



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of May 27](#)

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.

- [NORTHWEST](#)
- [NORTHEAST](#)
- [MISSISSIPPI RIVER](#)
- [SOUTHEAST](#)
- [SOUTHWEST](#)

NORTHWEST

[Arrowhead Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Try minnows on a small jig fished under a bobber along shore with structure. **Bluegill** – Fair: Look for bluegills guarding nests near shore in 2-5 feet of water. Use a small jig fished under a bobber.

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperature is around 70 degrees with about 2 feet of water clarity. Lake level is about 4 inches below the crest of the spillway. **Black Crappie** - Fair. Use a small bare jig or a jig with a small minnow or piece of crawler in Town Bay around the fish house, along Ice House Point and in the marina. Fish are 8- to 12-inches. **Bluegill** - Slow. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are picking up fish along shore. Use a twister or a leach or minnow fished

under a bobber along Ice House Point shoreline, the north shore picnic area, or the east end near the outlet structure. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try a small jig and minnow or piece of crawler fished under a bobber. Anglers are having luck fishing around the fish house in Town Bay. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

Brushy Creek Lake

Water levels remain about 2-3 feet low. The second dock at the west ramp is in and is installed at its normal anchor point. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use crawlers or minnows on a jig near shore in 5-10 feet of water. Some sorting is needed. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Use a bare tube jig or a small jig and minnow fished under a bobber near shore. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Slow. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass anglers are doing well along shore and structure.

North Twin Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try a tube jig or a minnow fished on a small jig under a bobber along shore and docks. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish for catfish along shore with cut bait or crawlers fished on the bottom. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a leech or minnow fished under a bobber from shore.

Swan Lake (Carroll County)

Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Water clarity is around 2 feet. **Bluegill**: Fair: Fish are 7- to 8-inches. Use a small jig fished under a bobber near shore. **Black Crappie**: Fair: Fish are 6- to 10-inches. Most have moved off shore. **Largemouth Bass**: Fair.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Water temperatures are around 70 degrees. Water clarity is about 8 feet. If fishing from shore, evenings or low light conditions may be most productive due to the water clarity. Offshore bite for walleye and white bass has picked up. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a tube jig or a jig and small minnow under a bobber near shore. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use cut bait or dipped catfish baits fished on the bottom along shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye fishing has been fair to good in the main lake. Try trolling along the dredge cuts. Anglers have picked up a few walleye from shore with a minnow or leech fished under a bobber. **White Bass** - Fair: Fish are being picked up while trolling along the dredge cuts with crankbaits and spinners with crawlers.

Water temperatures are in the low 70's in most district lakes. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Beeds Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try a small minnow or tube jig fished from the causeway. Best bite is early morning. **Yellow Bass** – Fair: Drift fish a tube jig. **Bluegill** – Slow.

Bluebill Lake

Crappies are biting on minnows fished off the jetty. Use a slip bobber to position your bait above the brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass anglers are catching fish on a variety of baits. Make long cast to fish the vegetation edge with the really clear water.

Clear Lake

Water temperature is in the lower 70's. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a small minnow fished in the open pockets in the rushes. Early morning bite is best. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig tipped with a minnow or crawler fished near vegetation on the north shore. Also try slip bobber fishing a leech on the rock reefs. Shore anglers are having success fishing minnows from docks. Best bite is after sunset. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Shore anglers are having success fishing small jigs from the jetties and docks. The bite at the Island is still going; best bite is at first light. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler below a bobber in open areas of vegetation. **White Bass** – Slow.

Crystal Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try a small minnow or tube jig fished on the outside edge of the vegetation or near woody habitat. **Bluegill** –Slow: Use a piece of crawler under a bobber fished near the vegetation edge. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

Lake Smith

Anglers are catching crappies and bluegills along the shoreline rocks. **Black Crappie** – Fair. **Bluegill** – Fair.

Lower Pine Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass are biting on a variety of baits. Try fishing near the woody habitat. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small piece of crawler under a bobber near shore.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use dark colored plastics fished around vegetation and near the jetty. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a piece of crawler under a bobber fished near vegetation.

Upper Pine Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Try small jigs or a minnow fished near the downed trees. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small piece of crawler under a bobber near shore. If you don't get a bite right away, try slowly reeling in your bobber.

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

East Okoboji Lake

The muskellunge and walleye seasons are open. The water temperature is 66 degrees. Leaches with a slip bobber are a simple way to get some success out fishing with kids. Try this setup in about 8 feet or less of water. The current water temperature is 60 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing close to docks and hoists. Trolling weed lines has been successful for many anglers. **Bluegill** – Fair: Bluegill are starting to be found in shallower water and around docks and hoists. Leaches or worms and a simple bobber setup work well.

Lost Island Lake

Anglers have had consistent success with yellow perch and a few other species this spring. **Yellow Perch** - Good. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair.

[Minnewashta Lake](#)

Panfishing has been good for anglers trolling weed lines, as well as fishing docks and hoists near shore. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A nice crappie bite can be found with a little movement around the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Pumpkinseed** - Good.

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

Walleye - Fair.

[Spirit Lake](#)

The muskellunge and walleye seasons are open. The walleye bite has been hit-or-miss most nights. Perch and panfish are making their way in shallower, making shoreline and dock fishing advantageous. The water temperature is 65 degrees. **Yellow Perch** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Bite is hit-or-miss at dusk.

[West Okoboji Lake](#)

The muskellunge and walleye seasons are open. The water temperature is 63 degrees. Try fishing for panfish in 8 feet or less and around docks and hoists. Anglers slowly trolling weed lines have been successful catching a variety of species. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill are starting to be found in shallower water and around docks and hoists. Leaches or worms and a simple bobber setup work well. **Black Crappie** - Fair.

The muskellunge and walleye seasons on West Okoboji, East Okoboji, and Spirit Lakes, as well as all Iowa-Minnesota border waters, are open. Slowly trolling weed lines close to shore can catch a variety of species such as panfish and bass. The extended forecast has cooler temperatures with highs in the 50's and 60's. Lake levels are currently lower making navigation and launching more difficult. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

[Big Woods Lake](#)

Anglers are catching crappie. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use colored tube jigs or a crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished off of the jetties in 4-8 feet of water.

[Brinker Lake](#)

Anglers are catching crappie. **Black Crappie** - Good: Cast or vertical jig with colored tube jigs or a crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished in 4-8 feet of water.

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

Anglers are catching bluegill, crappie, largemouth bass and channel catfish. Best bite is mid-afternoon to late evening. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try colored tube jigs or a crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished over structure in 3-5 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a piece of crawler under a bobber or cast a light jig; bluegill are starting to move on spawning beds. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast crankbaits or spinnerbaits off the jetties or the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers, stink baits or leopard frogs fished off of the bottom.

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

Anglers are catching channel catfish, smallmouth bass and a few walleyes on the Cedar

River. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers, cut baits or stink baits fished on the bottom. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a nightcrawler fished off the current breaks and near submerged wood structure.

George Wyth Lake

Anglers are catching panfish and largemouth bass. **Black Crappie** - Good: Cast or vertical jig colored tube jigs or a crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished in 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try topwater baits or spinnerbaits; best bite is early morning or late evening.

Lake Delhi

Anglers are catching crappie. Fish early or late evening to avoid heavy boat traffic. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast or vertical jig colored tube jigs or a crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished in 4-8 feet of water near submerged wood structure.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass on the Maquoketa River. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve a jig tipped with a nightcrawler. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Cast jigs, spinnerbaits or crankbaits.

North Prairie Lake

Anglers are catching a few bass. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try topwater baits or spinnerbaits; best bite is early morning or late evening.

Plainfield Lake

Anglers are catching a few crappie. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast or vertical jig colored tube jigs or crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished in 4-8 feet of water.

South Prairie Lake

Anglers are catching primarily bluegill and a few crappie. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast or vertical jig colored tube jigs or a crappie minnow under a slip bobber fished in 4-8 feet of water along the edge of weed beds. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a piece of crawler under a bobber or cast a light jig or use a flyrod; bluegill are starting to move on spawning beds.

Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

Northern Pike - Excellent: Try live baits under a bobber or artificial spinnerbaits.

Interior rivers bumped up with isolated rainfall events, but are still providing fair to good angling opportunities for smallmouth bass, walleye and channel catfish. Rivers should be in good condition for the upcoming weekend. Lakes are starting to produce some crappie. Trout streams are in excellent condition and providing some insect hatches with the warmer weather. For further information contact your area bait and tackle shops. Call the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276 for more information.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

Lansing water has risen slightly to 8.6 feet. Water temperature is near 71 degrees. The Lansing Village Creek and Heytman's Landing boat ramps are very shallow. Boaters are urged to use caution or use alternative ramps. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Look for perch

hanging above vegetation from 4 to 12 feet of water with jig and a minnow or piece of worm. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try fishing in backwaters near springs or incoming streams as the water temperature rises. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Fish areas with moderate to slow current amongst the trees in backwaters. Look for them to move into warmer shallows as the temperature rises. **Walleye** - Good: Find walleye on the wing dams or look for current breaks along structure in side channel areas. **Sauger** - Slow: Fishing below the Lock & Dams has slowed. Look for current breaks along side channel areas. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a small piece of worm under a bobber fished in areas with little to no current. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or a nightcrawler fished off the bottom in areas of moderate current in side channels. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth action is picking up with the warmer water temperatures. Try a flashy spinnerbait fished in the upper portion of backwater lakes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try spinners or crankbaits fished in main channel rock piles along the tips of islands. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Drum fishing is picking up in the main channel areas; use a crawler fished off the bottom. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Some nice flatheads have been reported this week. Use a sunfish or crawlers fished on the bottom in the main channel.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Lynxville water level is 616 feet and is expected to rise a foot this week. Water temperature is 73 degrees at Lynxville dam. **Sauger** - Slow: Fishing below the Lock & Dams has slowed. Look for current breaks along side channel areas. **Walleye** - Fair: Find walleye on the wing dams or look for current breaks along structure in side channel areas. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Look for perch hanging above vegetation from 4 to 12 feet of water with jig and a minnow or piece of worm. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try fishing in backwaters near springs or incoming streams as the water temperature rises. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try fishing in areas with moderate to slow current amongst the trees in backwaters. Look for them to move into warmer shallows as the temperature rises. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small piece of worm under a bobber in areas with little to no current. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or a nightcrawler fished off the bottom in areas of moderate current in side channels. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth action is picking up with the warmer water temperatures. Use a flashy spinnerbait fished in the upper portion of backwater lakes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinners or crankbaits fished in main channel rock piles along the tips of islands. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Drum fishing is picking up in the main channel areas; use a crawler fished off the bottom. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Some nice flatheads have been reported this week. Use a sunfish or crawlers fished on the bottom in the main channel.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Water level is 7.5 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to reach 8.7 feet this week. Water temperature is 67 degrees at the Guttenberg dam. **Sauger** - Slow: Fishing below the Lock & Dams has slowed. Look for current breaks along side channel areas. **Walleye** - Fair: Find walleye on the wing dams or look for current breaks along structure in side channel areas. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Look for perch hanging above vegetation from 4 to 12 feet of water with a jig and a minnow or piece of worm. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try fishing in backwaters near springs or incoming streams as the water temperature rises. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try fishing in areas with moderate to slow current amongst

the trees in backwaters. Look for them to move into warmer shallows as the temperature rises. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small piece of worm under a slip bobber in areas with little to no current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or a nightcrawler fished off the bottom in areas of moderate current in side channels. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth action is picking up with the warmer water temperatures. Use a flashy spinnerbait fished in the upper portion of backwater lakes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinners or crankbaits fished in main channel rock piles along the tips of islands. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Drum fishing is picking up in the main channel areas; use a crawler fished off the bottom. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Some nice flatheads have been reported this week. Use a sunfish or crawlers fished on the bottom in the main channel.

Upper Mississippi River levels are predicted to bump up slightly this week. Water is a bit stained with temperatures near 70 degrees this week. Walleye slot length limits now apply on the entire Iowa border of the Mississippi River. All walleyes less than 15 inches long and between 20-27 inches must be immediately released. One walleye over 27 inches may be kept. Combined walleye/sauger daily limit 6/possession 12.

Boaters Urged to Use Caution at Island Restoration Project Near Marquette, Iowa
Island restoration/construction continues on the McGregor Lake Habitat Rehabilitation and Enhancement Project located in Pool 10 between Marquette, Iowa and Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Mechanical dredging in the East Channel and hydraulic dredging operations at the entrance to McGregor Lake is ongoing. Boaters are urged to use caution and enter McGregor Lake at the designated crossing to pass over the hydraulic dredge pipe. The dredge pipe is marked with buoys stating "Danger Pipeline – DO NOT CROSS".

Mississippi River Pool 12

The water level is expected to rise this week. Water levels are 7.3 feet at the Lock and Dam and 9.6 feet at the railroad bridge. The water temperature is around 72 degrees. Water clarity is good, but lots of flowing algae is limiting fishing at times. **Walleye** - Good: A slow spring for walleyes, but the population structure of walleyes looks sound. Try crankbaits around exposed wing dams. The bite picked up last week for larger slot fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: The bass bite is on in the backwaters. Fish are aggressive and hitting on most spinnerbaits. Try fishing in the shallow sun and wind-soaked backwater areas. **Northern Pike** - Good: Cast gaudy spinnerbaits along vegetation lines in the backwater areas. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: A few yellow perch are being reported incidentally by anglers catching bluegills. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: The catfishing has started on the Mississippi River with most anglers using worms or cut bait. **Bluegill** - Good: Lots of bluegills are being found in backwater areas. Try fishing in shallow sun-soaked backwater areas in 1 to 4 feet of water. **Bowfin** - Excellent: Bowfin are super aggressive and can be caught on spinners or worms in backwater areas. Bowfin are excellent fighting fish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The cool weather set back the crappie movement into the shallow waters to spawn. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are on the bite. Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas; areas around boat launches can be productive. **White Crappie** – Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: Try fishing along rock lines or day markers.

Mississippi River Pool 13

The water level is 7.7 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam and is rising. Water temperature is around 72 degrees in main channel. The water clarity is good. All boat ramps are open and in good condition to launch. **Paddlefish** - No Report: Paddlefish season is closed for the year. **Walleye** - Fair: A slow spring for walleyes, but the population structure of walleyes looks sound. Try throwing crankbaits around newly exposed wing dams. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use gaudy white spinners in Crooked Slough, South Sabula Lake, Spring Lake and near Mickelson Landing. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are being reported by anglers who are catching bluegills. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: The bass bite is on in the backwaters. Fish are aggressive and hitting on most spinnerbaits. Try fishing the shallow sun and wind-soaked backwater areas. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Lots of bluegills are being found in backwater areas. Try fishing the shallow sun and wind-soaked backwater areas in 1 to 4 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try worms or cut baits in near shore moderate current areas. Floating a bobber along rock lines is starting to work on nicer pre-spawning channel cats. **Bowfin** - Excellent: Bowfin are readily being taken in backwater areas on small spinners or worms. They are a hard fighting fish and can be fun to catch. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Catch as many drum as you want in near shore tailwater areas using an egg sinker and worm rig. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie moved out of the shallows after the week's cool temperatures. Crappies are moving into the shallows a bit; some anglers report decent catches while others are still struggling to find them. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Fishing along rock lines with moderate current is usually the best method to catch smallmouth bass. **White Crappie** - Slow. **Flathead Catfish** - No Report: Rumors of people starting to catch flathead catfish, but no verified reports. Flatheads bite best on live bait such as a live green sunfish or small bullhead.

Mississippi River Pool 14

The water level at the Fulton Lock and Dam is rising and is 7.1 feet, 10.7 feet at Camanche and 6.1 feet at Le Claire. Water temperature is around 73 degrees in the main channel. Water clarity is good. **Paddlefish** - No Report: The paddlefish season is closed for the year. **Walleye** - Slow: A slow spring for walleyes, but the population structure of walleyes looks sound. Try throwing crankbaits around newly exposed rock wing dams. The bite on walleyes in Pool 14 picked up a bit the last week or so, mostly larger slot fish. **Northern Pike** - Good: Pike are being caught in backwater areas such as the Rock Creek complex near Camanche. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Yellow perch are being taken incidentally when fishing for bluegills. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: The bass bite is on in the backwaters. Fish are aggressive and hitting on most spinnerbaits. try fishing the shallow sun and wind-soaked backwater areas. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use worms and cut bait along the banks and boat ramp access areas. **Bowfin** - Excellent: Bowfin are on the bite in backwater areas and can readily be caught on small spinners or worms. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Lots of bluegills are being found in backwater areas. Try fishing in shallow sun-soaked backwater areas in 1 to 4 feet of water. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Catch lots of freshwater drum in near shore areas using an egg sinker and worm rig. **Black Crappie** - No Report: Expect crappies to move back in the shallows very soon, especially when night temperatures warm up a bit. **White Crappie** - Slow: Still picking up a few, but expect them to move into the shallows to spawn this week as temperatures warm. **Flathead Catfish** - No Report:

Rumors of people starting to catch flathead catfish, but no verified reports. Flatheads bite best on live bait such as a live green sunfish or small bullhead.

Mississippi River Pool 15

The water level is 7.8 feet at Rock Island and is rising. The water temperature is near 73 degrees. Water clarity is good. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Cut shad bait works best for early season catfish. Also try floating a bobber and worms around rock piles for pre-spawning catfish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Catch lots of freshwater drum in near shore areas using an egg sinker and worm rig. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: Expect smallies to move in along the rock shoreline and the bite to pick up as the water temperature warms.

Water temperature is in the low 70's in the main channel. The water is rising. Water clarity is good. If you have angling questions please call the Bellevue Fisheries Station at 563-880-8781.

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage is 7.75 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 8.9 feet by June 1st. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Walleye**- Fair: A few walleyes were caught in Sylvan Slough trolling crankbaits. Also look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try trolling three-way rigs with crawlers or trolling crankbaits. **White Crappie** - Fair: Some crappies were caught in Sunset Marina. Try jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber. **White Bass** - Good: White bass are being caught along the Davenport River front. Cast jigs and twister tails or crankbaits. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Some channel catfish are being caught along the main channel above Sunset Marina. Use nightcrawlers or leeches. Also try floating bobbers with crawlers or leeches along rip-rap shorelines. **White Crappie** - Fair: Some crappies were caught in Sunset Marina. Try jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber fished around brush piles.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 6.29 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 7.2 feet by June 1st. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Walleye** - Fair: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try trolling three-way rigs with crawlers or trolling crankbaits. Trolling crankbaits by GPC can produce fish at times as well. **White Crappie**- Fair: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber fished around brush piles in Big Timber or Cleveland Slough. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Look for channel catfish along rocky shorelines; use nightcrawlers or leeches under a bobber. Also look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel or side channels. **Bluegill** - Fair: Look for bluegills in the backwaters around brush piles; try pieces of worm under a bobber.

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 7.41 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 8.9 feet by June 1st. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try trolling three-way rigs with crawlers or

trolling crankbaits. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try jigs and plastics or minnows fished under a bobber around brush piles. **Channel Catfish**- No Report: Look for channel catfish along rip-rap shorelines. Try floating bobbers with crawlers or leeches. Also look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel or side channels. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters around brush piles; use pieces of worm under a bobber.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 4.4 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 5.5 feet by June 1st. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try trolling three-way rigs with crawlers or trolling crankbaits. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Use jigs and plastics or minnows under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Look for channel catfish along rip-rap shoreline. Try floating bobbers with nightcrawlers or leeches. Also look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegill in the backwaters around brush piles; use pieces of worm under a bobber.

Tailwater stages have been rising the past few days. Main channel is muddy with recent rains. Main channel water temperature is around 73 degrees. Heavy rain in the forecast, so river conditions may change. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Water level is up with all the rain and is still working its way out of the lake. Water temperatures is 62 degrees. Water clarity is 26 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Mostly small fish in shallow; bigger fish are out amongst the trees in about 10 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Work the shallows on the north side for the feeding bass on a nice sunny day. Males are moving in shallow to set up nesting territories. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some decent fish are moving into the shallows to set up nests. They are around the islands and where trees are hanging down into the water.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

Iowa River water level is holding steady and is forecast to continue to hold steady. **Flathead Catfish** - No Report: With the steady water levels and the warmer water temperatures, it's a good weekend to set some bank lines. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfishing is picking up. Try fishing off the sandbars in the evening to take advantage of the warmer water just off of them and the bait fish it attracts.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature was 70 degrees. Water clarity is 8+ feet. Curly-leaf pondweed beds are thick this year; it will start to die back after some more hot weather. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Males are building nests; look for them along the edges of the curly-leaf pondweed beds. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Most crappie have moved back out to 8-10 feet of water. A few smaller fish are hanging around in shallow along the edges of the

weeds. **Bluegill** - Good: Where you can find them, work the open pockets in the weed beds and along the more open shorelines.

Lake Darling

The water temperature is 71 degrees. The water clarity still about 4 feet. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: More bass are moving in shallow. Males are starting to show signs of nesting (worn fins). **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie have come back in shallow, nearly all males (9- to 10-inches) along with the little 6- to 7-inch juveniles. Try fishing along the rocky shorelines. **Bluegill** - Good: Lots of nice 8-inch fish have moved in shallow to the spawning beds. Mostly males, some females are now coming in to spawn.

Lost Grove Lake

Water clarity is good at 8 feet, 2 inches. The curly-leaf pondweed beds are coming in dense this year. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are in the openings in the weed beds and out along the edges. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Just a very few remain in shallow. Anglers are catching crappie out in the thicker brush in 6-7 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are on the beds with females in to lay eggs.

Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

The Skunk River is about 1/2 bank full. If we get the expected rain, hit the feeder creeks with minnows or nightcrawlers. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Expect an increase in boat traffic this holiday weekend. Hit the mouths of the feeder creeks and off the sandbars.

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

Diamond Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Most crappie are around 8-inches. Some fish are on the bank while other are suspended down 6-10 feet in open water. **Bluegill** – Fair; Try fishing the shallow pockets.

Gateway Park South

Water temperatures are in the low 60's. **Bluegill** - Good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good. **Black Crappie** - Good. **Walleye** – Good.

Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

Water temperatures are in the mid-60's. The vegetation is lined around the shoreline. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try frogs fish over the weeds or on the outside weed lines. **Black Crappie** - Good: Some crappies are on the weed lines while others are suspended in open water. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegill along the shoreline and in pockets of the weeds.

Lake Macbride

Water temperatures are in the mid-60's. All motors may be used at 5mph or less at this time. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Some crappie are shallow spawning while others are offshore on brush. **Walleye** - Fair: Try trolling or jigging in 10-20 feet of water.

Otter Creek Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs or worms in shallow pockets and around brush. **Yellow**

Bass - Fair: Cast small jigs and spinners in the shallows.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Crappie are moving shallow to spawn. Most fish are around 9-inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try fishing the shallow pockets and brush lines. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair.

Union Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try fishing around rock jetties or troll crankbaits in 10-12 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use jigs or worms in shallow pockets. Many fish are 7- to 9-inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast jigs or minnows in shallow pockets or around brush. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits in 10 feet of water or cast plastics to shallow windblown shorelines.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Slow: Try along rocky shorelines and fishing jetties. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use small jigs tipped with live bait.

Lake Miami

Bluegills and crappies will start to move shallow as the water warms. **Largemouth Bass**- Slow: Target areas along the dam and around the fishing jetties.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Slow: Use small jigs with live bait. Keep moving until you find active fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits and crankbaits fished along the fishing jetties and other rocky shorelines.

Lake Wapello

Target largemouth bass with spinnerbaits or crankbaits fished around the submerged structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs around the shorelines and the submerged structure. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use jig and minnows around the submerged structure.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 905.98 feet msl; recreation pool is 904 feet msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels so make sure to properly drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Target windblown shorelines with shad sides or nightcrawlers. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try minnows over brush piles or rock piles in 10-15 feet of water. Crappie should move shallow as the water warms. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are catching walleye with jigs and minnows while crappie fishing. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Try minnows and jigs over rock piles or trolling crankbaits.

Red Haw Lake

Largemouth Bass - Slow: Target areas along the shorelines and the dam. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try small jigs under a bobber.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

SOUTHWEST

Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Good: Try jigging or trolling crawler and leeches from the marina around to the beach, the East Boat Ramp bay and the West Boat Ramp bay. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are spawning. Try live minnows under a float fished near rock wood and aquatic vegetation in 3 to 10 feet of water.

Boone District Farm Ponds

Largemouth Bass - Good: Cast slowly retrieved spinnerbaits, crankbaits and soft plastics. Catch bluegills and crappies on live bait under bobbers or cast jigs with small twister tails or swimbaits.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Walleye - Fair: Catch walleyes below the dams from Saylorville to below Red Rock casting jigs tipped with twister tails, swimbaits or live minnows. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Catch white bass and hybrid striped bass below the dams casting shad and shiner imitating plastics or jigs tipped with shiners.

Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try live minnows fished near submerged trees or troll twister tail jigs.

Red Rock Reservoir

White Crappie - Good: The crappie spawn will likely continue into the Memorial Day weekend. Cast plastics near rock, rip-rap and wood in coves off the main lake and Whitebreast arm.

Rock Creek Lake

White Crappie - Good: Cast jigs or live minnows under a bobber near wood and rock habitat near shore.

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

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake will offer good bass fishing this summer. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching crappies around the jetties and along the dam. Sorting is needed for the larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or shad sides fished in the upper end of the lake. Anglers have the opportunity to catch a trophy-sized channel cat. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Greenfield has a good bass population with a high percentage of 14- to 16-inch fish.

Lake Anita

Black crappie are spawning on the underwater reefs and jetties in the lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast small jigs around rocky shorelines to find spawning crappie. Sorting is needed as there is a large year class of 6-inch crappies in the lake this year. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills around the reefs and on the rockpiles out from the campground. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass are in the tree piles and along vegetation edges.

Lake Manawa

Manawa is a good destination for catfish. A few crappies are still being caught in the canals. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Target catfish on wind-blown shorelines with shad sides. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few crappies are still spawning along rocky shorelines. **White Crappie** - Slow: Cast minnows under a bobber in the canals and on the lake side. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast a leech or crawler under a slip bobber around Tin Can dyke. The dredge cuts will also hold walleyes. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are not targeted often. They are very good to eat, easy to catch and put up a good fight. Cast a nightcrawler on the bottom with a small split shot or slip weight.

Littlefield Lake

DNR fishery staff did an electrofishing survey on Littlefield this spring. Numerous largemouth bass, bluegill and black crappie were sampled. Restocking of these species will not be needed. Channel catfish will be restocked this fall. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Winterkill removed most of the channel catfish in Littlefield. **Bluegill** - Fair: The bluegills in the DNR survey looked good and averaged 8.5-inches. A few bluegills are spawning. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The black crappies were 10- to 12-inches in the survey. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

Meadow Lake

Meadow has a good fish population. Bluegills will average 8-inches and black crappies 10- to 12-inches. Largemouth bass and channel catfish are also doing well. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Black crappies are spawning on the reefs and along the dam. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are being caught in tree piles casting nightcrawlers under a bobber. Start looking for bluegills around the underwater reefs. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers report catching bass in the tree piles.

Orient Lake

Water clarity is good. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills have moved close to shore. Move often, casting the shoreline to find spawning fish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Most crappies are being caught in the tree piles. A few are still close to shore spawning. **Black Bullhead** - Good: Cast nightcrawlers on the bottom to catch 2+-pound bullheads. If water is flowing through the tubes on the rock dyke, target that area.

Prairie Rose Lake

Water clarity is excellent. Bluegills will move up on the reefs to spawn soon. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills have been in the tree piles, but will soon move closer to spawning habitat. Fish average 8.5-inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing along rocky shorelines and around underwater reefs to find spawning crappies. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing around the cedar tree piles using a slow presentation.

For information on lakes in the Southwest District call the Cold Springs office at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Catch 8- to 10-inch crappie with jigs fished near rocky shoreline areas, along weed lines or the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 21-inches with a jig fished near cedar tree brush piles or rocky shoreline areas. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches with jigs fished under a bobber along the fishing jetties or weed lines.

Lake Icaria

Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8-inches with jigs fished along the fish mounds. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs fished along rocky shoreline areas to catch crappie up to 11-inches.

Little River Watershed Lake

Courtesy docks are in at main ramp and bait shop ramp. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles or rocky shorelines to catch largemouth bass of all sizes. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie up to 10-inches with jigs fished along the fishing jetties or rocky shoreline areas. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches with jigs fished along the fishing jetties.

Three Mile Lake

Courtesy docks are installed at the main boat ramp. **Walleye** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with a nightcrawler or leech fished on the roadbed or main lake points to catch walleye of all sizes. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 18-inches with jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles or along rocky shoreline areas. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappie up to 11-inches with jigs fished along rocky shoreline areas. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs fished near the dirt mounds or cedar tree brush piles to catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

The dock is in at main ramp. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 9.5-inches with jigs fished near rocky shoreline areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 21-inches with jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles or rocky areas. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs fished near rocky shoreline areas or in shallow coves to catch bluegill up to 8-inches.

Water temperature is in the 60's to low 70's in most Mount Ayr district lakes. For more information, call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.



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