

Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*)



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INLAND REPORT

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

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been slow to fair at many areas throughout the state, as they begin to transition from summer to fall habits. Reports include Candlewood Lake (fair here, still try along deeper weed edges, bait anglers doing better), Highland Lake (tough but some fish are being caught), Bantam Lake (fair to good), Quaddick Lake (fair to good) and Rogers Lake (fair). Other places to try include Pachaug Pond, Mudge Pond, Pattagansett Lake, Quinebaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Amos Lake, Pickerel Lake and Bishop Swamp.

Tournament angler reports are from Hopeville Pond (fair to good, 5.04 lb lunker), Patagansett Lake (fair to good, 2.9 lb and 2.4 lb lunkers), Rogers Lake (fair, 2.9 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (good for a few, slow to fair for most, but with 6.45 lb and 5.91 lb lunkers, fish averaged 2.8 lbs apiece for one club).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. It's been tough at Candlewood Lake (try at around 30 feet, bait anglers may have the advantage as smallies here often target alewife in the early fall). **Tournament angler** are from Candlewood Lake (tough for two clubs).

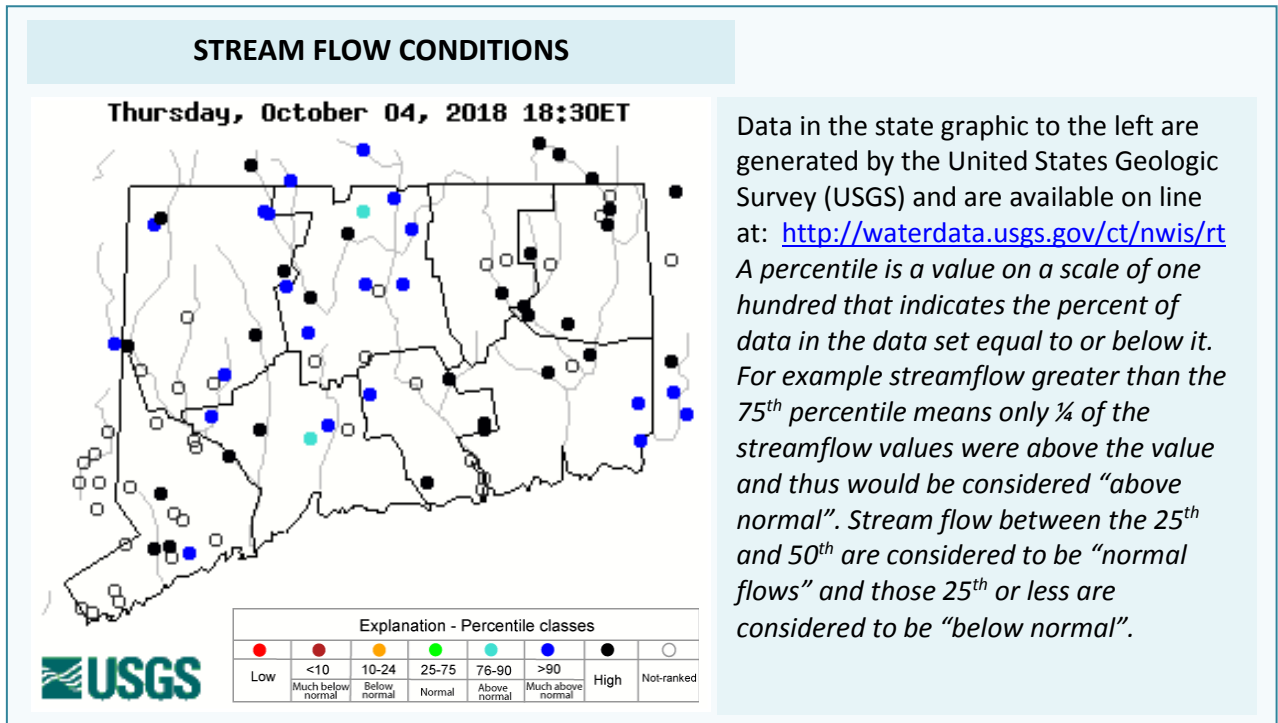
TROUT & SALMON STOCKING UPDATE. We have resumed our fall stocking efforts, however, we are still holding off on rivers and streams until the flows drop a bit more (see page 2), ideally having flows be in the green and light blue color (not royal blue or black). Stocking fish into near flood conditions does not create very good catch rates. Stay in touch with our [Current Stocking Report](#) and [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#):

- **BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON** were stocked into **Mount Tom Pond** (115 fish) and **Crystal Lake** (Ellington) (115 fish) on Wednesday, 10/3. These fish average about 4-5 lbs apiece.
- **TROUT - LAKES AND PONDS:** In western CT, **Stillwater Pond** (400 Rainbow Trout), **Tyler Lake** (500 Rainbow Trout) and **West Side Pond** (400 Rainbow Trout) were stocked with trout this week. In eastern CT, **Amos Lake** (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout), **Beach Pond** (600 Rainbow Trout), **Bigelow Pond** (350 Rainbow Trout), **Cedar Lake** (500 Rainbow Trout), **Coventry Lake** (500 Rainbow Trout), **Mashapaug Lake** (650 Rainbow Trout), **Quonnipaug Lake** (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout) and **Wauregan Reservoir** (Quinebaug Lake) (300 Rainbow Trout) were stocked with trout.
- **TROUT PARKS:** The **Mohegan Park Pond** (400 12" and up Rainbow Trout) Trout Park in eastern CT.

RIVERS & STREAMS – Flows are on a slow drop (see stream flow graphic below), but the good news is that the muddy conditions from flash flooding and heavy runoff in some areas has passed and the forecast includes lots of sunny days for the next week. Most rivers are well above typical early October levels, providing lots of water to fish. Conditions for trout fishing is fair at best in many areas. Remember that the smaller streams and tributaries will generally drop the quickest. **For real time stream flow data from 68**

USGS gauging stations you can check the following web site:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>. Please note that we will not be able to stock the Mill River TMA in Hamden this fall due to the lingering impacts of the May storms.



Farmington River. The upcoming weekend looks slightly better than last weekend for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with high flows (slowly dropping) but clear water. Currently the river is at 353 CFS at Riverton plus 466 CFS from the Still River (which continues to drop). Note also that farther downstream the East Branch is currently adding an additional 500 CFS. It is likely that flows will remain on the higher side through next week (note that there may be some further adjustments of releases from Goodwin Dam or Lake McDonough), anglers should check the USGS website mentioned above for up to date information). Water temperatures range from the mid 50’s °F to the low 60’s.

Hatches/patterns. High flows continue to hamper any large scale hatching activity. During the daylight hours, nymphing has been good. Expect the insects to be shifting to the fall patterns. Some go-to flies include Isonychia (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare’s ear (#8-20) works well.

Housatonic River. Reminder, the upper portion of the TMA in Sharon and Cornwall was stocked on September 24. Currently flows are very high and marginally fishable (may want to check the local tributaries for more fishable conditions) at 4,440 CFS at Falls Village and 5,940 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are currently in the low 60’s °F. Fingers crossed for better conditions through the long weekend. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). **NOTE:** The Cornwall Covered Bridge has **re-opened** after the DOT remodeling project.

Hatches/patterns. Patterns to try include Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and caddis (#14-18, early morning &

evening). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers, or nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

The area between the Route 4 Bridge and Route 341 Bridge is still offering great fishing with smallmouth and fallfish eagerly hitting a variety of poppers, dry flies, nymphs, and streamers.

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. Streamer patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (#2-12), Muddlers, Lion Buggers, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), Isonychia (#10-12), Sulfur (#16-18) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening).

TROUT & SALMON-LAKES & PONDS. Most notably Atlantic Salmon (average size is 4 pounds) were stocked into Mount Tom Pond (115 fish) and Crystal Lake (Ellington) (115 fish). Please note that a [Trout and Salmon Stamp](#) is required if you **keep** an Atlantic salmon from either Mount Tom Pond or Crystal Lake. If you are strictly practicing Catch and Release, the Trout and Salmon Stamp is not required to fish in either of these two waters. Atlantic salmon regulations can be found on page 28 of the 2018 Angler's Guide.

Trout were stocked into some our lakes and ponds and trout parks this week (see page 1) as river and streams remain on hold. Stay tuned to our Facebook Page, the current stocking report, interactive stocking map, and this weekly report. Reminder- *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.*

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Several Catfish Management Lakes that are worth a try include Silver Lake, Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Butternut Park Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

CHAIN PICKEREL No reports, look for activity to increase a bit as we transition into fall.

COMMON CARP. Activity is picking up; September and October typically prove to be great times to fish for these huge fish. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves. 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 now but a more consistent string of cooler nights should bring the Walleye up into the shallows, especially along steep drops offs. Nighttime is best now, places to try include, Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Cedar Lake, and Beach Pond. Saugatuck Reservoir has decent fishing dawn and dusk.

NORTHERN PIKE. A couple of really nice pike reported from Lake Lillinonah last week. Other favorite Pike Waters include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie (big ones continue to be found in Candlewood) are doing well in most places. Good waters include Burr Pond, Still Water Pond, Green Fall Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, and Day 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.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows went back above 30,000 cfs this week and remain turbid but seem to be beginning to drop a bit (currently 28,300 CFS at Thompsonville). These higher flows are making boating access and fishing very 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 remains very 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** had been hitting (staff favorites are 3" sections of eel). Once the river goes down some fishing the deep holes by day and flats by night will provide some fish. **COMMON CARP** have been providing some steady action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam and Mattebesset areas. The 2018 CT Carp Open Tournament is coming starts next week on October 11th and runs until Sunday, October 14th. Looking forward to seeing some monster Carp caught by the tournament anglers. We encourage you to stop by and see how folks are doing, but please note that they must fish within a certain distance of their "peg". We encourage all to be understanding and share the space, giving these anglers some room during the tournament.

CARP TOURNAMENT IN PROGRESS

Anglers participating in the CT CARP OPEN have permission to remain on site day and night from 5:00 am October 11 to 3:00 pm October 14, 2018.

If you are fishing and are not part of this tournament, please share space and avoid casting in close proximity to the tournament angler – they can only fish from within 15 yards of this sign.

For more information please contact 860-709-3003
or the DEEP Fisheries Division at 860-424-3474

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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.

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.

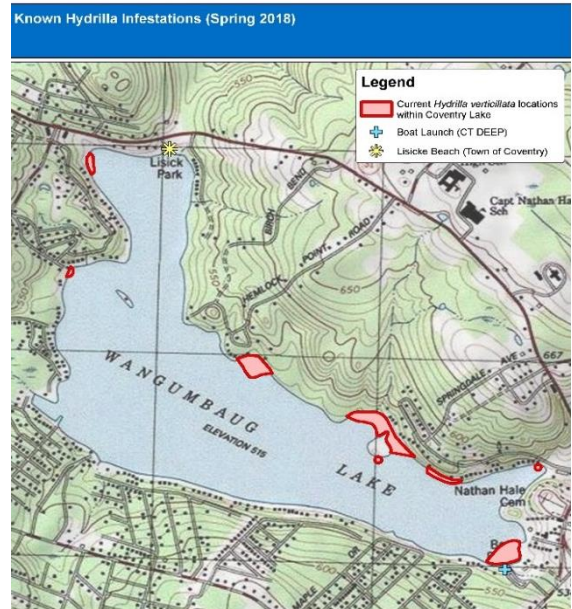
CONNECTICUT RIVER (Enfield, group canoe paddle event). A canoe/kayak “paddle” will be conducted from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm on Saturday, October 6 in Kings Island area. Boaters should use additional caution in this area.

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.

HIGHLAND LAKE (road race – traffic concern). A 10K road race is scheduled for Saturday, October 6, at Highland Lake with a 10 am start. This event begins and ends in the vicinity of the state boat launch. Boaters should use extra care when accessing the launch from roads in the area.

LAKE HOUSATONIC (rowing regatta). The “Head of the Housatonic” Regatta is scheduled for **Saturday, October 6 from 8 am to 5 pm, with course setup occurring on Friday, October 5.** Although this event will be using the boat launch in Indian Well State Park, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.



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

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MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) remain around 70 °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>

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.

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 NOTE: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season will reopen next week (October 10) .

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is very good. The best I have seen in years...throughout the Sound. Pink is the color of choice. Western Sound anglers are scoring using a Hogy epoxy jigs, the (heavy) minnow jig in pink (Milford Point). These small tunas are fast movers, quickly moving to different locations...keep casting they will show. Still some big catches of these small tunas have been reported from Pine Island, Bluff Point, Groton Long Point, Niantic Bay (Jordan Cove) and points west from Milford, Norwalk, Darien and Greenwich Pt. Park. **Shore anglers are scoring at Fort Trumbull, mouth of the Thames River, Ocean Beach, Seaside Park, Harkness Memorial, Hammonasset, Rocky Neck State Park and also at Sherwood Island State Park.** These small tunas are also cruising around from Pt. Judith, Watch Hill to Bluff Point (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point. Dawn and dusk is typically the best time to fish for these inshore tunas but they can be caught during the daytime. They are feeding heavily of young of the year herring and small crabs **Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple, albie snax and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. Jigging for them also works when they are close to the bottom.**

STRIPED BASS fishing is fantastic. **It's time for shore anglers to hit the SURF...coastal state parks.** The fall season appears to be starting off strong, with many charter boat operators commenting on how many large bass there are. These bass are migrating and feeding heavily on all the bait. The best thing is...you catch them during the daytime, especially under overcast skies. Trolling weighted jigs (Chartreuse) with a yellow pork rind and or live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) in 15 to 40 feet of water. I like dunking a live **eel on the reefs/shoal areas** during the late afternoon /evening hours. This technique has produces some very big bass recently...52 inches – 48 pounds, (Outer Bartlett Reef/Norwalk Islands). 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 is very good. Hit every favorite wreck/reef/hump/sand dune, to find good numbers of these tasty bottom fish. **Angler please be careful when releasing sublegal sea bass. There is lots of them out there...let's give them a chance to grow and get big.** 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) and Fishers 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.

SCUP (porgy) fishing remains the best bet in town. All the party boats are targeting them...that's how plentiful they are. **Hit the coastal state parks and spend time chumming...this will improve your success.** Try these nice shore fishing areas (incoming tide better); Morningside, and **Woodmont** (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, **Charles Island** and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers".

BLUEFISH fishing has improved a little. Bluefish schools are scattered but there are some real "alligators" to 16 pounds out there. Mixed in with striper schools are large bluefish schools which are popping up throughout the western Sound including Middle-ground, Norwalk Islands, Sherwood Island, Compo Beach and Silver Sands State Park. They are feeding on just about any bait or artificial lure you offer them. They can also be found in good numbers the eastern Sound (find the birds). More recently good numbers of bluefish can be found in the lower estuaries, rivers and beaches feeding on menhaden/herring. 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. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

WEAKFISH fishing is still good in the central and western Sound. Falkner, Goose Island and **the Norwalk Island** area is producing some very nice "tide runners". Fish up to 33 inches are being reported from West Haven Beaches/Charles Island area to **Norwalk**.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the **Black Hall River**, **Norwalk River** and **Thames River**. Anglers are still waiting for the fall bite to happen elsewhere, especially shore anglers. Fishing remains ok at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier).

WHITE PERCH fishing during fall is very good. 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 fishing is slow one day and awesome the next in the tidal creeks/bays/piers. **Many of the large "jimmies" are still up river and have not migrated down...** There are some gigantic "jimmies" (male crabs) out there (8" to 9"). Crabs are still feeding around the pilings in the evening, especially with an incoming tide.

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.**

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
False Albacore	25.5"	9 lbs. 10 oz.	Jason M.
Smooth Puffer	24"	4 lb	David M.
Striped Bass	49"	C&R	Pat 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.**

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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