



Fishing

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Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **Nov. 14**. 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: Fallen trees and laydowns stretching from the bank are key areas to find bass throughout the year. Here's a tip from bass fishing pro Woo Daves' video Woo's Clues on how to make the most of each laydown:

Even though the best part of a laydown is usually where the stump meets the water's surface, there may be fish holding all around the outside edge of the laydown around branches of the tree. Instead of spooking those fish by going straight to the main stump, make a few casts around the outside edge of the tree. That way, you can get two or three fish off a single spot. 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 – 391.69 feet, Tailwater – 371.45 feet, Flow – 620 cubic feet per second

Ozark Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 12): Headwater – 371.42 feet, Tailwater – 337.56 feet

Dardanelle Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 10): Headwater – 337.78 feet, Tailwater – 384.28 feet

Ormond Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 9): Headwater – 284.27 feet, Tailwater – 264.77 feet, Flow – 6,107 cubic feet per second

Toad Suck Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 8): Headwater – 265.02 feet, Tailwater – 250.68 feet

Murray Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 7): Headwater – 250.43 feet, Tailwater – 231.30 feet, Flow – 10,560 cubic feet per second

Terry Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 6): Headwater – 230.74 feet, Tailwater – 212.81 feet, Flow – 25,940 cubic feet per second

Sanders Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 4): Headwater – 195.73 feet, Tailwater – 182.76 feet

Hardin Lock and Dam (Lock and Dam 3): Headwater – 182.31 feet, Tailwater – 164.05 feet

Mills Dam (Dam 2): Headwater – 162.82 feet, Tailwater – 125.05 feet, Flow – 28,260 cubic feet per second

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

3.3 feet at Calico Rock (flood stage – 19 feet)
6.4 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)
0.9 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)
12.2 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)
0.2 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)
10.0 feet at Clarendon (flood stage – 26 feet)

Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report: Fishing for catfish has been fair this week on chicken liver with the weather rollercoaster. Bream are good on worms. Trout fishing has been outstanding in northern Arkansas on any color Power Bait, marshmallows and gold spinners. For more information on trout stockings, call toll-free 1-866-540-FISH (3474).

CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Conway: Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said water conditions are clear and normal. Bream fishing is fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well in 1-3 feet of water on small minnows and white or chartreuse jigs around lily pads and grass lines. Bass fishing has been excellent on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits around lily pads.

Little Red River: [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water is clear and low with very little generation. Trout fishing is fair on wax worms, power eggs and corn.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said small water releases have been the norm at the Greers Ferry Powerhouse. Hydroelectric generation occurred only four times in the last seven days with each period lasting 1-2 hours. There are three special regulation areas of the Little Red: JFK Park, Cow Shoal and Mossy Shoal. In the special-regulation area of JFK Park and on Mossy Shoal, it is unlawful to fish with live bait, Power Eggs and barbed hooks. It is legal to use treble hooks and dropper flies but the barbs must be smashed. On Cow Shoal, only one single hooking point per angler is permitted and the barb must be smashed. Cow Shoal is the only area of the river that is catch and release. This is a seasonal regulation Oct. 1-Dec. 31.

Greers Ferry: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 456.87 feet MSL.

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

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

[Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is fair on worms. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs. A few bass are being caught on spinnerbaits. Catfish are biting well on worms and chicken liver.

Brewer Lake: [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said bream are fair on worms. Bass fishing is fair on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on chicken livers and nightcrawlers. Crappie are fair on minnows.

Lake Valencia: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said the water is about normal. Catfish are the best thing going on chicken hearts and nightcrawlers.

Sunset Lake: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is fairly clear and at a normal level. Crappie fishing is good in about 15 feet of water on 2-inch Tennessee shad grubs. Bass fishing is good in shallow water around brush on trick worms or 5-inch green pumpkin lizards.

Saline River Access in Benton: Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is good on crickets. Crappie fishing is fair on black Rooster Tails. Bass are biting well on white spinnerbaits. Walleye fishing is decent in deeper water on green crankbaits.

Arkansas River at Morrilton: Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said the flow has been good, but the constant weather change makes it hard to get a good pattern. Catfishing is good early in 4-10 feet of water on whole shad. The catfish are moving to the fronts of jetties in the afternoons and biting well in 15 feet of water. Kentucky bass are biting well on spinnerbaits. Largemouth bass are biting fair on crankbaits. A few white bass and stripers can be caught on large bucktail jigs. Crappie and bream are slow.

Arkansas River at Little Rock: Vince Miller from [Fish N' Stuff](#) (501-834-5733) said the water is clear with a

slow current. Bass fishing is fair in deeper water on plastic worms and jigs around rocky points.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing has slowed. Some large fish have been caught on jigs and Sexy Shad-colored crankbaits, but anglers are looking for five bites a day right now.

Little Maumelle River: River Valley Bait (501-868-3279) said the water is murky and high. Bream fishing is good around the banks on worms. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and assorted jigs. Bass fishing is fair on spinnerbaits and minnows. Catfish are biting well on about anything.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is good on minnows. Bass fishing is fair on spinnerbaits. A few catfish have been caught on trotlines and limb lines.

Murray Lock and Dam: Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie fishing is good on slip-cork rigs and minnows. White bass are biting well on white and chartreuse twister tails. Stripers are biting well on large twister tails. Catfishing is good on shad.

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 and jigs. Bass fishing is good in 3 feet of water on white spinnerbaits.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River: Angler's White River Resort said the water conditions are normal. Trout fishing has been excellent on Power Bait and spinnerbaits. The average is about 40 fish per day and anglers are catching bigger trout as the water cools down.

Sportsman's White River Resort said water conditions are normal with little generation. Fly fishing is excellent on woolly buggers. Bait fishing is good on Power Bait, red buoyant spoons and Rapalas.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said it's been tough to find low water during the last week, though there was a hint of it this morning for the wading fly fisher. Fishing has been good. Zebra midges have been consistently good, the silver and black is very reliable and the black and copper has been our go-to fly for several weeks. Trout crack in either the bead head or standard versions has been very popular, with good reason, it gets eaten consistently probably as a scud, but it could represent several food sources. Egg patterns work extremely well at this time of year; look for rainbows to stack up in the fast water behind spawning redds, picking off the dislodged eggs. Woolly buggers and larger streamers can be very effective, particularly on cloudy days, in three units and up. Bunny Leeches, Zoo Cougars, and bigger buggers fished on sinking lines can draw better fish looking for a meal.

Bull Shoals Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 648.40 feet MSL.

[Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock](#) (870-445-4424) said fishing has been very tough for the last week and fall turnover is right around the corner. Surface water temperature is in the 60s. Kentucky bass are suspended along bluffs dropping to the 80-foot range. Live minnows and nightcrawlers are working fairly well on the points and bluff walls. Top-water lures will catch fish in the early mornings, and it's good to have a top-water lure ready at all times for random breaking fish. Kentucky and largemouth bass are biting well on spoons in deep standing timber. Walleye have been non-existent for the last week or so. Crappie are picking up and can be caught on brush piles in 18 to 25 feet of water on slip bobbers baited with a minnow.

Lake Norfolk: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 546.62 feet MSL.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said the water is clear and 5 feet low. Bass fishing is decent in shallow water on spinnerbaits, crankbaits, and top-water baits. Some stripers have been caught on stick baits.

Norfolk Tailwater: Gene's Trout Dock (870-499-5381) said water conditions are normal with no generation. Trout fishing is good on corn and nightcrawlers. Bream fishing is fair on crickets. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on crankbaits. A few catfish have been caught on chicken liver.

[Mountain River Fly Shop](#) said Norfolk's crowds have slowed somewhat, but there is still plenty of comradeship when the White is running. Fishing is patchy, coming in bursts. Better action is coming from swift water. Zebra midges, again in black and silver and black and copper have worked best. There are a bunch of redds, scattered above handicap (and higher we are sure) watch out for those lighter patches of gravel and please avoid wading through them. They can be a little easier to detect on Norfolk than the White, but it still pays to keep your eyes open, and protect the spawners' efforts.

Table Rock Lake: Phillip Stone of [Stone's Guide Service](#) said with the water temperature in the low 60s, there are several patterns for catching bass on Table Rock right now. The best bite seems to be on windy, overcast

days. Look for the fish in the major feeder creeks and large coves. They haven't really schooled up yet, but are holding from the mouths to half way back in these areas. With the wind and clouds, the fish will be in shallow water or in the cedar trees just off the bank. I have been catching some nice largemouths on a spinnerbait in these areas. When the sun pops out, I switch over to an Eakins jig, with a Chompers twin tail trailer on the main-lake pea gravel points. Most of the fish are still holding in the 28-30 foot range. They are really scattered and the bite is not consistent. The deep bite is still the best bet on the main lake around the dam area. The fish seem to be following the schools of shad around and can be caught from 30-70 feet deep right now. Find the shad and the fish will be around them. Try lowering a Bink's Pro Series Spoon to these fish and work it just above their heads.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,114.52 feet MSL.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is clear and low. Crappie fishing is good about 10 feet deep around brush piles on minnows. Bass are biting well in shallow water on spinnerbaits. Hybrids are biting well on jigs and live shad.

Lake Sequoyah: Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said water conditions are normal but fishing for all species is slow.

Sugarloaf Lake: Midland Minimart (479-639-9467) said the water is muddy and low. Bream fishing is fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

Crown Lake: [Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said the water is clear and low. Bream fishing is fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well in 12 feet of water on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on spinnerbaits. A few catfish have been caught on worms.

Eleven-Point River: Woody's Canoe Rental and Campground (870-892-9732) said fishing for all species is slow.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot: Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is clear and low. A few bream have been caught on wax worms. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs around the docks. Catfishing is fair on minnows.

Grand Lake: Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is pretty clear and low. Crappie fishing is fair trolling minnows and jigs.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

Millwood Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.38 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said main lake and Little River surface temperature is 62 to 65 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Main lake clarity and visibility is at 3-6 inches. Current is 173 cubic feet per second. During the mornings last week, remaining schooling action can be had in the clearest water you can find. Swimming a Bass Assassin Curly Shad in salt-n-pepper, bluegill or smoke color or burning a Rat-L-Trap will catch some nice largemouths in 3 to 6 feet of water. Crankbaits are beginning to draw responses from largemouths. The Baby Minus-1, Fat Free Shad/Guppy and the Cordell Big-O were catching some decent fish the last few days along the river, deflecting off stumps in sloughs of inside river bends. The best jig bite is on the Texas Craw color (chart/pumpkin/black) or black/blue jig with a black or green pumpkin chunk trailer. Texas-rigged 10-inch worms, in junebug/red, blue fleck and blackberry colors are still taking some nice, keepers on cypress trees, cypress tree knees, stumps, and close to grass and remaining pads. White bass schooling activity has diminished. Try Little Georges in silver or chrome, Rooster Tails in white/red, Rocket Shads or Roadrunners in white, and any chrome or white Rat-L-Trap. Good areas for the whites recently were in Horseshoe, Mud and

McGuire Oxbows. Crappie have started to bite again in brush and trees 12 to 18 feet deep along the river. Catfishing is fair to good on trotlines and yo-yos baited with cut shad, minnows and Catfish Charlie hunt 6 to 9 feet deep on outside river bends.

Lake Columbia: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Bream fishing is fair on worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is picking up on minnows and jigs.

Lake Erling: Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said water conditions are normal. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good on worms, liver, and shiners.

White Oak Lake: [White Oak Lake State Park](#) said fishing continues to be good. Bass are hitting top-water lures and some live bait. Catfish are biting well on trotlines. Crappie and Bream are biting tube jigs of various colors.

Lake Greeson: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 535.82 feet MSL.

Darryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said the water is a little murky and low. Crappie fishing is good in 10-15 feet of water around brush piles on minnows. Bass are biting well on plastic worms and spinnerbaits. White bass are biting well on live shad, top-water baits, and crankbaits. A few catfish have been caught.

DeGray Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 394.11 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing has slowed, but hybrids are still breaking early in the morning. The breaking fish can be caught on Rat-L-Traps and diving crankbaits. Black bass are holding around steep points and can be caught on Carolina rigs and shaky head finesse worms.

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Lake Dardanelle: Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said fishing is slow for all species.

Bill's Bait and Tackle (479-754-6354) said the water is murky and low. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on crankbaits and plastic worms. A few catfish are being caught on shad.

Blue Mountain Lake: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 384.22 feet MSL.

CNC's End of the Line (479-947-2398) said the water is murky and a little low. Crappie fishing has been excellent on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on crankbaits. Catfishing is fair on worms, liver and minnows.

Ozark Pool: Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is a little murky and at a normal level. A few bream are being caught on worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Black bass are being caught on spinnerbaits and black crankbaits. White bass are being caught on jigs and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

Lake Ouachita: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 568.09 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said stripers are biting well in the creek channels on spoons. Kentucky bass are biting well on Carolina rigs, drop-shot rigs and crankbaits fished in creek channel turns 35 to 40 feet deep. Largemouths are biting fairly well on the outside edge of grass on rocky points.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is clear and the surface temperature is around 62 degrees. Largemouth bass are biting well on finesse worms, spoons and spooks on main lake points and secondary points. Spotted bass are fair; they are still biting live crayfish near brush in 15 to 20 feet of water. Walleye are biting well on spoons and crankbaits fished over main lake humps. Stripers are excellent on live shad and brood minnows. Top-water action is good in the middle and eastern parts of the lake early and late. Bream are fair on crickets and worms in 18 to 25 feet of water. Crappie are excellent in 12 to 24 feet of water over grass and brush. Catfish are biting well on live and cut bait in water 20 to 25 feet deep.

Lake Catherine: Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that the 5-foot winter drawdown is complete. On Nov. 18 -21, the lake will be lowered another 3 feet for work to be done on the dam. During this period, the tailrace area will be very dangerous to navigate for boaters and wade fishermen alike. Generation will continue while the drawdowns are in effect which will create hazardous conditions in the extremely shallow water. Carpenter Dam has many rock piles and underwater islands beneath it that make the area extremely dangerous. Rainbow trout stockings will resume by next week, and by the middle of January, trout fishing and walleye fishing will be in full swing.

Lake Hamilton: Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing is slow because of the drawdown. Once the fish have adjusted to the new water level, the fishing should pick back up.

Lake Hinkle: Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said water conditions are normal. Crappie, bass, and catfish are all biting well on minnows.

Lake Atkins: Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said water conditions are about normal. Bream fishing is fair on worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is fair in deep water on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is fair on liver.

Lake Nimrod: As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 341.96 feet MSL.

SOUTH-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Moro Bay: [Moro Bay State Park](#) said the river is at its normal level (65 feet above sea level). Most outdoorsmen are chasing deer and there has been little talk of fishing. Crappie should be starting to bite about now and even some bass with the extended warm streak we've had. If you want to catch the crappie, try shiners in the bay or in the lake. The fall weather is very pleasant and you can enjoy the river almost to yourself this time of year.

Felsenthal (Benjamin Lake): Russell Ice and Tackle (870-797-2993) said water conditions are about normal. Crappie is the best thing going on shiners.

EAST ARKANSAS

Arkansas River (Pine Bluff): River City Sporting Goods (870-534-8303) said the water is murky and at a normal level. Bream fishing is fair on wax worms and redworms. Crappie fishing is good on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is good spinnerbaits and top-water baits. Catfish are biting well on worms, stink bait and cut bait.

Maddox Bay: Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is clear and low. Crappie fishing is fair on minnows and jigs. Bass fishing is fair on crankbaits.

Bear Creek Lake: Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said fishing is slow for all species.

Horseshoe Lake: Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and a little low. Crappie fishing is good trolling in deeper water with minnows. Bass fishing is good on spinnerbaits in shallow water. Catfishing is good in deep water on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

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