

CT DEEP 2019  
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 7  
5/30/2019



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*)



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## INLAND REPORT

Get the latest on our Trout Stocking through

- Daily Facebook Posts ([@CTFISHANDWILDLIFE](#))
- Current Stocking Report (on our [webpage](#))
- [Interactive Trout Stocking Map](#)
- See last year's [stocking numbers](#)

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

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS** – Looks like a pretty good weekend for trout fishing. Flows have moderated in many areas (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*), temperatures are comfortable for both trout and angler, the weather forecast is fairly good (some showers/rain Thursday night and perhaps on Sunday), there's plenty of trout waiting for anglers. With some rain in the forecast and amounts dependent on location, anglers may want to plan ahead and check stream flows (**real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations can be found at the [USGS web site](#)**).

Anglers are finding good action at many areas throughout the state, although the variable conditions means that anglers should be prepared to try a number of tactics and methods. Where flows have moderated the most hatches are becoming more consistent and dry flies are working (but then so are worms). Large mayflies were hatching at dusk in a number of areas. In areas where flows are more variable hatches are still spotty and streamers and nymphing may be better. Places reporting good action include the Natchaug River, Salmon River (“...dry flies in the evening...lots of fish rising...”), Blackledge River, Fivemile River, Hammonasset River (fishing has been good but note that flows have gone up again due to some recent heavier rain along the coastline), the West Branch Farmington River (good action reported in deeper holes below route 219 bridge) and Farmington River (Satan's Kingdom has been providing some action), and the Naugatuck River (some good action between Thomaston and Waterbury with some nice 12-14 inch Browns caught, and very good action in the Waterbury area – “...almost too easy...” said one angler).

**Farmington River** – Lots of good reports from the West Branch from the holiday weekend. Flows are quite fishable but on the high side, currently 440 CFS at Riverton with an additional 199 CFS from the Still River (forecast rains may increase flows some from the Still River). The fish are there but you may have to hop spots to find the right mix of flow and activity. Creativity in fishing spots continues to be a plus, don't be afraid to explore, especially some of the smaller side channels. We are getting into the longest days of the year, plenty of time to spend taking in the beautiful sights and sounds of the river and its life.

**Hatches/patterns.** Insect activity is definitely on the rise (pun intended). Late afternoon and evening hatches are picking up with fish looking for that easy surface snack. Insects that should be popular with the trout

include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson, Black Caddis (small like #22), Winter/Summer Caddis, Stonefly nymphs, Midges and Blue Quill. Vitreous are up as far as New Hartford, and some sulfers are showing up. Nymphs are fooling most of the fish being caught with 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 Muddler minnow, Grey or Black Ghost). Try night-time "mousing" for the biggest of the browns.

**Housatonic River** – The river is settling down some, and hatches are starting to become more consistent. Flows are fishable in many areas, clearing and dropping again, currently 1,320 CFS at Falls Village and 2,400 CFS at Gaylordsville. With some precipitation mixed into in the forecast along with several nice days, flows may be variable. 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.** March Browns (#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 Hendriksons. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options.

**TROUT- LAKES & PONDS** – In general, trout fishing continues to be fair to good, with reports from Mashapaug Lake, Crystal Lake, Billings Lake, Wyassup Lake, Squantz Pond, East Twin Lake and Wononskopomuc Lake. Fishing at the Trout Parks continues to be generally fair to good with the best reports from Chatfield Hollow, Mohegan Park Pond (lots of anglers using powerbait), Wharton Brook and Valley Falls Park Pond. Day Pond was reportedly tougher for trout this week.



*A beautiful 10.4 lb Brown Trout caught (and released) by Mike Gent at Wononskopomuc Lake.*

**TROUT- Stocking update for the week of 5/28 – 5/31. DEEP COMPLETED ITS SPRING TROUT STOCKINGS THIS WEEK.** Note that stocking information can also be found in our [current stocking report](#) or by using the [interactive trout stocking map](#).

#### **RIVERS AND STREAMS:**

- In **eastern Connecticut**; the Hammonasset River (portions of river downstream of the TMA) and the Shetucket River were stocked.
- In **western Connecticut**; the Housatonic River (Bulls Bridge TMA), Tenmile River, the Mill River (Hamden, sections downstream of the TMA), Farmington River TMA (from the lower Collinsville dam to the Route 177 bridge in Unionville, the Farmington River (Route 177 to Route 4 Farmington) and the Farmington River TMA (from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area at Route 219 to the lower Collinsville Dam) and the Farmington River (Farmington-Tariffville) were stocked.

**LAKES AND PONDS:**

- In **eastern Connecticut**; Mashapaug Lake and Long Pond were stocked.

**TROUT PARKS:** the Chatfield Hollow (pond & brook only), Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Valley Falls Park Pond, Black Rock (pond only), Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Stratton Brook (pond) and Wharton Brook Pond Trout Parks were stocked.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS.** Fishing is fair to good in many places, with most fish on beds in a number of areas (finally). The weather this spring has somewhat discombobulated bass so bedding has been in fits and starts with lots of passing fronts, temperatures slow to warm and fluctuating water levels. Reports are from Candlewood Lake (lots of bed fishing), the Pachaug river system (Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond, Glasgo Pond all fishing well, try rubber frogs), Highland Lake, Moodus Reservoir and Mashapaug Lake.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Lower Bolton Lake (good for most, 3.40 lb lunger), Gorton Pond (fair to good, 4.45 lb lunger), Gardner Lake (fair for most, 4.88 lb & 3.76 lb lunkers), Hopeville Pond (fair to good, 5.44 lb lunger), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (good for some, but tough for the rest, 6.1 lb lunger), Mashapaug Lake (fair, 2.90 lb lunger), Moodus Reservoir (fair to good, 3.28 lb lunger but not much else for size, fish averaged only a bit more than 1 lb apiece), Pachaug Pond (good for most, 4.0 lb lunger), Pattagansett Lake (fair, 2.94 lb & 2.62 lb lunkers), Rogers Lake (tough, 3.55 lb lunger), Bantam Lake (fair, 5.03 lb lunger), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 7.09 lb, 6.01 lb, 5.96 lb, 5.89 lb, 4.60 lb, 4.53 lb, 4.09 lb, 3.28 lb & 3.12 lb lunkers), East Twin Lake (spotty fishing, 3.75 lb lunger), Lake Lillinonah (fair, 3.99 lb & 3.63 lb lunkers), Silver Lake (fair, 2.50 lb lunger), Squantz Pond (fair to good, 5.88 lb lunger), Lake Zoar (fair at best, 3.87 lb & 3.40 lb lunkers) and the Connecticut River (fair to good around Salmon River area, 3.90 lb lunger, with an average weight per fish of 2 lbs apiece).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** action remains 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 Bantam Lake (a few), Candlewood Lake (fair to good, 6.07 lb, 4.90 lb, 4.89 lb, 4.09 lb, 3.23 lb & 3.20 lb lunkers), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 2.72 lb lunger), Mashapaug Lake (a few), Squantz Pond (slow to fair) and Lake Zoar (fair, 4.23 lb lunger).

**CHANNEL CATFISH.** The Fisheries Division stocked 10,600 “cats” into 19 lakes and ponds (combination of Community Fishing Waters and Catfish Management Lakes) last week so there’s plenty of cats roaming the waters and anglers are finding them in a number of areas, with Lakewood Lake especially productive. Not just bottom feeders, Channel Cats will hit lures, soft plastics, and live minnows.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** action is slowing some but is still keeping anglers busy in many areas.

**CHAIN PICKEREL** continue to be aggressive in many areas throughout the state.

**WALLEYE.** Walleye are being caught at Squantz Pond (including a 27 incher caught on an alewife).

**KOKANEE** action continues at East Twin Lake, smaller fish but very robust – should be some nice fish later in the season.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER.** The Connecticut River has risen some, and remains above typical levels for this time of year at 28,700 CFS at Thompsonville but is fishable and boatable (Continue to be on the lookout for debris if boating on the river). Water continues to clear but water temperatures are still pretty cool. The shad run continues but fishing for them has been spotty. Fishing for catfish has picked up, a few stripers are being found and Largemouth Bass are very action in the Salmon River Cove area. Pike fishing is on the upswing along with Black Crappie, and Smallmouth as the water clears, drops and warms.

**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.

**CONNECTICUT RIVER, (Salmon River launch closure).** The Salmon River state boat launch is scheduled to be closed from Monday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 13, inclusive, for repairs/renovations. The launch will reopen on Thursday, June 14.

**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 other waterbodies.

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

**QUONNIPAUG LAKE (boating event).** The Guilford Public schools will be conducting a “student-built boat launchings & final exam” on Tuesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 2:00 pm. This activity will be in the area of the town beach/swim area.

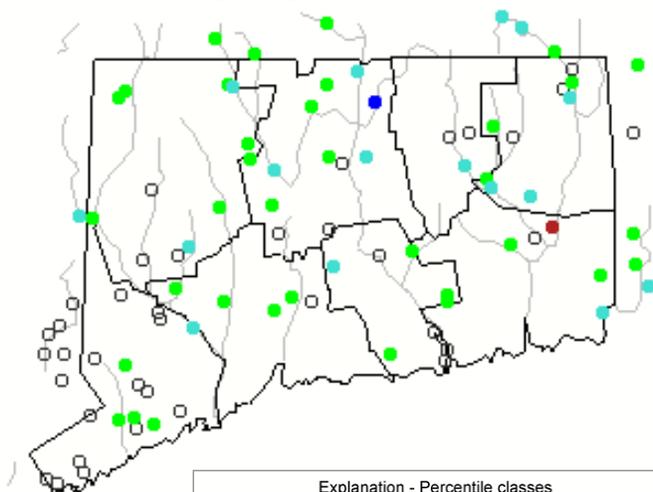


Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

to

**Stream flow conditions**

Thursday, May 23, 2019 13:30ET



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

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 75<sup>th</sup> percentile means only ¼ of the streamflow values were above the value and thus would be considered “above normal”. Stream flow between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> are considered to be “normal flows” and those 25<sup>th</sup> or less are considered to be “below normal”.

## 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

[http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat\\_data/?nothumbs=1](http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1)  
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

**IMPORTANT REMINDER for ANGLERS:** 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 without avoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a federally protected species. Thanks!

**STRIPED BASS** fishing continues to be good as the spring migration continues. Large cow bass are here and being caught throughout Long Island Sound (every reef is holding trophy fish). The NEW moon is approaching...that's means...big fish time. Striped Bass fishing is good from Stratford to Execution Rock off Greenwich. A variety of baits and lures are working but mackerel, **bunker, spoons**, Mojo rigs are scoring. Anglers are catching many stripers this week from shore and local jetties. Hit your favorite beach or fishing pier and cast away (Lunker City white slug go). **Norwalk's Calf Pasture Beach Pier** has been outstanding during late May and expected to continue into June. Striper spots include Hempstead, Mamaroneck, Execution Rocks, Stepping Stone, the Weather Buoy, Can 32A, Pawcatuck River, Mystic River, Thames River, Niantic River, lower Connecticut River (**DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and Dock and Dine**), Black Hall River, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), **Housatonic River and Norwalk/Saugatuck Harbor** including the islands. Try trolling bunker spoons on the reefs or better yet toss a chunk of bunker. Sand and blood worms have been working the best for "schoolie" bass. Casting swimming lures (SP Minnow – bone & sand eel color), small jigs (chartreuse color) with twister tails, soft baits, and Kastmasters and other metal lures will all work. The evening/night bite is heating up with bait, including live eels. The top-water fishing continues to be fantastic...Cotton Cordell pencil poppers in bone, blue back or black color.

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)** fishing is good but improving with the arrival of squid. **Montauk** is fishing better than Block Island or the south side of Fishers Island. Anglers returning from Montauk catching fluke from 24 – 29 inches. As squid continue to enter Long Island Sound...fishing will only get better. Fluke fishing is consistent from **Westport to Norwalk Islands**, with several doormat 10-12 pound flounder being caught by lucky anglers. Most recent a 12-pounder was caught off Compo Beach using a Spro Bucktail w/a Gulp attached. Also doormats are being caught by using Spro Bucktails tipped with Squid. Mid-sound anglers reported fluke from 2 to 4 lbs being common. Fluke fishing is good from Norwalk to New Haven. Fluke spots include the typical locations: Smithtown Bay, Buoy #26, **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 Spro Bucktail jig with a Berkely 3" - 4" Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white

or pink color. Fresh squid and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing. Get the boat, and fishing gear ready for some phenomenal early season fluke fishing. [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is good and getting better in the Sound. There a lot of big sea bass (aka - "humpheads") in the Sound. They are loaded up at buoy 32-A, and the best lure/bait this week has been clams/sand worms. It's going to be another great year! **Please remember New York black sea bass doesn't open until June 23<sup>rd</sup>... so please stay on the CT side of the Sound.** Some other early season hot spots are Falkner Island, the Middlegrounds, Buoy 32A, Green Ledge Lighthouse, Cockenoe Islands, Six Mile Reef and from New Haven to Woodmont. Fishing over any deep water structure in 30 to 100 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized "humpheads". Fish shallower and you will catch plenty of keeper-sized sea bass. It's important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **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 and a spinner works great for these "Bucketmouths".

**SCUP (porgy)** fishing is very good on gravel and rock bottom from shore in the **western Sound**. Sand worms and clams on a high-low rig has been the winning ticket and trophy-size scup are being caught at Greens Ledge Lighthouse and Eaton's Neck in the west. Fishing is fantastic **south of Gardiners Island and the other north shore bays**. Scup are piled up in Gardiners Bay, Cherry Point, Napeague Bay and the Peconics (Little Peconic) for spawning. Scup continue to come into Long Island Sound, more each day. Anglers have been catching them w/ squid, clams and sand worms. Many reports are coming in from boaters having great action at Middle Passage, **Norwalk Islands** and Port Jefferson. Time to plan a trip on the many wonderful party/charter boats in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#). I mean giant porgies measuring 15-19 inches ("hubcap size") have been caught! Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: Todd's Point, **Sherwood Island State Park**, 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/conch or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackleshop](#) for updated fishing information.

**WEAKFISH** fishing is good to excellent. Seriously...they don't call them "tide runners" for nothing. This is a great opportunity for shore anglers to catch a really cool looking fish that's great eating. Hit your local beach and cast away (YO-ZURI Mag Darter). Most weakfish are in 5 to 15 feet of water this time of the year. Fishing in the Milford/Woodmont area and south of Falkners has been very good, especially around Charles Island, West Haven Sand Bar and Pennfield Reef in Fairfield. Small lures like Super Spook Lures or Talking Poppers have been effective. Look for "**squeteague**", sometimes referred to as a "weakfish" because of the ease with which a hook tears from its mouth in Branford/Guilford/New Haven Harbor over to the Milford/Stratford area along with the Peconics (NY) and South of Plum Island on **sandy bottom**.

**BLUEFISH** with the arrival of butterfish, spearing (silversides) and sand eels, we are hearing many reports of tailor-size blues (2-5 pounds) around the tidal shoreline. Fishing is good and getting better each day. Much better than last year. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor (1 -2 pounds) or tailor-sized blues cruising around them.

**STRIPED & NORTHERN SEAROBIN** fishing is good in LIS for this "hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins". Yes, these are two most common species you will catch and they are plentiful. **These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut's shore fishing sites.** With many fish measuring over 22 inches, 4 pounds and "barking up a storm" (grunting noise they make when handling them). They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. They are also very good to eat. Please be careful when handling them...be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover.

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is fair in the lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. Once the water levels moderate the shad should be hitting pretty good. Connecticut Tarpon (hckory shad) are usually mixed in with schoolie striped bass and harbor blues. Flood or ebb tide is best and lures of choice are a willow leaf (gold/silver), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors.

**NOTABLE CATCHES**

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Black Sea Bass	23"	C&R	Evan Kamoen
Black Sea Bass	22"	C&R	Lucas Kamoen
Scup	18"	3 lbs 2 oz	Marina M.
Squid	14.5" Mantle Length	28" Total Length	Rick Watrous Jr.
Squid	15" Mantle Length	28" Total Length	Jodi Stone

- **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.
- 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 (AP AIS) 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](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).*

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**DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**



**Connecticut Department of ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**  
 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106  
[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)