



Keep tackle in your vehicle so you can wet a line-wherever, whenever. Fishing is the perfect way to escape and recharge.

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

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## NORTHWEST

### [Black Hawk Lake](#)

Water levels are several inches over the crest of the spillway. Water temperature is around 60 degrees. Water clarity is roughly 2 to 3 feet. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are catching crappie along Ice House Point shoreline and in the marina. **Bluegill** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some keeper-size bluegill (7-inches) while fishing near shore for crappies. **Walleye** - Fair: Throw a twister or soft plastic near shore during late evening right before sunset. Also use a leech, crawler, or minnow under a slip bobber near shore. **Yellow Perch** -Slow.

### [Brushy Creek Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Pick up crappie near shore in 2-8 feet of water near submerged structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jig tipped with a piece of crawler fished under a bobber near shore.

### [North Twin Lake](#)

Water level is about 6 inches below crest. **Walleye** - Fair: Anglers are catching walleye from shore and docks during the evening. Throw a twister or use a crawler or minnow under a slip bobber.

### [Storm Lake \(incl Little Storm Lake\)](#)

Water temperatures are in the upper 50s. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try crawlers or cut bait on the bottom fished from shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Best bite is late evening. Pick up fish from shore or by boat. As water temperatures warm back up after this cool weather, look for fishing near the inlet to be productive. Throw a twister or soft plastic or fish a crawler or minnow under a slip bobber from shore. If fishing by boat, use crankbaits or a bottom bouncer rig fished near the dredge cut. **White Bass** - Fair.

Water temperatures have dropped to around 60 degrees in most of the district. The panfish bite has slowed with the recent cooler water temperatures. For more information, contact the Black Hawk District office at 712-657-2638.

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#### Clear Lake

Water level is at crest. Water temperature is in the upper 50s. Water clarity is about 30 inches. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Target the rush beds on the north shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Try jigs, minnows or slow retrieved crankbaits near vegetation. Best bite is early morning and after sunset. **Yellow Bass** – Slow: Use small jigs near rocky habitat. Best bite is early morning.

#### Crystal Lake

**Black Crappie** - Good: Crappies are moving shallow. Target near the old roadbed and woody habitat near shore. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Walleye** - Slow.

#### Rice Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Target woody habitat near the shore. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Try fishing near the vegetation edge.

#### Silver Lake (Worth)

**Bluegill** – Fair: Use a piece of crawler under a bobber near shore. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try slow retrieved plastic baits. **Yellow Perch** – Fair: Use a small jig tipped with bait near vegetation.

#### Winnebago River

Water level is 6.73 feet.

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

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#### Center Lake

**Black Crappie** - Good: Some sorting is needed.

#### East Okoboji Lake

Water temperatures are in the low 60s. **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: Best bite is morning and afternoon.

#### Silver Lake (Dickinson)

**Walleye** - Fair: Bite is hit-or-miss.

#### Spirit Lake

The Marble Beach fish cleaning station is fully operational. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are finding quality-size fish up to 14-inches. Anglers report some success around Templar Lagoon. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Sorting is needed; anglers are finding many acceptable size fish.

### West Okoboji Lake

Water temperatures are in the mid-50s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: **Bluegill** - Fair.

Water temperatures have dropped a bit due to the recent colder weather and rain. Most are still in the low 60s. and have been rising quickly. Most lakes are at crest level. **The walleye season on the IGL's is open.** Panfishing has been very good close to shore as fish are moving in shallow as water temperatures increase. For current conditions, call 712-330-2542.

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## NORTHEAST

### Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water temperatures are in the upper 60s. Water levels are slowly rising with recent rains. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Action is picking up; use minnows. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Anglers using chicken liver fished on the bottom are finding good action in impoundments and off channel areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Action remains variable. Use a jig tipped with a plastic tail or crankbait fished through a deeper hole out of current. **Walleye** - Good: Find walleye in deeper holes and out of current using minnows or worms.

### **Decorah District Streams**

Catchable trout stockings are weekly with streams announced once a month. Trout streams are in excellent condition. Flows remain elevated. Gnats and mosquitoes are common. Caddisfly and mayfly hatches are becoming more numerous, especially on warm sunny days. **Brook Trout** - Fair: A variety of insect hatches are occurring. Use care not to alarm fish when approaching streams with clear water. **Brown Trout** - Good: Try fishing near or around undercut banks. Spinnerbaits work well, especially in windy conditions. Use streamers on larger waterbodies for exciting action. Brown trout prefer slightly off-color water. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Use spinnerbaits, hair jigs, or hooks tipped with a small piece of worm, dough ball, or cheese floated through deeper water. Use bait if you plan to keep your catch.

### Lake Hendricks

Water temperature is in the mid-60s. Water is clear. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try angling higher in the water column in the late afternoon. Try a jig tipped with a plastic tail over rocky humps. **Bluegill** - Good. Find gills around pallet structures. Use a small hook tipped with worm under a bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits along weed lines in about 6 feet of water.

### Lake Meyer

Water temperatures are in the mid-60s. Fish are on spawning beds. **Black Crappie** - Good. Find fish in shallow water. Use a jig tipped with nightcrawlers or spinnerbaits. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small jig tipped with a waxworm or red worms around the jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass in shallow to spawn or near woody structure near shore.

### Turkey River (below Clermont)

Water temperatures is in the upper 60s. Water levels are rising slowly with recent rains. Water clarity is good. **Walleye** – Fair. Try a jig tipped with a minnow or spinnerbait just off the channel out of current. **White Sucker** – Fair: Use worms fished on the stream bottom.

### Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water temperature is in the upper 60s. Water levels are slowly rising. Water clarity is

goodt. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair. **Walleye** - Good: Use a jig tipped with a minnow in slack water below the dams. **White Sucker** - Good: Try a worm on the stream bottom.

### Volga Lake

Water temperature is in the mid-60s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie around woody structure. Use a flashy lure to attract attention. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills around structure near shore. Use small jigs tipped with waxworms or a small piece of nightcrawler. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try crankbaits or spinnerbaits near shore around downed trees or rocky areas.

Temperatures are in the mid-60s to mid-40s; breezy with a chance of showers over the holiday weekend. For more information, contact the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

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### Brinker Lake

Anglers are catching crappie on the shallower west end. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Drift a minnow under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve crappie jigs.

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

Anglers are catching walleye, smallmouth bass, channel catfish and crappie. **Black Crappie**- Good: Drift a minnow under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve a crappie jig. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use dead cut baits. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast and retrieve spinnerbaits or a jig tipped with half a nightcrawler. **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.

### George Wyth Lake

Anglers are catching crappie. **Black Crappie** - Good: Look for structures; drift a minnow under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve crappie jigs.

### Lake Delhi

The lake should be clearing up. Water temperatures are nearing the crappie spawn. Avoid mid-afternoons and weekends due to heavy boat traffic. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try a live minnow under a slip bobber or cast various colored tube or hair jigs near structure.

### **Manchester District Streams**

Next week's forecast calls for temperatures in the 70s; should be good aquatic insect hatches to provide great trout fishing. **Brown Trout** - Good: Try matching the hatches with dry flies.

### Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

Anglers are catching walleye and smallmouth bass. River levels have risen, but are still in good angling condition. **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.

### Maquoketa River (below Monticello)

River levels bumped up in Jones and Jackson counties. Anglers are catching smallmouth bass, walleye, and channel catfish. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Cast and retrieve spinnerbaits or a jig tipped with half a nightcrawler. **Walleye** - Good: Try a jig head with plastics with or without a live minnow. Look for the deeper pool current breaks and tail ends of riffles.

### Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

We have received no information about fishing on this water body this week.

### Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

With increased water temperatures, channel catfish and walleye are good target species. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use dead cut baits. **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 riffle.

Most interior river levels bumped up in levels. Anglers continue to catch a few walleye, smallmouth bass, channel catfish and crappie on the rivers. Good reports on area lakes of anglers catching crappie as the lakes start to warm in and around the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. Crappie are in the spawning mode. Trout streams are in excellent condition. For more information, contact Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

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## MISSISSIPPI RIVER

### Mississippi River Pool 9

Water level is 8.1 feet at Lansing and is expected to rise to 8.6 feet. Water temperature is near 60 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use small tube jigs or minnow fished in fallen trees in backwaters and side channels. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a weighted crawler off the bottom in current eddies. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Reports of some flatheads biting as they are feeding pre-spawn. Try large shiners or a small bluegill for bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Throw plastics along the shorelines in the upper end of backwaters away from current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Pike are on the feed after the spawn. Try larger flashy spinnerbaits in the shallows and weedy shorelines. **Sauger** - Slow: Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow out of the current near Lock and Dam tailwaters. Anglers are picking up sauger downriver on closing dams. Expect the bite to pick up again post-spawn. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners along the rocks on shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Slow: Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow out of the current near Lock and Dam tailwaters. Anglers are picking up walleye downriver on closing dams. Expect the bite to pick up again post-spawn. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use a crappie rig tipped with worms or a minnow in the current seams off shore.

### Mississippi River Pool 10

Water level is 14.9 feet at Lynxville and is expected to reach 16 feet next week. Fishing away from the current below the Lock and Dam or side channels has been good. Water temperature is 60 degrees at the Lock and Dam. The road at Sny Magill ramp has reopened. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use small tube jigs or minnows fished in fallen trees in backwaters and side channels. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a weighted crawler off the bottom in current eddies. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Reports of some flatheads biting as they are feeding pre-spawn. Try large shiners or a small bluegill for bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Throw plastics along the shorelines in the upper end of backwaters away from the current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Pike are on the feed after the spawn. Try larger flashy spinnerbaits in the shallows and weedy shorelines. **Sauger** - Slow: Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow out of the current near Lock and Dam tailwaters. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners along the rocks on shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Slow: Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow out of the current near Lock and Dam tailwaters. Anglers are picking up walleye downriver on closing dams.

Expect the bite to pick up again 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 is near 6.6 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to rise to 8.4 feet this week. Water temperature is near 60 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Use small tube jigs or minnows fished in fallen trees in backwaters and side channels. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a weighted crawler off the bottom in current eddies. **Fathead Catfish** - Fair: Reports of some flatheads biting as they are feeding pre-spawn. Try large shiners or a small bluegill for bait. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Throw plastic along the shorelines in the upper end of backwaters away from current. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Pike are on the feed after the spawn. Try larger flashy spinnerbaits in the shallows and weedy shorelines. **Sauger** - No report: Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow out of the current near Lock and Dam tailwaters. Anglers are picking up sauger downriver on closing dams. Expect the bite to pick up again post-spawn. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners along the rocks on shorelines with current. **Walleye** - No report: Use a hair jig tipped with a minnow out of the current near Lock and Dam tailwaters. Anglers are picking up walleye downriver on closing dams. Expect the bite to pick up again post-spawn. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use a crappie rig tipped with worms or a minnow in the current seams off shore. Perch are biting off shore at Mud Lake park near Dubuque.

Expect Upper Mississippi River water levels to rise through next week. During high water, find areas away from the current to fish. Water temperature has dropped into the low 60s. The bite is improving for several species, as fish become more active with the warmer water temperatures.

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#### Mississippi River Pool 12

Water level is slowly rising to 6.5 feet at Dubuque Lock and Dam and 8.7 feet at RR Bridge. The water is clear. Water temperature is around 62 degrees in the main channel. The main boat ramp at Spruce Creek park is still under construction. **Black Crappie** - Fair: It takes a bit of fishing in brush piles, but anglers can catch a few crappie on minnow rigs. **Bluegill** - Good: They are nesting in shallow sandy areas in the backwaters. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use blood bait or live worms in moderate current areas in 6 feet or less of water. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Easily catch drum on an egg sinker and worm rigs. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Bass are starting to get active; it's been slower angling so far this year. Bass are spawning. **Northern Pike** - Good: Pike fishing was good early spring. An increase in the pike bite was noticeable the past few weeks. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Find smallies along the rock lines; use simple spinners or small crankbaits. **Walleye** - Good: Smaller walleye and sauger are along the rock lines. Use small spinners and jigs to pick up walleye and sauger. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Try jig and worm rigs in the tailwater areas.

#### Mississippi River Pool 13

Water level is rising slightly to near 6.9 feet at Bellevue. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 62 degrees in the main channel. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegill are nesting; find them in shallow sandy backwater areas. **Bowfin** - Good: Bowfin are good early season biters. Try backwater areas like the Green Island Wildlife area. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Look for feeding catfish in flooded areas. Use blood baits in areas near the bank. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Egg sinker and worm in moderate current areas works best. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass fishing started slow, but is picking up as they move to the spawning beds.



**Northern Pike** - Good: More pike are being reported every week; use gaudy lures. **Rainbow Trout** - Good: Several trout are left in the the Kids' trout pond near the Bellevue Fishing Station. It is starting to weed over and soon it will be nearly unfishable. Resent winds have opened up the pond a bit. **Walleye** - Good: Pick up small walleyes and sauger along the rock line, especially in the evening hours. Use small jigs. Find bigger fish on the wing-dams with crankbaits. **Yellow Perch** - Good: Try small jigs and worm rigs in the tailwaters.

#### Mississippi River Pool 14

Water level is rising slightly to near 6.3 feet at Fulton, 10.3 feet at Camanche, and 5.4 feet at LeClaire. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 63 degrees. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Angler are catching some crappie out of backwater brush piles; slow to fair bite. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegill bite is picking up. They are spawning along sandy areas in the backwaters. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try prepared baits in 2 to 6 feet of water above snags or in the stump fields. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Bass bite is starting to pick up as bass are in the middle of spawning. **Northern Pike** - Fair: Anglers throwing spinnerbaits are catching pike. **Walleye** - Good: Smaller walleyes and sauger are hugging along the rocky bank lines. Small crankbaits and spinners work best. Start checking out the wing-dams with crankbaits.

#### Mississippi River Pool 15

Water level is rising slowly to near 7.0 feet at Rock Island. Water is clear. Water temperature is around 63 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use prepared stink bait or blood baits in moderate current areas. Try fishiing above woody snags with bait to draw fish to you. Move often if you are not catching channel cats in 15 to 20 minutes. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Easily catch drum on a worm and egg sinker rig in moderate current areas.

Water temperatures is in the lower 60s throughout the district. River levels are rising slightly. If you have angling questions, call Bellevue Fisheries Management at 563-880-8781.

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#### Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage is 6.97 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and is forecast to reach 8.40 feet by the middle of next week. Flood stage is 15 feet. Fishing will be difficult with the muddy water conditions. **Bluegill** - No report: Try pieces of worm under a bobber in the backwaters around brush piles and downed trees at Sunset marina or the Andalusia Island complex. **Channel Catfish** - No report: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use cut bait, nightcrawlers, or stink bait fished upstream of structure. **Walleye** - No report: Anglers are catching walleye on the wing-dams around Credit Island and downstream of the 280 bridge. Cast crankbaits or jigs with plastic or nightcrawlers on the upstream side of the wing-dams or troll crankbaits. Fishing will be difficult with the muddy water conditions. **White Bass** - No report: Look for white bass in Sylvan Slough below the Arsenal or rocky points. Cast jigs and twister tails or inline spinners. **White Crappie** - No report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles. Float minnows under a bobber or vertical jig minnows around downed trees.

#### Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 5.77 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is forecast to reach 6.80 feet by the middle of next week. Flood stage is 15 feet. Fishing could be difficult with the muddy water conditions. **Bluegill** - No report: Look for bluegills to start to move up shallow to spawn in the backwaters. Use pieces of worm under a bobber fished around brush piles and downed

trees at Big Timber and Cleveland Slough. **Channel Catfish** - No report: Try around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels or on the wing-dams. Use cut bait, a nightcrawler or stink bait fished upstream of the structure. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleye on the wing-dams. Cast crankbaits or jigs with plastic or nightcrawlers on the upstream side of the wing-dams or troll crankbaits. Fishing could be difficult with the muddy water conditions. **White Bass** - No Report: Look for white bass around the outfalls around GPC or rocky points with current. Cast jigs and twisters, inline spinnerbaits, or small crankbaits. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles and snags. Float minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows around downed trees.

#### Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 7.34 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is and forecast to reach 8.40 feet by the middle of next week. Flood stage is 15 feet. Fishing could be difficult with the muddy water conditions. **Bluegill** - No report: Look for bluegills to move up shallow to spawn around brush piles and downed trees in the backwaters. Use pieces of worm under a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - No report: Try around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use slip sinkers with cut bait, nightcrawlers, or stink bait on the bottom fished upstream of snags or wing-dams. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing-dams. Cast crankbaits or jigs with plastic or nightcrawlers on the upstream side of the wing-dams or troll crankbaits. **White Bass** - No report: Cast jigs and plastics, inline spinnerbaits, or small crankbaits around the outlet of Lake Odessa or rocky points with current. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles and downed trees. Float minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows around woody structure.

#### Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 4.65 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is forecast to reach 5.20 feet by the middle of next week. Flood stage is 10 feet. Fishing could be difficult with the muddy water conditions. **Bluegill** - No report: Bluegills will be moving up shallow to spawn soon. Try a piece of worm under a bobber. around brush piles and downed trees in the backwaters. **Channel Catfish** - No report: Look for channel catfish around brush piles or snags along the main channel and side channels.or on the wing-dams. Try fishing on the bottom with slip sinkers using cut bait, nightcrawlers, or stink bait. **Walleye** - No Report: Look for walleyes on the wing-dams. Cast crankbaits or jigs with plastic or nightcrawlers on the upstream side of the wing-dams or troll crankbaits. **White Crappie** - No Report: Look for crappies in the backwaters around brush piles and downed trees. Float minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows.

Tailwater stages are on the rise with recent heavy rains. Water clarity is poor. Main channel water temperature is 62 degrees. 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 temperature was 68 degrees on 5/20, but has been dropping. The duckweed is still



confined to around the edges of the lake, most of the lake is free of it. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers were finding crappies in about 9 feet of water earlier this week. Minnows and slip bobbers work best. **Bluegill** - Good: Scout the shallows along the northside to find spawning areas. Get the males to bite with small jigs tipped with a little live bait or just a worm and a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try cut bait or nightcrawlers along the face of the dam. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Nesting has wrapped; a few males may still on the nest. Cast or slowly troll crankbaits along the edges of the trees.

### Deep Lakes

Water temperature was 65 degrees at Lake Chester on 5/21. Sprayed the curlyleaf around the boat ramp; should make it easier for the boats to get out. Electric trolling motors only. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies have moved off to the cedar trees in deeper water. **Bluegill** - Fair: With the ultra-clear water you must sneak up on them or they scatter. Some bluegill are still on the spawning beds. Work the edges of the weed beds with a 1/64 ounce or smaller jig tipped with a piece of redworm.

### Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

River level is 3/4 bank full. Water temperature is in the mid to upper 60's. Try nightcrawlers or cut bait in the back edges of the sandbars. Use minnows or green sunfish around the log jams. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catfishing has slowed with the falling temperatures. Recent rains are adding a lot of "new" food into the river. Use nightcrawlers or cut bait in the mouths of any of the feeder creeks.

### Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is in the mid to low 60s. **Black Crappie** - Good: Find crappies out in the cover in 10-12 feet of water. Try vertically jigging with a jig and minnow or just a minnow and slip bobber. **Bluegill** - Good: Cooler temperatures are keeping new bluegills from coming in to nest. If you find a nesting area that is still active, you can catch some nice fish. Work the open pockets and the edges of the curlyleaf beds where they are feeding on insects. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Cold water temperatures have put a hold on the spawn. Catfish are still in the rocks, they are just feeding instead of guarding nesting cavities. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Most males are off the nests, but remain in shallow to hunt baby crappies. Females remain out deep to rest for a little while longer.

### Lake Darling

Water temperature is 62 degrees. Water clarity remains clear; some planktonic algae is starting to show back up. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Crappies have headed back out deep after the spawn. Try a yellow jig tipped with a minnow in brush piles and rock piles in 8-10 feet of water. **Bluegill** - Good: Look for some bluegills still holding to the nest in bays with a hard bottom out of the wind. You will find a lot of empty beds as they move off the nests and cold temperatures keep new fish from moving in. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Dropping temperatures have slowed the males getting geared up for the spawn. You can still find plenty of fish roaming the rocky shorelines looking for something to eat. Use live crawdads or minnows or chicken liver. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Most bass have moved off the nest. You can still find the males in shallow feeding on baby crappies and bluegills. Try small jigs or small crankbaits.

### Lost Grove Lake

Water is fairly clear at 6 feet+. The curlyleaf beds are well established. Water temperatures are in the low 60s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: When the wind dies down, find crappies in deeper water suspended at 12-16 feet down; use jig and minnow. **Bluegill** - Good: "Drift-troll" worm and bobber and a small jig tipped with a worm to find them; switch to a small bobber and worm. Find bigger bluegills and redears in fairly shallow water (3-4 inches). **Largemouth Bass** - Fair:

Nesting seems to be wrapping up. Females are still out deep recovering from the spawn, but there are still plenty of males in shallow feeding on baby crappies and bluegills. Cast spinnerbaits and crankbaits along the outer edge of the curlyleaf beds or jigs back into the pockets in the weeds.

#### [Skunk River \(Coppock to Mississippi\)](#)

River level is slowly rising with recent rains; water is muddier than last week.

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** - Good. **Flathead Catfish** - Slow. **Sauger** - Slow: Try fishing sand bars early mornings. **Walleye** - Slow: Try fishing sand bars early mornings.

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

**Channel Catfish** - Good. **Flathead Catfish** - Slow. **Walleye** - Fair.

#### [Central Park Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** – Fair. **Bluegill** – Good. **Largemouth Bass** – Good. **Redear Sunfish** – Good.

#### [Coralville Reservoir](#)

**Channel Catfish** - Good. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Spotted Bass** - Fair. **White Crappie** - Good: Try fishing in brush piles or rock areas.

#### [Diamond Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are catching 7- to 9-inch crappies around brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing around brush piles. **White Crappie** - Good: Try fishing around brush piles and rock shorelines. Most fish are 7- 9-inches.

#### [Hannen Lake](#)

**Black Crappie** - Good: Anglers are catching mostly 8- to 11-inch crappie around brush piles. **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers are catching mostly 4- to 7-inch bluegills around brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing around brush piles.

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

Water is very clear, so fish spook easily. Use lighter line and hooks to catch more fish. **Black Crappie** - Excellent: Use pink/white or green/white jigs on inside or outside edges of weed beds. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Try nightcrawlers below a bobber. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Anglers are catching catfish. **Largemouth Bass** - Good.

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

**Channel Catfish** - Good. **Flathead Catfish** - Slow. **Northern Pike** - Slow. **Sauger** - Slow. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow. **Spotted Bass** - Slow. **White Bass** - Slow. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair.

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

**Channel Catfish** - Good. **Flathead Catfish** - Slow. **Walleye** - Slow: Anglers are catching walleye with soft plastics. **White Bass** - Fair.

#### [Lake Macbride](#)

The seasonal 10 horse motor restriction begins on May 23. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Largemouth**

**Bass** - Good: Try fishing around brush piles. **Muskellunge** - Slow. **Spotted Bass** - Good. **Walleye** - Good: Try fishing around rock piles. **White Crappie** - Good: Try fishing around brush piles and rock areas. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair.

#### Pleasant Creek Lake

**Black Crappie** - Good. **Bluegill** - Good. **Largemouth Bass** - Good. **Muskellunge** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Best bite is at night. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** – Fair.

#### Sand Lake

**Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing in brush piles and rock areas. **Rainbow Trout** – Fair. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

#### Wapsipinicon River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)

**Black Crappie** - Good. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** - Good. **Northern Pike** Slow. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair.

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

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#### Hawthorn Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair. Use small jigs around structure and the jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try plastics around the jetties and along the face of the dam.

#### Lake Keomah

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

#### Lake Miami

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Target jetties and along the dam. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills will move shallow as they spawn. Use small jigs along the shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Look for bass to start to move into shallow water along the dam.

#### Lake Sugema

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Try jigs or jig/minnow combos. Keep moving until you find active fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs in the shallows and around underwater habitat. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits and plastics around the fishing jetties and along the face of the dam.

#### Lake Wapello

**Black Crappie** - Good: Use small jigs around structure and the shorelines. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are on the beds and moving shallow. Use small jigs in these areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try spinnerbaits and plastics around the cedar tree piles.

#### Rathbun Reservoir

The current lake level is 904.30 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels; drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. **Black Crappies** - Good: Crappies have started to move shallow and are biting along the shorelines. Try small jigs or jigs under a slip bobber. **Walleye** - Slow: Target post spawn walleyes around rock piles in 8-12 feet of water. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Anglers are catching hybrids. Look for rock piles and rock reefs. Cast crankbaits or try vertically jigging.

#### Red Haw Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs around the shallows and any structure close to shore. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use spinners or plastics along shorelines.

The cooler weather has slowed fishing. Target areas a little deeper as the fish may have moved offshore with the temperature change. 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

Anglers may notice orange and white buoys in the northwest arm of the lake. These buoys are marking equipment on the bottom of the lake used in an ongoing fishery research project. Please do not disturb them. **Bluegill** - Good: Catch bluegill shallow on the upper half of the lake and in the backs of coves with chunks of nightcrawlers or leeches. **Walleye** - Fair: Jig or troll live bait rigs off humps and around points in 10 to 20 feet of water during the day and shallower in the evenings near sunset.

### Hickory Grove Lake

**Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappies in shallow water. Cast small plastics or live minnows under floats near any wood or rock habitat along and just off shore. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills have moved shallow for spawning. Use worms or very small plastics under a bobber near shore in 2 to 5 feet of water.

### Red Rock Reservoir

**Black Crappie** - Fair: The crappie spawn is finishing up; Check shorelines with rip-rap for fish still in shallow water. Cast small two inch or less plastics or live minnows under a float.

### Roberts Creek Lake

**Black Crappie** - Good: Cast plastics or minnows under a bobber in shallow water near any wood or rock structure to catch crappies still spawning. Drift or troll small twister tails or swim baits at depths of 3 to 6 feet in the lower half of the lake to catch post-spawn crappie.

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

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### Greenfield Lake

**Channel Catfish** - Fair. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Greenfield has a good largemouth bass population.

### Lake Anita

The crappie bite has picked up. **Bluegill** - Good: Find bluegills close to historical spawning sites. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

### Littlefield Lake

**Black Crappie** - Slow: Littlefield has a good population of 9-inch black crappie. Look for spawning fish along the dam.

### Mormon Trail Lake

**Bluegill** - Fair: Cast the shoreline to find spawning bluegill. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Mormon

Trail has a good largemouth bass population with a good percent of fish over 15-inches.

#### Prairie Rose Lake

The water is extremely clear after the alum treatment. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for late spawning crappie around the rock piles, reefs, and jetties. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are starting to move up to spawn. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Anglers are catching largemouth bass casting the shoreline.

#### Viking Lake

Water clarity is good. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Cast small jigs 2 feet under a bobber in the pontoon arm of the lake. Sorting is needed for 9-inch fish. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegill average 7.5-inches. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: 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

**Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 7.5 inches with jigs tipped with live bait near the fishing jetties or cedar tree brush pile. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Catch all sizes of largemouth bass with finesse plastics fished near cedar tree brushpiles.

#### Little River Watershed Lake

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use jigs or minnows along weedlines to catch all sizes of crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with live bait near the fishing jetties or shallow brush piles to catch all sizes of bluegill. **Walleye** - Fair: Catch walleye up to 18-inches with crankbaits fished along the weedline.

#### Three Mile Lake

**\*\*Driving is prohibited on any service roads used to access the lakebed and the lakebed itself.\*\*** Lake level is 10 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: Use jigs or minnows along creek channels to catch all sizes of crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with live bait near shallow rocky areas to catch all sizes of bluegill.

Water temperature is in the mid-60s in most district lakes. For more information, call Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-931-6031.

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## See you at the ballpark!

Join the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, in partnership with the Iowa Cubs, for **Outdoors Day with the Iowa Cubs**, on May 30.

- The first 750 fans through the gate will receive a special co-branded lure.
- Kids activities near the indoor playground include backyard bass and t-shirt coloring.

- Visit with State Conservation Officers at the Turn in Poachers trailer and race a sailboat.
- Learn more about ways you can enjoy Iowa's great outdoors and a chance to win great prizes at the DNR informational booth.

Gates open at 6 p.m., first pitch is scheduled for 7:08 p.m.

Tickets are \$11 each, and \$4 from the sale of each ticket goes to support the Iowa Hunter Education Association. Go to <https://www.gofevo.com/event/iowaDNR2025> for ticket information.