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## Fishing



### Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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### January 7, 2009 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **January 7**. If there is a body of water you would like included in this report, please call or e-mail us with information on possible sources for that lake or river.

**Arkansas River Levels** are available at :

[http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao\\_rvrs.txt](http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao_rvrs.txt)

**White River Levels** are available at :

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status\\_white.shtml](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status_white.shtml)

**Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report:** Winter angling is almost always best in the afternoon. Take your time, sleep in and enjoy a warm breakfast at home before you head to the lake. As the day heats up, so will the fishing.

## CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Conway:** Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is low and clear. A few bream have been caught in the middle of the lake. Crappie are fair in deeper channels.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said crappie are hitting, but are fairly slow. Some days the crappie bite picks up to fair. All crappie are being caught on pink minnows and shiners. All other species are slow.

**Little Red River:** [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water is clear and there has been a lot of generation. Trout are biting well on spinners, Power Eggs and glow worms drifted in the current from a boat. Trolling crankbaits, Rogues and Countdown Rapalas has worked as well.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry powerhouse continues to lower the lake level with daily water releases. As of January 5, the Corps has requested 3,500 day-second-feet releases from Southwestern Power Administration in Tulsa. This translates to one generator for 12 hours per day. The

releases, however, may not occur 12 hours in a row. The average temperature of the lake water flowing through the turbines is 49 degrees with average dissolved oxygen content of 11.2 mg/l. Aquatic insect hatches can be described with one word - midges. Abundant midge hatches should continue daily until March. The best dry flies to try include the midge (#22 or smaller in cream or black), para adams (#18) or crackleback (#14). Sub-surface flies you should tie on include sowbug (#14-16 in tan, olive, UV tan, UV light gray or peacock), chronic (#14), red butt soft hackle emerger (#14-18), Chuck's emerger (#12), zebra midge (#16-22 in red, copper or black), egg pattern (#14-12 in salmon or watermelon) or woolly buggie (#8-12 in olive, brown or black). The brook trout are in spawn at JFK Park. Try some small (#22) zebra midges or egg patterns (#14) to enjoy the bite.

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 461.63 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said walleye are being caught sporadically, depending on the weather. If the weather holds and warms a bit, they should be heading upriver soon. Hybrids are feeding, but it's hit-or-miss. Watch for birds gathering around open water and pay attention to your electronics to find schools of shad that are being pushed up by the hybrids. Spoons, in-line spinners and hair jigs with a grub trailer are working well when you find the fish. Largemouth, Kentucky and smallmouth bass are being caught on spinnerbaits, Rat-L-Traps and Carolina-rigged lizards. The bass fishing is fair overall. No report on bream, crappie or catfish.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said no one is fishing. There are some walleye coming up to the mouths of coves in the evening, especially around Point 14.

**Harris Brake Lake:** [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is cloudy. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows. Bass are fair on minnows.

**Lake Overcup:** Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water is cloudy and a bit higher than last week. Crappie are fair on minnows and pearl white Crappie Stingers.

[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) had no report.

**Brewer Lake:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) had no report.

**Lake Maumelle:** [Jolly Roger's Marina](#) had no report.

**Sunset Lake:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said bream are biting well in 10-12 feet of water on tiny red crankbaits. Crappie are fair in 10-18 feet of water on 2-inch shad-colored grubs. Bass are fair on ½-oz. black/blue jigs. Catfishing is poor.

**Saline River Access in Benton:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said bream are slow. Bass are biting fairly well on pumpkin-colored soft-plastic centipedes. Walleye are biting well on spinnerbaits. Catfish are slow.

**Lake Valencia in Maumelle:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said trout are biting well on Power Bait.

**Arkansas River at Morrilton:** Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said bad weather has kept most anglers home. Catfishing is good below the dam on whole shad. No report on any other species.

**Arkansas River in Little Rock:** Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said the river is slow for fishing right now. No good reports to speak of.

**Murray Lock and Dam:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are biting fairly well on pink minnows fished under a slip-cork, pink/white or red/chartreuse jigs. Bass are biting well on chartreuse twin tails. Catfish are biting well on prepared bait.

**Terry Lock and Dam:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) had no report.

**Clear Lake:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) had no report.

**Peckerwood Lake:** Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) will be closed until February.

## NORTH ARKANSAS

**White River:** Sportsman's White River Resort said two or three generators are constantly running. Trout are

biting well on Power Bait that is drifted in the current, but few anglers are out.

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said a significant rain event and some very heavy winds prevailed last week. The pattern on the White was for moderate generation during the week. The catch-and-release section below Bull Shoals Dam will remain closed until Feb. 1, 2009. The section from the bottom of this catch-and-release area downstream to the wing wall at the state park is catch-and-release fishing only for the same time period. Upstream, the state park has been a real hot spot with stacks of fish reported. The hot fly has been a peach-colored egg and various midge patterns. On higher flows, try brightly colored San Juan worms in red, cerise, hot pink and fire orange. Wildcat Shoals has been a real hot spot during the last week. At low water, it has been very productive. Anglers have done well fishing small olive scuds under an indicator. Other productive nymph patterns have been red San Juan worms, Y2Ks and sowbugs. The lower section has fished well with various soft hackles. The hot flies have been green butts and partridge and orange soft hackles. The catch-and-release section at Rim Shoals is fishing extremely well. The hot flies on lower water were Y2Ks, sowbugs and olive scuds. Olive woolly buggers also accounted for many fish. Anglers also have done well on moderate flows. The hot flies for this water were cerise San Juan worms, peach eggs and Y2Ks. If they are running water and you want to wade, make use of the water taxi at Rim Shoals Trout Dock. For a nominal fee they will ferry you to wadable water and pick you up when you are ready to leave.

**Crooked Creek:** John Berry of [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said Crooked Creek has slowed considerably. The water temperature has dipped below 55 degrees and the smallmouth have pretty much shut down.

**Bull Shoals Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 653.35 feet MSL.

**Lake Norfolk:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 551.82 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said this should be a great year for fishing Norfolk. All species had a good spawn in 2008, and the lake is full of yearling fish. Surface water temperature is in the mid-40s. Crappie fishing has been great with minnows or split-tailed grubs using very small lead head jigs. Bass fishing has been good on crankbaits and suspending stick baits. Striper fishing has been a challenge; one day will be good; the next day will be slow. Live bait has been working on the good days as well as spoons. White bass fishing has been fair using jigging spoons. Walleye fishing has been slow. Catfishing has been fair.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) had no report.

**Norfolk Tailwater:** John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said there has been heavy generation on the Norfolk with periods of no generation on most days. Last weekend the Norfolk was off for more than 48 hours. This created some truly spectacular wading. However, the pressure has gotten to it, and the bite suffered last week. The go-to flies have been olive scuds and worm brown San Juan worms. Orange egg patterns also have done very well. On the higher water, try San Juan worms in bright colors (hot pink, cerise and red) with a lot of weight to get them down. Concentrate on the banks and grass beds. If you are not in a catch-and-release section, try fishing a sowbug or scud as a dropper under a San Juan worm. Dry Run Creek has been fishing well as always. Lately we have had some nice sunny days that have been perfect for fishing the creek. It is located in a deep valley and is not affected much by winds. Take your youngster there the next time you get a pretty day. The hot fly is the sowbug, but also try San Juan worms.

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Beaver Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,120.43 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass are biting crayfish- and firetiger-colored crankbaits along sloping chunk rock banks. Windy, cloudy days have been best. Crappie have been biting red/white and red/chartreuse tube jigs 5-12 feet deep under docks and around brush close to creek channels. Fish have been running a bit small. Bluegill are biting well under docks 6-18 feet deep on crickets and worms. White bass have been biting around the Point 12 Area, 20-35 feet deep on ¼-oz. jigging spoons. Large schools have been moving through the area and holding in the mouths of War-Eagle and Piney creeks.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is clearing. Crappie are fair on minnows fished around brush 10-15 feet deep. Bass are biting well on crankbaits and soft-plastic worms fished 8-12 feet deep. Stripers are biting fairly well on shad fished under a balloon rig around the Rock Branch area.

**Lake Fayetteville:** Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) had no report.

**Lake Sequoyah:** Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) had no report.

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:** Judy Potts of Judy's Bait Shoppe at the North entrance to Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA had no report because of duck season and the cold weather.

**Lake Charles:** [Lake Charles State Park](#) (870-878-6595) had no report.

**Crown Lake:** [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said the water is clear and at normal level. Crappie are fair on jigs fished deep. Bass are fair on crankbaits.

**Lake Frierson:** [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is muddy from all the wind. The lake has been rough the last few days. Not many anglers are braving the weather. No fishing report to speak of.

**Spring River:** Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) said water levels are still running low and clear. Fishing was a little slow last week, but a brown super bugger with a white ostrich bugger as a dropper kept the fish biting. Also had good luck running a peeping caddis as a dropper. Mayfly and caddis nymphs have been plentiful. During warm days, hatches of black caddis and light cahill mayflies are common. When fishing is slow on a stretch, pick up and move. Trout are always biting somewhere on the Spring River.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Lake Monticello :** Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) with Basshunters Custom Crankbaits said crappie fishing is picking up on LakeMonticello. Crappie, white bass and yellow bass are biting jigs and minnows in deep water. Few anglers have been bass fishing in the last few weeks.

## SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Tri-County Lake :** Anglers are beginning to catch crappie and catfish in channels about 8 feet deep using minnows. Trotlines and yo-yos are working well on these fish and many are being set right now.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Millwood Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.40 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said clarity along the main lake channel and Little River improved slightly this week. Current in Little River, remains same as last week – 2,667 cubic feet per second. The surface water temperature ranges from 47 to 55 degrees. Main lake clarity is 4-7 inches away from any remaining current in Little River. The river clarity is 5-8 inches and slowly improving. All USACE boat ramps and campgrounds are open, as of Monday. Millwood State Park has one operational boat ramp and one still under repair. Not many anglers have been out with the cold, rainy weather. Bass remain good to fair on Rat-L-Traps and slow-rolled, heavy thumping spinnerbaits fished along the old tree line of Little River's second drop. Bass were somewhat sluggish upriver this week due to another cold front hitting the lake. Best bet around the remaining vegetation is dead-sticking a Bass Assassin Shad or twitch worm in white or clear/silver flake or a spinnerbait. Crankbaits and jigs have begun to incite a few good keeper size bass over the past couple weeks, and is improving overall. Best jig colors remain peanut butter/jelly, pumpkinseed/chartreuse or black/blue/purple. Pitching jigs and to stumps near deep water is working along Little River and in the main lake. Fish the edges of any remaining lily pads near deep drops in clearer water or along Little River, several feet away from the base of cypress trees and stumps in vegetation or on drop offs to deeper water. No report on

white bass this week. The crappie bite tapered off again this week due to the reduced water clarity along Little River. The bite was improving on live shiners and white or white/chartreuse jigs before high winds muddied the water. The best depth over the last week was between 17 to 22 feet. Blues and channel cats remain good this week, especially with the increase in river current. Trotlines or yo-yos along Little River are catching 2-5 pounders using Charlie, cut shad, homemade blood bait, or chicken livers.

**Cossatot River:** Davy Ashcraft at [Cossatot River State Park](#) (870-385-2201) had no report.

**Lake Columbia:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water rose slightly from the rain. Bream are biting very well on wax worms in 4-6 feet of water. Crappie are fair under the bridge in the middle of the lake on jigs and minnows fished 4-10 feet deep.

**Lake Erling:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is low. Bream are biting very well. Crappie are fair to good. Catfishing is fair on blood bait.

**White Oak Lake:** [White Oak Lake State Park](#) had no report.

**Lake Greeson:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was not available.

Daryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips](#) said the water temperature is in the upper 40s and the fish are scattered. Crappie and bass are being caught both deep and shallow on live bait.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 405.93 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the water is clear with a slight stain upstream of Point Cedar. The surface water temperature is 48 degrees. There hasn't been much activity because of the winter weather. Bass are still in their winter pattern and are reluctant to bite. A few anglers reported catching them deep (25-40 feet) on main-lake points, ledges and humps. The best bet has been a dark-colored jig or Texas-rigged worm. Crappie fishing is still fair around deep brush piles 30-35 feet deep. 1/16-oz. crappie jigs and tubes are producing best. Make sure the lure has chartreuse in it, like black/chartreuse or red/chartreuse. Drop the jig down to about 20 feet, directly over the thickest brush, and don't move it. The best area is between Caddo Drive and Shouse Ford. Look for brush in large coves and off secondary points next to deep water. No reports on bream or catfish. Hybrids and white bass are still on the big flat just downlake from Point Cedar, but no reports of any being caught. There are reports of huge schools of shad, especially in the upper end of the lake.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) said very few anglers are on the water. No report.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Dardanelle:** No report from [Lake Dardanelle State Park](#).

[Spadra Marina](#) on Lake Dardanelle in Clarksville said crappie are still biting like crazy. This week's lures of choice have been B-52 Panfish Assassins or blue/pearl Gene Larew 2-inch Slab Slayrs. Limits of catfish have been reported every day on cut shad and bass minnows. Bass anglers report live bait as the best bet—either small live shad or bass minnows.

**Ozark Pool:** Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is dingy and cold. Crappie are fair on minnows fished 8 feet deep in backwater areas. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits in backwater areas. A few catfish have been caught on shad and large minnows.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 573.45 feet MSL.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is clear and 48 degrees. Largemouth bass are fair on jigs and Rat-L-Traps. Walleye are fair on spoons fished over brush on main-lake points. Stripers are good on live shad. Bream are slow on worms fished 18-25 feet deep. Crappie are fair and being caught over brush in 15-30 feet of water on Tennessee shad and white grubs or live minnows. Catfish are slow.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is very good. Anglers are doing well punching the grass with a heavy black/blue jig, slow rolling a 1-oz. shad-colored Revenge spinnerbait in the trees on the outside edge of the grass, and fishing a ½-oz. black/brown jig on ledges near deep drops.

**Lake Hamilton:** Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass anglers are doing very well on red crankbaits in 6-8 feet of water and black/blue jigs fished in brush piles 10-15 foot deep. Anglers fishing jigs need to really slow down and work each brush pile well, but this is how the bigger fish have been caught.

**Lake Catherine:** Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that the Corps continues to run heavy generation through Carpenter Dam in an effort to bring Lake Ouachita down. The water temperature is holding at 48 degrees in the tailrace and the water clarity is good. Hybrid and striper activity is on the rise as threadfin shad float injured in the current from Lake Hamilton. Top-water action is present, but never lasts long, so anglers need to be ready when activity occurs. C-10 Redfins and Super Spooks in shad and rainbow trout colors will draw vicious strikes from these predator fish. Some walleye have been caught in the main channel as these fish feed on the injured shad. Anglers trolling small crankbaits that imitate minnows or crawfish have caught both trout and walleye. Casting Rooster Tails and Super Dupers around structure has also produced good results in the late evening before dark. Rainbow trout fishing has been very good with guided trips producing as many as 50 trout per outing. Due to the heavy current, bank fishermen are finding it hard to catch fish close to the dam. Anglers should move downstream where the current is slower and concentrate their efforts in areas where fish are resting. Nightcrawlers and redworms fished on the bottom have taken many limits of quality fish around the fishing docks. Fly fishermen are able to wade into areas and cast to feeding trout. San Juan worms and micro-jigs have been the baits of choice in the last few weeks. Trout fishing will be world class at the end of January as the stocking schedule intensifies. These fish grow at a tremendous rate and are healthy and full of fight.

Diamondhead Marina said the water is cloud and low. Bass are biting well. All other species are slow.

**Lake Hinkle:** Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said crappie are fair in deeper water on a jig-and-minnow combination. Bass are fair.

**Lake Atkins:** Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the fishing has been slow and the weather has been bad.

## EAST ARKANSAS

**Arkansas River (Pine Bluff):** The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said bream are fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is fair.

**White River:** Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said no one is fishing. No report.

**Maddox Bay:** Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is high and fishing is extremely slow.

**Bear Creek Lake:** Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said no one is fishing.

**Island 40 Chute:** Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) had no report because of the bad weather.

**Horseshoe Lake:** Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water has excellent clarity and the water level is excellent. Bream are biting well on wax worms and there are many bream anglers on the water. Crappie are fair on trolled crankbaits and jigs near the middle of the lake. The crappie being caught are good-sized fish. No report on catfish or bass.

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