



Fishing

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Weekly Fishing Report
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
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May 7, 2008 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **May 7**. 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: Many fly-fishermen use sink-tip lines to get streamers or nymphs down to trout feeding near the bottom in fast current. Here's a cheaper and more convenient way. Tie a section of lead-core trolling line between your fly line and a 3-foot mono leader. Use a short piece to sink a fly in shallow water, a longer one in deeper water.

Arkansas River Levels: According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as of Tuesday the Arkansas River stages are:

Trimble Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 13): Headwater – 388.69 feet, Tailwater – 387.93 feet, Flow – 133,270 cubic feet per second

Ozark Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 12): Headwater – 371.39 feet, Tailwater – 354.75 feet

Dardanelle Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 10): Headwater – 337.93 feet, Tailwater – 303.58 feet

Ormond Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 9): Headwater – 285.99 feet, Tailwater – 283.50 feet, Flow – NO READING AVAILABLE

Toad Suck Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 8): Headwater – 266.21 feet, Tailwater – 266.54 feet

Murray Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 7): Headwater – 247.23 feet, Tailwater – 239.93 feet, Flow – 162,957

Terry Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 6): Headwater – 230.05 feet, Tailwater – 226.67 feet, Flow – NO READING AVAILABLE

Sanders Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 4): Headwater – 194.54 feet, Tailwater – 193.76 feet

Hardin Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 3): Headwater – 183.21 feet, Tailwater – 182.05 feet

Mills Dam (Dam 2): Headwater – 160.77 feet, Tailwater – 150.82 feet, Flow – 167,628 cubic feet per second

White River Levels: According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, as of Wednesday the White River stages are:

8.2 feet at Calico Rock (flood stage – 19 feet)

9.4 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)
21.7 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)
31.9 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)
22 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)
28.9 feet at Clarendon (flood stage – 26 feet)

Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report: Catfish are now available in selected ponds around Arkansas. To increase your fishing success, be sure to have good fishing line on your reel (6-pound test and stronger), fish early mornings or late afternoon and try using chicken livers, worms or stinkbait fished near the bottom of the ponds. Bream are becoming more active in the ponds. Try worms and crickets near brush tops or 3 to 5 feet deep in ponds for better success. For more information on stockings, please call toll-free 1-866-540-FISH (3474).

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway: Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well in the afternoon on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows in 6 to 9 feet of water. Bass are being caught on plastic worms. Catfish are biting well on any bait.

Dan Zajac at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said bream are continuing to bite well on crickets and worms. Crappie are fair around cypress trees. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and soft-plastic worms and tubes. Catfish are biting well on trotlines baited with shiners and green sunfish.

Little Red River: [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water is clear and high, with heavy generation. Fishing for trout is very good on Power Bait, corn, spinnerbaits, Rapalas and wax worms.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said Greers Ferry Lake continues to hover near the top flood pool level. The U.S. Corps of Engineers said the flood gates will be opened if flood pool is reached. Meanwhile, water releases continue around the clock, averaging the equivalent of one full generator. Larger releases are desired, but the White River is still too high downstream. Fishing the Little Red River in high water is definitely possible from a boat. Guide trips at the shop are continuing and trout are being caught and released. Be sure to wear a life jacket if you launch a boat. Sub-surface flies are most productive in high water. The sub-surface flies that are working the best include San Juan worms (#14-#18 peach, orange or red), gold-ribbed hare's ear (#14-#16), copper john (#14-#16 red or green), sow bug (#14-#16 light gray or tan), zebra midge (#16 red or chartreuse) or woolly buggie (#4-#12 olive or brown). Most any heavy fly that is brightly colored or has flash will work. If you elect to tie on a dry fly, try an elk hair caddis (#14-#16 tan), Adams (#18-#20), midge (#22 cream or black) or American March brown (#14). Dries work best when presented to the trout during a hatch.

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 485.31 feet MSL.

Shiloh Marina said the water is still very high, but some walleye have been caught on large minnows around trees.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said the water is falling and the surface temperature ranges from 61 to 70 degrees. White bass and hybrids are still upriver and biting well on grubs, Road Runners and jerkbaits. A few bream are biting in the main lake on nightcrawlers. Crappie fishing is picking up on jigs fished close to the brush. The best action is coming from Choctaw Basin, Hill Creek and all three river arms. Walleye are hit-and-miss, and it seems like the main-lake walleye have not spawned yet. The river-run walleye have spawned but have not set up on the flats like usual. Bass fishing continues to improve, but the spawn seems a bit behind. A few largemouths are on beds, and smallmouths are just pulling up to prepare beds.

Harris Brake Lake: [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water has cleared up and the lake is almost back to normal level. Bream are fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are still hit or miss. Bass are biting well on minnows and artificial lures. Catfishing is good on goldfish or bream.

Lake Beaverfork: The City of Conway Parks and Recreation Department said the water is murky and a little high. Crappie are good on minnows.

Lake Overcup: Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water is dingy and at normal level. Bream fishing is good on red worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Catfishing is good on shad and nightcrawlers.

[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said water conditions are normal. Bream are picking up on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and dark brown jigs. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. Catfishing is very good on large minnows and nightcrawlers.

Brewer Lake: [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is still high and all species are slow right now.

Sunset Lake: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said water conditions are normal. Bream are good on

crickets. Crappie are biting well in shallow water on 2-inch lemon-colored grubs. Bass are excellent on watermelonseed lizards and floating worms. A few catfish have been caught on liver.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the river is normal. Crappie are biting well on red/chartreuse Road Runners around brush piles. Bass are biting well on crankbaits and pumpkinseed finesse worms.

Lake Maumelle: [Jolly Rogers Marina](#) said the lake level is 0.2 feet above the spillway. Largemouth bass are biting very well in 3 to 6 feet of water. They've finished their spawn, but are still shallow. Carolina rigs and spinnerbaits are working the best. Kentucky bass have been mixed in with the largemouths. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs along the banks in 4 to 10 feet of water. Bream are excellent on worms and crickets, with worms working the best. Fish shallow cover and docks for the best success. Catfishing is good on prepared baits in 10 to 15 feet of water. Jolly Roger's will be hosting a catfish tournament this weekend to take advantage of the plentiful cats in the lake. Call the marina for details.

Brewer Lake: [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is still very high and dingy. All species are slow right now.

Arkansas River in Little Rock: Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said the water is still high with strong currents. Bass can be caught in the backwaters on spinnerbaits and lizards.

Little Maumelle River: Josh Jeffers at [Pinnacle Mountain State Park](#) (501-868-5806) said the water level is receding and the surface temperature ranges from 65 to 70. The water visibility and clarity is low. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie are biting fairly well on shiners and black/chartreuse 1/8-ounce crappie jigs. Bass are biting fairly well on small chartreuse/white spinnerbaits and small Texas-rigged creature baits. Catfish are biting well on night crawlers.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are being caught around the bridge on crickets. Bass are good on flukes and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on yo-yos and trotlines with cut bait.

Palarm Creek: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream fishing is good on crickets and redworms. Crappie are fair on pink minnows.

Murray Lock and Dam: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are biting well on red or chartreuse jigs and minnows with a slip-cork rig. Catfishing is good snagging or bait fishing. Stripers are biting well on large silk chartreuse twister tails. White bass are fair on CC spoons.

Pickthorne Lake: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are good in shallow water on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on slip-cork rigs. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits early and late. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and chicken hearts.

Terry Lock and Dam: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said catfish are the best thing going on large minnows.

Clear Lake: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is stained and high. Bream are biting well on crickets in 4 to 6 feet of water around the banks. Crappie are fair on pink minnows. Black bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and black jigs around logs.

Peckerwood Lake: Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) had no report.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River: [John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said although the reservoirs on the White River system have fallen, they remain precariously close to the top of flood pool. The pattern on the White has been to run all eight generators around the clock. In addition they opened the flood gates and ran 13, 000 additional cubic feet per second (the equivalent of four additional generators). They also ran the flood gates on Beaver and Table Rock. All have now been shut down. There have been a few brief periods of wading opportunities on the Norfolk River at night but none on the White. On the higher water, boating conditions have been excellent. Most boat ramps on the White River are now usable. Great care should be taken when launching or loading your boat during heavy generation. The use of a personal flotation device is highly recommended when boating on heavy water. Fishing on the White has been tough. The water has been so high most anglers have avoided it all together. A few brave souls have fished the upper White with some success, particularly the Catch-and-Release section below Bull Shoals dam.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said it will be a while before you hear no generation on the White, but if no more torrential rains hit, we're hopeful that we won't see any more spillway flows. There will be some very good fishing from a boat over the next weeks. High water can produce growth rates of around an inch a month. And with the super-size buffet of drowned worms, decaying warmwater fish and more during times the floodgates were open these fish should be stacking on the weight. There is no better time to catch a trophy White River fish than during

high water. It's a good bet to start with fly patterns from Wotton or Wilkinson. The Dynamite Worm has been one of Davy's little secrets until he let it slip last month. The Sunday Special has been a go-to fly for Clint for a good while, and if you had been one of his clients there is a good chance you had it on your rod at some stage. If you aren't fishing in a catch-and-release zone, try a double rig with the Dynamite Worm trailing the heavier Sunday Special.

Sportsman's White River Resort said the water is clearing up, but eight generators are running around the clock. Trout fishing has been very good on small red or purple worms with heavy sinkers. Rogues and Rapalas are also very good.

Bull Shoals Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 693.62 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 578.35 feet MSL.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said the water is muddy and high. Crappie are biting well on the banks on minnows. Stripers are being caught in 25 to 30 feet of water on flukes and Stump Jumpers. A few catfish have been caught on jugs with minnows.

101 Grocery and Bait said fishing is good. The surface water temperature ranges from 61-64 degrees. Walleye fishing has been good on live bait, spoons and Rogues fished around 6-10 feet deep along bluffs and main-lake points. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and small chrome dome jigs. Striper fishing is good, and most are being caught using live bait and your favorite stick bait. Bass fishing has been fair. Catfish has been good using limblines and live bait with rod-and-reel. Sunfish are starting to hit on wax worms and crickets.

Norfolk Tailwater: [John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said with the water on the White River extremely high, the action was centered on the Norfolk River. The traffic was incredibly heavy. With the ramp at Quarry Park destroyed by recent flooding and the ramp at the confluence flooded by the additional water coming through the flood gates at Bull Shoals dam, the only place to launch boats on the Norfolk was off the side of the road leading to the confluence ramp. This is a tricky place to launch and at times the spot got quite congested. Patience prevailed and I heard of no mishaps. Despite the extremely crowded conditions, the fishing, while not hot, was steady. The key to success has been to use conventional high-water tactics. Large, brightly colored San Juan worms (red, hot pink, cerise and fire orange have all been productive) and brightly colored egg patterns. One tactic that helped produce fish was the use of a dropper in the sections of the Norfolk that were not designated Catch-and-Release. A small nymph can be attached to the bend of the hook of the San Juan worm by a 24-inch tippet with a couple of simple improved clinch knots. A good nymph to use for this technique would be the copper john. Our most reliable mayfly hatch of the year is the sulphur. They regularly hatch in May and June and the nymphs should be coming more active in the coming weeks. Use the copper wire variety in size 14. It is a dead on imitation of the sulphur nymphs. Other good nymphs to try would be olive scuds or black zebra nymphs in size 14. Dry Run Creek as usual is fishing very well. The hot fly has been the worm brown San Juan worm in smaller sizes. Other productive patterns have been sowbugs, olive woolly buggers, egg patterns and Y2Ks. While you are there take a tour of the National Fish Hatchery. It is fascinating and educational. Be sure and remove your waders before entering the hatchery to prevent the spread of aquatic diseases.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,128.71 feet MSL.

JT's Crappie Guide Service (479-640-3980) said bass have been biting well on spinnerbaits fished along the points and in the flooded timber. Sight-fishing is at its best in the Indian Creek arm and in the back of the Cliftys. Crappie fishing is the same, slow and tough. Try a minnow under a cork in the flooded timber around 2 to 6 feet deep in the White River and War Eagle arms. White bass action has slowed and the fish have moved back to the main lake. Stripers are scattered and the bite is slow. Fishing live shad around Point 12 has produced well. Catfishing is excellent across the lake.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are fair in 6 to 8 feet of water on minnows and jigs. White bass are fair in shallow water on crawfish.

Lake Fayetteville: Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said water is dingy and at normal level. Crappie are scattered and are being caught on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and crankbaits.

Lake Sequoyah: Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said the water is clearing up and at normal level. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on minnows.

Sugarloaf Lake: Midland Minimart (479-639-9467) said all species are slow.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Charles: Brenda Mans at [Lake Charles State Park](#) (870-878-6595) said the water level is 6 inches high and the surface temperature ranges from 64 to 65 degrees. Water clarity is 12-inches. Bream are biting well on jigs. Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows, and crappie candy. Catfish are biting on minnows. No report on bass.

Crown Lake: [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on red worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and small jigs. Bass are biting well on small spinnerbaits and plastic worms.

Lake Frierson: [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is high. All species are slow.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot: Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is good on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and silver jigs. Catfish are being caught on soap.

Grand Lake: Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said all species are slow.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

Millwood Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.95 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said the main lake and Little River's surface temp ranges from 63 to 75 degrees, depending on location and time of day. The water clarity is improving away from the current. There is still much debris coming down the river. Along the river and main lake, is beginning to improve. Discharge/ Release Rate at the spillway of 18,048 CFS. Most bass are still pre-spawn in the lake. Jigs, 10-12-inch worms, magnum lizards large Rat-L-Traps and magnum tubes continue working well on the bass. Overall the bass bite continues improving. Fish are slowly recovering with lake level reaching closer to normal pool. The most aggressive bite remains on jigs in black/blue, black/blue/purple, Bass Assassin Shads in baby bass or bubble gum pink, Trick Worms and Senkos in watermelon-red, top-water toads, and big bulky Rat-L-Traps. Southern Pro Fattbutt Tubes (with rattles) in black/red flake are still working in off-colored water. Siefert's Buzz Baits, in bubblegum/black, or black/red near newly emerging lily pads, in the clearest water you can find, are drawing good reactions from big fish, as long as you use a trailer hook. Spot Remover/orange and hot mouse-colored War Eagle spinnerbaits are taking some decent largemouths around flooded vegetation and cypress trees, away from current of the river, close to deep water. Some nice White Bass were caught adjacent to creek mouths dumping into Little River, just inside the current breaks above White Cliffs. The crappie bite, took another major improvement this past week. The big crappie have been caught under cypress trees on live shiners, red/white or white/chartreuse jigs during the last few weeks. The good news continues for blue catfish and channel catfish. Catfish are good, using dog food, cut shad or Charlie on trotlines and yo-yos along the river and in oxbows hung from cypress trees in 9-11 feet of water near river current. Bream are beginning to bite well along the banks on crickets and redworms around docks and cypress trees. White/chartreuse or white/yellow popping bugs on fly rods, remain catching nice redear. Longnose gar remain relatively shallow and are cruising in large numbers, making excellent targets for bowfishermen.

Cossatot River: Davy Ashcraft at [Cossatot River State Park](#) (870) 385-2201 said the water level is 2.48 feet according to the USGA. The surface temperature ranges from 60 to 65 degrees and the water is a bit stained. Bream are biting fairly well on worms and crickets in 3 to 4 feet of water. Smallmouth bass are biting fairly well on green pumpkin finesse worms and crawdad-colored Crain baits around cover in deeper pools around 4 to 5 feet deep. Largemouth bass are slow, but a few have been taken on dark-colored finesse worms and grubs fished slowly through deep cover. Catfishing is slow with some catfish being taken on live perch. Most of the catfish are being caught just above the Highway 278 bridge south to Gillham Lake. To experience the fishing on the Cossatot at its best, make a call to Cossatot River State Park Visitor Center and schedule a fishing kayak tour.

Lake Columbia: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Bream are the best thing going, with worms and crickets producing the best results.

Lake Erling: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfish are being caught on liver and nightcrawlers.

White Oak Lake: [White Oak Lake State Park](#) said the water level is stable and the water is warming up slowly. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are slow, but a few have been caught on live minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on surface poppers. Catfish are biting well on live and artificial baits hung from jugs.

Lake Greeson: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 547.74 feet MSL.

Lakeside Grocery said the water is murky and at normal level with water temperature at 75 degrees. Bream fishing is fair on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and small jigs. Bass fishing is very good in shallow water on topwater lures and plastic worms. Catfishing is good on trotlines and jugs with stinkbait or large minnows.

DeGray Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 407.80 feet MSL.

[DeGray Lake State Park](#) said the black bass are being seen paired up in the shallows. Bream is starting to move in, with some starting to hit crickets, but they're still on the small side. The catfish are starting to come in a big way from the bank to 15 feet of water, including a 37-pound flathead caught on a noodle. The hybrids are breaking more now than they have in the last three years; they are coming up and staying longer while schooling the shad. The water temperature is 62 degrees, down 5 degrees from last week, but warming in the shallows. Clarity is dingy from the high water but clearing slowly.

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Dardanelle: Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is muddy and high. Bass are good in shallow water on top-water lures. Catfish are biting well on shad.

Blue Mountain Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 408.91 feet MSL.

CNC's End of the Line (479-947-2398) said the water is murky and high. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on lures. Catfish are being caught on worms and chicken liver.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is muddy and high. Bream are fair in the creeks on nightcrawlers and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Black bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfish are being caught below the dam on cut bait, nightcrawlers and minnows.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was 577.84 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said walleye are excellent. Many big walleye are being caught on spinnerbaits, jigs and jerkbaits over the grass. Bass are biting very well with larger fish coming on crankbaits and a jig. Bass are on the points and creek turns. Stripers are improving, but are still spotty.

Dave Lindhag of [Striped Bass Adventures](#) (501-760-6474) said the water is warming and clear. Stripers are in the creek mouths and on the points. Live gizzard shad are working well when freelined. All sizes of stripers are biting well, but larger fish are biting best on 10 to 18-inch shad. Most of the fishing is over by 9:30 in the morning and doesn't pick up again until 4:30 in the evening. Some stripers are being caught in 20 to 30 feet of water on trolled umbrella rigs in the mornings.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is 62 to 64 degrees and clearing. Largemouth bass are still biting very well on YUM Dingers, floating worms and Carolina rigs. Walleye are biting very well, and are being caught on jerkbaits over main-lake points. Stripers are still excellent on live bait and top-water action is excellent right now with C-10 Redfins. Bream are biting very well on crickets or worms in 10 to 20 feet of water. Crappie are good and being caught over grass and brush. Try large moss flats and brush in water 10 to 20 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are still working best. Tennessee shad and white are the best colors for artificial baits. Catfish are excellent and being caught on cut bait and live bait on jug lines and trotlines. Several large fish have been caught this week.

Lake Catherine: Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that the tailrace is now clear and the lake level is back to its normal summertime level. The surface temperature is 56 degrees and drops to 51 as you arrive at the dam. Despite almost two months of storms and statewide flooding, the rainbow trout population is alive and well below the dam. The trout are healthy and feeding heavily on the threadfin shad schools that are migrating towards the dam. Fly-fishermen are catching limits of trout on streamers and micro jigs in white or grey with the best results during periods of generation. Boaters are landing trout in the 2- to 3-pound range by trolling the channels with small crankbaits that run 4 to 6 feet deep. Shad or crawfish imitators work best as both of these creatures are a prime food source for all the fish that inhabit the tailrace. Spin fishermen are recording limits of fish by casting Roostertails and Super Dupers in brown and silver in areas of current. Bank fishermen using corn with a marshmallow floater quickly hook trout that mistake the corn for fish eggs. Rainbow trout have

an inborn instinct to feed on fish eggs and any fishermen that does not take advantage of this fact is missing a great opportunity to experience big time trout fishing. White bass have completely covered the area in full spawn mode. Males are in the 1 to 2 pound range and can be caught with jigs and crankbaits at will. Live bait rigs are catching the larger females in the deeper waters in front of the powerhouse. Freshwater drum are also plentiful and actively feeding on shad and crawfish. Many of these fish are in the 20-pound range with some hooked in the 30- to 40-pound class. Stripers are beginning to show themselves as they chase trout and shad to the top and feed heavily in the shallow water. Action is hit-and-miss but will become more predictable as the temperature becomes more stable.

Diamond Head Marina reported water conditions are normal. Bream are fair on crickets and worms. Crappie are being caught on minnows. Bass are picking up along the shorelines on silver and white lures. Catfishing is decent on stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

Lake Hamilton: Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said Carolina rigs and crankbaits are working well on flats near brush and stumps. Some walleye are being caught on jerkbaits.

Lake Hinkle: Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said the water is murky and a little high. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are also hitting minnows. Catfishing is very good on worms, shiners and liver.

Lake Atkins: Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said water conditions are normal. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good on shad and large minnows.

EAST ARKANSAS

Arkansas River (Pine Bluff): River City Sporting Goods (870-534-8303) said the water is still murky and dropping slowly. Bream are biting well on redworms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on top-water lures and lizards. Catfishing is good on shad, liver and nightcrawlers.

White River: Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the water is clearing up and is still high. Bream fishing is good on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well around stumps on minnows and small jigs. Bass fishing is good on shiners.

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

Bear Creek Lake: Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said water conditions are normal. Bream are the best thing going on worms and crickets.

Horseshoe Lake: Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is in good condition right now. Bream fishing is good on redworms and crickets around lily pads. Crappie are biting well in shallow water on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on stink bait.

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