

# FISHING REPORT NUMBER 26

## 10/13/2011



### INLAND REPORT

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**SPECIAL NOTE:** DEEP will begin its annual fall stockings of surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon next week. A total of approximately 400 broodstock salmon will be released next week. These fish will be stocked into portions of the Naugatuck and Shetucket rivers, Crystal Lake (Ellington) and Mount Tom Pond.

### TROUT

**Fall Trout Stocking Update** –DEEP stocked a total of 7,150 rainbow trout into eastern CT lakes this week. These fish were released into Black Pond (Middlefield, 400 fish), Rogers Lake (400 fish), Quonnipaug Lake (400 fish), Wauregan Reservoir (300 fish), Long Pond (400 fish), Amos Lake (400 fish), Beach Pond (1,000 fish), Crystal Lake (1,000 fish), Black Pond (Woodstock, 200 fish), Bigelow Pond (250 fish), Gardner Lake (1,000 fish), Cedar Lake (400 fish), Pataconk Lake (100 fish) and Coventry Lake (900 fish).

**These stockings complete DEEP's 2011 fall trout stockings. A total of 32,800 adult trout** (17,800 brown trout and 15,000 rainbow trout) were stocked from early September through this week. The brown trout were all 12 inch and larger fish and the rainbow trout were all standard size (9-10 inch fish). A total of 30,000 "yearling" (6-9 inch fish) were also stocked out this fall.

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

**Rivers & streams** – Conditions for fishing may be variable this weekend. Good fall fishing weather is forecast and flows in most areas have continued to drop to very fishable levels. However, with some rain in the forecast, flows in some areas may again increase. 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>.

Fall is generally streamer and nymphing time, with late morning and early evening often the best times. White, yellow and brown are good streamer colors. Patterns include White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Nymphs to bottom bounce include caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

**Farmington River** – West Branch flows should be high but fishable for the weekend (they've been highly variable for the past several weeks, sometimes fishable, and at other times, too high). This week, releases from Goodwin Dam were high (1,500 to 1,800 cfs) to facilitate lowering Colebrook River Lake, but are currently being reduced to moderate levels (341 cfs). The Still River is currently adding 255 cfs. Water temperatures are in the mid 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns should include *Isonychia bicolor* (#12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* & *Baetis* spp., #22-28, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Midges (#22-32, morning), Black Ants (#16-18, mid day in fast water), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid) and Golden Stonefly (#16-20).

**Housatonic River** – Trout fishing has reportedly turned on this week with some very good reports. Flows are currently on the high side, but very fishable (1,050 at Falls Village and 1,990 cfs at Gaylordsville) and morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-22, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening), Brown caddis (#16, early morning & evening) and Black/Cinnamon Ants (#14-18, mid day in fast water). Large streamers & nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads should be productive.

**Lakes & Ponds** – Some trout action reported from West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Squantz Pond, Coventry Lake, Beach Pond (streamers), Mount Tom Pond and Crystal Lake. Fishing should pick up as fish settle into their fall patterns.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing has is generally fair to slow, with a few exceptions. Good reports from Mamasasco Lake. The fair reports are from Lake Lillinonah, Pachaug Pond, Halls Pond, Congamond Lakes, Hanover Pond (nice action, few big fish), Bantam Lake, Hatch Pond, Candlewood Lake, Lake Wintergreen and Silver Lake, and the slow reports are from Ball Pond, Moodus Reservoir, East Twin Lake and Squantz Pond.

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** – Candlewood Lake smallmouth fishing has been inconsistent, with a few good days and more than a few slow days (some 3-4 lb smallies do continue to get caught). Fair fishing reported from Lake Lillinonah (catches include a 5.45 lb beauty) and Squantz Pond.

**NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is picking up, places to try include Bantam Lake (recent catches include a 33.5 inch pike), Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond, Quaddick Lake, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir.

**WALLEYE** – some action reported from Saugatuck Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall and Squantz Pond.

**CHAIN PICKEREL** are being reported from Moodus Reservoir, Lake Wononskopomuc and Silver Lake.

**KOKANEE SALMON** (in their spawning colors) are reported from West Hill Pond.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER – BLACK CRAPPIE** are providing some good fall action in the coves throughout the river (small shiners are a good bait choice). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has improved. Fish are being found near the mouth of the Mattabeset River, the Haddam Meadows area and up Salmon River Cove. Boilies and sweet corn baits are having some success with **CARP** in the lower river (Haddam area). Cut-bait and worms are bringing **CHANNEL CATFISH** in. Target outside edges of channels near deep drop offs and in coves. **CHAIN PICKEREL** are being caught in Hamburg cove. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing was fair to good this past weekend, with the Hartford area coves (Wethersfield Cove, White Oaks Cove, Keeney Cove), Chapman's Pond and Salmon River Cove providing the most action. Catches include a number of bass in the 3-5 lb range. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** were providing some action in the Enfield/Suffield area.

**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](http://www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies).



**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:

- ❖ In eastern CT, “Winter” drawdowns of **Bashan Lake, Beseck Lake, Gardner Lake, Lower Bolton Lake, Middle Bolton Lake, Pickerel Lake, Hopeville Pond, Ashland Pond, Billings Lake** and **Mashapaug Lake** have begun or will begin soon.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE** – The boat launch has reopened (as of 10/12).
- ❖ **BATTERSON PARK POND** is currently drawn down 4 feet to facilitate dam maintenance. Launching of trailered boats will be very difficult.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** is currently scheduled to be drawn down starting October 15<sup>th</sup> (**this weekend**) with refilling scheduled to begin October 23<sup>th</sup>. **LAKE LILLINONAH** is currently scheduled to be drawn down beginning October 23<sup>th</sup> and ending October 31<sup>st</sup>. during these drawdowns, launching of trailer boats will be difficult to impossible at the state boat launches.
- ❖ The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has closed the **THOMASTON DAM RECREATION AREA** until further notice due to ongoing clean up operations resulting from storm Irene. This area is currently expected to be closed for the remainder of the 2011 season. **This area includes most of the Naugatuck River Trout Management Area.**
- ❖ **CONNECTICUT RIVER**- A rowing event (The Head of the Connecticut Regatta) is scheduled for **Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup>** in the Middletown/Portland/Cromwell area from 8 am to 6 pm. Boaters should use additional caution and expect lengthy delays in travel through this area.

## 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 about 2-3 weeks.
- ❖ 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 a 3 or 4-inch spoon (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 bait.
- ❖ 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.

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## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 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://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. There are "Gator-sized Blues" to 16 pounds being reported every day. 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. Please note: there are schools of adult Bunker in the western sound.

**STRIPED BASS** fishing continues to improve on the local reefs and tidal rips as water temperatures cool. Many large "Cow Bass" up to 57 pounds have been weighed in while fishing the "Hunters Moon". Live lining eels, hickory shad, bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or scup is the ticket for those trophy-sized monster bass. Please use circle hooks when fishing with 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 and years of great fishing.

**SCUP** fishing is also excellent for these "Reef Slammers" on any local reef and or rock pile throughout Long Island Sound. The time to go is now! Fish in excess of 18 inches in length and three pounds have been caught. A great fish to introduce children to some exciting "Deep Sea" fishing and family fun! Squid, sand worms, conch and small crabs are the bait of choice.

**TAUTOG** fishing season is now open. Green crabs, hermit crabs, and Asian shore crabs are preferred baits for hooking these hard fighting "Reef Bullies". Any rock pile/gnarly hard bottom or wreck is perfect tog habitat. Smaller rock piles or structure in shallow water (10-15 feet) produce larger-sized fish early in the fall fishing season. One must be willing to move from reef to reef and be patient while fishing for these wonderful fish. Please be considerate of other anglers and their boats...so everyone can enjoy this great fishery resource.

**LITTLE TUNNY** fishing has been awesome for "Albies", or "Hard Tails", as they feed heavily on Atlantic silversides before migrating south. Fishing spots include Montauk Point, 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.

**BLUE CRAB** continues to be good in the lower Connecticut River, especially for "Jimmies" up to 8 inches spike to spike. Try the DEEP Marine Headquarters in Old Lyme for some fun in the sun and good crab fishing.

### **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). Note that the party/charter boat creel limit is now 10 fish per day (the length limit remains unchanged at 11 inches).

**BLACK SEA BASS** – The black sea bass season is now closed (will re-open November 1<sup>st</sup>).

### **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 image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS*