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Fishing



Weekly Fishing Report
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
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July 23, 2008 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for July 23. 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 it may seem strange, wearing a lightweight long-sleeved shirt and lightweight pants during the summer can keep you out on the water longer when the sun is beating down. The extra coverage gives protection from sunburns and keeps your skin out of the heat of direct light.

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 – 391.49 feet, Tailwater – 379.25 feet, Flow – 66,524 cubic feet per second

Ozark Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 12): Headwater – 371.78 feet, Tailwater – 344.83 feet

Dardanelle Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 10): Headwater – 337.53 feet, Tailwater – 291.52 feet

Ormond Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 9): Headwater – 285.99 feet, Tailwater – 271.46 feet

Toad Suck Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 8): Headwater – 258.61 feet, Tailwater – 265.93 feet

Murray Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 7): Headwater – 248.62 feet, Tailwater – 232.11 feet, Flow – 54,047 cubic feet per second

Terry Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 6): Headwater – 230.35 feet, Tailwater – 217.45 feet, Flow – 69,044 cubic feet per second

Sanders Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 4): Headwater – 195.47 feet, Tailwater – 185.55 feet

Hardin Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 3): Headwater – 181.75 feet, Tailwater – 171.60 feet

Mills Dam (Dam 2): Headwater – 162.88 feet, Tailwater – 137.51 feet, Flow – 64,390 cubic feet per second

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

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

10.4 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)

12.8 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)

25.1 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)

14.9 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)

23.5 feet at Clarendon (flood stage – 26 feet)

Statewide Family and Community Fishing Program Report: Channel catfish have been stocked in all program ponds and are biting well on worms, liver, hot dogs, bait shrimp and paste baits. Channel catfish are being caught with more success in early mornings and late evenings because of warmer weather. Bream are still biting well on crickets, wax worms and redworms in shallow water and near brushy cover. For more information on catfish stockings, call toll free 1-866-540-FISH (3474).

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway: Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is clear and low. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows. Bass are fair on plastic frogs. Catfishing is good on live bait.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing (501-607-0590) said bream are bedding near the banks and are biting well on crickets and redworms. Bass are doing well early and late in the day off pads and edges of creek channels on frogs, buzzbaits and crankbaits. Crappie are slow, but a few have been caught deep in the lake. Catfish are good on trotlines.

Little Red River: [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said two generators are running. Trout fishing is very good drift fishing on with spinner rigs with a glow worm or Power Egg as well as Shad Raps, Countdowns and Rouges.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said the Greers Ferry Power House is still generating around the clock with both generators. Occasionally, one generator has been shut down for several hours then brought back online. When Greers Ferry Lake reaches 463 feet, we should a decrease in generation. However, heavy rainfall in our watershed will delay this. The average temperature of the water flowing through the two turbines is 52 degrees with dissolved oxygen at 8.0 mg/l. Aquatic insect hatches have been few and far between in the high water. Our daily midge hatches are occurring but blue winged olives and sulphur mayflies are scarce. This time last year, we had low water and tons of bugs. Blue wings, pale morning duns and sulphur mayflies along with midges were abundant. If you try to fly fish in high water, you will need to get your fly down to the streambed with plenty of leader length and weight using a strike indicator large enough to float it all. The best fly has been the San Juan worm in sizes 12-16 in orange, cerise, worm brown or red. Bait and spin casting fishermen are in their element in high water.

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 466.04 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said bass fishing continues to be tough with all the water being drawn from the lake; you have to be in the right place at the right time when they are feeding. Try making a "milk run" from point to point as the water level drops. When the bass are feeding most are being caught on Texas-rigged worms and football head jigs as well as some spinnerbaits and swim baits fished shallow. Crappie are biting in submerged treetops on channel bends in 15-20 feet of water over 60 feet on jigs tipped with minnows. Catfishing is great all over the lake and cats can just about be caught on a bare hook. Walleye are still hit-and-miss. Some whites and hybrids are still schooling. Try the water intake at Heber Springs this week and just keep your eye out for bait and fish on your graph and keep your bait wet.

Shiloh Marina said all fishing has been slow.

Harris Brake Lake: [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is murky and 6 inches high. Bream are fair on crickets and worms. A few crappie have been caught in deep water on minnows. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is fair on cut bait and chicken liver.

Lake Beaverfork: The City of Conway Parks and Recreation Department said water conditions are normal. Bream are fair on crickets and worms. Crappie are biting well on jigs. Bass are fair on top-water lures. Catfish are fair.

Lake Overcup: Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said all fishing is slow.

Overcup Landing (501-354-9007) said water conditions are normal with a surface temperature at 91 degrees. Bream fishing is good around the banks on crickets and redworms. Crappie are biting well 12 feet deep on small minnows and black jigs. Catfishing is good on trotlines with slicks or bream.

Brewer Lake: **Overcup Landing** (501-354-9007) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well around banks on crickets and redworms. Crappie are good around brush on small minnows. Catfish are biting well on goldfish and cut bait.

Sunset Lake: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said water conditions are normal. Catfishing is fair on stink bait.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is stained and low. Bream are fair on crickets. Bass are fair on top-water lures.

Arkansas River at Morrilton: Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said the flow is down to the upper 50,000 mark and is steadily dropping. Black bass are biting well along the main channel along ledges. Black/blue jigs and black Bomber crankbaits are working well. Kentucky bass have been on the downstream side of jetties and are biting well on firetiger crankbaits and chatterbaits. Catfishing is good near jetty tips in 4 to 8 feet of water. Drifting whole shad 20 to 25 feet deep is also producing some fish in midday. White bass are schooling at the mouths of major creeks and jetty tips early. Use shad-colored crankbaits. Stripers are below the generator plant at night along with some white bass; Spooks work well on the striped bass. Crappie are moving to the creek mouths, but are only fair on minnows. Bream are biting well on crickets fished on the downstream side of jetties.

Arkansas River in Little Rock: Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said the water is finally starting to fall. Bass fishing has picked up, especially early in the morning in the backwaters and around sandbars on jigs and buzzbaits.

Little Maumelle River: Josh Jeffers at [Pinnacle Mountain State Park](#) (501-868-5806) said the water is receding and the surface temperature ranges from 85 to 90 degrees. The water clarity is low. Bream are biting fairly well on crickets and worms. Crappie are slow on shiners and black/chartreuse 1/8-oz. crappie jigs. Bass are fair, and are being caught on small top-water baits and frogs early in the mornings and late in the afternoons. Texas-rigged creature baits are working well around thick grass and vegetation in the heat of the day, and small crankbaits and jigs are producing good fish around ledges and drops. Catfish are biting fairly well on nightcrawlers and different types of stink bait around ledges and drops.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are biting well around pad beds on crickets. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers, chicken hearts and minnows.

Big Maumelle River: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are fair on crickets and redworms. Bass are biting well on stick baits and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on the main channel of the river.

Fourche La Fave River: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are good on jigs and brown craw worms. Catfishing is excellent on cut bait and chicken hearts.

Lake Maumelle: [Jolly Roger's Marina](#) said the weather has been hot and the lake is down about 1.4 feet. Black bass are biting well early off the weeds. By 7 a.m. move to 10 to 20 feet of water with Carolina rigs, drop-shotted finesse worms and CC spoons. Points near the channels are best. Bream are excellent on crickets. Large worms will also net the occasional catfish. White bass are schooling in front of old Jolly Rogers cove and are biting well on Spooks and Near Nuthins. Catfishing is good on large worms fished 20 to 25 feet deep. Crappie are slow in 20 feet of water on minnows.

Murray Lock and Dam: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said catfishing is excellent on shad and live sunfish.

Terry Lock and Dam: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is clearing and low. Bream are fair on worms and crickets. Black bass are biting well on plastic worms.

Clear Lake: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on live and prepared baits.

Peckerwood Lake: Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said the water is clear and low. Bream are biting well around brush piles on crickets. Crappie fishing is good on jigs. Catfishing is good on minnows.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River: [John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said the water flows on the White have been consistently high. Overall, the fishing has been excellent on the White River. It has at times been spectacular, particularly at the Catch-and-release section at Bull Shoals Dam and the adjacent state park. The hot flies have been San Juan worms (in tan, orange and red), and brightly colored marabou jigs. Jigs have the added advantage of riding hook point up which makes them virtually weedless. Another hot spot was Rim Shoals. Here again the most action was encountered using brightly colored San Juan worms and eggs. Those fishing just outside the catch-and-release sections had good results by using black zebra midges and copper johns as droppers. The best fishing has occurred in the Red Bud area. The hot fly there has been brightly colored marabou jigs.

Sportsman's White River Resort said water conditions are normal with 8 generators still running. Trout fishing has been really good on Power Bait, red or pink plastic worms and Rooster Tails.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said fishing continues to be very good on the White, particularly if you can catch rising water and stay with it. It sounds easier than it is with the water level bouncing around. Sometimes it seems like you are waiting all day for the consistent rise. Large midge patterns are well worth fishing. Fish Davy's Whitetail Super Midge, Clint's Tungsten Black Midge, and Mountain River Midges in size 14 and 12. Run then in tandem with San Juans, Dynamite Worms or Eggs. Don't forget bigger sow bug and scud patterns. Big streamers continue to work well. Fish them slowly over the grass bed, drop offs and close to the banks. Tungsten Slumbusters, Whitlocks Near Nuff Sculpin, Carp Sculpins are working well on size 4 or 6 sinking line.

Bull Shoals Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 689.71 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 574.74 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said fishing has been fair. The early morning has been the best time of day to be fishing. Top-water fishing is still good until about 8 a.m. After that, you will need to fish deep. Bluegill fishing is very good using worms and crickets fished around 20-30 feet deep. Stripper fishing has been fair. A few are being caught on small live bait. Mid-lake and toward the dam have been the better areas to fish for stripers. They are hanging in 40 feet of water and deeper. Walleye fishing has slowed, but a few are being caught on live bait. Try fishing around the thermocline (18-25 feet deep). Largemouth and smallmouth bass fishing are fair. The bass are still being caught around the trees and along the bluffs. Crappie fishing is slow. White bass fishing is fair. White in-line spinners are still the choice lure. Catfish are still hitting live bait on limb lines.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said the water is murky and high. Bream are biting well on crickets and wax worms. Crappie are good on minnows. Bass fishing is very good on spinnerbaits and top-water lures. Catfish are biting on nightcrawlers.

Norfolk Tailwater: [John Berry of Berry Brothers Guides](#) said the Norfolk has been spectacular on low water. Anglers reported great success with black zebra nymphs, olive scuds, and black Norfolk bead heads all in size 18. Other good flies were olive woolly buggers, partridge and orange soft hackles, and worm brown San Juan worms. The top producer was the green butt soft hackle. There have been some sparse sulphur hatches in mid morning and this was the key to success. In the afternoon, on higher water, fishing slows a bit. Use conventional high-water techniques, and if you are not fishing a catch-and-release area consider using a dropper tied to the lead flies. Dry Run Creek has been a local hot spot. This is a great place for you to while away the summer with your children or grand children. It is also a great place to beat the heat.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said it's back to low flows in the morning on the Norfolk, and the best fishing is early in the day. Midges are doing very well. Try your favorite selection of Zebra Midges, including standard black/silver, olive, our Camel Midge, and the Davy Wotton Super Midges. We have also had good reports on Trout Crack, WD40s, Rainbow Warriors and smaller San Juans, scuds and sowbugs.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,128.74 feet MSL.

JT's Crappie Guide Service (479-640-3980) said bass have been on the small side, but they continue to bite. Best places have been off main lake points and humps early and late in the day. Finesse tactics have worked best. A buzzbait or a spinnerbait has worked when fished along the flooded cover at dawn and at dusk. Crappie are suspended 15 to 25 feet under shaded docks, bluff walls, standing timber and in open water on flats. Minnows, tubes and shineee hineee jigs have been effective. Small crankbaits have worked on the flats from Hickory Creek south into the rivers. White bass are scattered but can be found at night along deep bluff walls. Fish minnows under lights 10 to 30 feet deep. Stripers have been found on the downstream end of the lake in deep water. Try trolling an umbrella rig 30 to 40 feet deep. Catfish again have been biting well all over the lake. Liver, goldfish, worms or stink bait have all worked well. Bluegill are taking crickets and worms 4 feet deep around rocks and docks.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is high and stained. Bream are fair on crickets and redworms. Crappie are fair around docks on minnows and jigs. A few bass have been caught early on top-water lures.

Lake Fayetteville: Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is murky and at normal level. Bream fishing is good on crickets. Black bass are biting well in the morning on plastic worms.

Lake Sequoyah: Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said water conditions are normal. Bream are fair on crickets and worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. A few catfish have been caught on sunfish and chicken liver.

Sugarloaf Lake: Midland Minimart (479-639-9467) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on worms. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are biting well on plastic worms.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Charles: [Lake Charles State Park](#) (870-878-6595) said the water level is normal and the surface temperature ranges from 72 to 75 degrees. The water clarity is 12 inches. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie are fair on minnows, jigs and worms. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Catfish are good on carp minnows and worms.

Crown Lake: [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is very good on crickets. Catfishing is good at night on chicken liver.

Lake Frierson: [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and goldfish.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Monticello: Greg Gullede with Basshunters Custom Crankbaits said bass are biting in the 9 to 20 foot range with nice fish being caught on 10 to 12-inch worms. Topwater fishing is very spotty with a few nice bass being caught on Baby Kill Gills, Sammys, and Pop Rs. There is some schooling activity, but it's spotty and random. The surface temp is in the upper 80s to lower 90s. Night fishing continues to produce a few nice bass.

Lake Chicot: Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is murky and low. Bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are being caught on liver.

Grand Lake: Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) had no report.

SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

No report this week.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

Millwood Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.28 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said the water clarity is 10 to 15 inches in the main lake away from current. The surface temperature is 84 to 89 degrees. Current in Little River is 214 cubic feet per second. The typical summer patterns are in full swing at Millwood. Largemouth bass are biting well early in the day, but the bite gets tough from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The mayfly hatch is tapering off, but bream are still active under the willow and cypress trees and are still attracting some good bass. The most consistent reaction bite is on Toads, Bass Assassin Shads, white jigs with white chunk trailers, and 10 to 12-inch worms. Top water action is the best right at daylight using Jitterbugs (Frog and Perch colors), Spit'n Image, buzzin toads and buzzbaits. Swimming bleeding white pearl or blue glimmer jigs with pearl white chunks or craw trailers through grass and pads continue to take some nice bass. Bass Assassin Shads in Gizzard shad and alewife-white are getting good reaction bites in heavy lily pad stands. Early and late, find shallow flats with cypress, stumps and grass or pads, next to deep water drops and creek channel swings, and you are in the correct zone. Swim baits like the magic shad are working near deep drop zones in the river and creek channels, close to grass. Siefert's Buzz Baits continue to draw good bites around pads and grass 1-6 feet deep. White bass are roaming and the bite is sporadic. Most have been caught between White Cliffs and Cemetery Slough, along Little River using Little Cleos, Little Georges, Rooster Tails and Rocket Shads in white, red, and chrome. The crappie bite improved with the better water clarity, than last week. The most consistent bite remains on live shiners, smoke grubs on light wire jig heads, and Mizmo tubes. Blue and channel cats continue to hit well on trotlines in current in Little River. Cut shad, Catfish Charlie, cottonseed meal cake, chicken hearts and livers are working well on yo-yos hung from cypress trees in 8-10 feet of water. Bream are still biting well on crickets and redworms around docks and cypress trees.

Cossatot River: Davy Ashcraft at [Cossatot River State Park](#) (870-385-2201) said USGA states that the water level is 1.83 feet, with the surface temperatures ranging from 75 to 80 degrees. With the ever increasing heat and lack of water, algae is beginning to grow rapidly all over the river, causing the fish to be less aggressive. Early and late in the day are the best times to try your hand at the fish in the river. Bream are biting great on worms and crickets in 3 feet of water. The smallmouth bass are biting well early and late on green pumpkinseed finesse worms and crawdad crankbaits around structure in the deeper pools at 4 to 5 feet of water, small dark colored grubs are doing well too. Catfish are hit and miss; most are being caught at night on nightcrawlers.

Lake Columbia: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfishing is good on worms and goldfish.

Lake Erling: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is clear and low. Bream fishing is good on worms and crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on worms.

White Oak Lake: [White Oak Lake State Park](#) said the water level is dropping from lack of rain. The water temp is fairly warm and the water is clear. There is not much action for any fish species. If you find a deep hole, you may be able to entice a bass or two, but otherwise it is slow.

Lake Greeson: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 544.66 feet MSL.

Darryl Morris at [Family Fishing Trips](#) said a mixed bag of crappie, catfish, bream and bass can be caught in the 90-degree water using live bait fished over hardwood brush piles and bamboo condos. The lake level is falling. Get an early start to beat the heat and catch the morning feeding fish.

Lakeside Grocery said water conditions are normal with a temperature in the low 90s. Bream fishing is fair on crickets. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and liver.

DeGray Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 405.90 feet MSL.

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

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Dardanelle: Eric Pratt at [Lake Dardanelle State Park](#) said the dog days of summer are upon us and the fish seem to know it. Fishing is slow for all species. River flow through the lake has slowed considerably and is now being reported at 60,000 CFS. Water temperature is 85 degrees. Black bass are doing fairly good on buzzbaits, frogs and black/blue jigs around emergent grass early and late in the day. Bluegill are biting well along the boardwalk and fishing pier on worms and crickets. Anglers are reporting that catfishing is still good on chicken liver, worms and artificial baits. Nightfall seems to be the best time to catch a stringer full.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is stained and high. Bream are biting well on nightcrawlers and crickets. A few bass have been caught on crankbaits and worms. Catfishing is good below the dam on cut shad, stink bait and nightcrawlers.

Blue Mountain Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 386.41 feet MSL.

Booneville Bait (479-675-9038) said water conditions are normal. Bream are fair around the spillway on crickets. Crappie are being caught on minnows. Catfish are fair on worms.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is still muddy, but clearing up. Bream are biting well on crickets and nightcrawlers. A few crappie have been caught on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on spinnerbaits and plastic worms. Stripers are good on jigs. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers, minnows and shad.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was 575.24 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is very good with some nice largemouths being caught on a Berkley 10-inch plastic worms fished on the outside edge of the grass using a ½-oz. weight. Some stripers are breaking, but it is hit-and-miss. The best striper action has been at the dam along the buoys.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is clear and ranges from 84 to 88 degrees. Largemouth bass are biting fairly well on Texas-rigged worms and shakey head finesse worms. Kentucky bass are biting fairly well on drop-shotted finesse worms fished near drop offs in the river channels. Walleye are fair on spoons fished over brush on main lake points. Nightcrawlers fished on a bottom bouncer rig will still catch a few quality walleye as well. Stripers are fair on live shad and trotline minnows. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms fished in 18 to 25 feet of water. Crappie are fair over grass and brush in water 20 to 30 feet deep. Minnows and crappie grubs are working fairly well. Catfishing is good on live bait and cut bait fished on jugs and trotlines.

Trader Bill's said anglers can find some white bass, black bass and Kentuckies schooling occasionally at the mouths of the larger creeks in the early morning. Pollard Creek, Cedar Fourche and Cedar Creek are some good places to start. Fish small topwaters, such as Zara Puppies and Pop-R's around breaking fish. A ½-ounce spoon will also work well once the surface activity dies.

Lake Hamilton: Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is very good at night using 10-inch Berkley worms with small weights 12 to 18 feet deep.

Trader Bill's said white bass, Kentuckies and largemouths can be caught early in the morning on live bass minnows tailhooked and freelined in front of Stokes, Williams and Hot Springs creeks and Scully Basin. Night fishing with Zara Puppies and dark-colored soft-plastics is good during the first 2 hours of the evening and again after midnight.

Lake Catherine: Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that Entergy has been running the turbines around the clock the last week, which has allowed the water temperature in the tailrace to hold steady at 61 degrees. Rainbow trout fishing remains very slow. The trout that are caught are in the 15 to 17 inch range; however, the numbers of fish present are extremely low. The threadfin shad migration has been consistent as thousands of shad move in and out of the tailrace in huge schools that are easily seen when the turbines are not running. During periods of generation, the shad will gather close to the banks in pools of deeper water to escape the current flow and hide from stripers and hybrids. The hotter the weather, the more likely the stripers are to feed on top along with the hybrid bass. Fishermen need to watch closely for feeding fish and cast baits that present a different profile from what the fish are chasing. C-10 Redfins and Super Spooks in rainbow trout colors stand out nicely from a shad and will draw vicious strikes. Large white and grey flukes fished without a weight are also a solid presentation when the fish refuse a hard-sided top-water bait. July and August provide

anglers a real opportunity to see large stripers feed, but one must guard against excessive exposure to the summer heat. There is no escape from the sun's rays at Carpenter Dam so use good judgment during periods of high heat indexes. Black bass also migrate into the tailrace in the summer months to feed. Downsizing your striper presentations will often result in hooking quality largemouths most anglers miss. The visible structure around the dam is a good place to target black bass.

Diamond Head Marina said water conditions are normal with a surface temperature in the high 80s. Bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows. Catfish are fair on worms and minnows.

Lake Hinkle: Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on crickets. A few crappie have been caught on minnows. Bass fishing has been good. Catfish are fair on worms and chicken liver.

Lake Atkins: Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is clearing up and at normal level. Bream are biting well in deep water on crickets and worms. Catfishing is excellent on crickets and large minnows.

EAST ARKANSAS

Arkansas River (Pine Bluff): River City Sporting Goods (870-534-8303) said the water is murky and low. Bream are biting well on crickets and redworms. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are biting well on lizards and tube jigs. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and cut bait.

White River: Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the water is clear and high. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are fair on plastic worms.

Maddox Bay: Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said all species are slow.

Bear Creek Lake: Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said the water is very high and all fishing has been slow.

Horseshoe Lake: Local angler Clyde Gregory said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well around lily pads on crickets and redworms. Crappie are fair near piers on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair around lily pads on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is excellent on worms and chicken liver.

Island 40 Chute: Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water is dingy and finally starting to drop. Catfishing is good around the docks on stink bait, nightcrawlers and chicken liver.

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