



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



## [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of Sept. 10](#)

### September Fishing Podcast

Stay safe when fishing with these tips:

- Try a new fishing spot — if your regular fishing location is popular and busy, try out a new one that is not so crowded.
- Once you find your spot, keep at least 6 feet of distance between you and other groups.
- Stick with your immediate family, but keep groups to fewer than 10 people.
- Bring lures from home instead of buying bait to minimize your interaction with other people.
- Bring hand sanitizer and wash your hands often.

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This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. You can check the activity of your favorite lake or stretch of river within each district, including which species are being caught, a rating of the bite (slow, fair, good or excellent), as well as a hot bait or lure pattern.

For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

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## NORTHWEST

### Arrowhead Lake

Water clarity is good. **Bluegill** - Fair: Cast a small jig fished under a bobber near submerged structure along shore in 5-10 feet of water. Try small popping plugs on a fly rod on calm evenings. Cast plugs around downed trees along the shoreline. Try drifting down the middle of the lake with a 1/16 ounce leadhead to find suspended fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast traditional bass lures near submerged woody structure throughout the lake and along weed lines in the southern part of the lake.

### Black Hawk Lake

Water level is roughly 5 inches below crest. Water temperatures have cooled to around 60 degrees over the last few days. **Yellow Perch** - Slow. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Cast traditional bass lures and plastics along shore and near docks. You can catch fish anywhere around the lake, but some of the best areas are Ice House point shoreline, inlet bay and bridge area near the outlet, and along Gunshot Hill. **Walleye** - Slow. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use natural baits like nightcrawlers, crawdads or shrimp fished around deeper rock piles. Try drifting at night to cover a lot of water. Target catfish around the inlet bridge, especially if there is some flow following a rain event. **Bluegill** – Slow: Fish the deeper rock piles near Gunshot Hill and in the east basin. **Black Crappie**- Slow: Use a small white jig or a small live minnow under a bobber around and inside the fish house. Many crappie are 8 to 9-inches, but a few bigger ones are mixed in.

### Browns Lake

**Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for channel catfish along the outside bend of the lake in deeper water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Look for largemouth bass along the edges of the lotus patches and the deadfalls along the outside bend of the lake.

### Brushy Creek Lake

Brushy Creek has been drawn down about four feet for a construction project. Launch boats at the north ramp or the west ramp; docks have been adjusted at the west ramp to make them easier to use. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler or minnow on a jig either drifting or fished under a bobber near submerged woody structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Throw traditional bass lures, plastics or weedless lures near submerged structure and along weed lines. **Yellow Perch** - Slow. **Walleye** – Slow. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Brushy Creek Lake has a low-density population of larger channel catfish. Target these larger fish near rocky areas and submerged woody structure using a variety of cut baits and crankbaits fished near the bottom in 10-15 feet of water.

### North Raccoon River (above State Highway 175 bridge near Auburn)

River levels are low; fish are concentrated in the deeper holes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Target catfish in the deeper areas with cut bait, liver or stinkbait fished on the bottom. **Walleye** - Fair: Water clarity is good. Look for walleye in deeper areas; use crawlers, twisters or crankbaits.

### North Twin Lake

Water levels are several inches below crest. Water temperature is around 60 degrees. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or waxworm fished under a small bobber. Yellow bass are 6-10 inches long. Try around the dead falls and woody structure along the shoreline just to the south of Featherstone Park. **Channel**

**Catfish** - Fair: Channel catfish are numerous in North Twin Lake. If fishing from shore, let the bait sit near the bottom. Use natural baits like nightcrawlers, crawdads, or shrimp. If fishing from a boat, try drifting at night over deeper water. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try small jigs tipped with a crawler fished under a bobber near vegetation edges. **Walleye** - Slow: Try trolling walleye in the middle of the basin using crankbaits or crawler harnesses. Recent surveys show a lot of big walleye along the wooded shoreline just south of Muddy Bay and Featherstone Park.

### [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: Drift with leeches or crawlers along the dredge cuts and troll crankbaits or bottom bouncing rigs in the main lake. **White Bass** - Fair: Pick up white bass from shore and in the main lake while trolling. Use twisters, crawlers or crankbaits in the marina, near the inlet and north and east shores in the main lake. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a variety of dip baits, cut baits and crankbaits fished near shore and anywhere with rocky structure or rock piles. **Bluegill** - Slow: Find panfish around patches of vegetation. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Look for panfish around patches of vegetation. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Find panfish around patches of vegetation.

Water temperatures have dropped to around 60 degrees in most parts of the Black Hawk District. Most lake levels remain at or below crest. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

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### [East Okoboji Lake](#)

The walleye season is open. The water temperature is 62 degrees. **Bluegill** – Good: Find schools in deeper water. **Black Crappie** – Fair. **Yellow Perch** – Good. **Yellow Bass** – Good.

### [Lake Pahoja](#)

**Bluegill** - Good: Use small jigs tipped with waxworms. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try small jigs tipped with waxworms. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use rubber worms or other slow-moving jigs.

### [Lost Island Lake](#)

**Yellow Perch** – Fair. **Walleye** – Fair.

### [Silver Lake \(Dickinson\)](#)

**Walleye** – Good.

### [Spirit Lake](#)

The walleye season is open. The water temperature is 58 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Schools are starting to move deeper off shore post-spawn. **Walleye** - Fair: A fairly good bite lately can also be seen from shore. Try bottom bouncers or crankbaits to cover more water. **Black Bullhead** - Fair: Anglers have been successful at the north grade. **Yellow Perch** - Good: The bite has really picked up; fish are starting to be found closer to shore from accessible areas such as docks. Other areas to try are small humps in the main basin or weed edges. Many 10-inch fish being have been caught.

## West Okoboji Lake

The walleye season is open. The water temperature is 62 degrees. The panfish bite has been great. The ability to anchor or use Spot Lock is very useful to stay on fish in about 20-30 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Schools are deeper off shore. Try fishing in 20-30 feet of water off most points. Anglers have had success using pilkies. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Find smallmouth bass on rock piles or on the points. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find largemouth bass on the weed lines. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Schools have started to move deeper off shore. **Yellow Bass** - Excellent: Easily find yellow bass while fishing for bluegill.

Iowa Great Lake water temperatures have dropped in the past week with the cooler temperatures and are 62° or lower. This week's extended forecast calls for warmer temperatures with highs in the lower 70's to lower 80's. The area walleye bite should start to pick up as water temperatures start to fall. The panfish bite has been excellent in deeper water, especially on West Okoboji. The yellow perch bite has started to pick up. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

## NORTHEAST

### Cedar River (above Nashua)

Repairs to the Nashua dam continue as water levels and flows drop. Water levels are stable with good water clarity. Use caution; access to fishing holes by boat may be difficult. Go to the [USGS Current Conditions website](#) for more information on water levels. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use dead chubs, stinkbaits and worms fished near bottom near dusk in woody debris or stumps. **Walleye** - Fair: Fish are active in the evening. Try minnows fished near current breaks and in log jams. Be prepared to run your lure near bottom of pools. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use a minnow on a hook under a bobber in current breaks or rock ledges and gravel bars. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try minnows fished under a bobber near downed trees and slow water or pool areas.

### **Decorah District Streams**

**All trout stream stockings are unannounced due to COVID-19 precautions.** All streams are being stocked with the on-set of cooler temperatures. Most streams should clear by the weekend. Anglers are seeing good evening mayfly and white fly hatches. Take advantage of the cooler weather and explore a new stream. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Hoppers, beetles and anything that looks buggy will work this time of year. Use hair jigs, spinnerbaits or small shallow water crankbaits for aggressive fish. **Brown Trout** - Excellent: There have been excellent evening mayfly hatches. A keen eye and a fly box filled with a variety of sizes and colors will help match a hatch. Try along grassed edges undercut banks and around boulders. **Brook Trout** - Good: Use small terrestrial flies such as crickets, grasshoppers and ants. Please respect private property open to angling; pick up trash and be considerate.

### Lake Hendricks

Water clarity remains fair as a green algae bloom continues. Visibility is slowly improving. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. **Bluegill** - Fair: Shore anglers will find fish around the jetties or along the weed lines. Use a small piece of worm under a

bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a worm or stinkbait fished near the bottom around woody structure in the evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use topwater lures fished along a weed edge. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a jig tipped with a minnow or twister tail trailing behind a boat or kayak for best luck when fish are deep.

### Lake Meyer

Few anglers are out this week. Lake level is down about 1 foot. Use care using boat ramps during low water; long trailers reach the end of the ramp. Water clarity is good. Early morning and evening bite is best. An excellent lake to use a paddle board or kayak to fish the nooks and crannies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a small piece of worm under a bobber from shore. Fly anglers should try a small cricket with a jerky movement on the water's surface along a weed edge. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Flip a topwater lure along a weed edge in the evening when fish are actively feeding. Also try a jig tipped with a plastic worm. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stinkbait or worms fished on the bottom around woody structure near dusk.

### Turkey River (below Clermont)

Water levels are at summer lows, even with the rain; you may need to walk through some riffles. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with natural colored plastics or crankbait in deeper holes and log jams. Fish deeper for walleye holding near the bottom. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try a variety of brightly colored lures in eddies or along rocky ledges.

### Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are low with excellent clarity. Sand and gravel bars are appearing. You might have to walk in a few places. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a lure imitating a shiner or sucker fished in the deeper pools around log jams.

### Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water levels are low with excellent clarity. Sand and gravel bars are appearing; take advantage of these spots to fish the eddies or deeper areas. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a worm or bright colored twister tail. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair.

### Volga Lake

Water clarity is improving to about 18 inches. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Blooms should clear as water cools. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook and piece of worm under a bobber. Wait for the bobber to go under the water, then give the line a quick jerk to set the hook. Keep the rod tip up to put tension on the line while reeling in the fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Slowly troll a lure over fish attracting structure and get ready to set the hook. Try crankbaits or a jig with a twister tail. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use worms or stinkbait fished near dusk. Find a good stump or woody structure to toss bait and wait; patience is key for this fish.

Area rivers are up about half a foot to a foot. Clarity is good on most. Thunderstorms are possible through Saturday. Weekend temperature highs in the low 70's with 50's for lows. For current fishing information, please call the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

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### Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try crankbaits and topwater artificial baits. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Cast a piece of nightcrawler under a bobber; morning and evening bite is best. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stinkbaits, nightcrawlers or leopard frogs fished on the bottom of the lake.

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

Reports of anglers catching a few smallmouth bass, walleye and channel catfish on the Cedar River. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stinkbaits or fresh chicken livers fished above fallen tree snags. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler.

### Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Reports of anglers catching a few smallmouth bass, walleye and channel catfish on the Maquoketa River. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try stinkbaits or fresh chicken liver above fallen tree snags. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler.

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

**Walleye** - No Report: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler.

### Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

Reports of channel catfish and smallmouth bass being caught on the Wapsipinicon River. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stinkbaits or fresh chicken livers fished above fallen tree snags. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast crankbaits or a jig tipped with a nightcrawler.

Interior rivers are on a slow rise and are providing great angling opportunities. Lakes in and around Cedar Falls/Waterloo area have been fair for largemouth bass. Trout streams are in excellent condition. All fish hatcheries remain closed. Call the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276 for more information.

## MISSISSIPPI RIVER

### Mississippi River Pool 9

Pool level is 8.1 feet at Lansing. Water temperature is 64 degrees. The fall bite has picked up. **Walleye** - Good: Walleyes are feeding on the wing dams; drift crawlers or crankbaits. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth are hanging out along weed beds and channel borders. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Try crankbaits fished on rock tips of islands in the main channel. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Smaller flatheads are biting on worms fished in the deeper tailwaters of dams. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try prepared stinkbait and worms fished in current along rock shorelines. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Larger bluegills are biting on a small piece of crawler fished along channel borders and sloughs. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are biting on worms sunk to the bottom in

areas of current. **Yellow Perch** - Excellent: Perch have been active in backwater lakes in around 5 feet of water; use a small piece of worm.

### Mississippi River Pool 10

Pool 10 at Lynxville is near 615 feet. Water temperature is 66 degrees. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye are feeding on the wing dams; drift crawlers or crankbaits. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth are hanging out along weed beds and channel borders. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Smaller flatheads are biting on worms fished in the deeper tailwaters of dams. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try prepared stinkbait and worms fished in current along rock shorelines. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Larger bluegills are biting on a small piece of crawler fished along channel borders and sloughs. **Smallmouth Buffalo** - Excellent: Use crankbaits fished on rock tips of islands in the main channel. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are biting on worms sunk to the bottom in areas of current. **Yellow Perch** - Excellent: Perch have been active in backwater lakes in around 5 feet of water; use a small piece of worm.

### Mississippi River Pool 11

Pool 11 is 6.8 feet. Water temperature is near 60 degrees. **Walleye** - Good: Walleyes are feeding on the wing dams; drift crawlers or crankbaits. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth are hanging out along weed beds and channel borders. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Try crankbaits fished on rock tips of islands in the main channel. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Smaller flatheads are biting on worms fished in the deeper tailwaters of dams. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try prepared stinkbait and worms fished in current along rock shorelines. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Larger bluegills are biting on a small piece of crawler fished along channel borders and sloughs. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are biting on worms sunk to the bottom in areas of current. **Yellow Perch** - Excellent: Perch have been active in backwater lakes in around 5 feet of water; use a small piece of worm.

Upper Mississippi River levels have been stable, but look for a bump with recent rains. Water clarity has diminished with lots of vegetation dying off and floating. Cooler days have cooled water temperatures to the mid-60's. Fish are on the fall feed. Walleye slot length limits now apply on the entire Mississippi River. All walleyes less than 15 inches long and between 20-27 inches long must be released immediately. Only one walleye greater than 27 inches can be kept. Combined walleye/sauger daily harvest limit of 6 and possession of 12.

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### Mississippi River Pool 12

Water levels are expected to recede this week. The water level is 6.6 feet at the Lock and Dam and 9 feet at the RR bridge. The water temperature dropped to around 64 degrees. The water clarity is fair. Tributary streams are running turbid. **Northern Pike** - Good: Flashy spinners in eddy areas or along weed lines will take this toothy predator. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills along rock piles and submerged trees in the larger low current sloughs. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try prepared stinkbaits or floating worms along rock lines. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on an egg sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current. Use large

crayfish to catch big drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Bass anglers are switching from frog baits to large spinnerbaits. Bass have moved along rock lines in moderate current. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Find smallmouth bass along rock piles with strong current; use flashy spoons, spinners or crankbaits. Turbid water will hamper catching smallmouths. **Walleye** – Fair: A few walleye are being taken on wingdams with stronger current, others are being taken on sand flats by anglers using crankbaits. **White Bass** - Fair: Some white bass are being caught in the Dubuque tailwater on white jigs. Look for feeding schools elsewhere. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie are being taken out of brush piles and marina areas on small jigs and minnows. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Smaller flatheads are being taken on worms in deeper holes and in the tailwater.

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

The water level is 7.3 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. The water temperature has dropped to 64 degrees. The water clarity is fair. The Maquoketa River is running turbid; avoid downstream of the confluence with the Mississippi River. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Find catfish along rock lines and brush piles in moderate current. Most anglers are using prepared stinkbaits. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try flashy spinners fished along old weed edges and rock shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Try large single hook spinnerbaits in weedy areas. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills along rock piles and submerged trees in the larger sloughs. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Use live fish for bait. Lots of trot lines are being set; make sure you follow trot lines rules, especially having a tag with your name and address attached to the lines. Smaller flatheads are being taken in deep holes or in the tailwater on worms. **White Bass** - Fair: A few white bass are being taken in the tailwater areas and near wingdams; use flashy small spinners. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleyes are being taken on wing dams with stronger current. Try pulling crankbaits on sand flat areas between islands or between wing dams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try along rock lines with strong current. Turbid water will hinder catching smallies.

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

The water level is 6.9 feet at the Fulton Lock and Dam, 10.8 feet at Camanche and 5.9 feet at LeClaire. Water temperature has dropped to 64 degrees. Water clarity is fair. The Wapsipinicon River is running turbid. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Anglers are using prepared stinkbaits along rock lines. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a worm sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current. Use large crayfish to catch bigger drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are being taken off lily pad areas on spinnerbaits or frog imitation lures. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use flashy spinners along backwater shorelines or in the tailwaters for this aggressive fish. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Try live fish for bait. Lots of trot lines are being set; make sure you follow trot lines rules, especially having a tag with your name and address attached to the lines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills near the mouths of large backwater areas, usually around brush piles. As water levels get low, look for bluegills along the channel edges. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try spinners or crankbaits along rip-rap areas. **White Bass** - Fair: White bass are showing up in the tailwaters; use white jigs in higher current areas. **Walleye** -Fair: Some fish are being taken on wingdams with

stronger current, others are being taken on sand flats by anglers using crankbaits. **White Bass** - Fair: Try white jigs fished in tailwater areas.

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

Water level is 7.6 feet at Rock Island and is dropping. The water temperature has dropped to 64 degrees. Water clarity is fair due to recent rains. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a worm sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Channel cats are hitting on cut bait and stinkbaits. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Try live bait around brush piles or in the tailwater area. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Fish the rocky habitats along the channel edge. In line spinners work best, but must be fished very close to the rock and current areas. **White Bass** - No Report: Expecting a fall fun of white bass, especially in the tailwater areas.

Water level and water temperatures fell throughout the district this week. Despite heavy local rains, the Mississippi River water levels are still expected to drop. Tributary streams are running turbid after rains. If you have any fishing questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-880-8781.

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

Tailwater stage is 7.61 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and has risen slightly since last week. The recent forecast has the river falling over the weekend. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use chicken livers or dip baits around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Reports of channel catfish being caught around the wingdams along Credit Island on stinkbait. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try jigs and plastics or minnows fished in Sunset Marina or Andalusia Island Complex. **Bluegill** - No Report: Try pieces of worm under a bobber in Sunset Marina or Andalusia Island Complex. **Walleye** - Fair: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try trolling crankbaits or three-way rigs with pieces of crawler. Reports of some walleyes being caught around the mouth of Sunset Marina.

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

Tailwater stage is 6.40 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and has risen since last week. The recent forecast has tailwater stage falling over the weekend. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Use chicken livers or dip baits around brush piles and snags in the main channel and side channels. **White Bass** - No Report: Look for white bass by the dam or by GPC. Cast jigs and twister tails or crankbaits. Also look for white bass on the wing dams. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber fished around brush piles in Big Timber or Cleveland Slough. **Walleye** - Fair: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try trolling crankbaits or pulling three-way rigs with crawlers. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try minnows under a bobber or jigs and plastics around brush piles at Big Timber and Cleveland Slough.

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

Tailwater stage is 7.32 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and has risen since last week. The recent forecast has tailwater stage falling over the weekend. **Channel**

**Catfish** - Good: Use or chicken livers or dip baits around brush piles and snags in the main channel and side channels. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams; use crankbaits or three-way rigs with crawlers. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles; try minnows under a bobber or jigs and plastics. **White Bass** - No Report: Look for white bass at the outlet of Odessa up by the dam or on the wing dams. Cast jigs and twister tails or crankbaits. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: Look for largemouth bass in Boston Bay or Huron Island complex. Try fishing around fallen trees in the backwaters and sloughs.

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

Tailwater stage is 4.12 feet at Lock and Dam 18 has risen since last week. River stage is 9.91 feet at Burlington. River stage is 526.08 feet at Ft. Madison. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use dip baits, shad or nightcrawlers. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try minnows under a bobber or jigs and plastics fished around brush piles. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Use crankbaits or three-way rigs with crawlers.

Tailwater stages have risen some with the recent rains, but are forecast to start falling. Forecasts may change with additional rain. Main channel water temperature has fallen to 65-67 degrees. Water clarity is poor. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

## SOUTHEAST

### [Big Hollow Lake](#)

Pretty quiet out on the lake with all the rain this week. **Bluegill** - Slow: Cooler weather should start to get the bluegills more active. Work the brush piles in 6 to 7 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Work out in a little deeper water in the flooded timber in the bays.

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

This week's rains have the Iowa River coming back up; up about 8 inches so far this week. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Depending on how much more it rains, find a feeder creek that has some decent flow into the river and use nightcrawlers for bait. Catfish will be looking for these spots to find fresh food washed in by the rains.

### [Lake Belva Deer](#)

Cooler weather and rain this week has cooled the water temperature to the low 70's. Most of the runoff from the rains is being caught by the marsh above the lake. **Bluegill** - Slow: Go deep (16-18 feet) in the flooded timber or head to the mounds at the upper end of the lake. Early morning bite is best. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Very few anglers have been out this week. Expect bass to move in shallow when the weather settles down.

### [Lake Darling](#)

Water temperature Wednesday (9/9) was 70 degrees. Rain has kept angler numbers down this week. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: Rapidly falling water temperatures

should bring the fish in shallow once the weather settles down. **Bluegill** - Slow: Most of the rain is being absorbed by the ground; not much runoff is getting past the ponds. Expect bluegills to remain out around the rock piles for a while yet.

### [Lost Grove Lake](#)

Heavy rains this week have kept angler numbers way down. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Expect bass to become more active in shallow water with the cooler water temperatures. **Bluegill** - Slow: Bluegills were still out in deeper water last weekend, expect them to move in shallow soon.

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

This stretch of the Skunk River is starting to creep up after this week's rains. A few of the mud bars are starting to disappear. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Most of the rain is being absorbed by the ground; not many of the feeder creeks have gained much flow yet. Work the bigger brush piles near the deeper holes. More than a few grass frogs are still around to use for bait.

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

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### [Coralville Reservoir](#)

The lake level on 9/10 is 684.7 feet and very slowly rising to waterfowl fall pool. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Troll cut bait in the channel or up on shallow flats depending on the fish activity. Some fish have also been caught on shrimp near Curtis Bridge. **White Crappie** - Slow: A few fish are being caught off rock banks.

### [Diamond Lake](#)

**Channel Catfish** – Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with worms around brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with worms around brush piles.

### [Lake Macbride](#)

The lake is back to allowing any sized motor to be used at a maximum of 5 mph. Water temperatures are around 70 degrees. The west lane of the main ramp is closed due to construction. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: Troll crankbaits during the day and throw topwaters or plastics at sunrise/sunset for surface feeders. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits or worm harnesses in 7-13 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: A few fish are now being reported.

### [Otter Creek Lake](#)

The park and lake are closed until further notice due to storm damage.

### [Pleasant Creek Lake](#)

All ramps, except the north ramp are accessible. The dam road, campground, beach, and ramp remain closed due to storm damage. The pit toilet is open at the main ramp, but the modern restroom and fish cleaning station are closed.

### [Union Grove Lake](#)

The lake is open; the North Trail remains closed due to storm damage.

Additional parks/lakes may be still closed due to storm damage. For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

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### Hawthorn Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinnerbaits or crankbaits along rock piles and rip-rapped shores. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try liver or stinkbait in 4-8 feet of water.

### Lake Miami

**Bluegill** - Slow: Drift small jigs for suspended bluegills. Try small jigs tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler around the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try crankbaits around the cedar trees and along the rip-rapped shorelines. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or liver in 4-8 feet of water.

### Lake Sugema

**Black Crappie** - Slow: Drift jigs tipped with a minnow in 6-10 feet of water for suspended crappies. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try crankbaits or rubber worms along the shorelines and rip-rapped areas.

### Lake Wapello

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try plastics and spinnerbaits fished around tree piles. **Bluegill**- Slow: Drift nightcrawlers on small jigs for suspended bluegills. Target areas in 6-8 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or stinkbait. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Drift jigs tipped with minnows for suspended crappie.

### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 903.77 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 waterbody. Use caution while boating: the lake has not been at this level for some time. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** – Fair: Look for flocks of seagulls to find shad; hybrids should be below the school of shad. Troll crankbaits that mimic gizzard shad through this area. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll gizzard shad imitating crankbaits around rock piles, submerged points and areas with depth changes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers or chicken liver in 6-8 feet of water.

### Red Haw Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits and crankbaits around submerged structure and rocky shorelines. **Bluegill** - Slow: Drift nightcrawlers on small jigs in the main part of the lake. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use chicken liver or stinkbait in 4-8 feet of water.

The district includes Appanoose, Davis, Lucas, Mahaska, Monroe, Wapello, Wayne 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: Troll live bait rigs or crankbaits in 15 feet of water or less in the upper

half of the lake. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: Cast or troll shad imitating spoons, crankbaits or plas