



This fishing report, provided by Dustin Berg of [Go Unlimited](#) (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.

[Check out the latest stocking report](#)

[Get your New Mexico fishing license](#)

[\(Valid April 1 to March 31; 2021-2022 licenses are on sale now\)](#)

[Check the Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner!](#)

The Department's Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner was created using data from the 2016 to 2019 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.



NEW – 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 new 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](#).



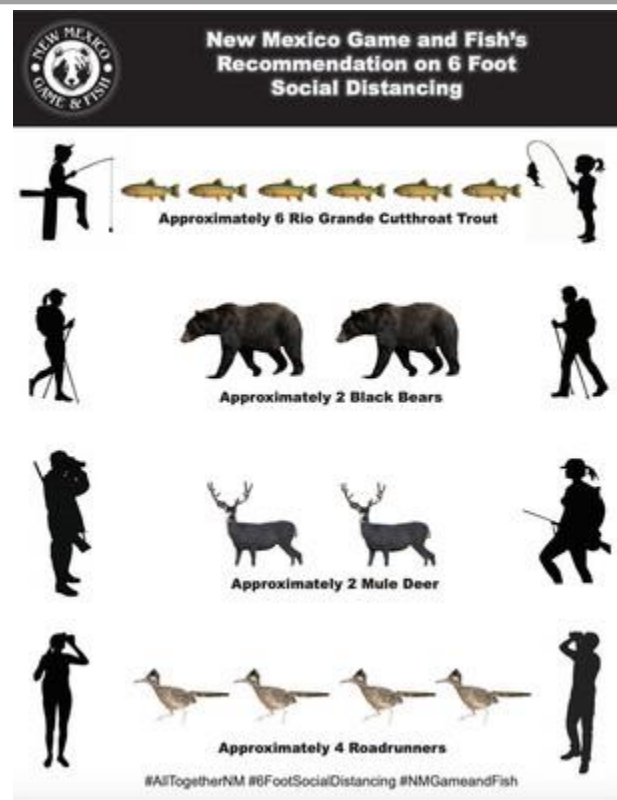
Catch all the challenge species that are found throughout New Mexico or a New Mexico State Record Fish and receive a certificate and challenge coin for your accomplishment!

A Message from the Department

As COVID-19 continues to force all of us to make changes to our daily schedule, the Department would like to remind you that together we can make a difference. To help minimize the spread of the virus:

- Practice social distancing
- Wash your hands regularly
- Avoid non-essential travel
- Wear a face covering
- Avoid interacting with large groups

Click the flyer to the right. Please share it with your friends and family.



The Department is continuing to adapt our ways of working to conserve wildlife for all New Mexicans. Through the COVID-19 pandemic, Department biologists and conservation officers continue to conduct wildlife surveys, contact anglers and OHV recreationists and stock fish in open waters throughout the state.

Our teams are wearing personal protective equipment for everyone's safety while working in small groups for maximum social distancing. We ask for your help to keep everyone safe and healthy by following the NMDOH public health emergency order by wearing PPE while staying at least six feet away from staff and equipment.

Closure Information

The Department reminds anglers it is their responsibility to be aware of closures and contact land managers for properties of interest when restrictions are lifted.



- [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

Conchas Lake: Mark Britelle, age 8, of Albuquerque caught a 2-pound white bass using a watermelon pumpkin Ned rig Nov. 28.

Eagle Nest Lake: Joey Dailey of Albuquerque caught and released 21- and 23-inch rainbow trout using red, white and blue PowerBait Dec. 4. Carlos Barraza, age 10, of Pecos caught 22- and 23-inch rainbow trout using rainbow PowerBait Nov. 28.

Elephant Butte Lake: Justin Kersting of Albuquerque and Daniel Martinez of Santa Fe both caught 5-pound blue catfish using cut bait Dec. 11.

Green Meadow Lake: Nick Keele of Hobbs caught a 15-inch rainbow trout using a gold Panther Martin spinner and a 16-inch largemouth bass using garlic PowerBait Dec. 13.

Grindstone Reservoir: Joshua Terrazas of Las Cruces caught a 19-inch, 2-pound, 3-ounce rainbow trout using a yellow Trout Magnet lure Dec. 5. Joseph Gonzales of Roswell caught a 20-inch rainbow trout using a nightcrawler worm Dec. 4.

Rio Grande: Patrick Iverson of Santa Fe caught a 16.5-inch brown trout using a bunny leech fly near Pilar Dec. 4.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Marcus Gurule, age 8, of Albuquerque caught a 20-inch rainbow trout using a worm under a bobber Dec. 4.

Tingley Beach: Gilbert Gonzales of Albuquerque caught an 18 and 19-inch rainbow trout using homemade dough bait Dec. 4.

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. 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.



Daniel Martinez of Santa Fe caught a 5-pound blue catfish using cut bait Dec. 11 at Elephant Butte Lake.

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

Charette Lakes: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March 2022.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 9.07 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was good when using small worms and grey nymph flies.

Clayton Lake: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March 2022.

Conchas Lake: New winter season hours - open for day-use access only Thursday-Sunday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Please contact State Parks at 1-888-667-2757 with any questions. Fishing for white bass was fair when using watermelon pumpkin Ned rigs.

Costilla Creek: Fishing for trout was good when using caddis dry flies. The Department has implemented the final phase of a project to expand Rio Grande cutthroat trout in 120 miles of the Costilla watershed in northern New Mexico. The final phase involved removal of fish within a designated area (Rio Costilla from Costilla Dam downstream to the Valle Vidal Boundary including all tributaries and Comanche Creek from the road culvert crossing on FR 1950 downstream to its confluence with Rio Costilla and all tributaries) with a tentative restocking of Rio Grande cutthroat in spring 2022. Places to fish nearby include Costilla Creek below the fish barrier, Upper Comanche Creek, Shuree Ponds, Middle Ponil Creek, Upper Powderhouse Creek, Little Costilla Creek, Vidal Creek and McCrystal Creek. Please check the Department website for additional information on the project and to identify alternative angling opportunities in the interim.

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

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

Eagle Nest Lake: New winter season hours - open for day-use access only Thursday-Sunday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Moreno and Six Mile free access areas for New Mexico licensed anglers and hunters at Eagle Nest will remain open for day-use daily. Please contact State Parks at 1-888-667-2757 with any questions. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using rainbow PowerBait and red, white and blue PowerBait.

Eagle Rock Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Gallinas River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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



Carlos Barraza, age 10, of Pecos caught 22- and 23-inch rainbow trout using rainbow PowerBait Nov. 28 at Eagle Nest Lake.

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

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

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

Maxwell Lake 13: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March 2022.

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

Morphy Lake: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in March 2022.

Pecos River: Streamflow near the town of Pecos Monday morning was not measured due to ice. Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs and worms.

Red River: Streamflow below the hatchery Monday morning was 31.7 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using dry flies with dropper nymph flies.

Rio Grande: Streamflow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 327 cfs. Fishing for trout near Pilar was good when using bunny leech flies.

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

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

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

Santa Cruz Reservoir: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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 white bass and walleye was fair when using vertical jigging blade baits, slab spoons, grubs and swimbaits in 20 to 25 feet of water near the main lake channel. The water surface temperature was in the low 50 degrees Fahrenheit and the water's color was dirty.

Northwest Fishing Report

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

Animas River: Waterflow below Aztec Monday morning was 149 cfs.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Fishing for trout was fair to good 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.

Chama River: Monday-morning flows below El Vado and Abiquiu were 97.3 cfs and 146 cfs, respectively. We had no reports this week from below El Vado Lake or from below Abiquiu Lake. 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.



Marcus Gurule, age 8, of Albuquerque caught a 20-inch rainbow trout using a worm under a bobber Dec. 4 at Seven Springs Brood Pond.

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

El Vado Lake: A release of water from the El Vado dam has begun to lower the lake in preparation for dam reconstruction. Kokanee salmon snagging is allowed between the Heron Lake release to the El Vado Lake dam. Snagging is prohibited in the quality waters upstream from the Heron Lake release as it violates quality waters rules.

Fenton Lake: There was no fishing due to thin ice covering the lake. Please remember, only two cutthroat trout are allowed to be harvested per day within the regular five-fish limit.

Heron Lake: All boat ramps are currently closed. Small watercraft such as kayaks and paddleboards can launch from the shoreline. Fishing for kokanee salmon was fair to good when using snagging hooks near Sierra Vista boat launch at Ridge Rock and at the bottom corner of the dam at Ridge Rock.

Jemez Waters: Streamflow on the Jemez near the town of Jemez Monday morning was 17.6 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using gold and silver spinners.

Laguna del Campo: Closed for the season. The lake will reopen in May 2022.

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

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

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

Navajo Lake: Fishing for kokanee salmon was good when using snagging hooks near the dam.

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

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

San Juan River: Streamflow Monday morning was 280 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using egg pattern flies, leech pattern flies, Griffith gnat flies, midge cluster flies and size 22-26 black, grey and olive midge pattern flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was good when using worms.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using garlic dough bait, green PowerBait and worms.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs, garlic PowerBait and homemade 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 marshmallows.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Bill Evans Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using watermelon green plastic worms. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut carp bait and shad.

Escondida Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait, worms and salmon eggs.

Gila River: Streamflow Monday morning was 59.9 cfs.

Glenwood Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using egg worm combo flies.

Lake Roberts: Fishing for trout was good when using beaded egg and worm flies.

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 Monday morning was 0.03 cfs.

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

Trees Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using chartreuse PowerBait, orange Gulp PowerBait, salmon peach PowerBait and small bluegill swimbaits. Fishing for bass was fair when using live worms. Fishing for bluegill was good when using beadhead nymph flies and Beetle Bou jigs.

Young Pond: Fishing for trout was fair when using marshmallows and salmon peach PowerBait.



Justin Kersting of Albuquerque caught a 5-pound blue catfish using cut bait Dec. 11 at Elephant Butte Lake.

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using orange PowerBait.

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 12.6 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. It appears that the lake will be out of commission until 2022.

Bosque Redondo Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

Brantley Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using wacky rigged Senko worms.

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.

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

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Panther Martin spinners. Fishing for bass was fair using garlic PowerBait.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using yellow Trout Magnet lures, nightcrawler worms and garlic PowerBait.

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

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

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

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 15.5 cfs.



Nick Keele of Hobbs caught a 16-inch largemouth bass using garlic PowerBait Dec. 13 at Green Meadow Lake.

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

Ruidoso River: Streamflow Monday morning at Hollywood was 4.09 cfs.

Santa Rosa Lake: The lake is open to boating, but due to low lake levels, Santa Rosa Lake State Park will operate as a no-wake lake until conditions improve. Fishing for all species was slow.

Sumner Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair when using 3-inch transparent swimbaits and curly tail grubs while jigging.

Tips and Tricks – How to Cure Kokanee Salmon Eggs – for Two Reasons

Contribution from Joshua Espinosa

I recently had a relaxing adventure at Navajo Lake doing some salmon snagging. I caught my limit which is the most exciting part of the process; cleaning the fish is of course when the work begins.

When opening the female salmon, you will probably find what is known as salmon roe. Some roe is tightly packed in a membrane while other salmon eggs are loose.

I save the eggs in a clean container to use later as:

1. Salmon roe fishing bait
2. Caviar!

Here is the simplest method to cure your salmon eggs used for fishing: take your eggs and rinse them in cold water after cleaning your salmon. Do not leave them in water for long periods of time or else the eggs will lose their color. Drain the water and cover them in a container

or plastic bag. Once you get home, make a filtered water and non-iodized salt bath to prevent eggs from turning white. Use your hands to rinse the eggs in this solution. After a minute, drain the salt water and rinse eggs in clean, cold, filtered water. Next, store in small baby food jars filled with eggs, cover and freeze. Eggs are good for two years!



Opening the female salmon.



For caviar, the recipe and the directions are very similar. Just remember that if the eggs are still in the membrane, wash them in warm water until they release.

The only other thing you need to do for caviar is to add oil to your eggs. A good virgin oil works great. Serve them up chilled and enjoy!

Caviar ingredients:

- 1/2 cup of salt
- 2 cups of water
- 1 tbsp of oil
- 1/2 lb of salmon eggs

As for fishing, place the roe sack in balled up old nylon stockings to hold your eggs in a ball. Simply run a

hook through your roe sack ball and use your favorite bait fishing technique. Lake trout at Heron Lake love them!

Fish NM and enjoy the outdoors!

Best,

Joshua Espinosa

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!



Salmon caught at Navajo Lake by Joshua Espinosa and his fishing party.



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