

# Fishing News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



## MIDWEST WALLEYE CHALLENGE

### APRIL 1-JUNE 29

### ENTER TODAY!

## 2025 Think OUTSIDE the Box Iowa State Science Fair Project Award



Congratulations to Natalie Besler from Beckman Catholic High School in Dyersville. Natalie is the recipient of the **DNR sponsored Think Outside the Box award** for her innovative fish habitat science fair project.

Natalie tested different clay colorations and surface textures for differences in algal growth mass, color changes related to algae colonization of the surface, and structure durability from crushing or breaking.

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## NORTHWEST

### Black Hawk Lake

Water levels are 6 inches over the crest of the spillway. Anglers are still picking up fish even with the fluctuating water temperatures. Expect shore fishing to be more productive as water temperatures gradually warm up throughout the week. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Anglers have picked up a few from the fish house. Shore fishing will improve once water temperatures start to climb. **Walleye** - Fair: The bite has slowed some; anglers are still picking up fish. Many fish are being picked up in the 1-3 feet of water right along the shoreline. Town Bay Ice House

Point shoreline and the inlet bridge area have been productive. Use a jig or a slip bobber with minnows **Yellow Perch** - Fair.

#### Brushy Creek Lake

The courtesy dock is in on the west ramp. No courtesy dock are in place at the north and east ramps due to high water levels.

#### North Twin Lake

Water clarity is about 2-3 feet. Water levels are about 12 inches below crest. Courtesy docks are in at the South and SE ramps.

#### Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Water temperatures have cooled to the low 40s. Anglers are catching crappie, walleye, and yellow bass in the marina. Expect shore fishing to improve as water temperatures gradually warm up throughout the week. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Anglers have picked up a few fish in the marina. **Walleye** - Fair: Look for shore fishing action to improve as water temperatures gradually warm up. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching bass in the marina. **Yellow Perch** - Fair.

#### Swan Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching crappie from the fish house. Some sorting is needed; keepers are around 9-inches. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try fishing from the fish house and along shore.

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

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#### Clear Lake

Water temperatures are in the low 40s. The courtesy dock is in at the boat ramp near the Island. **Walleye** - Good: **Clear Lake has a protected slot on Walleye. Fish between 17 and 22 inches must be immediately release.** Try jig and minnows on reefs and the east shoreline. Best bite is near and after sunset. **White Bass** - Fair: White Bass are hitting small jigs on warm afternoons. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use small jigs on the west end of the lake. Warmer afternoons are best.

#### Lake Cornelia

**Black Crappie** - Good: Use small jigs and minnows below a bobber. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Anglers are catching perch on warm days with small jigs and minnows.

#### Winnebago River

**Northern Pike** - Fair: Use chubs and jigs in slack current areas and where tributaries enter the river.

For additional information, contact Clear Lake Fisheries Office at 641-357-3517.

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#### East Okoboji Lake

**The walleye season is closed.** **Black Crappie** - Fair: **Bluegill** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Many fish have been observed; sorting will most likely be needed.

#### Ingham Lake

**Walleye** - Fair: Morning and afternoon bite is best.

#### Silver Lake (Dickinson)

**Walleye** - Fair: The bite is hit-or-miss.

#### Spirit Lake

**The walleye season is closed.** The Marble Beach fish cleaning station is inoperable; the

projected timeline for repair is to have it open again by walleye weekend. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are finding quality-size fish up to 14-inches. Anglers have reported some success around Templar Lagoon. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting is needed; anglers are finding many of acceptable size.

#### [West Okoboji Lake](#)

**The walleye season is closed. Black Crappie** - Fair: **Bluegill** - Fair.

A handful of courtesy docks are in and useable at boat ramps. Water temperatures are still relatively low. **The walleye season on the IGL's is closed until May 3rd.** For current conditions, call 712-330-2542.

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## NORTHEAST

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

Anglers are finding fish above and below impoundments. Fish are starting to move out of overwintering holes with rising water levels. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a hook baited with a dead chub on the bottom from shore. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Find pike in deeper holes out of current; need a little coaxing to get them to bite. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Find bass below dams. Use jigs tipped with a crawler. **Walleye** - Fair: Find walleye in areas just out of current. Anglers using jigs tipped with soft plastics or minnows are finding fish.

#### **Decorah District Streams**

[Catchable trout stocking season](#) began this week at traditional frequencies. All trout streams are announced a minimum of once a month. **Brook Trout** - Slow. **Brown Trout** - Good. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Thank you for keeping our streams clean. Try worms under a bobber floated through a hole.

#### [Lake Hendricks](#)

Water temperatures are in the mid to upper 40s. Fish activity is picking up with longer daylight hours. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Shoreline anglers are finding fish off jetties. Use a jig tipped with soft plastic tails.

#### [Lake Meyer](#)

Water temperatures are warming slowly. Few anglers are out. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Anglers are finding crappies off the jetties with small jigs tipped with natural-colored twister tails.

#### [Upper Iowa River \(above Decorah\)](#)

Water levels are on the rise. Fish are slowly starting to move out of their overwintering holes. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are finding fish below the dams using jigs tipped with natural-colored twister tails.

#### [Volga Lake](#)

Few anglers are out due to windy conditions.

For more information, contact the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

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

Anglers are catching few walleye and smallmouth bass. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow or cast and retrieve crankbaits or spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

### **Manchester District Streams**

Trout streams are in excellent condition. [Trout stream stocking](#) has started. Next week's forecast calls for temperatures near the 60s; should be good aquatic insect hatches to provide great trout fishing.

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

Anglers are catching walleye. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

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

Anglers are catching walleye. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

#### **[Wapsi River \(Tripoli to Troy Mills\)](#)**

Anglers are catching walleye. Northern pike bite should pick up in backwater areas and main channel areas post-spawn. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Try a live chub or shiner underneath a bobber or cast and retrieve spoon or spinnerbaits in backwater areas or the main channel. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Use a jig head with plastics with or without live minnow or cast and retrieve crankbait or spinnerbaits. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pools current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

Interior river levels have stabilized. Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass. The weather pattern has been fairly unstable for good fishing. No information on area lakes. For more information, contact Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

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## **MISSISSIPPI RIVER**

### **[Mississippi River Pool 9](#)**

Water level is 9.2 feet at Lansing and is expected to gradually rise over the weekend. Water temperature is near 44 degrees. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Pike are on the feed after the spawn. Try larger flashy spinnerbaits in the shallows and weedy shorelines. **Sauger** - Fair: Reports of lots of smaller fish with some nicer ones mixed in. Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow in the tailwaters of the Lock and Dam. **Walleye**- Good: Try vertical jigging with hair jigs tipped with a minnow in the tailwaters. Some fish are being picked up downriver on closing dams. Expect the bite to pick up post-spawn. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a crappie rig tipped with worms or a minnow in the current seams off shore.

### **[Mississippi River Pool 10](#)**

Water level has risen several feet to 17 feet at Lynxville and is expected to rise to 19 feet next week. Fishing in the tailwaters of the Lock and Dam has been good. Water temperature is 47 degrees. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Pike are on the feed after the spawn. Try larger flashy spinnerbaits in the shallows and weedy shorelines. **Sauger** - Fair: Reports of lots of smaller fish with some nicer ones mixed in. Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow in the tailwaters of the Lock and Dam. **Walleye** - Good: Try vertical jigging with hair jigs and minnows. Some fish are being picked up downriver on closing dams. Expect the bite to pick up post-spawn. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a crappie rig tipped with worms or a minnow in the current seams off shore.

### **[Mississippi River Pool 11](#)**

Water level has risen to 8.4 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to rise near 12 feet over the next week. Water temperature is near 45 degrees. **Northern Pike** - Excellent: Pike are on the feed after the spawn. Try larger flashy spinnerbaits in the shallows and weedy shorelines. **Sauger** - Fair: Reports of lots of smaller fish with some nicer ones mixed in. Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow in the tailwaters of the Lock and Dam. **Walleye** - Good: Try vertical jigging with hair jigs and minnows. Some fish are being picked up downriver on closing dams. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Use a crappie rig tipped with worms or a minnow in the current seams off shore..

Upper Mississippi River water levels are rising this week. The bite is improving as fish become more active with warmer water temperatures. Water temperature is quickly climbing back into the mid to upper 40s. Water clarity is still a little cloudy.

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

Water level at Dubuque Lock and Dam is rising to 8.2 feet and 10.5 feet at the RR Bridge. The water is stained. Water temperature is around 48 degrees in the main channel. **Black Crappie** - No report: Rumors of anglers targeting crappies in the same location where they were ice fishing, but no confirmed report. **Bluegill** - No report: Bluegill populations are strong; no reports of anglers fishing for them since ice out. Some backwaters still have remnant ice in them. **Northern Pike** - Good: Pike fishing remains good; new catches have been reported from the Olearys area in upper Pool 12. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are catching small walleyes and a few nice saugers on jigs and minnow rigs. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Anglers are catching yellow perch in the tailwater areas on jig and worm rigs.

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

Water level is rising to 8.2 feet at Bellevue. Water is clear. Water temperature is near 49 degrees in the main channel. **Bluegill** - No report: Lots of bluegills were caught during the ice fishing season; expect a good open water fishing season. **Brown Bullhead** - Good: The lower pool access sites are good places to fish off the bank to catch brown bullhead and an occasional catfish. Bullheads are good early season biters. **Northern Pike** - No report: Pike spawning season is upon us. Pike are one of the earliest of spawners on the Mississippi; they can be difficult to catch when they lay eggs. **Paddlefish** - Good: Paddlefish season remains open until April 15. [Please review the rules for paddlefish snagging](#). **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: The Kids' trout pond north of the DNR fisheries station is stocked with trout and should remain good fishing until April/May when it will weed over. **Walleye** - Fair: Most anglers are using a jig and minnow rig. Lots of small walleye are being reported along with a few fish approaching 10 pounds. Walleye spawning will start shortly. **Yellow Perch** - No report: Some can be caught in the tailwaters as it is common this time of year. No reports yet.

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

Water level is rising to near 7.2 feet at Fulton, 10.6 feet at Camanche, and 5.4 feet at LeClaire. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 50 degrees. **Bluegill** - No report: It was a good ice fishing season this year; hopefully that translates to a good open water season. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Seems early, but good channel catfishing is occurring using blood baits. **Northern Pike** - No Report: Pike will be spawning in Pool 14 in the next few weeks. **Paddlefish** - Good: Paddlefish season on the Mississippi River is March 1 through April 15. Snagging is only allowed within 500 yards of navigation dams and their spillways. [Please review the rules for paddlefish snagging](#). **Walleye** - Fair: Hit-or-miss bite.

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

Water level is rising to near 7.4 feet at Rock Island. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 51 degrees.

Water is slowly warming and approaching 50 degrees throughout the district. Levels are on the rise. If you have angling questions, call Bellevue Fisheries Management at 563-880-8781.

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

Tailwater stage is rising to 7.37 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 11.8 feet by the middle of next week. Floodstage is 15 feet. **Sauger** - No Report: Look for saugers below the Lock and Dam and in Sylvan Slough. Try jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes

below the Lock and Dam and in Sylvan Slough. Use jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits. **White Crappie** - No report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles ss water temperatures start to warm. Try minnows under a bobber or jigs and minnows.

#### Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is rising to 5.35 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 11.5 feet by the middle of the week. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Sauger** - No Report: Look for saugers below the Lock and Dam. Try jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits. **Walleye** - No Report: Use jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits below the Lock and Dam. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles ss water temperatures start to warm. Try minnows under a bobber or jigs and minnows.

#### Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is rising to 6.21 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 12.9 feet by the middle of the week. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Sauger** - No Report: Look for saugers below the Lock and Dam. Try jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits. **Walleye** - No Report: Try vertical jigging with minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits below the Lock and Dam. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles ss water temperatures start to warm. Try minnows under a bobber or jigs and minnows.

#### Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is rising to 3.35 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 8.1 feet by the middle of the week. Flood stage is 10 feet. **Sauger** - No Report: Look for saugers below the Lock and Dam. Try jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes below the Lock and Dam. Use jigs and minnows or troll three-way rigs with minnows or crankbaits. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles ss water temperatures start to warm. Try minnows under a bobber or jigs and minnows.

River stage has been on the rise due to recent rains. Main channel water temperature is around 50 degrees. Water clarity is fair to poor. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

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## SOUTHEAST

#### Big Hollow Lake

Water temperatures are in the low 50s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Some 11- to 12-inch crappies are moving into the shallows to feed on the small bluegills and green sunfish. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Catfish are nice and fat; they are hunting the shallower water for something to eat in the evenings. Drift cut bait along the face of the dam or the old road bed out from the boat ramp jetty. **Muskellunge** - Fair: More than a few muskies are cruising the shallows not far off shore during the evenings. Some are 40-inches plus.

#### Discovery Park Pond

There are still plenty of trout to catch a few weeks after being stocked. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: They are starting to "wise-up" to anglers. A little more finesse is required - use small bobbers, small minnows and red worms or small jigs.

#### Emma Young Pond

There are still plenty of trout to catch a few weeks after being stocked. You need a valid fishing



license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** -Good: Small jigs and bobber and live bait works best. The trout left in the pond are the smarter ones that weren't easily fooled.

#### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature are near 50 degrees. Water is clear as usual. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching some crappies moving into the shallows, especially on the north side looking for something to eat. Try small jigs or bobber and minnow worked slowly or just drifted. If they are not in shallow, look for them in the habitat out in 6 to 8 feet of water. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Work the leeward side off the tips of the jetties where the catfish can feed and still not have to fight the waves. Cut bait works best; nightcrawlers come in second. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Bite remains slow. Working whatever you use slowly and feeling for the softest bite is the key to catch bass.

#### Lake Darling

Surface water is 52 degrees. Water clarity remains fairly good, despite the wind. Boat docks are not in yet. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for crappies in the tree falls and submersed willow bats out of the wind and waves. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for the areas of the shoreline that have a "ribbon" of muddy water along them where the wind is stirring up the bottom.

#### Lake Geode

Water temperature is in the low 50s degrees most days. **Black Crappie** - Good: Crappie continues to be good as the fish move into shallow water to feed. They are far from spawning. Work the near shore habitat and trees with small jigs or minnows. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are getting a little more active with the warmer water temperatures, but they are still working along the ledges to the deeper water.

#### Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 40s. Water is fairly clear. Winds are keeping angler numbers low the last few days. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are starting to find some crappies moving in shallow for pre-spawn feeding. Find crappie in near shore habitat in 3-4 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few bass on the ledges near deeper water using soft plastics and jigs worked really slowly.

#### Vista Park Pond

There are still plenty of trout to catch a few weeks after being stocked. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: A lot of anglers have caught their limit of trout. Trout still in the pond are more cautious and timid; a little more finesse is need. Try live bait and small bobbers or small 1/64 ounce jigs that don't spook them.

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

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#### Cedar River (Cedar Rapids to Moscow)

**Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use cut bait. **Smallmouth Bass** -Fair: Try jigs around rocks. **Walleye** - Slow: Use jigs in current seams; few fish caught. **White Bass** - Slow: Try fishing current seams and eddies; few fish caught.

#### Cedar River (La Porte City to Cedar Rapids)

**Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use jigs in eddies and current seams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try jigs in eddies and current seams around rocks. **Walleye** - Slow: Use jigs in eddies and current seams. **White Bass** - Slow: Few fish caught.

#### Central Park Lake

Few anglers out with recent weather.

### [Coralville Reservoir](#)

Boat docks are in at the Mehaffey Bridge ramp. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie around brush piles and docks. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try cut bait on bottom or below a bobber along wind-blown shorelines or neck down areas at bridges.

### [Diamond Lake](#)

The fish cleaning station will be opened in April when the water is turned on for the park. The north road is still closed.

### [Hannen Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching mostly 6- to 9-inch crappie. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers are catching mostly small bluegill less than 6-inches.

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

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Fish are suspended in 10-20 feet of water and slowly moving shallower as water temperatures creep up. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

### [Iowa River \(Coralville Lake to River Junction\)](#)

**Channel Catfish** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few catfish. **Walleye**- Slow: Anglers are catching a few walleye. **White Bass** - Slow: Walleye anglers are catching fish. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: Walleye anglers are catching a few.

### [Iowa River \(Marshalltown to Coralville Lake\)](#)

**Walleye** - Fair: Use jigs; few fish caught.

### [Kent Park Lake](#)

The dock is in. Fishing has been reported as slow.

### [Lake Macbride](#)

All docks are in. The fish cleaning dock is in at the main ramp. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few crappie around brush piles in 8-12 feet of water and along rocks at the causeway bridge. **Bluegill** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few bluegill around brush piles in 8-12 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** -Fair: Try jerkbaits or jigs around brush piles and rocks. **Muskellunge** - Slow: Slow: Anglers are catching a few muskie near live green aquatic vegetation. **Spotted Bass** - Fair: Use jerkbaits or jigs around brush piles and rocks. **Walleye** - Slow: Try fishing around rocks after sunset. **White Crappie** -Fair: Try fishing around rocks at the causeway bridge.

### [Liberty Centre Pond](#)

You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair.

### [Pleasant Creek Lake](#)

All docks are in. **Muskellunge** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few muskie near brush piles. **Walleye** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few walleye around rocks at sunset.

### [Prairie Park Fishery](#)

You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. **Rainbow Trout** - Fair.

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

The boat ramp at Pinicon Ridge Park is open. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Anglers are catching a few catfish. **Northern Pike** - Slow: Walleye anglers are catching a few pike. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Using jigs in eddies and current seams. **Walleye** - Fair: Try jigs in eddies and current seams.

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

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### [Hawthorn Lake](#)

**Channel Catfish** -Slow: Try shad guts or dead minnows on wind-blown shorelines.



### [Lake Keomah](#)

Lake Keomah is drained for a lake restoration project. **Please stay out of the lakebed.**

### [Lake Miami](#)

**Channel Catfish** - Slow: Try dead minnows on wind-blown shorelines.

### [Lake Sugema](#)

**Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use shad guts or dead chubs on wind-blown shorelines.

### [Lake Wapello](#)

**Channel Catfish** No report: Try dead minnows on wind-blown shorelines.

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

There are still plenty of trout to catch a few weeks after being stocked. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout. Try in-line spinners, chunks of nightcrawlers or prepared trout baits.

### [Rathbun Reservoir](#)

The current lake level is 903.80 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Water temperatures are in the upper 40s. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels; [properly drain, clean and dry equipment](#) before transporting to another waterbody. **Black Crappies** - No Report: Water temperatures are still too cool for crappies to move shallow. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Use shad guts on wind-blown shorelines.

### [Red Haw Lake](#)

**Bluegill** - No report: Temperatures are still too cool for bluegills to move shallow. **Channel Catfish** - Slow: Try dead minnows on the shorelines.

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

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## SOUTHWEST

### [Big Creek Lake](#)

**Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleye shallow near rip-rap shoreline and jetties around sunset and after. Cast jigs with twister tails, swim baits or minnows.

### **Boone District Farm Ponds**

Community ponds are the quickest to warm up after ice out, creating a fair to good pre-spawn largemouth bass and crappie bite. Check the [Fish Local page](#) to find ponds with public access. **Black Crappie** – Fair: Slowly retrieve small twister tails or swim baits. If it exists in the pond, target edges of cattail stands and any wood habitat. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Slowly retrieve plastics and shallow diving crankbaits.

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

**Walleye** - Fair: Cast jigs with twister tails, swimbaits or live minnows below the Saylorville Spillway and Des Moines dams .

For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers contact Andy Otting at 515-204-5885.

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### [Greenfield Lake](#)

Greenfield Lake is a good early season catfish destination. **Channel Catfish** - Fair Use shad

sides or cutbait along wind-blown shorelines. Greenfield has a good channel catfish population. **Largemouth Bass** - No report: Greenfield has a good largemouth bass population.

#### Lake Anita

Lake Anita will provide good fishing this spring with good bass, bluegill and crappie populations. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Black crappies will move into the pontoon area as the water temperature warms. There is a big year class of 9-inch fish. **Bluegill** - No Report: Anglers should be able to catch bluegills around deep structure in early spring. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

#### Littlefield Lake

**Black Crappie** - No Report: Littlefield has a good population of 9-inch black crappie.

#### Mormon Trail Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Bite will pick up along the dam on warm sunny days. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Mormon Trail has a good largemouth bass population with a good percent of fish over 15 inches.

#### Prairie Rose Lake

Prairie Rose will again be a good fishing destination this season. The lake has an excellent largemouth bass population, large bluegills and black crappies. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching largemouth bass around the jetties in the lake.

#### Viking Lake

Water clarity is good. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Bite in the pontoon arm should pick up soon on warm sunny days. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use shad sides or cut bait on the windy shoreline. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are having good luck casting the shoreline.

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

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#### Green Valley Lake

The dock is in at the main boat ramp. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch largemouth bass up to 19-inches with finesse plastics along wind-blown rocky shorelines.

#### Little River Watershed Lake

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use jigs fished in shallow coves to catch all sizes of crappie.

#### Three Mile Lake

**\*\*Driving is prohibited on any service roads used to access the lakebed and the lakebed itself.\*\*** Lake level is 11 feet below normal pool. Boat ramp lanes are out of the water at the main boat ramp.

#### Twelve Mile Creek Lake

The dock is in at the main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Catch crappies of all sizes with jigs in shallow coves.

Water temperature is in the upper 40s in most district lakes. Some anglers are having success catching crappies in ponds and small lakes; not much activity on larger lakes yet. For more information, call Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-931-6031.

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**Take the Tackle Along! It's your gateway to unforgettable memories!**



Keep tackle in your vehicle. You'll be ready for some spontaneous fishing wherever you go - over lunch break, after a shopping outing or when heading to that town with great tenderlains, antiques or farmer's market.

[Check out our list of great fishing spots.](#)