Iowa Outdoors

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
www.iowadnr.com

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BIGHEAD CARP FOUND BELOW LAKE WAPELLO

MORAVIA – A newly constructed spillway at Lake Wapello is designed to stop the movement of carp upstream and into the lake and just in the nick of time. Bighead carp have been found just below the spillway in Pee Dee Creek, a tributary of Soap Creek, which empties in to the Des Moines River.

Bighead carp is an exotic fish species brought in by fish farmers in the southern U.S., mainly Arkansas, to keep the catfish farm ponds clean. The fish escaped to the Mississippi River when the ponds flooded and are moving upstream. The first bighead carp was found in the Missouri River near Sergeant Bluff in 1988. Presently, there is a high concentration of bighead carp in the Des Moines River.

"So far, bighead carp are not present in any inland lakes in Iowa, and we want to keep it that way," said Mark Flammang, fisheries biologist with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. "We don't know the full extent of the impact bighead carp would have on a closed system. We do know they feed on plankton and would directly compete with newly hatched bluegill, crappie, walleye and other more desireable fish."

Flammang said the DNR will be posting signs below the spillway at Lake Wapello, Red Rock and Rathbun announcing the presence of bighead carp. The sign tells anglers not to release bighead carp into the lake because the species will damage and could even destroy the fishery.

"We definitely do not want these fish to migrate into the lake," Flammang said. If an angler would happen to catch a bighead carp, they can either release it back to the

water where it came from or can kill it and take it home. Bighead carp are most often captured by anglers who foul hook them while fishing for more desirable species.

For more information, contact Flammang at 641-647-2690.

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Winterizing Your Boat
By Dale Anderson
Recreation Safety Officer
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

You've had lots of boating fun for the season. Maybe you have big fish tales to tell or maybe you have memories of wonderful water skiing adventures. In any case, if you want next year's boating season to start out right, now is the time to prepare your boat for winter. Chances are that you have had a bad experience at some time in your boating career with starting your boat motor for the first time in the spring. If you did not winterize your boat before putting it away for the season, I can practically guarantee that you had a bad experience.

The easiest way to winterize your boat is to simply take it to a boat dealer and he can do it for you for around $100. However, if you want to save money and do it yourself, here is a little checklist of what your boat will need to make it through the winter in good shape.

- Add a fuel stabilizer (like Sta-Bil or OMC 2+4) to the fuel tank according to directions on the bottle.
- Fill (that's right fill) your gas tank with NON-alcohol fuel. This prevents condensation, oxidization and spoilage of the fuel.
- Start the motor (either in the lake or with flushing muffs installed and connected to your garden hose to keep the engine cool).
- Allow the motor to run for 5-10 minutes to make sure that the treated fuel gets to all parts of the engine.
- Spray fogging oil into the carburetor(s) while the engine is running. You'll see lots of smoke – that's good.
- Shut the engine down. (DO NOT run it out of gas. If you have an oil-injection engine, running it out of gas will inject pure oil into the carb which will turn into a gooey mess by spring.)
- After the engine has cooled down, remove the spark plugs and spray fogging oil directly into the cylinders.
- With the kill switch in the "Off" position, turn the engine over a time or two to coat the cylinder walls with fogging oil.
- Inspect the spark plugs and replace with new ones, if necessary.
- Tilt the engine down fully and remove the lower unit oil plugs and drain the gear lube into a pan.

- Check the used lube color for water. If it looks milky, you have a leaking seal. Also, check for metal filings. Either condition will require the attention of your dealer.
- Refill the gear case with lube by inserting the tube in the lower hole and filling it until fluid comes out of the top hole. Replace both fill/vent plugs.
- Check the prop for nicks. A little damage here can cause a big decrease in performance. Small nicks can be repaired, large ones can damage other engine parts and the drive system from vibration. Replace a badly damaged prop.
- Grease all fittings you can find (usually on the motor tilt mechanism, swivel bracket, and steering tube.) Use quality waterproof grease.
- Spray all electrical connections and the fuse panel with a moisture-displacing silicone lubricant.
- Store your motor in an upright position – not tilted.
- Remove the battery, check the fluid level and trickle charge on a board.
- Clean the battery terminals with a soda paste, spray the terminals with a sealant, and store the battery in a warm place.
- Remove the drain plug and drain any water from the bilge and live well. Wire the drain plug to the ignition switch to avoid embarrassment at the boat ramp next spring.
- Remove all life jackets from the boat, wash, dry and store in a dry place.
- Vacuum out the boat and leave a mouse cake or two. Better to find a dead mouse next spring that a live one!
- Cover the boat but allow for air circulation to avoid moisture problems.
- Pack the trailer wheel bearings with grease or, better yet, install Bearing Buddies® to keep moisture out of the bearings and maintain a grease filled environment.
- Check trailer bulbs and spray silicone on all sockets and wiring connectors.
- Put the trailer on blocks and remove the tires to prolong rubber life and thwart would-be tire thieves.

Well, there you have it. You have winterized your own boat, you feel good about it, and you saved yourself a bunch of money –in dealer service fees and in prolonged life of your boat. Happy boating.

Shopping list:

Fuel stabilizer
Fogging oil
Gear lube
Waterproof grease
Moisture-displacing silicone lubricant spray
Battery terminal spray
Mouse bait

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FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS

Des Moines – With mild temperatures and adequate ground moisture, fall is not only a great time for watch the leaves change, but also for planting new trees and shrubs. It is also a time when there is good plant material availability, both for conservation seedlings through landscape plants.

Few people realize how ideal the fall season is for planting, said John Walkowiak, chief of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources forestry bureau.

"Fall plantings have a number of advantages over the spring that people should use, such as a longer planting time until the ground freezes to fewer heavy rains that often prevent planting," Walkowiak said. "Often people are busy in the spring, and planting in the fall allows for time to complete conservation work before winter sets in. Plus, the availability of good supplies of plant materials and the mix is complete."

Conservation seedlings are just now becoming available for fall plantings from the State Forest Nursery in Ames. More than 44 different species are available from native oaks and maples to native shrubs. Contact the State Forest Nursery at 10800-865-2477 or order on line at www.iowadnr.com/forestry/.

Landscape plants are also in good supply and at affordable prices from nursery and garden centers across the state. The Iowa DNR has set up a website listing Iowa's nursery and garden centers at www.iowatreeplanting.com.

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BOW SEASON PREVIEW, ANTLERLESS TAGS

By Joe Wilkinson
Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Iowa's bow season offers the chance to hunt deer early and hunt often. And that's just what state wildlife officials would like to see this year. With nearly 90 days to hunt, conditions range from late summer through midwinter. The season opened October 1.

Up until a few years ago, bow hunters were allowed just one...and later, two...tags a season. With just one tag to spare, most hunters focused on bucks, especially during the late October to mid November 'rut' or peak of the breeding season in Iowa. Now, with what almost seems like an unlimited supply of antlerless tags, the prospect of thinning the herd looks good. Data shows that Iowa bow hunters spend an average of 17 days per season in the woods. And an awful lot of does pass close by those stands. "Bow hunters could play an important role in deer management," stresses Willy Suchy, deer

research biologist for the Department of Natural Resources. “I’d encourage them to try to take an antlerless deer early, then be selective with the buck they take. You can really improve the quality of deer herd and control deer populations at the same time.”

Iowa’s 56,000 bow hunters harvested 28,000 whitetails in the 2003 season. That helped set another overall record harvest of nearly 183,000 deer in 2003. Post-hunt surveys show that, for the first time, Iowans killed more does than bucks (52 percent, 48 percent.) Fewer does will help point deer numbers downward. However, in many areas, they still remain above preferred levels, prompting Suchy’s pitch to bow hunters. Many are responding. In line over the weekend to buy my bow tags, two hunters ahead of me each purchased three or four tags, as well, including a couple antlerless for the special Johnson County ‘corridor’ zone.

Whether you harvest 10 deer or one this year, or you miss the buck of a lifetime when he turns right instead of left, bow hunting is one of the most heart-pounding outdoor experiences that exists. Strapped into a stand or going from ground level, it offers the chance to see the woods come to life. Wild turkeys are oblivious to human eyes watching them scratch for acorns under a stand of oak trees. Bucks sparring or checking scrapes make your heart race, wondering if one is going to close within range. I’ve heard an eagle’s wing beats, as it skimmed the top of the oak tree above me. Come to think of it, maybe that stand was too high.

Every outdoor magazine or deer hunting book goes into great lengths about strategy. Basically, though, for the early season...think ‘late summer.’ “Early on, they are still tied to late summer, early fall food sources,” suggests Suchy. “Alfalfa fields, for instance. As crops are picked, as acorns start to fall, things change. Hunters should adapt to those changes.”

With 30,000 more antlerless tags out there this season, the prospect of extra venison in the freezer and *then* a crack at a trophy rack are two very real possibilities.

Antlerless Hunting Opportunities Abound

Besides Iowa’s traditional ‘any sex’ deer tag, which allows you to take any deer, anywhere in the state (within existing seasons and regulations, of course) you have a variety of options for taking *antlerless* deer. Your first antlerless tag costs $26. Subsequent tags are $11.

- 84,000 *antlerless* tags are available on a county by county basis for any existing season. Johnson County, for instance, has a quota of 1900 such tags.
- The special late season has been extended through two weekends (January 11-23).
- Special deer hunts are offered in 28 areas; primarily county or state parks or urban areas. With a couple exceptions, they target antlerless deer. Most are bow hunting only.
- Depredation tags are available, working through participating landowners and the DNR. Also, depredation biologists Bill Bunger (western 2/3 of Iowa, 641-344-4021)

or Greg Harris (eastern 1/3 of Iowa, 319-330-5578) keep a roster of available hunters whom interested landowners may contact (Note: not the other way around.)

- Nonresident Holiday Season tags are available for December 24-January 2.

Details are offered in the 2004 Deer and Fall Turkey Hunting publication; available at DNR offices and sporting goods outlets. Information is also available online at www.iowadnr.com . Click on 'Wildlife', then '2004-05 Deer Hunting Information'.

Deer Contraceptives Still 'in the Future'

One of the nation's leading experts sees a place for contraceptives in the control of urban deer populations. However, it isn't coming soon.

Dr. Tony DeNicola told a packed auditorium in Cedar Rapids Monday night that there is still no fertility control agent registered with the FDA, but that research continues. "I envision fertility control in the future being used *with* lethal options, whether they be sharpshooting or hunting," predicted DeNicola, president of White Buffalo Inc. "Communities (could someday) use fertility control as a maintenance tool." DeNicola's is the company paid by the city of Iowa City to kill 1200 deer, inside the city limits through sharp shooting since 1999. The city does not allow bow hunting.

DeNicola, at Coe College through the Linn County Connections speakers series, discussed costs, effectiveness and public acceptance of various deer control options. His Connecticut company is doing contraceptive research in Ohio and New Jersey.

His appearance coincides with recent decisions to reactivate urban deer task forces by both Iowa City and Cedar Rapids.

A primary concern with steroid-based contraceptives in deer is the risk of the meat being consumed by humans. Also, the treatment is limited to relatively isolated urban deer populations. It is not for 'free ranging' deer. Treated deer in his studies carry ear tags or radio collars warning against consumption. He places the cost at about $800 to $1,000 per deer, when labor, immobilization agents, equipment and the drug itself—SpayVac are tallied. In contrast, sharp shooting carries a price tag of $200-$300; trapping and euthanizing, $400-$500.

Another option is controlled hunting, specifically bowhunting, utilized at no cost, in over a dozen Iowa communities. "On a statewide bases, there is no dispute that the best deer management is controlled hunting", acknowledges DeNicola, a bowhunter himself. "In a suburban setting (however), access becomes an obstacle. Also related, is public acceptance of hunting."

Getting *any* pharmaceutical product to the market in the U.S. today carries a price tag of about $11 million, according to DeNicola. With extensive research already out there, he projects a cost of $3 to $5 million for advancing a viable deer fertility drug. "As much vocal support as there seems to be (though), there is little financial support for it,"

emphasized DeNicola. "In the short term, there is research and evaluation going on. That's the 'take home' message tonight."

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IOWA FISHING REPORT

For the week of October 12, 2004

www.iowadnr.com

This is the Final Iowa Fishing Report until good ice conditions. For current information on fishing conditions for your lake or area, contact the office in that district. Phone numbers are listed with each district report.

Southwest

Viking (Montgomery): Crappie and bluegill fishing is fair using jigs tipped with night crawler or minnow in 6 to 8 feet of water. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver.

Cold Springs (Cass): Fishing is fair for crappies around the brush piles. Channel catfish fishing is fair.

Manawa (Pottawattamie): Fishing is good for channel catfish. Walleyes are being caught on the west shore along the rocks. A few wipers are being caught.

Orient (Adair): Channel catfish are fair using liver in the evening. Crappies in the 7 to 8-inch range are being caught.

Greenfield (Adair): Bluegills and crappies are fair around brush piles. Channel catfish are good toward evening.

Mormon Trail (Adair): Walleye fishing is good using crankbaits or jigs. Anglers are catching 7 to 9-inch on minnows in 6 to 8 feet of water. Bluegills are being caught drifting a piece of night crawler 5 to 7 feet deep in front of dam. Channel catfish are good using night crawlers or liver.

Meadow (Adair): Bluegill fishing is fair on jigs and night crawlers. Largemouth bass fishing is good.

Prairie Rose (Shelby): Fishing is fair for 7-inch crappies in 6 to 8 feet of water using jigs and minnows around rocks and woody structure. Bass fishing is good. Anglers are catching channel catfish on liver.

Littlefield Lake (Audubon): Fishing is fair for large bluegills drifting with night crawlers. Channel catfish fishing is good.

Willow (Harrison): Largemouth Bass fishing is fair in the evenings around structure. Bluegills are good along weed edges. Channel catfish are being caught in the evenings using chicken liver.

Southwest Iowa Farm Ponds: Channel catfish, bluegill and largemouth bass fishing is fair. Remember to ask permission and clean up after yourself.

Big Creek (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been good for fish 8 inches or larger using hooks and worms. Crappie fishing has been slow in deeper water using jigs and minnows.

An occasional nice walleye has been caught trolling crankbaits. Channel catfish fishing has been fair using night crawlers and cut and stink baits.

Lake Ahquabi (Warren): Bluegill and redear fishing has been fair to good using jigs or hooks with worms and wax worms. Crappie fishing has been fair to good. Channel catfish fishing has been fair. Largemouth bass fishing has been fair to good, although most fish are below the legal size limit.

Hooper Lake (Warren): Bluegill fishing has been fair using worms and jigs. Largemouth bass fishing has been slow using buzz baits and surface lures.

Hickory Grove (Story): Crappie fishing has been fair to good using jigs and minnows. The better fishing has been in deeper water. Bluegill fishing has picked up using small jigs or hooks and worms.

Don Williams (Boone): Crappie fishing has been slow using minnows and jigs. The best fishing has been in 5 to 10 feet of water. Bluegill fishing has been slow, with small jigs with worms. Channel catfish fishing has been fair and largemouth bass fishing has been slow. The best fishing is with surface plugs and crankbaits.

Rock Creek Lake (Jasper): Crappie fishing has been fair. The best fishing is in deeper water using jigs and minnows. Channel catfish fishing has been good along the shorelines and shallow water. Largemouth bass fishing has been relatively slow, although a few nice fish have been hitting on jigs and night crawlers.

Easter Lake (Polk): Bluegill fishing has been fair, although there are a number of smaller fish being caught. Crappie fishing has been fair with jigs and minnows or jigs and night crawlers. Some nice walleye have been caught while trolling lures or jigs along the face of the dam. Channel catfish fishing has been slow with most caught on night crawlers and stink baits.

Red Rock (Marion): White bass fishing has been excellent using crankbaits, sonars and a variety of casting lures. Crappies have been good to excellent along the face of the dam and in the Roberts Creek area. Channel catfish has slowed. The best areas are in the bays and coves.

Red Rock tailwater (Marion): White bass fishing is good in the tail water using jigs and minnows. Crappie fishing is good using jigs. A number of 10 to 14-inch fish are also being caught.

Roberts Creek (Marion): Crappie fishing has been good using jigs with minnows. White bass/wiper fishing has been good near the outlet into Red Rock.

Saylorville Lake (Polk): White bass fishing has been good trolling crank baits and shore fishing casting small spoons, a few wipers mixed in, with fish from 3 to 4 pounds reported. Crappie fishing has been spotty, although reports indicate some nice sized fish. Channel catfish fishing has been fair with traditional baits.

Saylorville Lake tailwater/river (Polk): White bass fishing has been good below Saylorville Reservoir. Channel catfish fishing is fair to good. Anglers are catching a few crappie and walleye.

Three Mile (Union): Bluegills are being caught using wax worms and night crawlers. Some crappie and yellow perch are being caught minnows around deeper structure. Anglers are starting to catch muskies. Largemouth bass can be caught in the rocks and over the deeper rock structure.

Twelve Mile (Union): Fishing for channel catfish is good using night crawlers or liver.

Green Valley (Union): Several largemouth bass can be caught around the tree piles and in the stake beds. Channel catfish can be caught in the bays using liver and night crawlers. Some crappie can be caught using minnows around the deeper brush piles. Some bluegill can be caught on night crawlers and wax worms.

Little River (Decatur): Crappies are being caught in the flooded trees and deeper bays. Bluegill can be caught using night crawlers around the flooded trees in 6 to 16 feet of water. Some walleyes are being taken with crankbaits.

Slip Bluff (Decatur): Some crappies are being caught off the deeper trees piles and flooded timber. Several small largemouth bass can be caught from the shore.

West Lake Osceola (Clarke): Largemouth bass are biting on crankbaits and jigs. Channel catfish fishing is good using liver.

Fogle Lake (Ringgold): Some bluegill and crappie can be caught in the flooded trees and along the creek channels. The lake is currently being lowered to improve fish growth but is still accessible for fishing.

Walnut Creek Marsh (Ringgold): Bluegill can be caught along the south dike. Crappie can be caught on minnows around the stumps.

For more information on fishing in southwest Iowa, call the regional office in Lewis at 712-769-2587.

Southeast

Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19: Fishing on the Mississippi River Pools 16 to 19 has been fair. The water temperature at Lock and Dam 16 (Muscatine) is 58 degrees and the river pool stage for Pool 16 is 11.48. Water levels are expected to remain stable over the next several days. Water clarity has improved. Fishing for channel catfish continues to be fair on stink bait and worms. Crappies can be found in backwater areas around submerged brush piles, stumps, and logs along the shoreline try Big Timber area and Lake Odessa. Walleye and sauger fishing has been fair. Anglers are picking up a few walleye and sauger around the wing dams, islands and in the tailwaters on jigs, three-way rigs, and crankbaits. Flathead fishing has been fair on chubs, suckers, and green sunfish. Anglers are also catching a few white bass in the tailwaters.

Lake Odessa (Louisa): The lake is full. As the water temperature drops a few more degrees, watch for the crappie and bluegills to start to head for the deeper areas to over winter.

Lake Darling (Washington): Catfish are starting to concentrate around the island by the campground to feed on green sunfish and bluegills hiding in the rocks. The nicer crappies are working the creek channel along the west shore.

Lake Belva Deer (Keokuk): Anglers are picking up some nice bluegills in the trees suspended five to six feet down. At that depth you can see the fish and they can certainly see and hear you. Light tackle and wax worms or small pieces of night crawler are your best bets.

Lake Geode (Henry): Redears and bluegills are moving in for the fall. On chilly mornings, look for them to be around the cement boat ramps and riprap soaking up the heat from those surfaces. The crappies can be caught around the upper end of the lake in the old creek channel. Slow trolling or drifting down the channel with a minnow will yield some nice fish. Don’t forget to mark the spot when you hook into a fish so you can catch more than one from the school before they move.

Lake Rathbun (Appanoose): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs and minnows fished in 8 to 10 feet of water around brush piles. Channel catfish have been biting on stink bait and liver.

Lake Miami (Monroe): Crappies have been hitting on small jigs and minnows drifted in deeper water. Largemouth bass have been hitting on artificial lures fished around standing timber.

Lake Wapello (Davis): Bluegills have been hitting on small jigs tipped with a chunk of night crawler. Drifting over deep water has been the most productive. Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures fished around weed lines and downed trees.

Lake Sugema (Van Buren): Largemouth bass have been hitting on a variety of artificial lures. Crappies have been hitting on minnows in 5 to 10 feet of water. Walleyes have been biting on minnows and crankbaits.

Kent Park (Johnson): Bluegill fishing has been moderate, with most fish being caught on worms. The largemouth bass have been hitting on night crawlers and a variety of artificial lures.

Lake Macbride (Johnson): Crappie fishing has been spotty but is beginning to pick up. Fish with jig and minnow combinations around the brush.

Union Grove Lake (Tama): Catfish are being caught on liver and night crawlers. Most fish are concentrated around the brush piles. A few saugeyes are also being taken.

Wapsipinicon (Jones), **Maquoketa** (Jones) and **Iowa rivers** (Johnson, Tama and Iowa): Walleyes are being caught on jig and minnow combinations. Best areas are in the tailwater areas of dams.

Skunk River (Washington): The river is about at fall levels. Boating will become "boating and dragging" for those who want to go fishing. Catfishing below the riffles is excellent as the catfish are on their fall feeding frenzy.

Cedar River (Louisa): Anglers are catching lots of nice catfish. Live minnows and night crawlers are working best.

For more information on fishing in southeast Iowa, call the regional office in Brighton at 319-694-2430.

Northeast

Mississippi River Pools 9 to 15: The Mississippi River at Guttenberg has cooled into the 50s. Water levels are dropping slowly and clarity is excellent. Good fishing continues on **Pools 9 to 11** for white bass, bluegill, largemouth bass, walleye, and sauger. White bass are schooled up and providing fast action. White bass are being reported from tailwater areas near **Locks 9** and **10**, although some are also being caught on wing dams. Watch for schools feeding on minnows. If you see areas where minnows are continuously being chased, try to maintain some distance away from the melee to avoid spooking the fish. Feeding sea gulls are also a good clue that white bass are in the area. Any lure that provides some flash—such as a spoon or a spinner—will work. Bluegill fishing continues to be quite good with many fish being taken out of brush piles in moderate flowing sloughs. Areas such as **Minnesota Slough** near New Albin, **Harpers Slough** near Harpers Ferry, **Johnson** and **Wyalusing Slough** near McGregor and **Cassville** Slough near Guttenberg have been good fishing. Bluegills will begin to move towards backwater areas with no current, sufficient depths (4 to 5 feet) and good oxygen levels as water continues to cool. A simple rig with a night crawler and a small split shot

works best. Largemouth bass fishing has been excellent in **Pools 9 to 11** as bass begin moving to over wintering sites. Largemouth bass spend winter in backwater lakes with no current, sufficient depths (4 to 5 feet) and good oxygen levels. The Mississippi River is a vast fishery, but these types of habitat are extremely rare. Bass will begin to bunch up near the openings to these lakes. Concentrating in these areas can provide very good fishing. Some areas to try fishing include Minnesota Slough in **Pool 9**, McGregor Lake in **Pool 10**, and Swift Slough in **Pool 11**. Walleye and sauger action is picking up. Fish are being taken in the tailwaters of **Locks and Dams 9** and **10** with most anglers using a jig and minnow. Other places to try for walleye and sauger are large, flowing sloughs such as Minnesota Slough near New Albin or Harper Slough near Harpers Ferry. Walleye and sauger will tend to bunch up in areas with deep holes. Try fishing off channel sloughs where your depth finder registers greater than 25 feet deep.

Fishing is fair for channel catfish in **Pools 12 to 15**. Fish for channel catfish in the main channel and main channel border areas with current using cheese baits—move to find fish. Freshwater drum fishing is good in **Pools 12 to 15** along wing dams and side sloughs with current using night crawlers. Bluegill fishing is good in a variety of locations in **Pools 12 to 15**. Bluegills are being caught main channel border, side sloughs and in the backwater sloughs with little or no current. A piece of night crawler fished either under a bobber or along the bottom using a split shot can produce some nice fish. Walleye and largemouth bass fishing is picking up in **Pools 12 to 15**. A few sauger are being taken in the tailwater areas in **Pools 12 to 15**. As always, if you're fishing in the Mississippi River and don't get a bite within 10 to 15 minutes, move to find feeding fish.

Cedar River (Bremer and Black Hawk): Fishing is good for walleye and smallmouth bass using jigs tipped with a minnow. A few northern pike are being taken on spinner baits or minnows while wading in the **West Fork Cedar River** (Butler).

Wapsipinicon (Buchanan) and **Maquoketa rivers** (Delaware): Walleyes are good using minnows fished near the bottom and in deeper holes.

Upper Iowa River (Winneshiek): Smallmouth bass fishing is good using jigs or crankbaits.

Brinker Lake *a.k.a. East Lake* (Black Hawk): Use a piece of night crawler for 8-inch yellow bass in Brinker Lake. The best fishing can be found during the late evening hours into the night.

Lake Hendricks (Howard): A few bluegills are being picked up using worms or a small piece of night crawler fished next to structure.

Meyer Lake (Winneshiek): Bluegill and crappie fishing is good on small jigs.

Trout fishing is excellent and streams are clear and fishable. September marks the end of the announced plants of trout in Northeast Iowa. Trout streams will still be stocked on a regular basis through October and the fall colors give anglers another reason to enjoy trout fishing along our remote streams. The weather is beautiful and you'll find less competition for your favorite fishing holes. For current trout stocking information on northeast Iowa trout streams, call the trout stocking hotline at 563-927-5736. You can also access the proposed trout stocking calendar through the Internet at www.iowadnr.com and go to the fish and fishing web pages.

For information on fishing in northeast Iowa, call the regional office in Manchester at 563-927-3276.

Northwest

Spirit Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing from a boat has been slow. Wader anglers have had good fishing in the evenings and at night. Use a large minnow on a jig or a shallow running crankbait. Yellow perch are still sporadic. The footbridge and Buffalo Run are producing fish. Anglers are catching 10-inch crappies while fishing for perch.

West Lake Okoboji (Dickinson): Anglers are catching yellow perch at the north bay and off Pocahontas Point in 16 feet of water on wax worms and wigglers.

Silver Lake (Dickinson): Walleye fishing is picking up for anglers trolling crankbaits in the evening hours.

Lost Island Lake (Palo Alto): Walleye fishing is picking up for anglers trolling crankbaits in the evening hours.

Black Hawk Lake (Sac): Crappie fishing is good using a small jig tipped with a wax worm or prepared crappie nuggets. Anglers are finding a lot of 8-inch fish, but fish up to 12 inches are being caught. The best place for crappies is the handicap accessible pier, the west stone pier and the marina. A few legal walleyes are being caught while crappie fishing.

Brushy Creek (Webster): Bass are moving toward deeper water. Bluegills are being caught on wax worms or a piece of worm fished around submerged trees. A few walleyes have been caught in the evening on minnows and leeches.

Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo): Walleye fishing is fair. Trolling crankbaits and live bait in 8 to 12 feet of water is working best. The Baptist Camp and the Berkley fish habitat areas are producing the best. Remember the 14-inch minimum length limit. Yellow bass are being caught northeast of the Island and along the bulrushes by the north shore. Cut bait and minnows are producing the best. White bass re being caught off the state dock, the Ventura Grade jetty and along the bulrushes.

Beeds Lake (Franklin): Fishing is good for 7 to 9-inch crappie. Drift or troll small jigs or fish the end of the jetties for the best action.

Rice Lake (Winnebago and Worth): Yellow perch fishing is good using minnows and small jigs.

Silver Lake (Worth): Yellow perch fishing is good around the boat ramp and jetty using minnows.

For more information on fishing in northwest Iowa, call the regional office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-1840.

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