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## Fishing



### Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Randy Zellers (501)223-6406, e-mail: [rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us)

#### January 14, 2009 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **January 14, 2009**. 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.

**Fishing Tip:** When bass are holding in deep water, a heavy short-armed spinnerbait can be your best friend. Cast it over the deep structure and allow it to sink to the bottom. Pump your rod tip once to get the blades moving and start a slow, steady retrieve. If that fails to trigger a strike, you can also work the spinnerbait like a spoon, casting it out and bringing it back with a lift-drop retrieve. The key is to get the bait to the bottom so it looks like a dying shad.

**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)

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## CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Conway:** Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is stained and a bit low. Bream are fair on crickets and worms. Crappie are biting well on white/chartreuse and pearl pepper jigs and worms and crickets fished around boat docks. Catfishing was good on yo-yos.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing 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 low in the afternoons with some generation in the mornings. Rapalas, Buoyant Spoons and marabou jigs are working well when the water is high. When the water is low, wax worms and chartreuse Power Eggs.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry powerhouse will generate in direct proportion to the power demands from the grids until Jan 19 (early morning releases from 6 to 9 or no releases at all). Beginning Jan. 19, both generators will be brought on line for two weeks non-stop. There is a lock and dam on the White River near Batesville, AR in need of repair and maintenance. To accomplish the work, smaller than average flows will be required from the Bull Shoals and Norfolk facilities. Greers Ferry will be used to generate and regulate the power not being provided by the other two projects. Aquatic insect hatches continue to be sparse with midges being the most prominent player. Midge hatches are occurring every day along the Little Red, mostly in the afternoons. The dry flies that are working the best include the midge (#22 or smaller in cream or black), para adams (#18-20) or crackleback (#14). Sub-surface flies that are working well are the sowbug (#14-16 olive, tan or peacock), chronic (#14), zebra midge (#16-22 red, black or copper), egg pattern (#14 salmon), red butt soft hackle emerger (#14-18), Chuck's emerger (#16), San Juan worm (#14-12 red or worm brown) and woolly bugger (#8-12 olive, brown or black).

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 461.28 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said the water temperature ranges from 46-52 degrees, but should be cooling in the next few days. White bass and hybrids are on humps and drops in 40-60 feet of water and are pushing shad up sporadically throughout the day. Watch for birds gathering to let you know the shad are near the surface and use spoons, in-line spinners and hair jigs to catch a few whites and hybrids under the shad. Black bass are still being caught fairly shallow on lipless crankbaits and shallow-running crankbaits as well as spinnerbaits and jigs. Wacky-rigged worms and jerkbaits have caught some nice larger fish. Crappie are biting pretty good in the pole timber all over the lake. Walleye are on the move and can be caught on sunny days in about 40 feet and cloudy days in about 20 feet. The coming cold front will probably put a damper on all the fishing for the next week.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said some white bass and hybrids have been caught on the surface in the morning lately.

**Harris Brake Lake:** [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is at normal levels. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair, but the ones being caught are large.

**Lake Overcup:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water was clear and at normal level. Bream are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and white Crappie Stingers or pink/white and chartreuse tube jigs. Bass and catfish are slow.

Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water is at normal level. Crappie are biting fairly well on pearl white Crappie Stingers and minnows.

**Brewer Lake:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is at normal level. Bream are fair on redworms fished near the bank. Crappie are biting well on small minnows and white/chartreuse jigs fished over brush piles. Bass and catfish are slow.

**Lake Maumelle:** [Jolly Rogers Marina](#) had no report.

**Sunset Lake:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is at normal levels. Bream are fair on crickets. All other species are slow.

**Saline River Access in Benton:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on crayfish-colored crankbaits and jerkbaits.

**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 at Little Rock:** Vince Miller from [Fish N' Stuff](#) (501-834-5733) said the water is stained and fishing is slow. Bass are fair on jigs and crankbaits in the backwater. Crappie are biting well on black/chartreuse jigs fished over brush in the backwater.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are fair around Burns Park, the Little Maumelle River and Palarm Creek

on pink minnows. Catfishing is good below Murray Lock and Dam on whole shad.

**Terry Lock and Dam:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said fishing was slow for all species.

**Clear Lake:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is clear and at normal levels. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are fair on watermelon candy-colored soft-plastics and jigs.

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

## NORTH ARKANSAS

**White River:** John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said the pattern on the White has been light generation around the clock. It is only three weeks until the Catch-and-Release section below Bull Shoals Dam opens for fishing. This event generates quite a bit of excitement in the fly-fishing community. The brown trout have been spawning in this area for the last three months and they have not been fished during that period. The state park is a perpetual hot spot with plenty of fish reported. The hot fly here has been the peach egg and various midge patterns. Be careful on lower flows to avoid walking through redds in the seasonal catch-and-release section. On higher flows, try brightly colored San Juan worms with an egg dropper. The section from Wildcat Shoals to Cotter has been a real hot spot during the last week. At low water, it has been very productive. Anglers have done well fishing a variety of flies under an indicator. Productive patterns have included brightly colored San Juan worms (cerise, hot fluorescent pink and red), peach or orange egg patterns, gold ribbed hares ears and black zebra midges (size 14). The catch-and-release section at Rim Shoals is fishing extremely well. The hot fly on lower water has been the Y2K. Olive woolly buggers stripped over weed beds have accounted for some large brown trout. Anglers have also done well on moderate flows. The hot flies for this water were cerise San Juan worms and Y2Ks. If they are running water and you want to wade, make use of the water taxi at Rim Shoals Trout Dock.

**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 652.45 feet MSL.

**Lake Norfolk:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 551.62 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 less generation on the Norfolk with significant periods of no generation every day. Last weekend, the Norfolk was off for more than 48 hours. This created some truly spectacular wading. The Norfolk continues to fish poorly due to constant pressure. The most productive times have been during the week when it is not as crowded. The go-to flies have been olive scuds and sowbugs. Worm brown San Juan worms have also produced fish. On the higher water, try San Juan worms in bright colors (hot fluorescent pink, cerise and red) with substantial amounts of weight. If you are not in the catch-and-release section try fishing a sowbug or scud as the dropper under a San Juan worm. Dry Run Creek has been fishing well as always. With school back in session and some of the cold temperatures we have experienced lately, there has been little pressure on the creek. If you get a chance to take your youngster there, it is loaded with fish. The hot flies are sowbugs and worm brown San Juan worms. Do not forget to take your camera.

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Beaver Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,120.19 feet

MSL.

**JT's Crappie Guide Service** (479-640-3980) said bass continue to bite crankbaits along chunk rock banks. Crawdad and firetiger Wiggle Warts have been effective. Bone-colored Rouges have been working on windy days around tapering points. Crappie fishing has been slow. The best places to fish have been the Sidewalk Hole, Horseshoe Bend and Monte-Ne. Red/chartreuse and black/chartreuse tube jigs on a 1/32-oz. jighead has been effective fished around brush close to creek channels and under docks. White bass are scattered but can be found in the mouths of War Eagle and Piney creeks. ¼-oz. jigging spoons have been working best. Bluegill have been under docks and hitting crickets 6-20 feet deep.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water temperature is in the low 40s. Crappie are fair on minnows fished over brush in 12-15 feet of water and on trolled crankbaits. Bass are biting well on crankbaits, jigs and spoons. Stripers are biting early on balloon rigs baited with live shad.

**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. Bream are biting well on redworms. Crappie are fair on large minnows.

**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 although it hasn't rained recently, the water was a little murky last week. Be specific about fly selection under these conditions. A snail pattern or San Juan worm in orange or red is working fairly well. Fishing this weekend was very good with a snail fly and an ostrich bugger dropper. A brown super bugger with a dropper also worked well.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Lake Monticello:** Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) had no report.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Millwood Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.34 feet MSL.

**Millwood Lake Guide Service** said clarity along the main-lake channel and Little River improved slightly. Current in Little River increased last week, and the lake is slightly above normal conservation pool. Main-lake and Little River water surface temperatures range from 48-50 degrees. Current in Little River was 3,140 CFS Monday. Main-lake clarity is 4-7 inches. All USACE boat ramps and campgrounds are open. Millwood State Park has one operational boat ramp. A few more anglers are visiting the lake on sunny days. Fishing is best during the warmest hours of the day on slow-moving Rat-L-Traps and slow-rolled heavy thumping spinnerbaits and crankbaits along the old tree line of Little River's second drop. The most consistent reaction bite remains crawling jigs over stumps, laydowns and other cover. War Eagle spinnerbaits and Bass Assassin trick worms and charm worms, around hydrilla, lily pad stems, and pondweed are working randomly. Crankbaits and jigs have begun to incite a few good bass. No report on white bass this week. A few more crappie anglers are out this week, even though the bite remains sluggish. The best area to try has been between 14 to 18 feet, suspended over planted brush piles along Little River and in front of Mud Lake entrance to Little River. Blue catfish and channel cats

remain good this week on cut shad, home-made blood bait, or chicken livers. Yo-yos hung from cypress trees near any current in 8-9 feet of water are working well.

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

**Lake Columbia:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said bream fishing is fair. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs.

**Lake Erling:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is low. No report on fishing.

**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.

Darryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said the water level is steady at 541.59 msl. The water is 48 degrees and clear. Crappie are excellent 18-22 feet deep in 24-32 feet of water on both jigs and minnows. Every guide trip last week produced plenty of black and white crappie weighing between 1.75 to 2.75 pounds. Pictures can be found on the Web site. Black bass are being caught in the same areas with the same techniques.

Lakeside Grocery said the water is up a bit and is clear. Bream are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on crankbaits and spoons in 20-30 feet of water. Catfishing is poor. Some walleye are being caught on shad-imitating crankbaits in 4-5 feet of water.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 405.53 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the water is 48 degrees and clear. There have been some fair reports of bass catches in the Caddo Drive, Arlie Moore and Big Hill Creek areas. Most are being caught on jigs and finesse worms fished in 25-40 feet of water. The jigs are ½-oz. or heavier, while the worms have been Texas-rigged with a ¼-3/8-oz. weight. There have also been several reports of bass caught on jigging spoons in Big Hill Creek in 25-30 feet of water. Try a white spoon for a variation. Best spots are on the ledges or the old creek channel. Crappie fishing is holding up pretty well with several reports of catches. Crappies are holding tight to brush in 30 feet of water. Fish over the thickest part of the brush about 20 feet down. Use a 1-16-oz. jig or tube in red/chartreuse or black/chartreuse. Fish it slowly. The best areas are between Caddo Drive and Point 15. A few bream are mixed in with the crappies. No reports on catfish, white bass or hybrids.

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

[Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina](#) said the surface temperature is 47 degrees. Largemouth bass are fair on ½-oz. cannon ball jigs with Zoom Super Chunk trailers. Watermelon seed and green pumpkin are working the best. 3/8-oz. and 1-oz. spinnerbaits are working as well. Crayfish-colored crankbaits are working decently in the upper lake and river area. Kentucky bass are fair on main lake and rocky points in 18-25 feet of water on 1/8-oz. gray hair jigs and light line. Hybrid and white bass are biting well on ¾-oz. spoons near creek channels in 25-35 feet of water. Gray jigs and shad-colored crankbaits are working fairly well being trolled on flats. Crappie are biting fairly well on Tennessee shad-colored grubs and live minnows fished around brush piles in 22 to 28 feet of water. Catfishing is slow. Bream are biting well on worms in 6-10 feet of water.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

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

[Spadra Marina](#) on Lake Dardanelle in Clarksville said crappie fishing is still strong, but the fish are on the small side near the marina. Anglers report catching 2 pounders in shallow waters and backwater areas on minnows. Bass have been fair – a recent fishing tournament out of Piney Bay had first-, second- and third-place winners fishing Spadra Creek. Catfish are still easy to find, with cut shad being the bait of choice.

**Ozark Pool:** Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is at normal level. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are slow. Catfishing is fair on shad and minnows below the dam.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 572.69 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 generation has slowed considerably in the last few days – making it much easier for boaters and waders to access areas that are holding fish. Rainbow trout fishing remains good with guided trips routinely catching 30-50 trout an outing. With the water temperature in the mid-40s, trout are feeding heavily on injured threadfin shad from Lake Hamilton. Fly fishermen casting small white streamers in the current have done well since the flow has slowed. Egg patterns work consistently and offer a nice change from the abundant dead shad in the tailrace. Bank fishermen are recording limits of trout using redworms and nightcrawlers fished under a bobber. Boaters anchoring in the current flow are catching stringers of fish by throwing Rooster Tails and Super Dupers around submerged structure. White bass are still at the dam although most are on the small side. White jigs and small spinners are hooking these fish almost at will. Hybrid and striper activity is hit-and-miss with some topwater activity being observed. Fishermen casting C-10 Redfins have hooked several fish in the 20-pound class, but most are weighing 8 to 10 pounds.

Diamondhead Marina said no one is fishing.

**Lake Hinkle:** Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said crappie are fair in 12 feet of water on jigs and minnows.

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

## SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Tri-County Lake:** Fishing has picked up at Tri-County. Many crappie fishermen are having luck on shiners and plain artificial jigs in light colors. A few large catfish were being caught on yo-yos but otherwise, not much of a change.

**Ouachita River Oxbows:** Water levels on the Ouachita River Oxbows are still a little high but some crappie anglers are catching fish on fallen tops with feather or marabou jigs. Also, many people jugging and yo-yoing some of these lakes are catching a few catfish on goldfish. January and February are prime time to bass fish these oxbows. Concentrate on backwaters with shallow-running crankbaits and 1/8- to ¼-oz. black/blue jigs.

## EAST ARKANSAS

**Arkansas River (Pine Bluff):** The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said the water is murky and a little high. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are biting well on crankbaits and soft-plastics. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

**White River:** Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said no one is fishing because of the wind and cold.

**Maddox Bay:** Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs.

**Bear Creek Lake:** Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said crappie are fair on crankbaits trolled around 20 feet of water.

**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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