

CONNECTICUT FISHING REPORT

by Bob Sampson Jr.

continued from page 70

will hit jigs but seem to prefer high-low rigs baited with squid strips or clams, drifted around wrecks, small ledges and rock piles, outside the fluking grounds in the Sound as well as outside the beaches along much of the Rhode Island coast.

With bunker showing so early this spring, reports of big, teen-sized choppers that would be twenties come fall, began coming in from many of the places that harbored this bait fish starting in mid-May, another good sign.

By now the coast should be inundated with blues of all sizes to the point that they can become a pain in the butt to fluke fishermen and anyone using eels, tube and worms or soft plastic lures for stripers. But as much gear as they tear up, pound for pound they are a hard fighting fish, especially on light tackle.

During July, blues are likely to show up around any rip line or beach along the entire coast. The primary fisheries take place in the deep water areas along the mouth of the Sound such as the Race and Plum Gut. Inside the Sound, many of the deep-water areas around places such as Six Mile Reef and Falkner Is-



Fluke like these CT legals wouldn't be legal in Rhode Island or New York waters where minimum lengths of 19 and 19.5 inches respectively, are in place.

land in the middle stretch of the Connecticut Shore are popular bluefishing grounds. With menhaden always present in the west, by late summer big choppers will certainly have found them and will provide some good fishing on chunks from New Haven to the New York line.

July is the month when blue crab fans begin shining lights in the tide flats and setting lines

for this ill-tempered but great-eating little crustacean.

Last year crabs were scarce early on, but as usual, the region received a strong run of migrants from the south late in August. These immigrant crabs spawned, setting the stage for a banner year in 2007 or 2008, providing they survived the winter. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that winter survival was very good this year.

At this writing it was too early to have any valid assessments of crab survival in other places, but while fishing the Thames River Striped Bass Tournament in late May, I saw two small crabs floating. Heavy rains and cool temps, which protract cool, early spring conditions, can be deadly to crabs. Later reports from the same area also talked of small crabs floating in the Thames. Maybe this was a local die-off in this one spot, or maybe it represents what took place throughout the state. Crabbers should know by now. A check of your favorite creek or estuary should provide some sightings. If no crabs are present and reports have not come in by now, wait until August or early September when the migrants from southern populations make it to our waters.

Even during very bad years, a few crabs survive even the toughest winter and early spring conditions. The problem is crabbing for hours may only yield a handful of keepers as opposed to a bushel when there is significant over-winter survival of local, discreet populations.

High Tides For July 2007

Bridgeport, CT

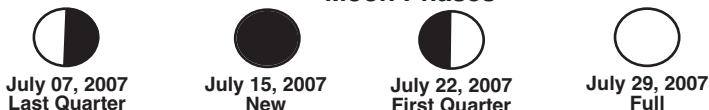
July 1	12:06 AM	12:39 PM	July 16	12:55 AM	1:25 PM
July 2	12:48 AM	1:20 PM	July 17	1:41 AM	2:09 PM
July 3	1:31 AM	2:03 PM	July 18	2:26 AM	2:53 PM
July 4	2:16 AM	2:48 PM	July 19	3:11 AM	3:37 PM
July 5	3:04 AM	3:36 PM	July 20	3:56 AM	4:23 PM
July 6	3:56 AM	4:27 PM	July 21	4:44 AM	5:11 PM
July 7	4:52 AM	5:23 PM	July 22	5:36 AM	6:01 PM
July 8	5:53 AM	6:22 PM	July 23	6:30 AM	6:53 PM
July 9	6:56 AM	7:23 PM	July 24	7:26 AM	7:46 PM
July 10	8:01 AM	8:24 PM	July 25	8:21 AM	8:38 PM
July 11	9:05 AM	9:24 PM	July 26	9:14 AM	9:27 PM
July 12	10:04 AM	10:22 PM	July 27	10:02 AM	10:14 PM
July 13	11:00 AM	11:16 PM	July 28	10:47 AM	10:59 PM
July 14	11:51 AM	-----	July 29	11:30 AM	11:42 PM
July 15	12:06 AM	12:39 PM	July 30	-----	12:12 PM
			July 31	12:26 AM	12:54 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 July 2007

Fire Island Democrat Point

July 1	8:33 AM	8:42 PM	July 16	9:26 AM	9:34 PM
July 2	9:15 AM	9:24 PM	July 17	10:14 AM	10:19 PM
July 3	10:01 AM	10:09 PM	July 18	11:02 AM	11:05 PM
July 4	10:49 AM	10:58 PM	July 19	11:49 AM	11:50 PM
July 5	11:40 AM	11:50 PM	July 20	-----	12:33 PM
July 6	-----	12:32 PM	July 21	12:34 AM	1:17 PM
July 7	12:45 AM	1:24 PM	July 22	1:19 AM	2:01 PM
July 8	1:41 AM	2:19 PM	July 23	2:07 AM	2:47 PM
July 9	2:42 AM	3:18 PM	July 24	3:01 AM	3:39 PM
July 10	3:48 AM	4:20 PM	July 25	4:01 AM	4:33 PM
July 11	4:55 AM	5:22 PM	July 26	5:01 AM	5:26 PM
July 12	5:58 AM	6:20 PM	July 27	5:56 AM	6:15 PM
July 13	6:55 AM	7:12 PM	July 28	6:44 AM	6:59 PM
July 14	7:47 AM	8:01 PM	July 29	7:27 AM	7:41 PM
July 15	8:37 AM	8:48 PM	July 30	8:09 AM	8:22 PM
			July 31	8:52 AM	9:05 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

All times are approximate • Not responsible for errors.

Moon Phases

