

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 30

11/10/2011



INLAND REPORT

ATLANTIC SALMON- Fishing for broodstock salmon in the Shetucket and Naugatuck rivers has picked up (better weather plus a round of stockings last week), with fish being caught-and-released in both rivers. Crystal Lake is fishing well, with several fish taken this past week). Few reports from Mount Tom Pond. *A summary of broodstock Atlantic salmon regulations can be found on page 3.*

TROUT

Rivers & streams – The recent warm and dry weather has improved fall fishing and conditions should be good this weekend. Flows are very fishable (although a bit high in some areas) and comfortable weather is forecast.

Fall is streamer and nymph time. Streamers to use include white, yellow & brown colors, and patterns include White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Try using 2X tippet. Nymphs to bottom-bounce include Tan & Winter Caddis pupa (#16-18), Serendipity (#14-16), Pheasant Tail (#12-20), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20).

Farmington River – West Branch flows are clear and high, but fishable (currently 535 cfs at Riverton, with the Still River adding an additional 300 cfs). Water temperatures (mornings) are in the upper 40's to low 50's °F.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-28, dominant hatch), Isonychia (#12-14), Midges (#18-32) and Caddis (#14-18). For best action try Blue Wing Olives (late morning) and Caddis (winter & tan, early afternoon). Expect most of the action to be mid-day (11:30 am – 3:00pm).

Housatonic River – Conditions for trout fishing should be good this weekend. Flows are clear and fishable (although still moderately high), morning water temperatures in the TMA are in the upper 40's to low 50's °F, and good weather is forecast.

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, cloudy days), Isonychia (#10-12, about done), Midges (#20-32) and Tan & Winter caddis (#14-20, early morning & late afternoon). Afternoons/early evenings are typically prime time right now. On cooler mornings try egg patterns.

Lakes & Ponds – Fall trout action reported from Highland Lake (target the shallows), East Twin Lake

RECENT REGULATION CHANGES OF INTEREST TO ANGLERS-

A number of changes to Fisheries & Wildlife regulations were recently approved by the legislature, filed with the Office of the Secretary of State (10/4) and published in the CT Law Journal (10/25). The new regulations that became effective on October 4th include:

- The importation, possession and/or liberation of certain invasive aquatic invertebrates (Chinese mitten crab, New Zealand mud snail, quagga mussel, zebra mussel, Asian clam and rusty crayfish) is now prohibited (with some limited exceptions).
- Children under the age of 16 years are now allowed to use up to 6 devices (the same as for adults) when ice fishing.
- The use of a gaff is now prohibited in Inland waters to assist in landing caught fish.
- "Trophy Trout Lakes" are renamed as "Trout Management Lakes." The creel limit during the March first through March-thirty first period at Crystal Lake and Highland Lake is reduced to one fish per day (from five fish).
- **Keney Park Pond** (Hartford), **Lake Wintergreen** (Hamden) and **Lower Storrs Pumping Station Pond** (on Cedar Swamp brook in Mansfield) have been added to the list of lakes and ponds having a closed season from midnight on the last day of February to 6:00 a.m. on the third Saturday in April.
- The closed season on **Lake Winfield** (Plymouth) has been removed.

Also approved were regulation changes on the West Branch Farmington and Farmington River that combine the Trophy Trout Stream sections and the two TMA's into one TMA. These regulations will become effective on January 1, 2012.

Up-to-date versions of Inland Fisheries regulations can be found on the DEEP website at:

www.ct.gov/deep/laws-regs

(on the slow side), Crystal Lake (Ellington; fish in the weeds) and Beach Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been generally fair to slow with reports from Candlewood Lake, Lake Zoar, Bantam Lake, and Highland Lake (tough finding largemouth lately). Use jigs and crawfish patterns dragged slowly on the bottom.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Good reports from Candlewood Lake where catches include numerous 3-5 lb smallies, Lake Zoar and Rainbow Reservoir and fair reports from Highland Lake.

WALLEYE are being consistently caught at Squantz Pond, recent catches include a 10 lb beauty.

NORTHERN PIKE – Some catches reported from from Bantam Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river remains a bit high but very fishable. **BLACK CRAPPIE** are putting on a good showing in the coves up and down the river for anglers using small shiners. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported to be good on large shiners. Fish have been found from Wethersfield Cove, Keeney Cove, Harbor Park (Middletown) down river to the Salmon River. **CATFISH** are providing some action in the Middletown to Haddam area. Anglers are finding some **SMALLMOUTH BASS** below Hartford.

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.
- ❖ 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.**
- ❖ **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 Wednesday, November 9th: **Ashland Pond** (down 30 inches), **Bashan Lake** (down 5 feet), **Beseck Lake** (down 5.3 feet), **Billings Lake** (down 5 inches), **Gardner Lake** (down 3 inches), **Hopeville Pond** (down 30 inches), **Lower Bolton Lake** (down 6 inches), **Middle Bolton Lake** (down 35 inches), **Mashapaug Lake** (down 18 inches) and **Pickerel Lake** (down 3 feet).
- ❖ **WESTERN CT WINTER DRAWDOWNS.** A three foot drawdown of **Highland Lake** is ongoing. **West Hill Pond** has been drawn down three feet.
- ❖ **LAKE LILLINONAH** is currently drawn down 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.

TIPS & TRICKS – FALL TROUT FISHING

- Fall is the best time to catch large trout.
- Worm fishing can be very effective.
- Target the shallow edges of lakes near outlets.
- Fly fisherman should match the hatch carefully.
- On cooler mornings try nymphing with egg patterns.
- Focus on moderate to slower water in major pools.
- Wait until mid-morning to allow the water to warm up to get the fish biting.
- Slow the presentation down.
- Afternoons and early evenings are prime time.
- Look for fish to start to pool up in moderate speed water.
- The fish may move into the riffles at the pool heads to feed.
- Cooler water makes the trout more active than they were in the heat of the summer.
- With cooler temperatures trout will be moving closer to the water's surface.

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 has not been stocked this fall 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).

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 50'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 still hanging in there but not for long. When the water temperature drops below 55 °F., the bluefish fishing season is pretty much over. However, there are still some big slammers roaming around and most are in deep water areas such as the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, the reefs off Watch Hill, area south of Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Pigeon Rip (area north of Plum Island), Falkner Island area, buoy 20 off Stratford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, and deeper water south off the Norwalk Islands. Diamond jigging is the way to go for deep water blues.

STRIPED BASS fishing is good to excellent on many of the local reefs, rip areas and tidal rivers. A mix bag of schoolies and cow bass have taken over LIS! Live lining eels (small ones for schoolies), hickory shad, bunker (Atlantic menhaden), scup and even mummies on three-way bottom or slider fish finder rigs are working well. Just remember to use circle hooks to avoid gut hooking.

SCUP fishing is also hanging in there with huge "hub caps" still being reported on the local reefs. If scup are capable of nailing baits meant for tog they have to be big!

TAUTOG fishing season is still in full swing with more fish weighing in the double digits being reported again over this past week! Also, don't forget about fishing in our coastal state parks which offer some great tog fishing spots. Green crabs, Asian shore crabs, and hermit crabs are preferred baits for fall tog and the fresher the bait the better!

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 fishing season is now open (re-opened November 1st) and will remain open for the rest of the year.

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