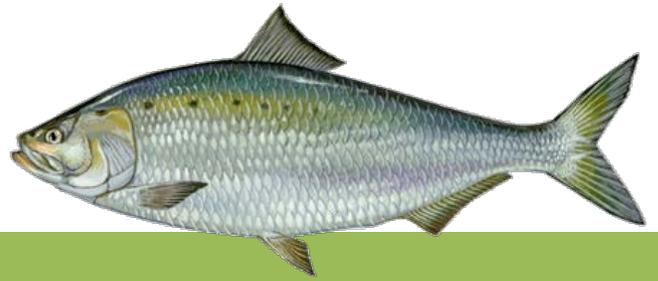


CT DEEP **2015**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 4
5/7/2015



American Shad (*Alosa sapidissima*)



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.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Trout fishing has really picked up and conditions for fishing this weekend should be good with dry weather forecast and comfortable flows for fishing and wading. With only limited recent rainfall, flows throughout the state are now at or below typical early May levels (see stream flow graphic on page 4).

Fair to good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington river, Housatonic River, Wharton Brook, Salmon Brook, Pomperaug River, Pequonnock River, Salmon River, Jeremy River, Scantic River, Yantic River, Hammonasset River, Mill River, Shetucket River, Kent Falls Brook, Pootatuck River, Saugatuck River, Natchaug River, Quinnipiac River, Bantam River, Norwalk River, Blackberry River, Tankerhoosen River, Eightmile River (Haddam) and Quinnebaug River (in Putnam - good action on flies & lures for trout up to 15 inches in length, farther downstream along Route 14A, fair action with fish from 8-18 inches, plus one 22 inch fish reported).

Farmington River - Fishing has been good and conditions for fishing should be very good this weekend with lots of recently stocked trout and comfortable moderate to low flows, currently 169 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 85 cfs. Water temperatures are in the mid 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-24) in a parachute or emerging dun (noon to 5pm), Hendrickson (a.k.a. red quill; #12-#14; try around 1:30 pm with spinners in the evening mixed in), Winter/Summer Caddis (#18-22) and Stonefly nymphs (#16-18), Midge (#20-32). Also try Rusty Spinners (#16-18), Mahogany Duns/Blue Quills (#16-18), Tan Caddis (#16-18) and Winter Caddis (#18-22). Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also producing, use White Zonkers and Buggers (#4-12), also Muddlers, Mickey Finn, Grey or Black Ghost.

FREE FISHING DAY

THIS SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015

On this date anyone can fish inland or marine waters without a fishing license (all other regulations including minimum size and creel limits remain in effect).

Among the events scheduled is a "Family Fishing Day", part of DEEP's "**Great Park Pursuit Connecticut State Parks Family Adventure**" at [Gay City State Park](#). Open to families and children, this free event will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and there will be plenty of activities including fishing on the pond, fish sampling, fish stocking, a fish fry, and fun activities for all ages. Join the DEEP [CARE](#) program's certified fishing instructors and the Hammonasset Chapter of Trout Unlimited for some fun family fishing.

There are a number of fishing events in addition to the Great Park Pursuit that are scheduled to take place on "**Free Fishing Day.**" See [page 2](#) for information on these events.

Housatonic River - Fishing has been good and the river will be great for fishing this weekend. Flows are fairly clear, and quite comfortable for wading, being lower than is typical for early May (currently 786 cfs at Falls Village and 1,240 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are in the upper 40's°F, and warming through the day.

Hatches/patterns include Hendrickson (#12-14, hatch near 2:00pm), Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18), Green/Olive Caddis & Tan/Brown Caddis. Anglers using March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18) Copper John (#12-16). Try streamers (Yellow/White Zuddlers or Gray Ghost) around 6:30 pm, brown and green woolly buggers as well as white muddler minnows are working.

Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Quanduck Brook, Quinebaug River** (Putnam), **Shetucket River** (Windham, Scotland, Sprague), **Snake Meadow Brook, Hammonasset River** (including the TMA), **Quinebaug River** (Griswold), **Pachaug River, Mount Misery Brook, Myron Kinnie Brook, Moosup River TMA, Quinebaug River** (Plainfield), **Mount Hope River, Fenton River** (Mansfield) and **Natchaug River** stocked this week.

In **western Connecticut**; lower **Saugatuck River, Sandy Brook, Still River** (Colebrook), **Nepaug River, East Branch Salmon Brook, West Branch Salmon Brook, Farmill River, Naugatuck River** (below TMA, Thomaston, Waterbury, Beacon Falls), **Mill River** (Hamden, including the TMA), **Leadmine Brook, Mad River, Blackberry River, East Aspetuck River, Pond Brook, lower Pootatuck River and Pomperaug River** stocked this week.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS - Fish can typically be found by trolling at 5-7 colors, (15-20 feet), in many lakes and ponds throughout Connecticut. Some anglers are targeting big fish in deeper water with bait. Reports from Mashapaug Lake (DB Smelt #42 @ 15 feet), Highland Lake (target 20 feet, 6-8 am), Lake McDonough, West Branch Reservoir, Colebrook River Lake (5 colors, orange/silver Flash King), Cedar Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Saugatuck Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Beach Pond (black/olive Woolly Bugger, troll 80 foot wire line), Long Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake (target 15-20 feet), East Twin Lake (Kobra #9, 11 @ 20 feet, 7-10 am), Crystal Lake (Ellington, 6 colors, Kobra #9), Bigelow Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Coventry Lake (Kobra #19 @ 20 feet) and Mohawk Pond.

Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Amos Lake, Black Pond** (Middlefield), **Hanover Reservoir, Moosup Pond, Wauregan Reservoir** (Quinebaug Lake), **Gardner Lake, Rogers Lake, Coventry Lake** (Wangumbaug Lake) and **Shenipsit Lake** were stocked.

In **western Connecticut**; **Candlewood Lake, Prospect Town Park Pond, Starret Pond** (Lake Hopewell, in Collis P. Huntington State Park), **Christensen's Pond, Nells Rock Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Highland Lake** (265 1-4 lb Seeferellen strain brown trout), and the **Mad River Flood**

ADDITIONAL FISHING EVENTS ON FREE FISHING DAY (SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015)

Day on the Farmington River, Whittemore State Recreation Area, East River Road, Barkhamsted, CT – Come enjoy a day on the river with the Farmington Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited beginning at 10:00 am. Fish, hang out and have lunch. If you are new to the sport, there will be plenty of experienced anglers there – ready and willing to take you on the river. If there is inclement weather please check Farmington Trout Unlimited website at: <http://fvtu.org/?p=593>

Merwin Meadows, Wilton CT- Fly Fishing Clinic. The Mianus Chapter of Trout Unlimited is offering a free Fly Fishing Clinic at Merwin Meadows Park in Wilton between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. Fly casting, knot tying, aquatic insect identification and a late barbecue lunch are on the schedule. More information can be found at www.mianustu.org. For reservations email jyates@mianustu.org or call 203-216-7078.

Mirror Lake, Hubbard Park, Meriden, CT- Carl D'Addaraio Children's Fishing Derby. Annual children's fishing event sponsored by the Meriden Rod and Gun Club and the City of Meriden with prizes in various age groups for biggest fish and most fish caught. Each child also gets a free hotdog and soft drink. Some of the top prizes include bicycles. This event is rain or shine and registration begins at 9:00 a.m. and the derby starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 12:00 noon. For more information contact Mike Roberts at michaelroberts@mindspring.com.

Control Impoundment were stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing remains generally good at the Trout Parks (very good last week at Chatfield Hollow and Stratton brook). The **Stratton Brook** (pond only), **Southford Falls** (pond only), **Wolfe Park** (Great Hollow Pond), **Chatfield Hollow** (both Schreeder Pond and Chatfield Hollow Brook), **Mohegan Park Pond**, **Valley Falls Park Pond**, **Wharton Brook**, **Black Rock Pond**, **Kent Falls** and **Natchaug River Trout Parks** were stocked this week.

COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS- Upper Fulton Park Pond and **Pickett’s Pond** were stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing picked up over the last week (along with water temperatures) with good spring action in a number of areas. Targeting dark bottom warmer back water coves can be very productive. Places to try include Moodus Reservoir, West Hill Pond (a nice 7 lb plus bass caught here last weekend), Candlewood Lake, Hatch Pond, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Lake McDonough, Mashapaug Lake, Congamond Lakes, Billings Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Ball Pond, Hopeville Pond, Lake Zoar, Bishop Swamp, Silver Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are from Amos Lake (tough, 3.3 lb lunker) Gardner Lake (on the tough side with lots of pickerel getting in the way, with a 2.8 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair fishing, 3.55 lb and 3.25 lb lunkers), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (lots of work for a few fish, 3.09 lb lunker), Lake of Isles (slow, but with a 5.25 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (slow), Candlewood Lake (beginning to pick up, 6.1 lb, 4.8 lb and 4.7 lb lunkers) and Lake Zoar (fair, 4.01 lb lunker),

SMALLMOUTH BASS Some action reported from Lake McDonough, Highland Lake, Candlewood Lake, Bantam Lake and Squantz Pond. **Tournament angler** reports are Bantam Lake (slow, but with a 3.92 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (not quite there yet, some days better than others –anglers still finding them deeper than is typical, lunkers include 5.41 lb, 3.91 lb, and 3.8 lb smallies), Lake Zoar (fair to good, 5.92 lb lunker) and Highland Lake (fair at best, 5.05, 3.3 lb lunker).

CARP were caught from Scantic River (by fly fishing), Lake Saltonstall and Lake Kenosia this past week.

BLACK CRAPPIE- Good action at Lake McDonough, Hatch Pond, Moodus Reservoir and Park Pond.

CHAIN PICKEREL are being caught at Gardner Lake, Silver Lake, Wood Creek Pond and Winchester Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE are reported from Bantam Lake and Pachaug Pond.

WALLEYE. Some catches reported from Batterson Park Pond.



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 2015 CT angler’s Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river has dropped to levels more comfortable for boating and fishing (and somewhat lower than typical early May levels), and continues to clear and warm. **STRIPED BASS** (schoolie size) are midway up the river. The mid-lower section of the river is picking up for schoolie size fish. Sand & blood worms are working, also try big plastic baits & swim baits. **AMERICAN SHAD** are reported in good numbers with some action coming from the lower-mid river stretch. Additional fish can be found at the confluence of the Farmington River and at the Bissell Bridge area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the warmer back coves with some big pre-spawn fish in the mix. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are reported from the mid-upper river with one angler reporting 22 fish. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the coves in the Middletown area. **WHITE PERCH** are making a strong showing in the coves of the lower river. Some **CARP** are being caught in the lower river.

Mianus River Fishway 2015 Open House

Saturday May 9th 1PM to 3PM
125 River Road Extension, Cos Cob

Sponsored by
The Town of Greenwich
Conservation Commission



The Greenwich Conservation Commission will be hosting two open house events at the Mianus River Fishway during the annual herring migration. All are invited to stop by and learn about the history of the fishway and the incredible life cycle of the fish that depend on it. Staff and volunteers will be available to give tours of the fishway and answer any questions. For more information, contact Denise Savageau at (203)622-6461 or denise.savageau@greenwichct.org



NOTES & NOTICES:

BASHAN LAKE A drawdown of Bashan Lake for dam repairs is ongoing. Bashan Lake is drawn down approximately 14-16 feet. Additionally, the state boat launch is closed for renovations.

LAKE HOUSATONIC (draw down). Lake Housatonic is scheduled to be drawn down three feet this weekend (May 9 & 10) for maintenance. Launching trailered boats from the state boat launch will be very difficult to impossible during the drawdown.

ROGERS LAKE (rowing regatta). A High school rowing event IS scheduled for **Saturday, May 9** from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm along the eastern shore of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution in this area.

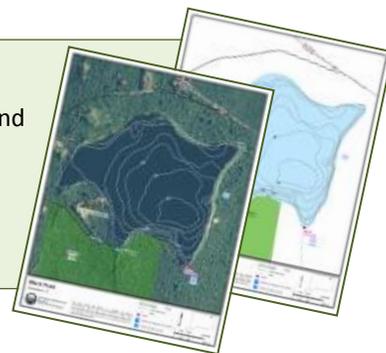
LAKE WARAMAUG (rowing regattas). High school rowing events are scheduled for **Saturday, May 9** from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm, **Wednesday, May 13** from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm and **Saturday, May 16** from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. All three events are in the western basin of the lake. Boaters should use additional caution in this area.

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

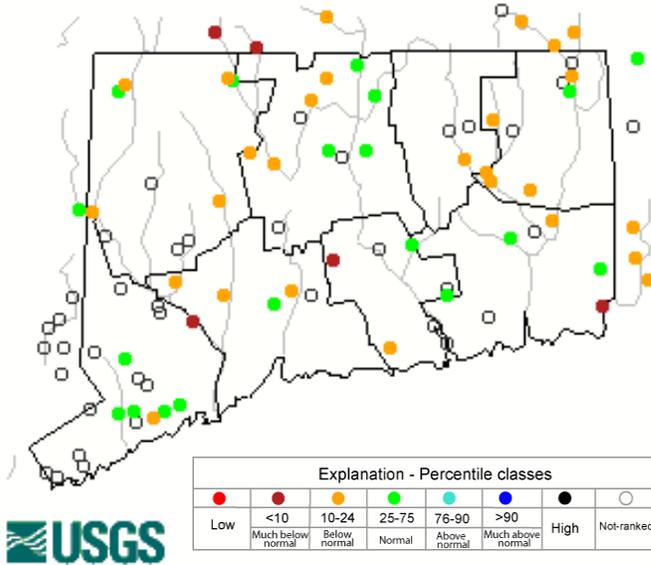
www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



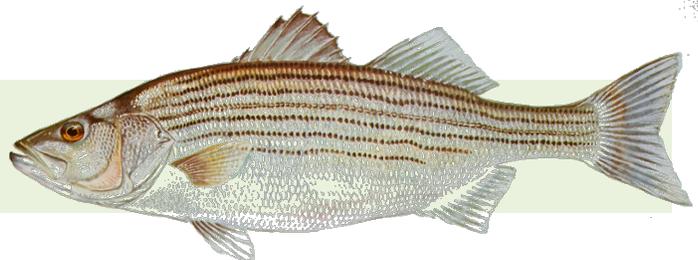
Stream flow conditions as of 5/7/2015

Thursday, May 07, 2015 17:00ET



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) range from the mid 40's to the mid 50'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 to excellent for schoolies in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some keepers in the mix as well. Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. Sand and blood worms have been working the best, especially in turbid waters around the high tide. Casting swimming lures, small jigs with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. Fishing should get better as we approach the magical 55°F mark!

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains slow but improving in the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, Calf Pasture Beach area, Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor. Other flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, and the mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good to excellent for these tasty panfish in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Shrimp and worms are the key to success.

Special section- BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM-

The **Bonus Striped Bass Program will run from May 1 through December 31 again in 2015.** In a change from previous years, **DEEP will distribute harvest tags along with a harvest report card. The tag must be securely affixed to the jaw of the fish immediately upon harvest and must remain on the fish until you arrive home.** The harvest report card must also be completed upon harvesting a qualifying fish. The report card should then be returned to DEEP within two days of harvest. The cards are pre-addressed to Marine Fisheries and are postage paid. You simply need to drop the completed card in any mail box. **Tags will be available beginning Monday, April 20th at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below.** There is a limit of one tag annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most two tags by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tag by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). **Tags will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.**

DEEP Offices/Facilities	Address	Town	State	Zip
Marine Headquarters , M-F 8am-4pm, 860-434-6043	333 Ferry Road	Old Lyme	CT	06371
Eastern District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-295-9523	209 Hebron Ave	Marlborough	CT	06447
Western District , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-485-0226	230 Plymouth Rd	Harwinton	CT	06791
Franklin WMA , 860-642-7239 M-F 8:30am-4:30pm	391 Route 32	Franklin	CT	06254
Sessions Woods WMA , M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130	341 Milford Street (Rte 69)	Burlington	CT	06013
CTDEEP Main Office M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105	79 Elm Street	Hartford	CT	06106

Program Objectives / Ways to Use the Voucher

The striped bass bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 inch to less than 28 inches) striped bass during May through December, both in the Marine and Inland Districts of Connecticut state waters only. The Bonus fishery was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission’s Striped Bass Management Board which oversees the conservation of the species throughout its range. Addendum IV to the Striped Bass Fishery Management, adopted in October 2014, allocates a 17,813 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut (25% reduction from previous years) which is being used in this program to provide this additional recreational fishing opportunity since commercial striped bass harvest is prohibited in this state. **The unused commercial quota equates to 3,018 fish available for harvest under this program.**

Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: “*Share the Experience – Take Someone Fishing*”. The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass

fishermen generally may want to hold onto a voucher to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawn.

Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2015.
- Only one bonus striped bass may be harvested daily.
- The fish must be tagged immediately upon harvest, with the tag securely affixed to the lower jaw.
- The tag must remain on the fish until you have returned to your home or other location where the fish is to be consumed.
- Anglers are also required to complete a bonus striper report card provided with the tag immediately upon harvesting a qualifying fish.
- Mail the report card back to Marine Fisheries within two days of harvesting the fish. The card is already addressed and postage paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Tags are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of one (1) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

Voucher Distribution

A total of 3,018 vouchers will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the tags. A limited number of tags will be reserved for programs such as "Take a Kid Fishing", "Take a Veteran Fishing", Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive vouchers. The Bonus Striped Bass Voucher Program will run **May 1 through December 31** in 2015. Vouchers **will be available beginning May 1 at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below**. There is a limit of one voucher annually per fishing license holder. However, for convenience one person may pick up at most two vouchers by presenting valid fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a voucher by signing up for a free [Youth Fishing Passport](#). Vouchers will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2015 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 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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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

American shad and Striped Bass images courtesy
Duane Raver/USFWS.