CT DEEP 2016
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 28
10/20/2016

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)

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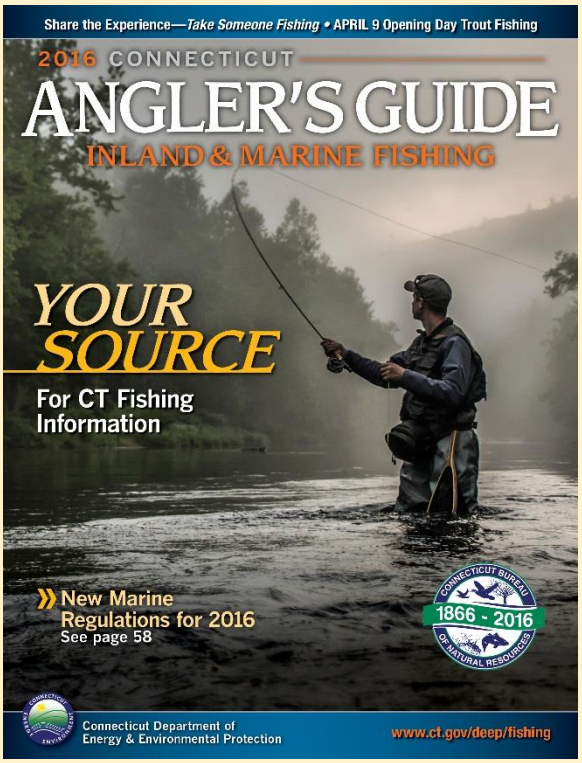
INLAND REPORT

Fall Stocking of Trout and Broodstock Atlantic Salmon: Conditions (especially water temperatures) are improving, allowing for trout and salmon to be stocked on a case-by-case basis. We are monitoring conditions in your favorite lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams. As soon as we can get the fish out – we will. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for daily stocking updates.



Only a couple weeks left to get your best "shot" into the Angler's Guide Cover contest. Email your high quality photo to: deep.inland.fisheries@ct.gov by November 1.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is reported as fair to good. Places to try include East Twin Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake, Burr Pond, Hatch Pond, Tyler Lake, Congamond Lakes, Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Highland Lake, Bantam Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Winchester Lake, Billings Lake, Stateline Pond, Griggs Pond, Dog Pond, Bigelow Pond, Stillwater Lake, Halls Pond, Quaddick Reservoir, Silver Lake (Meriden), Red Cedar Lake and Mudge Pond. **Tournament angler reports** are from Amos Lake (fair at best, 5.13 lb lunker), Hopeville Pond (slow early, good late, 3.63 lb lunker), Pattagansett Lake (fair to good, 4.13 lb lunker), Rogers Lake (slow, 2.85 lb lunker), and the Connecticut River (tough finding many fish, 4.62 lb, 3.56 lb, 3.84 lb & 3.98 lb lunkers).

SMALLMOUTH BASS action reported at West Hill Pond, Bantam Lake, Candlewood Lake and Highland Lake. River smallies are providing some action on the Housatonic River (Upper), Quinebaug River and Naugatuck River. **Tournament angler reports** are from Connecticut River (fair at best).

CARP- Medium size carp (15-22 pounds) are being landed from Enfield to Haddam in the CT River. Other carp hot spots include; Lake Housatonic, Housatonic River (New Milford), Quinebaug River (Jewitt City), and Batterson Park Pond. **WALLEYE-** Look for deep drop offs and structure. For some action try Squantz Pond, Batterson Park Pond, Beach Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Gardner Lake, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Saltonstall, West Thompson Reservoir, Saugatuck Reservoir or Lake Zoar.

NORTHERN PIKE Look for pike fishing to really pick up with the cooler weather moving in. Places to try include Bantam Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Quaddick Reservoir, Pachaug Pond, Hopeville Pond and Winchester Lake.

BLACK CRAPPIE fishing is picking up with reports of fish coming from Lake Saltonstall, Roseland Lake, South Spectacle Lake, and Park Pond.

BROODSTOCK ATLANTIC SALMON: 275 fish were stocked into the Shetucket River Broodstock Area. Please see page 4 of this report or page 28 of the 2016 Connecticut Angler's Guide for details on the regulations (catch and release in rivers and streams September 1-November 30). In addition, 500 fish were stocked into Mount Tom Pond and 500 fish into Crystal Lake (Ellington) 2 weeks ago.

TROUT- *RIVERS & STREAMS -* Conditions are starting to improve. Temperatures are dropping, but the lack of significant rain continues to keep many streams at or near record low flow levels (see stream flow graphic on page 4).

Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good and the conditions for this weekend should be good. Flows are clear and very low, currently 60 CFS at Riverton with the Still River adding a mere 5.2 CFS, and water temperatures are in the upper 50's°F.

Hatches/patterns include Isonychia (#12-14, parachute style), Blue Wing Olives (#18, 22-24, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #16-18, all day; brown #16-18), Midges (#20-32, morning), and Rusty Spinner (#14-20, mornings). White Wooly Buggers, Muddlers, Micky Finn, or Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10) are standard streamers. Bottom bouncing nymphs with Caddis pupa (#14-16), Serendipity (#14-16), Prince (#6-18) and Hare's ear (#8-20) works well.

Housatonic River –Flows are very low, clear and easily wadeable, currently 101 CFS at Falls Village and 114 CFS at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are currently in the low 60's °F.

The area between the Route 4 Bridge and Route 341 Bridge is still offering great fishing with smallmouth and fallfish eagerly hitting a variety of poppers, dry flies, nymphs, and streamers.

Patterns to try include **Blue Wing Olive** (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), *Isonychia* (#10-12 evening), Midges (#20-24) and caddis (#14-18, early morning & evening). Also try terrestrial patterns such as Black and Cinnamon Ants (#16-18, midday, when breezy) and large streamers, or nymphing the pockets, deeper riffles and pool heads.

TROUT-*LAKES & PONDS –* 250 surplus broodstock Brook Trout were stocked into Black Pond (Woodstock). These beautiful fish average 3-6 pounds each.

Lakes and ponds stocked this week:

- In **western CT,** Rainbow trout (12 inch and up fish) were stocked into **Mt Tom Pond** (333 fish), **Stillwater Pond** (333 fish), **West Side Pond** (333 fish), **Tyler Lake** (500 fish) and **Squantz Pond** (500 fish) and **Highland Lake** (500 fish). **West Hill Pond** was stocked with 150 surplus broodstock Brown Trout and Brook Trout (these are 3-8 pound fish).
- In **eastern CT,** Rainbow Trout (14-18 inch fish) were stocked into **Beach Pond** (600 fish), **Wangumbaug Lake** (aka Coventry Lake) (500 fish), **Black Pond** (Middlefield) (200 fish), **Gardner Lake** (500 fish), **Long Pond** (200 fish), **Cedar Lake** (200 fish) and **Mashapaug Lake** (600 fish).

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The River remains very low (making fishing in some places very difficult). Slab CRAPPIE, Big BOWFIN, and good numbers of PIKE and BASS were reported during several of DEEP's electrofishing surveys (Middletown and Haddam). Fish the weed lines for big predators. **BLACK CRAPPIE** action is improving in the coves up and down the river. Target the backwaters with small shiners, silver grubs, or small Rapalas. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** have been reported as hit or miss in from Hartford upstream. **NORTHERN PIKE** fishing is reported as good in the main stem and coves. Fish have been caught from the Hartford area downstream to Chapman Pond. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are being caught (also hit or miss) in the Hartford to Haddam area. **CARP** are providing action in coves and in the main stem (Hartford to Middletown area).

NOTES & NOTICES:

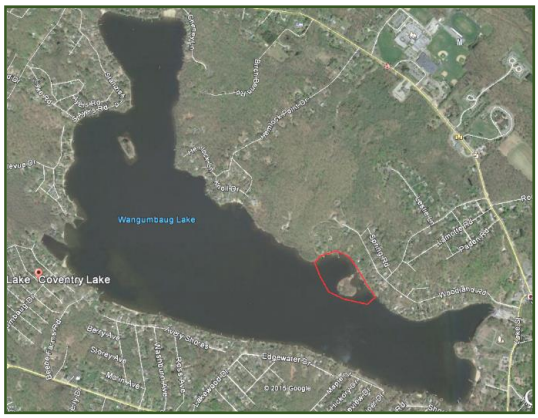
BASHAN LAKE (drawdown). Bashan Lake remains drawn down (slow refill continues – lake currently remains down approximately 4-5 feet – note that refill rate is dependent on rainfall amounts) following dam repairs and the state boat launch remains closed.

BRANFORD RIVER (boat launch). The Branford River state boat launch is currently closed for renovations. This closure is currently expected to last to November 14, 2016. Alternative nearby launch sites include the Guilford Town boat launch and the East River State boat launch, both in Guilford.

COLEBROOK RIVER LAKE (boat launch). Due to low water levels the **regular boat launch at Colebrook River Lake is closed**, however, an alternate location to launch from is available and can be used. Boaters should use extra care when launching and when out on the lake (remember that submerged objects such as tree stumps and rocks are much closer to the surface due to water levels). Boaters can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). Hydrilla was recently found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury's Riverfront Park & Boathouse). See the Coventry Lake entry below 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 boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.



Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake) boaters should avoid the area outlined in red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla. This is only area in the lake where hydrilla has been found.

DOOLEY POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Dooley Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (repairs are done, but refill rate will be dependent on rainfall). The state boat launch is currently closed.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (began September 2015). Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

HANOVER POND (drawdown). A 6-foot drawdown of Hannover Pond (Quinnipiac River, Meriden) began on September 13 for the purposes of installing a small hydropower facility. The drawdown is likely to extend through the upcoming winter months. This pond has extensive shallow areas that are now exposed.

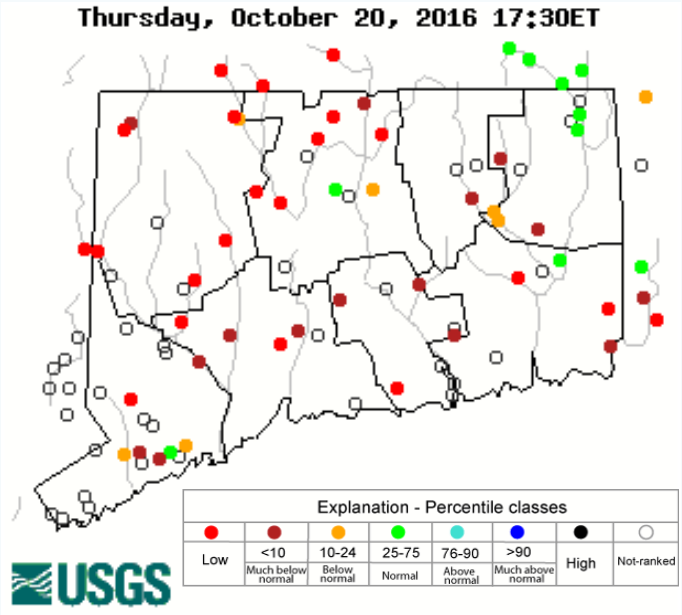
LAKE HOUSATONIC (drawdown). The lake is drawn down three feet from **Monday, October 17, through Sunday, October 23** (or possibly earlier)**,** for maintenance. Launching trailered boats from the state boat launch will be very difficult to impossible.

UPCOMING DRAWDOWNS. In western CT, **Lake Zoar** is scheduled for a drawdown from October 28 to November 6, **Lake Lillinonah** is scheduled for a drawdown from November 7 to November 16, and the winter drawdown of **Highland Lake** is scheduled to start in early November. In eastern CT, **Middle Bolton Lake** (1.5 feet), **Lower Bolton Lake** (1.5 feet), **Gardner Lake** (3 feet), **Mashapaug Lake** (1.5 feet) and **Wyassup Lake** (3 feet) are scheduled to start in early November.

PACHAUG POND (drawdown). A 3 foot drawdown of Pachaug Pond is ongoing.

FISHING SEASONS. Anglers are reminded that the fishing season at several lakes and ponds scattered throughout the state closes at the end of the month (Saturday, October 31st), most notably **LAKE WONOSKOPOMUC**, **GREEN FALLS RESERVOIR** and **SHENIPSIT RESERVOIR**. Please refer to the 2015 CT Angler's Guide for additional locations.

Stream flow



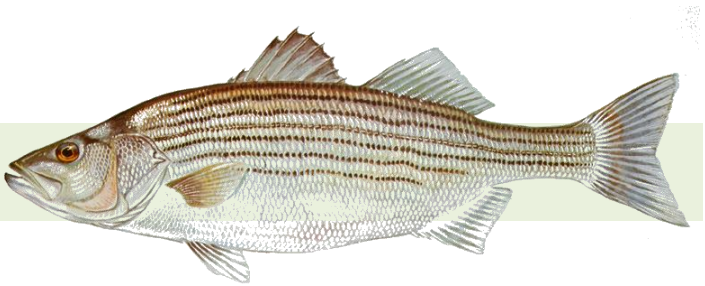
Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available on line at: http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/rt

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".

Atlantic salmon fishing regulations and areas summary

- **Regulations for Atlantic salmon on the Shetucket and Naugatuck Rivers.** In the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, from September 1 through November 30, angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to **catch-and-release only**. From December 1, 2016, through March 31, 2017, the daily creel limit for Atlantic salmon will be one. During the open season in the rivers, the legal method for taking Atlantic salmon is limited to angling using a single fly, or an artificial lure with a single free swinging hook and no additional weight can be added to the line above the fly or lure. Also, from October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon "Broodstock Areas" is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- On the **Shetucket River**, anglers can fish for salmon downstream from the Scotland Dam (Windham) to the Water Street Bridge in Norwich (the first bridge upstream of Norwich Harbor). The salmon are stocked into one designated Atlantic Salmon "Broodstock Area", from the Scotland Dam to the Occum Dam.
- Anglers are allowed to fish for salmon in the **Naugatuck River** from the confluence of the East and West Branches (Torrington) downstream to the Housatonic River (Derby). Anglers may also fish for Atlantic salmon in the Housatonic River downstream of Derby Dam. The salmon are typically stocked into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas on the Naugatuck River, the "Campville Section" of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston) and the "Beacon Falls Section" of the lower Naugatuck, from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls). From October 1st through March 31st, fishing for other species in these designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon.
- The regulations for Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon on the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon will be the same as for trout in that specific water body but the daily creel limit will be one salmon per day.** *(Please refer to the 2016 CT Angler's Guide for trout regulations).*

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the low 60's ^{0}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

NEW SHARK REGULATIONS **– EFFECTIVE MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 2016**: **An Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) permit is required to take, possess, or land any shark species, other than smooth or spiny dogfish, in this state.**

To obtain an **HMS permit** visit: http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/aps/permits/ or call NMFS Customer Service Center at (888) 872-8862. CT Marine anglers may encounter Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark which are protected and prohibited species and they must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** Coastal shark information.

Connecticut State Boundary Line in Long Island Sound. Anglers please note: Though 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.

WHALES AND SEALS - see check **WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES**. All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

TAUTOG (Blackfish) fishing is good throughout LIS! The warmer water temps have made fishing interesting. Fish shallow water (less than 30 ft) rocky reefs, rock piles, and wrecks have been producing great tog fishing action. As the water temperatures drop, tog will move off into deeper water. Any of the rocky reefs, rock piles, and wrecks in LIS will hold tog. Green, Asian or Hermit Crabs will work. Consider putting the crab (bait) on a jig (1/4 to 1 ounce). I would highly recommend planning a trip on a party/charter boat trip to fish for tautog this fall.

STRIPED BASS fishing is very good around the "Hunters" full moon. It's time for shore anglers to hit the SURF, especially at coastal state parks. The fall season is starting off strong, with many shore anglers catching bass on top water at Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities. These bass are migrating and feeding heavily on all the bait. You can have great success during the daytime, especially under overcast skies. The top water technique has produces some very big bass recently (49 inches – 41 pounds, (DEEP Marine Headquarters, Old Lyme). 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.

STRIPED BASS ANGLERS FISHING IN RHODE ISLAND WATERS - are advised that the state of Rhode Island has adopted the following regulations pertaining to striped bass. These regulations apply to all Rhode Island state lands and waters including the waters around Block Island: **"Any person recreationally harvesting a striped bass thirty-four (34) inches or larger shall at the time of harvest have the right pectoral fin removed at a point as close to the body of the fish as possible."**

BLUEFISH fishing is very good. Throw a top water plug/popper and hang on. They can be found throughout the Sound (find the birds). Still a lot of bluefish cruising the lower estuaries, rivers and beaches feeding on menhaden/anchovies. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, lower Connecticut River, Long Sand Shoal, Sixmile Reef, Falkner Island area, New Haven Harbor and upper reaches, lower Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middleground, Penfield Reef, Norwalk Islands and Cable and Anchor Reef.

SNAPPER fishing is still better in the western sound (Milford to Greenwich) with fish measuring 5 to 12 inches in length.

BLACK SEA BASS is excellent. Hit every favorite wreck/reef/hump, to find good numbers of these tasty bottom fish. Angler please be careful when releasing sublegal sea bass. There is lots of them out there…let's give them a chance to grow, reproduce and get big. 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 devise 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.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is **Closed** in CT

SCUP (porgy) is good throughout the Sound. Party/Charter boats are still targeting them…that's how plentiful they are. Hit the coastal state parks (especially around high tide) and spend time chumming…this will improve your success. Try these nice shore fishing areas (incoming tide better); Morningside, and East Norwalk, Woodmont (Milford), Coast Guard Jetty at Southport Beach, Rick Jetty at Calf Pasture beach, South Benson Fishing Pier, Sherwood Island, Pleasure Beach Fishing Pier, St Mary's by the Sea, Gulf Beach Pier, Bonds Dock (Stratford) and Stratford wall along with Long Beach (excellent shore spots). Other shore spots include The Sound School Fishing Pier/Dock, Rocky Neck State Park, Harkness Memorial State Park, Meigs Point, Hammonassett, Sherwood Island State Park, Charles Island and Fort Trumbull State Park. Locate your favorite Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers".

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY continues to be good throughout the sound. Pink and green is the lure color choice. Many anglers are scoring using a Hogy heavy minnow jig in pink. Shore anglers are scoring at Fort Trumbull, mouth of the Thames River, Ocean Beach, Seaside Park, Harkness Memorial , Hammonasset State Park, Rocky Neck State Park. In the west try Compo Beach, Sherwood Island, Burying Hill Beach (Fairfield), Southport Harbor, Shady Beach/ Calf Pasture (Norwalk) and Fayerweather Island in Bridgeport along with Long Beach Stratford. Dawn and dusk is typically the best time to fish for these inshore tunas but they can be caught during the daytime. They are feeding heavily of young of the year transparent juvenile anchovy. Try casting metal (heavy) lures (Swedish pimple, albie snax and Epoxy jigs) to feeding fish on the surface. A quiet approach and finding birds (gulls/terns) actively feeding is the key to a successful trip. Jigging (1.5oz crippled herring) for them also works when they are close to the bottom and your fish fonder is "lit up".

WEAKFISH fishing is surprisingly good in the central and western sound. Falkner and Goose Island area is producing some very nice "tide runners". Many scup/seabass anglers are catching them while bottom fishing. Fish up to 26 inches are being reported from West Haven Beaches/Charles Island area to Norwalk. Also, look for weakfish in Guilford/Madison/New Haven Harbor areas.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is fair to good in the lower Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier), Lieutenant River, and Black Hall River.

STRIPED SEA ROBIN fishing is FANTASTIC. "Poor-Man's Lobster" are found wherever one is saltwater fishing. Great fishing from shore…with many fish measuring over 17 inches 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.

GOT A FISHING REPORT - PLEASE EMAIL US AT deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov

For ***Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations:*** *Anglers should consult the 2016 Connecticut Anglers 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 Angler's Guide and additional information can all be accessed on the DEEP website at:* www.ct.gov/deep/fishing.

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Striped Bass image courtesy Duane Raver/USFWS.

Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106
www.ct.gov/deep