



FLY FISHING Continued

Fly Fishing The Connecticut River - Continued from pg.3

Every kind of boat, from a rubber dingy, to million dollar cruisers will come pouring out of that cove on a late July Afternoon. They will then head up or down river and back to work on Monday morning. Watch the weekend traffic, it can be nasty with BIG WAVES! So how about fishing **Hamburg Cove** at a less busy time. More has been written about fishing in H.C. than many other locations on the river so we'll just touch on the highlights. It's a great springtime spot for stripers and yellow and white perch. Sometimes they're shallow, sometimes deep. Sometimes the fish are in the front of the cove and sometimes way up in the back. Look around, there will always be other boats fishing. The last thing I would say about this area is that on six successive casts you could catch a striper, northern pike, a large mouth bass, a white perch, a catfish, a small mouth bass, or more. The variety is unlimited depending on the season.

Just above Hamburg Cove is an area known as Brockway Bar, and **Brockway Bar Channel**. It is a large flat with the river channel running through it. It can be located on your chart between buoys #33 and #31. This can be an excellent spring schoolie spot when the fish are moving up the river, and the river is not flooding. Start by doing drifts through the area, casting flies on sinking fly lines or medium-running crank baits over the shoal area. Try to keep your boat positioned over the edge of the channel in about twelve feet of water, casting into the shallows.

The next location as you continue up-river is the area around Eustasia Island. Try fishing the southern point of the island around the #35 green can. Fish can sometimes be found around this point. You could also take a quick look around the **Deep River Marina** docks if it's early in the morning. Fish such as stripers and some very large carp hang out here in the spring. Both can be taken on small clouser minnow style flies or small rapala crank baits.

Head the boat back down river and then up along the east end of the island back into the main river channel heading north. This is going to be a long but scenic ride. You will pass by the **Chester Ferry** and **Gillette Castle**. Farther up you will pass by the **Camelot Cruise** ships and the famous **Goodspeed Opera House**. Some of these areas have a "no wake zone" so watch your speed.

About a mile above the opera house start looking for a boat launch on the east side of the river. This is the Salmon River State boat launch, and directly above it is the **Salmon River Cove**. The tip of the island at the mouth of the cove has a shallow flat extending out from it. Fish all over this flat area and also up along the edge of the island on the main river side.

This area is a known schoolie hangout in the spring through mid-June. The area up inside the cove can also be explored for L.Bass and Pike throughout the year. If you wanted to fish for only warm water species one day you could launch at the **Salmon River Cove** launch and spend a whole day just exploring the cove or the area just north of here called **Haddam Meadows**. Many weed beds are located along the shore in this area, and many large pike and bass have been taken from this area. Fishing spinner baits or large flies up along the edges of the weed beds will put some fish in the boat. You could also bring along some night crawlers and sinkers and try for the catfish that are plentiful along the edge of the main river channel throughout this area. There are many more spots to fish as you keep heading up the river. Places like **Bodkin Rock** in Cobalt, **Gildersleeve Island** in Portland, **Wethersfield Cove** in Wethersfield, or the area around the **Trash to Energy Plant** in downtown Hartford. Each of these areas holds many different species of fish depending upon the time of year. The river north of Hartford is considered non-navigable. But with a shallow draft boat and a little extra caution on the part of the driver, many areas all the way upriver to the **Enfield Dam** have been explored. The warm water fishery in this area is tremendous, with small mouth and largemouth bass up to five pounds. The area around the **Enfield Dam** has not fished as well for shad over the last ten years, but has more than made up for this with the trophy striper fishery in the spring. One week before this article was written, a **51lb. Fish** had been taken on shallow running crank bait below the dam. In previous years stripers have been taken that have had a five-pound shad in their stomach, or filled with five or six herring. This area can be dangerous to fish, and requires fairly heavy tackle.

You could spend the entire season fishing the Connecticut River and there would still be more places just waiting to be explored. Use caution when boating on the river, wear your PFD at all times, and most importantly, go catch some fish and have fun.