

## Arkansas Game &amp; Fish Commission

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## Fishing

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Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Randy Zellers (501)223-6406, e-mail: [rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us](mailto:rdzellers@agfc.state.ar.us)**June 10, 2009 Edition**

This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for **June 10, 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:** Drag a tube for smallmouth. One of the best ways to catch big smallmouth during summer is to slowly drag a YUM tube along the bottom. Insert a weedless jighead into the tube to cut down on snags and retrieve the lure as slowly as possible. When you feel anything "different" on the retrieve, set the hook by reeling as fast as you can.

**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:** 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 clear and back to normal. Bream are being caught redworms and crickets. Crappie and bass are slow. Catfishing is picking up using trotlines baited with small

bream and large minnows.

Dan at Gold Creek Landing said bream are biting well on crickets and redworms. Crappie are biting fairly well around cypress trees. Bass are hitting fairly well on soft plastics in the lily pads. Catfishing is good on trotlines baited with bream.

### **Little Red River:**

**Lindsey's Resort** (501-302-3139) said the fishing is good. The water level varies with one to two units running. Trout are biting well on Power Bait, crankbaits and wax worms.

Jed Hollan at the **Little Red Fly Shop** said the Greers Ferry Powerhouse released water from 4 a.m. until sundown last Sunday because the Bull Shoals dam was shut down for Casting For Recovery. Each year, breast cancer survivors are paired with guides below Bull Shoals dam for a morning of guided fly fishing. At least three guides from the Little Red gave of their time for this worthy event. The guides were Chris Butts (of Lobo Landing), Greg Seaton and George Born. Southwestern Power Administration in Tulsa, Okla., is calling our water releases these days. They told me they have no plans to release water at Greers Ferry all day, every day to lower the lake level. Instead, intermittent releases will be the norm. Aquatic insect hatches include BWO, sulphur, March brown, caddis and midges. The most productive dry flies to use in low water include midges (sizes 22-32; cream), para sulphur (size 18), para Adams (size 18), blue winged olive (sizes 18-20), March brown (size 14), elk hair caddis (sizes 16-20; tan or black) or crackleback (size 12). Productive sub-surface flies include the sow bug (sizes 14-16; tan, UV tan, UV light gray, peacock or smoky olive), zebra midge (sizes 16-22; red, copper or black), red or green butt soft hackle (sizes 14-18), pheasant tail (size 16), San Juan worm (sizes 12-14; red, peach or fl. cerise), chronic (size 14), or woolly bugger (sizes 8-12; olive, black or brown).

### **Greers Ferry:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 469.33 feet MSL.

**Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service** had no report.

Shiloh Marina (501-825-6237) said the water is clear and a little high. The black bass and walleye are biting well on soft-plastics in about 20 feet of water.

### **Harris Brake Lake:**

**Coffee Creek Landing** (501-889-2745) said the water is about 1 1/2 feet high and murky. Fishing is slow for all species.

### **Lake Overcup:**

Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) had no report.

**Overcup Landing** (501-354-9007) said the water is a little high and clear. The bream are biting well on redworms and crickets. The bass and catfish are slow. Crappie are biting fairly well in about 4 feet of water on minnows.

### **Brewer Lake:**

**Overcup Landing** (501-354-9007) said the water is a little high and clear. Bream are biting well on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are biting well on small minnows near brush piles. Bass are biting fairly well on spinnerbaits. Catfish are doing well on live bait.

### **Lake Maumelle:**

**Jolly Rogers Marina** said the average surface water temperature is 75 degrees and the water level is 1.2 inches above the spillway. Largemouth bass are excellent in 6 to 12 feet of water. Deep-running crankbaits, heavy spinnerbaits and jigs are working well. Kentucky bass are biting well in 6 to 14 feet of water on jigs, tubes and deep-diving crankbaits. White bass are biting well and are schooling in the middle of the lake from North Shore to just north of Jims Island. CC spoons and clear Near Nuttings or Rogues are working well. Crappie are biting well in 15 to 20 feet of water on minnows and 1/32-oz. jigs. Bream are moving to shallow cover and are biting excellently on worms and crickets. Saugeye are fair in 10 to 15 feet of water on Road Runners and jigs. 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 clear. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on green pumpkin, watermelon seed or black/blue jigs. Catfish are good on cut bait and bream.

**Lake Valencia:**

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high and murky. Bream are biting well on crickets. Bass are biting well on minnows and spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and package bait.

**Sunset Lake:**

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is normal and clear. Bream are excellent on crickets. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on top-water lures and 6-inch lizards. Catfish are biting well on Magic Bait.

**Saline River Access in Benton:**

Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water is dropping and clearing. The bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are slow. Bass are biting well on top-water lures. Catfishing is good using trotlines with live bait.

**Arkansas River at Morrilton:**

Charley's Hidden Harbor in Oppelo said the flow is 57,000 and boaters are beginning to get on the river again. Bass are biting well on green pumpkin Zoom U-tail worms fished along the front side of jetties. Catfishing is good on and around jetties on shad fillets. Bream are moving to the sandbars and are bedding up. Crappie are in 3 to 6 feet of water and are fair on minnows.

**Arkansas River at Little Rock:**

Vince Miller from [Fish N' Stuff](#) (501-834-5733) had no report.

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said bream are biting well in Fourche Creek, the Maumelle River, the Little Maumelle River and Palarm Creek on crickets and redworms. Bass are biting well near the mouths of the backwaters on white spinnerbaits and around jetties on pearl-colored crankbaits. Catfish are biting well on cut bait, skipjack and shad in the main river and on nightcrawlers and large minnows in the backwater.

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is high and clearing. Catfishing is fair below Terry Lock and Dam.

**Clear Lake:**

McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is high and clear. Bream are biting well on crickets and redworms. Crappie are slow. The bass are biting fairly well on buzzbaits. Catfishing is fair on skip jack.

**Peckerwood Lake:**

Herman's Landing (870-241-3731) said the water is at normal levels and dingy. The fishing is slow, but some bass have been caught on jigs. Some catfish have been caught on yo-yos using crickets.

**Pickthorne Lake:**

Hatchet Jack's Sport Shop (501-758-4958) said the water is high and muddy. The bream are good on crickets. Crappie are slow. Catfishing is good on nightcrawlers and large minnows. Bass are biting white or chartreuse spinnerbaits.

**North Arkansas****White River:**

John Berry from [Berry Brothers Guide Service](#) said the pattern on the White was for around-the-clock generation of moderate flows with a few significant periods of no generation. This created some excellent conditions for drift fishing and some limited but excellent wading. The catch-and-release section below Bull Shoals Dam has been fishing extremely well. Anglers reported success on midge larva patterns. The most effective were zebra midges in black or red with silver wire and silver beads (sizes 14-16). Other hot patterns have been pheasant tails and egg patterns. During the recent periods of no generation, anglers have done very well on partridge and orange soft hackles and green butts. There have been some decent midge hatches. The best fly for the midge hatches have been Dan's turkey tail emerger. Wildcat Shoals has fished extremely well. There have been some prolific sulphur hatches in the late afternoon. Though there has been some limited dry fly fishing, the most productive technique has been to swing soft hackles when the trout are keying in on the

emerging sulphurs. The most productive flies for this situation have been partridge and orange and pheasant tail soft hackles. Rim Shoals has fished well. The sulphur hatch is still coming off on most days, but is diminished. The trout have not keyed in on the adults, but have been very active on the emergers. The best fly for this situation has been the partridge and orange soft hackle. The most productive way to fish the hatch however has been to fish copper John nymphs before during and after the hatches.

**Sportsman's White River Resort** (870-453-2424) said the water fluctuates because they are turning the generators off in the morning and on in the evening and are using 2-3 generators at a time. Fishing is good on Power Bait and small spoons when water levels are low, and jigs and Rapalas when the water is higher.

**Mountain River Fly Shop** said moderate flows on the White were broken up Wednesday with low water. Those lucky enough to be on the water caught them. Relatively low flows in the mornings have opened up some wading throughout the system. Black and silver zebras, Clint's black tungsten midge, and Davy Wotton's super midges and white tails have been doing very well. In bright conditions, add the rainbow warrior and blue poison tung. In overcast conditions, add black and copper, or copper brown midges. Sowbugs have been very good. Davy's Sows in size 16 and 18, Clint's Sowbug, Tailwater Sowbugs and McLellan's Woven V-Rib Sowbug all have been popular. Dry flies have been hot on low water. The fish are surface-oriented in these flows and while there are plenty of sulphurs coming off, patterns seem less important than getting the fly in front of a feeding fish. Elk hair caddis, hi-vis ants and parachute Adams have been doing as well.

#### **White River (From Buffalo Shoals to Norfolk):**

Jim Brentlinger at **Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge** (870-499-5185) said conditions are pretty much the same as last week. The moss coming down the river from Bull Shoals has made fishing difficult. Artificials are almost impossible to throw because of the moss.

#### **Crooked Creek:**

John Berry of **Berry Brothers Guide Service** said Crooked Creek and the Buffalo River are starting to clear. With lower flows the bass fishing should start picking up. Try Clouser minnows and crawfish patterns and concentrate on structure like rock shelves and fallen trees.

#### **Bull Shoals Lake:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 671.22 feet MSL.

Bob Pauletti (870-656-3350) with **Bull Shoals Lake Boat Dock** said bass fishing has been good. Spoons, cast up to the bank and worked back to the 25-foot range has been the best technique. The top-water bite is also good early and late in the day. A jig-and-pig, hula jig or a grub on a ¼-oz. jighead will work well on smallmouth. Night fishing has really picked up, with crankbaits, spinnerbaits and jigs the most effective.

#### **Lake Norfolk:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 562.31 feet MSL.

**101 Grocery and Bait** said the water temperature is in the upper 70s. Bream fishing is good on worms, crickets and minnows. Crappie fishing is good on minnows fished at various depths from 5 to 30 feet deep. Stripper fishing is fair, live bait and top-water lures have produced a few in the morning and evening. Catfishing has been productive on trotlines and jug fishing using a variety of bait from cut bait to goldfish, chicken livers and shiners. Bass fishing is good. Walleye fishing is fair on live bait, spinnerbaits and crankbaits in less than 20 feet of water. White bass fishing has been fair; they have been surfacing in the mornings for a very short time and most are being caught on inline spinners and Road Runners fished from 5 to 20 feet deep.

#### **Norfolk Tailwater:**

John Berry from **Berry Brothers Guide Service** said generation has been very limited, which has created some excellent wading. The overall quality of fishing on the Norfolk Tailwater remains poor. If you want to avoid the crowds, fish very early. The most productive flies have been small black zebra midges, Norfolk beadheads and red micro San Juan worms. On higher water fish brightly colored San Juan worms and egg patterns. Dry Run Creek is fishing well. School is out and there is more pressure on the creek as families begin to take vacations. The hot fly is the sowbug. Always use heavy tippet (at least 4X) and carry the biggest net you can lay your hands on.

**Mountain River Fly Shop** said the Norfolk continues to offer plenty of wading and some great fishing. Norfolk has been fishing well with zebra midges and sowbugs, and swung soft hackles. But don't leave home without some dry flies. Parachute Adams are the obvious, but some parachute midges, Morgan's midge, hi-vis ants and sprouts also are worth carrying.

Jim Brentlinger at [Linger's Guide Service and Fishing Lodge](#) (870-499-5185) said fishing is poor in the Norfolk tailwater. Some small fish can be caught on Power Bait and jigs fished from the confluence of the White and North Fork to the first island upstream.

## Northwest Arkansas

### Beaver Lake:

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,128.50 feet MSL.

[JT's Crappie Guide Service](#) (479-640-3980) said bass fishing is fair on Carolina-rigged finesse worms fished across main lake humps, points and flats. A popper fished close to flooded cover will work early in the morning and late in the evening. Crappie fishing has been challenging but productive. Try a black/chartreuse tube on a 1/16-oz. jighead and fish close to standing timber along bluff lines and channel drops just off the bottom in 20 to 30 feet of water. The best fishing for white bass has been at night along bluff lines with sharp drops into the main channel. Use lights to attract minnows and fish small dark-colored jigs and minnows 10 to 25 feet deep around the lights. Some walleye and crappie can also be expected. Catfish are biting well from the bank at night lake wide on nightcrawlers and liver.

Southtown Sporting Goods (479-443-7148) said water is high and clearing. The surface temperature is about 74 degrees. Bream are biting well on crickets. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs at night. Bass are biting well in the shallow water on top-water lures. Catfishing is good using jugs and trotlines baited with live bait.

### Beaver Tailwaters:

Ken Richards at [Just Fishing Guides](#) said the tailwater has been fishing very well. Generation has been very low, so wading and bank fishing are easily accomplished. Warmer days mean trout will be active from dawn till mid-morning then again later in the afternoon to evening. Afternoon fishing can be productive, but fish will be spooky and fairly deep. Copper Johns, hares ear nymphs and scuds are very productive. Watch for morning and evening midge hatches and switch to zebra or beadhead midges. Rooster Tails and pink jigs are working well in deep pools.

### Kings River:

Ken Richards at [Just Fishing Guides](#) said the water is perfect for fishing. Sunfish and smallmouth are on beds and are very aggressive. Fly-fish or spin fish with lures that get to the bottom. Green and brown colored lures are working well.

### Lake Fayetteville:

Lake Fayetteville Boat Dock (479-444-3476) said the water is about normal and clear. Bluegill are biting well on crickets. Crappie are a little slow but have been caught on jigs and minnows. Catfishing is good on chicken liver and stinkbait. Bass are biting well on top-water lures and plastics.

### 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 Roadrunners. Bass are biting fairly well in 1-3 feet of water on 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 said the White River stage is down, and the main gate is open. Roads are dry, but need some work. Many large bream have been caught on redworms and crickets on Honey Lake and Big Bell Lake. The road to Hurricane Lake is closed, but could be open by the weekend if there are no more rains. Crayfish are all over the roads, and many folks are gathering a few for catfish bait on their way to the water.

### Crown Lake:

[Boxhound Marina](#) (870-670-4496) said the water is normal and clear. The bream are biting well on crickets.

Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows. Bass are biting well on soft-plastic worms. Catfishing is good on chicken liver.

#### **Lake Frierson:**

[Lake Frierson State Park](#) said the water is normal and muddy. There is no report on bream, bass or crappie. Catfish are biting well on shrimp and nightcrawlers.

#### **Spring River:**

Mark Crawford at [Spring River Fly Shop](#) said fishing has been very good. Water clarity is good and water levels are average. Fish are being caught on Brownies, nymphs of all kinds, and emergers. During the heat of the day, fish seem to be going deeper with fishing during morning hours being more productive. We are still catching our bigger fish during the middle of the day when fishing has slowed. There are chances of rain all week. Brief rains usually cause large hatches of midges and caddis. Have some dries and zebra midges with you just in case.

### **Southeast Arkansas**

#### **Lake Chicot:**

[Lakeshore Motel and Marina](#) (870-265-9901) said the water is at normal stage and is continuing to fall about 1 to 2 inches a day. The bream are starting to bed up, and many have been caught in the last week. Some crappie are still being caught on jigs in deeper water, but it's slowed. Catfishing is good on crickets around cypress trees in the day and minnows, shad and stinkbait at night. Bass fishing is fair.

#### **Lake Monticello:**

Fishing guide Greg Gullede (870-723-3928) of [MonticelloBigBass.com](#) said the surface temperature on Lake Monticello continues to climb to the mid-80s. There are still bass to catch in the shallows on Senkos and Flukes. Bass are also being caught in 6 to 12 feet of water on plastic worms in watermelon and watermelon/red colors. The schooling bite is coming on like crazy with bass in the 3- to 6-lb. range being taken on topwaters and spinnerbaits when the fish are surfacing. The bream bite is good as usual with many small to medium bluegills and pumpkin seeds. The red-eared sunfish are not as plentiful as in previous weeks, but there are some nice ones coming in here and there.

### **Southwest Arkansas**

#### **Millwood Lake:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 259.43 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said caution is still advised during navigation near, or in the river due to debris and marker buoys pushed out of the channel. Several trees have lodged in boat lanes as well. Water clarity is still low, with 2-4 inches of visibility being good. Bass are still recovering from the rise and fall of water. The best bite has been in the morning on weightless trick worms or wacky rigs in June bug, grasshopper or kiwi colors. Bass Assassin Shads and buzzbaits have worked around clearer water near lily pads and other vegetation. Rat-L-Traps in Millwood Magic, Firetiger, or Bleeding White Shad colors are working for a solid reaction bite in the better water clarity areas of the oxbows up Little River. Bandit crankbaits in brown back/orange belly crawfish patterns are still taking some keeper size bass in the 4-5 pound class. Siefert's buzzbaits in Avocado, Chartreuse Crow, or Lime Sherbet colors, and spinnerbaits in Hot Mouse, firetiger, and white/chartreuse colors are working in clear water if you can find any. The jig bite is beginning to improve on Texas craw, metallic amber/chartreuse or river craw/orange colors. Texas-rigged worms and in black/chartreuse tail, plum, peanut butter and jelly, or red bug are working along the edges of pad fields. White bass are scattered and slow. Crappie are beginning to improve. Blakemore Roadrunners and tube jigs in chartreuse/white and live shiners are producing a few. Channel catfish are excellent on cut shad, Catfish Charlie and blood bait.

#### **White Oak Lake:**

Local angler John Tilley said the water temperature is rising and the water level is dropping. Bass fishing has been spotty with a few caught on plastic worms. Bream fishing still good when you can find the beds. Most bites are coming on crickets and worms. Catfishing has been excellent on noodles baited with live bait, especially at night.

#### **Lake Greeson:**

Darryl Morris of [Family Fishing Trips Guide Service](#) said Lake Greeson is at 547.65 msl and steady. The water temperature is holding in the lower 80s. Crappie, bream and white bass are biting well on live bait fished 6-12 feet deep on staging beds. Bass are working the banks and main channel points. A few stripers have been caught in the secondary creek channels and should be making their way to the deep water near the dam soon. Catfish are being caught in the same spots as the crappie and bream.

#### **DeGray Lake:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 406.28 feet MSL.

Local angler George Graves said the surface temperature is in the low 80s and the water is clear. Bream fishing has been excellent just about everywhere in the lake. Try most any shallow point in large coves around 5 to 10 feet deep. Hybrid fishing remains good with catches being made all along the state park. The best areas are between DeRoche Ridge and Caddo Bend. Look for any surface activity and throw either a spoon, in-line spinner or a Rat-L-Trap. Let the lure sink under the school and bring it up under the fish. If no breaking fish are seen, use your sonar on points and ledges to spot the deeper schools in 25 to 30 feet of water. Early morning and very late evening is the best time. Bass fishing is fair with quite a few breaking fish on main lake points. Best areas are between the State Park and Caddo Drive. Fish main lake points early in the morning. Use a swim bait or Fluke for the breaking fish. Also try a Texas rigged worm, small crank bait or spinnerbait for deeper fish. No reports on crappie; everyone is fishing for bream.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) said the water level is down and clarity is good. The bream are biting well on crickets and redworms. Crappie are fair in 15-20 feet of water on minnows. Bass are fair on top-water lures, spinnerbaits and jigs. Catfishing is fair using noodles with live bait.

### **West-Central Arkansas**

#### **Lake Dardanelle:**

Regina Olson at [Spadra Marina](#) said fishing has slowed from last week. The best bet for action is to get a tube of crickets and fish for bream. The water level has been stable and near normal. Catfish are still doing well on cut shad and stinkbait. Crappie are biting for about 2 hours a day some time between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Largemouth bass are starting to become more active; they are chasing black/blue and white spinners. Bass fishermen are also beginning to do well on frogs early in the mornings.

Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said the water is muddy. Bream, bass and crappie are slow. Catfishing is good on stinkbait and nightcrawlers.

#### **Blue Mountain Lake:**

Teresa at CD's Quick Stop (479-947-2178) said the water is high and muddy. There is no report on bream. crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good with cut shad.

#### **Ozark Pool:**

Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is muddy and back to normal. The bream are biting fairly well on crickets and nightcrawlers. Crappie are biting well on minnows and jigs. Catfishing is good on cut bait and nightcrawlers. Black bass are fair on crankbaits, spinnerbaits and soft plastics.

#### **Lake Ouachita:**

As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers had no elevation available.

Larry Hurley from [Poorman's Guide Service](#) said bass fishing is good. Fish are suspending over points and can be caught on shad-colored spinnerbaits and top-water baits early in the morning. When the morning bite dies, switch to a jig or Texas-rigged worm. Bream are biting well with many on the beds. Stripers are fair around the dam, but anglers are concentrated there.

[Mountain Harbor Resort](#) said the water is 74-78 degrees and clearing. Largemouth bass are biting well on flukes and shad-colored baits around main-lake and secondary points. Top-water action is good on Zara Puppies and Boy Howdies. Walleye are still fair on bottom bouncers and Lindy rigs baited with nightcrawlers and fished on main-lake points near brush. Stripers are biting well on live shad and trotline minnows. Top-water action is good on C-10 Redfins. Bream are excellent on worms or crickets in 6 to 12 feet of water. Crappie are good around brush in 20 to 30 feet of water on minnows and Tennessee shad crappie grubs. Catfishing is excellent on jugs and trotlines baited with live bait or cut bait.

**Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports** said the lake is falling. The surface temperature is in the 70s. Most creeks are clearing. Top-water lures fished around the green bushes and points seem to work well. A Texas-rigged worm fished in 5 to 10 feet of water is working as well. Bluegill are spawning; try crickets in the back of pockets.

#### **Lake Hamilton:**

**Trader Bill's Outdoor Sports** said the water temperature is in the mid-70s. The water color is clear in some areas and muddy in others from rain. Carolina-rigged lizards or creature baits are working well. The top-water bite is picking up. Most people are finding schooling fish in the mouths of most major creeks. Bluegill are spawning and are easy to catch in the back of most pockets.

#### **Lake Catherine:**

Shane Goodner, owner of **Catch'em All Guide Service**, reports that Entergy and the Corps of Engineers continue to bring Lake Ouachita out of flood pool. This process is nearing completion and should bring lake conditions back to normal at the end of this week. Flood gates will close and generation will be reduced as water conditions return to normal. Carpenter Dam tailwater has been virtually unfishable for weeks because of swift current. Boating is treacherous at best and wade fishermen have kept to the bank for safety. The only rainbow trout caught last week came from bank fishermen using nightcrawlers and redworms in areas protected from the current. Most trout techniques are useless in the turbulent waters. There is hope for salvaging the tail-end of the trout season which will end in August. The trout population below the dam has been virtually untouched for 21/2 months. The fish are present and can be caught as soon as the unfishable conditions subside. Striper and hybrid schools will return to the tailrace as these fish follow the huge threadfin shad schools moving to the dam to spawn. Freshwater drum are still being caught near the bridge as their spawn continues through the month of June.

#### **Lake Hinkle:**

Bill's Bait Shop (479-637-4719) said the water is high and clear. The red-eared sunfish are biting well on crickets. The crappie are biting well on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits and crankbaits. Catfishing is good using trotlines on shiners and shad.

#### **Lake Atkins:**

Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is high and clearing. Bream are biting well on crickets. Catfish are biting well on live and prepared baits. Crappie and bass are slow.

### **South Central Arkansas**

#### **Moro Bay:**

**Moro Bay State Park** at the junction of the Ouachita River, Raymond Lake and Moro Bay said the water level is falling very slowly. Rod-and-reel fishing of all kinds is difficult and water conditions are unsafe in the river for boating. The state park is closed. To stay updated on when conditions will return to normal you can check out the National Weather Service Web site at: [www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/lzk/).

#### **Tri-County Lake:**

The water is beginning to drop. Some anglers have made it to the water and are doing well on bass. Fishing is slow at first, but picks up at around mid-morning. Shallow crankbaits, finesse worms and top-water frogs are working well around any growing moss.

#### **Ouachita River Oxbows:**

Things are starting to come around. The Ouachita is still high and at flood stage in places, but people are starting to catch crappie on minnows around submerged tops. Catfish are good in channels with running water on trotlines. Bass seem to be hit-or-miss. A few have been caught on light-colored crankbaits and soft plastics fished around brush tops.

### **East Arkansas**

#### **Arkansas River at Pine Bluff:**

The Tackle Box (870-534-1498) said the water is normal and muddy. Bream are biting well on wax worms and crickets. Crappie are biting fairly well on minnows. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on cut

bait and skipjack.

**White River:**

Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) the water is dropping and clear. There is no report on bream or bass. Crappie are slow but biting on minnows. The catfish are picking up.

**Maddox Bay:**

Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is high and dingy. Bream are biting well on crickets. Bass and crappie are slow. Catfishing is good.

**Bear Creek Lake:**

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

**Island 40 Chute:**

Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water is about 2 feet high and clearing. There is no report on crappie or bream. Catfishing is good on skipjack, nightcrawlers and stink bait. Bass are biting well on spinnerbaits.

**Horseshoe Lake:**

Local angler Clyde Gregory said the water is high and clear. Bream are biting well in shallow water near cypress trees on worms. Crappie are biting well near piers on minnows and jigs. Bass are slow on spinnerbaits. Catfishing is good on worms.

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