

## Arkansas Game &amp; Fish Commission

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## Fishing

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Randy Zellers (501)223-6406, e-mail: [rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us)**April 29, 2009 Edition**[Read this newsletter online](#)

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **April 29, 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 netting a fish, always try to place the net in the water and guide the fish into it headfirst. If you scoop the fish from behind and touch the fish's tail, it may dart away. If you are practicing catch-and-release, use a soft cloth or rubber net and wet it before guiding the fish into it.

**Arkansas River Levels are available at :**[http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao\\_rvrs.txt](http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao_rvrs.txt)**White River Levels are available at :**[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status\\_white.shtml](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status_white.shtml)

**Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report:** 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. Many of the ponds are full of bream as well. Crickets fished under a bobber will catch plenty of bream. For more stocking information, call the Hotline at 1-866-540-FISH (3474) toll-free.

[Central Arkansas](#)[North Arkansas](#)[Northwest Arkansas](#)[Northeast Arkansas](#)[Southeast Arkansas](#)[South Central Arkansas](#)[Southwest Arkansas](#)[West-Central Arkansas](#)[East Arkansas](#)**CENTRAL ARKANSAS****Lake Conway:**

Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said water is stained and down to normal level. Bream are biting on worms, crickets, and wax worms. Crappie are biting near cypress trees on minnows and chartreuse jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and dark-colored lizards. Catfish are biting well on trotlines with trotline minnows and live

bream.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said all species were biting well before the rain. The lake is high and muddy and fishing is hit-or-miss.

#### **Little Red River:**

**Lindsey's Resort** (501-302-3139) said one generator is running and the water is clear. Trout are biting excellently on Power Bait, corn and crankbaits. Fly-fishermen have been productive since the water level is down.

Jed Hollan at the **Little Red Fly Shop** said Greers Ferry Lake finally dipped below top power pool for the first time in weeks and, barring heavy rain events, we should soon be experiencing fewer and smaller water releases. If it doesn't rain heavily in the first part of this week, Greers Ferry will be shut down for sluice gate repair from Monday morning until 8:00 o'clock am on Wednesday. Aquatic insect hatches continue to be large and frequent. This is good news for both the trout and the anglers. Midges, caddis flies, March browns, sulphurs and BWOs are the primary players. The best dry flies to try include the midge (size 22 or smaller; cream), elk hair caddis (sizes 14-20; tan), American March brown (size 14), BWO (sizes 18-20), parachute Adams (size 18), para sulphur (sizes 14-18) and crackleback (size 12). Productive sub-surface flies include sowbug (sizes 14-16; tan, UV tan, UV gray, peacock and smoky olive), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, copper or black), copper john (sizes 14-16; red or green), San Juan worm (sizes 12-14; red or fl. cerise), pheasant tail (size 16), red or green @ss soft hackle (sizes 14-18), hare's ear (sizes 14-16), egg pattern (sizes 12-14; roe or salmon), chronic (size 14) or 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 461.74 feet MSL.

**Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service** said the water is rising and the surface temperature ranges from the 70s in the north section of the lake to the high 50s in the south section. Bass are scattered all over the lake and are in all stages of the spawn. They will still bite jerkbaits, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and jigs in shallower water and Carolina rigs and jighead worms in deeper water. Some fish are being taken on top-water lures as well. The crappie are still biting well in shoreline brush and standing pole timber on jigs and minnows. The bream have started to move shallow and are being caught on crickets and pieces of nightcrawlers. The catfish bite has died. White bass and hybrids can be caught in the lake now and some are still upriver. Hair jigs, spoons, in-line spinners and jerkbaits will catch a few white bass. Walleye fishing is good and will get better as the water continues to warm and the fish move from spawning areas to main-lake areas. Dragging a nightcrawlers or trolling a crankbait over rocky flats in the main lake will pick up a few walleye.

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

#### **Harris Brake Lake:**

**Coffee Creek Landing** (501-889-2745) said the water is about a foot high and clear. Fishing is slow for all species.

#### **Lake Overcup:**

Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water level is up. Bream are fair on redworms and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and chartreuse jigs. Bass are slow. Catfish are biting very well on nightcrawlers and crayfish.

**Overcup Landing** (501-354-9007) said the water is clear and a little high. Bream are good on crickets and wax worms near the banks. Crappie are slow but catchable in 6-8 feet of water using minnows. Bass are good on spinnerbaits, buzzbaits and jigs. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut bait using trotlines and noodles.

#### **Brewer Lake:**

**Overcup Landing** (501-354-9007) said the water is a little high and clear. Bream are good near the banks on redworms and wax worms. Crappie are doing good near brush piles. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and cut shad hung from yo-yos and trotlines.

#### **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 clear and normal. Bream are good on redworms and crickets. Crappie are good on minnows. Bass are biting well on jigs and spinnerbaits. Catfish are good on nightcrawlers and large minnows.

#### **Lake Valencia:**

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is stained and at normal level. Bream are good on redworms. Crappie are good in shallow water on minnows. Bass are good in shallow water on minnows. Catfish have just been stocked and are excellent on nightcrawlers.

#### **Sunset Lake:**

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is good and running at a normal level. Bream are biting well on crickets fished 8 feet deep. Crappie are doing fairly well on Tennessee shad-colored 2-inch grubs. Bass are excellent on watermelon/red flake trick worms and 5-inch green pumpkin lizards. Catfish are good in shallow water on chicken liver and Magic Bait.

#### **Saline River Access in Benton:**

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is fairly clear and at normal level. Bream are slow and crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on Rebel crawdad crankbaits and pumpkinseed finesse worms. Catfishing is fair to good using live bait.

#### **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 there is not much to report. The water is muddy and flowing high. Some crappie are being caught on jigs. Catfish are fair on worms.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is clear and normal. All species are biting well around Burns Park. At Murray Lock and Dam, bream are hitting redworms in 2 feet of water; crappie are biting well on white/chartreuse jigs; bass are biting fairly well on chartreuse spinnerbaits; and catfish are biting well on skipjack, shad and large minnows. Bass are also biting well at Fourche La Fave on spinnerbaits. Bass are biting well on jigs with a pork trailer around Fourche Creek and on spinnerbaits and crankbaits in the back of the Maumelle River and Little Maumelle River. Palarm Creek is producing good numbers of bream on redworms and catfish on cut bait.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is high and muddy and nothing to report for Terry Lock and Dam.

#### **Clear Lake:**

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is high and clear. Crappie are good on chartreuse jigs and minnows. Bream are fair in 1-2 feet of water on crickets and wax worms. The bass are good in a foot of water using white/chartreuse spinnerbaits. Nothing to report on catfish.

#### **Peckerwood Lake:**

Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said the water is clearing, but is still dingy and high. Bream are fair to good on crickets. Crappie are almost through spawning and are fair to good on jigs. Catfish are fair to good on live minnows. No report on bass.

**Pickthorne Lake:**

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the bream are good on redworms. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and minnows. Catfish are biting well on nightcrawlers and stinkbait

**NORTH ARKANSAS****White River:**

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said the pattern on the White was for a significant generation with a few brief periods of no generation. The catch-and-release section below Bull Shoals Dam was red hot last week. Many high-quality rainbows and browns were caught, with high water producing the best fishing. The most productive flies were San Juan worms in hot fluorescent pink and red and egg patterns in orange and peach. Other flies that were amazingly effective were shad patterns. During moderate generation, several anglers reported substantial success on midge patterns. The most effective were zebra midges in black with silver wire and silver beads and in red with silver wire and silver beads. The best sizes were 14-16. We got one afternoon of low water and the fishing was spectacular. There was a good caddis hatch. The trout keyed in on the emergers rather than the adults and the action was nonstop. The green butt soft hackle was particularly effective before and during the hatch. Wildcat Shoals has been another hotspot. Anglers have reported great success when fishing moderate flows. The hot fly has been an egg pattern in orange. Rim Shoals fished much better last week. During higher flows, the hot flies have been San Juan worms in hot fluorescent pink and Y2Ks. During the recent period of low generation, the action was hot and heavy. During the caddis hatch, the action was nonstop on caddis emergers. There were several anglers that reported success fishing size 14 green elk hair caddis.

Sportsman's White River Resort (870-453-2424) said the water is clear to murky with four generators running. The trout are good on Power Bait and worms when the water is low and small lures when it's medium. During high water, brown bream-colored Rogues and Rapalas are working from a boat.

White River (From Buffalo Shoals to Norfolk):

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) said from Shipps Ferry down to Reds Landing the fishing has really turned on. You can catch plenty of fish on the bottom with Power Bait. Jigs and Rapalas have been working very well. Larger fish are coming from the Rapalas. Quite a few have been in the 18- to 24-inch range. Fly-fishing has been working as well. Look for any area that has faster running water that simulates a "run" and you will find the trout. Dark green Woolly Buggers work the best and produce the larger fish.

**Crooked Creek:**

John Berry of [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said fishing on Crooked Creek has improved as water temperatures climbed. However, our recent rain events have 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 656.56 feet MSL.

Bob Pauletti (870-656-3350) with [Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock](#) said fishing on the lake has really improved, with water temperatures in the 60- to 65-degree range in the backs of creeks and 58 to 60 degrees on the main lake. Walleye are being caught in the evenings and early mornings on stick baits fished around main-lake points and pockets. During the day, try live bait a little deeper around productive points and pockets. Largemouth bass have moved to spawning areas. When it's windy, try stick baits, crankbaits and spinnerbaits. If it's calm, a Carolina-rigged or mojo-rigged 6-inch lizard or 8-inch finesse worm will work well. Smallmouth and Kentucky bass are spawning. Try jigs, tubes and Carolina rigs around slightly deeper gravel areas for these fish. Crappie are slow. White bass are hanging in deep water and are in creek pockets chasing shad throughout the day.

**Lake Norfolk:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 553.83 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said the water surface temperature ranges from the mid-50s in the main lake to the upper 50s in lake arms and creeks. Crappie fishing is good using minnows with small split shot or a jig with your favorite grub. The crappies have been in the 12- to 16-inch range. Bluegill fishing has been good using worms

and crickets. Largemouth bass fishing has been good using crankbaits, a jig with your choice of trailer and flukes. Smallmouth bass fishing has been fair. Kentucky bass fishing is good. White bass fishing has been good. Striper fishing is fair, with suspending stick baits producing the best along the shore at night. Walleye fishing is fair. Catfishing has been fair.

#### **Norfolk Tailwater:**

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said Generation on the Norfolk has been very limited which has created some excellent wading opportunities. Fishing has been slow. It has been wadable on most days and the pressure has been extremely heavy. It has not fished well on high water recently. If you must fish higher water, the hot fly has been a hot pink or cerise San Juan worm. On lower water, the hot flies have been sowbugs, black zebra midges and olive woolly buggers. There have been some good midge hatches in the afternoons on lower water. The hot midge fly has been Dan's turkey tail emerger. Long 6X tippetts are the key to success. There have also been caddis hatches in the afternoons, but they have been sporadic.

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) said fishing is still slow, but somewhat better than in previous weeks. The constant rise and fall of the water has made fishing difficult.

## **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**

#### **Beaver Lake:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,121.29 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass fishing has been excellent. Spinnerbaits, crankbaits and worms have been working. Try fishing close to the bank for best results. Crappie have been biting black/chartreuse tube jigs or minnows under a float set 1 to 2 feet deep around fallen trees near the bank. Whites have been in the backs of coves and biting anything that resembles a minnow. Bluegill have been biting small jigs and crickets under a float 1 to 3 feet deep close to trees and rocks.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is stained and about a foot above normal. Bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are biting well in shallow water on minnows and jigs. Bass are good on Rooster Tails, Lil' Fishies and jigs. No report on catfish.

#### **Beaver Tailwaters:**

Ken Richards at [Just Fishing Guides](#) had no report.

#### **Lake Fayetteville:**

Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is white-capping and the wind is still bad. The fishing is not very good. Several crappie have been caught, but they have been small. Bass are biting fair on jigs. Catfish are fair on chicken liver and cut bait.

#### **Lake Sequoyah:**

Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said the water is clear and normal. Bream are good on worms and crickets. Crappie are good in 10 inches to 4 feet of water near logs and stumps on minnows and Road Runners. Bass are biting well near the bank on spinnerbaits and plastic worms. Catfishing is slow.

## **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 main gate to the WMA is still closed. Some good size redear are being caught at the main entrance on the south side of the gates. The main road was covered by anglers of all ages during the weekend. Hurricane is still producing well with yo-yos for bass and crappie using medium-sized minnows. Bolie Pond was reported to have had nice catches of bream and crappie also. Along Glaise Creek, out of the main channel and in the woods, trot-liners are wearing the catfish out using crayfish, chicken livers, large minnows and cut bait. Some anglers were able to get

through the trees blocking Glaise Creek and had a lot of fun catching skip jacks and drum at the spillway gates at Whorl.

#### 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 normal. There is no report on bream or catfish. Crappie are fair in 10-15 foot of water on minnows and bass are slow on plastic worms.

#### Lake Frierson:

[Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is murky and high. Bream are slow. Nothing to report on crappie. Some hybrid bass have been caught on minnows. Catfish are good on minnows.

#### Spring River:

Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) said rains are forecast again, but the recent rains have not muddied up the river. During the last few weeks, the best fishing has been on the worst days. Sunny, warm days usually have slow fishing and on rainy days the fishing can be unbelievable. The brownie has still been the top fly but Sunday morning was a day for traditional nymphs such as a beaded pheasant tail or copper john.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

#### Lake Chicot:

[Lakeshore Motel and Marina](#) (870-265-9901) said the water is warming. Catfish are biting very well on shrimp, nightcrawlers and minnows. Bream are biting well on wax worms and crickets in 5 feet of water. Crappie are still being caught close to the bank and around docks. No report on the bass fishing.

#### Lake Monticello:

Fishing guide Greg Gulledge (870-723-3928) of [MonticelloBigBass.com](#) said bass have been coming up to spawn in small waves and there are still some coming. There are still decent numbers of fish on the beds. The strong southern wind has hampered the sight fishing in certain spots, so you really have to pick your time and place carefully. There are many postspawn bass to be caught as well. This bite should only improve during the next few weeks. Bedding bass can be caught on jigs, almost any visible soft plastic, and swim baits. The postspawn fish are being caught on Senkos, floating worms, and lizards. The live bait bite is still kicking, with salties and waterdogs both being effective. The top-water bite should develop in the next few weeks.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

#### Millwood Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.50 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said Monday, April 27, surface temperature ranges from 62 to 68 degrees. The water clarity in the main lake has slowly improved with the reduced current. (5,031 cfs at the dam). Main-lake visibility is 3 to 6 inches away from the current. Bass are becoming more aggressive and are in the spawn and postspawn stage. Many large bass from 7 to 12 lbs. have been caught and released in the last 2 weeks. The best bite continues to be during the warmest hours of the day, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on slow-moving, ¾-ounce Rat-L-Traps and heavy thumping spinnerbaits. The best Rat-L-Trap colors have been Toledo Gold, Millwood Magic and or Red Shad. Bandit crankbaits in brown back/orange belly crawfish patterns are beginning to take some keeper size bass in the 4-5 pound class as well. Soft-plastic Bass Assassin Shads and wacky-rigged Senkos, trick worms, or Charm Assassins are working when dead-sticked around vegetation. The frog bite has not turned on for Largemouth Bass as of this week, and is still a few weeks out for a consistent reaction on a frog. White bass are still congregated upriver near the Highway 71 Bridge and creek mouths like the entrance to Mud Lake, Hurricane Creek, the mouth into second entrance to Horseshoe and other creeks dumping into Little

River. Rat-L-Traps in Diamond Dust, Millwood Magic and chrome/chartreuse back, Rooster Tails, Little Georges, and Rocket Shads are working well. Crappie almost completely shut down when the current increased, but have begun to improve on live shiners where the water was clearing. Channel Cats are still feeding very well in and around current. Trotlines and yo-yos hung under cypress trees with cut bait, hot dogs, homemade blood bait and Catfish Charlie are working excellently.

#### **White Oak Lake:**

Local angler John Tilley had no report this week.

#### **Lake Greeson:**

Daryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips](#) said the lake level is 547.6msl and likely to rise a small amount with the rains. Water temperature is in the upper 60s in the morning and lower 70s by the afternoon. Some crappie and bass are still spawning, but most can be found on staging beds near spawning areas. Minnows and jigs have produced well.

#### **DeGray Lake:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was 408.53 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the water is clear and the surface temperature is in the high 60s. Crappie fishing is still fair with most of the fish on main-lake points. Look for points with standing timber, rock or other cover. The fish are about 10 feet deep, next to cover. Water depth is not important because the fish are suspended next to the standing timber. Use a 2-inch Tennessee shad-colored grub on a 1/16-oz. jighead. The south side of the lake is best now because it has more standing timber and rocky points. Bass are really scattered because of the lack of vegetation on many of the points. A few decent catches are coming from the south side of the lake between Brushy Creek and Iron Mountain. Look for rocky points and wood cover. Texas-rigged worms and spinnerbaits are the best bets. Try a top-water bait in the morning and evening. May is a good month for top-water fishing. Bream fishing is good. Try secondary points in 10 to 15 feet and use crickets or redworms. Hybrids and white bass are scattered. The shad are starting to school in shallow water, so hybrid fishing should improve. The best areas are the mouth of Brushy Creek and between Point 14 to Shouse Ford. Look for breaking fish and throw a spoon, heavy in-line spinner or swim bait into the school.

[Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina](#) had no report.

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

## **WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

#### **Lake Dardanelle:**

Regina Olson at [Spadra Marina](#) said the Lake Dardanelle Big Bass Classic last weekend produced some nice fish. Several 4 and 5 pounders weighed during the tournament came from the upriver end of the lake. Fishermen reported doing best on Texas-rigged lizards and brightly colored buzzbaits. Crappie are still doing moderately well. Mill Creek and Little Spadra are still producing near limits. Catfish have slowed. Shad have been hard to find for almost 2 months, but have started back in recently.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said high wind advisories and high current have kept many anglers off the water.

#### **Blue Mountain Lake:**

Teresa at CD's Quick Stop (479-947-2178) said the water is muddy and the fishing has been slow.

#### **Ozark Pool:**

Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is murky. Bream are fair on nightcrawlers and crickets. Crappie are good on minnows and jigs. Black bass are good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. White bass are at the mouths of creeks and are being caught on minnows and jigs. Catfish are good on cut bait, minnows and nightcrawlers.

#### **Lake Ouachita:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 579.17 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from **Poorman's Guide Service** said bass fishing is still excellent. The bass have almost finished spawning and are beginning to suspend in nearby creek channels. Anglers should be able to find some breaking fish in the mornings. When the surface action is over, try jigs and Sweet Beavers fished around creek channel drops.

**Mountain Harbor Resort** had no report.

**Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports** said the lake is 5 feet above the roots of the buckbrush. The water surface temperature is in the mid-60s in most of the lake with the pockets and creeks in the upper 60s in the afternoons. It will warm fast with the sun, wind and warm rain runoff. Most of the creeks are stained from the rain. Find new, green moss and you'll find fish, especially in the middle section of the lake (between Spillway Bay and Pollard Creek). Also try a spinnerbait in the backs of creeks. A floating worm is producing in pockets on the north side of the lake. White bass are running in most of the major creeks. Crappie are in 5 feet of water and most people are commenting on how big they are. Try a Kalin's Tennessee Shad-colored grub in clear water, and lemon meringue in stained water.

Dave Lindhag from **Striped Bass Adventures** said stripers are biting well. The South Fork area is producing well, as is Twin Creek, Point 16 and Striper Point down to Point 19. Some light breaking action has been seen in the evenings. Some larger fish are being seen in the main lake.

#### **Lake Hamilton:**

**Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports** said the lake is full and warming slowly through the mid 60s. With the warm nights, it could be in the upper 60s by the end of the week. The water is clear in some areas and muddy in others from rain. There is still some floating leaves, twigs and logs, so be on the lookout when running your boat. Bass are biting fairly well on spinnerbaits fished around brush piles and floating mats of debris. Wacky-rigged floating worms are producing excellently in the guts of pockets near the main channel. White bass are running up all creeks.

#### **Lake Catherine:**

Shane Goodner, owner of **Catch'em All Guide Service**, reports that Lake Ouachita is still in the flood pool and constant generation is occurring at our area dams. Boaters are advised to use caution when navigating the tailwater of Carpenter Dam until the heavy flow has subsided. Water temperature is holding at 54 degrees and is clear. Rainbow trout fishing has slowed because of the strong current, but the fish are present and can be caught by bank fishermen and fly-fishermen. Wax worms and meal worms fished on the bottom or under a bobber have caught the most fish as the trout search for prey other than threadfin shad. Boaters trolling small crawfish crankbaits have done well as the warmer water has enabled the crawfish population to begin spawning. Fly-fishermen are still able to wade to key areas that hold trout and are hooking fish on San Juan worms in bright colors. Egg patterns have been hot lately as trout feed on the spawn of crappie and white bass which are everywhere in the shallow water. Large female crappie are still being caught on minnows and jigs next to the dam in areas out of the current. Likewise, white bass are being taken by trolling crankbaits and casting Rooster Tails in the main channel. Stripers over 20 pounds are cruising the tailrace, chasing trout and shad and have been caught with live brood shiners or gizzard shad. As the water continues to warm, more striper activity will be seen in May and June. Huge freshwater drum are plentiful below the dam and are being caught on nightcrawlers and crawfish.

#### **Lake Hinkle:**

Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said the water is normal and clear. It's been raining a lot but and there is not much to report on bream. The crappie are doing really good on minnows and jigs. Bass are doing well on spinnerbaits, crankbaits and minnows. Catfish are being caught near the bank using chicken liver and crickets.

#### **Lake Atkins:**

Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) 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-plastic worms fished around brush in 5 to 7 feet of water. Catfishing is fair on bass minnows.

## **SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

### **Tri-County Lake:**

High water and rain kept fishing slow. With some warm, calm weather fishing should improve.

**Ouachita River Oxbows:**

High water continued to slow fishing last week

**EAST ARKANSAS****Arkansas River at Pine Bluff:**

The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said the water is a little high and murky. Bream are biting well on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Catfish are biting well on worms and cut bait.

**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 clear and a little high. Most species are slow. Crappie fair on minnows hung from yo-yos. Catfish are fair on minnows.

**Bear Creek Lake:**

Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) had no report.

**Island 40 Chute:**

Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water is still 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 normal. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets around the shallow grassy areas. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs fished in the shallows. Bass are biting well on white spinnerbaits fished around cover on the bank. Catfishing is good on cut shad.

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