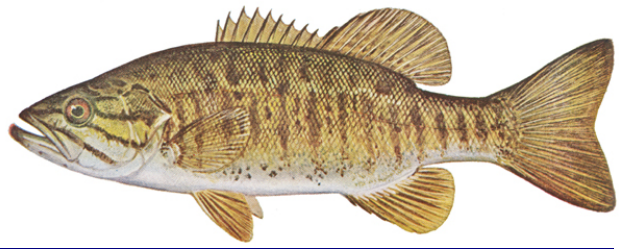


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 6

5/27/2010



INLAND REPORT

Come take a tour of the Rainbow Fishway-

See migrating fish in the underground viewing window.

Plan now –DEP’s annual OPEN HOUSE AT THE RAINBOW FISHWAY is Saturday, June 5, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The public is invited to visit the fishway and learn about both it and the fish it passes. During this day, the public can tour the facility and are encouraged to go downstairs and check out the underground viewing window. Shad and lamprey may be seen passing upstream, and Atlantic salmon are sometimes captured for breeding. Staff will be on hand to answer questions. This is a **GREAT ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES**, and there is no fee. *Directions can be found at the end of the Inland Report section.*

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Anglers can expect fishing to be outstanding this weekend. A line of thunderstorms refreshed flows in many areas Wednesday evening and good (though warm) weather is forecast. DEP’s spring stocking program is wrapping up this week, but with nearly 700,000 catchable-size trout stocked this spring, there are still be plenty of trout waiting for anglers throughout CT. Some success is being found using worms, and corn/mealworm combinations. A number of major insect hatches are getting started.

Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River (25 inch rainbow), Housatonic River, Fenton River (good action on wild trout), Norwalk River, Quinebaug River, Shetucket River (24 inch rainbow), Salmon River, Mill River, Willimantic River, Highland Lake, Blackledge River, Blackberry River, Naugatuck River, Natchaug River, Shetucket River, Norwalk River, Coginchaug River (trout catches up to 5 lbs), Mt. Hope River and the Saugatuck River TMA. This past week the “*big fish*” was a 10.76 lbs brown trout with the “*big stick*” bringing 12 fish to the net.

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be very good, and fishing conditions should be good for the holiday weekend. West Branch flows are clear and moderate, currently 350 CFS in the West Branch at Riverton plus an additional 50 CFS from the Still River. Water temperatures are in the mid 50’s °F.

Hatches include *Viterus* [a.k.a. Sulfur dun] #14, Tan Caddis (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive [a.k.a. baetis or vegans] #16-24, Hendrickson [a.k.a. red quills] #12-16 in the Riverton area. Blue Quill [a.k.a. paralep] #18, Quill Gordon (#14), March Brown nymphs (#10), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#16-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#22-32) and Sulfur Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings) are among the current working patterns.

Housatonic River – Fishing has been good to excellent. Flows remain clear, moderate (actually much lower than is typical for late May) and very fishable, about 410 cfs at Falls Village and 850 cfs at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are in the low to mid 60’s °F (TMA area).

Major insect hatches are here and will begin to provide excellent fly fishing (especially when the spinners start up). Current patterns include Sulphurs (#14-16), *Isonychia* (#10-12), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Cahill (#12-14), Adams (#12-20, evening), March Brown (#10-12), Gray Foxes (#10-12). Green Caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early stoneflies (#6) are also being seen in the river at mouths of tributaries

Rivers and streams stocking update. Scheduled to be stocked this week are the Farmington River (from the Route 219 bridge to Lower Collinsville), Sandy Brook and the East Branch Salmon Brook (Granby) in western CT, and the Blackledge River (lower), Branford River, East Branch Eightmile River, Eightmile River, Farm River, Hammonasset River (including the TMA), Hockanum River (above and below the TMA), Jeremy River, Moosup River, Mount Hope River, Natchaug River, Quinebaug River, Salmon

River (including the TMA), Scantic River (lower and upper), Snake Meadow Brook and West River in eastern CT. Note that stocking schedules are subject to change.

Lakes & Ponds- Late May into mid June can be big fish time, with many of this season's bigger trout being found. Trout fishing remains generally good with best reports from Candlewood Lake (lots of action on fish up to 18 inches), Squantz Pond, Lake Wononskopomuc, Christensen's Pond, Great Hollow Pond, Colebrook Reservoir, West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake and Saugatuck Reservoir. Some action also reported from Beach Pond (it's been tough here), Mashapaug Lake, Lake McDonough, and Coventry Lake. Twenty four trout were caught by this week's most successful angler. The "big stick" goes to a 23 inch brown trout.

Lakes and ponds stocking update. Beach Pond, Crystal Lake, Moosup Pond, Walker's Reservoir and Wauregan Reservoir, all in eastern CT, are scheduled for stocking this week (5/24 – 5/28) as DEP's spring stockings end.

Trout Parks - The Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Natchaug River, Valley Falls Park Pond and Chatfield Hollow Trout Parks will all be stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is generally fair to good with the best reports from Quaddick Reservoir, Gardner Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Wononskopomuc Lake, Bashan Lake, Lake McDonough, Beseck Lake, West Hill Pond, Winchester Lake, Candlewood Lake and Rainbow Reservoir. Fair action for largemouth was reported from Beach Pond, Pickerel Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Hopeville Pond (catches here include a 6.3 lb largemouth), Pachaug Pond (catches include a 5-lb bass), Lake Lillinonah, Long Pond, Glasgo Pond, Moodus Reservoir, East Twin Lake (catches include a 6.5 lb largemouth), Mashapaug Lake and Wood Creek Pond. Anglers reportedly had to work hard for their bass at Black Pond (Woodstock), Mudge Pond, Coventry Lake, Great Hollow Pond and Highland Lake last week.

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at Highland Lake (fair), Bashan Lake (slow), Rainbow Reservoir (good), Lake McDonough (fair), Lake Lillinonah (fair), Squantz Pond (good), Lake Housatonic (fair), Coventry Lake (tough), Colebrook Reservoir (fair), Candlewood Lake (excellent) and West Hill Pond (good).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake, Pachaug Pond and Winchester Lake.

For **KOKANEE** try East Twin Lake & West Hill Pond (slow troll a Dodger with corn/meal worm behind 3 colors of lead line).

WALLEYE are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Squantz Pond and Batterson Park Pond.

PANFISH season is starting with a push from the early warm-up this year. Targeting the shallows usually works great, and always try the areas close to you, small local ponds often have the best action. Use worms, grubs and any type of inexpensive fishing pole or drop line and give these easy to catch fish a go. The kids love this non-stop action and it will keep them occupied for hours. Rock bass are keeping anglers busy (and in some cases, annoyed, as they interfere with fishing for "bigger" fish).

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river is warm again and flows continue to be lower than is typical for late May. **STRIPED BASS** remain throughout the river and have kept many anglers busy, although the best locations change frequently. School size (16-25") fish and adults up to 48" are out there. Surface poppers are providing some exciting action under clear water conditions while trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics work best in stained water. The action is slowing some but **AMERICAN SHAD** can be still found throughout the river. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the coves and downstream from Hartford to Haddam (smaller fish). **CATFISH** (some over 10 lbs) are being taken in good numbers in the mid to lower river area on chunk bait. Try coves. One angler caught 5 fish that qualified for trophy fish awards.

A REMINDER TO CONNECTICUT RIVER ANGLERS: Wild adult salmon are now returning to the Connecticut River system and may be accidentally caught by shad or striper anglers. We remind all that it is illegal to fish for or take Atlantic salmon in Connecticut. The only exceptions to this prohibition are those

specific areas stocked with surplus broodstock Atlantic salmon, waters and designated as open to salmon fishing (see the 2010 CT Angler's guide for regulations and locations).

Anglers should be aware that roughly handled and photographed salmon can die before they can be captured for breeding at upstream fishways. We encourage all anglers who catch a salmon to never remove it from the water (photograph it at the surface) and to release it as quickly as possible. If you must leave tackle in its mouth, contact DEP's Diadromous Fisheries Program (860-447-4316) and we will return the tackle if it is still present when the salmon is captured.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- **GLASGO POND** has been varying levels of drawdown to facilitate ongoing dam repairs. This week, the pond has been down approximately 2.5 feet. The state boat launch has been usable this week, although extra care should be taken when launching (especially larger boats). It is expected that water levels will be somewhat higher over the Memorial Day weekend.
- The Valley Forge Road bridge crossing of the **Saugatuck River at Devil's Glen** will be closed for repairs. The section of the Saugatuck River from Saugatuck Reservoir Dam down to Davis Hill Road will not be stocked this year.
- The Butts Bridge Road bridge over the **Quinebaug River/Aspinook Pond** is currently closed for road reconstruction. The state water access area on Butts Bridge Road is open to public use, but can be accessed by vehicle from the east only.

TIPS & TRICKS

- **CARP** – Recently caught fish came in on worm/corn combination or boilies covered in glug & oatmeal.
 - **CATFISH** - Live or freshly frozen baits like big golden shiners, bluegill, perch, eel & crawlers have been producing well. Large bait can be chunked and fished right on the bottom. Target the outside bends in the river where the water is deep. They are sensitive to feel and taste. Catfish smell their prey more than they hunt by sight. Catfish bait must have a strong scent (one experienced angler's fishing secret is to place your bait in a zip lock bag containing tuna oil overnight.)
 - **LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Successful lures include silver-blue Shad Rap, medium live minnows, Ozmo, plastic crawfish, drop shot and plastics on light jig heads. Green pumpkin, green stew, melon belly and black neon colors are working well.
 - **SMALLMOUTH BASS** - Slow rolling a spinnerbait over weedy flats, and occasionally throwing top water baits are working.
 - **WALLEYE** – Some fish have been caught on white bucktails with a curly tail grub, live herring, jerk baits & stick baits fished shallow. Work the lures slowly around the boulders.
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Directions to Rainbow Reservoir Fishway:

From Rt. I-91, take exit 40 to Rt.20 (Bradley Airport Exit). Travel west to the Hamilton South exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

From Rt.20 East (traveling toward I-91), go past the exit for Bradley Airport and take the Hamilton exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn right. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



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

STRIPED BASS fishing over this past week yielded some nice cows weighing in the mid to upper forties! Memorial Day is usually the time when large linesiders appear in LIS as the spring migration really kicks in. Striper spots include the major reefs and rip areas such the Watch Hill area, The Race, Bartlett Reef, Plum Gut, Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef, Sixmile Reef, the reefs off Branford, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, Norwalk Islands, Cable and Anchor Reef, and The Cows off Stamford. Live lining eels has proven to be the ticket for trophy sized stripers. Schoolie action is better during the early morning hours in the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, lower Connecticut River from the Essex down to the breakwaters, Sandy Point (New Haven Harbor), Housatonic River (Derby Dam and from Devon to Milford Point).

BLUEFISH fishing is fair to good depending on the location. Millstone Power Station discharge has been consistent. Other areas include The Race, Plum Gut, Long Sand Shoal, Sandy Point (New Haven Harbor), Penfield Reef, and the Norwalk Islands. Most bluefish are in the 18 to 24 inch range.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is not bad with a few slabs being taken in the Stonington area, Great and Little Peconic Bays and the north shore of Long Island including Horton Point, Herod Point, off Port Jefferson, and Eatons Neck. Other spots include the south side of Fishers Island, the "Bloody Grounds" off Niantic, White Sands Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, and off the New Haven breakwaters.

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at:

www.ct.gov/dep or pick up the new 2010 Angler's Guide.



DEP WEEKLY FISHING REPORT
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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