



# 2014 Fishing Forecast

Get your tackle ready and update your licenses to hook into some serious fishing with this list of top angling sites from DNR fisheries biologists.

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## NORTHEAST IOWA

### WALLEYE

**CEDAR RIVER** (Mitchell, Floyd, Black Hawk and Bremer) Size 12 to 30". Fish deep water pockets and congregating areas during spring and fall. In summer, target wood or rock habitat near current. Jigs and minnows are preferred spring and fall, while nightcrawlers and crankbaits are summer favorites.

**SHELL ROCK RIVER** (Black Hawk, Bremer and Butler) Size 12 to 28". Quality-sized fish and great opportunities for boat and float anglers. Focus on areas with rock or wood habitat.

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOLS 9 TO 14** (Allamakee to Scott) Target any lock

and dam tailwaters in early spring shortly after ice-out. Vertical jig on the bottom with minnows, jiggling spoons or bladed lures. After spawn, try winddams throughout the summer and fall. Stay upstream of winddams and let lures or bait float to the front of the winddam. Active, aggressive walleyes will strike crankbaits or three-way rigs trolled over dropoffs and upstream of winddams. In late fall, saugers seek refuge in the depths of tailwaters. Jig and minnow or a three-way rig with a sinker and a minnow produce the best results.

Other mentions: **TURKEY RIVER** (Howard, Winneshiek, Fayette and Clayton), **UPPER IOWA RIVER** (Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee)

and **WAPSIPINICON RIVER** (Black Hawk and Buchanan).

### BROOK AND RAINBOW TROUT

**SOUTH BEAR/NORTH BEAR CREEKS** (Winneshiek) Announced stockings twice weekly April through October. There are more than 10 miles of water open to fishing in these two streams. Excellent for fly fishing, live bait and artificial lure angling.

**RICHMOND SPRINGS** (Delaware) Public access available at Backbone State Park. Use dry flies, jigs, nightcrawlers, nymphs, plastics, prepared baits and spinners.

**BAILEY'S FORD** (Delaware) Public access available at Bailey's Ford County Park. A variety of tackle will work, including dry flies, jigs, nightcrawlers, nymphs, plastics, prepared baits and spinners.

Also try: **TROUT RUN** (Winneshiek), **TURTLE CREEK** (Mitchell), **LITTLE PAINT/ BIG PAINT CREEKS** (Allamakee), **BIGALK CREEK** (Howard), **WATERLOO CREEK** (Allamakee), **SNY MAGILL CREEK** (Clayton), **GLOVERS/OTTER CREEKS** (Fayette) and **BANKSTON CREEK** (Dubuque).

## BROWN TROUT

**NORTH BEAR CREEK** (Winneshiek) Size 6 to 19". Use multiple access points to see some of the most scenic ledges and natural water features in northeast Iowa. Some of the best insect hatches occur here to challenge many fly fishers.

**FRENCH CREEK** (Allamakee) Size 6 to 20". The entire stream is catch-and-release, artificial lures only for brown trout. The fish spook easily—perfect for delicate fly rod presentations.

**SPRING BRANCH CREEK** (Delaware) Size 8 to 20". Public access available through Manchester Fish Hatchery, Bailey's Ford County Park and signed public fishing easement downstream of the hatchery. This is an artificial-only and 14-inch minimum length stream. Spring Branch is known for good insect hatches and flyfishing opportunities.

Other mentions: **ENSIGN HOLLOW** (Clayton), **FOUNTAIN SPRINGS/ELK CREEK** (Delaware), **MAQUOKETA RIVER** (Clayton/ Delaware), **SWISS VALLEY** (Dubuque), **COLDWATER CREEK** (Winneshiek), **CLEAR CREEK** (Allamakee), **SNY MAGILL CREEK** (Clayton), **BLOODY RUN** (Clayton), **GRANNIS CREEK** (Fayette) and **TURTLE CREEK** (Mitchell).

## SMALLMOUTH BASS

**CEDAR RIVER** (Mitchell, Floyd, Black Hawk and Bremer) Size 8 to 18". The

Cedar is overlooked for smallmouth, but provides a great opportunity for size and quantity. Fish jigs or live bait near rock and wood. Crankbaits or spinners can be effective to cover water and find fish.

**SHELL ROCK RIVER** (Black Hawk, Bremer and Butler) Size 10 to 18". The Shell Rock is known for quality-sized fish and great opportunities for boat and float fishers. Focus on rock or wood habitat. Jigs are most consistent, but crankbaits or spinners can be best at times.

**WAPSIPINICON RIVER** (Black Hawk and Buchanan) Size 10 to 20". The Wapsi is among the best for trophy fish. Focus over rock or wood habitat. Fish near swift current during summer when water is slow.

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOLS 9 TO 15** (Allamakee to Scott) Fish range 10 to 20" with many in the 16 to 18" range and over 4 pounds. Fish spring and early summer at the mouths of small streams and openings of backwaters. Use crankbaits, crawfish and inline spinners in the summer and fall on riprapped islands, closing dams and main channel wingdams targeting areas with current breaks. The tailwaters and upper ends of Pools 12 to 15 have an abundance of rock that hold nice smallmouth.

Other rivers to target smallmouth bass include **VOLGA RIVER** (Fayette), **UPPER IOWA RIVER** (Howard, Winneshiek, Allamakee), **TURKEY RIVER** (Howard, Winneshiek, Fayette and Clayton) and the **MAQUOKETA RIVER** (Delaware and Jones).

## CHANNEL CATFISH

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER POOLS 9 TO 15** (Allamakee to Scott) Expect good summer fishing with many fish in the 6- to 10-pound range. After ice-out, use cut shad in the backwaters. Late spring and early summer, try cutbait and nightcrawlers along shorelines and below wingdams on the channel. Use a bobber and repeatedly float worms or leeches

along rocky shorelines. As water temperatures rise into the 70s, stinkbait is effective in deeper holes, rock mounds and brush piles. Stay well above brush piles and allow bait scent to diffuse into the pile.

**CEDAR RIVER** (Mitchell, Floyd, Black Hawk, Bremer) Size 10 to 24". The Cedar is a fantastic catfish river, with plenty of boat and shoreline access. Use cut baits or prepared fish baits early, transitioning to stinkbaits, nightcrawlers or blood baits for summer. Areas near deep holes with current breaks are preferred early and areas near wood and current are best during summer.

**SHELL ROCK RIVER** (Bremer and Butler) Size 10 to 28". The Shell Rock has a strong channel catfish population and consistently produces big cats. Areas near deep holes with current breaks are preferred early and areas near wood and current are best in summer.

**LAKE MEYER** (Winneshiek) Size 19 to 24". The face of the dam and steeply dropping shorelines hold nice sized fish. Use chicken liver or stink baits.

Other mentions: **CASEY LAKE** (Tama), **LAKE HENDRICKS** (Howard), **VOLGA LAKE** (Fayette) and **MAQUOKETA RIVER** (Jones and Jackson).

## DESTINATIONS

**TURKEY FOOT REGION** (Black Hawk, Bremer and Butler) **THE CEDAR RIVER, SHELL ROCK RIVER AND WEST FORK CEDAR RIVER** come together in northwest Black Hawk County and form one of the best river fisheries in the state. There are excellent opportunities for quality channel catfish, smallmouth bass and walleye. A variety of access points are available for shore, boat or canoe/kayak fishing. For a complete outdoor weekend, there are several county/city campgrounds and George Wyth Memorial State Park nearby.

# NORTHWEST IOWA

## CRAPPIE

**BROWNS LAKE** (Woodbury) 10 to 14". Target shallow water near cattails with small white twisters or minnows. Fish deeper water near structure on outside bends in summer.

**CLEAR LAKE** (Cerro Gordo) Average size is around 9" with some up to 14". In spring, target north shore canals. In early to mid-summer, cast tube jigs or bobber and minnow along rush edges.

**INGHAM LAKE** (Emmet) Fish submerged, shallow water timber during April and May for excellent catches of black and white crappie approaching 11". Focus on warm, sunny days in shallow water.

Also fish: **BRUSHY CREEK** (Webster), **SWAN LAKE** (Carroll), **FIVE ISLAND LAKE** (Palo Alto).

## BLUEGILL

**CRYSTAL LAKE** (Hancock) 8 to 9". Bluegill will stack close to shore in May. In late summer and fall, look to deeper water in dredged areas.

**OKOBOJI CHAIN OF LAKES** (East and West Okoboji, Upper and Lower Gar and Miniwashta lakes) 7 to 10". Action starts after ice-out in Lower and Upper Gar and the north end of East Okoboji Lake. Fish calm, sunny days near wood docks in shallow water. West Okoboji Lake canals are also an early spot. Later, fish rock piles or weeds on Miniwashta, East and West Okoboji lakes.

**CRAWFORD CREEK** (Ida) Target the upper end for 8- to 9.5" fish during spring and along cattails east of the beach. During summer, drift small jigs and experiment with depths.

Also try: **BRUSHY CREEK LAKE** (Webster), **NELSON PARK LAKE** (Crawford), **FIVE ISLAND** (Palo Alto), **MILL CREEK LAKE** (O'Brien).

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

**EAST OKOBOJI AND WEST OKOBOJI**

**LAKES** (Dickinson) 12 to 20"-plus. Fish canals in the spring; move to docks as water warms and try weed lines in summer and fall.

**BRUSHY CREEK LAKE** (Webster) 12 to 20". As water warms, target structure near shore and weed lines. Search deeper structure in summer.

**SMITH LAKE** (Kossuth) 16 to 22". Fish weed edges with jigs and spinners. In summer, look for fish a little deeper. Sunken structures hold fish late summer/fall. Remember: electric motor only and 18-inch minimum length limit.

Also try: **SPIRIT LAKE** (Dickinson), **BEEDS LAKE** (Franklin), **YELLOW SMOKE LAKE** (Crawford), **SWAN LAKE** (Carroll).

## SMALLMOUTH BASS

**SPIRIT LAKE** (Dickinson) 12 to 20". Action begins after ice-out around shallow rock piles on sunny, calm days using jigs and minnows. As water warms, fish deeper rock piles and emerging weeds with live bait and artificials.

**WEST OKOBOJI LAKE** (Dickinson) 12 to 20". Rocks are the key early, with rocks, weeds and weed lines productive in summer. Use live bait in the spring and crankbaits as water hits mid-60 degrees F. Use leeches in vegetation.

Also fish: **NORTH RACCOON RIVER** (Sac, Calhoun and Carroll), **WINNEBAGO RIVER** (Cerro Gordo), **IOWA RIVER** (Hardin).

## CHANNEL CATFISH

**STORM LAKE** (Buena Vista) 15 to 25". During spring, fish windward shorelines using cut bait or shad guts. Target deeper water and rock piles in the summer.

**CLEAR LAKE** (Cerro Gordo) Catfish average 22 to 24", with many between 25 to 30". During spring, fish windward

shorelines using cutbait, worms or stinkbait. In the summer, fish after dark for best results.

**LOST ISLAND LAKE** (Palo Alto) Good numbers of catfish 20 to 24" available. Fish at night with chubs or crawlers to add walleye to the creel.

Don't overlook: **EAST FORK DES MOINES RIVER** (Kossuth), **LAKE CORNELIA** (Wright), **FIVE ISLAND LAKE** (Palo Alto), **BROWNS LAKE** (Woodbury), **SCHARNBERG POND** (Clay).

## MUSKIE

**CLEAR LAKE** (Cerro Gordo) Holds a healthy population of 30 to 40" fish with a good number up to 50". Cast large spinners near shoreline rushes or docks in September and October.

**WEST OKOBOJI LAKE** (Dickinson) 30 to 50". West Okoboji always produces the area's most muskie.

**BRUSHY CREEK** (Webster) 20-50". During spring, fish shallow water and creek arms near flowing water. In summer and fall, focus on structure, especially where several types meet.

## WALLEYE

**SILVER LAKE** (Dickinson) 13 to 30". During April and May, wade along points and rocky shoreline areas at night casting twisters or minnow lures. Later, troll crankbaits, with the traditional hot bite occurring into July. In fall, wade after dark for trophy fish.

**CLEAR LAKE** (Cerro Gordo) Most walleyes caught are 14 to 17". Wader fishing starts as soon as ice-out, but prime fishing is May to mid-June. For larger walleyes, fish after dark, casting plastics from shore, anchored with bait or trolling.

**STORM LAKE** (Buena Vista) 14 to 25" (17 to 22" protected slot). In April and May, shore cast white or chartreuse twisters or live minnows. In summer troll shad colored crankbaits.



## LEARN MORE

Across the state, work to improve watersheds is yielding cleaner water and improved fishing—especially when coupled with lake renovations. Visit [iowadnr.gov](http://iowadnr.gov) and click on the environment tab, then water quality to learn more.



Also try: **LITTLE SIOUX RIVER** (Buena Vista, Cherokee, Ida and Woodbury), **SPIRIT LAKE** (Dickinson), **FIVE ISLAND LAKE** (Palo Alto), **BRUSHY CREEK LAKE** (Webster).

### NORTHERN PIKE

**SPIRIT LAKE** (Dickinson) Every year Spirit Lake produces 25"-plus fish, with trophies early spring and late fall. Bottom fish cut bait in spring and "plugs" as weeds emerge.

**CRYSTAL LAKE** (Hancock) 20 to 34". Ice-out to early spring is the best time to target pike on Crystal. Pike love shallow, flowing water after ice-out, so target these locations with live baitfish, cutbait or a slow artificial presentation.

More excellent pike areas: **WEST OKOBOJI** (Dickinson), **WINNEBAGO RIVER** (Hancock, Worth and Cerro Gordo).

### YELLOW PERCH

**WEST OKOBOJI LAKE** (Dickinson) A large year class will be 8" by fall.

### YELLOW BASS

**CLEAR LAKE** (Cerro Gordo) The majority of fish ranged 7 to 8". In early to mid-May, fish near the island and Dodges Point using small jigs. In summer and fall, drift reefs to locate fish, then anchor and jig.

### WHITE BASS

**STORM LAKE** (Buena Vista) 12 to 14". White bass aren't huge, but

plentiful. Peak fishing is June. Look for fish breaking the surface on calm evenings, then cast top water lures or shallow running crankbaits.

### BULLHEAD

**SILVER LAKE** (Palo Alto) Bullies pushing 10" await anglers. Use public access along the northwest, east and southeast areas.

**SILVER LAKE** (Dickinson) Fish approaching 10". Try windward shorelines with nightcrawlers on the bottom.

### DESTINATIONS

**BRUSHY CREEK LAKE** (Webster), **CRYSTAL LAKE** (Hancock), **MILL CREEK LAKE** (O'Brien).

## DESTINATIONS

### CORALVILLE RESERVOIR

(Johnson) Known for spring and fall crappies averaging 9 to 12" and up to 16". Channel catfishing is good after ice-out and all summer with fish averaging 4 to 8 pounds and much larger available. White bass fishing is good in the fall with lots of fish up to 17". Flatheads, walleyes and largemouth are available, though not targeted as much. This large waterbody offers many fishing areas. As a flood control reservoir, water levels and clarity can dramatically affect success.

For every species listed below (except redear sunfish) the Mississippi River from Lock and Dam 15 through 19 also offers excellent angling opportunities.

## SOUTHEAST IOWA

### CRAPPIE

**CORALVILLE RESERVOIR** (Johnson)

Size 9 to 16". Fish shallow rock banks or flooded wood if spring water is high. In fall, fish along steep rock banks or brush piles.

**RATHBUN LAKE** (Appanoose) Many

are under 10", although excellent numbers of 10- to 13" crappies are available. Recent floods produced more crappie than seen in decades. This year's fishing will rival any in the last 20 years.

**LAKE ODESSA** (Louisa) Lake Odessa produces "slab" fish in the 11- to 19" range. Fish around beaver lodges and tree falls. Use marabou jigs, gumball jigs (1/32 oz.) with 1-inch plastic bodies or minnows under a bobber.

Other mentions: **HANNEN LAKE** (Benton), **UNION GROVE LAKE** (Tama), **DIAMOND LAKE** (Poweshiek), **CHATFIELD LAKE** (Lee),

**LAKE BELVA DEER** (Keokuk), **LAKE GEODE** (Henry), **POLLMILLER LAKE** (Lee), **WILLIAMSON POND** (Lucas), **LAKE SUGEMA** (Van Buren).

### WHITE BASS AND WIPERS

**LAKE MACBRIDE** (Johnson)

Size 12 to 28". In spring, fish shorelines near schooling shad. Jigs, swimbaits or crankbaits work best. In summer, focus on reefs. Use crankbaits and swimbaits for deeper fish; topwater lures morning and evening. During fall, look for windblown banks holding shad and try jigs, swimbaits or crankbaits.

**PLEASANT CREEK LAKE** (Linn) Size 10 to 18". In early summer fish are shallow and spawning. Try jigs, spinner or crankbaits on shallow windblown banks/points. Later in the summer, fishing is good early and late in the day.

**CORALVILLE RESERVOIR** (Johnson) Size 10 to 17". Fall is when white bass

are more predictable and concentrated. Target windswept tapering rock/gravel/sand banks. Look for schools of shad in the back of coves.

Other mentions:

**RATHBUN LAKE** (Appanoose).

### CHANNEL CATFISH

**CORALVILLE RESERVOIR** (Johnson) Size 15 to 35". Use cut shad or shad guts just outside the main channel current after ice-out. Warm, shallow, windblown flats can be productive. The upper end of the reservoir is best. In early summer, look for spawning catfish around shallow rock. Try live bait under bobbers. Later in the summer, drift or slow troll cut bait in the channel.

**RATHBUN LAKE** (Appanoose) Ice-out is extremely productive, but fish can be caught all year long. Target riprap during June spawning season.



**CRAWFORD POND** (Washington)  
Sizes: Fish 12 to 14" common; with abundant fish in the 15 to 24" range. Try a nightcrawler under a bobber.

Also try: **CEDAR RIVER** (Linn), **LAKE WAPELLO** (Davis), **LAKE KEOMAH** (Mahaska), **LAKE OF THE HILLS** (Scott), **LAKE GEODE** (Henry), **LAKE BELVA DEER** (Keokuk), **POLLMILLER LAKE** (Lee), **IOWA RIVER** (Johnson).

## FLATHEAD CATFISH

**CORALVILLE RESERVOIR** (Johnson)  
Size 15 to 45". Fish crankbaits, big jigs or live bait around shallow rock during the spawn. Later in the summer, look for deeper rock or wood and try larger live baits.

**SKUNK RIVER** (Keokuk, Jefferson, Henry and Des Moines) and **IOWA RIVER** (Louisia): All sizes available. Fish 30 pounds-plus are possible. Fish live bait like green sunfish.

**DES MOINES RIVER** (Wapello)  
Quality angling below Ottumwa hydropower dam. Trophy fish available, most taken in the late winter and early spring.

Also try: **CEDAR RIVER** (Linn), **LAKE RATHBUN** (Appanoose) and **IOWA RIVER** (Johnson).

## WALLEYES

**LAKE MACBRIDE** (Johnson) Size 14 to 28". Look for fish on shallow rock/gravel/sand banks during spawn. Try live bait, jigs or crankbaits. In the summer, troll live bait or crankbaits on rock reefs or mud flats. In fall, fish windblown rocky banks that hold shad. Use crankbaits, swimbaits and jigs.

**LAKE RATHBUN** (Appanoose) One of Iowa's best fisheries. Large numbers of 15- to 21" fish and larger. Best fishing is June through August. Key on humps and points.

**WAPSIPINICON RIVER** (Linn, Jones)  
Size 15 to 30". In spring, fish below dams with jigs or live bait. In fall,

fish below dams or deeper pools. Other mentions: **LAKE SUGEMA** (Van Buren), **IOWA RIVER** (Johnson), **CEDAR RIVER** (Linn), **DES MOINES RIVER** (Wapello).

## MUSKIE

**PLEASANT CREEK LAKE** (Linn) Size 30 to 50". Look for spawning fish around shallow rock or warmer pockets. Jerkbait is popular. In summer, fish deeper over road beds, points, along the dam or suspended in open water. Crankbaits, bucktails or topwaters in the mornings/evenings are best. In fall, fish shallows around rock, wood or bays.

**LAKE MACBRIDE** (Johnson)  
Size 25 to 45". Most are on the smaller end, but larger ones available. In spring, try shallow areas of rock, gravel or sand. Jerkbait is best.

## BLUEGILL

**LAKE SUGEMA** (Van Buren)  
Tremendous numbers of 7- to 9" fish.

**LAKE BELVA DEER** (Keokuk) Fish 6 to 8" are common, with some 9 to 10. Excellent angling in June during spawn. Fish small jigs tipped with waxworms, a chunk of nightcrawler or 1-inch paddletail bodies.

**ALBIA RESERVOIRS** (Monroe) Both have excellent bluegills. Fish 7 to 8" are abundant, but 9"-plus are taken in large numbers.

Other mentions: **KENT PARK LAKE** (Johnson), **CENTRAL PARK LAKE** (Jones), **OTTER CREEK LAKE** (Tama), **PLEASANT CREEK LAKE** (Linn), **LAKE GEODE** (Henry), **SHIMEK FOREST PONDS** (Lee), **POLLMILLER LAKE** (Lee), **LAKE OF THE HILLS** (Scott), **LAKE HAWTHORN** (Mahaska).

## REDEAR SUNFISH

**DIAMOND LAKE** (Poweshiek)  
Size 8 to 11". In late spring, fish shallow pockets and flats. During summer and winter, fish deep brush.

**LAKE BELVA DEER** (Keokuk) Most are 7 to 10", but fish 11" and 1.5 pounds were found in surveys. Fish with small jigs tipped with waxworms or 1" plastics.

**KENT PARK LAKE** (Johnson) Size 7 to 10". During the spawn, shallow pockets and flats hold fish. During the summer and winter, fish deeper brush.

Also fish: **LAKE IOWA** (Iowa), **LAKE GEODE** (Henry), **SHIMEK FOREST PONDS** (Lee) and **CRAWFORD POND** (Washington).

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

**DIAMOND LAKE** (Poweshiek) Size 15 to 21". Look for bass around shallow rock and wood during spawn. Use spinnerbaits, jigs and soft plastics. In summer, fish shallow wood or rock with spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, jigs, plastics or crankbaits.

**HUMESTON RESERVOIR** (Wayne)  
Excellent numbers of largemouth, most 15- to 20"-plus fish.

**PLEASANT CREEK LAKE** (Linn)  
Size 14 to 20". There is an 18-inch minimum here. Fish shallow pockets and flats near rock and wood during the spawn. Try spinnerbaits, jigs or plastics. During summer, bass move to deeper rock or weeds—try plastics or crankbaits. Fish shallower in evenings with buzzbaits, topwaters or plastics.

Also try: **LAKE MACBRIDE** (Johnson), **LAKE BELVA DEER** (Keokuk), **LAKE GEODE** (Henry), **LAKE OF THE HILLS** (Scott), **POLLMILLER LAKE** (Lee), **CHATFIELD LAKE** (Lee), **LAKE WAPELLO** (Davis), **LAKE HAWTHORN** (Mahaska).

## SMALLMOUTH BASS

**WAPSIPINICON RIVER** (Linn, Jones)  
Size 10 to 20". Below dams, use jigs or crankbaits in spring and fall. In summer, try rocky banks or riffles with topwaters. In Scott County, fish are 12"-plus. Drift in-line spinners or bobbers with nightcrawlers.



# SOUTHWEST IOWA

## CRAPPIE

**TWELVE MILE LAKE** (Union) 8 to 10". Fish flooded trees and the old roadway before the spawn. During late April and May, fish mounds, jetties and the shoreline on the west side just below the timber. Try open water trees during summer.

**RED ROCK RESERVOIR** (Marion) 9 to 14". Fish the backs of shallow bays in the Whitebreast arm during the May spawn. In fall, fish dredged areas of the marina bay.

**VIKING LAKE** (Montgomery) 8 to 10". Last summer, anglers caught a lot of crappies fishing the numerous brush piles. All indications point towards a high density population that should produce limits of fish in 2014.

Other hotspots: **GREEN VALLEY LAKE** (Union), **LAKE OF THREE FIRES** (Taylor), **WEST OSCEOLA LAKE** (Clarke), **LAKE ICARIA** (Adams), **BADGER CREEK LAKE** (Madison), **LAKE ANITA** (Cass), **GREENFIELD CITY RESERVOIR** (Adair), **ROBERTS CREEK LAKE** (Marion), **ROCK CREEK LAKE** (Jasper).

## WHITE BASS AND WIPERS

**LAKE MANAWA** (Pottawattamie): 17 to 24" common. Wipers are stocked annually. Cast spinners, crankbaits and jigs or fish cut bait on the bottom.

**RED ROCK RESERVOIR** (Marion) White bass average 12 to 14" with some up to 18". Troll shad crankbaits and spoons along windswept points and shorelines. Wipers are 15 to 30". Use the same methods as white bass with slightly larger lures and troll them deeper.

**SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR** (Polk) White bass are 9 to 13". Troll shad crankbaits and spoons near the Sandpiper and Oak Grove recreation areas. Find schools of young shad busting the surface to locate feeding white bass. Wipers are 13 to

30". Use the same methods as white bass with slightly larger lures and troll them deeper.

Other hotspots: **RACCOON RIVER PARK/BLUE HERON LAKE** (Polk), **THREE MILE LAKE** (Union).

## CHANNEL CATFISH

**LAKE ICARIA** (Adams): 12 to 25". Shorelines of warm bays are good spots early. Use shad in spring then crawlers later. In summer, use stinkbait, liver or crayfish.

**GREENFIELD CITY RESERVOIR** (Adair) Cage-reared catfish have resulted in high densities of 19- to 24-inch fish. Shoreline access is excellent with a trail around the lake and fishing jetties. Cut shad is an excellent early spring bait.

**SAYLORVILLE RESERVOIR** (Polk) Average catfish catch is more than 20" with many 25 to 30". Drift dead shad or cut creek chubs early morning and late evening on the upper portion of the reservoir.

Other hotspots: **VIKING LAKE** (Montgomery), **TWELVE MILE LAKE** (Union), **EAST NISHNABOTNA RIVER** (Cass, Montgomery, Page and Fremont), **ROBERTS CREEK LAKE** (Marion), **DES MOINES RIVER** (Boone, Polk), **MISSOURI RIVER** (Woodbury, Monona, Harrison, Pottawattamie, Mills, Fremont).

## WALLEYES

**TWELVE MILE LAKE** (Union) Size 12 to 25". Jig twister tails with or without minnows or cast crankbaits near the old roadways, mounds or across the dam. During June, bounce crawlers on steep rocky areas or over rock fields.

**DES MOINES RIVER** (Boone, Polk) Size 12 to 30". Beginning mid-March, target below riffles and dams to catch walleyes running upstream from Red Rock and Saylorville reservoirs. Slowly retrieve jigs with

twisters or minnows.

Other hotspots: **GREEN VALLEY LAKE** (Union), **LAKE ICARIA** (Adams), **LITTLE RIVER LAKE** (Decatur), **MISSOURI RIVER** (Woodbury, Monona, Harrison)

## MUSKIE

**THREE MILE LAKE** (Union): The muskie population is low, but they can be quite large, between 20 and 50". Cast big spinners along open shoreline areas with nearby flooded cover.

**BIG CREEK LAKE** (Polk) The adult muskie population is low, but rebuilding after installation of a fish escapement barrier. A couple fish exceeding 45" were caught in 2013.

## BLUEGILL

**GREEN VALLEY LAKE** (Union) Size 7 to 9". During spawn, fish gravel areas on the mounds, sides of jetties or quiet shorelines. After spawn, try rip rap on the mound sides, over rock fields or in cedar trees. Small jigs or crawler pieces suspended just off the bottom work well.

**BIG CREEK LAKE** (Polk) Size 7 to 9". During spawn in May into June, hit shallow shorelines on the north half of the lake, especially the west arm. Cast small hooks or jigs tipped with a crawler under a bobber.

Other hotspots: **TWELVE MILE LAKE** (Union), **LAKE OF THREE FIRES** (Taylor), **BADGER CREEK LAKE** (Madison), **LITTLE RIVER LAKE** (Decatur), **LAKE ANITA** (Cass), **HICKORY GROVE LAKE** (Story).

## LARGEMOUTH BASS

**TWELVE MILE LAKE** (Union) Size 8 to 20". Fish the shoreline, mounds, rock areas or flooded trees with crankbaits, spinners and rubber worms.

**GREEN VALLEY LAKE** (Union): 10 to 17". Hit the fish mounds, rock fields, cedar trees, stake beds or vegetation



edges later in the year. Spinners and crankbaits are a proven favorite. **LAKE ANITA** (Cass): Size 17 to 20". May and June are best. Excellent water clarity the last few years is producing good fishing and aquatic vegetation growth. Anglers that adapt to fishing over and around vegetation catch good numbers.

Other hotspots: **LAKE ICARIA** (Adams), **WEST LAKE OSCEOLA** (Clarke), **LITTLE RIVER LAKE** (Decatur), **VIKING LAKE** (Montgomery), **GREENFIELD CITY RESERVOIR** (Adair), **EASTER LAKE** (Polk), **BIG CREEK LAKE** (Polk), **ROCK CREEK LAKE** (Jasper).

## DESTINATIONS

(Union) **GREEN VALLEY/TWELVE MILE/THREE MILE LAKES**: All seasons. Recent renovations of Green Valley and Twelve Mile bring mature populations of bluegills, crappies, largemouth bass, channel catfish and walleye. Additionally, Three Mile offers large walleyes and wipers. The campgrounds at Green Valley and Three Mile are only a few minutes away and offer cabins and primitive or modern campsites, making it easy for anglers to fish one lake early in the day then another later. Excellent water clarities. Each also offers excellent fall and winter fishing.

**RED ROCK** (Marion): Large numbers of white bass and a growing wiper population produce non-stop action during the hottest part of summer. In addition to abundance, white bass are large, with many exceeding 12" and some topping 18". Trolling shad spoons and crankbaits is most effective to locate feeding schools of white bass and wipers. Look for schools of young shad breaking the surface. Target windswept points, including the marina point, Whitebreast Park point and Teter Creek point just southeast of the mile-long bridge. 🏠

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