

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 12

7/8/2011



INLAND REPORT

NEW STATE RECORD – For the second time this season there is a new state record tiger trout as Lake Quassapaug once again gave up a super fish. Jerry Barth of Torrington, CT caught a **7 pound 14 ounce tiger trout** while trolling a fly. The fish measured 28 inches in length and had a 14.5 inch girth. Congratulations Jerry. During a phone conversation, an excited Jerry said “Now I can prove it to my Dad. Thanks for teaching me how to fish.”



LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally good. Areas to try for bass include Candlewood Lake (good), Aspinook Pond (very good recently), Pattagansett (very good reports for night fishing), Mashapaug Lake (lots of action on 11-13 inch fish), Bashan Lake (good, with several 4 lb plus catches), Lake Lillinonah, Amos Lake (fair to slow, no big fish), Lake Zoar, Lower Bolton Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Ball Pond, Huntington Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc (30 fish for one angler), Moodus Reservoir (drawdown - be careful launching), Hatch Pond, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Eagleville Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Black Pond (Woodstock), Hayward Lake, West Hill Pond (DS at 25 feet), Coventry Lake, Scoville Reservoir, Billings Lake, Lake McDonough, Winchester Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Bishop Pond, Halls Pond, Riggs Pond, Rogers Lake, Glasgo Pond, Lake Saltonstall and Hopeville Pond.

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing continues to be variable, with the best reports from Candlewood Lake (good, with a number of catches in the 3-5 lb range), Lake Lillinonah (good, with some catches in the 3-4 lb range) and Lake McDonough. Other areas reporting some action include Highland Lake, Colebrook Reservoir and Rainbow Reservoir. Lake Zoar is on the slow side and smallies were really tough to find at Bashan Lake. With the recent warmer weather, river smallie fishing has started up, and some nice action is reported from the upper Housatonic River.

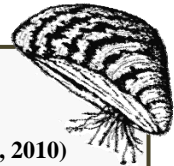
NORTHERN PIKE fishing is good, with reports from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Quaddick Reservoir and Pachaug Pond.

KOKANEE SALMON are producing good fishing at West Hill Pond (day, trolling slowly at 3-4 colors & night, bait fishing over 40 feet of water) and East Twin Lake (slow trolled beads & grub/corn behind a Dodger).

WALLEYE - are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Coventry Lake and Mashapaug Lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Summer’s catfish season is off to a great start. Try the recently stocked areas; Lakewood Lake (Waterbury), Bunnells Pond (Bridgeport), Keney Park Pond (Hartford), Lake Wintergreen (Hamden/New Haven), and Mohegan Park Pond (Spaulding Pond, Norwich), Black Pond

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.

(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 - Many Trout Management Areas (TMA) are fishing well. This coming weekend will see somewhat cooler weather and moderate flows, good conditions for summer trout. During summer, try targeting areas of cooler waters to reduce stress on fish. Rainbow trout can be found in the fast water and brown trout will typically be in the larger, deeper pools. Bait fisherman are using a corn/mealworm combination. Good reports for early last week from West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Tankerhoosen River and Mount Hope River.

Farmington River – Conditions should be very good for the weekend. West Branch flows are moderate (currently 360 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding another 60 cfs) and morning water temperatures are in the upper 50's/low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning - 9:00 am), *Isonychia bicolor* (#8-12, evening), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20 (*Drunella lata*) & #22-26 (*D. cornuta* & *cornutella*), cloudy days, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs (*Epeorus vitreus*) duns (#14-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening) and Midges (#22-28, morning). Terrestrials have been very good during the middle of the day and Golden Drake (*Potamanthus* spp., #10-14) in the late evening. Anglers are having good success below the surface with wets, streamers and bottom bouncing nymphs.

Housatonic River – Flows have dropped to very fishable levels, currently 700 cfs at Falls Village and 880 cfs at Gaylordsville. Fair to good reports came in for early this week, mostly on nymphs. The Prince seems to be the ticket at the moment. Currently, water temperature are in the upper 60's °F (in the morning).

Insect hatches include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, action slowing, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* spp. (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#14-20, evening) and Tan & Green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Midges and stoneflies can be found at tributary mouths. Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark. Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

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 – Many of our lakes are still producing good fishing. Places to try include East Twin Lake (target 20-30 feet), Highland Lake, Crystal Lake (target depth of 20-30 feet), Mashapaug Lake,

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.

West Hill Pond (target depth of 25-30 feet), Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Long Pond, Beach Pond and Colebrook Reservoir.

Connecticut River – **STRIPED BASS** are being taken at night in the lower river on live eels and tube & worm, but **BLUEFISH** have taken over much of the flats. **NORTHERN PIKE** are being reported in the coves and the Haddam Meadows area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being found in the lower portions of the river. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** can be caught in the Enfield area. **WHITE PERCH** can be found in the mouth of the Lieutenant River. **CATFISH** are being taken on frozen herring & cut/chunk bait near the outside bends of the river.

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

- Smallmouth bass love to fight, jump, and head for the rocks and weeds.
- Use a medium pole and 10-14 pound test line.
- You need to be able to feel the action on the line, which can be defeated by a long pole, and the line needs to be strong enough to stand up to the weeds, rocks, and jumping fish.
- Given the chance, smallmouth bass prefer to feed on crayfish.
- Also try using a whole night-crawler when trying for the monster smallmouth bass.
- Consider mixing it up with shad, minnows, classic baitfish or a leech.
- Remember, smallmouth bass fishing like to hit anything that moves.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the mid 60's to low 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>

STRIPED BASS fishing remains good on the major reefs and rip areas in LIS. Early morning just before dawn is your best bet for a “cow” bass. Striper locations include the usual spots: 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, the Norwalk Islands and the “Cows” off Stamford.

BLUEFISH fishing is good at the same fishing locations as above for striped bass. Snapper bluefish have arrived but are only about three inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is very good in eastern LIS. Fluke locations include the south side of Fishers Island, Stonington area to the Mystic River, 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 and the Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good on the major reefs and rock piles throughout LIS.

TAUTOG (blackfish) season reopened July 1 and the daily creel limit is 2 fish per angler. **For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at:**

www.ct.gov/deep/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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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