



Connecticut Department of

**ENERGY &  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION**

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P R E S S R E L E A S E

## **DEEP BEGINS FALL ATLANTIC SALMON STOCKINGS**

### *Low stream flows delay stocking of Shetucket River*

Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP) today announced that its 2014 autumn stockings of broodstock Atlantic salmon have begun. DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division last week released 500 salmon into the Naugatuck River (150 fish), Mount Tom Pond (100 fish), Crystal Lake (Ellington – 125 fish) and Beach Pond (125 fish).

“Atlantic salmon are renowned for their size, beauty and fighting ability,” said Peter Aarrestad, Director of DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division. “The Atlantic salmon recreational fishery has become quite popular, and catching one of these large leapers provides a thrilling experience for anglers”

The group of Atlantic salmon released last week range in weight from 2-5 pounds each. In early October, approximately 500 additional fish in the same size range and more than 50 larger fish in the 3 to 14 pound range will be available for stocking. Following spawning later this fall, DEEP expects another 150 salmon from the Kensington Hatchery will be available for stocking in November. These fish will also range in weight from 3 to 14 pounds each.



*Some of the Atlantic salmon at the Kensington State Fish Hatchery. Approximately 1,200 broodstock salmon will be available for stocking this fall.*

Anglers are advised that the current dry weather conditions have caused changes to the salmon stocking schedule. Typically two rivers, the Naugatuck River and the Shetucket River, are stocked with broodstock Atlantic salmon, but DEEP did not stock the Shetucket River with salmon this week, instead stocking Beach Pond.

“Stream flows in the Shetucket River have declined to levels unsuitable for stocking the large salmon,” said Aarrestad. “At this point our hope is that sufficient rainfall will occur this fall to improve flow conditions and that we’ll be able to begin stocking the Shetucket River and continue to stock the Naugatuck River with the additional salmon that will be ready for release later this fall. We’ll continue to post updates on the status of Atlantic salmon stocking in the Weekly Fishing Report, and on our website and Facebook page.”

Atlantic salmon broodstock stocked in the Naugatuck River are typically released into two designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas:

- The “Campville Section” of the upper Naugatuck River from Route 118 downstream to the Thomaston Flood Control Dam (Litchfield-Thomaston).
- The “Beacon Falls Section” of the lower Naugatuck from Prospect Street (Naugatuck) downstream to Pines Bridge Road (Route 42 bridge, Beacon Falls).

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.

In the Naugatuck and Housatonic Rivers angling for Atlantic salmon is restricted to catch-and-release only from September 1 through November 30. From December 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, 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 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, fishing for other species in the designated Atlantic Salmon Broodstock Areas is restricted to the gear legal for Atlantic salmon. Anglers are reminded that the same regulations also apply to the Shetucket River and that this river’s designated Broodstock Area is from the Scotland Dam (Scotland) to the Occum Dam (Norwich).

In 2007 DEEP began stocking selected lakes with broodstock Atlantic salmon. This fall, Beach Pond, Mount Tom Pond and Crystal Lake are being stocked. Anglers may also occasionally catch salmon that have held over from previous stockings of Long Pond (Ledyard/North Stonington), Mashapaug Lake and Nells Rock Reservoir (Shelton).

The regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon released into lakes and ponds are different from the regulations for salmon in the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers. **In each lake, the regulations for methods, seasons and minimum lengths for salmon are the same as for trout in**

**that specific water body but the daily creel limit is one salmon per day.** The specific regulations for salmon fishing in lakes that have been stocked with Atlantic salmon can be found in the *2014 Connecticut Angler's Guide* and are also provided at the conclusion of this news release. The regulations for broodstock Atlantic salmon stocked into lakes and ponds will also be posted at each water body. Anglers can also contact DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH) for more information.

All other regulations, including those for broodstock salmon in the Naugatuck, Housatonic and Shetucket Rivers, can also be found in the *2014 Connecticut Angler's Guide*, found online at [www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide](http://www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide). Print versions of the guides are available from many Town Clerks and bait & tackle stores, or by contacting DEEP's Inland Fisheries Division (860-424-FISH).

Additional fishing and fisheries related information, including the Weekly Fishing Report, can be found on the DEEP Fisheries web pages at [www.ct.gov/deep/fishing](http://www.ct.gov/deep/fishing) and on the **Fisheries and Wildlife Facebook page** at [www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife](http://www.facebook.com/CTFishandWildlife). This fall, anglers will find updates on DEEP's broodstock Atlantic salmon stockings and the fall trout stockings in the Weekly Fishing Report, on the Fisheries webpage and on the Fisheries and Wildlife Facebook page.

*Regulations for Atlantic salmon fishing in Beach Pond (stocked this fall), Crystal Lake (stocked this fall), Mount Tom Pond (stocked this fall), Long Pond (last stocked-April, 2012) Nells Rock Reservoir (last stocked-April, 2012), and Mashapaug Lake (last stocked-2009) are as follows:*

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#### Crystal Lake

- Legal Methods: Angling and Ice Fishing - Fishing with hook and line. May include fishing with bait, flies or lures.
- Open Season: Third Saturday in April through last day in March.
- Minimum Length: Salmon must be greater than or equal to 16 inches to keep.
- Daily creel limit: 1 Atlantic salmon

#### Mount Tom Pond, Beach Pond\*, Long Pond\*\*, Mashapaug Lake, Nells Rock Reservoir\*\*

- Legal Methods: Angling and Ice Fishing – Fishing with hook and line. May include fishing with bait, flies or lures.
- Open Season: Third Saturday in April through last day in February.
- Minimum Length: None
- Daily creel limit: 1 Atlantic salmon

Mashapaug Lake is not being stocked with salmon this fall. This lake was last stocked in April, 2009.

\*\*Long Pond and Nells Rock Reservoir are not being stocked with broodstock salmon this fall. Both lakes were last stocked in April, 2012 with small (1-2 pound) surplus Atlantic salmon.

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