

CT DEEP 2018
FISHING REPORT NUMBER 23
9/27/2018



False Albacore (*Euthynnus alletteratus*)



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INLAND REPORT

Providers of some of the information below included **Candlewood Lake Bait & Tackle**, **Bob's Place**, **JT's Fly Shop**, **Yankee Outdoors**, **CTFisherman.com**, and a number of bass fishing clubs & organizations.

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing has been spotty with some fish in transition from summer to fall habits. Places to try include Candlewood Lake (anglers are finding some big largemouths in the grass), Bantam Lake, Highland Lake, Park Pond, Winchester Lake, Congamond Lakes, East and West Twin lakes, Quinebaug Lake, Quaddick Lake and Crystal Lake.

Tournament angler reports are from Hopeville Pond (good for a few, tough for many, a 4 lb lunger but not much else of any size), Long Pond (slow to fair for most, great for a few, with a 6.38 lb lunger), Quaddick Lake (fair at best, only a 2.63 lb lunger), Lake Lillinonah (fair, with a 6.56 lb lunger), and the Connecticut River (fair for an evening club out of Salmon River, 2.14 lb lunger).

SMALLMOUTH BASS. Fair reports from Candlewood Lake (lots of suspended smallies, not much on structure) and Lake Lillinonah. **Tournament angler** are from Candlewood Lake (slow for many) and Lake Lillinonah (fair).

TROUT and Salmon Stocking Update- Fall stocking in Rivers and Streams is on hold- too much water!

Look for more widespread stocking in lakes and ponds and trout parks coming next week. Also, the first round of Atlantic Salmon Stocking is coming soon to the Naugatuck and Shetucket River Broodstock Areas- but it will depend on flows moderating some of the dots on the stream flow map (see page 2) need to be in the green and light blue color (not royal blue or black). We did manage several **stockings this week:**

RIVERS AND STREAMS: In western CT, The **Housatonic River TMA (the "upper TMA")** was stocked on Monday, 9/24, with **2,000 Brown Trout** (12 in and up fish).

LAKES AND PONDS: In western CT, **Black Pond** (Meriden-Middlefield) was stocked this week.

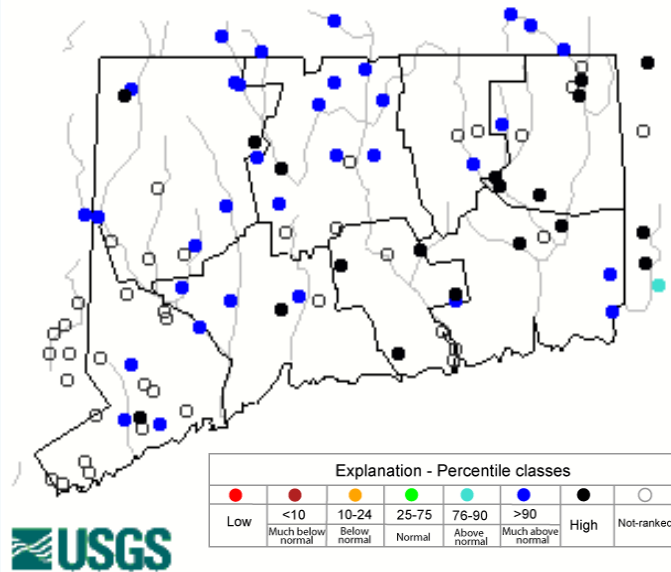
TROUT PARKS: The **Day Pond** Trout Park in eastern CT and the **Wolfe Park (Great Hollow Pond)** and **Black Rock Pond** Trout Parks in western CT were stocked this week.

RIVERS & STREAMS – Personally, We would say – don't bother with rivers and streams this weekend. With the crazy high flows, this is a great time to try a new lake/pond or hit Long Island Sound. Conditions for trout fishing are poor, with flows in throughout the state at high, very difficult to fish levels (see stream flow graphic on page 2) and some rain still in the forecast for this evening (Thursday, 9/27). Flows should drop very slowly over the weekend (depending on what we get for more rain). Remember that the smaller streams and tributaries will generally drop the quickest. **For real time stream flow data from 68 USGS gauging stations you can check** the following web site:

<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>. Please note that we will not be able to stock the Mill River TMA in Hamden this fall due to the lingering impacts of the May storms.

STREAM FLOW CONDITIONS

Thursday, September 27, 2018 15:30ET



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”.

Farmington River. The upcoming weekend looks fair at best for the West Branch and main stem Farmington with clearing, high flows (slowly dropping but more rain is in the forecast). Currently the river is at 507 CFS at Riverton plus 973 CFS from the Still River (which has been dropping but may again increase by Friday morning). Note also that farther downstream the East Branch is currently adding an additional 500 cfs. It is likely that flows will remain on the higher side through at least next week (depending on additional precipitation amounts). Water temperatures range from the mid 50’s °F to the mid 60’s.

Hatches/patterns. High flows continue to hamper any large scale hatching activity. During the daylight hours, nymphing has been good as well as the typical ant patterns (while it has remained humid). Others for this time of year include Tricos (*Tricorythodes* #22-24 in the morning; started in the mid-section of the river), *Ephemerella needhami* (#22-26, early morning), Leadwing Coachman (*Isonychia bicolor*, #12-14, fast water, afternoon/evening), 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), Midges (#22-28, morning), Black Ants (#12-18, midday in fast water), Black Beetles (#16-18, midday), Flying Ants (#18-22, midday, when windy/humid), Stone Hopper (#8-12, mid-day).

Housatonic River – We put half of the fall allocation of Brown Trout into the Housatonic this past Monday (9/24) with the remaining half to come once the flows in the Housatonic settle back down below 1,700 CFS. Currently flows are very high and not fishable at 5,530 CFS at Falls Village and 7,200 CFS at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are currently in the low 60’s °F. Fingers crossed for better conditions next week. Anglers can call FirstLight Power Resources at 1-888-417-4837 or check the USGS website (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/ct/nwis/current/?type=flow>) for updated Housatonic River flow information (and also check with a local bait & tackle shop). **NOTE:** The Cornwall Covered Bridge has **re-opened** after the DOT remodeling project.

Hatches/patterns. Patterns to try include Fall Sulfurs (#16-18), Blue Wing Olives (#18-22), Tricos (#20-22), Leadwing Coachman (#10-12 evening, September is peak month), Sulfurs duns (#16-18, below the dam due to low temperatures, morning; afternoon to early evening for spinners), Light Cahill (#14-18, early morning & evening). Golden stonefly nymphs hatch at first light and adults egg-lay after dark.

Streamer fishing and nymphing with big stoneflies is usually productive. White Zonkers, Woolly Buggers (go big- larval dobsonflies can be up to 4" in length and are a favorite food item), Muddlers, Grey or Black Ghosts (#4-10). Other insects include flying ants (#14-16, mid-day, when windy/humid, September is peak month).

TROUT-LAKES & PONDS. We began to stock a few of our lakes and ponds and trout parks this week (see page 1) and will anticipate stocking more next week. Stay tuned to our Facebook Page, the current stocking report, interactive stocking map, and this weekly report. *We will not be stocking Valley Falls Park Pond (due to a drawdown for dam repairs) and Wharton Brook Pond (still closed from storm damage) this fall.*

CATFISH (CHANNEL AND WHITE). Please take our [Catfish Survey](#). Several Catfish Management Lakes that are worth a try include Silver Lake, Wauregan Reservoir, Lake Kenosia, Mohegan Park Pond, Burr Pond, Bitternut Park Pond, Birge Pond, and the Maltby Lakes.

CHAIN PICKEREL Not many reports, look for activity to increase a bit as we transition into fall.

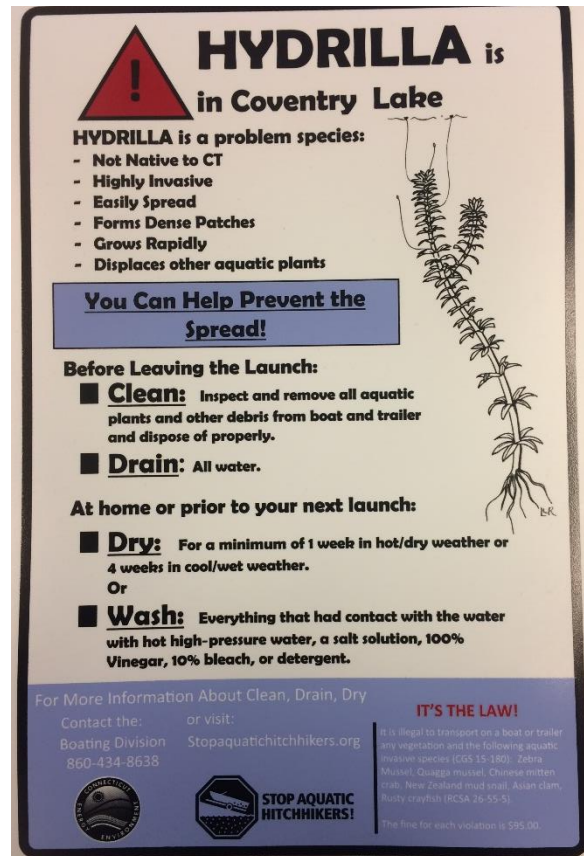
COMMON CARP. Activity is picking up; September and October typically prove to be great times to fish for these huge fish. Try south of Middletown in the CT River and the coves. Other carp favorites are Lake Zoar, the upper Housatonic River, Batterson Park Pond, Aspinoak Pond and West Thompson Reservoir. Pre-Bait your area to bring in plenty of hungry carp.

WALLEYE. Slow fishing now but a more consistent string of cooler nights should bring the Walleye up into the shallows, especially along steep drops offs. Nighttime is best now, places to try include Coventry Lake, Squantz Pond, Mount Tom Pond, Lake Zoar, Mashapaug Lake, Lake Saltonstall, Cedar Lake, and Beach Pond.

NORTHERN PIKE. Not many reports again this week. Favorite Pike Waters include Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Winchester Lake, Bantam Lake, and the CT River. Bass anglers continue to report hooking into some good sized pike at Lake Lillinonah.

PANFISH. Perch, sunfish, and Crappie (some big ones found in Candlewood) are doing well in most places. Good waters include Burr Pond, Still Water Pond, Green Fall Reservoir, Mashapaug Lake, and Day Pond.

CONNECTICUT RIVER Flows are double what they were last week (currently 31,800 CFS at Thompsonville) and turbid. These higher flows are making boating access and fishing very challenging, look for fish to take advantage of the access to cover and vegetation along the shoreline. **LARGEMOUTH BASS** remains on and off, with the side channels and coves providing better action. **SMALLMOUTH BASS** fishing in the Windsor-Enfield remains very tough as the flows will force the fish to hold tight to structure (some boat angler shave reported some success). Look for some action along the mainstem from Middletown to Haddam. **CHANNEL CATFISH/WHITE CATFISH** had been hitting (staff favorites are 3" sections of eel). Anglers fishing from shore in the Enfield area have been catching some nice cats up to 14 lbs this week. Once the river goes down some fishing the deep holes by day and flats by night will provide some fish. **COMMON CARP** have been providing some steady



One of the newly installed signs to alert anyone using Coventry Lake (and a similar sign for the Connecticut River) about the presence of the highly invasive plant, Hydrilla.

action, especially in the Haddam/East Haddam area. A few also caught from shore north of Hartford. The 2018 CT Carp Open Tournament is coming up in mid- October.

NOTES & NOTICES:

STORM DAMAGE UPDATE. Due to damage from storms in May, Sleeping Giant (including the Sleeping Giant TMA) and Wharton Brook (including the Wharton Brook Trout Park) state parks remain closed.

BARN ISLAND (boat launch - Stonington). The Barn Island state boat launch is currently scheduled to be closed for line repainting on Thursday, October 4, and reopening the next day (Friday, October 5).

CENTER SPRING POND (Manchester - dredging). A dredging project is ongoing at Center Spring Pond. Hydraulic dredging will be used so there will be no drawdown but access to a portion of the park may be limited.

CONNECTICUT RIVER (invasive species alert). In 2016 hydrilla was found in the main stem Connecticut River in Glastonbury (near Glastonbury's Riverfront Park & Boathouse). **Last year hydrilla was found at other locations along the river including Wethersfield and Crow Point coves and at a site in Enfield.** 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.

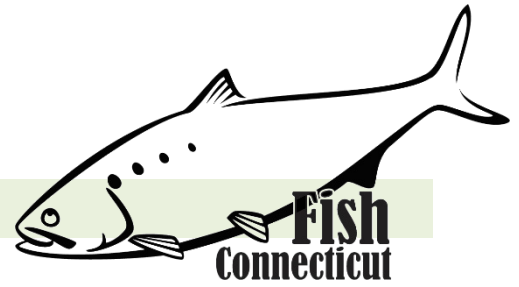
COVENTRY LAKE (invasive species alert). Hydrilla, a very highly invasive aquatic plant, has been found growing in Coventry Lake. All lake users should take extra care to check and clean their boats (including canoes, kayaks and rowing sculls), trailers, and fishing equipment before leaving the boat launch,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

HOUSATONIC RIVER (bridge closure completed). The CT Department of Transportation has announced that the covered bridge over the Housatonic River in West Cornwall has reopened to motor vehicle and pedestrian traffic following repairs.



Known locations of hydrilla at Coventry Lake (Wangumbaug Lake). Boaters should avoid these areas noted with red to avoid fragmenting and spreading hydrilla.

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are around 70 °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
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/> <http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

HUMPBACK WHALES have been reported in Long Island Sound, please see check [WHALE WATCHING GUIDELINES](#).

Note: All marine mammals are protected by the Federal Marine Mammal Protection Act. Following these recommended operational guidelines helps minimize chances of harassing or injuring whales and violating Federal law. Guidelines apply to all large whales from Maine through Virginia, except North Atlantic right whales. It is illegal to approach a right whale within 500 yards (1500 feet) unless granted specific exemption or authorization.

CONNECTICUT STATE BOUNDARY LINE IN LONG ISLAND SOUND. Anglers please note: Though 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 or All Waters Sport Fishing License to fish in the Marine District.

SHORE FISHING SPOTS & TIDE TABLE INFORMATION To find a saltwater shore fishing spot close to where you live, go to the following website: <http://www.lisrc.uconn.edu/coastalaccess/>.

For **ENHANCED OPPORTUNITY SHORE FISHING** sites and other fishing information including a site map go to the following website <http://www.depdata.ct.gov/maps/saltwaterfish/map.htm>.

Please see page 64 of the [2018 CT Angler's Guide](#) for CT tide information.

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.

SPECIAL REMINDER: The TAUTOG (blackfish) fishing season is closed and will reopen October 10.

ATLANTIC BONITO & LITTLE TUNNY fishing is very good. Little Tunny (False Albacore, "Albies") have been reported at Plum Island, Watch Hill, Napatree Point, Barn Island, Jordan Cove, Goshen Reef, **Sunken Island, Middleground, Norwalk Islands, South Benson Pier, Stratford Shoal and Sasco Beach**. These lightning fast fish are so quick and schools move so fast, that it's best to grab a pair of binoculars and watch for birds above feeding on leftover bait. This week little tunny have been caught on Deadly Dicks, Zoom Super Flukes, Sluggos (4"-7"), Castmasters, **Hogy Epoxy Jig** and Albie Snacks. Although false albacore are poor for eating - just catching one will give you such a fight you will be bragging about it for weeks. There's a good chance your local party boat has run into a few schools treating customers with a great day of fishing.

STRIPED BASS fishing remains very good. Schoolie striped bass in the 5-8 pound class with some large holdovers, are still feeding in close to shore where all the bait is. Dusk and dawn have been the most successful times to fish and poppers have been the winning ticket. Reports are streaming in from the banks of the Housatonic where anglers are getting a real workout catching and releasing striped bass. Other excellent locations this week for stripers have been **Norwalk Harbor, Seaside Park, Gulf Beach break-wall and pier, Calf Pasture Beach, Walnut Beach, Todd's Point, Cummings Beach in Stamford and Charles Island** (fishing from the sandbar is strongly discouraged as it is quite dangerous due to strong rip tides).

Don't have a Boat? Hook up with the many [Party or Charter Boats](#) found throughout CT's shoreline from Greenwich to Stonington.

BLACK SEA BASS and SCUP fishing is excellent in the Sound. Bottom fishing still red hot in the western Sound from New Haven to Greenwich. Middleground, Norwalk Islands and Great Captains are still holding a gold mine of Black Sea Bass and Scup (Porgy). High-low rigs baited with squid and clams are your best bet. Most shore spots are holding scup although some locations more notable than others; Jennings and Sasco Beach in Fairfield, Saint Mary's by the Sea, Seaside Park, Stratford's Long and Short Beach, Sherwood Island State Park (fish from the boulders on the Western side but be safe navigating the rocks), Calf Pasture Beach and Todd's Point in Greenwich. List of some very accessible shore fishing locations are: 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 Hammonasset State Park and **Fort Trumbull State Park**. Locate your favorite [Enhanced Shore Fishing Opportunities](#) for these hard fighting and excellent eating "Reef Slammers". Contact your [local bait and tackle shop](#) for updated fishing information.

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 device 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.

BLUEFISH fishing has improved a little. Bluefish schools are scattered but there are some real "alligators" to 16 pounds out there. Mixed in with striper schools are large bluefish schools which are popping up throughout the western Sound including Middle-ground, Norwalk Islands, Sherwood Island, Compo Beach and Silver Sands State Park. They are feeding on just about any bait or artificial lure you offer them. They can also be found in good numbers the eastern sound (find the birds). More recently good numbers of bluefish can be found in the lower estuaries, rivers and beaches feeding on menhaden/anchovies. The "Top-water" bite continues to be very good, look for the "blow-ups". Bluefish fishing spots include the reefs off Watch Hill, the Race, Thames River, Sluiceway, 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. [CT Bait & Tackle Shop List](#)

WEAKFISH fishing is good in the central/western Sound. Weakfish have been reported from the New York state line to New Haven. The hottest spots to catch weakfish this week include **Buoy 18, Sunken Island and Execution Rock**. Weakfish is also surprisingly good in the central Sound (Falkner Island).

WHITE PERCH fishing during fall is very good. Productive spots include the Pawcatuck River (Stanton Weir Pit/Point), Mystic River, upper Thames River (**Norwich Harbor**) and Niantic River, lower **Connecticut River (DEEP Marine Headquarters fishing pier)**, Black Hall River, Lieutenant River, North/South Cove and Hamburg Cove. **Grass shrimp and or a small piece of sandworm fished on the bottom are the keys to success**. You can collect grass shrimp with a minnow net along the shoreline where marsh/eel grass is growing or along dock pilings. They love to cling to the grass or dock pilings.

BLUE CRAB fishing is good in all tidal creeks and bays, especially around pilings in the evening. There are some gigantic “jimmies” (male crabs) out there (8” to 9”). Many of the large “jimmies” are still in the upper reaches of creeks and rivers. Crabs are still feeding around the pilings in the evening, especially with an incoming tide.

Remember...all egg bearing females must be released with unavoidable harm. 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. **Chicken with the skin on it (along with a long handle net) and a small circular crab trap is the preferred method to capture these tasty crabs.** [Blue Crab Fact Sheet](#). *Angler's please also note: It's illegal to snag blue crabs.*

SHARK SPECIES YOU MAY ENCOUNTER IN COASTAL WATERS OF CONNECTICUT: Sand Tiger and Sandbar (Brown) Shark are protected and prohibited species and must be released unharmed. **IF YOU DON'T KNOW, PLEASE LET IT GO!** [Coastal shark information](#).

Need a fishing spot you've never been to? Want to know details about the site, like coordinates? Are there nearby restaurants, is there an adequate amount of parking spaces and more? Just visit the site below, click guest and then on the next screen select the state of Connecticut:

<https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/msd/html/siteRegister.jsp>

NOTABLE CATCHES –

Species	Length (in.)	Weight (lbs)	Angler
Smooth Puffer	23"	4 lb	Michael Parks
Gray Triggerfish	20"	4 lbs 6 oz	John M.
Black Sea Bass	22.5"	5 lb 4 oz	Marina M.
Summer Flounder	26"	7 lb 4 oz	Margaret Rux
Inshore Lizardfish	8"		Charles Ritchie

For Current Connecticut Recreational Fishing Regulations: Anglers should consult the 2018 Connecticut Anglers 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 Angler's Guide and additional information is on the DEEP website at: www.ct.gov/deep/fishing. For the latest marine regulations also click this link: [2018 CT Marine Recreational Fishing Regulations](#). **PLEASE CALL 1.800.842.4357 TO REPORT FISHING VIOLATIONS.**

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DEEP WEEKLY Fishing Report



**Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

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