

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Smallies continue to be elusive in many areas, but fish are being caught at Candlewood Lake (look over humps early, alewives or swimbaits will work, nights have been good), Lake Lillinonah and Colebrook River Lake (very good action for an angler here). River smallie action is excellent in the Housatonic River (and the white fly hatch is here on the Housie). Other rivers for smallmouth action include the Naugatuck River, Shetucket River, Pachaug River, Quinebaug River and upper CT River.

Tournament angler reports are from Gardner Lake (a few in the bags), Pachaug Pond (a couple caught), Candlewood Lake (fair to good for a night club, with a 5.31 lb lunker; and fair for a day club, with a 5.46 lb lunker and one angler with 5 smallies worth 18.2 lbs), and Lake Lillinonah (on the tough side for most for one club; fair to good for a second club).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Conditions have improved some. Recent rains have refreshed flows in many areas (see *stream flow graphic on page 5*), there's a chance for more rain Thursday evening, and more moderate air temperatures are forecast for the weekend, along with lower humidity – meaning cooler nights helping to cool water temperatures. A number of our stocked streams likely got too warm to sustain many trout during the recent heat waves although some fish moved on to find cold tributaries or deep spring-fed pools. Also remember that you can check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#).

During the “Dog Days” of summer, the more adventurous can try seeking out the cool conditions of our **Wild Trout Management Areas**. These areas were established because they have adequate water temperatures to support trout year round and have some level of natural reproduction mixed with trout stocked as fry (1.5 inch). Fry stocked trout grow in the stream and are visually indistinguishable from their wild-spawned counterparts. **Class 1** areas are catch and release only, fly or artificial lure, and barbless hooks. **Class 2 and 3** areas do not have any restriction on gear, however daily limits are 2 fish greater than 12 inches (Class 2) and 5 fish greater than 9 inches (Class 3). All Wild Trout Management Areas are listed in our [Fishing Guide](#).

The best bet for action this week will again be the tail-water habitat (super cold) of the West Branch and mainstem Farmington River (to about Unionville). Remember the upper portion was stocked at the beginning of July with 2,250 Brown trout.

Farmington River – Fishing has been good to very good but anglers should be prepared to be flexible in spots, techniques and flies/lures to be successful (no one pattern/presentation is proving to be consistent throughout the river). Stoneflies on the bottom and BWO's on top were working for one angler. Conditions for the week should be good to very good. Flows continue to be great for fishing, clear and low (currently 157 CFS at Riverton plus 22 CFS from the Still River). Water temperatures have been increasing some but remain cool and comfortable for trout in the West Branch. More moderate air temperatures are forecast and there are plenty of fish.

Real time Water Temperature Data is available from the Riverton gauge on the USGS Current Conditions for Connecticut Streamflow website (<https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>).

DEEP's Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse was instrumental in funding this addition to the USGS gauge. This new data will be helpful, including for monitoring conditions and determining the need for additional monitoring farther downstream, especially during droughts and heat waves.

Here's the link that will take you directly to the USGS 01186000 WEST BRANCH FARMINGTON RIVER AT RIVERTON, CT online gauge data:

https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/uv?cb_all=on&cb_00010=on&cb_00060=on&cb_00065=on&format=gif_default&site_no=01186000&period=17&begin_date=2019-06-25&end_date=2019-07-09

Note that if you save the direct link above, you'll need to update the dates every few days as it takes one to a specific time period (in this case 6/22 – 7/9).

Hatches/patterns. Insect activity remains fairly active but for the traditional Caddis, Mayfly, or Stonefly, fish later in the afternoon and well into the evening. Ants are the word – try black, cinnamon and flying ant patterns (especially in afternoons). Others for this time of year include 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). Trico's are just starting up in the upper river.

Nymphing continues to be productive. Fish are falling for 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).

Housatonic River – The river continues to be low, very wadeable and fishable. Flows are clear and remain below typical mid-August levels, currently 216 CFS at Falls Village and 326 CFS at Gaylordsville. Flows may increase some due to a passing front Thursday evening and 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. Finally, mainstem water temperatures remain marginal for trout and many trout have sought relief in the thermal refuges. Please be sure to stay well away from these areas. A fish leaving the refuge may be a dead fish.

With the current low flows and after several brutal heat waves, it's a good idea to hit up some of the other fish species in the river. Smallmouth and Fallfish can be very rewarding when caught on light tackle. Crayfish and Hellgramites, both readily available from within the river, are perfect bait - try alders and White Flies (going good) for some great fly fishing action for smallies. Carp and Pike are other solid bets especially in the section above "Great Falls" and in the Bulls Bridge impoundment (Kent).

Hatches/patterns. The White fly hatch is on! Alder flies (actually a caddis), cahills and Isonichia are making an appearance, March Browns (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Woolly Buggers) are good options. Terrestrials like black and red ants, beetles, and crickets can be the ticket.

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. [Please call our dispatch to report any illegal fishing 860-424-3333.](#)



TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – No reports for trout this week.

Crystal Lake, Colebrook River Lake, East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond may provide some action.

CHANNEL CATFISH. Good fishing reported from a number of waters throughout the state. The more productive areas including the CT River in the evening, Batterson Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, and Beardsley Park Pond.



ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

Zebra mussels are now found in a number of locations scattered throughout the Housatonic River and its impoundments including Lake Lillinonah (since 2010), Lake Zoar (since 2010) and Lake Housatonic (since 2011).

Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.** Information

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of zebra mussels to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/deep/invasivespecies or the Aquatic Invasive species section of the 2018 CT angler's Guide (www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

COMMON CARP. Good action in all locations. Lake Zoar, the CT River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Lake are all good carp producers. Some good action for carp reported from the Shetucket River in Norwich (below the 8th Street Bridge).

NORTHERN PIKE. Few reports for pike this week. Bantam Lake, Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar, Winchester Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir are all good places for pike. Some nice pike can also be found in the small impoundments on the Housatonic River from Bulls Bridge up to Salisbury.

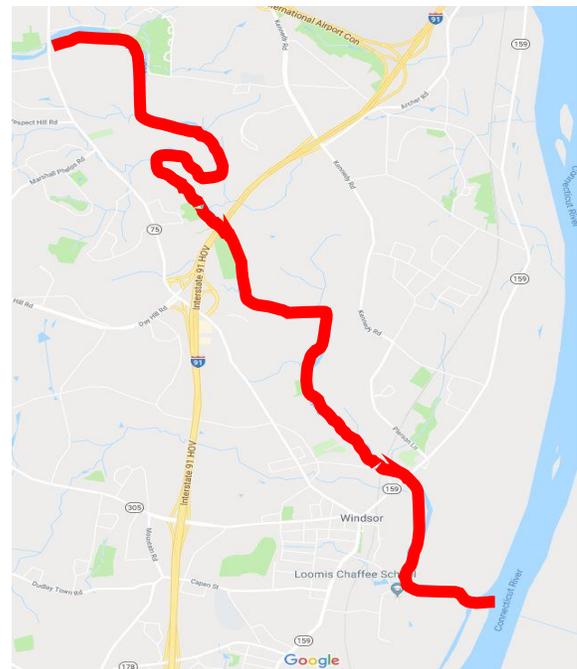
PANFISH. Perfect time of year to go to your favorite pond and load up on bluegill and perch. Panfish are the gateway to all other species. While you are at it, bring the family – sunnies are going wild and kids love the continuous action (a great way to get them interested in fishing)! Calico Bass are providing some action throughout the state, with some really good reports from southeast CT for Hopeville Pond (down near the dam) and Pattagansett Lake.

CHAIN PICKEREL. Pickerel haven't been aggressive but continue to be caught in many areas.

WALLEYE. Few reports this week. Places to try include Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Squantz Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are on the low side and very comfortable for fishing/boating, currently 4,820 CFS at Thompsonville. Bowfin fishing remains good. Good action for **catfish** (Whites and Channels) throughout the river. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** was fair to good in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** continue to provide steady action in the Enfield area and **Black Crappie** continue to provide some action. Some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river.

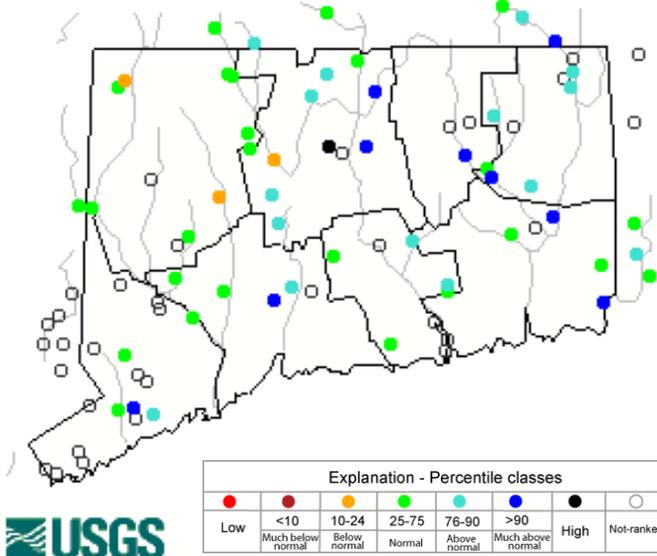
IMPORTANT NOTICE - Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9. DEEP and the Department of Public Health have lifted the advisory concerning boating and swimming in this section of the lower Farmington river. **The advisory to not eat fish caught from this area remains in place until further testing is completed and results analyzed.**



Section of the lower Farmington River possibly affected by the recent firefighting foam release under the cautionary advisory.

Stream flow conditions

Thursday, August 08, 2019 17:30ET



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”.

NOTES & NOTICES:

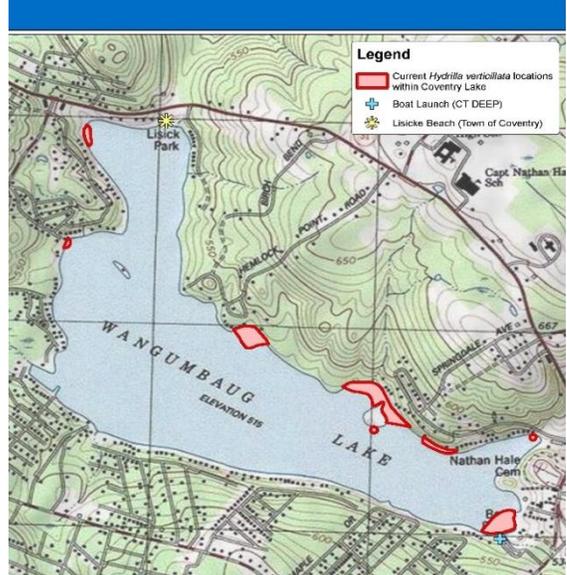
CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Hydrilla has now spread throughout the river and can be found in numerous areas.** See the Coventry Lake entry on the next page 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 launch.

MUDGE POND (triathlon). The swim portion of a triathlon will be conducted from 8:30 am to 10:30 am on Saturday, **August 10**, in the northern end of the pond, with start and finish at the Sharon Town Beach.

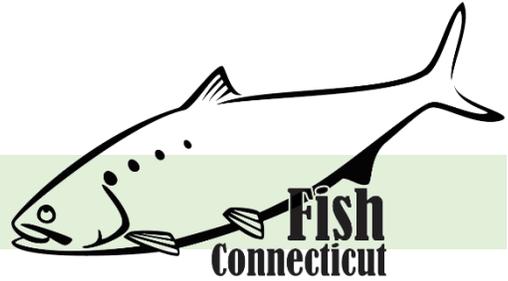
STANLEY QUARTER PARK POND (drawdown). A 2-3 foot drawdown for dam repairs is ongoing. Accessing the water may be limited.

Known Hydrilla Infestations (Spring 2018)



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

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) range from the low to high 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://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>

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

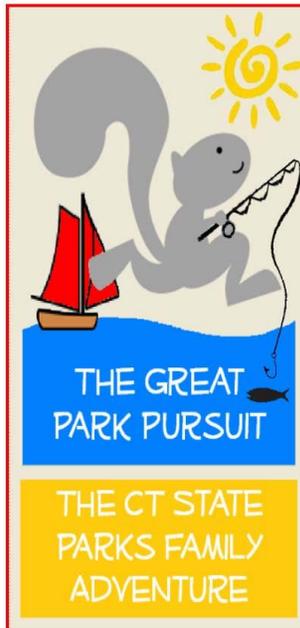
IMPORTANT REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **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.
- **NORTHERN DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN TURTLE** – Many shore anglers fishing in the lower Connecticut and Housatonic Rivers and other estuaries are encountering these beautiful brackish water turtles while fishing. They will frequently feed on fishermen's live or dead bait when bottom fishing. They are a protected species with very low abundance. Please take great care (use needle nose pliers) when removing the hook and release the turtle without avoidable harm. Terrapins have a long lifespan of about 25 to 40 years. Thank you for supporting conservation!

STRIPED BASS fishing remains very good at night. Hook up with a charter boat and learn how to catch those beautiful bass. Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) on the reefs at dawn and dusk still producing some very impressive bass (56 inches – 58 pounds). Chub mackerel, Bay Anchovy, Peanut Bunker and adult Bunker (Atlantic Menhaden) schools

are scattered throughout the Sound. Find the bait and bingo you are on. Try also using a bunker snagger and then live lining a whole bunker for that CT trophy fish award sized striped bass rather than cutting up the bunker into chunks. 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

DEEP's ANNUAL SALTWATER FISHING DAY SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019



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Saltwater Fishing Day
Saturday, August 10, 2019

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
Fishing, crabbing, fish activities, fish catching tactics, and more!
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For more information:
CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
(860) 424-3917

Kristen.Bellantuono@ct.gov
or visit www.NoChildLeftInside.org



“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 (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. Got a big fish...qualify for the [CT Trophy Fish Award Program](#). ***Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.***

SUMMER FLOUNDER (FLUKE) fishing remains spotty from last week. Continue to search deep for this fish. Also, try some unorthodox areas, you might just find some keepers. Its about this time of year that the most common fluking drifts are picked over. From shore, Bucktails with a Berkley Gulp (dogfish don't like gulp) tagged with a little bait has been producing some winners at **South Benson Pier, Southport Harbor, Calf Pasture Breakwater and Pier and Todd's Point** near the **Sailing School**. Good fluke spots include south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Watch Hill to Napatree Point, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River to Groton Long Point, **Thames River channel**, Gardiners Bay over to Greenport, NY, **Twotree Channel**, Black Point/Niantic Bay/River, Long Sand Shoal, Westbrook-Clinton area, **Falkner Island area**, New Haven Harbor to West Haven, off the mouth of the Housatonic River, **Norwalk Islands**, and across over to Port Jefferson, NY. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

BLACK SEA BASS fishing remains awesome. Sea Bass are just about everywhere and are still chowing down on high-low rigs tipped with clam, squid and sand worms. Although you don't want to feed the ocean with all of your bait, chumming has been an effective method to catch a lot of sea bass. Also, diamond jigs and flashy spinner rigs in colors that glow or pink have done extremely well. This week's home turf of black sea bass is about the same as last week. **Sunkin Island, Pennfield Reef, and the mouth of Blackrock Harbor**. Another great spot this week is the Middleground in 30'-60' of water, buoy 18, buoy 20 and BH Buoy. If you're not finding them in your typical spots go a bit deeper.

SCUP (PORGY) fishing is unmatched right now. Whether you're targeting them or not its likely you will find some. Many being caught are of very impressive size.. **Sunken Island, Pennfield Reef, mouth of Blackrock Harbor and Long Beach breakwater in Stratford**. Scup anglers this week have also been reaching their limits at **Gulf Beach breakwater, Walnut Beach, South Benson rocks (along the piers walkway) Saint Mary's by the Sea, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, Sherwood Island State Park, Compo Beach breakwater, Calf Pasture Beach breakwater, Cummings and Cove Beaches in Stamford and Todd's Point**. Porgy fishing has also been reported at these shore fishing locations: **Mystic River Park, UCONN Avery Point, Rocky Neck State Park, Harkness Memorial State Park, 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. Contact your [local bait and tackleshop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH fishing continues to improve. Big bluefish are showing on the surface in some location in the Sound. Try fishing the RACE to Block Island Sound along with the southside of Fishers Island. The time is now to plan a “deep sea” fishing trip with a party charter boat and fish for those blues. **The Race, Plum Gut, many of the major rocky reefs, rips, and shoal areas in LIS** are the best bets at this time. Diamond jigs, trolling parachute jigs or umbrella rigs, and using fresh bunker or hickory shad chunks on three-way bottom rigs have all been effective. Don't forget to throw a few topwater lures in the box. Other bluefish spots include the Sluiceway, Gardiners Bay, the Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island along with the Stratford Shoal and Housatonic River/Milford area. “Snappers” (juvenile bluefish) and “Harbor Blues” (16 - 22 inches) are also very common at many shore locations. Try all the local fishing piers. **Fort Trumbull, the Lieutenant River** and the DEEP Docks have been very good. These under sized bluefish provide great sport for shore anglers. Try

fishing the lower reaches of tidal rivers and estuaries...you will be glad you did as these predators push the bait up rivers.

BLACKFISH (TAUTOG) fishing very good along shallow water reefs. **The daily creel limit is 2 fish per person and the minimum size is 16 inches.** Tautog love eating crabs...try green, Asian and hermit crabs for bait. Spawning activity is slowing so there are starting to feed a bit more. Continue to look towards shallow water over mussel beds. Other prime locations include: pilings with **mussel beds** and rock (reef) piles (5 to 30 ft).

WEAKFISH fishing continues to impress with good numbers of 15-28 inch size fish being caught in the central and eastern Sound (Milford, West Haven and Waterford beaches). Good fishing in Niantic, New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along Stratford shoals. They've also been reeling them in at West Haven Sandy Point and the Sandy Point Audubon Society. **Weakfish prefer sand worms and clams at low light and dusk.** One of the best eating saltwater fish you will ever catch.

SAND SHARKS (SMOOTH DOGFISH) fishing is good in Long Island Sound. They are very abundant and fun to catch when bottom fishing from shore or boat. Unlike most sharks, this **dogfish** has rows of flat grinding teeth rather than sharp blades, which are ideal for crushing and chewing the crustaceans and mollusks that it hunts. They will bite on any bait fished on the bottom. Often found mixed in with scup, summer flounder and sea robins.

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

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing is very good throughout LIS for this "hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins". There is no shortage of robins as boat or shore anglers are enjoying some family fishing fun. 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 20 inches, 3 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.

BLUE CRAB fishing is very good in all tidal creeks and bays. Many of the large Jimmies (male crabs) have moved upstream. Incoming tide has produced better crab fishing...as the crabs migrate into the shallow water to feed. **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 and it's illegal to snag blue crabs. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#)

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Striped Searobin	21"	3 lb 2 oz	Aaron Succow
Summer Flounder	29"	10 lb 3 oz	Jay Reyes

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

- **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.
- **CT TIDE INFORMATION** can be found on page 64 of the [2019 CT Fishing Guide](#).
- **FISH RULES APP** Fish Rules is a totally new and innovative way to understand recreational saltwater fishing regulations for state and federal waters from Maine to Texas.

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.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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