INLAND REPORT
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Providers of some of the information in this report included Candlewood Bait & Tackle, 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 is generally fair to good. Early in the day and late in the day are better times to fish, nights have also been productive. Good standbys include black jitterbugs and surface poppers. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (nothing’s changed, flip weeds daytime, spinner baits and Jig & pigs at night), Lake Zoar, Bantam Lake, Highland Lake (look deep, 16-28 ft), Mudge Pond (good early morning bite), East Twin Lake, Silver Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Morey Pond, Mashapaug Lake and Gardner Lake (try on a weekday when there’s less boat traffic, some good action but don’t expect many whoppers).

Tournament angler reports are from Gardner Lake (fairly good action, with a 4.38 lb lunker, but not much else for any size), Long Pond (tough, 4.0 lunker), Mansfield Hollow Reservoir (half came back with full bags and half with nothing for a day club, 5.41 lb, 4.22 lb and 3.19 lb lunkers; fair to good for an evening club, with a 5.27 lb lunker and a 2 lb per fish average weight), Rogers Lake (fair to good for an afternoon-night club, with a 5.06 lb lunker), Bantam Lake (fair to good, 5.82 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (fair for a night club, with a 6.31 lb lunker; fair to good for a day club, with a 5.52 lb lunker), East Twin Lake (“some nice bags came in…”, 4.38 lb lunker)
and an average weight per fish of 2.25 lbs for one club, a second club also found some nice bass, with a 4.92 lb lunker and a 2.26 lb average per fish), Silver Lake (fair to good, 4.69 lb lunker), and the Connecticut River (fair, 3.75 lb lunker).

**SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being caught at Candlewood Lake (it’s a bit slow but you can find them, look over humps early, alewifes or swimbaits will work, nights have been a bit more variable) and Lake Zoar. The good reports continue for river smallmouth on the upper Housatonic River, also some good reports in from the Connecticut River. Other places to try for smallies include the Naugatuck River, Quinebaug River and the Shetucket River.

**Tournament angler** reports are from Bantam Lake (some found), Candlewood Lake (slow to fair, 4.94 lb lunker), East Twin Lake (very few, with a 3.14 lb lunker), Gardner Lake (a couple but one was over 3 lbs), and the Connecticut River (some caught by a club out of Salmon River).

**TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS.** 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.

Conditions may be on the upswing. Flows have been at least refreshed in many areas with the sporadic storms moving through the state during the week, and are now generally at or above typical late August levels (see stream flow graphic on page 5 or check stream flows anytime for 68 USGS gauging stations at the USGS web site) and cooler weather is forecast for the weekend and beyond.

**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 88 CFS at Riverton plus 46 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).

Note that next week (Tuesday, 8/27 and Wednesday, 8/28, also possibly Thursday, 8/29), DEEP expects to conduct its annual electrofishing survey of the West Branch Farmington River (subject to change depending on precipitation and flow conditions). Flows may be temporarily reduced some and anglers may expect fishing in the West Branch TMA to be a bit off in some areas during and for several days following sampling.

**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), Midge(#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 continues to be very wadeable and fishable. Flows have fortunately risen back up to typical late August levels, currently 342 CFS at Falls Village and 579 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. Mainstem water temperatures have been marginal for trout for some time and most 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 cooler weather forecast the river should hopefully begin to cool nicely and the fish move back out.

**With the long stretch of low flows with 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 is wrapping up. 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, Wooly 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 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 again this week. Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake and West Hill Pond may provide some sparse and limited action.

CHANNEL CATFISH. Summer is catfish time. 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. 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 waters 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. 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 some great catches. Also, try suspending poppers to catch a few crappie. Some good sunnie action reported from Freshwater Pond.

WALLEYE. Late evening and nighttime is best now for Walleye fishing. At least one angler is finding some good action for walleye at Gardner Lake, mostly fish below the minimum length with few keepers. Other 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. Good action for catfish (Whites and Channels) throughout the river, with a number of 5-8 lb fish caught in the Enfield, Glastonbury, and Middletown areas. 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.
Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

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.
Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) continue to 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://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1

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!

**ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY** fishing is improving. Atlantic bonito are currently the more common of the two species. Fish are 12-20 inch in length and migrating west as we speak. These small tunas are cruising around from 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 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.** [CT Bait & Tackleshop List](#)

**STRIPEBASS** fishing remains very good at night. Hook up with a charter boat and learn how to catch those large trophy-sized bass. Live lining bunker (Atlantic menhaden) on the reefs at dawn and dusk is producing some nice bass (50 inches – 55 pounds, Plum Gut). 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.**
SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) fishing is getting better as fall approaches. They are feeding heavily prior to their migration south for the fall/winter. Fishermen are reporting some very large doormat fluke being caught (14 lbs 8 ozs, western Sound). Apparently, the bite is in very shallow water (6 to 25 feet). Hit those beach areas where all the bait is stacked up along the shoreline. Live lining snapper blues in deep water (80 to 100') is the preferred method by fluke sharpies in the fall. The usual 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. CT Bait & Tackleshop List

BLACK SEA BASS fishing has been very consistent in the Sound. The sea bass have finished spawning and are feeding heavily on crabs and small fish throughout Long Island Sound. Plan a trip on a party/charter boat trip to fish off of Block Island...there are many giant-sized sea bass (5-7 lbs) out there. Eastern Sound (Fishers Island to Block Island and northeast of Montauk) anglers are having better success. For those willing to travel, Block Island Sound is the place to be for humpback sea bass. 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 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.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is good. These “Reef Slammers” are measuring 10-18 inches (“hubcap size”) in length being reported at every fishing pier, reef or rock pile in the Sound. Try Gardner’s Island, Milford (Charles Island), Montauk and Niantic (Bartletts and Hachtetts Reef). 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 Hammonassett 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 improving for 12-24 inch blues. Large numbers of bluefish are found in the lower estuaries and rivers feeding on menhaden. Mixed in with these smaller blue fish is the beautiful Spanish Mackerel. Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sliceway, 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, and Cable and Anchor Reef.

SNAPPER fishing has improved in the tidal creeks and rivers with fish measuring 6 to 10 inches in length.

HICKORY SHAD fishing is good in the Black Hall River/Lieutenant River, 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 (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier). Both snappers and hickory shad can be found schooling together at these locations.

STRIPED SEAROBIN fishing continues to be steady for this “hardhead fish with spines and large pectoral fins”. Also, called “Poor-Man’s Lobster”, these fish are very common especially when bottom fishing at many of Connecticut’s shore fishing sites. With fish measuring over 22 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. There are videos on how to clean/fillet these tasty eating fish.
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”. Fish up to 24 pounds have been caught recently. 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.

SAND SHARKS (SMOOTH DOGFISH) fishing is good in Long Island Sound with dogfish up to 50 inches in length reported. 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 fair in all tidal creeks and bays. Many of the large Jimmies (male crabs) have moved upstream. 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

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<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Length (in.)</th>
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<td>Spanish Mackerel</td>
<td>18”</td>
<td>C&amp;R</td>
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<td>Black Sea Bass</td>
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<td>5 lb 11 oz</td>
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<td>Summer Flounder</td>
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<td>8 lb 12 oz</td>
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<td>Smooth Dogfish</td>
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CAUGHT A TROPHY FISH – CLICK HERE FOR THE MARINE TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM AFFIDAVIT
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.

- 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.