

FISHING REPORT NUMBER 17

8/11/2010



INLAND REPORT

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has slowed some, but remains generally fair to good, with the best reports from Upper Moodus Reservoir (catches include a 7 lb largemouth), Quaddick Reservoir, Mono Pond, Lake Wonoskopomuc, Bantam Lake and Candlewood Lake, and fair reports from Ashland Pond, Long Pond (recent catches include a 5.75 lb bass), Highland Lake, Winchester Lake (getting a bit tougher), Coventry Lake, Morey Pond, Wyassup Lake, Beach Pond and Pachaug Pond (a bit tough, but lots of 2-lb fish among the bags). Reports are poor for Amos Lake and Tyler Lake.

SMALLMOUTH BASS – Anglers are finding some good fishing for river smallies in the upper Housatonic River (warm temperatures and very wade-able flows are good smallmouth fishing conditions). Some catches also reported from the Farmington River (Tariffville area) and the Naugatuck River. Good reports for Candlewood Lake smallmouth action, with a number of 4-5 lb smallies being found. Finding fish in a number of other lakes and ponds has been fair to tough, with reports from Lake Lillinonah, Colebrook Reservoir, Beach Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Wyassup Lake and Coventry Lake. Pachaug Pond recently produced a 2.9 lb smallmouth.

NORTHERN PIKE catches reported from Winchester Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Pachaug Pond.

Some **WALLEYE** are being reported from Lake Saltonstall, Coventry Lake and Mashapaug Lake.

KOKANEE continue to be caught at East Twin Lake, few reports recently from West Hill Pond.

SUNFISH – conditions this summer have been good for sunnie fishing. Local ponds are always a great option for a quick trip or a relaxed afternoon with the family. Larger areas to try include Lake Hayward, Halls Pond, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Silver Lake (Kensington), Black Pond (Meriden), Bashan Lake, Gardner Lake, Bishop Swamp Pond, Mamasasco Lake, Wood Creek Pond, Park Pond and Winchester Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river continues to be warm, flows have improved some, but are again dropping. Anglers are finding **CATFISH** at night. The bite is on cut bait near brush piles and in the deeper holes, from just north of Hartford downstream to the Haddam area. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is generally slow, but anglers are finding some by targeting cooler water in deeper holes and at the confluences of tributaries. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** has been spotty, but some are being taken in the coves around both the Hartford/Wethersfield area and the Haddam area. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught in the north of the river (Enfield area and near the mouth of the Farmington River). Try small bait, black caddis flies or small rubber worms on 3/8oz. jigs. **STRIPED BASS** fishing is slow down near the mouth of the river, although chunk bait or eels are still producing some fish.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Heat and low flows have slowed trout fishing in many rivers and streams throughout the state. Good reports from the West Branch Farmington River, and a few catches reported from the Tankerhoosen River, Salmon River, Eightmile River (Lyme), Blackledge River, Crystal Lake Brook, Hockanum River and Roaring Brook (Glastonbury). As a number of major hatches are, or will soon be winding down, anglers are advised to include terrestrial fly patterns in their arsenal.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are currently 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.

Farmington River – Both trout fishing and fishing conditions continues to be good. West Branch water temperatures are in the low 60's °F (mornings). West Branch flows remain clear, but have currently dropped some, as releases from the West Branch Reservoir (Goodwin Dam) have been decreased to 130 cfs, and inputs from the Still River remains low, currently at 8 cfs. Should the upper Farmington River watershed continue to receive inadequate rainfall, there is a possibility of further reductions next week.

Hatches/patterns - Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28) are hatching throughout the West branch TMA. *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18-26, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-20, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-18, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#14-20, mid day in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, mid day), Flying Ants (#18-22, mid day, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid day) and Golden Drake (*Anthopotamus distinctus*, #10-14, late evening) are successful patterns. Evening brings out every bug on the water.

Housatonic River – Trout fishing remains slow on the Housatonic River with many remaining trout in the thermal refuges. This week, morning water temperatures have been in the low 70's °F (and rising during the day). Flows are fishable but remain low, currently 170 cfs at Falls Village and 230 cfs at Gaylordsville. The extended periods of high temperatures and low flows experienced this summer are especially stressful to trout, **so it's an excellent time to switch to smallmouth bass (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 - The White Fly (*Ephoron leukon*) hatch is in full force. Use a White Wulff, #10-12. Other insect activity includes Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening, mainly during overcast days), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), and Black caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening). Don't forget streamers (morning & evening), patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish like streamers, they are effective right now.

Lakes & Ponds- Summer trout anglers continue to find some fair to good trout action, with reports from East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (Ellington), Colebrook Reservoir and Lake McDonough.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- The **Bayberry Lane State Boat Launch** Groton is closed for renovations to December 31st.
- Due to scheduled dam maintenance projects, drawdowns of **Moodus Reservoir** (Lower & Upper) and **Rainbow Reservoir** are scheduled to commence immediately after the Labor Day weekend (9/4 – 9/6). It is anticipated that the affected boat launches will be unusable by many trailer boats once planned drawdown depths are reached.

TIPS & TRICKS - SUMMER NORTHERN PIKE:

- Small pike (under 30 inches) prefer water in the 67 to 72 degree range.
 - Bigger northerns favor cooler temperatures (50 to 55 degrees).
 - Pike movement is a function of cover and habitat used by prey species.
 - Dead bait accounts for more large pike in North America than any other bait or lure.
 - Forage that dies in the area rests on the bottom and can provide a food source when pike aren't aggressively seeking live targets.
 - Trophy-size northerns often scavenge dead fish off the bottom.
 - They can also display a fierce disposition to anything that invades their territory.
 - When using spoons, cast them into the shallows, retrieving them slowly with an occasional pause-pop-flutter action.
 - Red-and-white spoons with a silver metallic back or a yellow diamonds pattern are pike-catching patterns.
 - Add a trailer hook when using a spinnerbait.
 - Slug-Go-style minnow bodies offer alternatives for fishing within the top 3 feet of the water.
 - Black-and-silver or blue-and-silver are the most popular colors.
 - Don't neglect fly-fishing with big streamers. The results can be impressive.
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MARINE FISHING REPORT

Reminder to anglers: The DEP has received multiple reports of sand tiger sharks being caught in Connecticut waters this summer and would like to remind fishermen that **THE TAKE AND POSSESSION (regardless of where taken) OF MANY SPECIES OF SHARKS IS PROHIBITED IN CONNECTICUT**. These species include Atlantic angel, basking, bigeye sand tiger, bigeye sixgill, bigeye thresher, bignose, Caribbean reef, Caribbean sharpnose, dusky, Galapagos, longfin mako, narrowtooth, night, sand tiger, sevengill, sixgill, smalltail, whale, and white sharks. In addition, the commercial fishery for several additional species of coastal sharks is closed in Connecticut. Commercial fisherman should contact the DEP Marine Fisheries Division at 860-434-6043 for more information.

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain in the low to mid 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 fishing is good during night hours and **BLUEFISH** are everywhere. Live bait (bunker, eels, etc.) on fish finder rigs and the tube and worm combination work well for stripers if you can get pass marauding bluefish. Striper and bluefish spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, Ram Island Reef and East and West Clumps (Fishers Island Sound), lower Thames River, the Race (by Race Rock and Valiant Rock), outer Bartlett Reef, the Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, warm water discharge from Millstone Power Station, the "humps" south of 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, Black Rock Harbor, Penfield Reef, Norwalk Islands, Cable and Anchor Reef, Smith Reef and Stamford and Greenwich Harbors. **Snapper blue** fishing remains good in the tidal rivers and creeks. Snappers are now about 6 inches in length.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is fair to good in deeper water (60+ feet). The usual fluke spots include the Sandy Point area in Stonington, Stonington flats south of the breakwaters, Ram Island Reef to Latimer Point and around Seaflower Reef (Fishers Island Sound), south side of Fishers Island, lower Thames River, Twotree Island Channel, Niantic River, Black Point, White Sands Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef area, Falkner Island area, off the New Haven breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River to buoys #18 and 20 off Bridgeport, south of the Norwalk Islands and the north shore of Long Island.

SCUP (porgy) fishing remains good to excellent on the local reefs. Scup in excess of 14 inches in length is not unusual.

BLUE CLAW CRABBING is red hot along the coastline with jimmies in excess of 7 inches (measured across the shell from spike tip to spike tip). Any of the tidal creeks and rivers will harbor these great eating crabs.

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
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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www.ct.gov/dep