

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 5
5/16/2019



Pumpkinseed sunfish (*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.

SHARE THE EXPERIENCE
 Take someone fishing

INLAND REPORT

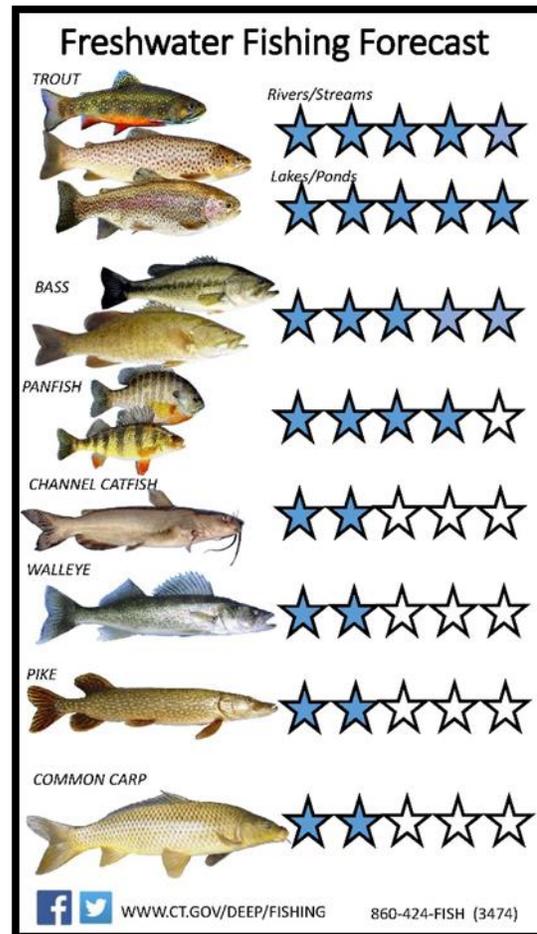
- Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through
- Daily Facebook Posts (@[CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](https://www.facebook.com/CTFISHANDWILDLIFE))
 - Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
 - [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
 - See last year's [stocking numbers](#)

RAINBOW FISHWAY ANNUAL [OPEN HOUSE](#)
THIS SATURDAY, MAY 18 FROM 10 AM TO 3 PM
For more info see page 5

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

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS – While the current weather pattern may not be the best for many outdoor activities, the cool temperatures are keeping the trout happy in most locations. Trout fishing is just about as good as it gets, meaning most waters have plenty of stocked fish (with stocking continuing for a couple more weeks). Water levels are still an issue in some of the larger waters. Flows in small to medium size waters are near ideal (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*). **For real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check the [USGS web site](#).**

Although flows remain generally higher than typical levels, they are slowly moderating. Anglers continue to find improving action and less difficult fishing on an increasing number of rivers and streams. Places reporting very good fishing included the Still River (some fair action), Natchaug River (has slowed some from last week but still providing action), Blackledge River (good), Salmon river (also good), Hammonasset River (action exploded this week with some very aggressive chunky Brooks and Browns, both flies and spinning gear working), Farmington River (flows continue to be high but anglers continue to find fish – some good action on rainbows above on the West Branch above Riverton,



wooly buggers and the like working) and Pomperaug River (fair to good). Trout seemed hungry and weren't always particularly picking in what they were going after this week. For fly folks, streamers (Micky Finns, Woolly Buggers) and nymphs (bead heads, renegades) are doing well with this springs higher flows.

Farmington River – Flows on the West Branch continue to be challenging for the most part, forcing many to hug the shoreline or to wade in the shallowest of riffle sections. Anglers are finding fish and the West Branch year-round catch-and-release area was stocked this week. Currently, the river is at 456 CFS at Riverton with an additional 312 CFS from the Still River. Anglers will still have to work for their fish. Creativity in fishing spots continues to be a plus, don't be afraid to explore, especially some of the smaller side channels.

Hatches/patterns. Even the typical mid-late April hatches/patterns have not really shown up in any numbers yet (high flows and cool days). Insects that should be popular with the trout include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (needs to get a bit warmer), Black Caddis should be popping out very soon, Winter/Summer Caddis, Stonefly nymphs, Midges and Blue Quill. Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers, large and shiny, are also a good option (Hare's ear, Pheasant Tail, White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghost).

Housatonic River – Flows went back up to very high levels but are now dropping. Flows are currently 2,620 CFS at Falls Village and 4,260 CFS and not very fishable without a boat (try a float trip). Anglers are reminded that they can call the **FirstLight Power Resources flow line at 1-888-417-4837 for updated river information or check the [USGS website](#)** for up to date real time streamflow data from a number of USGS gauging stations including two on the upper Housatonic River.

Hatches/patterns. Typical patterns for mid-late April, especially the Blue Winged Olives, are more abundant (although a little late this year), including March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Try Mop Flies and Egg Patterns to hit some of the recently stocked browns. Look for Hendricksons now. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options. With large volume of water, go big and flashy! Note – May is Hellgramite migration time where these giant larva (up to 5 inches) move out of the river and up onto the banks to pupate under rocks and logs. Smallmouth can't turn these creatures down.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – FYI -The Fisheries Division lake and pond electrofishing crews were out on Highland Lake this Thursday night and saw plenty of recently stocked trout and some decent holdovers. In general, trout fishing continues to be fair to good, with reports from Bigelow Pond, Lake Quonnipaug, Black Pond (Meriden-Middlefield), Saugatuck Reservoir, Squantz Pond, Amos Lake and Long Pond. Fishing's been so-so for trout at Candlewood Lake and Mashapaug Lake action has been up and down.

Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good with the best reports from Mohegan Park Pond, Black Rock Pond, Chatfield Hollow (don't forget the stream and upper mill pond areas) and Wharton Brook (some "nice fish and nice fishing – very aggressive fish").

TROUT- Stocking update for the week of 5/11 – 5/17. Note that stockings can also be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

RIVERS AND STREAMS:

- In **eastern Connecticut**; the lower Blackledge River, Jeremy River, Hockanum River (both below the TMA and above the TMA), lower Fivemile River (Thompson, Putnam, Killingly), Shunock Brook, the Willimantic River (above the TMA, below the TMA), Skungamaug River (Coventry, Tolland), Hop River, Coginchaug River, lower Farm River the Hammonasset River (including the TMA), Natchaug River, Salmon River (including the TMA), and the Quinebaug River (Plainfield, Griswold) were stocked.

- In **western Connecticut**; the Farmington River TMA (the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area), Norwalk River (lower section-Merwin Meadows), Leadmine Brook and the upper Naugatuck River (Harwinton, Litchfield, Torrington), the Farmington River TMA (West branch year-round catch-and-release area), Bantam River (inlet & outlet), Blackberry river and Whiting River.

LAKES AND PONDS:

- In **western Connecticut**; Highland Lake, East Twin Lake, Mount Tom Pond and West Hill Pond were stocked.

TROUT PARKS: the Chatfield Hollow (pond & brook), Wharton Pond, Pasture Pond and Natchaug River Trout Parks were stocked.

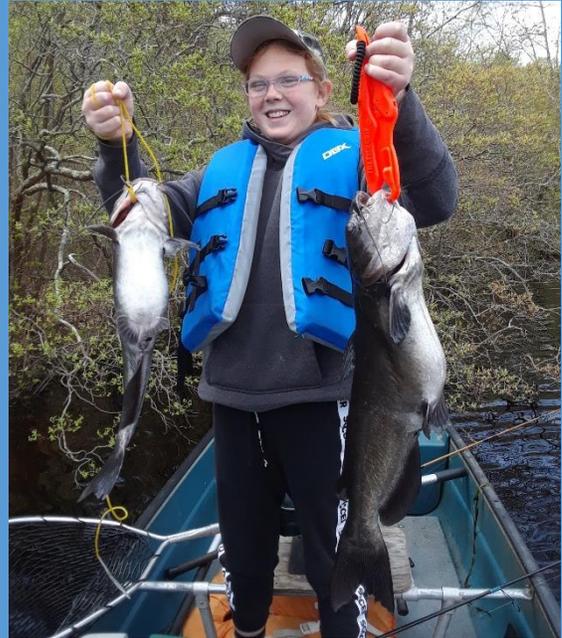
COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS: Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond) was stocked.

LARGEMOUTH BASS. fishing has been generally fair to good, fish on beds in many areas. Reports are from Candlewood Lake (big fish continue to be caught!), Highland Lake (OK bite), Wononskopomuc Lake (fair to good), Black Pond (Middlefield), Hopeville Pond, Pachaug Pond and Cedar Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Amos Lake (still tough, 2.91 lb lunker), Bashan Lake (hard work finding fish for one club with 2.56 lb lunker, a bit better for a second club with a 2.99 lb lunker, similar results for a kayak event), Coventry Lake (good for some, tough for most, 5.76 lb & 5.19 lb lunkers), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good for a few, really bad for the rest, 1.99 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair at best, 3.90 lb lunker), Wyassup Lake (fair to good for most, but no size with a 1.65 lb lunker), Silver Lake (very good action for a kayak club), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 6.25 lb, 3.9 lb, 5.16 lb, 6.25 lb & 5.4 lb lunkers), Mudge Pond (fair, 2.60 lb lunker), West Hill Pond (fair for a kayak club) and Wononskopomuc Lake (limits for most, 4.26 lb lunker, average fish weight of 2.36 lbs)

SMALLMOUTH BASS action is good at Candlewood Lake with lots of 3-4 smallies reported, some action also reported from Lake Lillinonah and Highland Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from reports are from Bashan Lake (only a couple) and Candlewood Lake (good to very good for many, 4.58 lb lunker).

CATCHING MEMORIES!



Fishing Hopeville Pond by Steve Bouffard on 5/9/2019

We (me and my daughter Abigail) started fishing at 5:15am and got our first bite at 7:00 am. It was a large Northern Pike that I lost not far from the boat. A real heart breaker... That was our only Pike action of the day. During the next 3 hours we boated 5 Largemouth Bass with the biggest one weighing 4 lbs even. Then we decided to change things up a bit and we moved away from the weedline and set up a bit deeper towards the middle. I had read about the Channel Cat stocking but wasn't really expecting much in the middle of a sunny day. Over the next 2 hours we caught 4 cats. The 3 lbs 9 oz that she caught and the 6lbs 6 oz that I caught actually hit within 30 seconds of each other. It was a nice double. After that we caught 2 more between 2 1/2 and 3 lbs. She had a great time and the Cat action almost made up for losing that Pike. She told me on the way home that Hopeville is her new favorite spot!

If you have a current fishing memory or story you would like to share. Please email to mike.beauchene@ct.gov

BLACK CRAPPIE are providing fair to good action in a number of areas throughout the state. Lake Lillinonah is hot!

CHANNEL CATFISH are becoming more and more active. Two trophy-sized Channels from Hopeville Pond, one of our [Catfish Management Lakes](#).

CHAIN PICKEREL are biting aggressively in many areas throughout the state.

NORTHERN PIKE. Some action for pike reported from Pachaug Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. The Connecticut River is above typical levels for this time of year at 38,200 CFS at Thompsonville. Water is clearing a bit more, water temperatures are still pretty cool for this time of year. Continue to be on the lookout for debris if boating on the river. Despite the seemingly poor conditions, Shad, Striped Bass, Pike, Walleye, Largemouth Bass are being caught here and there. Our migratory fish program had a report of a sea-run brown trout.

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE REMINDER. Due to damage from storms in 2018 (May), Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) remains closed and the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring.

LOWER BOLTON LAKE-(boating regatta). A sail boat regatta is scheduled for **Sunday, May 19th** from **9:00 am to 5:00 pm** in the central area of the lake. Boaters should extra care on the lake.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). The boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is open but may be subject to occasional closures during times of very high water levels in the lake. Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (boat launches). Boaters should be aware that due to the recent high flows debris, including logs and stumps, have settled on or near the ramps at some launch facilities including the state launches at Haddam Meadows and Salmon River. Boaters should use extra caution at these facilities.

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.

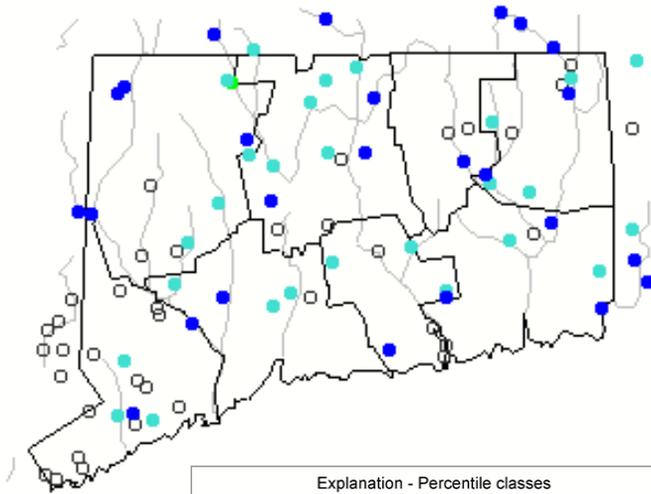
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch,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



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

Stream flow conditions

Thursday, May 16, 2019 15:30ET



| Explanation - Percentile classes | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|------------|
| ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ● | ○ |
| Low | <10 | 10-24 | 25-75 | 76-90 | >90 | High |
| | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal | Not-ranked |



Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt> A percentile is a value on a scale of one hundred that indicates the percent of data in the data set equal to or below it. For example streamflow greater than the 75th percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25th and 50th are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25th or less are considered to be “below normal”.



GREAT ADVENTURE FOR FAMILIES! ANNUAL RAINBOW DAM FISHWAY OPEN HOUSE

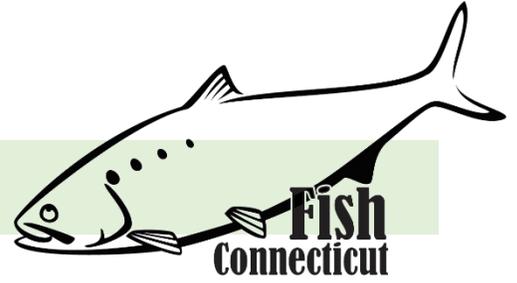
The DEEP Fisheries Division will be hosting its annual Rainbow Dam Fishway Open House on **Saturday May 18 from 10 am until 3 pm**. This is the largest fishway in the State and includes an underground viewing window where on this day visitors can watch migrating fish swim past. American Shad, Blueback Herring, Sea Lamprey (photo to left), bass, trout, perch and other species may be seen—there’s even a chance for an Atlantic Salmon. Fisheries staff will be on hand to show people the facility and answer questions and members of the Connecticut River Salmon Association will be there to talk about the International Year of the Salmon. Visitors may also tour the hydroelectric generation plant associated with the 59-foot tall dam owned by the Farmington River Power Company. This facility, located on the Farmington River, is located close to Bradley Airport at 400 Rainbow Road, Windsor, CT (see directions at bottom of this page).

Directions to Rainbow Fishway:

From Rt. I-91, take exit 40 to Rt.20 (Bradley Airport Exit). Travel west to the Hamilton South exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

From Rt.20 East (traveling toward I-91), go past the exit for Bradley Airport and take the Hamilton exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn right. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 50's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

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

http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

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

<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

IMPORTANT NOTE to ANGLERS: There are reports of **leaping sturgeon** in the lower CT River (Essex to the Old Saybrook). A common spring behavior for these **endangered fish species (Atlantic and shortnose)**...as they attempt to gulp air for their primitive swim bladder.

Also, we have had a few reports of anglers inadvertently catching sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please, do not remove the fish from the water. Release all sturgeon with unavoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a federally protected species. Thanks!

STRIPED BASS fishing is improving and the bass are getting larger, much larger, especially during big moon tides. The full "flower" moon is this weekend. A few striped bass have had hitchhikers in the form of sea lice, so you can be sure they are part of the yearly migration - which is good news for those anglers targeting trophy-sized stripers. In the Western Sound you'll want to dunk fresh Atlantic Menhaden (Bunker) in 50' plus water depth. Plugging has been especially good along the Norwalk Islands; specifically Cockenoe Island which has produced keepers this week. They are also favoring Yozuri Darts at night, with many reports of 40-lb fish. Schoolie stripers have been venturing out of the rivers and are being caught with Cotton Cordell Pencil Poppers (1-ounce in bone color), Super Strike Poppers and SP Minnows on the top-water. One can still catch-n-release plenty of juvenile stripers in the rivers from Greenwich to Stonington - enough to make your arm sore. In the rivers...soft plastics in light colors (chartreuse) by boat are working best as well as trolling umbrella rigs...and from shore sand or blood worms seem to be the hot ticket. Check out your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for bait. Striped bass are being caught from piers along the Connecticut coast, including the new, fabulously designed, Fort Nathan Hale Pier. In fact, at Fort Nathan anglers are not just catching 38" plus stripers, they're also catching keeper scup, in ranges of 13" - 15". Other striper spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River (Fort Trumbull), Niantic River (Millstone outflow), lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier** and Dock & Dine), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), the Sound School Fishing Pier, Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor including the islands. **Sand and blood worms have been working the best, especially in turbid waters around the incoming and top of the tide.** Casting swimming lures, small jigs (Chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will also work. ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.***

SCUP (porgy) fishing is very good by Orient Point and the north shore bays. Much better in Gardiners Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic Bay is very good). The largest scup we've heard this month was a 19" porgy caught in Peconic Bay, Long Island. In the bay fishers are frequently catching 13" - 17" scup. If you don't have a fish-finder, just pull into Little Peconic Bay and look for 20-25 boats all fishing in a close circle. Scup are so hungry this time of year they are eating almost everything but are especially fond of clams and squid. Time to plan a

trip on the many party/charter boats in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#). Scup fishing around the Norwalk Islands has also produced fish as large as 17 1/2 inches and 3-lb. (hubcap size).

Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: **Fort Nathan Hale Fishing Pier**, Rocky Neck State Park, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

SUMMER FLOUNDER fishing is good overall and quickly improving. Spearing (silversides) schools have been spotted out in the Sound along with bunker schools but mostly in the Western Sound. And sand eels have now reached Seaside Park in Bridgeport. So summer flounder (fluke) are being caught along the shoreline from Bluff Point to Fairfield’s Pennfield Reef. Try Bucktail Jigs tipped with spearing, clam or squid. As squid enter Long Island Sound...fishing will only get better. Mid to western LIS anglers reported fluke from 3 to 5 lbs being common. Fluke spots include the typical locations: south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, Thames River channel, Two Tree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay/River, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, Falkner Island area, West Haven to Woodmont, New Haven Harbor including by the breakwaters, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, and around the Norwalk Islands. **Since squid are coming in, offering a live one on the bottom (10-40 feet) would be a good move for catching that big slab “doormat” fluke!** Try drifting with a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach a Berkely 3”- 4” Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white or pink color. Fresh squid and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** Time to get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackle Shop List](#)

BLACK SEA BASS fishing opens [May 19](#). Fishing should be awesome for these “bucketmouths”.

WEAKFISH have arrived at your area beaches and will improve with the full moon. Fishing in the Milford area has been very good, especially at Charles Island, West Haven Sand Bar and Pennfield Reef in Fairfield. Also a school of weakfish was spotted this week at the mouth of Blackrock Harbor. Small lures like Super Spook Lures or Talking Poppers have been effective. Look for these awesome eating fish in Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY) and South of Plum Island on sandy bottom. Look for these awesome eating fish in south of Falkners, Six Mile Reef, Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY).

BLUEFISH with the new arrival of spearing (silversides), bunker and sand eels, we are hearing our first reports of bluefish. As you know, bluefish will devour almost anything. Bluefish have been spotted around the Norwalk Islands up to 30” and also entering Long Island Sound from Block Island Sound as well. Reports are also coming in from Seaside Park and the Milford beaches of meal sized bluefish catches. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots.

WINTER FLOUNDER are still being caught in sizes up to 3-pounds. Fishing is improving in the Poquonock River, at Bluff Point State Park, Niantic River, The Brothers, Jordan Cove, lower Saugatuck River, Calf Pasture Beach area, **Norwalk Islands** (Cockonoe) and the channels in Norwalk Harbor. Chumming is the key to success.

WHITE PERCH fishing is good in tidal rivers and coves along Connecticut’s shoreline. Perch spots include the Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, upper Niantic River, **lower Connecticut River** (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Shrimp and small worms are the key to success.**

NOTABLE CATCHES

| Species | Length (in.) | Weight (lbs) | Angler |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Striped Bass | 48.5" | C&R | Jason Williams |

- **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.
- **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>.
- **CT TIDE INFORMATION** can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).

REPORTING YOUR RECREATIONAL FISHING ACTIVITY – CT’S MARINE ANGLER SURVEY

CTDEEP Marine Fisheries Program is responsible for conducting the Access Point Angler Intercept Survey (APAIS) in CT to collect saltwater recreational fishing catch data. This data is part of [NOAA’s Marine Recreational Information Program \(MRIP\)](#) an extremely important survey used to manage our marine fisheries. You can find CTDEEP marine fisheries staff aboard party boats, visiting marinas, boat launch ramps, canvassing local beaches, piers, and at other fishing access points to gather accurate catch information.

When you’re out fishing, please keep an eye out for marine angler survey field staff! The survey takes 5 minutes to complete. Any information you can provide them will remain confidential and is greatly appreciated.

For more opportunities to report your recreational catch, please visit Marine [Volunteer Angler Survey](#).

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH - MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT

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