



Kokanee Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)



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INLAND REPORT

Providers of some of the information below included **Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle**, **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains variable, mostly fair with some good and some slow, and anglers have been slowed by weather (either too hot or too wet). Places to try include Candlewood Lake keep working the weeds), Ball Pond, Silver Lake, East Twin Lake, Mudge Pond, Burr Pond, Tyler Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Billings Lake, Cedar Lake, Rogers Lake, Quaddick Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Glasgow Pond and Wauregan Reservoir.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (good for some, tough for many, 3.81 lb lunger), Aspinook Pond (fair for most, but with some size as average weight per fish was 1.8 lbs apiece with a 3.56 lb lunger), Gardner Lake (fair, not much size with a 2.49 lb lunger), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (slow to fair, 2.95 lb lunger), and Pattagansett Lake (fair, 2.19 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Fair to good reports from Candlewood Lake (go deep). Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar are also providing some action. For river smallmouth, fishing on the upper Housatonic River remains good (and with warm, sunny weather forecast next week should continue to be good. Also check the Quinebaug River and Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler** reports are from are from Aspinook Pond (a few caught, 3.19 lb lunger).

TROUT- Stocking Update- Fall stocking has begun. This week the Farmington River was stocked several times. DEEP fisheries stocked the section from Collinsville to Route 4 (Farmington) with 1,700 Brown Trout

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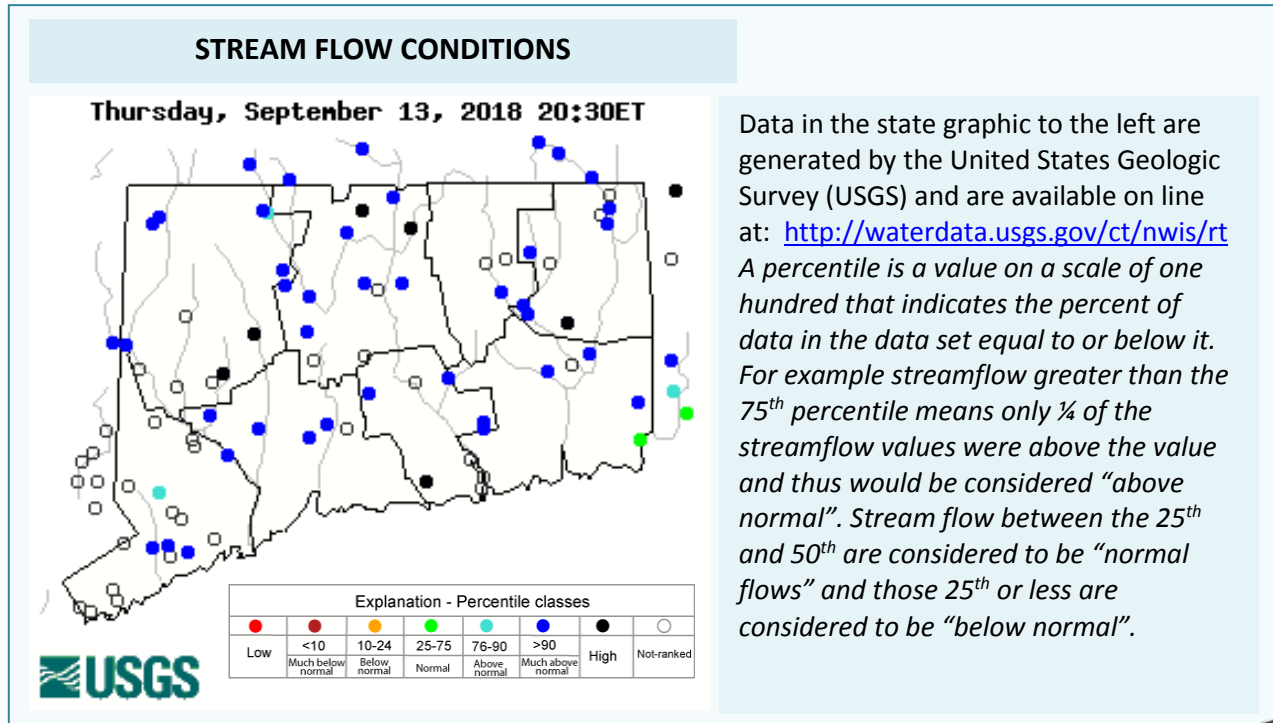
A [FREE event](#) sponsored by DEEP's Bureau of Natural Resources on **Saturday, September 22, 2018 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area (391 Route 32, North Franklin).**



This fun-filled event explores Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions, with live animals, demonstrations, archery, fish casting, fly tying, shooting clays, kid's activities, outdoor skills, a photo contest, and more. Bring a picnic lunch and stay for a few hours or the whole day!

(12+ inch fish) and the Metropolitan District Commission stocked the West Branch from Goodwin Dam to Riverton with 1,700 Brown Trout also measuring 12+ inches.

RIVERS & STREAMS – Conditions for trout fishing remain very challenging, with flows in many areas throughout the state at very high levels (see stream flow graphic below). The weekend is forecast to be cool and dry, so conditions should improve. As water quality and temperature conditions warrant we will be stocking various Trout Management Areas around the state. Please note: we will not be able to stock the Mill River TMA in Hamden this fall due to the lingering impacts of the May storms.



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.

Farmington River. The upcoming weekend looks very good for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with slowly dropping flow and clearing water. Currently the river is at 286 CFS at Riverton plus 259 CFS from the Still River. Water temperatures range from the mid 50’s °F to the mid 60’s.

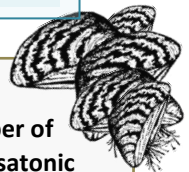
Hatches/patterns. High flows have hampered any large scale activity (not usually too much this time of year). During the daylight hours, nymphing has been good as well as the typical ant patterns. Others for this time of year include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-24 in the morning; started in the mid-section of the river), *Ephemera 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),

ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

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

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinah 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).



Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day).

Housatonic River – Flows in the Housatonic are fairly tough for most fishing, currently the river is on the rise 1,400 CFS at Falls Village and 2,650 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are beginning to drop, currently in the low 60's °F.

Hatches/patterns. Patterns to try include Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22), Tricos (#20-22), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Light Cahill (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (go big- larval dobsonflies can be up to 4" in length and are a favorite food item), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Other insects include flying ants (#14-16, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peak month).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS. As conditions warrant we will soon begin stocking trout parks. Stay tuned to our Facebook Page, the current stocking report, interactive stocking map, and this weekly report. We will not be stocking Valley Falls Park Pond (due to a drawdown for dam repairs) and Wharton Brook Pond (still closed from storm damage) this fall.

Reports of 4-5 pounders from Crystal Lake. Other good options include West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Colebrook River Lake and Highland Lake. Look for any holdover trout to move into shallower water as surface temperatures have begun to drop.

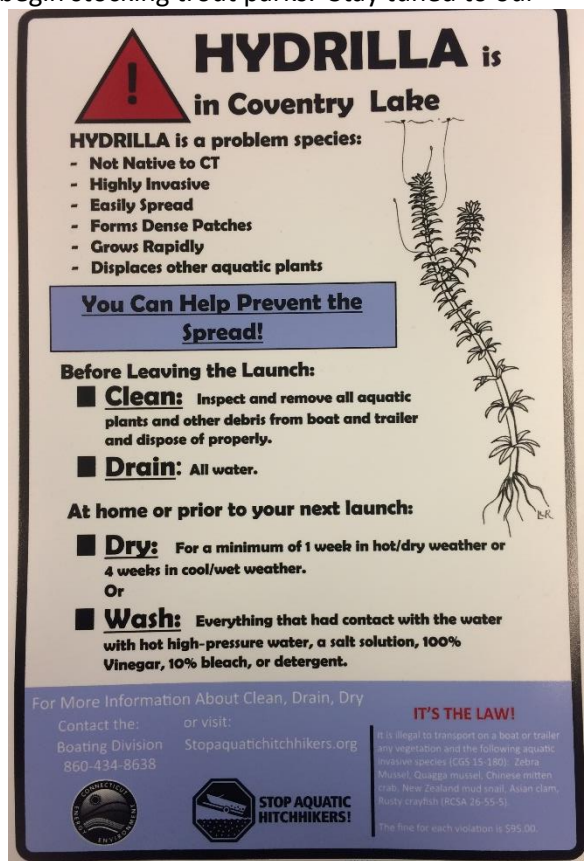
KOKANEE. West Hill Pond has been producing decent size fish here and there. The fish will begin to transition into the spawning mode shortly, so now is the time fish for the Kokanee.

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Several Catfish Management Lakes that are worth a try include Silver Lake, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Butternut Park 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. Activity is picking up with September and October prove to be great times to fish for these huge fish. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves, also some good action reported north of Hartford. Other carp favorites are 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.

WALLEYE. Slow fishing but cooler nights should bring the Walleye up into the shallows, especially along steep drops. Nighttime is best now, places to try include Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall (some 2-4 lb fish are being caught morning and evening, deep diving lures working) Cedar Lake, and Beach Pond.



One of the newly installed signs to alert anyone using Coventry Lake (and a similar sign for the Connecticut River) about the presence of the highly invasive plant, Hydrilla.

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), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie are doing well in most places. Good waters include Burr Pond, Still Water Pond, Green Fall Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, and Day Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are back to crazy high levels in the upper reaches (currently 15,900 CFS at Thompsonville). The pulse of water will make fishing a bit more challenging, look for fish to take advantage of the access to cover and vegetation along the shoreline. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** remains on and off, with the side channels and coves providing better action. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing in the Windsor-Enfield has will be tough as the flows will force the fish to hold tight to structure. Look for some action along the mainstem from Middletown to Haddam. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** remains good, especially with 3” sections of eel. Fish the deep holes by day and flats by night. **COMMON CARP** were providing some steady action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam area. The 2018 CT Carp Open Tournament is coming up in a few weeks.

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.

ASPINOOK POND (drawdown). A 30-inch drawdown of Aspinook Pond to facilitate dam maintenance was scheduled to begin Monday, September 10. The drawdown is expected to last approximately one week.

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.

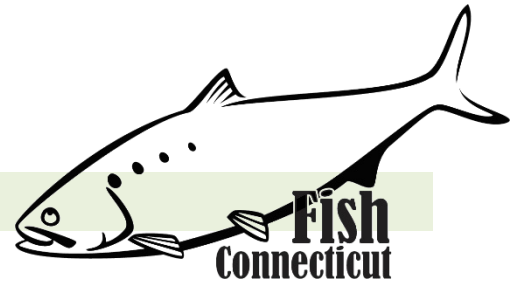
HOUSATONIC RIVER (bridge closure). The CT Department of Transportation has announced that the covered bridge over the Housatonic River in West Cornwall will be closed to motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic from September 4 through October 2 for repairs.



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

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.

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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<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.

HUMPBACK WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see check [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#).

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

SPECIAL REMINDER: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season closed September 1 and will reopen October 10.

STRIPED BASS fishing will be good to excellent as we approach the full "harvest" moon. Tis the season for catching some big bass as they feed heavily prior to their migration. Trolling jigs and live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) and or an eel on the reefs/shoal areas at dawn and dusk will produce some nice bass, 55 inches – 51 pounds, (Long Sand Shoal). 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 been good. You may need to move around from wreck/reef/hump to find good numbers of these tasty bottom fish. The spawn is over and they are feeding heavily on small crabs and squid. Plan a trip on a party/charter boat trip to fish off of Block Island...there are many giant-sized sea bass out there. Eastern Sound (Fishers Island to Block Island and northeast of Montauk) anglers are having better success. For those willing to travel, Block Island Sound is the place to be for humpback sea bass. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Niantic, to Branford (Falkner 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 minimum length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19 to December 31.**

SCUP (PORGY) fishing is the best it has been in decades. Chumming has been very productive. Good shore fishing areas include; Morningside (Milford), Coast Guard Jetty at Southport Beach, Rick Jetty at Calf Pasture beach, South Benson Fishing Pier, Sherwood Island, Pleasure Beach Fishing Pier, St Mary's by the Sea, Gulf Beach Pier, Bonds Dock (Stratford) and Long Beach (excellent shore spots). Other shore spots include The Sound School Fishing Pier/Dock, 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". Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH fishing is finally very good. They can be found throughout the sound (find the birds). Large numbers of bluefish can be found in the lower estuaries, rivers and beaches feeding on menhaden/anchovies. The "Top-water" bite continues to be very good, look for the "blow-ups". 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) is a tough go...however those patient anglers who put their time in fishing deep water (90-120 ft) are scoring on large doormat fluke up to 14 pounds. Live lining snapper blues and whole squid in deep water 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 to Darien.

Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.

WEAKFISH fishing is surprisingly good in the central and western Sound. good in the central and western Sound. Many scup anglers are catching them. Fish up to 34 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.

BLUE CRAB fishing is good in all tidal creeks and bays, especially around pilings in the evening. There are some gigantic "jimmies" (male crabs) out there. Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. 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.

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is great one day and puzzling the next (where did the go) ...you never know with these fast swimming tunas. However, the action in CT is heating up. Big catches of these small tunas have been reported from Bluff Point to Hatchett Reef. Shore anglers are scoring at Ocean Beach, Seaside, Harkness Memorial and Rocky Neck State Park. These small tunas are also 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. Dawn and dusk is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas. They feeding heavily of young of the year anchovy. 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.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the Black Hall River and Fort Trumbull Fishing Pier, fair in the Lieutenant River, Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Anglers are still waiting for the fall bite to happen, especially shore anglers. Fishing remains good at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). You will also find "schoolie" bass, snappers and hickory shad can all be found schooling together at these locations.

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.

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	26"	7 lb	Alex Erdmann
Black Sea Bass	24"	5 lb 12 oz	Alex Erdmann
Black Sea Bass	23.5"	5 lb 4 oz	Alex Erdmann

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.**

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

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