CT DEEP 2018 FISHING REPORT NUMBER 27 10/25/2018





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INLAND REPORT

Providers of some of the information below included **Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle**, **Captain Morgan's Bait & Tackle**, **JT's Fly Shop, The Fish Connection**, **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

TROUT & SALMON STOCKING UPDATE. DEEP's fall trout stockings are wrapping up. Stay in touch with our Current Stocking Report and Interactive Trout Stocking Map:

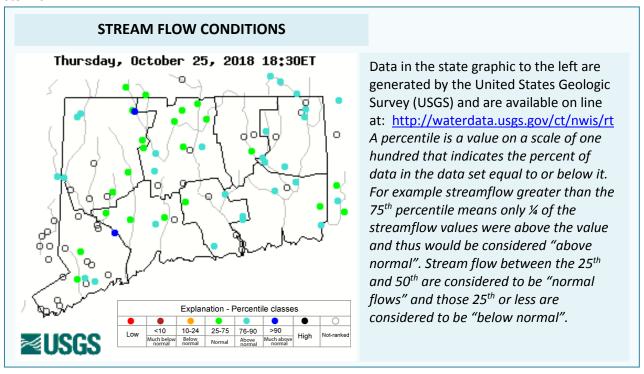
- TROUT RIVERS AND STREAMS: In western CT, the Saugatuck River TMA (350 12" and up Rainbow Trout), Pequonnock River (Trumbull Basin only, 600 12" and up Rainbow Trout), the Naugatuck River TMA (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout), the Housatonic River TMA (the "upper TMA", 4,000 Rainbow Trout), the Pomperaug River (portions through parks and land trust property, 600 12" and up Rainbow Trout), the Housatonic River TMA (the "upper TMA", 1,000 12" and up Brown Trout and 3,000 Brown Trout) and the Bulls Bridge TMA ("lower" TMA on the Housatonic river, 400 12" and up Brown Trout into the Housatonic and 100 into the Ten Mile River). In Eastern CT, the Hockanum River TMA (300 Rainbow Trout).
- TROUT LAKES AND PONDS: In western CT, Highland Lake (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout), East Twin Lake (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout) and West Hill Pond (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout). In eastern CT, Black Pond (Woodstock, 250 broodstock Brook Trout).
- TROUT PARKS: The Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond, 600 12" and up Rainbow Trout) and Black Rock Pond (500 12" and up Rainbow Trout) Trout Parks in western CT.

ATLANTIC SALMON. Good reports from the Naugatuck River, with some nice action found in the lower Broodstock Area including at least one 5-6 lb salmon (and a number of smaller ones) caught at Linden Park; and the upper Broodstock Area, where steady action is reported. The Shetucket River is also providing some action. Mount Tom Pond and Crystal Lake continue to provide catches.

Please note that a <u>Trout and Salmon Stamp</u> is required to fish the Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers and if you **keep** an Atlantic salmon from either Mount Tom Pond or Crystal Lake. If you are strictly practicing Catch and Release, the Trout and Salmon Stamp is not required to fish in either of the two lakes. For a summary of Atlantic salmon fishing regulations see page 4 of this report or page 28 of the 2018 Angler's Guide.

TROUT - RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions for the weekend will again be variable. Cool rainy weather is in the forecast for Saturday with possibly some clearing on Sunday mostly dry fall weather is in the forecast. More rivers were stocked this week and flows, although still higher that is typical for mid-October have cleared and moderated nicely this week and are at nice fishable levels statewide (see stream flow graphic on page 2). However an inch or more of rain (plus some wind) is forecast for Saturday, so flows are likely to increase again. For real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check the following web site: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow.

Some good action reported from the West Branch Farmington River, Naugatuck River TMA (steady action reported), Salmon River (nice 12-14" rainbows are being caught, both in the TMA and downstream of the TMA), Hammonasset River and Natchaug River. Streamers and nymphs are working well. Please note that we will not be able to stock the Mill River TMA in Hamden this fall due to the lingering impacts of the May storms.



Farmington River. Conditions for the upcoming weekend will be fair. Flows are currently clear, moderate and quite fishable (448 CFS at Riverton plus 96 CFS from the Still River) but with a rainy day likely on tap for Saturday, look for flows to increase, especially below the confluence of the Still and West Branch. Water temperatures range from the low 50's °F to the low 60's as you move through the day.

Hatches/patterns to try include Isonychia (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). With higher water this fall, streamers and nymphs are really working. Big stonefly nymphs are doing well. White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers.

Housatonic River. Flows continue to clear and drop and are on the high side but fishable, currently 1,250 CFS at Falls Village and 1,770 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are currently in the 50's °F. With rain in the forecast for Saturday however, flows may again increase and anglers may wish to call the FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website

(http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). **NOTE:** The Cornwall Covered Bridge has **re-opened** after the DOT remodeling project.

Hatches/patterns. Patterns to try include Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Isonychia (#10-12 evening) and caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers, or nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads. Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies have been productive. Streamer patterns to try include White Zonkers, Wooly Buggers (#2-12), Muddlers, Lion Buggers, and Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), Isonychia (#10-12), Sulfur (#16-18) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening).

TROUT - LAKES & PONDS. Trout were stocked into several more of our lakes and ponds and trout parks this week (see page 1). Good reports from the Chatfield Hollow Trout Park (Schreeder Pond) and some action also reported from the Day Pond and Mohegan Park Pond Trout Parks. Reminder- We will not be stocking Valley Falls Park Pond (due to a drawdown for dam repairs) and Wharton Brook Pond (still closed from storm damage) this fall.

LARGEMOUTH BASS Fishing is beginning to pick up some. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Candlewood Lake (reported to be picking up this week), Highland Lake, Silver Lake (a 7.3 lb beast recently caught), Crystal Lake, Mudge Pond, West Side Pond, Tyler Lake, Dog Pond, Park Pond, Bantam Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc (last weekend of the season), Lake Saltonstall, Bishop Swamp, Winchester Lake, Congamond Lakes, Gardner Lake, Pickerel Lake, Amos Lake, Beach Pond, Quinebaug Lake, Black Pond (Meriden), Burr Pond, Griggs Pond, Billings Lake, Moodus Reservoir, Babcock Pond, Pachaug Pond, Lake Hayward, Quonnipaug Lake (it's been slow but...), Rogers Lake and Stillwater Pond.

Tournament angler reports are from Mashapaug Lake (slow to fair, 3.2 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair for most, 4.2 lb lunker), Silver Lake (good, 7.3 lb lunker) and Candlewood Lake (very tough for one club, 2.16 lb lunker, and slow for a second club, with a 5.20 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. It still remains tough at Candlewood Lake (try at around 30 feet, bait anglers likely have the advantage as smallies here often target alewife in the early fall). A few reported from Highland Lake, Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar. **Tournament angler reports** are from Mashapaug Lake (a few caught) and Candlewood Lake (tough, 3.50 lb lunker).

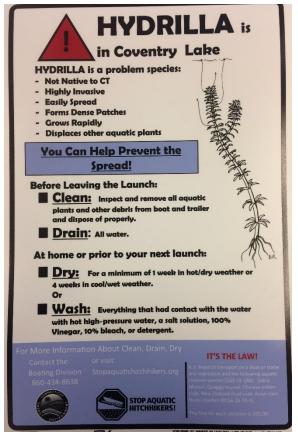
CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our <u>Catfish Survey</u>. Catfish Management Lakes that are worth a try include Silver Lake, Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Butternut Park Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

COMMON CARP. October typically offers up some good fishing for these huge fish. Carp favorites include the Connecticut River, Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Squantz Pond, West Thompson Reservoir and the Quinebaug River (West Thompson and Aspinook Pond). Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. No reports this week but the fish are eager to feed. Other favorite Pike Waters include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River.

WALLEYE. The recent cool nights has brought Walleye up into the shallows, with good reports from Squantz Pond where late afternoon and night action has brought in a bunch of 18-22 inch fish and several fish in the 6-7 lb range. Other places to try include Lake Saltonstall, Saugatuck Reservoir, Coventry Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Cedar Lake and Beach Pond.

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie continue to do well in most places. Look for white perch in the tidal rivers.



One of the newly installed signs to alert anyone using Coventry Lake (and a similar sign for the Connecticut River) about the presence of the highly invasive plant, Hydrilla.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows have dropped to comfortable levels for boating and fishing (currently 14,200 CFS at Thompsonville), providing better access. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** remains on and off, with the side channels and coves providing better action. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are still quiet in the Windsor-Enfield area. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** have been providing some action, try live shiners, chicken livers and chunk bait (staff favorites are 3" sections of eel). **COMMON CARP** have been providing some steady action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam and Mattebesset areas.

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 November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to catch-and-release only. From December 1, 2018, through March 31, 2019, 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 2018 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).

Mark your calendars now!



NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. 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 and will not be stocked with trout this fall.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (safety buoy removals). The Candlewood Lake authority has removed the hazard, navigation and speed buoys for the winter. Boaters, especially those unfamiliar with the lake should use extra caution out on the lake.

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

VALLEY FALLS POND (Vernon – dam repair). DEEP will not be stocking the Trout Park at Valley Falls Pond this fall due to dam repair work.

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 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 boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

QUADDICK LAKE (launch access). The park gates will be closed for the season to vehicular access on October 29.



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

UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. In western CT, Lake Lillinoah is scheduled for a drawdown from this Friday night, October 26, to November 9. Launching of trailered boats from the Route 133 state boat launch will be difficult and launching from the Pond Brook boat launch is likely not possible during this drawdown. Lake Zoar is scheduled for a drawdown from November 10 to November 24, and the winter drawdown of Highland Lake is scheduled to start in early November. In eastern CT, winter drawdowns of Bashan lake, Beseck Lake, Middle & Lower Bolton Lakes, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake and Pickerel Lake are scheduled to begin in early November

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes at the end of the month (Wednesday, October 31 is the last day), most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC, GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2018 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.



MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are around 60-64 °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

HUMPBACK WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see check **WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES**.

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

<u>CONNECTICUT STATE BOUNDARY LINE IN LONG ISLAND SOUND</u>. 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.

<u>SEE A TANGLED TURTLE? CALL THE HOTLINE!</u> 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.

TAUTOG fishing is really good throughout LIS in 20-60ft! Fish any rocky reefs, rock piles, and wrecks, they will produce great tog fishing action. As the water temperatures drop, tog will move off into deeper water. Green, Asian or Hermit Crabs will work, especially on jigs. **Consider putting the crab (bait) on a chartreuse and orange jig (1.5 – 3.0 ounces in weight/depending on tide and wind). The lighter the jig the better...feel more bites. Use braid in 30-50 lb class and/or a 50 lb fluorocarbon leader (sensitivity to feel the bites is important). Also use a 4/O Gamagatsu hook (Octopus style) when using bait. I would highly recommend planning a trip on a party/charter boat trip to fish for tautog this fall.**

STRIPED BASS fishing is very good coming off the "FULL HUNTER MOON", with its large tidal influences. **It's time for shore anglers to hit the SURF, especially at coastal state parks**. The fall season is starting off strong, with many shore anglers are catching bass on top water at <u>Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities locations</u>.

The top water technique has produced some very big bass, (51 inches – 46 pounds, DEEP Baldwin Bridge State Boat Launch, Old Saybrook). Striper spots include the 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 (Dock & Dine shore fishing access), 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"-26" striped bass inhabiting our lower rivers this fall. Anglers are having a blast catching smaller striped bass on the Housatonic, Connecticut, Thames 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. Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait (prevent gut hooking) and practice catch & release. Don't have a Boat? Hook up with the many Party or Charter Boats found throughout CT's shoreline from Greenwich to Stonington.

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing continues to be good especially in the western sound. Pink and green is the lure color choice. Many anglers are scoring using a 3" Hogy heavy minnow jig in pink. Shore anglers are scoring at Short & Long Beach in Stratford (find the birds working). Dawn and dusk is typically the best time to fish for these inshore tunas but they can be caught during the daytime. Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple, albie snax and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A <u>quiet approach</u> and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. Jigging (1.5oz crippled herring) for them also works when they are close to the bottom and your fish finder is "lit up".

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is excellent. Hit every favorite wreck/reef/hump, to find good numbers of these tasty bottom fish. **Angler please be careful when releasing sublegal sea bass. There is lots of them out there...let's give them a chance to grow, reproduce and get big.**

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good throughout the Sound. Catch them before they migrate south. Party/Charter boats are still targeting them...that's how plentiful they are. Locate your favorite Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers".

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), East and West River, Lieutenant River, Fort Trumbull and Black Hall River.

BLUEFISH fishing is ok. Throw a top water plug/popper and hang on. They can be found throughout the Sound (find the birds). Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, **the Race**, **Thames River**, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, 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, **Norwalk Islands** and Cable and Anchor Reef. Atlantic mackerel and bunker (Atlantic menhaden) are good bait choices. <u>CT Bait & Tackleshop List</u>

WHITE PERCH fishing is 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.

NOTABLE CATCHES -

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler	
Oyster Toadfish	13"	2 lbs. 9 oz.	Jesse Roche	
King Mackerel	30"	5 lb. 5 oz.	Douglas Clark	
Striped Bass	48"	C&R	David M.	
Gray Triggerfish	17 ½"	4 lbs. 13 oz.	Sean M.	

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. For the latest marine regulations also click this link: 2018 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations. 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

