



---

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 area officers and anglers. 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.

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](#)



### **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

---



***Pecos River:*** Jayden Trujillo and Steve Trujillo of Santa Fe caught their limits of rainbow trout using worms and Pistol Pete spinner flies on Nov. 5.



**Red River Fish Hatchery:** *Jariah Martinez of Taos caught his first fish, a 10-inch rainbow trout, using salmon eggs at the Red River Fish Hatchery Pond on Nov. 7.*

---

## NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

---

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

**Charette Lakes:** Closed until March 1.

**Cimarron River:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using nymph flies, worms, salmon eggs and PowerBait.

**Clayton Lake:** Closed until March 1.

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

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

**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 good when using flies, Salmon Peach PowerBait and swimbaits. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using rainbow trout-pattern swimbaits. 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 Woolly Bugger flies.

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

**Lake Maloya:** Fishing for trout was good when using Woolly Bugger flies, various patterns of white-and-black flies, homemade dough bait, PowerBait and marshmallows. 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:** Closed until March 1.

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

**Morphy Lake:** Closed until March 1.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was not measured. Fishing for trout was good when using worms, Pistol Pete spinner flies and small flies.

**Red River:** Fishing for trout at the Red River Fish Hatchery was fair to good when using salmon eggs.

**Rio Grande:** Fishing for trout was good when using small, mayfly dry-fly patterns, nymph flies, black leech-pattern flies, white or bright-colored Streamer flies, and black Woolly Bugger flies. Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair to good when using black leech-pattern flies and bright-colored Streamer flies near the Taos Junction Bridge.

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

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

**Rio Pueblo:** Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs in Embudo Creek.

**Santa Cruz Reservoir:** Fishing for trout was good when using flies, Kastmaster lures and Pistol Pete spinner flies. The lake is open from 7 a.m.-5 p.m., Thursday-Monday.

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

**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 walleye was fair to good when using blade baits, drop-shot rigs, and jig heads with Gulp Minnows in 25-35 feet of water. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when vertical jigging using blade baits in 25-40 feet of water. The main lake water surface temperature was in the high 50 F range and the water was stained.

---

## NORTHWEST

---

### NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK

---



*Fishing for trout was fair when using gold Mepps Algia spinners and fishing for catfish was fair when using Rooster Tail spinners last week at Tingley Beach.*

---

### NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

---

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

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

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

**Bluewater Lake:** Fishing for tiger muskie was fair to good when using chicken.

**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:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Pistol Pete spinner flies, and tuna fish and bread bait. 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:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Jemez Waters:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Perdigon flies.

**Laguna del Campo:** Closed until March 1.

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

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

**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 snagging hooks near the dam.

**Rio Chama:** Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was slow. 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 only two trout.

**Rio Grande:** Fishing for white bass was fair to good when using corn near Algodones. 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:** Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using size-24 RS2 midge flies and size-22, grey Foam-wing Emerger midge-pattern flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using PowerBait and nightcrawler worms.

**Seven Springs Kids' Pond:** Fishing for trout was good when using white Caddis Flies.

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

**Tingley Beach:** Fishing for trout was fair when using gold Mepps Algia spinners. Fishing for catfish was fair when using Rooster Tail spinners.

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

---

## SOUTHWEST

---

### SOUTHWEST CATCH OF THE WEEK

---



**Elephant Butte Lake:** Keegan Caldwell, age 8, of Albuquerque caught and released a 3-pound smallmouth bass using a Ned Rig, light-brown, crawdad-pattern lure on Nov. 7. Ed Eisele of Rio Communities caught a 19-inch, 3-pound, 11-ounce striped bass using a green paddle-tail swimbait on Nov. 1. Stephen Dail of Las Cruces caught and released a 6-pound, 1-ounce largemouth bass using a chartreuse Flicker Shad crankbait on Oct. 28.

---

### SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

---

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

**Bear Canyon Lake:** Fishing for all species was slow when using Panther Martin spinners, bait and flies.

**Bill Evans Lake:** Fishing for all species was slow.



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

**Elephant Butte Lake:** Fishing for bass was fair to good when using chartreuse Flicker Shad crankbaits; Ned Rig, light-brown, crawdad-pattern lures; and shad-pattern crankbaits. Fishing for striped bass was fair when using green paddle-tail swimbaits. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when using white crankbaits. Fishing for catfish was fair when using live minnows and cut bait.

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

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

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

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

**Lake Roberts:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Corn PowerBait with trout attractant. Fishing for catfish was fair when using Salmon Peach PowerBait.

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

**Quemado Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using Rainbow PowerBait.

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

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

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

**Trees Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using Garlic PowerBait.

**Young Pond:** Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using PowerBait.

---

## SOUTHEAST

---

### SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK

---



*Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs, Salmon Peach PowerBait and Salmon Egg Glitter PowerBait last week at Grindstone Reservoir.*

---

## **SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT**

---

**Alto Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using spinners and flies, and slow when using bait.

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

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

**Bottomless Lakes:** Fishing for all species was slow.

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

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

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

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

**Dennis Chavez Pond:** Fishing for bass was fair when using crankbaits.

**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 good when using salmon eggs, Salmon Peach PowerBait and Salmon Egg Glitter PowerBait.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

## **Tips, Tricks and Stories – Interesting Facts About New Mexico Catfish**

**By Dennis Segura**

Catfish are a large and diverse group of ray-finned fish with more than 3,000 species found worldwide, ranging in size from less than 6 inches to more than 9 feet. Catfish inhabit freshwater ecosystems such as rivers, streams, ponds, lakes and reservoirs.

The blue catfish, channel catfish and flathead catfish are the three main species of catfish found in the United States today, and all three species of catfish are found in New Mexico waters. These three species are the most sought-after species by anglers throughout the country.

The channel catfish is the most common in New Mexico because it has adapted well to life in reservoirs. Despite the fact catfish are considered a warm-water species, you can fish for catfish year-round; however, the best water temperatures for angling are between 50 and 80 F, with 70 being the preferred temperature.

### CATFISH FUN FACTS

- Catfish have large, flat heads with elongated bodies.
- Catfish are found mainly in freshwater and are on every continent except Antarctica.
- Catfish are named after their barbels, which resemble a cat's whiskers and are located by the mouth.
- A catfish's barbels are sensory organs that can both smell and taste. This allows catfish to hunt for food effectively in dark and murky waters with low visibility.
- The entire body of the catfish is covered with more than 100,000 taste buds that can taste food before its even in their mouth.
- Catfish have excellent senses of touch and sight. Channel catfish especially have good eyesight, but like most catfish, prefer the bottom of dark, murky waters.
- Most catfish have smooth skin and no scales. Their coloring is usually fairly dull, ranging from bluish-gray to olive-brown.
- Most catfish have no teeth. Instead, they have rough pads in their mouths that help them hold onto their food.
- Catfish have sharp, pointed pectoral and dorsal fins that contain a venom that can cause some pain and swelling if these spines puncture the skin. Always be careful when handling a catfish.
- Smaller catfish and channel catfish especially have sharper dorsal and pectoral fins.



The channel catfish generally weighs between 2-7 pounds and measure 12-24 inches long and live six to seven years on average. Some channel catfish can live up to 10 years.



The blue catfish is the largest species of catfish in North America and can measure, on average, between 24-46 inches and average 20 pounds. Blue catfish can live up to 20 years.

Blue catfish can get up to 5 feet in length and weigh up to 150 pounds.



The flathead catfish averages 25-46 inches in length and weighs between 10-45 pounds. Flathead catfish can live up to 24 years.

*Dennis Segura is the aquatic sport fishing education coordinator for the Department of Game and Fish.*

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!

---



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)

