

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 11

## 6/29/2011



### INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – fishing is generally good to very good with reports from Candlewood Lake, Pachaug Pond (good action, nothing big), Gardner Lake (very good action, no lunkers), Long Pond, Quaddick Lake (several 5 lb bass among recent bags), Bashan Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Winchester Lake, Lake Williams, Lake of Isles and Rogers Lake. Fishing is however reported to be fair at Pattagansett Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Amos Lake, Highland Lake and Bantam Lake.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing remains variable, with reports from Candlewood Lake (good), Gardner Lake (slow, although several 3-4 lb smallies were caught), Bantam Lake (fair), Highland Lake (tough), Colebrook Reservoir (good), Lake McDonough (fair) and West Hill Pond (fair). Smallie fishing should be heating up in rivers including the upper Housatonic, Naugatuck and lower Farmington Rivers.

**NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is generally fair, with reports from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

**KOKANEE SALMON** are providing decent action at West Hill Pond and East Twin Lake.

**WALLEYE** - Catches reported from Squantz Pond (good action, smaller fish only), Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Saugatuck Reservoir.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Summer’s catfish season, and with nearly 15,000 catfish stocked in early June, action should be good. Try Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), and Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), Black Pond (Middlefield), Maltby Lakes 2 & 3 (Orange/West Haven), Lower Bolton Lake (Bolton), Pattaconk Lake (Chester), Quonnipaug Lake (Guilford) and Silver Lake (Meriden).

### TROUT

**Rivers & streams** - Anglers should find some good early summer fishing this Holiday weekend. Temperatures should be comfortable and recent rains have again refreshed the rivers, with flows in most areas back at very fishable levels. Good reports for early last week from West Branch Farmington River, Farmington river, Housatonic River, Hammonasset River, Saugatuck River, Naugatuck River, Natchaug River, Mount Hope River and Blackberry River.

**Farmington River** – Due to high flows, fishing slowed over the weekend. However, fishing should be very good for the Holiday weekend. West Branch flows have once again cleared and are at more moderate levels, currently 350 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River (dropping nicely from weekend highs) now providing another 210 cfs. TMA water temperatures are in the upper 50’s to low 60’s °F. **There should be plenty of trout in the upper reaches for the Holiday weekend, the West Branch**

#### **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](http://www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies).



(from Goodwin Dam to the upper boundary of the TMA) was stocked with 2,100 brown trout (12 inch and longer fish) this week.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-20, mid-late afternoon), *Needhami* duns (#22-26, early morning to early afternoon), Light Cahill (#14), Sulphurs duns (*Ephemerella dorothea*, #14-18, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#22-28, morning) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings). Try bottom-bouncing nymphs in the riffles. Terrestrials are your best bet during the middle of the day with mini-ants doing the best.

**Housatonic River** – Fishing was good last week until the weekend when again increased to levels difficult for many to fish. Both conditions and fishing are improving and should be good for the Holiday weekend. Flows are clearing and dropping, currently about 1,600 cfs at Falls Village and 2,200 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are now in the mid to upper 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Green/Brown Drakes (#8-12), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Streamers (morning & evening) can catch some large fish. Golden stonefly (#6-14) nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Look for midges and stoneflies at tributary mouths.

**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 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.**

**Additionally, a thermal refuge has been established on the Salmon River in East Haddam. This new refuge is located around a spring entering the Salmon River approximately 220 feet south of the unused paved boat launch at the state-owned property formerly known as the Sunrise Resort off of Route 151. The refuge includes all water within 100 feet from the end of the pipe as posted. The Salmon River refuge will be closed to fishing and access through September 30.**

**Lakes & Ponds** – Places to try for early summer trout include Colebrook Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Ball Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Candlewood Lake, Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, West Hill Pond, Long Pond and Beach Pond.

**Connecticut River** – Some **STRIPED BASS** are still being found in the lower river. Try sand worms, using chunk bait, Sluggos, Houdini Shad, Spooks, poppers & eels. Anglers will also find a number of **BLUE FISH** at the mouth and upriver a bit.

**NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is good with some nice catches reported in Haddam Meadows area. Good action for **SMALLMOUTH BASS** north of Hartford, especially in the South Windsor/Windsor area (try near the mouth of the Farmington River). Water temperatures of 76°F were found in the shallows. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fish is fair at

**DIDYMO REMINDER**

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “didymo” or “rock snot”, was recently discovered in Connecticut in the West Branch Farmington River. This is the first report of didymo in Connecticut.

Under ideal conditions, blooms of didymo can form thick mats of material on the bottoms of rivers and streams. These mats feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color, and if dense may have negative impacts on the ecological, recreational and aesthetic values of rivers with suitable habitat (cold, rocky, well-lit areas).

Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions.

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, visit [www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies](http://www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies).

**Reminder:**

**CONNECTICUT RIVER BONUS STRIPED BASS PROGRAM ENDS JUNE 30<sup>TH</sup>.**

The last day to use bonus striped bass vouchers is June 30<sup>th</sup>.

For more information, visit:

[www.ct.gov/dep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/fishing) or call 860-424-3474.

best. **CATFISH** are consistently being taken (frozen herring & cut/chunk bait). Try overcast days and nights on the outside of bends/overhangs. The Haddam to Cromwell area is fishing well.

### NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **MOODUS RESERVOIR** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 20 inches, making the launching of trailer boats very difficult (especially for larger boats). It is now anticipated that this **drawdown will continue through the end of July**.
- ❖ The boat launch at **COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE** is now open and in full operation.

### TIPS & TRICKS – SMALLMOUTH BASS, KOKANEE SALMON

**KOKANEE SALMON:** Kokanee prefer water temperatures of 50° or colder. If an entire lake is warmer than 50°, they will be found close to the bottom or near underwater springs where the coolest water is available. Trolled spoons, spinners or small plugs should be tipped with a small piece of worm, maggot, grub, salmon egg, or white or yellow corn kernel.

- **Trolling:** Trolling is a very productive method for catching kokanee. In the spring and fall when the fish are near the surface, flat lines & small flashers are often used. In summer when they head for deeper water, leaded lines or down riggers are used to reach the right temperature zone. A very slow speed is important. Some anglers vary their speed by working an “S” pattern. Sharp hooks are a must.
- **Still fishing:** Fishing with a corn/grub combination can be very effective for catching kokanee salmon. Fish pick ups will be very subtle & a quick strike is essential.

#### SMALLMOUTH BASS:

- Target rock shoals and drop off points.
- Can be found in deeper water where the concentrations of prey fish are more abundant.
- In shallow rock shoals, try white and yellow spinnerbaits as well as shallow diving crankbaits.
- In deeper waters, use ¼ to ½oz jig with chartreuse, yellow or white grubs.
- Slowly bouncing jigs off rocky bottoms have proven effective.
- When fishing deep water in late summer or early fall, try bouncing a worm colored tube Jig off the bottom.
- When Smallmouths go deep, they seem to like the 30 to 40 foot depth range.

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## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to upper 60'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://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 in full swing with trophy size fish (measuring over 50 inches in length) still being reported for the second week in a row! Striper locations include the Watch Hill area, the Race, Wilderness point off Fishers Island, Plum Gut, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Pigeon Rip (area north of Plum Island), Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Guilford and Branford, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area to Milford Point, Buoy 20 off Stratford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, and the rocky reefs around the Norwalk Islands.

**BLUEFISH** fishing has gotten more consistent at the major rip areas in LIS (The Race and Plum Gut). Diamond jigs are working well for toothed marauders.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)** fishing has improved though you have to work hard in deeper water (50+ ft.) to get that doormat. Fishing spots worth trying include the south side of Fishers Island, north shore beaches of Long Island in NY waters from Horton Point over to Port Jefferson, lower Thames River to the Dumping Grounds, Niantic Bay/ Black Point area, Hatchett Reef area, Long Sand Shoal, Duck Island area off Westbrook, Falkner Island area, off the New Haven breakwaters, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, and off the Norwalk Islands.

**SCUP (porgy)** fishing has improved on the major reefs throughout LIS.

**For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at:** [www.ct.gov/dep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/dep/fishing) or pick up the new 2011 Angler's Guide. The guide contains all current marine fishing regulations and more.

### INFORMATION FOR CT ANGLERS FISHING IN NEW YORK WATERS:

New York DEC now has their online marine angler registry up and running. While your Connecticut Marine Waters Fishing License is valid in the New York waters of Long Island Sound, to fish in other New York marine waters you must be registered in the New York Marine Fishing Registry. Please see link to register:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html#How>

*The registration is free.*



DEP WEEKLY FISHING REPORT  
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