

Iowa Fishing Report

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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 upper 40'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 upper 40's. Clarity is good.

Twelve Mile Creek Lake

Water temps are in the upper 40's and several species of fish are biting fairly well. A few anglers are catching several panfish and walleye.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Fair	Several bluegill have been caught by the few anglers still out. Small jigs tipped with crawlers or waxworms fished in at least 6 feet of water near flooded trees.
Crappie	Fair	Several crappie have been caught by jigging around the flooded trees in 8 to 16 feet of water.
Walleye	Fair	The fall walleye bite is holding on well. Anglers are fishing the deep flats in at least 10 feet of water near drop-offs and creek channel.

Water temps have still hanging around the low 50's. Recent rains have stopped and fishing activity has picked up. Water quality remains good or very good. Panfish are out a little near structure.

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 and around docks.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Fair	Crappies are being caught in the canals and around any remaining docks 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.

A few anglers are having good success on sunny warm afternoons catching pan fish. 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 drifting minnows or small pink and white jigs in the main lake over the roadbeds. They are being caught suspended from 5 to 15 feet deep.

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.

Banner Lake (south)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Rainbow Trout	Good	1,500 rainbow trout were stocked Thursday, October 29. They can be caught using a variety methods including crawlers, minnows, and artificial scented baits under a bobber or just off the bottom, or small inline spinners.

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	Try a jig and minnow combination around areas with rocky shorelines.

Rathbun Reservoir

The lake's water temperature is in the upper 40's. The lake level is 906.98 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.

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

Lake Geode

Water temperatures might make 50 during the afternoon. Very little angler activity.

Lake Belva Deer

Paving of the roads will begin next spring.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Bluegill	Slow	Not many anglers have been out. The ones that have been out are concentrating their effort out along the creek channel in the trees.

Pollmiller Park Lake

The fishing has been slow with very few anglers doing any fishing.

Lake of the Hills

Last week's rains and higher water levels have slowed the fishing down.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Rainbow Trout	Fair	Fish early in the day using worms or power bait.

Lake Darling

The lake remains drained, Last Thursday/Friday's rains filled the lake back up. The drain pipe remains open and the water is going out.

Skunk River (Coppock to Mississippi River)

There is flooding in the low lying areas. Up river at Sigourney the rivers have returned to their banks so the river should be going down at Coppock soon also.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The river in most of this area is bankfull or flooding. At Wapello the river is forecasted to be back in its banks by early next week.

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 9.23ft and falling. Floodstage is 10ft. Fishing has been slow due to recent high and muddy water.

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 12.86ft and falling. Fishing has been slow due to high and muddy water.

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 9.89ft and falling. Fishing has been slow due to high and muddy water.

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 9.91ft and falling. Fishing has been slow due to high and muddy water.

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 are high but are forecasted to continue to fall throughout the weekend. Fishing has been slow throughout the pools due to recent high and muddy water. Main channel water temperature is around 49 degrees and water clarity is poor. For more information on fishing Pools 16-20 of the Mississippi River contact the Fairport Fish Hatchery at 563-263-5062.

NORTHEAST

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)

Anglers have not been out due to increased water levels.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Slow	Anglers have not been out due to increased water levels.

Shell Rock River (Greene to Shell Rock)

Anglers have not been out due to increased water levels.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Slow	

Wapsi River (Tripoli to Troy Mills)

The Wapsi River is slowly dropping after last weeks rainfall but anglers are starting to catch walleyes again.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Good	Try using jigs tipped with or without a twister tail and a minnow for these actively feeding fish. Try angling above Independence in the impoundment along current breaks created by structure.

Maquoketa River (above Monticello)

The month of October is an excellent time to be pursuing 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
Walleye	No Report	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 falling from last weeks rainfall events and fishing has been real spotty on the rivers for walleye. For more information contact the N.E. Ia. District Office @ (563) 927-3276.

Volga Lake

Angling has been slow but the lake is very fishable.

Lake Hendricks

Water is a bit high but fishable. Anglers haven't been out on the lake.

Lake Meyer

Angling has been slow.

Turkey River (above Clermont)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Look for fish in those deeper holes and around back eddies.

Cedar River (above Nashua)

Anglers haven't been on the river due to the high water. Water levels have come down enough and anglers should begin to see some nice fish.

Decorah District Streams

Stocking for area trout streams has ended for the season but there continues to be plenty of fish to be caught. This is one of the best times of the year to go trout fishing because anglers get the prettiest view of Northeast Iowa's most scenic grandcape.

The Upper Iowa, Turkey and Cedar River water levels continue to fall and are fishable at this time. River and stream water clarity is good to excellent and water temperatures are in the low 40's. For more information, please call the Decorah Fish Hatchery at 563-382-8324.

NORTHWEST

Big Spirit Lake

Water temperature is 42 degrees.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
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
Walleye	Fair	Use a twister tail at one of the bridges after sunset.
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

Water temperature is 50 degrees.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
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.

Big Sioux River

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Channel Catfish	Fair	Some fish are still being caught in deep holes using chubs or cutbait fished on the bottom.
Sauger	Fair	Anglers are using a crappie rig below a float baited with minnows in deep holes it is important to keep presentation directly below boat to feel bites.
Walleye	Good	Anglers are using a crappie rig below a float baited with minnows in deep holes it is important to keep presentation directly below boat to feel bites. If fishing from shore go to the Klondike Dam and use a leadhead and twister tail tipped with a minnow or worm.

West Fork Des Moines (state line to Emmetsburg)

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Walleye	Fair	Use a twister tail in deep holes near riffles and current seams.

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

Clear Lake

Yellow bass fishing has been slow this week, the best bite has been on the warmer days.

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Muskellunge	Fair	
Walleye	Slow	
Yellow Bass	Fair	

Rice Lake

Fish Name	Status	Comments
Crappie	Good	
Yellow Perch	Fair	

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.

Storm Lake (incl Little Storm Lake)

Weather is improving, and walleye anglers are having some luck in the new marina. 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 some luck using a minnow or chub under a slip bobber and fishing in the marina. Make sure to immediately return slot length (17 to 22 inch) fish to the water.

Swan Lake

The water has cleared at Swan and anglers are catching a few medium size crappie and bluegill.

People weren't fishing much this week. Weather is clearing and warming towards the end of the week. It might be worth going out on the water and giving it a try. For more information about the these lakes and rivers call Don Herrig (712-657-2638) at the Black Hawk District Office in Lake View.