

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 13

7/14/2011

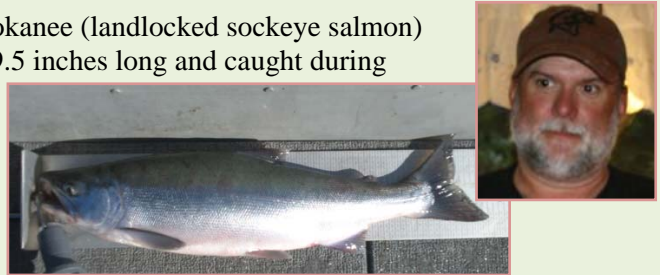


INLAND REPORT

TWO LONG-TIME STATE RECORDS FALL- NEW STATE RECORDS SET FOR BROWN TROUT AND KOKANEE SALMON.

TOM PASKO of Collinsville, CT caught a **2.885 lb** kokanee (landlocked sockeye salmon) trolling at East Twin Lake on July 10th. The fish was 19.5 inches long and caught during daylight hours. Tom's fish eclipsed a state record kokanee that had endured 35 years of challenges! Nice work, Tom!

Tom Pasko (upper right) and the new state record kokanee salmon (right).



Less than two weeks earlier on June 30th, **TONY URBANOWICZ** of Easton, CT, caught the new State Record brown trout while fishing Saugatuck Reservoir. This monster trout weighed in at **18.34 lbs** and was 32.5 inches long. Tony was spin-fishing from shore during the day. Tony's brown surpassed a state record that had stood for 25 years! Congratulations, Tony!

Tony Urbanowicz and his new state record brown trout (right).



LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been variable, with the best reports from Candlewood Lake, Hopeville Pond, Mudge Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Long Pond, Quaddick Reservoir (catches here include a 5.8 lb bass). Fair fishing reported from Aspinook Pond, Gorton Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (catches include a 4.4 lb largemouth), Silver Lake (Meriden), Lower Bolton Lake, Pachaug Pond, Lake McDonough and Lake Lillinonah, and it's been tough finding fish at Moodus Reservoir and Lake Quonnipaug. Anglers can also find some largemouth action (smaller fish) at small ponds, wide spots and slow moving areas on a number of rivers, including the Mattabasset River, Bantam River, Yantic River and Hockanum River.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Candlewood Lake smallmouth action continues to be good to very good, with plenty of fish in the 3-4 lb range still being found. Smallie fishing at Colebrook Reservoir and Lake McDonough is also reported to be good. Elsewhere, smallmouth fishing is fair at best in lakes and ponds, with the better reports from Rainbow Reservoir (smaller fish) and Mashapaug Lake. River smallie action is good in the Housatonic River.

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.

NORTHERN PIKE action reported from Bantam Lake, Hopeville Pond (8 fish up to 38”) and Winchester Lake.

WALLEYE are being reported from Squantz Pond (night), Lake Saltonstall, Mashapaug Lake and Coventry Lake (good action on 15-19 inch ‘eyes at night).

SUNFISH - Summer is definitely here and sunnies are providing excellent action statewide (try poppers on a fly rod). Now is the time to get the family out and experience the fast-paced action of fishing for panfish. Small local ponds are often excellent places to go. Larger waters worth a try include Tyler Lake, Highland Lake, Bishop Pond, Halls Pond, Dog Pond, Leonard Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Keeney Park Pond, Lantern Hill Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Cedar Lake and Lake Hayward.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - With more moderate temperatures and cool nights forecast for the next several days, conditions should be good for summer trout this weekend. However, with little to no rain in the forecast, flows will continue to drop and summer heat is expected to return early next week. The best times to fish in the summer heat are early and late in the day, and 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. Some good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River (both above Riverton and in the TMA), Pequabuck River, Salmon River, Hammonasset River and Housatonic River. The highlight of last weekend’s reports was from Ken Hains, who caught (and released) four 20-24 inch brown trout Saturday morning while fishing the West Branch Farmington TMA.

Farmington River – Trout fishing has been good on the West Branch and conditions should be very good for the weekend. Flows are clear, moderate and quite fishable (currently 300 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 30 cfs from the Still River) and morning water temperatures are in the upper 50’s to low 60’s °F.

Hatches/patterns: *Ephemereella needhami* (hatch just started, #22-26, early morning; 9:00am), *Isonychia bicolor*, (#8-12, evening), Light Cahill, (*Stenonema ithaca*, #14, evening), Blue Wing Olives (#18-20, *Drunella lata* and #20-24, *D. cornuta & cornutella*, cloudy days, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs, (*Epeorus vitreus* duns #14-18, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening) and Midges (#20-32, morning) are successful patterns. Ants, beetles and midges have been good throughout the day. Good success has been found below the surface on nymphs, wets and streamers. Try bottom bouncing caddis pupae.

Housatonic River – With moderate temperatures predicted for the next few days, conditions should be fairly good for summer trout fishing on the Housatonic. Water temperatures have dropped some and are now in the upper 60’s to low 70’s °F (mornings in the TMA area) and flows are at very fishable levels, currently 525 cfs at Falls Village and 780 cfs at Gaylordsville, but continue to drop. Temperatures are forecast to rise next week and as flows continue to drop, it’ll be an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (warm temperatures and low flows are near ideal for smallie fishing). Summer conditions can be very stressful to trout. Those who continue to target trout should take extra care when handling trout they plan to release.

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebraatum*, action slowing, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* sps. (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan & Green caddis (#14-16, early morning & evening). Ants & Beetles (#14-18) are contributing well throughout the day. Look for midges

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.

and stoneflies at the mouths of streams. 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 Finns and 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 trout fishing, with reports from Crystal Lake (Ellington), Highland Lake (target 20-25 feet), East Twin Lake, Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake, West Hill Pond (target 5 colors), Candlewood Lake, Colebrook Reservoir (target 25-30 feet), Lake McDonough and Lake Wononskopomuc (riggers at 20-25 feet, 5 colors).

Connecticut River – **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has been good, recent catches include a 5.1 lb bass and some fish in the 3-4 lb range. Coves, back areas and weed lines are the places to start. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some good action in the Enfield area and along the confluence with the Farmington River. Additionally, some nice smallies are being found along the river below Hartford. Recent catches include 4.9 lb, 4.6 lb and 3.5 lb smallmouth. **CALICO BASS** had been keeping anglers busy, but have slowed down a lot this week. **STRIPED BASS** fishing was slow last week. **CATFISH** action is good (some over 7 lbs); try the Haddam – Portland stretch. Effective baits include frozen herring and cut/chunk bait (sunfish, eels, liver). Target 10-30 feet of water near structure/overhangs along bends. **CARP** are being caught (including some around 20 lbs) on a variety of baits. **WHITE PERCH** are also providing some nice action (try worms in the lower river).

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **BOAT LAUNCHES - 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 at least the end of July. The boat launch at **Colebrook River Lake** is now open and in full operation.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** - Water ski clinics for the disabled are scheduled for July 23, August 6 & 27, and September 10 in the upper end of Lake Zoar. These events run from 9 am to 4 pm, and boaters are asked to take care when passing through this area (marked by buoys) of the lake, and avoid interfering with the event.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to 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 although **BLUEFISH** will make it tough during daylight hours. Dusk through dawn is the best time for stripers during the “dog days” of summer. Both striper and bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Wilderness point off Fishers Island, the Race, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip (area north of Plum Island), Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Guilford and Branford, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Charles Island area to Milford Point, Buoy 20 off Stratford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands. It is “snapper” time in the tidal rivers and creeks. Snapper bluefish fishing is a great way to introduce kids to saltwater fishing. Snappers are about 4 to 5 inches length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is fair to good although there are a lot of throw backs. Fluke spots include the south side of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach and Wilderness Point), Stonington area to the mouth of 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, Twotree Island Channel off Waterford, Niantic Bay/ Black Point area, Hatchett Reef area, Long Sand Shoal, Duck Island Roads, deeper water off Hammonasset Beach, Falkner Island area, off the New Haven breakwaters, and Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area and deeper water (50+ ft.) surrounding Cable and Anchor Reef.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is picking up on the major reefs and rock piles throughout LIS. **TAUTOG (blackfish)** can also be found on the same rocky structure as an added bonus!

It is **BLUE CRABBING** time in the local tidal rivers and creeks!

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbng 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.

For finding shore fishing and crabbng locations, please refer to the Connecticut Coastal Access Guide which can be found online at www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/index.asp.

To find locations where to launch your boat, kayak or canoe, see the 2011 Connecticut Boater's Guide or go online to www.ct.gov/dep/boating.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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