

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 23

9/22/2011



INLAND REPORT

TROUT

Fall Trout Stocking Update - DEEP began the 2011 fall stocking season last week. DEEP plans to stock nearly 30,000 adult trout (15,000 adult-size rainbow trout, 14,500 trophy-size brown trout) and 33,000 “yearling” trout (6-9 inch fish) through mid-October.

This week DEEP expects to stock a total of **11,100 brown trout** (12 inch and larger fish) and 2,500 rainbow trout (9-10 inch fish).

In **eastern CT**, the Hammonasset River (250 fish), Hammonasset River TMA (250 fish), Moosup River TMA (300 fish), Natchaug River (650 fish), Salmon River (500 fish), Salmon River TMA 800 fish), Shetucket River (1,100 fish), Willimantic River TMA (300 fish), Yantic River TMA (350 fish), Crystal Lake (1,000 fish), and the Day Pond (350 fish), Mohegan Park Pond (400 fish), Natchaug River (350 fish) and Chatfield Hollow (Schreeder Pond, 400 fish) Trout Parks are being stocked with brown trout.

In **western CT**, Highland Lake (1,000 fish), Mohawk Pond (200 fish), Mount Tom Pond (500 fish), Stillwater Pond (300 fish), Tyler Pond (600 fish), West Hill Pond (800 fish), West Side Pond (200 fish) and the Black Rock Pond Trout Park (500 fish) are scheduled to be stocked with brown trout, and the 2,500 rainbow trout will be released into the Bull’s Bridge TMA on the Housatonic River.

Trout stocking notes – The Naugatuck River TMA was not stocked upstream of the Route 8 bridge last week due to highway work. Mashapaug Lake will not be stocked this fall due to a closure of the access road for repairs.

Rivers & streams – During the fall, streamers become a major component in trout fishing. Patterns to try include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) and white, yellow & brown are good colors to try. Nymphing should also be productive.

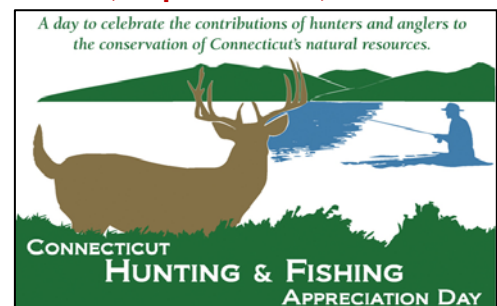
Flows in many areas had dropped to comfortable levels for fishing. However, with showers (and possibly heavy rain on Friday) in the forecast at times for the next seven days, flows throughout the state may vary greatly during the upcoming weekend and next week. Anglers can find real time stream flow 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 – West Branch flows have cleared and are on the high side (currently 460 cfs at Riverton with the Still River adding another 260 cfs) but fishable. Flows may vary this weekend depending on precipitation amounts and patterns. Morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 60’s°F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia bicolor* (#10-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella & Baetis* spp., #18-20, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#16-18, mid day in fast water),

Join us, September 24, 2011



**Sessions Woods WMA
10 am to 4 pm**

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

Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-26, mid day, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid day).

Housatonic River – The river has been high but fishable and anglers reported some good action from the past weekend. Flows are currently 1,200 at Falls Village and 2,250 cfs at Gaylordsville) but may again increase depending on rainfall patterns over the week. For updated Housatonic River flow information, anglers should call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website listed above. Morning temperatures are currently in the upper 50's to low 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22 on cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening) Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), Light Cahills (#12-14, evening). Sulfurs (#16-18, evenings), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid day, when windy/humid). Trout can ignore everything else when ants are on the water, try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water). Also try nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

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 – Lakes reporting fair to good trout fishing include East Twin Lake, West Hill Pond (many limits), Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Beach Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS Fishing is variable with good reports from Bantam Lake, Stillwater Pond, Ball Pond, Congamond Lakes and Halls Pond and fair reports from Lake Zoar (lots of smaller bass), Candlewood Lake (anglers have had to work some to get bass this month), Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Coventry Lake (lots of smaller bass), Quaddick Lake, East Twin Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (lake now drawn down 2 feet). Other places reporting some action include Silver Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Burr Pond, Cedar Lake Crystal Lake, Bishop Swamp, Mono Pond and Mudge Pond. Tough fishing reported from Highland Lake, Winchester Lake, Pachaug Pond and Glasgo Pond.

SMALLMOUTH BASS action is fair at best, with reports from Candlewood Lake (action has cooled here, but catches continue to include a number of smallies in the 3-4 lb range) Mashapaug Lake and Highland Lake.

KOKANEE SALMON fishing continues to be good with one angler boating **16 fish** this week from West Hill Pond. Female salmon are still reported to be silver, but the males are almost in full spawning colors now.

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be picking up. Pike are showing up in Bantam Lake (8 lb pike among the catches), Lake Zoar (a 5 lb, 44.5 inch beauty caught here), Winchester Lake (7.2 lb, 32 inch pike among the catches), Bantam River/Little Pond (5 fish for one angler) and Pachaug Pond.

Some fall **WALLEYE** action is being reported. Areas to try include Squantz Pond, Lake Saltonstall and Mashapaug Lake.

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.



CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river has dropped considerably in the last week and is now at boatable/fishable levels, although caution should be used due to the continuing presence of some debris. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing some action in the coves below Hartford (including Keeney & Wethersfield coves). Due to recent conditions **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing has been on the tough side, but catches from the Hartford to Haddam stretch do include a 4.1 lb smallie. Good **CHANNEL CATFISH** fishing is being reported, with many big fish coming to the net (6 total for one pair, including a 10.4 lb, 30 inch fish). Anglers should try cut bait or chunks near brush piles next to deeper holes on outside edges. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action is improving in coves. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as improving as water levels drop and anglers can get to the more productive spots. **CARP** are providing some action.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **LAKE MCDONOUGH**- The boat launch facility has closed for the season.
- ❖ **MASHAUG LAKE**- Beginning on Monday, **October 3**, the main access road to Mashaug 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.
- ❖ **MOODUS RESERVOIR** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn approximately 1 foot for dam repairs, making the launching of some trailered boats difficult. This drawdown is currently expected to last through September.
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER LAUNCHES**- All Riverfront Recapture boat launches in the Hartford/East Hartford area (Riverside Park, Charter Oak, Great River) are now open and fully operational.
- ❖ **CANDLEWOOD LAKE** – The swim portion of a triathlon is scheduled to be held in the upper end of the “Sherman arm” (near/along the Sherman Town Park) on Saturday, **September 24th** from 7:30 am to 10:00 am. Boaters should avoid this area during the event.
A canoe/kayak race event is scheduled for Sunday, **September 25** from 9 am through 1 pm in the cove along the Brookfield Town Park. Boaters should avoid this area during the event.
- ❖ **HOPEVILLE POND, Pachaug River & upper Pachaug Pond** – A canoe/kayak race event is scheduled for Saturday, **September 24** from 11 am through 1 pm. The race course includes the entire length of Hopeville Pond. One race will also continue up the Pachaug River to the Pachaug Pond dam with a portage to Pachaug Pond and then an approximately one mile paddle into Pachaug Pond. Boaters on Hopeville Pond and the upper end of Pachaug Pond should use extra caution during this event.
- ❖ **MANSFIELD HOLLOW RESERVOIR** is currently drawn down approximately 2 feet below the typical summer level to facilitate repairs (expected to take a month). Launching may be difficult for some trailered boats.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** – Due to a possibility of several inches of rain in the forecast for Friday, Lake Lillinonah will again be drawn down as a flood control measure. Current plans are to have the lake drawn down to 9 feet below typical operating levels on Friday, 9/23. At this level, **the use of both state launches (Route 133/steel bridge launch and Pond Brook launch) by trailered boats will be impossible**. Refill timing will be dependent on actual precipitation amounts and river flows, anglers can call FirstLight Power at 1-888-417-4837 for updated lake level (and Housatonic River flow) information.

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and service provider. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need this information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call 860-424-3035 or e-mail the ADA Coordinator at DEP.aoffice@CT.Gov. Persons who are hearing impaired should call the State of Connecticut relay number 711.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 60's to 70 °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://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

BLUEFISH fishing remains good to excellent in the Race, Sluiceway, and Plum Gut. Other spots 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.

STRIPED BASS fishing has picked up and can be found at the same areas mentioned for bluefish. The only problem is trying to get a hook bait or lure past those toothy critters.

SCUP fishing is prime time for trophy “hub caps”. Clam baits have been working well for those “panfish of the sea”.

Also, **BLACK SEA BASS** have been an added bonus on the scup grounds. Bucket mouths to about 4 lbs have been reported.

LITTLE TUNNY have been crashing the rips in eastern LIS from the Race (between Race Lighthouse and western Fishers Island) over to Little Gull Island and of course Montauk Point, NY for anglers willing to travel. Other inshore tuna spots include Bartlett Reef over to Black Point.

Regulation Reminder:

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

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