



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of August 31.](#)

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.

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NORTHWEST

[Arrowhead Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Catch 8- to 9-inch bluegills near structure in 5- to 10-feet of water. For deeper

fish, drift a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler. Use a bobber if fishing closer to shore.

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Surface water temperature is around 75 degrees. Water levels are near the crest of the spillway. **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: Use a jig with a minnow in 2- to 6-feet of water along Ice House Point, the floating dock and the stone piers in Town Bay. **Walleye** - Fair: Use live bait fished along Ice House Point shoreline and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and in the east basin. **Largemouth Bass**- Good: Catch largemouth bass just about anywhere along the shoreline with topwater lures, twisters or live bait. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use night crawlers and cut bait fished on the bottom near the floating dock, Ice House Point and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and the east basin.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in 5- to 15-feet of water. Drift near structure, drop-offs and weed lines. **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.

[Storm Lake \(including Little Storm Lake\)](#)

Surface water temperatures are around 75 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: Troll shad raps or drift 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: Try areas with rocky structure and along weed lines in 2- to 6-feet of water near the jetties, the fish house and the dam. Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or minnow under a bobber. 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, the flooded timber near the southwest shoreline, and the coves on the south shore.

Surface water temperature in area lakes is around 75 degrees. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

[Bluebill Lake](#)

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

vegetation. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a bobber and small piece of crawler near the edge of the vegetation.

Clear Lake

The water temperature is 69 degrees. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Drift a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in 8- to 10-feet of water until you find fish. Morning bite is best. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a slip bobber and leech or crawler near the rock reefs or try trolling bottom bouncers with bright colored blades and a nightcrawler. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait, stink bait or chicken liver on the windward side of the lake. Late evening bite is best. **Muskellunge** - Fair: Fish the weed edge and shady areas near docks.

Crystal Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber near the dredge cut.

Rice Lake

Walleye - Fair: Use a jig and minnow in the deeper parts of the lake in the late evening.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass are biting on a variety of baits.

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

East Okoboji Lake

Yellow Bass - Good: Good sized yellow bass are still being caught shallow near docks; jig with pilkies and crawlers. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Jig using tube jigs and pilkies around docks and weed lines.

Five Island Lake

Recent surveys show good amount of channel catfish and panfish. **Black Crappie** - Good: There are large quantities of angler acceptable fish. **Bluegill** - Good: There are large quantities of angler acceptable fish; try along weed lines in shallow water. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Large numbers of channel catfish have been caught in recent sampling.

Little Sioux River (state line to Linn Grove)

Walleye - Fair: Walleye activity is starting to pick up as the water starts to cool down.

Spirit Lake

Walleye - Fair: Walleye are still active, but are harder to find as they move to deeper water. **Yellow Perch** - Good: The yellow perch bite picked up over the past week; use tube jigs and pilkies.

West Okoboji Lake

Bluegill - Good: Nice sized bluegill are coming off the lake. Try in shallow areas around weed lines. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie are very active; cast tube jigs along weed lines.

Walleye have started to become more active as the water begins to cool down. For more information throughout the week, contact the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Fish are more active with stable water levels and cooler temperatures. Fish are taking a variety of lures and baits. Cedar Lake near Nashua is temporarily experiencing a naturally occurring die-off of channel catfish mainly due to a large algal bloom. Catfish are occasionally susceptible to environmental and handling stress. **Walleye** - Good: Troll main channel or deeper holes and along current breaks. Use a jig tipped with a minnow or twister tail. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use a hook with a dead chub or crawler for a 2 pound catfish. Try also chicken liver, stink bait and nightcrawlers around brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a hook tipped with a crawler in eddies below dams and backwaters around brush piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use crawdad crankbaits along rocky shorelines and substrates.

Decorah District Streams

Trout streams are in good condition. Be respectful of private property; it's a privilege to fish these areas. Call 563-927-5736 for current catchable trout stocking locations. Wild parsnip is done for the year, but beware of first year plants. Freshly stocked trout are hitting a variety of lures and baits. **Brook Trout** - Excellent: A variety of small mayflies are hatching mid-afternoon. Use a dry fly for insects hatching off the water surface. Use a nymph or scud dropper for subsurface critters. **Brown Trout** - Excellent: Brown trout are more active when water is off color. A hopper pattern with a scud dropper is a dangerous combination. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Flies imitating grasshoppers, crickets, and ants will turn a trout head this time of year. Use any number of black ant or leaf hopper patterns.

Lake Hendricks

The lake is looking good. Use a canoe to paddle out or troll for fish suspended around rock piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a minnow or spinnerbait around the jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try topwater lures along the edge of a vegetation for a hiding bass. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use a hook tipped with a nightcrawler, chicken liver or stink bait. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills near vegetation edges.

Lake Meyer

Water clarity is improving as water begins to cool. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber near jetties in the evening. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie suspended near submersed structure. Use a spinner or jig with bright colored twister tail. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Early morning and evening bite is best. Use topwater lures fished along vegetation beds or spinners along rocky edges. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Pike are biting off anglers' lines. Use a steel leader with a spoon along vegetation edges near springs. Pike are great eating; take time to learn how to clean them.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

The Upper Iowa is in excellent condition. Clarity and temperatures are improving fish activity. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use a steel leader tipped with 1/4 oz. jig tipped with natural colored plastic to a 3 inch jerk bait fished around tributaries or brush piles. **Walleye**- Good: Drift through a deeper hole or along a current break. Use a jig tipped

with a twister tail or worm. Try also a small crankbait. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try jigs tipped with natural colored plastic tails.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water temperatures are in the mid to low 70's with good clarity. Morning and midafternoon is best for bank anglers. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use a steel leader tipped with 1/4 oz. jig tipped with natural colored plastic to a 3 inch jerk bait fished around tributaries or brush piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Find a smallie in the current breaks or near rock ledges. Use jigs tipped with plastic tails. **Walleye** - Good: Drift a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm, or crankbait through a deeper hole or along a current break. Anglers are catching a good number of 10- to 12-inch fish with larger fish caught while trolling at night. **Channel Catfish**- Good Catch a catfish from shore with a hook tipped with a crawler. Evening is best.

Volga Lake

Morning and evening bite is best. Overcast days extend angling times. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a jig with a minnow under a bobber near submersed trees for suspended crappie. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are hitting crankbaits. Try a topwater lure in the evening as fish come in shallow to feed. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait, worms, and cheese baits. Catfish are active in the evening. Catfish are active in the evening. They are occasionally susceptible to environmental and handling stress. Open sores are visible and likely caused by a bacterial infection. Please release these fish back into the water. Usually, these infections are non-life threatening to fish and people.

Chances for rain in the weekend forecast with temperature highs in the low 70's and upper 50's for lows. Area streams and rivers are in good condition. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

River level has risen to 9.6 feet at Lansing and is predicted to bump up slightly, then stabilize there. Water temperature is in the low to mid 70's. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with worm fished under a slip bobber. **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** - Good: Smallmouth fishing has been good on wing dams and rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye fishing is improving as the water stabilizes. Try fast trolling crankbaits or bait-rig off the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch in vegetated areas along the main channel. **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 risen to 16.9 feet and is predicted to remain stable at this level over the next week. Water temperature is 73 degrees at the lock and dam. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with worm fished under a slip bobber. **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** - Good: Smallmouth fishing has been good on wing dams and rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye fishing is improving as the water stabilizes. Try fast trolling crankbaits or bait-rig off the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch in vegetated areas along the main channel. **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 bumped up to 8 feet and is predicted to stabilize at 8.6 feet this week. Water temperature is 67 degrees at the Lock and Dam. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with worm fished under a slip bobber. **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** - Good: Smallmouth fishing has been good on wing dams and rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye fishing is improving as the water stabilizes. Try fast trolling crankbaits or bait-rig off the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch in vegetated areas along the main channel. **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.

Fishing has improved on the Upper Mississippi as the water levels hold steady this week. Boaters should use caution while launching as trailers may drop off the end of the ramp. Water clarity continues to be good with lots of vegetation present. Look for fish to move to deep cooler water midday. Many backwater species have moved to main channel borders and side sloughs. Fishing has been best early morning and early evening. Water temperature is in the upper 60's to mid 70's.

Mississippi River Pool 12

River levels rose this week. Water levels are 7.4 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 9.8 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is good. Levels may rise slightly again this week. Water temperature is around 72 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms and stink bait; move often if you do not find biting fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker and worm rig works best. **White Crappie** - Good: Some 11- to 13-inch crappies have been reported off snags in backwater sloughs fishing with minnows. Size has been good this year. **Walleye** - Fair: The wing dam fishing is well underway on the Mississippi River. Some anglers are using worm rigs while others are throwing crankbaits on the dams. Floating weeds are being a real hindrance at times. **White Bass** - Fair: Some nice white bass were caught along main channel rock lines earlier this week. Not a lot of numbers, but nice fish. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills at the mouths of large backwater areas that have been dewatered in recent weeks. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Pull worm rigs near rocky habitats. Lots of flatheads have been caught this year. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Throw spinners or small crankbaits around rocky areas with strong current in the evenings. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Largemouths have pulled out of the shallow backwater areas and are on trees and sandy shoals often chasing minnows. The scum frog bite has been very good in the weed pads.

Mississippi River Pool 13

Water level is 8.3 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. Water may rise a bit this week. Water clarity has been poor, but is improving. Water temperature is around 73 degrees in the main channel. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use flashy white lures. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worm rigs and stink bait above log jams and rock piles; let the smell of the bait flow into the log piles. Move often if you don't find fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use egg sinker rigs with worms. Drum bite in all types of river conditions. **Walleye** - Fair: Wing dam walleye fishing has returned. Throw crank baits over the rock piles. Floating vegetation is becoming a hindrance to wing dam fishing. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Throw crank baits or spinners near rock piles with strong current. **Bluegill** - Fair: Fish deep sloughs next to large backwater complexes that have been dewatered due to low water levels. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Small flathead catfish are hitting on worms; mostly by people fishing for channel cats. Try large live bait fished in the evening hours for bigger flatheads. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Some fish are on weed edges while others are in logs in deeper sloughs. Use scum frogs and other frog imitations.

Mississippi River Pool 14

Water levels are 7.6 feet at Fulton, 11 feet at Camanche and 5.7 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity has been poor, but is improving. Water levels are predicted to raise just a bit this week. Water temperature is 73 degrees in the main channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass had moved out of the large shallow areas into deeper slough habitats. Use frog imitation lures along the weed edges. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are biting on worm rigs. Catch drum in nearly all moderate current areas. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worm rigs and prepared stink baits fished close to shoreline snags or along rock lines. **Walleye** - Good: Try near the outside tips of wing dams in low water levels. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Some people are trot lining flathead catfish using large bullheads as bait. Flathead are most active during the night and evening hours. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try along rock piles with current. **Bluegill** - Good: Fish deeper sloughs next to large

backwater complexes that have been dewatered due to lower water levels. **White Bass** - Fair: Our first report of anglers catching some nice white bass in Pool 14 in quite a while. Use minnow imitation spinners.

Mississippi River Pool 15

Levels are up slightly and are at 7.9 feet at Rock Island. Water clarity is poor, but improving and temperature is 75 degrees in the main channel. Water levels should hold steady this week. Floating weeds (mostly eel grass) has hindered fishing significantly in Pool 15. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try 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** - Good: Use large live bait fished near shore during the night and evening hours. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Find smallmouths along rock lines with strong current.

The main channel water temperature has fallen a bit to 73 degrees. Fishing conditions have been good throughout the district this week. Lots of aquatic vegetation is floating in the River right now; please do your best to clean your boats and trailers and not transport vegetation to other bodies of water. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: The crappie bite has picked up some. Try in the flooded timber and down about 8 feet. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Go shallow in the early morning and late evening; as the day gets warmer flow them out to deeper water. **Bluegill** – Fair: Try around the jetties and the deeper sides of the island where the bluegills still have access to deeper water.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The river level is holding pretty constant right now. The water is fairly shallow, but small jon boats or jet boats still have enough water to navigate. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for the deeper holes with brush piles; getting to them is the hard part.

Lake Belva Deer

The lake is in pretty good condition. Water is fairly clear with just a little duckweed floating around from the marsh up above the lake. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill fishing has picked back up. They are still out in the deeper 10- to 12-foot water, but with a few more cool nights expect to see them come in shallower. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Catfish are biting. Look for them in the upper end of the lake where the arm from the north connects to the main lake. **Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are starting to catch crappies. They are still out in the 10-foot depth range vertical jigging or slip bobbers with minnows.

Lake Darling

The water temperature is holding on to 78 degrees. There is a planktonic algae bloom, but a little wind or rain will fix that. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use soft plastics on the shallow edge

of the drop-offs. **Black Crappie** - Good: The crappie fishing is picking back up. Most anglers are anchored out over the deeper habitat in 10- to 12-feet of water. **Bluegill** – Fair: Bluegills are still out in the deeper water; don't be surprised if you catch a few in shallow in the morning.

Lake Geode

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills are starting to work the outer edges of the water willow beds close to deeper water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Work the outer edges of the water willow beds and around the fallen trees in the lake.

Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch decent numbers of bass in shallower water during the early morning and late evening. They are deeper the rest of the day. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Work the face of the dam and along the old creek channel below the causeway. **Black Crappie**- Good: Crappie fishing has improved. They are still out in the deeper water in the trees.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

Another little bump at the end of last week from the rains, but the Skunk has dropped back down to level before the rains. It's a fun time to canoe down the Skunk right now. There are a lot of things to see that are normally covered up by water. **Channel Catfish** – Good: Use a canoe or kayak to get to the more distant holes.

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

Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at normal summer pool of 683.4'. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Most fish have been smaller. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Drift/troll cut bait along the channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast crankbaits along rock.

Diamond Lake

Channel Catfish – Fair. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Black Crappie** – Slow.

Hannen Lake

Largemouth Bass – Good.

Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

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

Lake Macbride

The motor restriction is still in effect. Motors greater than 10hp are not to be used and all boats must run at no-wake speed (5mph). The restriction will be lifted on Tuesday, Sept. 5th. At that time, any sized motor may be used at no-wake speed. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits or crawlers in 8- to 14-feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Black Crappie**- Slow: Fish around brush/wood in 10- to 15-feet of water.

Otter Creek Lake

The lake is a little low and the water has lots of color to it. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Channel Catfish** – Fair. **Black Crappie** – Slow. **Yellow Bass** – Fair.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still 9.5 feet low from the restoration project. The main boat ramp is usable, but is still shallow; use caution. Inspect, clean, drain, and dry your boat/trailer before leaving as there is a lot of the invasive species, Brittle Naiad, in the lake.

Wapsipinicon River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)

Bluegill – Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers, either on a split shot rig or jighead.

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

Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the edge of the vegetation and around the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the shorelines and around the vegetation. Try submerged structure in 6- to 8-feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers or liver in about 4- to 6-feet of water.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Try jig and minnows in the flooded timber. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Cast crankbaits along the dam and other rip-rapped shorelines. Try also drifting or trolling nightcrawlers. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use live bait and a small jig in structure in 8-to 10-feet. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits or crawdad imitating baits along the shorelines and around the jetties. Use a rubber worm among the vegetation.

Lake Wapello

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try crankbaits or spinnerbaits around the cedar tree piles and around the fishing jetties. Use topwater lures or rubber worms among the lily pads **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or cut bait fished in 6- to 8-feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try live bait around submerged structure.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.11 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. **White Crappie** - Fair: T Troll crankbaits over submerged points and underwater islands. Crappies are suspended over these areas. **Channel Catfish**- Good: Use nightcrawlers or cut bait along windblown shorelines. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Try crankbaits or blade baits around submerged points and rock piles. **Walleye**- Slow: Troll crankbaits that mimic gizzard shad around submerged points and rock piles; look for areas with changing depths.

Red Haw Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler and a bobber in open areas in the vegetation and around the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits

and rubber worms along the shorelines, around the jetties, and along the face of the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Usey nightcrawlers 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.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

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

Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift or troll 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.

Red Rock Reservoir

White Bass - Fair: Cooling water temperatures over the past week has slowed the white bass bite. Boats spending decent time on the water are coming in with anywhere from a few to around 30 white bass. Troll small shallow diving rattle baits or spoons around large points, out from the beach and dam and along the wind blown 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- to 12-feet of water.

Saylorville Reservoir

White Bass - Slow: The white bass action has been slow. Occasionally anglers have been getting into short term good bites in the mornings and late afternoons. Troll shad imitating crankbaits and spoons. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift cut creek chubs in the upper end of the reservoir above and just below the mile long bridge. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Anglers trolling for white bass are catching better numbers of hybrid striped bass than in recent previous years. Troll shad imitating lipless or shallow diving crankbaits.

White bass fishing on the reservoirs could pick up some with the warmer days over the Labor Day weekend. Channel catfishing on the reservoirs and the Des Moines River is good. For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, contact Andy Otting or Ben Dodd at 515-432-2823.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Pond fishing was fair 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** - Slow: Cast minnows under

a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait or prepared baits around structure and vegetation edges.

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake has a good fish population. The lake is 3 feet low. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few crappies can be caught around structure. Late afternoon bite is best. Fish average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Slow: Drift small jigs tipped with a crawler to catch 8 inch bluegill. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or shrimp in less than 8 feet of water. Anglers have a chance to catch large catfish at Greenfield.

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 with small jigs tipped power bait or nightcrawlers over the road beds and rock piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass around underwater reefs and vegetation edges. Fish are all sizes.

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** - Slow: 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 or trolling along the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: 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. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are catching largemouth bass in tree piles with plastics and around the shoreline with spinnerbaits. 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. Anglers report chicken livers was the bait of choice this week. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Vertical jig any tree pile in 12- to 14-feet of water. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drifting has been good for 7 inch bluegill.

Water temperatures are in the low to mid 70's in the S.W. district. Anglers are catching panfish in brush piles and catfishing has been fair in lakes. For more information, call the Cold Springs District Office at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with topwater baits early and late in the day or finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles and stake beds. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 8 inches using small spinners, jigs or a minnow under a bobber fished along weed edges and fishing piers.

Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish - Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait or nightcrawlers fished along the fish mounds or other rocky structures.

Lake of Three Fires

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught with finesse plastics fished along rocky shoreline areas. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 10 inches using jigs tipped with a minnow fished along cedar tree brush piles or fish mounds.

Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with small jigs or nightcrawlers fished along main lake points and rock fields. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds with nightcrawlers or cut bait fished along rock fields or fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 11 inches using minnows fished near rock piles and rock fields. **Walleye** - Slow: Use crankbaits fished along main lake points.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches with topwater baits fished early and late in the day along weed edges or finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using small jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or waxworms fished along rock piles and roadbeds. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch black crappie up to 10 inches with small jigs or spinners fished along rockpiles, cedar tree brush piles, or drifting in the main basin. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Catch yellow perch up to 8 inches with minnow or nightcrawlers fished along the bottom in the main basin. **Walleye**- Fair: Walleyes of all sizes have been caught with jigs tipped with a leech or minnow fished along rock piles or main lake points.

Water temperaturea in most Mount Ayr District lakes are in the mid-70's. The district includes Page, Taylor, Adams, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Clarke and Madison counties.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 just 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 just 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 chicken livers, worms, cut bait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 22.33 ft. /34,800 cfs./76 degrees Fahrenheit (water temperature is up 3 degrees from last week). The Missouri River is up 0.08 feet from last week. Anglers are mainly catching catfish species (channels, flatheads and blue cats). Fishing continues to be fair to good overall for all catfish species. The Decatur Bridge West of Onawa closed August 14 for repairs and will reopen sometime this September.