



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of September 9](#)

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 71 degrees. Lake level is about 7 inches below the crest of the spillway. Water clarity is about one foot. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some 8- to 10-inch fish along Ice House Point and near the fish house in Town Bay. **Bluegill** - Slow. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or dip baits fished on the bottom in areas along shore or near the rock pile off Cottonwood Point. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use traditional bass lures fished along shore in areas with rocks, fallen trees or docks. Ice House Point shoreline near the outlet and near the inlet bridge are good areas to target bass. **Walleye** - Slow: Try along the dredge shelf in front of Denison Beach or the rock pile off of Cottonwood Point.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Try a small jig tipped with a small minnow in 15 feet of water near woody structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use weedless lures along vegetation edges

and traditional bass lures along areas with woody structure. **Yellow Perch**- Fair: Try a small jig tipped with a crawler or minnow in 10-15 feet of water.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Water clarity is roughly 1-2 feet. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or dip baits fished on the bottom in areas along shore with rocks or near the dredge cuts if fishing by boat. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast lures along shore and docks. Many areas near shore have only sparse vegetation patches with plenty of casting opportunities. Use weedless lures if fishing in areas with heavier vegetation. **Walleye** - Fair: The walleye bite is hit-or-miss. Anglers need to adjust some methods to fish in areas that have vegetation. Pick up fish along the dredge cuts with crankbaits or bottom bouncers. Use planer boards to pull crawler harnesses just above the weedlines. Try jigging or slip bobber fishing in the deep areas of the dredge cuts where many areas are free of vegetation.

Water temperatures in most lakes have cooled to the lower 70's. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Beeds Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift fish or troll a small minnow or tube jig. Best bite is early morning. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Drift fish or troll a small minnow or tube jig.

Clear Lake

Water temperature is in the lower 70's. The lake is 2.16 inches low. Water clarity is 25 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or chicken liver on the wind swept shore after sunset. **Walleye** - Slow: Use a jig tipped with a minnow or crawler fished near vegetation along the north shore. Also try slip bobber fishing a minnow on the rock reefs. **Yellow Bass** - Good: Use a small jig tipped with a minnow or cut bait fished in 5 to 6 feet of water along the high bank on the north shore or out from the pump house. Use your electronics to find and stay on fish.

Rice Lake

Any water west of the north boat ramp is a waterfowl refuge and is closed to all activity from Sept. 1st through the final day of the duck season. **Largemouth Bass**- Fair: Bass are biting on a variety of baits. **Walleye** – Slow. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use a jig and minnow in the deeper water along the homes on the south shore.

Silver Lake (Worth)

The vegetation has open up some. **Bluegill** – Fair: Try a small piece of crawler under a bobber fished along the edge of the vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Bass are biting on a variety of baits. **Yellow Perch** - Slow.

Upper Pine Lake

The boat ramp at Upper Pine Lake is closed until the new ramp is installed.

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

East Okoboji Lake

The water temperature is 72 degrees. Many anglers have had success with slip bobbers/spoons and vertical jigging and drop shot fishing. A great bluegill/crappie/yellow bass bite can be found trolling weed lines. Many anglers have observed high catch rates with a lot of sorting. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie are hard to target specifically, but can be caught mixed with other panfish. The bite has improved in and around docks and hoists. **Bluegill** – Good: Bluegill are biting like crazy. Leeches or worms and a simple bobber setup work well. **Pumpkinseed** – Good: Fun and easier to catch from most docks. Use a small hook, bobber and piece of worm.

Lost Island Lake

Anglers report they have started to catch yellow bass in shallow amongst the vegetation. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair. **Yellow Bass** - Fair. **Yellow Perch** - Fair.

Minnewashta Lake

Panfishing has been good for anglers trolling weed lines. Vertical jigging is improving. **Black Crappie** - Fair: A nice crappie bite can be found with a little movement around the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Pumpkinseed** - Good.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Walleye - Fair: Try using slip bobbers and finding weed lines.

Spirit Lake

The water temperature is 72 degrees. The yellow perch bite has been slower, but the walleye bite has picked up. Use lead core and tadpole baits. **Walleye** - Good: Bite is hit-or-miss at dusk, but the day bite is improving. Many anglers have started to fish in shallower with slip bobbers along weed edges. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Best bite is morning till 11:00 and mid-afternoon. Depths vary depending on the time of day. Move often to find fish - schools are smaller and sporadic.

West Okoboji Lake

The water temperature is 72 degrees. Many anglers have been most successful with trolling, but jigging and casting has also been very good. Use lead core and tadpole baits. Offshore fishing for bass has been great. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie have been very picky lately, but can be easily caught if you aren't afraid to switch things up. Can also be caught frequently while picking through other panfish or have been found around weed edges. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill are biting like crazy with fish up to 10-inches seen. Jigging, casting, and slip bobbers are working well. Leeches or worms and a simple bobber setup work well. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye have been hard to target, but many anglers have been catching them while fishing for other species.

Offshore fishing for bass has been very good lately. The panfish/perch bite has been excellent. Area lake levels are low, making launching and loading boats more difficult. Many boaters are already taking their boats out for the season, making the lakes less congested and allowing for better fishing opportunities. The forecast calls for highs in the 70's and 80's, but lows in the 50's at night. Lake temperatures have been slowly cooling down and are in the low 70's. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Anglers are catching largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Cast a small piece of crawler under a slip bobber. Adjust bobber at various depths to find fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Best bite is mornings and evenings. Try stink baits, cut baits or leopard frogs on the bottom. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast topwater baits or crankbaits.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Anglers are catching crappie in the backwater areas and walleye in the main channel. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try a minnow under a slip bobber near brush piles or structure. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve a jug tipped with a crawler or artificial crankbaits.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Anglers are catching smallmouth bass on the Maquoketa River. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast crankbaits, spinnerbaits or topwater baits.

Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

There have been no reports for the Shell Rock River this past week.

Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

Reports of anglers catching walleye on the Wapsipinicon River. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast and retrieve a jug tipped with a crawler or artificial crankbaits.

Interior rivers are dropping and clearing up from recent rainfall. Reports of anglers catching crappie and walleye on the backwater and main channel areas. Lakes around Black Hawk County are providing catches of largemouth bass. Call or stop into your local bait shops for local fishing information. Call the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276 for more information.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

Lansing water level is 7.6 feet and is stable. Water clarity is improving. Water temperature is 71 degrees. The bite is picking up with cooler water temperatures. **Notice:** Dredging will begin at Village Creek after September 15th. Two lanes will remain open for use. Boaters are urged to use caution around dredge equipment. Alternate ramps are Big Slough and Winneshiek Landing on the Wisconsin side. Boaters should also avoid using Heytman's Landing due to shallow conditions. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie are seeking deep water. Try a crappie minnow under a bobber fished in areas with moderate to slow current of side channels. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a small piece of worm under a bobber fished in areas with some current. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait fished in areas of moderate current in side channels. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Lots of trot lines for flatheads. Make sure you place the trot line on bank and have your name and address clearly visible. **Freshwater**

Drum- Good: Drum fishing is picking up in the main channel areas; use a crawler fished off the bottom. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast plastics along the weedlines of deep cuts in backwaters or fish the edge of side channels with slight current. **Northern Pike** - Slow: Try a spoon with steel leader fished near cold water springs or incoming tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners or crankbaits fished in main channel rock piles along the tips of islands. **Walleye** - Fair: Find walleye on the wing dams. Troll crankbaits along structure in side channel and main channel current breaks. Worm rigs work best. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Jig a minnow or piece of worm in areas of vegetation. Many small fish are being taken; larger yellow perch usually start hitting better in the fall.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Lynxville water level is 613.5 feet and is expected to gradually recede. Water clarity is improving. Water temperature is 74 degrees at the Lynxville dam. The bite is picking up with cooler water temperatures. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Some nice crappie reported this week. Try fishing in areas with moderate to slow current amongst the trees in backwaters. **Bluegill** - Good: Panfish have moved to areas with some current. Use a small piece of worm under a bobber. Bluegills have been running a bit smaller lately. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink baits in areas of moderate currents. Move often if you are not catching cats. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Lots of trot lines for flatheads. Make sure you place the trot line on bank and have your name and address clearly visible. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum fishing is picking up in the main channel areas; use a crawler fished off the bottom. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast plastics along the weedlines of deep cuts in backwaters or fish the edge of side channels with slight current. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Try a spoon with steel leader fished near cold water springs or incoming tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners or crankbaits fished in main channel rock piles along the tips of islands. **Walleye** - Fair: Find walleye on the wing dams. Troll crankbaits along structure in side channel and main channel current breaks. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Jig a minnow or piece of worm in areas of vegetation.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Water level is 5.4 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to gradually recede next week. Water temperature is 67 degrees at the Guttenberg dam. The bite is picking up with cooler water temperatures. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie are seeking deep water. Try a crappie minnow under a bobber fished in areas with moderate to slow current of side channels. **Bluegill** - Good: Panfish have moved to areas with some current. Use a small piece of worm under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait in areas of moderate current. Move often if you are not catching any fish. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Lots of trot lines for flatheads. Make sure you place the trot line on bank and have your name and address clearly visible. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum fishing is picking up in the main channel areas; use a crawler fished off the bottom. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Cast plastics along the weedlines of deep cuts in backwaters or fish edge of side channels with slight current. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Try a spoon with steel leader near cold water springs or incoming tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners or crankbaits fished in main channel rock piles along the tips of islands. **Walleye** - Fair: Find walleye on the wing dams. Troll crankbaits along structure in side channel and main channel current breaks. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Jig a minnow or

piece of worm in areas of vegetation. Mostly small perch are being reported; expect the size to increase by this fall.

Upper Mississippi River levels have fallen back to normal fall levels and stabilizing this week. Water temperatures have dropped into the 70's. Walleye slot length limits now apply on the entire Iowa border of the Mississippi River. All walleyes less than 15 inches long and between 20-27 inches must be immediately released. One walleye over 27 inches may be kept. Combined walleye/sauger daily limit 6/possession 12.

Mississippi River Pool 12

The water level is receding. Water levels are currently 5.8 feet at the Lock and Dam and 8.4 feet at the RR bridge. Water clarity has improved, but some aquatic vegetation is still floating around. Water temperature is around 74 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Good: It has been a good year for crappie fishing. As the water recedes, they will again move into the deeper sloughs and brush piles. Use a small jig and minnow. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills along the channel border areas, especially in eddies behind wing dams or brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Catfish fed heavily during the rising water levels last week and some nice stringers were reported. Some anglers are just using worms while other are using stink bait. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Some anglers are targeting flatheads at night, mainly using live green sunfish as bait. They usually catch a few, but the bite has not been hot. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are on the bite. Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas; areas around boat launches can be productive. You will catch a lot of other species as well on an egg sinker rig. Use large crayfish for bait to catch large drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are feeding heavily on shad. Expect angling to continue to improve as we move toward the fall season. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Cast gaudy spinnerbaits near the mouths of cooler water streams; pike will seek out cooler water. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Look for smallies along rocky habitat with strong current flow. Crankbaits and spinners work the best. **Walleye** - Good: Try crankbaits on the wing dams for the best success this time of year.

Mississippi River Pool 13

The water level is near 6.5 feet at the Bellevue Lock and Dam and is receding. Water temperature is near 76 degrees in the main channel. Water clarity has improved during the week. Some debris is still floating around from the recent high water levels, but conditions are improving. **Black Crappie** - Good: Use A small jig and minnow. Crappie fishing has been fairly good this year as fish have been concentrated due to the low water levels. **Bluegill** - Good: The best bluegill fishing is in the tailwater or eddy currents near shore with a simple bobber and worm. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Most anglers are using stick bait, but bigger fish might be caught on cut shad bait. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Anglers are targeting flathead catfish mainly using live green sunfish for bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are still on the bite. Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas or areas around boat launches. You will catch a lot of other species as well on an egg sinker rig. Use large crayfish for bait to catch large drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass chasing small shad. Expect bass fishing to keep improving as we move into the fall season. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Cast gaudy

spinnerbaits near the mouths of cooler water streams. Spring areas like Lainsville Slough or along the sand dunes area can cool water enough for northern pike. **Paddlefish** - No Report: Paddlefish season is closed for the year. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Look for smallies along rocky habitat with strong current flow. Crankbaits and spinners work the best. **Walleye** - Fair: Try throwing crankbaits on the wing dams. **White Bass** - Good: Find white bass in the tailwaters using flashy spinners or small spoons. Not many white bass are being caught, but the size has been good.

[Mississippi River Pool 14](#)

The water level at the Fulton Lock and Dam is receding and is 6.7 feet, 10.6 feet at Camanche and 5.6 feet at Le Claire. Water temperature is around 76 degrees in the main channel. Water clarity is improving from last week's high water levels. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills have moved to the main channel border areas with some current flow. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or cut shad. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are still on the bite. Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas or areas around boat launches. You will catch a lot of other species as well on an egg sinker rig. Use large crayfish for bait to catch large drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are feeding heavily on shad. Use shad colored crankbaits along channel border rocks and brush piles. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Cast gaudy spinnerbaits near the mouths of cooler water streams; pike will seek out cooler water when the river temperatures get this hot. **Paddlefish** - No Report: The paddlefish season is closed for the year. **Smallmouth Bass** - Look for smallies along rocky habitat with strong current flow. Crankbaits and spinners work best. **Walleye** - Fair: Conditions for walleye angling have greatly improved during the week. Try throwing crankbaits on the wing dams. **White Bass** - No Report: Look for schools of feeding white bass in sandy areas and in the tailwater. Spinners and white jigs work best. **White Crappie** - Fair: Some black and white crappies are being taken near tree snags in deeper moderate flowing sloughs; use a small jig and minnow. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - No Report: Hybrids should start feeding again now that the water is starting to clean up.

[Mississippi River Pool 15](#)

The water level is 6.6 feet at Rock Island and is receding. The water temperature is near 76 degrees. Water clarity is fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or cut shad near brush piles or along rock lines. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are still on the bite. Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas or areas around boat launches. Use large crayfish for bait to catch large drum. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: Look for smallies along rocky habitat with strong current flow. Crankbaits and spinners work best. **White Bass** - Fair: Look for schools of white bass feeding in the tailwaters or along sandy beaches. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - No Report: Try a shiny spoon or spinner fished in the tailwater pocket for this hard fighting fish.

Water temperature is in the mid-70's, which is uncommonly warm for this time of year. Lots of changes on the Mississippi River again this week. After a rapid rise during the previous week, the river is receding quickly. Water clarity is much improved, but not great in all areas. If you have angling questions please call the Bellevue Fisheries Station at 563-880-8781.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is around 80 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill are not in real shallow, but you can find them out in 4 to 5 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfish should soon be looking to start their fall feeding rush. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: The water warmed back up some, but not enough to slow the bass fishing back down. With plenty of steep banks, it's not hard to find the edges of the deep water habitat.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The water level (high) is forecast to hold steady for a few more days before starting to drop throughout next week

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is between 79 and 80 degrees. Water clarity is around 24 inches due to some heavy rains early last week. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some bluegills are starting to move in to shallower waters. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: It's about time for catfish to fatten up for the fall and winter. Try chicken liver and cut bait in above 8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Hit the tops of the underwater mounds at the upper end of the lake; bass should be using them to transition from their summer deep water to their fall shallow water haunts.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is has moved back up to 80 degrees by mid-morning. No film on top of the water, but the water remains pretty green. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill fishing improved late last week with bluegills coming back into shallow waters. Try fishing around the rock piles in 4-6 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: The forecast of rain should give catfish a prompt to get into the feeding mode. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass fishing is picking up as they start working the shoreline rip-rap looking for small green sunfish and crawdads.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 70's. The water is still pretty green. The [thermocline](#) is set up at 6-8 feet; concentrate your efforts in this zone. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill fishing has picked up a little. Water temperature are holding pretty steady despite the cooler nights. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Slow troll cut bait along the face of the dam and out around the deeper brush piles in 6 to 8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Best bite is just before dark or just after. Spinnerbaits or jigs and trailer work best.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

The Skunk's water level held for a few days at that higher level, but it's starting to drop again. Very limited travel for most motorboats. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: The dropping water level should push the catfish back into the deeper holes again.

Wapsipinicon River (Oxford Junction to Mississippi River)

Water level is still at the "Moderate" flood stage level. It is forecast to drop to bank full stage sometime on Saturday.

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

Central Park Lake

Black Crappie - Slow. **Bluegill** - Good: Best bite is early and late with worms under a float. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait, livers and crawlers. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Many live and artificial baits are working. Fish size tops out at 16-inches.

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 684.1 feet and is slowly raising to fall pool. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Troll or drift cut bait in the channel.

Diamond Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift the basin and fish jigs in 5-9 feet of water. **Bluegill** – Fair: Try small jigs or worms fished over or around brush piles. **Channel Catfish** – Good: Stink bait works best.

Lake Macbride

The motor restriction is off; any size motor may be used at 5 mph or less. The road to the Main Ramp and beach is closed for construction. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for fish in 5-15 feet of water over brush or stumps. **Bluegill** – Fair: Try small worms or jigs fished in rock piles or reefs. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing in deeper rock where bluegills are or shallow rock/wood. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll worm harnesses or crankbaits in 7-14 feet of water. **White Bass** - Fair: Troll 5-10 feet down in open water or watch for surface activity at sunset.

Otter Creek Lake

The lake is being drained for a lake renovation project. Fishing regulations are relaxed during this process. Boats are no longer usable and shore fishing may not be possible either.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try jigs or minnows to catch suspended fish above the thermocline. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs or worms along the shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try crankbaits and soft plastics along the shorelines.

Rodgers Park Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Some decent bass were caught the past week.

Union Grove Lake

Bluegill - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs tipped with live bait fished around the rip-rapped shorelines. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use night crawlers in 6-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass**- Fair: Try spinnerbaits and crankbaits fished along rocky shorelines and fishing jetties.

Lake Miami

Bluegill - Fair: Drift small jigs in deeper water to catch suspended fish. **Channel Catfish** – Fair: Use night crawlers or cut bait. **Largemouth Bass**- Fair: Try spinnerbaits and rubber worms fished along the dam and around the fishing jetties.

Lake Sugema

Bluegill – Fair: Use small jigs fished along the edge and in openings of the vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try night crawlers in about 4-6 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinnerbaits and crankbaits fished along the fishing jetties and other rocky shorelines. Topwater lures can also be good early and late in the day.

Lake Wapello

Black Crappie- Slow: Look for suspended crappies in 6-8 feet of water. Try drifting or slow trolling in these areas. **Bluegill**- Fair: Use small jigs around the shorelines and the submerged structure. **Channel Catfish**- Fair: Try night crawlers or cut bait along shorelines in 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Use spinnerbaits or crankbaits fished around submerged structures. Try topwater lures in the mornings and evenings.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.61 feet msl; recreation pool is 904 feet msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels so make sure to properly drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try trolling for suspended crappies over rock piles using small crankbaits. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use chicken liver or night crawlers. **Walleye** - Fair: Troll crankbaits or night crawler rigs over rock piles and near lake depth changes such as the old river channel. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Good: Try minnows and jigs fished over rock piles or trolling crankbaits.

Red Haw Lake

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** – Fair: Use night crawlers around the fishing jetties. **Largemouth Bass**- Fair: Try crankbaits, plastics or topwater lures in areas along the shorelines and the dam early and late in the day.

Contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406 with questions about fishing in south central Iowa.

SOUTHWEST

Big Creek Lake

Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass) – Fair: Troll or cast shad imitating crankbaits or spoons. Look for fish breaking the surface chasing shad.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Channel Catfish - Excellent: Catch channel catfish and flathead catfish below the dams (Saylorville, Center St., and Scott Ave) on cut bait, dead shad, crawlers, and live bait.

Red Rock Reservoir

Channel Catfish – Good: Drift cut shad or cut creek chubs in 4 to 10 feet of water in the upper end of the Reservoir near the mile long bridge. **White Bass**- Fair: Schools of

young gizzard shad are being fed on by white bass. Cast or troll shad imitating plastics, spoons and hard baits. Casting topwater poppers into surface feeding white bass is another exciting option.

Rock Creek Lake

Channel Catfish – Good: Catch catfish in the upper end of the lake with cut bait, livers or stink baits. **White Crappie**- Good: Drift jigs or minnows offshore in 5-12 feet of water on the bottom half of the lake.

Saylorville Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Good: Drift or slow troll cut creek chubs or gizzard shad in the upper end of the lake. **White Bass** - Good: Troll shad imitating spoons or crankbaits. The area from Sandpiper Beach to the marina cove is a good starting point.

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

Greenfield Lake

Greenfield has a good bass population; anglers are starting to find acceptable-size crappies in the lake. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Catch 8- to 9-inch black crappie with minnows under a bobber fished in the tree piles. Sorting is needed for the larger fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Troll or drift small jigs to catch 7.5 inch bluegill. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or stink bait fished around the jetties. Anglers have the opportunity to catch a trophy-sized channel cat. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Greenfield has a good bass population with a high percentage of 14- to 16-inch fish.

Lake Anita

Water clarity remains good. **Black Crappie** - Fair: The large year class of 6-inch black crappies are now 8- to 9-inches. Sorting is needed, but a larger percentage of crappies are now acceptable-size. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills around the roadbeds and slow trolling the creek channels in 8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find largemouth bass in the tree piles and along vegetation edges.

Lake Manawa

Channel Catfish - Fair: Try stink bait fished early in the morning. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits on the west side of the lake. Cast a leech or crawler under a slip bobber around Tin Can dyke. The dredge cuts will also hold walleyes. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - No Report: Cast or troll crankbaits.

Meadow Lake

Bluegills will average 8-inches and black crappies 10- to 12-inches. Largemouth bass and channel catfish are also doing well. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Find black crappies around the deeper tree piles in the lake. Fish average 10-inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try fishing the tree piles to find 8-inch bluegills. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Anglers report catching catfish out of tree piles with cut bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers report catching bass casting the shoreline and in the tree piles.

Orient Lake

Water clarity is fair. **Bluegill** - Good: A few 8-inch bluegills can be caught around the tree

piles in the lake. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or shrimp. **Yellow Bullhead** - Fair: Catfish anglers are picking up a few large bullheads.

Prairie Rose Lake

Water clarity is good. **Black Crappie** - Slow. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are associated with the **thermocline** during the middle of the day. Anglers are slow trolling 8 feet of water with small jigs tipped with a crawler to find fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Cast the shore line and the tree piles to catch 14- to 16-inch largemouth bass.

Viking Lake

Viking Lake is 7 feet below full pool. Access is compromised. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch channel catfish from shore with stink bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

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

Green Valley Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8-inches with worms under a bobber fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Try night crawlers fished along rocky shoreline areas to catch channel catfish up to 8 pounds. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 21-inches with a jig fished near cedar tree brush piles.

Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish – Good: Catch channel catfish of all sizes with night crawlers fished along rocky shoreline areas.

Little River Watershed Lake

Courtesy docks are in at the main ramp and bait shop ramp. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8-inches with worms under a bobber fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles or rock piles to catch largemouth bass of all sizes.

Three Mile Lake

Courtesy docks are installed at the main boat ramp. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles or on the fish mounds to catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Catch largemouth bass of all sizes with jigs fished along weedlines or cedar tree brush piles.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

The dock is in at main ramp. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs fished along the creek channel in the flooded timber to catch bluegill up to 8-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 21-inches with jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles. **Yellow Perch** - Slow: Use minnows fished along the fishing jetties to catch yellow perch up to 10-inches.

Water temperature is in the mid-70's in most Mount Ayr district lakes. For more information, call 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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