

CT DEEP 2019
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 8
6/7/2019



Striped Bass (*Morone saxatilis*)



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INLAND REPORT

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts (@[CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/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 Bob's Place, 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 – Looks like a nearly ideal weekend for trout fishing. Flows have just about perfect for fishing in many areas (*see stream flow graphic on page 3*), temperatures are comfortable for both trout and angler, and the weather forecast is good. While not currently an issue anywhere, you can check stream flows anytime (**real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations can be found at the [USGS web site](#)**).

Anglers are finding good action at many areas throughout the state. Anglers should remember to try a number of tactics and methods until you find what the triggers the fish to hit. Insect hatches are near peak in terms of the diversity of species at one time. Look for large stoneflies, all sizes of mayflies, and caddis (black and brown) to everywhere. Terrestrial patterns are also a good bet as these insects are more active now as well. Worms, live minnows, powerbait, and a variety of small lures are all in play.

Places reporting good action include the Mount Hope River, Natchaug River, Willimantic River, Fivemile River, Scantic River (catches include a 22 inch Brown), Salmon River (some nice brookies being found), Yantic River, Hammonasset River, Mill River (Fairfield), West Branch and mainstem Farmington River and the Housatonic River.

Farmington River – Flows are very fishable, currently 342 CFS at Riverton with an additional 55 CFS from the Still River. The fish are there, but with high flows for such a long period the fish are spread out in every spot (not just concentrated in larger pools and holes). To catch a lot of fish, 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,

FREE FISHING LICENSE DAYS

CAST IT FORWARD and take someone fishing on one of our two free fishing license days. These will be on Sunday **June 16, 2019** (Father's Day) and Saturday **August 10, 2019** (NCLI and CARE Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish each of these days.**

The free 1-day license for June 17, 2018 is available anywhere licenses are sold as well as our [sportsmen licensing system](#). Free Licenses for the August 10 date will be available starting on July 20, 2019.

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. Vitreous are up as far as New Hartford, and some sulfers are showing up. 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.

Housatonic River – T The river continues to settle down and hatches are starting to become more consistent. Flows are quite fishable in many areas, clear and still dropping, currently at 834 CFS at Falls Village and 1,190 CFS at Gaylordsville. Like all of the major rivers, the extended high flows this spring have provided plenty of room for fish to spread out. Don't stick to your "old reliable" spots, try some new pools and channels. 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 Hendricksons. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options.

TROUT- Stocking update for the week of 6/3 – 6/7. DEEP completed its spring trout stockings last week, however two additional stockings occurred on Monday (6/3). In western Connecticut; the Housatonic River (Bulls Bridge TMA), and the Farmington River TMA (West Branch from the Goodwin Dam to the upper end of the year-round catch-and-release area) were stocked.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – In general, trout fishing continues to be fair to good, with reports from West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Bigelow Pond, Crystal Lake and Beach Pond. Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good with the best reports from Chatfield Hollow, Mohegan Park Pond, Wharton Brook and Black Rock Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS. Fishing is fair to good (with some exceptions) in many places, as conditions (temperatures, weather fronts) become more consistently early June like. It is that time when anglers will find some fish still on beds and some post-spawn. Reports are from Candlewood Lake, Highland Lake, Rainbow Reservoir, Quaddick Reservoir, Quonnipaug Lake, Pachaug Pond, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Amos Lake, long Pond and Savin Lake. Exceptions include Mashapaug Lake and Winchester Lake, both of which are only grudgingly giving up their fish.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (fair to good, 5.56 lb lunker), Aspinook Pond (slow to fair, 3.61 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (tough for an evening club, 3.76 lb lunker), Pickerel Lake (fair to good fishing, not a lot of size with a 2.01 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair, 5.25 lb, 4.2 lb lunkers), Highland Lake (fair to good for one club, with a 2.94 lb lunker, fair for a second club, with a 4.15 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair, 4.20 lb lunker) and the Connecticut River (fair for a day club, 4.24 lb lunker, tougher for an evening group with a 4.16 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action is good at Candlewood Lake and Colebrook River Lake, some action also reported from Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good), Colebrook River Lake (good to very good for most in one tournament, plus 4.34 lb, 3.76 lb and 3.43 lb lunkers), Highland Lake (some caught), Lake Lillinonah (fair action for smallies).

CHANNEL CATFISH. The Fisheries Division stocked 10,600 “cats” into 19 lakes and ponds (combination of Community Fishing Waters and Catfish Management Lakes) in late May so there’s plenty of cats roaming the waters and anglers are finding them in a number of areas. Not just bottom feeders, Channel Cats will hit lures, soft plastics, and live minnows.

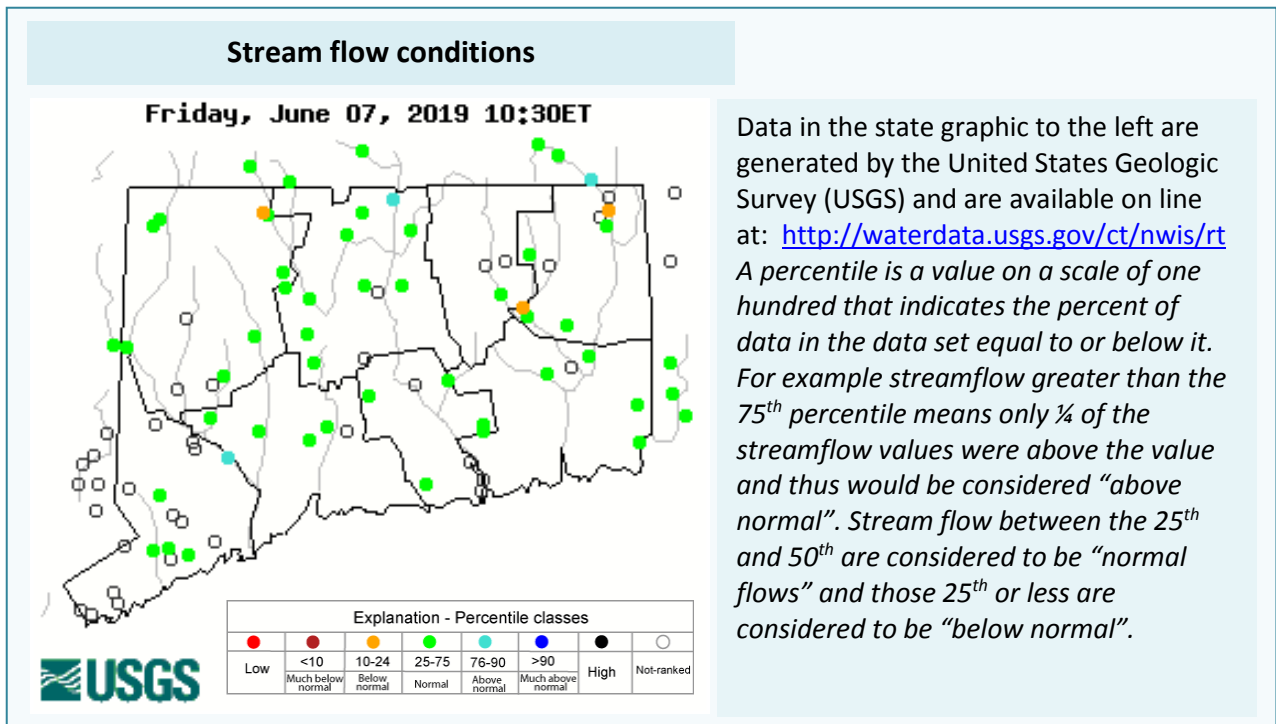
BLACK CRAPPIE are still keeping anglers busy in many areas.

NORTHERN PIKE. A few fish reported from Winchester Lake and Lake Lillinonah (also a couple of Tiger Muskies reported).

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

WALLEYE. Walleye are being caught at Squantz Pond (evenings around 7:30 pm a good time).

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Conditions improved greatly this week (and so has the fishing) with the river dropping below 16,000 CFS (a bit higher than usual for this time of year but not bad) although flows jumped up some on Thursday (6/6). Fishing for catfish has picked up, a few stripers are being found, Largemouth Bass are very action in the Salmon River Cove area and Smallmouth Bass are warming up in the Enfield area. Pike and Carp fishing are on the upswing along with Black Crappie as the water clears, drops and warms.



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.

CONNECTICUT RIVER, (Salmon River launch closure).

The Salmon River state boat launch is scheduled to be closed from Monday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 13, inclusive, for repairs/renovations. The launch will reopen on Thursday, June 14.

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 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 launch.

GLASGO POND (canoe/kayak race). A canoe/kayak race event is scheduled for Sunday, June 9th, from 9:30 am through 1:30 pm. Boaters should use extra caution during the event (the course laps both Glasgo Pond and Doanneville Pond). Although this event will be using the state boat launch on Glasgo Pond, room will be available to the general public to launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the lake.

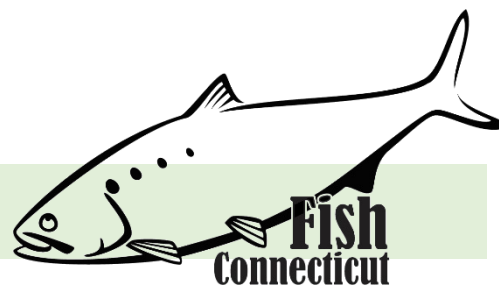


Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

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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.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the 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 REMINDER for ANGLERS: 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 overall is very good. WOW! What a week... I can't remember when we have seen so many big cow bass (45 – 57 inches). Anglers from Fairfield County are topping the charts with a multiple 50 plus inch striped bass from Greenwich to Stamford in 20-35 FOW. They are to be congratulated for letting those huge female striped bass go...thank you for practicing catch & release. **Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. Live lining eels, bunker or hickory shad has been the ticket.** There is plenty of whiting, butterfish and squid throughout LIS including the tidal rivers to hold these trophy-sized fish. Also, try a SP Minnow and or a 9 inch SlugGo. They have been the lure of choice. Stripper areas include the Watch Hill reefs, **lower Thames River (bunker in the area)**, the Race, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island, South Cove), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Westbrook, Six Mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is good but improving with the arrival of squid and more importantly sand eels. When fishing for fluke and your spot is loaded with dogfish, move and try a new location. What a great way to enjoy fishing...summer flounder fishing is fun and relaxing and you never know exactly what you are going to catch. The eastern Sound is starting to fish very well as the fluke move off Montauk Point into the Sound. Mid to western LIS anglers are reporting fluke from 3 to 11 lbs. (Can 12, Stratford, Norwalk Islands to Woodmont). Fluke spots include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Watch Hill to Napatree Point, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, lower **Thames River channel**, Gardiners Bay over to Greenport, NY, Twotree Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, **New Haven Harbor** to West Haven, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, Norwalk Islands, and across over to Port Jefferson, NY. The party boat [Lucky Lady](#) out of Clinton has been catching good numbers of impressive summer flounder around the Six Mile reef area. Since squid are coming in large numbers, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for

catching that big slab “doormat” fluke and becoming the “Duke of Fluke”. Try drifting with a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach 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.** [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is getting hot. A 25.25 inch, six pound beauty was caught this past week. The early season hot spot is Falkner Island, central sound, **Six Mile Reef, outer Southwest Reef** and from New Haven to Darien. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) in 60 to 100 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass along with some fluke and sea robins. 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.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet) on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good around Gardiners Bay. Also, improving throughout Long Island Sound. **My recommendation is to hook up with a [party or charter boat](#) and enjoy some of the best scup fishing you will ever experience.** These scup are very large and delicious to eat! Seriously, try fishing on a party boat and enjoy some great fishing...there are lots of scup around for all. Porgies measuring 11-18 inches (“hubcap size”) have been caught! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point at Hammonasset State Park, St Mary’s by the Sea, Seaside (Waterford) and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) fishing location for these hard fighting and excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. Other good fishing locations include Todd’s Point, **Sherwood Island State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park**, Nathan Hale Fishing Pier and Fort Trumbull State Park. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on **sandworms/clams/cut squid** or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackleshop](#) for updated fishing information

WEAKFISH fishing is good. This is a great opportunity for shore anglers to catch a really cool looking fish that’s great eating. Most weakfish are in shallow water this time of the year. 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. Small lures like Super Spook Lures or Talking Poppers have been effective. Look for “weakfish”, sometimes referred to as “**squeteague**”, because of the ease with which a hook tears from its mouth in Branford/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 arrival of whiting, butterfish, spearing (silversides) and sand eels, we are hearing many reports of larger blues (5-8 pounds) around area beaches. Fishing is good and getting better each day. Much better than last year. Bluefish spots include the Millstone Outflow, **Race, Plum Gut, Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island.** Fresh bunker chunks on three way rigs or speed squidding diamond jigs work well. Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor (1 -2 pounds) or tailor-sized blues cruising around them.

STRIPED & NORTHERN SEAROBIN fishing continues to be steady for this “hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins”. Also, called “**Poor-Man’s Lobster**”, these fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 22 inches and “barking up a storm” (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat. **These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites.** Please be careful when handling them...be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover.

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
• Northern Stargazer	16"	C&R	Seth J.
• Northern Stargazer	15.5"	C&R	Marina M.
• Black Sea Bass	25"	6 lbs 8 ozs.	Lucas K.

- **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.
- 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](#).

REPORTING YOUR RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY – CT’S MARINE ANGLER SURVEY

CTDEEP Marine Fisheries Program is responsible for conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (AP AIS) 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

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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