



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of August 15](#)

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](#)
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NORTHWEST

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the mid-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** - Slow: Use leeches and crankbaits along the Ice House Point shoreline or the rock piles off Cottonwood Point and in the east basin. Mornings and evenings are best. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Anglers have had luck using crawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom near the inlet bridge. Try near the stone piers along the Ice House Point shoreline and the rock piles off Shotgun Hill and Cottonwood Point. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch fish about anywhere in the lake along shore using traditional bass lures and topwater baits. Try the Ice House point shore, east shore near the outlet, and the inlet bay near the inlet bridge. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Anglers have picked up some perch from the fish house and the inlet bridge using crawlers and minnows. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use crawlers and small minnows fished under a bobber from shore in Town Bay and from the fish house.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Use a minnow or crawler on a jig fished near submerged structure

in 5-10 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use crawlers or waxworms on small jig fished under a bobber near shore and submerged structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch bass along the shore near weed lines using traditional bass lures. Try spinners, weedless and topwater lures.

[North Twin Lake](#)

Water temperature is in the mid-70's. **Walleye** - Fair: Try live bait or crankbaits in areas where walleye gather to feed on baitfish near vegetation lines and inlets.

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

White Bass - Fair: Use leeches, crawlers and twisters. **Walleye** - Fair: Pull crankbaits along the dredge cuts on the east side of the lake and to the west of the big island. Low light hours may be more productive. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait, stink bait or crawlers fished on the bottom. Target areas with rocky structure.

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

[Beeds Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Drift fish a small tube jig to catch the suspended fish. **Yellow Bass** - Fair.

[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 and fishing under docks with a minnow. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift fish with cut bait. Shore anglers should try chicken liver or stink bait fished on the bottom. **Yellow Bass** - Slow: Fish the edge of vegetation in 4 to 6 feet of water with a small piece of crawler.

[Crystal Lake](#)

Largemouth Bass - Good: Try spinnerbaits fished on the edge of the vegetation. **Black Crappie** - Good: Drift fish a tube jig in 7 to 8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill bite is good fishing along the shoreline.

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](#)

Bluegill - Good: Fish have moved to deeper water; fish deeper weed lines or deep rock piles. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Find fish in 12 feet of water on the south end of the lake; move often to find active fish. **Northern Pike** - Good: Anglers report good action on the north end of the lake. Cast spinning baits 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. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Anglers report good numbers of fish being caught; sorting is needed.

Lake Pahoja

Bluegill - No Report: Recent surveys show good numbers of angler acceptable size and larger bluegill in the lake.

Lost Island Lake

Walleye - Fair: Report of 14 – 18 inch fish being caught. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Fish shallow water during the morning and evening. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Good numbers of large angler acceptable size fish continue to be caught. Use cut bait to provide plenty of pole bending action.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Yellow Perch - No Report: Recent surveys show good numbers of fish approaching 11 inches. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Recent surveys show good numbers of 16 - 23.9 inch fish in the lake.

Spirit Lake

Walleye - Good: Report of walleyes being caught in the flats; don't overlook the weed edges. Use leeches and slip bobbers or troll crankbaits. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Good numbers of fish are being caught. Try a yellow and white mini jig tipped with wigglers fished in the outside edges of the weed beds. Move often to find active fish.

Trumbull Lake

Northern Pike - Good: Cast traditional northern baits below the spillway; fish areas with calm spots.

West Okoboji Lake

Bluegill - Good: Fish the outside weed edges for larger sized bluegill; do not overlook deeper rock piles associated with aquatic plants. **Black Crappie** - Good: Fish weed lines that have a drop-off. Use a mini jig tipped with a minnow.

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. Water clarity is improving. Use caution when boating; submersed hazards may have moved. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms and cheese or stink baits fished on the river bottom. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits or crankbaits fished on the edge of eddies or drop-offs. **Walleye** - Good: Use a jig and twister tail or worm fished in the eddies and slack water. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a small hook tipped with piece of worm fished along the shoreline. **Black Crappie** - Good: Find crappies in side channels and backwaters. Use a hook tipped with a minnow or bladed spinner.

Decorah District Streams

A few streams are not stocked in August; water temperatures get too warm for trout. Summer is a perfect time to use terrestrial terminal tackle when fly fishing.

Grasshoppers, crickets, and ants should turn a trout head. 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: Brown trout are feasting on terrestrial insects; try grasshopper or cricket flies. Also try crayfish. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: A crappie or bluegill set-up works great for trout fishing. Put a piece of cheese or small piece of worm on a hook under a bobber in a good hole and wait. **Brook Trout** - Fair: With dirtier water, try woolly buggers, San Juan worms or other subsurface flies and lures.

[Lake Hendricks](#)

Water temperatures are in the low 80's. Clarity is poor with an algae bloom limiting visibility. Fish are sitting higher in the water column. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie are hit or miss. A slow troll might get one to come to a hook. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find fish on the edge of weed beds. Use a small piece of worm about a foot below a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use topwater lures fished in the edge of weeds. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are biting. Use worms, stink bait or cheese baits. Leave your bait on the bottom until you feel a tug; set the hook.

[Lake Meyer](#)

Water temperatures are in the low 80's. Water clarity is excellent. Anglers reporting hit or miss action for panfish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small piece of worm under a bobber just above the submerged weeds. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A bladed spinnerbait just above the vegetation should turn a crappie head. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fish topwater lures in the evening and morning. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch nice sized catfish in shallow water near woody structures. Fish during low light conditions with clear water.

[Upper Iowa River \(above Decorah\)](#)

Water clarity is improving; flows are high. Use care when paddling; read the water ahead of you - get out if needed. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinnerbaits or jig tipped with plastic tails fished in the deeper pools and eddies. **Walleye** - Fair: Fish undercut ledges and brush piles.

[Upper Iowa River \(below Decorah\)](#)

Water clarity is improving. Use caution on the water; high flows can cause dangerous conditions for paddlers. Watch for strainers; go around log jams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Use crawdad crankbaits or jigs tipped with black or white twister tails. **Walleye** - Fair: Fish the eddies and drop-offs. Jigs tipped with minnows or twister tails work well.

[Volga Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the mid 80's. A green algal bloom is present. With warmer temperatures, dissolved oxygen is limiting depth availability for fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find fish at depths of 6 feet or less. Use a small piece of worm on a small hook under a bobber. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Slowly troll through the lake to find suspended fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Run a crank or jerk bait along the edge of rocky or woody structure. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Find a shallow shoreline littered with woody debris. Use stink baits or worms and wait for a whiskery tug.

Scattered thunder storms forecast thru the weekend with temperatures in the low 80's for highs to 60's for lows. Water clarity on are streams good. Fish action is picking up with

cooler temperatures. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

[Big Woods Lake](#)

Anglers are catching some crappie on Big Woods Lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find structure using a minnow under a slip bobber at various depths to find fish.

[Brinker Lake](#)

Anglers are catching some crappie on Brinker Lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find structure using a minnow under a slip bobber at various depths to find fish.

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

Anglers are catching some smallmouth bass and channel catfish. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Find log jams or tree snags and fish these on the upstream end using stink bait, dead cut baits or chicken livers. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast spinner or crankbaits along rock shorelines.

[George Wyth Lake](#)

Anglers are catching northern pike on George Wyth Lake. **Northern Pike** - Good: Troll crankbaits or cast flooded vegetation for great pike action.

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

Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass on the Maquoketa River, particularly in Delaware County. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use artificial or live baits. Try also nightcrawlers under a slip bobber.

[South Prairie Lake](#)

Anglers are catching some largemouth bass on South Prairie Lake. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Early morning and late afternoons are best. Use topwater artificial baits or spinnerbaits.

Interior rivers are in great condition to provide excellent angling opportunities. Lakes are producing some catches of crappie in and around Black Hawk County. Trout streams are in excellent conditions. 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 several feet to 8.8 feet and is expected to remain stable this week. Water temperature is 77 degrees. New Albin ramp has opened; use caution as the road is still very rough. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth are scattered, but hungry. Bass may move to deeper water and wing dams as water levels drop. **Bluegill** - Good: Fish fallen trees in side channels. Keep moving to find active fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: It's a good time to catch catfish on stink bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are biting. Use worms on the bottom or crayfish to target larger fish. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleyes should move to wing dams as water levels drop. **Yellow Perch** -

Excellent: Use crawlers fished just off the bottom in about 6-8 feet of water. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Look for smallmouth near rocky areas along the main channel shoreline.

Mississippi River Pool 10

River level at Lynxville has fallen to 16.7 feet with a steady drop to 15.5 feet this week. Water temperature is 77 degrees at Lock & Dam 9. Sny Magill ramp remains closed for road repair and flood clean-up. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth are scattered, but hungry. Bass may move to deeper water and wing dams as water levels drop. **Bluegill** - Good: Fish fallen trees in side channels. Keep moving to find active fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: It's a good time to catch catfish on stink bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are biting. Use worms on the bottom or crayfish to target larger fish. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleyes should move to wing dams as water levels drop. **Yellow Perch** - Excellent: Use crawlers fished just off the bottom in about 6-8 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a minnow in the flooded trees in slight current of backwater sloughs. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Look for smallmouth near rocky areas along the main channel shoreline.

Mississippi River Pool 11

River level at Guttenberg has fallen to 8.5 feet and is expected reach 7 feet this week. The Guttenberg city ramps are open. Water temperature is near 71 degrees at Lock & Dam 10. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth are scattered, but hungry. Bass may move to deeper water and wing dams as water levels drop. **Bluegill** - Good: Fish fallen trees in side channels. Keep moving to find active fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: It's a good time to catch catfish on stink bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are biting. Use worms on the bottom or crayfish to target larger fish. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleyes should move to wing dams as water levels drop. **Yellow Perch** - Excellent: Try crawlers fished just off the bottom in about 6-8 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a minnow in the flooded trees in slight current of backwater sloughs. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Look for smallmouth near rocky areas along the main channel shoreline.

Upper Mississippi River levels have dropped to near normal summer conditions. Boaters should use caution due to new sand deposits and sedimentation of many parts of the river after several months of continuous flooding. As levels continue to drop, boat ramps and channels can become very shallow. Water temperature is in the upper 70's. Many roads and ramps are still covered in flood debris. Fishing has been good. Fish are transitioning from the flooded areas into the regular spots.

Mississippi River Pool 12

Water levels are receding. Levels are near 8.2 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 10.4 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is 78 degrees. Some boat ramps still have flood debris on them. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait fished above brush piles. Some channel cats are still along the rock lines. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use flashy spinners in the tailwater areas. Try also fishing frog imitation lures in vegetated areas when the weather gets hot. **Walleye** - Fair: Reports are hit and miss.

When conditions are good, we see a lot of walleye being caught. Most anglers are using crankbaits to get to hungry fish. When water falls a few more feet expect, walleye action will pick up, especially on wing dams. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A few crappie are being taken from assorted backwaters where flow is reduced. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Large freshwater drum can be taken on a crayfish and egg sinker combo fished in moderate current areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Lots of bank poles are being set with live bait for flathead cats. **Northern Pike** - Good: Look for cooler springs and tributary areas to target northern pike. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use flashy spinners along rock lines with strong currents.

[Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

Water levels are receding. Bellevue tailwater is near 9.2 feet at Lock and Dam 12. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is 78 degrees. A few boat ramps have debris on them. The Bellevue City Ramp and DNR ramp are usable. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use frog imitations along vegetation lines. Some bass are coming out the tailwater areas with anglers using spinners. **White Bass** - Good: Small white bass are being caught in the tailwaters with small spinners. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Target above tree deadfalls with stink bait. **Bluegill** - Good: Good numbers of bluegills are starting to be caught out of slack water areas. **Walleye** - Slow: Expect the crankbait bite of walleyes to pick up if the water continues to recede. **Pumpkinseed** - Good: Good catches of this colorful sunfish are being reported in clear backwater areas and in the Green Island wildlife area. Simple bobber and worm works best. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Anglers report nice catches of crappie using minnows as bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Large freshwater drum can be taken on crayfish in moderate current areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Lots of bank poles are being used for flathead. Most anglers are using live green sunfish or bullheads for bait.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

Water levels are receding. Levels are near 8.6 feet at Fulton Lock and Dam, 11.7 feet at Camanche and 6.3 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is around 78 degrees. Some boat ramps will have flood debris on them. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **White Bass** - Fair: Use small spinners in the tailwater areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing frog imitation lures in heavily vegetated areas. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait fished above tree deadfalls. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use a crayfish fished with an egg sinker in moderate current areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish prefer to eat live fish; use a bullhead or green sunfish near large river snags. **Walleye** - Good: Walleyes have started biting again; most anglers are using crankbaits. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Reports of crappies holding on brush piles in larger slough areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Fish along rock lines with moderate current.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

Water levels are near 8.8 feet at Rock Island. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is around 79 degrees. Some boat ramps will have debris on them. Please be patient for cleanup efforts at ramps and parks. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait fished above tree deadfalls. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Lots of drum are in the system; use a simple egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas.

Water levels are receding throughout the district. It has been a tough year with all the flooding; 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. If you have any fishing questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

[Mississippi River Pool 16](#)

Tailwater stage is 8.77 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport and has been fairly steady the past few days. Flood stage is 15 feet at Davenport. River level is 11.13 feet at Fairport and flood stage is 14 feet. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink bait fished around brush piles and snags along the main channel or side channels. Some channel catfish are also being caught anchoring above the wing dams. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Some largemouth bass are being caught in Sunset Marina. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some bluegills are being caught in Sunset Marina. Bluegills are also being caught in the Andalusia Island complex. Try fishing with pieces of worm or waxworms under a bobber. **White Bass** - Fair: Some white bass are being caught in Sylvan slough up by the dams casting jigs and twister tails. **White Crappie** - Fair: Some crappies are being caught in the Andalusia Island complex. Try jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber fished around brush piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits from the 280 bridge up to Sunset Marina. Also look for walleyes on the wing dams, casting crankbaits or trolling three-way rigs with crawlers.

[Mississippi River Pool 17](#)

Tailwater stage is 7.20 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and has been fairly steady the past few days. Flood stage is 15 feet. The gates are starting to be put in at the dam. River stage is 9.12 feet at Muscatine. Flood stage at Muscatine is 16 feet. The ramp at Big Timber is open. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags. Also try anchoring above wingdams. Use nightcrawlers or stink bait. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles. Use jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Troll crankbaits or three-way rigs with nightcrawlers.

[Mississippi River Pool 18](#)

Tailwater stage is 8.46 feet at Lock and Dam 17 above New Boston and is slowly falling. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 17. River stage is 9.45 feet at Keithsburg. Flood stage at Keithsburg is 14 feet. The Toolsboro landing is closed, but repair work is being done on the road. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Use stink bait or crawlers fished above brush piles and snags. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles. Use jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Troll crankbaits or three-way rigs with nightcrawlers. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Some largemouth bass are being caught in New Boston Bay/Bell Pocket. Try fishing with jigs and plastics.

[Mississippi River Pool 19](#)

Tailwater stage is 5.27 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington. Flood stage is 10 feet at Lock and Dam 18. River stage is 10.82 feet at Burlington. Flood stage at Burlington is 15 feet. River stage at Fort Madison is 526.15 feet and flood stage is 528 feet. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Use stink bait or nightcrawlers fished around brush piles and snags along the

main channel and side channels. Also try anchoring above the wing dams. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles. Try jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber.

River levels have been steady to falling slowly this past week. Water clarity is fair. Main channel water temperature is around 79 degrees. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Look for bass to get more active again with the cooler water. **Bluegill** - Fair: With the heat, switch to fishing early mornings and late evening. Concentrate your efforts around the brush piles near the upper end and the flooded timber near deep water at the lower end. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for crappies out in the trees and brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water. The bite slowed some since last week, maybe because the bluegill bite is drawing more anglers. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: While the spawn is over, you can still find catfish around the rocks looking for crawdads.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa River continues to drop with lots of sandbars showing up now. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try stink bait or grass frogs this time of year. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Use live bait and live bait only; flatheads are picky. Work your way safely into the deeper water brush piles and hold on.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperatures is holding at just below 80 degrees. Still a green color to the water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Look for bass around the mounds in the deeper water at the upper end and around the rip-rap at the lower end of the lake. Early morning or late evening is best. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are out deep. Start in 10 to 12 feet of water early in the morning. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Most catfish have moved into deeper water; start along the old creek channel.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is 79 degrees. Water is clear, but green on the surface. Most fish are still out in deeper water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are picking up a few more bass early in the morning. Work the fallen trees and brush piles to catch a few before they head out deep for the balance of the day. **Bluegill** - Fair: Most bluegills have moved off into deeper water (8-10 feet) around the rock piles and brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfish have wrapped up the spawn. Try drift fishing with cut bait along the old creek channel in the lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Slow drift or troll over the habitat in 10 to 12 feet of water. Early morning or late evening is best.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is bouncing from 78 to 80 degrees. Water has a green tint to it, but it's not too bad. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass fishing is starting to pick up, especially just about dark. Work them out along the edges of the weed beds and out around the trees and brush piles in 4-6 feet of water using soft plastics. **Black Crappie** - Fair:

Anglers continue to pick up crappies out around edges of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Try vertical jigging or using a slip bobber and minnow. **Bluegill** - Fair: The nicer bluegills remain out in deeper water; smaller ones are in shallow. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Anglers continue to catch catfish below the causeway.

[Skunk River \(Coppock to Mississippi River\)](#)

The Skunk is dropping slowly. Still enough water for jon boats, if you're careful. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Not many anglers out this week.

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

[Hawthorn Lake](#)

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the rock jetties and the face of the dam. Use topwater lures early and late in the day in the same spots. **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 tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler fished around the fishing jetties and rip-rapped shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use top water lures early and late in the day. Try crankbaits or rubber worms around the fishing jetties and around the submerged cedar trees. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers along the shorelines.

[Lake Sugema](#)

Largemouth Bass - Good: Use topwater lures early and late in the day. Try also spinnerbaits or crankbaits around rip-rapped shorelines and the fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Slow: 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 in the open areas of the aquatic vegetation.

[Lake Wapello](#)

Channel Catfish - Fair: Use cut bait or dead chubs along the shore. Don't fish too deep, most lakes have stratified. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits around rock jetties and submerged cedar trees. Try topwater lures in the same areas. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines and around the aquatic vegetation.

[Rathbun Reservoir](#)

The current lake level is 905.14 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: Try cut bait or nightcrawlers fished in shorelines with the wind blowing into them. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch suspended with small crankbaits. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Good: Anglers have been successful trolling crankbaits along rocky shores. Anglers are also catching wipers with slip bobbers and

nightcrawlers. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll baits that imitate gizzard shad or bottom bouncers with a nightcrawler 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 with a chunk of nightcrawler fished around the shores and submerged structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use 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

Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Slow: Walleye fishing is slower after the gizzard shad hatch. Use live bait on jigs or troll spinner rigs and shad imitating crankbaits in the upper half of the lake around road beds humps and weed edges in 10 feet of water and less. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Good: Troll shad imitating crankbaits and spoons throughout the lake. Also watch for shad busting on the surface; cast into the frenzy.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use cut baits and dip baits below the Saylorville spillway.

Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Excellent: Use stink baits or cut baits.

Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Slowly troll jigs 3 to 6 feet deep. Good areas to troll are mid-lake between the boat ramp and the beach and from the beach north to the next bend. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch quality 3 to 6 pound bass with shallow diving crankbaits and soft plastics around the tree falls and submerged stumps throughout the lake. Fish at depths of 8 feet and shallower.

Red Rock Reservoir

White Bass - Good: Troll spoons and crankbaits in the main lake from the marina down to the dam.

Saylorville Reservoir

White Bass - Good: Troll or cast shad imitating spoons and shallow diving crankbaits. Tie on a leading or trailing twister tail jig if the bite is slow. Cast jigging spoons once you find fish. Good areas to start are from the Sandpiper boat ramp to the marina cove and out from Oak Grove Beach. Fish are also being caught from Cherry Glen to the dam.

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

Lake Anita

Lake Anita is a good lake to try drift fishing for suspended bluegills and crappies. Anglers have doing well on catfish around rock piles and jetties. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few crappie can be picked up drifting. Anglers targeting brush piles do better. **Bluegill** - Slow: The north arm of the lake around the road bed has been the best this week for suspended bluegill. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fishing has been good for largemouth along the vegetation edges. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Dip bait is working well on channel catfish around the jetties.

Lake Manawa

Fishing for wipers and catfish has been good early morning. Manawa's no-wake restriction has been lifted. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits for best success. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try dip baits fished in the windblown shoreline.

Meadow Lake

The DNR has drawn Meadow Lake down 3.5 feet to improve the fishery. The stop logs will be put back in mid-October and the lake allowed to refill. The boat ramp can still be used.

Prairie Rose Lake

Prairie Rose has a quality panfish population and an abundance of largemouth bass. **Bluegill** - Slow: Look for bluegills around tree piles. Drift close or cast to find quality sized fish. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Troll along the dam or around brush piles to find 10 inch black crappie.

Viking Lake

Viking is down eight feet and will be maintained at this level until October. At that time, the gate will be closed and the lake will be allowed to refill.

Anglers are finding panfish suspended mid-lake and around structure; a typical summer pattern. Catfish are being caught around rocky shores. For more information, contact the S.W. District Office at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles for largemouth bass of all sizes.

Little River Watershed Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches with small jigs or nightcrawlers fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles or along the weed line for largemouth bass of all sizes. **Channel Catfish**- Good: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds with nightcrawlers fished along the flooded timber.

Three Mile Lake

Walleye - Fair: Catch walleye up to 14 inches with jigs tipped with live bait fished near main lake points, fish mounds or the roadbed.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try finesse plastics fished along the weed line or cedar tree brush piles for largemouth bass of all sizes.

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



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