of the Riverfront Regatta) is scheduled for **Sunday, September 30th** in the Wethersfield-Hartford area (from just above the Putnam Bridge in Wethersfield/Glastonbury to the Bulkeley Bridge in Hartford/East Hartford) from 6 am to 5 pm. Boaters should additional caution in this area.

TIPS & TRICKS for CARP

(from carp-fishing-tactis.com)

- Limit the use of fishmeal boilies when fishing over silt. They can take on the smells of the surrounding bottom, causing it to become less attractive.
- Never pull lead towards you when casting on hard gravel unless using rig foam, dragging hook along gravel will blunt point making it hard to set the hook.
- Keep eyes open for potential features where carp may patrol.
- Before visiting a new waterbody learn as much about it as possible, (depths, features, bottom type, wind direction, etc).
- If you haven't caught for hours try casting in a new direction.
- Feather the main line on casting so the whole rig stretches out straight.
- Use a marker and mine-sweeper lead to gain a clearer idea of the waterbody bed.
- When casting towards a marker float aim slightly to the left or right.
- Trim all sharp points on bait stops, hairs, braids, stiff links or anything which may come into contact with carp.
- Use braid for feature finding with a marker float.
- Use very small lengths of thin lead core to wrap around the line or tubing about every six inches. This helps keep all parts pinned down to the bottom.
- Play the fish gently as they have soft lips. A hook can easily pull out if too much pressure is applied. Also, a fish dragged in quickly can become lively on the bank making it harder to handle.
- Don't forget bread as a bait, either brown or white is good.
- If fish are not responding, try using natural baits such as mussels, snails or slugs.
- Always use sharp hooks when creating new rigs. Test each hook before casting a rig out.

MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the high 60'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

Autumn has begun and fishing is picking up for some species and slowing down for others as falling water temperatures and longer nights trigger fish to put on the feedbag before migrating to warmer climes.

BLUEFISH fishing remains very good to excellent with large choppers weighing in their teens continue to bulk up before moving offshore and south.

SNAPPERS are still around in the main stem of the Thames, Connecticut, and Housatonic Rivers but time is running out! The Thames River is your best bet, especially at the Fort Trumbull State Park fishing pier and DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier.

STRIPED BASS fishing is good and will only get better as water temperatures drop and bluefish start departing. Still plenty of bunker around in the tidal rivers, coves and harbors along the coastline. Live lining bunker is the choice bait for large stripers. Fishing spots for both stripers and bluefish include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef, Thames River, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, Little Gull Island, outer Bartlett Reef, off Black Point, 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, New Haven Harbor, Milford Harbor jetties/Gulf Beach, 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.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is still prime time especially from shore. Any type of structure, rock pile, or piling will have scup around it. Also, this is a good time of year to take advantage of fishing at DEEP Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing Sites where the total length limit on scup is 9 inches! To learn more about these very special designated fishing areas go to our web site at http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/marinefish/fishmap.htm and find a location close to you!

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good with humpbacks in the 3 to 5 lb range being reported. The number of sub-legal fish being caught is still very high so remember to slow down on reeling in that line when fishing deep water.

LITTLE TUNNY and **ATLANTIC BONITO** can be found chasing bait on the water surface. Be on the lookout for diving terns and gulls giving away their presence from Watch Hill to Wilderness Point, Pine Island area, the Race including Little Gull Island, Bartlett Reef, Jordan Cove to Millstone Point, the Black Point area, Hatchett Reef and Sixmile Reef.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is extremely slow!

BLUE CLAW CRABBING is slowing down as the water temperatures decline. Blue crabs move off into warmer deeper water as shallow coves and tidal creeks chill off.

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 .

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.

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.

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