

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 15

7/28/2011



## INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing remains generally fair to good, with night fishing in full swing (try black jitterbugs and surface poppers). During the day when it's sunny try deeper. Hot weather did discourage many anglers this past week. The best reports are from Candlewood Lake (catches include a 6.4 lb bass), Lake McDonough, Lake Zoar, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good action, no lunkers), West Thompson Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Lake Saltonstall and East Twin Lake (12 bass for one angler), and fair reports from Coventry Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington; although one angler did find 25 fish), Gardner Lake, Pachaug Pond, Rogers Lake (catches do include a 5.25 lb largemouth), Lake Lillinonah, Bantam Lake, Batterson Park Pond and Amos Lake (it's getting tougher to find lunkers here). Beach Pond and Moodus Reservoir have been slow. Other places to try for largemouth include Mudge Pond, Hatch Pond, Park Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Uncas Lake, Bishop Pond, Halls Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Ball Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, and Park Pond.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing continues to be good to very good at Candlewood Lake, with a number of catches in the 3-4 lb range (and several up to 5 lbs). Some action also reported from Lake Zoar, Rainbow Reservoir (smaller fish, but fun to catch), Coventry Lake, Bantam Lake, Squantz Pond and Lake Lillinonah. Slow fishing (but still some catches) reported from Lake Housatonic, Lake McDonough, Highland Lake and Mashapaug Lake. River smallie action is good on the upper Housatonic River and fair on the Shetucket River.

**WALLEYE** – Fair to good reports for walleye from Lake Saltonstall. Some action also reported from Coventry Lake and Mashapaug Lake.

**NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is fair to good at Bantam Lake, and reported as slow at Winchester Lake, Hopeville Pond and Pachaug Pond.

**SUNFISH** are providing consistent action throughout the state on worms. Get the kids into this, the constant action will keep their attention and develop an interest in the sport. Local ponds are often the best places to go. Larger places worth a try include Crystal Lake, Quinebaug Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Park Pond, Amos Lake, Lake Winfield, Bishop Pond, Winchester Lake, Tyler Lake, Mamasasco Lake, Hatch Pond, Black Pond (Middlefield) and Mudge Pond.

### REMINDER TO ANGLERS-

#### FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS 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.



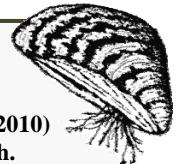
### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

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



## TROUT

**Rivers & streams** - Last week's extreme heat challenged both anglers and trout and slowed fishing. The recent rains and cool nights have brought the water temperatures down a bit, refreshed flows and should perk up trout fishing. Early and late in the day are the best fishing times during this time of the year, and cooler waters should be targeted.

**Farmington River** – Trout fishing should be good. Flows (West Branch) continue to be clear and moderate (about 250 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 30 cfs from the Still River) and morning West Branch water

### 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).

temperatures remain in the upper 50's to low 60's°F. with some rain forecast for Friday, Still River flows may increase.

Hatches/patterns include *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #8-12, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-20, mid-late afternoon to evening), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #46-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Rusty Spinner (#20), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #18/22, evening), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#8-10, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

**Housatonic River** – Rains and cooler weather this week improved conditions. Flows were refreshed (now up to 570 cfs at Falls village and 710 cfs at Gaylordsville) and water temperatures dropped, with morning temperatures back to around 70 °F (will increase during the day). Anglers are reminded that high temperatures and low flows are stressful to trout, **but great for smallmouth bass fishing. Those targeting trout need to take extreme care when handling trout they plan to release!**

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-20, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and assorted caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening). Terrestrial season is here, try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#18-22, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include: White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). The Dobson fly is active and anglers can use a black woolly bugger to mimic it.

**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** – Early morning anglers are still boating some good fish, areas to try include Mashapaug Lake, Coventry Lake, Crystal Lake (riggers @ 15-20 feet), Lake Wononskopomuc, Colebrook Reservoir (try at 30 feet), East Twin Lake (try 30 to 40 feet of water), Highland Lake, Beach Pond (deep trolling streamers) and West Hill Pond (3-4 colors).

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – The river is warm and lower than typical July levels. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some very good action in the Windsor/Enfield area. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is fair to good from below Hartford through East Haddam, try coves, back areas and weed lines. **NORTHERN PIKE** have become tough to find. Night anglers are finding some fair-good **CATFISH** action (fresh/frozen cut bait works). **CARP** fishing has been good 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.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** - Water ski clinics for the disabled are scheduled for 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.
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER** – On August 6, from 10 am through 2 pm, “*The Connecticut River Raft Race*” “home-made” raft event is scheduled to be conducted on the CT River in the Portland area. The event course runs from the lower end of Gildersleeve Island to the Portland Riverside Marina. Boaters are advised to use extra caution when passing through this area.

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## TIPS & TRICKS - CATFISHING

- BAIT CHOICES** > If big channels are your target, use cut baits. Cut baits are pieces of sliced baitfish. These baits attract cats over long distances. Use oily fish when possible.
- SMALL TO MIDSIZE RIVER HOTSPOTS** > Just below each set of rapids, at the head of each pool, fast water carves the channel deeper, creating a depression or hole. This is the deepest part of the pool and the area where channel catfish are most likely to be found. Channel cats wait in ambush for food to pass by.
- BIG-RIVER HOTSPOTS** > Big-river channel cats feed and rest near structure that breaks or reduces the current. These include rock, gravel and sandbars, deep holes and cover in outside bends, bottom holes or depressions, bottom humps and deep holes at tributary junctions.
- POND CATS** > Since these ponds are small, anglers have fewer problems pinpointing actively feeding fish. Focus your attention on deep-water areas where channel cats usually stay during daylight hours and during the temperature extremes; near the mouths of feeder streams; near the outside (deeper) edges of green aquatic vegetation; and near rock piles, stumps, logs, trees, holes, humps and points.
- STILL-FISHING TIPS** > The area just below a dam provides some of the best action. Fishing near fallen trees at the head of a deep pool on an outside bend of the river also can lead to good catches. When still-fishing from a boat position your boat for best access to the structure you've chosen.
- DRIFT-FISHING** > Drift-fishing helps the cats find your bait. You can drift-fish in a boat or drift-fish your bait below a bobber. When in a boat, use a drift rig comprised of a bottom-bouncer sinker placed on the line above a barrel swivel to which is attached a 2- to 3-foot leader with a 3/0 hook on the end. When wading or bank-fishing on a river, drift your bait beneath a bobber. Drift by one side of a hole, then down the other and finally right down the middle. Keep your rod tip high when drifting a bobber rig. This keeps most of the line off the water, resulting in better rig control and hooksets.
- HOOKS** > Be sure your hooks are needle-sharp. Instead of burying your hook in bait, leave the barb exposed. Catfish won't notice. More hookups will result.
- RODS** > Use long rods (7 feet-plus) when bank-fishing. These offer several advantages, including increased casting distance, more "reach" for working rigs properly around cover, better bait control and more hooksetting and fighting power.
- NIGHT BITE** > When night-fishing, know when a cat takes your bait. Helpful products include: night bobbers (special floats with a light on top powered by a cyalume light stick or lithium battery), a 12-volt ultraviolet light, which makes fluorescent monofilament glow, allowing you to see line movements; rods with glow-in-the-dark or fluorescent tips; rod bells, which clip on and ring when a catfish shakes your pole; and electronic bite indicators, which attach to your line and emit an audible signal when a catfish runs with your bait.

(summarized from *Game & Fish*)

## 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**STRIPED BASS & BLUEFISH** – **Striper** fishing is pretty much a dusk to dawn thing. **Bluefish** ranging in size from 2 to 12+ pounds are throughout LIS. Harbor blues are in the lower Connecticut River on a regular basis. **Snapper blues** are about 3 to 5 inches in length now. Striper and bluefish 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, around the Norwalk Islands, and the reefs off Stamford (Smith Reef and the “Cows”).

### 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.*

Some real good **SCUP (porgy)** fishing action can be found on the local reefs with fish measuring 14 to 15 inches the norm.

**Blackfish (tautog)** are also in the same rocky areas but in deeper water.

**Summer Flounder (fluke)** fishing remains fair because of all of the “throwbacks”. Summer flounder spots include the usual: South shore 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, Falkner Island area, south off the New Haven breakwaters, and Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area and Cable and Anchor Reef.

**Hickory shad** are mixed with snapper blues in the lower Connecticut River from the Baldwin Bridge down to the breakwaters.

**Blue crabbing** is good but not even close as compared to last year which was phenomenal! However, there have been reports of some nice “jimmies” in the 7 to 9 inch range taken out of the Westbrook area.

*For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://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](http://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](http://www.ct.gov/dep/boating).

### DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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