

## Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

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#### Weekly Fishing Report

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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### November 26, 2008 Edition

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **November 26**. 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:** Looking for a hot trout bite? The AGFC Family and Community Fishing Program recently stocked trout in many urban ponds throughout the state. These trout are hatchery-raised and easy pickings for the first week after they're stocked. Small jigs floated under a bobber work well as will Power Bait fished off the bottom. The limit for trout in these ponds is five, and anglers must purchase a trout permit with their license to keep the trout.

**Arkansas River Levels** are available at :

[http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao\\_rvrs.txt](http://www.swl-wc.usace.army.mil/WCDS/Reports/Daily/Pao_rvrs.txt)

**White River Levels** are available at :

[http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status\\_white.shtml](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lmrfc/forecast/tributaries/status_white.shtml)

**Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report:** Rainbow trout have been stocked in program ponds in Rogers, Springdale and Central Arkansas. Try corn, small marshmallows, Power Bait, Trout Magnets, Rooster Tails or wax worms for the best results. The ponds that were not stocked the first round will be stocked the first week of December. For stocking information, call the Hotline at 1-866-540-FISH (3474) toll free.

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### CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Conway:** Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said the water is at normal level. All species are fair at best.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing said bream are slow. Crappie are biting well on shiners, but are deep and holding tight to brush. Bass and catfish are fair at best.

**Little Red River:** [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water clarity is improving and the generators are only running for short periods, offering good wading water. Trout fishing is good on corn and wax worms. Spin-fishermen are catching some good browns on Little Cleos and Rooster Tails as well.

Jed Hollan at the [Little Red Fly Shop](#) said low river water continues to be the norm with only occasional water releases at Greers Ferry. Wade fishing is possible at every shoal on the Little Red right now. Our low dissolved oxygen seems to be turning around. Readings as high as 5.7 parts per million were recorded the other day near the dam with the water temperature at 55 degrees. The brown trout spawn is producing some incredible catches. I can't begin to tell you how many customers are reporting browns caught and released in the upper end of our slot (24 inches). In their full spawn colors, the trout appear to be lit from within. Because larger than average fish are going to be common for the next month or two, heavier tackle is in order. Switch to flies in size 14 or larger simply for the stronger hook and heavier line and tippet is also a good idea. Aquatic insect activity continues as per last week's report. Midges are the most numerous bugs ruling the skies over the Little Red with blue winged olive mayflies and caddis flies running a close second and third. The dry flies that are working include midges, BWOs, elk hair caddis and Adams. If fishing sub-surface, tie on a sow bug (#14 with beadhead in UV tan, UV gray, peacock or olive), zebra midge (#16 red, black or copper), red butt soft hackle (#14), copper john (#14), gold ribbed hare's ear (#14), prince (#14), pheasant tail (#16), egg patterns (#12 salmon, cerise, pink, peach or yellow) and woolly bugger (#8-#10 olive, brown or black).

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 460.23 feet MSL.

[Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service](#) said the water level at Greers Ferry is on the rise. The black bass fishing has been great. All species can be caught with Carolina-rigged soft-plastics and football head jigs. Topwater baits, spinnerbaits and crankbaits are also working well. When it gets tough, try a drop-shot rig or jighead worm baited with a Senko. The catfishing is still good all over the lake. Crappie fishing is good in the pole timber on jigs and minnows. The white bass and hybrids are going better than they have all fall with even with some schooling action going on. Many birds are on the lake now eating shad the fish are pushing up, but the bigger fish are biting real well and should continue until it gets really cold. Try spoons and in-line spinners

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said the water is clear and in the low 60s. Bass and hybrids are schooling early and late in the day.

**Harris Brake Lake:** [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is dingy and at normal level. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. All other species are slow.

**Lake Overcup:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are poor, but a few have been caught around the docks on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on white jigs and minnows. Catfishing is good on yo-yos baited with minnows. Bass are slow.

Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the bream are fair on worms and crickets. Crappie are excellent on pearl white Crappie Stingers and minnows fished along the south bank. Bass and catfish are slow.

**Brewer Lake:** [Overcup Landing](#) (501-354-9007) said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are poor on crickets. Crappie are fair on minnows and white/chartreuse jigs fished around brush. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits fished around buck brush. Catfish are biting well on prepared baits.

**Lake Maumelle:** [Jolly Roger's Marina](#) had no report.

[JB's Guide Service](#) said there is some good action right now. The water is clear. Over the weekend the surface temp was around 55 degrees. Even though bass are mostly biting around 15 feet or so, don't count out the occasional shallow prowl. Try a medium-running crankbait around 4 to 7 feet during the warmest part of the day.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said crappie are fair on medium-sized minnows in 6 feet of water. Catfish are fair on live bream.

**Lake Valencia in Maumelle:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are fair on redworms. Crappie are fair on minnows in 1-2 feet of water. Bass are fair on minnows fished shallow. Catfish are fair on nightcrawlers and chicken liver.

**Lake Pickthorne:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream and crappie are biting well. Bass and catfish are fair.

**Burns Park:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said bream are biting fairly well. Bass are biting well. Crappie are biting

well.

**Fourche La Fave River:** Crappie are biting well on medium-sized minnows fished under a cork or red/chartreuse jigs. Bass are fair. Bream are fair.

**Arkansas River in Little Rock:** Vince Miller from **Fish 'N Stuff** said bass fishing is fair around jetties and rocky areas on crankbaits. Catfishing is fair on worms.

**Sunset Lake:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is high and stained. Bream are fair on crickets. Bass are fair on white spinnerbaits. Crappie and catfish are slow.

**Saline River Access in Benton:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is high and clear. Bream are fair on crickets. Crappie are fair on soft-plastic grubs. Bass are biting well on crankbaits. Catfishing is poor.

**Arkansas River at Morrilton:** Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said catfish are biting well on whole shad fished below locks 9 and 10 in 30 feet of water. Bass are in the backs on the coves. If you can find some shad, you can find the bass. They are also on jetties late in the afternoons and are biting fairly well on black/blue jigs. White bass are below the dams and around jetty tips and can be caught on CC Spoons and wobble spoons. Sauger are fair on chartreuse jigs tipped with a minnow fished below the dams.

**Little Maumelle River:** No report.

**Murray Lock and Dam:** Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop had no report.

**Terry Lock and Dam:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) had no report because of cold weather.

**Clear Lake:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is muddy. No fishing reports because of cold weather.

**Peckerwood Lake:** Herman's Landing said the lake is closed to fishing until Feb. 1.

## NORTH ARKANSAS

**White River:** Sportsman's White River Resort said the water clarity is excellent. The river is running high with 6 to 7 generators running. Trout are biting well on spoons and small rubber worms. Good quality fish are biting when the water is lower.

**Mountain River Fly Shop** said oxygen levels topped 6.0 for the first time in several weeks and fishing is improving. The cooler weather will help as well. Some guides said the brown were much more aggressive, chasing down streamers. White Zonkers, Circus Peanuts and Conrad Sculpins are working well if you fancy throwing something big. Tungsten Slumbusters and Bunny Leeches are also working well. Drifting the standard egg-and-worm rig remains hot where legal. Hot Pink San Juans or Dynamite worms probably head the list, Clint's Sunday specials and Davy's Sowbugs are also doing well.

John Berry from Berry Brothers Guide Service said dissolved oxygen levels on the White River have returned to normal, and trout stocking has resumed on the upper 24 miles of the river above Rim Shoals. Fishing has been generally good. Dissolved oxygen levels have improved the bite significantly. With the Norfolk not running water, they have increased the generation level on the White from six generators to seven. The state park area has been a bit of a hot spot. The go-to flies have been orange San Juan worms and orange scuds (size 18). Egg patterns have also been accounting for some nice trout. The catch-and-release section at Rim Shoals has fished a bit better than the upper river. The fishing has been better in the morning. Hot flies for this area have been hot pink San Juan worms and brightly colored egg patterns. For a change of pace, try banging the bank with large streamers on a sink tip or full sinking line.

**Bull Shoals Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 657.54 feet MSL.

**Lake Norfolk:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 557.80 feet MSL.

**101 Grocery and Bait** said the water temperature is in the 50-degree range. Crappie fishing is good using minnows on a small jig or just a plain hook and a small split-shot. Bluegill fishing is good using worms and crickets. Striper fishing has been slow. White bass fishing is fair. Bass fishing is good using crankbaits,

spinnerbaits, stick baits and live shiners and worms. Catfishing is slow. Walleye fishing is fair; some are being caught at night using stick baits along the points and shallow banks.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said the water temperature is at 58 degrees. A few stripers are being caught on spoons, but overall the fishing is slow.

Norfolk Tailwater: John Berry from Berry Brothers Guide Service said there has been no generation on Norfolk. Wading conditions on the upper Norfolk have been excellent. With high generation on the White, the Norfolk is backed up to the Ackerman access making the lower Norfolk unwadable, but boating there is good. The Norfolk has fished much better during the last week. The low wadable water has definitely been a welcome change from the never-ending flow. The oxygen injection system has helped make the trout more comfortable and willing to feed. The hot flies have been sowbugs, olive scuds, hot pink San Juan worms, and orange eggs. Dry Run Creek is still fishing well. It is also receiving the benefits of the oxygen injection system. Cold weather has cut down on visitors during the last week, but young anglers who fished were not disappointed. The hot lies have been sowbugs, San Juan worms, eggs and woolly buggers.

**Mountain River Fly Shop** said Low water is back on Norfolk and its time to dig out your low-water fly boxes, your 6x tippet and your waders. Midges (#16-#20) will be very good. Camel midges, olive zebras, black/silver and black/copper zebras, ruby midges and Davy's Super Midges all do very well. Don't forget your sowbug and scud imitations. We will also expect soft hackles to be very good. Tailwater soft hackles in green/yellow and copper/brown were killers the last time we had low water. For dry fly and emerger addicts can we suggest the Parachute Adams, Morgan's Para Midge, Sprout's or Clint's Midge Emerger.

**Spring River:** **Spring River Fly Shop** said water levels are running low and clear. There have been some great opportunities for sight fishing. This week, crackleback in a size 6 has been the go-to fly. Red San Juan worms and super buggers in brown and olive have been producing nice fish also. The leaves are done falling for the year and are no longer creating a problem.

## NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Beaver Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,125.39 feet MSL.

**JT's Crappie Guide Service** (479-640-3980) said Bass have been biting crawdad-colored crankbaits along chunk rock banks and spinnerbaits in flooded brush most of the day. Crappie have been biting well near creek channels around brush piles. Crappie have been suspending over the piles 10 to 15 feet deep and hitting Shinee Hinee jigs and chartreuse curly tail grubs. White bass are tough to catch. Some have been schooled up on main-lake flats. If you can find some shad on your electronics, you should be able to find some whites. Jigging spoons have been effective. Catfish have been biting throughout the day into night along drop offs near channels. They have been biting cut bait and worms. Bluegill are still hanging under docks and can be picked off using crickets or worms 6 to 10 feet deep.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is high. Crappie are biting well on crankbaits and minnows. Bass are biting well on deep-running crankbaits, drop-shot rigs and spoons in deep water.

**Lake Fayetteville:** Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water was clear and at normal level.

**Lake Sequoyah:** Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said fishing has been slow from the windy, cold weather. Some bream have been caught on worms. Crappie are slow, but a few have been caught on minnows. A few catfish have been caught on live bream. Some bass have been caught on soft-plastic worms.

**Sugarloaf Lake:** Midland Minimart (479-639-9467) had no report.

## NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:** Judy Potts of Judy's Bait Shoppe had no report.

**Lake Charles:** **Lake Charles State Park** (870-878-6595) had no report.

**Crown Lake:** **Boxhound Marina** (870-670-4496) said all species are fair at best. No one is fishing because of the cold weather.

**Lake Frierson:** [Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is a little murky. Crappie are fair on minnows. Bass are fair on soft-plastics. Catfishing is fair on live and prepared baits.

## SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

**Lake Monticello:** Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) with Basshunters Custom Crankbaits said fishing on Lake Monticello has picked up from last week. There have been several nice bass caught in the last few days. Flipping Fishboy Crawtubes in 4 to 6 feet of water has worked best. Some fish are still schooling and are biting fairly well on Baby Basshunters and Kill Gills.

**Lake Chicot:** Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) had no report.

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

## SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Moro Bay:** [Moro Bay State Park](#) at the junction of the Ouachita River, Raymond Lake and Moro Bay said recent rains have brought the river up a couple feet above its normal level. Crappie were biting well, but cooler temperatures and rain have thinned out the anglers. However, it is safe to assume that since the water has cleared up and remained mostly steady in the last 24 hours, crappie will be biting again. Submerged trees in the lake and bay are the best places this time of year. White and chartreuse jigs work well. Shiners are also good but are hard to find, so buy them before you come. A few bream have been caught on worms but those seeking crappie. Nothing has been said recently of bass or catfish. Don't forget to dress warm and wear some orange.

**Lower Ouachita River :** No report.

**Tri-County Lake :** No report.

## SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS

**Millwood Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.40 feet MSL.

**Millwood Lake Guide Service** said water clarity improved to 5-7 inches of visibility in the lake away from the current. The main lake and Little River's water surface temperatures range from 52 to 60 degrees, depending on location and time of day. Current in Little River is 388 CFS. All Corps of Engineers boat ramps and campgrounds are open. Millwood State Park has one operational boat ramp and one still under repair. Most bass continue to feed. Sub-surface schooling activities are being seen in many areas of the lake. Chunky bass from 2 to 6 pounds continue to bite excellently on Rat-L-Traps at random periods throughout the day, mostly in the heat of the afternoon, in many of the oxbow lakes upriver. Johnson silver spoons with white grub trailer, War Eagle Spinnerbaits, and Bass Assassin Shad jerk baits are the go-to baits when the bass move into the vegetation and remaining lily pads. Bass were still very aggressive in Horseshoe and McGuire oxbow lakes upriver this week, chasing shad deep in the lily pads. Jigs have begun to incite a few good keeper size bass over the past couple weeks. The best jig colors so far have been peanut butter and jelly, brown/orange, and black/blue/purple. Pitching jigs to stumps near deep water is working along Little River and in the main lake. The big worm bite is slowing, but a few good fish are still being caught around cypress knees and the edge of remaining grass near drop offs. White bass were biting fair last week. Spoons, Rocket Shads, Rat-L-Traps, and grubs are working well in Little River between Highway 71 Bridge and the mouth of the Cossatot River, in Hurricane Creek, and in Little River between Pugh Slough and McIntosh Bend and Snake Creek. The Crappie bite continues improving along with the improved clarity along Little River on live shiners and jigs. Best depth over the last week with the improved water clarity is running between 7-8 feet deep over planted brush piles. Blue and channel cats remain excellent on trotlines or yo-yos along any remaining current in Little River.

**Cossatot River:** Davy Ashcraft at [Cossatot River State Park](#) (870-385-2201) had no report.

**Lake Columbia:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is murky. Crappie are biting fairly well on medium and small gold shiners. Bass are fair on soft-plastic worms and crankbaits. Catfishing is fair on stink bait and worms.

**Lake Erling:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said the water is low and the lake is being drawn down. Crappie are biting well. Bass are fair. Catfishing is good on worms and stinkbait.

**White Oak Lake:** [White Oak Lake State Park](#) had no report.

**Lake Greeson:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation was not available.

Darryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said the water level is 537 msl and should stabilize soon for winter. Water temperature is hovering around the mid-50s. Crappie are still scattered but should start to stack up on wood brush piles and bamboo condos.

Lakeside Grocery (870-398-5304) said the water is murky and at normal level. The surface temperature is 54 degrees. Bass fishing has been excellent on small plastic worms and crankbaits in 2 to 10 feet of water. Stripers are biting well in the morning on topwaters, crankbaits and spoons. Walleye are biting well on crankbaits. All other species are slow.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 407.55 feet MSL.

Local angler Charles Graves said the water is clear and at 58 degrees. Fishing has been slow except for crappies. Crappies are biting well in brush piles in 20 to 25 feet of water. The fish are suspended about 15 feet down. Use a 1/16-oz. crappie jig in red/chartreuse/white or chartreuse/white and line no heavier than 6-pound test. Bream are also around the brush piles and are near the bottom. Use worms or crickets. The best brush piles are between Caddo Drive and the river. Look for brush piles around secondary points and coves. Bass are slow with the absence of vegetation. A few have been caught on Texas-rigged worms and jigs fished on deep points and ledges in 15-20 feet of water. Fish the main lake between Edgewood and Shouse Ford. Hybrids and white bass have been very slow with no schooling activity.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Dardanelle:** Eric Pratt at [Lake Dardanelle State Park](#) had no report.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) had no report.

**Spadra Marina** reports daily limits of crappie and catfish are pretty regular right now. Crappie are biting best on pink/white Panfish Assassins and blue/pearl jigs. Bass minnows are finding bigger crappie, averaging at least 1½ pounds. Most of the crappie are 18 inches to 4 feet deep. Catfish are biting best on cut shad. Good honey holes are producing limits in less than two hours. We have seen bigger bass lately than we have seen in a couple of months. Customers are reporting two to three keepers a trip.

**Ozark Pool:** Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is clear and at normal level. Crappie are fair on minnows and jigs. Bass are fair on crankbaits. White bass are biting fairly well on crappie jigs. Catfishing is good on cut bait and minnows. Bream are slow.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 577.20 feet MSL.

**Mountain Harbor Resort** said the water is 60 to 65 degrees and clear. Largemouth bass are still biting well on spinnerbaits and lipless crankbaits fished over any grass in main-lake pockets. Spoons are catching some fish around main-lake humps and points in 20 to 25 feet of water. Walleye are being taken on the spoons as well. Stripers are still good on live shad or trotline minnows. White ½-oz. jigs and ¾-oz. spoons are still working as well. Bream are fair with crickets or worms in 18 to 25 feet of water. Crappie are very good and being caught over brush and moss beds. Try brush in water 15 to 20 feet deep. Minnows or crappie grubs are still working best.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said fishing is a little slow. Stripers were active on colder mornings and would hit clear Zara Spooks and big swim baits. Bass are relating to the grass in the back of creeks and are biting fairly well on spinnerbaits and jigs.

Dave Lindhag at [Striped Bass Adventures](#) said fishing is tough. The fish have moved up into the creeks and rivers. There are a lot of scattered fish right now. Smaller shad are working, but the occasional topwater is working around points near 25-50 feet of water. Freelined or weighted shad are producing the best, but it's not stellar. Most fish are 10 to 12 pounds. The schools are holding around 30 feet deep but will come up to 10 to feed.

**Lake Hamilton:** Larry Hurley from **Poorman's Guide Service** said Lake Hamilton is one of the hottest lakes in the state right now. Throw crankbaits and spinnerbaits in windy main-lake pockets and points for some good action. Beaver baits pitched to brush piles and boat docks are producing good limits of bass as well.

Trader Bill's in Hot Springs said bass fishing has been excellent since the drawdown. Once in a while, an angler comes in with a bad report, but almost everyone is catching plenty of bass in the shallow water. Monday's rain should add some color to the water and keep the bite going strong for Thanksgiving weekend.

**Lake Catherine:** Shane Goodner, owner of **Catch'em All Guide Service**, said that work at Blakely Dam has slowed the drawdown. A 3-foot drop is planned but could take another week or so for the lake to reach scheduled levels. As winter temperatures set in, the threadfin shad population has migrated away from the dam toward warm water. However, freezing temperatures shock shad in Lake Hamilton which are then pulled through the turbines, making an easy meal for trout. The November stocking is complete, so anglers are now catching trout casting Rooster Tails and Super Dupers in areas where current is slower than the main channel. The fish are scattered and establishing a solid pattern is difficult until the stocking program moves into late December. Big stripers are still present and have been observed feeding on rainbow trout. White bass and hybrid fishing has slowed considerably as the food source migrates downstream. Trout fishing will continue to improve as the year progresses and fishermen can look forward to a great year at Carpenter Dam.

Diamondhead Marina had no report.

**Lake Hinkle:** Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said no anglers have been to the lake lately because of cold weather and hunting season.

**Lake Atkins:** Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie are moving to coves and are biting well on minnows and jigs. Bass are slowing down, but are biting well on soft-plastics. Catfishing is good on cut bait and live shad.

## EAST ARKANSAS

**Arkansas River (Pine Bluff):** The Tackle Box (870) 534-1948 said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are biting well on redworms. Crappie are excellent on shiners and jigs fished around 12 feet deep near the channel. Bass are fair on spinnerbaits fished in 12 feet of water. Catfishing is excellent on cut shad and worms.

**White River:** Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the river is high and no one is fishing. No report.

**Maddox Bay:** Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is clear and at normal level. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Kentucky and largemouth bass are biting well on crankbaits and finesse worms. No report on catfish or bream.

**Bear Creek Lake:** Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) said the water is clear and at normal level. No anglers are visiting the lake.

**Horseshoe Lake:** Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and at normal level. Bream are still biting well on wax worms. Crappie are fair on minnows and black/chartreuse jigs. Bass fishing is extremely slow. Catfishing is good on cut bait and stinkbait.

**I-40 Chute:** James Sample at Daily's Boat Dock said no one is fishing, but quite a few duck hunters have been around for opening weekend.

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