



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of Jan. 31st](#)

Winter Community Trout Stocking Schedule

This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait anglers, 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](#)

NORTHWEST

[Arrowhead Lake](#)

On Jan. 31st there was 11 inches of ice near the boat ramp.

[Bacon Creek Lake](#)

An update will be posted on the [DNR website](#) when a reschedule date for the stocking is set.

. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: A few perch are being picked up in between the Ice Hou boat ramp and Gunshot Hill with jigs tipped with waxworm.

[Black Hawk Pits](#)

On Jan. 31st there was 12 inches of ice near the boat ramp. Ice is variable; ch thickness often when venturing out. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use waxworms fished nea bottom.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Anglers are fishing mostly near the north boat ramp and in the northeast arm c All other ice is variable. Look out for thin ice near the beach and in the main la cautious of thin areas that recently froze over. Ice conditions are improving; ch thickness often. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try waxworms fished on a small jig in the north of the lake. **Black Crappie** – Fair.

[Moorland Pond](#)

The trout stocking and family fishing event at Moorland Pond has been resche Feb. 9 at 11:30 a.m.

[North Twin Lake](#)

Anglers have been out, but ice thickness is variable. Look out for thin ice in are have recently frozen over. Be aware of thin ice along the southeast shore and by Featherstone Park. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers have picked up some cr the southwest part of the lake.

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

Ice conditions on Storm Lake are improving, but are still variable. Most areas c have up to 15-18 inches of ice and have seen lots of fishing activity. Avoid ice pressure seams, in the middle of the lake near the big island, and any other of ice in areas that were recently open water. Use caution and check ice thicknes often. **Walleye** - Fair: Use minnows and jigging spoons during low light conditions. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try waxworms in 4-6 feet of water in mornings; evenings.

Ice conditions have improved in the Black Hawk district, ice thickness is still va across lakes and ponds. Use caution and check ice thickness often. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

[Clear Lake](#)

Rice Lake

Bluegill - Slow: Use small jigs tipped with insect larvae. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: jigging spoons or small minnows. Angling success has been slow, but there are numbers of yellow perch in Rice Lake.

Ice conditions in north-central Iowa are good. Most lakes have between 10 and 12 inches of ice. For information on the lakes and rivers in the north central area, the Clear Lake Fish and Wildlife office at 641-357-3517.

East Okoboji Lake

Yellow Bass - Good: Anglers are catching large yellow bass from the basin. Move to stay on the school of active fish.

Five Island Lake

Yellow Bass - Good: Some activity reported on the lake; you need to search to find active fish.

Lake Pahoja

Bluegill - Recent surveys show good numbers of angler acceptable size bluegill in the lake with large fish over 8 inches not uncommon.

Lost Island Lake

Yellow Perch - Good: Report of fish being caught from the lake with "bonus mix" of bluegill and crappie in the catch. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Yellow bass activity has picked up with good numbers of fish "on the bite."

Scharnberg Pond

The trout stocking and family fishing event is this Saturday, Feb. 2 at noon.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Open water and thin ice conditions on the east side of the lake.

Spirit Lake

Walleye - Good: Angler acceptable size fish are being caught; best action is from 10 minutes before sunset to half hour after sunset. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Good numbers of angler acceptable size fish continue to be caught from the basin in 18 - 20 feet of water. Ice is needed as numbers of small fish will also be in the catch.

Trumbull Lake

Yellow Perch - Fair: Yellow perch continue to be harvested from the lake; angling success has been slow.

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

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Fish backwaters and off channel areas with little to no current. Use caution as conditions vary and can change fast. Few anglers are out. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a small jig tipped with a minnow or spike jigging aggressively.

Decorah District Streams

Parking lots in wildlife management areas will not be plowed. Use care when parking along a roadside. A good quality trout stream will not freeze in the winter. **Brook Trout** - Fair: Use larger flies or lures mimicking minnows. Spin fishers using a small jig with a minnow should find nice fish. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Rainbow Trout spawning is at its peak. Larger fish will move to headwaters to lay eggs. Use a weighted caddisfly or mayfly nymph. **Brook Trout** - Fair: Trout are actively attacking emerging minnows on warm sunny afternoons.

Lake Hendricks

No motorized vehicles allowed on the ice. Ice depths are 8-10 inches with about 12 inches of snow. Open water zone around the aerator; keep away from this area. Few anglers are out. **Bluegill** - Fair: Early bite is best. Use small jigs tipped with waxworm or spike near deeper water drop offs. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Crappies 10-11 inches have been caught. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few small bass.

Lake Meyer

The bite is slow with storm fronts moving in. Ice depth is 10 inches under 14 inches of snow. Few anglers have been out. **Bluegill** - Slow: Early morning bite is best. Use teardrop shaped jigs tipped with waxworm in brush piles in 12-15 feet of water. **Black Crappie** – Slow. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: A few bass have been caught while looking for panfish.

Volga Lake

Ice depths are about 10 inches with 12 inches of drifted snow. Few anglers have been out with the recent cold snap. **Bluegill** - Slow: Fish the brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Find Crappie in 1-12 feet water. Use waxworms with bright colored jigs in brush piles and drop off around the jetty on west side of lake.

build ice again, but it may take time until edges and areas of current are safe. in Shore Slough and Blackhawk Park area. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Some northern being caught on tip-ups using shiners in backwater lakes and marina areas. **B** Slow: Mid-winter bluegill fishing can be variable, but providing good action with sized fish being caught. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: A few perch are being caught through the ice in deeper cuts in backwater lakes. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Several reports being caught on pole or tip-ups in backwater lake areas. **Black Crappie** - Slow crappie bite picked up this week. Try glow jigs tipped with minnows toward early afternoon.

[Mississippi River Pool 10](#)

River level at Lynxville is steady near 16 feet. The ramp is now frozen over at the dam. Anglers have been crossing at Sny Magill with about 6 inches ice on Johnson Island. Stay on the path as ice is weaker closer to the ramp. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Some northern being caught on tip-ups using shiners in backwater lakes and marina areas. **Bluegill** - Slow: Mid-winter bluegill fishing can be variable, but providing good action with decent sized fish being caught. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: A few perch are being caught through the ice in deeper cuts in backwater lakes. **Black Crappie** - Slow crappie bite picked up this week. Try glow jigs tipped with minnows toward early afternoon.

[Mississippi River Pool 11](#)

River level at Guttenberg is expected to remain steady near 7 feet. Ramps are frozen over at the dam. Ice is building this week. Panfishing has slowed, but some northern are still biting. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Some northern being caught on tip-ups using shiners in backwater lakes and marina areas. **Bluegill** - Slow: Mid-winter bluegill fishing can be variable, but providing good action with decent sized fish being caught. **Perch** - Fair: A few perch are being caught through the ice in deeper cuts in backwater lakes. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The bite has been variable. Try glow jigs tipped with minnows toward early afternoon.

Subzero temperatures continue to build ice on the Upper Mississippi River. McPherson have 10 inches plus of ice; use caution in areas of current and heavy snow cover. Crappie bite has slowed. Anglers are moving around a lot to find fish.

[Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

Dam. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is around 33 degrees. Tailwater is frozen in. The north ramp and parking area at Sabula is open after bridge construction. **Sauger** - No Report: Ice flows are occurring again and the tailwater is expected to freeze later this week. Three way rigs with minnows or a jig and minnow are the most popular ways to catch walleye and sauger this winter. **White Bass** - Fair. **Perch** – Fair.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

Water levels are rising and are 7.4 feet at Fulton Lock and Dam, 10.9 feet at Clinton and 6.1 feet at LeClaire. This is up from last week. The tailwater is now frozen in. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is around 33 degrees. **Sauger** - No Report: Anglers can successfully dodge ice flows, the walleye and sauger bite has been good. Jig and minnow or three way rigs with minnows are the most popular ways to catch walleye and sauger.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

The water level is rising at Rock Island to 10.3 feet. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is around 33 degrees. No fishing has been reported to us in Pool 15. The tailwater has frozen in the recent cold snap. Ice fishing conditions have been fair. Anglers remain cautious about conditions. Snow is covering the ice in most locations, which is insulating the ice. Even with the extreme cold temperatures, some thin ice has been reported. Water levels are now stable to rising throughout the district. 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 Davenport is 9.86 feet and has been fairly stable the past few days. The Marquette Street boat ramp is frozen in as well as the main channel. We have not received any ice fishing or ice condition reports for this pool. Exercise caution if venturing out on the ice and check ice conditions often as you move.

[Mississippi River Pool 17](#)

Tailwater stage is 7.23 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and has risen slightly the past week. The boat ramps in Muscatine are frozen in as well as the main channel. We have not received any ice fishing or ice condition reports for this pool this week. Exercise caution if venturing out on the ice and check ice thickness often as you move.

Tailwater stages have been steady to rising slightly. The main channel is frozen due to the recent cold temperatures. We have not received any ice fishing or ice condition reports for these pools. Use caution if venturing out on the ice and check ice thickness often as you move. There is a lot of snow on the ice that could slow ice growth in areas with current. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

A couple of anglers made it out Sunday and said that there was about 5 inches of ice where they went. They did not go to the area by the dam. **Black Crappie** - Slow Sunday picked up a few crappies in the flooded timber out from the boat ramp and beach.

Lake Belva Deer

Ice should be thick enough now. Little to no activity the last few days because of the weather.

Lake Darling

Around half a dozen anglers were out on the ice Sunday afternoon. All were stuck in the middle of the lake and the thin ice there; this area should be thick by now. A couple of anglers made it out, but the wind sent them home fairly fast.

Lost Grove Lake

Good numbers of anglers on the area above the causeway and by the west ramp a few down by the middle ramp. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers were picking up a few crappies along the old creek channel and in the deeper water in the trees.

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

Cedar River (La Porte City to Cedar Rapids)

Before the cold snap, anglers in Benton/Linn County were having luck in the bayou. Ice is reported as 6-8 inches. **Bluegill** – Good. **Black Crappie** – Good.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is at winter pool of 692.4 feet. The ice is variable; use caution if

bite before the cold snap; no reports since then.

Kent Park Lake

The lake is currently drained for a lake restoration project.

Lake Macbride

Most of the lake has 6-8 inches of ice, but it can be variable over the deep water. There has not been much fishing activity over the past week; no reports are available.

Otter Creek Lake

Ice anglers were out last weekend; exact ice conditions are not known.

Pleasant Creek Lake

The west end of the lake has 6-9 inches of ice, while the main lake may only have 4 inches. Use caution over areas of deep water.

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

Lake Miami

There are very few reports this week as ice anglers are just starting to get out with the ice conditions. Anglers are catching some bluegills and crappies. Check ice thickness often.

Lake Sugema

The lake has recently froze over; use caution. There are not many angler reports. Ice conditions just started to improve with the cold weather.

Lake Wapello

Very few reports this week as anglers are just starting to get out with the better ice conditions. Use caution and check ice thickness often.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.33 msl. Normal operating elevation is 904.0 msl. The reservoir recently froze over; variable ice thickness. Use caution and check ice thickness often. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels, so make sure to properly drain, clean, and dry your equipment before transporting to another water body.

Red Haw Lake

Anglers report about 4 inches of clear ice under about 4 inches of questionable snow. Anglers are catching some bluegills over submerged habitat. Use caution and check ice thickness often.

Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake

Rainbow Trout - Good: A trout stocking and family fishing event will be held th Saturday, Feb. 2nd. The trout will be stocked around noon. Several trout will be for prizes donated by Jax Outdoors and local businesses. Use jigging spoons i waxworms.

Big Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Use live minnows or waxies on glow jigs in the afternoon evenings. Fish brush piles deeper than 15 feet and the edges of the roadbeds channel mid-lake.

Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Crappie fishing has been good especially late afternoc evenings. Fish mid-lake near creek channel edges stumps and sunken habitat 20 feet of water.

Hickory Grove Lake

Bluegill - Good: Conditions are ready for anglers. Good catches of bluegills w crappies mixed in are coming off the lake.

Lake Petocka

Rainbow Trout - Good: Trout are scheduled to be stocked tomorrow, Feb. 1 p weather conditions at the Decorah Hatchery. Backup date is Feb. 4. Text or ca 5885 after 12 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1 to verify stocking.

Good ice conditions have returned to Central Iowa. There is generally 6- to 10- ice. For more information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, call Ben Dodd at 6-3795 or Andy Otting at 515-204-5885.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Caution is still needed on ponds, especially in the southern part of the district. alone and drill holes often when venturing out. **Bluegill** – Good. **Black Crappi**

Lake Anita

All angling activity is taking place in the north arm of the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: A report catching bluegill in 6 feet of water in the upper end of the pontoon arm. **Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are being caught close to the creek channel. Early m late afternoon is the best bite.

Littlefield Lake

the north side of the lake. Find a brush pile to fish around. **Black Crappie** - Slow: 10 inch crappie are being caught around the tree piles.

Viking Lake

Ice reports of 6 inches with the top two being bad ice. There is some angling taking place. Waterfowl have a large area of open water by the beach. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Target brush piles. Early morning and late afternoon bite is best.

Ice conditions have improved in the southwest district. Most reports are 5 to 7 inches of ice. Geese are still keeping areas open on some lakes. Trout will be stocked in Viking Lake on Feb. 9th. For more information, contact the Cold Springs office at 712-2587.

Green Valley Lake

About 8 inches of ice; geese are keeping some areas of open water. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappie up to 8.5 inches with jigs tipped with waxworms fished near tree brush piles.

Summit Lake

About 7 inches of ice; areas of thin ice especially near the HWY 25 bridge and with heavy snow cover. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using jig with a waxworm fished near cedar tree brush piles or near the creek channel.

Three Mile Lake

About 7 inches of ice. No angler activity this week.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

About 7 inches of ice. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie up to 9.5 inches using jig tipped with a minnow or waxworm fished near cedar tree brush piles or flooded timber near creek channels. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches using jigs tipped with a waxworm fished near cedar tree brush piles or flooded timber near creek channels.

Most Mount Ayr district lakes have variable ice conditions from 4-8 inches of ice. Ice coverage has slowed ice formation in some areas. Be cautious and drill test holes. For more information, please call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.