



# Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection



## 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY

**Fishing...**  
**Represents some of the best**  
**moments with Family & Friends**



# 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY



This program recognizes & rewards successful anglers. Categories are: **Youth** (female & male), **Adult** (female & male).

**A few things to keep in mind when navigating**

--**State Record Harvested Fish** (red color) is the heaviest (weight) harvested fish of any species.

--**Catch & Release State Record** (green) is the longest (length) fish of any species.

--**Women's Trophy Fish Record** (blue) is the largest fish in the women's category, either harvested or caught & released.

--**Youth Trophy Fish Record** (purple) is the largest fish in the youth category, either harvested or caught & released.

-- \*\*\* is an estimated length and therefore not eligible for a state record



**Adult Awards (Male)**

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Method	WtLb	WtOz	Length (in.)	Awards/Records
Adam Litwin	Atlantic Bonito	Harvest	-	8/30/2025	Fisher's Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	21.50	Silver Pin
Adam Litwin	Atlantic Bonito	-	Catch & Release	9/3/2025	Block Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	20.50	Gold Pin
<b>Andy Rondeau</b>	<b>Atlantic Bonito</b>	-	<b>Catch &amp; Release</b>	<b>10/25/2025</b>	<b>Block Island Sound</b>	<b>Spin Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>21.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Catch &amp; Release State Record)</b>
Andy Wang	Black Sea Bass	Harvest	-	7/28/2025	Long Island Sound	Spin Fishing	4	0	21.00	Bronze Pin
Matthew Fells	Black Sea Bass	Harvest	-	9/13/2025	Fisher's Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	4	0	21.00	Bronze Pin
William Carta	Bluefish	-	Catch and Release	7/16/2025	Long Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	-	-	36.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	12	8	34.00	Gold Pin
Shawn LaLond	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	12	4*	36.00	Gold Pin (*Gutted by seal)
Daniel Hripak	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Long Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	14	4.8	34.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Bluefish	-	Catch and Release	8/24/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	-	-	34.50	Gold Pin
Jason Bush	Bluefish	Harvest	-	10/5/2025	Long Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	12	8	32.50	Bronze Pin
Andy Rondeau	Bluefish	-	Catch and Release	10/25/2025	Block Island Sound	Spin Fishing	14	0	33.00	Bronze Pin
Jacob Walton	Clearnose Skate	-	Catch and Release	5/6/2025	Walnut Beach	Bottom Fishing	-	-	35.00	Silver Pin
Andy Wang	Hickory Shad	-	Catch and Release	5/12/2025	Milford Harbor	Spin Fishing	1	8	18.00	Bronze Pin
Andy Wang	Hickory Shad	-	Catch and Release	5/15/2025	Milford Harbor	Spin Fishing	2	0	18.50	Bronze Pin
Sebastian Vernali	Little Tunny (False Albacore)	-	Catch and Release	9/13/2025	Niantic	Spin Fishing	-	-	24.50	Gold Pin
Adam Litwin	Little Tunny (False Albacore)	-	Catch and Release	9/16/2025	Fisher's Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	25.00	Silver Pin
Adam Litwin	Little Tunny (False Albacore)	-	Catch and Release	9/16/2025	The Race	Spin Fishing	-	-	25.00	Gold Pin
Adam Litwin	Little Tunny (False Albacore)	-	Catch and Release	9/16/2025	Fisher's Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	25.00	Gold Pin
Daniel Hripak	Little Tunny (False Albacore)	-	Catch and Release	9/30/2025	LIS off Mattituck NY	Spin Fishing	-	-	25.00	Gold Pin
Matthew Fells	Longfin Squid	Harvest	-	6/14/2025	Fishers Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	-	-	12.50	Bronze Pin
Matthew Fells	Longfin Squid	Harvest	-	6/14/2025	Fishers Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	-	-	10.00	Bronze Pin
John Mickolyzck	Northern Kingfish	Harvest	-	6/22/2025	Off of Milford	Bottom Fishing	2	2	18.00	Bronze Pin



# 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY



## Adult Awards (Male) Continued

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Method	WtLB	WtOz	Length (in.)	Awards/Records
Peter Johnson	Oyster Toadfish	-	Catch and Release	10/25/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	12.00	Gold Pin
<b>Evan Kamoen</b>	<b>Pinfish</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>12/9/2025</b>	<b>Ryan's Horn</b>	<b>Bottom Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>13.63</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Catch &amp; Release State Record)</b>
Stephen Judd	Scup	-	Catch and Release	9/13/2025	Audubon at Milford Point	Spin Fishing	2	1.2	16.00	Bronze Pin
Jonathan Agosta	Spot	-	Catch and Release	7/26/2025	Greenwich Harbor	Bottom Fishing	-	-	8.50	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Spot	-	Catch and Release	9/8/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	10.75	Gold Pin
William Carta	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	5/29/2025	Southwest Reef	Bottom Fishing	-	-	45.00	Silver Pin
William Carta	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	6/5/2025	Southwest Reef	Bottom Fishing	50	0	50.00	Gold Pin
William Carta	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	6/28/2025	Off of Westbrook	Bottom Fishing	-	-	45.00	Gold Pin
Joseph Jackson	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	9/11/2025	Off of Stratford	Spin Fishing	-	-	45.00	Bronze Pin
Shawn LaLond	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	9/11/2025	Long Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	45.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	9/11/2025	Long Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	46.00	Gold Pin
William Carta	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	11/2/2025	Off of Westbrook	Spin Fishing	-	-	46.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Striped Sea Robin	-	Catch and Release	6/3/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	16.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Striped Sea Robin	-	Catch and Release	6/11/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	16.00	Gold Pin
Scott DeFord	Tautog	Harvest	-	10/10/2025	Two Tree Channel	Bottom Fishing	10	8.8	23.75	Bronze Pin
Mark Alimena	Tautog	Harvest	-	10/19/2025	Stamford Harbor	Live Bait	8	0	23.00	Gold Pin
Steven Garcia	Tautog	Harvest	-	10/28/2025	Off of Niantic	Bottom Fishing	12	0		Bronze Pin
Eric Gray	Tautog	Harvest	-	11/23/2025	Long Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	11	4	26.00	Bronze Pin
Edwin Lovely & Moe Giovanni	Thresher Shark	Harvest	-	7/30/2025	East Point Fishers Island	Live Bait	-	-	192****	Gold Pin
Raymond Strong	Thresher Shark	Harvest	-	8/27/2025	North of the Race, LIS	Live Bait	455	0	99.00	Bronze Pin
Peter Johnson	Weakfish	-	Catch and Release	9/11/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	25.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Weakfish	-	Catch and Release	10/6/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	26.00	Gold Pin
Daniel Hripak	Weakfish	-	Catch and Release	10/18/2025	Long Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	-	-	24.00	Gold Pin
Daniel Hripak	Weakfish	Harvest	-	10/18/2025	Long Island Sound	Bottom Fishing	6	1.92	27.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Windowpane Flounder	-	Catch and Release	6/4/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	12.00	Gold Pin





# 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY



## Adult Awards (Female)

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Bait/Lure	WtLB	WtOz	Length	Awards/Records
Lauren Johnson	Cownose Ray	-	Catch and Release	8/30/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	38.00	Bronze Pin
<b>Arielle Yindra</b>	<b>Oyster Toadfish</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	-	<b>10/12/2025</b>	<b>Niantic Bay</b>	<b>Bait Cast Fishing</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0.32</b>	<b>15.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (State Harvested Record)</b>
Ana Rodriguez	Smooth Dogfish	-	Catch and Release	9/26/2025	Fort Trumbull Pier	Bait Cast Fishing	-	-	37.00	Bronze Pin
<b>Nicole Evancha</b>	<b>Spot</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>7/26/2025</b>	<b>Greenwich Harbor</b>	<b>Bottom Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>7.75</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Women's Trophy Fish Catch &amp; Release Record)</b>
Lauren Johnson	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	7/10/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	-	-	45.50	Bronze Pin
Ana Rodriguez	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	8/6/2025	Fort Trumbull Pier	Live Bait	-	-	49.50	Bronze Pin

## Youth Awards

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Bait/Lure	WtLB	WtOz	Length	Awards/Records
<b>Hunter Heath</b>	<b>Black Sea Bass</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	-	<b>10/26/2025</b>	<b>Old Saybrook</b>	<b>Bottom Fishing</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>24.75</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Harvested Record)</b>
Colton Johnson	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	14	8	35.00	Gold Pin
Steven Divinetz	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Valiant Rock		17	2.56	37.00	Bronze Pin
Sage Catlin	Bluefish	Harvest	-	10/18/2025	Long Island Sound	Spin Fishing	12	1.6	32.50	Bronze Pin
<b>Colton Johnson</b>	<b>Longfin Squid</b>	<b>Harvest</b>	-	<b>6/2/2025</b>	<b>Block Island Sound</b>	<b>Spin Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>14.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Harvest Record)</b>
<b>Graham Cook &amp; Rory Shea</b>	<b>Oyster Toadfish</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>9/20/2025</b>	<b>Mystic River</b>	<b>Bottom Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>18.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Catch &amp; Release Record)</b>
<b>Nicholas Dietz</b>	<b>Spot</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>8/2/2025</b>	<b>Off of Branford</b>	<b>Bottom Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>11.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (State Catch &amp; Release Record)</b>
<b>Evan Duan</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>6/29/2025</b>	<b>Byram River</b>	<b>Trolling</b>	-	-	<b>52.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Catch &amp; Release Record)</b>
<b>Brady O'Connell</b>	<b>Striped Bass</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>6/29/2025</b>	<b>Block Island Sound</b>	<b>Spin Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>51.50</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Catch &amp; Release Record)</b>
Colton Johnson	Striped Sea Robin	-	Catch and Release	7/14/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	16.00	Gold Pin
<b>Colton Johnson</b>	<b>Weakfish</b>	-	<b>Catch and Release</b>	<b>10/1/2025</b>	<b>Off of Milford</b>	<b>Spin Fishing</b>	-	-	<b>26.00</b>	<b>Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Catch &amp; Release Record)</b>





# 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY



## Exotic Marine Species

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Bait/Lure	WtLB	WtOz	Length	Awards/Records
Calvin Hansen	Atlantic Tripletail	Harvest	-	8/28/2025	Butterfish Hole	Spin Fishing	10	5.6	24.00	Gold Pin (State Harvested Record)
Moe Kelly	Cobia	Harvest	-	7/16/2025	West Haven Beach Pier	Bait Cast Fishing	-	-	41.00	Bronze Pin
Brian Simpkins	Cobia	-	Catch and Release	8/9/2025	Off of Clinton	Bottom Fishing	-	-	40.00	Gold Pin (State Catch & Release Record)
Sebastian Vernali	Spanish Mackerel	Harvest	-	9/6/2025	Off of Niantic	Spin Fishing	3	9	22.25	Gold Pin
Austyn Gibson	Spanish Mackerel	Harvest	-	9/8/2025	Thames River	Trolling	4	10.4	25.50	Bronze Pin
Vincent Deledda	Tilefish	Harvest	-	9/28/2025	West Atlantis Canyon	Bottom Fishing	62	9.6	49.25	Gold Pin (State Harvested Record)
Justin Piper	Wahoo	Harvest	-	9/15/2025	Atlantis Canyon	Trolling	91	0	73.50	Gold Pin (State Harvested Record)





# 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY



## New Trophy Fish Records!

### Adult Female:

1. Arielle Yindra – Oyster Toadfish
2. Nicole Evanča – Spot

### Youth:

1. Hunter Heath – Black Sea Bass
2. Colton Johnson – Longfin Squid
3. Graham Cook & Rory Shea – Oyster Toadfish
4. Nicholas Dietz – Spot
5. Evan Duan – Striped Bass
6. Brady O’Connell – Striped Bass
7. Colton Johnson – Weakfish

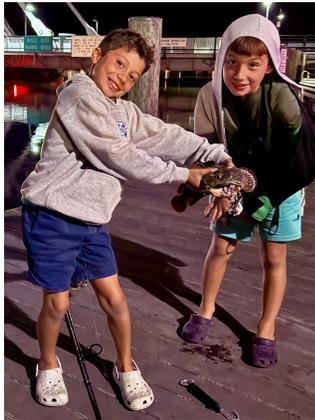
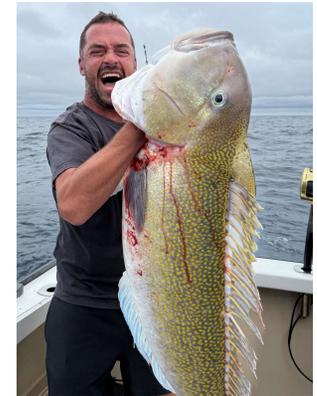
## New State Records!

### Harvested:

1. Arielle Yindra – Oyster Toadfish
2. Calvin Hansen – Atlantic Tripletail
3. Vincent Deledda – Tilefish
4. Justin Piper – Wahoo

### Catch & Release:

1. Andy Rondeau – Atlantic Bonito
2. Evan Kamoen – Pinfish
3. Nicholas Dietz – Spot
4. Brian Simpkins – Cobia





# 2025 MARINE FISHERIES TROPHY FISH AWARD PROGRAM SUMMARY



## ANGLERS OF THE YEAR



### Peter Johnson - 2025 Male Angler of the Year

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Method	WtLB	WtOz	Length (in.)	Awards/Records
Peter Johnson	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	12	8	34.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Bluefish	-	Catch and Release	8/24/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	-	-	34.50	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Oyster Toadfish	-	Catch and Release	10/25/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	12.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Spot	-	Catch and Release	9/8/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	10.75	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	9/11/2025	Long Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	46.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Striped Sea Robin	-	Catch and Release	6/3/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	16.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Striped Sea Robin	-	Catch and Release	6/11/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	16.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Weakfish	-	Catch and Release	9/11/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	25.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Weakfish	-	Catch and Release	10/6/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	26.00	Gold Pin
Peter Johnson	Windowpane Flounder	-	Catch and Release	6/4/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	12.00	Gold Pin

### Ana Rodriguez - 2025 Female Angler of the Year

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Bait/Lure	WtLB	WtOz	Length	Awards/Records
Ana Rodriguez	Smooth Dogfish	-	Catch and Release	9/26/2025	Fort Trumbull Pier	Bait Cast Fishing	-	-	37.00	Bronze Pin
Ana Rodriguez	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	8/6/2025	Fort Trumbull Pier	Live Bait	-	-	49.50	Bronze Pin

### Lauren Johnson - 2025 Female Angler of the Year

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Bait/Lure	WtLB	WtOz	Length	Awards/Records
Lauren Johnson	Cownose Ray	-	Catch and Release	8/30/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	38.00	Bronze Pin
Lauren Johnson	Striped Bass	-	Catch and Release	7/10/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	-	-	45.50	Bronze Pin

### Colton Johnson - 2025 Youth Angler of the Year

Name	Species	Harvest	Catch and Release	Date	Location Caught	Bait/Lure	WtLB	WtOz	Length	Awards/Records
Colton Johnson	Bluefish	Harvest	-	8/23/2025	Off of Stratford	Trolling	14	8	35.00	Gold Pin
Colton Johnson	Longfin Squid	Harvest	-	6/2/2025	Block Island Sound	Spin Fishing	-	-	14.00	Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Harvest Record)
Colton Johnson	Striped Sea Robin	-	Catch and Release	7/14/2025	Off of Stratford	Bottom Fishing	-	-	16.00	Gold Pin
Colton Johnson	Weakfish	-	Catch and Release	10/1/2025	Off of Milford	Spin Fishing	-	-	26.00	Gold Pin (Youth Trophy Fish Catch & Release Record)

### Number of Species by Category

Atlantic Tripletail	1	0	0	1
Black Sea Bass	2	0	1	3
Bluefish	7	0	3	10
Clearnose Skate	1	0	0	1
Cobia	2	0	0	2
Cownose Ray	0	1	0	1
Hickory Shad	2	0	0	2
Little Tunny (False Albacore)	5	0	0	5
Longfin Squid	2	0	1	3
Northern Kingfish	1	0	0	1
Oyster Toadfish	1	1	1	3
Pinfish	1	0	0	1
Scup	1	0	0	1
Smooth Dogfish	0	1	0	1
Spanish Mackerel	2	0	0	2
Spot	2	1	1	4
Striped Bass	7	2	2	11
Striped Sea Robin	2	0	1	3
Tautog	4	0	0	4
Thresher Shark	2	0	0	2
Tilefish	1	0	0	1
Wahoo	1	0	0	1
Weakfish	4	0	1	5
Windowpane Flounder	1	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>72</b>



**72 Total Awards**  
**25 Different Species**  
**29 Male Participants**  
**4 Female Participants**  
**9 Youth Participants**

### Anglers who participated in the Trophy Fish Award Program will receive:

1. Certificate of Merit
2. Lapel Pin



**Gold:** tenth fish of merit or a new state record fish



**Silver:** fifth fish of merit



**Bronze:** first fish of merit



**Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2025 Trophy Fish Award Program!**

