



This fishing report, provided by the Department of Game and Fish in cooperation with Dustin Berg of 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. 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!](#)



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!

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.

NORTHEAST

NORTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Conchas Lake: James Scaggs of Cannon Air Force Base caught a 5.2-pound largemouth bass using a custom-painted white crankbait on Sept. 23.



Pecos River: Josiah Roybal, age 11, of Pecos caught a 19-inch brown trout using a silver Panther Martin spinner on Sept. 22.



Rio Grande: Seth Hardy of Red River caught and released a 20-inch rainbow trout using a white Streamer fly near Questa on Sept. 20. Ian Smuczynski of Taos caught and released a 23-inch brown trout using a black Woolly Bugger fly on Sept. 13.

NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Cabresto Lake: Fishing for brook trout was good when using beadhead nymph flies.

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

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 18 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 fair when using marshmallows, worms, Salmon Peach PowerBait and Yellow PowerBait.

Clayton Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms and chicken liver.

Conchas Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using white crankbaits.

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 black leech-pattern flies and rainbow PowerBait. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using swimbaits and large spoons. 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 24 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using silver Panther Martin spinners.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 56 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 252 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using black Woolly Buzzer 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 14 cfs.

Rio Mora: Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 7 cfs.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was 9 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 was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms and chicken liver.

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

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

Ute Lake: Fishing for walleye was slow to fair when trolling. Fishing for white bass was fair when trolling in 25-35 feet of water in the Canadian River arm of the lake. Fishing for bass was slow to fair when using Berkley MaxScent Hit Worms on drop-shot rigs. Fishing for crappie was fair to good when using live minnows at night under lights. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using chicken liver and cut bait. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low 70 F range and the water was clear.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Bluewater Lake: Dominic Sandoval of Albuquerque caught a 40.5-inch tiger muskie using raw shrimp on Sept. 21.



Navajo Lake: Ayanna Martinez of Albuquerque caught a 32-inch, 6.5-pound pike using a deep-diving purple/blue crankbait on Sept. 16. Jay Collins of Albuquerque caught a 30-inch, 8-pound pike using a shad-pattern crankbait on Sept. 14. Adrian Martinez of Albuquerque caught a 36-inch, 11-pound pike using a medium-diving pink/silver crankbait on Sept. 13.



Tingley Beach: Zayden Baca, age 10, of Albuquerque, caught and released a 28-inch, 6.5-pound catfish using a corn and hot dog combination on Sept. 16.

NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Abiquiu Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair when using crankbaits and Yum White Curly-tail Grubs with pink jig heads.

Animas River: Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 204 cfs.

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

Bluewater Lake: Fishing for tiger muskie was fair to good when using raw shrimp.

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 copper Kastmaster lures and Mop Flies. 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 8 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using Hopper flies in the Valles Caldera.

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

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

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

Liam Knight Pond: Fishing for bass was slow when using live worms.

McGaffey Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait.

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. Fishing for pike was good when using pink/silver crankbaits, purple/blue crankbaits and shad-pattern crankbaits.

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 811 cfs. On Wednesday, Sept. 27, at 4 a.m., the Bureau of Reclamation will decrease the release from Navajo Reservoir from 800 cfs to 550 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using Baetis flies and grey midge emerger-pattern flies.

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 corn and hotdogs.

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

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CATCH OF THE WEEK



Elephant Butte Lake: Adrian Toscano of Los Lunas caught a 20.25-inch, 4.5-pound smallmouth bass using minnows on Sept. 22.



Escondida Lake: Tommy M. Erven of Los Lunas caught and released two catfish using nightcrawler worms on Sept. 24.

SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

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 to good when using live minnows. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when trolling using shad-pattern crankbaits. Fishing for catfish was 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 33 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 602 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.

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK



Alto Lake: Mario Velasco of Chaparral and Paul Perez of La Mesa caught nine trout using PowerBait on Sept. 21.



Greene Acres Lake: Timothy Martinez caught a 16-inch, 2-pound albino catfish using red worms on Sept. 23.

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait. 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.

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 to good when using red worms.

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using Salmon Peach PowerBait. Fishing for bass was fair when using rubber worms.

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 88 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 5 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.

Tips, Tricks and Stories – Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Starts Next Week

This year at Navajo Lake, the average size kokanee salmon we caught was noticeably larger than ones caught the past several years. Quite a few of the fish we caught this year were in the 18-inch range, which is pretty good for New Mexico salmon. As kokanee salmon prepare to spawn in the coming weeks anglers should know about the special snagging season for these fish. I'll share a picture of some of the fish we caught this year for reference. Below that will be kokanee salmon snagging season information.



Dustin and Melissa Berg with several 18-inch kokanee salmon caught at Navajo Lake this year.

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season

Kokanee are land-locked sockeye salmon. Although not native to the Southwest, kokanee thrive in some of New Mexico's deeper and colder, plankton-producing lakes. In late fall, large schools of four-year-old kokanee gather to spawn and die.

A popular method for catching kokanee is snagging – the intentional taking of fish by hooking the body rather than the mouth. Kokanee are the only fish that may be legally snagged, and only during the Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season. If another species is caught by snagging, it must be immediately returned to the water.

Each autumn NMDGF collects and fertilizes millions of kokanee eggs. The young hatchlings, called fry, are used to stock Heron Lake, Navajo Lake, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake. The success of these collection operations is essential to maintain vibrant and healthy fisheries for anglers to enjoy. As a result, Heron Lake, Willow Creek and designated no-wake areas at Navajo Lake are closed Oct. 1-Nov. 12, and no kokanee salmon may be in possession while fishing during these closures at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Snagging Season Dates by Location

Oct. 1–Dec. 31: Open at Abiquiu Lake, Rio Chama (El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area), Navajo Lake (excluding buoyed no-wake areas and shoreline within the no-wake areas at the Pine River Boat Ramp and Simms Boat Ramp), Pine River, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake.

Oct. 1–Nov. 12: Closed at Heron Lake, Willow Creek and Navajo Lake (buoyed no-wake areas).

Nov. 13–Dec. 31: Open at Heron Lake, Willow Creek and Navajo Lake.

Bag Limit (during Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season) kokanee salmon – 12 per day – 24 in possession

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!

