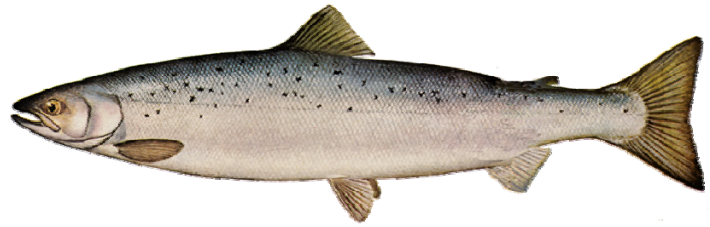


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 28

10/27/2011



INLAND REPORT

2011 FALL BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKING - DEEP began its annual stockings of surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon last week by releasing 160 salmon into the **Shetucket River**, 60 salmon into **Crystal Lake** (Ellington), 116 salmon into **Mount Tom Pond** (Morris-Litchfield-Washington) and 100 salmon into the **Naugatuck River**. These fish ranged in size from 3 to 18 pounds each. In November, DEEP expects to have 500 more salmon available from its Kensington Hatchery following spawning.

TROUT

Rivers & streams – With more precipitation and cool weather in the forecast for the weekend, conditions will again be variable. In most areas, flows are somewhat high but quite fishable. 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>.

The autumn is streamer and nymphing time. For colors, try white, yellow and brown, and for patterns, White Wooly 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 are clear and still high, but are back to more fishable levels (currently 475 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 160 cfs). Water temperatures (mornings) are in the upper 50's °F.

Hatches/patterns include *Isonychia* (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; brown #16-18, winter/summer #18-22, morning), Midges (#20-32, morning) and Rusty Spinner (#20-26, morning). Streamers are working well.

Housatonic River – The river should be good for late October fishing. Morning water temperatures are in the lower 50's °F and flows are relatively clear and fishable (currently 990 cfs at Falls Village and 1,560 cfs at Gaylordsville). Flows may increase some due to rain today and possibly Saturday.

Hatches/patterns for the Housatonic River include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges

Broodstock Atlantic salmon regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for broodstock on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In rivers, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **CATCH-AND-RELEASE ONLY** through November 30. From December 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Area, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). **Note that the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River was not stocked this week as most of this river stretch is within the Thomaston Dam Recreation Area that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has closed due to storm damage.**
- From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2011 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

(#20-26) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Streamers and nymphing work well this time of year (see advice above)!

Lakes & Ponds – Trout fishing remains spotty, trolling's tough. Look for brown trout more inshore and shallow. Some action reported from Highland Lake and Squantz Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is mostly fair with reports from Highland Lake (a 5 lb bass among the recent catches), Wononskopomuc Lake (season here closes at the end of October), Gardner Lake, Billings Lake and Candlewood Lake. Good fishing reported from Hatch Pond. Bantam Lake and Pachaug Pond have been tough to fish.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Candlewood Lake smallie action is picking up, with a number of catches in the 3-4 lb range. Fish reportedly are now back on humps, between 20-35 feet. Fair smallmouth action reported from Rainbow Reservoir and Highland Lake and some catches also reported from Bantam Lake.

NORTHERN PIKE – Fair pike fishing reported from Bantam Lake, and a few catches reported from Beseck Lake (it's been drawn down so access is difficult). Winchester Lake has been slow. Cooler temperatures should jumpstart the pike fishery. Other places to try for pike include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, the upper Housatonic River, Pachaug Pond, Quaddick Reservoir and Hopeville Pond.

WALLEYE – Fair to good action reported from Squantz Pond (recent catches include a 6.5 walleye), with sunset a good time to fish.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river has dropped more since the weekend, but access at some launches in the Hartford area remains difficult (Wethersfield Cove, Charter Oak Landing). **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing has been variable with a number of good reports (including some fish in the upper 30's to low 40's inch range) and some slow reports. Fish can be found in the coves, the Middletown area, and in Haddam and downstream to the Salmon River. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action is picking up in the coves. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is fair to good in the coves (in both the Haddam and Hartford areas). Some nice bass are being caught, recent catches include a 5.8 lb bass and some fish in the 3-4 lb range. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are also providing some action below Hartford. Anglers are finding some **CATFISH** along the lower river.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- ❖ **WINTER DRAWDOWNS** of a number of Eastern CT lakes are in progress. Reported lake depth status for the following water bodies is current as of Friday, October 21st: Ashland Pond (down 6 inches), **Bashan Lake** (down 32 inches), **Beseck Lake** (down 6 feet), **Billings Lake** (down 5 inches), **Gardner Lake** (full), **Hopeville Pond** (full), **Lower Bolton Lake** (full), **Middle Bolton Lake** (down 6 inches), **Mashapaug Lake** (down 18 inches) and Pickerel Lake (full).
- ❖ **WESTERN CT WINTER DRAWDOWNS.** A three foot drawdown of **Highland Lake** is scheduled to begin Tuesday, November 1st. The annual drawdown of **Lake McDonough** began this week. **West Hill Pond** has been drawn down three feet.
- ❖ **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.
- ❖ **LAKE ZOAR** has been refilled to its typical operating level.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** is scheduled to be drawn down for a week beginning November 5th with refill scheduled to begin November 13th. During this drawdown, launching of trailer boats will be difficult (Route 133 launch) to impossible (Pond Brook launch) at the state boat launches. Additionally, the lake will be also drawn down 7 feet on Thursday, October 27, to increase holding capacity to facilitate a drawdown of Lake Housatonic during the upcoming weekend. Once drawn down, Lake Lillinonah will gradually refill over the weekend.

NOTES & NOTICES (continued):

- ❖ **LAKE HOUSATONIC** is scheduled to be drawn down 3 feet for dam maintenance this weekend (October 29th and 30th).
- ❖ 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.**
- ❖ Anglers are reminded that the that Monday (October 31st) is the last day of the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state, most notably **LAKE WONOSCOPOMUC, GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR, BATTERSON PARK POND** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2011 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.

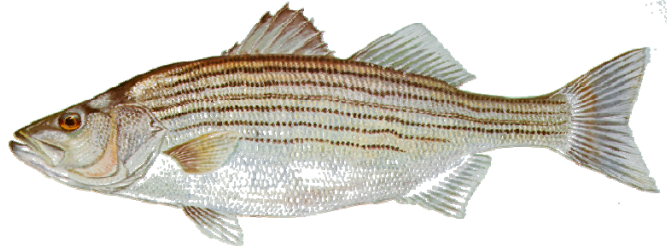
TIPS & TRICKS – FLYFISHING FOR NORTHERN PIKE

The boat slowly drifts into a large bay on the slightest of breezes. Your eyes strain against the mid-day sun. Suddenly you realize that what looks like a large stick has just shifted positions. Ah... your quarry, you make a quick survey of the area and wind conditions, a couple of false cast to release the necessary amount of line, casting to just past the large Northern Pike. You let the fly settle for a few seconds, and then begin a jerky retrieve, just as your fly passes the fish the water explodes with a fury seldom seen while freshwater fly fishing.

- ❖ Fly fishing for pike is best in the spring and fall.
- ❖ Where aquatic weeds are absent look for woody cover.
- ❖ Target cover along drop-off.
- ❖ Use sinking fly line.
- ❖ Let the line sink and begin stripping it in.
- ❖ Let the fly drop down as the water gets deeper.
- ❖ Let the streamer stop in the middle of the second strip.
- ❖ Don't make it very rhythmic.
- ❖ In cool water the pike will be energetic.
- ❖ When hooked work fish away from the cover.
- ❖ Unhook using needle nose pliers.
- ❖ Use a strong leader; wire (12"-18") or heavy pound test floro-carbon (4-6' of 30-60 lbs.).
- ❖ A 9-weight fly rod helps in throwing large flies.
- ❖ Use large brightly colored (orange, lime green or chartreuse) streamers.
- ❖ Try this streamer; red back/white belly, flash about for glitter & a big red eye.

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 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 is good as long as the weather cooperates. 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. "Alligator Blues" approaching 20 pounds have been landed!

STRIPED BASS fishing continues to improve on the local reefs and tidal rips as water temperatures cool off. Daytime fishing is good to excellent. Live lining eels, hickory shad, bunker (Atlantic menhaden) or scup is still the most effective fishing method for landing that "Cow" trophy-sized bass. Don't forget about using circle hooks when using live baits and cut chunk baits. 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 excellent. Squid, sand worms, conch and small crabs are the baits of choice! Any bottom structure or rock pile will attract these "Reef Slammers".

TAUTOG fishing season is in full swing on the local reefs, especially in shallow water (10' - 20'). Green crabs, hermit crabs, and Asian shore crabs are preferred baits. Position is the key for being successful for catching these "Reef Bullies". It's important to keep moving and go back to earlier locations (reefs).

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 closed and will re-open on Tuesday, November 1st.

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.

