

CT DEEP 2018  
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 15  
8/2/2018



Walleye (*Sander vitreus*)



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Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

Providers of some of the information below included **Bob's Place, Candlewood Bait & Tackle, Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle, J.T.'s Fly Shop, The Fish Connection, Yankee Outdoors, CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** fishing is generally fair to good, with early in the day and evenings good, topwaters, dropshots, frogs, jitterbugs all working. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (things working include flipping in the weeds, superflukes just outside weedlines), Mudge Pond (fair action earlier in morning), Wauregan Reservoir (some good action, plus reports of a 7-8 lb monster caught here), Killingly Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Quaddick Lake, Winchester Lake, Bashan Lake, East Twin Lake, Highland Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, Rogers Lake, Ball Pond, Wyassup Lake, Congamond Lakes and Pickerel Lake. In southeast CT, some good action reported from small "local" ponds (again early & evenings, topwater plugs, frogs, jitterbugs all options, try furry mice lures tied for a flyrod).

**Tournament angler** reports are from Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (fair to good, with a 4.46 lb lunker for one club; good for another, with two 4.66 lb lunkers and a 2-lb average fish weight), Pachaug Pond (fair to good for a late day tourney, nice size with fish averaging over 2 lbs apiece and a 4.86 lb lunker), Powers Lake (fair to good for most, but not much size, with a 2.43 lb lunker and an average weight per fish of barely 1 lb), Quaddick Lake (good for most, with a 3.0 lb lunker), Wyassup Lake (7-boat club fished under a 16 inch minimum length, only one fish per angler, so only 2 fish weighed in, but they were **7.1 lb** and **4.1 lb** beauties), and Candlewood Lake (fair for most for a day club, with a 4.52 lb lunker; good for many in a night event).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS.** Hard to hook up a smallmouth in many places, but they are providing some action, with the best reports from Candlewood Lake (being found daytime around humps, Keitechs have been bring them in), Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah. Colebrook River Lake and highland Lake are also producing some bass. Great action reported for river smallies on the upper Housatonic River and good reports from the Shetucket River. **Tournament angler** reports are from Pachaug Pond (as usual, a few caught) and Candlewood

## August 11, 2018 IS A FREE FISHING LICENSE DAY

The second 2018 (and final) Free Fishing License Day is Saturday, **August 11, 2018** (and also the day of the NCLI/DEEP CARE program Saltwater fishing event at Fort Trumbull State Park – see page 8 for more information on this event). **Anyone can obtain a free one-day fishing license to fish this day.**

**The free 1-day license** can be obtained through our mobile friendly site at [www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/sportsmenlicensing) and at the same vendors ([Designated vendor \(tackle shop\)](#)), Town Halls and DEEP offices where other licenses are available ([DEEP Offices](#)).

Lake (tough finding fish for one day club, fair to good at night with 5.80 lb, 5.27 lb, 5.14 lb and 5.07 lb smallie lunkers).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** – Conditions for trout fishing have improved some in many areas as rains over the last two weeks have refreshed flows, and most rivers and streams are currently higher than is typical for early August (see stream flow graphic on page 6). The weather however continues to be very warm and humid and water temperatures remain warm in many areas. Anglers are however finding some trout with dry flies in the deeper pools and cooler riffles on rivers like the Hammonasset, Natchaug, and Shetucket. The West Branch and mainstem Farmington has been productive, also some fish were being found in the Housatonic River. Also try some of our Wild Trout Management Areas (these tend to have good cold flow year round) for some wild brookie and brown action. Terrestrial fly patterns are good to include in your offerings.

**Farmington River.** The upcoming weekend looks good for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with flows down quite a bit from late last week, currently 279 CFS at Riverton plus 124 CFS from the Still River. Flows should remain at comfortable levels through the weekend. Water temperatures range from the upper 50's °F to the upper-60's °F as you move further downstream.

**Hatches/patterns.** As far as insects go, terrestrials are your best bet. The black, cinnamon and flying ant patterns (especially on hot and humid afternoons). "Mousing" at dusk can put you onto some very large browns. If you have not tried it, give it a go and let us know how it works out.

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).

**Housatonic River** – Flows have dropped considerably and are near ideal for wet wading. Currently at 474 CFS at Falls Village and 727 CFS at Gaylordsville. Morning water temperatures are currently in the low to mid 70's °F. With some more rain possible through Saturday, flows may again increase. Anglers can call the FirstLight Power Resources flow line at **1-888-417-4837** for updated river information or check the USGS website at <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow> for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

**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



**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.



**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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies) or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2018 CT angler's Guide( [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide)).

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. Crayfish imitations and poppers will put you onto some great smallmouth action. Other traditional favorites are 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.** Few reports this week, but deeper cooler lakes such as Crystal Lake, West Hill Pond, East Twin Lake, Colebrook River Lake and Highland Lake should provide some action (especially mornings).

**KOKANEE.** Fair to good action trolling in the morning continues at East Twin and with West Hill Pond giving up a few chunky silver bullets.

**CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE).** Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Through the survey, we are looking to hear where you fish and what you typically catch. The more productive areas include the CT River in the evening, Stillwater Pond, Birge Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, and Lower Bolton Lake. "Chicken Liver" continues to be a good offering.

**CHAIN PICKEREL** continue to be hungry and aggressive.

**COMMON CARP.** Still producing many fish in the 22-26 inch range in many typical locations including; Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

**WALLEYE.** Few reports for walleye this week. Nighttime is best now, places to try include Squantz Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Cedar Lake and Beach Pond.

**NORTHERN PIKE.** Few reports this week, places to try include

**REMINDER TO ANGLERS-**

**FISHING IN OR CASTING INTO PERMITTED SWIM AREAS IS PROHIBITED.**

State regulations prohibit fishing in or into a swim area that has been permitted by DEEP. Additionally, vessels cannot be operated within a permitted swim area, and there's a 100 foot "no-wake" zone around the perimeter. Swim areas that have been permitted by DEEP will be marked by white buoys with orange markings, and there should be a permit number posted on the buoys. They may or may not have small orange barrier floats to further demarcate the area. Should questions arise concerning the validity of the swim area (no permit numbers or the area appears to have been changed/enlarged or keeps moving), please contact DEEP's Boating Division at 860-434-8638.



Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Pachaug Pond (also try the downstream lakes – Hopeville, Ashland), Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar.

**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. Also try suspending poppers to catch a few crappie.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER** Flows are well above typical late July levels north of Hartford due to runoff (currently 15,200 CFS at Thompsonville). **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are a bit finicky but were into the jig and pig. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** continue to keep anglers interested in the Windsor-Enfield area (small grey or other light color grubs and live crayfish). Some larger **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** found this week, in the 8 pound range (try in the Mattabeset River). **COMMON CARP** were providing some steady action.

**INLAND REPORT (Reported by You).**

Thank you to the following for adding to our Fishing Report this Week. **INLAND REPORT: Karen McDaniel, Haywood Jajerket, Robert Beauchesne, Jon Puhalski, Hugh J., and anonymous.**

**MARINE REPORT: Sal, Frank Milano, anonymous.**

**Notable Catches Reported:** 2 LMB at 18” and 3 Channel Cats at 22”, Many 1-2 pound Largemouth, Lots of Yellow Perch, 18” Catfish (first since fishing on the CT River as a kid), 4 Catfish and crappie, 25 keeper size Largemouth.

**How Did They Rate the Fishing?**

<i>Species</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Average</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>
Trout	0	0	0	0	1
Bass	2	5	1	2	0
Pike	0	0	0	0	0
Walleye	0	0	0	0	0
Channel Catfish	1	1	0	1	0
Panfish	1	0	0	0	0
Common Carp	0	0	0	0	0

**What was HOT!** Worms for bass, hotdogs in KoolAid and garlic, Rubber worm, light color grubs, cut mackerel, chicken liver and live minnow, black/blue jig and pig or 6” brush hog.

**What was NOT!** Surface plugs, spinners, punch bait, topwater

**Good or better places to fish included:** Lower Bolton Pond, Crystal Lake, Pickerel Lake, Congamond Lake, Gardner Lake, Hopeville Pond, Griswold Pond, Coventry Lake, Moodus Reservoirs, and CT River.

**Fair or worse places to fish included:** none reported – the fishing must be great (LOL)

**NOTES & NOTICES:**

**STORM DAMAGE UPDATE.** Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) and Wharton Brook (including the Wharton Brook Trout Park) state parks remain closed.

**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.

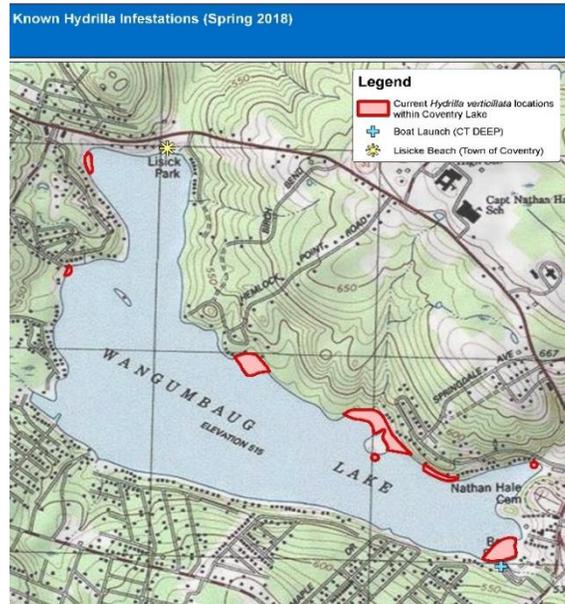
**COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert).** Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat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

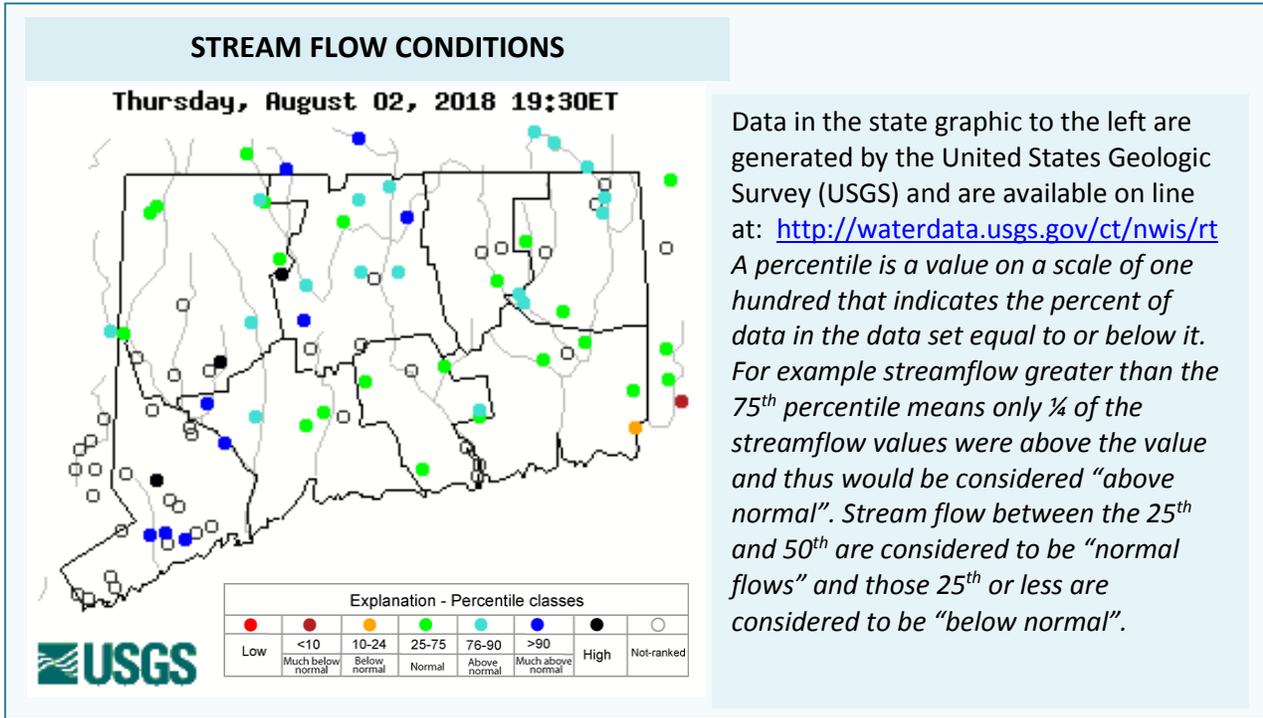
**CONNECTICUT RIVER (Portland area – raft race).** On Saturday, August 4, from 10 am through 2 pm, “**The Connecticut River Raft Race**” “home-made” raft event is scheduled to be conducted on the CT River in the Portland area. The event course runs from the lower end of Gildersleeve Island to the Portland Riverside Marina. Boaters are advised to use extra caution when passing through this area.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER (Middletown-Haddam-Essex – paddle craft parade & race).** The Connecticut River Museum’s second annual downriver paddle regatta will be conducted from 8 am to 3 pm on Sunday, August 5. There are two events on the Connecticut River, one course is from Eagle Landing State Park (Haddam) to the Connecticut River Museum in Essex; and the second is from Riverfront Park (Middletown) to the museum. Boaters are advised to use extra caution when passing through this area.

**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.



**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!

**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](mailto:deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov) ATTN: cover shot. All details about the contest, including the entry form are [online](#).

## MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue in the 70'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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

<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.

**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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### From the Anglers:

**Sal, Frank Milano, anonymous.**

Not much reported but lots of shorts across all species.

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**STRIPED BASS** fishing continues to be good throughout the Sound (good numbers of 28-40 inch bass being reported). Fishing is also very good in the lower tidal rivers especially at dawn as these large bass feed on menhaden during low light conditions. Try fishing from sundown to sunrise for trophy-sized "cow" stripers. Coming off the "Thunder Moon", tidal currents will slow down and ultimately fishing conditions will improve. Casting swimming lures, surface poppers, and bouncing jigs off the bottom in the shallows at low light has been productive. Also, live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden), hickory shad or scup on the reefs has been effective on "cow" bass. Bunker (Atlantic menhaden) schools are in the major tidal rivers and harbors with stripers following close behind. Look for hovering or diving ospreys which is an indication of bunker (menhaden) schools. The usual 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 and the

upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **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.** Qualify for the [CT Trophy Fish Award Program](#). **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch & release.**

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing continues to be fantastic in the eastern Sound. Fishing over deep water structure/cobble/gravel in 80 to 120 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks” on baited jigs or gulp. It’s important to continue to move from structure to structure and fish around slack tide (stay close to the bottom) to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. The Charles Island area along with Stratford Shoal (11B) has been producing. Deeper you fish the bigger the sea bass. Fish shallower and you will catch some keeper-sized sea bass along with summer flounder, a lot of sea robins and smooth dogfish (aka sandsharks). **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19th to December 31<sup>st</sup>.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet), on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”. Clams and sandworms also work well.

**SCUP (PORGY)** fishing is very good. “Reef Slammers” measuring 14-16 inches (“hubcap size”) in length being reported at fishing piers, reef or rock piles in the Sound (they are everywhere...go out enjoy the fast paced family fun action). Try Gardners Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic (Bartletts and Hatchetts Reef). Porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible shore fishing locations: **Saint Mary’s by the Sea**, 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”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait.

**WEAKFISH** fishing has surprised many anglers...good catches of “squeteague” are occurring while anglers bottom fish for fluke and sea bass. Good fishing in Niantic (Black Point), New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along Stratford shoals to Darien. One of the best eating saltwater fish you will ever catch and it’s also the state fish of Delaware.

**BLUEFISH** fishing is fair. Fish finder rigs baited with fresh bunker chunks has been effective for larger choppers. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, **the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Orient Point, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal**, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, and Cable and Anchor Reef. **SNAPPER** fishing is fair to good in the tidal creeks and rivers. Fishing around the top of the flood tide has been better. Most snappers are about 4-6 inches in length. Look for the schools of “peanut” bunker and you will find the snappers. My recommendation is to hook up with a [Party or Charter Boat](#) and enjoy some of the best FISHING you will ever experience. There is no harder fighting fish in the sea. “Snappers” (juvenile bluefish) and “Harbor Blues” (16 - 22 inches) are also very common along all shore locations. These under sized bluefish provide great sport for shore anglers. Try the lower reaches of tidal rivers and estuaries...you will be glad you did as these predators push the bait up rivers.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE)** fishing has picked up over this past week with doormats weighing 14 lbs being reported. Using live snapper blues for bait is the ticket for catching that trophy doormat! Summer flounder spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands.

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is finally starting to get better. Try Fort Trumbull, the Black Hall River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier, Clinton Harbor and the lower Housatonic River. Incoming tide is the key...as this species migrates a lot. These "CT Tarpon" providing outstanding/fun shore fishing for anglers. **Tie on a silver willowleaf lure (add a 14-20 inch leader) with a slip sinker above the swivel along with light tackle (6lb test main line).** Cast to current breaks/channels and retrieve the lure and hold on/have fun...

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** fishing continues to be good. "Poor-Man's Lobster" are very common especially when bottom fishing. With fish measuring over 20 inches and "barking up a storm" (grunting noise they make). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat.

**BLACKFISH (TAUTOG)** fishing is really good...give it a try. There are plenty of these "Reef Bullies" around the local reefs and pilings (6 to 45 feet). The daily creel limit is 2 fish per person and the minimum size is 16 inches. **Tautog love eating crabs and mussels...try green, Asian and hermit crabs for bait.** Look for "Togs" over shellfish beds, pilings with mussel beds and rock (reef) piles. Shore anglers continue to score on large "taug". Find a rock pile or piling close to casting distance and hang on.

**WHITE PERCH** fishing continues to impress and is typically better with the incoming tide. These perch are found in estuaries (lower rivers), tidal rivers and coves along the Connecticut shoreline. 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.

**BLUE CRAB** fishing is slowly improving in the tidal creeks. Time to get out and try your favorite spot and enjoy the scenery and catch some crabs for dinner (crab cakes/sauce). **Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable injury. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab.** 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) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#). *Angler's please also note: It's illegal to snag blue crabs.*

**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](#).

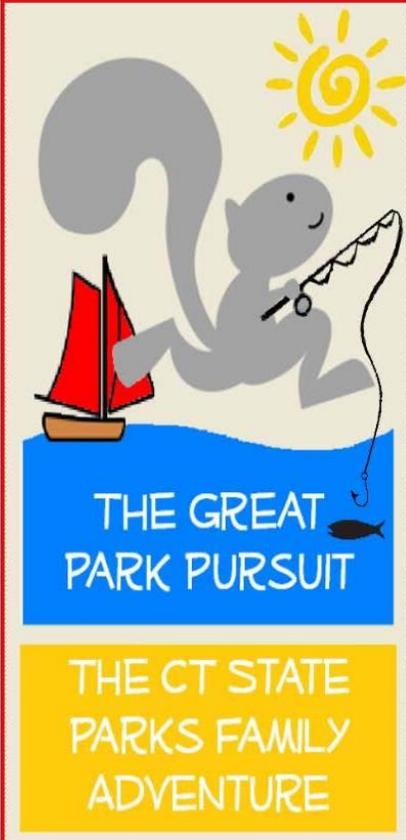
**NOTABLE CATCHES –**

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Summer Flounder	28"	8 lbs 8 oz.	Jonah L.
Banded Rudderfish	16"	1lb 8 oz.	Barbara M.

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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing). **PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**



No Child Left Inside®  
in partnership with CARE presents  
Saltwater Fishing Day  
Saturday, August 11, 2018

10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Fort Trumbull State Park  
New London, Connecticut

FREE!  
No registration required.  
Participants 16 years and older must have fishing license.  
Free 1-day license available at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing)  
Fishing, crabbing, fish activities, fish catching tactics, and more!  
Fishing rods, tackle and bait available to borrow.

For more information:  
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection  
(860) 424-3917  
Kristen.Bellantuono@ct.gov  
or visit [www.NoChildLeftInside.org](http://www.NoChildLeftInside.org)



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### DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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