

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 20
8/29/2019



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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

Stay in the know with CT Fish and Fishing

- Facebook Posts ([@CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/CTFISHANDWILDLIFE))
- [Opt in](#) to the Monthly E-newsletter *CT Fishin' Tips*

*Providers of some of the information in this report included **Candlewood Bait & Tackle, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, JT's Fly Shop, The Fish Connection, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is variable, mostly fair with some good and some slow, but overall nothing to rave about (it's that late August doldrums thing). Recent cooler temperatures will get bass more active again. In southeast CT, largemouth are providing some action, with anglers finding some 1.5-3.0 lb bass (but not much for bigger fish) at Amos Lake, Pachaug Pond, Long Pond and Beach Pond. Black Pond (Middlefield/Meriden), Lake Zoar, Bantam Lake, Quaddick Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir are also providing some fair fishing. You have to work some at Candlewood Lake (and maybe go deeper) and Mashapaug Lake has been real stingy.

Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (slow to fair, 2.20 lb lunker), Beach Pond (fair, but not much size with a 2.25 lb lunker and an average weight per fish of 1.05 lbs), Gardner Lake (fair for one club, with a 3.5 lb lunker but nothing else over 1.75 lbs; tougher for a second club, with a 1.64 lb lunker), Lake of Isles (fair to good, 3.32 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair, 3.92 lb lunker, 1.88 lb average fish weight), Quaddick Lake (fair to real good for two clubs, 6.06 lb and 5.25 lb lunkers), Rogers Lake (slow, 1.97 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (tough for one daytime club, with a 4.39 lb lunker, fair to good for another club, with 4.47 lb lunker; and a night club also found fair fishing with a 3.91 lb lunker), Lake Zoar (fair, 4.43 lb lunker), and the Connecticut River ("tough conditions & tough fishing" for a day club out of Salmon River with a 5.69 lb lunker; also so for an evening group with a 3.46 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. It's been tougher finding the smallies at Candlewood Lake (look for the deeper humps, alewives or swimbaits may work), the smallmouth at Lake Zoar have been fishing well, and anglers are reporting some catches from both Billings Lake and Wyassup Lake in the southeast. River smallmouth fishing on the upper Housatonic River continues to be good, the upper CT River (Enfield area) was also providing some really good action and anglers were also busy with smallmouth in both the Shetucket and Quinebaug Rivers on poppers and night crawlers.

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (hard work finding them, day or night, 3.96 lb and 3.53 lb lunkers), Lake Zoar (fair to good) and the Connecticut River (a few in the bags for a club out of Salmon River).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Cool "fall-like" temperatures are a welcome relief for the trout in our rivers and streams. Until we begin our fall trout stocking in Trout Management Areas, the best bet for action remains the tail-water habitat (super cool) of the West Branch and mainstem Farmington River (down to about Unionville) or the Housatonic River (cooler temperatures have prodded some trout to leave the refuge areas, and they are

reportedly biting, early and late in the day best). For a challenge, try some of our Wild Trout Management Areas (these tend to have good cold flow year round) for some wild brookie and brown action. All Wild Trout Management Areas are listed in our [Fishing Guide](#). Terrestrial fly patterns are good to include in your offerings.

Conditions in CT are polar opposite with the Connecticut River as the dividing line. Streams to the west of the Connecticut River had little increase in flows from just trace amounts of rain this week. Those streams east of the CT River are fairly high for this time of year (*see stream flow graphic on page 5* or check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#)).

Cooler weather is forecast for the weekend and beyond which continue to improvement.

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good to very good and conditions for the weekend and next week should be good. Flows are clear and very low (currently 71 CFS at Riverton plus 19 CFS from the Still River), and remain very comfortable for fishing. Water temperatures continue to increase some but generally remain cool and comfortable for trout in the West Branch (best water temperatures are from the lower end of the catch-and-release area up to Hogback (Goodwin Dam). **Note that the annual pre-Labor Day trout stocking has been postponed due to the low flows.**

Hatches/patterns include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28 in the morning; best in the catch-and-release-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Winter/Summer caddis (#18-24), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-20, 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, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), and Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day). Try nymphing in the early morning. Fish are falling for Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers, large and shiny, are also a good option (Hare's ear, Pheasant Tail, White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghost).

The Fisheries Division annual "Survivor Broodstock" collection was conducted on Tuesday and Wednesday (8/27 and 8/28). This is a bit earlier than past years, however, we needed to make sure we would be successful as last fall we were unable to collect broodstock (weather related- high flows). Staff netted and measured 1,423 total trout in the various segments we sampled over the 2 days. 148 of these fish were selected for potential broodstock. This means they received a free ride to Burlington State Fish Hatchery where they will remain for several weeks until spawning (feel free to go and visit the hatchery). Post- spawn, these fish will be returned back to the river in the areas sampled. Their offspring will be the next generation of "[survivors](#)" used to stock the Farmington and Housatonic Rivers starting about 12 months post hatch. We do not expect any impact to the fishery as the majority of fish were returned to the river in very close proximity to where they were captured. We also tend to select fish in the 16-20 inch range for broodstock. Based on our experience, fish over 20 inches are far less productive than their more virile younger versions. Consequently, almost all of the largest fish were not selected for broodstock (meaning they are still there for you to catch).

Real time Water Temperature Data is available from the Riverton gauge on the USGS *Current Conditions for Connecticut Streamflow* website (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>).

DEEP's Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse was instrumental in funding this addition to the USGS gauge. This new data will be helpful, including for monitoring conditions and determining the need for additional monitoring farther downstream, especially during droughts and heat waves.

Here's the link that will take you directly to the USGS 01186000 WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER AT RIVERTON, CT online gauge data:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/uv?cb_all=on&cb_00010=on&cb_00060=on&cb_00065=on&format=gif_default&sitete_no=01186000&period=17&begin_date=2019-06-25&end_date=2019-07-09

Note that if you save the direct link above, you'll need to update the dates every few days as it takes one to a specific time period (in this case 6/22 – 7/9).



Just a couple of the large hold-over fish that were sampled during the annual “[survivor](#)” broodstock collection on the West Branch Farmington River earlier this week. We usually select fish a bit smaller than these for the broodstock. Based on our experience, the larger fish are less likely to produce significant gametes (so they are measured and returned to the river).

Housatonic River – The river continues to be very wadeable and fishable. Cool temperatures have reduced stress on the trout and they are moving back out into the river to feed (especially early morning). Flows had risen back up to typical late August levels but have dropped off some, currently 198 CFS at Falls Village and 289 CFS at Gaylordsville. Anglers can call the **FirstLight Power Resources flow line at 1-888-417-4837 for updated river information or check the [USGS website](#)** for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

The Smallmouth Bass fishing is outstanding and are super challenging when caught on light tackle. Crayfish and Hellgramites, both readily available from within the river, are perfect bait - try alders and White Flies (still going good) for some great fly fishing action for smallies. Carp and Pike are other solid bets especially in the section above “Great Falls” and in the Bulls Bridge impoundment (Kent).

Hatches/patterns. The White fly hatch is wrapping up. Other insects include Sulfurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12 has been active lately, fast water, evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies have been very productive. Don’t forget poppers and streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish, they are effective right now.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers. [Please call our dispatch to report any illegal fishing 860-424-3333.](#)



TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – No reports for trout again this week. Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond may provide some sparse and limited action.

CHANNEL CATFISH. Summer is catfish time. The more productive areas include the CT River (evenings/nights best but cats are being found throughout the day in the Hartford area), Batterson Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, and Beardsley Park Pond. Other places to try include Stillwater Pond, Burr Pond, Silver Lake, Hopeville Pond, and Black Pond.

Please note the Fisheries Division is conducting population estimates for the next several weeks on Batterson Park Pond, Black Pond (Middlefield), Burr Pond, and Lake Kenosia. Our nets (right) will be marked with orange buoys. Please do not disturb the nets.

COMMON CARP. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves for big carp. Other carp favorite water include Lake Zoar, Candlewood Lake, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. No reports for pike this week. Bantam Lake, Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir are all good places for pike. Some nice pike can also be found in the small impoundments on the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge up to Salisbury.

PANFISH. Perfect time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. It's great for families and will get kids hooked on fishing. Fly-fishing with small poppers will provide some great catches. Also, try suspending poppers to catch a few crappie. Some good sunnie action reported from Mohegan Park Pond and the lower Hewitt Pond are just two of the many ponds providing some good action. Looking for a new place to fish? Check out our [interactive mapping application](#).

WALLEYE. Late evening and nighttime is generally the best for Walleye fishing. Some good fishing for 'Eyes reported from the upper CT River with a number of fish caught, and Squantz Pond is also providing some action (try alewives for bait). Other places to try include Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.



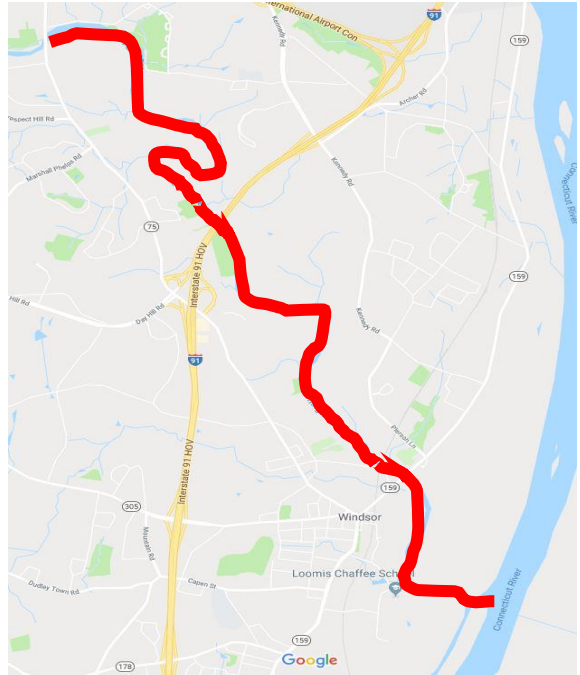
**REMINDER TO ANGLERS-
FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO
PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS
PROHIBITED.**

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that has 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.



CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are low (currently 2,850 CFS at Thompsonville) and while very comfortable for fishing/boating, are making it difficult to get into some of those out-of-the way coves and back channels. Bowfin fishing remains good. Good to very good action for **catfish** (Whites and Channels) throughout the river, with a number of 4-8 lb fish caught in the Enfield (a couple of 10-11 lb fish reported), Glastonbury, and Middletown areas. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** was slow to fair in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** were providing some very good action in the Enfield area and some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river.

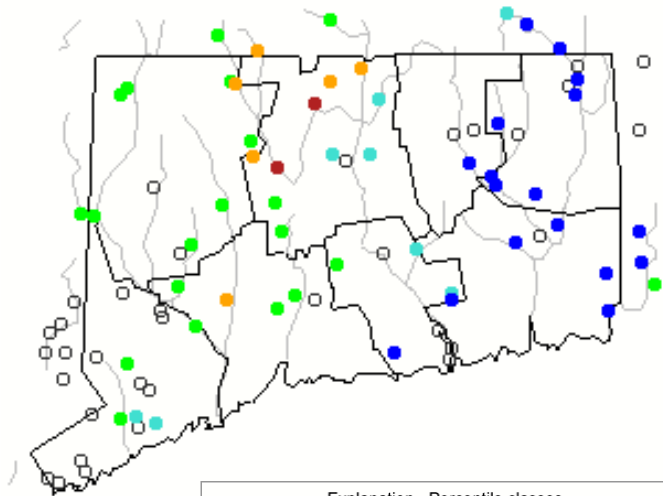
IMPORTANT NOTICE - Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9. DEEP and the Department of Public Health have lifted the advisory concerning boating and swimming in this section of the lower Farmington river. **The advisory to not eat fish caught from this area remains in place until further testing is completed and results analyzed.**



Section of the lower Farmington River possibly affected by the recent firefighting foam release under the cautionary advisory.

Stream flow conditions

Thursday, August 29, 2019 17:30ET



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”.

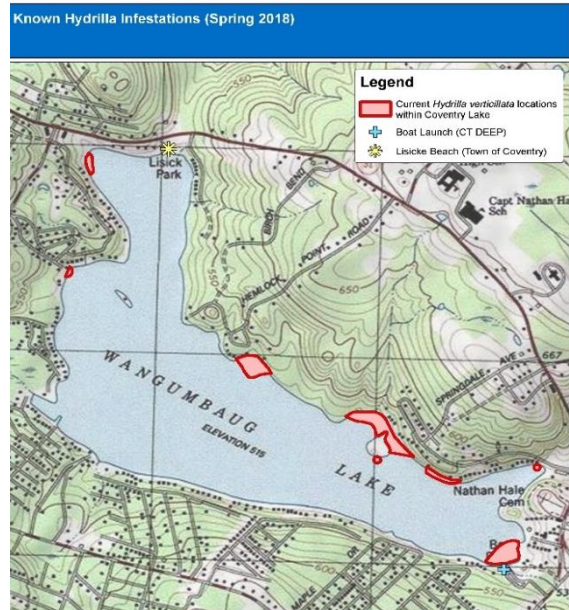
NOTES & NOTICES:

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). Due to low water levels the regular boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed. Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury's Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Hydrilla has now spread throughout the river and can be found in numerous areas.** See the Coventry Lake entry on the next page for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the launch.

STANLEY QUARTER PARK POND (drawdown). A 2-3 foot drawdown for dam repairs is ongoing. Accessing the water may be limited.

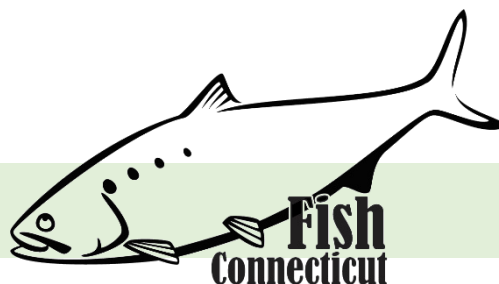


Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2019 Connecticut Fishing 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 Fishing Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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) continue to range from the low to the high 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>

IMPORTANT REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **SEE A TANGLED TURTLE? CALL THE HOTLINE! 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107.** This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.
- **NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE** – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle without avoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years. Thank you for supporting conservation!

Public Input Wanted regarding Striped Bass:

The DEEP Marine Fisheries Program is hosting two public hearings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to gather input on Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Draft Addendum VI was initiated in response to the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment, which indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Draft Addendum explores a range of management alternatives designed to end overfishing and reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020. Get more details [here](#).

The hearings will be held at:

7:00 PM, **Monday September 23, 2019**
DEEP Marine Headquarters Boating Education
Center (rear building)
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

AND

7:00 PM, **Wednesday September 25, 2019**
Port 5 Hall
69 Brewster Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

If you cannot attend and would like to have formal comment- Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI either by attending one of the public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019 and should be sent to Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201;

703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI). Additional details [here](#).

STRIPED BASS fishing is picking up as we get closer to the autumnal equinox. Find the bait and you will find bass of all sizes below them. I highly recommend hooking up with a charter boat or guide and learn how to catch those “cow” bass. Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) on the reefs at dawn and dusk is producing some nice bass (54.5 inches – 56 pounds, Old Lyme). 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), Six mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (Breakwalls) and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Milford Point, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. *Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.*

BLACK SEA BASS fishing has become a deep water bite. Fishing has been very consistent in the east for keeper-sized sea bass. Plan a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish off of Block Island...there are many giant-sized sea bass to be caught out there. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Niantic, to Branford (Faulkner Island) have been consistent all season. A reminder to all anglers...if you are fishing in water deeper than 100’, barotrauma can cause released fish to struggle to make it back to the bottom. A descending device such as the Shelton Fish Descender can help assist the sea bass air bladder to recompress and get safely back down to the depths. See Fishsmart.org for more information.

CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19th to December 31st.

SCUP (PORGY) fishing is very good. These fish are measuring 14-18 inches (“hubcap size”) in length and are being reported at every fishing pier, beach, reef or rock pile in the Sound. Fishing is good throughout Long Island Sound. The central and western Sound is loaded with hubcap size (15+ inches in length) fish. In the west the Norwalk area (Cockenoe Island) is fishing very well. If possible, take a trip to the east, southeast of Block Island (great fishing). Otherwise, some good locations in the west are: the lower Housatonic River to Charles Island, Morningside (Milford), Coast Guard Jetty at Southport Beach, Rock Jetty at Calf Pasture beach, **South Benson Fishing Pier, Sherwood Island, Pleasure Beach Fishing Pier, St Mary’s by the Sea, Fort Nathan Hale Pier and along Long Beach** (excellent shore spots). Other shore spots include **Rocky Neck State Park**, Harkness Memorial State Park, **Meigs Point Hammonasset**, Sherwood Island State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park. Fish during the high tide at these shore locations. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH fishing is improving daily. Good numbers of 14-20 inch bluefish around. Spanish and Chub mackerel are mixed in with the bluefish. Eastern Sound has seen much better fishing for “alligator –size” blues, fish up to 14 pounds. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Six mile 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 has improved in the tidal creeks and rivers with fish measuring 6 to 10 inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) fishing is getting better as fall approaches. These flatfish are feeding heavily prior to their migration south for the winter. Fishermen are reporting some very large doormat fluke being caught (12 lbs. 10 oz., central Sound). Live lining snapper blues in deep water (80 to 120') is the preferred method by fluke sharpies. The usual 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, Two tree 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. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is sporadic. They have been tough to spot during the recent week due to rough sea conditions from the easterly winds (east is least). Flat seas are the best for sight fishing. Also, don't forget to try jigging for them. These small tunas are cruising around from Pt. Judith, Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point and west to New Haven. Dawn is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas. **Try casting metal (heavy) lures to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip.**

WHITE PERCH fishing continues is improving as fall approaches. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier**), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is ok in the Black Hall River/Lieutenant River, Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Fishing remains ok at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems. Both snappers and hickory shad can be found schooling together at these locations.

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing continues to be excellent for this cool looking fish. Also, called "**Poor-Man's Lobster**", these fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut's shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 22 inches and "barking up a storm" (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat. There are no length or creel limits for searobins.

NORTHERN KINGFISH fishing has been very good. Many reports this month from the western Sound including Walnut Beach and Sandy Point. **Kingfish are found along hard sand bottom in shallow water. Shore anglers can expect excellent fishing. They are very good eating.**

SAND SHARKS (SMOOTH DOGFISH) fishing is good in Long Island Sound with dogfish up to 50 inches in length reported. They are very abundant and fun to catch when bottom fishing from shore or boat. Unlike most sharks, this dogfish has rows of flat grinding teeth rather than sharp blades, which are ideal for crushing and chewing the crustaceans and mollusks that it hunts. They will bite on any bait fished on the bottom. Often found mixed in with scup, sea bass, summer flounder and sea robins.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT - : Anglers may catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark which are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information.](#)

BLUE CRAB crabbing continues to improve with this very warm weather we have been having. Incoming tide has produced better crab fishing...as the crabs migrate into the shallow water to feed. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard**

shell crab. Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited and it's illegal to snag blue crabs. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#)

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Spanish Mackerel	16"	C&R	Jackson B.
Scup	17.25"	2 lb 8 oz	Kai Chometa
Summer Flounder	28"	7 lb 6 oz	Eric Jamrog
Summer Flounder	25"	6 lb 3 oz	Victor Lenda Jr.
Summer Flounder	28"	9 lb 6 oz	Scott Deford
Striped Bass	47"	C&R	Michael Kelly
Black Sea Bass	22.5"	4 lb 13 oz	Thomas St Cyr

[CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH – CLICK HERE FOR THE MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT](#)

REPORTING YOUR RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY – CT'S MARINE ANGLER SURVEY

CTDEEP Marine Fisheries Program is responsible for conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) in CT to collect saltwater recreational fishing catch data. This data is part of [NOAA's Marine Recreational Information Program \(MRIP\)](#) an extremely important survey used to manage our marine fisheries. You can find CTDEEP marine fisheries staff aboard party boats, visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, canvassing local beaches, piers, and at other fishing access points to gather accurate catch information.

When you're out fishing, please keep an eye out for marine angler survey field staff! The survey takes 5 minutes to complete. Any information you can provide them will remain confidential and is greatly appreciated. For more opportunities to report your recreational catch, please visit Marine [Volunteer Angler Survey](#).

- **CONNECTICUT STATE BOUNDARY LINE IN LONG ISLAND SOUND.** Anglers please note, although Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.
- **CT TIDE INFORMATION** can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).
- **FISH RULES APP** Fish Rules is a totally new and innovative way to understand recreational saltwater fishing regulations for state and federal waters from Maine to Texas.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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