



This fishing report, provided by Dustin Berg of [www.gounlimited.org](http://www.gounlimited.org) (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.

**NOTE: There will be fewer reports available during the cooler seasons when fishing slows. The department will make every effort to provide as much information as possible during the winter months.**

[Check out the latest stocking report](#)

[Get your New Mexico fishing license](#)

[\(Valid April 1 to March 31; 2022-2023 licenses are still on sale\)](#)



### 2022-23 Fishing RIBs Available Online!

The 2022-2023 Fishing Rules and Information Booklets (RIBs) are still available online-only for download and use. [English](#) and [Spanish](#) PDF versions are available. In addition to the full RIBs, a one-page summary of "What's New and Important" can also be downloaded in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

### 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.



---

### Catches of the week

**Alto Lake:** Thane Garay, age 7, of Albuquerque caught a 17-inch rainbow trout using salmon-peach PowerBait on Feb. 4.

**Alumni Pond:** Makayla Frieze of Las Cruces caught an 18-inch largemouth bass using a jighead with a nightcrawler worm Feb. 1.

**Bataan Lake:** Joaquin Granger, age 10, of Carlsbad caught his first trout, an 11-inch rainbow, using corn-flavored PowerBait on Feb. 4.

**Caballo Lake:** Roberto Boucher of Louisiana caught a 27-pound blue catfish using cut carp bait Feb. 4.

**Eagle Nest Lake:** Cody Sullivan, age 16, of Rio Rancho caught a 24.25-inch rainbow trout (first place at Eagle Nest Lake Ice Fishing Tournament!) using a tungsten jig tipped with a worm Jan. 28.



**Makayla Frieze of Las Cruces caught an 18-inch largemouth bass using a jighead with a nightcrawler worm Feb. 1 at Alumni Pond.**

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](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.

---

## Northeast Fishing Report



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

**Charette Lakes:** Closed to boating and fishing until March.

**Cimarron River:** Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

**Clayton Lake:** Closed to boating and fishing until March.

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

**Costilla Creek:** The Valle Vidal is closed to fishing until July.

**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 good when using glow ice-fishing jigs, tungsten ice-fishing jigs tipped with mealworms and small spoons. Ice fishing for perch was good when using small, glow ice-fishing jigs, and white, silver and green tungsten jigs. Fishing for pike was fair when using glow ice-fishing jigs. For updated lake conditions, visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-377-1594.

**Eagle Rock Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using tungsten jig heads tipped with maggots and wax worms.

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

**Lake Alice:** Closed due to unsafe ice conditions.

**Lake Maloya:** Ice fishing for trout and perch was good when using glow jigs, tube jigs, PowerBait worms, and treble-hook jigs tipped with mealworms and wax worms.

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



**Cody Sullivan, age 16, of Rio Rancho caught a 24.25-inch rainbow trout (first place at Eagle Nest Lake Ice Fishing Tournament) on Jan. 28.**

**Maxwell Lake 13:** Closed to boating and fishing until March.

**Monastery Lake:** Closed to fishing due to unsafe ice conditions.

**Morphy Lake:** Closed to boating and fishing until March.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 34 cfs.

**Red River:** Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 46 cfs.

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 478 cfs. Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using worms.

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

**Rio Mora:** Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

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

**Santa Cruz Reservoir:** Closed to fishing due to unsafe ice conditions.

**Shuree Ponds:** Closed to fishing until 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 white bass was fair when using vibrating blade baits and slab spoons. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low 40 F range and the water was clear.

---

## **Northwest Fishing Report**

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

**Animas River:** Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 195 cfs.

**Albuquerque Area Drains:** Fishing for trout was fair when using salmon eggs.

**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.

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

**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:** Ice fishing for trout was good when using glow jigs tipped with wax worms.

**Grants Riverwalk Pond:** The city is in the final stages of repairs; stocking will resume soon.

**Heron Lake:** Open to ice fishing. Park staff would appreciate reports on any fish caught.

**Jemez Waters:** Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 26 cfs.

**Laguna del Campo:** Closed to fishing until March.

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

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

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

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

**Rio Chama:** Streamflow below El Vado Lake was not measured due to ice; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 76 cfs. Please remember, from the river-crossing bridge on



**Fishing for trout was fair to good when using midge-pattern flies and peach egg-pattern flies in the quality waters on the San Juan River last week.**

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

**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 302 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using midge-pattern flies and peach, egg-pattern flies.

**Seven Springs Brood Pond:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Pistol Pete spinner flies.

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

**Tingley Beach:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using dough bait.

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

---

## Southwest Fishing Report

**Alumni Pond:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon-peach PowerBait and nymph flies with bronze or white beadheads. Fishing for bass was fair when using jigheads with nightcrawler worms, as well as bright silver and green lures.

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

**Bill Evans Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using spinners, lures and a variety of PowerBaits. The department is conducting a boater and angler improvement project at Bill Evans Lake from February to April. Improvements include the installation of a new concrete boat ramp and dock; improvements to the existing boat ramp; the installation of rock, fishing jetties; road improvements; and re-grading the north camping access area. Anglers should expect intermittent, temporary closures during construction. For current conditions, contact the department's Fisheries Management Division at 505-476-8055. Anglers are encouraged to visit surrounding lakes such as Bear Canyon Lake, Lake Roberts and Trees Lake for alternate fishing locations.



**Roberto Boucher of Louisiana caught a 27-pound blue catfish using cut carp bait Feb. 4 at Caballo Lake.**

**Caballo Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using cut carp bait.

**Elephant Butte Lake:** Fishing for crappie was fair to good when using dark colored jigs in 25-40 feet of water. Fishing for catfish was good when using worms and chicken liver.

**Escondida Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait.

**Gila River:** Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 234 cfs.

**Glenwood Pond:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using chartreuse PowerBait.

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

**Percha Dam:** We had no reports from anglers this week.



**Quemado Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using yellow salmon eggs and salmon-egg-flavored PowerBait.

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

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 0 cfs.

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

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

**Young Pond:** Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using bronze beadhead flies, white beadhead flies, salmon-peach PowerBait and salmon eggs.

---

## Southeast Fishing Report

**Alto Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using nightcrawler worms, salmon-peach PowerBait and PowerBait eggs.

**Bataan Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using corn-flavored PowerBait.

**Berrendo Creek:** Fishing for bass was fair when using plastic worms. Please visit the [Open Gate webpage](#) for more information on [this property](#).

**Black River:** Streamflow at Malaga Monday morning was 7 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.

**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.

**Carlsbad Municipal Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using salmon-peach PowerBait.

**Chaparral Park Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using corn.



**Joaquin Granger, age 10, of Carlsbad caught his first trout, an 11-inch rainbow, using corn-flavored PowerBait on Feb. 4 at Bataan Lake.**

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

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

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

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

**Grindstone Reservoir:** Fishing for trout was slow when using Rapala lures. Anglers reported most of the lake was covered with thin ice.

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

**Oasis Park Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using chartreuse PowerBait.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 10 cfs.

**Perch Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using orange, garlic PowerBait.

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

**Rio Ruidoso:** Streamflow at Hollywood Monday morning was 11 cfs.

**Rock Lake Hatchery Kids' Pond:** Fishing for trout was good when using white-and-orange PowerBait Mice Tails.

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

**Sumner Lake:** Fishing for white bass was good when using curly-tail, shad-pattern jigs.

**Timberon Ponds:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms.

---

**Tips and Tricks – Ice Fishing with Matthew “Ice Fisherman” Medina**

**By Matthew Medina**

New Mexico usually is not the first place you would think of when you think about ice fishing. I have been an avid ice fisherman for the past seven years, and I learn something new about the sport each year. I have noticed since the pandemic that ice fishing has grown tremendously in this state. As I go on lakes, I notice more and more people each year starting this as a new hobby. This sport has rapidly increased year after year, and I have seen many people on the ice for the first time these past two years who have little to no knowledge. I hope to share some insight in this article with tips and tricks I have learned to make me a successful angler. In this article, I want to share some best practices I have learned while ice fishing lakes here in New Mexico.



**Yaktrax attached to your boots help to improve traction while walking on ice.**

Ice fishing only requires a few things to get started: an auger, a fishing pole and some bait. But there are so many other items that can help you enjoy this sport even

more, and I am going to share some of those with you. The first thing I would recommend to any ice angler is to invest in a pair of Yaktrax or some type of spikes to put on your boots while on the ice. I have had my fair share of falls on the ice and safety is of high importance. These items will help decrease your chances of falling and potentially being injured. These items will not completely prevent you from falling, but they help with the traction and provide more stability.

An auger is very important. There are three different types of augers to use: the hand auger, the gas auger and the electric auger. I remember when I first started ice fishing, I had an Eskimo 8-inch hand auger. Hand augers do exactly what they are intended for, and that's drilling holes in the ice. Now, depending how thick the ice is, it can be difficult. I remember being at Cabresto Lake in late January one year with 20 inches of ice. I was exhausted after punching one hole. It was at this moment when I decided I needed to buy either a gas auger or an electric auger.

I did some research on both and the one item that kept popping up was the Clam Plate. The Clam Plate is by far one of the best investments I purchased when it comes to ice fishing. All you need to do is attach your drill to it and connect your hand auger. I went from taking 2-3 minutes to drill a hole by hand to drilling one in less than 10 seconds. Like I said, there are tons to choose from; however, this attachment has made ice fishing a lot more convenient for me.



**An ice shelter can help keep you warm even in extremely cold conditions.**

The next item I want to share with you is the one item that has made me catch tons of fish: an ice-fishing flasher. This tool has helped me tremendously over the years get on more fish. An ice-fishing flasher is a machine that will track your depth and any fish below it. Like augers, there are many to choose from like Marcum, Hummingbird and Garmin; however, I prefer Vexilars. I have had many people tell me that using fishing electronics is cheating, but when I let them use one of mine, it is amazing how quickly their mindset changes. I've seen people dropping their lines all the way to the bottom of the lake when the fish were cruising halfway down, and they never knew the fish were there because they were not tracking the fish with one of these

units. These units can get costly; however, they will help you locate fish faster and increase your chances of landing more fish.

Ice-fishing weather can be very frigid. This is why I use ice shelters when the weather is extremely cold. An ice shelter will increase warmth on a cold, breezy morning while out on the lake. Last year, I was at Eagle Nest Lake when it got down to -35 F. I was thankful for having my insulated ice shelter to help keep me warm, along with my Mr. Buddy heater. Ice shelters are a luxury while on the ice, but not necessarily a necessity. If you want to stay warmer and potentially stay out on the ice a little longer, I recommend purchasing one.



I have written about a few items and you're probably thinking, "how am I going to take all of this out on the ice?" Well, that's why you need to get a sled. Shappell ice sleds are almost a necessity while ice fishing. As your hobby grows, you will notice you start taking more and more items with you. An ice sled will help you to haul all these items on the ice much more conveniently.

Imagine you are walking across the ice for several hundred yards with your sled being dragged behind you. Your arm starts to go numb from all the weight from the gear that you brought. I've been there and done that. The best thing you can get for your sled to pull it much easier is a sled harness. Throw it over your shoulders and waist and save your body the headache and soreness. Your body will thank you, believe me!

The last thing I want to share with you all is bait. I have been successful using tungsten, glow-ice jigs for catching many species of fish. But my secret sauce to using these jigs is mealworms or wax worms. These two types of worms hooked onto a jig is a fish's favorite meal. I don't know what it is, but either a mealworm or wax worm attached to your hook will bring the fish in. Mealworms and wax worms can be found at a few different places in the Albuquerque area. I usually buy mine from Quality Baits or Sportsman's Warehouse, but you can also find them at PetSmart.



**An ice sled will make it easier to haul all of your gear across the ice.**



**Tungsten glow ice jigs tipped with mealworms or wax worms are the secret to success for Matthew “Ice Fisherman” Medina.**

Ice fishing has brought me so much joy and is something I am very passionate about. I have met many awesome people on the ice these past years that have enjoyed this sport as much as I have. I am happy to be a resource if you have any questions about New Mexico ice fishing. I am always willing to talk ice fishing and give my advice. I hope you find success out on the ice, and if you have any questions, I would be happy to assist!

Respectfully,

Matthew “Ice Fisherman” Medina

*Find Matthew “Ice Fisherman” Medina on Instagram [@mattmedina8](#) to learn more about ice fishing.*

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!

---

FEB.  
17-19

New vendors,  
free fishing  
for kids,  
skills area,  
and more!

# New Mexico Outdoor Adventures

Hunting & Fishing Show

\$3 or FREE  
with valid hunting  
or fishing license!



CHALLENGE YOURSELF AT NEW MEXICO'S FISHERY



Clean, Drain and Dry your watercraft.

# Stop Aquatic Aliens!



Protect New Mexico Waters.

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais)

