

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 16

8/4/2011



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is variable, ranging from good to slow. The best reports are from Pachaug Pond (good action, and recent catches a 5.5 lb bass), Lake Lillinonah (catches include several bass in the 4-5 lb range), Candlewood Lake (a number of catches in the 4-5 lb range), Bantam Lake, Gorton Pond (catches include a 5.75 lb largemouth), Mudge Pond, Hatch Pond (decent action, no lunkers), Quaddick Reservoir, Gardner Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good action, nothing big), and fair reports from Lake McDonough, Lake Saltonstall, Beach Pond (catches include a 6.24 lb largemouth), Middle Bolton Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Quinebaug River, Powers Lake and Wonoskopomuc Lake. Slow fishing reported from Halls Pond, Lake Quonnapaug and Amos Lake. Other places for bass include Stillwater Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Park Pond, Winchester Lake, Crystal Lake, Rogers Lake, Pickerel Lake, Ball Pond, Pattagansett Lake, Uncas Lake and Mashapaug Lake.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Very good reports for river smallie fishing from the Housatonic River and good reports from the Quinebaug River. Some action is also reported from the Willimantic River and the Farmington River (Tariffville area). Lake and pond smallmouth fishing is variable. Good to very good reports from Candlewood Lake, fair reports from Lake Lillinonah and Bantam Lake (catches include a 3.5 lb smallmouth), and slow fishing reported from Gardner Lake (although catches include a 3.5 lb smallmouth), Lake McDonough and Lake Housatonic.

KOKANEE – Action has slowed but some are being caught at East Twin Lake (troll slow).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good at Bantam Lake (target cooler water) and Quaddick Reservoir. Some action was also reported from Lake Lillinonah (find the springs), Pachaug Pond, the Mattabasset River (a 30 inch pike found here) and Winchester Lake. Try the weed edges.

A **CHAIN PICKEREL** from Lake Wonoskopomuc tipped the scales at over 5 lbs.

CALICO BASS action is reported in Silver Lake (Meriden), Bantam Lake and Park Pond (small shiners).

WALLEYE action reported from Lake Saltonstall and Mashapaug Lake.

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.



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.



TROUT

Rivers & streams - Recent bouts of more comfortable weather have moderated water temperatures some, but flows are getting a bit low in some areas, especially in northeastern CT (which has been bypassed by several recent T-storms). These summer conditions make early and late in the day the best fishing times throughout the state. Anglers are advised not to forget terrestrial fly patterns, these can be very productive at this time of the year.

Farmington River – Trout fishing has been very good and conditions should continue to be good for anglers. West Branch flows are currently clear and moderate (about 250 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 20 cfs from the Still River) and morning West Branch water temperatures are in the upper 50's to low 60's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28, spinners starting at 7:00 am) are in the TMA. *Ephemera needhami* (#22-26, mid morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18-20, mid-late afternoon), Sulphurs duns (*Epeorus vitreus*, #14-18), Cahill (*Stenonema ithaca*, #14-18), Caddis (tan #18-24, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-16, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening). Evening brings out a mixture of every bug on the water.

Housatonic River – Flows are fishable but somewhat lower than typical summer levels, currently at 305 cfs at Falls Village and 410 cfs at Gaylordsville. The more comfortable weather has kept water temperatures more moderate, currently in the low 70's °F (mornings, but rising during the day). Warm temperatures and low flows are stressful to trout, **so it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (these conditions are near ideal for smallie fishing). Those targeting trout need to take extreme care when handling trout they plan to release!**

Hatches/patterns: The famed White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) is beginning to show up (evenings). Other hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive larvae (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening, mainly during overcast days), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), *Isonychia bicolor* (has been active lately, fast water, evening) and Black caddis (#18-24, early morning & evening). Work Midges (#20-26) and stoneflies at the mouths of streams. Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn 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 – Summer trout action reported from Colebrook Reservoir, West Hill Pond, Mashapaug Lake, East Twin Lake (4 colors), Coventry Lake (use green lights), Crystal Lake (target 25-30 feet, try 1.9-

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.

2.2 mph), Lake McDonough (target 20-22 feet), Beach Pond (21 fish on 'Big Al's Streamers'), and Mohawk Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – Flows had increased over the weekend but have dropped back down to lower than typical levels. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the coves from Hartford to East Haddam, catches include a number of 3-lb fish. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some good action in the South Windsor/Enfield area, try jigs, worms and black caddis flies. Target these aerial acrobats at dusk and be prepared for some great action. Anglers are also finding fair numbers of smallies in the river below Hartford. **STRIPED BASS** fishing in the lower river is slow, with only a few fish being boated. **CATFISH** (including some 10 lb plus fish) action is good with plenty of fish being taken at night on cut bait and chicken liver. **CARP** fishing on homemade baits and flies continues to be good for those willing to pre-bait their “swims” (fishing areas).

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **BOAT LAUNCHES - Moodus Reservoir** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 20 inches, making the launching of trailer boats difficult (especially for larger boats).
- ❖ **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 Saturday, 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.

TIPS & TRICKS - GOING FOR SLAB SUNFISH:

Where:

- ❖ In the *spring*, back ends of creek arms which warm early draw sunfish in to spawn.
- ❖ In *summertime*, locations include creek channel edges and weedy humps.
- ❖ In *summer/fall*, target main lake points that slope gradually into deep water.
- ❖ In *winter*, deep holes at the lower end of creek arms hold sunfish.
- ❖ Place your bait in hard-to-reach spots, such as pockets in the weeds.

How:

- ❖ Bobber fishing with live bait, such as worms, grasshoppers, crickets, grass shrimp and grubs.
- ❖ Use 2-6 pound mono with a size 8 long-shank (easier to remove) hook.
- ❖ About 10 inches from the hook, add enough split shot so the bobber barely floats.
- ❖ The bait should be 6-18 inches off the bottom
- ❖ Jiggle the bobber and then let it rest.
- ❖ Most bites come after the bait stops moving.
- ❖ Tiny jigs and other small artificial fished with ultra light tackle can be equally effective.
- ❖ At spawning time, fly fishing with poppers or wet flies may be the best technique of all.

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

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

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

Bluefish seem to be everywhere! Even the major tidal rivers are giving anglers awesome fishing action for “jumbo” blues. The lower Connecticut River has been red hot! **Snapper blues** are about 4 to 6 inches in length now and are in thick in the tidal rivers and creeks.

Striped bass fishing is a lot tougher with all the bluefish around. That means it is the “midnight shift” for anglers seeking linesiders. Other fishing spots for bluefish and stripers include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, humps south of 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.

Slammer **scup** (porgy) are on the major reefs and rock piles along with **blackfish** (tautog).

Summer Flounder (fluke) fishing remains fair because of all the sublegal fish but some doormats are still being had by anglers willing to put in a lot of time. Fluke fishing locations include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach and off Wilderness Point), Stonington area south of the breakwaters, 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, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area and Cable and Anchor Reef.

Hickory shad fishing is good to excellent in the Connecticut River, but, if bluefish are around - forget it!

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/deep/boating.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep