

**Voucher supply is low! See page 2 for availability updates.**

## 2012 BONUS STRIPED BASS FISHING PROGRAM

**Updated Monday, May 07, 2012**

### Program Background.

The Bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 < 28 inch) striped bass during May and June 2012 in state waters, both in the Marine and Inland Districts of **Connecticut state waters only**. The Bonus fishery was approved by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission's Striped Bass Management Board which oversees the conservation of the species throughout its range. Amendment 6 to the Striped Bass Fishery Management plan currently allocates a

23,750 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut which is being used in this program to provide this additional recreational fishing opportunity since commercial striped bass harvest is prohibited in this state. The unused commercial quota equates to 4,025 fish available for harvest under this program.

### Program Objectives / Ways to Use the Voucher

While striped bass vouchers may be used by any angler throughout state waters, we are especially encouraging their use in our major rivers where striped bass in the bonus slot size can be major predators on blueback herring (state listed as a Species of Special Concern in July 2010) and alewife. Both of those forage species have been under statewide closure since 2002 due to stock concerns. Anglers are also encouraged to use this program to introduce a friend, neighbor or child to fishing: "Share the Experience - *Take Someone Fishing*". The department is also interested in encouraging and enhancing urban and shore fishing opportunity which the bonus striper program is especially well suited for. Bass fishermen generally may want to hold onto a voucher to use if an undersized fish intended for release is deep hooked or otherwise unlikely to survive. Alternatively, anglers should consider taking a smaller bonus fish home for a meal and releasing the larger (28"+) "spawner" fish.

### Program Regulations

- One voucher is good for one (1) bonus striped bass.
- A bonus striper is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Two (2) bonus fish may be harvested per day, provided you have a voucher for each fish.
- Open Season: May 1 through June 30, 2012 only.
- **Important:** To be valid, **the Voucher card must be filled out immediately upon harvest of a qualifying striped bass**. See the illustration above. Failure to complete the voucher immediately disqualifies the fish from the 28 inch minimum size exception under this program.
- Vouchers must be retained with the striped bass until the fish is taken to your home or other location where it is to be consumed.

2012 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Voucher														<b>EXAMPLE</b>	
															
<i>Circle the date and total length (inches)</i>															
May											June				
	1	2	3	4	5							1	2		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
13	14	15	16	17	17	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
Total length: 22 23" 24" 25" 26" 27"															
<b>Instructions:</b> Immediately upon harvest of a qualifying bonus striped bass, use an INK PEN to circle the date of harvest and total length. Drop fractional lengths; for example, mark 25 1/4" as 25".															
<b>Important:</b> Keep this voucher with the fish until you reach home. Once home, please drop this card in any mailbox; postage is prepaid. Mailing this voucher will provide us with important data necessary to ensure continuation of this program.															
<b>Questions?</b> Web: <a href="http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing">www.ct.gov/deep/fishing</a> Phone: 860-434-6043 E-mail: <a href="mailto:dep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov">dep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov</a>															

- Mail the voucher back to Marine Fisheries. The voucher is already addressed and postage paid for return on the reverse side. It's free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Vouchers are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of two (2) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

**For current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations**

Anglers should consult the new 2012 [Connecticut Anglers Guide](#) which is now available at Town Clerks Offices, many DEEP offices and at tackle stores selling fishing licenses. Anglers can purchase their fishing licenses online or at participating town halls, DEEP field offices and fishing tackle vendors. Additional information on the Connecticut River Bonus Striped Bass Program, the 2012 Angler's Guide and the online licensing system can all be accessed on the DEEP website at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing).

**Voucher Distribution**

A total of 4,025 vouchers have been made available at a dozen agency-owned facilities across the state including: DEEP Offices, selected state parks and Environmental Centers listed below. Approximately two dozen participating Sportsmen License Agents are offering a limited quantity of vouchers (40 each). **There is no fee for the vouchers.** A limit of two vouchers per day will be issued to each angler appearing in person. Anglers 16 years or older must have a valid fishing license to receive vouchers. Anglers under age 16 appearing in person will also receive two vouchers. Vouchers will also be distributed by the DEEP's Environmental Conservation (ENCON) Police during routine patrols, through Riverfront Recapture Rangers (Great River Park in East Hartford and Riverside Park and Charter Oak Landing in Hartford), via the Connecticut Aquatic Resources Education (CARE) program and Marine Fisheries Creel Agents. Distribution began April 10, 2012 and will continue into May and June or as long as supplies last.

**CT DEEP state offices and parks where Striped Bass Bonus Fishery vouchers are being made available. A status of "Out" indicates that that particular DEEP office is out of vouchers.**

<b>Status</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Out	<a href="#">Marine Headquarters (Old Lyme)</a>	M-F 8:00 am-4:00 pm
Out	<a href="#">Eastern Area Headquarters (Marlborough)</a>	M-F 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Out	<a href="#">Western Area Headquarters (Harwinton)</a>	M-F 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Out	<a href="#">Franklin Wildlife Management Area (Franklin)</a>	M-F 8:30 am-4:30 pm
Out	<a href="#">Session Woods Wildlife Mgmt Area (Burlington)</a>	M-F 8:30 am-4:00 pm
Out	<a href="#">Dinosaur State Park Exhibit Center</a>	Tues.-Sun. 9 am-4:30 pm
Out	<a href="#">Kellogg Environmental Center</a>	Tues.-Sat. 9 am-4:30 pm
Out	<a href="#">Rocky Neck State Park*</a>	8:00 am to sunset
Out	<a href="#">Hammonsett Beach State Park*</a>	8:00 am to sunset
Out	<a href="#">Harkness Memorial State Park*</a>	8:00 am to sunset
Out	<a href="#">Sherwood Island State Park*</a>	8:00 am to sunset
<b>DEEP Main Office, 79 Elm St, Hartford</b>		
Out	<a href="#">License &amp; Revenue</a>	M-F 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Out	<a href="#">DEEP Store</a>	M-F 9:00 am-3:30 pm

\*Please see coastal state parks links for off-season hours of operation.

**Participating License Agents where Striped Bass Bonus Fishery vouchers have been made available. *Note: these agents were provided with only 40 vouchers each. DEEP is not tracking what they have on hand, so please check with them directly for availability.***

<u>License Agent</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>
AW Marina Bait & Tackle	178 Pequot Ave	New London	CT	06320
Bobby J's Bait & Tackle	354 New Haven Ave	Milford	CT	06460
Cabela's	475 East Hartford Blvd, N.	East Hartford	CT	06118
Captain Morgan Bait & Tackle	5 Old Post Road	Madison	CT	06443
CT Outfitters	512 Silas Deane Highway	Wethersfield	CT	06109
Dee's Bait & Tackle	93 Clay St	New Haven	CT	06513
Dick's Sporting Goods	110 Albany Tpke	Canton	CT	06019
Fisherman's Paradise Bait & Tackle	195 S. Montowese St	Branford	CT	06405
Fishin Factory III	238 East Main St	Middletown	CT	06457
Hillyers Bait & Tackle	374 Rope Ferry Rd	Waterford	CT	06385
Master Bait & Tackle	439 Main St	East Haven	CT	06512
Northwest Sporting Goods	178 Rowley St	Winsted	CT	06098
Pete's Place	124 Jefferson St	Stamford	CT	06902
Stratford Bait & Tackle	1076 1/2 Stratford Ave	Stratford	CT	06615
Ted's Bait & Tackle	35 Ferry Place	Old Saybrook	CT	06475
WeTU Bait & Tackle	617 Lantern Hill Rd	North Stonington	CT	06443
Yankee Bait & Tackle	88 Main St	Enfield	CT	06082

<u>Town Hall Agents</u>	<u>Mailing Address</u>	<u>Town</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Zip</u>
Coventry Town Hall	1712 Main St	Coventry	CT	06238
Deep River Town Hall	174 Main St	Deep River	CT	06417
East Granby Town Hall	PO Box 1858	East Granby	CT	06026
Glastonbury Town Hall	PO Box 6523	Glastonbury	CT	06033-6523
Groton Town Hall	45 Fort Hill Rd	Groton	CT	06340
Meriden City Hall	142 East Main St	Meriden	CT	06450
New Fairfield Town Hall	4 Brush Hill Rd	New Fairfield	CT	06812
Norwich City Clerk's Office	100 Broadway, Rm 215	Norwich	CT	06360
Southington Town Hall	PO Box 152	Southington	CT	06489
Watertown Town Hall	37 DeForest St	Watertown	CT	06795
Willington Town Office Building	40 Old Farms Rd	Willington	CT	06279