

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 26
10/10/2019



Blackfish aka Tautog (*Tautoga onitis*)



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INLAND REPORT

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ATLANTIC SALMON stocking started last week!

Providers of some of the information in this report included **Candlewood 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.

ATLANTIC SALMON. Stockings began last week with salmon stocked into the **Shetucket River Broodstock Area (113 fish)** and the **upper (56 fish) & lower (56 fish) Naugatuck River Broodstock Areas** on Friday, 10/4. These salmon are 2-5 lb fish. Reminder – catch-and-release only through December 15 for Atlantic Salmon in the Naugatuck River, Shetucket and lower Housatonic rivers (see page 6 for all the regulations for Atlantic Salmon).

Anglers on the Naugatuck River have been finding some nice salmon action in the Campville area, no reports from the Shetucket River yet.

TROUT-STOCKING.

Rivers & Streams: In **western CT**, the **East Aspetuck River**, the **Pequabuck River TMA** and the **Pomperaug River** were stocked.

Lakes & Ponds: In **Eastern CT**, **Wauregan Reservoir**, **Bigelow Pond**, **Crystal Lake**, **Mashapaug Lake**, **Gardner Lake**, **Rogers Lake**, **Roseland Lake**, **Cedar Lake** and **Lake Quonnipaug** were stocked.

In **western CT**, **Black Pond** (Meriden-Middlefield), **Congamond Lake**, **Stillwater Pond**, **West Hill Pond**, **West side Pond**, **Squantz Pond**, and **Mount Tom Pond** were stocked.

Trout Parks: The **Mohegan Park Pond**, **Day Pond**, **Chatfield Hollow** (Schreeder Pond only), **Black Rock Pond**, **Stratton Brook**, **Wharton**, and **Wolfe Park** (Great Hollow Pond) Trout Parks were stocked.

Community Fishing Waters: **Colony Park Pond** and **Pickett's Pond** were stocked.

Calling All Trout & Salmon Anglers!

We will be hosting a series of town hall style meetings to discuss your preferences and desires related to trout and salmon fishing. Stay tuned for additional details, but for now **save a date**.

- ❑ **10/18 (Friday) DEEP's Quinebaug Valley State Trout Hatchery from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**
- ❑ **10/21 (Monday) DEEP's Kellogg Environmental Center, Derby, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**
- ❑ **10/22 (Tuesday) DEEP's Franklin Swamp Wildlife Management Area, Franklin, from 7-9 pm [RSVP](#)**



Note: We are not allowed by state statute to release most stocking information ahead of time, however, as soon as we stock we get the word out via our [Facebook page](#) and have a list on our [web page](#). A very popular application is our [interactive trout stocking map](#), which shows the number of days since a waterbody was last stocked. A second popular use of this map is to find new places to fish.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for fishing are picking up. Rains this week have continued to refresh streams in many areas and good weather is forecast for the weekend. Flows in many areas are still below typical mid-October levels but are much improved from the beginning of October (*see stream flow graphic on page 6 or check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#)*).

The West Branch Farmington and Housatonic Rivers have been fishing well, and with the improved flows, anglers are starting to find fish in other streams. Some steady action beginning to be reported from the Hammonasset River (some flies, mostly streamers & nymphs), the Naugatuck River TMA and the Blackberry River. Lots of fish were also seen, but not caught in the Salmon River (they were feeding on something really small, if you find figure it what they were feeding on, you could have a great day).

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good. Conditions for the weekend and next week should also be good for fall fishing. Flows are clear, continue to be somewhat low (although there was a nice increase in the Still River from this week's rain), currently 73 CFS at Riverton plus 41 CFS from the Still River and very comfortable for fishing. Anglers should expect flows to slowly decrease a bit through the weekend as the drawing down of West Branch Reservoir to facilitate Colebrook River Lake dam maintenance concludes soon (*see Notes section on page 5 for more information on this project*).

Hatches/patterns. Hatches are sporadic and can include Isonychia bicolor (#12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), Blue Wing Olives (Drunella & Baetis sps., #20-26, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning). Also Midges (#22-32, morning) and Golden Stonefly (#6-14). White Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20) works well.

Housatonic River – The River continues to be very wadeable and fishable, and fishing continues to be good. The water remains clear and flows have come up nicely this week and are now at typical levels for mid-October (currently 509 CFS at Falls Village and 636 CFS at Gaylordsville). Anglers 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. Lots of different activity on the river. Key is to have a diverse box of sizes and colors. Patterns to try include Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening) and Light Cahill (#12-14). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black Beetles (#14-18, midday), Stone Hopper (#8-10, midday) and Flying Ants (#16-18, midday, when windy). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10), brown crayfish when nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – No reports for trout again this week. With a number of Lakes and Ponds stocked this week, it's definitely time to get out there.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains generally slow to fair, and variable at many areas throughout the state. In the southeast corner, anglers are finding some action at Amos Lake, Glasgo Pond and Long Pond, but no outstanding catches reported. Candlewood Lake (try along deeper edges) and Lake Lillinonah are picking up.

Tournament angler reports are from Lower Bolton Lake (fair to good action, but with a lot of shorts and 12-13 inch fish in the way, 4.44 lb lunker), Hopeville Pond (fair, 3.65 lb lunker), Long Pond (fair, with only a 1.67 lb lunker and an average weight of 1.23 lbs per fish), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair for one club, with a 4.22 lb lunker, slower for another club, but with 6.01 lb and 5.65 lb lunkers), Mashapaug Lake (tough for most, good

for a very few, 2.69 lb lunker), Powers Lake (slow to fair for most, with only a 1.4 lb lunker and no other size), Pachaug Pond (slow to fair for most, 3.58 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (slow for most, 2.2 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (“mixed reviews but some good bags brought in...” including a 20.4 lb five-fish bag, with a 4.94 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (slow for one club, 4.64 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (fair to good for most, 5.78 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Still tough for smallmouth for many, even at Candlewood Lake (although a recent two-day did produce a few nice bags) and Lake Lillinonah. **Tournament angler** reports are from Mashapaug Lake (a few), Candlewood Lake (slow for one club, but a 4.33 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (slow for many, 3.58 lb lunker).

CHANNEL CATFISH. Catfish were providing some action on the CT River (evenings/nights best, but cats are being found throughout the day) but nothing to really write home about. Other places to try include Batterson Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, Beardsley Park Pond, Stillwater Pond, Burr Pond, Silver Lake, Hopeville Pond, and Black Pond.

COMMON CARP. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves for some nice fall carp (some good reports from here). Other carp favorite waters include Lake Zoar, Candlewood Lake, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. Some pike reported from the CT River (fairly good action in the Haddam area on mostly smaller fish). Other pike places include the Pachaug River system (Ashland Pond, Hopeville Pond, Pachaug Pond), Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir. Some nice pike can also be found in the small impoundments on the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge up to Salisbury.

WALLEYE. Late evenings and nighttime are generally the best for Walleye fishing. Some nice walleye catches reported from Squantz Pond. Other places to try include Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are beginning to increase a bit (currently 9,060 CFS at Thompsonville), and improving the ability to fish and boat many areas. Good action for **catfish** (Whites and Channels) throughout the

Paddlers be advised wearing a life jacket is mandatory from October 1st until May 31st. Please see helpful maintenance tips from Captain Keith Williams of the CT EnCon Police on our [Facebook Page](#).



ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

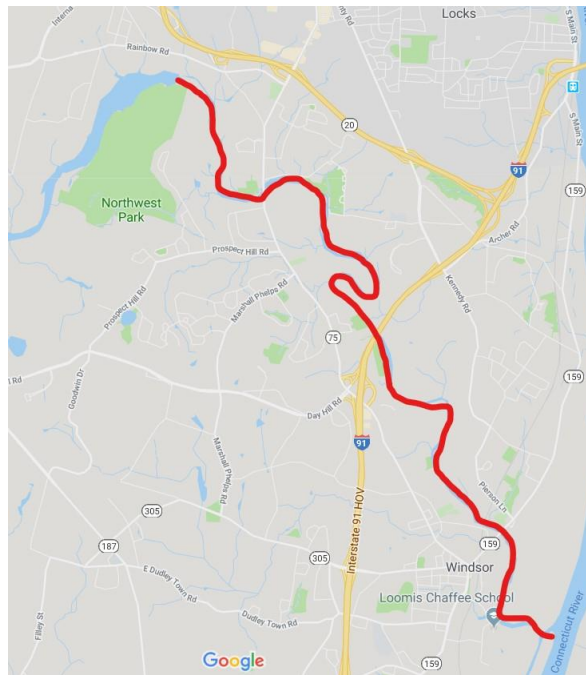
For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2018 CT angler’s Guide(www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

river, especially in the Glastonbury and Middletown areas. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** was very slow in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** were hard to find in the Enfield area and some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river. Good reports for **Northern Pike** (but mostly smaller fish) from the Haddam area.

REVISED IMPORTANT NOTICE - Updated 10/2/2019 -

Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9 resulted in an advisory to **not eat fish caught from the Lower Farmington River (downstream of Poquonock Avenue in Windsor (Rte. 75))**, which remains in effect until further testing is completed and results analyzed.

This advisory is now revised to address the potential discharge on October 2, 2019 of firefighting foam into the Farmington River in Windsor originating from the Bradley International Airport plane crash emergency response efforts via Rainbow Brook. **The public is advised to not come into contact with foam they may encounter on the lower Farmington River or along its banks downstream of the Rainbow Dam, as well to not take or consume fish from this section of the river.** This advisory will remain in place while officials evaluate the potential impacts to the watershed.



Section of the lower Farmington River possibly affected by the firefighting foam release in early June as well as emergency use of the foam during the plane crash response on October 2, the area remains under a cautionary advisory.

NOTES & NOTICES:

EEE UPDATE from DEEP's Mosquito Management Program: ATTENTION Hunters, Anglers, and Hikers -

Residents, especially those in the southeastern part of the state from the lower Connecticut River Valley to the Rhode Island border, are advised to protect themselves and their children by taking personal precautions to prevent mosquito bites until the first hard frost of the fall. Consideration should also be given to minimizing outdoor activity from dusk to dawn, when mosquitoes are most active. The Department of Public Health announced on Oct. 1, 2019, that a third person has died this year in CT from Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and a fourth person remains hospitalized due to EEE ([Press release with more details](#)). Weekly surveillance updates of mosquito and virus activity, precautionary and control methods, and the current list of certified applicators can be found at <https://portal.ct.gov/mosquito>.

ASPINOOK POND (drawdown). A 30-inch drawdown of Aspinook Pond to facilitate dam maintenance was began this week (Wednesday, 10/2). The drawdown is expected to last approximately one week.

WEST BRANCH RESERVOIR, WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER & COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE. The water level in West Branch Reservoir is being lowered 70 feet from its usual elevation by MDC at a rate of no more than two feet a day. This will result in a minor increase in flows in the West Branch Farmington and Farmington rivers independent of any rain events. This increase will decrease over time as the reservoir drops. It is expected that lowering the reservoir to the necessary level will be completed by October 14.

Once the desired level is reached repairs will begin and are anticipated to last two to three months. During this period flows in the West Branch Farmington River are expected to stay within typical levels dependent on precipitation amounts and water level manipulations of impoundments (especially Otis Reservoir) upstream of Colebrook River Lake and impoundments (such as Highland Lake) on tributaries. Recreational opportunities at Colebrook River Lake should be unaffected but will be severely limited at West Branch Reservoir during the repair project and drawdown.

Once the repairs to the Colebrook River Lake dam infrastructure are completed, refill of West Branch Reservoir is expected to take approximately 35 days. Downstream flows during this time are expected to stay within typical levels during refill.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals). Next week (after 10/14) the Candlewood Lake Authority will begin removing the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake then.

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.

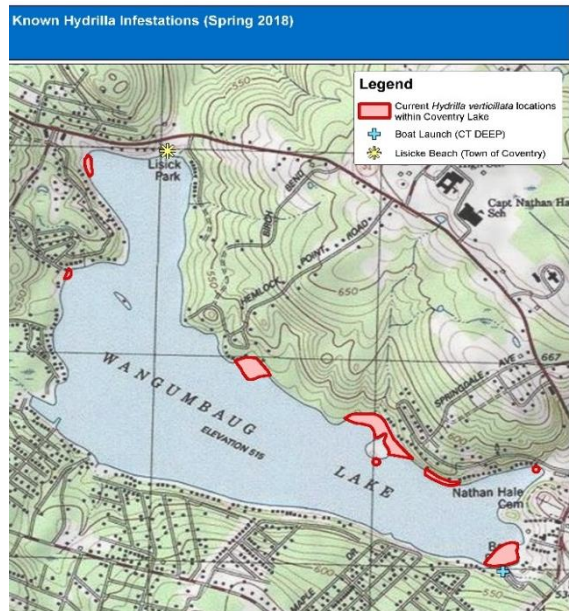
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the launch.

LAKE HOUSATONIC (rowing regatta). The "Head of the Housatonic" Regatta is scheduled for **Saturday, October 12th from 8 am to 8 pm, with course setup occurring on Friday, October 11th.** 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.

SILVER LAKE (canoe/kayak/SUP race). A canoe/kayak/SUP race will be conducted from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm on Sunday, October 13. Boaters should use extra care when accessing the lake from the state launch and when out on the water.

STANLEY QUARTER PARK POND (drawdown). A 2-3 foot drawdown for dam repairs continues. Accessing the water may be limited.

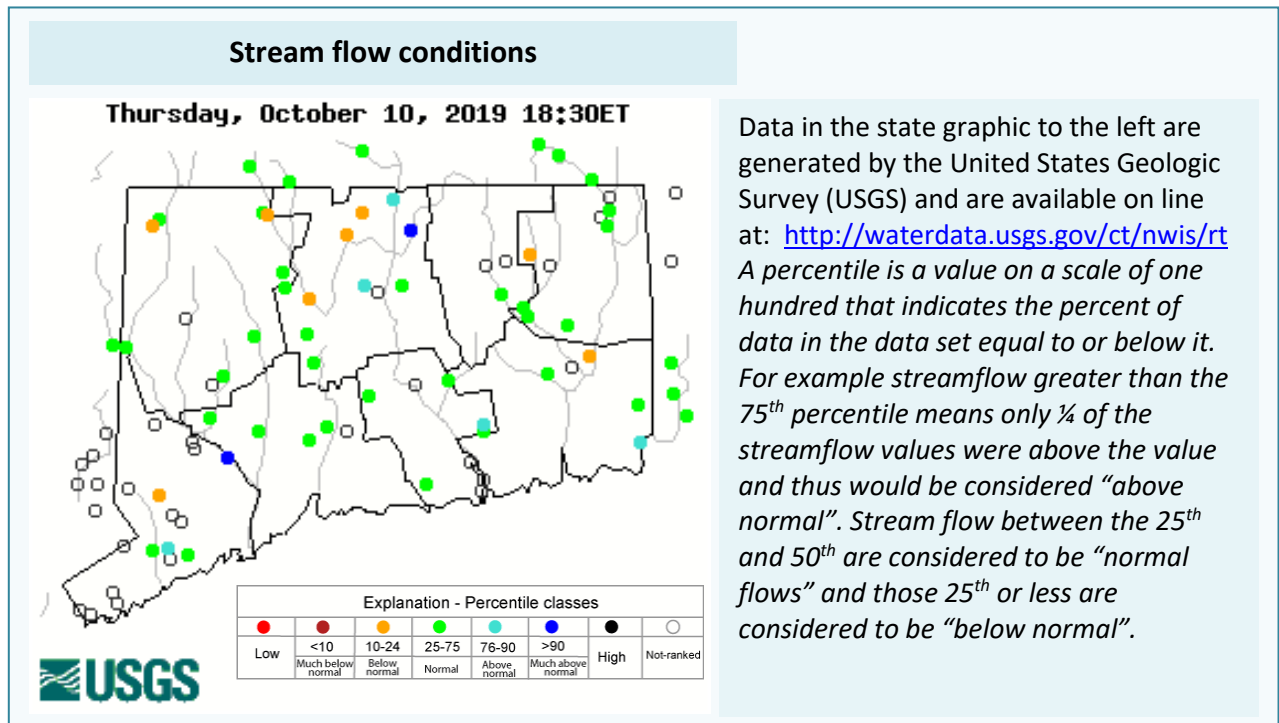
FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at the Pasture Pond Trout Park closed September 30.



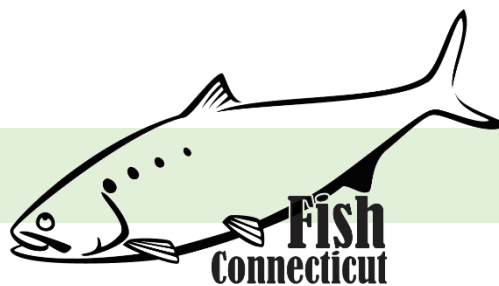
Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through December 15, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 15, 2019, through March 31, 2020, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free-swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from September 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the Shetucket River,** anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Area”, from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon “Broodstock Areas” on the Naugatuck River, the “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From September 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** (Please refer to the 2019 CT Fishing Guide for trout regulations).



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 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>

NOTE ON TAUTOG SURVEY: Some of you may have recently become aware of an online survey being conducted by researchers at UConn and CT Sea Grant concerning tautog recreational fishing regulations in Long Island Sound. While CT DEEP supports this research project and encourages CT anglers to participate, **we would like to assure anglers that there are no plans to change tautog regulations in the near future.** Current regulations will remain in place until the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission conducts its next tautog stock assessment (currently scheduled for 2021). If you have questions about the survey, or would like to take the survey, please contact Eric Schultz at eric.schultz@uconn.edu

IMPORTANT REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **SEE A TANGLED TURTLE? CALL THE HOTLINE! 1-860-572-5955 ext. 107.** This is the time of year when leatherback, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's Ridley sea turtles return to northern waters, with many sightings around Long Island Sound.
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TAUTOG -REMINDER TO ANGLERS: SEASON IS OPEN! Any of the rocky reefs, rock piles, and wrecks in Long Island Sound will hold tog. Green, Asian shore or hermit crabs all work. Consider putting the crab (bait) on a jig (1/4 to 1 ounce, depending on the depth and current). It will be a shallow water bite (6-30 feet) this early in the season. I would highly recommend planning a trip on a [party charter boat](#) trip to fish for tautog. If you dunk a green/Asian shore or hermit crab in the water, and there is a tautog there - you will get a hit. Jigs tipped with a crab is an awesome technique for tautogs hanging tight to the reef. If you're not getting hits, you're fishing in a site void of blackfish, so move to another location (reef). Also try chumming to attract fish. The three break-walls at the entrance to New Haven Harbor sometimes hold very large blackfish. A reef doesn't have to be named to produce fish. So enjoy the season, be safe and TIGHT LINES!

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is very sporadic. Schools of these small tuna have been reported from New Haven to Greenwich. Atlantic bonito seem to be particularly fond of Pine Island area. Smaller Hoggy Epoxy lures, Zoom Super Fluke, Deadly Dicks, Sluggos and Albie Snacks (amber color) have all been very effective. For false albacore, you are better off trying the Watch Hill area. If you're using braided line with a 20 lb fluorocarbon leader stop by your local tackle shop and ask them to show you a proper knot - there's nothing worse than losing a little tunny because your knot slipped through the slick braid. Although false albacore are poor for eating - just catching one will give you such a fight you will be bragging about it for weeks. There's a good chance your local party boat has run into a few schools treating customers with a great day of fishing. Shore anglers are scoring at Fort Trumbull, mouth of the Thames River, Ocean Beach, Seaside Park, Harkness Memorial, Hammonasset, Rocky Neck State Park and also at Sherwood Island State Park. These

small tunas can also be found cruising around from Pt. Judith, to Bluff Point (including Fishers Island Sound), the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point. Dawn and dusk is typically the best time to fish for these inshore tunas but they can be caught during the daytime. They are feeding heavily of young on the year herring and small crabs. **Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple, albie snax and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. Jigging for them also works when they are close to the bottom.**

STRIPED BASS fishing is good. **It's time for shore anglers to hit the SURF...locate your favorite coastal state park(s).** The fall season appears to be starting off strong, with many charter boat operators commenting on how many bass there are. These bass are migrating and feeding heavily on all the bait. The best thing is...you catch them during the daytime, especially under overcast skies. Trolling weighted jigs (chartreuse) with a yellow pork rind and or live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) in 15 to 40 feet of water. I like dunking a live **eel on the reefs/shoal areas** during the late afternoon /evening hours. This technique has produced some very big bass recently, 50 inches – 45 pounds, (Goshen Reef & Norwalk Islands). Striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, **Plum Gut**, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the “humps” south of Hatchett Reef, **lower Connecticut River**, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (breakwalls) and the upper reaches, **Charles Island area**, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, **Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground**, Milford Point, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Striped bass are a little pickier than bluefish, but top-water plugs are also working well. There are some large holdover stripers available on top...but the smaller juveniles are really on fire this week. Plastics are very effective on the 14”-24” striped bass inhabiting our lower rivers this fall. Anglers are having a blast catching smaller striped bass on the Housatonic and Norwalk Rivers. Bait fish like to take refuge in harbors, rivers and estuaries at night, so the rule still goes that the best fishing is at dusk and dawn.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP fishing is still very good. I would recommend to get out while it's good, these excellent eating fish won't be hanging around forever. Double your chances by using a high-low rig tipped with clams and/or squid. Once you get a bite make sure to set the hook and whether releasing or keeping, be careful of the spines. We highly recommend heavy chumming; although you don't need to feed the entire ocean - chumming really gets black sea bass and scup in a feeding frenzy. Great porgy fishing this week are; Buoy 32A, Hens & Chickens near Captains Harbor in Greenwich, Fort Nathan Hale Beach, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, Short and Long Beach in Stratford and Silver Sands State Park in Milford, South Benson Pier, Ash Creek, **Saint Marys by the Sea**, Seaside Park, Fayerweather Island, Sherwood Island State Park, Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Cummings Park, Shippan Point and Todds Point on the southwest side facing New York skyline. Try your luck at one of CT's wonderful Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites where the length limit for porgy (scup) is 9” as opposed to non-enhanced sites which have the standard 10” length limit. List of some very accessible shore fishing locations are: Calf Pasture beach, Jennings and Penfield beach, Seaside Park, (Milford), Bradley Point Park (West Haven), New Haven, **Harkness State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Kimberley Reef (Guilford)**, 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”. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH. The “blitz” is on and bluefish schools mixed with striped bass are reigning supreme. Alligator-sized bluefish to 21 pounds have been caught at Block Island. **Jennings Beach, Walnut Beach, mouth of the Housatonic, Greens Ledge Lighthouse, Middle-ground (especially Stratford Shoal Lighthouse), The Cows, Sunken Island, the Norwalk Islands, Pennfield Reef, Todds Point, mouth of Rowaytons Five Mile River, Fish Island in Darien, Sasco Beach, Sandy Point, Black Rock Harbor and Gulf Beach Pier and Gulf Beach Break-wall** are all excellent bluefish locales. For bait...well you could probably could put a taco on your hook and catch one because they are voracious eaters. Atlantic mackerel and bunker (Atlantic menhaden) are good bait choices. [CT Bait & Tackle Shop List](#)

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the Black Hall River/Lieutenant River (out-going tide), Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Fishing remains good at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems.

WHITE PERCH fishing during fall is very good. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower **Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier)**, Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success.** You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT - Anglers may catch Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark which are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information.](#)

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Summer Flounder	31.5"	14 lbs 13.76 ozs	Michael Maffucci
Scup	18.5"	3 lbs 15 ozs	Marina M.
Atlantic Bonito	19"	C&R	Jason K.

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH – CLICK HERE FOR THE MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

- **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.

PLEASE CALL 1-800-842-4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.

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