



This fishing report, provided by the Department of Game and Fish in cooperation with Dustin Berg of [www.gounlimited.org](http://www.gounlimited.org) (supporting disabled anglers), has been generated from the best information available from anglers and area conservation officers. Conditions encountered after the report is compiled may differ, as stream, lake and weather conditions alter fish and angler activities.

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!** Tell us about your latest New Mexico fishing adventure or your catch of the week. Send it to us at [funfishingnm@gmail.com](mailto: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. Fish weights and measurements are provided by the angler and printed here as received.

***Catches of the week are now listed before each region's fishing report to help you quickly find the best places to fish in your area.***

## [CHECK OUT THE LATEST STOCKING REPORT](#)



### **2023-24 Fishing RIBs and Licenses Available Online!**

The 2023-24 Fishing Rules and Information Booklets (RIBs) are available in print and online in [English and Spanish for download](#).

[Get your 2023-24 New Mexico fishing license!](#)

### **Check the Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner!**

The Department's Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner was created using data from past 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 webpage to plan your trip now!](#)

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### 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!

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### Land Management Agency Links

The Department reminds anglers to “know before you go” and to contact land management agencies regarding additional regulations or restrictions on specific properties of interest prior to heading afield.

- [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.

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## NORTHEAST

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### NORTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK

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**Hopewell Lake:** Arie, age 7, and Eliza, age 5, of Albuquerque (above) caught 22 trout using gold spoons on Sept. 18.

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## NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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**Cabresto Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Charette Lakes:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Cimarron River:** Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 38 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was good when using yellow Stimulator dry flies, San Juan Worm flies and live worms. Fishing for trout at Gravel Pit Lakes was good when using marshmallows, worms, Salmon Peach PowerBait and Yellow PowerBait.

**Clayton Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Conchas Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver.

**Costilla Creek:** Fishing for trout was good when using ant-pattern flies and Prince Nymph flies.

**Cowles Ponds:** Fishing for trout was fair when using dry flies in the evening.

**Coyote Creek:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using black dry flies and nymph flies.

**Eagle Nest Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using gold Mepps Spinners and Salmon Peach PowerBait. Fishing for pike was fair when using shad-pattern crankbaits. For updated lake conditions, visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-377-1594.

**Eagle Rock Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Gallinas River:** National Forest closures have been in place restricting fishing access. [Visit the Santa Fe National Forest webpage](#) or call the Santa Fe National Forest office at 505-438-5300 for the latest closure information.

**Hopewell Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using gold spoons.

**Lake Alice:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Lake Maloya:** Fishing for trout was good when using grasshopper-pattern dry flies. The ADA dock is open to anglers, with priority given to mobility-impaired persons.

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

**Maxwell Lake 13:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Monastery Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair when using worms. Monastery Lake is part of the Department's [Open Gate Program](#). Please [visit our website for more information about this property](#).

**Morphy Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait and when trolling using Mack's Wedding Ring lures with salmon eggs and corn.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 34 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using dry flies and worms.

**Red River:** Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 57 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using worms and dry-dropper fly setups.

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 262 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using Stone Flies, white Streamer flies and bead-head nymph flies. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using white streamer flies.

**Rio Hondo:** Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was 16 cfs.

**Rio Mora:** Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 9 cfs.

**Rio Pueblo:** Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was 10 cfs.

**Santa Cruz Reservoir:** The lake is open from 6:30 a.m.-8 p.m., Thursday-Sunday.

**Shuree Ponds:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using ant-pattern flies and Prince Nymph flies.

**Springer Lake:** Fishing for catfish at night was fair to good when using chicken liver.

**Storrie Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using worms.

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

**Ute Lake:** Fishing for walleye was very slow. Fishing for white bass was fair when using jigging spoons and blade baits in 30-45 feet of water, and using crankbaits that dive 8-10 feet deep when trolling. Fishing for bass was slow when using spinnerbaits, chatterbaits and square-billed crankbaits. Fishing for crappie was slow. Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver

and cut bait. The main lake water surface temperature was in the mid 70 F range and the water was clear.

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## NORTHWEST

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### NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK

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**Cochiti Lake:** Carlos Miramontes (above left), age 15, of Peña Blanca caught and released a 10-pound walleye using a curly-tail grub on Sept. 12. Hugo Miramontes (above right), age 19, of Peña Blanca caught and released a 32-inch pike using a crankbait on Sept. 12.



**Heron Lake:** Keith Gambling (above) of Moriarty caught a 20-inch and a 15-inch rainbow trout using a worm on Sept. 16.



**Navajo Lake:** John Kyle (above) of Farmington caught a 20-inch, 5-pound, 2-ounce smallmouth bass using a Z-Man 3.5-inch worm on Sept. 14.



**San Juan River:** Larry Anderson (above) of Albuquerque caught a 26-inch rainbow trout using a hand-tied, leech-pattern fly on Sept. 11.



**Seven Springs Kids' Pond:** Madelynn Butler (above), age 5, of Fort Sumner caught her first three fish using worms on Sept. 10.





**Tingley Beach:** Lowell Smith (above) of Paraje caught a 16-inch catfish using catfish bait on Sept. 9.

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## NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

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**Abiquiu Lake:** Fishing for walleye was good when using Yum White Curly-Tail Grubs with pink jig heads.

**Animas River:** Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 274 cfs.

**Albuquerque Area Drains:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Bluewater Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using chicken liver and hot dogs.

**Brazos River:** Fishing for trout was good when using size-16 Adams flies.

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

**Cochiti Lake:** Fishing for pike was fair when using crankbaits. Fishing for walleye was fair when using curly-tail grubs. Fishing for bass was fair when using chartreuse/pearl, curly-tail grubs. Fishing for crappie was slow to fair when using minnows and small, gold swimbaits. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut bait.

**El Vado Lake:** Closed due to dam construction project. For more information, [visit El Vado Lake State Park's webpage](#) or call 575-588-7247.

**Fenton Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using orange spoons, green spoons and orange PowerBait. Conditions may change quickly because of the nearby wildfire. For updated lake conditions and potential closure information, visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-829-3630.

**Grants Riverwalk Pond:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Heron Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair when using worms.

**Jemez Waters:** Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 9 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using size-16, grey dry flies. Fishing the Cebolla River was good when using worms.

**Laguna del Campo:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

**Lake Farmington:** Fishing for bass was good when using crayfish-pattern plastic baits.

**Liam Knight Pond:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**McGaffey Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Navajo Lake:** Fishing for kokanee salmon was slow to fair when using silver spinners, green spinners, pink spinners and orange squid tipped with corn fished 65-75 feet deep. Fishing for

smallmouth bass was fair to good when using Z-Man 3.5-inch plastic worms, chartreuse curly-tail grubs and watermelon-green tube jigs.

**Rio Chama:** Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 90 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 1,190 cfs. 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.

**Rio Grande:** Fishing for catfish was good when using chicken liver near Albuquerque.

**Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1):** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

**San Juan River:** Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 892 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using leech-pattern flies and cream-colored San Juan Worms. Fishing for trout in the bait-fishing waters was slow to fair when using PowerBait and Kastmaster lures.

**Seven Springs Kids' Pond:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms.

**Tiger Park Reservoir:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Tingley Beach:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using shrimp and catfish bait.

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

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## SOUTHWEST

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### SOUTHWEST CATCH OF THE WEEK

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**Escondida Lake:** Bruce Handrich (above), age 6, of Socorro caught a 27-inch catfish using a nightcrawler worm on Sept. 10.

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## SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

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**Alumni Pond:** Closed for repairs until further notice.

**Bear Canyon Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Bill Evans Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Caballo Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using gizzard shad and cut bait.

**Elephant Butte Lake:** Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair when using Senko Worms. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when trolling using shad-pattern crankbaits. Fishing for crappie was good when using live minnows. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using cut bait.

**Escondida Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

**Estancia Park Lake:** Fishing for bass was good when using live worms.

**Gila River:** Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 50 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using nymph flies at Gilita Creek.

**Glenwood Pond:** Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait and worms.

**Lake Roberts:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver and homemade stink bait.

**Percha Dam:** Fishing for carp was fair when using bread and corn.

**Quemado Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

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

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 1,400 cfs. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut bait in the canals north of Elephant Butte Lake.

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

**Trees Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using minnows.

**Young Pond:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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## SOUTHEAST

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### SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK

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**Berrendo Creek:** Valerie Wyatt of Roswell caught a 9-pound catfish using a hot dog on Sept. 17.

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### SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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**Alto Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair when using worms. Fishing for bass was good when using worms. Fishing for catfish was slow to fair when using worms.

**Bataan Lake:** Fishing for bass was fair when using plastic worms. Fishing for catfish was slow when using hot dogs.

**Berrendo Creek:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using hot dogs. Please visit the [Open Gate webpage](#) for more information on [this property](#).

**Black River:** Streamflow at Malaga Monday morning was 18 cfs. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

**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. The lake is full but needs time for aquatic habitat to develop in order to sustain a healthy fish population. The city hopes to reopen the lake for recreational purposes in June 2024.

**Bosque Redondo Lake:** Fishing for bass was fair when using nightcrawler worms.

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

**Brantley Lake:** Fishing for bass was fair when using blue crankbaits.

**Carlsbad Municipal Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

**Corona Pond:** High temperatures have impacted fish survival in the pond. Department fisheries biologists are working to restore fish populations.

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

**Green Meadow Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using hot dogs and nightcrawler worms.

**Greene Acres Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using red worms and shrimp.

**Grindstone Reservoir:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using hot dogs.

**Harry McAdams Park Pond:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

**Lake Van:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Ned Houk Ponds:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using worms and stink bait.

**Oasis Park Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using red worms.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 85 cfs.

**Perch Lake:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Rio Bonito:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Rio Ruidoso:** Streamflow at Hollywood Monday morning was 6 cfs.

**Rock Lake Hatchery Kids' Pond:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Santa Rosa Lake:** Fishing for walleye and crappie was fair to good when trolling using crankbaits.

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

**Timberon Ponds:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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## Tips, Tricks and Stories – Fishing for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

Fellow angler Jeff Young recently sent in a list of some excellent tips for catching Rio Grande cutthroat trout.



*A Rio Grande cutthroat trout caught and released by James Bostian on the Rio Costilla using a Prince Nymph fly.*  
Here is the list of information that he sent in:

**Streams –** Stealth, stealth, stealth! Take your time to sneak up to good habitat. You can often see your quarry before you cast. Light (2-3 weight) fly rods that are 6-8 feet long are perfect for tight, high-country streams. Approach from downstream, keep a low profile and pay attention to your shadow.

**Lakes** – RGCT in lakes can reach lengths over 20 inches. Personal watercraft is a nice option if feasible. Dry-fly fishing tends to be better in low-light conditions. Try nymph patterns and streamers when the fish are not feeding on the surface. 9-10 foot, 5 or 6 weight fly rods are a good choice for lakes.

**Etiquette** – Catch-and-release is an important way to conserve the resource and ensure angler access in the future. Barbless hooks and rubberized nets will reduce injury to the fish. Keep the fish in the water, and your hands wet before touching them.

**Fly Box** – Dry flies: Parachute Adams, Yellow Sallys, Stimulators, Royal Wuff, Hoppers, ants, beetles, Elk-hair Caddis, Griffith’s Gnats and other midges.

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

Thanks for reading and supporting our angling community!

