



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of August 17.](#)

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

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

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NORTHWEST

[Arrowhead Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Catch 8- to 9-inch bluegills near structure in 5- to 10-feet of water. For deeper

fish, drift a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler. Use a bobber if fishing closer to shore.

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Surface water temperature is around 74 degrees. Water levels are near the crest of the spillway. **Bluegill** - Fair: Pick up bluegill just about anywhere along the shoreline in 2- to 5-feet of water. Use a small jig tipped with live bait or a small piece of crawler fished below a bobber off the floating fishing pier, the west stone pier, and the inlet bridge. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a jig with a minnow in 2- to 6-feet of water along Ice House Point, the floating dock and the stone piers in Town Bay **Walleye** - Slow: Use live bait fished along Ice House Point shoreline and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and in the east basin. **Largemouth Bass**- Good: Catch largemouth bass just about anywhere along the shoreline with topwater lures, twisters or live bait. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use night crawlers and cut bait fished on the bottom near the floating dock, Ice House Point and the rock piles near Cottonwood Point and the east basin.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in 5- to 15-feet of water. Drift near structure, drop-offs and weed lines. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a small piece of crawler or minnow on a jig in 10- to 15-feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Throw topwater lures, weedless baits, spinners and plastic worms along weed lines, near cover and wood structure. Fish deeper for larger fish. Pick up small fish in the shallows. **Walleye** – Fair.

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

Surface water temperatures are around 74 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 crawlers 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.

[Swan Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Try areas with rocky structure and along weed lines in 2- to 6-feet of water near the jetties, the fish house and the dam. Use a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler or minnow under a bobber. Expect 6- to 9-inch fish.

[Yellow Smoke Park Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills can reach 9 inches or more. Look for bluegills in 5- to 10-feet of water near the arm north of the swim beach, the flooded timber near the southwest shoreline, and the coves on the south shore.

Surface water temperature in area lakes is around 75 degrees. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

[Bluebill Lake](#)

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Bass are biting on a variety of baits fished near

vegetation. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a bobber and small piece of crawler near the edge of the vegetation. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try a bobber and small piece of crawler near the edge of the vegetation.

Clear Lake

The water temperature is 70 degrees. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Drift a small jig tipped with a piece of crawler in 8- to 13-feet of water until you find fish. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a slip bobber and leech or crawler near the rock reefs or try trolling bottom bouncers with bright colored blades and a nightcrawler. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait, stink bait or chicken liver on the windward side of the lake. Late evening bite is best. **Muskellunge** - Fair: Fish the weed edge and shady areas near docks. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a minnow or small jig near vegetation. Early morning bite is best.

Crystal Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Use a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber near the dredge cut.

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

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Fish are more active with stable water levels and cooler temperatures. Fish are taking a variety of lures and baits. **Walleye** - Good: Find walleye in brush piles or deeper holes. Try fishing along current breaks. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use a hook with a dead chub or crawler for a 2 pound catfish. Try also chicken liver, stink bait and nightcrawlers. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a hook tipped with a crawler in eddies below dams and backwaters. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use crawdad crankbaits along rocky shorelines and substrates.

Decorah District Streams

Trout streams are in good condition. Be respectful of private property; it's a privilege to fish these areas. Call 563-927-5736 for current catchable trout stocking locations. Wild parsnip is done for the year, but beware of first year plants. Freshly stocked trout are hitting a variety of lures and baits. **Brook Trout** - Excellent: A variety of mayflies are hatching mid-afternoon. Use a dry fly for insects hatching off the water surface. Use a nymph or scud dropper for subsurface critters. **Brown Trout** - Brown trout are more active when water is off color. A hopper pattern with a scud dropper is a dangerous combination. **Rainbow Trout**- Excellent: Flies imitating grasshoppers, crickets, and ants will turn a trout head this time of year. Use any number of black ant or leaf hopper patterns.

Lake Hendricks

The lake is looking good. Use a canoe to paddle out or troll for fish suspended around rock piles. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use a minnow or spinnerbait around the jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try topwater lures on the edge of a vegetation for a hiding bass. **Channel**

Catfish - Good: Use a hook tipped with a nightcrawler, chicken liver or stink bait. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills near vegetation edges

Lake Meyer

Water clarity is improving as water begins to cool. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber near jetties in the evening. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie suspended near submersed structure. Use a spinner or jig with bright colored twister tail. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Early morning and evening bite is best. Use topwater lures fished along vegetation beds or spinners along rocky edges. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Pike are biting off anglers' lines. Use a steel leader with a spoon along vegetation edges near springs. Pike are great eating; take time to learn how to clean them.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

The Upper Iowa is in excellent condition. Clarity and temperatures are improving fish activity. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use a steel leader tipped with 1/4 oz. jig tipped with natural colored plastic to a 3 inch jerk bait fished around tributaries or brush piles. **Walleye**- Good: Find a walleye drifting through a deeper hole or along a current break. Use a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm. Try also a small crankbait. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try jigs tipped with any number of plastic tails.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water temperatures are in the mid to low 70's with good clarity. Morning and midafternoon is best for bank anglers. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use a steel leader tipped with 1/4 oz. jig tipped with natural colored plastic to a 3 inch jerk bait fished around tributaries or brush piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Find a smallie in the current breaks or near rock ledges. Use jigs tipped with any number of plastic tails. **Walleye** - Good: Drift a jig tipped with a twister tail or worm through a deeper hole or along a current break. Anglers are catching a good number of 10- to 12-inch fish with larger fish caught while trolling at night. **Channel Catfish**- Good Catch a catfish from shore using a hook tipped with a crawler. Evening is best.

Volga Lake

Morning and evening bite is best. Overcast days extend angling times. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a minnow under a bobber near submersed trees for suspended crappie. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are hitting crankbaits. Try a topwater lure in the evening as fish come in shallow to feed. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with a piece of worm under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait, worms, and cheese baits. Catfish are active in the evening.

Chances for rain in the weekend forecast with temperature highs in the low 80's and 60's for lows. Area streams and rivers are in good condition. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Bluegill - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink baits, frogs, and other prepared baits.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

The Cedar River is near or slightly above median water flow for this time of year with a gage reading of 2040 CFS at Waterloo. **Walleye** - Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair. **Channel Catfish**- Good.

George Wyth Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Fish are running small. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish are running small.

Manchester District Streams

Dry fly action has slowed, but fishing has been good using spinners, jigs, live bait or nymphs. Streams are well stocked this time of year with rainbow trout. Brown trout have been challenging during midday, but they have been biting near sundown or following rain showers. **Rainbow Trout** – Good. **Brown Trout** - Fair:

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

The Maquoketa River is near or slightly above median water flow for this time of year with a gage reading of 164 CFS at Manchester. Fishing has been good on the Maquoketa River in Delaware and Jones County. **Channel Catfish** – Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use crankbaits or live bait. **Walleye** - Good: Try crankbaits or live bait.

Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

Smallmouth Bass – Good. **Walleye** – Fair. **Channel Catfish** – Fair. **Northern Pike** – Fair.

Fishing is good on eastern Iowa rivers and streams. Rivers are near median water levels for this time of year and fish are in late summer feeding patterns. Expect catches of channel catfish, smallmouth bass and walleye in rivers. Lake fishing is slow, but should improve over the next few weeks as autumn approaches and water temperatures begin to drop. Trout streams are in good condition with most fishing action subsurface using jigs, spinners, live bait, or nymphs.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

River level is 8.4 feet at Lansing and is predicted to stabilize around 8 feet this week. Water temperature is near 75 degrees. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with a small piece of worm fished under a slip bobber. **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** - Good: Smallmouth fishing has been good on wing dams and rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye fishing is improving as the water stabilizes. Try fast trolling crankbaits or bait-rig off the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch in vegetated areas along the main channel. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the

mouths of tributary streams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Lynxville water level is 15 feet and is predicted to stabilize at this level over the next week. Water temperature is 75 degrees at the lock and dam. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with a small piece of worm fished under a slip bobber. **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** - Good: Smallmouth fishing has been good on wing dams and rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye fishing is improving as the water stabilizes. Try fast trolling crankbaits or bait-rig off the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch in vegetated areas along the main channel. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Use live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Mississippi River at Guttenberg is 6 feet and is predicted to stabilize at this level over the next week. Water temperature is in the mid 70's. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Some larger bluegills are being picked up near structure on the side channels. Use a small hook tipped with a small piece of worms fished under a slip bobber. **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** - Good: Smallmouth fishing has been good on wing dams and rocky shorelines with good current. Best bite is towards evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth fishing is good on side channel and main channel shoreline structure. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye fishing is improving as the water stabilizes. Try fast trolling crankbaits or bait-rig off the bottom. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch in vegetated areas along the main channel. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike fishing is picking up in the shallows or in the mouths of tributary streams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try live shiners or small bluegill in woody debris to attract flatheads in slack areas off the side channels.

Upper Mississippi water levels continue to be at summer lows. Boaters should use caution as many sandbars and wing-dams have little water over them. Water clarity continues to be good with lots of vegetation present. Look for fish to move to deep cooler water midday. Many backwater species have moved to main channel borders and side sloughs. Fishing has been best early morning and early evening. Water temperature is in the mid 70's.

Mississippi River Pool 12

River levels are low and are predicted to remain down. Water levels are 5.8 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 8.3 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is good. Levels may

slowly recede this week. Water temperature is around 74 degrees. **Channel Catfish**- Excellent:Channel catfish are biting on worms and stink bait; move often if you do not find biting fish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker and worm rig works best. **White Crappie** - Fair: A few nice white crappie have been reported all spring. Some crappie are being reported off snags in backwater sloughs fishing with minnows. **Walleye**- Fair: The wing dam fishing has returned to the Mississippi River. Some anglers are using worm rigs while others are throwing crankbaits on the dams. **White Bass** - Good: Some white bass were caught along main channel rock lines before the large rain event. **Bluegill** - Good:Find bluegills at the mouths of large backwater areas that have been dewatered in recent weeks. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Pull worm rigs near rocky habitats. Lots of flatheads have been caught this year. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent:Throw spinners or small crankbaits around rocky areas with strong current in the evenings. **Largemouth Bass**- Good: Largemouths have pulled out of the shallow backwater areas and are on trees and sandy shoals often chasing minnows.

[Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

Water level is 7.0 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. Water may recede again later in the week. Water clarity has improved and temperature is around 75 degrees in the main channel. **Northern Pike** - No Report: Use flashy white lures lures in the mouths of cooler tributary streams. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: 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**- Excellent: Use egg sinker rigs with worms. Drum bite in all types of river conditions. **Walleye**- Fair: Wing dam walleye fishing has returned. Throw crank baits over the rock piles. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Throw crank baits or spinners near rock piles with strong current. **Bluegill** - Fair: Fish deep sloughs next to large backwater complexes that have been dewatered due to low water levels. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent: Small flathead catfish are hitting on worms; mostly by people fishing for channel cats. Try large live bait fished in the evening hours for bigger flatheads. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bite has improved with the lower water levels. Some fish are on weed edges while others are in logs in deeper sloughs.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

Water levels are 5.8 feet at Fulton, 9.8 feet at Camanche and 4.8 feet at LeClaire. Water clarity has improved greatly. Water levels are predicted to slowly recede again this week. Water temperature is 75 degrees in the main channel. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass had moved out of the large shallow areas into deeper adjacent habitats. **Freshwater Drum**- Excellent: Freshwater drum are biting on worm rigs. Catch drum in nearly all moderate current areas. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use worm rigs and prepared stink baits fished close to shore or along rock lines. **Walleye** - Good: Try near the outside tips of wing dams in low water levels. **Flathead Catfish** - Excellent Some people are trot lining flathead catfish using large bullheads as bait. Flathead are most active during the night and evening hours. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try along rock piles with current. **Bluegill** - Fair: Fish deeper sloughs next to large backwater complexes that have been dewatered due to lower water levels.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

River levels are 6.5 feet at Rock Island. This is down a half a foot from last week. Water clarity has improved and temperature is 75 degrees in the main channel. Water levels may

recede slightly this week. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try 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. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Find smallmouths along rock lines with strong current.

The main channel water temperature has dropped to 75 degrees. Fishing conditions have been good throughout the district this week. 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 is 6.10 feet. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 9.99 feet at Fairport and flood stage is 14 feet. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use nightcrawlers, stink bait or chicken livers above brush piles in the sloughs in the Andalusia Islands. Try also around the mouth of Sunset Marina. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing with plastics around brush piles and logs in the Andalusia Island complex. **White Crappie** - Fair: Use minnows or plastics around brush piles in the Andalusia Island complex. Try also in the Andalusia Harbor. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or troll three-way rigs with nightcrawlers.

[Mississippi River Pool 17](#)

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine is 5.14 feet. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 7.17 feet at Muscatine and flood stage is 16 feet. The ramp at Big Timber is open. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or stink bait around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Try minnows or plastics around brush piles in Cleveland Slough and Big Timber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Look for largemouth bass in the backwaters. Try around brush piles and logs in Cleveland Slough and Big Timber. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or pull three-way rigs with crawlers.

[Mississippi River Pool 18](#)

Tailwater stage is 6 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 7.50 feet at Keithsburg and flood stage is 14 feet. The Toolsboro landing is open. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try nightcrawlers or stink baits above brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in brush piles in the backwaters; use minnows or plastics. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or pull three-way rigs with crawlers.

[Mississippi River Pool 19](#)

Tailwater stage is 3.18 feet at Lock and Dam 18. Flood stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 10 feet. River stage at Burlington is 9.06 feet. Flood stage at Burlington is 15 feet. River stage is 525.79 feet at Fort Madison and flood stage is 528.0 feet. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Try nightcrawlers or stink baits in snags and brush piles along the main channel and side channels. **White Crappie** - No

Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters and sloughs; use minnows or plastics around brush piles.

River levels are low, so use caution when boating. River levels continue to fall. Water clarity is good. Main channel water temperature is around 76 degrees. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

The water is warming back up to near 80 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies continue to stay out in deeper water, waiting for cooler weather. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Go shallow in the early morning and late evening; as the day gets warmer flow them out to deeper water.

Chatfield Lake

Water temperature is about 76 degrees. This 10 acre pond was lowered for repairs and is refilling; still about 3 feet low. The fish are in good condition. The boat ramp is at a usable depth. **Black Crappie** - Fair: There are some nice sized crappies in this lake; they were out along the edges of the weed beds yesterday. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Mostly sub-legal sizes, but would be fun for a little evening fishing.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

Lots of sandbars are showing up. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for deeper water holes.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperatures is back up into the upper 70's to near 80. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fish the late evening and early morning in the densest cover you can find; be prepared to lose some lures. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill fishing is starting to pick up after a couple of weeks of slow fishing. Look to deeper water for the fish. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfishing has been decent around the rocks along the jetties and on the mounds at the upper end of the lake.

Lake Darling

The water temperature is working its way back up, was 78 degrees this morning (8/17). The planktonic algae bloom is also coming back a little. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass were getting a little more active earlier this week and starting to hit crankbaits more aggressively. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappies started to come in shallower, but most are staying out in the 10 feet deep range.

Lost Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch decent numbers of bass in shallower water during the early morning and late evening. They are deeper the rest of the day. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Work the face of the dam and along the old creek channel below the causeway.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The water is getting shallow; motor boats probably won't have much luck getting around. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Find the holes and you can find catfish willing to bite. Use cut baits and stink baits.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try rubber worms and crankbaits along rip-rapped shorelines and along deeper structure in 4- to 8-feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait around the fishing jetties and along the dam. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers or stink bait in 4- to 6-feet of water.

Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs tipped with live bait along the shorelines in the edge of the vegetation and open pockets in the vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use rubber worms or crankbaits along the shorelines. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers or liver in about 4- to 6-feet of water.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Try jig and minnows or minnows and a bobber. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Walleye** - Slow: Drift or troll nightcrawlers along the dam and other rip-rapped shorelines. Try casting crankbaits in the same areas. **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 the shorelines, among vegetation and around the jetties.

Lake Wapello

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try crankbaits or spinnerbaits around the cedar tree piles and along the shorelines. Use topwater lures among the vegetation and lily pads. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or cut bait fished in 6- to 8-feet of water.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.19 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun had zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. **White Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are suspended, so try crankbaits along submerged points and underwater islands. Some fish can still be caught shallow, but sorting is needed for larger fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use nightcrawlers or cut bait along windblown shorelines. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits along submerged points and rock piles. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits that mimic gizzard shad 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. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits and crankbaits along the shorelines, around the jetties, and along the face of the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink 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 - Fair: Troll live bait rigs and cast or troll shallow diving crank baits on the upper end of the lake. **White Bass** - Fair: Troll shallow diving shad imitating baits out from the beach and up to the marina. There are some good size white bass (up to 16 inches).

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use stink baits and cut baits.

Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are averaging around 10 fish in an hour. Drift tube jigs and twister or paddle tail jigs 3- to 8-feet down in 10- to 20-feet of water throughout the lake until you find schools of fish.

Hickory Grove Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Drift small jigs tipped with crawlers in the middle portion of the lake when tree shade covers portions of the lake. Drift within or on the edge of the shade.

Red Rock Reservoir

White Bass - Good: The hot weather white bass bite is on. Troll small shallow diving rattle baits or spoons around large points, out from the beach and dam, and along the windblown shoreline. Troll in depths of 5- to 15- feet. Use colors imitating young gizzard shad. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift cut creek chubs or shad above the mile long bridge in 6- to 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.

Saylorville Reservoir

White Bass - Fair: The past week has seen a little better white bass activity than previously this summer. Troll shad imitating crankbaits and spoons. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Drift cut creek chubs in the upper end of the reservoir above and just below the mile long bridge. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Anglers trolling for white bass are catching decent numbers of hybrid striped bass. Troll shad imitating lipless or shallow diving crankbaits.

The fishing for white bass in Red Rock Reservoir and channel catfish in Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs is good right now. 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 fair 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** - Slow: Cast minnows under

a slip bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait or prepared baits around structure and vegetation edges.

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield Lake has a good fish population. Catch catfish in less than 8 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few crappies can be caught around structure. Late afternoon bite is best. Fish average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Slow: Drift small jigs tipped with a crawler to catch 8 inch bluegill. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait or shrimp in less than 8 feet of water. Anglers have a chance to catch large catfish at Greenfield.

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 beds. Fish will average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegills up to 9.5 inches with small jigs tipped power bait or nightcrawlers over the road beds and rock piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass around underwater reefs and vegetation edges. Fish are all sizes.

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** - Slow: There 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 or trolling along the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use liver or nightcrawlers in the upper end of the lake for 14- to 16-inch catfish.

Viking Lake

Anglers report catching crappies in deep brush piles and drifting. Bass fishing has been good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are catching largemouth bass in tree piles with plastics and around the shoreline with spinnerbaits. Fish are all sizes. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: 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** - Fair: Drifting has been good for 7 inch bluegill.

Anglers report good catfishing in rivers. Panfish have slowed, but should continue to improve with cooler water temperatures. 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 with crankbaits or spinnerbaits fished near cedar tree brushpiles, stakebeds, or earth mounds. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies up to 8 inches using small jigs under a bobber or spinners fished along the fishing piers, weed edges or cedar tree brush piles.

Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish - Good: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught with cut bait fished along windblown points or rock structure.

Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches with finesse plastics or crankbaits fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with jigs tipped with a nightcrawler or waxworm fished near cedar tree brush piles.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught with finesse plastics or jigs fished along cedar tree brush piles or topwater baits fished along weed edges early and late day. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using small jigs tipped with nightcrawlers or waxworms fished near the fishing jetties or along weed edges. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch black crappie up to 10 inches with small tube jigs or jigs tipped with a minnow fished near cedar tree brush piles or rock piles. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Catch yellow perch up to 11 inches using nightcrawlers fished on the bottom along the fishing jetties. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye of all sizes have been caught with jigs tipped with minnows or leeches fished near rock piles, roadbed, or main lake points.

Water temperature in Mount Ayr district lakes is in the mid 70'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 just off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits along wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

Missouri River (Little Sioux to Council Bluffs)

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 just off the bottom in or near the current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worms, chicken livers, cut bait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

Missouri River (Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line)

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 main river channel. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use chicken livers, worms, cut bait and dip baits near wing dams, brush piles and along the rock revetment.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 23.20 ft. /33,800 cfs./73 degrees Fahrenheit (water temperature dropped 1 degree from last week). The Missouri River is up 1.74 feet from last week. Anglers are mainly catching catfish (channels, flatheads, and blue cats). Fishing continues to be fair to good for all catfish species. The Decatur Bridge West of Onawa closed August 14 for repairs and reopen sometime in September.