

Iowa Fishing Report

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October 29, 2009

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources issues a weekly fishing report on Thursdays in an effort to provide the latest information heading into the weekend. The weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys, and county and state parks staff. For current information, contact the district fisheries office at the phone number listed at the end of each district report.

SOUTHWEST

Lake Icaria

Water temps are in the 50's. Water quality is good.

Green Valley Lake

The lake is down 12 feet until completion of a sediment removal project planned for this winter. The lake has been restocked and will be allowed to refill in spring 2010. Campground upgrades are nearing completion.

Summitt Lake

Lowering the lake's water level has begun. Shoreline protection will be added this winter. The lake will be refilled and restocked in the spring.

Three Mile Lake

Water temps are in the 50's. Clarity is good.

Water temps have still hanging around the low 50's. Recent rains have been persitant but relatively light. Water quality has remain good or very good. Fishing activity has slowed but good trips are still possible.

Cold Springs Lake

Cold Springs Lake fish population was renovated in 2006 and anglers are catching largemouth bass up to 17-inches.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Anglers are still catching largemouth bass fishing plastic baits along edges of vegetation.

Lake Anita

Lake Anita has provided good fishing most of the year. The size and condition of the bluegills and crappies has improved over the past summer setting Anita up for some good fall fishing.

Viking Lake

Viking Lake's fish population was renovated back in 2006 and the initial stocking of largemouth bass has reached 17-inches and the catfish are over 20-inches.

Lake Manawa

Anglers are still catching good numbers of crappies in the canals. Walleyes have picked up on the east side of the lake. Recent DNR survey showed good numbers of wipers on the east shore line. Lake is full with slight algae bloom.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	A few crappies are being caught in the canals on tube jigs and minnows. You will need to sort for 9-10 inch fish.

Saganaush Pond

Saganaush Pond recieved the first trout stocking of the year on Friday, October 23rd. The lake was stocked with 1500 catchable size rainbow trout. Access to the pond is by walk in only. There are two well maintained walking paths to the pond.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Rainbow Trout	Good	Anglers were catching trout using small jigs tipped with minnows. Most tackle used for catching crappie and bluegill can be used for trout.

Very few anglers are fishing with cool weather conditions. Fish have moved deep with water temperatures below 50 degrees. For more information contact Bryan Hayes or Mark Boucher at the Cold Springs District Office (712)769-2587.

Rock Creek Lake

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

Roberts Creek Lake

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

Big Creek Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Some crappies are being caught by fishing minnows or small tube jigs near submerged wood in deeper water or over the sunken brush piles.
White Bass	Slow	A few white bass are being caught fishing jigs with minnows on the wind swept shorelines and points. White jigs have been working best.

Easter Lake

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

Hickory Grove Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Some bluegills are being caught fishing light tackle such as small tube jigs or ice fishing jigs tipped with small pieces of crawler or wax worms. The fish can be caught in 10-15 foot of water near submerged brush or pallet piles.
Crappie	Slow	A few crappies are being caught fishing minnows or small tube jigs near the submerged brush and pallet piles in around 15 foot of water. There is sunken habitat off most of the points. A depth finder will help in locating the structure.

Red Rock Reservoir

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

Saylorville Reservoir

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

Des Moines River (Stratford to Saylorville Lake)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	A few walleyes are being caught using jig and crawler or jig and minnow. Larger fish can be found near wood cover in 3 foot of water or more with a little current. Throwing crankbaits along sandbar drop-offs can also be effective.

Des Moines River (Saylorville to Red Rock)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	A few walleye are being caught at Cottonwood, below the city dams, and anywhere near riprap with deep, slow water using jig and twisters or jig and minnow.

Contact Ben Dodd or Andy Otting at (515) 432-2823 for information on the above area lakes and rivers.

SOUTHEAST

Lake Wapello

The lake has been renovated and is being allowed to fill.

Lake Keomah

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Anglers are using small jigs tipped with a waxworm fished around structure.
Channel Catfish	Slow	Try nightcrawler or cutbait along the shoreline.
Largemouth Bass	Slow	Try rubber worms along the fishing jetties or around submerged structure.

Lake Miami

The lake is 6 feet low due to a planned drawdown. The boat ramps are still usable.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Slow	Use nightcrawlers or cutbait.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Use spinnerbaits around the flooded timber or areas with submerged structure. Try using rubber worms in the same areas.

Lake Sugema

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use small jigs tipped with a waxworm or chunk of nightcrawler around the weedline.
Crappie	Fair	Use jig and minnow combinations around the flooded timber. Keep moving until finding active fish.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Use spinnerbaits or crankbaits around submerged structure.
Walleye	Slow	As the water cools, the walleye will move onto areas with rocks. Try a jig and minnow combination or crankbaits around areas with rocky shorelines.

Rathbun Reservoir

The lake's water temperature is in the lower 50's. The lake level is 904.65 with normal pool being 904.00. The boat ramp at Honey Creek State Park is closed due to road construction.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Blood bait and cut bait have been catching some nice sized channel catfish. South Fork has been a productive area to try.
Crappie	Fair	Anglers are catching crappies around submerged brush piles in 10-15 feet of water. Most fish are being caught on a jig and minnow combination.
Walleye	Slow	Trolling crankbaits around submerged drop-offs and underwater islands has been successful.
White Bass	Slow	Try baits that mimic shad like chrome colored crankbaits or jigging spoons.

For additional fishing information in southeast Iowa, please contact the Rathbun Fish Hatchery at 641-647-2406.

Lake Macbride

Quite a few anglers are still fishing the lake but reports are limited.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Slow	Some nice sized crappies are being caught on brush. Target deeper brush with small jigs or a minnow under a slip bobber.

Diamond Lake

Remember, no minnows are allowed here.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Some fish are being caught around brush on small jigs tipped with wax worms. Most fish are small (7") but some nicer sized fish are mixed in.

Coralville Reservoir

As of October 29, the lake level is 691' and is projected to keep rising. This rise in water level and cooler temps has pretty much shut the fishing down.

Iowa River (Coralville Lake to River Junction)

As of October 29, the flows are 6000 CFS and there are no signs of dropping in the near future. A few nice walleyes had been caught before the bump in flow.

Cedar River (La Porte City to Cedar Rapids)

Fishing was decent prior to the rise in water level. This will most likely shut the fishing down.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Look for smallmouth around rock with current breaks.
Walleye	Fair	Fish with jigs or crankbaits below the dams or in deeper outside bends.

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

Lake Geode

Water temperatures are in the low 50's and upper 40's. The weather has been keeping most of the anglers away.

Lake Belva Deer

The road work is done for the rest of the year. They will let the road bed settle this winter and start the paving part of the project next year.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Not many anglers have been out.
Crappie	Slow	

Pollmiller Park Lake

The fishing has been slow with very few anglers doing any fishing. The weather is keeping them away.

Lake of the Hills

2250 trout were stocked in Lake of the Hills on October 17th. Anglers are catching a lot of them.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Lots of smaller bluegills are being caught by the trout anglers.
Crappie	Slow	Hit the brush piles with wax worms on small jigs and bobbers. Jigging small tube jigs tipped with wax worms in the deeper brush piles are producing the bigger fish.
Largemouth Bass	Fair	Bass can be caught but it's slow and you need to find the pattern. Slow roll spinner baits or swim pig-n-jigs along the rock.
Rainbow Trout	Excellent	Most anglers are concentrating their efforts on the trout. Most are catching 3-5 trout each using light tackle and wax worms. Many different types of baits have worked. Worms and Power Baits are also very popular.

Lake Darling

The lake remains drained, Sort of, it's about half full after last week's rains. The drain pipe remains open and the water is going out.

For more information on the above lakes call us at the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at (319) 694-2430.

**MISSISSIPPI
RIVER**

Mississippi River Pool 19

River stage at Lock and Dam 18 is 6.99ft.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Fishing for bluegills in the backwaters has been slow.
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	Crappie fishing in the backwaters has been slow.
Sauger	Slow	Sauger fishing at the dam has been slow.
Walleye	Slow	
White Bass	Slow	

Mississippi River Pool 18

River stage at Lock and Dam 17 is 10.69ft.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Bluegill fishing in the backwaters has been slow.
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	Fishing for crappies in the backwaters has been slow.
Sauger	Slow	Sauger fishing at the dam has been slow.
Walleye	Slow	Walleye fishing has been slow.

Mississippi River Pool 17

River stage at Lock and Dam 16 is 7.98ft.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Fishing for bluegills in the backwaters has been slow.
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	Crappie fishing in the backwaters has been slow.
Sauger	Slow	Fishing for saugers up at the dam has been slow.
Walleye	Slow	
White Bass	Slow	

Mississippi River Pool 16

River stage at Lock and Dam 15 is 8.77ft.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	
Channel Catfish	Slow	
Crappie	Slow	
Sauger	Slow	Fishing for saugers in the tailwaters and Sylvan Slough has been slow.
Walleye	Slow	
White Bass	Slow	

Mississippi River Pools 16-20: River levels have risen over the past week. Fishing has been slow throughout the pools. Main channel water temperature is around 51 degrees and water clarity is poor. There is some vegetation floating in the main channel making it difficult to fish for walleye and sauger. For more information on fishing Pools 16-20 of the Mississippi River contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

Mississippi River Pool 11

River levels at Guttenberg are at 7.3 and steady. The water temperature is 50 degrees. Lots of flooding aquatic plants are hampering with fishing in some location.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Bluegills are biting in the newly dredged areas at Mud Lake. They also can be taken from the bank along the fishing sidewalks in Mud Lake park.
Crappie	Good	Crappie being caught in Cassville slough nears snags.
Freshwater Drum	Good	Use a nightcrawler and fish around wingdams or moderate current areas. Some drum are also being caught on jigs in the Guttenberg Tailwater
Sauger	Good	A lot of sauger being caught but many are small fish with a few nice fish being kept.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass fishing is good along rocky shorelines and wingdams with good flow over them. Use inline spinners to catch these fish.
Walleye	Good	A few nicer sized walleyes being caught on wingdams. Some sub-legal walleyes are being taken in tailwaters. Remember the 15 inch size limit!
White Bass	Good	Nice sized white bass continue to be caught in the tailwaters and around some of the wingdams by anglers fishing for walleye. Some white bass are also being taken in tailwaters

Mississippi River Pool 10

The river level at Lynxville is 16.0 feet. The water temperature is 49 degrees.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Some bluegill are being caught below the spillway near Harpers Ferry using worms. Try fishing Joyce lake and Mud Hen lakes near Harpers Ferry. Nice bluegills are also being taken off the Pier in Bussey Lake.
Crappie	Good	Crappie fishing continues to be good using a jig and minnow in the side sloughs and fishing around woody structure. Try Joyce lake or Mud Hen lakes near Harpers Ferry. Lower in Pool 10 try Methodist Lake near McGregor
Freshwater Drum	Good	Catch these fish using nightcrawlers on the bottom. Fish are also being taken jigging in the tailwaters.
Largemouth Bass	Good	Some bass are being caught using crankbaits out from points. Also fish are moving toward overwintering spots in places like Bussey Lake
Northern Pike	Fair	Use spinnerbaits or shallow running crankbaits for these fish. Some pike biting in tailwaters on small twisters. Fish are located along the shorelines in 4 feet of water.
Sauger	Good	More sauger and nicer sized sauger being caught with a few limits reported. Floating aquatic plants are hampering some fishing.
Walleye	Good	Nicer sized walleyes being caught in the tailwaters with a few limits of walleye and sauger being reported. Remember the 15 inch size limit as many sub-legal fish are being caught.

Mississippi River Pool 9

The river level at Lansing is 9.0 and steady. The water temperature is holding near 48 degrees.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Try fishing structure near backwater areas with good water depth.
Crappie	Good	Using jig and minnow in the running sloughs. Try snags in Minnesota Slough and Winneshiek Slough. If crappies are slow to bite try using a small minnow only.
Northern Pike	Fair	Northern pike are being caught in some of the side sloughs using either crankbaits or spinnerbait. White colored lures seem to work best
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Fish are concentrated along rocky shorelines and wingdams with current. Use small inline spinners to catch these fish.
Walleye	Good	A few nicer sized walleyes being caught in Minnesota Slough trolling crankbaits.
White Bass	Good	As move closer to the Genoa dam they become more common.

Call Guttenberg fisheries station for current conditions at (563) 252-1156. Water clarity is excellent.

NORTHEAST

Silver Lake (Delaware)

The vegetation has strongly died back in Silver Lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Try fishing from shoreline or boat for bluegills in Silver Lake. Try drifting or retrieving a small jig tipped with a piece of worm under a slip bobber.

Brinker Lake

Anglers are picking up some crappies in Brinker lake, some sorting may be necessary with some smaller fish.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Try fishing a crappie minnow under a slip bobber in 6-8 ft. of water.

George Wyth Lake

Crappies are biting on George Wyth Lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	The coves have been productive for crappies floating a minnow under a slip bobber or casting small jigs tipped with a minnow from the shore in 5-7 ft. of water.

Cedar River (Nashua to La Porte City)

The Cedar River is picking up again for walleye, northerns and smallmouth bass after last weeks rainfall.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Try using chubs or cutbaits on head end of deeper holes or pools.
Northern Pike	Good	Anglers are reporting catches of large northern pike throughout the Cedar. Try casting larger jigs with a twister, spinner baits & spoons for these aggressive coldwater fish.
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Smallmouth bass are biting on crankbaits, October is one of the better months for angling aggressive smallmouths!
Walleye	Good	Anglers are catching some larger walleyes in the cedar with the onset of late fall and winter. Try casting jigs or crankbaits in and around woody structure along current breaks or deeper holes for bigger fish.

Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

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

Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

The Wapsi River is slowly dropping after last weeks rainfall but anglers are slowly picking up fish again as the river clears.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Anglers are catching crappie in the impoundment above Independence.
Walleye	Fair	Try using jigs tipped with or without a twister tail and a minnow for these actively feeding fish.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

The month of October is an excellent time to be persuing walleye and smallmouth bass on the Maquoketa River. Now that the river level is receding again, concentrate in the deeper holes as fish migrate towards overwintering areas.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Smallmouth Bass	Fair	Try the Catch & Release area below the Lake Delhi dam for some great smallmouth action. Crankbaits work well this time of year.
Walleye	Fair	Walleyes are aggressive this time of year with the onset of winter. Try jigging the deeper holes using a jig and minnow as they move into their overwintering areas.

N.E. Ia. interior rivers are still providing a good assortment of gamefish; walleye, smallmouth bass and northern pike. Fishing had slowed on the rivers due to the recent rainfall events but anglers are beginning to report increased catches again. Anglers in Black Hawk county are beginning to pick up some crappies on some area lakes. For more information contact the N.E. Ia. District Office @ (563) 927-3276.

NORTHWEST

Lake Pahoja

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Fish around fishing jetties and visible brush with a small jig and live bait beneath a bobber.
Crappie	Good	Fish around fishing jetties and visible brush with a small jig and live bait beneath a bobber.

For more information on lakes and rivers in the Spirit lake area call 1-(712)-336-1840.

Big Spirit Lake

Water temperature is 46 degrees. With recent wind conditions few boats have been on the lake.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Good	Use ice fishing jigs tipped with wax worms or wigglers on the fishing pier at the Grade.
Crappie	Fair	A few fish are being caught on the fishing pier at the grade with a small bobber and minnow.
Walleye	Fair	Fish at sunset with a twister tail near Marble Beach, Footbridge, or Buffalo Run.
Yellow Perch	Fair	Use small jigging lures tipped with live bait. Fish have been caught at the Footbridge in 20 foot of water and in front of Buffalo Run in 7 foot of water.

East Okoboji Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	A few fish are being caught at the fishing piers on the north end of the lake using a small bobber and minnow.
Walleye	Fair	Use a twister tail at one of the bridges after sunset.
Yellow Bass	Good	Fish along boat docks and weedlines with small jigs tipped with live bait.
Yellow Perch	Good	Fish the weeds at Jingles Point and in front of the Trestle with a small jig or spoon tipped with live bait.

Silver Lake (Dickinson)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Use a twister tail from shore near the Trapper's Bay Bridge in the evenings.
White Bass	Fair	Use a jig and minnow in the evenings from shore.

West Okoboji Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Muskellunge	Slow	A few fish have been reported being caught along steep drop offs using jerkbaits or large plastics.
Walleye	Fair	Fish at Triboji, Pikes and Gull Point with a twister tail in the evenings.
Yellow Perch	Good	Fish in Smith's Bay along the weeds in front of the Emporium.

Five Island Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Use a twister tail in the evenings near the Trestle.

Lost Island Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Use a twister tail in the evenings near the bridge or beach.

Tuttle Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	A few fish are being caught at the outlet on twister tails or a jig and minnow.

West Fork Des Moines (state line to Emmetsburg)

Water levels have risen but fishing should pick back up when water levels stabilize.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Fish holes with a twister tail or jig and minnow along eddies and current seams.

For more information on lakes and rivers in the Spirit lake area call 1-(712)-336-1840.

Clear Lake

Most of the docks are out. Yellow bass fishing is still good, try fishing in 5 to 7 feet of water near the rushes.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Muskellunge	Fair	
Walleye	Slow	
Yellow Bass	Good	

Rice Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	

For more information on fishing in the area lakes and rivers, call us at the Clear Lake Fisheries Office at (641) 357-3517.

Crawford Creek Impoundment

The cold weather seems to be keeping anglers from going out, but those that are, have been catching a few medium size bluegill and crappie.

Brushy Creek Lake

Water has cleared up. Not many people fishing. A few bluegill and crappie are being caught. Fish near trees & cover a lot of areas. Docks will remain in the lake until freezing weather moves in.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Weather is terrible, but walleye angling is fairly good. Remember that Storm Lake has a 17-22 inch slot length limit. All walleye in that range must be immediately released.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Anglers have been having the best luck using a minnow under a slip bobber and fishing in the marina and on rocky points. Make sure to immediately return slot length (17 to 22 inch) fish to the water.

North Twin Lake

Anglers are catching a few panfish.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Use a small hook and piece of crawler.
Yellow Bass	Fair	Use a small hook and piece of crawler or small piece of cut bait; cast toward or jig around docks and keep moving.

Black Hawk Lake

Anglers have been catching a few small bluegill in Town Bay.

Browns Lake

Anglers are catching a few crappie. It's hit and miss.

People weren't fishing much this week. Weather is awful. For more information about the these lakes and rivers call Don Herrig (712-657-2638) at the Black Hawk District Office in Lake View.