

## Weekly Fishing Report for January 17, 2007

### Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

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*This is the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing report for Jan. 17, 2007. If there is a body of water you would like included in this report, please call or e-mail us with information on possible sources for that lake or river.*

**Fishing Tip:** Winter is an excellent time to place brush piles for cover in some of your favorite lake. Everyone will be pruning back tree limbs before spring, and simply driving down a few roads will supply you with all the brush you need. Check with the owner of the lake before placing brush piles. Contact your local AGFC office if you need help locating the owner.

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

11.64 feet at Dardanelle (flood stage – 32 feet)

20.68 feet at Morrilton (flood stage – 30 feet)

12.74 feet at Little Rock (flood stage – 23 feet)

38.23 feet at Pine Bluff (flood stage – 42 feet)

29.45 feet at Pendleton (flood stage – 31 feet)

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

21.09 feet at Georgetown (flood stage – 21 feet)

32.34 feet at Augusta (flood stage – 26 feet)

26.92 feet at Newport (flood stage – 26 feet)

12.33 feet at Batesville (flood stage – 15 feet)

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

**Statewide Family and Community Fishing Report:** There will be no Family and Community Fishing Report this week because of low angler numbers. For more information on trout stockings, call toll-free (866) 540-FISH (3474).

### CENTRAL ARKANSAS:

**Lake Conway:** Bates Field and Stream (501-470-1846) said all gates are open and the lake is full. As soon as the water evens out, there should be some good fishing.

**Little Red River:** [Lindsey's Resort](#) (501-302-3139) said the water is murky and one generator is running all day to regulate water levels. Trout fishing is good on wax worms and PowerBait in the current. Artificial baits have been working well with the current. Shad Raps, Buoyant Spoons and Rebel Crawdad crankbaits have been working well on the trout.

**Greers Ferry:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 469.57 feet MSL.

**Tommy Cauley of Fish Finder Guide Service** said before the rains the walleye bite was good on jigs tripped with minnows in 40-70 feet of water around the mouths of creeks. A few bass have been caught on football-head jigs in 44 to 70 feet of water. White bass and hybrids were showing up in the rivers, with the most action being up the Devil's Fork arm.

**Harris Brake Lake:** [Coffee Creek Landing](#) (501-889-2745) said the water is high and murky. Fishing is fair at best because of poor lake conditions.

**Lake Overcup:** Lakeview Landing (501-354-1470) said the water is high but dropping. Fishing is slow for all species.

**Lake Maumelle:** Jolly Roger's Marina said Lake Maumelle is 2.7 feet over the spillway. Largemouth bass are biting well along the mud line near the banks. Try crankbaits and spinnerbaits. Kentucky bass are holding in deeper water near the west end of the lake. White bass have been biting well on Sassy Shads and CC Spoons fished on the west end of the lake around the mud lines. Crappie fishing is good in 20 feet of water on minnows. Find the brush, and you've found the crappie.

**Little Maumelle River:** River Valley Bait (501-868-3279) said the river current and rains have kept most people off the water. All fishing has been very slow.

**Sunset Lake:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the lake is extremely high and the water is muddy. No anglers are on the water lately.

**Saline River Access in Benton:** Turbyfill's Outdoor Sports (501-315-3061) said the water has overflowed the banks of the river and the current is dangerously strong. Fishing is slow.

**Terry Lock and Dam:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said some people are fishing from the banks, but having no success. When the current is this high, it's best to stay away from the river.

**Clear Lake:** McSwain Sports Center (501-945-2471) said the water is muddy and high. Fishing is poor for all species.

## **NORTH ARKANSAS:**

**White River:** [Gaston's White River Resort](#) said before the rains, trout fishing was excellent, with a lot of trout caught on redworms, wax worms, nightcrawlers and Berkley PowerBait. The best artificials were gold/red Buoyant Spoons, gold or gold/red Little Cleos and floating Rapalas. Fly fishing was excellent with the low water, but the high water levels have increased generation

***Bull Shoals Lake:*** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 657.23 feet MSL.

***Lake Norfolk:*** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 555.20 feet MSL.

Cranfield Junction Bait and Tackle (870-492-5141) said before the rains, fishing was good for all species. Jerkbait was beginning to pick up some walleye and stripers against the bluffs. With the 5-foot rise in elevation, fish should be moving toward the newly flooded areas.

## **NORTHWEST ARKANSAS**

***Beaver Lake:*** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 1,124.62 feet MSL.

## **SOUTHEAST ARKANSAS**

***Lake Chicot:*** Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is extremely muddy and no anglers have been on the water because of the rain and wind.

***Grand lake:*** Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is extremely muddy and no anglers have been on the water because of the rain and wind.

***Mississippi River:*** Koenig Bass Tracker Marine (870-265-5374) said the water is extremely muddy and no anglers have been on the water because of the rain and wind.

***Cane Creek Lake:*** Cane Creek State Park said the water is up and stained from the rains. The water level has moved into the lily pads. Catfishing is good on trotlines baited with minnows.

## **SOUTHWEST ARKANSAS**

***Millwood Lake:*** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 264.06 feet MSL.

[Millwood Lake Guide Service](#) said as of Monday, main lake and Little River water surface temperature ranged from 42 to 47 degrees, depending on location and time of day. ***Extreme Caution is advised for navigation.*** Lake level on Millwood continued rising the last few days. Little River's clarity as of Monday is approx 1-3" and current increased to 19,737 cubic feet per second. Logs, debris and floating mats of vegetation are floating at a rapid clip down Little River. The activity levels of bass and crappie are typical winter patterns. Feeding periods are best during the warmest periods of the day. Best bite for bass with the change in lake elevation and muddy conditions, for the last couple weeks has been deflecting rattling crankbaits off stumps and timber, or fishing jigs on stumps and cypress trees. The Bass bite remains fair to good, from approx lunch to 3 p.m. Largemouth bass are roaming shallow during the heat of the day and will hit a War Eagle spinnerbait. The crankbait bite has improved using Little N's or Bandit 200's in firetiger or brown back/orange belly craw patterns, around stumps and cypress knees. Also, chartreuse

pepper lizards, rigged on a Carolina Rig using a 20-inch leader, were taking a few fish between Pugh Slough and Jack's Isle along Little River, by throwing up onto the normal river bank areas and ridges, and working it back to the first drop-off. That is, if you could maintain contact with the lure, in the current in Little River. Little River is well out of its normal level banks most all the way from above highway 71 to Yarborough Landing. White Bass which were holding next to the bridge columns of Highway 71 last week, but disappeared with the current. Crappie remained shut off for the most part of the day. Channel Cats remain very good with the continual current along outer river bends of Little River. Trotlines were taking nice channel cats in the last few days using chicken liver, cut shad and homemade blood bait. Lines set in the current, between 8-10 feet, have taken some cats ranging in the 6-pound class.

**Lake Columbia:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said crappie fishing is fair in 10-15 feet of water. The fresh water slowed things down, but everything should be evened out in time for next weekend.

**Lake Erling:** Steve's Marine (870-234-2222) said rain and colder weather has kept many anglers off the lake. No report.

**White Oak Lake:** Charlie's One Stop (870-685-2753) said no one has visited the lake with the rain and colder weather.

**Lake Greeson:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 555.78 feet MSL.

Darryl Morris at [www.familyfishingtrips.com](http://www.familyfishingtrips.com) said Lake Greeson has overflowed its banks and is rising at 3 or more feet per day. The lake will continue to rise for the next several days and might crest the Narrows Dam spillway, which has not happened since 1968. Many boat ramps are completely submerged and unserviceable. So, as you can guess, we are definitely in a holding pattern when it comes to fishing until the lake stabilizes.

**DeGray Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 414.28 feet MSL.

DeGray One Stop (501-865-3511) said no anglers are on the lake with the weather conditions.

**Little Missouri River:** Jeff Guerin of [Little Missouri Flyfishing](http://LittleMissouriFlyfishing.com) said just before the rains, fishing was excellent right below Narrows Dam. The AGFC also stocked trout right before the rains. Current should be too swift to comfortably fish for the next few days until the lakes even out again.

## WEST-CENTRAL ARKANSAS

**Lake Dardanelle:** Murphy's Sporting Goods (479-229-3200) said a few fish have been picked up near the nuclear power plant, but very few anglers are on the water with the increased flow and rain.

**Blue Mountain Lake:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 401.5 feet MSL.

CNC's End of the Line (479-947-2398) said the water is high and muddy. Before the rain, crappie were biting well on jigs tipped with a minnow.

**Ozark Pool:** Lakeside Food Mart (479-667-5155) said the water is murky and the current is strong. Crappie fishing was fair in the backwaters on minnows and jigs. Black bass seemed to bite well on jig-and-pig combos. Stripers and white bass were biting fairly well below the dam on heavy jigs and minnows, but the current has kept many anglers off the water now. Catfishing is slow but improving on cut bait.

**Lake Ouachita:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 586.82 feet MSL.

[Poorman's Tackle and Guide Service](#) said on Sunday, the water rose 3 feet. The best bet for the bass is fishing a ¾-ounce black/blue or green/orange jig along the outside of the grass. There is some striper action in Cedar Fourche Creek. Chrome/blue Rat-L-Traps are working the best. Bream and crappie are poor.

Lake Ouachita State Park marina reports fishing has steadily picked up. The water is muddy and rising with recent rains, and the surface temperature is 48 degrees. To find stripers and black bass, locate the shad congregating near creek mouths and around structure. Stripers have been caught in the mornings and afternoons on topwaters, spoons or trolling crankbaits. Brood minnows have also been producing fish. Redfins have been successful on breaking fish. Bass fishing has been fair on the traditional baits such as finesse worms, and spinnerbaits. Smaller crappie have begun to move into the shallows, but there haven't been any reports of good-size crappie being caught. Anglers have reported the bream fishing as slow. There have been no reports of catfish success. A few walleye are being caught off rocky points and humps on spoons and live bait.

**Lake Catherine:** Diamondhead Marina (501-262-2272) said the current is extremely strong because of the rain. Catfish and crappie are biting decently in deep water near vertical structure. All other fishing is slow.

**Lake Hamilton:** [Poorman's Tackle and Guide Service](#) said water current has made the water muddy and has kept the anglers off the lake.

**Lake Atkins:** Lucky Landing (479-641-7615) said the water is muddy and the lake is 4 feet high. Before the rain, people were catching fish fairly well around the dock.

**Lake Nimrod:** As of Tuesday, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports the lake's elevation at 359.49 feet MSL.

## **SOUTH-CENTRAL ARKANSAS**

### **EAST ARKANSAS:**

**Arkansas River (Pine Bluff):** River City Sporting Goods (870-534-8303) said fishing is at a standstill because of the strong current and cold weather.

**Island 40 Chute:** Daily's Boat Dock (870-739-3478) said the water is on the rise and the water is muddy. No angling reports have come in lately.

**White River:** Triangle Sports (870-793-7122) said the river has crested and is starting to fall. The water is still rolling. It may be a week or so before anglers begin to get on the water again.

**Maddox Bay:** Maddox Bay Landing (870-462-8317) said the water is rising and current is dangerously strong.

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

**Horseshoe Lake:** Local fisherman Clyde Gregory said the water is up and clear. Bream are biting well on redworms. Many crappie anglers did well last week on minnows trolled near the main lake. Catfishing is very good on nightcrawlers.