



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Iowa Fishing Report

## Conservation and Recreation



### [Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of May 7](#)

The way we interact with others may be a little different right now with Iowa's current State of Emergency. The Iowa DNR has made adjustments to protect the health and safety of state employees, the public, and our angling community.

But that doesn't mean you can't go fishing. Stay safe when fishing this spring with these tips:

- Try a new fishing spot — if your regular fishing location is popular and busy, try out a new one where less people are fishing.
- Once you find your spot, keep at least 6 feet of distance between you and other groups.
- Stick with your immediate family, but keep groups to fewer than 10 people.
- Bring lures from home instead of buying bait to minimize your interaction with other people.
- Bring hand sanitizer and wash your hands often.

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This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. You can check the activity of your favorite lake or stretch of river within each district, including which species are being caught, a rating of the bite (slow, fair, good or excellent), as well as a hot bait or lure pattern.

For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

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# NORTHWEST

## Black Hawk Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 50's. The outdoor walkway on the fish house structure in Town Bay is open to anglers; the indoor portion of the structure remains closed to the public due to physical distancing guidelines. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Anglers are catching perch in Town Bay. Sorting is needed, but keepers are 8-10 inches. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Look for crappie fishing from shore to pick up as water temperatures approach 60 degrees. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Use twisters, crankbaits and leeches or crawlers fished under a bobber.

## Brushy Creek Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Expect the crappie to move close to shore as water temperatures approach the upper 50s. Use a small piece of crawler or minnow on a jig in 5-10 feet of water near rocks or structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are picking up a few on spinner baits and plastics in areas near submerged structure. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try crawlers on a small jig in 5-10 feet of water. Some is sorting needed. **Walleye** – Fair.

## North Twin Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 50's. Fish anywhere with structure near shore to pick up crappie as water temperatures continue to warm.

## Storm Lake (including Little Storm Lake)

Anglers have had good luck from shore and in the main lake. Storm Lake has a daily limit of 3 walleye and all 17- to 22-inch walleye must be released; and no more than one walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use crawlers and minnows on a small jig fished near shore in the marina near the inlet and along the north and east shore of the main lake. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye fishing has been productive. Pick up walleye in the marina from shore and also in the main lake. Use a twister, crankbait and a leech or crawler fished under a bobber. **Yellow Perch** – Fair: Pick up perch along shore in the marina and north and east shores. **White Bass** - Good: Anglers are picking up white bass from shore. Use twisters, crawlers or crankbaits in the marina near the inlet and north and east shores in the main lake.

Water temperatures in most area lakes are in the upper 50's. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

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## Clear Lake

The water temperature is in the mid-fifties. The spring midge hatch is starting. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use chicken liver or cut bait fished on the bottom. Best bite is after sunset. **Walleye** - Excellent: Anglers are having success drift fishing a jig and crawler near structure or slip bobber fishing a leech on the rock reefs. **Yellow Bass** – Good: Boat anglers should try fishing the edge of the vegetation on the north shore with a small piece of crawler or cut bait. **Black Crappie** – Good: The crappie bite is picking up. Use a small minnow fished in the edge of the rushes. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are biting on jigs fished near the edge of vegetation.

### Crystal Lake

The courtesy dock at the boat ramp and the fish clean station are in. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

### Eldred Sherwood Lake

The park gates are closed. Fishing access is walk-in only.

### Lower Pine Lake

Popular fishing areas become crowded in the afternoon and evening; fish in the morning to avoid crowds. **Bluegill** - Good: Shore anglers are catching good numbers of 4 to 7 inch fish. **Black Crappie** – Good. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try chicken liver or cut bait fished on the bottom near the spillway.

### Upper Pine Lake

Popular fishing areas become crowded in the afternoon and evening; fish in the morning to avoid crowds. The fish cleaning station is unavailable at this time. **Bluegill** - Good: Shore anglers are catching good numbers of 4 to 7 inch fish. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Black Crappie** - Good.

### Winnebago River

The river level continues to drop. Try a minnow or crankbait fished along current breaks. **Northern Pike** - Fair.

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

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### East Okoboji Lake

The Walleye Season is open. The water temperature is 50 degrees. There has been a fair panfish bite in many of the bays and harbors, in and around boat hoists and docks. **Bluegill** – Good: Large schools have been found gathering around hoists and docks. **Black Crappie** – Fair. **Yellow Perch** – Fair.

### Lake Pahoja

**Bluegill** – Fair. **Black Crappie** – Fair. **Largemouth Bass** – Good.

### Lost Island Lake

**Yellow Perch** – Fair. **Walleye** – Fair.

### Silver Lake (Dickinson)

**Walleye** – Good.

### Spirit Lake

The Walleye Season is open. The water temperature is 49 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Large schools have been found gathering around hoists and docks.

### Trumbull Lake

**Yellow Perch** - Fair: Size quality is outstanding with some sorting. Use jigs and minnows or wigglers in the main lake.

### West Okoboji Lake

The Walleye Season is open. The water temperature is 51 degrees. A good spring bass

bite has been observed in canal areas, as well a good panfish bite in various harbors and around docks and hoists. **Bluegill** - Good: Large schools have been found gathering around hoists and docks. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair:

The Walleye season is open on Spirit Lake, East Okoboji Lake and West Okoboji Lake. All local boat ramps are in and open for use. Iowa Great Lake water temperatures range from 49 to 53 degrees. The bite should continue to pick up as temperatures rise. This week's extended forecast is temperatures in the 50's to 65 degrees. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

## NORTHEAST

### Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are low with good clarity. **Walleye** - Good: Anglers are finding good numbers of fish below dams and along current breaks. A variety of lures and baits are working. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use dead chubs and worms fished on the bottom.

### **Decorah District Streams**

All streams are being stocked. **All trout stream stockings are unannounced due to COVID-19 precautions.** Hatchery grounds are open to the public, but feeders and other conveniences are temporarily closed for prevention precautions. Hatchery visitors must be mindful of one another's safety and keep at least 6 feet of distance between you and others. Currently, DNR wildlife management areas are open to normal recreational uses. **Brook Trout** - Good: When fishing private property open to angling, leave that property as was or better by picking up trash. Close gates if you opened them; be considerate. **Brown Trout** - Good: Blue-winged olive and caddisfly hatches are good to excellent. An excellent time to fish for browns is when the water gets cloudy. Use hair jigs or spinners for aggressive fish. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Stocked fish and hold-overs are biting well. Use a worm or cheese floated through a pool under a bobber. Use an ultra-light pole and reel for fun action.

### Lake Hendricks

Hit and miss fish activity. Water temperatures are in the 50's. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie suspended over brush piles or submersed structure. Use a minnow and drift over structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small piece of nightcrawler or waxworm under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish the windrow shoreline with a dead chub or minnow or worm on the bottom. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use a crankbait or jerk bait over structure.

### Lake Meyer

Water temperatures are in the low 50's. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Anglers are having a hard time finding crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a small piece of worm or waxworm fished under a bobber along a sunny shoreline. **Northern Pike** - Slow: Find pike in the shallows spawning. Use a spoon with a steel leader to prevent line cuts. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try a jerk bait or crankbait fished along a brush pile or rock structure.

### Turkey River (above Clermont)

Water levels are stable with excellent clarity. Water temperatures are in the 50's. **Walleye** - Good: Find walleye in runs and along current breaks. Use hair jigs and spinners. **White Sucker** - Excellent: Suckers are biting. Use a nightcrawler fished on the bottom.

### Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are stable with excellent clarity. Turnover is occurring and carp are spawning around Lime Springs causing the water to be turbid and look scummy. Water temperatures are in the the low 50's. **Walleye** - Fair: Use minnows or hair jigs fished in runs and around current breaks. **White Sucker** - Excellent: Sucker activity is picking up. Try nightcrawlers fished on the stream bottom.

### Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water level are stable with excellent water clarity. Water temperatures are in the the low 50's. If paddling, [dress for water temperatures](#); current is strong. **Walleye** - Slow: Anglers are finding fish in eddies and runs. Use crankbaits and spinners. **White Sucker** - Excellent: Try a hook tipped with a nightcrawler fished on the bottom. **Smallmouth Bass**- Slow.

### Volga Lake

Anglers are finding fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small hook tipped with waxworm or small piece of nightcrawler fished around brush piles and rocky shores. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a minnow suspended over brush piles or other structure. Fish 5 to 7 inches are common. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use a jerk bait fished over structure with a slow retrieve. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a dead minnow or nightcrawler fished along windrow shore. Trophy catfish are abundant in Volga Lake.

Water levels are stable and water clarity is good to excellent on area rivers. Expect a cool, rainy weekend with highs in the low 50's with possible freezing temperatures overnight. Cooler weather has slowed fish activity. For current fishing information, please call the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

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### Big Woods Lake

Anglers are catching some crappie on Big Woods Lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try crappie jigs or a minnow fished under a bobber over structure; use electronics to find structure.

### Brinker Lake

Crappie should be moving into shallower water to stage to spawn. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try crappie jigs or a minnow under a bobber fished over structure; use electronics to find structure.

### Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Anglers are catching largemouth bass, bluegill and some nice 10-13 inch crappie. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast crankbaits and deep divers. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try crappie jigs or a minnow fished under a bobber over structure near the dam and in the coves. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small piece of worm on a small hook and sinker

fished under a bobber off of the shorelines. Try fishing artificial flies using a slow presentation.

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

Reports of anglers catching a few walleye and northern pike on the Cedar River. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve plastics tipped with or without a minnow or crankbaits; walleye have moved out of over-wintering areas. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Try a live chub or shiner fished under a bobber near slack water areas off of main current or cast and retrieve large plastics or spinners.

### [George Wyth Lake](#)

There are abundant numbers of pike along the willows near the shoreline edges in George Wyth Lake. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Cast and retrieve spinnerbaits near the shore. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try crappie jigs or a minnow fished under a bobber over structure; use electronics to find structure.

### **Manchester District Streams**

N.E. area trout streams are in excellent condition and full of trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Use flashy spinnerbaits or match the hatch with flies.

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

Reports of anglers catching a few walleye and smallmouth bass on the Maquoketa River. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve plastics tipped with or without a minnow or crankbaits; walleye have moved out of over-wintering areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try a jig and plastic tipped with a minnow or cast spinner or crankbaits.

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

Anglers are catching some walleye on the Shell Rock River. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve plastics tipped with or without a minnow or crankbaits; walleye have moved out of over-wintering areas.

### [South Prairie Lake](#)

Crappie should be moving into shallower water to stage to spawn. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try crappie jigs or a minnow under a bobber fished over structure; use electronics to find structure. Also try fishing along the edges of aquatic vegetation.

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

A recent electrofishing survey revealed numerous year classes of walleye. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve plastics tipped with or without a minnow or crankbaits; walleye have moved out of over-wintering areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try a jig and plastic tipped with a minnow or cast spinner or crankbaits. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Float a live chub or shiner under a bobber or cast bucktail spinners.

Interior rivers are in excellent condition. Walleye, pike and smallmouth bass are biting on the Cedar, Shell Rock, Wapsipinicon and Maquoketa rivers. Fair to good reports of panfish on the area Black Hawk County lakes; the crappie spawn is nearing. Trout stocking season is in full swing, but all stockings are unannounced due to COVID-19 precautions. All state fish hatcheries are closed to the public. Call the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276 for more information.

# MISSISSIPPI RIVER

## Mississippi River Pool 9

River level at Lansing is 9.7 feet and is expected to reach 9 feet this week. Water temperature is 57 degrees. Most ramps are reopened, but many areas and roads are still muddy. New Albin Army road still has some standing water and mud. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleyes are biting on crankbaits near the dams and channel border structure. **Northern Pike** - Good: Northern pike bite has picked up with warmer water temperatures. Use a lure with steel leaders fished in shallow backwaters. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a small piece of crawler fished just off the bottom. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappies are in about 10 feet of water. Use a minnow under a bobber in areas with less current in backwaters or side channels. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting on blade baits in backwater lakes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits fished in rock piles at the tip of the islands on main channel borders. **Shovelnose sturgeon** - Fair: Some shovelnose are being picked up with a crawler fished off the bottom in main channel areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Expect the flathead bite to improve near spawning and as the water warms up. Use large shiners or a small bluegill for bait. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or cut bait fished off the bottom in deeper side channel areas.

## Mississippi River Pool 10

River level is steady at 19.4 feet at Lyxnville and is expected to fall slightly. Water temperature is 58 degrees. Ramps are coming out of the water, but may have some mud and debris. Sny Magill still has some water and mud at the RR overpass. **Walleye** - Good: Walleyes are biting on crankbaits near the dams and channel border structure. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Northern pike bite has picked up with warmer water temperatures. Use lures with steel leaders fished in shallow backwaters. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a small piece of crawler fished just off the bottom. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappies are in about 10 feet of water. Use a minnow under a bobber in areas with less current in backwaters and side channels. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting on blade baits in backwater lakes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits fished in rock piles at the tip of the islands on main channel borders. **Shovelnose sturgeon** - Good: Some shovelnose are being picked up using a crawler fished off the bottom in main channel areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Expect the flathead bite to improve near spawning and as the water warms up. Use large shiners or a small bluegill for bait. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or cut bait fished off the bottom in deeper side channel areas.

## Mississippi River Pool 11

River level is 10.9 feet at Guttenberg and is predicted to fall gradually next week. Water temperature is 54 degrees. Ramps are becoming usable, but use caution with mud and debris. **Walleye** - Good: Walleyes are biting on crankbaits near the dams and channel border structure. **Northern Pike** - Good: Northern pike bite has picked up with warmer water temperatures. Use lures with steel leaders fished shallow backwaters. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a small piece of crawler fished just off the bottom. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappies are in about 10 feet of water. Use a minnow under a bobber in areas with less current in backwaters and side channels. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are biting on blade baits in backwater lakes. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits

fished in rock piles at the tip of the islands on main channel borders. **Shovelnose sturgeon** - Fair: Some shovelnose are being picked up with a crawler fished off the bottom in main channel areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Expect the flathead bite to improve near spawning and as the water warms up. Use large shiners or a small bluegill for bait. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try nightcrawlers or cut bait fished off the bottom in deeper side channel areas.

Upper Mississippi River levels are on a gradual fall. Fishing is improving. Standing on lock walls is to fish is prohibited due to COVID-19. Walleye slot length limits on the Mississippi River now apply on the entire Mississippi River in Iowa, reflecting regulation changes in Minnesota and Wisconsin waters of Pools 9-12. All walleyes less than 15 inches long and between 20-27 inches long must be immediately released. Only one walleye greater than 27 inches can be harvested per day. Combined walleye/sauger daily harvest limit of 6 and possession of 12.

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### [Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

The water level at the Dubuque Lock and Dam is receding and is near 10.5 feet; levels are near 12.6 feet at the RR bridge. The water temperature has risen to 57 degrees. The water clarity is good. **Northern Pike** - Good: Pike are done spawning; the bite should improve quickly. Flashy spinners in warm sun filled waters might trigger these predators. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: It was a great spring to catch yellow perch. Expect a good perch season as water comes down. **Bluegill** - Slow: Some Bluegills are starting to be reported, but the season is starting slowly. **Black Crappie** - Good: Some crappie were reported out of marina areas, especially under boat docks. A few real nice sized fish were reported this week. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Cut bait is still producing nice channel catfish. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a worm sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current.

### [Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

Water level at the Bellevue Lock and Dam has receded to 11.3 feet. The water temperature has increased to 57 degrees. Most boat ramps are coming on line after flooding. The Pleasant Creek and Thompson Causeway boat ramps may still be closed. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Some yellow perch are being reported by anglers fishing for bluegills and crappie. **Shorthead redhorse** - Good: These fish are being caught in the tailwaters and running up local tributaries. All you need is a simple worm rig fished on the bottom. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait in flooded areas for abundant channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A few crappies are being taken in flooded areas under boat docks or large trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a worm sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try flashy spinners fished along old weed edges and rock shorelines.

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

The water level is 10.7 feet at the Fulton Lock and Dam, 13.4 feet at Camanche and 7.8 feet at LeClaire. Water temperature is around 57 degrees. The Corps of Engineers boat ramp at Cattail Slough may still be closed due to high water and debris. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye spawn is over, but a few males are still being caught on the clam beds and



outside rocky bends of the river. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: It was a great spring for catching yellow perch. Some are still being reported incidentally while fishing for bluegills and crappie. **Shorthead redhorse** - Good: Redhorse are being caught in the tailwaters and running up local tributaries. All you need is a simple worm rig fished on the bottom. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait in moderate current areas. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a worm sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current.

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

Water level is around 11.3 feet at Rock Island and is receding. The water temperature is around 57 degrees. Water is stained. River levels have fallen below flood stages. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Freshwater drum are easy to catch on a worm sinker and worm rig. Fish in moderate current.

Water levels are receding and areas remain out of flood stage. Ramps and parking lots will need to be cleaned; please be patient. If you have any fishing questions, please contact the Bellevue Fisheries Station 563--880-8781.

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

Tailwater stage is 11.14 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 15. River stage is 11.49 feet at Fairport; flood stage is 14 feet. Clark's Ferry Landing is closed. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters. Try jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows fished under a bobber around brush piles.

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

Tailwater stage is 10.08 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 16. River stage is 11.84 feet at Muscatine. Flood stage is 16 feet at Muscatine. The gates are out of the water at the dam. We have not received any fishing report information for this pool. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles. Try jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows fished under a bobber.

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

Tailwater stage is 11.35 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is falling. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 17. River stage is 11.58 feet at Keithsburg; flood stage is 14 feet. The gates are out of the water at the dam. The Toolsboro ramp is closed due to water being over the access road. We have not received any fishing reports for this pool this week. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles. Try jigs and minnows/plastics or minnows fished under a bobber.

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

Tailwater stage is 7.86 feet at Lock and Dam 18 and is falling. Flood stage is 10 feet at Lock and Dam 18. River stage is 13.09 feet at Burlington; flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 527.03 feet at Fort Madison; flood stage is 528 feet. We have not received any fishing reports or ramp condition reports for this pool.

River stage has fallen below flood stage. River stages have been falling the past week. Main channel water temperature is around 58 degrees. Water clarity is fair. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19 contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

## SOUTHEAST

### Big Hollow Lake

Warm weather over the weekend warmed the water, only to see it cool back down this week with the return of 40's at night. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass fishing continues to be fairly decent. Use crankbaits. **Black Crappie** - No Report: A few were caught in shallow over the weekend, but they seem to have moved back out. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers continue to pick up some bluegills in shallow using bobber and worms.

### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature was back down to 56 degrees by Tuesday. Water is nice and clear. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass fishing remains pretty steady. Work the upper end of the lake out in the open along the shorelines on the north side. **Black Crappie** - No Report: Most crappies haven't moved in yet.

### Lake Darling

Water temperatures have dropped back down into the upper 50's since last weekend. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass fishing seems to be fairly steady. Fish along the fallen trees or rocks in shallow to catch some nice fish. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie fishing was pretty good over the weekend, but has slowed and the crappies moved back out a little deeper.

### Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is in the mid-50's. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass fishing continues to be the best on the lake. With the return of cool weather, expect those bass in the shallow open bays to be the most active. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers continue to pick up some nice fish in the shallows using bobber and worms.

### Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The river level is about half bank full. Current has slowed; pretty good conditions for boating. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut bait or nightcrawlers fished out in front of the brush piles and in the back eddies below the bigger sand bars where catfish wait for food to drift by.

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

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### Cedar River (Cedar Rapids to Moscow)

**Shovelnose sturgeon** - Good: Try crawlers along sandbars. **Channel Catfish** - Fair. **Shorthead redhorse** - Good: Use crawlers in gravel areas.

### Central Park Lake

Water temperature is around 57 degrees. Target weed lines and rock structures that

have warmer water. The boat dock is in, but restrooms and other facilities are closed. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Most fish are 12-13 inches.

### Central Park Pond

**Bluegill** – Fair: Most fish are around 7 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Most fish are 12-13 inches.

### Coralville Reservoir

The lake is at spring pool of 679.3 feet. Boating above Lake Macbride ramp is not recommended at spring pool. The ramp at Macbride is very shallow. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait around the 380/965 bridges. Shallow windblown bays can also be good. **White Crappie** - Slow: Try minnows or bright colored jigs around brush piles.

### Diamond Lake

The dock/kayak launch are in, but the bathrooms are closed. **Black Crappie** - Good: A good number of fish have been caught off the jetties. Try small jigs tipped with worms or waxworms fished under a bobber. Most fish are 8-9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs or worms around brush. Many fish are 7-8 inches.

### Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

The boat dock is in, but buildings and restrooms are closed. Water temperatures are in the upper 50's. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Shore anglers are catching some fish in 3-6 feet of water with jigs or bobber/worm. Keep moving until you find an active school. Some crappies remain out deep. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Some nice sized fish have been caught this week.

### Lake Macbride

Water temperatures are in the upper 50's. Water clarity is very high. The docks are in; the fish cleaning stations are open. Bathrooms and other facilities are closed due to COVID concerns. **Black Crappie** - Good: The bite picked up this week. Some fish are moving to shallower brush and rock while others are staging in 10 feet of water. Try minnows under a bobber or cast small plastics. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: Fish windblown flats and banks where shad may be found. **Walleye** - Fair: Some fish are being caught shallow towards evening while others are in 7-13 feet of water. Try jigs, live bait, jerkbaits and crankbaits. **Muskellunge** - Slow: Some fish are being picked up along rock on jerkbaits. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fish are moving shallower. A variety of artificial lures will work.

### Liberty Centre Pond

2000 trout were stocked in this North Liberty Pond. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Try small jigs, spinners, spoons, scented baits or worms.

### Otter Creek Lake

The park is open and the boat ramp dock is in; restrooms, fishing cleaning station, nature center, and camping area gates are closed. Anglers have been out, but no fishing reports are available.

### Pleasant Creek Lake

The docks are in; the fish cleaning station and bathrooms are closed. Best bite is in the

afternoons and evenings when water temperatures are highest. **Walleye** - Fair: Try three-way rigs during the day and jigs or crankbaits towards evening fished along the dam. **Muskellunge** - Slow: There have been quite a few anglers, but reports are limited. Jerkbait work best. **Bluegill** – Slow. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Look for fish along shallow vegetation.

### [Prairie Park Fishery](#)

2000 trout were stocked here. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair: Try small jigs, spinners, spoons, scented baits or worms.

### [Sand Lake](#)

2000 trout were stocked here. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** – Fair. **Black Crappie** – Fair.

### [Union Grove Lake](#)

The boat docks are in, but the park facilities are closed due to COVID-19. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Size is still small here. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8 inches.

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

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### [Des Moines River \(Ottumwa to Farmington\)](#)

**Shovelnose sturgeon** - Fair: Try crawlers along sandbars and rock riffles.

### [Lake Miami](#)

**Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use spinnerbaits along the shorelines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a bobber and worms in shallow areas.

### [Lake Sugema](#)

Use nightcrawlers to catch catfish. Anglers are also catching crappies with minnows and jigs.

### [Lake Wapello](#)

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try jigs and spinnerbaits around structure. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try minnows and jigs along rocky shorelines.

### [Ottumwa Park Pond South \(Trout Pond\)](#)

2000 trout were stocked here. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Try small jigs, in-line spinners, spoons, or worms.

### [Rathbun Reservoir](#)

The current lake level is 904.17 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. Most docks are not in. Water temperature is in the mid to lower 50's. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use nightcrawlers on windblown shores. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are still out in a little deeper water waiting for a warm up to move shallow. Try small jigs and minnows.

### [Red Haw Lake](#)

Anglers are catching largemouth bass along the shore. The docks are in.

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

## SOUTHWEST

### Banner Lake (south)

**Rainbow Trout** - Good: Use in-line spinners, small jigs with twister tails or swimbaits or live bait under a bobber. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

### Big Creek Lake

**Walleye** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with plastics or live minnows along rocky shores or troll live bait rigs in 10 to 20 feet of water. Target the East Boat ramp bay, the West Boat Ramp bay and the marina to beach area. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try live minnows near any wood and rock in 6 feet of water or less, especially in the coves.

### Blue Heron Lake (Raccoon River Park)

**White Crappie** - Good: Cast tube jigs, hair jigs and live minnows under a bobber from shore near wood.

### Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

**Walleye** - Fair: Target walleye and northern pike below the dams and mouths of creeks where clearer water is coming in. Use jigs tipped with twister tails, shad, and shiner imitating swimbaits or live minnows. **White Bass** - Fair: Cast jigs tipped with twister tails, swim baits or shiners below dams near creek mouths and on sandbar drop-offs.

### Don Williams Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappies with live minnows under a bobber fished near tree falls and drift or troll panfish jigs out a little deeper on the edges of the tree falls. Most crappies are 8.5 to 10 inches.

### Lake Petocka

**Rainbow Trout** - Good: Catch trout left from the winter stocking with in-line spinners, small jigs with twister tails or swimbaits, or live bait under a bobber. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

### Red Rock Reservoir

**Black Crappie** - Good: Catch crappies through early May with live minnows under a bobber or cast jigs with plastics near rip-rap, natural rock and wood.

### Rock Creek Lake

**Black Crappie** - Good: Cast jigs with twister tails or live minnows near shore on tree falls and rip-rap.

### Terra Lake

**Rainbow Trout** - Good: Use in-line spinners, small jigs with twister tails or swimbaits, or live bait under a bobber. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

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

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### Anderson Area Pond 1

Kayaks and canoes only. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use jigs; fish average 9 inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try crawlers under a bobber about anywhere on the lake. Fish average 8 inches.

### Farm Creek Lake

Farm Creek has a good fish population. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Cast cut bait or shad sides off the new jetty on the west side of the lake. Fish range from 2 to 5 pounds. **Black Crappie** - Good: Black crappies are being caught around the new jetty in the lake.

### Greenfield Lake

Anglers are starting to catch crappie along the dam and around the jetties. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish shad sides on the wind-blown shore, especially in the upper end of the lake where water warms sooner. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Target around jetties and the dam.

### Lake Anita

Crappie fishing has picked up at Lake Anita. Fish have moved into the upper end, around jetties and reefs. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers report catching bluegills in brush piles. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast a minnow two feet under a bobber or small jigs around jetties and reefs.

### Lake Manawa

Crappies have picked up in the canals. Walleyes are being picked up around the dredge cuts. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish the wind-blown shores with shad sides or cut bait to catch channel catfish of all sizes. **Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are having the best success in the south end of the canals. Cast a minnow 2 feet under a bobber with a slow retrieve. **Walleye** - Fair: A few anglers are having good success trolling crankbaits using planner boards. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: A few wipers are being caught by walleye anglers.

### Prairie Rose Lake

Anglers are starting to pick up crappies and bluegills around the jetties. **Bluegill** - Fair: A few large bluegills are being caught around brush piles and the reefs. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch black crappie around the jetties and underwater reefs. Large fish will average 10 inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: A large population of 12 to 14 inch bass offer fun [catch and release fishing](#).

For more information on lakes in the Southwest District call the Cold Springs office at 712-769-2587.

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### Green Valley Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Use jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles for largemouth

bass up to 20 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 9 inches with jigs tipped with live bait fished near the fishing jetties or silt dams.

### Lake Icaria

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch crappie up to 10 inches with jigs tipped with live bait fished near the fishing jetties or flooded timber.

### Little River Watershed Lake

Dock is in at the main ramp. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches with jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles.

### Three Mile Lake

**Walleye** - Good: Use jigs tipped with live bait fished near main lake points or crankbaits fished along the dam for walleyes up to 22 inches. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappies up to 10 inches with jigs tipped with a minnow fished along the flooded timber. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use jigs tipped with live bait fished near cedar tree brush piles for bluegill of all sizes.

### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Dock is in at the main ramp. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few anglers are catching crappies up to 11 inches with live bait fished along cedar tree brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20 inches with jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use jigs tipped with live bait fished in coves or near cedar tree brush piles for bluegill of all sizes.

Water temperature in most Mount Ayr district lakes is in the upper 50's to low 60's. For more information, contact the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.



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WE CLEAN LOCAL WATERWAYS SO FAMILIES LIKE US CAN FISH AND SWIM.  
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