

# July 27 Iowa Fishing Report

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### [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of July 27.](#)

This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

- [NORTHWEST](#)
- [NORTHEAST](#)
- [MISSISSIPPI RIVER](#)
- [SOUTHEAST](#)
- [SOUTHWEST](#)
- [MISSOURI RIVER](#)

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## NORTHWEST

### Arrowhead Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch 8- to 9-inch bluegills near structure in about 5 feet of water. Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler fished about 3 feet below a bobber.

### Black Hawk Lake

Water temperature is around 80 degrees. **Bluegill** - Fair: Pick up bluegill just about anywhere along the shoreline in 2- to 5-feet of water. Use a small jig tipped with live bait or a small piece of crawler fished below a bobber off the floating fishing pier, the west stone pier, and the inlet bridge. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are mostly off shore now, but a few are being picked up by shore anglers along Ice House Point. **Walleye** - Fair: Use leeches fished under a bobber and twisters near rock piles in the early morning. The rock pile off of Cottonwood point has been producing fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch largemouth all over the lake using the traditional bass lures. Fishing Ice House Point and the lake side of the inlet bridge has provided good bass action for many anglers. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait, stink bait and leeches fished on the bottom along shore. Try also in the marina and near the floating dock in Town Bay. Catch fish up to 25 inches long.

### Brushy Creek Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in about 10 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a small piece of crawler or minnow on a jig in 10- to 15-feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Throw topwater lures, weedless baits, spinners and plastic worms along weed lines, near cover and wood structure. Fish deeper for larger fish. Pick up small fish in the shallows. **Walleye** – Fair. **Yellow Perch** – Fair.

### Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

Water temperatures are around 80 degrees. Dredge is in operation in the northeast portion of the lake; boaters must maintain a 100 foot distance from the dredge, booster pump and dredge pipes at all times. Storm Lake has a daily limit of 3 walleye and all 17- to 22-inch walleye must be released; no more than one walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day. **Walleye** - Fair: Boat anglers are doing well trolling shad raps or drifting crawlers on the edges of the dredge cuts around the lake. **White Bass** - Fair: Use crankbaits; most action has been from boat while fishing dredge cuts. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait, stink bait or crawlers near rocks along shore.

### Swan Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or minnow under a bobber near shore along weed lines. Expect 6- to 9-inch fish.

### Yellow Smoke Park Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills can reach 9 inches or more. Look for bluegills in 5- to 10-feet of water near the arm north of the swim beach and the coves on the south shore.

For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

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### Bluebill Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass are biting on a variety of baits fished near vegetation.

### Clear Lake

The water temperature is 75 degrees. Early morning bite is best. Clean, Drain, and Dry your boats to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Drift small jigs tipped with a piece of crawler in 8- to 13-feet of water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a slip bobber and leech or minnow in the rock reefs. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait, stink bait or chicken liver on the windward side of the lake.

### Crystal Lake

The boat ramp is closed for construction. It should be open by the weekend. **Bluegill**- Fair: Use a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber near the dredge cut. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Drift a small jig or minnow 4- to 5-feet below a slip bobber in the dredged area. Look for suspended fish on your electronics and adjust depth accordingly.

For information in the north central area, contact the Clear Lake Fish and Wildlife office at 641-357-3517.

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### Center Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Cast mini jigs along the shoreline for excellent pole bending activity.

### Five Island Lake

Channel Catfish - Good: Recent surveys show good numbers of acceptable size fish.

### Spirit Lake

Walleye - Good: Use using traditional baits fished shallow for angler acceptable size fish.

For more information throughout the week, contact the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery at 712-336-1840.

## NORTHEAST

### Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

The park ranger reports that the bluegill and largemouth bass fishing has been fair with channel catfish picking up on Casey Lake. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use sub-surface artificial baits and plastics off of the jetties and dam. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try off of the jetties and in the cove areas in 2 to 4-feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink bait, chicken livers and leopard frogs.

### Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

The Cedar River has received some substantial rainfall over the past week. The river is falling quickly and conditions should improve with the next week's dry forecast.

### **Manchester District Streams**

Anglers are doing well catching trout on imitation hoppers on Spring Branch Creek and other area streams; there is a banner crop of grasshopper this summer. Recent rainfall events have

made streams rise and fall fast; call ahead if you are travelling from far away. **Brown Trout** - Good: Use imitation hoppers on the surface.

### [Maquoketa River \(above Monticello\)](#)

The Maquoketa River in Delaware County has been very high, but is beginning to fall fast. Little or no fishing will likely take place over the coming weekend.

### [Shell Rock River \(Greene to Shell Rock\)](#)

The Shell Rock River is being reported as being in the best condition of all of the interior rivers. Angling opportunities may be best for catching walleye or smallmouth bass.

### [Wapsipinicon River \(Tripoli to Troy Mills\)](#)

Recreation is not recommended over the coming weekend on the swollen Wapsipinicon River as flows remain dangerous. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use large spinnerbaits or live chubs under a bobber.

Interior river fishing has been fairly unpredictable with fluctuating river levels. Most rivers remain high and turbid. Trout streams remain in good condition, but call ahead for stream conditions if travelling from far away. Contact the N.E. District Office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER

### [Mississippi River Pool 9](#)

River level has fallen to 8.7 feet at Lansing and is predicted to remain stable this week. Water temperature is near 76 degrees. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of worm fished under a bobber in the backwaters where there is vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Lots of drum are still being caught in the swifter current breaks. Bounce a nightcrawler along the bottom or try crayfish for bigger fish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Smallmouth fishing should pick up as water clarity improves over the next week. Fish rock piles at the tips of the islands and backside of islands with current. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth fishing is expected to pick up as river levels recede and water clarity improves. Use jerk baits in protected backwaters with clearer water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits in off channel areas. Fish the shallows in early morning or late evening. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are sitting in 4-5 feet of water in the backwaters. Use small minnows or worms fished on the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels.

### [Mississippi River Pool 10](#)

Lynxville water level has fallen to 16.6 feet and is predicted to fall about another foot next week. Water temperature is 76 degrees at the lock and dam. Some area boat ramps may be difficult to access due to storm damage clean up in the McGregor/Marquette area. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of worm fished under a bobber

in the backwaters where there is vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Lots of drum are still being caught in the swifter current breaks. Bounce a night crawler along the bottom or try crayfish for bigger fish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Smallmouth fishing should pick up as water clarity improves over the next week. Fish rock piles at the tips of the islands and backside of islands with current. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth fishing is expected to pick up as river levels recede and water clarity improves. Try jerk baits in protected backwaters with clearer water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits in off channel areas. Fish the shallows in early morning or late evening. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are sitting in 4- to 5-feet of water in the backwaters; use small minnows or worms fished on the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Use live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels.

### [Mississippi River Pool 11](#)

Mississippi River at Guttenberg has dropped to 9.3 feet and is predicted to stabilize near 7 feet. Water temperature is 70 degrees at the Lock and Dam; gates are all lowered this week. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of worms fished under a bobber in the backwaters where there is vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Lots of drum are still being caught in the swifter current breaks. Bounce a night crawler along the bottom or try crayfish for bigger fish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Fair: Smallmouth fishing should pick up as water clarity improves over the next week. Fish rock piles at the tips of the islands and backside of islands with current. **Largemouth Bass** -Fair: Largemouth fishing is expected to pick up as river levels recede and water clarity improves. Try jerk baits in protected backwaters with clearer water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits in off channel areas. Fish the shallows in early morning or late evening. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are sitting in 4- to 5-feet of water in the backwaters: use small minnows or worms fished on the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels.

Water levels are receding quickly on the Upper Mississippi. Conditions are expected to be near normal summer levels again next week. Water clarity is still somewhat stained from last week's rains, but is improving daily. Fishing is picking up with water levels falling and stabilizing.

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### [Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

River levels rose dramatically after the substantial rains in the Mississippi River watershed. River levels are now around 9.6 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 11.8 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is poor with some debris still in the water. Water levels are predicted to rapidly recede this week. Water temperature is around 77 degrees. **Channel Catfish**- Good:Channel catfish are biting on worms and stink bait; they like flooded water. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker and worm rig works best. **White Crappie** - No Report: A few nice white crappie have been reported all spring. Some black

crappies were also showing before the floods. **Walleye** - No Report: Changing water levels and floating weeds have limited fishing for walleyes most of this spring. Populations are very good. **White Bass** - No Report: This spring has seen a nice run of white bass on Pool 12. Some white bass were caught along main channel rock lines before the large rain event. **Bluegill** - No Report: Angle near the mouths of large backwater complexes as bluegills should be in these areas as water recedes; most are being caught on worm rigs. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Pull worm rigs near rocky habitats. Lots of flatheads have been caught this year. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: The smallmouth bite was progressing nicely before the large rainfall event and turbid water. Throw spinners or small crankbaits in the evening. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: Largemouths have pulled out of the shallow backwater areas and are on trees and sandy shoals often chasing minnows.

### Mississippi River Pool 13

River levels rose dramatically after the substantial rains in the Mississippi River watershed last week. Levels have begun to recede and are 11.6 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. Water clarity is poor with some debris still in the water. Water levels are predicted to rapidly recede all week. Water temperature is around 77 degrees in the main channel. **Northern Pike** - No Report: Use flashy white lures lures in the mouths of cooler tributary streams. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worm rigs and stink bait above log jams and rock piles to lure the catfish out. Move often if you don't find fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Use egg sinker rigs with worms. Drum bite in all types of river conditions. **Walleye** - Slow: The rapid rise and turbid conditions from the large rains have hampered conditions, but angling should improve this week. Water clarity is still turbid but getting better. **Smallmouth Bass**- No Report: The smallmouth bite had just started along rock piles, but the rapidly raising water may stall the bite. **Bluegill** - No Report: Receding water levels will pull the gills out in the shallow backwater areas. Angle near the mouths of large backwater complexes as bluegills should concentrate in these areas; most are being caught on worm rigs. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: : Flatheads bite well in flooded water; put bait along the flooded shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: Largemouth bite was very good just before last week's big rains; it is expected to be good again once clarity improves.

### Mississippi River Pool 14

River levels rose dramatically after the substantial rains in the Mississippi River watershed. Levels are receding and are around 11.9 feet at Fulton, 14.4 feet at Camanche and 8.8 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity is poor with lots of floating debris. Water levels are predicted to recede rapidly this week. Water temperature is 77 degrees in the main channel. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: Bass had moved out of the large shallow areas into deeper adjacent habitats. This river bump may move them back into shallow expanses. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are biting on worm rigs. **Channel Catfish** - Good: : Use worm rigs and prepared stink baits fished close to shore or along rock lines. **Walleye** - No Report: Before the river rise, some anglers were reporting walleyes off the wing dams with worm rigs. Conditions should greatly improve this week. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Some people are trot lining flathead catfish using large bullheads as bait. Flathead are active most during the night and evening hours.

### Mississippi River Pool 15

River levels rose dramatically after the substantial rains in the Mississippi River watershed. Levels are now around 14.4 feet, which is at moderate flood levels. Water clarity is poor with

lots of floating debris. Water levels are predicted to recede rapidly this week. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Many anglers are fishing stink bait along the rock piles near Campbells and Arsenal Island. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum bite well this time of year. Put them on ice immediately if you are going to clean them. **Flathead Catfish** - No Report: Use large live bait fished near shore during the night and evening hours.

The main channel water temperature is still at 78 degrees. Fishing conditions radically changed this week. Water levels rose from recent rains and many parts of the River are in action to moderate flooding stages. The River is extremely turbid with lots of floating debris. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

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### [Mississippi River Pool 16](#)

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities is 15.09 feet and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 15.90 feet at Fairport and flood stage is 14 feet. The docks have been pulled out at the Fairport Recreational area and the lower ramp is underwater. The ramp is closed at Clarks Ferry. Fishing has been slow with the high and muddy water conditions.

### [Mississippi River Pool 17](#)

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine is 15.20 feet and has started to fall. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 16.63 feet at Muscatine and flood stage is 16 feet. Ramps at Big Timber are closed. Kilpeck Landing is closed. Fishing has been slow with the high and muddy water conditions.

### [Mississippi River Pool 18](#)

Tailwater stage is 16.01 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is forecast to crest on July 26th. Floodstage is 15 feet. River stage is 14.91 feet at Keithsburg and flood stage is 14 feet. The Toolsboro landing is closed. We have not received any fishing reports with the high and muddy water conditions.

### [Mississippi River Pool 19](#)

Tailwater stage is 11.28 feet at Lock and Dam 18. Flood stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 10 feet. River stage at Burlington is 15.98 feet and currently forecast to crest by Thursday. Flood stage is 15 feet at Burlington. River stage at Fort Madison is 528.05 feet and flood stage is 528.0 feet. We have not received much for fishing reports from this pool with the high and muddy water conditions.

River stages are above flood stage. Many of the ramps are underwater. Water clarity is poor. Main channel water temperature is around 78 degrees. Fishing has been slow with the high and muddy water conditions. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

## **SOUTHEAST**

### Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The river level had a nice little bounce up this week, but will start to head back down on Friday. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Most catfish are around the brush piles in the deeper pools.

### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is around 85 degrees by mid-day. **Bluegill** - Slow: Anglers are having trouble finding the bigger bluegills; mostly smaller ones biting. They remain out in the deeper water.

### Lake Darling

The water temperature is in the lower 80's. A blue-green algae bloom is on the surface of the water; water is clear below that. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Hot weather has slowed the bass fishing. Look for them to be off the drop off in deep water around the structure. Use soft plastics worked slowly. **Black Crappie** - Slow: All the boats are out in 12- to 14-feet of water over the rock piles and brush piles.

### Lake Geode

The water temperature is around 84-85 degrees. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are hanging out in the deeper water off the drop offs.

### Lake Odessa

The outlet has been closed because of the rising Mississippi River water levels. The water level in Odessa is currently about what it is in the fall. All the ramps are usable and the Toolesboro road is open. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look around the woody habitat and beaver lodges for the fish that were spending most of their time on the flooded island. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait and chicken liver.

### Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is 83 to 85 degrees during the day. Most anglers are out in the early morning and late evening. More boats were on the lake this last few days because of the high water in the Mississippi River. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Work the flooded timber along the old creek channel down about 12 feet. **Bluegill** - Slow: Bluegills are out in deeper water around the flooded timber

### **Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)**

The river continues to drop. Most boats were having trouble getting too far on the river this week; most won't be able to get through the rock riffles without being dragged. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: They are back in the log jams and brush piles trying to stay cool.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers, contact the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

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### Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at normal summer pool of 683.4'. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait in the channel.

### Diamond Lake

No minnows are allowed here. **Black Crappie** - Slow. **Bluegill** - Good: Many fish are shallow now. **Channel Catfish** – Good.



### Hannen Lake

Largemouth Bass – Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Good. **Black Crappie** – Slow.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

Bluegill - Good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good. **Channel Catfish** – Good. **Black Crappie** - Fair.

### Kent Park Lake

The lake is now drained. The fishing regulations for Kent Park Lake have been relaxed to take advantage of the fish due to the renovation project. For more information, contact the Kent Park office at 319-645-2315.

### Lake Iowa Pond

Bluegill – Good. **Largemouth Bass** – Good.

### Lake Macbride

The motor restriction is now in effect. Motors greater than 10hp are not to be used and all boats must run at no-wake speed (5mph). Water temperature this week was in the low to mid 80's. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Most have pulled off to deeper structure. Try jigs or minnows over/around deeper brush/stumps. **Walleye** - Fair: Most fish are being caught in 7- to 11-feet of water. Troll crawler rigs or crankbaits. **Bluegill** - Good: Most fish are small, but slightly better fish are around deeper stumps. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Fair.

### Otter Creek Lake

Channel Catfish - Good: Evening bite is best; use stink bait. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use small spinners. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small jig or worm .

### Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still about 9 feet low from the restoration project. The main boat ramp is usable, but still shallow; use caution. The far east lane is best. There is also a boat dock in at the ramp. The invasive plant, Brittle Naiad, is growing here. It is extremely bad around the ramp area. Check your boat and trailer for plants and drain your boats before you leave. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or crawler rigs over hard bottoms; after dark is best. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small leeches in about 6 feet of water. **Muskellunge** – Fair. **White Bass** - Fair: Sunrise and sunset are best. Look for topwater action as they chase young shad. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Sunrise and sunset are best. Look for topwater action as they chase young shad. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: The dam area has been producing fish.

### Rodgers Park Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use small worms under a bobber. Most fish are under 7 inches. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Decent sized fish are being caught on artificials, especially those that are more weedless. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try stink bait around brush piles.

For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

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### Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try topwater lures in the mornings and evenings along the shorelines. As the day heats up, use rubber worms or spinnerbaits along rip-rapped shorelines and around submerged rock piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait around the fishing jetties and along the dam. Sorting is needed for larger fish.

### Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the shorelines and around the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast the shorelines early in the mornings, fish deeper as the day heats up. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers or liver around the shorelines in about 4- to 6-feet of water.

### Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Use live bait presentations around structure. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Drift or troll nightcrawler rigs along the dam. Try also crankbaits. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use live bait and a small jig. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try topwater lures fished in the mornings and evenings. Use spinnerbaits or crawdad imitating baits along rip-rapped shorelines and around the jetties.

### Lake Wapello

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use jerk baits or spinnerbaits around the cedar tree piles and along the shorelines. As the day heats up, try rubber worms in the same deeper areas. Use topwater lures in the mornings and evenings. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or cut bait around the jetties.

### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.59 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun contains zebra mussels so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. **White Crappie** - Fair: Troll crankbaits as the crappies are suspended. Some fish can still be caught shallow, but sorting is needed for larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or cut bait. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits along submerged points and rock piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits around submerged points and rock piles.

### Red Haw Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the edge of the vegetation or areas that are open in the vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast the shorelines in the mornings and evenings with topwater lures. Fish deeper as the day heats up using rubber worms around submerged structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or chicken liver around the fishing jetties.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

## **SOUTHWEST**

### Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Fair: Troll live bait rigs and cast or troll shallow diving crank baits on the upper end of the lake. **White Bass** - Fair: Troll shallow diving shad imitating baits out from the beach and up to the marina. There are some good size white bass (up to 16 inches).

### Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use stink baits and cut baits.

### [Des Moines River \(Stratford to Saylorville Lake\)](#)

Water levels are getting low enough to make boat fishing challenging. The Highway 30 ramp is dry. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits or cut bait.

### [Don Williams Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are averaging around 10 fish in an hour.. Drift tube jigs and twister or paddle tail jigs 3- to 8-feet down in 10- to 20-feet of water throughout the lake until you find schools of fish.

### [Hickory Grove Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Drift small jigs tipped with crawlers in the middle portion of the when tree shade covers portions of the lake. Drift within or on the edge of the shade.

### [Red Rock Reservoir](#)

White Bass - Good: The hot weather white bass bite is on. Troll small shallow diving rattle baits or spoons around large points, out from the beach and dam, and along the windblown shoreline. Troll in depths of 5- to 15- feet. Use colors imitating young gizzard shad. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift cut creek chubs or shad above the mile long bridge in 6-12 feet of water.

### [Roberts Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Slowly drift the lower half of the lake with small twister tails or tube jigs. Fish are suspended 3- to 10-feet deep.

### [Saylorville Reservoir](#)

White Bass - Slow: White bass bite has been slow this summer. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift cut creek chubs in the upper end of the reservoir above and just below the mile long bridge.

The fishing for white bass in Red Rock Reservoir and channel catfish in Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs is good right now. For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, contact Andy Otting or Ben Dodd at 515-432-2823.

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### **Cold Springs District Farm Ponds**

Pond fishing was good this week. Always get permission to fish privately owned farm ponds. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass are active and easy to catch. Cast a variety of spinner type baits or plastics for fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills around weed edges and deep structure. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast minnows under a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are close to structure; use prepared baits or cut bait.

### [Greenfield Lake](#)

Greenfield Lake has a good fish population. Catch catfish close to shore. Bluegills have moved away from shore. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Crappies have moved to deeper water. Cast small jigs or minnows under a slip bobber to catch fish averaging 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift small jigs to catch 8 inch bluegill. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast spinnerbaits or plastics along the shoreline to catch 12- to 16-inch bass. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or shrimp around the jetties. Be prepared to catch large fish.

### Lake Anita

Lake Anita will provide good fishing this year. Find a large crappie population averaging 9 inches and bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching crappies around underwater reefs and over the road beds. Fish will average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches over the road beds and rock piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass around underwater reefs and vegetation edges. Fish are all sizes.

### Lake Manawa

Crappies are still being caught on the west side of the lake and in the canals. Manawa has a decent population of 10- to 12-inch white crappie. Manawa is also a good destination for channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Manawa has a large year class of 5- to 7-inch black crappie. This big group of fish will provide good crappie fishing over the next couple of years. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are being caught on a variety of prepared bait as well as minnows. Manawa has a good catfish population with opportunity to catch large fish.

### Littlefield Lake

Littlefield Lake has quality size black crappies and bluegill. The lake also has a good channel catfish population. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfish are close to rocky shorelines; use a variety of baits including shrimp. Fish average 2 pounds. **Bluegill** - Slow: Drift or cast to tree piles in the lake to catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappies up to 12 inches around cedar tree piles. The evening bite has been best.

### Meadow Lake

Meadow lake bluegills have gained size and body condition after the mid-summer drawdown in 2016. There is a year class of 10- to 12-inch black crappie in the lake. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There is a large year class of 12- to 14-inch bass. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait off the face of the dam. Meadow Lake has large channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find 10 inch crappies around underwater reefs and brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift nightcrawlers to find 8 inch bluegills.

### Mormon Trail Lake

Mormon Trail has a good fish population. The catfish bite has been good around the jetties. **Bluegill** - Slow: Bluegills have moved to deeper water; use small jigs and worms in 8 feet of water. Fish will average 8 inches. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch large channel catfish after dark with cut bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast the shoreline to find 13- to 16-inch largemouth bass. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A few 9 inch crappie are being caught around deep brush piles.

### Orient Lake

Orient lake has a good population of 10 inch crappie that will provide good fishing in 2017. Bluegills are 7-to 8-inches. The lake also has a good catfish population. Water clarity is poor at this time. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers fished on the bottom. Fish are 18- to 22-inches. **Black Bullhead** - Fair: Cast a nightcrawler on the bottom for large bullheads up to 15 inches. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Vertical jig brush piles to catch 10 inch crappies. **Bluegill**- Slow: Bluegills have moved away from shore and can be caught around structure or drifting. Fish are 7 to 8 inches.

### Prairie Rose Lake

Expect to catch quality size bluegills again this spring. The crappies stocked in 2014 will reach an acceptable size to harvest in 2017. The lake also supports a good population of channel catfish and the largemouth bass will provide good [catch and release fishing](#). **Bluegill**- Fair: Anglers report catching quality size bluegills around the underwater reefs placed in the lake during the renovation. Fish are 8.5- to 9-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There are many 12 inch bass in the lake that will provide fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Black Crappie**- Slow: A few 8 inch black crappie are being picked up drifting. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use liver or nightcrawlers in the upper end of the lake for 14- to 16-inch catfish.

### Viking Lake

Anglers report catching crappies in deep brush piles and drifting. Bass fishing has been good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers report catching largemouth bass in tree piles jigging plastics. Fish are all sizes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Viking has a good channel catfish population; fish will average 2 pounds with the opportunity to catch larger fish. **Black Crappie**- Fair: Drift the open water with small jigs tipped with power bait to catch crappie up to 9 inches. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drifting has been good for 7 inch bluegill.

Anglers report good catfishing in rivers. Panfish have slowed with hot weather, but can still be caught drifting open water areas. For more information, call the Cold Springs District Office at 712-769-2587.

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### Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Excellent: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught using crankbaits or finesse plastics fished near stake beds and cedar tree brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 9 inches using small jigs or spinners fished along the fishing piers. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught using stink bait or cut bait fished along windblown points.

### Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish - Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait or stink bait fished along windblown points. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 10 inches with jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brush piles.

### Lake of Three Fires

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with finesse plastics fished along rocky shoreline areas early in the morning and late in the evening. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using small jigs tipped with a nightcrawler fished along rocky shoreline areas early in the morning and late in the evening.

### Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches using finesse plastics or crankbaits fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds using stink bait or cut bait fished near the flooded timber.

### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught with finesse plastics fished along rock reefs and cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using small jigs tipped with nightcrawlers fished near rock piles and rock reefs.

Water temperature in Mount Ayr district lakes is in the mid 80's. For more information, contact the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.

## MISSOURI RIVER

### Missouri River (Sioux City to Little Sioux)

Flathead Catfish - Good: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits along wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

### Missouri River (Little Sioux to Council Bluffs)

Flathead Catfish - Good: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

### Missouri River (Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line)

Flathead Catfish - Good: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the main river channel. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 21.86ft. /33,500 cfs./80 degrees Fahrenheit (water temperature is down 1 degree since last week). The Missouri River is down .89 feet from last week. The Missouri River is down .34 ft from last week. Anglers are mainly catching catfish species (channel's, flathead's, and blue cats). Fishing has been fair to good for all catfish species.