



# CONNECTICUT FISHING REPORT

by Bob Sampson Jr.

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are present in the larger rivers, anglers can count on the fact that stripers large enough to eat, those ranging from eight to fifty pounds, are somewhere close behind.

I've always believed that the bigger bass, at least those that are hot on the tails of the Thames River's herring, were larger fish that had over-wintered with the huge masses of smaller (12-to 24-inch) schoolies that dominate the winter population. Therefore, these big guys are already there when the first herring swim into the river and draw their nearly undivided attention. Due to waning herring runs over the past decade or so, Connecticut, and now most of New England, has some sort of ban on the taking of river herring (*Alosa pseudoharengus*, alewife and *Alosa aestivalis*, blueback herring), which is the best live bait for early spring's jumbo stripers. For this reason, many anglers are turning to large (8-to 10-inch or longer) soft plastic lures and hard swimming plugs that are herring clones to fool these fish. In the shallows and areas where snags are a problem, cast 10-inch Fin-S Fish, 9-inch Slug-Go's or the new tandem hook 12-inch Slug-Go that will hopefully be available at stores for this spring's run. Another excellent lure for big bass at the base of dams is a reverse Atom Popper and oversized Zara Spooks. My favorite swimming lures for big herring

munchers are Mambo Minnows, Rapalas and a relatively new line of expensive, top-quality and effective lures from a Polish company called Salmo ([www.salmo.com](http://www.salmo.com)). Salmo Lures were originally purchased as pike and musky baits, but it didn't take long to see the potential of their nearly exact match to the color of a herring, called "Real Roach". I've had success with both the Salmo Fatso, and Fatso Swimmers.

The first time I tested a lipless "Fatso", which gives a slow natural roll as it is retrieved, a lovesick alewife came up and hooked itself as it tried to mate with my lure, a fact that shows how realistic-looking this lure is! However, my new favorite is a shallow-running "buckeye clone" called the Skinner. This lure has a fin on its back like a shark that cuts wide "S's" on the surface during a slow retrieve. They simply look edible!

Last spring, after a couple days of heavy flooding rains, I took a chance and waded out onto a shoal along the edge of the Greenville Dam to take a few casts. The water was flowing so powerfully that I quickly chickened out and decided to head back to shore before I was swept off my feet. Very dangerous, literally life-threatening conditions that I had foolishly put myself into. Being that I was already within casting range of the area I wanted to work, after realizing my mistake, I decided to take a cast or two before bailing out. I had a newly-

wrapped, customized rod and matching Cabo reel in my hands that I was almost literally dying to test and, therefore, decided to take one or two casts before calling it quits. At the very least it would be possible to see how this rod would handle those large herring clone lures. The rod was a seven-foot heavy action casting rod that had been converted into a spinning rod by Q-Kresser of River's End Tackle, Saybrook. It was designed for the hours of constant casting required to hook into muskies and jumbo pike. Those qualities of being light and easy to cast, yet powerful, makes it a perfect tool for man handling big stripers, as well. That day, on the first and only cast I made, the rig was christened by a 42-inch-plus, 30-pound striper!

A few years earlier I'd have been tempted to wade back out into the raging torrent, simply to see if I could make it two big fish for two casts. However, the common sense that even idiots like me eventually develop with age and maturity kicked in, causing me to actually think out the situation before acting --- for a welcome change. After all, I had christened a new outfit on a big, beautiful spring-run striped bass on a single cast, taken photos of that fish for a story I was working on at that time, was still dry, and above all still alive. I packed up, turned my back to the water and walked back to the car before I changed my mind.

You can bet I'll be back there this month under safer conditions, with that same seasoned rig, looking for an encore performance from one of that big striper's classmates or maybe even that fish with a year's worth of growth on its bones.

## High Tides For April 2007

### Bridgeport, CT

April 1	11:29 AM	11:42 PM	April 16	10:53 AM	11:11 PM
April 2	-----	12:05 PM	April 17	11:43 AM	-----
April 3	12:15 AM	12:39 PM	April 18	12:01 AM	12:34 PM
April 4	12:49 AM	1:13 PM	April 19	12:50 AM	1:26 PM
April 5	1:22 AM	1:48 PM	April 20	1:42 AM	2:19 PM
April 6	1:57 AM	2:26 PM	April 21	2:36 AM	3:16 PM
April 7	2:35 AM	3:07 PM	April 22	3:35 AM	4:17 PM
April 8	3:18 AM	3:53 PM	April 23	4:38 AM	5:22 PM
April 9	4:07 AM	4:46 PM	April 24	5:45 AM	6:27 PM
April 10	5:03 AM	5:45 PM	April 25	6:52 AM	7:29 PM
April 11	6:05 AM	6:45 PM	April 26	7:55 AM	8:23 PM
April 12	7:09 AM	7:44 PM	April 27	8:50 AM	9:11 PM
April 13	8:10 AM	8:39 PM	April 28	9:38 AM	9:53 PM
April 14	9:07 AM	9:32 PM	April 29	10:20 AM	10:32 PM
April 15	10:01 AM	10:22 PM	April 30	10:59 AM	11:08 PM

### High Tides For Other Locations:

City Island	+0:17	Stamford	+0:03	Madison	- 0:21
New Rochelle	- 0:04	S. Norwalk	+0:09	Essex	- 0:05
Mamaroneck	+0:12	Housatonic Rvr	+0:26	Saybrook Pt	- 0:31
Cos Cob	+0:05	Milford	- 0:08	New London	- 1:45

Times are approximate • Not responsible for errors

#### Moon Phases



## High Tides For April 2007

### Fire Island Democratic Point

April 1	7:16 AM	7:41 PM	April 16	6:53 AM	7:16 PM
April 2	7:53 AM	8:15 PM	April 17	7:43 AM	8:03 PM
April 3	8:28 AM	8:48 PM	April 18	8:33 AM	8:51 PM
April 4	9:02 AM	9:19 PM	April 19	9:25 AM	9:42 PM
April 5	9:37 AM	9:50 PM	April 20	10:21 AM	10:36 PM
April 6	10:12 AM	10:23 PM	April 21	11:19 AM	11:34 PM
April 7	10:50 AM	11:01 PM	April 22	-----	12:19 PM
April 8	11:36 AM	11:49 PM	April 23	12:33 AM	1:19 PM
April 9	-----	12:29 PM	April 24	1:32 AM	2:17 PM
April 10	12:46 AM	1:28 PM	April 25	2:30 AM	3:16 PM
April 11	1:48 AM	2:32 PM	April 26	3:29 AM	4:13 PM
April 12	2:53 AM	3:37 PM	April 27	4:26 AM	5:05 PM
April 13	4:01 AM	4:40 PM	April 28	5:18 AM	5:51 PM
April 14	5:04 AM	5:37 PM	April 29	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
April 15	6:01 AM	6:28 PM	April 30	6:46 AM	7:08 PM

### High Tides For Other Locations:

#### South Shore

Amityville	+ 2:59
Bay Shore	+ 2:46
E. Rockaway Inlet	+ 0:32
Freeport	+ 1:16
Jones Inlet	+ 0:19
Moriches Inlet	- 0:18
Shinnecock Inlet	- 0:12

#### North Shore

Pt. Washington	+ 3:23
Oyster Bay	+ 3:32
Pt. Jefferson	+ 3:29
Mattituck Inlet	+ 3:35
Greenport	+ 2:45
Sag Harbor	+ 2:35
Montauk Point	+ 0:29

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