

CT DEEP **2018**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 19
8/30/2018



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



YOU CAN FIND US DIRECTLY ON FACEBOOK. This page features a variety of information on fishing, hunting, and wildlife watching in Connecticut. The address is www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife.



INLAND REPORT

*Providers of some of the information below included **Bob's Place, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle, JT's Fly Shop, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.*

LARGEMOUTH BASS Fishing remains fair to good in most areas early in the day and in the evening and night, and slow in daytime. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (work the weeds), Bantam Lake, Mudge Pond, Park Pond, Wononskopomuc Lake, Highland Lake, Tyler Lake, Silver Lake, Quaddick Lake, Pachaug Pond, Billings Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Rogers Lake, Bashan Lake, Billings Lake, Pattaconk Lake and Pattaqansett Lake. In the southeastern lakes topwaters are bringing in some 3-5 lb bass.

Tournament angler reports are Aspinook Pond (slow, 2.98 lb lunker), Long Pond (slow to fair, 3.14 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair at best for an evening tourney, 4.39 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (fair to good, with an average fish weight of 2 lbs apiece and a 3.95 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair to good, 2 lb per fish average weight with a 3.13 lb lunker), East Twin Lake (fair, 4.30 lb lunker), Silver Lake (fair, 4.50 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow for a night tourney with a 4.25 lb lunker) and the Connecticut River (slow for an evening event, 1.95 lb lunker).

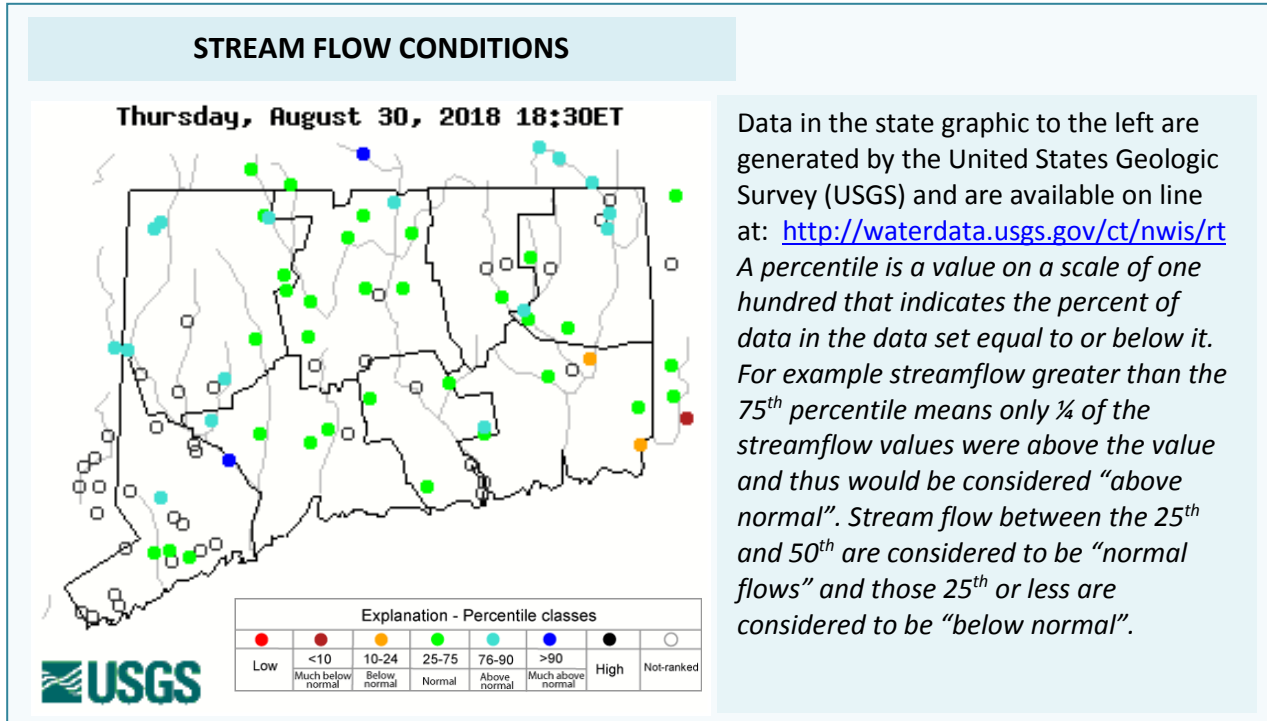
SMALLMOUTH BASS. Fish are being found at Candlewood Lake (especially on humps, but it's hit or miss with good action at some humps and not at others), Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar. Other places to try include Colebrook River Lake, Lake McDonough, and West Thompson Lake (up into the river). Flows are back down and fishing for river smallies is good on the Housatonic River, also some nice reports from the Quinebaug River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good for a night tourney with a 3.53 lb lunker) and East Twin Lake (a few).

Do You Have The Next Angler's Guide Cover Shot?



Email your high quality, high-resolution picture to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov. Contest deadline is November 1 ([Details and entry form](#))

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – Conditions for trout fishing continue to be variable, with flows throughout the state at or above typical August levels (see stream flow graphic below), however, the hot, humid weather is keeping water temperatures up in many areas. Fishing early mornings and evenings can find some action, and good reports continue from the West Branch Farmington River. Flows are comfortable again and the Housatonic River is also providing some nice action. Fly anglers are also finding some action in the Mianus River, Naugatuck River (Campville section), Salmon River and Natchaug River in the deeper pools and cooler riffles. Try some of the Wild trout Management Areas (these tend to have good cold flow year round) for some wild brookie and brown action.

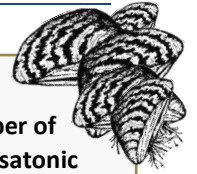


Farmington River. The upcoming weekend looks good for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with flows moderate, clear and quite fishable, currently 384 CFS at Riverton plus 28 CFS from the Still River. Water temperatures range from the mid 50’s °F through the upper 60’s and even into the lower 70’s °F the farther you move downstream and the later in the day.

Hatches/patterns. As far as insects go, terrestrials remain best bet. The black, cinnamon and flying ant patterns (especially on hot and humid afternoons). For dry flies it is a diverse set of critters but not in any large hatches. Best advice is have a diversity of size and patterns to hook into that finicky trout. “Mousing” at dusk can put you onto some very large browns.

Others for this time of year include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-24 in the morning; started in the mid-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* sps. & *Baetis* sps.; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day).

Housatonic River – Flows in the Housatonic have dropped significantly but are still about double late August conditions but still very comfortable for fishing, currently at 653 CFS at Falls Village and 930 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are beginning to drop, currently in the mid 60’s °F.



Hatches/patterns. The recent weather has been very good for the flying ants. Look for some of the mayfly and stonefly activity to pick up with the dropping flows and dropping temperatures. Great action using crayfish imitations and poppers for Fallfish and Smallmouth. Other traditional favorites include Alder/Zebra Caddis (#8-10, Alder flies are very active during hot days), Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12 has been active lately, fast water, evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies have been very productive. Don't forget poppers and streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10).

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS. Trolling the deeper cooler lakes such as Crystal Lake, West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Colebrook River Lake and Highland Lake should provide some action (especially mornings). Look for any holdover trout to move into shallower water as surface temperatures begin to slowly drop (hopefully).

KOKANEE. West Hill pond has been producing decent size fish here and there. Some have questioned why it seems number of fish are down. There is always a trade between fewer larger fish or more plentiful smaller fish. It appears that for this cycle of the Kokanee, there are fewer total fish but they are quite a bit larger.

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Super action in the Connecticut River from Glastonbury to Haddam (chunks of eel are the ticket). During the day the fish will be holding up in the deep holes but after dark – look for the fish in the shallows. Other places to try include our Catfish Management Lakes like Black Pond (Meriden), Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

CHAIN PICKEREL The best fishing is at smaller ponds with a decent amount of emergent vegetation and lily pads. Toss a weedless rubber worm and jig through the vegetation.

COMMON CARP. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves, also some good action reported in the Enfield area. Other carp favorite water include Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2018 CT angler's Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

REMINDER TO ANGLERS- FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that has been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (*no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving*), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



WALLEYE. Nighttime is best now, places to try include Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond (some action reported here), Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall (some fish are being found morning and evening) Cedar Lake and Beach Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE. Places to hit include the Housatonic River (Kent as well as above the Falls in Falls Village), Pachaug Pond, which has great pike but very little fishing pressure for pike in the summer (also try the downstream lakes – Hopeville, Ashland – reports indicate all three have provided some catches), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

PANFISH. Perfect time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. It's great for families and will get kids hooked on fishing. Fly-fishing with small poppers will provide some great catches. Also, try suspending poppers to catch a few crappie. Looking for a new place to fish? Check out our [interactive mapping application](#).

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are well above typical late August levels north of Hartford (currently 10,800 CFS at Thompsonville and slowly dropping) but easily boat-able and fishable. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** has been on and off, with the side channels and coves providing some action. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing in the Windsor-Enfield area has been a bit tough with the higher flows. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** is really good, especially with 3" sections of eel in Glastonbury, Salmon River, and some reports from the Enfield area. **COMMON CARP** were providing some steady action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam area. Some action for smaller carp reported from enfield.

INLAND REPORT (Reported by You).

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week. **INLAND REPORT: Rene Boislard, David, Ivan S., Anonymous.**

MARINE REPORT: Steve / Rob, Anonymous.

Notable Catches Reported: 3.1 Largemouth and 2.25 Smallmouth on topwater, couple 4 pounders from CT River, Nothing,

How Did They Rate the Fishing?

<i>Species</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Trout	0	0	0	0	1
Bass	3	1	0	2	0
Pike	0	0	0	1	0
Walleye	0	0	0	0	1
Channel Catfish	0	0	0	0	0
Panfish	1	1	0	0	0
Common Carp	0	0	0	1	0

What was HOT! Top water/Silver Rapala, River 2 Sea, Whopper Plopper in black, Whacky Worm.

What was NOT! Spinners, Dilly, mealworms, streamers

Good or better places to fish included: Moodus Reservoir, Salmon River, Connecticut River

Fair or worse places to fish included: Blackledge River

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) and Wharton Brook (including the Wharton Brook Trout Park) state parks remain closed.

BASHAN LAKE (sailboat race). A sailboat race is scheduled for Sunday, September 2, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm in the southeast half of the lake (in front of the state launch). Use extra caution in this area during the event.

CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging). A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging will be used so there will be no drawdown but access to a portion of the park may be limited.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Last year hydrilla was found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** See the Coventry Lake entry on the next page for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

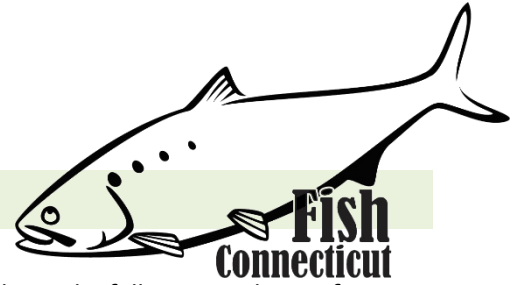
HALLS POND (boat launch). The state boat launch has reopened to full use following removal of a hazard tree.

HOUSATONIC RIVER (bridge closure). The CT Department of Transportation has announced that the covered bridge over the Housatonic River in West Cornwall will be closed to motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic from September 4 through October 2 for repairs.

WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER (invasive species alert). *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard. Currently this type of “Rock Snot” is very abundant and should continue to grow through July. The primary area of the river is from New Hartford upstream to Riverton. Note: *Didymo* is still present primarily in the West Branch above the Still River in Riverton. To help prevent the spread to other rivers and streams, all anglers should take extra care to clean and dry waders that have been in contact with rock snot. We recommend having a pair just for use only in the Farmington River.



Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

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

CONNECTICUT STATE BOUNDARY LINE IN LONG ISLAND SOUND. Anglers please note: Though Connecticut has reciprocity with neighboring states (New York, Rhode Island, Maine and Massachusetts), residents of Connecticut are required to have a CT Resident Marine Waters or All Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **ENHANCED OPPORTUNITY SHORE FISHING** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 64 of the **2018 CT Angler's Guide** for CT tide information.

SEE A TANGLED TURTLE? CALL THE HOTLINE! 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107. This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.

SPECIAL REMINDER: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season will close September 1 and re-open October 10.

From the Anglers: Fishing from shore (on the incoming rising tide) produced some nice size Porgy and loads of Sea Robin. This will be a great weekend to hit the shoreline, sandworms, squid, and clams are the ticket.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains very good at night. Hook up with a charter boat or guide and learn how to catch those "cow" bass. Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) on the reefs at dawn and dusk is producing some nice bass (50.5 inches – 51 pounds, (Old Lyme). Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, **Plum Gut**, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, **lower Connecticut River**, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (Breakwalls) and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Milford Point, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Don't have a Boat? Hook up with the many Party or Charter Boats found throughout CT's shoreline from Greenwich to Stonington.**

BLACK SEA BASS fishing has become a deep water bite. Fishing has been very consistent in the east for keeper-sized sea bass. Plan a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish off of Block Island...there are many giant-sized sea bass to be caught out there. Eastern Sound (Fishers Island to **Block Island** and northeast of Montauk) anglers are having better success. Fishing is still good on the major reefs in the western and

central Sound. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Niantic, to Branford (Faulkner Island) have been consistent all season. A reminder to all anglers...if you are fishing in water deeper than 100', barotrauma can cause released fish to struggle to make it back to the bottom. A descending device such as the Shelton Fish Descender can help assist the sea bass air bladder to recompress and get safely back down to the depths. See Fishsmart.org for more information. **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19th to December 31st.**

SCUP (PORGY) fishing is very good. These fish are measuring 14-18 inches ("hubcap size") in length and are being reported at every fishing pier, reef or rock pile in the Sound. Fishing is good throughout Long Island Sound. The central and western Sound is loaded with hubcap size (15+ inches in length) fish. In the west the Norwalk area (Cockenoe Island) is fishing very well. If possible, take a trip to the east, southeast of Block Island (great fishing). Otherwise, some good locations in the west are: the lower Housatonic River to Charles Island, Morningside (Milford), Coast Guard Jetty at Southport Beach, Rock Jetty at Calf Pasture beach, **South Benson Fishing Pier, Sherwood Island, Pleasure Beach Fishing Pier, St Mary's by the Sea, Fort Nathan Hale Pier and along Long Beach** (excellent shore spots). Other shore spots include **Rocky Neck State Park, Harkness Memorial State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset, Sherwood Island State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park.** Fish during the high tide at these shore locations. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers". These "panfish of the sea" are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH fishing is improving daily. Large numbers of bluefish found in the lower estuaries and rivers feeding on menhaden. Eastern Sound has seen much better fishing for "alligator -size" blues (The RACE). Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER fishing has improved in the tidal creeks and rivers with fish measuring 6 to 10 inches in length.**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) fishing is getting better as fall approaches. These flatfish are feeding heavily prior to their migration south for the winter. Fishermen are reporting some very large doormat fluke being caught (10 lbs. 10 oz., central sound). Live lining snapper blues in deep water (80 to 100') is the preferred method by fluke sharpies. The usual summer flounder spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** [CT Bait & Tackle Shop List](#)

WEAKFISH fishing is surprisingly good in the central and western Sound. Many scup anglers are catching them. Fish up to 29 inches are being reported in the West Haven beaches and Charles Island area. Also, look for weakfish in Guilford/Madison/New Haven Harbor areas. Interested in a boat ride hit the peconics fishing has been hot for weakfish.

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is sporadic. They are tough to spot during the recent rough sea conditions we have had. Flat seas are the best for sight fishing. Also, don't forget to try jigging for them. These small tunas are cruising around from Pt. Judith, Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point and west to New Haven. Dawn is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas. **Try casting metal (heavy) lures to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip.**

WHITE PERCH fishing continues is improving as fall approaches. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower

Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

BLUE CRAB crabbing continues to improve. Incoming tide has produced better crab fishing...as the crabs migrate into the shallow water to feed. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Legal gear types include: scoop (dip) net, hand line, star crab trap, circular (topless) trap not exceeding 26 inches in diameter. Maryland Style Crab traps are prohibited. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#). **Angler's please also note: It's illegal to snag blue crabs.**

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

Need a fishing spot you've never been to? Want to know details about the site, like coordinates? Are there nearby restaurants, is there an adequate amount of parking spaces and more? Just visit the site below, click guest and then on the next screen select the state of Connecticut:

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>

NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Summer Flounder	28.5"	10 lbs 10 oz.	John N. Christensen Jr.
Summer Flounder	25."	6 lbs 6 oz.	David Martel
Clearnose Skate	35"	C&R	Evan Kamoen
Gray Triggerfish	18"	4lbs 10 oz.	David M.

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2018 Connecticut Anglers Guide which is now available at most Town Clerks Offices, DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Current regulations, electronic versions of the Angler's Guide and additional information is on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing. For the latest marine regulations also click this link: [2018 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations](#). **PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep