NEW STATE RECORD BOWFIN. Jose Roger raised the bar on the state record Bowfin with his catch of a 5.75 pound 26 inch fish from the Connecticut River in Rocky Hill. Jose’s Bowfin beats the former record by Tim Shine Jr. by ¾ of a pound. Check out the Fishing Guide or our web page for existing records, criteria for a trophy fish, and details about the Trophy Fish Award Program (www.ct.gov/deep/trophyfish).

INLAND REPORT

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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, CTFisheraman.com, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS. Trout fishing continues to be good to very good for late June. Nearly the Fourth of July and water temperatures are still below stressful levels. Flows remain near-perfect for fishing in many areas (see stream flow graphic on page 4), temperatures continue to be comfortable for both trout and anglers (although the heat is building in), and the weather forecast is good. While not currently an issue anywhere, you can check stream flows anytime (real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations can be found at the USGS web site).

Anglers continue to find fair to good action at many areas throughout the state. Anglers should remember to try a number of tactics and methods. Insect hatches are at peak in terms of the diversity of species at one time. Dry flies are on, with lots of rising fish. Look for large stoneflies, all sizes of mayflies, and caddis (black and brown) everywhere. With the warmer weather settling in, mornings and evenings are starting to be the best times. Nymphs are also working well, and with the lush streamside vegetation, keep beetles, ants, and grasshopper patterns nearby for mid-day action. Always productive, worms, live minnows, powerbait, and a variety of small lures are recommended.

Places reporting the best action include the West Branch and mainstem Farmington River, the Housatonic River, Hammonasset River (BWO’s, ants), Salmon River, Mount
Hope River, Fenton River (lots of rising fish, but you have to work to catch them) and Natchaug River. Finicky fish are being found here and there in the East Aspetuck, Blackberry River, Fivemile River and the Yantic River.

**Farmington River** – Fishing is good to very good several anglers landing beastly browns. Flows are a carbon copy of last week and very fishable, currently 249 CFS at Riverton with an additional 41 CFS from the Still River.

**Hatches/patterns.** Insect activity remains active to very active. The more “summer-like” temperatures have moved most of the hatch activity to later in the afternoon and well into the evening. Insects that should be popular with the trout include Isonyichia (decent hatches going on at dusk), Large common stoneflies, Blue Wing Olive, Midge and Blue Quill, and small yellow mayflies (Attenella).

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 should be very fishable this weekend. Look for a slug of water to move down from the upper watershed raising the levels a tad. Temperatures remain good for trout to be out of the refuges (at least for a little while longer). The fish are just about everywhere in the river so take the opportunity to explore some new areas. Flows are clear and very fishable, currently at 1,320 CFS at Falls Village and 1,220 CFS at Gaylordsville (that slug hasn’t gotten down here yet). 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.

**Hatches/patterns.** Alder flies (actually a caddis), while cahills and Isonichia are making an apperance, 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 Wooly Buggers) are good options. Terrestrials like black and red ants, beetles, and crickets fished near undercuts may just be the ticket to trick the fish of a lifetime.

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.

**TROUT- LAKES & PONDS** – Trout fishing Limited reports this week but fishing is generally fair with the best reports from East Twin Lake, Crystal Lake and Mashapaug Lake (fish are looking for the cooler water and are being caught deep here). It’s been slow at Candlewood Lake and Squantz Pond.
LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing is fair to good in most places, and very good at some. With the more summer like temperatures, mornings and evenings are productive, classic topwaters like jitterbugs and hula poppers are still effective. Candlewood Lake has slowed some, Pachaug Pond, Highland Lake and Lake Lillinonah have been productive, and Quaddick Lake and Mansfield Hollow Reservoir have been really good.

Tournament angler reports are from lower Bolton Lake (fairly slow bite but many teams did get their limits or close, 4.25 lb lunker), Coventry Lake (fair, 6.36 lb lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (WOW - good fishing and size for two clubs, one with a 5.09 lb lunker and a 2.22 lb average weight per fish, and the second club with a 5.31 lb lunker and a 1.85 lb per fish average weight), Moodus Reservoir (slow to fair, 3.60 lb lunker), Pachaug Pond (fair to good, 5.06 lb and 3.94 lb lunkers), Pattagansett Lake (fair to good, 5.00 lb lunker), Quaddick Lake (good fishing, with a nearly 2 lb per fish average weight and a 4.95 lb lunker for one club; and a 6.05 lb lunker for a second club with a 1.69 lb average weight), Rogers Lake (slow to fair, 2.89 lb lunker), Lake Lillinonah (fair to good, 5.84 lb and 3.85 lb lunkers) and the Connecticut River (fair to good for a Haddam meadows tourny, 3.50 lb and 3.33 lb lunkers).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Action has been slowing in many areas such as Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar and Highland Lake but fair to good at Candlewood Lake (fish were still being found outside and inside weed edges, they hadn’t move out deeper yet last week). With warmer weather now here, look for river smallie action to pick up. Tournament angler reports are from Lake Lillinonah (slow to fair, 3.36 lb lunker) and the Connecticut River (slow for a club out of Haddam Meadows).

CHANNEL CATFISH. Eastern CT anglers are enjoying some nice action for catfish at Wauregan Reservoir, and Mohegan Park Pond. Remember - the Fisheries Division stocked 10,600 “cats” into 19 lakes and ponds (combination of Community Fishing Waters and Catfish Management Lakes) in late May so there’s plenty of cats roaming the waters and anglers should be finding them in a number of areas. Not just bottom feeders, Channel Cats will hit lures, soft plastics, and live minnows.

KOKANEE SALMON. Anglers are finding some fish at East twin Lake (some 11-11.5 inch fish around 30 feet, pink bead lures).

NORTHERN PIKE. Lake Lillinonah is still hot. Others are landing some nice size pike from Bantam Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Hopeville Pond and Pachaug Pond.

CHAIN PICKEREL continue to be aggressive in many areas throughout the state and on the move, some catches reported in Aspinook Pond and Winchester Lake.
WALLEYE. Walleye reports were quiet this week however our Walleye lakes like Mount Tom, Batterson Park Pond, and Squantz Pond are worth some effort.

BLACK CRAPPIE are providing some nice action statewide. No whoppers but some nice size fish have been found at Candlewood Lake.

CONNECTICUT RIVER. Flows in the river are currently a bit above typical levels but very comfortable for fishing/boating. Good action for catfish (Whites and Channels), fish the deep holes by day and the adjacent shallow flats by night, a few stripers (schoolies) are still being found. Fishing for Largemouth Bass was good in the Salmon River Cove/Haddam Meadows area. Smallmouth Bass were were providing some action in the Windsor/Enfield area. Pike and Common Carp fishing (some good fishing in the Enfield area including a 42 lb monster) are on the upswing along with Black Crappie as the water continues to clear and warm. Bowfin fishing is “fantastic”.

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 issued the following statement have lifted the advisory concerning boating and swimming in this section of the lower Farmington river. The advisory to not take fish from this area remains in place until further testing is completed.”

Stream flow conditions

Data in the state graphic to the left are generated by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) and are available online 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”.

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

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. The Sleeping Giant State Park (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) has reopened. Remember that the TMA was not stocked with trout this spring due to damage from last spring’s storms.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE (fireworks). The annual fireworks display is scheduled for Saturday evening, June 29 in the Danbury Arm. Boaters should expect additional congestion on the lake.

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.

LAKE LILLINONAH (road closure). The Route 133 bridge (Brookfield-Bridgewater) scheduled for this weekend has been postponed.

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).

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.
Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid 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

IMPORTANT REMINDERS for ANGLERS:

- **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!

- **STURGEON** – We’ve had a few reports of anglers inadvertently catching sturgeon while bottom fishing. Please, do not remove the fish from the water. Release all sturgeon without avoidable harm as their populations are slowly recovering and are at VERY low levels. They are a federally protected species. Thanks!

**STRIPED BASS FISHING REGULATIONS ARE GOING TO CHANGE IN 2020, and DEEP is looking for your opinions and comments on this issue.** Please consider clicking the link below to take a brief (2-3 min) survey to share your thoughts on striped bass regulations:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CTStripedBass2019

Also stay tuned for announcement of a public hearing on striped bass regulations, to be held in August or September.

**STRIPED BASS** fishing remains very good. The bunker are here! There are plenty of large bass being reported…with many being released to live another day. These trophy fish keep on rolling in, feeding on the abundant bait (sand eels, mantis shrimp and finally menhaden). Your standard mackerel and bunker chunk as well as live-lining eels have also proved successful. Norwalk Island, New Haven Harbor, the Morningside area of Milford, Walnut Beach, Gulf Beach Pier and the Milford Audubon Society have been excellent locations for catching that trophy-sized striped bass. **Dawn and dusk is prime time for large stripers on the reefs, rip areas and lower coastal tidal rivers. Live lining eels, bunker or hickory shad has been the ticket.** Other stripers include the rips along Montauk, Sluiceway, the Gut & Orient Point, Watch Hill Reefs, lower Thames River, the **Race** (loaded with bass), Plum Gut, Pigeon Rip, outer Bartlett Reef, Black Point, Hatchett Reef, lower Connecticut River (Great Island), Long Sand Shoal, Cornfield Point, Southwest Reef (outer), Westbrook, Six mile Reef, Falkner Island area, the reefs off Branford, New Haven Harbor (including Sandy Point), Charles Island area, Housatonic River, buoys 18 and 20 off Stratford Point, Stratford Shoal/Middle Ground, Bridgeport Harbor, Penfield Reef, around the Norwalk Islands, and Cable and Anchor Reef. Shore locations
include...Compo Beach, Connecticut River by Dock and Dine and the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier. **Please use circle hooks when fishing with bait to prevent gut hooking and practice catch & release.**

**SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke)** fishing is fair in Long Island Sound. Better around Block Island Sound and off Montauk (south shore). If your fishing area is loaded with dogfish...move! Look for deeper, rockier water like the Ruins. Best bets include the Thames River (New London area) to Niantic Bay (lots of squid there). Not everyone is hitting their daily limit, but there are some real doormats weighing in this week. Many are over 24” and we had an 12.2 pounder weighed in this week in Waterford – AND, this big doormat was caught in shallow water. At the Middleground there are a lot of smaller brethren mixed in with some real arm benders. A 13.2 pound, 32 inch fluke was also landed with a bucktail in the central sound. Jennings Beach, Cocknooe Island, Six-Mile Reef and Charles Island are good bets this week to haul in keeper fluke. Try drifting with a white or pink Bucktail Jig and attach a Berkely 3”- 4” Gulp Mullet in chartreuse, white or pink color. **Fresh squid and or silversides (spearing) have also been producing some nice fluke.** **Minimum size is 19 inches and the daily creel limit is 4 fish per person.** [CT Bait & Tackle shop List](#)

**BLACK SEA BASS** fishing is good. They are still in deep water, spawning over the sand dunes. Soon they will be migrating and setting up over any structure or wreck feeding heavily. The Middleground, #23 and #24 in New York on the west side in 60’ – 100’ of water, Six-Mile Reef, Falkners, Sachems, Outer Southwest Reef, Stratford Shoals, Green can “C,” and Norwalk Islands are fulfilling anglers daily limit (5) in short time. Clams and squid strips tipped on a high-low rig are a good bet to catch black sea bass. Or try vertical jiggling for them (no bait necessary). Sea bass are often schooling with scup, so if you catch one of the species, you’ll likely catch the other. Fishing over any deep water structure (gnarly bottom preferred) in 30 to 110 ft around slack tide will produce some trophy-sized “humpbacks”. Fish shallower and you will catch some keeper-sized sea bass along with fluke, sea robins and smooth dogfish (aka sand sharks). It’s important to continue to move from structure to structure to find these beautiful and awesome eating fish. Remember, **CT black sea bass regulations are as follows...15 inch min. length, 5 fish daily limit from May 19th to December 31st.** Berkely Gulp (swimming mullet), on a jig along with squid with a spinner works great for these “Bucketmouths”.

**SCUP (porgy)** fishing is even hotter than black sea bass this week, with limits (30) being reached rapidly. Scup are gobbling up sand worms, clams and squid on a high-low rigs. Scup are attracted to any rock pile or wreck but the hubcap sized CT Trophy Award Program sized fish are waiting for you in deeper waters (30-60 ft). CT’s Enhanced Opportunity Shore Fishing sites are also housing A LOT of scup. Calf Pasture Beach Pier, Saint Mary’s by the Sea, Pleasure Beach Family Pier, Silver Sands State Park, Short Beach, Morningside, the Charles Island area and Fort Nathan Hale’s pier have proven quite rewarding. Also, Fort Trumbull State Park, Avery Point, Branford Point, Walnut Beach, and West Haven Beach piers have been providing fishers with a wonderful dinner this week. By boat try the Middleground, Six-Mile Reef and Greens Ledge Lighthouse, as well as Rowayton’s Ballast Reef. Back to shore locations; Greenwich Town Pier, Cove Island and Cummings Beach Pier are excellent spots this week. 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 tackle shop for updated fishing information. Time to plan a trip on a party/charter boat in CT. [CT Party Boat Association](#)

**BLACKFISH (TAUTOG)** fishing season opens July 1st in Connecticut waters. 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. Look for tautog in shallow water as they begin spawning over shellfish beds. Other prime locations include: piliings with mussel beds and rock (reef) piles (5 to 30 ft).

**WEAKFISH** fishing is good with 20-34 inch size fish being caught in the east and central sound. Western Sound catches are improving as the population rebounds from low abundance. Many are caught while anglers bottom fish for fluke. Good fishing in Niantic, New Haven Harbor by the breakwaters over to Woodmont/Milford Point and along Stratford shoals to Darien. One of the best eating saltwater fish you will
ever catch. Weakfish is good from shore at Eatons Neck, NY and at the Rye, NY Playland Pier. They've also been reeled in at West Havens Sandy Point and Sandy Point Audubon Society.

**BLUEFISH** fishing slowly improves as larger fish migrate into the Sound. The Race, Millstone Outflow, Plum Gut and the north side of Long Island including Gardiners Bay and the Peconics are the early season hotspots. Most of the local Long Island Sound reefs have many harbor-sized blues cruising around them.

**STRIPED & NORTHERN SEAROBIN** fishing is good in LIS for this “hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins”. These beautiful and strange looking fish are now very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. Anglers are realizing that filleting them is well worth it - they are quite tasty. They love sandworms, squid and any live or dead bait. Please be careful when handling them…be mindful of their spines located on top of their head and gill cover.

**HICKORY SHAD** fishing is ok in the Black Hall River, Four Mile, Lieutenant and Branford River, lower Connecticut River by the DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier and in Clinton Harbor. These incredible hard fighting fish are on the move…moving up and down river systems. Connecticut Tarpon (Hickory shad) can be found mixed in with schoolie striped bass and harbor bluefish. Flood or the beginning of the ebb tide is typically the best time and lure choices are a willow leaf (silver or copper), kastmaster (single hook), small plastic jigs (white, red or chartreuse), and or shad darts in various colors. You will be impressed with these “high flyers”. It’s great shore fishing and you get to meet a lot of anglers and trade fishing stories (“secrets”).

**BLUE CRAB** are in the molting phase (sally crab) and becoming more active in the tidal creeks and rivers as the water warms up. There appears to be a lot of smaller crabs out there…a good sign for a great year of crabbing. With a little time…there should be a bunch of blue crabs of legal size to catch. Please release sub-legal crabs with care. Also, please remember it’s mating season for the crabs and release all egg-bearing females (sooks or lemon bellies). There are some large “jimmies” (male crabs) being captured (8.0 inches spike to spike) along with some impressive sooks Remember...all egg bearing females must be released without avoidable harm. Minimum carapace length is 5 inches for a hard shell crab. Please contact your local bait and tackle shop for most updated information (local hot spots), legal crab traps and bait to use for your fun-filled crabbing. 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. 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

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Species</th>
<th>Length (in.)</th>
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<td>19.5&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>Squid</td>
<td>15.5” Mantle length</td>
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<td>Marc Pantalone</td>
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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.
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

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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