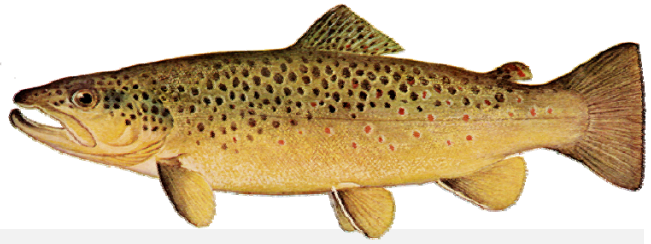


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 24

9/29/2011



INLAND REPORT

FREE FISHING DAY - Saturday, October 8th

DEEP has designated Saturday, October 8th as a “Free Fishing Day” where no license is required to fish recreationally in Connecticut waters (both inland & marine).

This is a great opportunity for experienced anglers to both share their passion for fishing and protect its future by introducing a family member, friend or acquaintance to the sport of fishing, and a great time for visitors to our state to try out the many fishing opportunities found in Connecticut.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

TROUT

Fall Trout Stocking Update - This week DEEP expects to stock **1,000 brown trout** (12 inch and larger fish) into the Housatonic River (upper) TMA, bringing the total number of brown trout stocked this fall to **14,850** fish. DEEP also is stocking a total 24,000 “yearling” trout (6-9 inch fish) this week into the Blackberry River, Coppermine Brook, Pequabuck River, Roaring Brook (Glastonbury) and the Hockanum River. So far this season, 7,500 standard size (9-10 inch fish) rainbow trout have also been stocked and DEEP will be stocking another 7,500 rainbows in mid-October.

Trout stocking notes – The Naugatuck River TMA was not stocked upstream of the Route 8 bridge due to highway work, Mashapaug Lake will not be stocked this fall due to a closure of the access road for repairs and the Valley Falls Park Pond Trout Park is not being stocked this fall due to an ongoing dredging project.

Rivers & streams – Good reports last week from the Shetucket and Yantic Rivers. Conditions for trout fishing will vary greatly this weekend depending on location. Flows in many areas had been at comfortable levels for fishing, however, periods of rain this week, sometimes heavy, have increased flows in some areas (especially in western CT) to unfishable levels. Remember that smaller tributaries generally 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>.

It is almost October, and as brown trout enter their fall spawning period, anglers can expect explosive action as trout become much more aggressive. Matching the hatch is not as important this time of the year, streamers and nymphing are the way to go and typically dominate the early morning and late evening. For streamers try white, yellow and brown colors. Patterns to try include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). For nymphs, bottom bounce Caddis pupa (#16-26), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20).

Farmington River – Last week the river was fishable but tough due to moderately high flows. Currently however, periods of heavy rain have made the river unfishable with the Still River currently adding over 3,100 cfs below Riverton. Morning water temperatures had been in the low to mid 60’s°F.

Once flows drop, hatches/patterns should include *Isonychia bicolor* (#12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #22-28, mid-late afternoon), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca* #12-18), 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), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid) and Stone Hopper (#10-12, mid day). Streamers should also work well.

Housatonic River – This river has also quickly jumped to unfishably high levels, currently 3,000 cfs at Falls Village. 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 mid 60's °F.

Early fall hatches should include several *Isonychia species*, Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Cahills/Summer (#12-14), Black caddis (#16, early morning & evening) Sulfurs (#16-18, evening), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid day, when windy/humid).. A lot of flying ants can be on the water this time of the year and trout will ignore everything else when ants are on the water. Try Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water). Nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads should be productive in the fall.

Lakes & Ponds – Trout fishing ranges from good to slow, with reports from Mount Tom Pond (good), West Hill Pond (fair), East Twin Lake (slow), Highland Lake (fair), Mashapaug Lake (slow) and Crystal Lake (slow).

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair, with the better reports from Quaddick Lake (mostly smaller fish but catches here include a 5.3 lb bass), Hopeville Pond (catches include a 6 lb bass), Bishop Pond, Lake Waramaug, Bantam Lake (been East Twin Lake (a 6.2 lb largemouth among last weekend's catches), Lake Zoar (good action here), Candlewood Lake, Mudge Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake and Ball Pond. Anglers are having a tough time at Long Pond, Beach Pond, Beseck Lake, Lake Housatonic.

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported from Candlewood Lake, Bantam Lake, West Thompson Lake and Lake Zoar.

KOKANEE SALMON (spawning colors) are still being caught at West Hill Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE action slowed at Bantam Lake last weekend. Few other recent reports for pike.

Consistently large **CHAIN PICKEREL** have been caught at Wononskopomuc Lake (fish up to 5lbs).

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river continues to be fishable, but on the high side with some turbidity.

There have been some reports of **CATFISH** (10 lbs plus) from anglers the lower river. Few **NORTHERN PIKE** catches reported last week.

CARP anglers are finding some action in the Hartford and Middletown areas. Homemade boilies and worms have brought fish to the net this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been fair at best, but recent catches do include several 3 lb plus bass. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** action has been fair, with a number of smallies caught mainstem from Hartford down to Haddam. Some **BLACK CRAPPIE** are being caught in coves.

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.



IMPORTANT REMINDER 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.



NOTES & NOTICES:

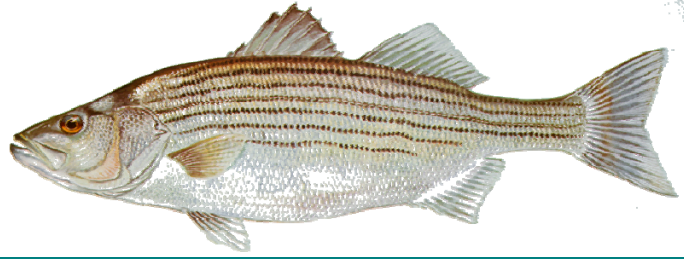
- ❖ **MASHAPAUG LAKE**- Beginning on Monday, **October 3**, the main access road to Mashapaug Lake will be closed for replacement of a major culvert. The park access road will remain open up to the Bigelow Pond Boat Launch, allowing continued access to Bigelow Pond.
 - ❖ **MOODUS RESERVOIR** (Lower & 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.
 - ❖ **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.
 - ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER**- A rowing event (The Head of the Riverfront Regatta) is scheduled for **Sunday, October 2nd** in the Wethersfield-Hartford area (from just above the Putnam Bridge in Wethersfield/Glastonbury to the Bulkeley Bridge in Hartford/East Hartford) from 6 am to 5 pm. Boaters should additional caution in this area.
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TIPS & TRICKS –FALL WALLEYE

- Fall can generate some of the biggest walleye catches of the year.
 - The slower the better whether you are jigging live bait or trolling up and down the waters.
 - Try using hair jigs as these mirror lifelike actions even when standing still.
 - Crank baits will mimic a 'slow rolling' movement sure to catch the walleye attention as well.
 - Try natural color bait selections on clear line to create as lifelike a situation in the waters as possible.
 - Good choices are baitfish patterns.
 - Bait sizes should be on the large side.
 - The cooler water temperatures of fall result in slower movement by the walleye.
 - Meals are eaten less frequently so a large sized bait selection will appear appetizing to the walleye.
 - Try fishing at 15-19 feet with the lure 70-90 feet behind the boat and troll between 1.5 and 3 mph.
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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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

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

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

Attention Marine Recreational Anglers!

- **The scup fishing season has been extended through to the end of the year. The daily creel and length limit remains the same (10 fish per angler and 10 ½ inches).**
- **In the party/charter boat fishery, the current 40 fish creel limit remains in place through October 11th. After October 11th and through to the end of the year, the creel limit returns to 10 fish (the length limit remains unchanged at 11 inches).**

BLUEFISH fishing remains excellent with big alligators ravaging baitfish throughout LIS! These tackle busters are putting on some big time weight before moving off when water temperatures cool off. You can expect monster choppers weighing in the mid to upper teens and exceeding 3 ft in length! The usual fishing spots include the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, 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. *This is also prime time for surf casters to hit the beaches especially at our coastal state parks for excellent fishing opportunities!*

STRIPED BASS fishing is best during low light levels when bluefish are less active. With big choppers around, daytime fishing for stripers has been tough going. Live baits have been working the best if you can get through the blues.

SCUP fishing is fantastic on the local reefs and rock piles! Now with the season extension (see above), fishing this fall will have an added bonus!

TAUTOG fishing season opens up on October 1. The daily creel limit is 4 fish per person and the minimum length limit is 14 inches.

LITTLE TUNNY have been racing around at Bartlett Reef, Millstone Point, Pine Island area, the Race (Race Rock to Little Gull Island). Other tuna spots include off Milford Point to Charles Island area and Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area. Diving terns are a dead giveaway of their presence.

Other regulation Reminders: The **BLACK SEA BASS** fishing season is closed during the month of October and reopens November 1st. The **TAUTOG** recreational fishing season reopens October 1st.

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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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www.ct.gov/deep

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS