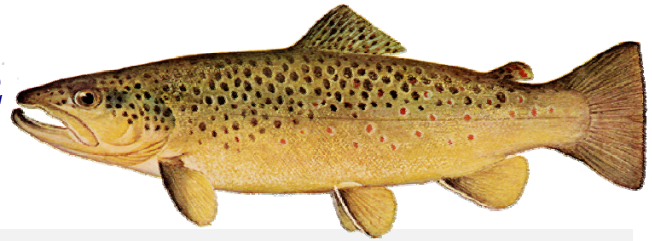


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 22

9/15/2011



INLAND REPORT

TROUT -ANNUAL FALL TROUT STOCKINGS BEGIN.

DEEP started off the 2011 fall stocking season this week. From now through mid-October DEEP plans to stock nearly 30,000 adult trout (15,000 adult-size rainbow trout, 14,500 trophy-size brown trout). A total of 33,000 “yearling” trout (6-9 inch fish) are also scheduled to be released into selected waters.

This week DEEP expects to stock a total of **2,750 brown trout** (12 inch and larger fish) into the **Mianus River TMA** (300 fish), **Mill River TMA** (Fairfield, 200 fish), **Naugatuck River TMA** (425 fish), **Norwalk River** (325 fish), **Saugatuck River TMA** (250 fish), **Wolfe Park Trout Park** (Great Hollow Pond, 500 fish), **Sleeping Giant TMA** (Mill River-Hamden, 250 fish) and the **Wharton Brook Pond Trout Park** (500 fish). Additionally, **5,000 adult rainbow trout** and **3,000 “yearling” brown trout** (6-9 inch fish) will be stocked into the **Housatonic River TMA** (upper TMA).

Trout stocking notes – The Naugatuck River TMA was not stocked upstream of the Route 8 bridge this week due to highway work. Due to continuing high flows, the postponed Labor Day stocking of the West Branch Farmington River has not yet been rescheduled.

Rivers & streams – Flows in most rivers and streams throughout the state have dropped to fishable levels (smaller streams and tributaries are typically the first to recede). Conditions should be good for late summer/early fall trout fishing, with ample water, fall trout stocking beginning and good comfortable fishing weather predicted for the upcoming weekend and next week. Although many areas were unfishable last week, good reports were received from several smaller streams such as the Fenton River and the Mount Hope River. Anglers should be switching over to streamers and terrestrial fly patterns as many hatches typically begin to wind down in September.

Anglers wishing to check stream flows 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 – West Branch flows remain high and unfishable (currently 2,120 cfs at Riverton, the Still River is adding another 140 cfs) as Colebrook River Lake continues to be lowered. Releases from Goodwin Dam are expected to remain high through the weekend.

Once flows do drop and clear, anglers should expect hatches/patterns to include *Isonychia bicolor* (, #10-12, fast water, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18-26, mid-late afternoon), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-18, evenings), Sulfurs duns (*Heptagenia* sps., #16-20, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-14, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening).

Housatonic River – The river has been unfishable due to very high flows for the past several weeks, but is dropping nicely (currently 2,060 cfs at Falls Village and 3,520 cfs at Gaylordsville) to fishable

Join us, September 24, 2011



Sessions Woods WMA
10 am to 4 pm

For more information, visit:
www.ct.gov/dep/HuntFishDay

levels for the weekend. For updated Housatonic River flow information, anglers should call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website listed above. Morning water temperatures are in the mid 60's °F.

Once the flows return to more typical levels, hatches/patterns should include Flying ants (#14-18, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peak month), Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Don't forget streamers (try White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts).

Thermal refuges: 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 – Fishing for trout has been variable, with reports from East Twin Lake (fair), Highland Lake (lots of fish seen, not many caught, Crystal Lake, Mashapaug Lake, West Hill Pond (it's been good here), Beach Pond (try Big Al's Streamers- barbless) and Coventry Lake.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been fair to good. The best reports are from Highland Lake, Lower Bolton lake (catches include several 5 lb bass), Glasgo Pond, Red Cedar Lake, Burr Pond and Bantam Lake (water levels are still high), with fair reports from Candlewood Lake, Squantz Pond, Mamasasco Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Hatch Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, East Twin Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Beach Pond and Winchester Lake. Amos Lake was tough fishing last week.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Good action for smallmouth reported from Bantam Lake and Highland Lake, and fair action reported from Lake Zoar (recent catches include several 3 lb smallies), Candlewood Lake (it's gotten tougher here) and Mashapaug Lake.

KOKANEE SALMON were reported from West Hill Pond (30-35 feet, still silver) and East Twin Lake (getting red).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake (36 & 41 inch fish among the catches).

WALLEYE- A bit tough but some catches reported from Lake Saltonstall.

YELLOW PERCH are reported from Candlewood Lake (lots of jumbo perch for one father and son trip).

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river is back below flood stage and continuing to drop. However, the river is still high and very turbid with lots of floating debris and many boat launches are either closed or difficult to use due to mud and silt deposition.

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.



NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** - Lake Lillinonah is back up to typical operating levels (and launchable). 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 has closed for the season.
- ❖ **RAINBOW RESERVOIR** is currently in the process of refilling and is expected to be at typical operating levels for the weekend. Boaters are advised that there is significant floating debris.
- ❖ **LOWER BOLTON LAKE** –A canoe/kayak race event is scheduled for Wednesday, September 21 (“rain date” 9/22) from 5 pm through 8 pm. Boaters should use extra caution during the event (note that much of the course laps the lake along the shoreline).
- ❖ **MASHAPAUG LAKE**- Beginning on Monday, October 3, the main access road to Mashapaug Lake will be closed for replacement of a major culvert. The park access road will remain open up to the Bigelow Pond Boat Launch, allowing continued access to Bigelow Pond.
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER LAUNCHES**- Conditions (high flows, silt and mud deposition) continue to make launching from the Bissell Bridge, Haddam Meadows and Salmon River State boat launches difficult. The Riverfront Recapture facilities in the Hartford/East Hartford area (Riverside Park, Charter Oak, Great River) remain closed until further notice.

DIDYMO REMINDER

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “didymo” or “rock snot”, was discovered in Connecticut in the West Branch Farmington River earlier this year (March). 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

Zebra mussels were recently (October, 2010) found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. 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 Lillinonah.

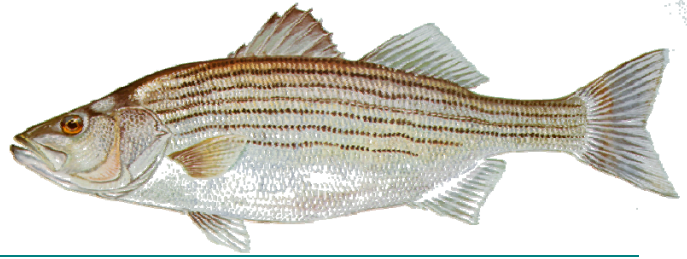
Prior to these discovery, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new 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.



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MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the high 60's to low 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>

Water in eastern LIS remains a brownish color, with logs and other debris due to the flood conditions in the Connecticut River.

BLUEFISH fishing remains good to excellent in the Race, Sluiceway, and Plum Gut. The reefs are coming alive with **STRIPERS** as the fall migration kicks in. Fishing locations for both **striped bass** and **bluefish** include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, 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, 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.

After the storm events, **SCUP** fishing has finally returned to normal on the local reefs and rock piles.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is awesome in Block Island Sound.

LITTLE TUNNY and **ATLANTIC BONITO** are in eastern LIS from the Race over to Montauk Pt., NY. Other tuna spots closer to home include Niantic Bay over to Millstone Pt.

Regulation Reminders:

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

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing season is closed.

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing or pick up the 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.

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

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS