



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 CATCH OF THE WEEK



Fishing for cutthroat trout was good when using olive Caddis flies, orange Stimulator flies and Blue-dun Spinner flies last week at Cabresto Lake.

NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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 29 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was fair to good when using yellow Stimulator dry flies, San Juan Worm flies, yellow with gold blade Panther Martin spinners and nightcrawler worms. Fishing for trout at Gravel Pit Lakes was fair to good when using marshmallows and PowerBait with silver flake.

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

Conchas Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using curly-tail grubs. Fishing for catfish was good when using fresh cut bait. Fishing for bluegill was good when using worms.

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

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

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 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. 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 29 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using bead-head Prince Nymph flies and nightcrawler worms.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 45 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using dry-dropper fly setups.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 243 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 19 cfs.

Rio Mora: Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 6 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 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 and crappie was slow. Fishing for white bass was good when using jigging spoons and blade baits in 35-50 feet of water. Fishing for bass was fair when using Pop-R lures and Whopper Plopper lures late in the afternoon, MaxScent Hit Worms, flat worms and flukes on drop shot rigs the remainder of the day. Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver and nightcrawler worms. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low 80 F range and the water was clear.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Abiquiu Lake: Autumn Sanchez of Abiquiu caught a 19.5-inch, 4-pound smallmouth bass using a Kastmaster lure on Aug. 16.



Bluewater Lake: Brian Gonzales of Albuquerque caught and released a 41-inch tiger muskie using a waterdog on Aug. 18.



Fenton Lake: *Johnnie Ray Gallegos, age 8, of Albuquerque caught a 15-inch rainbow trout using Orange PowerBait on Aug. 18.*



Laguna del Campo: Anthony Garcia of Santa Fe caught a 22.5-inch, 6-pound rainbow trout using Yellow Glitter PowerBait on August 11. Celeste Edwards-Garcia, age 10, of Santa Fe caught a 20-inch, 4.5-pound rainbow trout using Salmon Peach PowerBait on Aug. 9.

NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Abiquiu Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using Kastmaster lures.

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

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

Bluewater Lake: Fishing for tiger muskie was fair to good when using perch-pattern Rapala lures and water 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 green deep-diving crankbaits, 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 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: Fishing for bluegill was fair to good when using worms.

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

Jemez Waters: Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 7 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using small bead-head nymph flies.

Laguna del Campo: Fishing for trout was good when using Salmon Peach PowerBait and Yellow Glitter PowerBait.

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 hot dogs.

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 and orange squid tipped with corn 55 feet deep. Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair to good when using 3-inch plastic worms, chartreuse curly-tail grubs and watermelon-green tube jigs.

Rio Chama: Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 506 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 286 cfs. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was fair when using bead-head 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.

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 577 cfs. The Bureau of Reclamation has scheduled an increase in the release from Navajo Dam back to 700 cfs from 600 cfs for Aug. 22, starting at 4 a.m. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using size-24 midge-pattern flies, Red Annelid flies and Foam-wing Emerger flies. Fishing for trout in the bait fishing waters was fair when using live worms.

Seven Springs Kids' Pond: The pond and surrounding roads are currently closed to allow for dipping of water and access for fire crews.

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

Tingley Beach: Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms. Fishing for bluegill was fair to good when using small hooks and worms.

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

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Sapillo Creek: Tyler McQueen of Parker, Colorado, caught an 8-inch Gila trout using a green nymph fly near the Gila River on Aug. 14.



Young Pond: Chantal Orozco of Las Cruces caught three catfish, including a 14-inch albino, using hot dogs on Aug. 13.

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: 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 26 cfs.

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: 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 Dam on Monday morning was 1,080 cfs. Fishing for catfish was good when using nightcrawler worms near Bernardo.

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

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

Young Pond: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using hot dogs.

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK



Green Meadow Lake: Nick Keele of Hobbs caught a 17-inch, 4-pound largemouth bass using a black Berkley plastic worm on Aug. 21.

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was slow. Anglers reported lots of moss in the lake.

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

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

Black River: Streamflow at Malaga Monday morning was 21 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 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: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using hot dogs and corn.

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for bass was fair to good when using black Berkley plastic worms. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using stink bait and nightcrawler worms.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Salmon Peach PowerBait. 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 when using nightcrawler worms and shrimp.

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 1,390 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 4 cfs.

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

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

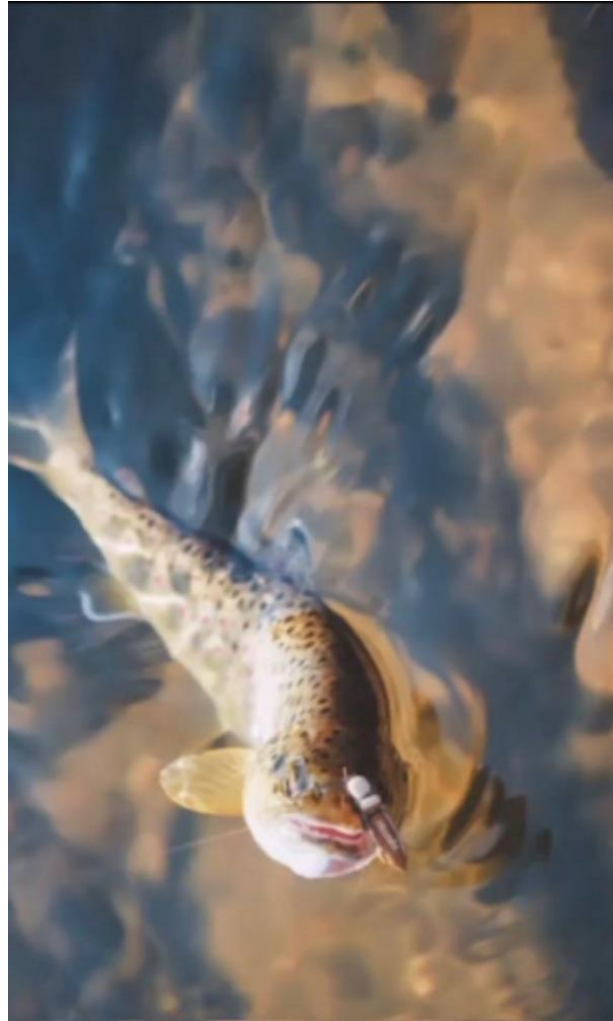
Sumner Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

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

Tips, Tricks and Stories – Cooler Temperatures and Adjusting Fishing Techniques

Finally, after months of hot summer days, you can feel the winds of change bringing cooler temperatures. Especially in the mornings, it has been quite pleasant outside. The heat of summer typically sends fish deep and anglers have to adjust accordingly by fishing deeper pools of water and using weights to take their bait to the bottom of lakes and ponds. As the temperatures drop, it is a great time to seek out perfect weather and fishing conditions in the mountains of New Mexico.

Mountain streams and rivers with grassy banks provide habitat where large terrestrial insects (those that live on land as opposed to in the water) can thrive. A few of the favorite terrestrials that trout like to eat are ants, grasshoppers and crickets. By this time of year, the long summer days and periodic moisture events have allowed for the terrestrial insects to grow in size and numbers. Ants and grasshoppers can be especially prolific at times and therefore are a main staple in fish diets. Take a walk through the grass while gently kicking at the green clumps to see what type of terrestrial insects jump or fly out. If you see grasshoppers leaping from the grass, do your best to catch one (using a butterfly net helps). Catch a grasshopper and study the size and color pattern it displays. Choose a fly the closely resembles the grasshopper and you are sure to provoke a hungry fish to strike. If you are fishing where bait is allowed, you can put the live grasshopper on a small hook and be ready to catch some fish.





Chris Ortega with a rainbow trout caught on the Chama River using grasshopper flies. He also caught the brown trout pictured above on the Brazos River.

Looking along the water's edge under rocks and rotting wood is a good place to check for ants and crickets. If you find that ants are abundant, you will most likely need to find a fly that matches their size and color, since they are simply too small to put on a hook. Large black ants often hatch after a steady rainstorm, and many anglers have had epic days fishing using black topwater flies that resemble the hatching ants. Crickets are usually a bit larger than ants and therefore can be fished as bait where allowed, or mimicked as larger black topwater flies.

While fishing the mountains in September and early October, be sure to keep an ear out for [the distinct sound of a bugling elk in rut](#) as an absolutely cool bonus to the fishing experience.

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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