



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



## [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of September 21.](#)

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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## Stay Where You Play

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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 70 degrees. Water levels are near the crest of the spillway. **Bluegill** - Good: 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 the Ice House Point shoreline and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and in the east basin. Expect walleye fishing to pick up near shore in the next couple of weeks as water temperatures cool. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers 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. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch largemouth bass just about anywhere along the shoreline with topwater lures, twisters or live bait.

### Brushy Creek Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in 5- to 15-feet of water. Drift near deep 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.

### Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

Surface water temperatures are around 70 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. Look for walleye activity to pick up as water temperatures begin to cool over the next few weeks. **White Bass** - Fair: Use crankbaits; most action has been from boat while fishing dredge cuts.

### 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 70 degrees. Panfishing has been fair to good in most lakes. The channel catfish bite in rivers and lakes is fair. Expect walleye fishing to pick up as water temperatures cool. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

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### Clear Lake

The water temperature is 65 degrees. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Drift a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or cut bait in 8- to 10-feet of water until you find fish. Try also near the rock reefs. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a slip bobber and leech or minnow near the rock reefs. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or crawlers on the windward side of the lake. **Muskellunge** - Fair: Try near edge of vegetation and shady areas under docks.

### Crystal Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber near the dredge cut. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a slip bobber and small minnow in the deeper water in the dredge cut. Look for suspended fish on your electronics.

### 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

Lots of keeper fish are being caught on East Okoboji, with yellow bass being the majority of kept fish. **Yellow Bass** - Excellent: Good sized yellow bass are still being caught shallow near docks; jig with pilkies and wigglers. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Jig with tube jigs and pilkies around docks and weed lines.

### Five Island Lake

Recent surveys show good numbers of angler acceptable channel catfish.

### Little Sioux River (state line to Linn Grove)

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

### Lost Island Lake

Yellow Bass - Good: Yellow bass activity is reported to have improved with the cooler water temperatures.

### Mill Creek (Lake)

Black Crappie - Good: Good numbers of angler acceptable crappie are being caught.

### Spirit Lake

Walleye - Fair: Walleye are most active along the weed lines in Anglers Bay. **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.

The walleye fishing will pick up as the water temperature continues to cool. For more information throughout the week, contact the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery at 712-336-1840.

# NORTHEAST

## Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are low. Use caution when backing boats down boat ramps. Trailers going off the ends of the ramps have been reported. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll main channel or deeper holes and along current breaks. Use a jig tipped with a minnow or twister tail. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use a hook with a dead chub or crawler. Try also chicken liver, stink bait and nightcrawlers around brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a hook tipped with a minnow in eddies below dams and backwaters around brush piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use crawdad crankbaits along rocky shorelines and substrates.

## **Decorah District Streams**

Hunting season has started. Many streams run through wildlife management areas where hunting is allowed. Wear bright clothing when not stalking a trout. Trout streams are in good condition. Call 563-927-5736 for current catchable trout stocking locations. **Brook Trout**- Good: 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** - Good: Use a hopper pattern in pastured or open areas. In wooded areas in the morning, use #22-24 trico patterns. In the evening, use #18-20 blue wing olive patterns. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Freshly stocked trout are hitting a variety of lures and baits. Drift a feathered spinner along an undercut bank.

## Lake Hendricks

Lake Hendricks is an electric motor only lake. Fishing is great, but catching has been slow. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Troll over rock mounds with a jig tipped with minnow or spinnerbait. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Try topwater lures along the edge of a vegetation for a hiding bass. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use a hook tipped with a worm or chicken liver. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use small hook tipped with small piece of worm in deeper water.

## Lake Meyer

Lake Meyer is an electric motor only lake. Few people have visited the lake this week. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber near jetties in the evening. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Find crappie suspended near submersed structure. Use a spinner or jig with bright colored twister tail. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: 10- to 12-inch bass are hitting crankbaits.

## Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

The Upper Iowa is stable but low. Be prepared to walk through riffles. Fly fishers, watch for evening hatches of white and grey mayflies. Flying ants are hatching mid-day. Fall is a good time to use streamers or minnow patterns for bass, trout, and walleye. **Walleye** - Slow: Drift through a deeper hole or along a current break. Use a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with worms or crankbaits imitating crawdads in deeper holes and along rocky shorelines. **Rock Bass** - Fair: Use jigs tipped with worms along rocky shorelines.

## Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water temperatures are in the low 70's. **Northern Pike** - Slow: 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** - Slow: Use jigs tipped with plastic tails in the current breaks or near rock ledges. **Walleye** - Slow: Drift a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm through a deeper hole or along a current break. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Catch a catfish from shore with a hook tipped with a crawler. Evening is best.

### Volga Lake

Warmer water temperatures are sparking green algae blooms on the lake. Panfishing has been hit or miss for the last week. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Troll the deeper areas for suspended crappie; use small jig tipped with a minnow. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Bass are hitting jigs tipped with a nightcrawler or twister tail. 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 along rocky shorelines. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver and stink baits. Catfish are more active in the evening.

It's going to be a hot, humid fall weekend with temperature highs in the low 90's and 60's for lows in the forecast. Area streams and rivers are low due to lack of rain. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

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### Big Woods Lake

Reports of anglers catching some crappie. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Float a crappie minnow, red worm or waxie under a slip bobber in 4- to 8-feet of water.

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

Walleye - Fair: Use a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure.

### Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

There have been few reports on the Maquoketa River this past week. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low.

### Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

There have been few reports on the Shell Rock River this past week. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar drop-offs or woody structure as the river is low. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure.

### Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

There have been few reports on the Wapsipinicon River this past week; anglers have had best success fishing for northern pike. **Northern Pike** - Good: Cast and retrieve large bucktail spinner baits near structure or float a live chub or shiner under a bobber in the deeper pools. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig and plastic tail tipped with half a nightcrawler on the downstream sandbar dropoffs or woody structure as the river is low. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rip-rap shorelines and woody structure.



Fishing reports are those of the typical late summer lulls, but anglers are catching some fish on the interior rivers. There are reports of anglers catching smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike. Best reports have been northern pike on the Wapsipinicon River. Trout streams remain in excellent condition. Call the N.E. Iowa district office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER

### Mississippi River Pool 9

River level at Lansing has fallen about a foot to 8 feet and is predicted to remain stable. Water temperature has reached back to 71 degrees with the hot weather this week. **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** - Excellent: Smallmouth fishing is improving with reports of many 2-3 pound fish being caught with a worm harness along the riprap near the Black Hawk bridge. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a little slower presentation as the water temperature is falling. One eye jigs or bait-rig off the bottom has been effective. **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. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use light colored jigs or hook tipped with crappie minnows in backwater side-channels.

### **Mississippi River Pool 10**

Lynxville water level has fallen to 14.2 feet and is predicted to drop slightly then remain stable. Water temperature is 71 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** - Excellent: Use live bait or artificials along 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** - Fair: Try a little slower presentation as the water temperature is falling. One eye jigs or bait-rig off the bottom has been effective. **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. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use light colored jigs or hook tipped with crappie minnows in backwater side channels.

### Mississippi River Pool 11

Mississippi River at Guttenberg has fallen to 5.7 feet and is predicted to drop slightly this

week. Water temperature is 66 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** - Excellent: Use live bait or artificials along 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** - Fair: Try a little slower presentation as the water temperature is falling. One eye jigs or bait-rig off the bottom has been effective. **Yellow Perch** - No Report: 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. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use light colored jigs or hook tipped with crappie minnows in backwater side-channels. Bertom Lake area has been picking up.

Upper Mississippi water levels are low and near the expected normal for this time of year. Boaters should use caution to not back off the ends of ramps during low water conditions. Water clarity continues to be good with lots of vegetation present. Many backwater species have moved to main channel borders and side sloughs. Water temperature has been in the upper 60's to 70° this week.

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

Use caution when backing up on any ramp; river levels are getting low and it is easy to back off the ends of ramps. River levels receded this week. Water levels are around 5 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 8 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is in the upper 60's. Try to remove any vegetation off your trailers. **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: Fall is the best time of the year to catch crappies on the Mississippi River. Look for them along log jams in backwater sloughs. **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. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills at the mouths of large backwater areas and along the channel border rock. **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. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Yellow perch are being caught in backwater areas on minnows by anglers fishing for bluegills or crappies.

### [Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

Use caution when backing up on any ramp; river levels are getting low and it is easy to back off the ends of ramps. Water level is near 5.5 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. Water

clarity has been improving. Water temperature is in upper 60's and lower 70's in the main channel. Try to remove any vegetation off your trailers. **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 and worm rigs. Drum bite in all types of river conditions. **Walleye** - Fair: Mixed reports on walleye the past couple of weeks. Some anglers think it is great fishing while others are doing poorly. **Smallmouth Bass**- Excellent: Throw crank baits or spinners near rock piles with strong current. **Bluegill**- Good: Use worm rigs in log piles in larger backwater and sloughs. **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. **Black Crappie** - Good: Fall is a great time to fish for crappies. Use small minnows in the woody snags in backwater sloughs.

#### [Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

Use caution when backing up on any ramp; river levels are getting low and it is easy to back off the ends of ramps. Water levels are near 5.5 feet at Fulton, 10 feet at Camanche and 5 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity has improved. Water temperature is around 70 degrees in the main channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass had moved out of the large shallow areas into deeper slough habitats. Use spinnerbaits along the channel weed lines. **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 Twister tails on the wing dams. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Some anglers 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: Use worms and bobbers along vegetation lines.

#### [Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

Use caution when backing up on any ramp; river levels are getting low and it is easy to back off the ends of ramps. Levels are around 6 feet at Rock Island. Water clarity has improved. Water temperature is near 70 degrees in the main channel. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait along the rock piles near Campbells and Arsenal Island. Move often if fish are not hitting. **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. **White Bass** - Fair: A few white bass were reported in the tailwater area and south of the I-74 bridge along the rock lines.

Use caution when using any ramp, as you can back off the ends in low water levels. The channel temperature has been in the low 70's. Fishing conditions are good throughout the district. Aquatic vegetation is floating in the River, so 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.

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### Mississippi River Pool 16

River stage at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities is 6.03 feet and has risen about a half a foot due to the recent heavy rains. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try worms, stink bait or cut shad in brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters and flowing side channels. Use jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows under a bobber around brush piles. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits over the wing dams or troll three-way rigs with nightcrawlers in front of the wing dams. Fishing may be tough with the recent heavy rains.

### Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine is 5.24 feet and has risen close to a foot in the past 24 hours due to recent heavy rains. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try worms, cut shad, or dip baits in brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows under a bobber around brush piles in Big Timber and Cleveland Slough. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or pull three-way rigs with crawlers. **Bluegill** - Fair: Look for bluegills in the backwaters. Use pieces of worm under a bobber around brush piles.

### Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 4.92 feet at Lock and Dam 17 above New Boston and is starting to rise from the recent rains. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try dip baits, nightcrawlers or cut shad in snags and brush piles along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use jigs/minnows or minnows under a bobber in the backwaters and flowing side channels around brush piles. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits to the wingdams or pull three-way rigs with crawlers. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Some largemouth bass were being caught along riprap shorelines with current before the recent heavy rains.

### Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 2.49 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try dip baits, nightcrawlers, or cut shad in brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows under a bobber crappies in brush piles in the backwaters and flowing side channels.

River stages have risen some in the past 24 hours due to recent heavy rains. The river has muddied up some. Main channel water temperature is around 74 degrees. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

## SOUTHEAST

### Big Hollow Lake

Weathered warmed up; water temperature has reached the upper 70's. **Black Crappie**- Slow: Anglers are still finding the crappies in deeper water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Go shallow in the early morning and late evening; as the day gets warmer flow them out

to deeper water. **Bluegill** – Slow: Still look in deeper water, but the hungry ones are harder to find.

### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is in upper 70's. Fishing is still pretty slow; the water needs to cool off so the fish will come in shallow. **Bluegill** - Slow: Warm weather has slowed the bluegill bite again. Anglers have to work for them. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Catfish continue to bite. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Crappie fishing went from pretty good, to hard to find.

### Lake Darling

Water temperature is up to 78 degrees. Water clarity is not bad, but is still green. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: A few smaller fish are being caught in shallow. The bigger bass are out around the deeper habitat. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Most anglers were still catching them out in deeper water (10-12 feet). The water needs to cool off before they come in shallow. **Bluegill** - Slow: Anglers are picking up some nice eating sized bluegills, but they have to work the deeper habitat fairly hard to find them. A few bluegills are starting to move in shallow.

### Lake Geode

Water temperature Tuesday morning was 78 degrees; wouldn't be surprised to see 80 degrees in the bays. Water clarity is pretty good, but still tinted green. **Bluegill** - Slow: Most have moved back to the deeper side of the drop-offs. **Black Crappie** - Slow.

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

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

Smallmouth Bass – Fair. **Northern Pike** – Fair.

### Coralville Reservoir

As of September 21, the lake is at 684.0'. It is rising about a half inch per day on its way to fall pool. Water temperatures are in the mid 70's. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use jigs and minnows fished over/around brush piles or along rock bluffs. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Drift/troll cut bait along the channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast crankbaits along rock. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast shad imitating baits to windblown shorelines.

### Diamond Lake

No minnows are allowed here. **Channel Catfish** – Slow. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Use jigs in brush piles in deeper water.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

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

### Lake Macbride

The motor restriction is now off and all motors may be used at no-wake speed (5 mph). Water temperatures are still in the mid 70's. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits or crawlers in 8- to 14-feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Black Crappie**- Fair: Use minnows in/around brush piles.

### 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. **White Bass** – Fair. **Walleye** – Fair.

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

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### Lake Keomah

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

### Lake Miami

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs around brush piles and the standing timber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use rubber worms and crankbaits around the fishing jetties and brush piles.

### Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Try jig tipped with live bait in the flooded timber. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Drift or troll nightcrawlers along the dam and other rip-rapped areas. Try also trolling or casting crankbaits in these same areas. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with live bait in structure in 8-to 10-feet or areas among the lily pads. 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 and around deep structure.

### Lake Wapello

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try crankbaits or spinnerbaits around the brush piles. Use topwater lures or rubber worms among the lily pads. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or nightcrawlers fished in 6- to 10-feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with live bait around submerged structure. Sorting may be needed for larger fish.

### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 903.80 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: Troll crankbaits over submerged points and rock piles. Use small crankbaits that mimic gizzard shad as the crappies are suspended over these areas. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use nightcrawlers or cut bait in coves and bays where the wind is blowing toward the shoreline. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or blade baits around submerged points and rock piles or vertically jig in these same areas. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits around submerged points; look for areas with changing depths. Try also trolling nightcrawler rigs.

### Red Haw Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler and a bobber in areas along the shoreline with structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try rubber worms and spinnerbaits

along the shorelines, around the jetties and along the face of the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use 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)

White Bass - Fair: Cast jigs and twister tails or shallow diving, shad imitating crankbaits. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits and cut baits. **White Bass** - Good: Find good white bass in the river with the low water conditions. Cast spinners or twister tail jigs in current breaks, sandbar drop-offs and below the dams.

### 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. The middle section of the lake has been the most consistent.

### Hickory Grove Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegill are biting near shoreline vegetation and sunken brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are being caught off of main lake points.

### Red Rock Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Good: Drift cut creek chubs or shad above the mile long bridge in 6- to 12-feet of water.

### Saylorville Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Good: Drift cut creek chubs in the upper end of the reservoir above and just below the mile long bridge.

Late summer and early fall is a good time to slow drift for crappies and bluegills. 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.

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### **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 in the tree piles. Fish will average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches with small jigs tipped power bait or nightcrawlers on steep drop offs near the creek channel and in deep tree piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass around underwater reefs and vegetation edges. Fish are all sizes.

### Lake Manawa

Manawa has a good walleye population. When water temperatures drop below 70 degrees is a good time to target walleyes. **Walleye** - Fair: Slow troll or drift nightcrawlers on a Lindy rig. Late afternoon bite is best. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Cast spinners around the docks on the east shoreline.

### Middle Raccoon River (above Van Meter)

The Middle Raccoon River is low and fishing has been fair to good for smallmouth and walleye. Walleye - Fair: Cast jigs tipped with crawler in deeper pools for 15- to 17-inch walleyes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast jigs tipped with half of a crawler above and below rock riffles for fun [catch and release](#) smallmouth fishing.

### Prairie Rose Lake

Expect to catch quality size bluegills. 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: Drift or troll along the dam for 8 inch black crappie. **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 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.

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### Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with spinnerbaits fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 8 inches using small jigs under a bobber fished along the fishing jetties or fishing piers early and late in the day. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 7.5 inches with nightcrawlers under a bobber in shallow bays or near shallow cedar tree brush piles.

### Lake Icaria

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch black crappie up to 10 inches with jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye of all sizes have been caught using jigs tipped with a minnow fished along the roadbed or main lake points.

### Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with spinnerbaits 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 fishing jetties. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds with nightcrawlers or cut bait fished along windblown points or fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie up to 10 inches using jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brush piles, rock piles, or rock fields. **Walleye** - Slow: Use crankbaits fished along main lake points or jigs tipped with a minnow fished along the roadbed.

### Summit Lake

Black Crappie - Slow: Catch black crappie up to 9 inches with small spinners or twister tails fished along the HWY 25 bridge. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 15 inches using finesse plastics fished along weed lines or rocky shoreline areas.

### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches with finesse plastics fished along weed lines or cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using small jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or waxworms fished along rock piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch black crappie up to 9 inches with small jigs tipped with a minnow fished along cedar tree brush piles and rock piles. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Catch yellow perch up to 8 inches with jigs tipped with a minnow or nightcrawler fished along rocky shorelines or shallow bays. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleyes of all sizes have been caught with jigs tipped with a leech or minnow fished along rock piles, main lake points or along the dam.

Water temperature in Mount Ayr district lakes is in the low to 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.