



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of July 26.](#)

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](#)

NORTHWEST

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperatures are around 80 degrees. Water levels are 4 inches over the crest of the spillway. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try Town Bay, Ice House Point, and the North Shore. Use a small hair or tube jig with a small piece of crawler fished under a bobber in 5-6 feet of water. Target deeper fish this time of year on the rock piles near Gunshot Hill, Cottonwood Point, and the East Basin. **Walleye** - Fair: Try leeches or crawler harnesses around Ice House Pt, the dredge cut near Denison Beach, and around the rock piles near Gunshot Hill, Cottonwood Point and the East Basin. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch largemouth all over the lake using traditional bass lures. Many anglers have found good bass action at the Ice House Point, the east shoreline, and the lake side of the inlet

bridge. There is a 15 inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass in Black Hawk Lake. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink bait, cut bait, or crawler fished on the bottom along Ice House Point and in Town Bay. Look for fish along rocky shorelines this time of year.

Brushy Creek Lake

There is a 15 inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass in Brushy Creek Lake, and a 40 inch minimum length limit for musky. **Walleye** - Fair: Use minnows and leaches in 15-20 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try minnows on a jig in 10-20 feet of water near submerged structure. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Find perch along the vegetation and deeper structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch bass along weed lines near shore just about anywhere with traditional bass lures. There is a 15 inch minimum length limit on largemouth bass in Brushy Creek Lake.

Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

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 picking up fish trolling crankbaits or drifting crawler harnesses on the edges of the dredge cuts around the lake in about 8 feet of water. **White Bass** - Fair: Use crankbaits; most action has been from boat while fishing dredge cuts.

Swan Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with crawler along the dam and off the jetties in 3-6 feet of water. Most fish are 6-7 inches.

Water temperatures in Black Hawk District lakes are around 80 degrees. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Beeds Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift fish or troll with a tube jig or small minnow. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Drift fish or troll with a small jig.

Clear Lake

Surface water temperature is 72 degrees. **Walleye** - Fair: Jig a minnow or leech above submerged vegetation in 6 to 10 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or cut bait fished on the bottom after sunset. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try fishing the edge of the vegetation with a jig and minnow.

Crystal Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegill are biting. Use a small piece of crawler and a bobber in 2 to 3 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are biting topwater baits. **Black Crappie** - Good: Drift or troll small tube jigs in the dredge cut.

Upper Pine Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Use topwater baits.

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

East Okoboji Lake

The dock at East Okoboji Beach boat ramp is out. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Excellent bite continues with good numbers of fish being caught. Cast mini-jigs or hair-jigs or use small baits tipped with wigglers. **Walleye** - Good: Numbers of fish are being caught with traditional baits; good numbers of yellow bass are mixed in with the catch. **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers report a good panfish bite of bluegill and crappie continues. Use small jigs tipped with waxworms in the weed lines.

Lake Pahoja

Bluegill - Good: Recent surveys show good numbers of large angler size fish in the lake.

Lost Island Lake

Walleye - Good: Walleye action has improved; reports of the best action in areas with flow. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Reports of yellow bass being caught. Use small lures such as a twister tail or hair jigs. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Numbers of fish were caught over the weekend, contact the local bait shop for more information.

Spirit Lake

Walleye - Good: Troll live bait or crankbaits. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Report of yellow perch action "picking up" on the lake with good numbers of angler acceptable size fish being caught. **Northern Pike** - Good: Look for areas with flow for the best action. **Bluegill** - Good: Reports of bluegill, crappie and yellow perch being caught in the Illinois Pondweed in 8 - 10 feet of water. Use a slip bobber and jigs to fish fast and find active fish.

West Okoboji Lake

Bluegill - Good: Rock piles in deeper water with stands of aquatic growth will produce good numbers of angler acceptable sized fish.

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

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are stabilizing and low. Flows remain high. Visibility has improved. Visit the [USGS Current Water Data website](#) for current water level information. **Walleye** - Good: Use a jig tipped with a crawler or minnow in slack water pockets. Use a jig tipped with twister tail in deep water drop offs. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Target snags for catfish using stink baits, chicken liver or crawdads fished on bottom. **Smallmouth Bass**- Excellent: Use crawdad crankbaits along rocky shorelines.

Decorah District Streams

Yellow wild parsnip is blooming. Wear long sleeved clothing when walking through it to prevent skin contact. Catchable trout are stocked weekly. Listen to the trout stocking hotline (563-927-5736) for daily information. **Brook Trout** - Good: A variety of aquatic and terrestrial insects, like ants and beetles, are more numerous. Use care not to spook a feeding fish. **Brown Trout** - Good: Hendrickson, caddis, and crane fly hatches are occurring. Crickets are common along streams now. Use hendrickson, gnat or beadhead nymph patterns. Pale yellow, black, brown, and grey colors work best. Try using terrestrial patterns for crickets and ants. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Try a piece of worm or small cheese chunk on a hook under a bobber in the deeper holes or floated past an undercut bank. A variety of small spinnerbaits also work.

Lake Hendricks

Water is stained green; limited visibility. Best bite is toward evening and early morning. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use small jigs in shallow areas. Anglers are finding large numbers of small fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use spinnerbaits and soft plastics along edges of vegetation. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small jig tipped with small piece of worm along the shoreline.

Lake Meyer

Green algae bloom continues. Water clarity is good. Water temperatures are in the low 80's. Fish activity is improving with cooler temperatures. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a hook tipped with a worm in shallow water along vegetated edges. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try a hook tipped with a worm or small spinnerbait along a rocky shoreline. **Largemouth Bass**- Good: Use topwater baits along weed edges.

Turkey River (below Clermont)

Anglers are finding fish from Clermont to Elkader. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinner or crawfish crankbait in drop offs or undercut banks. **Walleye** - Good: Try spinners or jig tipped with worm or twister tail in slack water and eddies.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water clarity is much improved. Water levels are stabilizing, but flows remain high. Be aware of river conditions ahead of you; strainers may have moved or trees may be blocking the river corridor. **Walleye** - Good: Use jigs tipped with natural colored twister

tails or a flashy spinner. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Use feathered spinnerbaits or crankbaits near rocky ledges.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

River is in good condition. Use caution when floating on an unfamiliar section of river; trees and other debris may be blocking the main channel. Visit the [USGS Current Water Data website](#) for more information. **Walleye** - Good: Cast bright colored jigs tipped with twister tails or larger spinner baits into deep water drop offs or eddies. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Use spinnerbaits and crankbaits near rock ledges and undercut banks. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfish actively taking baits at night bank fishing.

Volga Lake

Algae bloom continues. Fish activity improving with cooler temperatures. **Black Crappie**- Good: Find fish near submersed structure or in open water. Use a light colored jig with twister tail. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use topwater lures around structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Find catfish shallow in early morning or late night. Use worm, chicken liver, or stink bait fished on the bottom. **Bluegill** - Good: Use small jigs tipped with a small piece of worm along shallow rocky areas. Anglers are catching lots of small gills with a few keepers.

Weather couldn't be better for the end of July. Temperatures are in the 70's. Rivers and streams are in good condition. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Big Woods Lake

We have not received information about fishing on this water body this week.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Casey Lake is in good condition with clear water. Vegetation remains abundant around edges, but it is starting to die back a bit. Catfish anglers are fishing deep water with frogs, shrimp or stink baits. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Size has been good. **Bluegill** – Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Catfish are biting on a variety of baits. Best bite is early morning and late evening. Catfish size has been excellent.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

The Cedar River is running at 5280 CFS as of July 26 in Waterloo or about 2 times above median flow. The river is reported as clearing and providing decent fishing despite flows that are still high for this time of year. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair. **Walleye** – Fair: Use jig and night crawler combinations or crankbaits. Not too many big fish, but catch has been good for smaller fish. **Channel Catfish** – Good: Use stink baits or fresh baits.

George Wyth Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Good catch rates, but fish are mostly small. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair.

Lake Delhi

Lake Delhi is providing good fishing for panfish and bass. This is a popular boating lake, so fishing conditions are often best on weekdays and mornings. **Bluegill** - Good: Lots of smaller fish with some keepers, too. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish near structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Lots of small fish. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair.

Manchester District Streams

Trout streams in Delaware, Dubuque, and Jackson Counties are in good condition. Trout stocking was completed as scheduled during the week of July 23-27. Stocked fish are biting on a variety of presentations. **Brown Trout** – Fair. **Brook Trout** – Good. **Rainbow Trout** – Good.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

The Maquoketa River at Manchester is flowing at about 126 CFS as of July 26; this is near average for median flows on this date. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair. **Walleye** – Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Fair.

Maquoketa River (below Monticello)

The lower Maquoketa was high and "dirty" early in the week, but conditions are improving. **White Sucker** – Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits or live bait. **Smallmouth Bass** – Slow.

Martens Lake

Expect to fish through and around vegetation. Adjust tactics as needed, including heavy baits or topwater options. **Largemouth Bass** – Good.

Plainfield

Clear water and plants around the lake perimeter are creating some challenging conditions. Adjust tactics including lighter gear for panfish or weedless options for bass. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair.

South Prairie Lake

Vegetation has become abundant; adjust strategies accordingly, including topwater baits and weedless baits. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use topwater baits.

Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

The Wapsipinicon River at Independence has a flow of about 500 CFS as of July 26; this water discharge rate is about 1.5 times above median levels for this time of year. Fishing has been improving with better water conditions. **Northern Pike** – Good. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Fair.

River conditions are improving in eastern Iowa. The Shell Rock and Cedar remain high, but are providing decent fishing. The Maquoketa and Wapsipinicon have river flows near median levels for this time of year and are in excellent condition for fishing. Lakes are providing fair bass fishing. Trout streams are providing excellent fishing opportunity. 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 10.9 feet and is predicted to reach 9.5 feet midweek. Water temperature is near 78 degrees. New Albin ramp road is closed due to water over the road. The Lansing Village Creek ramp and parking lot construction is expected to start July 30 and the ramp will be closed through October. For more updates, call the Guttenberg Fisheries Management office at 563-252-1156. **Walleye**- Fair: Some walleyes are feeding in the shallow water out of the current. **Yellow Perch**- Fair: Perch bite has been spotty, but some nicer ones are being caught with live minnow rigs. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Northern are feeding in the trees in the backwaters on crawler rigs with a leader. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the main and side channel borders. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting along the vegetation in backwater lakes and areas protected from the current. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Fishing has been difficult with floating flood debris and weeds. Find smallmouth along shorelines in slight current off rocky points. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast flashy spinners or crankbaits along the rocks in main channel current for big white bass. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegills are biting on small piece of worm fished about mid depth in 8 feet of water in the flooded trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively biting in areas of current. Drop a heavily weighted worm rig into the current for some big fish action.

Mississippi River Pool 10

River level at Lynxville has dropped a foot to 19.6 feet and is expected to reach 18 feet midweek. Water temperature is 79 degrees at the Lock and Dam 9. Sny Magill ramp has water over the road. **Walleye**- Fair: Fishing has been tough with high water current. Some walleyes are feeding in the shallow water out of the current. **Yellow Perch**- Fair: Perch bite has been spotty, but some nicer ones are being caught with live minnow rigs. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Northern are feeding in the trees in the backwaters on crawler rigs with a leader. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the main and side channel borders. **Bluegill** - Good: Panfish bite is picking up this week. Try a small piece of garden worm on small tackle under a bobber. **Common Carp**- Good: Carp are on the move with the high water. To hook into a big one, try fishing the warm shallow backwaters where carp are staging for the spawn. **Largemouth Bass**- Good: Bass are biting along the vegetation in backwater lakes and areas protected from the current. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Fishing has been difficult with floating flood debris and weeds. Find smallmouth along shorelines in slight current off rocky points. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast flashy spinners or crankbaits along the rocks in main channel current for big white bass. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegills are biting on small

piece of worm fished about mid depth in 8 feet of water in the flooded trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are actively biting in areas of current. Drop a heavily weighted worm rig into the current for some big fish action.

[Mississippi River Pool 11](#)

River level at Guttenberg has fallen to 10.7 feet and is slowly receding to 9 feet late next week. Water temperature is 71 degrees at Lock and Dam 10. Guttenberg south ramp is open. **Walleye** - Fair: Fishing has been tough with high water current. Some walleyes are up feeding in the shallow water out of the current. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch bite has been spotty, but some nicer ones are being caught with live minnow rigs. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Northern are feeding in the trees in the backwaters on crawler rigs with a leader. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the main and side channel borders. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting along the vegetation in backwater lakes and areas protected from the current. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Fishing has been difficult with floating flood debris and weeds. Find smallmouth along shorelines in slight current off rocky points. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast flashy spinners or crankbaits along the rocks in main channel current for big white bass. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegills are biting on small piece of worm fished about mid depth in 8 feet of water in the flooded trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively biting in areas of current. Drop a heavily weighted worm rig into the current for some big fish action.

Upper Mississippi River levels are on a steady fall this week with good water clarity. Still lots of current in main channel areas, but fishing has picked up in side channels and backwater lakes. Water temperatures are in mid to upper 70's.

[Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

Water levels are near 10.8 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 12.9 feet at the RR bridge. Expect water to drop slowly this upcoming week. Water clarity continues to improve. The water temperature is around 78 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: In high water conditions, most fish hang around near bank using food washing into the system. Try stinkbait or worms near shore. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Most anglers use a simple egg sinker and worm rig. Drum will be hanging out relatively near shore in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass are being caught along the edge of flooding water. **White Bass** - Good: Look for schools of white bass feeding on the surface in the morning and evenings. **Bluegill** - Good: Some bluegill have finally returned to angler creels. Try angling along the vegetation lines in 4 to 6 feet of water.

[Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

Water level at the Bellevue Lock and Dam is 12.0 feet. Expect water to drop slowly this upcoming week. Water clarity continues to improve. The water temperature is around 78

degrees. The north ramp at Sabula is not in use this year due to bridge construction. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: In high water conditions, most fish hang around near bank using food washing into the system. Try stinkbait or worms near shore. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: The drum bite is on. Fish worms with an egg sinker in moderate current areas. Fish near the shorelines if possible. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Both largemouth and smallmouth are being caught. Most are feeding along the high water edge. Use a bright colored spinner in the turbid water. **White Bass** - Good: Look for feeding schools of white bass in the morning and evenings. Small spinners and white jigs work best. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are starting to return to the creel. Try fishing along vegetation lines in 4 to 6 feet of water.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

Water levels are 11.4 feet at Fulton Lock and Dam, 13.9 feet at Camanche and 7.9 feet at LeClaire. Expect water to drop slowly this upcoming week. Water clarity continues to improve. The water temperature is around 78 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: In high water conditions, most fish hang around near bank using food washing into the system. Try stinkbait or worms near shore. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Use a simple egg sinker/worm rig in moderate current areas. Find fish near the shoreline in flooded conditions. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bright colored spinners fished along flooded shorelines are picking up some bass.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

Water levels are 11.3 feet at Rock Island. Expect water to drop slowly this upcoming week. Water clarity continues to improve. The water temperature is around 78 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: In high water conditions, most fish hang around near bank using food washing into the system. Try stinkbait or worms near shore. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Use an egg sinker and worm rig fished near shore in high water conditions.

Water levels continue to drop throughout the district this week. Some boat ramps may have water and debris on them yet. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

[Mississippi River Pool 16](#)

Tailwater stage is 11.30 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. The docks are being reported as in at the Marquette St. ramp in Davenport. The Fairport Recreation Area has a dock in at the upper and lower ramps. Fishing is being reported as slow. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Some channel catfish are being caught in Sunset Marina on stinkbait. Try also above brush piles and snags in the back channels. **Walleye** - No Report: Troll crankbaits between the mouth of the Rock

River and Sunset Marina. Try fishing on the wingdams along Credit Island with crankbaits or three-way rigs with crawlers.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 10.31 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is falling. River stage at Muscatine is 11.92 feet and is falling. Flood stage at Muscatine is 16 feet. The ramp at Big Timber is open. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try fishing above snag piles along the side channels and main channel with stinkbait or shad. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams; use crankbaits or three-way rigs with crawlers. Trolling crankbaits by GPC can work, too. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters around brush piles. Try fishing with pieces of worms under a bobber.

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 11.72 feet at Lock and Dam 17 above New Boston and is falling. The gates are still out of the water at the dam. The ramp at Toolsboro is open. Flood stage is 15 feet. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try fishing above brush piles and snags along side channels and the main channel; use stinkbait or shad. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters around brush piles. Try fishing with worms under a bobber.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 7.88 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is falling. Flood stage is 10 feet. River level is 13.03 feet at Burlington and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. River level at Fort Madison is 526.89 feet and flood stage is 528 feet. Fishing has been slow with the high and muddy water conditions. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try fishing above brush piles and snags along the side channels and main channel; use stinkbait or shad. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters around brush piles. Try fishing with worms under a bobber.

River stages rose slightly this past weekend, but are starting to fall. Main channel water temperature is around 78 degrees. Water clarity is fair. Fishing is being reported as slow. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is in the low to mid 80's. Expect an increase in fishing pressure with the forecasted cooler weather. **Bluegill** - Fair: Work the bluegills in about 6 feet of water

in the flooded timber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Early evening is best as bass move out of deeper water to feed on little bluegills and green sunfish.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The drop in the water level has slowed. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for them to be around the brush piles in deeper water and around the edges of the sandbars as the water recedes.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature in low 80's. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers are picking up bluegills in the flooded timber between 10 and 12 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are still finding crappies while slow trolling in the open water area between the beach and the dam; early morning before 10 am is best.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is between 82 and 83 degrees. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are picking up bass around the deeper habitat. In the early and late parts of the day, look for them to be in shallow but not far from the deep water ledges. **Bluegill** - Fair: Look for bluegills out around the rock piles and brush in 6-8 feet of water.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is between 80 and 81 degrees. Planktonic algae bloom is turning the water green. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some crappies later in the evening as these fish come to shore to feed later in the day. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching bass in the flooded brush on the north side of the lake in the early morning hours.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The water level in this area have stopped dropping. It should drop again as the South Skunk continues to drop where the North has stabilized. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Still a lot of water in the Skunk; try around the edges of the brush piles and trees where there is a current break.

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

Central Park Lake

The lake is currently refilling as a renovation project has finished up this spring. It has been restocked with juvenile bass, bluegill and catfish.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at normal summer pool. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Best action is drifting or

trolling cut bait in the channel. **Black Crappie** – Slow: Fish steep rock banks for suspended fish.

Diamond Lake

No minnows are allowed here. The fish cleaning station is open. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small jigs fished around the brush piles or drift the basin. Most fish are 7-9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs or worms around shallow rock or brush. Many fish are around 6-7 inches. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfishing has picked up over the past week.

Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

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

Kent Park Lake

The lake is drained for a lake renovation project currently underway. It is scheduled to be completed next spring.

Lake Macbride

Only motors under 10hp may be used at no-wake speed. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Fish deeper brush or look for suspended fish off breaks. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or live bait rigs. Most fish are in 8-13 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Some fish are still shallow while other fish have pulled off to deeper rock for the summer. Best bite is early in the day. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** – Slow: Look for schools roaming over deep water feeding on juvenile shad. Early and late in the day are best. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some are shallow in pockets while others have moved to deeper rock. Size is marginal at best. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Evenings are best.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still 5 feet low from the restoration project. The main ramp is usable, but it is shallow; use caution. There is a boat dock in on the east lane. Be cautious when boating as new structures have started to be submerged. Check your boat and trailer for the invasive plant, Brittle Naiad; it is abundant here. Night fishing has been reported as being the most productive lately. **White Bass** – Fair: Fish windblown shores or look for schools in open water. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** – Fair: These are mixed in with the white bass. Mornings and evenings are best. **Bluegill** – Slow: Fish weed edges. **Channel Catfish** – Fair: Use chicken liver or shrimp. **Walleye** - Slow.

Rodgers Park Lake

Largemouth Bass – Fair.

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

Des Moines River (Ottumwa to Farmington)

Channel Catfish - Fair: Target slack water areas around log jams and rocked shorelines.

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use spinnerbaits along the rocky shorelines and rubber worms around the deeper structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the rocky shorelines and the weed line. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or stinkbait in areas with 4-6 feet of water.

Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait near shoreline and around the fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing deep structure with a jig and minnow. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink bait or chicken liver 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits around the fishing jetties and along the dam. Switch to rubber worms and deeper structure as the day heats up.

Lake Sugema

The south boat ramp off of Highway 2 is closed due to a parking lot construction project. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Target deeper structure with rubber worms or deep diving crankbaits.. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use tube jigs or jig and minnow combos in deeper water structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with live bait around the shorelines and fishing jetties. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use dead chubs or stinkbait along the dam or around the fishing jetties.

Lake Wapello

Channel Catfish - Fair: Use chicken liver or stink bait around areas with rip-rapped shorelines or rock piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Fish around deeper structure with rubber worms or crawdad imitations. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler in areas around aquatic vegetation or near the fishing jetties. **White Crappie** - Slow: Try minnows or jig and minnows in deeper structure and the outer edge of the weed line.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.83 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. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or chicken liver in areas with water running into the lake. **White Crappie** - Slow: Use minnows around deeper structure. Trolling small crankbaits can also catch suspended crappies. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or night crawler rigs along rocky shorelines and around rock piles. Try also vertical jigging in the same areas. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye bite has slowed from earlier in the year. Use night crawler rigs or troll crankbaits around rock piles and submerged points. Leeches can also be productive this time of year.

Red Haw Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Cast the shorelines in the early part of the day and then fish deeper structure as the day warms up. Use rubber worms or crankbaits. **Black Crappie**-Fair: Try tube jigs along the shorelines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait around the shorelines and fishing jetties. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try night crawlers around the fishing jetties or along the dam.

The district includes Mahaska, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

SOUTHWEST

Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Slow: The walleye bite has become tough since the shad spawn created abundant small forage. Target the upper end of the lake in shallow water, preferably by any vegetation. Cast or troll shallow diving shad imitating crankbaits or troll spinner rigs with night crawlers with little weight to fish 3-10 feet deep. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Good: Troll and cast crankbaits, spoons or in-line spinners in the main lake. Look for schools of fish busting shad on the surface.

Hooper Area Pond

Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers drifting and trolling jigs mid-lake are picking up some nice 10-12 inch crappies. Keep your baits in the top 6 feet of water.

Lake Ahquabi

Largemouth Bass - Good: Cast crankbaits in 4 to 8 feet of water in the evenings.

Red Rock Reservoir

White Bass - Fair: High water is making white bass fishing very slow on the lake, but anglers fishing below the dam are catching a mix of white bass and hybrid striped bass.

Rock Creek Lake

White Crappie - Good: Drift or slowly troll jigs or minnows in the lower half of the lake in the mornings to just after noon.

For more information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, call Ben Dodd at 641-891-3795 or Andy Otting at 515-204-5885.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Water clarity in most ponds have recovered from heavy rains in July. Always get permission to fish privately-owned ponds. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are in their summer pattern in ponds. Concentrate on suspended fish and along weed lines during the summer months. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappies suspended and around structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass are very active and can be caught with a variety of lures and plugs. Fish shallow early and late and go deeper during the middle of the day. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try along weed edges and around structure.

Farm Creek Lake

Farm creek will offer good fishing this year. **Black Crappie** - No Report: Black crappie in Farm Creek are quality size fish. Concentrate fishing the deeper water along the channel during the summer. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills in the open water portion of the lake and close to the channel; use small jigs tipped with crawler.

Lake Anita

Anglers report catching bluegills drifting. Find crappies around brush piles and suspended over the roadbeds. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Vertical jig deeper tree piles or troll twister tails to catch black crappie averaging 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Slow: Drift small jigs tipped with crawler. Fish will average 8.5 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast to structure to catch bass of all sizes.

Lake Manawa

Lake Manawa is a good destination for summer catfishing. **Channel Catfish**- Good: Use shrimp and bubble gum bait on the south and west shore. Fish in the 2 to 5 pound range were reported.

Orient Lake

Channel Catfish - Fair: Catch 18-20 inch channel catfish with cut bait or shrimp below the sediment structure where water is running into the lake and along the dam.

Prairie Rose Lake

Prairie Rose will offer good panfishing. The lake has quality sized bluegills and acceptable size crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are done spawning and have moved into a summer pattern. Look for fish around underwater reefs and drift/troll open water areas. Bluegills in Prairie Rose are quality size fish. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for crappies along the dam and around tree piles. Fish will average 9 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There is a large population of 12 inch bass in the lake that offers fun [catch and release fishing](#).

Viking Lake

Find crappies and largemouth bass on deeper brush piles. Channel catfish have moved in around jetties and rocky shorelines. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are being caught in the deeper tree piles. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Cast

cut bait or liver close to rocky shorelines for catfish up to 10 pounds. Late afternoon bite is best. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Jig plastics in deeper brush piles during the day and cast shallow structure early morning for largemouth bass of all sizes.

Fishing should improve with cooler more stable weather. Panfish have moved into their summer pattern. Target open water and deep structure. Catfishing has been good around the district. For more information, contact the Cold Springs office at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with crankbaits or finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using worms fished along the fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie up to 9 inches with minnows or jigs fished along rocky areas.

Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish - Good: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught using night crawlers fished along rocky shoreline areas.

Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches using crankbaits or finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles or rock reefs. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills up to 9 inches with worms fished along the fishing jetties. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds with night crawlers fished along rocky shoreline areas.

Three Mile Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 7 inches with worms fished along the fishing jetties or cedar tree brush piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleye up to 18 inches using crankbaits or live bait fished along the fish mounds and main lake points.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught with crankbaits or finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with worms fished near cedar tree brush piles or shallow bays. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleyes of all sizes using minnows or leeches fished in 8-10 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 9 inches with minnows or worms fished along cedar tree brush piles or in the flooded timber.

Water temperature in most district lakes is in the low to mid 80's. The district includes Page, Taylor, Adams, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Clarke and Madison counties. For more information, please call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.

MISSOURI RIVER

Missouri River (Sioux City to Little Sioux)

Channel Catfish - Fair: During high water levels, try close to the bank or slower flooded areas from shore. Smaller tributaries should also be good, where channel catfish will find refuge from faster currents. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Try using live bait rigs or jigs tipped with worms along the bank and around tributary stream or rivers where they join the Missouri River. **Blue Catfish** - Fair: Anglers report catching a few blue catfish on rod and reel and trotlines. Use live bait or fresh cut bait with live bait rigs along wing dam tips or in or close to the main channel of the Missouri River. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish are being caught on trotlines and rod and reel using live baits (chubs, bullheads, green sunfish). Fish below wing dam tip, near rock structures, logs and along the bank with deeper water nearby.

Missouri River (Little Sioux to Council Bluffs)

Channel Catfish - Fair: During high water levels, try close to the bank or slower flooded areas from shore. Smaller tributaries should also be good, where channel catfish will find refuge from faster currents. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Try using live bait rigs or jigs tipped with worms along the bank and around tributary stream or rivers where they join the Missouri River. **Blue Catfish** - Fair: Anglers report catching a few blue catfish on rod and reel and trotlines. Use live bait or fresh cut bait with live bait rigs along wing dam tips or in or close to the main channel of the Missouri River. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish are being caught on trotlines and rod and reel using live baits (chubs, bullheads, green sunfish). Fish below wing dam tip, near rock structures, logs and along the bank with deeper water nearby.

Missouri River (Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line)

Channel Catfish - Fair: During high water levels, try close to the bank or slower flooded areas from shore. Smaller tributaries should also be good, where channel catfish will find refuge from faster currents. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Try using live bait rigs or jigs tipped with worms along the bank and around tributary stream or rivers where they join the Missouri River. **Blue Catfish** - Fair: Anglers are catching a few blue catfish on rod and reel and trotlines with fresh cut bait or live bait. Try by the wing dam tips, close to or in the main channel of the Missouri River for your best chance at getting bigger blue catfish. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish are being caught on trotlines and rod and reel using live baits (chubs, bullheads, green sunfish). Fish below wing dam tip, near rock structures, logs and along the bank with deeper water nearby.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 28.58 ft. /65,400 cfs./79 degrees Fahrenheit. Missouri River water temperatures are down one degree from last week and

water levels are down 0.48 feet from last week. Water levels are up due to recent rains in the Missouri River watershed and release of water from reservoirs. Anglers and boaters are advised to use caution going on the Missouri River.