



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 CATCH OF THE WEEK



Eagle Nest Lake: Jimmy Ortiz of Bosque Farms caught his limit of rainbow trout, with the biggest being 15-inches long, while ice fishing using Salmon Peach PowerBait on Feb. 16.

NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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

Charette Lakes: Closed until March 1.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was not measured due to ice. Fishing for trout was slow.

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: Ice fishing for trout was fair to good when using Salmon Peach PowerBait and small jigs tipped with wax worms. Ice fishing for perch was fair to good when using Rapala Jigging Rap lures tipped with meal worms. Fishing for pike was fair when using tube jigs and hot dogs. The lake remains open to ice fishing; however, it is restricted to foot traffic only. 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: The lake surface is closed due to unsafe ice conditions.

Lake Maloya: Ice fishing for trout was fair to good when using Garlic PowerBait. 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: **The lake is closed due to unsafe ice conditions.** 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 due to ice. Fishing the lower portion of the river was good when using bait and spinners.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 36 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 459 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using black, leech-pattern flies and Panther Martin spinners.

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: Closed for the season.

Shuree Ponds: Closed until July 1.

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

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

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

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

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Fenton Lake: Tyler Griffith caught five trout using worms on Feb. 2.

NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Abiquiu Lake: Fishing for all species was slow when using worms. The boat ramp will be closed periodically until April as part of dam maintenance efforts. 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 192 cfs.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs and worms. Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair when using lime-green jigs.

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: 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: Ice fishing for trout was good when using worms, shrimp bait, small orange jigs tipped with meal worms, and small white jigs tipped with meal worms. The lake remains open to ice fishing. Chainsaws are not allowed to cut holes in the ice. Fires are not allowed on the ice. In areas around the shoreline, the ice is thin due to runoff—be aware of where you step onto the ice. As of Sunday, ice measurements are 3.5 inches of clear ice and 9 inches of white ice 6 feet from shore, and 6 inches of clear ice and 9 inches of white ice at 20 feet out. 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: Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 20 cfs.

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: Fishing for trout was fair when using black, leech-pattern flies.

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

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

Rio Chama: Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 96 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 54 cfs. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was good when using bait. 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 off-white swim grubs downstream of the Albuquerque Riverside Drain and Rio Grande junction.

Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1): Fishing for trout was slow when using worms and salmon eggs.

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

San Juan River: Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 377 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using silver, midge-pattern flies.

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 fair to good when using white worms and leech-pattern flies.

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

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CATCH OF THE WEEK



Bear Canyon Lake: Alejandro Renteria of Deming caught his limit of trout using salmon-scented PowerBait on Feb. 16.

SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Alumni Pond: Closed for repairs until further notice.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon-scented PowerBait.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when trolling with spinner baits.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using cut bait.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using cut carp bait.

Escondida Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using salmon eggs and live worms.

Estancia Park Lake: The Department is addressing a reported fish die-off at the lake.

Gila River: Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 234 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 fair to good when using pink-colored PowerBait Power Eggs with a worm. The lake remains open; however, the Gila National Forest strongly advises against ice fishing or going on the ice for any reason because of dangerously thin ice conditions caused by recently warming weather. Anglers reported most of the lake was open water.

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

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 919 cfs.

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

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

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

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Bass fishing in southeastern New Mexico continues to be great thanks to decades of fish conservation efforts in the region.

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Salmon Peach PowerBait.

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

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

Harry McAdams Park Pond: Fishing for crappie was fair when using plastic swimbaits.

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

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was good when using Kastmaster lures and Yellow Garlic PowerBait.

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

Oasis Park Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 10 cfs. Fishing for bass was fair to good when using a Z-Man CrawZ lure.

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 8 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 – Quick Swapping Spinners Without a Swivel

Spring in New Mexico has long been one of my favorite times to fish for walleye. Walleye are an absolute favorite table fair in our household. Walleye are white meat fish that are easy to cook because of their mild flavor.

Early in the spring—starting in February and lasting into May (depending on water temperatures)—walleye rise from the depths of their winter holding grounds and prepare for their annual spawn in the shallow waters and rocky banks of many New Mexico lakes. This is a great time for anglers from boats or from bank to catch a few and enjoy an exquisite meal.

Before I mention two excellent lures that give you a great chance of catching a walleye, I want to give you my list of New Mexico lakes with healthy walleye populations (in my opinion) and what lake structure to look for when choosing your fishing location.

Walleye Lakes:

1. Ute Lake
2. Santa Rosa Lake,
3. Sumner Lake
4. Elephant Butte Lake
5. Conchas Lake
6. Caballo Lake
7. Abiquiu Lake

*There are others, but these are the lakes I am personally familiar with and fond of.



George (right) with a 30-inch walleye he caught at Abiquiu Lake using a chartreuse, curly-tail grub during a GO Unlimited fishing trip.

Fishing for walleye during the spring, you should find gravel and rocky shorelines that have areas of gradual slope. Much of my best success has come from rocky shorelines that vary in depth from 5-20 feet of water.

Two tried and true walleye lures:

1. The one-quarter-ounce, chartreuse jig-head with a 4-inch, chartreuse single or double-tail Gary Yamato curly-tail grub.
- This is a low-cost lure that is highly effective when fished from a boat or bank. The idea is to cast this lure out and to retrieve it along the bottom of the lake mimicking a baitfish or crawdad. Make sure you hook your grub on so that the tail and the hook are both pointing up (as pictured). Note: if you are fishing in 15-20 feet of water, it may take a few seconds for your lure to sink. In this instance, pause after casting to allow your lure to sink to your desired depth.



Chartreuse jig head and curly-tail grub rigged as described above.

1. The jerkbait.

- Rapala along with several other great companies make reliable jerkbaits to choose from. The idea is to cast your jerkbait parallel to the bank over your desired water depth, usually 5-15 feet of water. Like the name says, you give your lure a sharp jerk, then pause, reel, pause and jerk again. Try different degrees of each of these elements until you find a retrieve that mimics a fish that is moving through the water column with pauses and erratic movements. Sometimes the fish desire long pauses with a slow approach, other times they want a faster, more erratic approach. You must find out what approach causes the fish to bite on the day you are fishing, because it changes often.



Rapala rainbow trout-pattern jerkbait. I have had good success using this jerkbait at Abiquiu Lake. Other popular color patterns for walleye include white, chartreuse, silver, grey and combination patterns of such colors.

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!

