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Fishing



Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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January 28, 2009 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **January 28, 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: Want to catch some trout but can't make it to our blue-ribbon rivers? Check out the Family and Community Fishing Program and find a pond near you that's been stocked. Trout stockings take place all winter and anglers with a valid fishing license and trout permit may keep up to 5 trout per day. Visit the [Family and Community Fishing Program](http://www.agfc.com/fishing/special-programs-fish/family-community-fishing.aspx) page for more information – www.agfc.com/fishing/special-programs-fish/family-community-fishing.aspx.

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: Rainbow trout fishing has been excellent in all trout fishing ponds statewide. The anglers report that they have been having great success using yellow corn, small marshmallows, Power Bait, Trout Magnets, Rooster Tails and spinners. To increase your fishing success, fish early mornings before the sun is directly overhead or between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. For stocking information, call the Hotline at 1-866-540-FISH (3474) toll-free.

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway: Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is clear and low. Bream are fair on worms fished right on the bottom near rocky areas. Crappie are biting well on minnows fished around brush. Bass are fair on soft-plastics fished around brush. Catfishing is fair on night crawlers.

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) had no report due to weather.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry powerhouse has been releasing water since midnight, Jan. 23. Aquatic insect hatches continue with midges leading the way. The most effective dry flies are midge (size 22 or smaller in cream or black), para adams (size 18) or crackleback (size 14). Sub-surface attractors include sowbug (sizes 14-16; tan, olive, UV tan or peacock), chronic (size 14), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, black or copper), egg pattern (sizes 12-14; salmon or roe), red butt soft hackle (sizes 14-18), San Juan worm (sizes 14-12; red or worm brown) and woolly bugger (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 460.23 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) had no report.

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

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

Lake Overcup: Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) had no report.

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

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

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 it may be cold, but there are periods when the fishing is hot. The crappie are moving slow, but just be patient and they will come.

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 the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are biting fairly well in 12 to 15 feet of water on live bait. Bass are fair in 12 to 15 feet of water on jigs fished around brush and rocks. Catfish and crappie are slow.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is clear and low. Bass are biting well on minnows fished from the bank in 4 to 5 feet of water. All other species are slow.

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.

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.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is clear and at normal level. Crappie are fair on minnows fished below Terry Lock and Dam. Bass are fair on jigs fished in the backwater below Terry. Bream and catfish are slow.

Clear Lake: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bas are fair on jigs fished in deep brush piles. All other species are slow.

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 the water is clear and low. One to two generators are running during the day. Trout fishing is good on Power Bait, wax worms and in-line spinners.

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 654.16 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 551.71 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. Don't 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 1,118.60 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass have been biting best along sloping chunk rock banks and

windblown points with timber. Try a bone-colored Rogue or a crawdad or green Wiggle Wart in these areas. A jig-and-pig is another option along chunk rock banks. Crappie fishing continues to be tough, but a few keepers are coming in on warm, sunny afternoons and biting red/chartreuse or black/chartreuse tube jigs worked slowly around laydowns and brush. Best fishing has been from Monte-Ne upstream into the river arms. Bluegill continue to bite under docks 6 to 25 feet deep on crickets and worms. White bass have been suspended around 20 to 30 feet deep on main lake points from Point 12 upstream. Jigging spoons will work once you locate a school.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is clear and the surface temperature is in the low 40s. Bream are very slow. Crappie are fair on jigs and minnows fished around brush in 10 to 15 feet of water. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and crankbaits around deep cover.

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. Crappie are fair on large minnows around deep structure. Bass are biting well on grubs.

LakeFrierson: [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is muddy and low. Fishing is slow for all species.

SpringRiver: Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) had no report.

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 259.89 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said clarity along the main channel in the lake and Little River improved to 6-10 inches of visibility. Main lake and Little River water surface temperatures range from 45-47 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Current increased to 1,180 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. Fewer anglers were on the water with the cold weather last week. Bass fishing was best during the warmest part of the day on slow-moving Rat-L-Traps and spinnerbaits in shad-imitating colors. Red Rat-L-Traps are beginning to catch some prespawn females. Bass Assassin trick worms and charm worms, wacky rigged, around hydrilla, lily pad stems and pondweed are working randomly but again, the key is to fish slow. Don't overlook underwater points in Little River where creek junctions drop off and dump into the river. The jig bite is slow but steady with the best colors being peanut butter/jelly, black/blue/purple and pumpkinseed/chartreuse. Pitching jigs and 8-inch worms to stumps near deep water along Little River is working

for the occasional bite. White bass have not been caught with any regularity during the last two weeks. Try buck-tailed jugging spoons fished in deep holes in Little River may produce some around 20 feet deep. Crappie remain scattered. The best bet is to start around 15 feet deep and watch your electronics for baitfish or stacked crappie around brush piles. Mud Lake entrance to Little River is finally getting good water clarity back again. Channel cats and blues have been caught on trotlines and yo-yos last week. Chicken livers, cut shad, Charlie, cottonseed cake and hot dogs were working near current along Little River.

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: Daryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips](#) said the current lake level is 540.75 MSL, and it's falling slowly. SWEPCO's Narrows Dam generation schedule this week is 6 hours per weekday and none during the weekend. The water temperature is holding in the mid-40s. Crappie and bass continue holding in a winter pattern around the 20-foot range. Walleye, stripers and white bass should be running up the river.

Lakeside Grocery (870-398-5304) said the water is clear and the surface temperature is 45 degrees. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows around brush in 14 to 15 feet of water. Bass are fair. All other species are slow.

DeGray Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 404.63 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the water is 43 to 45 degrees and clear.

Fishing has been pretty slow and not many anglers are out. There have been a few reports of bass coming from deep ledges, creek channels and points. Dark jig-and-trailer combos and green pumpkin finesse worms are working fairly well on the bottom in 25 to 40 feet. The best area has been between Arlie Moore and Shouse Ford. Also try a 3/4 to 1 ounce jugging spoon. Crappies are still in their winter pattern which is deep brush (30 feet). Small red/chartreuse or black/chartreuse 1/16-oz. jigs and tubes are still working best. Fish slowly, just above the brush. The bite will be very light, so pay attention. The hybrids and white bass are still in the Point Cedar area. However, there have only been a few reports of any being caught. They feed very little in the cold water. The best pattern is to use a jugging spoon and jig just off the bottom at about 25 to 30 feet. Most fish are off the bottom about 15 feet down, but these suspended fish will not bite. Just be persistent and stick with the "bottom" fish and you will catch a few. Try white or chartreuse spoons. No reports on catfish or bream.

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 1/2-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 3/4-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.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is fairly clear and at normal levels. Catfishing is fair on worms. All other species are slow.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 572.28 feet MSL.

Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said bass fishing had improved before the weather on Deep Little N's and on football jigs.

[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: Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said bass are biting fair to good on red Rat-L-Traps fished around brush.

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 is smoking hot below Carpenter Dam. Guided trips routinely catch 30 to 50 fish with numbers close to 100 not uncommon. Trout over 18 inches have been caught and released with the majority of fish measuring 12 to 14 inches. Chilly temperatures have kept many from fishing; however, excellent fishing opportunities can be had in Hot Springs. Water temperature dips into the low 40s at Carpenter, so anglers should dress warmly. Due to the winter drawdown, fly fishermen can easily wade to areas that hold good numbers of trout. Small white streamers and micro-jigs fished under a strike indicator have taken many fish as they feed on threadfin shad. Brightly colored San Juan worms are also a deadly presentation in areas with current. During generation, bank fishermen record limits of fish by casting Rooster Tails and Super Dupers around structure. Nightcrawlers and wax worms floated off the bottom with marshmallows give anglers the chance to hook quality trout. Boaters trolling the main channel with small crankbaits have caught good numbers fish when the turbines are turning. Male walleye are present in the tailrace and the larger females should arrive in the next several weeks. The striper activity has been absent.

Lake Hinkle: Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said the water is clear and the surface temperature is close to 40 degrees. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. All other species are slow.

Lake Atkins: Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) had no report.

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 the water is cloudy and the water temperature is dipping into the high 30s at times. Bream are fair on worms and crickets fished from the bank. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs fished over brush and stumps in deep water. Bass are fair on jigs and soft-plastics around deep stumps and other sorts of cover. Catfish are biting well on cut bait and worms.

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 risen slightly and the water has a good color to it. Bream are slow, but a few have been caught on wax worms fished around piers. Crappie are slow on minnows slowly trolled around the middle of the lake. No report on any other species.

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