



Channel Catfish (*Ictalurus punctatus*)



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.

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INLAND REPORT

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

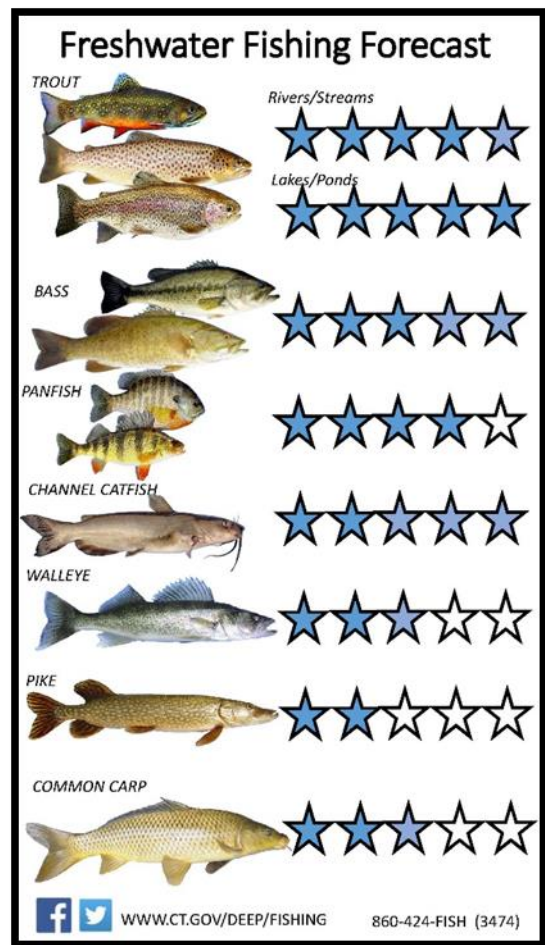
- Daily Facebook Posts ([@CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](#))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)

Providers of some of the information in this report included **Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, JT's Fly Shop, The Fish Connection, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – Looking like an ideal weekend to be outdoors, especially if you are fishing. Trout fishing remains very good in almost every stocked water (we have about a week's worth of stocking to go). Water levels are near ideal (see stream flow graphic on page 5). **For real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check the [USGS web site](#).**

Places reporting good fishing include the Natchaug River, Willimantic River ("really good"), Salmon River, Blackledge River, lower Naugatuck River (have to work a bit but some nice stockies, mostly browns), upper Naugatuck River (some "steady action up there"), Hammonasset River and the West Branch Farmington River. Action was slower on both the Leadmine River and Blackberry River, but some fish were being caught.

Farmington River – Fishing the West Branch is getting a bit easier with flows continuing to moderate to comfortable levels, and is currently at 444 CFS at Riverton with an additional 126 CFS from the Still River. The fish are there but you may have to hop spots to find the right mix of flow and activity. Creativity in fishing spots continues to be a plus, don't be afraid to explore, especially some of the smaller side channels. We are getting into the longest days of the year, plenty of time to spend taking in the beautiful sights and sounds of the river and its life.



Hatches/patterns. Insect activity is definitely on the rise (pun intended). Late afternoon and evening hatches are picking up with fish looking for that easy surface snack. Insects that should be popular with the trout include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson, Black Caddis (small like #22), Winter/Summer Caddis, Stonefly nymphs, Midges and Blue Quill. Nymphs are fooling most of the fish being caught with try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers, large and shiny, are also a good option (Hare's ear, Pheasant Tail, White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddler minnow, Grey or Black Ghost). Try night-time "mousing" for the biggest of the browns.



Caroline and her son Gabriel catching a great memory (oh yes and a fish) on their trip to the Housatonic River. Photo Courtesy of D. Machowski

Housatonic River – This will be the weekend to hit the river. Great weather is forecast and FINALLY dropping, clearing and much more fishable, with flows currently 1,340 CFS at Falls Village and 2,360 CFS at Gaylordsville. Anglers are reminded that they can call the **FirstLight Power Resources flow line at 1-888-417-4837 for updated river information or check the [USGS website](#)** for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

Hatches/patterns. March Browns (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Try Mop Flies and Egg Patterns to hit some of the recently stocked browns. Look for Hendriksons. 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 – In general, trout fishing continues to be fair to good, with reports from black Pond (Middlefield), Squantz Pond, Candlewood Lake (look for some fairly shallow – that's where some bass anglers are catching them by accident), East Twin Lake and Crystal Lake. Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good with the best reports from Chatfield Hollow, Black Rock Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Day Pond and Wharton Brook.

TROUT- Stocking update for the week of 5/20 – 5/24. Note that stockings can also be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

RIVERS AND STREAMS:

- In **eastern Connecticut**; the Hammonasset River TMA, the Yantic River (including the TMA), Shetucket River (Windham, Scotland, Sprague), the upper Scantic River (Somers, Enfield), Pachaug River, Mount Hope River, Natchaug River, Fenton River and Quinebaug River (Thompson, Putnam and Plainfield) were stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; the lower Naugatuck River (Waterbury-Beacon Falls), Norwalk River (upper & lower), the Mill River (Hamden, locations downstream of the TMA stocked), Pequonnock River (Trumbull, Bridgeport, including Trumbull Basin and Beardsley Park), East Aspetuck River, middle

Naugatuck River (Thomaston-Waterbury), Pomperaug River (portions through the parks and the land trust) and the Farmington River TMA (from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area at Route 219 to the lower Collinsville Dam) were stocked.

TROUT PARKS: the Chatfield Hollow (brook only), Day Pond, Natchaug River and Pasture Pond Trout Parks were stocked.

CHANNEL CATFISH. The Fisheries Division just stocked 10,600 “cats” into 19 waters. A combination of Community Fishing Waters and Catfish Management Lakes. New this year all of the fish are adult-size, averaging 12-14 inches and 1.75-2.25 pounds. Not just bottom feeders, Channel Cats will hit lures, soft plastics, and live minnows.

<i>Channel Catfish Stocked Waters</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Approximate number stocked</i>
<i>Community Fishing Waters have a 3 fish per day limit (no minimum size limit)</i>		
Beaver Park Lagoon (North)	New Haven	225
Birge Pond	Bristol	311
Bunnells Pond (Beardsley Park Pond)	Bridgeport	1,466
Center Springs Park Pond	Manchester	150
Freshwater Pond	Enfield	200
Keney Park Pond	Hartford	102
Lake Wintergreen	Hamden	1,400
Lakewood Lake	Waterbury	1,616
Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond)	Meriden	175
Picketts Pond	Derby	264
Rowans Pond (Butternut Park Pond)	Middletown	102
Spaulding Pond (Mohegan Park Pond)	Norwich	350
Stanley Quarter Pond	New Britain	150
<i>These waters have a 6 fish per day limit (no minimum size limit)</i>		
Crescent Lake	Southington	1,700
Maltby Pond #2	Orange-West Haven	113
Quinebaug Lake	Killingly	440
Scoville Reservoir	Wolcott	616
Silver Lake	Berlin-Meriden	730
Stillwater Pond	Torrington	500

LARGEMOUTH BASS. Fishing continues to be fair to good in many places, with fish on beds in many areas. Reports are from Candlewood Lake (reports are there’s still some larger fish who haven’t moved onto beds yet – a week of more summer-like weather may get them going), Amos Lake, Rogers Lake, Messerschmidt Pond, Lake McDonough (OK in the cove, not so good out in the main lake), Lake Lillinonah and East Twin Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from from Bashan Lake (fair to good for most, 2.89 lb lunker), Lower Bolton Lake (fair, 3.40 lb lunker), Coventry Lake (fair to good, with a 5.75 lb lunker for one day club; slow to fair for

an evening club, with a 5.19 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (slow, 2.00 lb lunker), Mashapaug Lake (fair, 2.2 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (fair, 2.94 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (fair, 4.09 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 6.73 lb, 5.39 lb, 4.60 lb and 4.07 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good, 4.28 lb lunker), Highland Lake (fair for most for one club, with some nice lunkers- 6.20 lb and 6.05 lb bass; slow to fair for another club, with a 3 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair, 3.8 lb lunker), Lake McDonough (fair to good, 3.67 lb lunker), and Lake Zoar (fair for one club, with a 3.55 lb lunker, tough for another, with a 3.87 lb lunker) and the Connecticut river (fair, not much size with a 2.10 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS Action continues to be good at Candlewood Lake with lots of 3-4 smallies reported, some action also reported from Lake Lillinonah and Highland Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 4.89 lb, 4.09 lb and 4.05 lb lunkers), Highland Lake (slow to fair, 4.06 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good), Mashapaug Lake (slow, 2.20 lb lunker, Lake Zoar (slow to fair, 4.15 lb lunker).

BLACK CRAPPIE are providing fair to good action in a number of areas throughout the state including Park Pond, Pachaug Pond (very good around the dam), Lake of Isles, Pattagansett Lake, Aspinook Pond and Taftville Pond (on the Shetucket River – Lisbon).

NORTHERN PIKE. Some action for pike reported from Bantam Lake.

CHAIN PICKEREL continue to be aggressive in many areas throughout the state.

WALLEYE. A few walleye are being caught at Squantz Pond and a bass tournament reports catching (and releasing several walleye including a 7 lb fish.

KOKANEE. Some action reported from East Twin Lake on smaller fish.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. The Connecticut River is still above typical levels for this time of year at 35,100 CFS at Thompsonville. Water is clearing a bit more, but water temperatures are still pretty cool. Despite the “early spring-like conditions” we are getting reports of Walleye around the mouth of the Farmington River and good numbers of Striped Bass (some in the mid to upper 30 inch range, reports of a 40 lb and 28 lb fish). Shad seemed to have picked up. Pike fishing should be on the upswing along with Black Crappie, Largemouth, and Smallmouth as the water clears and drops. Continue to be on the lookout for debris if boating on the river.

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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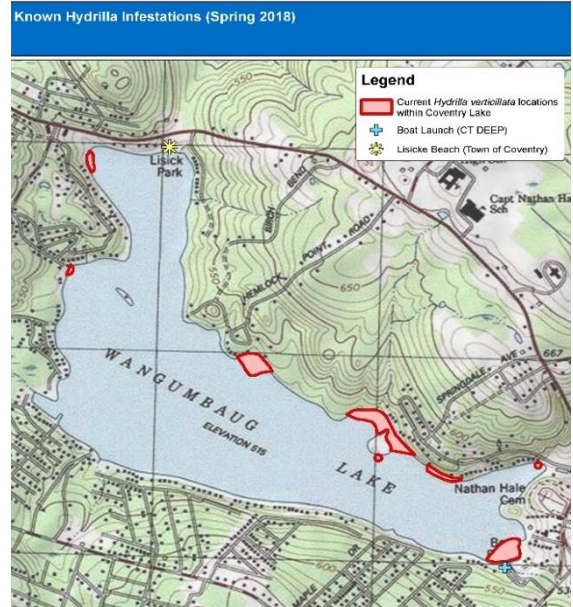
NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. Due to damage from storms in 2018 (May), Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) remains closed and the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring.

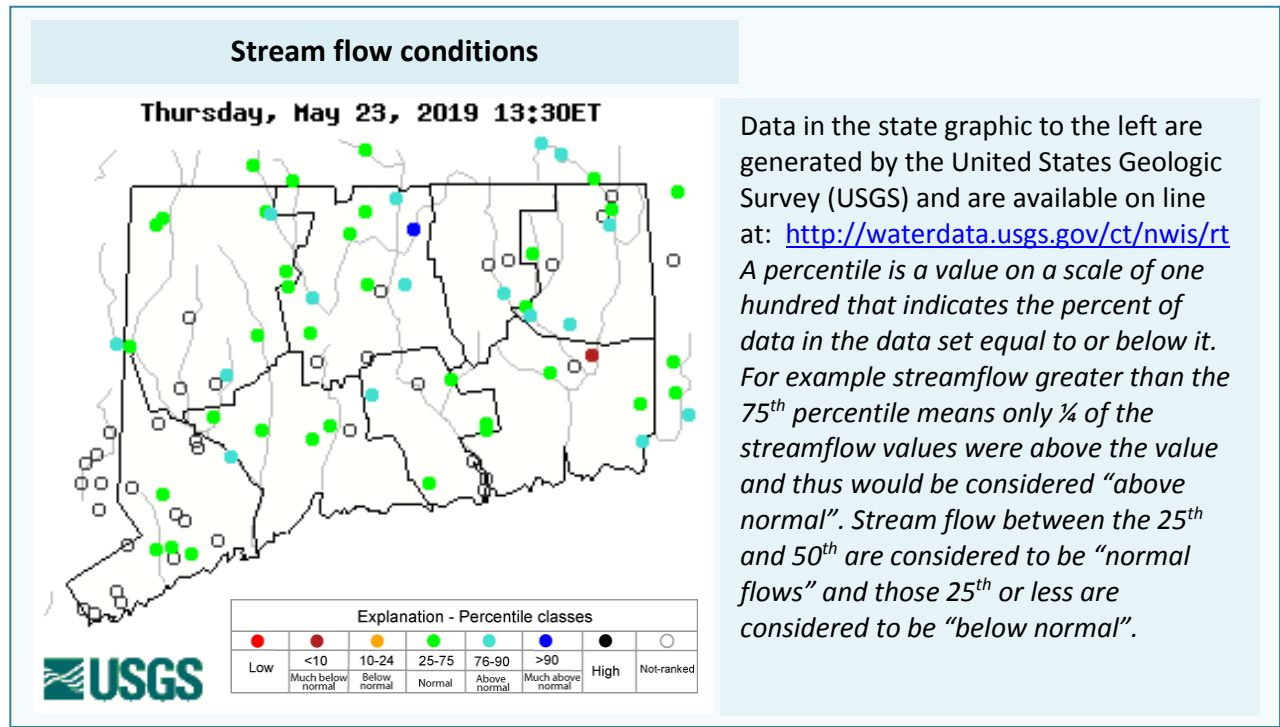
COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is open but may be subject to occasional closures during times of very high water levels in the lake. Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

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.



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 low to mid 50'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>

IMPORTANT NOTE to ANGLERS: There are reports of **leaping sturgeon** in the lower CT River (Essex to the Old Saybrook). A common spring behavior for these **endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)**...as they attempt to gulp air for their primitive swim bladder.

Also, we have had a few reports of anglers inadvertently catching sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please, do not remove the fish from the water. Release all sturgeon without avoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a federally protected species. Thanks!

STRIPED BASS fishing is good to excellent. The full migration is on. Its big bass time with the new moon approaching. There have been some large stripers being caught throughout Long Island Sound (every reef is holding big fish). Good consistent action can be found at the lower Housatonic, Connecticut River, Thames River and large bays/harbors (New Haven). Find the bait (butterfish). Striper spots include Hempstead, Mamaroneck, Execution Rocks, Stepping Stone, the Weather Buoy, Can 32A, Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Ft Saybrook**), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), **Housatonic River and Norwalk/Saugatuck Harbor** including the islands. Try trolling bunker spoons on the reefs or better yet toss a chunk of bunker. Sand and blood worms have been working the best for "schoolie-sized" bass. Casting swimming lures (SP Minnow – bone & sand eel color), small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. The evening/night bite is fantastic with bait, including drifting eels. The top-water fishing continues to be fantastic...Cotton Cordell pencil poppers in bone, blue back or black color. ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.***

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good overall and improving with the arrival of countless numbers of squid and butterfish. As baitfish continue to enter Long Island Sound...fishing will only get better. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 2 to 4 lbs being common. Fluke spots include the typical locations: Smithtown Bay, Buoy #26, **south shore of Fishers Island** (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island channel, Black Point/**Niantic Bay**/River, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, West Haven to Woodmont, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, and around the **Norwalk Islands**. Since squid are coming in, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for catching that big slab "doormat" fluke! Try drifting with a white or pink Spro Bucktail jig with a Berkely 3"- 4" Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white or pink color. Fresh squid and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing.

Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person. Fishing season opens May 4 to September 30th. Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

SCUP (porgy) fishing is awesome south of Gardiners Island and the other north shore bays. Scup are piled up in Gardiners Bay, Cherry Point, Napeague Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic) for spawning. For those who want to stay close to home...jumbo scup are inhabiting all the local western Long Island Sound reefs. Chumming makes a big difference, fish in 15 to 30 ft around local islands. Try sandworms or clams. Time to plan a trip on the many wonderful party charter boats in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#). I mean giant porgies (scup) measuring 14-18 inches ("hubcap size") have been caught! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Todd's Point, **Sherwood Island State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Meigs Point - Hammonasset State Park** and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these 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 tackleshop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is pretty good in LIS. **Please remember New York black sea bass doesn't open until June 23rd...so please stay on the CT side of the Sound.** The early season hot spots are Falkner Island, the Middlegrounds, Buoy 32A, Green Ledge Lighthouse, Cockenoe Islands, Six Mile Reef and from New Haven to Woodmont. Fishing over any deep water structure in 30 to 100 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized "humpbacks". Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass. It's important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19th to December 31st.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid and a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

WEAKFISH have arrived in good numbers at your area beaches (shore fishing has been excellent). Fishing in the Milford/Woodmont area and south of Falkners has been very good, especially around Charles Island, West Haven Sand Bar and Pennfield Reef in Fairfield. Also a school of weakfish was spotted this week from Fayerweather Island to Bridgeport Harbor. Small lures like Super Spook Lures or Talking Poppers have been effective. Look for these awesome eating fish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY) and South of Plum Island on **sandy bottom**.

BLUEFISH with the new arrival of butterfish, spearing (silversides) and sand eels, we are hearing our first reports of bluefish. Fishing is surprisingly good and getting better each day. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor-sized blues cruising around them.

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing is very good in LIS for this "hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins". These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut's shore fishing sites. With many fish measuring over 20 inches, 3 pounds and "barking up a storm" (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. Please be careful when handling them...be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover. They are also very good to eat.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good in tidal rivers and coves along Connecticut's 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.**

WINTER FLOUNDER fishing has picked up with some really nice flounder being caught (4 lbs, 19 inches). Try 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.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass. Flood or ebb tide is best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (silver), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors.

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Scup	18.5"	3 lbs 8 oz	Thomas St Cyr

- **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>.
 - **CT TIDE INFORMATION** can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).
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REPORTING YOUR RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY – CT’S MARINE ANGLER SURVEY

CTDEEP Marine Fisheries Program is responsible for conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAS) in CT to collect saltwater recreational fishing catch data. This data is part of [NOAA’s Marine Recreational Information Program \(MRIP\)](#) an extremely important survey used to manage our marine fisheries. You can find CTDEEP marine fisheries staff aboard party boats, visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, canvassing local beaches, piers, and at other fishing access points to gather accurate catch information.

When you’re out fishing, please keep an eye out for marine angler survey field staff! The survey takes 5 minutes to complete. Any information you can provide them will remain confidential and is greatly appreciated.

For more opportunities to report your recreational catch, please visit Marine [Volunteer Angler Survey](#).

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH - MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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