



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Iowa Fishing Report

Conservation and Recreation

HOW DO YOU OUTDOORS?

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[Top Iowa Fishing Spots for the Week of August 17](#)

- [NORTHWEST](#)
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NORTHWEST

[Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water temperatures are in the upper 70's. Water clarity is 12 inches. Water levels are about 8 inches below crest. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing over the rock piles and from boat in 2-6 feet of water. Anglers have also had success in the fish house in Town Bay. **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** - Fair: Use a plastic or crankbait near shallow rock piles and outcroppings. **Walleye** - Slow: Try fishing offshore near rock piles and dredge cuts.

[Brushy Creek Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Find crappie in 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** - Fair: Use a plastic or crankbait in 6-10 feet of water or isolated vegetation and structure along the edge of the channel. **Walleye** - Slow: Try a jig tipped with a minnow/plastic or crankbaits near isolated rock and brush piles in deeper water. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Look for perch near isolated vegetation and shallow brush piles.

[North Twin Lake](#)

Water levels are about 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. Use cut bait or dip baits near shore and around rocky structure.

[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. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: There is a good population of 3-6 pound catfish. Try cut bait or dip baits fished on the bottom near shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Try fishing the dredge cuts with crankbaits and crawler harnesses. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Most fish are 5- to 7-inches. **Yellow Perch** - Slow.

Swan Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Fish are around 7-inches. Try a piece of crawler under a bobber near edges of vegetation or structure in 2-4 feet of water.

Water temperatures are in the upper 70s. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

Clear Lake

Water temperature is in the mid-70s. Lake level is 6 inches below crest. Water clarity is 2 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** - Fair: Find suspended fish with your electronics. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait from the wind-swept shore. Best bite is after sunset. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Walleye** - Slow: Try a jig or live bait near vegetation. Best bite is early morning and after sunset. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use a small jig tipped with bait in 6 to 8 feet of water. Use your electronics to find fish. Best bite is early morning.

Rice Lake

Bluegill - Slow: Try a small piece of crawler under a bobber in 3 to 4 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** – Good: Bass are biting on a variety of baits. **Yellow Perch** – Slow.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Bluegill - Slow: Try a small piece of crawler under a bobber on the edge of the vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Yellow Perch** – Slow.

Winnebago River

Water level is 4.47 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: Most bluegill have moved deeper; you can still be successful fishing from a dock or shore. 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 mid-70s. **Black Crappie** - Fair. **Walleye** – Fair: Try trolling with spinners over weeds.

Minnewashta Lake

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

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

The lake is 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 mid-70s. You may have to move out deeper to find the edge of weed lines. Anglers Bay has large stands of native vegetation growing across large portions of the area, making navigation more difficult. **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: Try a small hook with a small piece of worm from the docks. **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. **Pumpkinseed** - Good. **Walleye** - Fair: Leeches and minnows work well. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting may be needed.

Water temperatures are in the low 80s to upper 70s, but should start to slowly drop while we experience cooler nights. Most area water levels are slightly below crest. Anglers have found the most success fishing off rock points and the edges of weed lines. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels are very low. Use caution at boat ramps. Water temperatures are in the 70s, but will raise with the hot weather forecast next week. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie in brush piles or around woody structure. Use a minnow under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try a dead chub, chicken liver, or stink baits on bottom in slow water. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use a jig with natural colored twister tail or nightcrawler in the brush piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig tipped with a bright plastic tail.

Decorah District Streams

A few streams get too warm to stock rainbow trout during the heat of the summer. This is an annual occurrence; plenty of fish remain in the streams. Stocking other streams continues as scheduled. **Brook Trout** - Slow: Excellent hatches of gnats, midges, and mosquitoes are occurring. **Brown Trout** - Slow: Terrestrial insects abound. Use flies imitating crickets, grasshoppers, ants, and beetles. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: A small chunk of worm or cheese under a bobber fished through a deeper hole will turn a rainbow head. Cut the line on deeply hooked fish.

Lake Hendricks

Water temperatures are in the 70s. Best bite is early morning or later in the day. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a spinner or crankbait pulled slowly behind a small watercraft. Crappie are suspended throughout lake. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegills in vegetation. Try a small piece of worm under a bobber along the weed edges. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use worm, stink bait, or a dead chub near stumps

or other woody habitat to catch nice-sized catfish. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try a topwater or weedless lure along weed edges.

Lake Meyer

Water clarity is fair due to green algae bloom. Water temperatures are in the upper 70s. Best bite is early morning or evening. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies are suspended. Try trolling around the lake with a spinner or jig tipped with a light colored plastic tail. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegill off shore near or in vegetation. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait or a dead chub fished on the bottom. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try a topwater lure along the weed edges.

Turkey River (above Clermont)

Water levels are low. Paddlers may have to walk through more riffles than float. Canoes are not recommended with the low water levels. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing the rock ledges or back eddies. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with plastic tail or crankbait in deeper pools later in the day or early morning.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are low with excellent clarity. Be prepared to walk through riffles due to low water levels. Canoes are not recommended with the low water levels. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing the rock ledges or eddies. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with plastic tail or crankbait in deeper pools later in the day or early morning.

Upper Iowa River (below Decorah)

Water levels are low. Be prepared to walk through riffles. Water temperatures are in the 70s, but will rise with hot temperatures next week. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Find catfish in deeper pools and around woody structure. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a crawler or crawdad in the deeper pools or around rock ledges. A bright colored crankbait also works. **Walleye** - Fair: Try fishing the eddies and deeper pools.

Volga Lake

Lake temperatures are in the 80s. Water clarity is about 12 inches. Best bite is early morning or later afternoon into the evening. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Slowly troll or paddle deeper water; use a spinner bait. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use a small piece of worm under a bobber around rocky shoreline. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Trophy catfish are plentiful in this lake. Use stink bait, dead chubs, or worms near stumps or other structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Find bass around fish attracting structures.

Area interior rivers and streams are low. Clarity is good to excellent on most area rivers and streams. Weekend temperatures spike into the low 90s during the day to upper 60s overnight. For current fishing information, please call the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Brinker Lake

Largemouth Bass - Good: Try early morning or late evening topwater artificial baits.

Casey Lake (aka Hickory Hills Lake)

Anglers are having success with bluegill, black crappie, largemouth bass, and channel catfish. **Black Crappie** - Good: Find structure using electronics and jig colored tube jigs at various depths to locate fish; the south corner of the damn has been really good for crappie. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small jig with a piece of crawler under a slip bobber at various depths to find fish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Best bite

is mornings and evenings. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are catching bass on most everything thrown at them; try spinners, crankbaits, and topwater baits.

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

Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish on the river. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use crawlers, stink baits, and chicken livers. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try a jig with a twister and half of a crawler or cast crankbaits. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig with a twister and half of a crawler/whole leech or cast crankbaits.

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

Smallmouth Bass fishing has been good during cooler periods of the day. **Channel Catfish** – Fair. **Smallmouth Bass** – Good. **Walleye** – Fair.

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

There are good numbers of channel catfish in the Maquoketa River in Jones and Jackson County. Try fishing pools or runs near woody snags. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use prepared baits, live bait, and fresh cut bait. **Smallmouth Bass** – Fair.

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

Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish on the river. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use crawlers, stink baits, and chicken livers. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try a jig with a twister and half of a crawler/whole leech or cast crankbaits. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig with a twister and half of a crawler/whole leech or cast crankbaits.

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

Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish on the river. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use crawlers, stink baits, and chicken livers. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Try a jig with a twister and half of a crawler/whole leech or cast crankbaits. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig with a twister and half of a crawler/whole leech or cast crankbaits.

Interior river levels remain low. Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, and channel catfish. Trout streams are low and clear across northeast Iowa; consider fishing during low light conditions and approach streams carefully to avoid disturbing wild fish. Dubuque County received heavy rainfall on Monday of this past week. For more information, contact the Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

[Mississippi River Pool 9](#)

Water level is 8 feet at Lansing and is expected to remain stable. Water temperature is near 80 degrees. Lansing Village Creek ramp is extremely shallow. Large boat launching is not recommended. Boaters should avoid power loading; use caution and go slow when loading and unloading. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use artificial jigs or a crappie minnow along the fallen trees in 6-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: 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** - Fair: Try crawlers, live bluegill, or shiners. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: 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** - Fair: Use a light jig or crawler in weeded areas with slight current.

Mississippi River Pool 10

Water level is 613.4 feet at Lynxville and is expected to gradually recede. Water temperature is 79 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 with slight current.

Mississippi River Pool 11

Water level is 4.8 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to gradually recede. Use of the Guttenberg city ramps is not recommended; they are extremely shallow. Damage to boat props and trailers is possible. Water temperature is near 80 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use artificial jigs or a crappie minnow along the fallen trees in 6-8 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Fair: 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** - Fair: 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 extremely low levels. Damage to boat props and trailers is possible. Boaters should use caution to avoid backing off the end of ramps. Use caution and go slow when loading and unloading as ramps are very shallow. Water temperatures are in the low 80s. Water clarity is improved. Many species are moving into the current. Low water has fish concentrated, making for good fishing.

[Mississippi River Pool 12](#)

The water level is stable at 5.2 feet at Lock and Dam 11 and 7.9 feet at the RR bridge. Water temperature is around 78 degrees; water clarity is good. Use caution to avoid backing off the ramps in this very low water. Use the minimum amount of water to float boats on our ramps. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers pitching small jigs with worms are catching gills off the wing-dams. Gills are moving around a bit; keep moving if they do not bite right away. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait or stink bait in the current seams or above tree falls. Move often if you are not getting fish. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use trot lines baited with live green sunfish or carp. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker with a worm rig works best to catch abundant drum. Use large crayfish to catch larger 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: Try fishing near cooler tributary streams in the evenings. **Smallmouth Bass** - Excellent: Cast inline spinners or crankbaits just off rock points to catch smallmouth feeding in the rocks. Lots of smallmouth have moved on to the wing-dams. **Walleye** - Good: Walleyes and sauger are being picked up on wing-dams. Some sauger are being picked up off rock piles. Most anglers are pulling or throwing crankbaits at higher speeds to start the bite. **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. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: An occasional yellow perch has been reported; surveys show that their populations are very strong in the river.

[Mississippi River Pool 13](#)

The water level at Lock and Dam 13 at Bellevue is stable at near 4.9 feet. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is around 78 degrees. The Iowa DNR ramp is back open; maintenance has been completed. Use caution to avoid backing off the ramps in this very low water. Use the minimum amount of water to float boats on our ramps. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use worms along rock lines to catch abundant bluegills. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stick bait or worms along rock piles. In the lower parts of the pool, try to concentrate in the stump fields or along the weed lines. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Flathead anglers have switched to trot lines baited

with green sunfish or carp. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker with a worm rig works best to catch abundant drum. Try fishing in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Try plastics along vegetation lines. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Use flashy spinners near the confluence of cooler tributary streams. Best bite is in the evening hours. **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. Many smallmouth are also on the wing-dams, especially in this low water. **Walleye** - Fair: 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 5.2 feet, 9.8 feet at Camanche, and near 4.6 feet at LeClaire. Levels are predicted to be stable all week. Water temperature is around 79 degrees. Use caution to avoid backing off the ramps in this very low water. Use the minimum amount of water to float boats on our ramps. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use worms rigs and a simple bobber along rock lines. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or stink bait in the current seams or along rock lines. The bite has slowed a bit; keep moving if you are not catching fish. Lots of anglers use stink bait; expect bites within 20 minutes or move to other spots. Catfish can be extremely clumped up; you can catch many when you find them. Recent bump in water levels should trigger a better bite for channel cats. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: A simple egg sinker with a worm rig works best to catch abundant drum. Need areas with moderate current flow; many areas around boat ramps can be good places to target drum. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Try soft plastics along vegetation lines and brush piles. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Use flashy spinners near cooler tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast inline spinners just off rock points to catch smallmouth feeding in the rocks; exposed wing-dam rock can be very good. **Walleye** - Fair: Lots of trolling being done in side channel areas using crankbaits. **White Bass** - Fair: Try small spinners or jigs 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 5.0 feet. Water clarity is improving. Water temperature is 80 degrees. Use caution to avoid backing off the ramps in this very low water. Use the minimum amount of water to float boats on our ramps. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait around log jams or rock lines. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use an egg sinker 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** - Fair: Use small spinners in the tailwater areas to catch feeding white bass and hybrids.

A slight bump in water levels this week, but the River is still low. When boating, use caution to avoid backing trailers off the back of ramps. Use the minimum amount of water to float boats off trailer. Water temperatures are in 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 4.63 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in Davenport and has been rising the past few days. Flood stage is 15 feet at Lock and Dam 15. River stage is 10.18 feet at Fairport; flood stage is 14 feet. **Bluegill** - Slow: Bluegill fishing has slowed with the low water conditions. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel. Use dip baits, shad guts, or nightcrawlers. **Walleye** - Fair: Reports of walleyes being caught around current breaks along the main channel; use crankbaits. Also look for walleyes on the wing-dams; use crankbaits or three-way rigs with crawlers. With the low water conditions, look for fish on the outer ends of wing-dams. **White Bass** - Fair: Look for white bass in Sylvan Slough around the outfalls of the dams. Try jigs and twister tails or in-line spinners.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 3.52 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and has been rising the past few days. Flood stage is 15 feet. River stage is 5.56 feet at Muscatine; flood stage is 16 feet. **Bluegill** - Slow: Fishing for bluegills in the backwaters has been slow with the low water conditions. 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 and snags along side channels and the main channel. Use dip baits, cut shad, or nightcrawlers. **Walleye** - Fair: 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. With the low water conditions, fish the outer end of the wing-dams. **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 3.28 feet at Lock and Dam 17 in New Boston and is rising. Flood stage is 15 feet. Construction is being done on the Toolsboro road the next couple weeks that may cause the road to be closed. **Bluegill** - No Report: Bluegill fishing has been slow with the low water conditions. 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. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing-dams. Cast crankbaits or troll three-way rigs with nightcrawlers. With the low water conditions, look for walleyes on the outer ends of the wing-dams. **White Bass** - Slow: White bass fishing has slowed at the outlet of Lake Odessa. Cast crankbaits or jigs and plastics.

Mississippi River Pool 19

River stage is 7.82 feet at Burlington; flood stage is 10 feet. River stage is 525.27 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.

Tailwater stages have been rising the past few days. Main channel water temperature is around 79 degrees. Water clarity has been fair. River conditions are low; use caution when boating. 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. Water clarity is about 3 feet. **Bluegill** - Fair: Find bluegill in the trees down 5 or 6 feet from the surface; use worm and bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for catfish along the face of the dam and in the old creek channel, especially out from the boat ramp bay where the old bridge was. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Look for bass down at about 6 feet, no deeper. Flip soft plastics and jigs back into the flooded timber at 4-6 feet down to find them.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

Lots of new sand showing as the Iowa River continues to drop. Jet drives would have problems getting around now. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Find the deeper pools of water around the brush piles and logjams where catfish spend nearly every August waiting out the low water and hot weather. Most anglers have switched from live bait to cut bait and stink baits.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is 76 degrees. A few more boats are on the water this week. **Black Crappie** - Slow: A few anglers early in the morning are still picking up a few crappie in about 6 to 7 feet of water along the trees out from the beach. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try vertically jigging around the trees to a depth of about 6-7 feet. Drift quietly from spot to spot; use a 1/64 oz jig tipped with a waxworm. Try the bays on the south side where there is more shade on the water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Along the face of the dam is always a good place to catch nice catfish. Don't forget to try the "Old Pond". **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Bass are suspended down about 6-7 feet out in the trees. Try soft plastic or weedless jigs early in the morning.

Lake Darling

After the rain, the lake still hasn't come up much. Water temperature is 76 degrees. Water at the top foot or so is still green; it's clear below that. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill fishing has picked up some. Try slow trolling a small (1/64 oz) jig tipped with a waxworm out over tops of the rock piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try along the rock piles out in front of the fishing trail between to "point" and the campground boat ramp. They are working for crawdads in the rock piles and are about a cast from shore. Use chicken liver; using nightcrawlers will get you a bunch of bluegills. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Water is fairly clear below the phytoplankton layer (about 2.5 feet). Run a shallow diving crankbait (0-4 feet) just below that in the morning or a medium diver (5-9 feet) trolled a little later in the day.

Lost Grove Lake

Water clarity is 7-8 feet with a little green tint to the water. Water temperature is 76 degrees. The thermocline starts at 7 feet and bottoms out at 14 feet; find most fish at 10-14 feet. **Lost Grove Lake has Eurasian Watermilfoil; be sure to clean all vegetation off your boat and trailer before leaving the boat ramp area. Black**

Crappie - Slow: Crappies are out along the edge of the flooded timber in 10 to 12 feet of water. Try vertical jigging or slow trolling until you find them. **Bluegill** - Fair: Most bluegill anglers were fishing out a little deeper this week in 10-12 feet of water; they were still catching bluegills. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Most boats are out from shore either vertically jigging or slow trolling crankbaits in about 10-12 feet of water. The thermocline bottoms out a little deeper at about 14 feet.

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

The last rains brought the Skunk up a good foot or so, but we lost about 6 inches of that last night (8/16). **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try fishing the deeper water around the established log jams (the ones where the trees still don't have leaves). Had a good spawn earlier this year, so there is a lot of fiddlers. Stink baits work well; don't forget the nightcrawlers.

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

[Coralville Reservoir](#)

Current pool level is 684.1 feet. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try trolling cut bait in the channel. Reports that bluegills or green sunfish have been better than shad due to the abundance of shad in the lake.

[Kent Park Lake](#)

There is quite a bit of vegetation in the lake. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing on top of or along the weeds; most fish are 12- to 15-inches.

[Lake Macbride](#)

The 10 hp maximum is in effect, as well as the 5 mph speed limit. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use cut bait or livers. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing around the rock/wood or topwaters in the morning or night. **Walleye** - Slow: Troll crankbaits or live bait rigs in 7-15 feet of water.

[Pleasant Creek Lake](#)

Channel Catfish - Fair: Try livers or stink bait. **Walleye** - Slow: Use jigs or live bait along rock in 8-15 feet of water. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Look for surface activity at sunrise/sunset or try crankbaits for suspended fish.

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

[Hawthorn Lake](#)

Black Crappie - Fair: Try small jigs and minnows. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or liver along shoreline areas with rock. **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 tipped with a chunk of nightcrawler around submerged structure. **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 submerged structure. **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 around the rock jetties. Try topwater lures early and late in the day.

[Lake Wapello](#)

Black Crappie - Slow: Drift minnows in deeper water to catch suspended

crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs around structure. **Channel Catfish** - Fair:

Use liver or nightcrawlers in 4-8 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try crankbaits or rubber worms in the cedar tree piles.

[Rathbun Reservoir](#)

The current lake level is 903.99 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** - Slow: Try trolling small crankbaits to catch suspended crappie. Some crappies are still around docks; use jig and minnow combinations in those areas. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Target areas with large rocks such as the Bridgeview area or the dam. Try dead chubs or nightcrawlers. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are catching walleyes trolling shad mimicking crankbaits and crawler harnesses. Target areas with rock piles or depth variations. 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: Target the submerged habitat using small

jigs. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use dead chubs around the rock jetties and along the

dam. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try 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 - Slow: Try jigging or trolling with nightcrawlers. Concentrate on the upper half of the lake in 5 to 15 feet of water around road beds, points, and humps during the day and shallower in the evenings. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow:

Cast shad imitating crankbaits, jigs with white twister tails or swim baits, topwater poppers, or silver spoons near feeding schools where small shad are breaking the surface.

[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 \(Stratford to Saylorville Lake\)](#)

Water levels are very low. All fishing is being done from shore, floating or

wading. **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](#)

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.

[Saylorville Reservoir](#)

Channel Catfish - Good: Drift or slowly troll cut baits in the upper portion of the reservoir around and just above the mile long bridge. **White Bass** - Fair: Try trolling shad imitating crankbaits and spoons. The area from the Sandpiper Boat Ramp to the marina bay 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.

[Lake Anita](#)

The water clarity has improved. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Slow troll open water areas keeping your bait above 10 feet to catch 9-inch black crappies. Early morning bite is best. **Bluegill** - Good: Troll or drift small jigs to catch 8-inch fish. The campground arm has been the best. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

[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** - Slow: 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** - No Report: Find 9-inch black crappie around cedar tree piles. **Bluegill** - Slow: Use nightcrawlers under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching largemouth bass out of tree piles using plastics.

[Prairie Rose Lake](#)

Water clarity is poor. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for crappie around deep tree piles; fish average 10-inches. **Bluegill** - Slow: Anglers are catching bluegill around the underwater reefs with nightcrawlers. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Largemouth bass can be caught all around the lake.

[Viking Lake](#)

Water clarity is poor. **Black Crappie** - Slow: 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** - Slow: 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** - Fair.

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

Little River Watershed Lake

The dock is in at the main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use minnows along cedar tree brush piles to catch crappie of all sizes.

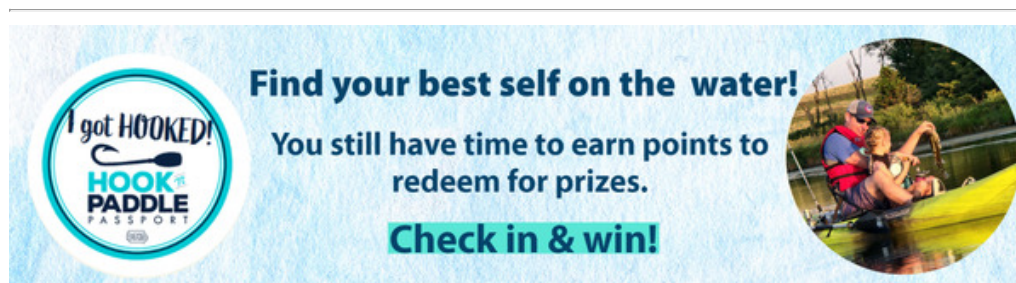
Three Mile Lake

Docks are in at main ramp. **Bluegill** - Slow: Try a jig tipped with a nightcrawler fished on the fish mounds or along the roadbed to catch bluegill up to 8.5-inches.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a minnow along the road bed or rockpiles to catch black crappie of all sizes.

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



You still have time to check-in with your Hook 'n' Paddle Passport or [sign up](#) if you haven't already! Get out on the water and earn points to redeem for prizes.

The **DNR building** at the Iowa State Fair is one of the more than 90 passport check-in locations. Check-in on your passport **August 10-20** and earn 100 points.

Look for posters on the corner of the fish aquarium and throughout the DNR building to get the event code to complete your check-in.