

Fishing News

CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



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NORTHWEST

Black Hawk Lake

Water levels are several inches over the crest of the spillway. Water temperature temperatures is in the upper 70s. Water clarity is 1 to 2 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) near shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Throw a twister or soft plastic near shore during late evening or try fishing the rock piles. **Yellow Perch** -Slow.

Brushy Creek Lake

Water temperatures is in the mid-70s. Water clarity is about 5 feet. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappie near shore in 5-10 feet of water near submerged structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Some bluegills are still guarding nests near shore; try fishing along shore in 1-5 feet of water and along weed lines. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing along weed lines in 2-8 feet of water. **Walleye** - Fair.

North Twin Lake

Water clarity is 3 feet. Water levels are at the crest of the spillway. **Black Bullhead** - Good: Use a piece of crawler fished on the bottom near shore. Most fish are 11-inches. **Walleye** - Fair: Throw a twister or use a crawler or minnow under a slip bobber during mornings or evenings. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Try a piece of crawler under a bobber near shore. Fish are up to 8-inches.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Water temperature is in the mid to upper 70s. Water clarity is about 2 feet. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try crawlers or cut bait on the bottom fished from shore. **Walleye** - Fair: Much of the walleye action has moved off shore. Use crankbaits or a bottom bouncer rig fished near the dredge cut. **White Bass** - Fair. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Pick up yellow bass near shore. Keepers are in the 9-inch range.

Swan Lake

Bluegill - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 8-inches near shore. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair.

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

Beeds Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Drift fish small jigs along the north shore. **Bluegill** - Good: Try a piece of crawler under a bobber in 2 to 3 feet of water. **Largemouth Bass** – Good.

Clear Lake

Lake level is about 1.5 inches over crest. Water temperature is in the low 70s. Water clarity is around 40 inches. **Walleye** - Good: Try live bait or jigs near vegetation. **Yellow Bass** - Fair: Use small jigs near vegetation. Best bite is early morning.

Crystal Lake

Black Crappie - Slow. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are on spawning beds near shore.

Rice Lake

Bluegill - Good: Find bluegills on spawning beds with small jigs in areas with firm bottom substrate. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use jigs and spinnerbaits near shoreline habitat. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Try small jigs with a piece of crawler. Sorting is needed for larger fish.

Silver Lake (Worth)

Bluegill – Good: Bluegill are on spawning beds; try small jigs near these areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Find bass near vegetation and woody habitat close to shore. **Yellow Perch** – Fair: Use a small jig in 4-5 feet of water. Perch are scattered; try different locations to find them.

Winnebago River

River level is 8.2 feet.

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

Center Lake

Black Crappie - Good: Some sorting is needed.

East Okoboji Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 60s. Anglers have been very successful catching many panfish species. **Black Crappie** - Good. **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers are catching bluegill just off shore or near docks as fish are starting to nest. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair. **Yellow Bass** - Good. **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)

Black Bullhead - Good: Catch quality-sized fish just off shore. **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 temperature is in the low 60s. **Black Crappie** - Fair: **Bluegill** - Good.

Area water temperatures are in the upper 60s and lower 70s. Water temperatures should rise quickly this weekend with weather in the 90s. Most lakes are above crest level. Panfishing has been very good close to shore as fish have started to make beds in shallow. For current conditions, call 712-330-2542.

NORTHEAST

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Water levels crested at about 9 feet and are currently falling. [Check water levels online](#). Water clarity is poor. Use caution boating in high muddy water; hazards hide below the water surface. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Anglers using chubs or worms fished on bottom are finding good action in impoundments and off-channel areas.

Decorah District Streams

Catchable trout stockings are weekly with streams announced once a month. Trout streams are in excellent condition. Wear long pants or waders to protect your legs from irritating yellow parsnip and nettles. Gnats and mosquitoes are aggressive. Caddisfly and mayfly hatches are becoming more numerous as the season progresses. **Brook Trout** - Fair: A variety of insect hatches are occurring. Use care not to alarm fish when approaching streams with clear water. **Brown Trout** - Excellent: Recent rainfall is making some streams off-color and knocking terrestrial insects in water. This flush of fresh food excites brown trout. Try fishing near or around undercut banks. Use streamers or spinners on larger waterbodies for exciting action. **Rainbow Trout** - Excellent: Try 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 temperatures are warming. The water is clear. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Try angling higher in the water column in the late afternoon. Use a jig tipped with a plastic tail over rocky humps. **Bluegill** - Good. Use a small hook tipped with a worm under a bobber near shore. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Try spinnerbaits along the edge of weedlines.

Lake Meyer

Water temperature is rising. Water clarity is good. Vegetation around the boat ramp is clearing. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Use a jig tipped with a minnow or spinnerbaits in deeper water. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a small jig tipped with a waxworm or red worms along the shoreline. **Largemouth Bass** - Slow: Find bass near woody structure or along edge of weed beds.

Turkey River (above Clermont)

Water levels are stable at about 2 feet. Water clarity is fair. **Northern Pike** - Slow: Use a

spinnerbait with a steel leader to prevent getting bitten off. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Try a jig tipped with a minnow. **Walleye** - Slow. Use a jig tipped with a minnow or spinnerbait just off the channel out of current.

Upper Iowa River (above Decorah)

Water levels are up about half a foot and are rising slowly. Water clarity is good. **Brown Trout** - Good: Find brown trout at mouths of trout streams. Spinnerbaits work well. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a jig tipped with a minnow in slack water below the dams.

Volga Lake

Water temperature is warming slowly with good visibility. **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.

Hot and steamy weather through the weekend. Temperatures in the 90s to 70s with a chance of thunderstorms through the weekend; better chances Friday and Sunday. Area water levels are elevated. For more information, contact the Chuck Gipp Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

Big Woods Lake

Anglers are catching crappie and bluegill; some sorting may be needed. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Drift a minnow under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve crappie jigs around structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a piece of worm under a slip bobber to find active spawning beds.

Brinker Lake

The courtesy dock has been removed due to flooding. Anglers are catching crappie and bluegill. **Black Crappie** - Good: Drift a minnow under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve crappie jigs. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a piece of worm under a slip bobber to find active spawning beds.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

No reports Cedar River this past week due to high water levels.

George Wyth Lake

Anglers are catching crappie, bluegill, largemouth bass and walleye. **Black Crappie** - Good: Look for structures; drift a minnow under a slip bobber or cast and retrieve crappie jigs. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try a piece of worm under a slip bobber to find active spawning beds. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use topwater or spinnerbaits early morning or late evening. **Walleye** - Good: Try jigging or trolling crankbaits.

Manchester District Streams

Trout fishing is good on area streams in Delaware, Dubuque and Jackson counties.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

No reports on the Maquoketa River this past week due to high water levels.

Maquoketa River (below Monticello)

River levels continue to rise in Jones and Jackson counties. No reports on the lower Maquoketa River.

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)

No reports on the Wapsipinicon River this past week due to high water levels.

Most interior river levels have risen with recent rainfall events. Anglers are catching crappie, bluegill and largemouth bass as the lakes begin to warm in and around the Cedar Falls/Waterloo area. Trout streams are in excellent condition. For more information, contact Manchester Hatchery at 563-927-3276.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Mississippi River Pool 9

Water level is 8.5 feet at Lansing and is expected to rise slightly and level off. Water temperature is near 76 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a weighted crawler off the bottom in current eddies. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use large shiners or a small sunfish for bait in holes with sunken trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Try a weighted nightcrawler on the bottom in areas with medium current. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Throw plastics along the shorelines in the upper end of backwaters away from current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Rising summer temperatures will send northern pike into cooler waters. Cast spoons or crankbaits at the mouth of tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners along the rocks on shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye fishing on the wing-dams should pick up with stable water levels. Try trolling a crawler on a three-way rig. **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 near 616 feet at Lynxville and is predicted to gradually rise next week. Water temperature is 76 degrees at the Lock and Dam. The road at Sny Magill ramp is open. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a weighted crawler off the bottom in current eddies. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Use large shiners or a small sunfish for bait in holes with sunken trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use a weighted nightcrawler on the bottom in

areas with medium current. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Throw plastics along the shorelines in the upper end of backwaters away from the current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Rising summer temperatures will send northern pike into cooler waters. Cast spoons or crankbaits at the mouth of tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners along the rocks on shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye fishing on the wing-dams should pick up with stable water levels. Try trolling a crawler on a three-way rig. **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 7.9 feet at Guttenberg and is expected to gradually rise to 9 feet then recede. Water temperature is near 75 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try a weighted crawler off the bottom in current eddies. **Fathead Catfish** - Good: Use large shiners or a small sunfish for bait in holes with sunken trees. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use a weighted nightcrawler on the bottom in areas with medium current. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Throw plastics along the shorelines in the upper end of backwaters away from current. **Northern Pike** - Good: Rising summer temperatures will send northern pike into cooler waters. Cast spoons or crankbaits at the mouth of tributary streams. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use spinners along the rocks on shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Fair: Walleye fishing on the wing-dams should pick up with stable water levels. Try trolling a crawler on a three-way rig. **Yellow Perch** - Fair: Use a crappie rig tipped with worms or a minnow in the current seams off shore.

Upper Mississippi River water levels are expected to bump up and gradually recede next week. Water temperature is in the upper 70s. Multiple species are biting with the warmer water temperatures.

Mississippi River Pool 12

Water level is rising slightly to near 7.5 feet at Dubuque Lock and Dam and 10 feet at the RR Bridge. The water is clear. Water temperature is around 75 degrees. The boat ramp at Spruce Creek is open. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Anglers are picking up some crappies here and there on minnows. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Bluegill are spawning; find nests in shallow waters, especially near mouths of backwater areas and marinas. Bluegill spawn is almost complete. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Use stink bait on channel edges and above brush piles. **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Anglers are setting trot lines with sunfish or bullheads for bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use egg sinker and worm rigs in moderate current areas. Catch bigger drum with large crayfish. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Bass are spawning. Use spinnerbaits and crankbaits. **Northern Pike** - Good: Try gaudy white spinners around the

weed edges. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Find smallies along the rock lines; use spinners or small crankbaits as close to the rocks as possible.

Mississippi River Pool 13

Water level is rising slightly to near 8.1 feet at Bellevue. Water clarity is good. Water temperature is near 76 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Spawning is almost complete; some nests can still be seen around the edges of the water. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use stink baits above fallen tree snags in moderate current areas. Try fishing fairly shallow waters (3-6 feet). **Flathead Catfish** - Good: Anglers are setting trot lines with sunfish or bullheads for bait. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use a simple egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Try spinnerbaits and crankbaits along the weedlines. **Northern Pike** - Good: Use gaudy white spinnerbaits. **Rainbow Trout** - Slow: The Kids pond at Bellevue Fisheries station is covered with duckweed, open pockets become available when it's windy. Upcoming heat will stress the remaining trout in the pond. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Catch smallies on rock piles with moderate current. **White Bass** - Good: Find white bass feeding on sandy areas throughout the pool; use small white spinners.

Mississippi River Pool 14

Water level is rising slightly to near 7.4 feet at Fulton, 10.9 feet at Camanche, and 5.9 feet at LeClaire. Water is clear. Water temperature is near 77 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Most bluegill spawning is complete; a few can still be seen on nests along the edges of backwater areas. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Use stink bait in shallow waters above brush piles or near stump fields. **Freshwater Drum** - Excellent: Use an egg sinker and worm rig in moderate current areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Bass are spawning at the edge of weedlines in backwater areas. The bass spawning season is almost complete. Some very nice bass (3 to 4 pounds) have been caught the past few weeks. **Northern Pike** - Good: Find excellent populations of northern pike in Pool 14; gaudy white spinners work best. **Smallmouth Bass** - Good: Use small crankbaits or spinners near rock piles in moderate current areas. **White Bass** - Good: Try small spinners in tailwaters.

Mississippi River Pool 15

Water level is 7.7 feet at Rock Island and is rising. Water is clear. Water temperature is 77 degrees. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try stink bait rigs near moderate current areas and along rock lines. **Freshwater Drum** - Good: Use an egg sinker rig in moderate current areas off shore near boat ramps. **Smallmouth Bass** - No report: Pool 15 is a sleeper smallmouth bass spot with many rock lines that hold abundant smallies. Use a simple spinner or crankbait.

Water levels are rising slightly. Water temperature is in the lower to mid-70s throughout the district. Water is clear. If you have angling questions, call Bellevue Fisheries Management at 563-880-8781.

Mississippi River Pool 16

Tailwater stage is 7.46 feet at Lock and Dam 15 in the Quad Cities and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 8.8 feet by early next week. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Bluegill** - No report: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber along brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Look for channel catfish around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use cut shad, nightcrawlers, or stink bait fished upstream of the brush. Float leeches or crawlers under a bobber along rip-rap shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Fair: Look for walleyes on the wing-dams. Cast or troll crankbaits or jigs with plastic or nightcrawlers on the upstream side of the wing-dams. Fishing will be difficult with the dirtier water conditions due to recent rain. **White Bass** - No report: Cast crankbaits, inline spinners, or jigs and twister tails in areas with current around rocky points or water discharges in Sylvan Slough. **White Crappie** - No report: Use minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows or plastics around brush piles in the backwaters and side channels.

Mississippi River Pool 17

Tailwater stage is 6.05 feet at Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 7.6 feet by early next week. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Bluegill** - No report: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Use pieces of worm under a bobber fished along brush piles at Big Timber and Cleveland Slough. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use stink bait, cut shad, or nightcrawlers upstream of the brush. Float leeches or crawlers under a bobber along rip-rap shorelines with current. **Walleye** - Fair: 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** - Fair: Cast crankbaits, inline spinners, or jigs and twister tails in areas with current around rocky points or water discharges along the Muscatine Riverfront along the riprap and areas with current breaks. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows or plastics around brush piles in the backwaters and side channels.

Mississippi River Pool 18

Tailwater stage is 7.46 feet at Lock and Dam 17 at New Boston and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 9.1 feet by early next week. Flood stage is 15 feet. **Bluegill** - No report: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Use pieces of worm under a bobber along brush piles in the Huron Island complex. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use stink bait, cut shad or nightcrawlers upstream of the brush. Float leeches or crawlers under a bobber along rip-rap shorelines with current. **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. Fishing may be difficult with dirtier water conditions due to recent rains. **White Bass** - No report: Cast crankbaits, inline spinners, or jigs and twister tails in areas with current around rocky points or

water discharges. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows or plastics around brush piles in the backwaters and side channels in the Huron Island complex.

Mississippi River Pool 19

Tailwater stage is 4.26 feet at Lock and Dam 18 above Burlington and is rising. Tailwater stage is forecast to reach 6.0 feet by early next week. Flood stage is 10 feet. **Bluegill** - No report: Look for bluegills up shallow in the backwaters. Try pieces of worm under a bobber along brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - No report: Try around brush piles and snags along the main channel and side channels. Use stink bait, cut shad or nightcrawlers upstream of the brush. Float leeches or crawlers under a bobber along rip-rap shorelines with current. **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. Fishing may be difficult with dirtier water condition due to recent rains. **White Bass** - No Report: Cast crankbaits, inline spinners, or jigs and twister tails in areas with current around rocky points or water discharges. **White Crappie** - No Report: Use minnows under a bobber or vertical jig with minnows or plastics around brush piles in the backwaters and side channels

Tailwater stages are forecast to rise close to 1.5 feet by early next week. Main channel water clarity is fair. Main channel water temperature is 78-79 degrees. If you have questions on fishing Pools 16-19, contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

SOUTHEAST

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is in the low 80s. Curly-leaf beds are starting to show signs of dying back. **Black Crappie** - Good: Take advantage of the curly-leaf pondweed beds while you can before they are gone for the rest of the summer. Try a minnow under a slip bobber along the outer edge of the beds. **Bluegill** - Fair: Most spawning beds are empty. Look for bluegills in the curly-leaf beds and out in the brush in 5-6 feet of water.

Deep Lakes

Water temperature is in the mid-70s. Water clarity at 12 feet. Lake Chester and the other Deep Lakes ponds stays cooler than most other area waters because of the water clarity and that most of its water comes up through the sand from the river. **Bluegill** - Good: Use a worm and bobber rig just over the tops of the pondweed beds; bluegills can come up out of the weeds to get it and still feel safe from the bass. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: A dark colored crankbait ran along the outer edge of the pondweed beds works well, if you can keep the fish from seeing you.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

River level has come up about 6 inches since yesterday. Forecast to reach its peak about next Tuesday at about three feet higher than the current level. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Switch back to minnows and nightcrawlers for bait, as well as a frog or two. The influx of rainwater will bring these foods into the river.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is 81-82 degrees. Water clarity remains good at over 4 feet, but a green cast to the water is starting to develop. **Black Crappie** – Good: Standard summer pattern has developed. Try slow trolling a jig and minnow or small crankbait down 10 to 12 feet. Trolling speed of just over 1 mph works best. **Bluegill** - Good: Try vertically jigging a small jig tipped with waxworms or use a worm over the tops of the mounds at the upper end of the lake.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is 81 degrees. Water clarity decreased to 24 inches with heavy rain. Bottom of the thermocline is between 9 and 10 feet; not enough oxygen for fish below that depth. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Look for crappies in the brush piles by the high bank on the southside by the dam. **Bluegill** - Good: Most bluegill have moved out to the rock piles with the heat. Very little activity on the spawning beds during the last few days. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Best bite is the early morning hours and the last hours of daylight in the evening. Work the deeper brush piles in the middle of the day.

Lake Geode

Water temperature is in the low 80s. Water clarity remains good at about 4 feet. **Black Crappie** - Fair: Find crappies around the artificial habitat in 8 to 10 feet of water suspended a couple of feet above the bottom. **Bluegill** - Good: Still seeing some males attending the nests. Most have moved to 6-8 feet of water along the rock drop-offs and artificial habitat. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Look for bass on rock piles and other habitat in 6-8 feet of water. Crankbaits ran just over top of these structures should get their attention.

Lake of the Hills

Water temperature is in the low 7's. **No minnows allowed.** **Bluegill** - Excellent: Try worms under bobbers and small jigs around the shallow water habitat. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Use nightcrawlers or stink bait on the rocky shorelines

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperature is in the upper 70s. Water remains fairly clear at about 5 feet. The curly-leaf is starting its annual summer dieback with the heat. **Bluegill** - Good: Still a few males on the spawning beds; most have retreated to 8-10 feet of water in the flooded trees. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Best bite is early morning or the last couple of hours of daylight in the evening. Work spinnerbaits or crankbaits along the outer edges of the curly-leaf beds or topwater baits over the top of the beds.

[Railroad Lake](#)

Water temperature is in the low 70's. Water Clarity is good at about 4 feet. **No minnows allowed.** **Black Crappie** - Slow: Try jigs around the deeper trees and other artificial structure in deeper water. **Bluegill** - Excellent: Use a worm and bobber or small jigs around the shallower fish habitat and trees. **Largemouth Bass** - Excellent: Lots of bass are hitting on a variety of artificial baits and nightcrawlers around the shallow water habitat, as well as out around the trees in the middle.

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

The North Skunk is holding steady above Sigourney, but the South Skunk by Oskaloosa is sending down a couple extra feet of water. Starting to see the effects of the rise. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for grass frogs in the wet grass to add to your supply of bait. Catfish love leopard frogs for breakfast.

[Yenruogis Pond](#)

Water is extremely clear; you can see 11 feet down on a cloudy day. Water temperature is 74 degrees. **Bluegill** - Good: Bluegills are still on the spawning beds. Use flyrods and poppers or ultralight rods and tiny jigs in this clear water. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try topwater baits on the less noisy side. You can see the bass coming from a distance.

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

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

Channel Catfish - Excellent: Use dip bait around brush piles and rocks. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing brush piles and rock shorelines. **Northern Pike** - No Report: Look for pike in creek mouths or other areas with cooler water entering the river. **Sauger** - No Report: Fish are scattered on sand bars. **Shorthead Redhorse** - No Report: Use crawlers in fast current rock areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Try crankbaits in rocky areas. **Walleye** - No Report: Fish are scattered on sand bars.

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

Channel Catfish - Good: Use dip bait or cut bait near brush piles and rocks. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing in brush piles and rock shorelines. **Shorthead Redhorse** - No Report: Use crawlers in fast current areas with rock. **Smallmouth Bass** - No Report: Try fishing rock shorelines. **Walleye** - Fair Use a lead head tipped with a worm on rocky shorelines.

[Centennial Park Pond](#)

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use soft plastics and topwater lures

Central Park Lake

Bluegill – Fair: Find a few fish near shore. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing in rock areas. **Largemouth Bass** – Fair: Try fishing in brush piles or rock areas.

Coralville Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Excellent: Try fishing near rock areas. **Flathead Catfish** - Slow: Try fishing near rock areas. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try fishing in tapering rock banks. **White Crappie** - Slow: Catch suspended fish in brush piles or rock wall areas.

Diamond Lake

Black Crappie - Slow: Look for suspended fish off shore. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing in area with rocks or brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try soft plastics or topwater lures around brush piles and weed edges. **White Crappie** - Slow: Look for suspended fish off shore.

Ely Pond

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use soft plastics or topwater lures.

Goose Pond

Largemouth Bass - Slow: Use soft plastics or topwater around weed edges.

Hannen Lake

Black Crappie - Slow: Look for fish suspended in lake basin. **Bluegill** - Good: Anglers are catching mostly 4- to 7-inch bluegills around brush piles. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing in areas with rock or brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use soft plastics or top water lures around brush piles and weed edges.

Iowa Lake (Iowa Co.)

Bluegill - Excellent: Try fishing the edge of weeds. **Channel Catfish** - Excellent: Try fishing around rock or brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use topwater lures or soft plastics in weed edges. **White Crappie** - Fair: Look for fish around brush piles or suspended in the lake basin.

Iowa River (Coralville Lake to River Junction)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use stink bait or cut bait near brush piles and rock with current seams. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing near brush piles and rock shorelines. **Northern Pike** - No Report: Look for pike in creek mouths or other areas with cooler water entering the river. **Sauger** - Slow. **Smallmouth Bass** - Slow: Use crankbaits or jigs.along rocky shorelines. **Spotted Bass** - Slow; Use crankbaits or jigs. **Walleye** - Fair: Try a leadhead tipped with a worm around brush piles. **White Bass** - Fair: Use crankbaits or jigs. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Try crankbaits or jigs.

Iowa River (Marshalltown to Coralville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Excellent: Use stink bait or cut bait near brush piles and

rocks. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing in brush piles and rocks. **White Bass** - Slow: Anglers fishing for channel catfish are catching a few white bass.

Lake Macbride

The seasonal 10 horse motor restriction is in effect. **Bluegill** - Fair. **Channel Catfish** -Fair: Try fishing rock areas or brush piles. **Flathead Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing in rock areas or brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try fishing weed edges, brush piles or rock edges with stumps. **Muskellunge** - Fair: Troll or cast along edges of vegetation or out in the basin to catch suspended fish. **Spotted Bass** - Fair: Try fishing in weed edges, brush piles or rock edges with stumps. **Walleye**- Fair: Trolling works best. **White Bass** - Slow: Look for scattered suspended fish around wind-blown points. **White Crappie** - Fair: Try fishing around brush piles or look for fish suspended in the lake basin. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Slow: Look for scattered suspended fish around wind blown-points.

Pleasant Creek Lake

Black Crappie - Slow: Look for schools of suspended fish in the lake basin or around brush piles. **Bluegill** - Slow. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Try fishing in rock areas or brush piles. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Use soft plastics or topwater lures around structure. **Muskellunge** - Slow. **Walleye** - Fair: Best bite is at night. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** – Slow.

Rodgers Park Lake**Black Crappie** - No Report: Look for fish suspended in the the lake basin. **Bluegill** - Fair: Few gills are still on beds; look for most fish in and around the weed edges. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Try fishing around brush piles along shore in weed edges **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use soft plastics and topwater lures along edges and weed mats.

Sand Lake

Largemouth Bass - Slow: Try soft plastics or topwater lures around shoreline brush piles. **Rainbow Trout** – No report. You need a valid fishing license and pay the trout fee to fish for or possess trout.

Union Grove Lake

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Use soft plastics or topwater lures around brush piles or vegetation.

Wapsipinicon River (Troy Mills to Oxford Junction)

Channel Catfish - Good: Use cut bait or dip bait on rocky shorelines and brush piles. **Flathead Catfish** - Slow: Try fishing in brush piles or rock areas. **Northern Pike** - No report: Look for pike in creek mouths or other areas with cooler water entering the river. **Rock Bass** - Fair: Use a worm on a lead head around rock areas. **Smallmouth Bass** - Fair: Try crankbaits in rock areas and brush piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Use a worm on a lead head or crankbaits around brush piles and rock areas.

Whispering Meadows

Black Bullhead - Fair: Use worms below a small bobber.

Williamsburg Pond (West End Pond)

Black Bullhead - Fair: Use worms below a small bobber. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Try soft plastics or topwater around weed edges.

Spawning is complete for most species (catfish have started). Overall fishing has slowed on area lakes and rivers. Fish are moving off shore and beginning to set up in their summer patterns. Water temperature is in the mid to upper 70s. For more information, contact the Lake Macbride Fisheries Station at 319-624-3615.

Hawthorn Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Use small jigs around structure and the jetties. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small jigs along the shallows and in open areas in the vegetation. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Use 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: Try small jigs around the jetties and along the dam. **Bluegill** - Good: Use small jigs along the shorelines. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Target the area along the dam and around the jetties.

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. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try spinnerbaits and plastics around the fishing jetties and along the face of the dam.

Lake Wapello

Black Crappie - Fair: Use jigs around submerged structure. **Bluegill** - Fair: Bluegills are on spawning 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 904.27 msl; recreation pool is 904 msl. Lake Rathbun has zebra mussels; drain, clean and dry equipment before transporting to another waterbody. **Black Crappie** - Slow: Look for crappies away from shore around cedar tree piles. **Walleye** - Fair: Use crankbaits or crawler harnesses in rock piles and the old river channel. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Anglers are catching hybrids. Cast crankbaits or try vertically jigging in rock piles and rock reefs.

Red Haw Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Try small jigs along the shoreline and around the jetties. **Bluegill** - Fair: Use small jigs around the shallows and on the edge of the lily pads. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Try spinners or plastics along shorelines and the edge of the lily pads.

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

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. **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. **Wiper (Hybrid Striped Bass)** - Fair: Catch wipers mostly in the lower half of the lake jigging shad imitating plastics through the schools or casting topwater lures over the schools.

Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Channel Catfish - Good: Try cut baits and stink baits ahead of wood debris.

Hickory Grove Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Drift or troll jigs 3-6 feet deep to catch suspended crappies. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try small pieces of nightcrawlers near the edge of the aquatic vegetation or use slip bobbers with pieces of a crawler 3 to 6 feet deep over habitat piles in 15 feet of water or less.

Red Rock Reservoir

Channel Catfish - Good: Drift cut baits on the upper end of the reservoir near and above the Mile Long Bridge.

For information on Central Iowa lakes and rivers contact Andy Otting at 515-204-5885 or Seth Fopma at 641-891-3795.

Farm Creek Lake (a.k.a. Young's Pond)

Shore anglers will have a difficult time fishing due to vegetation. **Bluegill** - No Report: Good population of 8-inch bluegills. **Channel Catfish** - Good: Look for spawning catfish around the jetty. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are catching nice bass deep along the vegetation edges.

Greenfield Lake

Channel Catfish - Good: Use cut bait around the jetties. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair: Good largemouth bass population.

Lake Anita

Black Crappie - Fair: Anglers are catching crappies around deep structure and the roadbeds. **Bluegill** - Fair: The bluegill spawn is almost complete. Look for crappie around deeper structure. **Largemouth Bass** - Fair.

Prairie Rose Lake

Black Crappie - Slow: Look for crappie around the tree piles. **Bluegill** - Fair: A few bluegills are still spawning. Most of the fishing now will be drifting and trolling. **Largemouth Bass** - Good: Anglers are catching largemouth bass casting the shoreline.

Viking Lake

Black Crappie - Fair: Look for crappie around deep structure. 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

Green Valley Lake

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Bluegill** - Fair: Catch bluegill up to 7.5-inches with jigs tipped with live bait along the dam. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catch all sizes of catfish with nightcrawlers or cutbait along rocky shoreline areas.

Little River Watershed Lake

The dock is in at main boat ramp. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with live bait along creek channels in the flooded timber to catch all sizes of bluegill. **Channel Catfish** - Fair: Catch all sizes of catfish with nightcrawlers or cutbait along rocky shoreline areas.

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. **Bluegill** - Fair: Try jigs tipped with live bait along creek channels in the flooded timber to catch all sizes of bluegill.

Water temperature is in the upper 70s to low 80s in most district lakes. For more information, call Mount Ayr Fisheries office at 641-931-6031.

Celebrate the Little Sioux River with summer speaker presentations, riverside chats and paddling events

Speakers include professional scientists, conservationists, Dakota Tribal members, authors and historians such as Iowa Historian and University of Northern Iowa Professor, Kevin Mason, and Environmental and Sustainability Professor at Drake University, Claire Hruby.

Iowa DNR's Water Trails Program is working to designate nearly 200 miles of the Little Sioux River as the Inkpaduta Canoe Trail to improve access, recreation opportunities and safety along the river.