

Arkansas Game & Fish Commission

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Randy Zellers (501)223-6406, e-mail: rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us**May 13, 2009 Edition**[Read this newsletter online](#)

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **May 13, 2009**. 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: If a fish you plan to release swallows the hook, don't try to pull the hook free. Instead, just cut the line as close to the hook as you can. The hook will disintegrate in time and the odds of the fish surviving will be greater than if you damage its throat or stomach tearing the hook free.

Arkansas River Levels are available at :

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

Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report: Catfish are in Community fishing ponds statewide. Nightcrawlers fished just off the bottom on a slip cork or on bottom with a bell sinker are working well. Many of the ponds are full of bream as well. Crickets fished under a bobber will catch plenty of bream. For more 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 murky and high. Bream are biting well on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are biting near cypress trees on minnows and chartreuse jigs. Bass are doing fairly well on spinnerbaits, and dark plastic worms. Catfishing is picking up on trotlines baited with small bream and minnows.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing said all species were biting well before the rain. The lake is high and muddy and fishing is hit-or-miss.

Little Red River:

Lindsey's Resort (501-302-3139) said the water is clear and high with one to two units running daily. Trout are biting well on crankbaits. Drift fishing is good on glo-worms and Power Eggs.

Jed Hollan at the **Little Red Fly Shop** said aquatic insects continue to flourish. I am seeing caddis flies, blue winged olive mayflies, American March brown mayflies, midges and sulphur mayflies coming off most every day. The midge and caddis hatches are particularly spectacular. Good dry flies include bwo (sizes 18-20), midges (size 22; cream), elk hair caddis (sizes 14-20; tan), para sulphur (size 18) or crackleback (size 12). Sub-surface flies that are catching trout include sowbug (sizes 14-16; tan, smokey olive, UV tan, UV light gray or peacock), chronic (size 14), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, olive or copper), green or red @ss soft hackle (sizes 14-18), copper john (sizes 14-16; green or red) or woolly bugger (sizes 8-12; olive, brown or black). So far, the merry month of May in 2009 has been the wettest in 127 years. All the area lakes and streams are high with more rain in the forecast. I spoke with the Army Corps of Engineers this morning and was told that, until the White River gets to 12 feet on the gauge at Newport and 13 feet at Georgetown, water releases will continue at the rate of 3000 DSF (day-second-feet). This is the equivalent of one generator being turned on for 24 consecutive hours. It can also take the form of 2 generators for 12 hours or anything in between. They have been running one generator for eight hours beginning at 6 a.m. then kicking in the second unit for 8 hours until 10 p.m. This permits wade fishing at Winkley Shoal every morning from 6 a.m. until the high water arrives at about 9 a.m. You can then relocate farther downstream to Libby Shoal and fish until about 10:30 a.m.

Greers Ferry:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 470.33 feet MSL.

Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service said the water is rising and the surface temperature ranges from the 70s in the north section of the lake to the high 50s in the south section. Bass are scattered all over the lake. They will still bite jerkbaits, crankbaits, spinnerbaits and jigs in shallower water. Some fish are being taken on top-water lures as well. The crappie are still biting well in shoreline brush and standing pole timber on jigs and minnows. The bream have started to move shallow and are being caught on crickets and pieces of nightcrawlers. The catfish bite has died. Walleye fishing is fair on crankbaits trolled over rocky flats in the main lake.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said the water is very high. No report.

Harris Brake Lake:

Coffee Creek Landing (501-889-2745) said the water is high and dingy. Fishing is slow for all species.

Lake Overcup:

Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water is high and dingy. Bream are biting well on redworms and crickets. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on black/blue Mann's Stone jigs. Catfishing is good on crayfish, nightcrawlers and goldfish.

Overcup Landing (501-354-9007) said the water is about a foot high and murky. Bream are biting well on redworms and crickets. Crappie are biting fairly well in 8-10 feet of water on dark brown, black or chartreuse jigs and in the shallows on minnows. Bass were caught on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. Catfishing was good on trotlines and noodles baited with cut bait and bream.

Brewer Lake:

Overcup Landing (501-354-9007) said the water is high and clear. Bream are biting well on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting fairly well near brush piles on salt-and-pepper, pink or white/chartreuse jigs. Bass are doing fairly well on spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. Catfishing is good on trotlines baited with nightcrawlers and shad.

Lake Maumelle:

Jolly Rogers Marina said as of Tuesday, the water has dropped to 1.6 inches above spillway. The average surface water temperature is 71 degrees. Largemouth bass are biting excellently on deep-running crankbaits, spinnerbaits and jigs fished around ledges in 6 to 12 feet of water. Kentucky bass are biting fairly well in water 6 to 14 feet deep on tubes, crankbaits and jigs. White bass are fair on CC spoons, Rogues and Near Nuttings around the chimney area. Crappie are fair on minnows and 1/32-oz. jigs fished 11 to 15 feet deep. Bream are biting well around shallow cover. The breakwater at the marina is providing some good catches. Crickets and worms are the go-to bream producers. Saugeye are fair on Road Runners and jigs in 6 to 15 feet of water. Catfishing is good on minnows, worms and prepared baits in 8 to 15 feet of water.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high and murky. Bream are biting well on redworms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are biting well on plastic worms and spinnerbaits. Catfish are good on shad and large minnows.

Lake Valencia:

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high and murky, but all fishing is good. Bream are biting well on redworms. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are slow but biting on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is excellent for the stocked catfish on stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

Sunset Lake:

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is extremely high and muddy. No report.

Saline River Access in Benton:

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is extremely high and muddy. No report.

Arkansas River at Morrilton:

Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said the weather and high water have kept boats off the main river, but fishing in backwater areas has been good. Bream are biting well on crickets around flooded timber. Crappie are biting very well on red/yellow jigs near areas where fresh runoff is coming from surrounding fields. Bass are biting well on shad-colored top-waters in backwater areas without current. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers around flooded fields. Some large carp are in the flooded fields as well.

Arkansas River at Little Rock:

Vince Miller from [Fish N' Stuff](#) (501-834-5733) said there is not much to report. The water is muddy and flowing high.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop said the water is high and murky everywhere. Most backwaters are doing pretty well because the fish are trying to get out of the current. Burns Park is flooded but bream are biting redworms. Crappie are biting minnows, bass are biting spinnerbaits, and catfish are good on skipjack. At Fourche La Fave, bream are biting redworms and crickets. Crappie are biting tube jigs and minnows, bass are biting well on white spinnerbaits. The Little Maumelle and Maumelle rivers are still flowing quickly, but bream are biting redworms fairly well and crappie are biting medium-sized minnows. Palarm Creek is flooded, but some good fishing can be had in the timber and vegetation along its banks.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said water is high and muddy. No report

Clear Lake:

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is high and muddy. No report.

Peckerwood Lake:

Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said the water is high and muddy. Catfish are biting well on minnows. All other species are slow.

Pickthorne Lake:

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are biting well on white spinnerbaits. Catfish are biting excellently on nightcrawlers and large minnows.

NORTH ARKANSAS

White River:

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said with all the rain and rising water, the pattern on the White was for round-the-clock generation of moderate flows. This has created some excellent conditions for drift fishing. The catch-and-release section below Bull Shoals Dam has been a bit spotty. One day is excellent and the next is very slow. Anglers reported success on midge patterns. The most effective were zebra midges in black with silver wire and silver beads and red with silver wire and silver beads. The best sizes were 14-16. Wildcat Shoals has been another hotspot. Anglers have reported great success during lower flows. The hot flies

have been soft hackles. Try green butts, partridge and orange soft hackles and partridge and green soft hackles. An olive woolly buggler on a sink tip has also been quite effective. Rim Shoals has fished well. There are still some caddis coming off and there is some top-water activity near the banks. This requires an accurate cast and a good drift. Several anglers have had great success with green caddis larva ticked along the bottom under an indicator.

Sportsman's White River Resort (870-453-2424) said the water is clear with two to three generators running all week. Fishing is good on Power Worms. Brown trout are biting well on gray or white jigs.

White River (From Buffalo Shoals to Norfolk):

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) said the water has been very muddy. Even with the colored water, you can catch fish on hot pink glo-worms on a drift rig and tip your hook with white Power Bait. The fishing will be back to normal before the weekend unless we get more rain.

Crooked Creek:

John Berry of [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said the seemingly endless rains have left Crooked Creek and the Buffalo River high and muddy. It will take a while for them to clear.

Bull Shoals Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 665.82 feet MSL.

Bob Pauletti (870-656-3350) with [Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock](#) had no report.

Lake Norfolk:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 558.91 feet MSL.

[101 Grocery and Bait](#) said the water surface temperature is in the mid to upper 60s and the water is stained. Fishing has been good during the last few weeks. Stripers are hitting top-water baits in the morning and evenings. Crappie fishing is good, not all of them have spawned yet and they are being caught at varying depths (3-25 feet deep). Bass fishing is good on jigs, spinnerbaits and soft-plastics. Some monster bluegills are hitting minnows, worms and crickets. Catfishing is fair. White Bass fishing is fair. Walleye fishing is good using live bait and crankbaits around 18 feet deep along secondary points. Smallmouth bass fishing is good using small soft-plastics on a 3/16-oz. jig.

Norfolk Tailwater:

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said generation on the Norfolk has been very limited, which has created some excellent wading. The Corps of Engineers has been holding back water to relieve flooding downstream. When that flooding abates, we can expect some much higher levels of generation. Fishing remains slow. There has been little generation recently and it has been pounded with near constant pressure. If you are fishing Quarry Park the hot fly has been the sowbug. On the lower river, zebra midges in black with silver wire and silver bead (size 18) and red micro worms (size 18) have been the go-to flies. There are still a few caddis out. Here again the presentation of your elk hair caddis must be flawless. Dry Run Creek continues to fish well. There is little room to cast here so you should keep your line short. The hot fly is the sowbug and the San Juan worm in red.

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) said the water is muddy with back up water from the White River. It will clear up as soon as some generation comes through to push out the muddy water. There have still been quite a few fish caught below the catch-and-release area on Power Bait and worms. Cast out and drag your bait back like you are working a plastic worm in the lake for bass. This works good when there is no generation.

NORTHWEST ARKANSAS

Beaver Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,128.69 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and Texas-rigged plastics. Fish the newly flooded timber and buck brush for best results. Also look for schooling activity early and late. Crappie fishing has been fair. Most fish have moved out to deeper water and are suspending along the creek channels near timber. A minnow tight-lined next to timber or a small jig worked slowly from the bottom up

along the timber has produced the best. The best crappie fishing has taken place from Hickory to Monte-NE. White bass have been working the surface early and late on main-lake flats and can be picked off with Rat-L-Traps and casting spoons. Bluegill are excellent on crickets under a float 1 to 6 feet deep around flooded cover.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said the water is high and muddy. All fishing is slow. A few bream have been caught in 2-8 feet of water on redworms. Crappie are biting well in shallow water on minnows. Bass are biting fairly well on chartreuse, white, watermelon and black/blue soft-plastic worms. Catfishing is fair on worms, chicken liver and perch.

Beaver Tailwaters:

Ken Richards at [Just Fishing Guides](#) had no report.

Lake Fayetteville:

Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is high and murky. The bream are slow on crickets and jigs. Crappie are fair in shallow water on crappie jigs. Black bass were fair on crankbaits. Catfishing is good on cut bait and nightcrawlers.

Lake Sequoyah:

Lake Sequoyah Boat Dock (479-444-3475) said the water is about 2 feet above normal and dingy. Bream are biting fairly well on worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well in the shallow water around tree tops on minnows and Road Runners. Bass are biting fairly well in 1-3 feet of water on soft-plastic worms and buzzbaits. Catfishing is good in 8-10 feet of water on chicken liver and shad.

NORTHEAST ARKANSAS

Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA:

Judy Potts of Judy's Bait Shoppe at the North entrance to Henry Gray Hurricane Lake WMA reports that the main gate remains closed due to the flooding in the area. The White River is at 32.20 ft and it predicted to remain there at least until May 16. A few fishermen have gone down into the WMA by boat and reported catching several crappie on Honey Lake. Some are still trotlining and bringing out catfish from the wooded areas. Many anglers have caught many bass, crappie and bream just west of us where Mingo creek crosses Lone Star road at the 6 tiles that run under the road.

Lake Charles:

[Lake Charles State Park](#) (870-878-6595) had no report.

Crown Lake:

[Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said the water is a little stained and a tad high. Crappie are biting well on minnows fished in 10 to 12 feet of water.

Lake Frierson:

[Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is about 6 inches above normal and clear. Bream were biting well on worms. No report on crappie. Bass were biting well on floating worms. Catfishing is good on chicken liver.

Spring River:

Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) said rains have muddied the Warm Fork and raised water levels, but the Spring is still running clear. The Warm Fork is a small creek that runs into the Spring River at Dam 1. When it runs muddy and the Spring remains clear it usually takes about a day to clear up. Modified San Juan worms did very well Sunday morning.

SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS

Lake Chicot:

[Lakeshore Motel and Marina](#) (870-265-9901) said not many anglers are on the water because of all the rain.

Lake Monticello:

Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) of MonticelloBigBass.com said the post-spawn phase of spring seems to be kicking into gear. Many bass are guarding fry around the pads. These bass can be caught on flukes, stick baits and lizards. There are still some bass on beds, but they are getting harder to find. If you do see one locked down, it is usually not difficult to get it to bite. The usual bed baits such as jigs and soft plastics in colors that you can see are the best. Live bait is still catching its share of nice fish in the 4 to 6 foot range. If anyone has pictures, videos, or fishing reports, please send them to us at info@monticellobigbass.com.

SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS**Millwood Lake:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 269.46 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said as of Monday, the surface water temperature continues to rise into the mid 70s. The lake level is 4.4 feet above normal pool and rising. Discharge was at 30,000 cubic feet per second on Friday, but has since been reduced to 24,998 cfs because the Red River below the lake is at flood stage as well. Main lake visibility is 2-3 inches away from the current and zero in the river channel. High density mats of vegetation, limbs, logs and entire trees are floating down Little River because of the rapid rise and string current, and many river buoys are still missing. The following boat ramps are closed because of high water: River Run East, River Run West, Wilton, Highway 71 and White Cliffs. Good numbers of largemouths up to 7-12 pounds have been caught and released over the last two weeks. The bass are in postspawn condition with only a few larger females still dropping eggs. The best bite is on heavy, 3/4-oz. Rat-L-Traps in Firetiger, Millwood Magic and Red Coach Dog colors. Heavy thumping spinnerbaits in hot mouse, firetiger or white/chartreuse are also working fairly well. The best jig bite has been on Texas Craw, amber metallic or chestnut/chartreuse colors fished around stumps and cypress trees near vertical drops around any clearer water you can find. New dollar pads (water shield) and fresh lily pads are key holding areas for solid keeper bass. White bass have disappeared with all the muddy water and current. Crappie have shut down with the muddy water as well. Channel catfish are still feeding very well in and around current along Little River on trotlines and yo-yos hung under cypress trees.

White Oak Lake:

Local angler John Tilley said fishing was just getting hot and the rains came. Catfishing is excellent on trotlines and jugs set near channels and spawning areas. Bream also were biting well on redworms and crickets. Bass were still being caught shallow on crankbaits and jerkbaits. The lake level as of Monday was about 2 feet over normal.

Lake Greeson:

Darryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) had no report.

DeGray Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 416.85 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the water temperature is in the low 70s and the lake is flooded. The only usable ramp is at the state park marina, but there's only room for a few trucks and trailers to park there. A few people caught bass in the flooded timber on floating worms and spinnerbaits. The fish are scattered with all the floodwater, so you have to cover water to catch a few.

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

WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS**Lake Dardanelle:**

Regina Olson at [Spadra Marina](#) said the river has been running too fast, leaving only muddy backwaters safe to fish. The west end of the lake is staying muddy, making bass and crappie almost impossible to find. Catfishing is excellent on just about everything. Shad have still been hard to find. Area ponds are starting to produce many nice red-eared sunfish and a crappie now and then and are probably a better bet than the river right now.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is too muddy and high for fishing. The current has been

above 200,000 cubic feet per second.

Blue Mountain Lake:

Teresa at CD's Quick Stop (479-947-2178) said the water is high and muddy. Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows.

Ozark Pool:

Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is muddy and high. Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good below the dam. Black bass are doing fairly well on crankbaits and plastic worms.

Lake Ouachita:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 581.14 feet MSL.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) had no report.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) had no report.

[Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports](#) had no report due to high water.

Dave Lindhag from [Striped Bass Adventures](#) had no report.

Lake Hamilton:

[Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports](#) said the lake is full, and the surface temperature is in the mid-70s. The water is muddy from recent rain and there are many floating logs and debris in the lake. A Carolina-rigged lizard or creature bait is working well on primary ledges and main-lake points. Wacky-rigged floating worms are working fairly well in the guts of pockets. White bass are schooling in the middle of the creeks on the surface.

Lake Catherine:

Shane Goodner, owner of [Catch'em All Guide Service](#), reports that weekly heavy rainfall has forced Entergy to schedule heavy generation flows in an effort to rid our area lakes of excess water. Flood gates have been open last week which eliminated much of the fishing from boats. The Carpenter Dam tailwater is very muddy with temperatures holding in the high 50s. Water levels are stable with fast current. Rainbow trout fishing has been terrible with the muddy water and strong current. The majority of the crappie spawn is complete, but large females are still being caught in areas out of the current in clearer water. Both male and female crappie will remain in the area as spawning is completed to rest and feed heavily before moving downstream to the main lake body. Live bait rigs and white or grey jigs are the best bet for targeting these fish. Several large stripers were caught in the past week with one weighing over 40 pounds. These predator fish cruise the tailwater in search of trout and shad and enjoy the highly oxygenated water close to the dam. Large top-water baits that imitate brood shad or trout are highly effective. Freshwater drum continue to spawn and can be hooked on crawfish and nightcrawlers fished close to the bottom.

Lake Hinkle:

Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said the water is a clear and high. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and pink/chartreuse jigs. Bass are doing well on spinnerbaits and pumpkin-colored plastic worms. Catfishing is good on trotlines baited with chicken liver and shiners.

Lake Atkins:

Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) had no report because of the weather.

SOUTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Moro Bay:

[Moro Bay State Park](#) at the junction of the Ouachita River, Raymond Lake and Moro Bay said the river is nearing 80 feet msl (15 feet above normal). Fishing is difficult when the water is at this stage. A good angler can still catch a few bream and small bass where water is causing debris and baitfish to accumulate – sometimes at the back of Raymond Lake or in the area where Moro Bay narrows into a smaller creek. Crappie are hard to catch but catfishing with trotlines and yo-yos could prove rewarding. However, trotlines will require constant adjusting or they will soon be underwater. For water level predictions visit www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/.

Tri-County Lake:

The rain and wind has kept everyone off the lake the last week.

Ouachita River Oxbows:

High water continued to slow fishing last week.

EAST ARKANSAS**Arkansas River at Pine Bluff:**

The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said the water is high and muddy. Some catfish were caught in the backwater on worms and cut bait.

White River:

Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the water is muddy and very high. No one is fishing.

Maddox Bay:

Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is about 29 feet and dingy. There is nothing to report on bream, crappie, or bass. Catfish were slow but were being caught using trotlines baited with minnows and crawfish.

Bear Creek Lake:

Arkansas Outdoors (870-295-4240) had no report because of weather.

Island 40 Chute:

Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) had no report.

Horseshoe Lake:

Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is clear and a high. Bream are biting well on redworms near the cypress trees and piers. Crappie are biting very well on black/chartreuse jigs. Some bass have been caught on black/chartreuse jigs. Catfishing is excellent on stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

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