

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 25

10/6/2011



INLAND REPORT

FREE FISHING DAY – This Saturday, October 8th

DEEP has designated this 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 stocked a total of **2,950 brown trout** (12 inch and larger fish). The West Branch Farmington River (from Goodwin Dam to the upper boundary of the TMA) was stocked with 1,200 fish, the lower Farmington River TMA was stocked with 550 fish, 600 fish were released into Squantz Pond and 600 fish into Beach Pond. These stockings bringing the total number of brown trout stocked this fall to **17,800** fish. 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 next week in eastern CT.

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 – Flows in many areas throughout the state are at high, but fishable levels and continue to decrease. 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>.

With good early fall weather in the forecast and more than 22,000 recently stocked brown and rainbow trout, this should be a good weekend to get out and fish. Good reports last week from the Salmon river and Natchaug River.

Streamers and nymphing are the way to go in October. For streamers try white, yellow and brown colors. Patterns to try include White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). For nymphs, bottom bounce Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20).

Farmington River – Flows have been highly variable this week with all or most of the river unfishable due to very high flows. Currently West Branch flows at Riverton are very high (3,090 cfs) and inputs from the Still River are moderate (275 cfs). Anglers can however expect more moderate (and fishable flows this weekend) as releases from the Goodwin Dam (to facilitate lowering Colebrook River Lake) are reduced over the course of the day on Friday to approximately 400 cfs. On Sunday, releases will be reduced further, with flows at Riverton expected to be around 200 cfs. Flows are expected to increase again on Monday.

Housatonic River – The river has been unfishable due to very high flows, but continues to gradually drop towards fishable levels (currently 2,310 at Falls Village and 3,680 cfs at Gaylordsville). 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.

Hatches/patterns at this time of the year should include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Cahills/Summer (#12-14), Summer Sulfurs (evenings) Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening), Sulfurs (#16-18), Black Beetles (#14-18, mid day), Stone Hopper (#8-10, mid day) and Flying Ants (#16-18, mid day, when windy/humid). Nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads will be productive when water levels come down.

Lakes & Ponds – Fair to good trout action reported from West Hill Pond, Beach Pond (13 trout for one angler, streamers), Crystal Lake (Ellington; 14 trout for one boat), East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Stillwater Pond and Mohawk Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains generally fair, with the better reports from Stillwater Pond, Wonoskopomuc Lake, Quaddick Lake (catches also include a 5.1 lb largemouth), Silver Lake and Lake Zoar. It's been a bit tough finding many bass at Candlewood Lake, Amos Lake, Long Pond and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir. Other places to try include Mudge Pond, Rogers Lake and Billings Lake.

SMALLMOUTH BASS action is fair at Candlewood Lake. Some catches also reported from Squantz Pond and Highland Lake.

KOKANEE SALMON are being caught in West Hill Pond (14 fish, full spawning colors).

NORTHERN PIKE are being caught at Winchester Lake and Bantam Lake (lake remains high however).

WALLEYE catches have been reported from Squantz Pond and Lake Saltonstall.

Big **CHAIN PICKEREL** continue to be reported from Wonoskopomuc Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river has again been high and difficult to boat and/or fish, but is beginning to drop. With drier weather in the forecast for the next week conditions should continue to improve. Some **NORTHERN PIKE** were found in coves last week. Good reports for **CHANNEL CATFISH** in the Haddam area. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action should be good in Wethersfield area. Use a small jig tipped with 2" shiners.

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:

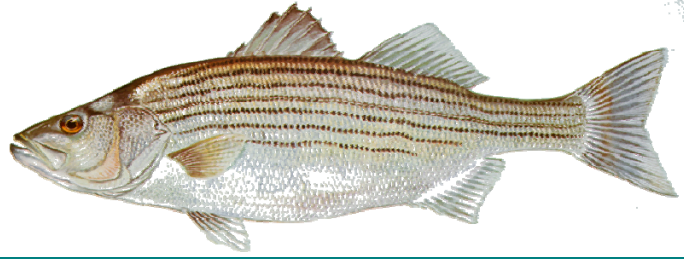
- ❖ **MASHAPAUG LAKE**- The main access road to Mashapaug Lake is closed for replacement of a major culvert. The park access road will remain open up to the Bigelow Pond Boat Launch, allowing continued access to Bigelow Pond.
- ❖ **MOODUS RESERVOIR** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn approximately 1 foot for dam repairs, making the launching of some trailered boats difficult. This drawdown is currently expected to last through September.
- ❖ **HOUSATONIC LAKE**- A rowing event (The Head of the Housatonic Regatta) is scheduled for **Saturday, October 8th from 8 am to 7 pm**. Although this event will be using the boat launch in Indian Well State Park, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however additional caution on the lake.
- ❖ **COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE** – The boat launch is currently closed due to high water and is not expected to reopen until sometime late next week.
- ❖ **BATTERSON PARK POND** is currently drawn down 4 feet to facilitate dam maintenance. Launching of trailered boats will be difficult to impossible.

TIPS & TRICKS –PUTTING FALL NORTHERN PIKE IN THE BOAT

- ❖ There are three times during the open-water period that can be considered prime for big pike.
- ❖ Each windows lasts from 10 to 14 days.
- ❖ Current period of interest is before a water body turns over in the fall.
- ❖ During the pre-turnover period big pike come out of the deep water as the shallow water cools.
- ❖ Target six to twelve feet deep.
- ❖ Use 3 or 4-inch spoons (red-and-white or red-and-yellow if yellow perch are present).
- ❖ Overcast days, use bright silver or gold spoons.
- ❖ Use medium-weight bait casting gear with a 15-pound-test line and a 12-inch wire leader.
- ❖ Cold, windy days are excellent for pike fishing with a yellow body lure.
- ❖ Large spinner baits are popular fall trolling lures.
- ❖ In discolored water use black spinner baits.
- ❖ Trolling covers more water and allows you to find fish faster.
- ❖ Try backtrolling slowly over the vegetation, with 25 to 35 feet of line out.
- ❖ Backtrolling allows more depth control.
- ❖ Position the line at a 45-degree angle towards the water with a lure set just above the vegetation.
- ❖ When you see an opening in the weeds, drop the rod tip and let the lure settle into it.
- ❖ Use polarized sunglasses so you can see these pockets.
- ❖ Try spinnerbaits over the tops of the weeds while backtrolling.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



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

BLUEFISH fishing remains excellent. 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.

STRIPED BASS fishing has improved on the local reefs and tidal rips as water temperature cool. Live lining eels, hickory shad, bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or scup is the ticket for that trophy cow bass. Just to remember to use circle hooks when using live bait. Circle hooks reduce "gut hooking" and most of the time the hook lodges just in the corner of the fish's mouth for an easy release.

SCUP fishing is also excellent on the local reefs and rock piles. The time to go is now! Fish in excess of 17 inches in length have been reported.

TAUTOG fishing season is now open. Green crabs, hermit crabs, and Asian shore crabs are preferred baits for hooking these hard fighting fish. Any rock pile/gnarly hard bottom or wreck is perfect tog habitat.

LITTLE TUNNY fishing has been hit or miss for these torpedoes of the sea. Fishing spots include Bluff Point, Pine Island area, the Race (Race Rock to Little Gull Island), Bartlett Reef, Millstone Point, Black Point area, and the Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground area.

Regulations reminders:

SCUP - 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 Tuesday, 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).

BLACK SEA BASS – The black sea bass season is now 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.

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

Striped bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS