

CT DEEP **2019**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 22
9/12/2019



Kokanee Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*)



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INLAND REPORT

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DEEP'S FALL STOCKINGS HAVE BEGUN! – SEE PAGE 2.

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

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing remains mostly slow to fair with a few places on the good side, but things do seem to be starting to pick up a bit with the cooler temperatures. Fair to good reports in northeast CT from Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Old Killingly Pond (a couple of 6 pounders caught-and-released), Pachaug Pond, Lake Lillinonah, Bantam Lake and Candlewood Lake. Other places to try include Amos Lake, Gardner Lake, Highland Lake, Quaddick Lake and Silver Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from from Amos Lake (fair for most, good/great for a couple of anglers, 5.0 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (the lake was "...very stingy", not many limits, with a 4.56 lb lunker for one club, and maybe tougher for a second club, with a 3.5 lb lunker), Moodus Reservoir (slow to fair, 2.24 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (fair for most, 3.83 lb lunker), Powers Lake (fair to good, 3.01 lb lunker but not much else of any size), Candlewood Lake (fair for most, good for a couple, 4.78 lb and 4.27 lunkers), East Twin Lake (slow for most, 3.11 lb lunker) and Lake Lillinonah (fair, 6 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Candlewood Lake remains slow (alewives or swimbaits may work), Lake Lillinonah and Lake Zoar have been providing some action (but not enough to really write home about), and several anglers have been finding some nice smallmouth fishing at Rainbow Reservoir. River smallmouth fishing on the upper Housatonic River is calming down, the upper CT River (Enfield area) was quiet with few reports. Other rivers for smallmouth include the Naugatuck river, Shetucket River and Quinebaug River (try poppers and night crawlers). **Tournament**

"Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day"
Hammonasset State Park
THIS Sunday, September 15.



[Get details](#) about "Discover Outdoor Connecticut Day" being held at Hammonasset State Park on Sunday, September 15. Spend a FREE, fun-filled day exploring Connecticut's fish and wildlife resources and legacy of outdoor traditions, with live animals, demonstrations, fish casting, fly tying, archery, kid's activities, outdoor skills, a photo contest, and more. Bring a picnic lunch (concessionaire also on site) and stay for a few hours or the whole day!

angler reports are from Candlewood Lake (slow) and Lake Lillinonah (fair).

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Our fall trout stocking began this week with some of our larger rivers and selected TMA's; the **Farmington River** (The TMA from the Satan's Kingdom to the Route 177 bridge, and then farther downstream in the " Garden Plot" area in the stretch from the Route 177 bridge to Route 4 in Farmington), the **Housatonic River TMA** and the **Bulls Bridge TMA** (including the Ten Mile River) on the Housatonic River, the **Salmon River** (the TMA and the Trophy Trout area downstream of the TMA), the **Yantic River TMA** and the **Moosup River TMA**.

Throughout the next several weeks we will be stocking our Trout Parks, additional Trout Management Areas, Trout Management Lakes, Trophy Trout Areas, and some of the most popular waters that do not have any special trout designation. We are not allowed by state statute to release most stocking information ahead of time, however, as soon as we stock we get the work out via our [Facebook page](#) and have a list on our [web page](#). A very popular application is our [interactive trout stocking map](#), which shows the number of days since a waterbody was last stocked. A second popular use of this map is to find new places to fish.

Flow conditions in CT remain variable with at or higher than typical early September flows east of the Connecticut River and flows at or a bit below typical levels west of the Connecticut River (*see stream flow graphic on page 4* or check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the [USGS web site](#)). Cool weather is forecast for the weekend and beyond which will help to facilitate our stocking (we need water temperatures, oxygen level, and flows to all be trout-friendly prior to stocking).

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good to very good and conditions for the weekend and next week should be good. Flows are clear, continue to be low (currently 71 CFS at Riverton plus 32 CFS from the Still River) and remain very comfortable for fishing. Anglers should expect flows to increase a bit (but should remain very comfortable for fishing) sometime next week as a drawdown of West Branch Reservoir to facilitate Colebrook River Lake dam maintenance is scheduled to begin.

Hatches/patterns Evening hatches are picking up. Good offerings include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-28 in the morning; best in the catch-and-release-section of the river), *Ephemera 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).



2020 Fishing Guide Cover Contest
Enter by November 1st

Want to be on the cover of next year's fishing guide? Send your best "family fishing" shot to deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov by the November 1st deadline.

The image shows a woman with blonde hair and sunglasses on her head, smiling and holding a large, spotted fish. Next to her is a young child wearing a pink hat and a blue life vest, also smiling. They are on a boat with a lake and trees in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in a white and blue box.

Housatonic River – The river continues to be very wadeable and fishable. Flows are still a bit below typical levels, currently 227 CFS at Falls Village and 319 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 on the upper Housatonic River.

Hatches/patterns. Lots of different activity on the river. Key is to have a diverse box of sizes and colors. Patterns to try 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.

TROUT- LAKES & PONDS – No reports for trout again this week. Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond may provide some sparse and limited action. Some reports of Kokanee Salmon on East Twin beginning to change into spawning mode.

CHANNEL CATFISH. The more productive areas include the CT River (evenings/nights best but cats are being found throughout the day in the Hartford area), Batterson Park Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Wauregan Reservoir, Crescent Lake (Southington), Lake Wintergreen, and Beardsley Park Pond. Some cats are also be found at Lake Quonnipaug. 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, Candlewood Lake, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinook Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

NORTHERN PIKE. Nice fish reported from the CT River near the Mattebesset River (Middletown). 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 some great catches. Some good sunnie action can be found statewide. Black Crappie are also providing some action across the state, try suspending poppers to catch a few. Looking for a new place to fish? Check out our [interactive mapping application](#).

WALLEYE. Late evening and nighttime is generally the best for Walleye fishing. Places to try include Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Gardner Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Squantz Pond, Lake Saltonstall and Batterson Park Pond.

CHAIN PICKEREL. Early September pickerel action has been fairly good (and downright annoying for some bass anglers).

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).

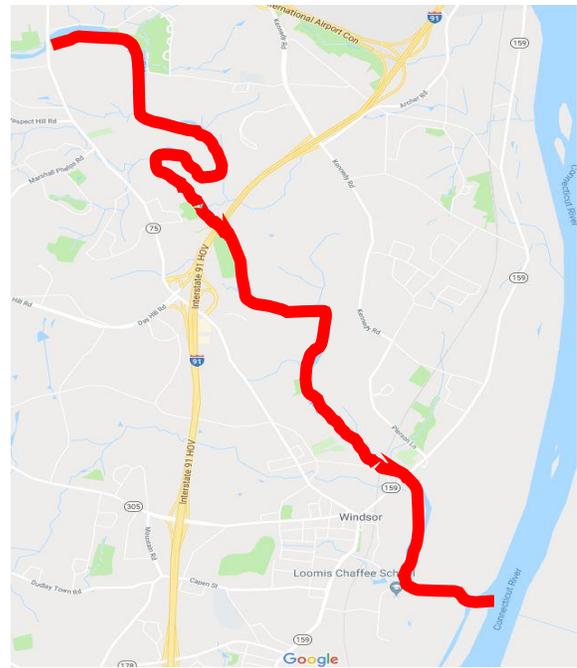
Prior to their discovery in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar in 2010, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation,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



CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are a bit on the low side (currently 4,320 CFS at Thompsonville), and while comfortable for fishing and boating, make getting into some areas difficult. Bowfin fishing remains good. Good action for **catfish** (Whites and Channels) throughout the river, especially in the Glastonbury and Middletown areas. For catfish, fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night. Fishing for **Largemouth Bass** remains slow to fair in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. **Smallmouth Bass** were quiet in the Enfield area and some decent **Common Carp** action is being found throughout the river.

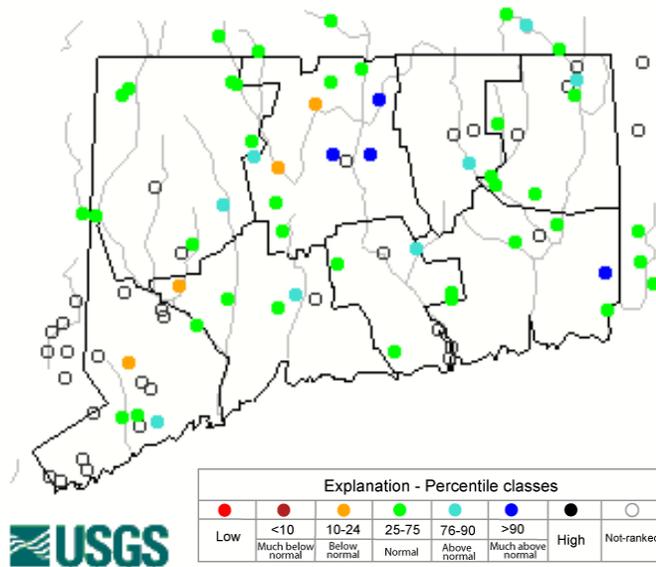
IMPORTANT NOTICE - Please note that an accidental release of fire-fighting foam from a hangar at Bradley International Airport on June 9. DEEP and the Department of Public Health have lifted the advisory concerning boating and swimming in this section of the lower Farmington river. **The advisory to 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, September 12, 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”.

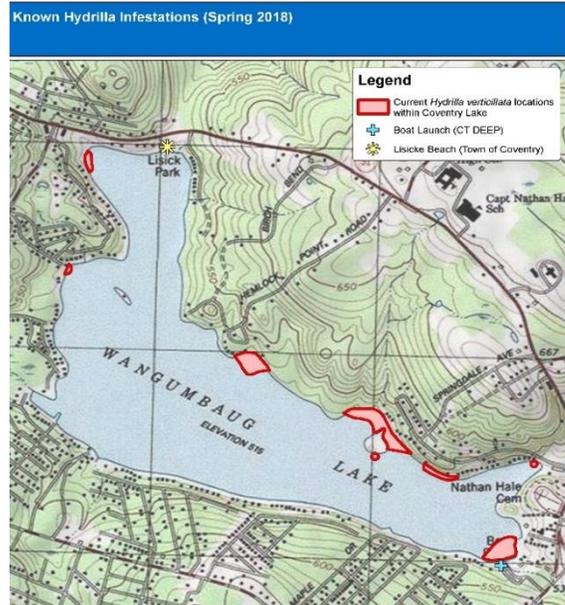
NOTES & NOTICES:

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). Due to low water levels the regular boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed. Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

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.

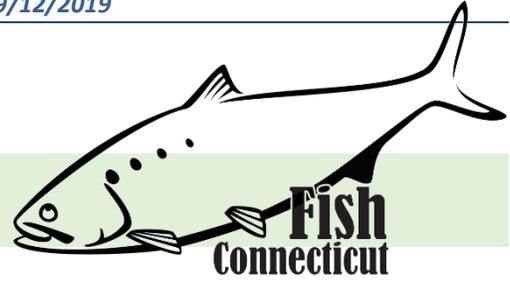
STANLEY QUARTER PARK POND (drawdown). A 2-3 foot drawdown for dam repairs is ongoing. Accessing the water may be limited.



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

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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MARINE FISHING REPORT

Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the high 60'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!

Public Input Wanted regarding Striped Bass:

The DEEP Marine Fisheries Program is hosting two public hearings of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to gather input on Draft Addendum VI to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Striped Bass. Draft Addendum VI was initiated in response to the 2018 Benchmark Stock Assessment, which indicates the resource is overfished and experiencing overfishing. The Draft Addendum explores a range of management alternatives designed to end overfishing and reduce fishing mortality to the target level in 2020. Get more details [here](#).

The hearings will be held at:

7:00 PM, **Monday September 23, 2019**
DEEP Marine Headquarters Boating Education
Center (rear building)
333 Ferry Road
Old Lyme, CT 06371

AND

7:00 PM, **Wednesday September 25, 2019**
Port 5 Hall
69 Brewster Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

If you cannot attend and would like to have formal comment- Fishermen and other stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on Draft Addendum VI either by attending one of the public hearings or providing written comment. Public comment will be accepted until 5 PM (EST) on October 7, 2019 and should be sent to Max Appelman, Fishery Management Plan Coordinator, 1050 N. Highland St, Suite A-N, Arlington, VA 22201; 703.842.0741 (FAX) or at comments@asmfc.org (Subject line: Striped Bass Draft Addendum VI). Additional details [here](#).

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is very good. Your best bet is to bring along a pair of binoculars and watch for the birds. Last weekend a couple of False Albacore anglers did very well using a Hogy Epoxy jigs at Niantic Bay. Also you cannot go wrong with using sluggos, albie snacks and deadly dicks. If you hook one of these little tuna's; hold on!!! 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, **Niantic Bay, Millstone Outflow** to Black Point, New Haven, **Stratford, Milford, Middle Ground and Cockenoe Island**. 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.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains very good during the mini Harvest Full Moon. Hook up with a charter boat and learn how to catch those "cow" bass. A 57 pound, 54.5 inch striped bass was caught this past week in New Haven. Striped bass holdovers and schoolies are feeding on bunker chunks at the mouth of the **Housatonic and Norwalk Rivers**, as well as **Pennfield Reef, Calf Pasture Beach, Seaside Park and Norwalk Islands**. They are also hitting lures & poppers at night and during low light conditions. A nice little Enhanced Shore Site with ample parking and plenty of schoolies and holdovers is **Bonds Dock in Stratford**. Other 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 (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. *Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.*

BLACK SEA BASS fishing is excellent in the Sound. Black sea bass are still being caught on high-low rigs with squid and clams...often mixed in with scup. **Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Green can "C" off of Stratford Shoal Lighthouse, South Benson Pier and Ash Creek, Seaside Park, Saint Mary's by the Sea and Fort Trumbull & Nathan Hale** have all been holding black sea bass. My recommendation to plan a trip on a [party/charter boat](#) trip to fish for the many giant-sized sea bass (4-6.5 lbs) out there. Closer to home, the rocky reefs from Niantic, to Branford (Falkner Island) have been consistent all season. 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 phenomenal. Hit your favorite rock pile and enjoy some of the best fishing you can imagine. Scup (porgy) still reign supreme in Long Island Sound and are on a feeding frenzy before their fall migration. The standard high-low rig tipped with clams and/or squid still working very well at: **Saint Mary's by the Sea, Seaside Park, South Benson Pier, Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Todd's Point, Gulf Beach Breakwall, Short Beach in Stratford, and Sherwood Island State Park**, as well as the **Norwalk Islands, Green Can "C" off Stratford Shoal Lighthouse and Pennfield Reef**. List of some very accessible shore fishing locations are: 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". Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

BLUEFISH schools are scattered but there are some real "alligators" to 14 pounds out there especially at these locations: **28-C, Saint Mary's by the Sea, Pennfield Reef, Gulf Beach Pier, Norwalk Islands, Sandy Point and Milford Audubon Society**. Adult bluefish have been preferring poppers over bait this week and feeding in relatively shallow water. **Cranes Reef and Saybrook Lighthouse** has been phenomenal this past week for large blues on top-water. **Snapper bluefish** aka "juvenile bluefish" fishing is very good and I highly recommend visiting the many Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites to catch them. **Norwalk Maritime Aquarium pier, Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, South Benson Beach Pier and Gulf Beach Pier**.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair in the Black Hall River/**Lieutenant River (out-going tide)**, Housatonic River and the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Fishing remains good at Fort Trumbull, Black Hall, Clinton Harbor River systems and the lower Connecticut River.

WEAKFISH fishing is good in the western Sound. Weakfish have been reported from the New York state line to New Haven. The hottest spots to catch weakfish this week include Buoy 18, Sunken Island and Execution Rock. Weakfish is also surprisingly good in the central sound (Falkner Island).

BLUE CRAB fishing is good in lower rivers/tidal creeks and bays. Many of the large Jimmies (male crabs) are now available in the lower reaches of rivers. 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](#)

SAND SHARKS (SMOOTH DOGFISH) fishing is good in Long Island Sound with dogfish up to 52 inches in length reported. They are very common 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, sea bass, 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.](#)

NOTABLE CATCHES

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Atlantic Bonito	22"	C&R	Jason S.
Black Sea Bass	24"	4 lb 13 oz	Tommy St Cyr
Summer Flounder	26"	6 lb 9 oz	Francis Silvestri

CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH – CLICK HERE FOR THE 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.

DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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www.ct.gov/deep