

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 10
6/20/2019



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)



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.



INLAND REPORT

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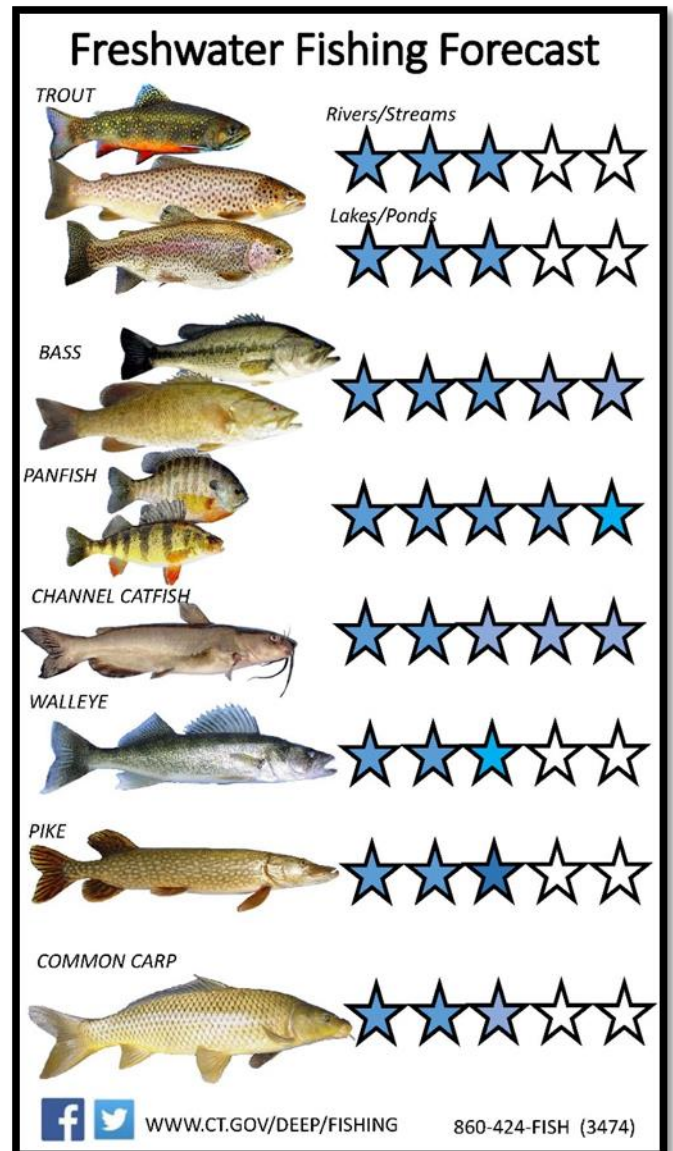
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Providers of some of the information in this report included **Bob's Place, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, JT's Fly Shop, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.**

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – Many are letting us know that trout fishing continues to be good to very good. The main advice is to “move around” and to “try different offerings” as the fish are spread out and have been “finicky” at times. Flows remain near-perfect for fishing in many areas (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*), temperatures continue to be comfortable for both trout and anglers (although look for more heat next week), 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 Sulfurs. 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 nice action include the Scantic River,



Mount Hope River (Nice Brookies), Natchaug River, Willimantic River (only in spots), Hammonasset River, Salmon River, the West Branch and mainstem Farmington River and the Housatonic River. The Fenton River was reported to be very slow this past week.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good to very good. Flows are clear and at moderate levels (similar to last week) and very fishable, currently 243 CFS at Riverton with an additional 62 CFS from the Still River. The fish are definitely there, but the spring rains helped spread out the fish through 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. And, with the longest days of the year upon us, you have plenty of time to spend taking in the beautiful sights and sounds of the river and its life (even after work).

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 nymphing continues to be productive. 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).

Housatonic River – The river should be very fishable this weekend. The rain in Western Mass last week refreshed flows to median levels and temperatures remain good for trout. They will be just about everywhere in the river so take the opportunity to explore some new areas. Flows are clear and very fishable, currently at 763 CFS at Falls Village and 1,900 CFS at Gaylordsville. With flows at more typical levels, hatches are becoming more consistent. 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- LAKES & PONDS – Trout fishing continues to be mostly fair to good, with the best reports from East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake (trolling with flies working for one angler), West Hill Pond and Mount Tom Pond. Conversely, anglers are not reporting much action from Mashapaug Lake or Bigelow Pond. Some of the Trout Parks continue to provide action with the best reports from Chatfield Hollow and Black Rock Pond.

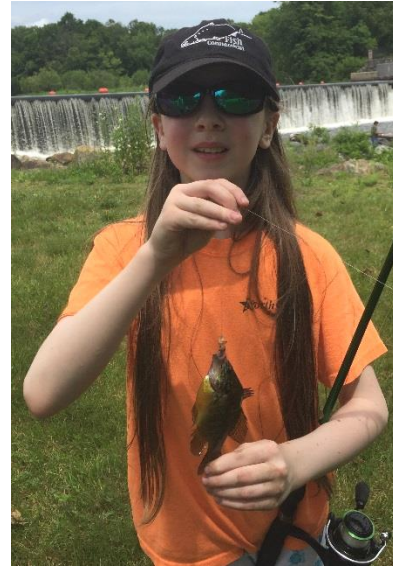
LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains fair to good, with fish over and done with the spawn in most areas and thinking about moving into their summer patterns. Soft plastics working, but topwaters are just starting to work. Reports are from Black Pond (Middlefield), Quaddick Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Old Killingly Ponds (for the more adventurous anglers – kayaks a plus), West Thompson Lake (patience needed here), Candlewood Lake (fishing's been good, anglers are reminded that with the deep drawdown this past winter, weed growth is behind and weedlines harder to find yet), East Twin Lake and Bantam Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (fair, 5.55 lb, 4.20 and 3.22 lb lunkers), Bashan Lake (good for most, 3.45 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Lake (fair, not bad size with close to a 2 lb per fish average and a 4.91 lunker), Moodus Reservoir (good action for some, bad for others, 3.60 lb lunker, but not much else for size), Pachaug Pond (slow to fair for most, 4.03 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (good, but sizes seem down some from last year, 3.67 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (fair to good for everyone, 4.1 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good, 5.25 lb lunker for one club and fair for a second club, with a 3.35 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair, 4.96 lb and 4.8 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (fair to good but anglers had to work for them, early bite was better, 5.38 lb and 3.94

lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (good, 4.42 lb lunker), Highland Lake (fair, 2.8 lb lunker) and the Connecticut River (fair to good for most during a day tourney, 3.87 lb lunker; a bit slower for an evening tourney, with a 3.03 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS Action is fair to good, but slowing, at Candlewood Lake (and you'll have to work some to find them), and some decent action also reported from Lake Lillinonah, and Bantam Lake. With warmer weather in the forecast, look for river smallie action to pick up. **Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (fair, 2.99 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair, fish are getting harder to locate, 3.54 lb, 3.43 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (good) and Highland Lake (a few in the bags).

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



CHANNEL CATFISH. Anglers are enjoying some nice action for catfish at Wauregan Reservoir, also Mohegan Park Pond and Lake Wintergreen. 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.

KOKANEE SALMON. anglers are finding some fish at East twin Lake (some 10-11.5 inch fish around 30 feet, and smaller ones found around 15 feet last week)..

NORTHERN PIKE. Lake Lillinonah seemed to be the hot spot this week. With some action also found in Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Pachaug Pond and Quaddick Lake (a number of smaller fish around 18 inches reported caught and released). The Fisheries Division has started stocking Pike Fingerlings into the Pike Management Lakes. These 4-5 inch fish have been growing in marshes that we manage for this purpose and are ready to move out. Hopefully you will see one on the end of your line in a few years (and 36-40 inches larger).

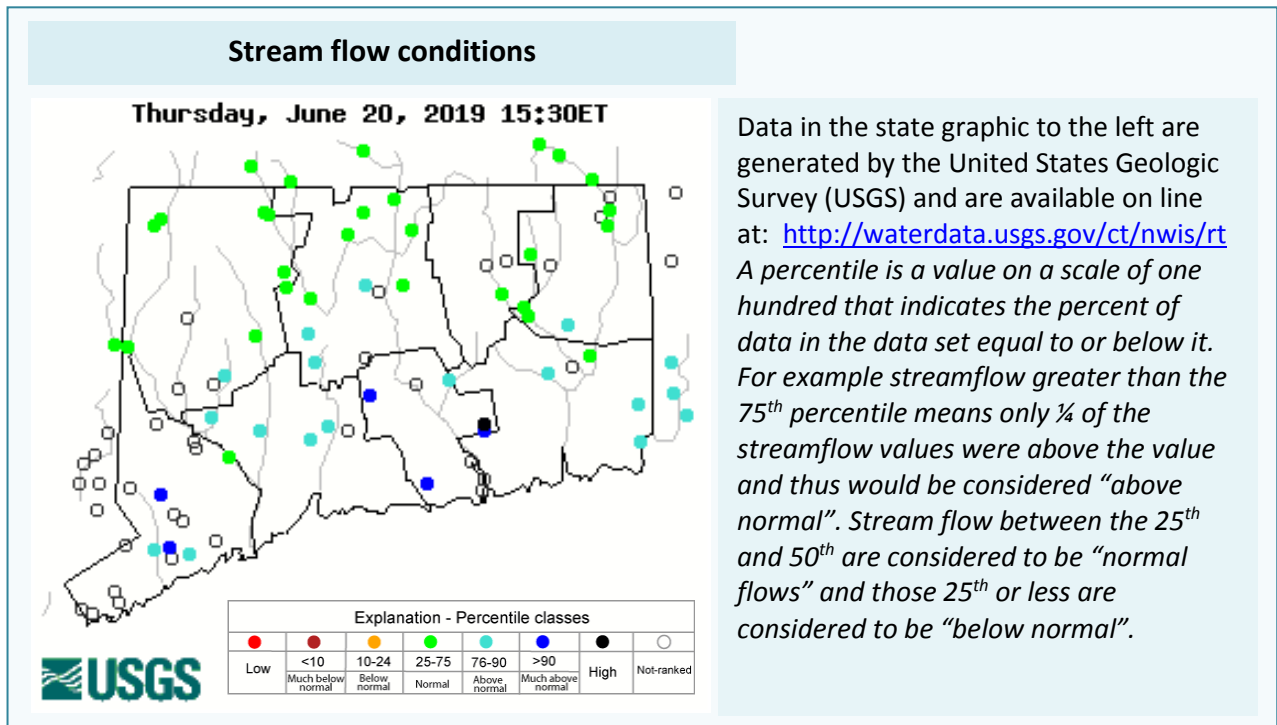
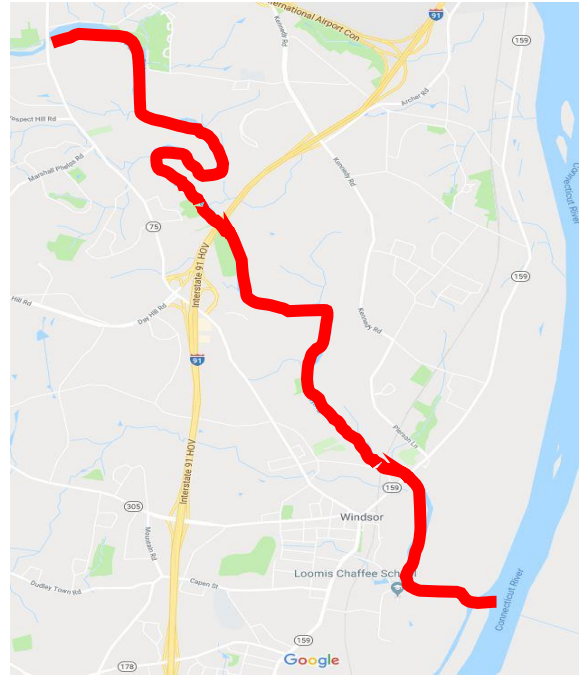
CHAIN PICKEREL continue to be aggressive in many areas throughout the state and on the move, some catches reported in the Hammonasset River and Scantic River.

WALLEYE. Walleye in the photo above were caught in the Connecticut River. Other places like Mount Tom, Batterson Park Pond, and Squantz Pond have given up a few.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are at typical levels. Still good action for catfish (Whites and Channels), fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night, a few stripers (schoolies) are being found. Fishing for Largemouth Bass was reported to us a “Phenomenal” and the Largemouth are very active in the Salmon River Cove area. Smallmouth Bass were keeping anglers busy most days in the Windsor/Enfield area. Reports continue of some nice Walleye being caught in the Windsor-Enfield area Shad are done. Pike and Common Carp fishing are on the upswing along with Black Crappie as the water continues to clear 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 in place while officials evaluate the impact to the watershed.”



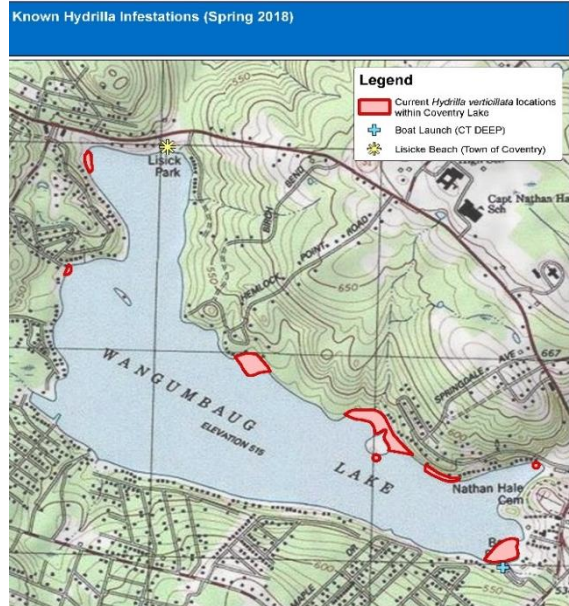
NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. The Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) has reopened. Remember that the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring due to damage from last spring's storms.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (Windsor, antique boat meet). An Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. Club will be conducting a meet to display and run boats and antique outboard motors at the Bissell Bridge state boat launch on the Connecticut River on Saturday, June 22, from 7 am to 3 pm. Although the event will be conducted from the state boat launch, room will be available to the general public to park and launch. Boaters should however use additional caution on the river near the launch.

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.



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

LAKE HOUSATONIC (drawdown). A three foot drawdown of Lake Housatonic to facilitate dam maintenance is ongoing. Refill is currently expected to begin sometime on Friday, June 21.

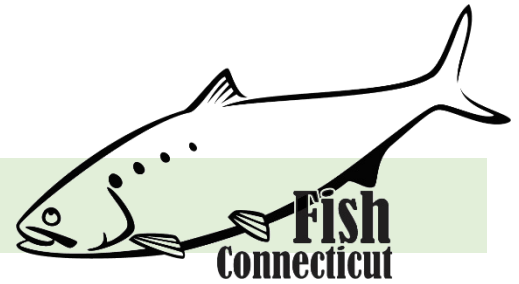
LAKE LILLINONAH (road closure). The Route 133 bridge (Brookfield-Bridgewater) will be closed from 10 pm on Friday, June 28 until 5 am on July 1 for repair/maintenance work. Those wishing to use the Route 133 ("Steel bridge") launch will need to access the launch from the north (Bridgewater) side.

QUADDICK LAKE (boat launch closure). Quaddick Lake State Park (Thompson), including the boat launch was closed for ongoing hazardous tree removal this week from Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21, and will be closed next week from Monday, June 24, through Friday, June 28. It will be open this weekend.

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.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 60'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 REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE** – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle without avoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years. Thank you for supporting conservation!
- **STURGEON** – We've 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. There continues to be reports of large cow bass being caught (56 inch, 35 inch girth) 66 pound striped bass caught in the western Sound, (Greenwich). The big fish keep on rolling in, feeding on the abundant bait (sand eels and mantis shrimp). Six inch Tsunamis, Talking Poppers and Heddon Superspooks have been outstanding performers for striped bass. Your standard mackerel and bunker chunks as well as live-lining eels have also proved successful. The Morningside area of Milford, Walnut Beach, Gulf Beach Pier and the Milford Audubon Society have been excellent locations for catching that trophy-sized striped bass. It's also impressive to see how many anglers are catching and releasing so many of these trophy striped bass. **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.** Stripper areas include the Watch Hill reefs, lower Thames River, **the Race**, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), 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. Shore locations include...**Connecticut River by Dock and Dine and the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.**

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is ok. Try fishing at Buoy 20, Buoy 18 and at Sunkin Island - as well as the Middleground, Todd's Point and Greens Ledge Lighthouse. A lucky angler landed an 11 pound 3 oz. doormat this past week in the central Sound. Mid to western LIS anglers are still reporting good numbers of sub-legal sized fish and a few keepers mixed in, up to 6 pounds. (Norwalk/Stratford/New Haven/Woodmont area). 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, **Thames River channel**, Gardiners Bay over to Greenport, NY, Twotree Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay/River, 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. 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, sand eel and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** Time to get the boat and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is good along as the wind doesn't blow a Gale. 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". These adult sea bass are preparing for spawning over the sand dunes in deep water throughout the Sound. 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.** Fishing is very good on the north shore of Long Island (Montauk) as they finish spawning and begin to feed heavily. These scup are very large and delicious to eat! Seriously, try fishing for some "*reef slammers*" and enjoy some great fishing...there are lots of scup around for all. **Saint Mary's by the Sea, Seaside Park, Sherwood Island State Park and Fort Nathan Hale have been producing some pretty impressive scup from shore, especially when enticing them with sand worms on a high-low rig or drift rig with a 3-way swivel.** Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Mystic River Park, UCONN Avery Point, Rocky Neck State Park, **Harkness Memorial State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park.** Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and 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.

WEAKFISH fishing is good. The bite is consistent from West Haven to Madison, especially at night using plastic baits and swimming lures. **Weakfish have also been preferring sand worms and clams at low light and dusk at local area beaches.** Other locations to try are...Branford/Guilford/East Haven/West Haven/New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point) over to the Woodmont/Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

BLUEFISH fishing continues to be much better than last year. **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 & NORTHERN SEAROBIN fishing is 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. Anglers are realizing that filleting them is well worth it - they are quite tasty. 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.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and by Dock and Dine (Old Saybrook). The best spot has been the **Fort Trumbull 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.

BLUE CRAB are in the molting phase (sally crab) and becoming more active in the tidal creeks and rivers. With a little time...there should be beaucoup blue crabs of legal size to catch. The over-winter survival was excellent for large "jimmies" (make crabs). Also, please remember it's mating season for the crabs and release all egg-bearing females (sooks or lemon bellies). There are some large "jimmies" (male crabs) being captured (8.15 inches spike to spike) along with some impressive sooks. **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for most updated information (local hot spots), legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. 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) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#)

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Striped Bass	56"	6 lbs 4 ozs.	Ben W.

- **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](#).
 - **FISH RULES APP** Fish Rules is a totally new and innovative way to understand recreational saltwater fishing regulations for state and federal waters from Maine to Texas.
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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 (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

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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