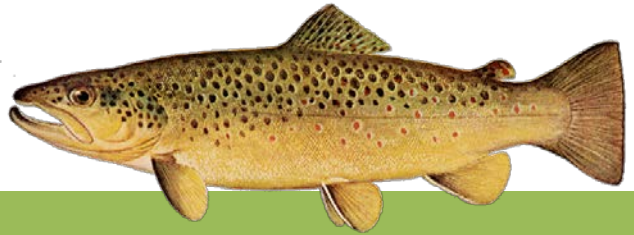


CT DEEP **2016**
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 1
4/14/2016



Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*)



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INLAND REPORT

OPENING DAY – The chilly weather and fairly high flows on Opening Day meant a slow start to the trout season for many anglers. Anglers did however enjoy better weather than forecast for the day, and were greeted with a clear, cold, cloudy morning that cleared and warmed up a bit. Four of the eleven Trout Parks were stocked on Opening Day and the many kids present enjoyed helping us stock.

Approximately 371,000 trout were stocked before Opening Day into 100 lakes and ponds and nearly 170 rivers and streams located throughout Connecticut. DEEP's in-season stockings are now underway with nearly 230,000 additional trout scheduled to be stocked between Opening Day and the end of May.

TROUT- RIVERS & STREAMS - Conditions should be excellent for trout fishing this weekend. Flows were on the high side for Opening Day but are now back at typical spring levels (*see stream flow graphic on page 4*), generally warm, clear, comfortable weather is forecast, and there are plenty of recently stocked trout waiting for anglers. As water temperatures warm, fishing should improve from Opening Day's cold start.

Good Opening Day action reported from the Natchaug River (slow early, improved through the weekend, catches included 9 lb, 4 lb and 3.7 lb Rainbow Trout), Mount Hope River (slow early morning, but picked up nicely by 7 am), Mashamoquet Brook, Five Mile River (Putnam, Killingly; some 16-17 inch fish), West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Norwalk River, Rippowam River, Still river (New Milford) and Pomperaug River. Fishing was generally fair on the Hammonasett River (started very slow, but later picked up some), Quinebaug River (slow for many, but anglers who spent time looking for them in different spots did very well), Crystal Lake Brook, Blackberry River (fair action at best) and Quinipiac River, and slow to very slow at the Scantic river, West River, West Branch Salmon Brook, Mianus River, Pequonnock River, Saugatuck River and Farm River.

FIND TROUT STOCKING MAPS ON OUR WEBSITE

Maps of all of the state's trout streams and rivers showing the many stocking and access points are available online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/troutstockingmaps.



Farmington River - Opening Day trout fishing was good and conditions should be excellent for the upcoming weekend. Warm, mostly sunny weather and continuing comfortable flows are expected. Currently, West Branch flows are clear and low to moderate (166 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 165 cfs from the Still River).

Hatches/patterns include Blue Wing Olive (a.k.a. *Baetis vagans*; #16-18 in a parachute or emerging du; noon to 5pm), Hendrickson (now up into the year-round catch-and-release area), Winter/Summer Caddis (#20-24, mornings), Stonefly nymphs (#12-18), Midge (#22-32) and Blue Quill (a.k.a. paralep; #16-18) in a parachute or emerger (midday). Nymphs are always a good option, (#18-22 nymphs). Also try Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), Black Stoneflies (#18-22), Midge Pupa, or Zebra Midge.

Housatonic River - Conditions for the weekend should be very good as flows are dropping to more fishable levels and warm weather is forecast. Currently flows are clearing, and high, but a bit below typical late-April levels (currently 1,860 cfs at Falls Village and 2,460 cfs at Gaylordsville). Morning water temperatures are around 40 °F.

Hatches/patterns. March Brown (#10-12), Pheasant Tail (#12-18), Stoneflies (#6-10), Pheasant Tails (#14-20), Black Stoneflies (#18-22), Bead Head, Midge Pupa, are working for nymphing. Streamers are also producing, use White or Yellow Zonkers and Woolly Buggers (#4-12) as well as Muddlers, Micky Finn, Grey or Black Ghost.

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

In **eastern Connecticut**; the lower **Blackledge River**, **Jeremy River**, **Natchaug River**, **Middle River**, **Roaring Brook** (Stafford), **Willimantic River** (the river upstream of the TMA, the TMA itself, and the river below the TMA), and **Roaring Brook** (Glastonbury) were stocked..

In **western Connecticut**; the **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), **Farmington River TMA** (from the lower end of the year-round catch-and-release area at Route 219 to the lower Collinsville dam), **Norwalk River** (both upper & lower sections), **Saugatuck River TMA**, **Mianus River TMA**, **Mill River TMA** (Fairfield), **East Aspetuck River**, **Farmington River TMA** (from the lower Collinsville dam to the route 177 bridge), **Hop Brook**, **Little River**, **Nonewaugh River**, **Shepaug River** and **Weekeepeemee River** were stocked.

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS -The cold Opening Day morning may have kept some anglers off the lakes and slowed fishing. Action seems to be picking up later in the weekend. Fair to good fishing reported from Cedar Lake, Lake Quonnipaug, Beach Pond, Coventry Lake, Wononskopomuc Lake (catches include a 9 lb brown trout), Squantz Pond (lots of Rainbow Trout including a 25 incher caught), Mashapaug Lake and Highland Lake (slow for many, but a number of anglers had a good day, with some nice trout caught, including 5.5 lb and 3.5 lb brown trout). Also some good reports from several of the Community Fishing Waters including Birge Pond, Butternut Pond, Upper Fulton Park pond and Picketts Pond..

LAKE & POND BATHYMETRIC MAPS

Bathymetric maps of many of Connecticut's public access lakes and ponds can be found online at:

www.ct.gov/deep/lib/deep/fishing/general_information/lakebathymetrymaps.pdf

Both plain line maps and maps overlaying an aerial photo available.



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

In **eastern Connecticut**; **Horse Pond, Angus Park Pond, Bicentennial Pond, Broad Brook Mill Pond, Black Pond** (Woodstock), and **Shenipsit Lake** were stocked.

TROUT PARKS – Fishing ranged from fair to very good at the Trout Parks. All were stocked before Opening Day and four of them, **Black Rock Pond, Chatfield Hollow, Southford Falls and Wharton Brook**, were stocked again on Opening Day. The **Stratton Brook, Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond), Day Pond, Mohegan Park Pond, Valley Falls Park Pond, Chatfield Hollow** and **Natchaug River Trout Parks** stocked this week.

LARGEMOUTH BASS. With reports of water temperatures being a bit warmer than is typical for this time of year, bass are providing some action. Fair reports from Lake McDonough, highland Lake, Candlewood Lake and Lake Quonnipaug.

Tournament angler reports are from Long Pond (few fish but some nice size, with 5.94 lb, 5.0 lb and 3.75 lb fish in the bags), Pachaug Pond (mixed report, with some anglers doing well and others skunked, but some very nice sized fish with several bass over 5 lbs each), Lake Lillinonah (some action, with 4.2 lb & 3.2 lb lunkers) and Winchester Lake (tough day, 2.1 lb lunker).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Some smallmouth are being caught at Candlewood Lake, Lake McDonough and Lake Lillinonah. **Tournament angler** report from Lake Lillinonah (some nice smallies were caught, including a 4.95 lb beauty and a number of other 2 lb plus fish)

WALLEYE. Catches reported from Squantz Pond, including one fish in the 6-7 lb range.

CONNECTICUT RIVER

The river is currently cold, turbid and moderately high, although still lower than typical mid-April levels (and now beginning to drop), and a bit difficult to boat. Some **NORTHERN PIKE** catches have been reported in the Middletown to Haddam Meadow section of the river. **COMMON CARP** are providing some action, with some spawning activity reported. Although the river isn't warm enough, a few **AMERICAN SHAD** are showing up in the river. A few **SMALLMOUTH BASS** are being found (but you have to really work for them).



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 2015 CT angler's Guide (www.ct.gov/deep/anglersguide).

MARINE FISHING REPORT

For those looking for a Marine Fishing Report, they will resume next week.

NOTES & NOTICES:

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

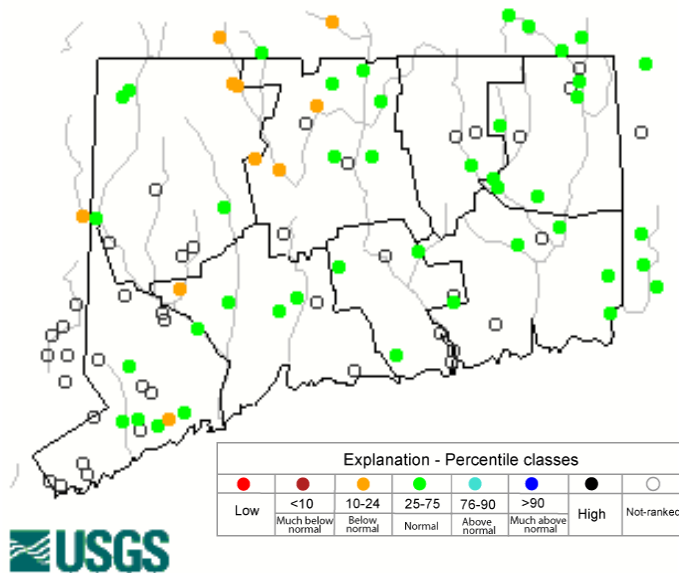
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch, or leaving the lakeshore.

DOOLEY POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Dooley Pond to facilitate dam repairs is ongoing (expected to last to September 1). The state boat launch is currently closed..

GLASGO POND (drawdown). A drawdown of Glasgo Pond to facilitate dam repairs began September 16. Launching of boats is difficult to impossible.

Stream flow conditions as of 4/14/2016

Thursday, April 14, 2016 18:30ET



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”.

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



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