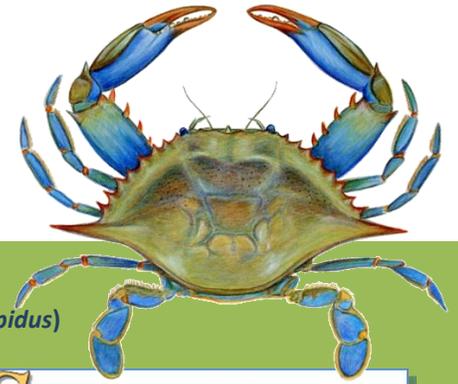


**CT DEEP** **2019**  
**FISHING REPORT NUMBER 18**  
**8/15/2019**



Blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*)



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](http://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife).

**SHARE THE EXPERIENCE**  
Take someone fishing

## INLAND REPORT

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- [Opt in](#) to the Monthly E-newsletter *CT Fishin' Tips*

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

**LARGEMOUTH BASS.** Fishing is generally fair - Anglers aren't raving about the action, but they are catching some fish in most places. Early in the day and late in the day are better times to fish, and nights have been productive at times. Good standbys include black jitterbugs and surface poppers. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (flipping weeds daytime, spinner baits and Jig & pigs at night), Bantam Lake, Lake Wononskopomuc, East Twin Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Silver Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (generally fishing nicely this year), Mashapaug Lake (anglers were finding some action on "...one and a half pound bass"), Black Pond (Woodstock), Billings Lake, Hopeville Pond, Gardner Lake (try on a weekday when there's less boat traffic), Quaddick Lake and Old Killingly Pond (for the more adventurous angler).

**Tournament angler** reports are from from Aspinook Pond (slow to fair, 3.80 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (good fishing for an evening club, with a 3.81 lb lunker), Long Pond (fair for most, with a 3.4 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (Fair fishing, some OK size with a 4.10 lb lunker and a 1.83 lb per fish average weight), Pachaug Pond (fair for one club, with 4.25 lb lunker; tough for a second club, with a 2.58 lb lunker), Powers Lake (fair action, but not much size with a 2.86 lb lunker and a 1.1 lb average weight per fish), Bantam Lake (good to very good, with a 4.58 lb lunker and a 2.2 lb average weight per fish), and a Candlewood Lake (fair for one club, 4.59 lb and 4.33 lb lunkers,), Lake Lillinonah (fair for most, 3.61 lb lunker), Silver Lake (fair for an evening/night kayak club, 3.5 lb lunker), Squantz Pond (fair to good for a kayak/small boat tourney) and the Connecticut River (fair for a club out of Riverside Park, with a 3.26 lb lunker).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught at Candlewood Lake (it's slowed some, but some nice size fish are being caught, look over humps early, alewives or swimbaits will work, nights have been a bit more variable), Lake



### ZEBRA MUSSELS REMINDER

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

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

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

Lillinonah, Bantam Lake and Lake Zoar. Very good reports for river smallmouth from the upper Housatonic River and good reports from the Connecticut River, Quinebaug River. Also some action on the Naugatuck River and the Shetucket River.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (a few caught), Candlewood Lake (on the tough side for one club but they had a 4.35 lb lunker and nearly a 3 lb per fish average weight, also slow for a second club, with a 4.52 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair for most, 3.73 lb lunker), Squantz Pond (slow for a kayak/small boat tourney), and the Connecticut River (fair for a club out of Riverside Park, with a 3.58 lb lunker).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS.** Conditions for the weekend and next week should be poor to fair (at best) in most of our stocked waters. Warmer, more humid weather is in the forecast so nights won't cool as much (so streams will stay a bit warmer) and flows have again dropped, especially in western CT where they are well below typical mid-August levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 5*). Also, you can check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#).

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). Also try some of our Wild Trout Management Areas (these tend to have good cold flow year round) for some wild brookie and brown action. All Wild Trout Management Areas are listed in our [Fishing Guide](#). Terrestrial fly patterns are good to include in your offerings.

**Farmington River** – Fishing continues to be good to very good and conditions for the weekend and next week should be good. Flows are clear and low (currently 115 CFS at Riverton plus 11 CFS from the Still River) remain very comfortable for fishing. Water temperatures continue to increase some but generally remain cool and comfortable for trout in the West Branch (best water temperatures are from the lower end of the catch-and-release area up to Hogback (Goodwin) dam).

**Hatches/patterns** include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28 in the morning; best in the catch-and-release-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Winter/Summer caddis (#18-24), Blue Wing Olives (*Drunella* *sps.* & *Baetis* *sps.*; #18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-20, all day; green #22-26, evening; summer pupa #18-20 morning), Cahills/Summer (*Stenonema ithaca*, #12-14, early morning), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), and Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day). Try nymphing in the early morning. Fish are falling for Bead Head, Midge Pupa, 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), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghost).

**Housatonic River** – The river remains low, and is very wadeable and fishable. Flows are clear and are well below typical mid-August levels, currently 153 CFS at Falls Village and 2346 CFS at Gaylordsville. Anglers 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

**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](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).

on the upper Housatonic River. 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.** The Smallmouth Bass fishing is outstanding and fishing for them 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 (still 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 continues! Other insects include Sulfurs (#14-18, evening), Blue Wing Olive (#16-18, cloudy days, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Light Cahill (#12-14, evening), (*Isonychia bicolor*, #10-12 has been active lately, fast water, evening) and Black caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies have been very productive. Don't forget poppers and streamers (morning & evening). Patterns to try include White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers, Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Also try brown crayfish, they are effective right now

**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.** Summer is catfish time. The more productive areas including the CT River in the evening, Batterson Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, and Beardsley Park Pond. Other places to try include Stillwater Pond, Burr Pond, Silver Lake, Hopeville Pond, and Black Pond.

**COMMON CARP.** Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves for big carp. Other carp favorite water include Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinoak Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

**NORTHERN PIKE.** No 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. It's great for families and will get kids hooked on fishing. Fly-fishing with small poppers will provide



**REMINDER TO ANGLERS-**

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

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

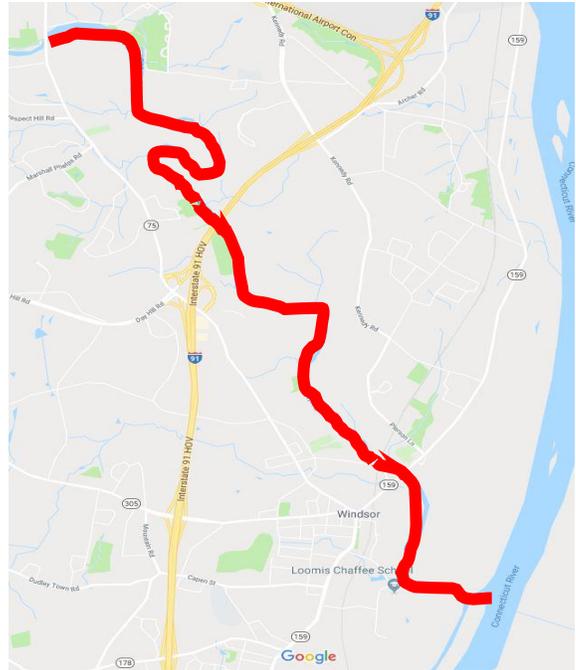


some great catches. Also, try suspending poppers to catch a few crappie. Some good sunnie action reported from freshwater Pond. Looking for a new place to fish? Check out our [interactive mapping application](#).

**WALLEYE.** Few reports this week. Late evening and nighttime is best now for Walleye fishing. 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 low (currently 2,740 CFS at Thompsonville) and while very comfortable for fishing/boating, are making it difficult to get into some of those out-of-the way coves and back channels. Bowfin fishing remains good (with rumors of a possible state record). Good action for **catfish** (Whites and Channels) throughout the river, with a number of 5-8 lb fish caught in the Enfield area. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** remains fair to good in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** continue to provide steady action in the Enfield area and some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river.

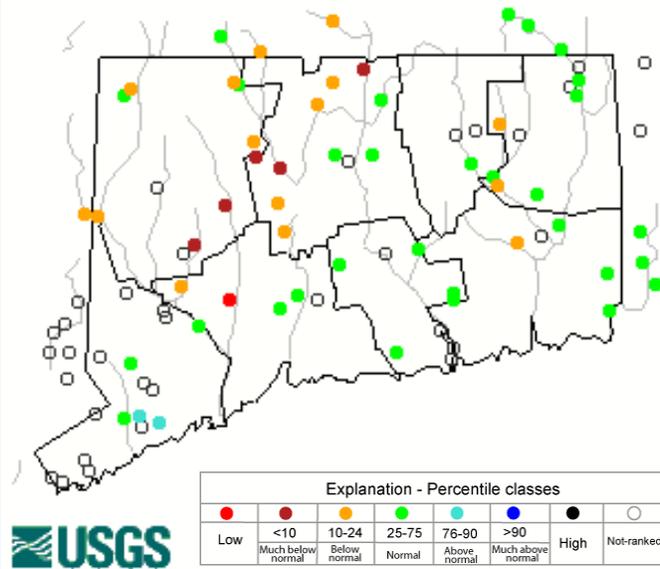
**IMPORTANT NOTICE** - Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9. DEEP and the Department of Public Health have lifted the advisory concerning boating and swimming in this section of the lower Farmington river. **The advisory 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 15, 2019 18:30ET



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 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”.

### NOTES & NOTICES:

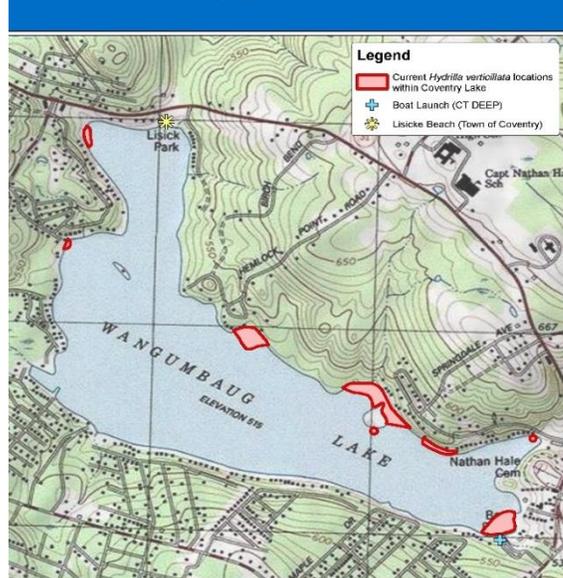
**CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert).** In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury’s Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Hydrilla has now spread throughout the river and can be found in numerous areas.** See the Coventry Lake entry on the next page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

**COVENTRY LAKE (waterski event).** A Waterski Exhibition will be held Sunday, August 18 from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm in the area just to the west (in front of) the state boat launch. The launch will remain open for use by the public and a lane will available to pass by the water ski area. Boaters should use caution in this area.

**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 the 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://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>

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### 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!

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**STRIPED BASS** fishing continues to be fair during the full Sturgeon moon. August can be a tough time of year to catch trophy-sized "linesiders" – your best bet to hook up with a big "cow bass" is to fish at night or in the early morning with live bait or big plugs, as most big stripers are relatively inactive during the hot "dog days" of August. Big striped bass are particularly prone to stress from hooking and handling during the warm summer months – so do your best to release these fish with as little handling as possible. We have heard reports of a fair number of smaller striped bass being taken on diamond jigs along with the abundant sea bass in the eastern Sound (see below), and reports of smaller stripers being taken by anglers casting lures on the evening ebb tide at the Watch Hill reefs and the south side of Fishers Island. Another option is to seek out schools of adult Atlantic menhaden "bunker" in the tidal rivers and harbors and look for striped bass following these schools of their preferred prey (this is a particularly promising option for western Sound anglers). Look for hovering or diving ospreys which is an indication of bunker schools. The usual striper spots include the Watch Hill reefs, Ram Island Reef in Fishers Island Sound, lower Mystic and Thames River, the Race, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, the "humps" south of Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor and the upper reaches, Charles Island area, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable

and Anchor Reef. 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)** reports were good this last week, with many anglers reporting an uptick in catch rates with the influx of bait into the nearshore areas of the Sound. This time of year, your best bet for fluke is to either “go deep”, targeting areas around rock piles and reefs in 80-120 feet of water, or “go shallow” and fish jigs or bait on light tackle along channel edges up inside coastal rivers and harbors. You might be surprised by the abundance and size of fluke you find in these inshore areas – these “doormats” will come in close to forage on the abundant baitfish available in estuaries this time of year. We also continue to hear good reports of fluke fishing from Fort Trumbull fishing pier in New London. Other tried and true summer flounder spots include the south shore of Fishers Island (Isabella Beach, Wilderness Point), Napatree Point and along the beach, off the Stonington breakwater, mouth of the Mystic River over to Groton Long Point, Twotree Island Channel, Black Point/Niantic Bay including the Bloody Grounds, Sound View Beach, Long Sand Shoal, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor, off the mouth of the Housatonic River during the flood tide, and around the Norwalk Islands. **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is excellent right now in almost all areas of the Sound. We heard excellent reports of fishing for big “humpheads” in the Race and at Pigeon Rip this last week during the slower portions of the tide. Fishing over almost any deep water structure/cobble/gravel in 80 to 120 ft around slack tide will produce black sea bass. They will readily eat cut bait like squid and clams on a hi-lo rig – but if you want to weed out the smaller fish and target the trophies, try jigging small metal jigs or bucktails on a light spinning rod – you’ll catch bigger fish and have a blast doing it. Black sea bass tend to school up by size – so if you’re in an area where you’re consistently catching undersized fish – move on to a different area to find a school of bigger fish. This will increase your chances of catching keepers, and will also reduce the likelihood of incidental mortality of smaller fish that you release. Plan a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish off of Block Island...there are many giant-sized sea bass (4-6 lbs) out there. A reminder to all anglers...if you are fishing in water deeper than 100’, barotrauma can cause released fish to struggle to make it back to the bottom. A descending device such as the Shelton Fish Descender can help assist the sea bass air bladder to recompress and get safely back down to the depths. See [Fishsmart.org](#) for more information.

**SCUP (porgy)** fishing is good. Abundant large “pie plates” have been reported from most Long Island Sound areas. These fish are readily caught from many shore locations and are a great option for spending an enjoyable afternoon of fishing by the shore. Try Gardners Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic (Bartletts and Hatchetts Reef). Good porgy fishing has also been reported at these very accessible shore fishing locations: Calf Pasture beach, Jennings and Penfield beach, Seaside Park, (Milford), Bradley Point Park (West Haven), New Haven, **Harkness State Park**, Rocky Neck State Park, **Kimberley Reef (Guilford)**, Meigs Point Hammonasset State Park and **Fort Trumbull State Park**. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating “Reef Slammers”. These “panfish of the sea” are easily caught on sandworms/cut squid or any other small piece of bait. Contact your [local bait and tackleshop](#) for updated fishing information.

**BLUEFISH** fishing is finally improving. Eastern Sound has seen much better fishing for “alligator –sized” blues (11-17 lbs). There are plenty around in the 2-5 pound and 6-8 pound class with an occasional 15 pounder. Bluefish are wonderful fighting fish but be careful handling them with their sharp teeth. **SNAPPER BLUEFISH** fishing is hitting its stride in the tidal creeks and rivers, with reports steadily improving over the last week. The **DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier** and **Fort Trumbull fishing pier** are two great spots to catch these feisty little fish – your local tackle shop can clue you in to other great spots. Snapper fishing is a fantastic way to introduce kids to saltwater fishing – get those kids out of the house and get a rod in their hands before summer is over!

**NORTHERN KINGFISH** fishing has been very good. Many reports this month from the western Sound including Walnut Beach and Sandy Point. **Kingfish are found along hard sand bottom in shallow water. Shore anglers can expect excellent fishing. They are very good eating.**

**BLACKFISH (TAUTOG)** are not a common target species during the summer months, but those in the know can enjoy some great fishing for these “Reef Bullies”. Unlike during the fall, blackfish can be readily caught in very shallow water in nearshore areas during the summer. One great way to target these fish is to cast blackfish jigs tipped with cut crabs in shallow reef areas using a spinning rod, slowly and carefully working the jig along the bottom. Consult your local tackle store for more info on this highly effective technique. Spearfishing is also a fun and exciting way to target “togs” during the summer. **Remember - the daily creel limit is 2 fish per person and the minimum size is 16 inches.**

**STRIPED SEAROBIN** can be readily caught while bottom fishing with bait in many locations, and will also surprise the occasional angler by striking a lure meant for bluefish or striped bass. They make for great action on light tackle, with fish measuring over 22 inches a possibility, and despite their unusual appearance these fish make for delicious eating. If you’ve never tried this “Poor-Man’s Lobster” – you’re missing out! There are plenty of videos online showing how to fillet these fish. Kids also will get a kick out of these noisy creatures as they tend to make all kinds of barking and grunting noises when caught.

**ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY** fishing is improving as fall approaches. There is a good year class of 12-16 inch Atlantic Bonito moving into our area. These small tunas are cruising around from Newport, Pt. Judith, Watch Hill to Pine Island (including Fishers Island Sound), and the Race to Little Gull Island, from Bartlett Reef to Black Point and west to New Haven. Dawn/dusk is the best time to fish for these inshore tunas. **Try casting metal (heavy) lures to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip.**

**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.](#)

**BLUE CRAB** fishing is good and getting better – we are in the peak season now for catching these feisty and delicious crustaceans. Taking kids blue crabbing is great family fun, so get down to the shoreline to get in on the action while summer is still with us. Blue crabs prefer coves and tidal creeks with mud bottoms. There are a number of great spots for crabbing on the Connecticut shoreline – contact your local bait and tackle store for tips on where to go and how to do it. **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
Northern Puffer	10"	C&R	Thomas B.
Black Sea Bass	24"	4 lb 13 oz	Tommy St Cyr
Summer Flounder	26"	6 lb 9 oz	Francis Silvestri

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## 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

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- **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](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)