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Fishing



Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **January 21, 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: Although many anglers shy away from high-visibility lines, they can be an excellent aid to detecting light strikes and keeping track of where your lure is. High-visibility lines rarely have any impact on fishing success in stained or muddy water or in areas with current. If you are fishing clear water and are afraid the bright color may affect your fishing success, tie a 3-foot leader of fluorocarbon between your line and the lure. This way, you can still benefit from the high-visibility line without spooking fish.

Arkansas River Levels are available at :

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

Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report: For information on program stockings, call toll-free **1-866-540-FISH (3474)**.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway: Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is clear and about a foot low. Bream are slow, but a few have been caught on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on small pink or silver minnows or on blue/white, pink/white or pearl white Crappie Stingers. Bass are slow. Catfish are slow.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said crappie are biting fairly well 7-9 feet deep on white/chartreuse jigs and rosy red minnows. All other species are slow.

Little Red River: [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water has cleared up quite a bit. The generators are running in the morning, but the level is staying low. Crankbaits, Rogues and Little Cleo spoons are working well in the current. Wax worms and Power Bait are working around the clock.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry powerhouse releases should be fairly predictable with a few hours of release every morning and again in the late afternoon. This information is current as of January 20th but, as always, is subject to change without notice. Large and frequent midge hatches continue to come off most days along the Little Red. Most of these tiny but tasty trout morsels are cream colored in about a hook size 26. Trout are "looking up" during a midge hatch most afternoons. The "rise rings" tell the tale. The dry flies that are working well include the midge (size 22; cream or black), crackleback (size 14) or para Adams (size 18). Sub-surface fly patterns that are attracting trout include the sowbug (sizes 14-16; tan, smoky olive, peacock or UV tan), chronic (size 14), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, copper or black), egg pattern (sizes 12-14; salmon), red butt soft hackle (size 16), Chuck's emerger (size 16), San Juan worm (sizes 12-14; red or worm brown) and woolly buggler (sizes 8-12; olive, brown or black).

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 460.52 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said the lake level is falling and the water temperature from 31 degrees all the way to 50 degrees on warm afternoons. Parts of the upper end even froze with last week's cold temperature. No report on walleye this week. Bass are still biting well on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, jigs and jerkbaits. Crappie are still biting well in the pole timber around 15-20 feet deep on jigs and minnows. Hybrids and whites are still biting fairly well in and around baitfish on jiggling spoons, hair jigs and swim baits.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) had no report.

Harris Brake Lake: [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is clear and at normal levels. Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows. Bream are slow. Bass are fair. Catfishing is poor.

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

[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.

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 Valencia: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bass are fair on minnows. Trout are biting well on redworms and Power Bait.

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

[JB's Guide Service](#) said all the cold fronts and bitter winds that accompany them are a major factor on success. Fish deep near the middle section of the lake and watch out for the cold north wind.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are fair on minnows fished in deep water. Bass and catfish are slow.

Sunset Lake: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said crappie are biting well on Tennessee shad-colored grubs in 13 feet of water. Bass are excellent in brush around 10-foot deep on small jigs tipped with a minnow. Catfishing is fair on prepared bait.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said bass are biting well on brown/orange jigs and crawdad-colored crankbaits in areas with 6 to 7 feet of water. Walleye are biting well on pumpkinseed grubs.

Lake Pickthorne: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are fair on minnows fished around brush and stumps. Bass are fair on Texas-rigged plastic worms fished in brush.

Arkansas River at Morrilton: Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said not many anglers are on the water because of the weather. Catfishing is very good in deep holes on a cocktail of shad and worms below the dam. Strippers are below the dam and are biting well on live bream fished on a slip float about 6 feet deep. Kentucky bass are biting well around the points of the jetties on vertically jigged spoons and heavy jig heads with a grub trailer.

Arkansas River in Little Rock: Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) had no report.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are fair around Burns Park, Fourche La Fave Creek and Palarm Creek in deeper water on red/chartreuse jigs. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers below Murray Lock and Dam. White bass are fair on large minnows or white or chartreuse twister tails below the dams.

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 catch-and-release section below Bull Shoals Dam will open Feb. 1. It also is nearing time for the shad kill. Threadfin shad will be drawn through the turbines on the dams. The shad are tasty morsels to the spawned out browns just below the dam and are welcome food. The shad kill produces a feeding frenzy that has to be seen to be believed. For the shad kill to occur we must have very cold conditions coupled with high generation. The gulls feeding just below the dam will signal the start of the action. The state park is fishing well. The hot fly here has been the peach egg and various midge patterns. Be careful on lower flows to avoid walking through redds. On higher flows, try brightly colored San Juan worms with an egg dropper. Some anglers have done well fishing streamers on sink tip and full sinking lines. The hot streamers have been sculpins and white zonkers. The catch-and-release section at Rim Shoals is fishing well. The hot fly on lower water has been the Y2K. Also try sowbugs, olive scuds and midges (size 14). Olive woolly buggers stripped over weed beds have accounted for some large brown trout. Anglers also have done well on higher flows. The hot flies for this water were cerise San Juan worms and Y2Ks.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said Bull Shoals is back down into power pool levels, so on cold days you can expect some generation. The bite during generation is pretty good from a boat. Clint caught a bunch of fish on Gary's River King, a more streamlined version of Jim Mengle's Ozark Sculpin. Clint was also tossing white Zonkers for some of his browns. But we have also had good reports on larger buggers in brown, olive and chartreuse. The Journal also has an affinity for Hansen's Stay Hungry Streamer in the white/gray shiner colors. Egg patterns and San Juan and Dynamite worms are good on the higher flows, on the lower water levels try midges (12-14) and sowbugs. With temperatures expected to improve there is a good chance of some lower flows.

Sportsman's White River Resort (870-453-2424) said trout fishing has been good on woolly buggers.

Crooked Creek: John Berry of [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said Crooked Creek is slow with all the cold weather and water.

Bull Shoals Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 652.96 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 550.95 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said Brrr, that's how it has been on Norfolk Lake. One day it's in the 50s, the next in the low 30s. The water surface temperature is in the low 40s. Fishing has been fair. Almost all fish had an excellent spawn last year, including the baitfish. With all the baitfish in Norfolk the fish are growing fast. There have been a lot of good keepers of all the species caught. The crappie we are catching range from 14- to 17 inches.

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

Norfolk Tailwater: John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said fishing on the Norfolk has been spotty. One day is poor and the next is excellent. The Norfolk continues to get heavy pressure as it is the only wadable water available. The most productive times have been during the week when it is not crowded. The go-to flies have been olive scuds, sowbugs and orange micro eggs. 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 the projected cold weather, be sure and bundle your youngster up. When my daughter was of age, the best day we ever had in terms of trophy trout was at this time of year. The temperature was fourteen degrees and Katherine landed a twenty seven inch rainbow. Take a break occasionally to drink some hot chocolate and warm up. 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 1,119.36 feet MSL.

JT's Crappie Guide Service (479-640-3980) said bass are still biting fairly well on crankbaits. Try a Wiggle Wart or rogue fished 5 to 15 feet deep along chunk rock banks. Windy, sunny days have been best. Crappie fishing has been slow. Most fish are shallow on sunny days. Try a tube jig on a 1/32-oz. jig head fished 4 to 10 feet deep under docks and around laydowns for best results. Monte-Ne and upstream into the rivers have been the best places to fish. Bluegill have been holding tight to bluff walls and under docks 6 to 20 feet deep and are biting crickets and worms.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water temperature is in the low 40s. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs in 15 feet of water. Bass are fair on crankbaits and jerkbaits. Some walleye are being caught on nightcrawlers and leeches if you can find them. Stripers are biting well on large shiners fished around Rocky Branch.

Beaver Tailwaters: Ken Richards at **Just Fishing Guides** said Beaver has been fishing well. The fish are in small areas and are not spread out. Once you get into fish the fishing is fast and furious. Closer to the dam, the best flies have been in light colors. Downstream, darker colors are hooking up with fish. The hot flies are still midges and scuds in various shades of gray and brown from size 12 to 18. Small woolly buggers (sizes 10-14) in olive and black also are very good.

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

HenryGrayHurricaneLake 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.

CrownLake: **Boxhound Marina** (870-670-4496) said the water is clear and at normal level. There has been no fishing activity at all on the lake lately.

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.

SpringRiver: Mark Crawford at **Spring River Fly Shop** said water levels are low. Fishing has been good with trustworthy flies like the crackleback, woolly buggie and egg patterns. On warm days, hatches of mayflies and caddis are coming up. We just need more warm weather. Spring is coming up and everyone should be getting their elk hair caddis and mayfly emergers ready. After spring rain showers heavy hatches occur on the SpringRiver and we all know how much we love to match the hatch.

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 259.51 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said clarity along the main channel in the lake and Little River improved to 5-9 inches of visibility. Main lake and Little River water surface temperatures range from 44-49 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Current decreased to 384 cubic feet per second as of Friday. All Corps of Engineers boat ramps and campgrounds are open. Millwood State Park has one operational boat ramp and one still under repair. A few more anglers have been on the water in the last few days, but fishing is still on the slow side. Bass from 2 to 4 pounds are biting slow-moving Rat-L-Traps during the few warm hours of the day. The most consistent reaction bite during the heat of the day remains on jigs crawled over stumps and laydowns. Heavy thumping white/chartreuse spinnerbaits with gold Colorado blades are working around any remaining vegetation. Crankbaits such as the Bomber Fat Free Shad in rusty craw color, or the Bandit in brown back and orange belly crawfish, are taking good keeper size bass. Don't overlook underwater points in Little River where creek junctions drop off and dump into the River. No report on white bass. A few more crappie anglers are out, but the crappie are scattered. They will be suspended in brush 26 feet deep one day, and gone the next. The best bet is to start around 15 feet deep and watch your electronics for baitfish or stacked crappie around brush piles. The Mud Lake entrance to Little River is finally getting good water clarity again.

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

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 surface temperature is 46 degrees and the lake level is 541.74 msl. Crappie and black bass in the 2-pound range are being caught on jigs and minnows 12 to 22 feet deep.

Lakeside Grocery (870-398-5304) 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 404.88 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the surface water temperature is 45 degrees. The water is clear with a slight stain above Point Cedar. Not many anglers are out, so there have been few reports on bass. Bass are still on their deep winter pattern, holding at 25-40 feet. Best producers have been a heavy jig and trailer, jiggling spoons and finesse worms. Darker colors, (on jigs and worms) are best in deep water. Look for steep drops and creek channel ledges. Crappies are fair with some being taken over deep brush 30 feet and deeper. The best producers have been 1/16-ounce red/chartreuse jigs and black/chartreuse tubes. Look for brush piles in deep coves next to points in the Caddo Drive, Arlie Moore area. Fish just above the brush. If you have trouble finding brush piles, place your own, it is amazing how quick the crappies will appear. Some reports of hybrids and white bass are coming from the Point Cedar, Shouse Ford area. Good schools are reported in 28-30 feet of water. However the fish are reluctant to bite because of the cold water. Use electronics to get over the school and drop a jiggling spoon. Keep trying and eventually one will bite. Hybrid fishing will improve if the water warms above 50 degrees. No reports on bream or catfish.

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.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said not many anglers are on the water. However, a local bass tournament was won with five fish weighing 22 pounds. All of the top teams were catching their fish on jerkbaits.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is at normal level and clarity. Crappie are biting fairly well in the backwaters.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 572.40 feet MSL.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is clear and the surface temperature is 44 degrees. Largemouth bass are fair. The best action has come on jigs and lipless crankbaits around main-lake points in water 20 to 30 feet deep. Walleye are fair on spoons fished over brush on main-lake points. Stripers are biting well on live shad and trotline minnows. Bream are slow on worms in 18 to 25 feet of water. Crappie are fair over brush in 15 to 30 feet of water. Minnows or Tennessee shad-colored crappie grubs are working the best. Catfishing is slow, but a few have been caught on cut bait fished on jug lines and trotlines.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is very good in both Blakely creeks on jigs fished around cover and spinnerbaits worked through the treetops. If you're just looking for something to pull on the rod, pickerel are on fire. Pretty much any bait with some flash worked around any vegetation or cover will catch some.

Lake Hamilton: Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is good. The most action has come on jigs in crazy pumpkin colors fished in brush piles around 8 to 12 feet deep. Crayfish-colored crankbaits worked along stump flats are working to catch a few bigger fish.

Lake Catherine: Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that rainbow trout fishing below the dam is excellent. Guided trips routinely catch 50 or more trout per trip with numbers as high as 100 caught last week. Water temperature is in the high 40s, which has allowed fly anglers casting small streamers to hook rainbows at will. The warmer temperatures have eliminated the flow of injured shad through the turbines at the dam, so the trout are hungry for any shad-imitating lure. Egg patterns offer anglers another great opportunity to catch trout as these baits act upon a rainbow trout's inborn instinct to feed on fish eggs. Bank fishermen are still recording limits by using nightcrawlers and redworms fished under a bobber. Boaters trolling the main channel during periods of generation have caught trout longer than 16 inches. Small minnow- and crayfish-imitating crankbaits are the baits of choice. Some small male walleye have been hooked as these fish prepare to spawn. Striper and hybrid action has been very spotty at best. Some topwater action has been observed as these fish feed on the trout population. Casting C-10 Redfins in rainbow trout colors will draw vicious strikes from these large predators.

Lake Hinkle: Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said no one is fishing lately.

Lake Atkins: Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the fishing has been slow and the weather has been bad. Some catfish have been caught on chicken livers.

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: Bass were biting decently this weekend on ¼-oz. jigs and light-colored crankbaits fished around 6-8 feet deep. Some people are catching crappie in running streams swimming small light-colored jigs around cover.

EAST ARKANSAS

Arkansas River at 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 biting well on crankbaits. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

White River: Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the water is clear and low. Bream are slow. Crappie are picking up on minnows. Walleye fishing is picking up and they are biting well on any minnow-imitation or live bait.

Maddox Bay: Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) had no report.

Bear Creek Lake: Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said no anglers have been on the water to give a report.

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 normal. Bream are biting very well on wax worms fished between the piers on docks. A few crappie have been caught on minnows. Bass are slow. Catfishing is good on stinkbait and chicken liver.

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