



Fishing

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Weekly Fishing Report
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
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October 24, 2007 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **October 24, 2007**. 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: Figuring out the fish can get frustrating some days. Here's a tip from bass fishing pro Gerald Swindle's video "Classic Patterns for Jig Fishing": Rarely will an angler be able to just pull up to a new section of bank and start catching fish right and left. When the fishing is slow, remember that you're eliminating certain types of water. When you do find a fish or two, recognize the exact place and type of cover it was on and try to find similar areas. Anglers who notice the small details of each catch can figure out patterns from day to day. Check out more tips from the [Bass Pro Shops Outdoor Library](#).

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

Trimble Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 13): Headwater – 391.47 feet, Tailwater – 372.11 feet, Flow – 16,180 cubic feet per second

Ozark Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 12): Headwater – 371.38 feet, Tailwater – 338.83 feet

Dardanelle Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 10): Headwater – 337.89 feet, Tailwater – 288.53 feet

Ormond Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 9): Headwater – 286.18 feet, Tailwater – 269.61 feet, Flow – 33,057 cubic feet per second

Toad Suck Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 8): Headwater – 264.98 feet, Tailwater – 254.71 feet

Murray Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 7): Headwater – 250.41 feet, Tailwater – 231.52 feet, Flow – 41,611 cubic feet per second

Terry Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 6): Headwater – 231.19 feet, Tailwater – 214.91 feet, Flow – 45,374 cubic feet per second

Sanders Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 4): Headwater – 196.09 feet, Tailwater – 184.86 feet

Hardin Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 3): Headwater – 182.24 feet, Tailwater – 168.26 feet

Mills Dam (Dam 2): Headwater – 162.85 feet, Tailwater – 128.39 feet, Flow – 37,842 cubic feet per second

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

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

6.2 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)

1.6 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)

12.6 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)

0.4 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)

11.1 feet at Clarendon (flood stage – 26 feet)

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway: Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is at normal levels and is continuing to cool down. Crappie fishing is good on minnows. A few bass have been caught on buzzing toads.

Little Red River:[Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the river is normal. Trout fishing has been excellent on chartreuse Power Bait and Power Eggs, wax worms and olive or brown marabou jigs.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said water releases at the Greers Ferry Power House have been low and irregular. A few rainbows are spawning and redds and egg-filled trout are being seen every day along the Little Red. A few brown trout in full spawn colors are being caught and released. When the spawn begins, you will see large male brown trout doing aerial leaps and displays. This is part of the spawning ritual and should not be confused with aggressive surface feeding. You may also witness large female browns being escorted by several smaller male browns nipping at her fins as she moves toward a shoal. If you plan to fish the spawn, please observe a few simple rules of the river. Be on the lookout for the redds and don't walk through them. Try to stay at least one long cast from the nearest angler. Smash the barbs on your hooks to make it easier to remove if you snag a fish or, if you are fishing in a special regulations area, because it's the law. Be mindful of beginners and try to help when you can. Blue-winged olive mayflies, caddis flies and midges are hatching everywhere every day. The best dry flies include caddis (sizes 18-20, tan), BWO (sizes 18-22), midges (sizes 22-24) and Adams (sizes 18-20). Sub-surface flies that are working include the lowly sow bug (sizes 14-16, tan, peacock or purple haze), zebra midge (sizes 16-22, black or red), pheasant tail (size 16), copper john (size 16, red or green), wooly bugger (sizes 10-12, olive or black) and egg patterns (size 14, salmon color).

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 457.18 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said hybrid fishing continues to be very good with catches of 50-100 fish a day. They can be caught on top as well as with a Buckshot Spinner or a Rite Bite jigging spoon around 35 to 43 feet deep all around the lake. Crappie are biting well with the better catches coming at night under lights in about 15 feet of water. Catfish are biting well with many large blue cats coming in on jugs. Walleye can be caught in various areas with the most consistent bite being around feeding hybrids and whites on spoons. Bass fishing is improving every day, even with all the pressure. Many bass are being caught around schooling fish on spoons, topwaters and jerk baits. When the action slows you can depend on a deep jig or Carolina rig to catch all three species of black bass as well.

Harris Brake Lake:[Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is good on crankbaits and plastic worms around the banks.

Lake Overcup:[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is clear and at a normal level. Crappie fishing is good on black and white jigs in shallow water. Bass fishing is good on plastic worms and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on worms and shrimp.

Brewer Lake:Overcup Landing (501-354-9007) said the lake is at a normal level and clear. Crappie fishing is fair on small minnows. Bass are being caught on buzzbaits and top-water plugs. Catfishing is good on live bait.

Sunset Lake: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is normal. Bream are being caught on crickets in 8-10 feet of water. Bass fishing is good on top-water baits.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the river is muddy and a little high. Crappie fishing is fair around brush on chartreuse Rooster Tails. Bass fishing is good on chartreuse spinnerbaits.

Arkansas River in Little Rock: Vince Miller from [Fish 'N Stuff](#) said bass fishing has been good on spinnerbaits, jigs and shad-colored crankbaits. Fishing is best in the backwater areas.

Little Maumelle River: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream fishing is good. Crappie fishing is good on minnows. Catfish are biting well.

Murray Lock and Dam: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is good on jigs. Catfishing is good on shad. Stripper fishing has been good on chartreuse twister tails

Terry Lock and Dam: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is not running, which has caused all fishing to be slow

Clear Lake: McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is muddy and low. Crappie fishing is good in 4-5 feet of water on pink minnows. Bass fishing is good in 3 feet of water on white spinnerbaits

Peckerwood Lake: Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said the water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is fair on jigs. Catfishing is very good on stink bait and minnows.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River: Sportsman's White River Resort said the generators are running, but less during the week. Trout fishing has been good on silver spoons, red worms, and Power Bait. Fly fishing is good on zebra midges.

Bull Shoals Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 650.05 feet MSL.

Lake Norfolk:As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 546.63 feet MSL.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is fair in deep water on worms and crickets. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits and top-water baits. Stripers are biting well on top-waters fished in 40-50 feet of water.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,115.03 feet MSL.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is clear and about 3 feet low. Bream fishing has been good on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows. White bass are being caught on top-water baits. Black bass are biting fairly well on top-water baits and Carolina rigs. Catfishing is fair on cut bait and stink bait.

Lake Fayetteville: Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is fair on crickets. Crappie are biting on minnows and jigs. A few bass have been caught on spinnerbaits.

Lake Sequoyah: Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said lake conditions are normal. A few crappie have been caught on minnows and jigs. A few bass have been caught on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is fair on worms and small perch.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

Crown Lake:[Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said the water is clear and about 2 feet low. Bream fishing is fair on crickets in shallow water. Crappie fishing is pretty good on live minnows and jigs close to brush piles. Catfishing has been good on worms and liver.

Lake Frierson:[Lake Frierson State Park](#) said all species are slow.

Eleven-Point River: Woody's Canoe Rental and Campground (870-892-9732) said water conditions are normal. Bream, crappie, bass and catfish are all biting well on a variety of baits.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot: Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said water conditions are normal. Bream are biting well on wax worms. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Catfishing has been good on worms and crickets.

Grand Lake: Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said water conditions are about normal. Crappie fishing is good trolling with minnows and jigs. Catfishing is decent on worms or minnows.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

Millwood Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.45 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said main lake and Little River surface temperature is 65 to 70 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Main lake clarity and visibility is at 2 to 3 inches because of high winds. Current is at 3,593 cubic feet per second. Largemouth bass and white bass are still randomly schooling along Little River, and her oxbows, from mid to late morning and at dusk. The bite has been consistent on swimming jig heads with Bass Assassin Curly Shad trailers and Rat-L-Traps early in the morning. With influx of rain and current muddying the water, schooling activities have lulled somewhat. White or chrome Rat-L-Traps will help you stay with the school, even after surface activity dies. Watch your electronics; follow the school of bait on the surface, and the large blips and schools on your graph. The best jig and pig bite seems to be shifting from peanut butter and jelly color to the Texas Craw color (chart/pumpkin/black) or black/blue. Several keeper largemouths were caught late last week in creek channel bends on stumps with the jigs. Spot Remover and firecracker-chartreuse colors of War Eagle spinnerbaits are taking good bass around any remaining lily pad stems and vegetation for last couple weeks. Texas-rigged, 10-inch worms, in junebug/red, plum, black grape, or blackberry are taking some nice, keeper-sized largemouths on stumps close to grass and remaining pads in 6-9 feet of water.

For white bass, try Little Georges in silver or chrome, Rooster Tails in white/red, Rocket Shads or Roadrunners in white, and chrome Rat-L-Traps. Good areas for the whites are in Horseshoe, Mud and McGuire Oxbows, in the clearest water you can find, and also in Hurricane Creek and Cemetery Slough. The White Cliffs area along Little River had some schooling whites last week between the boat ramp and Hwy 71 Bridge. Crappie were shallow last week, roaming in and out of the cypress trees 3-8 feet deep, but shut off w/ the muddy water. They are now near planted brush piles in 11-14 feet of water, but the bite is very slow on hair jigs and tubes or shiners. The drastic increase in current in Little River improved the catfish bite. Some nice keeper channel cats were caught over the last few days using cut bait, chicken livers, shad and Catfish Charlie on trotlines and yo-yos.

Lake Columbia: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said lake conditions are normal. Bream fishing is good on crickets, and crappie fishing is good on jigs.

Sportsman's One Stop (870-863-7248) said crappie fishing has been good on jigs. Bass are biting well on watermelon-colored worms.

Lake Erling: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the lake conditions are normal. Bream fishing is good on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Catfishing is good on shiners.

White Oak Lake: [White Oak Lake State Park](#) said fishing at White Oak Lake has been good for the last few days. The water was clearing up, but the rain brought some stain back to it. Panfish seem to be moving into the shallow areas again. Bass have been biting well on live bait. Catfish are biting well on prepared bait.

Lake Greeson: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 535.84 feet MSL.

[Darryl Morris of Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said Lake Greeson is still low but typical for this time of year. The water temperature has reached the low 70s and will soon enter the 60s. Crappie are good on brush piles and bamboo "crappie condos" in 20-25 feet of water on minnows and jigs fished 12-15 feet deep. Don't ignore shallower water as the temperature continues to fall. Black bass have moved off the main channel and into major creek arms. Drop-shotting the points has produced the best. Schools of white bass and stripers are still chasing schools of shad in the lake. Surface activity is minimal, but a spoon or Rooster Tail fished along the bottom in 20 feet of water will produce.

Lakeside Grocery (870-398-5304) said the water is murky and low. Crappie fishing has been good in 10-20 feet of water on jigs around brush piles. Bass fishing is good in shallow water on crankbaits, buzzbaits, and on soft-plastic worms, lizards and brush hogs. Catfishing is fair on worms and stink bait. Walleye fishing is fair on jigs and trolled crankbaits.

Little Missouri River: [Jeff Guerin of Little Missouri Fly Fishing](#) said the recent rains have muddied the water and the fishing has been slow. There has been a fresh stocking of rainbow trout in the tailwater, and many of these fish have not adapted to natural forage and the flies they imitate. Try an egg pattern or a smidge for best results. The fishing should pick up again once the water clears up and the fish begin feeding by sight again.

DeGray Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 394.95 feet MSL.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) said the lake is clear and low. The temperature is in the mid 70s. Bream can be caught in 20-25 feet of water on redworms and crickets. Crappie are biting in 15-20 feet of water on live bait. Bass fishing is good on Carolina rigs, worms, jigs and early and late they can be caught on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. Some catfish have been caught on noodles and live bait.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing on DeGray is absolutely excellent right now. Hybrids and black bass are breaking and following massive schools of shad out in the lake. Crankbaits and CC spoons are working well on the breaking fish. Carolina-rigged Brush Hogs and flukes are catching some good largemouth around the outside edge of the grass. Frogs and large jigs are catching larger bass in the grass, but the bite is a little slower. Catfish are biting well on jugs baited with small bream. No report on crappie or bream.

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Dardanelle: Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is muddy and low. Crappie fishing is fair in 12-15 feet of water on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Catfishing is fair below the dam on whole shad.

Bill's Bait and Tackle (479-754-6354) said the water is muddy and at a normal level. Bream fishing is fair on crickets. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs. A few bass have been caught on crankbaits. Catfishing is good on stink bait and shad.

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

at 384.36 feet MSL.

CNC's End of the Line (479-947-2398) said the water is muddy and at a normal level. Bream fishing is good on worms. Crappie are biting well on jigs. A few bass have been caught on crankbaits and other artificial lures. Catfishing is good on worms and chicken liver.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is at normal level and clarity. Bream fishing is fair on crickets. Bass are being caught on white spinnerbaits near deep water. Catfishing is good on worms and shad.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 568.28 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing is picking up, but the cool weather has moved the fish a little deeper. Bass are biting well in 25 to 30 feet of water on CC spoons and Carolina-rigged Oxy-craw-colored Magic Worms and Berkley Beasts. Larger bass are being caught from the grass on large spinnerbaits and big jigs fished on braided line. Crappie are fair on Tennessee shad grubs and minnows fished around brush in the edges of the grass line. Walleye should pull up to main-lake humps once the weather stabilizes. Stripers are fair to slow on CC spoons and live shad. Bream are poor.

Poorman's Guide Service is also happy to announce the grand opening of the Trophy's Corner fishing store at the junction of Arkansas highways 5 and 7 on Oct. 27. Come by and check out the free fishing seminars and grand opening specials.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water temperature is at 74 degrees and the water is clear. Largemouth bass are biting well on Rooster Tails, Spooks and finesse worms fished around main-lake points and secondary points. Top-water toads are getting good results fished over and around moss beds. Spotted bass are biting excellently on live crayfish fished near brush in 15 to 25 feet of water. Walleye are biting well on spoons and crankbaits fished over main lake points and brush. Stripers are excellent on live brood minnows and gizzard shad. Top-water action is picking up and only days away from being very good. Bream are biting well on crickets and worms in 18 to 25 feet of water. Crappie are very good and being caught over grass and brush in deeper water. Try large moss flats and brush in water 20 to 35 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are still working best. Arkansas shad, Tennessee shad and white are still the best colors for artificial baits. Catfish are still good with reports of these fish being caught with live bait and cut bait in water 20 to 25 feet deep on jugs and trotlines.

Lake Catherine: Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that the rainbow trout bite remains extremely slow. Most trout have migrated miles downstream in search of cooler water as most of the tailrace waters are above 70 degrees. The Game and Fish Commission resumes stocking trout at Carpenter Dam in mid-November, which will create good fishing opportunities again. The absence of trout and threadfin shad during this time also cause the striper and hybrid bite to disappear. These adverse fishing conditions will change as soon as the winter season begins.

Lake Hamilton: Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said small bass and yellow bass are excellent on CC spoons and crappie jigs in 20 feet of water. Carolina-rigged Berkley Beasts are working well on the largemouth in deep brush as well. You can catch all the yellow bass you want on Hamilton right now using a crappie jig or spoon. There's no limit on yellow bass and they use up forage needed for larger sport fish, so it's a great time to load up the freezer. Crayfish-colored crankbaits will be the thing to throw for largemouth in the next few weeks along flats with stumps and brush on them.

Lake Nimrod: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 342.21 feet MSL.

Bait N' More (479-272-4025) said the water is about normal. Catfish are biting great on bass minnows and nightcrawlers. Bass are biting well on crappie minnows.

SOUTH-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Moro Bay: [Moro Bay State Park](#) said the water is at normal levels and cooling. Bream are biting well in deeper water on wax worms. Crappie fishing is fair. Catfish are biting well on trotlines baited with

liver.

Felsenthal: Sportsman's One Stop (870-863-7248) said water conditions are normal. Crappie are biting well on tube jigs. Bass fishing is picking up on soft-plastic worms.

EAST ARKANSAS

Maddox Bay: Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is clear and rising. Crappie fishing is fair on jigs. A few bass have been caught.

Horseshoe Lake: Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and a little low. Crappie fishing is good trolling in deep water on minnows and black or chartreuse jigs. Bass fishing is good in shallow water around grassy areas on spinnerbaits. A few catfish have been caught on cut bait or nightcrawlers.

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