



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



## [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of August 30.](#)

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](#)

## NORTHWEST

### [Beeds Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Drift fish or troll with a tube jig or small minnow. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Drift fish or troll with a small jig.

### [Clear Lake](#)

Surface water temperature is 69 degrees. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits in 6 to 10 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Good: With recent rains and more predicted for next week, cut bait or crawlers in areas where water is entering the lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Drift a jig and minnow over deeper submerged vegetation. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Drift or troll a small jig tipped with cut bait or a minnow in 6 to 10 feet of water until you find the fish. **Muskellunge** - Fair: Fish the edge of the vegetation and near docks.

## Crystal Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift or troll small tube jigs in the dredge cut.

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

---

## East Okoboji Lake

**Yellow Bass** - Good: Excellent bite continues with good numbers of fish being caught.

Cast mini-jigs or hair-jigs or use small baits tipped with wigglers. **Walleye** - Good: Numbers of fish are being caught with traditional baits; good numbers of yellow bass are mixed in with the catch. **Bluegill** - Good: The bite has fluctuated with the changing weather, but persistence will be rewarded with good numbers caught.

## Lake Pahoja

Bluegill - Good: Recent surveys show good numbers of large angler size fish in the lake.

## Lost Island Lake

**Yellow Bass** - Good: Reports of yellow bass being caught with black crappie and yellow perch up to 10 inches mixed in the catch. Use small lures such as a twister tail or hair jigs. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Anglers report catching large channel catfish after dark. **Bluegill** - Good: Recent surveys show numbers of fish approaching 7 inches in the lake. **Black Crappie** - Good: Recent surveys show numbers of angler acceptable size fish up to 10 inches in the lake.

## Ocheyedan Pit #1

**Channel Catfish** - Fair: Recent surveys show good numbers of 17 -23 inch channel catfish.

## Spirit Lake

**Walleye** - Fair: The walleye bite has slowed, but persistence will be rewarded with good catches of fish. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Good numbers of angler acceptable size yellow perch continue to be caught; start shallow on the outside line of the weed beds. **Bluegill**- Good: Reports of bluegill, crappie and yellow perch being caught in the Illinois Pondweed in 8 - 10 feet of water. Use a slip bobber and jigs to fish fast and find active fish.

## West Fork Des Moines (state line to Emmetsburg)

**Channel Catfish** - Good: Reports of fish being caught from the river. Use traditional baits for the best "pole bending" action. **Walleye** - Good: Report of walleye action picking up on the river.

## West Okoboji Lake

Bluegill - Good: Rock piles in deeper water with stands of aquatic growth will produce

good numbers of angler acceptable sized fish.

For more information throughout the week, contact the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery at 712-336-1840.

## NORTHEAST

### Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels crested after Tuesday's rain. Flows remain high. Clarity is poor. Use caution when boating as large woody debris and other materials may be on the move. Visit the [USGS Current Water Data website](#) for current water level information. **Walleye** - Slow: Use a jig tipped with a twister tail or minnow in deeper water or a spinnerbait in slack water pockets. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Fish midday on overcast days or dawn and dusk. A variety of baits are working. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Fresh food inputs from recent rain should turn the catfish bite on; use chicken liver or dead chubs.

### **Decorah District Streams**

Streams with better watersheds will clear quicker, especially after Tuesday's rain. Without more rain, streams should clear enough to fish by the weekend. Due to marginal stream temperatures, some streams are not stocked during August. Listen to the trout stocking hotline (563-927-5736) for daily information. **Brook Trout** - Fair: A variety of aquatic and terrestrial insects, like ants and beetles, are more numerous. Use care not to spook a feeding fish. **Brown Trout** - Excellent: Hendrickson caddis and crane fly hatches are occurring. Crickets are common along streams now. Use hendrickson gnat or beadhead nymph patterns. Pale yellow, black, brown, and grey colors work best. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Try a piece of worm or small cheese chunk on a hook under a bobber in the deeper holes or floated past an undercut bank. A variety of small spinnerbaits work well.

### French Creek

The bridge on Mays Prairie Road (CR X6A) is being replaced. Work is scheduled through mid-November. Access the parking lot from the south. **Brown Trout** - Good: The best time to fish French Creek is after rain events so fish will be less spooky. This stream rarely turns off color.

### Lake Hendricks

Planktonic green algae bloom continues on the lake. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Cooler weather should help clear the bloom. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Slowly reel a minnow on a hook over structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try near submersed rocky habitat or depth contours in the early morning. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use a large nightcrawler fished off the bottom near woody structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Activity should

pick up with cooler temperatures. Try a small jig tipped with small piece of worm off rocky shoreline or near submersed logs.

### Lake Meyer

Water temperatures are in the mid 70's. With Tuesday's rain, lake clarity is poor. **Bluegill**- Slow: Use a hook tipped with a small piece of worm or cricket under a bobber near weed edges. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait or cut baits fished just off the bottom in the evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Use topwater baits along weed edges on overcast days and late evenings. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a jig and minnow near submersed structure.

### Osborne Pond

Osborne Pond is currently being renovated. The dam was breached in July and a water retention basin installed. Material will be removed over the winter and new habitat installed in the spring. After repairs to the dam are made, it will be allowed to fill. The pond will then be restocked with bluegill, channel catfish, and largemouth bass.

### Turkey River (above Clermont)

The Turkey River continues to rise. Flows remain high. Visit [the USGS Current Condition website](#) for more information. Use care when boating, especially with unpredictable currents. Water temperatures are in the low 70's. Visibility is poor. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use crawfish imitators or spinners in slack water areas off riffles. **Walleye** - Slow: Try minnows or lures imitating minnows in deep water drop offs.

### Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are variable with poor clarity. Visit the [USGS Current Water Data website](#) for more information. Paddling activities are not recommended. **Walleye** - Slow: Catch varies. Try natural colored jigs and twister tails or a spinnerbait. **Smallmouth Bass**- Slow: Use crankbaits near rocky ledges undercut banks and current breaks.

### Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water clarity is poor. Water levels are dropping. Current velocities are very swift. Paddling activities are not recommended. Visit the [USGS Current Conditions website](#) for more information. **Walleye** - Slow: Cast a jig and twister tail into deep water drop offs and eddies. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Cast a crankbait or spinner near a rock ledge or into a current break.

### Volga Lake

The algae bloom continues, but should clear with cooling temperatures. **Black Crappie**- Slow: Slowly retrieve a lure over structure at dawn and dusk. **Largemouth Bass**- Good: Use topwater lures over structure or run a jig tipped with a twister tail along a rocky shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use stink bait worms or cut baits fished off the bottom in the evening near woody structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with a small piece of worm along rocky shorelines.

Prepare for a stormy holiday weekend in Northeast Iowa. Temperatures ranging from upper 70's for highs to upper 50's for lows. Area rivers and streams are up and muddy after recent rain events. Trout streams are currently off color and should clear without more heavy downpours. For current fishing information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

---

### [Big Woods Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Try finding structure; use a crappie minnow under a slip bobber at various depths.

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

Casey Lake is in good condition with clear water. Vegetation remains abundant around edges, but it is starting to die back. **Bluegill** – Fair: Try fishing various depths with a piece of crawler under a bobber near the edge of weeds or structure.

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

The Cedar River received a fair amount of rain this past week; there have been no angling reports. Channel catfish may be the best opportunity on the river right now. **Channel Catfish** – Good Use stink baits in the top or upstream end of log jams.

### [Maquoketa River \(above Monticello\)](#)

The Maquoketa River is in excellent condition. Smallmouth bass and walleye fishing should be good throughout Delaware and Jones counties.

### [Shell Rock River \(Greene to Shell Rock\)](#)

The Shell Rock River received a fair amount of rain this past week; there have been no angling reports. Channel catfish may be the best opportunity on the river right now. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink baits in the top or upstream end of log jams.

### [South Prairie Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Try finding structure; use a crappie minnow under a slip bobber at various depths.

### [Wapsipinicon River \(Tripoli to Troy Mills\)](#)

The Wapsipinicon River received a little rain in Buchanan County, but conditions remain good for angling opportunities. **Northern Pike** - Good: Cast large bucktail spinners.

The Cedar and Shell Rock in Butler County received a fair amount of rain this past week. The Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa Rivers remain in decent shape for angling opportunities. Trout streams remain in excellent condition, but the extended forecast is calling for potential heavy rains. Call the N.E. Iowa district office at 563-927-3276 for more information.

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## Mississippi River Pool 9

River level at Lansing has risen to 9.8 feet and is expected to rise another foot next week. Water temperature is near 73 degrees. The Lansing Village Creek ramp is closed through October. For more updates, call the Guttenberg Fisheries Management office at 563-252-1156. **Walleye** - Fair: Water levels are rising; you will need to move around to find walleyes. Use a 3-way rig with a floating jig and a worm. **Yellow Perch** - No Report: Perch bite has been spotty, but some nicer ones are being caught with live minnow rigs. **Northern Pike** - No Report: This time of year pike are attracted to cooler water coming in from springs and tributaries. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the main and side channel borders. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: The bass bite has slowed with the poor water clarity this week. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: The bite has slowed with the poor water clarity this week. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast flashy spinners or crankbaits along the rocks in main channel current for big white bass. **Bluegill**- Fair: Find bluegills in clearer water with slow current in backwater areas away from main channel and sloughs. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively biting in areas of current. Drop a heavily weighted worm rig into the current for some big fish action. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Expect the crappie bite to pick up after the water clarity improves. Try tube jigs or minnow under a bobber in submersed trees in the backwater sloughs.

## **Mississippi River Pool 10**

River level at Lynxville rose 3 feet this week to 16.4 feet. It is expected to remain around this level pending any more precipitation. Water temperature is 75 degrees at the Lock and Dam 9. **Walleye**- Fair: Water levels are rising; you need to move around to find walleyes. Use a 3-way rig with a floating jig and a worm. **Yellow Perch** - No Report: Perch bite has been spotty, but some nicer ones are being caught with live minnow rigs. **Northern Pike** -No Report: This time of year pike are attracted to cooler water coming in from springs and tributaries. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the main and side channel borders. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills in clearer water with slow current in backwater areas away from main channel and sloughs. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: The bass bite has slowed with the poor water clarity this week. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: The bass bite has slowed with the poor water clarity this week. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast flashy spinners or crankbaits along the rocks in the main channel current for big white bass. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find the bluegills in clearer water with slow current in backwater areas away from main channel and sloughs. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively biting in areas of current. Drop a heavily weighted worm rig into the current for some big fish action. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Expect the crappie bite to pick up after the water clarity improves. Try tube jigs or minnow under a bobber in submersed trees in the backwater sloughs.

### Mississippi River Pool 11

River level at Guttenberg has risen several feet to 7.4 feet and is expected to reach 9.5 feet next week. Water temperature is 68 degrees at Lock and Dam

10. **Walleye**- Fair: Water levels are rising; you need to move around to find walleyes. Use a 3-way rig with a floating jig and a worm. **Yellow Perch** - No Report: Perch bite has been spotty, but some nicer ones are being caught with live minnow rigs. **Northern Pike** - No Report: This time of year, pike are attracted to cooler water coming in from springs and tributaries. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the main and side channel borders. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: The bass bite has slowed with the poor water clarity this week. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: The bass bite has slowed with the poor water clarity this week. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast flashy spinners or crankbaits along the rocks in main channel current for big white bass. **Bluegill** - Slow: Find bluegills in clearer water with slow current in backwater areas away from main channel and sloughs. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are actively biting in areas of current. Drop a heavily weighted worm rig into the current for some big fish action. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Expect the crappie bite to pick up after the water clarity improves. Try tube jigs or minnow under a bobber in submersed trees in the backwater sloughs.

Upper Mississippi River levels are rising with recent heavy rainfalls. Water clarity is poor with much floating vegetation and debris. Water temperatures are in the low 70's.

---

### Mississippi River Pool 12

Water levels will rise to around 9.1 feet at the Dubuque Lock and Dam and 11.2 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity is fair. The water temperature is around 76 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait or worms near shore. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Most anglers use a simple egg sinker and worm rig. Drum will be hanging out relatively near shore in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass**- Excellent: Largemouth bass are being caught along flooded weed lines and in weedy backwater using lures like scum frogs. **White Bass** - Good: Look for schools of white bass feeding on the surface in the morning and evenings. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Try along the vegetation lines in 4 to 6 feet of water. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Current areas along rocks are starting to again produce some nice eating sized flathead catfish. **Walleye**- Slow: Use crankbaits on the wing dams. **White Crappie** - Good: Try small minnows in brush piles along major side channels or deeper backwater areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners or crankbaits along rocky areas with strong current.

### Mississippi River Pool 13

Water level will drop to around 10 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam. Water clarity is fair,

but avoid all the tributary streams as they are muddy. The water temperature is around 77 degrees. The north ramp at Sabula is not in use this year due to bridge construction. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait or worms near shore. Move often if you are not finding catfish. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: The drum bite is on. Fish worms with an egg sinker in moderate current areas. Fish near the shorelines if possible. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Most are feeding along the edge of weed lines. Use a bright colored spinner that imitates minnows. Try also frog imitation lures in the weedy backwaters. **White Bass** - Good: Look for feeding schools of white bass in the morning and evenings. Small spinners and white jigs work best. **Bluegill** - Good: Try fishing along vegetation lines in 4 to 6 feet of water. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Try live bait in high current areas or above large brush piles. **White Crappie** - Good: Some nice crappies were reported coming out of deeper backwater areas along newly exposed brush piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Some walleyes were taken off wing dams with crankbaits, but the bite has been somewhat slow. Lots of drifting aquatic vegetation was reported, making angling difficult.

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

Water levels are predicted to rise to 9.5 feet at Fulton Lock and Dam, 12.2 feet at Camanche and 7 feet at the LeClaire. Water clarity is fair. The water temperature is around 77 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait or worms near shore or along brush piles. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use a simple egg sinker/worm rig in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Bright colored spinners fished along flooded shorelines are picking up some bass. **White Bass** - Good: White bass are using the tailwater area. Many small fish can be caught; use bright jigs or flashy lures. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Focus on rock lines and rock piles with strong current. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Some flatheads are hitting crankbaits and jigs along rocky areas. Anglers are using live baits on trot lines with some success. **Bluegill** - Good: Lower ends of Rock Creek and Catfish Slough have produced some nice bluegills; mainly using worms and bobbers. **White Crappie** - Good: Try newly exposed brush piles with small minnows and jigs.

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

Water levels are 9.5 feet at Rock Island. Water clarity is poor. The water temperature is around 77 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try stink bait or worms near shore. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use an egg sinker and worm rig fished near shore in moderate current areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use live bait above large dead falls. Some may also be caught in the tailwater in large eddies. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: Try spinners jigs and crankbaits in rock lines and piles with strong current. Dirty water will slow this bite.

Conditions will significantly change during the week as water will rise nearly three feet due to extreme rains upstream. Logs and debris will be common, so be careful boating.



Avoid tributary streams as they are running muddy. If you have any angling questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

---

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

Tailwater stage is 7.49 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and is rising. River stage is forecast to reach 9.5 feet by Monday. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags in the side channels and main channels. Try fishing above the brush piles with stink bait or shad. Fishing main channel wing dams also works. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or troll three-way rigs with crawlers. **White Bass** - No Report: Cast jigs with twister tails in Sylvan Slough or Sunset Marina.

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

Tailwater stage is 6.46 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is rising. Current predictions have the river reaching 9.3 feet next week. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Fishing around main channel wing dams works, too. Use dip baits or cut shad. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wingdams. Cast crankbaits or troll three-way rigs with crawlers. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Vertical jig with minnows or float minnows under a bobber around brush piles.

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

Tailwater stage is 8.02 feet at Lock and Dam 17 above New Boston and is rising. Current predictions have the river reaching 11.2 feet next week. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or shad around brush piles and snags along side channels and the main channel. Try also around the wing dams. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try fishing around brush piles with minnows. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or troll three-way rigs with crawlers.

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

Tailwater stage is 4.83 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is rising. Current predictions have the river reaching 7.1 feet next week. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool this week. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Use dip baits or shad around brush piles and snags along the side channels and main channel.

River stages have been on the rise with the recent heavy rains. Main channel water temperature is around 76 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

## Big Hollow Lake

Bluegill - Slow: Anglers are picking up a few bluegills at around six feet. The fish seem to be pretty scattered, so move around or drift troll to find them. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching some decent bass early in the morning in the flooded timber on soft plastics.

## Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa at Wapello has been slowly rising for the last couple of days and according to NOAA's forecast is going to continue to rise for a few more days to a couple more feet. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: With the rising water, it's a good time to try the mouths of some of the feeder creeks. Use caution when navigating a rising river.

## Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is in the upper 70's. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try slow trolling or drift fishing by the beach and towards the dam. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Work the tops of the mounds at the upper end of the lake. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Anglers continue to catch the catfish. Try along the rip-rap around the lower end of the lake and on top of the mounds at the upper end.

## Lake Darling

Water temperature was 76 degrees on Aug. 30. Water level is up because of the heavy rains, but still has a green cast to it. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift for crappies; don't be surprised if you pick up a few nice bluegills, too. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Drift over the rock piles in 8 to 12 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Anglers continue to catch catfish. It's a good time to fish the weirs in the in-lake silt dams as the water from the recent and forecasted rains come into the lake.

## Lost Grove Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Deep trolling (20 to 25 feet) continues to produce some crappies. With the water starting to cool down, hopefully it won't be too long before they start moving shallow again. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching some pretty nice bass in the flooded timber.

## Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The water level in the Skunk jumped up a couple of feet with the rain earlier this week, but is headed back down until we get more rain forecast for the end of this week. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Haven't seen much angler activity on the Skunk River this week, but up and down river levels make it hard to figure out what the fish are doing day to day.

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

---

### Central Park Lake

The lake is refilling and fingerling fish have been stocked.

### Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is at 684 feet and is predicted to hold at this level for the near future.

**Channel Catfish** - Fair: Drift cut bait in the channel. **Black Crappie** – Slow: Try bright jigs and/or minnows along steep rock banks.

### Diamond Lake

**Black Crappie** - Slow: Try small jigs fished over deeper brush. Most fish are 8-9 inches. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Stink bait works best. Some limits are being reported.

### Kent Park Lake

The lake is drained for a lake renovation project currently underway. It is scheduled to be completed next spring.

### Lake Macbride

Only motors under 10hp may be used at no-wake speed until Sept. 4. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use jigs or minnows around brush in 10-15 feet of water. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crawlers or crankbaits in 7-14 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** – Fair: Try topwater baits early and late then troll during the day. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or stink bait. Evenings are best.

### Otter Creek Lake

There is quite a bit of vegetation in the boat ramp canal and some in sections of other shorelines. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait, especially towards evening. Many 3-5 pound fish are reported. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use small jigs spinners or live bait.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

The lake is still 4' low. Use caution on the lake, as many of the new rock and wood structures are becoming submerged. There are two docks in at the main ramp and the fish cleaning station is open. **Channel Catfish** – Fair: Use cut bait or stink bait in the evenings.

### Wapsipinicon River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)

**Channel Catfish** - Good: Stink bait works best.

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

---

### Des Moines River (Ottumwa to Farmington)

**Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or night crawlers around log jams and slack water areas.

### Lake Keomah

Bluegill - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait near shoreline and around the fishing jetties. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a minnow around deep structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use stink bait or chicken liver in 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits or crankbaits around the fishing jetties and along the dam. Switch to rubber worms and deeper structure as the day heats up.

### Lake Miami

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try topwater lures in the early mornings and evenings then switch to rubber worms or crankbaits during the hotter parts of the day. Target the cedar tree piles and the fishing jetties. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler along the rip-rapped shorelines, the jetties and around the cedar tree piles.

### Lake Sugema

The south boat ramp off of Highway 2 is closed due to a parking lot construction project. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use topwater lures in the early mornings and evenings. As the day progresses, target deeper structure using rubber worms or deep diving crankbaits. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use jigs tipped with a minnow in deeper water structure. Try also a slip bobber over a minnow. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try live bait tipped on a small jig around the shorelines and fishing jetties.

### Lake Wapello

Channel Catfish - Fair: Use chicken liver or stink bait around areas with rip-rapped shorelines or rock piles. Don't fish too deep as the lake will stratify; target 6-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use rubber worms or crawdad imitating crankbaits around deep structure. Try also topwater lures around the cedar tree piles in the morning. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler around aquatic vegetation or near the fishing jetties. **White Crappie** - Slow: Use jigs tipped with a minnow around deeper structure and the outer edge of the weed line.

### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.48 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry equipment before transporting to another water body. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or chicken liver. **White Crappie** - Fair: Try minnows around deeper structure. Trolling small crankbaits can also catch suspended crappies. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or night crawler rigs along rocky shorelines and around rock piles. Try also vertical jigging in the same areas. **Walleye** - Fair: Use night crawler rigs or troll crankbaits around rock piles and submerged points.

### Red Haw Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast the shorelines in the early part of the day and then fish deeper structure as the day warms up. Use rubber worms or crankbaits. Topwater lures can be productive along the lily pads. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try tube jigs along the shorelines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with live bait around the shorelines

and fishing jetties. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try night crawlers or chicken liver around the fishing jetties and the outer edge of the lily pads.

The district includes Mahaska, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

## SOUTHWEST

### Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Fair: Troll shallow diving shad imitating crankbaits or spinner rigs with night crawlers with little weight to fish 3 to 10 feet deep. The northern half of the lake is best during the summer; start from the beach up to the marina boat ramp. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Troll and cast crankbaits, spoons or in-line spinners in the main lake. Look for schools of fish busting shad on the surface.

### Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Good: The channel catfishing is very good in the Des Moines River using stink baits. Water levels are good again for boats.

### Red Rock Reservoir

White Bass - Fair: Anglers are reporting better white bass fishing than what has been happening so far this summer. Look for feeding activity on the surface and troll these areas with shallow diving shad imitating crankbaits or spoons. Fishing below the dam has also been fair to good for a mix of white bass and hybrid striped bass.

### Rock Creek Lake

White Crappie - Good: Drift or slowly troll jigs or minnows in the lower half of the lake in the mornings to just after noon.

### Saylorville Reservoir

White Bass - Fair: A summer white bass bite has finally picked up. Look for schools of small gizzard shad breaking the surface and cast or troll shad imitating crankbaits or spoons in these areas. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Decent catches of channel catfish are coming from the pool below the Big Creek spillway using cut bait or dead shad.

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

---

## **Cold Springs District Farm Ponds**

Water clarity may have been affected by heavy rains earlier this week. Always get permission to fish privately-owned ponds. **Bluegill** - Slow: Anglers report slow fishing in ponds after heavy rains this week. Try fishing 4 feet below the surface for suspended fish in the summer. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Largemouth bass are very active and can be caught with a variety of lures and plugs. Fish shallow early and late and go deeper during the middle of the day. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or commercial stink baits along weed edges and around structure. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Find crappies suspended and around structure.

## **Farm Creek Lake**

Farm Creek has a good fish population with quality sized panfish. Water quality is good. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish the creek channel for black crappie up to 12 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Drift or slow troll along the creek channel for bluegills up to 9.5 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: There is a good population of 13 to 15 inch bass in the lake.

## **Lake Anita**

Fishing has slowed a bit this week. Water temperatures are in the upper 70's. Water clarity is good. **Bluegill** - Slow: Drift or slow troll small jigs tipped with crawler for bluegills up to 9 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The early morning crappie bite is best. Slow troll small jigs tipped with power bait to catch 9 to 11 inch fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Throw spinners along the vegetation and plastics around deep structure during the day

## **Lake Manawa**

Lake Manawa is a good destination for summer catfishing. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Channel catfish have slowed a bit, but anglers report catching fish around Boy Scout Island. Fish will average 2 to 5 pounds. **White Crappie** - No Report: There is a good population of white crappies in Manawa.

## **Orient Lake**

Water clarity at Orient has improved. **Bluegill** - Good: Use small jigs and worms. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish are actively feeding below the rock sediment dam. Cast liver crawlers or cut bait next to the current. **Black Bullhead** - Good: Quality sized bullheads can be caught with night crawlers below the rock sediment structure.

## **Prairie Rose Lake**

Prairie Rose will offer good panfishing. The lake has quality sized bluegills and acceptable size crappies. The water clarity has improved to 2 feet this week. **Bluegill** - Slow: Bluegills are in a summer pattern. Look for fish around underwater reefs and drift/troll open water areas. Bluegills in Prairie Rose are 8 to 9.5 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: There is a large population of 12 inch bass in the lake that offers fun [catch and release fishing](#).

### Viking Lake

A few catfish are still being caught at Viking. A few crappies are being caught in the deep brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Cast cut bait or liver around brush piles for catfish up to 10 pounds. Early morning bite is best. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are being caught in the deeper tree piles. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Jig plastics in deeper brush piles during the day and cast shallow structure early morning for largemouth bass of all sizes.

Water temperatures have cooled this week into the upper 70's. Anglers are still finding panfish in open water and around deep structure. Catfishing has been good around the district. For more information, contact the Cold Springs office at 712-769-2587.

---

### Green Valley Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches with crankbaits and larger plastic lures. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with night crawlers and small plastic lures closer to shore throughout the lake. **Black Crappie** - Good: Find crappies up to 9 inches near vegetation and areas with sunken structures.

### Lake Icaria

**Channel Catfish** - Good: Channel catfish of all sizes have been caught using night crawlers or cut bait fished along rocky shoreline areas and cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with worms fished along the fish mounds or fishing jetties.

### Little River Watershed Lake

Largemouth Bass - Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 18 inches using crankbaits or finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brush piles or rock reefs. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegills up to 9 inches with worms fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Catch channel catfish up to 10 pounds with night crawlers or cut bait fished along rocky shoreline areas.

### Three Mile Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Catch largemouth bass up to 15 inches with crankbaits and plastics in or near the cedar tree piles or rock structures. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappies up to 9 inches using minnows and small jigs fished near the jetties. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegills up to 8 inches with night crawlers fished near shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleyes up to 19 inches with crankbaits near the fish mounds.

### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Largemouth bass of all sizes have been caught with crankbaits or finesse plastics fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with worms fished near cedar tree brush piles or shallow

bays. **Walleye**- Good: Catch walleyes of all sizes using crankbaits and spinners fished in 10 feet of water. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie up to 9 inches with jigs or minnows fished along weedlines or the flooded timber.

Water temperature in most district lakes is in the lower 80's to upper 70's. The district includes Page, Taylor, Adams, Union, Ringgold, Decatur, Clarke and Madison counties. For more information, please call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.

## MISSOURI RIVER

### Missouri River (Sioux City to Little Sioux)

Channel Catfish - Good: During high water levels, try below flooded wing dams and close to the bank or slower flooded areas from shore. Smaller tributaries should also be good, where channel catfish will find refuge from faster currents. Use worms, cut bait, or dip baits. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Try using live bait rigs or jigs tipped with worms along the bank and around tributary stream or rivers where they join the Missouri River. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Anglers report catching a few blue catfish on rod and reel and trotlines. Use live bait or fresh cut bait with live bait rigs along wing dam tips or in or close to the main channel of the Missouri River. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead catfish are being caught on trotlines and rod and reel using live baits (chubs, bullheads, green sunfish). Fish below wing dam tip, near rock structures, logs and along the bank with deeper water nearby.

### Missouri River (Little Sioux to Council Bluffs)

Channel Catfish - Good: During high water levels, try below flooded wing dams and close to the bank or slower flooded areas from shore. Smaller tributaries should also be good, where channel catfish will find refuge from faster currents. Use worms, cut bait, or dip baits. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Try using live bait rigs or jigs tipped with worms along the bank and around tributary stream or rivers where they join the Missouri River. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Anglers report catching blue catfish on rod and reel and trotlines. Use live bait or fresh cut bait along wing dam tips or in or close to the main channel of the Missouri River. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Flathead catfish are being caught on trotlines and rod and reel using live baits (chubs, bullheads, green sunfish). Fish below wing dam tip, near rock structures, logs and along the bank with deeper water nearby.

### Missouri River (Council Bluffs to Missouri State Line)

Channel Catfish - Good: During high water levels, try below flooded wing dams and close to the bank or slower flooded areas from shore. Smaller tributaries should also be good, where channel catfish will find refuge from faster currents. Use worms, cut bait,



or dip baits. **Freshwater Drum** - Fair: Try using live bait rigs or jigs tipped with worms along the bank and around tributary stream or rivers where they join the Missouri River. **Blue Catfish** - Good: Anglers are catching a few blue catfish on rod and reel and trotlines with fresh cut bait or live bait. Try by the wing dam tips, close to or in the main channel of the Missouri River for your best chance at getting bigger blue catfish. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Flathead catfish are being caught on trotlines and rod and reel using live baits (chubs, bullheads, green sunfish). Fish below wing dam tip, near rock structures, logs and along the bank with deeper water nearby.

The Missouri River at Decatur, Nebraska is at 28.32 ft. /63,700 cfs./75 degrees Fahrenheit. Missouri River water temperatures are up one degree from last week and water levels are down 0.43 feet. Water levels are up due to recent rains in the Missouri River watershed and release of water from reservoirs. Anglers and boaters are advised to use caution going on the Missouri River. Fishing has been good to fair.