



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation



Paddle your way to prizes!

Earn points for check-ins & attending events.
Keep building points - redeem for prizes.

[Get Your Passport!](#)



Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of July 6

[July Fishing Podcast](#)

- [NORTHWEST](#)
- [NORTHEAST](#)
- [MISSISSIPPI RIVER](#)
- [SOUTHEAST](#)
- [SOUTHWEST](#)

NORTHWEST

Black Hawk Lake

Water clarity is about 12 inches. Water levels are 10 inches below the crest of the spillway. Panfish have moved to deeper habitat. Try fishing the dredge cuts and the rock piles. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing over the rock piles and from boat in 2-6 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Pick up 7- to 8-inch bluegill near rock piles and isolated timber near shore. Try floating a bobber with live bait or a jig tipped with a minnow or plastic. **Channel Catfish** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try a plastic or crankbait near shallow rock piles and outcroppings. **Walleye** - Slow: Try fishing offshore near rock piles and dredge cuts.

Brushy Creek Lake

Water clarity is 2-3 feet due to a mild green algae bloom. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish have moved to deeper habitat. Look for suspended fish near isolated brush and rock piles in 5-15 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try fishing around open patches of vegetation along shore in 3-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use a plastic or crankbait in deeper transition zones in 6-18 feet of water or isolated vegetation along shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig tipped with a minnow/plastic or crankbaits near isolated rock and brush piles in deeper water.

Target fish near dusk, dawn or during cold fronts. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Look for perch near isolated vegetation and shallow brush piles.

North Twin Lake

Water levels are 2 feet below the crest of the spillway; use caution when launching boats at the ramps. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappie are off shore. Try fishing in 3-6 feet of water near rock or structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: This lake has a good population of catchable-sized fish. Catfish are spawning; find them near shore by rocky structure. Use cut bait or crankbaits. **Walleye** - Fair: Try fishing off shore; boat anglers are using planer boards and crankbaits.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Water clarity is roughly 3 feet. 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. **Channel Catfish** - Good: There is a good population of 3-6 pound catfish. Try cut bait, dip baits or crankbaits near shallow rocks. **Walleye** - Fair: Try fishing the dredge cuts with crankbaits and crawler harnesses. **Yellow Perch** - Slow.

Swan Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Look for lots of 7-inch bluegill in clearings in the vegetation near shore. Try floating a bobber or use a small jig tipped with live bait or a plastic. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Clear Lake

Water temperature is in the low 80s. Lake level is 1.6 inches below crest. Water clarity is 3 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. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or crawlers near rocky areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Good. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are having success fishing a jig or live bait near vegetation. Best bite is early morning and after sunset. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Try a small jig near the edge of vegetation. Best bite is near sundown.

Rice Lake

Bluegill - Slow: Try a small piece of crawler under a bobber in 3 to 4 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Walleye** - Slow: Best bite is after sunset. **Yellow Perch** – Slow.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Bluegill - Fair: Try a small piece of crawler under a bobber in 2 to 3 feet of water. With the clear water, you may have to cast further to avoid spooking the fish. **Largemouth Bass** – Good: Use topwater baits. **Yellow Perch** – Slow.

Winnebago River

Water level is 4.78 feet.

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 upper 70s. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill have moved deeper; spawning has finished. Use a small hook and piece of worm. **Walleye** - Fair. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting will be needed.

Ingham Lake

Walleye - Fair: Anglers have been successful morning and evening.

Lost Island Lake

Water temperatures are in the upper 70s. **Black Crappie** - Good. **Walleye** - Good: Try trolling with spinners over weeds.

Minnewashta Lake

Black Crappie - Fair. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Pumpkinseed** - Good.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

The lake is currently experiencing a large algae bloom. **Black Bullhead** - Good. **Walleye** - Fair: Try trolling with spinners over or off weed lines.

Spirit Lake

Water temperatures are in the upper 70s. You may have to move out deeper to find the edge of weed lines. **Black Bullhead** - Good: Anglers have been very successful fishing the north grade. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Many nice-sized fish have been seen lately. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill are still on beds near shore. Try a small hook with a small piece of worm. **Walleye** - Fair: Leeches and minnows work well. Anglers have been successful with slip bobbers off points and pulling spinners over vegetation. **Yellow Perch** - Fair.

West Okoboji Lake

Water temperatures are in the mid-70s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try small jigs tipped with a minnow. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill are moving off beds to deeper water post-spawn. **Walleye** - Fair: Leeches and minnows work well. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting may be needed.

Water temperatures are in the middle to upper 70s. Most area water levels are a few inches over crest. The fish bite is moving out to deeper water. Finding weed lines and rock points to fish off has given anglers the most success. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are stable, but low. Use caution accessing some boat ramps. Best bite is early morning or late evening. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a dead chub or stink baits fished in slack water areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Try fishing eddies and current breaks. **Walleye** - Slow: Use a jig tipped with a minnow or worm below dams. Try using a 3-way with enough weight to keep it on the bottom.

Decorah District Streams

Area streams are in good condition, but are low. Yellow wild parsnip is blooming. Wash your skin immediately if you come in contact with this plant. Its sap is light sensitive and will cause painful blisters. When on private property open to fishing, fishing is the only activity allowed. **Brook Trout** - Fair: Good hatches of a variety of gnats, mayflies, caddis flies, and midges. **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 good. **Black Crappie** - Good: Find crappie suspended in deeper water. Try trolling across the lake. **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers fishing near shore are finding gills. Use a small chunk of worm fished under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try a spinnerbait fished along vegetation edges.

Lake Meyer

Water clarity is about 3 feet. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie are suspended in deeper water. Try fishing deeper with a small jig. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small piece of worm under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Try a spinnerbait fished in 3-4 feet of water.

Turkey River (below Clermont)

Water clarity is good to excellent. Water levels are low. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use a jig with a twister tail fished in the eddies and off channel areas. **Walleye** - Slow: Early morning or late evening bite is best. Try fishing the deeper holes with a crank or spinnerbait.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

A construction project at Lidotke Park to repair the boat ramp and improve shoreline angler access will begin after July 4. Water clarity is good to excellent. Water levels are low. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing near undercut banks and current breaks. A flashy jig works well. Fly anglers using streamers are picking up some action. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye fishing is picking up below the dams. Use a jig tipped with a plastic tail or crankbait.

Volga Lake

Lake temperatures are warm. Find fish near shore in the early morning. **Black Crappie** - Good: Troll the deeper open areas of the lake. Crappies are out deep. **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: Use a crank or spinnerbait.

Area interior rivers and streams are low. Clarity is good to excellent on most area rivers and streams. Temperatures in the upper 70s during the day to 50s overnight. Possibility of spotty showers through the weekend. For current fishing information, please call the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Bluegill - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

Water levels are low; fishing conditions are good. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Live bait or fresh cut bait works best. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try jigs and crankbaits. **Walleye** - Slow: Walleye fishing has been slow with low water and warm temperatures

George Wyth Lake

Bluegill – Slow. **Largemouth Bass** – Good.

Manchester District Streams

Trout streams are in excellent condition; fishing has been good. The best bug hatches have been in late evenings with the summer heat. **Brown Trout** - Good: Best bite is late evening or early morning. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Very low water conditions. **Channel Catfish** - Good. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good. **Walleye** - Slow.

Maquoketa River (below Monticello)

Channel Catfish – Good. **Walleye** – Slow.

South Prairie Lake

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

Wapsipinicon River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

Water conditions are low and good for fishing. **Channel Catfish** - Good. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good. **Walleye** - Slow.

Trout streams in northeast Iowa are good to excellent with good numbers of wild brown trout and stocked rainbow trout. Lakes are warm with good bass fishing; panfish have been more difficult to catch. The Cedar, Maquoketa, Shell Rock and

Wapsipinicon rivers have low water conditions and are good for smallmouth bass and channel catfish; walleye fishing had been slow. For more information, contact the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

Water level is 8.2 feet at Lansing and is expected to remain stable. Water temperature is near 79 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use artificial jigs or a crappie minnow along the fallen trees in 6-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegill have moved into sloughs and main channel areas; larger sizes are being caught. Float a garden worm under a bobber along the shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use crawlers and stink bait in deeper holes off main channel structure. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Try crawlers, live bluegill, or shiners. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are actively feeding. Try a weighted crawler in moderate current from shore. Use a deep dive crankbait or crayfish to catch large drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing the edge of weed beds in backwater and side channel areas. **Northern Pike** - Good: Cast flashy spoons and crankbaits near the mouths of streams during hot summer days. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast a spinner or crankbaits in current along the rocky shorelines. **Walleye** - Good: Try a 3-way rig on the wing-dams with a whole crawler or use crankbaits or twister tail jigs off the rocks from shore. 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. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a light jig or crawler in weeded areas with slight current.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Water level is near 613.2 feet at Lynxville and is expected to remain stable at this level over the next week. Water temperature is 83 degrees at the Lynxville dam. Use caution at Sny Magill due to low water. There is a scour hole below the concrete ramp and a rock mound behind the scour. Damage to boat props and trailers is possible. There are several snags at the mouth of Sny Magill creek to avoid. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use artificial jigs or a crappie minnow along the fallen trees in 6-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegill have moved into sloughs and main channel areas; larger sizes are being caught. Float a garden worm under a bobber along the shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try crawlers and stink bait in deeper holes off main channel structure. **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. Use a deep dive crankbait or crayfish to catch large drum. **Largemouth**

Bass - Good: Try fishing the edge of weed beds in backwater and side channel areas. **Northern Pike** - Good: Cast flashy spoons and crankbaits near the mouths of streams during hot summer days. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Good: Redhorse are fun to catch from shore. Drop a weighted crawler into the current breaks and around submerged trees. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast a spinner or crankbaits in current along the rocky shorelines. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a 3-way rig on the wing dams with a whole crawler or use crankbaits or twister tail jigs off the rocks from shore. 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. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use a light jig or crawler in weeded areas away with slight current.

[Mississippi River Pool 11](#)

Water level is 4.7 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to remain stable at this level over the next week. Use caution at the Guttenberg city ramp which drops off in low water. Water temperature is in the 80s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use artificial jigs or a crappie minnow along the fallen trees in 6-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill have moved into sloughs and main channel areas; larger sizes are being caught. Float a garden worm under a bobber along the shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try crawlers and stink bait in deeper holes off main channel structure. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Some flatheads are being caught on live bluegill or shiners. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Drum are actively feeding. Try a weighted crawler in moderate current from shore. Use a deep dive crankbait or crayfish to catch large drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing the edge of weed beds in backwater and side channel areas. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Cast flashy spoons and crankbaits near the mouths of streams during hot summer days. **Shorthead Redhorse** - Fair: Redhorse are biting; they are fun to catch from shore. Drop a weighted crawler into the current breaks. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast a spinner or crankbaits in current along the rocky shorelines. **Walleye** - Good: Try a 3-way rig on the wing dams with a whole crawler or use crankbaits or twister tail jigs off the rocks from shore. 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. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use a light jig or crawler in weeded areas with slight current.

Upper Mississippi River water levels have fallen to low levels. Boaters should use caution to avoid backing off the end of ramps. Water temperatures are in the 80s. Water clarity is good with some thicker weed beds along shore. Low water has fish concentrated, making for good fishing.

Mississippi River Pool 12

The water level has stabilized to 4.9 feet at Lock and Dam 11 and 7.6 feet at the RR bridge. Water temperature is around 79 degrees; water clarity is good. **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers pitching small jigs with worms are catching gills off the wing dams **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or stink bait in the current seams. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use live green sunfish or bullheads or gigging spoons in tailwater areas. Downriver many anglers will fish above big log jams in moderate current areas. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker with a worm rig works best to catch abundant drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Bass are on the feed. Try plastic baits along shoreline weed beds during low water. Hit shady spots when the sun is bright. **Northern Pike** - Good: A few pike are being picked up in many different types of habitat. Use flashy white spinnerbaits. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Cast inline spinners or crankbaits just off rock points to catch smallmouth feeding in the rocks. **Walleye** - Good: Some walleyes and sauger are being picked up on wing dams; catch has been sporadic. Some sauger are being picked up off rock piles. **White Bass** - Fair: Try minnows or small spinners in tailwater areas to catch abundant white bass. They have been seen blowing up minnows in tailwater areas.

Mississippi River Pool 13

The water level at Lock and Dam 13 at Bellevue is stable at near 4.7 feet. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is around 79 degrees. The Iowa DNR ramp is back open; minor maintenance may occur again in the near future. **Bluegill** - Good: Use worms along rock lines to catch abundant bluegills. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try stick bait or worms along rock piles to catch abundant channel cats. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Anglers are using live bullheads or bluegills to catch flathead catfish in tailwater areas. Jigging spoons are also effective. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker with a worm rig works best to catch abundant drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Lots of bass are biting in the marina areas and backwater lakes. Some fish are moving out onto the vegetation lines; use plastic baits. **Northern Pike** - Good: A few pike are being picked up in many different types of habitat. Use flashy white spinnerbaits. As water warms, pike often move near cooler tributary streams. **Rainbow Trout** - No Report: The kids fishing pond is unfishable as the vegetation has taken hold. The pond will be restocked this fall with trout when vegetation clears. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Cast inline spinners just off rock points to catch smallmouth feeding on minnows. **Walleye** - Good: Some walleyes are being picked up on wing dams; catch has been sporadic **White Bass** - Good: White bass are biting in the tailwater areas and can be seen feeding on minnows.

Mississippi River Pool 14

The water level at Fulton is stable at near 5.0 feet, 9.6 feet at Camanche, and near 4.5 feet at LeClaire. Levels are predicted to be stable this week. Water temperature is around 80 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Use worms rigs and a simple bobber along

rock lines. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or stink bait in the current seams or along rock lines. Some massive channel catfish catches were recorded earlier, but the bite has slowed down. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg沉器 with a worm rig works best to catch abundant drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Bass fishing is good along boat ramp areas and newly exposed flooded vegetation lines. Try soft plastics along vegetation lines and brush piles. **Northern Pike** - Fair: A few pike are being picked up in many different types of habitat. Use flashy white spinnerbaits. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast inline spinners just off rock points to catch smallmouth feeding in the rocks. **Walleye** - Good: Lots of trolling being done in side channel areas using crankbaits. **White Bass** - Good: Try small spinners in the tailwater to catch abundant white bass and occasional hybrid white bass.

Mississippi River Pool 15

The water level at Rock Island is stable at near 4.8 feet. Water clarity is improving. Water temperature is 81 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait around log jams or rock lines. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use an egg沉器 and worm rig to catch abundant drum. Keep your fish on ice after catching; they make excellent table fare. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try throwing spinners along the rock lines in Pool 15. Lots of rock is available; need somewhat strong current to hold smallmouth bass. **White Bass** - No Report: Try throwing small spinners in the tailwater areas to catch feeding white bass.

The river has stabilized throughout the district. Water temperatures have warmed into the upper 70s. Good fishing is occurring throughout the district; it's a perfect time to get on the water. If you have angling questions, please call Bellevue Fisheries Management at 563-880-8781.

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage is 4.71 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport and has risen slightly the past couple days. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 15. River stage is 10.22 feet at Fairport; flood stage is 14 feet. **Bluegill** - Fair: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber around brush piles at Sunset Marina and the Andalusia Island complex. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel. Use dip baits, shad guts, or nightcrawlers. Look for channel catfish around shorelines with rip-rap and current. Try floating leeches or nightcrawlers under a bobber along the rocks. **Walleye** - Fair: Reports of walleyes being caught around current breaks along the main channel; use crankbaits. Also look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try fishing with crankbaits or three-way rigs with crawlers. **White Bass** - Good: Look for white bass in Sylvan Slough or Sunset Marina. Try jigs and twister tails or in-line spinners. The bite for white bass in Sunset Marina is best in the mornings and right before dark.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 3.74 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and has risen slightly the past few days. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 5.79 feet at Muscatine; flood stage is 16 feet. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Try a piece of worm under a bobber around brush at Big Timber, Cleveland Slough, and Eagle Fill. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for channel catfish around brush piles in the side channels and main channel. Use dip baits, cut shad, or nightcrawlers. Also look for channel catfish along shorelines with rip-rap and current. Try floating leeches or nightcrawlers under a bobber along the rocks. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes around current breaks. Cast jigs with plastics or crankbaits. Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Try fishing the wing dams with three-way rigs and crawlers or casting crankbaits. **White Bass** - No Report: Look for white bass around current breaks or down by GPC. Cast jigs and plastics or crankbaits.

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 3.94 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and has risen slightly. Flood stage is 15 feet. The Toolsboro access is open. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber around brush piles at the Huron Island complex. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags in side channels and along the main channel. Use dip baits, cut shad, or nightcrawlers. Look for channel catfish on shorelines with rip-rap and current. Try floating leeches or nightcrawlers under a bobber along the rocks. Some channel catfish are being caught below the outlet of Lake Odessa and out from the Toolsboro ramp. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Some largemouth bass are being caught at the outlet of Lake Odessa on crankbaits. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing dams. Cast crankbaits or troll three-way rigs with nightcrawlers. **White Bass** - Good: Some white bass are being caught at the outlet of Lake Odessa. Cast crankbaits or jigs and plastics.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 1.88 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington. Flood stage is 10 feet. River stage is 8.19 feet at Burlington; flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 525.41 feet at Fort Madison; flood stage is 528.0 feet. We have not received much for fishing reports for this pool this week. **Bluegill** - No Report: Look for bluegills in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber around brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use dip baits, cut shad, or nightcrawlers. Look for channel catfish around rip-rap shorelines with current. Try floating leeches or nightcrawlers under a bobber along the rocks.

River stages have risen slightly the past few days. Main channel water temperature is around 82 degrees. Water clarity has been good. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

The water temperature is in the upper 70s; temperatures rise to around 80 degrees in the afternoons. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies remain in 6-8 feet of water in the flooded timber. Vertical jigging works best. **Bluegill** - Fair: Look for bluegill in 6-7 feet of water in the flooded brush and trees. Worm and bobber work best in the dense cover. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for males along the face of the dam near the bottom of the riprap. Minnows or green sunfish work well this time of year.

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Find bass around the drop-offs to deeper water; this steep sided lake has more than a few of those.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The river is low at Columbus Junction to get a boat off that ramp. It's pretty shallow down from the ramp at Wapello at the Schwob ramp, but smaller boats should still be fine. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Recent rains really have not brought the river up any noticeable amount. Lots of sandbars to fish off.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperatures is around 78-79 degrees. Water clarity is about 8 feet. The water has a green cast. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing in the early morning; expect to be off the water by 10 a.m. Start trolling in 9-12 feet of water just outside the flooded trees out from the beach and on down towards the dam. Don't go fast, 1-1.5 mph is about right; just drift. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try vertically jigging around the trees to a depth of about 10 feet. Drift quietly from spot to spot; use a 1/64 oz jig tipped with a waxworm. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: It's time to start fishing the tops of the mounds at the upper end of the lake. Troll crankbaits over the top of them or bounce a soft plastic off the rocks on top of them.

Lake Darling

The water temperature is around 78-79 degrees. Water clarity is about 3 feet. The water has a green cast. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Slow troll for crappies out over the cedar trees in the middle of the lake and down along the rock piles down by the dam in 9-10 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try slow trolling out over the habitat in 6 to 8 feet of water to find bluegill. Switch to vertically jigging from there. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Work your bait around the piles of culverts just off shore to find males guarding their nests. A green sunfish makes good bait for this type of fishing. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try jigging just off the edges of the steeper drop-offs and slow trolling over the trees and rocks in 10-12 feet of water. Best bite is early morning.

Lake Geode

Water temperature is around 80 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are out in

deeper water for the summer. Slow troll in 8 to 10 feet of water along the drop-offs. **Bluegill** - Fair: Lots of new rock piles and gravel bottom spots along with some new octohabitats to fish out in 8 to 10 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are out at the drop-offs; they have slid down the slope a little to cooler water to avoid the heat.

[Lost Grove Lake](#)

Lost Grove was treated for [Eurasian Watermilfoil](#) on June 29. Clean all vegetation from your boat and trailer before leaving the boat ramp area. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are out along the edge of the flooded timber in 8 to 10 feet of water. Try vertical jigging or slow trolling until you find them. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills have moved out a little further from shore fish around the outer edges of the thicker submerged brush; you should still be able to find them. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing the edge of the flooded timber, vertically jigging down about 14 to 16 feet.

[Skunk River \(Rose Hill to Copdock\)](#)

The water level bumped up a little more after last week's rains. A small jon boat should get you up the river. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing the high cut banks and under the roots hanging down into the water to find males guarding the nests. With the increased water flow, it's a good time to fish the deeper water off the end of the sandbars.

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

[Cedar River \(Cedar Rapids to Moscow\)](#)

Channel Catfish - Good. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair. **Shovelnose Sturgeon** - Good: Try fishing nightcrawlers along sandbars.

[Coralville Reservoir](#)

Black Crappie - Slow. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Some fish are along chunk rock spawning; others are being caught trolling cut bait. **Walleye** - Fair: Find some fish on shallower rock.

[Diamond Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Look for suspended fish over deeper water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some fish are on shallow flats; others are on deeper structure. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try crawlers, stink bait or chicken livers. Most fish are 1-2 pounds.

[Hannen Lake](#)

Bluegill - Fair: Reports of smaller fish with a few big ones mixed in. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Most fish are just under legal length.

Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

The weeds along shore are dying back. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for fish suspended over deeper water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some fish are still shallow; others have moved deep. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Fish are moving in shallower to spawn. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing along the remaining weed lines.

Lake Macbride

The 10 hp maximum is in effect. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try fishing mid-depth brush or look for fish suspended in open water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small worms or jigs around rocky structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or live bait around shallow rock. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing shallow to mid-depth structure. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits or live bait rigs in 7-15 feet of water. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Look for surface activity around sunrise/sunset.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Most fish have been smaller. **Bluegill** - Good: Most fish have been smaller. **Channel Catfish** - Good. **Walleye** - Fair: Try fishing around rock in 10-20 feet of water.

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

Hawthorn Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try small jigs and minnows. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use jigs and plastics along rip-rapped shorelines.

Lake Miami

Black Crappie - Fair: Try small jigs and minnows in the flooded timber. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs near structure. Keep moving until you find active fish. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try dead chubs or liver in 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use jigs along structure and near shore.

Lake Sugema

Black Crappie - Fair: Try small jigs around structure and along the shorelines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs fished in small pockets in the vegetation and along its outer edges. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use spinnerbaits or jigs along rip-rapped shorelines and the rock jetties. Try topwater lures early and late in the day.

Lake Wapello

Black Crappie - Slow: Drift minnows in deeper water. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs along the shorelines and around structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use liver or

nightcrawlers in 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use crankbaits or rubber worms in areas with structure.

Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.38 msl; recreation pool is 904 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 jig and minnows around structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Target areas with large rocks such as the Bridgeview area or the dam; catfish are spawning. Try dead chubs or nightcrawlers. **Walleye** - Good: 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 over rock piles.

Red Haw Lake

Visitors are asked to avoid the campground area due to the continued storm damage cleanup. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs, change your retrieval speed until you find active fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use plastics along the rock jetties and the dam.

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

SOUTHWEST

Big Creek Lake

Walleye - Fair: Try jigging or trolling with nightcrawlers. Concentrate on the upper half of the lake in 10 to 15 feet of water around road beds, points, and humps during the day and shallow in the evenings.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Channel Catfish - Good: Try cut bait and stink baits fished inside and upstream of log piles and treefalls.

Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Good: Try dip baits and cut bait fished in and just above treefalls and log piles.

Don Williams Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Catch suspended crappies slowly trolling 2 inch or smaller twister tail jigs or live minnows in 3 to 6 feet of water.

Red Rock Reservoir

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift or troll plastics or small crankbaits in coves off the main

lake and Whitebreast arm. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Anglers are catching catfish throughout the lake, particularly around structure (rocks, submerged trees, etc.) **White Bass** - Fair: Try trolling shad imitating crankbaits and spoons.

[Rock Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Good: Try drifting and trolling small jigs with twister tails tubes or paddle tails.

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

[Lake Anita](#)

The water temperature is in the high 70s. **Black Crappie** - Good: Slow troll open water areas keeping your bait above 10 feet to catch 9-inch black crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Troll or drift small jigs to catch 8-inch fish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good.

[Lake Manawa](#)

Lake Manawa is 2 feet low. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try Sonny's dip bait or cut bait on windy shorelines. Catch catfish of all sizes. **Walleye** - Fair: Cast or troll crankbaits near the sides of dredge cuts to find actively feeding walleye. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: Walleye anglers are picking up an occasional wiper on crankbaits.

[Meadow Lake](#)

The [DNR is drawing Meadow down 3 feet](#) to improve the size quality of bluegill. The boat ramp is usable. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find 9-inch black crappie around cedar tree piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are catching largemouth bass out of tree piles using plastics.

[Prairie Rose Lake](#)

There is an algae bloom on Prairie Rose; fishing is good. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for crappie around deep structure; fish average 10-inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers are catching bluegill in open water areas with nightcrawlers. Fish will average 9-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass can be caught all around the lake.

[Viking Lake](#)

The Viking Lake water level is back down 18 inches. All boat ramps are usable. **Black Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies around deep tree piles. Fish will average 9-inches. There is a large year class of 6-inch black crappie in the lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try slow trolling or casting crawlers under a bobber around deep tree piles. Fish will average 8-inches. **Channel Catfish** - No Report: Viking has a good population of 19- to 22-inch channel catfish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair:

Cast the shoreline just outside the flooded terrestrial vegetation. Anglers are catching numbers of bass in shallow tree piles.

Willow Lake

Willow lake has very good water clarity. Panfishing has been good this year. **Black Crappie** - No Report: Look for black crappie in deep tree piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills average 8-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Good.

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. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches with jigs or small worms under a bobber along rocky shoreline areas.

Largemouth Bass - Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 20-inches with finesse plastics fished along shallow cedar tree brush piles.

Lake Icaria

Channel Catfish - Good: Catch all sizes of channel catfish with nightcrawlers fished along shallow rocky shorelines.

Little River Watershed Lake

The dock is in at the main boat ramp. **Bluegill** - Slow: Catch bluegill up to 9-inches with jigs or small worms under a bobber along rocky shoreline areas. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try nightcrawlers along the flooded timber to catch channel catfish of all sizes.

Three Mile Lake

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

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try jigs or worms under a bobber fished along the fish mounds to catch bluegill of all sizes. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Catch largemouth bass up to 19-inches with finesse plastics along rocky shoreline areas.

Water temperature is in the upper 70s in most lakes. For more information, call the Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-464-3108.



HAPPY TRAILS, *Hidden Gems*

STATE PARK PASSPORT