



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 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. 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 Still Available Online!

The 2023-24 Fishing Rules and Information Booklets (RIBs) are still available in print and online in [English and Spanish for download](#). Licenses for the 2024-25 license year will be available for purchase beginning March 25.

[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



Morphy Lake: Adam Gonzales of Las Vegas (above, left) caught and released a 21-inch cutthroat trout using a self-tied CDC flash-back Pheasant Tail nymph fly on March 13. Jose Arguello of Las Vegas (above, right) caught an 18.5-inch rainbow trout using PowerBait on March 1.



Rio Grande: Rob Vigil of Española (above, left) caught a 21-inch rainbow trout using Salmon-Peach Glitter PowerBait on March 17. Tiffany Mann of Albuquerque (above, right) caught a 26-inch pike using a black streamer fly with a pink head near Pilar on March 11.

NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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

Charette Lakes: Fishing for trout was good when using worms and Orange PowerBait.

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

Clayton Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait and worms.

Conchas Lake: Fishing for smallmouth bass and walleye was fair to good when using clown-pattern crankbaits and nightcrawler worms.

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 perch was good when using small jigs tipped with worm. The lake remains open to ice fishing; however, it is restricted to foot traffic only and the lake edges are starting to thaw. The northern portion of the lake has water exposed from the shore to the main portion of the ice. Proceed with extreme caution when entering the ice. Avoid ice fishing near feeder streams or known springs, brush, logs, plants, docks or areas with multiple cracks or ice that is popping or otherwise weak. 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: Ice fishing season has ended.

Lake Maloya: Ice fishing season has ended. 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 good when using bead-head nymph flies and Pistol Pete spinner flies. The 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 olive Hare's Ear flies.

Pecos River: Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was not measured due to ice. Fishing for trout was very good when using streamer flies; black, white and olive Woolly Bugger flies; black-and-chartreuse, tungsten bead-head nymph flies and small, egg-pattern flies.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 38 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Hare's Ear flies and black streamer flies.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 530 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using Blue-Wing Olive dry flies, white streamer flies and Salmon-Peach Glitter PowerBait. Fishing for pike was fair when using black streamer flies.

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

Shuree Ponds: Closed until July 1.

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 swimbaits and jerkbaits. Fishing for white bass was good when trolling using Berkley Flicker Shad lures. Fishing for smallmouth bass was good when using jerkbaits. The main lake water surface temperature was 50 F, and the water was clear.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Rio Chama: Mark Mondragon of Chama caught a 24-inch brown trout using a Panther Martin spinner below Abiquiu Lake on March 15.



Tingley Beach: Armando Guzman of Albuquerque (above, far left) caught a 6-pound largemouth bass using a big leech-pattern fly on March 17. Ron Berlind of Albuquerque (above, second from left) caught and released a 5-pound largemouth bass using a fly on March 12. Perla Rose, age 2, of Tijeras (above, third from left) caught her first trout with the help of her brothers Carson and Truman using Brown PowerBait on March 12. Christian Quintana of Albuquerque (above, far right) caught a 10-pound carp using a mop fly on March 11.

Abiquiu Lake: Contact the Abiquiu Lake Main Office at 505-685-4371 for updated lake conditions and closure information.

Animas River: Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 248 cfs.

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

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: Fishing for bass was fair when using crankbaits.

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: We had no reports from anglers this week. 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 trout was fair to good when using PowerBait.

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

Jemez Waters: Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 45 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using gold bead-head nymph flies.

Laguna del Campo: Closed until May 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 brown trout was slow to fair when trolling using large lures. Fishing for pike was good when using large, diving crankbaits and streamer flies.

Rio Chama: Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 105 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was not measured due to equipment issue. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was fair to good when using Panther Martin spinners. 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1): Fishing for trout was good when using rainbow-colored, Garlic PowerBait.

San Gregorio Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

San Juan River: Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 387 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair when using red midge-pattern flies, midge pattern flies and red annelid-pattern flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was good when using spinners, spoons, egg-pattern flies, bead-head mayfly-pattern flies and nightcrawler worms near Crusher Hole and Cottonwood Campground.

Seven Springs Kids' Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was good when using Brown PowerBait. Fishing for bass was fair to good when using black leech-pattern flies. Fishing for carp was fair when using mop flies.

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

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Elephant Butte Lake: Tom Armendariz (above, left) caught a 5-pound largemouth bass using minnows on March 11. Benjamin Armendariz (above, right) caught a 2-pound smallmouth bass using minnows on March 11.

SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Alumni Pond: Closed for repairs until further notice.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Pink and Rainbow PowerBait, and black-and-yellow Panther Martin spinners.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using spinners and White and Garlic PowerBait.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using cut bait. Fishing for walleye was slow to fair when using Kastmaster lures.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using minnows. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut shad bait and cut carp bait.

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

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

Gila River: Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 248 cfs.

Glenwood Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Roberts: Fishing for trout was good when using Natural-Scent, Glitter PowerBait.

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

Quemado Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Pink PowerBait and Power Worms.

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

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 2,030 cfs. Fishing for catfish was good when using worms and chicken liver near Socorro.

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

Trees Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using worms and Cheese PowerBait.

Young Pond: Fishing for trout was fair when using nightcrawler worms.

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK



There were no reports from anglers this past week at Brantley Lake. Email Dustin Berg at funfishingnm@gmail.com with your catches!

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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

Bataan Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using worms.

Berrendo Creek: 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. The lake is full but needs time for aquatic habitat to develop to sustain a healthy fish population. The city hopes to reopen the lake for recreational purposes in June.

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 pink PowerBait.

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

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

Dennis Chavez 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 good when using Garlic PowerBait, Rainbow PowerBait and red, zebra midge-pattern flies.

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

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

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using white PowerBait Power Eggs.

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

Oasis Park Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using a variety of different PowerBait.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 74 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 13 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

Tips, Tricks and Stories – Fishing with Plastic Lizards

By Len Presto

When you see lizards running around, it is time to try a plastic lizard lure. Smallmouth and largemouth bass can be particularly fond of lizards and often patrol the shoreline hoping for a reptilian snack. In the past when I've seen bass patrolling for lizards, I have cast a plastic lizard bait onto the rocks above the fish and delicately bounced the lizard into the water triggering a vicious strike.

Make sure you find the pattern that best resembles what kind of lizard is present near the water you are fishing. I find that a grey, tan and smoky melon-seeded 5.5-inch lizard pattern resembles many common New Mexico lizards. Lizard baits work well along the lakeshore, as well as submerged in deeper water near structures. Perhaps when fishing lizard baits in deeper water, the bait is mimicking a waterdog. Eagle Claw TroKar size 1/0 worm hooks and Gamakatsu size 1/0 offset shank hooks work well with average lizard bait sizes.

A bullet weight is a great way to achieve depth while fishing a lizard bait. If you are fishing for bass near the shoreline, a weight is usually unnecessary unless you need the added weight for casting greater distance.



A lizard bait setup with a bullet weight. Photo courtesy of Justin Allen.

I have had good-to-great success with lizard baits at Brantley Lake, Bear Canyon Lake, Bluewater Lake, Clayton Lake, Escondida Lake, Elephant Butte Lake, Lake Roberts and Ute Lake.

I have also caught the occasional catfish and walleye – as well as bass – using lizard baits. Basically, any fish that is large enough to eat a lizard will appreciate the opportunity.

Find out the depth of water you plan to fish. The deeper the water, the heavier the hook or bullet weight you need to use.

Lizards like to hunt the water's edge in search of insects. This makes them vulnerable to larger predatory fish that hope that they make a fatal misstep. Fishing lizard baits can be a great way to trick those big, aggressive 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 and let's help the next generation of anglers find success.

Thanks for reading and supporting our angling community!



Donate to NMDGF youth programs!

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