



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](#)

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

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.



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](#).



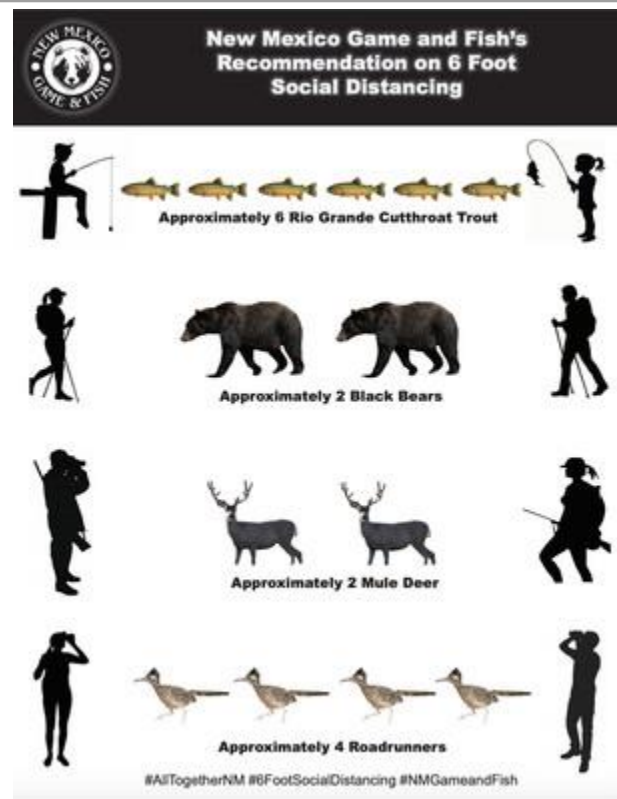
Catch all the challenge species that are found throughout New Mexico or a New Mexico State Record Fish and receive a certificate and challenge coin for your accomplishment!

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

Eagle Nest Lake: Kristina Gonzales of Nambe caught a 22-inch, 4-pound rainbow trout using PowerBait Feb. 5.

Elephant Butte Lake: Tasha Rasmussen of Albuquerque caught a 7-pound blue catfish using cut bait Feb. 6.

Pecos River: Ever Barraza of Bernalillo caught his limit of rainbow trout measuring 14 to 16 inches long using salmon peach PowerBait at Villanueva Dam Feb. 5.

San Juan River: Jarrad Unale of Placitas caught a 20-inch brown trout using a bunny leech Jan. 30.

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.



Kristina Gonzales of Nambe caught a 22-inch, 4-pound rainbow trout using PowerBait Feb. 5 at Eagle Nest Lake.

Northeast Fishing Report

Cabresto Lake: Ice fishing for brook trout was good when using small glow tungsten ice jigs with glow plastics. The roads were snow-packed and slippery.

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

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

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

Conchas Lake: Winter season hours - open for day-use access only Thursday-Sunday from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 868-2270.



Ever Barraza of Bernalillo caught his limit of rainbow trout measuring 14 to 16 inches long at Villanueva Dam on the Pecos River Feb. 5.

Costilla Creek: 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 this spring. 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: Ice fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait, tungsten ice jigs, Swedish Pimple lures tipped with worm and pink Trout Magnet lures. Ice fishing for perch was good when using tungsten ice jigs, Swedish Pimple lures tipped with worm, PowerBait and Trout Magnet lures. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 377-1594.

Eagle Rock Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using pink PowerBait and small jigs tipped with worm.

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

Hopewell Lake: Anglers reported the lake was frozen and the entrance gates are locked until spring. Ice fishing for trout was very good when using orange PowerBait and nightcrawler worms.

Lake Alice: Temporarily closed due to recent weather conditions and ice forming on the lake. State Park officials have deemed the lake unsafe at this time. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 445-5607.

Lake Maloya: Open for ice fishing at your own risk. Ice can be inconsistent, so please use caution when venturing out onto the ice. Fishing for rainbow trout was good when using nightcrawler worms. For updated lake conditions [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 445-5607.

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

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

Monastery Lake: The lake has been closed to fishing due to unsafe ice conditions. It will reopen when there are sufficient open areas of water available to allow fishing from the bank.

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

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

Red River: Streamflow below the hatchery Monday morning was 31.7 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was fair when using zebra midge flies and RS2 flies.

Rio Grande: Streamflow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 393 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using copper spoons.

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: Closed for the season. The ponds will reopen in July.

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 all species was slow.

Northwest Fishing Report

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

Animas River: Waterflow below Aztec Monday morning was 190 cfs.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms and homemade dough bait.

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 100 cfs and 61.9 cfs, respectively. Fishing for trout below El Vado Lake was fair when using nightcrawler worms. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was fair when using pheasant tail 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.



Jarrad Unale of Placitas caught a 20-inch brown trout using a bunny leech Jan. 30 on the San Juan River.

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

El Vado Lake: Closed to ice fishing due to thin ice covering the lake.

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: Open to ice fishing, anglers are advised to use caution due to inconsistent ice conditions. Fishing for kokanee salmon and trout was fair when using small jigging spoons tipped with salmon eggs near the dam.

Jemez Waters: Streamflow on the Jemez near the town of Jemez Monday morning was 23.5 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms.

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

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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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 408 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using bunny leech flies, leech pattern flies and black midge pattern flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week. Parking is limited and 4-wheel drive vehicles are recommended due to snow.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using rainbow PowerBait and chartreuse PowerBait.

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

Southwest Fishing Report

Alumni Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using cheese PowerBait, nymph scented PowerBait and corn PowerBait.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon peach PowerBait and salmon eggs.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait, red Rooster Tail spinners and gold Panther Martin spinners.

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

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for catfish was good when using cut gizzard shad bait and live bait. Fishing for white bass was slow to fair when using live bait. Fishing for drum was slow to fair when using live bait. Fishing for largemouth bass was fair when using live bait and white plastic baits.

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

Gila River: Streamflow Monday morning was 57.3 cfs.

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

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

Percha Dam: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using yellow and orange PowerBait.

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 0.17 cfs.

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

Trees Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using pink and chartreuse garlic PowerBait.



Tasha Rasmussen of Albuquerque caught a 7-pound blue catfish using cut bait Feb. 6 at Elephant Butte Lake.

Young Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using Velveeta cheese, corn and marshmallows.

Southeast Fishing Report

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 13.0 cfs. Fishing for trout was very good when using salmon peach PowerBait near Higby Hole.

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 later this year.

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

Bottomless Lakes: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using yellow PowerBait.

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

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 good when using salmon peach PowerBait.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was fair when using salmon peach PowerBait.

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

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was good when using yellow PowerBait and homemade dough bait.

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

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

Perch Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Kastmaster lures and peach PowerBait.

Ruidoso River: Streamflow Monday morning at Hollywood was 4.54 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Tips and Tricks – Easy Homemade Tuna Dough Bait for Trout Fishing

A few times I have been out trout fishing and met fellow anglers willing to share their homemade dough bait recipes. The conversation usually only comes up after witnessing them catch several fish while I struggle to get a bite. My curiosity overcomes my pride, and I feel compelled to ask what they are using. Thankfully, many anglers are helpful and want to see their fellow comrades catch fish, and thus might share a few tips.

I have learned that the common foundation for creating your own homemade bait is often a base consisting of dough, flour or bread. The next addition is tuna, and the third ingredient is garlic. Now from here people might add an array of additional ingredients to customize their bait, but I've been told this basic formula works quite well.

For my first crack at homemade dough bait, I used a white hamburger bun, a can of tuna in water and some garlic powder. I crumbled up the hamburger bun and added half a can of tuna. Then I powdered it all heavily with garlic powder. Using my hands, I kneaded these ingredients together until I had a nice consistent dough that felt like it would hold onto a hook well.

My total dough ball is about the size of a PowerBait jar and is currently stored in a zip lock bag. Hopefully I can try it out this week and report on how well it does or doesn't work.



If you try this recipe or have one of your own that you would like to share, I'd love to hear about it. Please send me an email.

(With the remaining half can of tuna not needed for my bait, I made a tuna sandwich that really hit the spot. Now that is bang for your buck and tastes good! Hopefully the fish agree...)

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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