



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



Happy Mother's Day

HELP MOM FIND HER BEST SELF ON THE WATER!



Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of May 11

- [NORTHWEST](#)
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- [SOUTHEAST](#)
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Iowa DNR is partnering with My Catch by Angler's Atlas to conduct a [statewide walleye fishing challenge](#) May 1 - June 30.

Win weekly prizes and help Iowa DNR expand walleye collection data by simply recording your catches. The individual who catches walleyes in the most different locations statewide will win additional prizes valued at over \$150.

It's easy to join in the fun! [Register today](#). There is a \$25 entry fee; only paid participants qualify for prizes.

NORTHWEST

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the upper 50s. Anglers are picking up fish in Town Bay, along shore near Ice House Point, the inlet bridge, and near the outlet. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up crappie along the Ice House Point shoreline, from the fish house in Town Bay, and in the marina with small jigs. **Channel Catfish** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are picking up walleye along shore and from

boats. Use leeches under a bobber or throw twisters and crankbaits near Ice House Point, the inlet bridge, and the outlet. Use leeches under a bobber or throw twisters and crankbaits. **Yellow Perch** - Fair.

Brushy Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try a jig and minnow in 5-10 feet of water near shore and woody structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Bite is hit-or-miss; a few fish have been in the mid to upper 20 inch range.

North Twin Lake

Water levels remain low; use caution when loading boats at the ramps. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a small jig or a minnow and jig under a bobber along the shore and docks.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

All walleye between 19 and 25-inches must be immediately released unharmed at Storm Lake; and no more than one walleye longer than 25-inches can be taken per day. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Bite is slow to fair; try a jig or a jig and minnow under a bobber in the marina. **Walleye** - Slow: Use live bait and twisters from shore in the evenings. As water temperatures, try the edges of the dredge cuts with crawler harnesses or crankbaits. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Most fish are 5- to 7-inches. **Yellow Perch** - Slow.

Water temperatures are in the low 60s in most area lakes. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Clear Lake

Water temperature is in the low 60s. Lake level is 1.2 inch above crest. Water clarity is 5 feet. Clear Lake has a protected slot on walleye. All walleye between 17 and 22 inches must be immediately released unharmed. No more than one walleye longer than 22 inches may be taken per day. **Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are catching crappies around the rush beds and from the jetties. Best bite is in the morning. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use a piece of cut bait fished on the bottom from the wind-swept shore. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Walleye** - Good: Anglers are having success fishing a jig and minnow near vegetation or trolling crankbaits in 8 to 10 feet of water. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Try a small jig near vegetation and around the island.

Crystal Lake

Water temperature is in the low 60s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a minnow or jig near woody habitat.

Rice Lake

Water temperature is in the low 60s. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Best bite is after sunset. **Yellow Perch** – Slow.

[Silver Lake \(Worth\)](#)

Water temperature is in the low 60s. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Yellow Perch** – Slow.

[Winnebago River](#)

Water level is 5.9 feet. **Northern Pike** - Slow. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig head and minnow along current breaks.

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 in the lower 60s. **The walleye season is open.** **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Good. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting will be needed.

[Ingham Lake](#)

Walleye - Fair.

[Lost Island Lake](#)

Water temps are in the lower 50s. Check out the [Iowa Walleye Challenge](#) being held May 1 – June 30 for prizes given to anglers catching the most walleye. **Black Crappie** - Good. **Walleye** – Good.

[Minnewashta Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair.

[Silver Lake \(Dickinson\)](#)

Courtesy docks are in place. Check out the [Iowa Walleye Challenge](#) being held May 1 – June 30 for prizes given to anglers catching the most walleye. **Walleye** - Fair.

[Spirit Lake](#)

The water temperature is in the low 60s. All boat ramp docks are in place. **The walleye season is open.** **Black Bullhead** - Good. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Many nice-sized fish have been seen lately. **Bluegill** - Good. **Walleye** - Good: Leaches and minnows work well. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use small jigs tipped with a minnow. Sorting may be needed.

[West Okoboji Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the upper 50s. All docks are in place. **The walleye season is open.** Check out the [Iowa Walleye Challenge](#) being held May 1 – June 30 for prizes given to anglers catching the most walleye. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a minnow. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Good: Leaches and minnows work well. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting may be needed.

Courtesy docks are in for the season. Water temperatures are in the upper 50s and low 60s. Most area water levels are a few inches over crest. Most fish are still out in deeper water, but should start to make their way shallower as water temperatures increase. Check out the [Iowa Walleye Challenge](#) that runs 5/1 - 6/30 for statewide prizes for anglers. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

[Cedar River \(above Nashua\)](#)

Water clarity is excellent. Water temperatures are on the rise with warmer weather. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a dead chub or stink baits fished in slack water areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing eddies and current breaks. **Walleye** - Good: Use a jig tipped with a minnow or worm below dams. Try using a 3-way with just enough weight to keep the weight on the bottom.

Decorah District Streams

Area streams are in good condition. All [stocked streams](#) are announced at least once a month. Stocking continues at traditional rates, weekly or bimonthly. When on private property open to fishing, fishing is the only activity allowed. Fourth season turkey hunting runs through May 14th. Do not wear red, white, or blue clothing at this time, especially when fishing on public ground. **Brook Trout** - Fair: Good hatches of a variety of gnats mayflies, caddis flies, and midges occurring. **Brown Trout** - Good: Try fishing near or around logs or undercut banks. Spinnerbaits work well. Try using streamers on larger waterbodies. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Use spinnerbaits, hair jigs or hooks tipped with a small piece of worm, bread, or cheese floating through deeper holes. Freshly stocked fish are waiting to take your bait.

[Lake Hendricks](#)

Water clarity is improving. Water temperature is in the mid-60s. Fish are starting to move shallow to spawn. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie action is picking up as water warms. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers fishing near shore are finding gills. Use a small chunk of worm fished under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are starting to spawn in shallow water.

[Lake Meyer](#)

Water clarity is about 3 feet. Water temperature is in the low 60s. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie are starting to bite. Use a small jig near shore edges. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Try a spinnerbait fished in 3-4 feet of water.

[Turkey River \(below Clermont\)](#)

Excellent water clarity. Water temperatures in the upper 50s. **Smallmouth Bass** -

Good: Use a jig with a twister tail fished in the eddies and off channel areas. **Walleye** - Good: Early morning or late evening bite is best. Try fishing the deeper holes with a crank or spinnerbait. **White Sucker** - Excellent: Try fishing the deeper holes with a worm fished near bottom.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water temperatures are in the mid-60s. Excellent water clarity. Use caution during early season paddling. Log jams and other strainers may have moved.

Hypothermia is still a threat with cooler water temperatures. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing near undercut banks and current breaks. A flashy jig works well. Fly anglers using streamers are picking up some action. **Walleye** - Good: Angling for walleye is picking up below dams. Use a jig tipped with a plastic tail or crankbait.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water levels are slowly falling with good clarity. Water temperatures are nearing the 50s. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Find smallmouth near undercut banks and current breaks. **Walleye** - Good: Use a hook tipped with a minnow or plastic tail fished in an eddy or off a current break.

Volga Lake

Water temperatures is in the mid-60s. Fish activity is improving, especially near shore rocky areas. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try fishing along the rocky edges in deeper water. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Trophy catfish are plentiful in this lake. Use a large crawler fished under a bobber in the evening. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass in the shallow bays; use a crank or spinnerbait.

Rivers and streams are in excellent condition. Weekend temperatures in the mid-70s during the day to 50s overnight. Breezy with a change of storms every day. For current fishing information, please call the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Brinker Lake

Anglers are catching crappie as they stage for the upcoming spawn. **Black Crappie** - Excellent: Cast lighter jigs tipped with plastics.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Anglers are catching crappie as they stage for the upcoming spawn. **Black Crappie** - Excellent: Cast lighter jigs tipped with plastics.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use cut baits off of the bottom. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try

plastics with a jig or cast and retrieve spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - Good: Use plastics with a jig.

[George Wyth Lake](#)

Anglers are catching crappie as they stage for the upcoming spawn. **Black Crappie** - Excellent: Cast lighter jigs tipped with plastics.

[Lake Delhi](#)

Anglers are catching crappie; some sorting may be needed. Avoid weekends and evenings due to heavy boat traffic. **Black Crappie** - Good: Cast lighter jigs tipped with plastics near structure or docks.

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

Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try plastics with a jig or cast and retrieve spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - Good: Use plastics with a jig.

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

Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try plastics with a jig or cast and retrieve spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - Good: Use plastics with a jig.

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

Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try plastics with a jig or cast and retrieve spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - Good: Use plastics with a jig.

Interior rivers are in good condition. Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. Lakes in and around Cedar Falls/Waterloo are hot for crappie as they stage for the upcoming spawn. Trout streams are in excellent condition. Contact your local bait shop for the most recent angling opportunities. For more information, contact the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

[Mississippi River Pool 9](#)

Water level is 13.5 feet at Lansing and is expected to drop to 11 feet over the next week. New Albin Army Road and Heytman's Landing are closed due to water over the road. Lansing Village Creek is inaccessible for larger boats under the railroad bridge. Some lower profile boats are able to clear the R.R. bridge. Fish are biting; look for areas away from the heavy current. Water temperature is near 61 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a garden worm under a bobber along shore with less current like marina areas or backwaters. A lot of sorting with nicer sizes being caught. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a crawler or cut-bait in the current seams as water temperature rises this week. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Some flatheads are

being caught on live bluegill or shiners. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are actively feeding. Try a weighted crawler in moderate current from shore. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Good: Redhorse are running; they are fun to catch. Drop a weighted crawler into the current breaks. **Walleye** - Slow: 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. Walleye/sauger combined daily limit 6/possession 12.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Water level is near 623.8 feet at Lynxville and is expected to fall below 621 feet this week. Ramps at Bussey Lake, Sny Magill, Noble's Island are under water and closed. The high water ramp at Harpers Ferry is accessible. The bite is picking up with warmer water temperatures. Water temperature is 62 degrees at the dam. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a garden worm under a bobber along shore with less current like marina areas or backwaters. A lot of sorting with some nicer sizes being caught. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a crawler or cut bait in the current seams as water temperature rises this week. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Some flatheads are being caught on live bluegill or shiners. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are actively feeding. Use a weighted crawler in moderate current from shore. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Good: Redhorse are running; they are fun to catch from shore. Drop a weighted crawler into the current breaks. **Walleye** - Slow: 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. Walleye/sauger combined daily limit 6/possession 12.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Water level is 14.9 feet at Guttenberg and is predicted to fall to 12 feet over the next week. Guttenberg city ramp, the DNR ramp, Turkey River, and Finleys are under water and closed. Gates are out of the water at the dam. The bite is picking up with the warmer water. Water temperature is in the mid-50s. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a garden worm under a bobber along shore with less current like marina areas or backwaters. A lot of sorting with some nicer sizes being caught. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try a crawler or cut bait in the current seams as water temperature rises this week. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Some flatheads are being caught on live bluegill or shiners. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Drum are actively feeding. Try a weighted crawler from shore. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Fair: Redhorse are running; they are fun to catch from shore. Drop a weighted crawler into the current breaks. **Walleye** - Slow: 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. Walleye/sauger combined daily limit 6/possession 12.

Upper Mississippi River water levels are slowly receding. Most boat ramps are still flooded and full of mud/debris. Fishing is picking up as water temperatures rise into the upper 50s to 60s.

Mississippi River Pool 12

The water level is dropping to near 16.3 feet at Lock and Dam 11 and around 18.0 feet at the RR bridge. Water temperature is around 57 degrees; the water is stained. It will take some time to clean up parks and ramps after the flood recedes. **Bluegill** - No Report: Bluegills will follow along the shorelines, even in flooded water. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Expect the channel catfish bite to be good soon as they feed heavily in flooded waters. **Walleye** - Good: Some nice catches of walleye have been recorded feeding on minnows near shore. **White Bass** - Good: You can still find fish in flooded conditions; most fish will be along the shorelines. Try minnows or small spinners to catch white bass feeding in these locations. **Yellow Perch** - No Report: Lots of smaller yellow perch are in the system; this is a good indicator for yellow perch fishing this upcoming year. It is still possible to catch yellow perch along hard shoreline banks, even during flooding conditions.

Mississippi River Pool 13

The water level at Lock and Dam 12 at Bellevue is dropping to near 16.6 feet. Water clarity is stained. Water temperature is around 57 degrees. Most boat ramps are flooded out. Water levels are still in action to minor flood stage, but should drop out of that stage early next week. It will take some time to clean up boat ramps and parks after the flood. **Bluegill** - No Report: Bluegills will follow along the shorelines, even in flooded water. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try to catch channel catfish in places like Middle Sabula Lake, which should not be affected by flood conditions. Fishing in flood waters should yield abundant channel cats. **Paddlefish** - No Report: Paddlefish season is closed. Flooding conditions are optimal for successful paddlefish spawns; hopefully this flood will create another strong year class. **Rainbow Trout** - No Report: Water has receded off the kids fishing pond, but trout probably left the pond during the flood. The area around the pond is very muddy with lots of trash floated in. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Excellent: Redhorse are running up the tributary rivers like the Maquoketa; they will make some fun action on an egg sinker worm rig. **Yellow Perch** - No Report: Smaller yellow perch are in the system; this is a good indicator for yellow perch fishing this upcoming year.

Mississippi River Pool 14

The water level at Fulton is receding at near 17.2 feet, 18.6 feet at Camanche, and near 12.2 feet at LeClaire. Water temperature is 58 degrees. Water levels are still in moderate flood stage, but may fall out of that stage by next week. It will take

some time to clean up parks and ramps after floods recede. **Bluegill** - No Report: Many good reports on all panfish species in Pool 14 over the winter season. Hope this translates into a good open water season. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Expect channel catfish fishing to be good over the next few weeks. **Paddlefish** - No Report: Paddlefish season is closed. Flooding conditions are optimal for successful paddlefish spawns; hopefully this flood will create another strong year class. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Good: Redhorse will soon start to bite and will run up rivers like the Wapsipinicon. They can provide good early season fishing action.

Mississippi River Pool 15

The water level at Rock Island is dropping to near 17.8 feet. Water clarity is stained. Water temperature is 57 degrees. Water level is still in major/moderate flood stage, but should fall out of that stage by next week.

The river is receding throughout the district. The recent snow melt flood was ranked the 3rd highest in this stretch of the river. The Mississippi River is still in minor to moderate flood stage, but is expected to continue to recede. It will take some time to clean up all the debris and mud off the parking lots and boat ramps. If you have angling questions, please call Bellevue Fisheries Management at 563-880-8781.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

The water temperature was 65 degrees at the beach on May 9. Water clarity is about 7 feet. The duckweed isn't much of a problem yet. **Black Crappie** - Good: Not seeing any spawners yet; shouldn't be long now. Most are caught in 6-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Work the brush piles in 3 to 4 feet of water using small jigs or bobber and worm. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass are moving into shallow water in the afternoons, and back to deeper water in the early morning and evenings. Work soft plastics slowly along the bottom in 3-4 feet of water during the afternoon.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperatures is 61 degrees. Water clarity at about 8 feet. The curly leaf pondweed beds are growing. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappies are hung up in deeper water 8-10 feet in the flooded timber. They could move into the shallow water soon. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill bite continues to improve; they are in shallower than the crappies, but haven't see any on the beds yet. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass, especially males, are moving in to shallow water. Look for some males on the nest.

Lake Darling

The water temperature was 63 degrees on May 10. Water clarity is 5-6 feet. **Black Crappie** - Good: The water temperature is right for the spawn, but crappies remain out in 9 to 10 feet of water. Only males have been in shallower. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for them around the rock piles and tree falls in 5-7 feet of water; use worm and bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Males are starting to stake out territories and build nests.

Lake Geode

Water temperature is 65.8 degrees. Water clarity is 6 feet. **Black Crappie** - Good: Look for crappies to be both in shallow and out in 8-10 feet of water. They are busy trying to repopulate the lake. **Bluegill** - Good: Try worm and bobber fished in 3 to 4 feet of water. Might be a good time to head up to the new mounds up across from the beach to find bluegills. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Most are still under the legal size limit, but they are fun to catch.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is 60-61 degrees. Water clarity is about 7 feet. The weed beds are growing pretty fast. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up a few crappies in shallow, but most are still out a little deeper. That may change quickly as it is spawning time. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for bluegill in the flooded brush in 3 to 4 feet of water. Worm and bobber is hard to beat, but a small jig tipped with a waxworm works nearly as well. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Look for males to be in the shallow water setting up nesting territories. Females will be out a little deeper.

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

Coralville Reservoir

The lake level is 683.5 feet. Water temperature is in the upper 50s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try bright jigs or minnows in brush piles or some rock banks near spawning coves. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait in the channel or on wind-blown flats.

Diamond Lake

All facilities are open. **Black Crappie** - Good: Target the jetty areas and shorelines with brush. Most fish are 8- to 9-inches. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Some fish have been caught in the shallows and inlet areas. **White Crappie** - Slow: A few bigger white crappies have been caught.

Hannen Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Most fish are 8- 9-inches; some 13- 14-inch fish are available. **Bluegill** - Fair: Fish up to 10-inches are being reported. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Most fish are 1-2 pounds.

[Iowa Lake \(Iowa Co.\)](#)

Water temperature is around 50 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish are suspended in 5-10 feet of water. Cast or troll jigs over these depths. **Bluegill** - Fair: Look for fish in 4-8 feet of water; use a worm. Some fish are on the bottom while others are suspended.

[Lake Macbride](#)

The docks are in. The fish cleaning station is open. Water temperatures is in the mid-50s. Any sized motor may be used at 5 mph. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Some crappie are starting to move to shallow water, while others are staged out from spawning areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Fish are moving to shallower structure and areas adjacent to spawning flats. **Muskellunge** - Fair. **Spotted bass** - Good: Bass are moving to shallower structure and areas adjacent to spawning flats. **Walleye** - Fair: Some walleye are on shallow rock at night; the rest have moved to back to post-spawn feeding areas. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Most wipers are deeper, but some have been feeding shallow or on the surface at sunrise/sunset.

[Liberty Centre Pond](#)

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

[Otter Creek Lake](#)

The lake is drained for the ongoing renovation project.

[Pleasant Creek Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the mid- 50s. The modern bathrooms are open. The fish cleaning station should be open by the weekend. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing over brush in 10-15 feet of water. **Muskellunge** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Try fishing in rock in 10-20 feet of water during the day and shallower rock towards evening.

[Prairie Park Fishery](#)

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

[Sand Lake](#)

Rainbow trout were recently stocked. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair; Try small jigs, spinners, scented baits or live bait. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

[Union Grove Lake](#)

The boat docks are in. Water temperature is in the mid-50s. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are moving shallower with warming water.

[Wapsipinicon River \(Troy Mills to Oxford Junction\)](#)

Dam removal has started at Central City. Public access below the dam is not

permitted during the project. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Target backwater areas, especially around brush. **Walleye** - Fair.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Crappies will move shallow to spawn. Try small jigs and minnows. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Target rip-rapped shorelines fishing slowly with jigs and plastics.

Lake Miami

Bluegill - Slow: Try small jigs fished near shore. Keep moving until you find active fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use jigs fished along structure and near shore.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Look for crappie to start to gather around structure as the water temperature increases. Try small jigs in these areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use spinnerbaits or jigs around rip-rapped shorelines and the rock jetties.

Lake Wapello

Bluegill - Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines and around structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use jigs or plastics in areas with structure.

Ottumwa Park Pond South (Trout Pond)

Rainbow trout were stocked recently. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Try spinners or trout bait. Adjust the retrieval speed of your lure until you find what the trout are interested in.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.75 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Courtesy docks have been installed at the Dedication Point boat ramp, Honey Creek State Park and Bridgeview. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels so make sure to properly drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try jig and minnows around structure. The water temperature is in the low 60s. **Walleye** - No Report: Anglers are catching walleyes trolling bottom bouncers and on crawler harnesses. There is a 15-inch minimum length limit on walleye at Lake Rathbun. All walleyes measuring less than 15-inches must be immediately released unharmed. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Anglers are catching hybrid striped bass trolling or vertically jigging.

Red Haw Lake

Visitors are asked to avoid the campground area due to the continued storm damage cleanup. **Bluegill** - No Report: As the water temperature increases, look

for bluegill to start to move closer to shore. Try small jigs, changing your retrieval speed until you find one the fish like.

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

SOUTHWEST

[Ada Hayden Heritage Park Lake](#)

Rainbow trout were stocked recently. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Use small in-line spinners, spoons 1/8 ounce or smaller, twister tail jigs or live bait under a float.

[Big Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Catch Crappie that are moving shallow to spawn fishing live minnows under a float near rock and wood in 6 feet of water or less or cast and retrieve small twister tail or panfish jigs near the same habitat. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleyes jigging with twister tails, swimbaits, minnows, and leeches or trolling live bait rigs with minnows or leeches. Concentrate on the upper half of the lake in 10 to 25 feet of water around road beds points and humps during the day and shallow in the evenings.

[Des Moines River \(Saylorville to Red Rock\)](#)

Walleye - Fair: Try jigs tipped with twister tails, swimbaits or live minnows below Saylorville Dam, the dams in Des Moines, and deeper pools.

[Don Williams Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Try fishing live minnows in treefalls or slowly trolling 2 inch or smaller twister tail jigs just out from shore.

[Lake Petocka](#)

Rainbow trout were stocked recently. There are some tagged trout for prizes offered by the City of Bondurant. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Use small in-line spinners, spoons 1/8 ounce or smaller, twister tail jigs or live bait under a float.

[Red Rock Reservoir](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Try fishing jigs with plastics or live minnows under floats in coves off the main lake and Whitebreast Arm near any shallow rock, riprap or wood. Some of these include Teter Creek Arm, Campetine Creek Arm, and the South Overlook Arm.

[Rock Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Catch crappies shallow near riprap and wood throughout

the lake fishing live minnows under a float or cast small jigs with twister tails. tubes or paddle tails.

Terra Lake

Rainbow trout were stocked recently. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Use small in-line spinners, spoons 1/8 ounce or smaller, twister tail jigs or live bait under a float.

Triumph Park West

Rainbow trout were stocked recently. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Try small in-line spinners, spoons 1/8 ounce or smaller, twister tail jigs or live bait under a float.

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

Greenfield Lake

Anglers are starting to catch crappies around the jetties. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Cast small jigs around the jetties to find 9-inch black crappies. **Largemouth Bass** - No Report: Greenfield has a good largemouth bass population with a good percentage of 14- to 16-inch fish.

Lake Anita

The water temperature is around 60 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small jigs around the jetties and rocky shorelines. Black crappies should be moving close to shore. **Bluegill** - Fair: A few nice bluegills can be caught using crawlers. Try around the roadbeds and underwater reefs. **Largemouth Bass** - Good.

Lake Manawa

Lake Manawa is 2 feet low. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try shad sides or cut bait on windy shorelines. Catch catfish of all sizes. **Walleye** - Good: Walleye anglers are having success casting crankbaits.

Orient Lake

Bluegill – Slow. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catch channel catfish up to 5 pounds with cut bait near the cleaning station.

Prairie Rose Lake

Water temperature is 58 degrees. Water clarity is very good. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try fishing around jetties and rocky shorelines to catch 10-inch black crappie. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are grouped up around structure in the lake. Cast small jigs and move often to find quality bluegill. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass can be caught all around the lake.

Viking Lake

The Viking Lake water level is close to full and will offer good fishing

opportunities. **Black Crappie** - Good: Catch 9- to 10-inch black crappies around the jetties. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait on wind-blown shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing just outside the flooded terrestrial vegetation.

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

[Green Valley Lake](#)

Docks are in at the beach and dam boat ramps. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs fished near cedar tree brush piles to catch crappies of all sizes. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 20-inches with finesse plastics fished along shallow cedar tree brush piles.

[Lake Icaria](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Catch crappie up to 9-inches with jigs fished along rocky shoreline areas.

[Little River Watershed Lake](#)

The dock is in at the main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try jigs fished along rocky shoreline areas to catch crappies of all sizes.

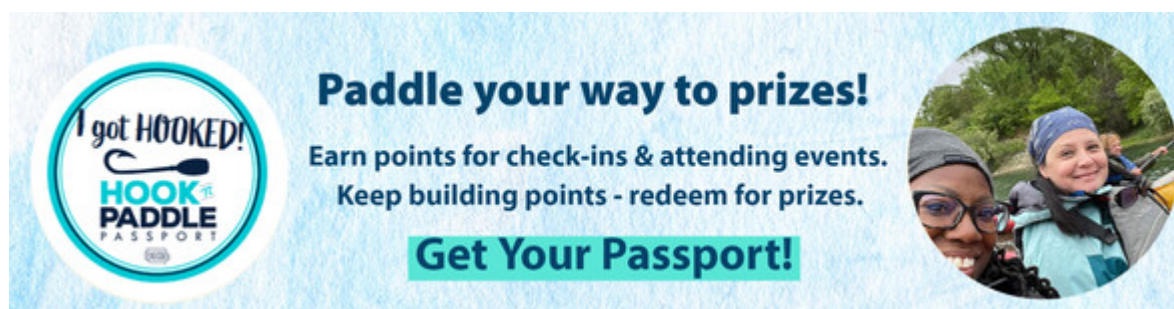
[Three Mile Lake](#)

Docks are in at main ramp. **Walleye** - Slow: Use jigs or crankbaits fished along the fish mounds to catch all sizes of walleyes.

[Twelve Mile Creek Lake](#)

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Good: Try jigs fished along rocky shoreline areas to catch all sizes of crappies.

Water temperature is in the mid to upper 60s in most lakes. For more information, call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.



Get your [2023 passport](#) and start collecting points. Each check-in from **May 1 - Aug. 31** rewards you with 100 points. Keep building points to redeem for prizes. Redeem your points once you've reached your desired point total.

The water is waiting. Have fun exploring!
