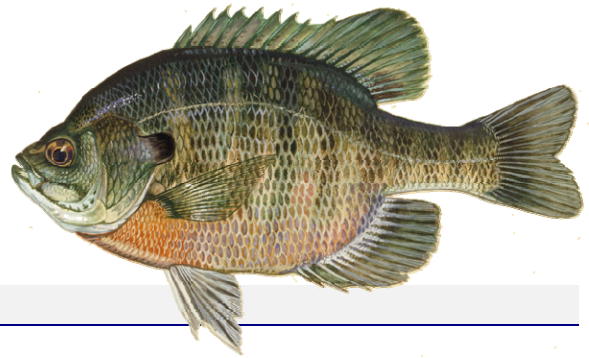


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 14

7/21/2011



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair to good with the best reports from Stillwater Pond (catches include a 23 inch, 7.25 lb beast), Mudge Pond (30 fish for one angler), Candlewood Lake (catches here include a 6.8 lb largemouth), Lake Hayward (19 fish on one trip), Lake Saltonstall, Congamond Lakes, Silver Lake (Berlin/Meriden), Ball Pond (20 fish), West Thompson Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Bantam Lake, Gardner Lake (loads of action on 1 lb fish, but no lunkers to be had), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Ashland Pond and Shenipsit Lake. Other areas reporting some action include Hanover Pond, Union Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Highland Lake, lower Hockanum River, East Twin Lake, Glasgo Pond and Quaddick Lake (a bit on the tough side, but catches include a 5.5 lb bass). Beach Pond and Long Pond were just tough last week.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Hot temperatures means hot river smallie action. The best action can be found on the Housatonic River (20 fish on shiners and crayfish for one angler, it's getting to be crazy time), with some good reports also from the Farmington River (Tariffville section) and the Shetucket River. Candlewood Lake continues to produce good smallmouth bags, with the biggest smallmouth caught recently weighing in at 5.25 lbs. Fair to good smallmouth fishing reported from Rainbow Reservoir, Squantz Pond, Shenipsit Lake and Colebrook River Lake. Some action also reported from Bantam Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Highland Lake. Beach Pond and Gardner Lake have been slow.

NORTHERN PIKE – Good action/catches reported from Bantam Lake, Winchester Lake, Hamilton Reservoir (Union), Hopeville Pond (fish to 40") and Pachaug Pond.

WALLEYE – Some catches reported from Squantz Pond (green lights at night), Coventry Lake, Lake Saltonstall (fish deep water drop-offs, target 25 feet of water) and Mashapaug Lake.

SUNFISH - The hot, hazy summer days are here, and it's definitely panfish time. Target the shallows with bobbers and worms, grubs or small shiners, small spinners and jigs (and try poppers on a fly rod for some real fun). Small local ponds are usually great (and convenient) spots. Larger waters worth a try include Mamasasco Lake, Lake Hayward, Silver Lake (Berlin), Tyler Lake, Coventry Lake, Mudge Pond, West Side Pond, Highland Lake, West Hill Pond and Dog Pond.

REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO SWIM AREAS PERMITTED BY DEEP IS PROHIBITED.

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



IMPORTANT NOTICE 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.



TROUT

Rivers & streams - Flows in most areas are at typical summer levels, but anglers and trout will be challenged by very hot weather for the next several days. Early and late in the day are the best fishing times during the summer, try targeting areas of cooler waters to reduce stress on fish. good reports from the West Branch Farmington River and Housatonic River (evenings), and some action reported from the Natchaug River and Salmon River.

Farmington River – Trout fishing continues to be good on the West Branch. Flows remain clear, moderate and quite fishable, currently 270 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River contributing an additional 20cfs. Morning water temperatures in the TMA are in the upper 50's/low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #8-12, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-20, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs (*Epeorus vitreus*, #14-18) duns (#14-20, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (*Brachycentrus* spp., tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32, morning), Black Ants (#8-10, hot mornings in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18), Flying Ants/Termites (#14-18, when hot & humid after a rain) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

Housatonic River – Evening fishing has been good. Flows remain clear and moderate, currently 350 cfs at Falls Village and 450 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are now in the mid 70's°F (and will rise through the day). These summer conditions can be very stressful to trout, and especially during extended bouts of high temperatures, **it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (these conditions are near ideal for smallie fishing).**

Those targeting trout are reminded to additional care when handling trout they plan to release! More moderate air temperatures are forecast for the start of next week, which however may improve water temperatures.

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, are around in small numbers, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), *Isonychia bicolor* (#10-12, evening), Light Cahill (*Stenacron* spp. #12-14, evening), and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Don't forget Streamers (morning & evening) to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10, with a red throat).

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 – Summer trout anglers are finding fair to good summer action, with reports from Beach Pond (32 trout on one trip), Crystal Lake (drifting shiners), East Twin Lake (24 trout, try 4 colors, riggers 25-30 feet), West Hill Pond (5 colors meal worms/corn, riggers at 25-30 feet), Coventry Lake (4 colors, riggers at 17-21 feet), Candlewood Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc (30 trout on one busy trip), Lake McDonough (target 20-30'), Highland Lake (middle bay, very early, 20-25 feet) & Mohawk Pond (deep hole).

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.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river continues to drop, making it difficult to get into some back areas. Some catches are reported, but the warming temperatures are slowing **NORTHERN PIKE** action. Try finding pike in cooler pockets of water such as mouths of tributaries. **STRIPED BASS** are hard to come by, die-hards can try live eels, scup and chunk bait in the lower river. **CARP** (up to 20 lbs) anglers are having some luck. Try boilies, worms and sweet corn. Best results are often found when the “swim” is pre-baited. Some **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the Enfield area. Anglers are finding good **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing from Hartford through Haddam/East Haddam.

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.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** – The swim portion of a triathlon is scheduled to be held in the upper end of the “Sherman arm” (near/along the Sherman Town Park) on Saturday, July 23 from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Boaters should avoid this area during the event.

TIPS & TRICKS- CARP

- Locate the fish before choosing a spot.
- Use fishmeal-based boilies during the summer, and autumn, try 50/50 mixes or bird food during winter and spring.
- Carp are attracted to rock salt in bait.
- Try adding chilies to some particle baits. Carp seem to love that hot "kick" from those spices.
- When the water is cold, cast the rigs more frequently, and target more areas.
- Use different sizes of pellets.
- Add high sources of vitamin C (orange juice) to your bait.
- Try crumbling a multi-vitamin pill into your method mix.
- If you're fishing new water, try using brightly colored bait with attractant smells.
- Try to get carp competing for the bait. When carp compete they lower their guard and are easier to catch.
- In the winter, try fishing the silt areas at the bottom of gravel bars.
- Always use good quality bait for big carp.
- If you're catching carp place your rigs in the same spot every time you cast.
- Tiny seeds used in any bait mix can help hold carp in an area longer.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and service provider. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need this information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call should call should call 860-424-3035 or e-mail the ADA Coordinator, at DEP.aaoffice@CT.Gov. Persons who are hearing impaired should call the State of Connecticut relay number 711.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to range from the upper 60's to mid 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH - **Striper** fishing has dropped off but “cow” bass are still being taken especially by anglers using live bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or eels on three way rigs or trolling the tube and worm. Big bruiser **bluefish** (10+ lbs) are roaming around the local rip areas and reefs. Vertical speed squidding diamond jigs, crippled herring jigs, and other similar lures have been working well. 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), Hatchett Reef, 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. Don't forget about **snapper blue** fishing in the tidal creeks! Snappers are still very small – about 3 to 4 inches in length.

Slammer **SCUP (porgy)** can be caught on the major reefs and rock piles throughout LIS. Fishing for scup is rated good to excellent with fish 17 inches in length being reported. Also, don't over look **BLACKFISH (tautog)** which can be found cruising around the same area! Some nice size “white chins” weighing in the double digits have been reported over this past week!

BLACK SEA BASS are the other “reefers” that are attracted to gnarly hard bottom areas. Besides being fun to catch, sea bass are great eating! Look for monster sea bass lurking in deeper water (60+ feet) around wrecks and submerged boulders.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is just fair for keeper fish although there are a ton of smaller sublegal flatties around. Fluke spots include the south side of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach and off Wilderness Point), Stonington area to the mouth of the Mystic River, north shore beaches of Long Island, 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, Falkner Island area, off the New Haven breakwaters, and Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area and Cable and Anchor Reef.

HICKORY SHAD are in the lower Connecticut River from the Baldwin Bridge down to the breakwaters.

Some decent **BLUE CRABBING** can be found in the tidal creeks.

- *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.*
- *For finding shore fishing and crabbing 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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