



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](#)

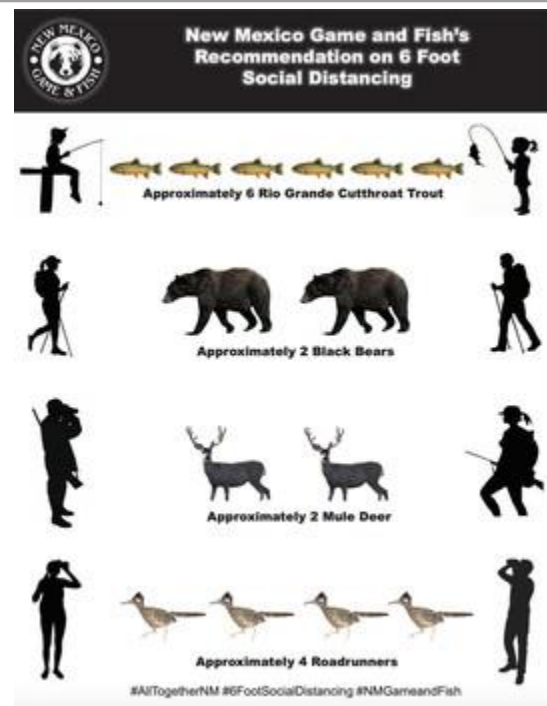
[\(Valid April 1 to March 31; 2020-2021 licenses are on sale\)](#)

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.



Take the Bass and Trout Challenges!

To promote bass and trout 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](#) and the [New Mexico Trout Challenge](#). Catch all the challenge species that are found throughout New Mexico to receive your certificate and challenge coin.



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

Albuquerque Area Drains: Jonathon Casados of Mora caught a 16-inch rainbow trout using a gold Mepps spinner Feb. 13. Darrell Kundargi of Albuquerque caught a 15.5-inch rainbow trout using a grub on a jig head Feb. 13.

Elephant Butte Lake: Rebecca Calcutt and her son Joseph, age 9, of Albuquerque caught 14 large white bass trolling crankbait lures Feb. 13.

Grindstone Reservoir: Easton Sanchez, age 5, of Ruidoso caught a 14-inch rainbow trout using green PowerBait Feb. 11.

Santa Rosa Lake: Elias Ramirez, age 10, of Albuquerque caught a 19-inch walleye and 7-inch crappie using garlic PowerBait and a PowerBait paddle tail lure Feb. 6.



Easton Sanchez, age 5, of Ruidoso caught a 14-inch rainbow trout using green PowerBait at Grindstone Reservoir.

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.

Northeast Fishing Report

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

Charette Lakes: Closed for the season.

Cimarron River: Stream flow near Cimarron Monday morning was not measured due to ice. In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

Clayton Lake: Closed until March 2021.

Conchas Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Conchas Lake State Park has closed access to all boat ramps due to dropping water levels. The boat ramps on the south side of the lake managed by the US Army Corps of Engineers are open.

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 the 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 the Rio Grande cutthroat trout 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. The Department anticipates the completion of this final phase in the fall of 2021. 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: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

Eagle Nest Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. The lake is closed to ice fishing.

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

Fawn Lakes: 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.

Lake Alice: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. The lake is closed to ice fishing.

Lake Maloya: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

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

Maxwell Lake 13: Closed for the season.

Monastery Lake: Closed due to COVID-19 health concerns. Check the [Open Gate webpage](#) for future updates.

Morphy Lake: Closed for a renovation project on the dam and no firm opening date has been set.

Pecos River: Stream flow near the town of Pecos Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

Red River: Stream flow below the hatchery Monday morning was 36.3 cfs. Fishing for trout near the hatchery was fair using small nymph and egg pattern flies.

Rio Grande: Stream flow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 393 cfs. Fishing for trout was good using double nymph rig combinations of large crane fly nymphs and small midge larvae.

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

Rio Mora: Stream flow Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

Rio Pueblo: Stream flow near Penasco Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

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

Shuree Ponds: Closed until Jul. 1, 2021.

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

Storrie Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

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

Ute Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Fishing for all species was slow. The water surface temperature was 41 degrees.

Northwest Fishing Report

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

Animas River: Water flow below Aztec Monday morning was 174 cfs.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Fishing for trout was fair to good using dough bait, gold Mepps spinners and grub worms. Anglers reported locating trout near the bridges in Albuquerque.

Bluewater Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. It is closed to boating and ice-fishing due to recent weather conditions that have led to unsafe lake surface conditions. The lake is currently closed to all watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, inflatables and all types of motorboats.

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 105 cfs and 32.7 cfs, respectively. We had no reports from anglers below El Vado Lake this week. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was good, using black balanced leeches, orange zebra midges, Warden's Worry flies and salmon eggs.

Cochiti Lake: Reopened for day use Jan. 4, 2021. Visitors to the lake will need to make a reservation by purchasing a ticket at least 24 hours in advance through www.recreation.gov. Tickets and reservations will NOT be sold at the lake. Anglers reported that the lake was mostly iced over.

El Vado Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. The lake is closed to ice fishing.

Fenton Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. The lake is closed to ice fishing. Fishing the river in the State Park for trout was good using salmon eggs and flies.

Heron Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Heron Lake is open for ice fishing.



Jonathon Casados of Mora caught a 16-inch rainbow trout using a gold Mepps spinner in the Albuquerque Area Drains.

Jemez Waters: Stream flow on the Jemez near the town of Jemez Monday morning was 17.9 cfs.

Laguna del Campo: Closed for the season; it will open May 1, 2021.

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

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

Manzano Lake: Closed until further notice.

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

Navajo Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

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

San Gregorio Lake: Anglers reported that the lake is frozen.

San Juan River: Stream flow Monday morning was 387 cfs. In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good using size 24 black foam wing emergers, size 20 black zebra midges, size 22 crystal midges, midge cluster dry flies and red annelids.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Closed due to COVID health concerns. Check the [Department's Alerts page](#) for future updates.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was fair to good using wax worms and PowerBait.

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

Southwest Fishing Report

Alumni Pond: Fishing for trout was fair using marshmallows.

Bear Canyon Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was good. Trolling small floating Rapala lures from a kayak and bank fishing was good using PowerBait.

Caballo Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

Elephant Butte Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Fishing for white bass was good trolling crankbait lures. Fishing for catfish was fair to good using cut bait and shad.



Rebecca Calcutt and her son Joseph, age 9, of Albuquerque caught 14 large white bass trolling crankbait lures at Elephant Butte Lake.

Escondida Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good using pink PowerBait and purple nymph scented PowerBait.

Gila River: Stream flow Monday morning was 68.1 cfs.

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

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

Percha Dam: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

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

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

Rio Grande: Stream flow below Elephant Butte Monday morning was .21 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 using nymph-scented PowerBait and garlic-scented PowerBait. Fishing for bass was fair using plastic worms.

Southeast Fishing Report

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was good using worms, PowerBait and salmon eggs.

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

Black River: Stream flow at Malaga Monday morning was 8.26 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 now that the lake will be out of commission until 2022.

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

Bottomless Lakes: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

Brantley Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Fishing for bass was fair to good using jerkbaits.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Fishing for trout was slow using dough bait and PowerBait.

Chaparral Park Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good using dough bait, earthworms and PowerBait.

Corona Pond: Anglers reported that the lake was frozen.

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

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for trout was good using Gulp meal worms dipped in Hatchery Dust.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good using green PowerBait.



Elias Ramirez, age 10, caught a 19-inch walleye and 7-inch crappie using garlic PowerBait and a PowerBait paddle tail lure at Santa Rosa Lake.

Jal Lake: Fishing for trout was good using yellow PowerBait.

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

Oasis Park Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

Pecos River: Stream flow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 16.7 cfs. Fishing for white bass near the state line was good, using live minnows, Gulp baby yellow minnows and orange and white spinners.

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

Ruidoso River: Stream flow Monday morning at Hollywood was 4.31 cfs. Anglers reported fishing for trout was slow.

Santa Rosa Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information. Fishing for walleye and crappie was fair using garlic PowerBait and PowerBait paddle tail lures.

Sumner Lake: In accordance with the Public Health Order, effective Jan. 29, NM State Parks are open to New Mexico residents for day-use only. Please check the State Parks' website for more information.

Tips and Tricks - Spring Walleye on the Horizon

Spring walleye fishing in New Mexico has long been one of my favorite times to fish. For me, it has a great deal to do with the quality of meat that walleye provide. The thick fillets you get are delicate, firm white meat without the dramatic "fishy" taste. It is an easy fish to cook because of its mild flavor and versatile pairing with various recipes. Delicious!

Early in the spring, March and April, 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 an excellent time for anglers from boats or banks to catch a few and enjoy an exquisite meal.



Weekly fishing report author, Dustin Berg, with a throwback from 2010, one of many great days walleye fishing at Ute Lake with friends.

Before I mention two surefire lures that give you a great chance of catching a walleye, I want to provide you with my list of top walleye fishing spots. Also, 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.

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

Two tried and true walleye lures

1. The ¼-ounce chartreuse jig-head with a 4-inch chartreuse single tail Gary Yamato curly tail grub

- This is a low-cost lure that is highly effective fished from a boat or bank. The idea is to cast this lure out and retrieve it along the lake's bottom, mimicking a bait fish or crawdad. Make sure you hook your grub on so that the tail and the hook are both pointing up like in the picture. Note: if you are fishing in 15 to 20-feet of water, it may take a few seconds for your lure to sink. In those instances, pause after casting to allow your lure to sink to your desired depth.



Curly tail grub.

2. The Jerkbait

- Rapala, along with several other great companies, make reliable jerkbaits to choose from. The idea is to cast your jerkbait parallel with the bank over your desired water depth, usually 5 to 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 particular day you are fishing because it changes often.



Rapala rainbow trout pattern jerkbait. Other popular color patters for walleye include white, chartreuse, silver, grey and combination patterns.

If you are a walleye fisherman with any tips and tricks to share with your fellow anglers or any other angling tips for that matter, please email us at funfishingnm@gmail.com and let us help the next generation of anglers find success.

Thanks for reading and supporting our angling community!

Dustin



Clean, Drain and Dry your watercraft.
Stop Aquatic Aliens!

 **Protect New Mexico Waters.**
www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais

The banner features a green alien with a brown, textured head and large green eyes. The alien is holding a fishing rod with a lure. A large red 'X' is superimposed over the alien, indicating prohibition or a warning.



**TEST YOUR FISHING SKILLS ON
NEW MEXICO'S NEWEST CHALLENGE!**

LARGEMOUTH BASS
SMALLMOUTH BASS
SPOTTED BASS
WHITE BASS

For more information go to www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/nmbc/ 1-888-248-6866

The banner features a large image of a largemouth bass jumping out of the water. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font. The logos are circular and feature a fish and a game animal.