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This fishing report, provided by Dustin Berg of [Go Unlimited](#) (supporting disabled anglers) and the Department of Game and Fish, has been generated from the best information available from area officers and anglers. Conditions encountered after the report is compiled may differ, as stream, lake and weather conditions alter fish and angler activities.

[Check out the latest stocking report](#)

[Get your New Mexico fishing license](#)

[\(Valid April 1 to March 31; 2021-2022 licenses are still on sale\)](#)

Check the Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner!

The Department's Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner was created using data from the 2016 to 2019 Weekly Fishing Reports to develop graphs depicting fishing conditions for several species and waterbodies throughout the year. Each graph represents the average fishing conditions for each week of the year over the four-year period.



The Department has also developed an interactive Fishing Waters Map with a wealth of information on fishing locations in New Mexico. It displays hundreds of fishing access points with information of fish species available, facilities, accessibility, boat ramps and general regulations.

[Check out the new webpage to plan your trip now!](#)



Take the Bass and Trout Challenges!

To promote fishing opportunities in New Mexico and encourage anglers to branch out and discover new fishing waters and species, anglers can participate in the [New Mexico Bass Challenge](#), the [New Mexico Trout Challenge](#) and the [Master Angler Challenge](#). Who knows, you could catch a [New Mexico Record Fish](#).



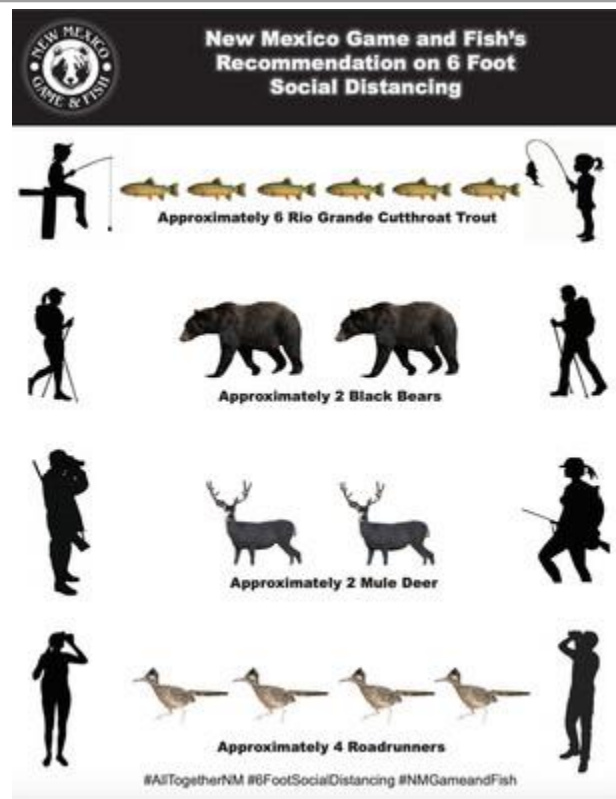
Catch all the challenge species that are found throughout New Mexico or a New Mexico State Record Fish and receive a certificate and challenge coin for your accomplishment!

A Message from the Department

As COVID-19 continues to force all of us to make changes to our daily schedule, the Department would like to remind you that together we can make a difference. To help minimize the spread of the virus:

- Practice social distancing
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid non-essential travel
- Wear a face covering
- Avoid interacting with large groups

Click the flyer to the right. Please share it with your friends and family.





The Department is continuing to adapt our ways of working to conserve wildlife for all New Mexicans. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Department biologists and conservation officers continue to conduct wildlife surveys, contact anglers and OHV recreationists and stock fish in open waters throughout the state.

Our teams are wearing personal protective equipment for everyone's safety while working in small groups for maximum social distancing. We ask for your help to keep everyone safe and healthy by following the NMDOH public health emergency order by wearing PPE while staying at least six feet away from staff and equipment.

Closure Information

The Department reminds anglers it is their responsibility to be aware of closures and contact land managers for properties of interest when restrictions are lifted.

- [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\)](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service \(USFS\)](#)
- [New Mexico State Lands](#)
- [New Mexico State Parks](#)
- [New Mexico Open Gate Properties](#)
- [New Mexico Wildlife Management Areas](#)
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)

Consult local government websites for information regarding specific city and town fishing access.



Catches of the week

Bear Canyon Lake: Joseph Uresti of Silver City caught a 16.5-inch rainbow trout using mixed PowerBaits Jan. 29.

Eagle Nest Lake: Stephen Pattinson of Santa Fe caught a 17-inch kokanee salmon using a small tungsten ice jig Jan. 28. Liciano Brashear, age 12, of Springer caught a 23-inch rainbow trout Jan. 22 using a green jig head fly he tied himself.

Elephant Butte Lake: Brianna Romo and Vince Amaya of El Paso, Texas caught a 10-pound largemouth bass using live bait Jan. 25.

Lake Van: Santiago Olivas and his grandpa of Hagerman caught their limits of rainbow trout using yellow PowerBait Jan. 22.

Perch Lake: Joseph Campos of Santa Rosa caught and released 20 trout using Kastmaster lures and peach PowerBait Jan. 29.

If you have a catch of the week story or just want to tell us about your latest New Mexico fishing experience, send it to us at funfishingnm@gmail.com. We may include your story in our next report. For catches of the week, include name, age, hometown, date, location, type of fish, length and weight if possible, and bait, lure or fly used.



Brianna Romo and Vince Amaya of El Paso, Texas caught a 10-pound largemouth bass using live bait Jan. 25 at Elephant Butte Lake.

Northeast Fishing Report

Cabresto Lake: Ice fishing for brook trout was good when using small glow tungsten ice jigs with glow plastics. The roads were snow-packed and slippery.

Charette Lakes: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 19.8 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Clayton Lake: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March.

Conchas Lake: New winter season hours - open for day-use access only Thursday-Sunday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 868-2270.



Liciano Brashear, age 12, of Springer caught a 23-inch rainbow trout at Eagle Nest Lake using a green jig head fly he tied himself Jan. 22.

Costilla Creek: Fishing for trout was good when using caddis dry flies. The Department has implemented the final phase of a project to expand Rio Grande cutthroat trout in 120 miles of the Costilla watershed in northern New Mexico. The final phase involved removal of fish within a designated area (Rio Costilla from Costilla Dam downstream to the Valle Vidal Boundary including all tributaries and Comanche Creek from the road culvert crossing on FR 1950 downstream to its confluence with Rio Costilla and all tributaries) with a tentative restocking of Rio Grande cutthroat this spring. Places to fish nearby include Costilla Creek below the fish barrier, Upper Comanche Creek, Shuree Ponds, Middle Ponil Creek, Upper Powderhouse Creek, Little Costilla Creek, Vidal Creek and McCrystal Creek. Please check the Department website for additional information on the project and to identify alternative angling opportunities in the interim.

Cowles Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Coyote Creek: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Eagle Nest Lake: Ice fishing for trout was fair when using tungsten ice jigs, Swedish Pimple lures tipped with worm and pink Trout Magnet lures. Ice fishing for perch was good when using tungsten ice jigs, Swedish Pimple lures tipped with worm, PowerBait and Trout Magnet lures. Anglers also caught pike and salmon when using tungsten ice jigs. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 377-1594.

Eagle Rock Lake: Anglers reported inconsistent ice conditions.

Gallinas River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Hopewell Lake: Anglers reported the lake was frozen and the entrance gates are locked until spring. Ice fishing for trout was very good when using orange PowerBait and nightcrawler worms.

Lake Alice: Temporarily closed due to recent weather conditions and ice forming on the lake. State Park officials have deemed the lake unsafe at this time. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 445-5607.

Lake Maloya: Open for ice fishing at your own risk. Ice measurements as of Jan. 22 ranged from 9 to 14 inches thick, but ice can be inconsistent, so please use caution when venturing out onto the ice. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 445-5607.

Los Pinos River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Maxwell Lake 13: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March.

Monastery Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Morphy Lake: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March.

Pecos River: Streamflow near the town of Pecos Monday morning was not measured due to ice. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs and black Woolly Bugger flies.

Red River: Streamflow below the hatchery Monday morning was 40.0 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using zebra midge flies and RS2 flies.

Rio Grande: Streamflow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 429 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using brown Joe's Fly spinners, small beadhead nymph flies, midge flies and gold Panther Martin spinners.

Rio Hondo: Streamflow Monday morning near Valdez was not measured due to ice.

Rio Mora: Streamflow Monday morning near Tererro was not measured due to ice. Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using dark-colored spinners.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

Santa Cruz Reservoir: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Shuree Ponds: Closed for the season. The ponds will reopen in July.

Springer Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Storrie Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Stubblefield Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Ute Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Northwest Fishing Report

Abiquiu Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Animas River: Waterflow below Aztec Monday morning was 184 cfs.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using homemade dough bait.

Bluewater Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Brazos River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Canjilon Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Chama River: Monday-morning flows below El Vado and Abiquiu were 100 cfs and 63.9 cfs, respectively. Fishing for trout below El Vado Lake was fair when using nightcrawler worms. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was fair when using pheasant tail nymph flies. Please remember, from the river-crossing bridge on U.S. Highway 84 at Abiquiu upstream 7 miles to the base of Abiquiu Dam is special trout waters with a bag limit of two trout only.

Cochiti Lake: Fishing for catfish was good when using cut bait.

El Vado Lake: Closed to ice fishing due to thin ice covering the lake.

Fenton Lake: There was no fishing due to thin ice covering the lake. Please remember, only two cutthroat trout are allowed to be harvested per day within the regular five-fish limit.

Heron Lake: Open to ice fishing, anglers are advised to use caution due to inconsistent ice conditions.

Jemez Waters: Streamflow on the Jemez near the town of Jemez Monday morning was 14.7 cfs.

Laguna del Campo: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in May.

Lagunitas Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Farmington: We had no reports from anglers this week.

McGaffey Lake: Due to extremely low water levels and unstable ground conditions, stocking efforts have been suspended. Lake conditions will be monitored and stockings will resume once conditions improve.

Navajo Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Rio Grande: We had no reports from anglers this week.

San Gregorio Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

San Juan River: Streamflow Monday morning was 408 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using red annelid flies, San Juan worm flies, leech pattern flies and black midge pattern flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair when using Kastmaster lures.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using white PowerBait and homemade doughbait.

Trout Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Southwest Fishing Report

Alumni Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using marshmallows, dry flies and salmon peach PowerBait.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon peach PowerBait and salmon eggs.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait, red Rooster Tail spinners and gold Panther Martin spinners.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using lipless crankbaits.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for catfish was good when using cut gizzard shad bait and live bait. Fishing for white bass was slow to fair when using live bait. Fishing for drum was slow to fair when using live bait. Fishing for largemouth bass was fair when using live bait and white plastic baits.

Escondida Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Gila River: Streamflow Monday morning was 63.9 cfs.

Glenwood Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Roberts: We had no reports from anglers this week.



Joseph Uresti of Silver City caught a 16.5-inch rainbow trout using mixed PowerBaits Jan. 29 at Bear Canyon Lake.

Percha Dam: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using yellow and orange PowerBait.

Quemado Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Rancho Grande Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Monday morning was 0.21 cfs.

Snow Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Trees Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using pink and chartreuse garlic PowerBait.

Young Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using Velveeta cheese, corn, nymph scented PowerBait, green streamer flies and gray dry flies.

Southeast Fishing Report

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs and red PowerBait.

Bataan Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Berrendo Creek: Please visit the [Open Gate webpage](#) for more information on [this property](#).

Black River: Streamflow at Malaga Monday morning was 7.08 cfs. Fishing for catfish was fair when using cut bait.

Blue Hole Park Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bonito Lake: Closed until further notice by the city of Alamogordo due to fire damage. It appears that the lake will be out of commission until later this year.

Bosque Redondo Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bottomless Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Brantley Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.



Santiago Olivas and his grandpa of Hagerman caught their limits of rainbow trout using yellow PowerBait Jan. 22 at Lake Van.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using yellow PowerBait.

Chaparral Park Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Corona Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Eunice Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon peach PowerBait.

Greene Acres Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using marshmallows, and yellow, white and chartreuse PowerBait.

Jal Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was good when using yellow PowerBait and homemade dough bait.

Oasis Park Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 15.5 cfs.

Perch Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Kastmaster lures and peach PowerBait.

Ruidoso River: Streamflow Monday morning at Hollywood was 3.67 cfs.

Santa Rosa Lake: The lake is open to boating, but due to low lake levels, Santa Rosa Lake State Park will operate as a no-wake lake until conditions improve. Fishing for all species was slow.

Sumner Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Tips and Tricks – Gila Trout Fishing During the Winter

By Marc Biggins of La Veta, Colo.

From Jan. 2-4, I fly-fished the Gila River up near the hot springs just west of the highway bridge about 3 miles downstream from the confluence. I was using a 9.5-foot 5 weight fly rod, with a heavy wet line, with a 9-foot, 8-weight tippet, a black/silver Woolly Bugger and an olive Woolly Bugger. I also caught Gila trout with a big black and silver Pistol Pete spinner fly.



Marc Biggins of La Veta, Colo. caught six Gila trout ranging from 14 to 18 inches long during a fishing trip last month.

I landed and released all fish in good condition: six beautiful Gila trout from 14 to 18 inches long. I did not have time to weigh them, as I wanted to quickly get them back in the water, but I did do a quick measure using my 6-inch fly boxes for scale. I caught all the fish in the deeper, quieter holes where the rock face descended vertically straight down into the water channel. I made my casts from the top of the channels and drifted as far as I could downstream, letting my fly sink for at least 20 seconds. I used a retrieve of light jigs and smooth retrieves slowly all the way back up the channel trying to keep my fly deep. If it felt like the fly was rising too much, I would let slack off and let the current take the fly back downstream and deeper. I caught all my trout between 3:45 and 5 p.m. I fished from around 10 a.m. all day but never got so much as a nibble nor saw any trout until around 3:45 p.m. Conditions were sunny, but very cold with some snow. I saw no other anglers the whole time I fished. It's really nice to be able to fish wilderness water during midwinter, because where I live in Colorado, it's all frozen. I'm looking forward to going back to the Gila in mid-April for dry fly fishing.

Catching a Gila trout gets you one step closer to completing the New Mexico Trout Challenge. [View the official rules here](#) and check out this [podcast episode](#) featuring all of our fishing challenges.

Let us know how your fishing trip goes! Share your tips and tricks with your fellow anglers by emailing us at funfishingnm@gmail.com and let's help the next generation of anglers find success.

Thanks for reading and supporting our angling community!



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