



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of February 14-20, 2017](#)

Winter Community Trout Stocking Schedule

This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait anglers, 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 Feb. 7 there was 10 inches of ice near the boat ramp. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegills in the middle of the lake and along the east side with a small jig tipped with waxworm fished in 10-15 feet of water.

[Bacon Creek Lake](#)

THE DNR WILL BE STOCKING LAKE BACON WITH BROWN TROUT ON FEBRUARY 14-20, 2017

[Black Hawk Pits](#)

On Feb. 7 there was 10 inches of ice near the boat ramp. Ice is variable; check thickness often when venturing out. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use waxworms fished near bottom.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Anglers are fishing mostly near the north boat ramp, in the northeast arm of the lake and near the southeast boat ramp near the big island. Look out for thin ice near the shore and in the main lake. Ice conditions are improving; check ice thickness often. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try waxworms fished on a small jig in the northeast arm of the lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a minnow and spoon in about 20-30 feet of water near submersed structure. Try also waxworms and spikes on a small jig. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Anglers are picking up a few yellow perch while fishing for crappie.

[Moorland Pond](#)

The trout stocking and family fishing event at Moorland Pond is this Saturday, 11:30 a.m.

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

Ice conditions on Storm Lake are improving, but are still variable. Most areas currently have 15-18 inches of ice. Avoid ice along pressure seams, in the middle of the lake, near the big island, and any other off-colored ice. Use caution and check ice thickness often. **Walleye** - Fair: Use minnows and jigging spoons in the dredge cuts on the east side of the lake in about 10-14 feet of water. Low light conditions are best. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Use a small spoon and waxworm. **White Bass** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some white bass in the east end of the lake and deeper dredged areas while fishing for walleye.

Ice conditions have improved in the Black Hawk district. Most ice reports are 10-12 inches. Be aware of any thin ice or open water; geese are keeping areas open. Use caution and check ice thickness often. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

[Clear Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 12 to 18 inches. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Start shallow with a small jigging spoon tipped with several spikes or a waxworm. You have to keep moving to catch fish. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Lots of small fish are being caught. If you're not going to use the fish you catch, please release them. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use jigging

Rice Lake

Ice thickness is 12 to 18 inches. No fishing activity reported.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Ice thickness is 12 to 18 inches. No fishing activity reported.

For information on the lakes and rivers in the north central area, contact the CI 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. **Bluegill** - Good: Numbers of fish are being caught from the south end of the lake; sorting is needed.

Five Island Lake

Yellow Bass - Good: Some activity reported on the lake; you need to search for active fish. **Walleye** - Fair: Report of fish being caught from the deep water dredge with traditional baits.

Lake Pahoja

Bluegill - Good: Recent surveys show good numbers of angler acceptable size fish 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" numbers of bluegill and crappie in the catch. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Yellow bass activity has slowed but persistent anglers can catch good numbers of fish.

Spirit Lake

Walleye - Fair: Action has slowed; angler acceptable size fish are being caught from the basin; action is half hour before sunset to half hour after sunset. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Numbers of angler acceptable size fish continue to be caught from the basin in 10 to 20 feet of water; sorting is needed as numbers of small fish will also be in the catch. **Bluegill** - Fair: Report of bluegill action fishing traditional sites.

Trumbull Lake

Yellow Perch - Good: Yellow perch continue to be harvested from the lake; anglers are very pleased with the quality of the fish caught.

Virgin Lake

NORTHEAST

[Alice Wyth Lake](#)

Reports of anglers catching a few bluegill and crappie. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigging waxworm on an ice fishing jig; move around to find fish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: waxworm on an ice fishing jig or fish a crappie minnow under a bobber- dead stick rig. Electronics help find suspended fish.

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

Good reports of anglers catching 7- to 9-inch bluegill. Concentrate on areas near dam to find structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigging a waxworm on an ice fishing jig; move around to find fish.

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

Anglers were catching crappie on the backwaters of the Cedar River in Bremer last week. Use extreme caution and check ice thickness often. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use electronics to find structure; fish in these backwater areas.

[George Wyth Lake](#)

Reports of anglers having success on bluegill and crappie; some sorting is needed for bluegill. **Bluegill** - Fair: Jig a waxworm on an ice fishing jig; moving around to find fish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try jigging a waxworm on an ice fishing jig or fish a crappie minnow under a bobber- dead stick rig. Electronics help find suspended fish.

[North Prairie Lake](#)

Anglers have had success catching trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Try jigging a waxworm under an ice fishing jig.

Wintry weather has set in across Iowa. There have been few reports with the extreme cold weather and recent ice storms. Trout streams are in excellent condition. 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 8.7 feet this week. Avoid shoreline edges and strong current. Village Creek and Shore Slough areas are still producing fish, but the catch is slow. Try fishing in Shore Slough and Blackhawk Park area. **Northern Pike** - Fair

Mississippi River Pool 10

River level at Lynxville has risen to 17 feet. The ramp is frozen over at the dam have been crossing at Sny Magill with about 6 inches ice on Johnson Slough. the path as ice is weaker closer to the ramp. Access Bussey Lake from the up avoid marginal ice. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Some northerns are being caught on using shiners in backwater lakes and marina areas. **Bluegill** - Slow: Mid-winte 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 c cuts in backwater lakes. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The crappie bite picked up this glow jigs tipped with minnows from mid-morning to early afternoon.

Mississippi River Pool 11

River level at Guttenberg has risen almost 2 feet. Ramps are frozen over at the dam. Avoid shorelines and areas of current. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Some north 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 thr ice in deeper cuts in backwater lakes. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The crappie bite f up this week. Try glow jigs tipped with minnows from mid-morning to early afte

The recent thaw and a rise in water levels have changed ice conditions. Use c around the shoreline edges and any areas with current. Fishing has been vari anglers moving around to catch fish.

Mississippi River Pool 12

Water levels are variable this week and are 8.4 feet at the Dubuque Lock and 10.8 feet at the RR bridge. This is up from last week. Water clarity is good. The temperature is around 33 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Some ice fishing is occur 12; stay alert about ice conditions. Bluegill fishing has been good at times. **Bla Crappie** - Fair: A few reports of nice crappies mixed in with bluegills. **Yellow P** Fair: A few yellow perch are being seen mixed in with bluegills and crappies.

Mississippi River Pool 13

Water levels have bounced around this week and are 10.5 feet at the Bellevue Dam. Water clarity is good. The water temperature is around 33 degrees. The nearly open, but launching a boat is questionable. The north ramp and parking

rigs with minnows are the most popular ways to catch walleye and sauger. Poor conditions have limited fishing activity.

Mississippi River Pool 15

The water level is rising at Rock Island to 11.3 feet. Water clarity is good. The temperature is around 33 degrees. No fishing has been reported to us in Pool

Some tailwaters may open up, but ramps may have ice on them. Ice fishing are variable with rainy conditions and changing water levels. Even with the ex temperatures, some thin ice is still reported in backwaters. Water levels are falling throughout the district. If you have any angling questions, please call Bellevue Fisheries Station 563-872-4976.

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage at Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport is 11.11 feet and is rising. Tailwater stage has risen close to 1.5 feet since earlier this week. We have not received any fishing or ice condition reports for this pool. The rising river levels and recent rains create unsafe ice conditions, especially on the shorelines.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 11.69 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is rising. Tailwater stage has risen close to 3 feet since Monday. We have not received any ice fishing or ice condition reports for this pool this week. The Big Timber ramp is closed due to water over the parking lot. The rising river levels and recent rains could create unsafe ice conditions, especially along the shorelines.

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 13.16 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is rising. Tailwater stage has risen close to 3 feet since Monday. Flood stage is 15 feet. We have not received any ice fishing or ice condition reports for this pool. The rising river levels and recent rains could create unsafe ice conditions, especially along the shorelines. Toolsboro ramp is closed due to water over the ramp and parking area.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 8.71 feet at Lock and Dam 18 and is rising. Tailwater stage has risen close to 3 feet since last weekend. River level is forecast to keep rising. Flood stage is 10 feet. We have not received any ice fishing or ice condition reports for this pool. The rising river levels and recent rains could create unsafe ice conditions, especially

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

The edges of the ice are in poor condition especially where water entered the well as anywhere the sun was hitting the riprap. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Hit and the weekend.

Lake Belva Deer

Warm weather and rain and drizzle have damaged the ice, especially where the water entered the lake over the weekend. **Bluegill** – Fair.

Lake Darling

A weekend of temperatures in the mid 50's and above freezing temperatures for the early part of this week caused lots of melted or rotten edges on the ice. Use getting on and off the ice. **Bluegill** - Good: Some nice bluegills were caught over the weekend and earlier this week.

Lost Grove Lake

Last weekend's warm weather hurt the ice conditions. Earlier this week there were weak spots on the ice and some open water areas at the lower end of the lake extreme caution if you venture out on the ice.

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

Cedar River (La Porte City to Cedar Rapids)

Anglers in Benton/Linn County are having luck in the backwaters. **Bluegill** – Good. **Black Crappie** – Good.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level has raised a foot and flows have reached 6000 cfs due to rain and runoff. Ice conditions are extremely variable and the water is dirty.

Diamond Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Fish the basin or around deeper brush for 8- to 9-inch crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a jig/waxie around brush.

Hannen Lake

Most of the lake has 8-10 inches of ice. **Bluegill** – Fair. **Black Crappie** – Slow

[Otter Creek Lake](#)

Most of the lake has 10-12 inches of ice. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Yellow Bass** – Slow

[Pleasant Creek Lake](#)

The lake has 5-10 inches of ice depending on location. The west end has more ice than the east end. Fishing has been poor.

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 on the ice conditions. Anglers are catching some bluegills and crappies. Check ice thickness frequently and be careful getting on and off the ice.

[Lake Sugema](#)

The lake recently froze over; use caution. There are not many angler reports as ice conditions just started to improve with the cold weather. Use caution around the shoreline as the warm weather over the weekend has made this ice thin.

[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 906.79 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](#)

The warm weather over the weekend made the ice messy and thawed around the shoreline. Use caution if venturing out on the ice.

Ice conditions in the Rathbun district are variable across the district; use caution if venturing out. The district includes Mahaska, Lucas, Wayne, Monroe, Appanoose, Wapello, Davis and Van Buren counties. Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

channel mid-lake. **Walleye** - Fair: Some walleyes are being caught on live minnow and minnows or minnow heads on jigging spoons. Fish creek channel edges, stumps and roadbeds throughout the lake from the Marina to just south of the ramp.

[Don Williams Lake](#)

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

[Hickory Grove Lake](#)

The lake is drawn down around 9 feet, but ice fishing is still possible. **Bluegill** - Good catches of bluegills with crappies mixed in are coming off the lake.

[Lake Petocka](#)

Rainbow Trout - Good: Trout were stocked on Feb. 1. Use small jigging spoon with waxworms.

Good ice conditions continue in Central Iowa. There is 6 to 12 inches of ice. For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers, call Ben Dodd at 641-891-3795 or Otting at 515-204-5885.

Cold Springs District Farm Ponds

Ice conditions on ponds have improved; use caution, especially in the southern part of the district. Never fish alone and drill holes often when venturing out. **Bluegill** - Good. **Black Crappie** - Fair.

[Lake Anita](#)

Anglers report good success fishing tree piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers report catching bluegill around brush piles. Fish average 8.5 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie being caught close to the creek channel. Early morning and late afternoon is the best bite.

[Littlefield Lake](#)

Ice thickness is 8 to 10 inches. Find fish around cedar tree piles placed in the lake. **Bluegill** - Good: Fishing is good for bluegill if you can get to a cedar tree pile. Sorting is needed for larger fish. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few large black crappie being caught in the afternoon around cedar tree piles.

[Madaway Lake](#)

Prairie Rose Lake

Anglers report good ice conditions at Prairie Rose. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills up to 10 inches are being reported. Anglers were able to move around to look for fish with good ice conditions. Find a brush pile to fish around. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few 10 inch crappie are being caught around the tree piles.

Viking Lake

Ice conditions have improved at Viking Lake. **Black Crappie** – Slow: Target between 10-12 inches. Early morning and late afternoon bite is best.

The southwest district has better ice conditions than last week. Most reports are 10-12 inches of ice. Geese are still keeping areas open on some lakes. Trout will be in Big Lake this Saturday, Feb. 9th. For more information, contact the Cold Spring Harbor office at 712-769-2587.

Summit Lake

About 8-10 inches of ice; areas of thin ice especially near the HWY 25 bridge. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with jigs tipped with a waxworm fished near tree brush piles or near the creek channel.

Three Mile Lake

About 5-9 inches of ice; some areas of thin ice near flooded timber and open water in some shore areas. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleye up to 19 inches with minnow near the roadbed early and late in the day.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

About 7-10 inches of ice; some areas of thin ice near flooded timber and some open water areas. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappie up to 9.5 inches using jigs tipped with minnow or waxworm fished near cedar tree brush piles or flooded timber near creek channels. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches with 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 5-10 inches of ice. Melt last week may have caused thin ice or areas of open water, especially near flooded timber and shoreline areas. Be cautious and drill test holes. For more information call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.