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June 15 Iowa Fishing Report

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[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of June 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.

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New fish structure maps added to DNR website

Check out the 60 new maps with fish structure locations for lakes across the state added to our [Fishing Maps website](#) this week.

NORTHWEST

Arrowhead Lake

Look for bluegill nest colonies along the west and east shorelines; the highest concentration are likely in the southern end of the lake.

Black Hawk Lake

Water temperatures are in the mid 70's. **Bluegill** - Good: Pick up bluegill just about anywhere along the shoreline. The fish are averaging 7.5 inches. Use a small hair or tube jig with a small piece of crawler fished under a bobber off the floating fishing pier, the west stone pier, and the inlet bridge. Bluegills are sitting on nests; you can easily target the males. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie are starting to move off shore; anglers are still picking fish up from Ice House Point, the floating dock, the stone piers, and the inlet bridge. Catch fish up to 11 inches with crawlers and leeches fished under a bobber. The crappie spawn has slowed. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are picking up walleye from shore and by boat. Town Bay, the shoreline along Ice House Point, and near the inlet bridge are producing fish. Use leeches fished under a bobber and twisters on the downwind shoreline where walleye are feeding. Fish being kept are 15 to 21 inches. Late evening into dark and the early mornings are best. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch largemouth all over the lake using the traditional bass lures. Fishing Ice House Point, the east shoreline, and the lake side of the inlet bridge has provided good bass action for many anglers. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait fished on the bottom along shore. Try also in the marina and near the floating dock in Town Bay; find catfish anywhere near rocky shoreline or rock piles this time of year.

Black Hawk Pits

Bluegill are still on nests near shore. Use a small tube jig tipped with crawler fished under a bobber near shore.

Blue Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Anglers are catching largemouth bass on various artificial baits near the shoreline emergent vegetation.

Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

Water temperatures are around 75 degrees. Dredge is in operation in the northeast portion of the lake; boaters must maintain a 100 foot distance from the dredge, booster pump and dredge pipes at all times. 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. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some suspended crappie out mid-lake in the dredge cuts while fishing for walleye. **Walleye** - Good: Much of the walleye action has shifted to the boat anglers. Boat anglers are doing well trolling shad raps or ripple shads or drifting crawler harnesses on the edges of the dredge cuts around the lake. **White Bass** - Fair: Use crankbaits; most action has been from boat while fishing dredge cuts. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Find spawning channel catfish along shore in the rocks this time of year. Use cut bait, stink bait or crawlers.

Swan Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Anglers are picking up bluegills from along the dam and off the jetties. Use a small jig tipped with crawler. The larger gills are 8.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A few crappie are being picked up while bluegill fishing.

Yellow Smoke Park Lake

Find bluegill spawning in the arm north of the swim beach and in the coves along the south shore. Yellow Smoke is known for its big bluegill consistently reaching 9 inches or more.

Water temperatures in Black Hawk District lakes are in the mid-70 degrees. Bluegill are still close to shore in many lakes and ponds. Catfish can be found in the rocks along shore spawning. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Briggs Woods Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Target areas around trees and downed trees. **Bluegill** - Good: Use live bait around vegetation and downed trees.

Clear Lake

The water temperature is 80 degrees. McIntosh Woods State Park boat ramp is closed for repairs. There is a 14 inch minimum length limit for walleyes on Clear Lake with a daily limit of three fish per person; only one walleye can be greater than 22 inches. It is illegal to transport bait or fish in lake, stream, or river water. **Walleye** - Good: Boat anglers are trolling with minnows and leeches around Hy Vee reef, Dodges point and Billys reef. Shore anglers are using using minnows and leeches at the docks or public jetties. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a minnow at at the artificial reefs or around the island. **Bluegill** - Good: Use live bait around docks, artificial reefs and vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try live bait around rocky substrate.

Crystal Lake

Wader fishermen be aware - swimmers itch has been reported. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use small minnow with a slip bobber. **Bluegill** - Good: Use live bait in areas with vegetation.

Lake Pahoja

Bluegill - Good: Use mini jigs and artificial baits near the weed lines.

Mill Creek (Lake)

Bluegill - Good: Angler acceptable bluegill are abundant here. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch lots of largemouth bass.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Yellow Perch - Good: Use live bait in areas of vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use jigs, crank bait and other artificial lures.

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

East Okoboji Lake

Fish are active with many people leaving the lake with full buckets. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Yellow bass activity has started to slow on the north end of East Okoboji Lake. Use live baits under bobbers. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Yellow perch are active on the north end of the lake. Use live bait off of the public docks. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye have been very active; use live bait in shallow rock piles.

Five Island Lake

Yellow Bass - Fair: Yellow bass are active on Five Island Lake. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are very abundant in shallow areas near structures such as downed trees.

Lost Island Lake

The fishing here has picked up over the past week. **Walleye** - Good: Nice sized walleye are coming off the lake. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are active; cast traditional catfish baits.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

The fish on Silver Lake are very active. **Walleye** - Good: Many fish are being caught; use live baits such as minnows.

Spirit Lake

The fish are very active with many people leaving the lake with limits. **Black Bullhead** - Fair: Fishing for bullheads is very popular on the north end of the lake by the grade and at buffalo run. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: A fair number of angler acceptable perch are being caught. **Walleye** - Excellent: The walleye are moving to deeper water, but remain very active.

West Okoboji Lake

The fishing continues to be very good. **Northern Pike** - Good: Nice northernns are being caught. **Walleye** - Good: Anglers are having a high success rate fishing for walleye; use live bait such as minnows and leaches.

The fishing on the Iowa Great Lakes continues to be very active over the past couple of weeks. For more information throughout the week, contact the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water clarity is improving with temperatures in the mid 70's. Water levels bumped up with recent rain. Visit <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/rt> for current water level information.

Walleye - Good: Try a jig tipped with a minnow or twister tail below dams in the pockets.

Channel Catfish - Good: Use dead chubs or stink bait fished from shore under a bobber.

Find fish in brush piles and backwater areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Smallmouth are hitting everything that hits the water. Fish around brush piles for a whopper. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a minnow under a bobber in eddies or off channel areas.

Decorah District Streams

Streams conditions are good. Flows remain elevated. Use care when crossing. Call 563-927-5736 for catchable trout stocking locations. Use jigs tipped with twister tails, feathered spinnerbaits, or flashy spoons. Use a nightcrawler to catch a freshly stocked fish. **Brook Trout** - Good: Use mayfly or caddis fly imitations for the afternoon hatch. **Brown Trout** - Good: Off color water is a great time to fish for brown trout. Try caddis fly and mayfly imitations hatching off the water. Hatches are improving with warming temperatures. Use leach or streamer patterns for more aggressive fish. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Fish rainbow trout in the head end of riffles. Slowly pull a black bead head fly with a light colored scud or midge dropper through the upper and lower ends of pools for trout in deeper water.

Lake Hendricks

Near shore fish activity is improving with warmer temperatures. Water clarity is excellent. Clean off your boat trailer before you leave the boat ramp. Boat anglers are finding fish over structure in deeper water. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch gills moving into shallower water with a small jig. Let it sink and slowly reel it in. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Crawlers or stink bait work best as water temperatures rise. Fish around stumps and other woody structures. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a hook tipped with a minnow under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use a jig tipped with a plastic twister or top water lure.

Lake Meyer

Water clarity is excellent. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Please clean off your boat trailers before moving to another water body. Find the latest hot spots on the [Iowa DNR's](#)

[fishing atlas](#). Set your GPS coordinates to WGS84 to key in to your structure preference.

Bluegill - Good: Use a small jig in shallow water with a slow retrieve. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits with warmer temperatures or a crawler fished on the bottom. Dawn and dusk are best. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use a spinnerbait; a variety of colors. Bass are moving in as water warms. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappie in the evening in shallow water along a rocky shoreline. Try deeper water in the daytime. A minnow or artificial scented baits fished under a bobber will catch a nice fish. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Try a spinnerbait for a pike hanging in shallow water.

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

Water levels are slowly rising with recent rain. Water temperatures in the mid to upper 70's. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try a jig tipped with a minnow or feathered spinnerbait around a current break. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a soft plastic twister tail or minnow. **White Sucker** - Good: Try a hook tipped with a nightcrawler fished off the bottom.

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

Water levels are stable with temperatures in the mid 70's. Visibility is good. Visit <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/rt> for current water level information. **Walleye** - Good: Try a jig tipped with natural colored twister tails or small crankbait near coldwater tributaries. **White Sucker** - Good: Use a worm with enough weight for it to sit on the bottom. Watch your rod tip. When it bends, set the hook. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Catch smallies in the off channel areas. A variety of lures are working now.

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

Water levels are falling with temperatures in the mid 70's. Visibility is excellent. Bank anglers should toss a lure upstream and let it float through the current along a ledge or current seam. **Walleye** - Good: Use jig tipped with a minnow or plastic twister tail fished at the head and tail ends of deeper pools. Lots of 8- to 10-inch fish in the creel. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use a variety of spinnerbaits. **White Sucker** - Good: Try a hook with a worm and enough weight to get the worm to the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Good: A few anglers are picking up pike using spinnerbaits near the mouth of tributaries. Quite a few smaller fish mixed with 20+ inchers. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Morning bite is best; use crawlers and stink baits.

[Volga Lake](#)

Water temperatures are rising. Fish shallower water in the evening. Find fish attracting structure locations on the [Iowa DNR's fishing atlas](#). **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with small piece of nightcrawler or red worm fished deep. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie along rocky shoreline especially near sunset. Try a hook tipped with a small minnow under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Start using stink baits as temperatures rise. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Fish bass moving into shallow water. Try a spinnerbait or a top water lure.

Temperatures will be in the mid 80's with a chance for storms each day. Evenings should cool into the mid to upper 60's. It'll be a great weekend to take dad fishing. Area rivers and streams are falling. Water clarity is good and water temperatures are rising. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

[Brinker Lake](#)

Walleye – Fair. **Largemouth Bass** – Good.

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

Largemouth Bass – Good. **Bluegill** – Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Slow.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Cedar River is at or near average flows for this time of year. **Channel Catfish** – Excellent. **Smallmouth Bass** – Good. **Walleye** – Good.

George Wyth Lake

George Wyth is a good place to take a kid fishing. Catch rates are very good for bluegill and crappie, but fish are small. **Bluegill** - Good: Use small gear and small tackle. Black Crappie – Good.

Manchester District Streams

Trout fishing has been excellent on most streams. Water conditions have mostly been good with a bit of dirty water after localized thunderstorms. Bug hatches have been excellent; consider getting that fly rod out. Caddis patterns are a good during June. **Brown Trout** – Good. **Rainbow Trout** – Excellent. **Brook Trout** – Good.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

River is running clear and below average flow for this time of year **Walleye** – Good. **Smallmouth Bass** – Good.

Martens Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Heavily vegetated. Topwater action has been good using baits such as frog imitations.

Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

River is rising after rains in upper watershed with flows at or near average for this time of year **Walleye** – Good. **Smallmouth Bass** – Good.

Fishing on rivers and streams in Eastern Iowa has been excellent with generally low and clear river conditions. Hot weather has slowed fishing a bit on area lakes, but anglers are still catching good numbers of bluegill and bass. Trout fishing conditions are excellent and June is a great month for good hatches of caddis. Contact the N.E. District Office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

River level dropped nearly a foot this week and is currently at 9.3 feet at Lansing. It is expected to rise to 9.9 feet and stabilize early next week. Army road at New Albin reopened. Water temperature is near 77 degrees. **Walleye** - Fair: Tailwater fishing has dropped off; walleye are scattered in side channel sloughs. Expect walleyes to return to the wing dams once water levels fall. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for yellow perch in the vegetation and trees in shallow backwater cuts. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small hooks with a small piece of garden worms fished under a bobber along the shorelines with little current. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively feeding. Use a crawler fished along the bottom or live crawdads in current. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Channel cats are actively feeding and preparing to spawn. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Use plastic worm rigs and crankbaits fished in the trees in the backwaters. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Use spinners and crankbaits along the riprap on main channel borders and rock piles.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Lynxville river level has dropped several feet to 18.2 feet and is gradually rising to 19.4 feet next week. Water temperature at Lock and Dam 9 is 77 degrees. Gates were lowered at Lock and Dam 9 this week. Noble's Island and Bussey Lake are open. Sny Magill ramp is accessible but may have water over the road yet. **Walleye** - Fair: Tailwater fishing has dropped off; walleye are scattered in side channel sloughs. Expect walleyes to return to the

wing dams once water levels fall. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for yellow perch in the vegetation and trees in shallow backwater cuts. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of garden worms fished under a bobber along the with little current. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively feeding. Use a crawler fished along the bottom or live crawdads in current. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Channel cats are actively feeding and preparing to spawn. Many reports of "fiddler" cats with some bigger sized being caught on night crawlers in deeper holes with a little current.

Largemouth Bass - Excellent: Use plastic worm rigs and crankbait fished in the trees in the backwaters. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Use spinners and crankbaits along the riprap on main channel borders and rock piles.

[Mississippi River Pool 11](#)

River levels have receded another 2 feet at Guttenberg. Current level is 9.6 feet and is predicted to rise to 12 feet late next week. Water temperature at Dam 10 is 72 degrees. Gates remain out of the water at Lock and Dam 10. Most ramps are open, but may still have mud and debris on them. The South Guttenberg boat ramp is open. **Walleye** - Fair: Tailwater fishing has dropped off; walleyes are scattered in side channel sloughs. Expect walleyes to return to the wing dams once water levels fall. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for yellow perch in the vegetation and trees in shallow backwater cuts. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small hooks with a small piece of garden worms fished under a bobber along the shorelines with little current. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively feeding. Use a crawler fished along the bottom or live crawdads in current. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Channel cats are actively feeding and preparing to spawn. Many reports of "fiddler" cats with some bigger sized being caught on night crawlers in deeper holes with a little current. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Use plastic worm rigs and crankbaits fished in the trees in the backwaters. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Use spinners and crankbaits along the riprap on main channel borders and rock piles.

Recent precipitation have predictions for levels to pop back up. Many low lying area ramps still have mud and debris. A multitude of fish species are active this week. Main channel water temperatures are in the upper 70's with shallow backwaters even warmer. Fish will be seeking refuge in cooler deep water.

[Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

River levels are 9.2 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 11.4 feet at the RR bridge. These are down over 3 feet from last week, but water will rise back over a foot this week. Many of the smaller boat may still be flooded out or will have debris on them. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms along rock piles and lines as catfish spawn along this habitat. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum bite well in higher water levels. A simple egg sinker and worm rig works best. **White Crappie** - Good: A few nice white crappie have been reported all spring. Not many numbers, but size has been quality. **Walleye** - Fair: Some walleyes are biting on crankbaits or pitching jigs into eddy areas. **White Bass** - Fair: Use jigs and spinners in the tailwater areas.

[Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

River level is 10.3 feet at Bellevue. This is down three feet from last week, but anglers will find the water raising back again. Several smaller boat ramps may once again become unusable during the higher water levels. **Northern Pike** - No Report: Use flashy white lures. Some pike were reported being caught in the Green Island Wildlife Area. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are hitting on worms rigs. Catfish are soon to spawn, so fish along rock piles or wing dam areas. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are being caught on egg sinker rigs with worms. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass in large backwater areas

such as Spring Lake. Many anglers are slow rolling spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - No Report: Find walleye in eddy currents. High water makes this a challenge, but the fish are still on the bite so keep pitching jigs until you find them. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Some smallmouth are being caught on flooded rocky areas by people pitching jigs or on worms.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

River level is 9.8 feet at Fulton, 12.6 feet at Camanche and 6.9 feet at Le Claire. This is down three feet from last week but levels will rise once again. Some boat ramps will have water and debris on them due to the high water levels. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass in the backwater complexes such as cattail and rock creek. Lots of people are slow rolling spinnerbaits and other flashy lures in the stained waters. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are biting on worm rigs. **Channel Catfish** - Channel catfish are hitting on worm rigs. Catfish are soon to spawn, so fish along rock piles or wingdam areas. **Walleye** - Slow: Some walleyes were being caught in eddy areas by people pitching jigs. Use bright colors in flooded water. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Some people have begun trot lining flathead catfish using large bullheads as bait.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

River level is at 9.9 feet at Rock Island. This is down four feet from last week, but levels will begin to rise back again this week. Little fishing was reported to us on Pool 15 as most boat ramps were under water or have debris on them. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Catfish are soon to spawn, so fish along rock piles or wing dam areas.

The main channel water temperature remains at 72 degrees, which is the same as last week. Water levels receded all week, but now are on the rise again. Many of the smaller boat ramps in the district are under water or will have debris on them. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

[Mississippi River Pool 16](#)

Tailwater stage is 9.99 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. The Marquette St. ramp will be closed June 16-18 due to a city event. The dock is in at the Fairport Recreational area. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Float leeches or crawlers under a bobber along the rocks. Use night crawlers or dip baits in the main channel and side channel snags. **Bluegill** - Good: Use worms under a bobber in Sunset Marina. Try fishing backwater areas like the Andalusia Island along brush piles and snags. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast jigs and plastics/minnows or crankbaits along the riprap shorelines.

[Mississippi River Pool 17](#)

Tailwater stage is 8.95 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is falling. Flood stage at Lock and Dam 16 is 15 feet. River stage at Muscatine is 10.59 feet and is falling. Flood stage at Muscatine is 16 feet. The ramp at Big Timber is open. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Float leeches or worms under a bobber along the rocks. Try fishing dip baits above snags along the main channel and side channels. **Bluegill** - No Report: Use worms under a bobber along the brush piles in the backwaters.

[Mississippi River Pool 18](#)

Tailwater stage is 10.51 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet. The Toolsboro ramp is closed. There is still water over the road to Toolsboro. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week.

[Mississippi River Pool 19](#)

Tailwater stage is 7.11 feet at Lock and Dam 18 and is falling. Flood stage is 10 feet at Lock and Dam 18. River stage is 12.46 feet at Burlington and flood stage is 15 feet. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week.

River stages have been falling. River stages are below flood stage. Main channel water temperature is around 80 degrees. Water clarity is fair to poor. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Cedar Lake

Bluegill - Excellent: Fish along shallow rock for spawning fish. Most fish are 5- to 7-inches.

Largemouth Bass - Fair: There are quite a few fish up shallow to spawn. Most fish are 10- to 15-inches.

Cedar River (Cedar Rapids to Moscow)

Channel Catfish – Fair.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at normal summer pool of 683.4'. Water temperatures this week were around 80 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or shad guts in the channel. Some fish are on the shallow rocks to spawn. **Black Crappie** – Fair.

Diamond Lake

No minnows are allowed here. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Bluegill** - Good. **Channel Catfish** – Fair.

Hannen Lake

A lot of vegetation is making shore fishing especially difficult. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Fish weedlines or pockets in the weeds. **Bluegill** – Fair: Fish brush piles or pockets in the weeds. **Black Crappie** – Slow.

Iowa Lake (Iowa County)

The vegetation is dying off a bit. **Bluegill** - Good: Fish pockets in the weeds. **Redear Sunfish** - Good: Find redear sunfish in the same areas as the bluegills, but they will be much bigger.

Largemouth Bass - Good: Fish weed lines and pockets in the weeds with plastics, or fish over the weeds with weedless frogs. **Channel Catfish** – Fair. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Most fish have moved to deeper water. There are many small fish, but also some 10+ inches.

Iowa River (Marshalltown to Coralville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Fair: Use live chubs on bank lines. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Try live chubs on bank lines.

Kent Park Lake

The lake is now drained. The fishing regulations for Kent Park Lake have been relaxed to take advantage of the fish due to the renovation project. For more information, contact the Kent Park office at 319-645-2315.

Lake Iowa Pond

Bluegill – Good. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair.

Lake Macbride

The motor restriction is now in effect. Motors greater than 10hp are not to be used and all boats must run at no-wake speed (5mph). Water temperature this week was in the mid 70's. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Most have pulled off to deeper structure. Try jigs or minnows over/around deeper brush/stumps. **Walleye** - Fair: Most fish are being caught in 8- to 15-feet of water. Troll crawler rigs or crankbaits. **Bluegill** - Good: Its quantity over quality for bluegills on Macbride. Use small jigs or worms around most any shallow structure. Some better fish are being caught in 10- to 15-feet of water around rock or stumps. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: :

Some fish are still shallow from the spawn, while others have pulled off the bank. **Channel Catfish** – Fair: Look for catfish around shallow rock. Love bait is often best at this time.

Otter Creek Lake

Channel Catfish - Good: Evening is best. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Use small spinners. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small jig or worm around shallow pockets and shorelines. **Black Crappie** – Slow.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still about 9 feet low from the restoration project. The main boat ramp is usable, but still shallow; use caution. The far east lane is best. There is also a boat dock in at the ramp.

Rodgers Park Lake

The aquatic vegetation is starting to get thicker. **Bluegill** - Good: There are a lot of fish on the bank right now. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Try over or next to the weeds.

Sand Lake

Black Crappie – Slow. **Bluegill** – Good. **Walleye** - Fair: Some nice sized fish have been caught this week.

Wapsipicon River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)

Bluegill - Good: Use worms in the backwater areas. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Minnows work well. **Walleye** - Fair: Use jig and plastics. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fish are being caught in the backwater areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try plastics or crankbaits.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms or spinnerbaits along the shallows and around the jetties. Target areas that are rip-rapped. Topwater lures can also be productive this time of year. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use small jigs fished around the fishing jetties and along the dam. Sorting is needed for larger fish. Add live bait if the fish are not active.

Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Slow: Try live bait tipped on small hooks along the shorelines with structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinnerbaits or plastic worms around the fishing jetties or along the weed line.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Use live bait presentations and different depths until you find active fish. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Try nightcrawlers on jig heads along the dam and other rip-rapped areas. Try different depths until you find active fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use live bait and a small jig. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try topwater lures fished in the mornings and evenings. Use spinnerbaits or crawdad imitating baits along rip-rapped shorelines.

Lake Wapello

Largemouth Bass - Good: Use jerk baits or spinnerbaits around the cedar tree piles and along the shorelines. Try also rubber worms in the same areas. Use topwater lures in the mornings and evenings. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try jigs and minnows along the shorelines. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or cut bait around the jetties.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 905.08 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun contains zebra mussels so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before

transporting to another water body. **White Crappie** - Good: Use jig and minnows or minnows under a bobber along the rip-rapped shoreline. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or cut bait. Look for areas with large rocks on the shoreline as the catfish are spawning in these areas. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Try jig and minnows along shorelines that are rip-rapped. **Walleye** - Fair: Use jig and minnows or jigs and nightcrawlers around submerged points and rock piles. Try also crankbaits that mimic gizzard shad while trolling.

[Red Haw Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the edge of the vegetation or areas that are open in the vegetation. Add a bobber as needed. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinnerbaits or rubber worms around the fishing jetties and structure along the shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or chicken liver around the fishing jetties.

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

SOUTHWEST

[Big Creek Lake](#)

Walleye - Good: Troll, drift or jig live bait rigs on the old road beds, points and steep shorelines on the lower portion of the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift small pieces of nightcrawlers on the old roadbeds and in the upper end in less than 15 feet of water for decent size bluegills.

[Des Moines River \(Saylorville to Red Rock\)](#)

White Bass - Good: The white bass bite has been good below the Saylorville and Red Rock dams fishing minnows under a bobber and casting twister tail jigs or small shad imitating crankbaits.

[Des Moines River \(Stratford to Saylorville Lake\)](#)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use stink baits or cut bait.

[Don Williams Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Crappies are being caught throughout the lake fishing minnows or small jigs near wood habitat. Drift tube jigs and twister or paddle tail jigs 5- to 10-feet down in 10- to 20-feet of water.

[Hickory Grove Lake](#)

Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are still being caught close to shore and off sunken pallet structures. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are being caught throughout the lake.

[Red Rock Reservoir](#)

White Bass - Fair: The summer white bass bite is beginning to pick up. Troll shallow diving crankbaits or spoons around large points and along the windblown shoreline.

[Roberts Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Use minnows over submerged brush or drift the lower half of the lake with small twister tails or tube jigs.

[Rock Creek Lake](#)

White Crappie - Fair: The crappie spawn is wrapping up in Rock Creek, but crappies are still being caught suspended in the lower portion of the lake, especially out from the dam. Use minnows under a bobber 3 to 6 feet down or slowly drift or troll 2 inch or smaller twister and paddle tail jigs.

Saylorville Reservoir

White Bass - Fair: Hot weather has picked up the white bass bite. Troll shallow diving crank baits and spoons that imitate shad.

The fishing for white bass in the reservoirs and channel catfish in the rivers is getting good in Central Iowa. For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, contact Andy Otting or Ben Dodd at 515-432-2823.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Many good angler reports from ponds this week. Always get permission to fish privately owned farm ponds. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass are active and easy to catch. Cast a variety of spinner type baits or plastics for fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are close to shore and are spawning. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast minnows under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait.

Farm Creek Lake

Bluegills are close to shore spawning. The lake also supports a good largemouth bass population with many 13- to 15-inch fish.

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake has a good fish population. Catfish are around every jetty in the lake spawning. Bluegills are also close to shore. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies have moved to deeper water. Cast small jigs or minnows under a slip bobber around the jetties. Fish will average 9-inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Cast the shoreline to find spawning bluegills. Fish will average 8 inches. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Channel catfish are spawning in the rocks at Greenfield. Be prepared to catch large fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast spinnerbaits or plastics along the shoreline. Fish are all sizes.

Lake Anita

Lake Anita will provide good fishing this spring. Find a large crappie population averaging 9 inches and bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are starting to catch crappies around underwater reefs and over the road bed. Fish will average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are on top of the reefs spawning. Cast small jigs to catch fish up to 9.5 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass close to structure with plastics during the day. Fish are all sizes.

Lake Manawa

Crappies are still being caught on the west side of the lake and in the canals. Manawa has a decent population of 10- to 12-inch white crappie. Manawa is also a good destination for channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Manawa has a large year class of 5- to 7-inch black crappie. This big group of fish will provide good crappie fishing over the next couple of years. **White Crappie** - Fair: Anglers report catching large white crappies on the west side of the lake. Fish are 12- to 14-inches. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfish are being picked up by crappie anglers using minnows. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers report catching walleye trolling lindy rigs with night crawler or shad raps.

Littlefield Lake

Littlefield Lake has quality size black crappies and bluegill. The lake also has a good channel catfish population. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Black crappie are being picked up around the cedar tree piles in the lake. Fish are 10- to 12-inches. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are close to shore. Cast the shoreline with small jigs to find spawning fish. Bluegill average 8.5 inches. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfish are close to shore near rocky shorelines and are being caught on a variety of baits including shrimp. Fish average 2 pounds.

Meadow Lake

Meadow lake bluegills have gained size and body condition after the mid-summer drawdown in 2016. There is a year class of 10- to 12-inch black crappie in the lake. **Bluegill** - Good: Cast to the underwater reefs to catch spawning bluegills. Fish will average 8 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for crappies around tree piles in the lake. The large size is 10 to 12 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There is a large year class of 12- to 14-inch bass.

Mormon Trail Lake

Mormon Trail has a good fish population. Catfish are active and close to shore. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch large channel catfish after dark with cut bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast the shoreline to find 13- to 16-inch largemouth bass. **Bluegill** - Fair: Cast small jigs in 6 feet of water or less and move often to find spawning bluegill. Fish will average 8 inches.

Orient Lake

Orient lake has a good population of 10 inch crappie that will provide good fishing in 2017. Bluegills are 7 to 8 inches. The lake also has a good catfish population. Anglers may see dead or dying fish at Orient due to spawning stress. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast jigs around tree piles to catch 10 inch crappies. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are spawning and close to shore. Cast nightcrawlers under a bobber or small jigs to catch 7- to 8-inch bluegill. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use nightcrawlers fished on the bottom. Fish are 18- to 22-inches. **Black Bullhead** - Good: Cast a nightcrawler on the bottom for large bullheads up to 15 inches.

Prairie Rose Lake

Expect to catch quality size bluegills again this spring. The crappies stocked in 2014 will reach an acceptable size to harvest in 2017. The lake also supports a good population of channel catfish and the largemouth bass will provide good [catch and release fishing](#). **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers report catching quality size bluegills on the spawning beds and underwater reefs placed in the lake during the renovation. Fish are 8.5- to 9-inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching crappies around the jetties. Fish will average 8-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There is a large year class of 10- to 12-inch bass in the lake that is providing fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Channel catfish are 14- to 16-inches.

Viking Lake

Anglers report catching crappies in deep brush piles last week. Bass fishing has been good. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast jigs or minnows under a slip bobber to catch black crappies up to 9 inches. Sorting will be necessary. **White Crappie** - Fair: Vertical jig brush piles to catch 10-to 14-inch white crappies. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers report catching largemouth bass in tree piles jigging plastics. Fish are all sizes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Viking has a good channel catfish population; fish will average 2 pounds. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch 7 inch bluegill.

Bluegills can still be found close to shore and crappies have moved to deeper water around structure. Catfish are in the rocks spawning. For more information, call the Cold Springs District Office at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught using spinnerbaits or jigs fished near brush piles or topwater baits fished along weed edges. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 8 inches with small jigs under a bobber fished along rocky spawning areas and cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 7 inches with nightcrawlers fished along weed edges and fishing jetties. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleye

up to 18 inches with jigs tipped with a nightcrawler or leech fished along rock piles and main lake points. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds using cut bait or chicken liver fished near the spillway and rock piles.

Lake Icaria

Black Crappie - Slow: Catch crappies up to 11 inches using minnows or jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait or nightcrawlers fished along the fishing jetties and other rocky structures. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8.5 inches using small jigs or nightcrawlers fished along the fish mounds. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles.

Lake of Three Fires

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches using finesse plastics fished along weed lines.

Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches using finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Walleye** - Slow: Catch walleye up to 22 inches with jigs tipped with live bait fished in 15-20 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches with small jigs or nightcrawlers fished along the fishing jetties or gravel spawning areas. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappie up to 11 inches using small jigs or minnows fished near rocky shoreline areas or cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds using nightcrawlers fished near rocky shoreline areas.

Summit Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught using finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles or topwater baits fished along the weed lines. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappies up to 9 inches with small jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brushpiles early and late in the day. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches using jigs or minnows fished along weed lines, main lake points, and cedar tree brush piles. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Catch yellow perch up to 10 inches with small jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or minnows fished along the dam or along weed lines.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught using finesse plastics or jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles or topwater baits fished along the weed lines. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches using jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or waxworms fished near shallow rock piles, shallow brush piles, and along the fishing jetties. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye of all sizes have been caught using jigs tipped with live bait fished along rocky structures early and late in the day. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 9 inches with jigs or minnows fished along weed lines, main lake points, and cedar tree brushpiles.

Water temperature in Mount Ayr district lakes is in the upper 70's to low 80's. For more information, contact the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.

MISSOURI RIVER

Missouri River (Sioux City to Little Sioux)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use cut bait, dip bait, chicken liver, and nightcrawlers near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Anglers are catching a few flathead catfish on rod and reel and trotlines; live baits working the best. **Blue Catfish** - Fair: Anglers are catching a few on trotlines and rod and reel. Use fresh cut bait

near wing dam tips and deeper holes near the main channel. **Shovelnose sturgeon** - Good: Anglers are catching shovelnose sturgeon near wing dams and backwater scour holes. Nightcrawlers work best.

[Missouri River \(Little Sioux to Council Bluffs\)](#)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use cut bait, dip bait, chicken liver, and nightcrawlers near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish are being caught by rod and reel anglers and on trotlines; use live bait towards evening. **Blue Catfish** - Fair: Anglers are catching a few catfish on trotlines and rod and reel. Use fresh cut bait near wing dam tips and deeper holes near the main channel. **Shovelnose sturgeon** - Fair: Anglers are catching shovelnose sturgeon near wing dams and backwater scour holes. Nightcrawlers work best.

[Missouri River \(Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line\)](#)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use cut bait, dip bait, chicken liver, and nightcrawlers near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Anglers report catching flathead catfish on trotlines and rod and reel; use live baits around evening. **Blue Catfish** - Fair: Anglers are catching a few catfish on trotlines and rod and reel. Use fresh cut bait near wing dam tips and deeper holes near the main channel. **Shovelnose sturgeon** - Fair: Anglers are catching shovelnose sturgeon near wing dams and backwater scour holes. Nightcrawlers work best.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 23.43 ft. /39,200 cfs./ 76 degrees Fahrenheit (water temperature is up 3 degrees from last week). The Missouri River dropped 0.11 feet from last week. The Missouri River has begun to stabilize and the water temperatures are warmer. Fishing has been fair to good overall on the Missouri River.



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