

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 2
4/25/2019



Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*)



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.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

OPENING DAY SURVEY – Last chance to give us your feedback for opening day. Our short [Opening Day survey](#) will close **Friday 4/26/2019**.

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts (@[CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](#))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)

*Providers of some of the information in this report included **Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, The Fish Connection, Still River Outfitters, Yankee Outfitters, CTFisherman.com, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.***

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions remain variable for trout fishing in most areas this weekend, depending on additional rain amounts (rain is forecast for Friday night and early Saturday). There are plenty more recently stocked trout waiting for anglers and temperatures continue to be great for trout fishing. Flows have moderated some in many areas but are still on the high side in many medium to large rivers but fishable (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*) but may get higher again and more difficult to fish. 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>.

Although flows are generally higher anglers are finding some action on a number of rivers and streams including the Hammonasset River, Salmon River, Mount Hope River, Natchaug River Salmon Brook, and the



Connecticut's Trout & Salmon Stamp: Connecticut implemented a Trout and Salmon Stamp last year. 100% of the revenue from your investment comes to the DEEP Bureau of Natural Resources for Fisheries programs (CGS 26-15, 26-15a, and 26-15b).

The Trout and Salmon Stamp is \$5 for anyone age 18 or older, including those 65 or older, and \$3 for CT residents age 16-17.

The Stamp is required for the harvest (keeping) of trout or salmon.

The Stamp is required to FISH in any waters classified as:

- A Trout Park
- A Trout Management Area (River or stream, not a Trout Management Lake)
- A Wild Trout Management Area, Class 1,2 or 3
- A Broodstock Atlantic Salmon Area

Please take a look at our [FAQ page](#) for more details.

Questions about the Trout and Salmon Stamp may be emailed to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov or call us at 860-424-3474

Farmington River (high but some intrepid anglers are catch some nice fish). For fly guys, find a nice comfy hole back of a bend and go deep with nymphs and streamers. Folks have been a tough time on the Willimantic River.

Farmington River - Anglers will to work with (and not fight) the flows are finding some nice fish. West Branch flows continue on the high side currently, 863 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 292 CFS from the Still River (flows may increase on Saturday depending on rainfall amounts). Anglers will have to work some for their fish.

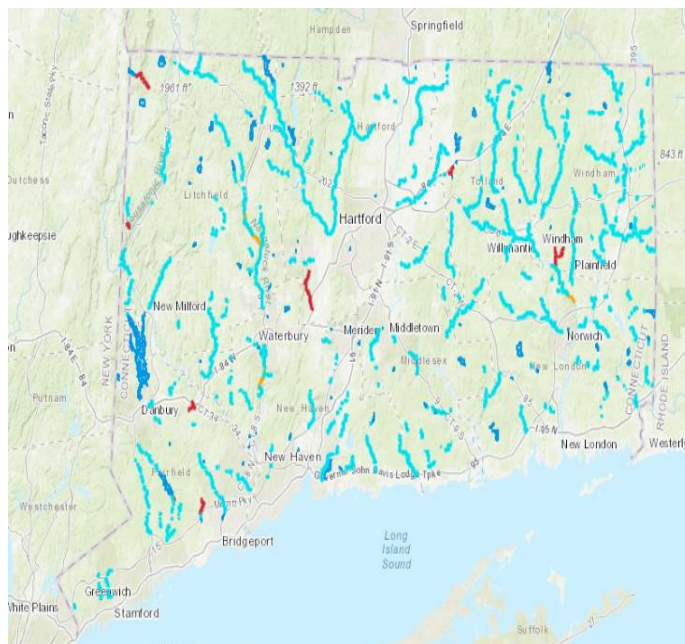
Typical mid-April hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (will appear mid-late April when it warms up a bit, a few might have been seen already), Winter/Summer Caddis, Stonefly nymphs, Midge and Blue Quill. Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also a good option (White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Mickey Finn, Grey or Black Ghost).

Housatonic River – The river (Housatonic River TMA in Cornwall/Kent) was stocked with approximately 3,000 large brown trout with large rainbows to follow in the coming weeks. Fishing has been good at times when flows have moderated some however conditions for the weekend may again be challenging and difficult. Flows have slowly been dropping to moderately fishable levels, currently 2,180 CFS at Falls Village and 3,380 CFS at Gaylordsville but rain on Friday night may raise the river again. Anglers should call the **FirstLight Power Resources flow line at 1-888-417-4837 for updated river information or check the USGS website at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>** for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

Hatches/patterns. Typical patterns for mid-late April include March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Look for Hendricksons soon. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS –Fair to good reports from East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Crystal Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Amos Lake, Beach Pond, Long Pond and Gardner Lake. A few catches also reported from Coventry Lake.

Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good with the best reports from Southford Falls, Wharton Brook, and Chatfield Hollow.



INTERACTIVE TROUT STOCKING MAP

Anglers can see the number of days since our last trout stocking by using our interactive trout stocking map(www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmap). Give it a go. PLEASE NOTE DUE TO ONGOING ISSUES WITH THE SOFTWARE COMPANY, THE MAP HAS BEEN AND REMAINS DOWN – we apologize and hope it will be up and running soon.

TROUT- Stocking update for the week of 4/22 – 4/26. Note that stockings can also be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

LAKES AND PONDS:

- In **eastern Connecticut**; Moosup Pond was stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; Mount Tom Pond, Fountain Lake, Baummer Pond, Prospect Town Park Pond, Mohegan Lake, Mohawk Pond, Stillwater Pond, East Twin Lake, Black Pond (Meriden, Middlefield), West Branch Reservoir and West Hill Pond.

RIVERS AND STREAMS:

- In **eastern Connecticut**; Bigelow Brook, Fenton River Mount Hope River, Jeremy River (lower portions), Blackledge River, Raymond Brook, Hockanum River (above & below the TMA), Roaring Brook (Stafford, Willington), Middle River, Skungamaug River, Hop River, Little River (Canterbury, Sprague), Farm River (upper & lower), Branford River, West River, Quinnipiac River, Beaver Brook (Franklin), Mashamoquet Brook, Shunock Brook, Indiantown Brook, Pachaug river, Scantic River (upper and lower) and quanduck Brook were stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; the Little River (Oxford), Leadmine Brook, Hop Brook, Norwalk River (upper & lower: note that Merwin Meadows was not stocked), Farmington River (Farmington-Tariffville), and the Housatonic River TMA were stocked.

TROUT PARKS: the Wharton Brook and Valley Falls Trout Parks were stocked

COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS: Upper Fulton Park Pond, Colony Park Pond, Mirror Lake, Birge Pond, Keney Park Pond and Rogers Park Pond were stocked.

LARGEMOUTH BASS. Waters seem to be warming nicely (lots of water temperatures in the low 50's up to 55 °F) and largemouth bass action is picking up, with reports from Rogers Lake (several 4-5 lb bass caught last week), Quonnipaug Lake, Pachaug Pond, Avery Pond, Bantam Lake (including a 6 lb largemouth), Wononskopomuc Lake (slow to fair action, but some nice size fish reported), Highland Lake (shallow, near rocky structure), Park Pond and Candlewood Lake. Crank baits, soft plastics, and live bait (especially in smaller waters) seem to be working. **Tournament angler** reports are from Gardner Lake (fair to good action, with a 4.44 lb lunker, fish averaged 1.5 lbs apiece), Highland Lake (good, with a 6.4 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (fair to good, with a 6.43 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallmouth are being caught at Candlewood Lake and Lake Lillinonah. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (good, 5.72 lb, 5.69 lb, 5.42 lb, 5.25 lb and 4.75 lb lunkers) and Highland Lake (slow).

BLACK CRAPPIE are providing some action at Highland Lake and Park Pond. Best action in the evening.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. The Connecticut River is still cranking with the spring runoff from the upper river. It is cold and turbid, at 78,700 CFS at Thompsonville. Best bets are to do some exploring of backwater coves and flooded meadows – bowfin, large carp, and pike can be cruising these typically dry areas.

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) remains closed and the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring.

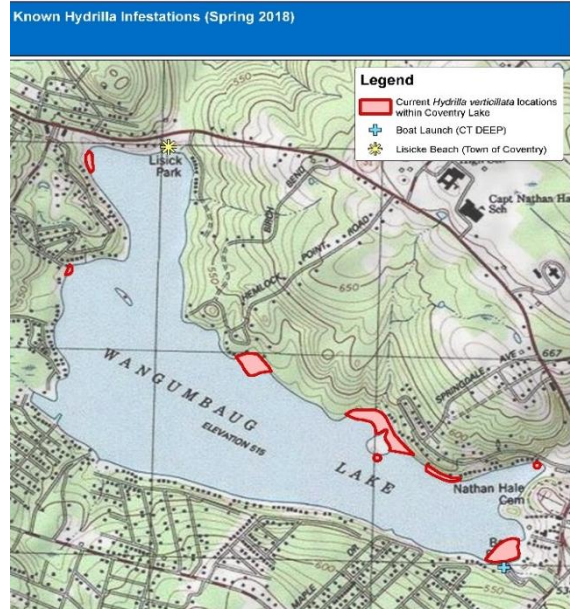
COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The **boat launch at Colebrook River Lake has been closed last week** due to high water levels. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Hydrilla has now spread throughout the river and can be found in numerous areas.** 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.

COVENTRY LAKE (rowing regatta). A Rowing event IS scheduled for **Sunday, April 28 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm** Boaters should use additional caution on the lake.

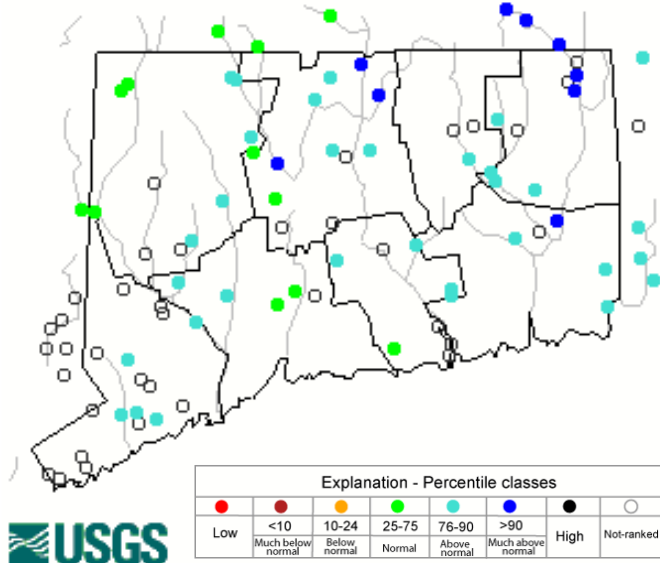
HOUSATONIC LAKE (rowing regatta). Rowing events are scheduled for **Saturday, April 27 from 7:00 am to 1:00 pm** and **Sunday, April 28 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm** Boaters should use additional caution on the lake this weekend.



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

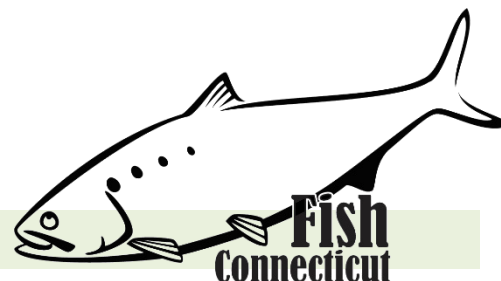
Stream flow conditions

Thursday, April 25, 2019 15:30ET



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”.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 40'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, although 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 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 [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#) for CT tide information.

STRIPED BASS fishing is good for "schoolies" in most of the tidal rivers along the Connecticut shoreline. There are also some keepers in the mix as well (48 inch striped bass from the lower CT and Housatonic Rivers). Striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier** and Dock and Dine), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), the Sound School Fishing Pier, **Housatonic River** and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. **Sand and blood worms have been working the best**, especially in turbid waters around the high tide. Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will also work. Fishing should get better as we approach the magical 55°F mark and NEW moon! The top-water fishing has been fantastic...go out enjoy some of the best fishing in New England.

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing remains slow but improving in the Poquonock River at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, **Calf Pasture Beach area, Norwalk Islands (Cockonoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor**. Other flounder spots include the lower Mystic River, and the mouth of the Thames River in the Pine Island area including Baker Cove.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good for these tasty panfish in most of the tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. Shrimp and small worms are the key to success.

WEAKFISH have also arrived in Long Island Sound! The Race, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are early weakfish spots. Look for weakfish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area.

SCUP season is OPEN – there are plenty of scup in the Sound already. A reminder that CT Scup regulations have changed (as of 4/16/2019). The new 2019 recreational regulations:

- Open season year-round (effective 4/16/2019)
- Minimum size: 9 inches
- Creel limit: 30 fish
- For paying passengers on registered party or charter fishing vessels:
 - Bonus season: September 1 – October 31
 - Minimum size: 9 inches
 - Creel Limit: 50 fish
 - For shore anglers fishing at Enhanced Shore Opportunity Sites:
 - Minimum size: 8 inches

SUMMER FLOUNDER OPENS MAY 4th.

***For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:** Anglers should consult the 2019 Connecticut Fishing 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 Fishing Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.*

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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