INLAND REPORT

DEEP’s in-season stockings are now underway with over 220,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked before the end of May.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be good for trout fishing in most areas this weekend. Flows are now back to typical spring levels or below (see stream flow graphic on page 4) although some rain prior to the weekend may increase flows a bit, generally comfortable weather (but with a few showers) is forecast, and there are plenty of stocked trout waiting for anglers. As water temperatures warm, fishing should improve.

Reports from anglers are streaming in with action picking up in many of the waters that were previously difficult to fish. Some bait & lure favorites seem to be mealworms, Pink Powerbait, various small Mepps spinners and the ole reliable-Phoebe goldfish. The fair to good reports from last week included the Norwalk River, Hammonasset River, Salmon River, and Natchaug River. Reports also indicated that fishing on the Saugatuck River and West River has not started to pick up yet. Also, flows on the high side slowed fishing on the Farmington and Housatonic rivers.

Farmington River - Fishing was mostly fair last week with flows on the high side. Conditions should be much better for the upcoming weekend with comfortable weather forecast and clear, moderate flows, currently 265 CFS at Riverton plus an additional 138 CFS from the Still River. Water temperatures range from the low 40’s to around 50 °F.

Typical mid-April hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive, Hendrickson (will appear mid to late April when it warms up a bit), Winter/Summer Caddis, Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, Stonely nymphs, Midge and Blue Quill. Nymphs (#18-22) are always a good go-to fly, try Bead Head, Midge Pupa, Brassie, Zebra Midge or Copper John patterns. Streamers are also a good option (White Zonkers & Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghost).
**Housatonic River** - Conditions for the weekend should be fair to good. Comfortable weather is forecast and flows have dropped to more fishable levels. Currently flows are “clearing”, and moderately high (currently 1,280 CFS at Falls Village and 2,040 CFS at Gaylordsville) but lower than typical flows for mid-April. Morning water temperatures are currently in the mid 50’s °F.

**Hatches/patterns.** Typical patterns for mid-April include March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), and Black Stoneflies (#18-22). Look for Hendriksons soon. Nymphing (try Bead Head, Midge Pupa or Copper Johns) and streamers (such as White/Yellow Zonkers or Wooly Buggers) are good options for fishing the current flows.

**Rivers and streams stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):**

In **eastern Connecticut**; the Middle River, Roaring Brook, the Willimantic River (sections of the river above and below the TMA), Salmon River (including the TMA), Coginchaug River, Bigelow Brook, Mount Hope River, Fenton River, Hop River, Skungamaug River, Moosup River (including the TMA), Hammonasset River (including the TMA), Roaring Brook (Glastonbury), Shetucket River, Yantic River (including the TMA), Natchaug River, Indiantown Brook, Farm River (both upper and lower), Branford River and Beaver Brook were stocked.

In **western Connecticut**; the Weekeepeemee River, Nonewaug River, Hop Brook, Little River, Eight Mile Brook, Shepaug River, East Aspetuck River, Pond Brook, the lower Pootatuck River, Pequonnock River (Trumbull Basin), lower Saugatuck River, the Housatonic River TMA (yearling trout), the upper Farmington River TMA (the West Branch Farmington River from the Goodwin Dam down to the upper boundary of the year-round catch-and-release area), Leadmine Brook, the lower Farmington River TMA (from the lower Collinsville dam to the Route 177 bridge), the Farmington River (from the route 177 bridge to Route 4), and the Farmington River TMA (from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area at Route 219 to the lower Collinsville dam) were stocked.

**TROUT-LAKES & PONDS** - The lakes are also starting to produce more fish, with reports of good catches from Beach Pond, Saugatuck Reservoir, Highland Lake, West Hill Pond (including a 20.5 inch Brown Trout), Black Pond, and Long Pond. Fair reports are from Crystal Lake, East Twin Lake, Quonnipaug Lake and Candlewood Lake (spotty action) and Squantz Pond has been slow.

**Lakes and ponds stocking update (Note that all stocking schedules are subject to change):**

In **eastern Connecticut**; Bicentennial Pond, Quonnipaug Lake, Walkers Reservoir, Wauregan Reservoir (Quinebaug Lake), Angus Park Pond, Gay City Park Pond, Mashapaug Lake, Bigelow Pond, Amos Lake, Green Falls Reservoir, Hewitt Fly Pond, Lake Saltonstall, Branford supply Ponds, Beaver Brook Park Pond, Gardner Lake, and Cedar Lake were stocked.

In **western Connecticut**; Huntington Pond (Starret Pond) was stocked.

**TROUT PARKS** – Fishing ranged from fair to very good at the Trout Parks. This week the Southford Falls, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Day Pond, Chatfield Hollow (both Chatfield Hollow Brook and Schreeder Pond), Mohegan Park Pond, and Natchaug River Trout Parks were stocked.
COMMUNITY FISHING WATERS- Birge Pond, Mirror Lake (Hubbard Park Pond), and Center Springs Park Pond were stocked.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has picked up some over the last week in a number of areas, with bass still finding their spring spots and temperatures warming only slowly. Fair to good reports from Candlewood Lake (some 4-lb bass are being found), lower Bolton Lake and Congomond Lake. **Tournament angler** reports are from Pachaug Pond (good spring action with everyone catching fish, 4.67 lunker, fish averaged over 2 lbs apiece), Gardner Lake (fair to good for most, including 5 limits out of 21 anglers, with a 3.44 lb lunker), Candlewood Lake (a few in the bags), and Lake Lillinonah (not many in the bags, but catches included a 6.25 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Some smallmouth are being found, with reports from Candlewood Lake (picking up nicely, look for them along drop-offs, reports of a 6.9 smallie being caught), Highland Lake (slow), Saugatuck Reservoir (fair to good) and Lake Lillinonah (good). **Tournament angler** reports are from Candlewood Lake (fair to good action, 4.52 lb lunker for one club, winning bag of 20 lbs for another), Gardner Lake (none to be found), and Lake Lillinonah (good to very good smallie fishing for many, with a 5.36 lb lunker).

WALLEYE Catches reported from Beach Pond and Saugatuck Reservoir.

CONNECTICUT RIVER
The river remains cool and is moderately turbid, but flows have dropped and are now at typical mid-April levels. Some **AMERICAN SHAD** are in the lower river, and there are a few reports of fish (and catches) above Hartford, mostly near the mouth of the Farmington River (shad should pick up as water temperatures increase). Shad darts and willow leafs generally work well. **STRIPED BASS** are being found in the lower river, mostly schoolie size fish and the action is spotty. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** are beginning to bite in the lower coves (Hamburg Cove, Salmon River). No **WHITE PERCH** yet.

NEW INTERACTIVE TROUT STOCKING MAP NOW AVAILABLE.
Anglers can find more information on trout stocking online. A list of the waters that were dropped from this year’s stocking schedule is on our webpage at: [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing), along with an interactive trout stocking map ([www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps](http://www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps)) that anglers should find very useful for planning their next outing. The new application (mobile friendly) provides the number of days since the last stocking at each of our stocked waters enabling anglers to search for their favorite waterbody or by that have been recently stocked.
NOTES & NOTICES:

DRAWDOWN UPDATES – BASHAN LAKE, and DOOLEY POND have refilled and the state boat launches on these two lakes are open to use. HANOVER POND has also refilled.

BRANFORD RIVER (boat launch). The Branford River state boat launch continues to be closed for renovations. Alternative nearby launch sites include the Guilford Town boat launch and the East River State boat launch, both in Guilford.

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.

GLASGO POND (drawdown). Glasgo Pond is currently drawn down approximately 4 feet to facilitate dam modifications.

Stream flow conditions

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”. 
**MARINE FISHING REPORT**

**Bonus Striped Bass Fishing Program**

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is again conducting the **Bonus Striped Bass Fishing Program**, which will run from May 1 through December 31 in 2017. See below for program details.

Tags will be available beginning Thursday, April 20th at DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below. There is a limit of TWO TAGS annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience, one person may pick up at most FOUR tags by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tags by signing up for a free **Youth Fishing Passport**. Tags will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Franklin WMA</strong>, 860-642-7239</td>
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<td>CT</td>
<td>06254</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sessions Woods WMA</strong>, M-F 8:30am-4pm, 860-675-8130</td>
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<td>Burlington</td>
<td>CT</td>
<td>06013</td>
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<td><strong>CTDEEP Main Office</strong>, M-F 9am-4pm, 860-424-3105</td>
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*The full Marine Fishing Report will resume next week.*

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The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact us at (860) 418-5910 or deep.accommodations@ct.gov if you have a disability and need a communication aid or service; have limited proficiency in English and may need information in another language; or if you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint.

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**DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report**

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

2017 Program Highlights

The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) is again conducting the **Bonus Striped Bass Fishing Program, which will run from May 1 through December 31 in 2017**. DEEP will be distributing TWO Harvest Tags and harvest Report Cards per license holder this year. The tag must be securely affixed to the jaw of the fish immediately upon harvest and must remain on the fish until you arrive home. The harvest report card must also be completed upon harvesting a qualifying fish. The report card must be returned to DEEP within two days of harvest. The cards are pre-addressed to Marine Fisheries and are also postage pre-paid. You simply need to drop the completed card in any mail box.

**Tags will be available beginning Thursday, April 20th at the DEEP Offices and Facilities listed below.** There is a limit of TWO TAGS annually per Connecticut fishing license holder. However, for convenience, one person may pick up at most FOUR tags by presenting valid Connecticut fishing licenses for two anglers. Children are also eligible to receive a tags by signing up for a free **Youth Fishing Passport**. Tags will be available on a first come first serve basis for as long as supplies last.

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**Program Objectives / Ways to Use the Voucher**

The striped bass bonus fishery is an opportunity to harvest a limited number of smaller (22 inch to less than 28 inches) striped bass during May through December, 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. Addendum IV to the Striped Bass Fishery Management, adopted in October 2014, allocates a 17,813 pound commercial striped bass quota to Connecticut (25% reduction from previous years -effective in 2015) 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 3,018 fish available for harvest under this program.**
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 tag 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.

2017 Connecticut Bonus Striped Bass Reporting Card

Fish must be tagged immediately.

ONE (1) bonus fish may be harvested per day.

Valid May 1 through Dec. 31, 2017.

Valid only in Connecticut State Waters.

To be completed upon harvest of a qualifying fish

Date: ______ / ______ 2017

Total length: 22”  23”  24”  25”  26”  27”

Please circle one length. Drop fractional lengths: for example, mark 25¼” as 25”

The bonus striped bass must have a tag immediately attached upon harvest of a qualifying fish.

Please return this reporting card to DEEP Marine Fisheries within 48 hours of harvesting a bonus striped bass.

Conservation ID #

A bonus striped bass is a striped bass at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches in total length harvested from Connecticut waters between May 1 and December 31, 2017 and accompanied by a valid reporting card and tag.

Questions?

www.ct.gov/deep/saltwaterfishing

Phone: 860-434-6043

E-mail: deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov
Program Regulations

- A bonus striped bass is at least 22 inches but less than 28 inches.
- Open Season: May 1 through December 31, 2017.
- **Only one bonus striped bass may be harvested daily.**
  - The fish must be tagged immediately upon harvest, with the tag securely affixed to the lower jaw.
  - The tag must remain on the fish until you have returned to your home or other location where the fish is to be consumed.
  - Anglers are also required to complete a bonus striper report card provided with the tag immediately upon harvesting a qualifying fish.
  - Mail the report card back to Marine Fisheries within two days of harvesting the fish. The card is already addressed and postage pre-paid for return on the reverse side. It’s free, so please mail it back to assure continuation of this program.
- Tags are valid in Connecticut state waters only.
- The normal limit of one (1) striped bass 28 inches or greater may also be harvested.

Bonus Tag Distribution

A total of 3,018 Tags will be made available at DEEP offices/facilities, distributed by ENCON Officers, and CT DEEP Marine Angler Survey creel agents. There is no fee for the tags. A limited number of tags will be reserved for programs such as "Take a Kid Fishing", "Take a Veteran Fishing", Municipal youth and urban fishing programs. Please contact Marine Fisheries (deep.marine.fisheries@ct.gov or telephone: 860-434-6043) if your organizations supports such a program and you would like to receive tags.