

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Randy Zellers (501)223-6406, e-mail: rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us**April 8, 2009 Edition**[Read this newsletter online](#)

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **April 8, 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 the fishing report is updated every Wednesday, conditions may change between the time the information was gathered and the next weekend. A cold front or high winds can kill the bite, and a series of sunny days may turn fish on in a lake that was reported to be slow. Keep an eye on the weather and use your own judgment.

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: Catfish are in Community fishing ponds statewide. Nightcrawlers fished just off the bottom on a slip cork or on bottom with a bell sinker are working well. For more stocking information, call the Hotline at 1-866-540-FISH (3474) toll-free.

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CENTRAL ARKANSAS**Lake Conway:**

Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said redear are biting well on redworms fished near the bottom. The bluegill have not cranked up yet. Crappie are biting well on minnows hung from yo-yos. Catfishing is fair on yo-

yos and trotlines baited with prepared baits. No report on bass.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said the lake is at normal level. Bass are fair on white/chart spinnerbaits. Crappie have been fairly spotty. Bream are biting fairly well on redworms and wax worms. Catfishing has been fairly good.

Little Red River:

Lindsey's Resort (501-302-3139) said two generators are running all day, but fishing is good from a boat. Drifting a nightcrawler or Power Bait below a float is working well. Casting spinners and Rapalas also is working well.

Jed Hollan at the **Little Red Fly Shop** said the Greers Ferry Powerhouse has been releasing copious amounts of water non-stop since March 30. The lake is near the preferred maximum (top power pool) of 461.44 feet above mean sea level and releases should soon be reduced. Instead of the 24 hour releases they've been doing, releases are now from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wade fishing is possible at Winkley Shoal (Swinging' Bridge) and Libby Shoal each morning until the high water arrives (around 9:30 at Winkley and 11 at Libby).

Greers Ferry:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 461.94 feet MSL.

Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service said the water is dropping and the surface temperature is 57-65 degrees. Bass have slowed and are between spawning and staging with the water level and temperature changing so much. Spinnerbaits, jighead worms and wacky-rigged worms will take a few in front of any brush. A few are still coming on jerkbaits and Wiggle Warts as well. Whites and hybrids are moving into the river again, and can be caught on anything resembling a shad. Catfishing is good on dog food. Crappie are biting well on main lake cover. The walleye bite is fair on the main lake.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said the water was extremely rough last week from all the wind. The Arkie Cup bass tournament was still held, and most of the anglers caught fish. Crankbaits and jigs fished on secondary points worked fairly well.

Harris Brake Lake:

Coffee Creek Landing (501-889-2745) said the water is high. Bream are fair. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair. Catfish are slow.

Lake Overcup:

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

Overcup Landing (501-354-9007) said the water is murky and about 1 foot high. Bream are fair on redworms. Crappie are fair on small minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on shallow-running crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on cut bait.

Brewer Lake:

Overcup Landing (501-354-9007) said the water is high and murky. Bream are fair on redworms and wax worms. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and jig-and-pig combos. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad.

Lake Maumelle:

Jolly Roger's Marina said the water level is 3 inches above the spillway. The water temperature at the west end is really an up and down. The average now is 61 degrees. At this temperature the White are up and the Blacks Bass are getting on the beds. Black bass have moved from deep water to the shallow areas and are hitting on jerk baits and jigs. Black Bass Friday and Tuesday night tournaments have begun. Kentucky bass are fair in deep water on tubes and jigs. White bass are good. The spring run has slowed from cold temperature. The west end of the lake, around chimney and on the west side of the bridge still have some life. Crappie are biting well 11 to 15 feet deep, movement is to shallower water, on minnows and 1/32-oz. jigs. Bream are about 25 to 30 feet deep but are starting to move around the docks. Bream are being caught on worms and crickets. Saugeye are fair 15 to 20 feet deep on Road Runners and jigs. Catfishing is fair on worms and prepared baits in 25 to 30 feet of water.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high. Bream are fair. All other species are slow. A

few crappie have been caught on live minnows, white 1/16-ounce Road Runners and Beetle Spins.

Lake Valencia:

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said catfishing is good on chicken hearts and nightcrawlers. All other species slow.

Sunset Lake:

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is murky and at normal level. Bream are biting well on jigs fished 5 to 10 feet deep around brush piles. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs fished around shallow cover. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and Texas-rigged lizards worked near shallow cover. Catfish are fair on chicken liver and stinkbait.

Saline River Access in Benton:

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are biting well on worms, crickets and jigs fished around shallow brush. Crappie are biting well around shallow brush on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits bumped along woody cover near the bank. Catfishing is fair on stinkbait and chicken liver.

Arkansas River at Morrilton:

Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said last weekend's wind kept anglers off the water again. Below locks 9 and 10, catfish were biting well on whole shad. Spotted bass are biting well on Carolina rigs and minnows fished under a light sinker. Stripers and white bass are moving into the major creeks, such as Flagg Lake Cutoff and Coppers Gap. Lipless crankbaits are catching some white bass in these areas.

Arkansas River in Little Rock:

Vince Miller from **Fish 'N Stuff** said the wind has finally died down, but it kept most anglers off the water last weekend. Fish should be moving to the backwater to spawn.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high and muddy. Backwater areas near the main channel are the only areas producing any fish. The main channel is too dangerous to fish right now. Catfish are biting very well behind the wall at Burns Park on live bait and stinkbait. Bass are fair in backwater areas on white/chartreuse spinnerbaits. Crappie are biting well in backwater areas on small twister tails and live minnows. Bank anglers are catching white bass on CC spoons, Gay Blades and chartreuse twister tails below Murray Lock and Dam.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) no one is fishing, and the small craft advisory is still in effect.

Clear Lake:

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is high and muddy. Crappie were biting well on minnows in 1 to 2 feet of water before the last cold front. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits in 2 to 3 feet of water.

Peckerwood Lake:

Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said bream fishing is slow. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits worked around wood cover. Catfishing is slow on worms.

Pickthorne Lake:

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high and muddy. Crappie were biting well last week on pink minnows. All other species were slow.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River:

John Berry from **Berry Brothers Guide Service** said the lakes in the White River system have all risen and all are currently above power pool. The pattern on the White was for heavy generation around the clock. Water

levels for boating have been excellent. The big story has been the return of high water. The caddis are still coming off but with six or seven generators going on the White and two running on the Norfolk, there is little if any top-water action. Local anglers reluctantly put away their four-weight rods and dry flies and pulled their heavier rods and high-water flies out once again. It is imperative that you not fish with a chain on water this high. It could grab the bottom and swamp your boat. The most effective way to fish during the past week has been to drift brightly colored San Juan worms and egg patterns. You need to use very long leaders and a lot of lead. Forget the small split shot. Use AAAs and heavily weighted flies. If you are not occasionally hanging up on the bottom, you are not doing it right. Of course, if you are using a lot of additional weight, you will need to use a very large strike indicator. The other killer technique is to bang the bank with large streamers on sink tip or full sinking lines. Several anglers have reported success with large streamers. The upper river at the Bull Shoals Dam catch-and-release area has been productive. There has been a lot of traffic here especially on the days after significant rainfall. When the water downstream is muddy or stained, you can always find clear water at the base of the dam. Rim Shoals has also been productive. Remember that this is the one place that has wadable water as long as the flows are below 17,000 cubic feet per second. The only way to access them is by boat. Arrange for a shuttle by water taxi at Rim Shoals Trout Dock.

Sportsman's White River Resort (870-453-2424) said the water is running high from generators running round the clock. Fishing from a boat is good with pink Power Bait and Little Cleos.

White River (From Buffalo Shoals to Norfolk):

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) the last 10 days have been extremely difficult. Eight generators on at Bull Shoals and two on at Norfolk dam have added to the difficult fishing. Normally when the bite gets tough you can still go to the bottom with Power Bait and enjoy success.

Crooked Creek:

John Berry of [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said the water below Crooked Creek and the Buffalo River has been muddy and has not fished well. Fishing on Crooked Creek has improved as water temperatures climbed to fifty eight degrees. However, recent rain has muddied up the creek and it will take several days to clear.

Bull Shoals Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 653.20 feet MSL.

Bob Pauletti (870-656-3350) with [Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock](#) said fishing has been fair this week with water temperatures in the 50-52 degree range in the backs of creeks and 49-50 degrees on the main lake. Quality largemouth are being caught on steeper banks in the creek arms using stick baits, crankbaits and spinnerbaits with a little wind. If it's calm, slow down with a Carolina or mojo rig with a 4-inch worm, lizard or gitzit. Spotted bass and smallmouth have been active on the same baits; look for these fish further back in the creek arms. Crappies up to 2½ pounds are being brought in to the dock, work live bait or small jigs over brush piles for these fish. White bass are being caught on Road Runners, Beetle Spins, and minnow baits. Look for these fish in the backs of major creek arms. Walleye have been far and few.

Lake Norfolk:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 551.59 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said the water temperature is in the upper 50s. The water is clear to stained in the upper parts of the lake from the rain. Striper fishing has been fair at night using stick baits. Walleye fishing has been fair at night using stick baits fished along the shore. Crappie fishing has been fair this past week using minnows and tube baits. Bluegills are starting to hit crickets and worms. Bass fishing has been good. White bass fishing has been fair.

Norfolk Tailwater:

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said there has been heavy generation on the Norfolk with some brief periods of no generation. There was no generation on Sunday. The fishing on the Norfolk has been slow. When the water was down last Sunday, the White was high and the Norfolk was backed up far up stream from the Ackerman Access. Quarry Park fared a bit better and was fishing well. On the higher water, use the same high water tactics as on the White River. Dry Run Creek has fished particularly well during the past week, even when it was high and muddy. When the water was low and clear, the most productive fly was a sowbug.

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) said the fishing is just as slow on the Norfolk tailwater as it is on the White River. A Rattling Rogue in Blue/Silver/Orange will produce nice Browns, but only a few on an all-day trip.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,120.95 feet MSL.

JT's Crappie Guide Service (479-640-3980) said bass have been biting well on spinnerbaits fished slowly around laydown trees and buckbrush. When the sun is up, try a Texas-rigged lizard or worm fished along chunk rock banks. Crappie have been biting well on either a minnow or a black/chartreuse jig under a float 1-3 feet deep. Fish visible cover for best results. Bluegill have also been biting well 1-5 feet under a float on small jigs or crickets in the same areas as the crappie. Whites are hit-and-miss but should be thick by the weekend up either river arm and should be willing to bite anything that resembles a shad no larger than 2 inches.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said bream are biting fairly well on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs in 2 to 3 feet of water. Bass are biting well on jigs, Carolina rigs and crankbaits fished near main lake points and channel swings. No report on catfish.

Beaver Tailwaters:

Ken Richards at **Just Fishing Guides** said fishing has been a little slow. Trout are biting near the surface on midge emerger patterns. Soft hackle flies have been working as well. Midge pupae, sowbugs and scuds are working well under a strike indicator. When all else fails, tie on a woolly bugger in olive and black and work it along the bottom.

Lake Fayetteville:

Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is murky and cold. Bream are slow. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on soft-plastics fished 12 to 15 feet deep around steep drops near the bank. Catfishing is slow.

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 reports the front gate to the WMA is closed and the water is high – 30 feet at the Augusta gauge, but has crested. The entrance campground is full of campers and anglers. Anglers are catching plenty of bass, crappie and catfish on Hurricane Lake, Little Hurricane Lake, Honey Lake, Big Bell & Little Bell, and Glaise Creek. For the yo-yo fishermen, medium crappie minnows (3-4") have worked well. Catfish continue to be caught using stink bait, large minnows and a few crawfish. Campers without boats have been fishing up and down the road to the closed gate and around the first bridge with the flood gates open. A few have caught catfish on the south side in the current using nightcrawlers and chicken liver.

Lake Charles:

Lake Charles State Park (870-878-6595) had no report.

Crown Lake:

Boxhound Marina (870-670-4496) said the water is 55 degrees and dingy. Crappie are fair and improving. Bass are fair and improving. The wind was too rough most of the week.

Lake Frierson:

Lake Frierson State Park said the wind has kept many anglers off the water. Crappie are fair on minnows and

jigs. Catfishing is good on worms.

Spring River:

Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) said water levels are low and water clarity is fair. Fishing has been most productive on streamers and nymphs. High stick nymphing on the bottom of the river is the key. Trout have so many food sources on the Spring River that they do not have to go far for food. Trout tend to stay on bottom and let the current bring the food to them.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot:

[Lakeshore Motel and Marina](#) (870-265-9901) said the bass are on the beds, and many big bass were caught over the weekend. Crappie are still trying to spawn and are doing well on minnows and jigs. Catfish are doing well on minnows and stinkbait. Some good bream have been caught in Ditch Bayou on crickets.

Lake Monticello:

Fishing guide Greg Gulledge (870-723-3928) of [MonticelloBigBass.com](#) said bedding activity is still very spotty. There are some, but you really have to look for them. It seems like there are more fish that in the midrange depth of about 5 to 8 feet. Soft plastics are a good choice. Senkos, Brush hogs and lizards in watermelon seed and green pumpkin have been hard to beat. There are still some shiner fish to be caught, if you are patient. The fishing is good, but not great. There have several 9-pound-plus bass caught in the last few days.

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 multiple cold fronts shut down the bite last week. Surface water temps are back in the upper 50s. The best bite is during mid-day. Rat-L-Traps, lizards, War Eagle spinnerbaits and large worms and jigs are still the go-to baits. Many buoys are missing and the Corps of Engineers must wait on near normal water levels to replace them. Extreme caution is needed when boating. Main lake and Little River water surface temperature is 55-61 degrees. Current increased to 6,299 cubic feet per second on Monday. Main lake visibility is 3-6 inches away from any remaining current in Little River. Largemouth bass were making drastic improvements and were well on their way to spawning before the last cold front hit. Many male largemouths are conducting bedding activities upriver. The big Bass bite is still prespawn with the large females staging. The best bite is still on slow, ¾-ounce Rat-L-Traps and slow-rolled spinnerbaits in the stained or muddy water and bulky 10-inch worms. The best Rat-L-Trap colors are Toledo Gold, Millwood Magic and Red Shad in clearer water and Firetiger and Red Coach Dog in muddy sections. The best spinnerbait bite is on Spot Remover, Hot mouse and white/chartreuse War Eagle spinnerbaits fished very slowly. Soft-plastic Bass Assassin Shads are beginning to take a few 14-18-inch largemouths around hydrilla, lily pad stems, and pondweed. Dead-sticking a trick worm or Senko is also working. White bass returned upriver near the Highway 71 bridge and creek mouths until the cold front, then disappeared. They should come back with some warmer weather. Use ½-ounce Rat-L-Traps in Millwood Magic or Diamond Dust for the best results. Crappie almost totally shut down with the increase of current and muddy water in Little River. The bite should improve on Blakemore Roadrunners in McGuire and Horseshoe oxbows if the surface temps climb late this week. Channel catfish are still feeding very well near current along Little River on trotlines and yo-yos hung under cypress trees with cut bait, Charlie and chicken livers.

White Oak Lake:

Local angler John Tilley said it was another fine week at White Oak, even with the changing weather conditions. Bass up to 7 lbs. were caught. Some prespawn and some post-spawn caught on Texas-rigged craws fished very slowly in shallow water. The wind made fishing difficult but well worth the effort. Crappie and bream are sparse but can be caught in post-spawn locations. The weather outlook and moon phase are calling for a very good week of fishing. Be careful on the lake and good luck.

Lake Greason:

Daryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips](#) said the water level is 547.02 msl and the water temperature is in the upper 50s in the mornings and lower 60s in the afternoons. Bass and Crappie are trying to spawn, but are very scattered. Both have been caught as shallow as 18 inches and as deep as 18 feet.

DeGray Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was 407.93 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said surface temperatures are in the high 50s and the water is clear. The unseasonable cold the past few days has really slowed the fishing. Late last week the crappie spawn was in full swing with spawning crappies being caught in the shallow pockets and the post-spawn fish deeper around standing timber. Bass were biting well in the shallow coves and in shoreline brush. The cold pushed crappie and bass to deeper water. Crappie are buried in brush piles between 18 to 20 feet deep. Fish a 1/16 ounce jig in the thickest part of the brush. Tenn. shad grubs are working as are live minnows. Also try standing timber in water up to 30-feet deep. A few bass, (mostly Kentuckies) are being caught at the mouths of small coves in about 12 to 15 feet of water. Look for breaking fish in the morning and evening. Try small crankbaits, swim baits and Rooster Tails. No reports on white bass or hybrids, but now is the time they will start to move back down the lake. Look for shad schools and breaking fish between Cox Creek and Point 15.

[Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina](#) said the water temperature is 57 degrees. Bass are biting well on football head jigs in watermelon seed and green pumpkin. Spinnerbaits and Rat-L-Traps are also working around any grassy cover you can find. Windblown pockets are a good place to find some of the fish taking advantage of the concentrated nutrients and baitfish. Catfishing is fair on jugs and trotlines baited with cut shad. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets in 4 to 8 feet of water.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) had no report.

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS**Lake Dardanelle:**

Regina Olson at [Spadra Marina](#) said fishing has been slow. Catfish have been biting well when the water is running. Water temperature is back down to about 55 degrees. Crappie are still 2-4 feet deep, and when you find the right hole you can expect to get about 6 or 7. We haven't seen very many daily limits in a few weeks now. Weekend bass tournament winner was 17 lb stringer weighing 5 fish – we have seen much better.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is muddy and high. The high wind kept most anglers from fishing.

Ozark Pool:

Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are slow. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs fished around shallow cover. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits around brushy cover. White bass are fair on jigs and minnows fished around rocky areas. Catfishing is good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

Lake Ouachita:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 577.38 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is excellent with fish cruising pockets. Brightly colored floating worms are working well. Stripers are hit-and-miss. Crappie are excellent and are on the beds.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is 55 to 58 degrees and clear. Largemouth bass are excellent and can be caught on Rat-L-Traps and white spinnerbaits fished along the outside edge of the moss. Carolina-rigged lizards and speed craws are hot fished on main and secondary points. Yum dingers and floating worms are effective right now fished in coves. Walleye are biting well on crankbaits and jerkbaits up the river channels. These fish are finishing spawning. Stripers are very good on live bait with shad or trotline minnows. Wild eye shad baits and gray hair jigs are working well. Top-water action is just starting to pick up. Bream are good with worms or crickets in 18-25 feet of water. Crappie are still very good and being caught over brush. Try brush in water 15-30 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are working best. These fish are beginning to move up on the moss to spawn. Tennessee shad and white are the best colors for artificial baits. Catfish are

still fair and being caught on cut bait and live bait on jug lines and trotlines.

Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports said the lake is 5 feet below the roots of the buckbrush. The surface temperature is in the upper 50s with some pockets and creek runoffs holding 60-degree water. Most of the lake is clear, but most of the creeks are stained due to the fresh rain. The trick is to find new growth, green moss. A lot of the lake has old brown moss that the fish are not in. Look for green moss in the middle section of the lake. It is holding more and better fish. A spinnerbait fished in the backs of creeks is working as well. The warmest pockets on the north side of the lake are producing some good fish on floating worms.

Dave Lindhag from **Striped Bass Adventures** said stripers are beginning to pick up, or were before the cold and wind. The best places to find the fish is around main points with timber on them. The South Fork has produced good numbers of fish, but the size is lacking. Main lake points are producing larger fish, some up to 40 pounds. Most all of the action has come on live shad, sinkered down to the level of the suspending stripers.

Lake Hamilton:

Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports said the lake is full and warming slowly through the upper 50s. With a warm week it could be in the low 60's by Sunday. The water color is clear in some areas and muddy in others. The surface is cluttered with leaves, sticks and other debris. Spinnerbaits are working well around the trash. Also try a ½-ounce Rat-L-Trap on the flats in the afternoons when the sun warms them. A floating worm is getting better as the water warms. White bass are staging and running up all creeks.

Lake Catherine:

Shane Goodner, owner of **Catch'em All Guide Service**, reports that high winds have kept many fishermen off the water for the past several days; however, the rainbow trout bite remains very good. Most good fishing is when the turbines are not running. As spring weather nears, insect hatches are on the rise which has caused the trout to actively feed on the available bugs. Fly-fishermen casting woolly buggers and micro-jigs in black and green under a strike indicator are having good success targeting the rising trout. Small white streamers have taken some of the larger trout as injured shad are scarce in the warmer temperatures. Egg patterns are the best bet. Bank fishermen continue to record limits on wax worms and meal worms under a bobber. Corn with a marshmallow floater is another deadly combination often used at Carpenter Dam. Crappie fishing has been slow, but as the weather stabilizes, the bite will return. Since there is no wood at the dam for the fish to spawn around, the crappie find areas protected by rock and sand and congregate in those regions. The walleye spawn is over, but fish are still present in the area as they rest and feed up in preparation to migrate downstream to the main lake. White bass are mixed in the crappie schools and are being caught with white jigs and Rooster Tails. Striper fishing has been hit-and-miss below the bridge in the main channel. These fish follow the shad schools and are hard to pattern until the weather gets more predictable. April is the start of the freshwater drum migration to the dam. Huge females from 20 to 40 pounds will inhabit the area and can be caught on crawfish and nightcrawlers.

Lake Hinkle:

Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said bream and white bass are biting well. Crappie are fair on minnows in 10-12 feet of water. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is fair.

Lake Atkins:

Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets fished off the bottom. Crappie are fair on minnows fished 10 to 12 feet deep around brush. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and soft-plastics fished around brush in 5 to 7 feet of water. Catfishing is fair on bass minnows.

SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

MoroBay:

Moro Bay State Park had no report.

Tri-CountyLake:

No report.

Ouachita River Oxbows:

Water is over the banks and fishing is dead slow.

EAST ARKANSAS

Arkansas River at Pine Bluff:

The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said the water is high and muddy. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well in the backwater on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on crankbaits. No report on catfish.

White River:

Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the water is muddy and very high. No one is fishing.

Maddox Bay:

Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is muddy. Fishing is slow for all species except catfish. Catfish are biting well on trotlines baited with store-bought catfish dough.

Bear Creek Lake:

Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said the high winds kept most anglers off the water. The few that went out didn't do very well.

Island 40 Chute:

Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water is high and no one is fishing. The river should fall in a few weeks and fishing should improve.

Horseshoe Lake:

Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and around 70 degrees. Bream are biting well on worms fished around lily pads in shallow water. Crappie are biting well on medium-sized minnows and black/chartreuse jigs fished 20-inches below the surface around deep cover. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits fished around cover on the bank. Catfishing is good on worms.

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