

July 13 Iowa Fishing Report

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[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of July 13.](#)

This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

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NORTHWEST

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperature is 80 degrees. **Bluegill** - Fair: 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. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are mostly off shore now, but a few are being picked up by shore anglers along Ice House Point. **Walleye** - Fair: Use leeches fished under a bobber and twisters near rock piles in late evening and early morning. The rock pile off of Cottonwood point has been producing fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch largemouth all over the lake using the traditional bass lures. Fishing Ice House Point and the lake side of the inlet bridge has provided good bass action for many anglers. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait and stink bait fished on the bottom along shore. Try also in the marina and near the floating dock in Town Bay. Catch fish up to 25 inches long.

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

Water temperatures are around 80 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. **Walleye** - Fair: Boat anglers are doing well trolling shad raps 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: Use cut bait, stink bait or crawlers near rocks along shore.

Water temperatures in Black Hawk District lakes are around 80 degrees. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

[Clear Lake](#)

The water temperature is 75 degrees. McIntosh Woods State Park boat ramp is open. Clean, Drain, and Dry your boats to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Drift small jigs tipped with a piece of crawler in 10- to 12- feet of water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a slip bobber and leech or minnow in the rock reefs. Troll spinners with a crawler or leech in 8-12 feet of water. **Muskellunge** - Fair: Work the weed edge with top water baits and buck tails. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait on the windward side of the lake.

[Crystal Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber near the dredge cut. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Drift a small jig or minnow 4 to 5 feet below a slip bobber in the dredged area. Look for suspended fish on your electronics and adjust depth accordingly.

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

Largemouth Bass - Good: Use plastic baits.

[Winnebago River](#)

River fishing is picking up. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Cast buck tails or try a 4 to 6 inch chub in areas where small streams or tiles enter the river. **Walleye** - Fair: Fish the deeper holes and shaded areas under trees and near bridges.

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

Center Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Anglers report catching many nice crappies in the basin of the lake.

East Okobojo Lake

The fishing on East Okobojo has been very good this year. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Many yellow bass are caught; fish outside weed lines. **Walleye** - Good: Use live baits such as leaches and minnows; lots of walleyes are being caught.

Five Island Lake

Channel Catfish - Good: Recent surveys show that channel catfish are very abundant here.

Spirit Lake

The fishing on Big Spirit is great right with many walleyes and perch being caught. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Yellow perch are still hard to find, but you can catch lots of fish. **Walleye**- Good: Many 15- to 17-inch walleye are being caught off of Stony Point and at the inflow near sandbar resort.

West Okobojo Lake

Panfish are very active on West Okobojo. **Bluegill** - Good: Many angler acceptable bluegills are being caught; use artificial baits.

The fishing on the Iowa Great Lakes has been extremely productive for the past couple of weeks. For more information throughout the week, contact the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Bigalk Creek

The road is closed at 30th St. west of the Howard County Conservation Board parking area on Bigalk Creek. The bridge is out until further notice. **Rainbow Trout** – Good.

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are fluctuating with recent rainfall events. Visit <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/rt> for current water level information. Clarity is marginal, but should clear with more stable conditions. **Walleye** - Slow: Try a jig tipped with a minnow or crawler. Drift a jig in the main channel or find deeper holes. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Stink baits and crawlers attract hungry catfish. Find fish around log jams and slack water areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Smallmouth are hitting a variety of lures.

Coldwater Creek

The private property south of Coldwater Creek Rd. bridge on Coldwater Creek is closed to the public until further notice. **Brown Trout** – Good.

Decorah District Streams

Be respectful of private property; it's a privilege to fish these areas. Wear light clothing to protect exposed skin from sun and the effects of wild parsnip. Call 563-927-5736 for catchable trout stocking locations. **Brook Trout** - Good: For nymphing or wet flies, use streamer patterns such as wholly buggers to imitate fish, or a pink squirrel to imitate scuds. Use dry flies size 12 to 20 imitating midges and sulfers hatching off the water. Try also a variety of caddis and mayfly nymphs. **Brown Trout** - Good: Fish will soon be looking for terrestrial insects falling into the water. Ants are a favorite. Gnats, mayflies, and caddis flies are hatching. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Use jigs tipped with twistertails, feathered spinnerbaits, or flashy spoons. Use a nightcrawler or cheese to catch a freshly stocked fish.

Lake Hendricks

Clean off your boat trailer before you leave the boat ramp. Visibility is marginal due to a green algae bloom on lake. Find the latest how spots with the [Iowa DNR's fishing atlas](#). Set your GPS coordinates to WGS84 to key in to your structure preference. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegills on the bottom at the ends of the jetties; use a small piece of crawler. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits along rocky shoreline. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try a topwater lure on the edge of a vegetation bed.

Lake Meyer

Water temperatures are in the upper 70's. A green algae bloom is reducing water clarity. Clean off your boat trailers and drain boats before you move to another water body. **Bluegill** - Good: Find gills in deeper water on edges of vegetation beds. Fish off the docks and jetties for a big one. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits and nightcrawlers in the evenings along the rock jetties or around stumps for a cruising cat. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Top water lures and buzz baits are good, but try a frog just off the weed line in about 5 feet of water. Early mornings are best. Use frogs or buzz bait in calm water. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie near the docks and jetties in the evenings. **Northern Pike** - Fair: nglers report catching pike while fishing for bass.

Turkey River (above Clermont)

Water levels are stabilizing, but conditions could change depending on rainfall. Water temperatures are in the mid 70's. Visibility is limited. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Lures imitating a crawdad will drive smallies crazy. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a crawler or jig and twister tail fished along a current break or in a deeper pool.

Turkey River (below Clermont)

Flash flooding is possible depending on additional rain in the next few days. Water levels were above flood stage on Tuesday due to localized rainfall, but have dropped. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Visibility is poor. Visit https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/uv?site_no=05412500 for more information. **Smallmouth Bass** – Slow.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are falling with temperatures low 70's and limited visibility. Toss a lure upstream and let it float through the current along a ledge or current seam. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig tipped with a minnow, nightcrawler, or natural colored twister tail. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: A nightcrawler or crawfish crankbait will attract a smallmouth.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water levels are stabilizing with recent rainfall. Water temperatures are in the mid 70's with limited visibility. A variety of baits are working, but nightcrawlers work best in stained water.

Visit <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/ia/nwis/rt> for current water level

information. **Walleye**- Slow. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Bank anglers are catching fish using a jig tipped with a crawler with weight to keep it on the bottom.

Volga Lake

Find fish attracting structure locations on the [Iowa DNR's fishing](#)

[atlas](#). **Bluegill** - Slow. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass in shallow water toward evening; use topwater lures. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are suspended around submersed structure during the day and come in shallow in the evening. Use a hook tipped with a minnow or bright colored jig.

It will be a beautiful weekend in northeast Iowa. Area rivers and streams are stabilizing. Heavy rainfall Tuesday in Allamakee and Clayton Counties is causing some localized high water. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

The park ranger reports that the bluegill and largemouth bass fishing has been good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use topwater artificial baits and plastics off of the jetties and dam. **Bluegill** - Good: Try off of the jetties and in the cove areas in 2- to 4- feet of water.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Anglers are targeting primarily channel catfish in Black Hawk County during cooler periods within the day. In Bremer County, smallmouth bass, channel catfish and walleye fishing has been fair to good on the Cedar River. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use dead chubs, nightcrawlers or leaches fished on the bottom of the river. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try plastics and spinner baits along rocky shoreline or other instream habitat. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig and twister tipped with a nightcrawler.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Recent creel reports show that anglers are catching a variety of species on the Maquoketa River in Delaware County. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig and twister tipped with a nightcrawler. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try plastics and spinnerbaits along rocky shoreline or other instream habitat. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use dead chubs, nightcrawlers or leaches fished on the bottom of the river.

With the recent summer storms, interior river fishing has been unpredictable with fluctuating river levels. Most anglers are targeting channel catfish during early morning or late evening hours to beat the summer heat. Trout streams remain in good condition. Contact the N.E. District Office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

River level is 8.8 feet at Lansing and is predicted to remain stable after a slight bump. Water temperature is near 79 degrees. Army Road at New Albin has reopened. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of worm fished under a bobber in the backwaters where there is vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Lots of drum are still being caught in the swifter current breaks. Bounce a nightcrawler along the bottom or try crayfish for bigger fish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Smallmouth fishing should pick up as water clarity improves over the next week. Fish rock piles at the tips of the islands and backside of islands with current. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth fishing is expected to pick up as river levels recede and water clarity improves. Use jerk baits in protected backwaters with clearer water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits in off channel areas. Fish the shallows in early morning or late evening. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are sitting in 4-5 feet of water in the backwaters. Use small minnows or worms fished on the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Lynxville level has fallen to 16.2 feet with a slight bump predicted this week, but will remain stable. Water temperature is in the upper 70's at the lock and dam. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of worm fished under a bobber in the backwaters where there is vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Lots of drum are still being caught in the swifter current breaks. Bounce a night crawler along the bottom or try crayfish for bigger fish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Smallmouth fishing should pick up as water clarity improves over the next week. Fish rock piles at the tips of the islands and backside of islands with current. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth fishing is expected to pick up as river levels recede and water clarity improves. Try jerk baits in protected backwaters with clearer water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits in off channel areas. Fish the shallows in early morning or late evening. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are sitting in 4- to 5-feet of water in the backwaters; use small minnows or worms fished on the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Mississippi River is 8.3 feet at Guttenberg with a slight fall predicted this week. The lock gates are now back in the water and water temperature is 72 degrees at the Lock and Dam. Boat ramps are open. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use small hooks with a small piece of worms fished under a bobber in the backwaters where there is vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait fished on the bottom in areas of moderate current where side channels form an eddy. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Lots of drum are still being caught in the swifter current breaks. Bounce a night crawler along the bottom or try crayfish for bigger fish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Fair: Smallmouth fishing should pick up as water clarity improves over the next week. Fish rock piles at the tips of the islands and backside of islands with current. **Largemouth Bass** -Fair: Largemouth fishing is expected to pick up as river levels recede and water clarity improves. Try jerk baits in protected backwaters with clearer water. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits in off channel areas. Fish the shallows in early morning

or late evening. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Perch are sitting in 4- to 5-feet of water in the backwaters: use small minnows or worms fished on the bottom. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams.

Upper Mississippi River levels have receded several feet this past week. Heavy localized rains have many tributaries running muddy and will impact the Mississippi water clarity. Fish are settling into their normal spots with the water stabilizing. Water temperature is in the mid to upper 70's.

[Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

River levels are 9.4 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 11.8 feet at the RR bridge. These are up a couple feet from last week due to the large rainfall received just north of Dubuque on Tuesday night. Water levels are predicted to crest and start to recede rapidly this week. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are biting on worms and stink bait. Anglers are catching some off spinners and crankbaits in a 1- to 2-feet of water. **Freshwater Drum**- Excellent: A simple egg sinker and worm rig works best. **White Crappie** - Good: A few nice white crappie have been reported all spring. **Walleye** - Slow: Rapidly changing water levels and floating weeds have slowed down fishing for walleyes this week. **White Bass** - Good: This spring has seen a nice run of white bass on Pool 12. Some white bass were caught along main channel rock lines prior to the large rain event. **Bluegill** - Good: Receding water levels have pulled the gills out the shallow backwater areas. Angle near the mouths of large backwater complexes as bluegills should concentrate in these areas. Most are being caught on worm rigs. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Pull worm rigs near rocky habitats. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: The smallmouth bite was progressing nicely before the large rainfall event and turbid water. Throw spinners or small crankbaits in the evening.

[Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

River level is 11.1 feet at Bellevue. This is up a couple of feet from last week due to the large rains received just north of Dubuque. Water is expected to crest this week and then rapidly fall again. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Use flashy white lures lures in the mouths of cooler tributary streams. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worm rigs and stink bait above log jams and rock piles to lure the catfish out. Move often if you don't find fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Use egg sinker rigs with worms. **Walleye** - Slow: Some anglers were finding walleyes on the wing dams just before the rapid water raise. Conditions are turbid with lots of floating vegetation. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: The smallmouth bite had just started to begin along rock piles, but the rapidly raising water may stall the bite. **Bluegill** - Fair: Receding water levels have pulled the gills out in the shallow backwater areas. Angle near the mouths of large backwater complexes as bluegills should concentrate in these areas. Most are being caught on worm rigs. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Some nice flathead catfish were caught with worm rigs before the river rise.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

River level is 9.9 feet at Fulton, 12.3 feet at Camanche and 6.8 feet at Le Claire. Levels were lower, but the Dubuque rains have pushed the water back up. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass had moved out of the large shallow areas into deeper adjacent habitats. This river bump may move them back into shallow expanses. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are biting on worm rigs. **Channel Catfish** - Good: : Use worm rigs and prepared stink baits fished

close to shore or along rock lines. **Walleye** - Slow: Before the river rise, some anglers were reporting walleyes off the wing dams with worm rigs. The water is again turbid and fishing on wing dams may be slow for a week or two. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Some people are trot lining flathead catfish using large bullheads as bait. Flathead are active most during the night and evening hours.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

River level is 9.5 feet at Rock Island. Levels are on the rise after the large amount of rainfall received by Dubuque. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Many anglers are fishing stink bait along the rock piles near Campbells and Arsenal Island. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum bite well this time of year. Put them on ice immediately if you are going to clean them. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use large live bait fished near shore during the night and evening hours.

The main channel water temperature is 80 degrees. Water levels rapidly rose during the week with lots of rain just north of Dubuque. Most boat ramps are usable, but conditions have varied during the week, and the water is turbid from the runoff. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

[Mississippi River Pool 16](#)

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities has risen to 9.23 feet and is currently forecast to reach 10.2 feet by the weekend. Forecasts may change. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Look for catfish in the main channel and side channel snags; use nightcrawlers or dip baits. **Walleye** - Slow: Some walleyes were caught on the wing dams along Credit Island earlier in the week. Fishing may become tough with the river forecast to rise.

[Mississippi River Pool 17](#)

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine is 7.25 feet and forecasted to reach 9.2 feet by the weekend. River level is 8.90 feet at Muscatine and is forecast to reach 10.8 feet over the weekend. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try dip baits fished above snags along the main channel and side channels.

[Mississippi River Pool 18](#)

Tailwater stage is 8.98 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is forecast to reach 11.2 feet over the weekend. Forecast may change. Floodstage is 15 feet. We have not received much for fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try dip baits fished above snag piles along the main channel or side channels. **White Bass** - Fair: Some white bass were caught by the dam along the rocks earlier in the week. Fishing may become tough with the river forecast to rise.

[Mississippi River Pool 19](#)

Tailwater stage is 5.64 feet at Lock and Dam 18 and currently forecast to reach 6.6 feet over the weekend. Flood stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 10 feet. River stage at Burlington is 11.19 feet and forecast to reach 12.1 feet over the weekend. Forecasts may change. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week.

River stages had been falling this past week, but are forecast to rise over the next few days due to recent heavy rains. Water clarity is still poor. Main channel water temperature is around 80 degrees. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are out in deeper water in the flooded timber down about 8 feet. Some anglers were also catching fish from shore around the jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use soft plastics up in the flooded timber.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The river level continues to drop; some of the bigger sandbars are really showing now. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfishing is slowing down with the dropping water levels.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is around 85 degrees by mid-day. A planktonic algae bloom is reducing the water clarity to four feet. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for bluegills in 12- to 14-feet of water around the trees. Some very nice fish are being caught. Bite is best before 10 a.m. and after about 6 p.m. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: The evening bite in the last few hours of daylight is best. Some anglers are using soft plastics while others are using crankbaits.

Lake Darling

The water temperature was 81 degrees Tuesday morning. There is a little bit of a planktonic algae bloom returning to the lake. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfishing continues to be good using a variety of baits. Most fish are 1 to 1 1/2 pounds. **Bluegill** - Good: Most bluegills are out in the deeper water. Find the deeper rock piles and the submerged willow bats and you will find the fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use soft plastics on the bottom or deep diving crankbaits in the late evenings. Work the shallow water nearest the deeper parts of the lake.

Lake Geode

The water temperature is in the mid 80's. A strong algae bloom is turning the lake green. Water transparency is down to three feet. No date is set yet for the start of the draw down of the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are hanging out in the deeper water off the drop offs. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for catfish off the face of the dam and along the deeper ledges along the north side of the lake.

Lake Odessa

The outlet has been open at Odessa for a few days. The water is still high enough that most of the lower shorelines still have water over them. The top of the boat ramp at Sand Run was only about a foot out of the water on Monday. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find some nice crappies around the brush piles along the shoreline in the Sand Run area. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait and chicken liver in the shallow flooded areas.

Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

The river continues to drop; you can still use a boat, but use caution. **Channel**

Catfish- Fair: Catfishing has slowed some with the continued drop in the water level.

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

[Cedar River \(Cedar Rapids to Moscow\)](#)

Channel Catfish – Fair.

[Coralville Reservoir](#)

The lake is at normal summer pool of 683.4'. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait in the channel. The area by Curtis Bridge has been reported as good.

[Diamond Lake](#)

No minnows are allowed here. **Black Crappie** - Slow. **Bluegill** - Good: Many fish are shallow now. **Channel Catfish** – Good.

[Hannen Lake](#)

Largemouth Bass – Good. **Channel Catfish** – Good. **Black Crappie** – Fair.

[Iowa Lake \(Iowa County\)](#)

Bluegill - Good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good. **Channel Catfish** – Good. **Black Crappie** - Fair.

[Iowa River \(Marshalltown to Coralville Lake\)](#)

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

[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 mid 70's. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Most have pulled off to deeper structure. Try jigs or minnows over/around deeper brush/stumps. **Walleye** - Fair: Most fish are being caught in 7- to 11-feet of water. Troll crawler rigs or crankbaits. **Bluegill** - Good: Most fish are small, but slightly better fish are around deeper stumps. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Fair.

[Otter Creek Lake](#)

Channel Catfish - Good: Evening bite is best; use stink bait. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use small spinners. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small jig or worm .

[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. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or crawler rigs over hard bottoms; after dark is best. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small leeches in about 6 feet of water. **Muskellunge** – Fair. **White**

Bass - Fair: Sunrise and sunset are best. Look for topwater action as they chase young shad. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Sunrise and sunset are best. Look for topwater action as they chase young shad. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: The dam area has been producing fish.

Rodgers Park Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use small worms under a bobber. Most fish are under 7 inches. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Decent sized fish are being caught on artificials, especially those that are more weedless. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try stink bait around brush piles.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try topwater lures in the mornings and evenings along the shorelines. Use rubber worms or spinnerbaits along rip-rapped shorelines and around the rock piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait around the fishing jetties and along the dam. Sorting is needed for larger fish.

Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the shorelines with structure and around the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast the shorelines early in the mornings, fish deeper as the day heats up. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers or liver around the shorelines.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Use live bait presentations around structure. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Drift or troll nightcrawler rigs along the dam. Try also crankbaits. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use live bait and a small jig. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try topwater lures fished in the mornings and evenings. Use spinnerbaits or crawdad imitating baits along rip-rapped shorelines and around the jetties.

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 tipped with minnows. 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 905.01 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: Troll crankbaits as the crappies are in a summer pattern. Some fish can still be caught shallow, but 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: Troll crankbaits along submerged points and rock piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits around submerged points and rock piles.

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: Cast the shorelines in the mornings and evenings using spinnerbaits and rubber worms, then fish deeper in the heat of the day around submerged structure. **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 - Fair: The white bass bite has slowed 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 - Fair: The crappie bite has slowed a little, but anglers are still catching 10 fish in an hour. Drift tube jigs and twister or paddle tail jigs 5- to 10-feet down in 10- to 20-feet of water throughout the lake until you find schools of fish.

Hickory Grove Lake

Bluegill - Good: Bluegills are being caught off sunken pallet structures and drifting small jigs tipped with crawlers 5- to 10-feet down mid lake. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are being caught throughout the lake.

Red Rock Reservoir

White Bass - Good: The summer white bass bite is starting to pick up. Troll shallow diving crankbaits or spoons around large points and along the windblown shoreline. Use jigging spoons on schools of fish that are deeper. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift cut creek chubs or shad above the mile long bridge in 6-12 feet of water.

Roberts Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Slowly drift the lower half of the lake with small twister tails or tube jigs. Fish are suspended 3 to 10 feet deep.

Rock Creek Lake

White Crappie - Fair: Crappies are being caught suspended in the lower half 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 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

Pond fishing was good 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** - Fair: Catch bluegills around weed edges and deep structure. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast minnows under a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are close to structure; use prepared baits or cut bait.

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake has a good fish population. Catch catfish close to shore. Bluegills have moved away from shore. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies have moved to deeper water. Cast small jigs or minnows under a slip bobber to catch fish averaging 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift small jigs to catch 8 inch bluegill. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast spinnerbaits or plastics along the shoreline to catch 12 to 16 inch bass. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or shrimp around the jetties. Be prepared to catch large fish.

Lake Anita

Lake Anita will provide good fishing this year. Find a large crappie population averaging 9 inches and bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching crappies around underwater reefs and over the road bed. Fish will average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches over the road beds and rock piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass around underwater reefs and vegetation edges. 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. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are being caught on a variety of prepared bait as well as minnows. Manawa has a good catfish population with opportunity to catch large fish.

Littlefield Lake

Littlefield Lake has quality size black crappies and bluegill. The lake also has a good channel catfish population. **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. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift or cast to tree piles in the lake to catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappies up to 12 inches around cedar tree piles. The evening bite has been best.

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. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: There is a large year class of 12- to 14-inch bass. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait off the face of the dam. Meadow Lake has large channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find 10 inch crappies around underwater reefs and brush piles. **Bluegill** - - Fair: Drift nightcrawlers to find 8 inch bluegills.

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** - Slow: Bluegills have moved to deeper water; use small jigs and worms in 8 feet of water. Fish will average 8 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A few 9 inch crappie are being caught around deep brush piles.

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. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers fished on the bottom. Fish are 18- to 22-inches. **Black Bullhead** - Fair: Cast a nightcrawler on the bottom for large bullheads up to 15 inches. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Vertical jig brush piles to catch 10 inch crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills have moved away from shore and can be caught around structure or drifting. Fish are 7 to 8 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**- Fair: Anglers report catching quality size bluegills around the underwater reefs placed in the lake during the renovation. Fish are 8.5- to 9-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: TThere are many 12 inch bass in the lake that will provide fun [catch and release fishing](#). **Black Crappie**- Slow: A few 8 inch black crappie are being picked up drifting. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Channel catfish are 14- to 16-inches.

Viking Lake

Anglers report catching crappies in deep brush piles and drifting. Bass fishing has been good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers report catching largemouth bass in tree piles jigging plastics. Fish are all sizes. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Viking has a good channel catfish population; fish will average 2 pounds with the opportunity to catch larger fish. **Black Crappie**- Fair: Drift the open water with small jigs tipped with power bait to catch crappie up to 9 inches. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Bluegill** - Good: Drifting has been good for 7 inch bluegill.

Anglers report good catfishing in rivers. Panfish can be caught drifting open water areas. For more information, call the Cold Springs District Office at 712-769-2587.

Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught using crankbaits or finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 9 inches using small jigs or a minnow under a bobber fished along the fishing jetties or cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with jigs tipped with a nightcrawler fished near rock piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught using chicken liver or cut bait fished off of main lake points early and late.

Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish - Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait or chicken liver fished near the fish mounds. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegill up to 8.5 inches using nightcrawlers or jigs fished near the fish mounds.

Lake of Three Fires

Channel Catfish - Fair: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait or chicken liver fished along rocky shoreline areas.

Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: 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 12- to 15-feet of water early and late. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches with small jigs or or nightcrawlers fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds using nightcrawlers fished near rocky shoreline areas.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught with topwater baits fished over weeds early or finesse plastics along weed edges and cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 9 inches using jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or leeches fished near rock piles and along the roadbed. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 9 inches with jigs or minnows fished near cedar tree brush piles and along the weedlines.

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

MISSOURI RIVER

Missouri River (Sioux City to Little Sioux)

Flathead Catfish - Good: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms,

chicken livers, cutb ait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

Missouri River (Little Sioux to Council Bluffs)

Flathead Catfish - Slow: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cutb ait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

Missouri River (Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line)

Flathead Catfish - Slow: Use rod and reel and trotlines with live bait off the tips of wing dikes and rock structures. Evening or after dark is best. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Use fresh cut bait fished off the bottom in or near the main river channel. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cutb ait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 22.31 ft. /35,500 cfs./80 degrees Fahrenheit (water temperature is up 3 degrees since last week). The Missouri River is down .89 feet from last week. Fishing has been fair to good overall.