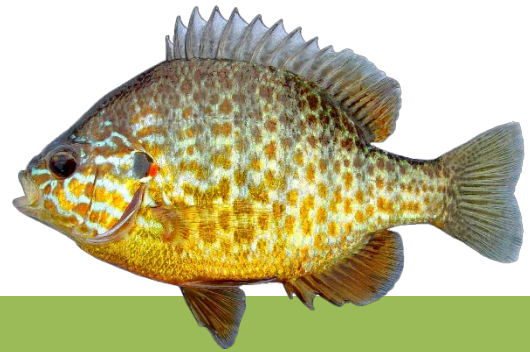


CT DEEP 2018
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 13
7/19/2018



Pumpkinseed (*Lepomis gibbosus*)



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

Providers of some of the information below included *Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle*, *CTfisherman.com*, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

LARGEMOUTH BASS Largemouth action has been good at night (smaller ponds have been really good), poppers, shallow swimmers and shiners have been working. So-so action at Mashapaug Lake at Winchester Lake. Good night action at Congamond Lakes.

Places to try include Glasgow Pond, Quaddick Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, Killingly Pond (some 3-5 lb catches reported), Congamond Lakes, Winchester Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Silver Lake (blue & black swim baits in the evening), Lake Wononskopomuc, Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, East Twin Lake, Babcock Pond, Wood Creek Pond, Pattagansett Lake, Rogers Lake, Pickerel Lake, Red Cedar Lake, Bishop Pond, Lake McDonough, Candlewood Lake (flipping weedbeds), Silver Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Mudge Pond, and Amos Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (tough for most, 2.25 lb lunger), Beach Pond (limits for many, but tough for a few, not much size, with a 2.22 lb lunger), Gardner Lake ("Spotty all day, fish on fish off....took all day for a team to get a limit...", with not much size and a 2.34 lb lunger for one club; better fishing for another club, with some 3-4 lb fish and a 4.2 lb lunger), (Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good morning bite, but real slow after 10 am, "...lots of small keepers..." and not many 2 lb plus fish) and Candlewood Lake (fair in the day, with 5.85 lb and 5.3 lb lungers, fair to good at night with a 5.46 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Fishing is slow in many lakes and ponds, but there are some brighter spots including Lake Lillinonah, Lake McDonough and Candlewood Lake (try swimbaits in 15 feet of water around rocks). Fishing for river smallmouth is good in the Housatonic River; also try other rivers such as the Naugatuck River, Shetucket River and Quinebaug River.

Tournament angler reports are from Aspinook Pond (not a single one), Gardner Lake (a few in the bags), Beach Pond (none) and Candlewood Lake (slow to fair for daytime clubs with a 1.4 lb lunger; fair to good with a 4.09 lb lunger at night).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – Conditions for trout fishing remain fair. Water levels are dropping following steep flushing flows from the line of storms earlier this week (see stream flow graphic on page 6). While most of the rivers are entering the summer doldrums - too warm for trout, there are a few here and there. Best bets are to seek out smaller streams and our Wild Trout Management Areas (tend to have good cold flow year round). Other places to try include the Quunipiac River (Gorge Area), Salmon River, Scantic River, Mianus River, Norwalk River, Hammonasset River, and Bigelow Brook. As usual very good reports from the Farmington River (West Branch and mainstem) down to Unionville.

The upcoming weekend looks great for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with moderate flows, currently 217 CFS at Riverton plus 25 CFS from the Still River, and a variety of insect life in and on the river. Water temperatures range from the upper 50's °F to the mid-60's °F as you move further downstream.

Rock Snot is "blooming". *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of Didymo and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard.

Currently this type of "Rock Snot" is very abundant and should continue to grow through July. The primary area of the river is from New Hartford upstream to Riverton. Note: Didymo is still present primarily in the West Branch above the Still River in Riverton. To help prevent the spread to other rivers and streams, all anglers should take extra care to clean and dry waders that have been in contact with rock snot. We recommend having a pair just for use only in the Farmington River.

Hatches/patterns. As far as insects go be ready for just about anything. Reliable dry patterns this time of year are black, cinnamon and flying ant patterns (especially in afternoons). Others for this time of year include Isonychia (#10-12), Vitreus (#16-18, from 5:00 pm to dark, Riverton area), Tan Caddis (#16-18, good all day), Sulfurs, (Invaria #16-18, hatches mid-day and Dorothea #16-18) Light Cahill (#10-14), March Brown nymphs (#10-12), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#18-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day; green #22-26, evening), Midges (#20-32), Blue Quill (#16-18) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #16-18, afternoon and early evenings). Muddler minnow and flashy streamers are a good bet to bounce along the bottom.

Housatonic River – Flows are up a bit from last week but remain very comfortable for fishing, 418 CFS at Falls Village and 602 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the mid 60's °F. Smallmouth and Fallfish are great options now that many trout have moved into the thermal refuges. Both types of fish are plentiful in the river and super fun on light gear. We suggest diversifying a bit and going for Pike and Common Carp – both are very active and are patrolling the shallows. Super large fish that you will never forget.

Hatches/patterns. Just about all patterns working go with terrestrial patterns near overhanging vegetation – with Alder Flies (Actually a type of Caddisfly) are the go to fly with good results all along the river, Sulphurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 late afternoon & evening, just starting), Light Cahill (#12-14, evenings), Adams (#12-16, evening), March Brown (#10-12, afternoon) and Gray Foxes (#14-16). Black Caddis, and Green caddis (#16-18, early morning & evening). Streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options when the fish are not taking from the surface.

Anglers are reminded that the thermal refuge areas on the Housatonic, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers are now closed to fishing (as of June 15). These areas will reopen on September 15. There is no fishing within 100 feet of signs indicating such closure at or near the mouths of tributaries to these rivers.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS – Unlike most rivers and streams, our deeper cooler lakes will produce with some time and effort. Some action late afternoons from trout (at 10 ft) on Candlewood Lake, some rainbows and browns trolling (25-30 ft down) Lake McDonough in the morning. Other waters to fish include; Saugatuck Reservoir, West Branch Reservoir, Crystal Lake, Long Pond, Highland Lake and Mount Tom Pond.

KOKANEE. Fair to good action trolling in the morning at East Twin, at 20-25 ft. over a depth of about 45 ft.

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Not much reported this week. The fish are active and ready for you. The more productive areas including the CT River in the evening, Stillwater Pond, Birge Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Butternut Park Pond, and Lower Bolton Lake. "Chicken Liver" is a good offering.

CHAIN PICKEREL. VERY aggressive in many of the coves and weedlines.

COMMON CARP. Good action in all locations. Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir are good carp waters.

WALLEYE. Fishing has been generally so-so, but anglers are finding some fish (try late evening with alewives). Some 3-5 lb walleyes are being found at Lake Saltonstall. Nighttime is the right time at Mount Tom Pond and Coventry Lake. Mashapaug Lake has been slow.

NORTHERN PIKE. Some action in Hopeville Pond, Mansfield Hollow Lake and Lake Lillinonah. Also try for pike in the upper Housatonic River near the small impoundments (Bulls Bridge through Falls Village).

PANFISH. Perfect time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. While you are at it, bring the family. Fly fishing with small poppers will provide some great catches.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are a bit higher than normal due to the runoff (8,250 CFS). **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are providing action in the coves from just below Hartford to Haddam. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** continue to keep anglers interested in the Windsor-Enfield area (small grey grubs). **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** are picking up and providing some 4-6 pound fish throughout the Connecticut River from below Hartford to Haddam (chunk bait). **COMMON CARP** are still providing some good action from Middletown (around the Mattabessett River) downstream to Salmon River Cove. **STRIPED BASS** some here and there. **BOWFIN** (not snakeheads) catches are consistent in the murky backwaters and along the weedlines.



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).

INLAND REPORT (Reported by You).

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week. **INLAND REPORT: Rene Boislard, Kenny Ludwig, Patrick Sullivan, Victor Howell, Peter S. Long, Griffin Bellavance, Justin Comeman**

MARINE REPORT: Paul Hyatt, Theodore G Frase III, Bruce Andes, J. Micinilio

Notable Catches Reported: 3 pound LMB, Steady SMB, 2.4 LMB, 3.2 LMB and a 2.9 Pickerel

How Did They Rate the Fishing?

Species	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
Trout	0	3	0	0	0
Bass	2	5	5	1	0
Pike	0	1	1	0	0
Walleye	0	0	0	0	0

Channel Catfish	0	0	0	0	0
Panfish	2	2	0	0	0
Common Carp	0	0	1	0	0

What was HOT! Silver Rapala, Shallow Crank Baits, Brown Woolly Bugger, Yellow, White, and Green Mops, Whopper Plooper, Light color flies, Pheasant Tail Nymph, bullet-head zonkers

What was NOT! Topwater, Jerk Bait, Spinner Bait,

Good or better places to fish included: Moodus Reservoir, Housatonic River, Fall Mountain Pond, Farmington River, Moosup Pond, Naugatuck River, CT River Coves in Chester, Quinebaug River

Fair or worse places to fish included: Scovill Reservoir, CT River

TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM:

DEEP’s [Trophy Fish Award Program](#) recognizes angler skill by awarding a bronze pin for your first trophy fish, a silver pin for your fifth trophy fish, and a gold pin for your tenth trophy fish. Angler of the year is awarded at our annual Trophy Fish Award Ceremony.

To see if your fish qualifies check out the criteria on page 13 of the [Angler’s Guide](#). If you have caught a trophy fish be sure to fill out the [affidavit](#) (or print page 12 of the Angler’s Guide) and submit the required photo(s) and form to us. Good luck!

FACEBOOK FISH OF THE WEEK:



Angler’s Guide Cover Contest We are fishing for your great Angler's Guide cover shot. If you have a high-resolution picture that represents fishing in Connecticut, email your entry deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov ATTN: cover shot. All details about the contest, including the entry form are [online](#).

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to storm damage, the following Connecticut State Parks remain closed:

- **Sleeping Giant**, Hamden. This closure includes the Sleeping Giant TMA on the Mill River (Hamden).
- **Wharton Brook**, Wallingford. This closure includes the Wharton Brook Trout Park.

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to damage from storms in May, the following Connecticut State Parks remain closed:

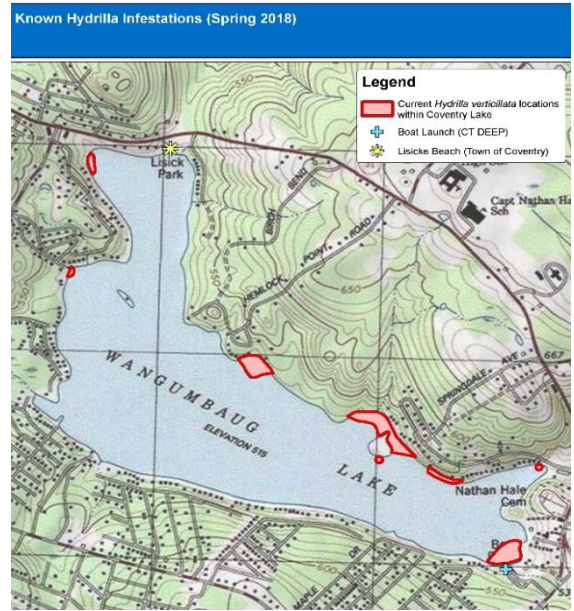
- **Sleeping Giant**, Hamden. This closure includes the Sleeping Giant TMA on the Mill River (Hamden).
- **Wharton Brook**, Wallingford. This closure includes the Wharton Brook Trout Park.

CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging). A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging will be used so there will be no drawdown but access to a portion of the park may be limited.

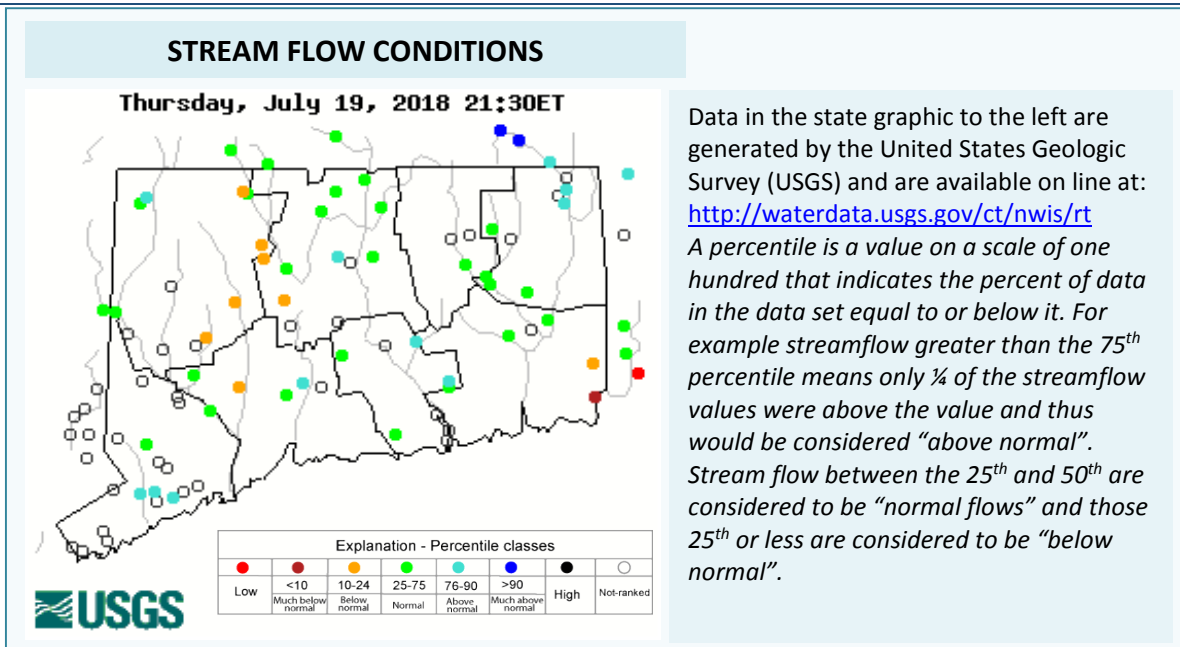
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch,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

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Last year hydrilla was found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** See the Coventry Lake entry below for what river users should do to prevent spread of this invasive plant to other waterbodies.

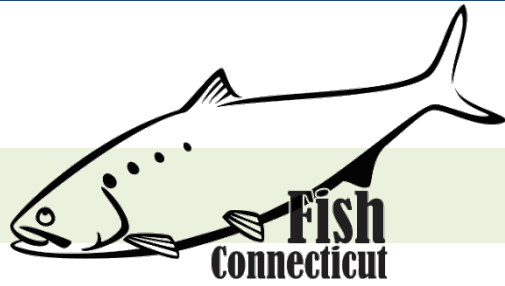
WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER (invasive species alert). *Cymbella janischii* is a close relative of *Didymo* and has been introduced to the West Branch Farmington River (first noticed in 2011). *C. janischii* is native to the Pacific Northwest and not naturally found on the Eastern seaboard. Currently this type of “Rock Snot” is very abundant and should continue to grow through July. The primary area of the river is from New Hartford upstream to Riverton. Note: *Didymo* is still present primarily in the West Branch above the Still River in Riverton. To help prevent the spread to other rivers and streams, all anglers should take extra care to clean and dry waders that have been in contact with rock snot. We recommend having a pair just for use only in the Farmington River.



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



MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the upper 60's °F to 70 °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though 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 or All Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **ENHANCED OPPORTUNITY SHORE FISHING** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 64 of the [2018 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

From the Anglers:

Paul Hyatt, Theodore G Frase III, Bruce Andes, J. Micinilio, and Anonymous

- Good reviews this week with folks getting onto some great fish. Some of the best catches included 26 striped bass up to 24 pounds, 44 porgies in the 12-14 inch range, and striped bass, fluke, and large sea robins in Westbrook. 6 tautog in the range of 14-18 inches (all released).
 - Things that were working included traditional natural baits, sandworms, squid, live glass shrimp, Clams on a teaser, jigs, Asian Shore Crabs, and chicken legs.
-

STRIPED BASS fishing remains solid with many schoolie bass being caught close inshore, and some large bass (40" +) being caught in the CT river and out in deeper water on rips and structure near the Race and Plum Gut. The ticket for landing some of these large bass seems to be live bait such as eels or bunker, and working structure with bucktail jigs with some sort of gulp or tail on it to give it some live action. The best striper fishing has been occurring at both the early dawn and late night. Plenty of schoolie bass have been caught from shore and they consistently smash soft plastic lures in skinny water. When targeting large striped bass be sure to fish good structure such as reefs and lower coastal tidal rivers with live bait for the best results.

BLACK SEA BASS fishing has slowed down significantly since last week especially in eastern and central LIS, with a far lower number of keepers; however the activity is expected to get better in the coming weeks. Fishing with high – low rigs with squid strips, gulp, or clams has proved to be the best way to land keeper sized sea bass. Some of the recent hot spots include Six Mile reef, Stratford Shoals, and Middleground for awesome bass action. Fishing deep structure at slack tide has produced some trophy sized black sea bass, scup, and the

occasional summer flounder. Remember to move from structure to structure when targeting sea biscuits to find some hot action.

SCUP (PORGY) fishing has been incredible this past week with lots of monster scup (~15") being caught in deeper waters with fishable structure such as rock piles, reefs, and wrecks. Some of the hot spots for scup by boat are Middleground, Six-Mile Reef, and Greens Ledge Lighthouse. Enhanced shore fishing sites such as Fort Nathan Hale, Branford Point, and Calf Pasture Beach Pier have been housing a surprisingly large amount of scup. The ticket to catching these hubcap-sized scup is using high-low rigs with squid strips, sand worms, and clams. Make sure to use small pieces of bait on your hooks when targeting scup, as they will easily strip your bait if there is too much hanging off.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) fishing in L.I.S. remains fair but seems to be slowly picking up during the past week with some keeper-sized fluke being caught both from shore and by boat. There are plenty of short fluke being caught in the 14" range but currently keeper sized fluke 19"+ are rare. The big ones are being caught on bucktail jigs with gulp mullet, mummichogs, and fresh squid strips. Some of the hot spots for fluke fishing from shore include Cini Park in Niantic, Saybrook Point in Old Saybrook, and Branford Point in Branford. When fishing from a boat remember to get out into deeper water and jig bucktails and fluke rigs along the bottom with fresh squid or gulp while drifting. When targeting fluke from shore remember that enhanced shore fishing sites allow you to harvest smaller fluke (minimum 17") which gives anglers a better shot at hooking into a fish that is legal size to keep, so be sure to be on the lookout for these enhanced sites to take advantage of the opportunity!

BLUEFISH fishing has picked up and there are plenty of harbor blues close to shore as well as some gator-sized blues being taken amongst the schools of harbor blues. Snapper blues have moved into shallow estuaries and the mouths of tidal rivers, and snapper poppers as well as small kastmasters have proved effective. Snappers were biting at the Old Saybrook Causeway with many of them in the 4" range along with large schools of larger snappers (~10") and harbor blues feeding on small baitfish.

BLACKFISH (TAUTOG) fishing remains slow as anglers try to target these delicious fish with green, Asian, and hermit crabs amongst the rock walls and jetties. The minimum size to keep tog is 16" with a daily creel limit of 2 per angler.

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing is always good in Long Island sound, and there seems to be an abundance of large sea robins being caught while anglers are targeting other species such as scup, sea bass, and fluke. They are aggressive feeders and will eat just about anything you drop down, but they especially love squid, sandworms, bunker strips, and gulps.

BLUE CRAB are becoming more prevalent in tidal rivers as the water warms up, and we can expect to see plenty keeper sized crabs (5" tip to tip) by the end of July. These crabs are super fun to catch with a hand line and a scoop net, and is a great activity to get the whole family out on the water. Catching and harvesting blue crabs does not require a fishing license, but remember that egg-bearing females must be released back into the water as it is mating season for the blue crabs. Soft shell crabs that are in the molting process can be kept at a length of 3.5" tip to tip. Blue crab season is open until November 30th, so there will be plenty of opportunities to fill your freezers with some good eating crabs, especially when the water warms up in August.

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

Need a fishing spot you've never been to? Want to know details about the site, like coordinates? Are there nearby restaurants, is there an adequate amount of parking spaces and more? Just visit the site below, click guest and then on the next screen select the state of Connecticut:

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2018 Connecticut Anglers 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 Angler's Guide and additional information is on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.

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**

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