



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



## [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of June 20](#)

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**

### [Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the low 70's. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use crawlers fished under a bobber in Town Bay off the stone piers, the floating dock, and the fish house. **Walleye** - Fair: Use leeches or crankbaits near the inlet bridge along Ice House Point shoreline, the east end near the outlet, or rock piles off Cottonwood Point and the east basin. Most action has been in the mornings or evenings. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up crappie from shore and around the fish house in Town Bay using live minnows fished under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a minnow on a small jig under a bobber near the stone piers along Ice House Point shoreline, near the inlet bridge and the rock piles off Shotgun Hill and Cottonwood Point. **Muskellunge** – Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch fish about anywhere in the lake along shore using traditional bass lures. Try the Ice House point shore, east shore near the outlet, and the inlet bay near the inlet bridge.

### [Black Hawk Pits](#)

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a live minnow under a bobber near wood and rock cover along shore. **Bluegill** – Fair.

### Brushy Creek Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish near submerged structure along the weed lines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use crawlers and small minnows fished under a bobber near shore and submerged structure. **Yellow Perch** – Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch bass along the shore near weed lines using traditional bass lures.

### North Twin Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Use crawlers or minnows fished on a jig under a bobber. Anglers have had luck fishing early morning. **Walleye** – Fair.

### Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

**White Bass - Fair:** Use leeches, crawlers and twisters. **Walleye** - Fair: Try leeches or crankbaits. Most action has been off shore in the dredge cuts. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait, stink bait or crawlers fished on the bottom. Target areas with rocky structure near shorelines.

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

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### Clear Lake

The water temperature is in the low 70's. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are having success slip bobber fishing the rock reefs with a jig and leech. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Fish the windswept shore and areas where water is coming into the lake with cut bait or crawlers fished on the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Fish the edge of vegetation with a small minnow or leech. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Fish the edge of vegetation with a small piece of crawler or leech.

### Crystal Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits fished on the edge of the vegetation. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a small piece of crawler fished under a bobber in 2 to 3 feet of water. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use spinnerbaits fished on the edge of the vegetation. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try a minnow under a bobber in 6 to 7 feet of water.

### Lake Smith

Anglers are catching bass on a variety of baits. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Bluegill** – Good.

### Lower Pine Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting on a variety of baits. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small piece of crawler fished under a bobber in 2 to 3 feet of water.

### Silver Lake (Worth)

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting on a variety of baits. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small piece of crawler fished under a bobber in 2 to 3 feet of water.

### Upper Pine Lake

Bass anglers are doing well on a variety of 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.

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### Center Lake

**Black Crappie** - Good: Fish shoreline habitat as the fish are shallow. Cast a mini jig or use a minnow under a bobber.

### East Okoboji Lake

**Walleye** - Good: Anglers report angler acceptable size fish are being caught after dark trolling crankbaits. **Bluegill** - Good: Fish have moved shallow; fish deeper wooden docks for the best action.

### Five Island Lake

**Channel Catfish** - Good: Local bait shop reports a good bite with large fish being caught. **Walleye** - Fair: Some fish are being caught.

### Lost Island Lake

**Walleye** - Fair: Report of 14 – 18 inch fish being caught. Expect the action to improve as the water temperature warms. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Report of black crappie and bluegill being caught in shallow water. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Anglers report that the yellow bass action has started at the lake. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait to provide plenty of pole bending action.

### Silver Lake (Dickinson)

**Walleye** - Good: Boat anglers report that walleye fishing has been hit or miss. Troll crankbaits or other popular walleye baits for the best action. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Recent surveys show good numbers of fish approaching 11 inches.

### Silver Lake (Palo Alto)

**Black Bullhead** - Good: Good bite with jumbo size fish reported being caught.

### Spirit Lake

**Walleye - Good:** Report of walleye fishing improving with fish caught throughout the day. Use leeches and slip bobbers in shallow, emerging weed beds. **Black Crappie** - Good: Fish Trickles Slough or emerging reed beds for crappie and bluegill. **Black Bullhead** - Good: Action is picking up at the north grade using the traditional worm fished on the bottom.

### Trumbull Lake

**Yellow Perch** - Fair: Report of some fish being caught.

### Virgin Lake

**Walleye** - Good: Cast twisters or live bait under a slip bobber.

### West Okoboji Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair: Some bluegill and crappie action has been reported. Expect the action to improve as water temperatures warm.

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

## **NORTHEAST**

### [Cedar River \(above Nashua\)](#)

Water levels are falling, but current remains high. Water clarity is improving. Water temperatures are in the upper 60's. Use caution when boating in higher flows. Visit the [USGS Current Conditions website](#) for more on water levels. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfish action has slowed, but nice fish are still being caught. Use dead chubs or chicken livers fished in the impoundments or shallow slack water areas. Keep your bait on the river bottom. **Walleye** - Slow: Try a jig tipped with a minnow or ring worms in eddies or slack water areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Smallies are hitting while fishing for walleye. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use minnows or red worms fished in the backwaters around structure.

### **Decorah District Streams**

Water clarity is good or improving on most streams after last weekend's rain. Use care when crossing streams; current can sweep you off your feet. Fishing is the only activity allowed on private property open to fishing; all other activities are prohibited. Check the [2019 trout stream stocking calendar](#) or call the stocking number at 563-927-5736 to find out when your favorite trout stream will be stocked. **Brown Trout** - Good: Off-color water from rains drive brown trout crazy. A spinnerbait or subsurface nymph work well. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Use cheese or a piece of worm under a bobber for best luck with a spinning rod when fishing deeper pools. **Brook Trout** - Good: A variety of insects are hatching throughout the day. Matching the hatch is key. On clear streams, use care not to be seen.

### [Lake Hendricks](#)

Water temperatures are in the 70's. The lake is turning green. Fish moved into deeper water; try near brush piles or drop-offs. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a hook tipped with a minnow under a bobber near brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small hook tipped with a small piece of nightcrawler under a bobber. Toss your line to deeper water. **Largemouth Bass** - Use jigs tipped with plastic twister tails or jerkbait. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish around rocky shores and stumps. Let a hook tipped with a piece of worm or cheese sit on the bottom and wait for your line to go taught.

### [Lake Meyer](#)

Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Lake water clarity is improving after last weekend's rain. Post spawn fish have moved to deeper water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a small piece of worm around rocky shores. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small plastic lures or hair jigs fished in brush piles in deeper water. A slow troll around the lake might bring a crappie in. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Crankbaits or jerkbaits work well. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Find pike in shallow bays. Try crankbaits, spoons or a hook tipped with cut bait. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use a worm or cheese fished on the bottom.

### [Turkey River \(below Clermont\)](#)

Water levels are stabilizing, but current is high. Water temperatures are in the upper 60's with improving clarity. Use care when paddling and read the water. Bring extra clothes in case your watercraft tips. **White Sucker** - Good: Use a worm fished off the bottom. **Walleye** - Good: Try a minnow tipped jig or shallow water crankbait in slack water and eddies below dams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good.

### Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are stabilizing, but flows remain high. Water clarity is poor. Use caution when paddling. Read the water ahead; when in doubt, get out. Water temperatures are in the mid-60's. Visit the [USGS Current Conditions website](#) for more on water levels. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Smallmouth bass are spawning. When the water clears, bass can be seen guarding nests. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye bite should improve as water clarity improves. Use something with a flash and a twitch for some action. Fish around tributaries for best luck.

### Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water levels are falling after weekend's rains. Clarity is poor, but improving. Use care when paddling. Read the water ahead; when in doubt, get out. Water temperatures are in the low 60's. A variety of fish are biting. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinnerbaits and jigs tipped with plastics. Target shallow graveled areas. **Walleye** - Fair: A variety of lures work for walleye. Fish the slack water and eddies below dams and off channel areas. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Bank anglers are catching catfish with worms fished on the bottom. Use just enough weight to keep your bait down, but you can still feel the strike.

### Volga Lake

Water temperatures are in the 70's. Concentrate efforts along rocky shores and drop-offs. **Bluegill** - Fair: Shallow bays and rocky areas are holding bluegills. Use a small jig under a bobber. Give it a twitch to get some attention. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a hook tipped with a minnow under a bobber or tube jig in deeper water out from shallow rocks. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Crankbaits and spinnerbaits fished in shallow bays will hook a bass. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cheese or a nightcrawler on a hook. Let it sit on the bottom and wait for a catfish to come.

### Yellow River

The Yellow River is stabilizing with high current. Clarity is improving. Use caution when paddling. Read the water ahead. Fishing the Yellow River by canoe or kayak is the only legal way to fish without landowner permission. **Brown Trout** - Fair: Use a spinnerbait or crankbait fished in the slack water eddies and limestone ledges. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Use a feathered spinnerbait or a worm under a bobber in the ledges or deeper pools.

Thunderstorms are possible through the weekend; depending on amount and location, localized flooding could be a concern. Temperatures range from the mid-80's to 60's. Area rivers and streams are clearing, but could change depending on rain. Paddlers should use caution and pay attention to the weather. 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 panfish on Big Woods Lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill have moved in shallow for spawning. Try a piece of worm under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve a 1/16 oz. jig. Fly rods also work well during spawn. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try

fishing near structure with a minnow under a slip bobber at various depths to find crappie.

### [Brinker Lake](#)

Reports of anglers catching panfish on Brinker Lake. Recent fisheries survey revealed quality sized bluegill in this lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill have moved in shallow for spawning. Try a piece of worm under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve a 1/16 oz. jig. Fly rods also work well during spawn. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing near structure with a minnow under a slip bobber at various depths to find crappie.

### [Casey Lake \(aka Hickory Hills Lake\)](#)

**Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill have moved in shallow for spawning. Try a piece of worm under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve a 1/16 oz. jig. Fly rods also work well during spawn. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try livers, cut baits or stink bait fished on the bottom.

### [Cedar River \(Nashua to La Porte City\)](#)

The Cedar River is falling. **Walleye** - Slow: Jigs tipped with a half of crawler is good this time of year. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rocky or rip-rap lined shores. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try stink baits or cut baits fished on the bottom of the river.

### [East Bergfeld](#)

Recent fisheries survey revealed good numbers of quality sized bluegill and largemouth bass. Concentrate areas off of jetties, the south lobe and east area of jetty. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill are on beds; fish a piece of worm shallow under a bobber or cast light jigs over beds. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try early morning or later evening with spinnerbaits or top water baits.

### [George Wyth Lake](#)

Reports of anglers catching northern pike on George Wyth Lake. **Northern Pike** - Good: Cast and retrieve larger bucktail spinnerbaits.

### [Harold Getty Lake](#)

A few reports of crappie being caught on Harold Getty Lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing near structure with a minnow under a slip bobber at various depths to find crappie.

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

The Maquoketa River continues to fall and water clarity is improving. There are few reports at this time. **Smallmouth Bass** – Slow. **Walleye** – Slow.

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

The Shell Rock River continues to fall. There are no reports at this time. **Smallmouth Bass** – Slow. **Walleye** – Slow. **Channel Catfish** – Slow.

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

The Wapsipinicon River continues to fall. No reports at this time.

Interior rivers are falling with the lack of heavy rains over the past few weeks. Lakes are producing area catches of bluegill, crappie, channel catfish and largemouth bass. Trout

streams are in good to excellent condition. Call the N.E. Iowa district office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER

### Mississippi River Pool 9

River level is 11.2 feet at Lansing and is expected to fall to 9.5 feet by late next week. Water temperature is 70 degrees. Lansing ramp is open and larger boats can now get under the train bridge. New Albin ramp is still closed. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try light tackle tipped with minnows fished near shoreline vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Look for bass near spawning areas in backwaters. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few crappie are still being caught, but bite has slowed. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for bluegills near good spawning areas in upper ends of backwater areas. **Northern Pike** - Good: Some nice pike are being caught by anglers fishing for bass. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Flathead catfish are feeding before the spawn. Try golden shiners or small bluegill on heavy tackle in deep channel areas. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish will start spawning soon and may be aggressive towards minnows floated under a bobber along rocky areas. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum bite will be getting good. Fish a worm on the bottom along main channel borders.

### Mississippi River Pool 10

River level is 21 feet at Lynxville and is expected to fall 2 feet reaching, 19 feet by late next week. Bussey Lake ramp is open. Sny Magill ramp is still closed. Water temperature is 68 degrees. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try light tackle tipped with minnows fished near shoreline vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Look for bass near spawning areas in backwaters. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for bluegills near good spawning areas in upper ends of backwater areas. **Northern Pike** - Good: Some nice pike are being caught fishing for bass. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish are feeding before the spawn. Try golden shiners or small bluegill on heavy tackle in deep channel areas. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Channel catfish will start spawning soon and may be aggressive towards minnows floated under a bobber along rocky areas. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum bite will be getting good. Fish a worm on the bottom along main channel borders.

### Mississippi River Pool 11

River level is 12.4 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to fall 2.5 feet, reaching 10 feet by late next week. Mud Lake and Finley's Landing ramps are now open. Guttenberg DNR ramp is open and the city ramp should be open soon. Water temperature is 68 degrees. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try light tackle tipped with minnows fished near shoreline vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Look for largemouth bass near spawning areas in backwaters. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for bluegills near good spawning areas in upper ends of backwater areas. **Northern Pike** - Good: Some nice pike are being caught fishing for bass. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Flathead catfish are feeding before the spawn. Try golden shiners or small bluegill on heavy tackle in deep channel areas. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish will start spawning soon and may be aggressive towards minnows floated under a bobber along rocky areas. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum bite will be getting good. Fish a worm on the bottom along main channel borders.

Upper Mississippi River levels continue to fall. More boat ramps are becoming accessible again, but some may have debris on them. Rainfall over the next week may affect river levels and water clarity. Water temperature has fallen a few degrees and is near 68 degrees.

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

Water levels are expected to fall this week. Levels are below flood stage at 12.7 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 15 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is fair. The water temperature is 68 degrees. Many boat ramps still have flood debris on them. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Common Carp** - Good: Shallow flooded areas with lots of sun is a recipe for bow-fishing carp and other rough fish. Please do not dispose of fish on the bank. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish bite is best in flooded conditions. Float bobbers along rock lines and use leaches for bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Many bass are starting to bite in the tailwater areas; use flashy spinners. **White Bass** - Fair: Some schools of white bass are being found feeding along flooded shorelines or in the tailwaters.

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

Water levels are expected to fall this week. Bellevue tailwater is at 13.7 feet at Lock and Dam 12; the dam gates are still open. Water clarity is fair. The water temperature is 68 degrees. Most boat ramps are closed or have debris on them. The Bellevue City Ramp is open, but the DNR ramp is still flooded. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Common Carp** - Good: Shallow flooded areas with lots of sun is a recipe for bow-fishing carp other rough fish. Please do not dispose of fish on the bank. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Clear flooded areas like Spring Lake have been good. Green Island wildlife area might also hold some bass this year. **White Bass** - Good: Small white bass are being caught in the tailwaters with small spinners. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Float a bobber and leach along rock lines for spawning channel cats.

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

Water levels are receding at 13.7 feet at Fulton Lock and Dam, 15.9 feet at Camanche and 9.4 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity is fair. The water temperature is around 69 degrees. Many boat ramps will have flood debris on them. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Common Carp** - Good: Shallow flooded areas with lots of sun is a recipe for bow-fishing carp. Please do not dispose of the carp on the bank. **White Bass** - Good: Use small spinners in the tailwater areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Finding clear water in the upper ends of backwaters can yield some nice largemouth bass. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Pre-spawn catfish are abundant and easily caught even in flooded conditions. Fish near shore, especially in rock habitats.

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

Water levels are 14.3 feet at Rock Island. This is still action flood stage. Water clarity is fair. The water temperature is around 69 degrees. Boat ramps are flooded or will have debris on them. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Common Carp** - Good: Shallow flooded areas with lots of sun is a recipe for bow-fishing carp. Please do not dispose of the carp on the bank. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Float a bobber



and leach along rock piles as the water recedes. Channel cats are nearing their spawning times.

After three months, the continuous flooding is all but over. It will take some time to get all the boat ramps and campgrounds open; some will remain closed or will have debris on them for a while. Water levels are predicted to recede this week. If you have any fishing questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

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

Tailwater stage is 14.51 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet at Davenport. River stage is 15.22 feet at Fairport and flood stage is 14 feet. The Marquette St. boat ramp in Davenport is closed. Clark's Ferry, Shady Creek, and the Fairport Recreational Area boat ramps are under water.

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

Tailwater stage is 14.43 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 16.29 feet at Muscatine and flood stage is 16 feet. The ramps at Muscatine are closed due to high water. Kilpeck and Big Timber boat ramps are also closed. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool due to the high water.

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

Tailwater stage is 16.03 feet at Lock and Dam 17 above New Boston and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 17. River stage is 15.24 feet at Keithsburg and flood stage is 14 feet. The Toolsboro landing is closed due to high water. The hawkeye dolbee access is also under water. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week due to the high water.

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

Tailwater stage is 12.40 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is falling. Flood stage is 10 feet at Lock and Dam 18. River stage is 17.19 feet at Burlington and flood stage is 15 feet. River stage at Fort Madison is 529.24 feet and flood stage is 528 feet. Many of the boat ramps are closed due to flooding. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week due to the high water conditions.

Mississippi River Pools 16-19 are still high. River stage has been falling this past week. Many of the boat ramps are closed due to flooding. Main channel water clarity is poor. Main channel water temperature is around 70 degrees. We have not received any fishing report information this week due to the high water conditions. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

## **SOUTHEAST**

### [Big Hollow Lake](#)

Water clarity continues to improve, but is still cloudy. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are picking up a few bass in 5 to 6 feet of water around the flooded timber. **Bluegill** -

Good: Anglers had been picking up pretty good numbers of bluegills before last week's heavy rains; a few nice dry days of weather should bring that fishing back. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for crappies out in the trees and brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water.

#### [Iowa River \(Columbus Junction to Mississippi River\)](#)

The Iowa has dropped another 6 inches; it's about 3 foot below bank full level now. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Now that it's easier to safely get out on the river, the water remains more than deep enough to get a boat back to the fish.

#### [Lake Belva Deer](#)

The water is still a little cloudy. Water temperature is in the mid-70's. **Largemouth Bass**- Fair: Look for bass around the mounds in the deeper water at the upper end and back in the flooded timber in the lower half of the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Work your way into the openings in the weed beds to find some nice bluegills.

#### [Lake Darling](#)

The lake level came back up after the weekend's heavy rains. Water clarity stayed about 3 feet. Water temperature is right around 74 degrees. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass in the post-spawn hideout around the thicker cover in 6-8 feet of water around the rock piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills on the beds, as well as in around 4-6 feet of water around brush and rock piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfish are spawning; find them along the shorelines in the rip-rap.

#### [Lost Grove Lake](#)

Water clarity is still a little cloudy; it would help if the rains were a little less frequent. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers continue to catch bass; work them out along the edges of the weed beds and around the trees and brush piles in 4-6 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are starting to pick up a few more crappies around edges of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills continue to spawn. Look for them in the openings in the weed beds and in small clearings in shallow water in the brush. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfish are wrapping up spawning activities.

#### [Skunk River \(Rose Hill to Coppock\)](#)

The Skunk River is holding pretty steady right now. Upstream the North and South Skunks are starting to drop again. **Channel Catfish**- Good: The mulberry trees are starting to ripen; find a good one overhanging the water and you will find catfish and carp ready to bite.

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

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#### [Cedar Lake](#)

**Bluegill** - Good: There are lots of 6-7 inch fish along the shore. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fish plastics along shorelines.

#### [Coralville Reservoir](#)

The lake level as of June 20 is 696.5 feet (normal summer pool is 683 feet) and is slowly falling. . It is predicted to reach normal pool around July 4th. The Macbride ramp and West Overlook ramps are now open. **Channel Catfish** – Slow.

### Diamond Lake

**Channel Catfish** - Good: Stink bait works best. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try deeper brush with worms or small jigs. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try deeper brush or drift the basin with jigs for suspended fish.

### Hannen Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are spawning. Nice sized fish can be caught in the shallows. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for suspended fish around deeper brush. Numbers are low, but size is good.

### Lake Macbride

Only outboards 10 hp or less may be operated on the lake. Water temperatures are in the mid-70's. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll or cast in 8-10 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try minnows or jigs in deeper brush piles or stumps. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Cast crankbaits or swimbaits along windblown rock or rock breaks. Topwaters can work early and late in the day. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing around the weed edges and shallow rock/weed. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish around shallow rock for spawning fish.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

**Walleye** - Slow: Evenings are best. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs or worms in shallow pockets. **Muskellunge** – Slow. **White Bass** - Fair: Fish windblown points during the day or look for surface feeding fish towards evening.

### Rodgers Park Lake

**Bluegill** - Good: Fish are up shallow spawning now. Small jigs and worms work best. **Largemouth Bass** – Slow.

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

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### Hawthorn Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the rock jetties and the face of the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try dead chubs or nightcrawlers in 4-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a waxworm. Sorting is needed for larger fish.

### Lake Miami

**Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs around the rock jetties and shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits around the fishing jetties and along the face of the dam. Try also topwater lures in the mornings and evenings. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or chicken liver around the rocky shores.

### Lake Sugema

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits or crankbaits in areas with rip-rap. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use jigs tipped with a minnow around the flooded timber and submerged structure. Keep moving until you find active fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a waxworm or chunk of nightcrawler around the shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or dead chubs along the rocky shores.

### Lake Wapello

**Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or dead chubs along the rocky shores. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits around rock jetties and submerged cedar trees. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines.

### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 913.06 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. The lake's water level has dropped about 2 feet in the last week. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or shad sides in areas with flowing water. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Crappie fishing has slowed with recent rains; it has been very hit and miss. Try jigs and minnows along rocky shores and around structure. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Good: Anglers have been successful trolling crankbaits along rocky shores. **Walleye** - Slow: Try trolling over submerged points or along rocky shores.

### Red Haw Lake

**Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or dead chubs along the shorelines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs fished around the shores and submerged structure. Tip your jig with a waxworm. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits around brush piles and other submerged structure.

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**

### Beaver Lake

**Bluegill** - Good: Catch spawning bluegills shallow with pieces of nightcrawler. Good areas to start are the shallow bays on the north side of the dam and between the jetties on the south shore.

### Big Creek Lake

**Walleye** - Good: Use jigs or troll spinner rigs out from the marina to past the beach and around the east and the east and west ramp bays. If shore fishing, cast jigs or live bait under a slip bobber in these same areas. Focus effort in less than 18 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill are spawning in less than 8 feet of water. Try small jigs tipped with a small piece of crawler under a bobber. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Drift or troll panfish jigs 3 to 10 feet deep in the upper half of the lake.

### Dakins Lake

**Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegills out from the north shore and jetties with small jigs tipped with crawlers. Good size bluegill from 7 to 9 inches are being caught.

### Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

The river level is still high, but conditions are finally improving for fishing. The Highway

30 ramp is the best option in the Boone area. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits or cut baits.

#### [Don Williams Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Good: Slowly troll jigs 3 to 6 feet deep. A good area to troll is mid-lake between the boat ramp and the beach.

#### [Lake Ahquabi](#)

**Bluegill** - Good: Catch spawning bluegills shallow with small pieces of nightcrawlers. Fish open spaces in the aquatic vegetation near shore and around tree falls.

#### [Red Rock Reservoir](#)

**White Bass** - Good: Cast twister tail jigs and small spoons near the outflow of Roberts Creek Lake.

#### [Roberts Creek Lake](#)

**White Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappies drifting jigs 3 to 6 feet deep. Crappie are also concentrated around the outflow to Red Rock as the water levels drop.

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

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

Farm pond fishing has been steady. Some ponds are turbid, but most are clearing up. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are spawning and easily caught. Look for colonies of nests; cast small jigs to catch fish guarding their eggs. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie fishing has been good in ponds that support a crappie population. They have moved to deeper structure and can be caught with minnows or jigs. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast a variety of lures to catch active largemouth bass. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or dip baits.

#### [Cold Springs Lake](#)

Cold Springs has a good population of 8 inch bluegill and 9 inch redear sunfish that are close to shore spawning. **Bluegill** - Fair: Cast small jigs north of the beach to find spawning bluegills. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast the shoreline to catch 12 to 15 inch largemouth bass. Cold Springs has an 18 inch minimum size limit. **Redear Sunfish** - Good: Cast half a nightcrawler to spawning fish.

#### [Greenfield Lake](#)

Greenfield Lake has a good population of black crappies and fair numbers of walleyes. The lake also has large channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappies around tree piles and flats close to the channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Greenfield has a good population of 12 to 15 inch bass. **Bluegill** - No Report: Bluegills will average 8 inches. They have moved into shore to spawn. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Cast cut bait around the jetties to catch large channel catfish.

#### [Lake Anita](#)

Look for spawning bluegills around the underwater reefs and on top of roadbed. Catch crappies around tree piles and roadbeds. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast or slow troll around

tree piles for 10 inch crappies. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are on top of the reefs and roadbeds. Cast small jigs for fish up to 9 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast along vegetation edges and around structure to find largemouth bass of all sizes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Anglers report catching large catfish around the roadbed in the south arm of the lake.

### Lake Manawa

Anglers are picking up a few walleyes. Manawa has a good catfish population. **Walleye**-Fair: Cast twister tails with a slow retrieve on the west shore and along Tin Can dyke. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for spawning catfish on rocky shores this time of year.

### Littlefield Lake

If water clarity remains clear, Littlefield will be a good destination for spawning bluegills. **Bluegill** - Good: Cast the shoreline to find spawning bluegill. Fish should average 8 inches. **Black Crappie** - No Report: Littlefield has a small population of large black crappies.

### Viking Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for crappies around tree piles. Cast and slowly retrieve a small 1/64th or 1/32nd ounce jig or minnow under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Viking Lake has a good population of bass up to 20 inches. Fish rocky shores and flats close to the channel. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Anglers report catching catfish around rocky shores using cut bait.

Anglers are still finding spawning bluegill. Crappies have moved to deeper tree piles. Catfish are being caught around rocky shores. For more information, contact the Cold Springs office at 712-769-2587.

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### Green Valley Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass of all sizes with jigs and finesse plastics near cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using small jigs or worms under a bobber fished near cedar tree brush piles or the fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 9 inches with small jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brush piles.

### Lake Icaria

**Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with a nightcrawler fished under a bobber along the fish mounds. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch channel catfish of all sizes with prepared baits or cut bait fished near the silt dam or main lake points.

### Little River Watershed Lake

**Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches with small jigs fished near shallow bays or cedar tree brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles or rocky shoreline areas for largemouth bass of all sizes. **Walleye** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with a leech or minnow fished along main lake points or the roadbed for walleye up to 22 inches. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch Channel Catfish up to 10 pounds with worms or prepared baits fished along main lake points.

### Three Mile Lake

**Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleye up to 22 inches with jigs tipped with a leech or minnow fished near main lake points, fish mounds or the roadbed. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass of all sizes using finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with nightcrawlers under a bobber fished along shallow bays or cedar tree brush piles.

### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try jigs or finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles or shallow brush in the bays for largemouth bass of all sizes. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8.5 inches with jigs tipped with a worm fished near cedar tree brush piles or shallow bays.

Water temperature in most Mount Ayr district lakes is in the low to mid-70's. For more information, please call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.

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