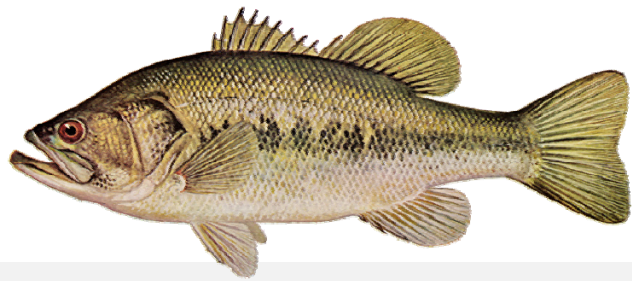


# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 20

## 9/1/2011



### INLAND REPORT

#### POST HURRICANE IRENE–

- Some state parks (remember that some boat launches are within state parks) and forests remain closed. 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.
- A number of rivers including the Connecticut River, Housatonic River and Farmington River are currently unfishable due to the extremely high flows and difficult/dangerous for boating. Some lakes and ponds may also be difficult to access, fish or boat. See the *Notes and Notices* section for additional information.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was generally fair to good last week with the best reports from Wononskopomuc Lake, Winchester Lake (including a 6 lb bass), Ball Pond, Candlewood Lake, Mudge Pond and Lake Hayward, and fair reports from Quaddick Lake (lots of “small” fish), Powers Lake, Gardner Lake (lots of 1 lb “cookie-cutters”) and Long Pond. It was tough finding many bass at Beseck Lake and East Twin Lake.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** – Candlewood Lake smallmouth fishing has been good, and last week some action was also reported from Gardner Lake and Highland Lake.

**NORTHERN PIKE** – Some catches reported last week from Bantam Lake, Pachaug Pond and Quaddick Lake.

#### TROUT

**Rivers & streams** – Flows have become very high and unfishable in some areas, especially larger rivers such as the Housatonic and Farmington Rivers. Those wishing to fish should try smaller streams and tributaries, as they are the first to recede. **Anglers can find real time stream flow data for a number of rivers and streams in CT on the USGS website at:** <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>

**Farmington River** – Trout fishing had been very good. Since the arrival of Hurricane Irene, much of the river has been unfishable due to high flows and flooding. Although Still River inputs continue to slowly drop to more comfortable levels (currently 580 cfs), West Branch flows have again increased as releases from the Goodwin Dam have been increased to 750 cfs and are expected to continue until at least Tuesday (9/6) to facilitate lowering Colebrook River Lake.

**Due to the current high flows the annual pre-Labor Day stocking of the West Branch Farmington has been postponed.** Flow conditions will be re-evaluated early next week, at which time the stocking will be rescheduled.

**Housatonic River** – **The river is currently unfishable due to very high flows**, about 6,800 cfs at Falls Village and about 9,300 cfs at Gaylordsville. For updated flow information, anglers should call FirstLight

#### 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.



Power at 1-888-417-4837. Anglers in this area should try the smaller streams and tributaries, as they typically drop to fishable levels quickly.

**The thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers reopened today (September 1).**

**The thermal refuge recently established on the Salmon River in East Haddam is closed to fishing and access through September 30. This 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.**

**Lakes & Ponds** – Anglers had been finding some trout in a number of lakes and ponds, including Crystal Lake (Ellington; target 25-30 ft early morning), East Twin Lake (30-35 ft), Highland Lake (target 30+ ft), Mashapaug Lake (target 25-27 ft), West Hill Pond and Beach Pond.

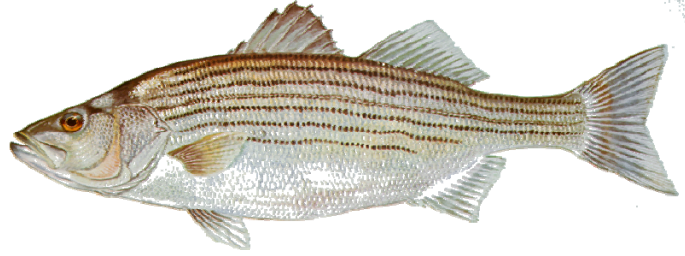
**CONNECTICUT RIVER** – The river has crested at both Hartford and Middletown, but remains above flood stage and very turbid, with lots of debris (large and small) moving downstream. **These conditions are unsafe for boating and make angling (from shore or boat) difficult to impossible.**

Last week (before Irene) **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing had been picking up, with catches at the mouth of Salmon River, along the mainstem downstream from Hartford to Harbor Park and in the Haddam Meadows area. **CATFISH** had been providing some great late summer action on cut bait (chunking). Anglers had been finding some nice **BLACK CRAPPIE** (use small shiners in back coves). **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing in the Enfield area was fair, and some nice smallies were reported from the mainstem from below Hartford to Middletown.

#### **NOTES & NOTICES:**

- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** – Water ski clinics for the disabled are scheduled for 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.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** - Lake Lillinonah remains drawn down (approximately 11.5 feet from its current level as a flood control measure. **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.
- ❖ **LAKE MCDONOUGH**- The boat launch facility is currently closed due to Irene. Anglers/boaters should check the MDC website ([www.themdc.com](http://www.themdc.com)) for updates concerning its availability for the Labor Day weekend (typically the last weekend of operation for the year).
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER LAUNCHES**- The Haddam Meadows and Salmon River State boat launches are closed due to flooding, as are the Riverfront Recapture facilities in the Hartford/East Hartford area (Riverside Park, Charter Oak, Great River).
- ❖ **STATEWIDE STATE BOAT LAUNCH STATUS**- Most state boat launches remained open, but anglers are advised to check access roads carefully and use extra care when launching. Although **Gardner Lake State Park** is listed as closed, the boat launch is open. The **East River** launch in Guilford was reported as closed due to downed wires as of 8/30 (no further update available).

## 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>

Due to the impact of **HURRICANE IRENE**, the regular marine fishing report is not available this week. For anglers venturing out by boat into LIS, please be aware of logs and other floating debris. **Large floating objects in the already flooded tidal rivers and LIS create extremely hazardous boating conditions.** Furthermore, shore fishing spots (piers, docks, etc.) may have experienced storm damage and anglers should use caution when fishing from these structures.

### **REGULATION REMINDERS:**

The **TAUTOG** recreational fishing season is closed from September 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup> inclusive.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER** fishing season is closed September 6<sup>th</sup> (last day is September 5<sup>th</sup>).

*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.*

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### **DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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

*Striped bass images courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS*