

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 11

6/30/2010



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing ranges from fair to very good. Good to very good reports come from Candlewood Lake (29 fish), West Hill Pond (30 fish), Shenipsit Lake (4.7 lb largemouth), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Pattagansett Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake (35 fish for two anglers), Cedar Lake, Winchester Lake (31 fish for one angler, catches include a 5 lb plus largemouth), Rogers Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, Quinebaug Lake, Long Pond, Ball Pond, Bishop Pond, Somersville Mill Pond, Pattagansett Lake, Pickerel Lake, Halls Pond and Quaddick Reservoir (catches include a 5.9 lb bass), and fair reports are from Amos Lake, Coventry Lake, Crystal Lake, Highland Lake, Gardner Lake, Moodus Reservoir (“lots of small fish”), Lake McDonough and Beach Pond (catches do include a 5.3 lb bass).

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing remains excellent at Candlewood Lake (23 smallies including a 21.5 inch fish for one angler). Some action also reported from West Hill Pond (good), Highland Lake, Lake McDonough, Rainbow Reservoir, Coventry Lake (tough), Mashapaug Lake, Gardner Lake (slow), Bashan Lake and Colebrook Reservoir. With the early summer warm-up, it’s **“game time” for river smallies**, with the Housatonic River producing more fish than one angler could keep track off (between 50-100 fish on one trip).

NORTHERN PIKE catches reported from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Bantam Lake, Quaddick Reservoir, Winchester Lake and Pachaug Pond.

KOKANEE SALMON are providing some nice action at West Hill Pond (4-5 colors) and East Twin Lake (recent catches include a **2.02 lb, 18 inch kokanee**).

WALLEYE are being reported at Coventry Lake (6 fish with 1 keeper to 21”), Lake Saltonstall, Mashapaug Lake and Saugatuck Reservoir.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Anglers have been finding some good trout fishing in a number of areas including the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Natchaug River, Mt. Hope River, Naugatuck River and Hammonasset River. With summer temperatures forecast to return with a vengeance beginning this weekend, early morning and late evenings are the best times for both trout and trout fishing. At this time of the year bait fisherman are finding corn/mealworm combination to be very productive. Expect rainbows to be in the faster water.

Farmington River – Trout fishing has been good, and conditions will be good for the weekend. Water temperatures are in the 60’s °F, flows are very fishable (currently 220 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 30 cfs from the Still river), and **there should be plenty of trout in the upper reaches for the Holiday weekend, the West Branch (from Hogback to the upper boundary of the TMA) was stocked with 2,000 brown trout (12 inch and longer fish) this week.**

Hatches/patterns - *Isonychia* (#8-12, evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* spp., #18-26, mid-late afternoon), *Needhami* duns (#22-26, early morning to early afternoon), Light Cahill (#14), Sulphurs duns (*Ephemerella dorothea*, #14-18, afternoon to early evening for spinners), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#22-28, morning), Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings) are successful patterns. Try bottom-bouncing nymphs in the riffles. Terrestrials are your best bet during the middle of the day with mini ants doing the best.

Housatonic River – Morning water temperatures (TMA area) are currently in the upper 60’s to low 70’s °F (and have been rising during the day to the mid to high 70’s °F). Temperatures may briefly moderate with the cooler weather expected through this Friday. However, beginning this weekend, an extended period of

air temperatures in the 90's °F is forecast. Summer conditions can be very stressful to trout, and with these temperatures, **it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (and these conditions are near ideal for smallie fishing). Those targeting trout need to take extreme care when handling trout they plan to release!**

Hatches/patterns include Alder/Zebra Caddis (*Macrostemum zebratum*, #10-12, afternoon-evening near overhangs), Green/Brown Drakes (#8-12), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Tan & green caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Work midges and stoneflies at the mouths of streams. Streamers (morning & evening) are catching some large fish. Golden stonefly (#6-14) nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing. These areas will reopen on September 1. There is no fishing within 100 feet of the mouths of posted tributaries to these rivers.

Lakes & Ponds- Many of our lakes are still producing good fishing with reports from Mashapaug Lake, East Twin Lake (browns to 20 inches, target 30-40 feet), Highland Lake, Ball Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington, 10 fish for one angler, target 22-24'), Candlewood (browns up to 5 lbs continue to be caught), Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Mohawk Pond, Mt. Tom, West Hill Pond, Long Pond and Beach Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – CATFISH (generally cats in the 4-5 lb range. with some fish up to 10 lbs fish mixed in) are consistently being taken on frozen herring & cut/chunk bait. Try overcast days & nights, on the outside of river bends. Some **STRIPED BASS** are still in the lower river. Fish are being caught on sand worms & using chunk bait. The main effort is at the mouth of the river where anglers are using Sluggos, Houdini Shad, Spooks, poppers & eels for bigger fish. A few **BLUEFISH** can be found at the mouth of the river. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is good and catches are reported in Haddam Meadows area. Some **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the upper river, try near the mouth of the Farmington River. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is fair at best (catches do include a 4 lb largemouth).

TIPS & TRICKS

KOKANEE SALMON: Kokanee prefer water temperatures of 50° or colder. If an entire lake is warmer than 50°, they will be found close to the bottom or near underwater springs where the coolest water is available. Trolled spoons, spinners or small plugs should be tipped with a small piece of worm, maggot, grub, salmon egg, or white or yellow corn kernel.

- **Trolling:** Trolling is a very productive method for catching kokanee. In the spring and fall when the fish are near the surface, flat lines & small flashers are often used. In summer when they head for deeper water, leaded lines or down riggers are used to reach the right temperature zone. A very slow speed is important. Some anglers vary their speed by working an "S" pattern. Sharp hooks are a must.
- **Still fishing:** Fishing with a corn/grub combination can be very effective for catching kokanee salmon. Fish pick ups will be very subtle & a quick strike is essential.

SMALLMOUTH BASS:

- Target rock shoals and drop off points.
 - Can be found in deeper water where the concentrations of prey fish are more abundant.
 - In shallow rock shoals, try white and yellow spinnerbaits as well as shallow diving crankbaits.
 - In deeper waters, use ¼ to ½oz jig with chartreuse, yellow or white grubs.
 - Slowly bouncing jigs off rocky bottoms have proven effective.
 - When fishing deep water in late summer or early fall, try bouncing a worm colored tube Jig off the bottom.
 - When Smallmouths go deep, they seem to like the 30 to 40 foot depth range.
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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) have warmed up, and are now in the high 60's to low 70'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 and **BLUEFISH** fishing remains good with still some big "cow" bass being reported. Live bait is the ticket for those slammer strippers. Menhaden (bunker), eels, hickory shad, scup and even small bluefish fished live have been scoring well. As usual, dusk to dawn is the time to go. Bluefish can be caught pretty much anytime during the day as long as the tide is ripping. Also watch out for schools of harbor blues chasing baitfish on the surface. Fishing spots include the Watch Hill Reefs, Ram Island Reef (Fishers Island Sound), lower Thames River, the Race (by Race Rock and Valiant Rock), outer Bartlett Reef, the Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip (area just north of Plum Island), warm water discharge from Millstone Power Station, Hatchett Reef, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, reefs off Guilford and Branford, New Haven Harbor, buoys #18 and #20 off Bridgeport, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, Norwalk Islands, Eatons Point area on the New York side, Cable and Anchor Reef, Smith Reef and the reefs off Stamford and Greenwich.

SNAPPER BLUES are in the tidal rivers and creeks chasing silversides and other baitfish. Snappers are about 3 to 4 inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is steadily increasing with a 30+ inch slab being caught over this past week in Connecticut waters! Monster fluke can be found in 50 to 70 feet of water especially near bottom structure and drop offs but don't overlook the lower tidal rivers such as the Mystic, Thames, and Connecticut Rivers. Other fluke spots include the Sandy Point area in Stonington, Stonington flats south of the breakwaters, Ram Island Reef to Latimer Point (Fishers Island Sound), south side of Fishers Island, Twotree Island Channel, Niantic River, Black Point, White Sands Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, south of the New Haven breakwaters, the Norwalk Islands.

SCUP fishing is good with some big reef slammers in the 15 to 17 inch range being reported on the major reefs!

Don't forget, **TAUTOG** fishing season **opens July 1**.

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at: www.ct.gov/dep or pick up the 2010 Angler's Guide.



DEP WEEKLY FISHING REPORT
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