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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.***

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## [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!](#)

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## 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.

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## NORTHEAST

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### NORTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK

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**Conchas Lake:** *Atlee Gaddis (above) of Tijeras caught a 31-inch, 9.83-pound catfish using fresh cut bait on Aug. 8.*

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### NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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**Cabresto Lake:** Fishing for brook and cutthroat trout was good when using olive Caddis flies, orange Stimulator flies and Blue-dun Spinner flies.

**Charette Lakes:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Garlic PowerBait.

**Cimarron River:** Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 41 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was good when using Stimulator dry flies, Hare's-Ear Nymph flies, worms, black Creek Bugz and yellow salmon eggs. Fishing for trout at Gravel Pit Lakes was fair to good when using Yellow Garlic PowerBait, worms and salmon eggs.

**Clayton Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using various PowerBaits. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using chicken liver.

**Conchas Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using fresh cut bait.

**Costilla Creek:** Fishing for trout was fair when using Hopper dry flies.

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

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

**Eagle Nest Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms, Rainbow PowerBait and Salmon Peach PowerBait. 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:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Lake Alice:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait and marshmallows.

**Lake Maloya:** Fishing for trout was slow to fair. 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. Benedictine 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 fair when using Salmon Peach PowerBait and salmon eggs.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 55 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using bead-head Prince Nymph flies, salmon eggs and worms.

**Red River:** Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 56 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using dry-dropper fly setups.

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 322 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Streamer flies and bead-head nymph flies.

**Rio Hondo:** Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was 21 cfs.

**Rio Mora:** Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 10 cfs.

**Rio Pueblo:** Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was 17 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 Parachute Adams dry flies.

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

**Storrie Lake:** Fishing for trout was slow.

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

**Ute Lake:** Fishing for walleye was slow. Fishing for white bass was good when trolling using crankbaits and jigging using slab spoons in 35-45 feet of water. Fishing for bass was slow when using topwater lures early in the mornings. Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver and nightcrawler worms. Fishing for crappie was slow. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low to mid-80 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:** Molly and Carson Bullard (above), ages 9 and 11, of Rio Rancho caught 20 white bass using curly-tail grubs and small, white swimbaits on Aug. 12.



**San Juan River:** Ryan Villa (above) of Albuquerque caught a 20-inch rainbow trout using a Red Annelid fly on Aug. 12.



**Seven Springs Brood Pond:** *Jacoby Sandoval (above), age 7, of Algodones caught a 24-inch rainbow trout using one of his grandpa's hand-tied flies on Aug. 6.*

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## **NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT**

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**Abiquiu Lake:** Fishing for all species was slow.

**Animas River:** Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 184 cfs.

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

**Bluewater Lake:** Fishing for tiger muskie was fair when using deep-diving shad-pattern crankbaits, Rapala lures and hot dogs.

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



**Canjilon Lakes:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Orange PowerBait and Pistol Pete spinner flies.

**Cochiti Lake:** Fishing for pike was fair to good when using crankbaits, minnows, nightcrawler worms and cut bait. Fishing for white bass was good when using blue-and-chrome Rat-L-Trap lures; small, white swimbaits and curly-tail grubs. Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth 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 chicken liver, nightcrawler worms and stink 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 nightcrawler worms and PowerBait. For updated lake conditions, visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-829-3630.

**Grants Riverwalk Pond:** Fishing for bluegill was fair to good when using worms.

**Heron Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair when using orange Rapala lures.

**Jemez Waters:** Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 11 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using Mayfly flies and Panther Martin spinners.

**Laguna del Campo:** Fishing for trout was slow.

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

**Lake Farmington:** Fishing for bass was good when using crayfish.

**Liam Knight Pond:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using bluegill.

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

**Navajo Lake:** Fishing for kokanee salmon was slow to fair when using silver spinners, pink spinners and orange squid tipped with corn. Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair to good when using 3-inch plastic worms, chartreuse curly-tail grubs and watermelon, green tube jigs. Fishing for pike was fair when trolling using deep-diving crankbaits.

**Rio Chama:** Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 494 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 271 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 fair to good when using nightcrawler worms and 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 692 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using Red Annelid flies and Foam-wing Emerger flies. Fishing for trout in the bait fishing waters was fair when using live worms.

**Seven Springs Brood Pond:** Fishing for trout was fair when using flies and peach PowerBait.

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

**Tingley Beach:** Fishing for bluegill was fair when using small hooks and worms.

**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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**Caballo Lake:** *Rafael Dominguez of Mesquite caught a 33.5-inch, 18-pound catfish using cut bait on Aug. 13.*

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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:** Fishing for bass was slow.

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

**Elephant Butte Lake:** Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair when using crankbaits. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when trolling using shad-pattern crankbaits. Fishing for walleye was slow to fair when using curly-tail grubs. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using minnows, worms and cut bait.

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

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

**Gila River:** Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 51 cfs. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using cut bait.

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

**Quemado Lake:** Anglers reported a lot of algae in the lake. Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait.

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

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 1,330 cfs. Fishing for catfish was good when using nightcrawler worms near Bernardo.

**Snow Lake:** Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using green PowerBait and lures. Anglers reported a lot of algae in the lake.

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

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

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## SOUTHEAST

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### SOUTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK

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*Fishing for bass was fair to good when using lipless crankbaits last week at Brantley Lake.*

**Greene Acres Lake:** Jason Freeman of Clovis caught a 10-pound catfish using a circle hook with two earthworms on Aug. 8.

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## SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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

**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 24 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 plastic worms. Fishing for catfish and bluegill was fair to good when using worms.

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

**Brantley Lake:** Fishing for bass and walleye was fair to good when using lipless crankbaits.

**Carlsbad Municipal Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using worms.

**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:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using hot dogs and corn.

**Green Meadow Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using nightcrawler worms.

**Greene Acres Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using earthworms and cut bait.

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

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

**Jal Lake:** Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms.

**Lake Van:** Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using chicken-liver-flavored Magic Bait.

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

**Oasis Park Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using chicken blood and cheese catfish bait.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 63 cfs. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using worms near Carlsbad.

**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 4 cfs.

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

**Santa Rosa Lake:** There is a water release scheduled to begin Aug. 14 that will drop the lake level approximately 25 feet. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using cut bait.

**Sumner Lake:** Fishing for all species was slow.

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

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## Tips, Tricks and Stories – Know Your Depth and Distance to Catch More Fish



*Captain Lee with walleye caught at Ute Lake using line-counter reels.*

Adding a line-counter reel to your fishing arsenal can help keep you in the fish's strike zone. This can be a great technique to use for catching schooling or suspended fish such as walleye, white bass, trout and kokanee salmon. A line-counter reel tells you exactly how many feet of fishing line you have extended. Knowing how much line you have extended can help you understand how deep you are fishing and how far your line extends behind your boat.



*Digital line-counter reel*

When trolling, the amount of fishing line you extend from the reel impacts your lure depth. Typically, the more line you release or extend, the deeper your diving lures are able to dive. Fish can be boat-shy, so dialing in the distance behind the boat where fish are comfortable eating can also be very helpful.





*Manual line-counter reel*

You start by letting out 40 or 50 feet of line. If you are not getting bites at that distance, you can release more line—10 feet for example. You can continue testing different distances until you find the “sweet spot” where the fish are biting. Once you identify the right distance of line to use, replicating a specific presentation is easy using a line-counter reel. After catching a fish, simply release line from your reel to the exact distance the previous fish was caught.

Line-counter reels are an essential tool for many avid anglers that like to troll for fish in New Mexico.

Vertical jigging with a line-counter reel is also a productive technique. For instance, during this past week at Ute Lake, anglers were successfully vertical jigging for white bass in 35-45 feet of water while using slab spoons. Having a line-counter reel enables the angler to eliminate the guesswork and know exactly what depth they are jigging.

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!

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