

CT DEEP 2019
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 9
6/13/2019



Black Crappie or Calico Bass (*Pomoxis nigromaculatus*)



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

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 carbon copy of last weekend. Near ideal conditions for trout fishing. Flows remain near 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. A number of flies are working, including BWO's, Light Cahills, March browns, Caddis and Sulfers. Streamers and nymphs also remain in the mix. 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 Fenton River, Mount Hope River, Natchaug River, Fivemile River, Hammonasset River, Yantic river, Shetucket River, Salmon River, the West Branch and mainstem Farmington River and the Housatonic River.

Sunday is Father's Day and FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY



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 16, 2019 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.

Farmington River – Flows are very fishable, currently 276 CFS at Riverton with an additional 71 CFS from the Still River. The fish are there, but with high flows for such a long period this spring, 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, 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 remains active to very active. 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 and Sulfurs are throughout.

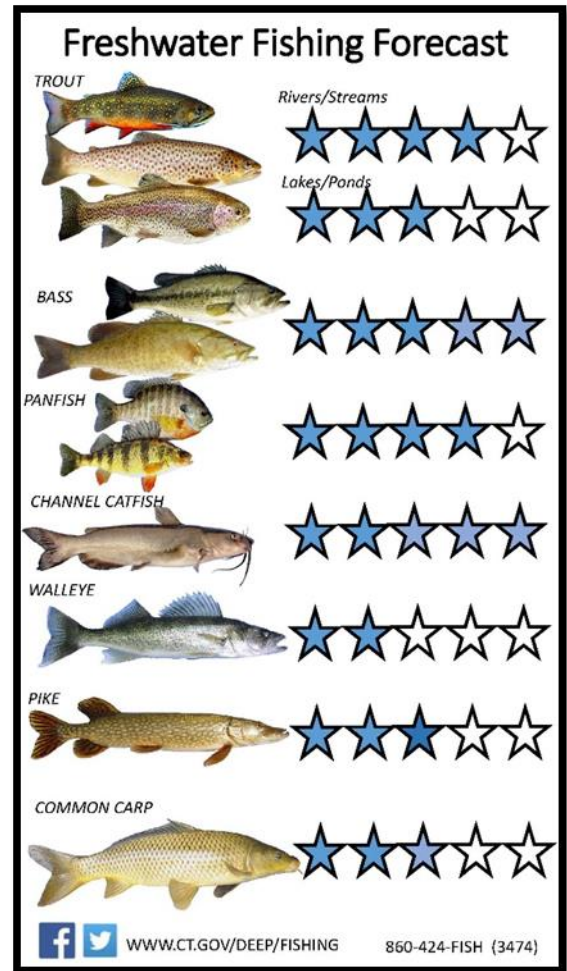
Flows are back at typical levels for this time of year, but those dragging nymphs are doing just as well or a bit better than the dry guy. Fish are falling for Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers, large and shiny, are also a good option (Hare's ear, Pheasant 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 – The river is in perfect shape, flow and temperature wise. Flows are very fishable, clear and still dropping, currently at 605 CFS at Falls Village and 946 CFS at Gaylordsville. With flows at more normal levels, hatches are starting to become more consistent. 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 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 Squantz Pond (early morning bite), East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Crystal Lake and Mount Tom Pond. Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good with the best reports from Chatfield Hollow and Mohegan Park Pond.

LARGEMOUTH BASS. Fishing is generally fair to good (more on the good side) as conditions (temperatures, weather fronts) have mostly settled into mid-June. Most fish are post spawn, with only an occasional fish on a bed. Reports are from Bantam lake, Candlewood Lake (really good), Lake Lillinonah, Amos Lake, Quonnipaug Lake, West Thompson Lake, Quaddick Lake, Pachaug Pond, and Wononskopomuc Lake.



Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (fair to good, 4.01 lb lunker but not much else of much size), Gardner Lake (good, 5.1 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good for a kayak club), Pattagansett Lake (fair to good, 3.81 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (fair, 3.5 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good, 5.19 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 5.68 lb, 525 lb, 4.00 and 3.34 lb lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 5.98 lb, 4.38 lb, 4.2 lb and 3.81 lb lunkers), Silver Lake (fair to good, 3.44 lb lunker), Wononskopomuc Lake (fair to good for a kayak club) and the Connecticut River (fair, 3.94 lb and 3.48 lb lunkers).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action is good at Candlewood Lake, some action also reported from Lake Lillinonah (try along weedlines), Bantam Lake and Highland Lake. With warmer weather in the forecast, look for river smallie action to pick up. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (fair action), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 3.19 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (not many, but a 3.2 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair, 3.17 lb and 2.5 lb lunkers) and the Connecticut River (tough in the lower river for a day club and one evening club, much better for another evening club with a 4.02 lb lunker).

SOME CATCHES FROM FACEBOOK THIS WEEK- FOLLOW US [@ctfishandwildlife](#)



CHANNEL CATFISH. Good reports for Wauregan Reservoir and Mohegan Park Pond. Remember - 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 should be finding them in a number of areas. Not just bottom feeders, Channel Cats will hit lures, soft plastics, and live minnows.

BLACK CRAPPIE. Just a few reports this week, Lake of Isles and Avery Pond in the Southeast are both coughing up some nice crappie.

NORTHERN PIKE. One angler on took a break from studying for his finals at the University of Hartford and said “Pike are on fire in the CT River.” I hope he did not forget to go back and take his exams – LOL. A few fish reported from Winchester Lake and Lake Lillinonah (also a couple of Tiger Muskies reported).

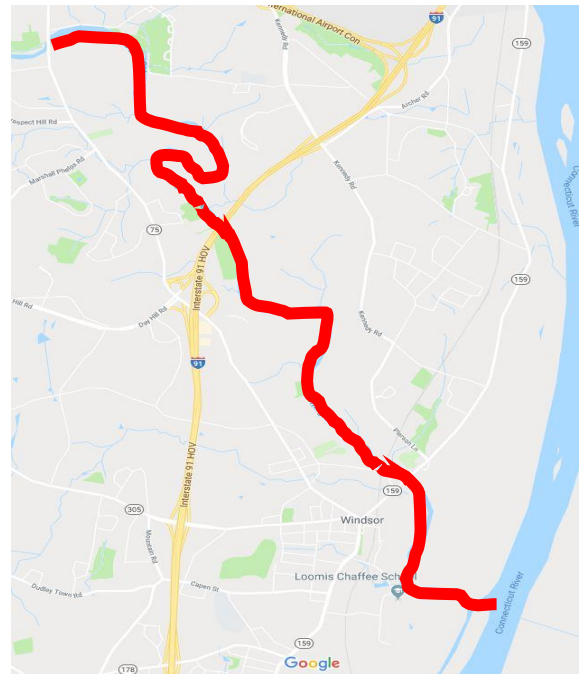
CHAIN PICKEREL continue to be aggressive in many areas throughout the state.

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

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are currently a bit high for mid-June but quite fishable/boatable. Fishing for catfish has picked up, a few stripers are being found, Largemouth Bass are very action in the Salmon River Cove area, Smallmouth Bass were keeping anglers busy most days in the Windsor/Enfield area. Reports of some nice Walleye being caught in the Windsor-Enfield area including a 7 pounder. Some Bowfin are being caught from Hartford down to Haddam. Shad are about done. Pike and Carp fishing are on the upswing along with Black Crappie as the water continues to clear, drop and warm.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - Please Note that due to an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9, the DEEP and Department of Public Health issued the following statement:

“The public is advised not to come into contact with foam they may encounter on the river or the river banks, and not to take fish from the Farmington River near Poquonock Avenue (Route 75) and south to where it enters the Connecticut River. This advisory will remain place while officials evaluate the impact to the watershed.”



NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. The Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) will reopen on Friday, June 14. Remember that the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring due to damage from the .

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.

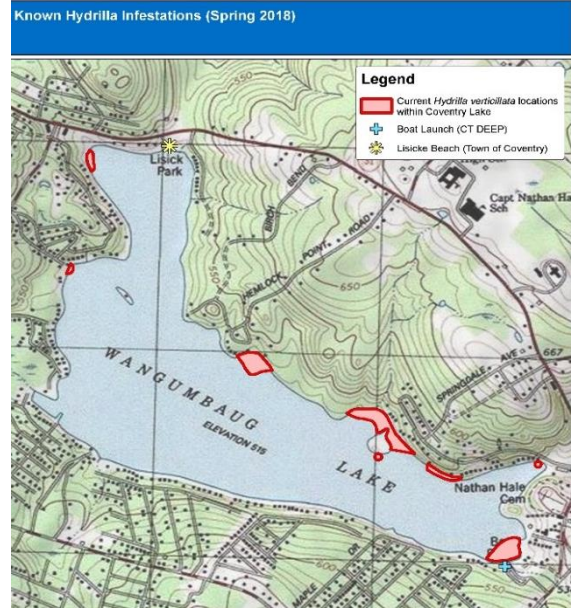
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the launch.

HOUSATONIC LAKE (rowing regatta). A rowing event is scheduled for **Saturday, June 15 from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm.** Boaters should use additional caution on the lake. 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.

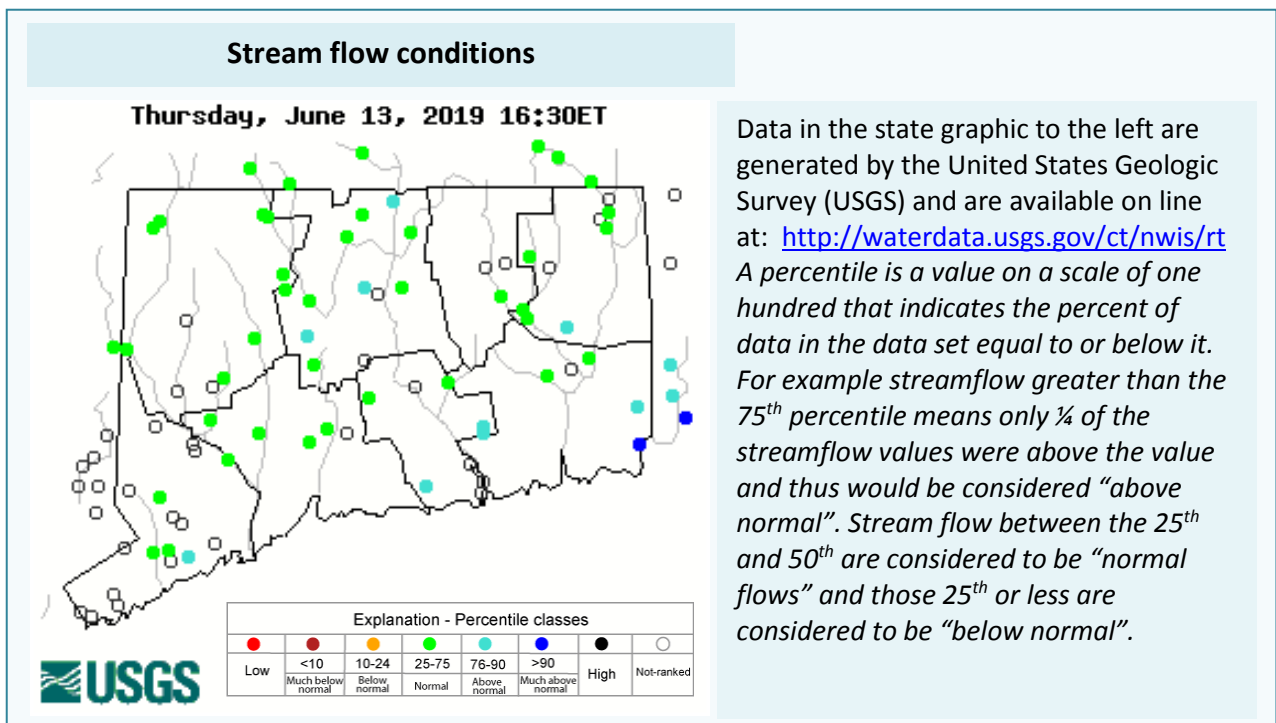
HOUSATONIC RIVER (boat launch). The Housatonic River State Boat Launch under the I-95 bridge in Milford will reopen on Friday, June 14, 2019.

LAKE LILLINONAH (lake clean-up event). The annual lake clean-up organized by the 'Friends of Lake Lillinonah' will be held this Saturday, June 15 staging from the Route 133 state boat launch. This launch will remain open for use by the general public at all times during the clean-up but boaters should expect additional activity at the launch and on the lake.

QUADDICK LAKE (boat launch closure). Quaddick Lake State Park (Thompson), including the boat launch will be closed for hazardous tree removal from Monday, June 17, through Friday, June 21; and then the following Monday through Friday. It will be open on weekends.

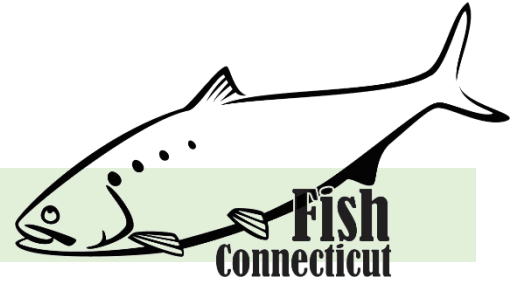


Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.



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 around 60 °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 is ok. Hopefully the approaching full “strawberry” moon will turn things back on so to speak. What a difference a week makes...these prevailing easterly winds have caused fishing to really slow down for bass (east is least). Good news...bunker are starting to show up (west to east). Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. **Live lining eels, bunker has been the ticket.** There is plenty of 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. Striper 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. If you can get past all the dogfish (sand sharks) and sea robins then you can manage to catch some very nice fluke. What a great way to enjoy fishing...summer flounder fishing is fun and relaxing, you never know exactly what you are going to catch. Isabella Beach seems to be the most consistent fluke spot. Fishing should improve as fluke continue to migrate from the Montauk area into the Sound. It's been a deep water bite, ranging from 40 to 90 feet (4 – 8 oz. of weight needed). Mid to western LIS anglers are reporting fluke from 3 to 6 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. Since squid are coming in good numbers, offering a live one on the bottom would be a good move for catching that big slab “doormat” fluke and becoming the “**Duke or Duchess of Fluke**”. Try drifting a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach a Berkely 3”-

4" Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white or pink color. Fresh squid, fluke belly 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 improving along with the weather. The early season hot spots are Falkner Island, central Sound, **Six Mile Reef, outer Southwest Reef** and from New Haven to Stamford. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) in 60 to 110 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 a piece of squid, along with a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths". Trying vertical jigging for them in deep water (bait not necessary).

SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good. **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 also 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 12-18 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. 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 butterfish, spearing (silversides) and sand eels, we are hearing many reports of larger blues around area beaches. Prepare your tackle and hit your favorite beach for blues they are here...fish to 16 pounds have been caught. 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 very good 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 20 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
Summer Flounder	26"	6 lbs 4 ozs.	Jack Wallace
Bluefish	36.5"	C&R	Joshua F.
Black Sea Bass	22"	4 lbs 2 ozs.	Thomas N.

- **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.
- **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 (APAIS) 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

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.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106

www.ct.gov/deep