

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 19

## 8/25/2011



### INLAND REPORT

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally fair to good with the best reports from Ball Pond, Lake Zoar, Quaddick Reservoir, Candlewood Lake (including some catches in the 5-6 lb range), Wononskopomuc Lake, Lake McDonough and Mashapaug Lake and fair reports from Pachaug Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Rogers Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Ashland Pond, Stillwater Pond, Highland Lake, Green Falls Reservoir, Gardner Lake, Batterson Park Pond, Tyler Lake and Mohegan Park Pond. It's been slow at Beseck Lake.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** – Good reports for smallmouth from Candlewood Lake (still some in the 3-4 lb range) and Lake McDonough. Some catches also reported from Bantam Lake, Rainbow Reservoir and Pachaug Pond (a surprise). Gardner Lake and Bashan Lake were slow last week. River smallie action has been good in the upper Housatonic River, but has slowed some as flows have increased and temperatures have dropped.

**KOKANEE** salmon are still being caught at East Twin Lake (starting to redden up) and West Hill Pond (still silver).

**NORTHERN PIKE** catches reported from Winchester Lake, Hopeville Pond, Bantam Lake and Pachaug Pond.

**WALLEYE** – Some action reported from Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond and Mashapaug Lake.

**CHAIN PICKEREL** have been reported from Wononskopomuc Lake.

**SUNFISH** have been providing excellent summer time action throughout the state. Use worms, grubs, jigs or small poppers for them. Local ponds are usually good sunnie locations. Larger waters to try include Winchester Lake, East & West Twin Lake, Tyler Lake, Silver Lake (Meriden), Beseck Lake, Rogers Lake, Black Pond (Woodstock), Wood Creek Pond, Winchester Lake, Park Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Bishop Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – Flows are currently a bit higher than is typical for late August. With the possibility of heavy precipitation in the forecast for New England (depending on the actual track of Hurricane Irene), anglers may find the river very high (and unfishable) early next week. **CATFISH** are providing the best action throughout the river with a number of fish in the 10 lb range among the catches. Target outside bends and the upstream side of deeper holes near structure. Cut bait works great, and try live lining a sunfish. Few reports in for **NORTHERN PIKE**, but try finding them in coves, the mainstem in the Middletown and Haddam Meadows areas, and at tributary mouths. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are providing some action north of Hartford (Enfield area, and near the mouth of the Farmington River).

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is fair to good, coves, back areas and along weedlines are the best places. Recent catches include several bass in the 4-5 lb range.

#### 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** – With cooler temperatures and ample flows, conditions for summer trout fishing have improved. As there is the possibility of heavy rainfall later in the weekend (depending on the actual track of Hurricane Irene), flows may become very high and unfishable in some areas (try smaller tributaries as they are the first to recede). As summer (and many summer hatches) wind down, fly anglers should definitely be including terrestrial fly patterns in their arsenal.

**Farmington River** – Trout fishing continues to be very good. Currently West Branch flows are clear and very fishable (207 cfs at Riverton, plus an additional 37 cfs from the Still River). Flows may however increase, depending on the track of Hurricane Irene. West Branch TMA water temperatures are in the low to mid 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include the Trico (*Trycorythodes stygiatus*, #22-28, morning; spinner mainly), *Ephemera needhami* (#22-26, early morning to early afternoon), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening in the Riverton area), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp. & *Baetis* spp.; #18-22, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #18-22, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-18, evenings), Black Ants (#12-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#12-14, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #8-14, late evening).

**Housatonic River** – With cooler temperatures and more water, trout fishing has picked up, and there were some good reports from last week. Flows had been a bit on the high side but have cleared and are currently at very comfortable levels for fishing (670 cfs at Falls Village and 950 cfs at Gaylordsville). **Anglers should be aware that flows may increase depending on precipitation amounts this weekend (call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated flow information).** Water temperatures are now back in the mid- upper 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include Leadwing Coachman (#10-12, main evening hatch), White Wulff (#10-12), Light Cahill (#12-16, evening), and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#14-16, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid, day after rains). And don't forget streamers (morning & evening). Try White 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.**

### 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).

### IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

**Zebra mussels were recently (October, 2010) found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinah. Adult mussels have now also been found in the Housatonic River in Massachusetts and free-floating juveniles (veligers) have been found at a number of sites in the river downstream to Lake Lillinah.**

Prior to these 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).



**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** – Some lakes are starting to produce good late summer fishing. Places to try include Crystal Lake (Ellington; 7-8 colors), Beach Pond (7-8 colors), West Hill Pond (5 colors), East Twin Lake and Lake McDonough (5-6 colors).

#### NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **MOODUS RESERVOIR** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 20 inches for dam repairs, making the launching of trailer boats difficult (especially for larger boats). This drawdown is now expected to last into September.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** – Water ski clinics for the disabled are scheduled for August 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.
- ❖ **SQUANTZ POND**- A canoe event is scheduled for Friday, August 26 in the Southern portion of the pond from 8 am to 5 pm. Boaters should take extra care in this area. Although this event will be using the state boat launch for parking/launching, the launch and parking will remain available to the general boating public for use.
- ❖ **HURRICANE IRENE** – Note that depending on the track of Hurricane Irene, there may be some closures of state parks (remember that some boat launches are within state parks) or other facilities. Anglers and boaters are advised to periodically check the DEEP websites ([www.ct.gov/dep](http://www.ct.gov/dep) or [www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)) for the latest status of DEEP facilities.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** - Due to the project path of Hurricane Irene, Lake Lillinonah will be drawn down (approximately 11.5 feet from its current level as a flood control measure beginning at 5 am, Friday (8/26). **The use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered boats will be impossible during the drawdown this weekend.** Anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake level (and Housatonic River flow) information.

#### TIPS & TRICKS – SMALLMOUTH BASS

- ❖ They can be found deeper than largemouth.
- ❖ They school by size.
- ❖ In waters with limited forage or more competitors, they tend to be aggressive, so a variety of presentations will work.
- ❖ In waters with ample forage or less competition, they can be very finicky. Here, a slow, tantalizing presentation draws the most strikes.
- ❖ Smaller fish are more aggressive than large ones and generally inhabit shallower water.
- ❖ They are prone to spooking, even in waters where they are normally aggressive.
- ❖ Most are caught near the bottom.
- ❖ They love live bait. Their very favorite live baits are live worms.
- ❖ Top water baits work well.
- ❖ Jigs tipped with a worm hooked in-line (weighted or not) or wacky style are effective in weeds or at the weed edges.

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## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to range from the low 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

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

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

**BLUEFISH** fishing doesn't any getting better in eastern LIS.

Over this past weekend, a triangle area from Black Point, to the Race over to Plum Gut and back again to Black Point were loaded with bluefish crashing the surface slashing at baitfish. The Race continues to provide the most consistent bluefish action. Snapper blue fishing has dropped off in some of the tidal rivers due to the rain and freshwater runoff.

**STRIPED BASS** fishing is still on the slow side. Fishing spots for stripers and bluefish include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, rocky humps south of Wilderness Point off Fishers Island, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, 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, Charles Island area to Milford Point, Buoy 20 off Stratford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, Cable and Anchor Reef, the reefs around the Norwalk Islands, and the reefs off Darien and Stamford.

**SCUP (porgy)** fishing is prime time throughout LIS. Any rocky reef, submerged structure or pilings will harbor these panfish of the sea.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** (fluke) fishing remains fair to good but there are a lot of sublegal throwbacks around the 17 inch mark. Try fishing deeper water (60+ ft) over hard bottom with boulders or near drop-offs for keeper slabs. The usual summer flounder 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.

**BLUE CRABBING** remains on the slow side.

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).

### 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 (includes Fishers 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



Connecticut Department of  
**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)

Brown bullhead and striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS