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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.

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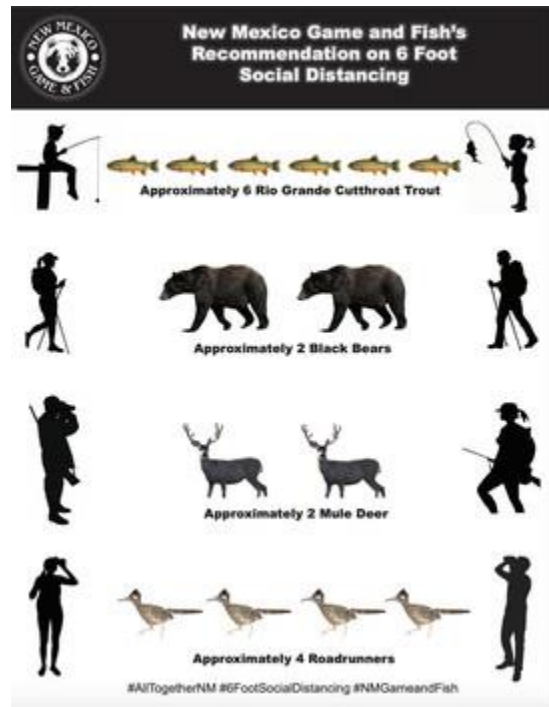
[\(Valid April 1 to March 31; 2020-2021 licenses are on sale\)](#)

#### 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

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## 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

**Brantley Lake:** Tony Valdes of Artesia caught a 19.5-inch 4-pound 1-ounce largemouth bass using an Ozark Trail Sexy Shad Jerkbait Jan. 25.

**Carlsbad Municipal Lake:** Xaryan Padilla, age 8, Elijah Garcia, age 6, MyKaila Garcia, age 11, and Ezekiel Padilla, age 2, of Artesia caught seven trout using PowerBait Jan. 23.

**Eagle Nest Lake:** Kiko Rascon of Taos caught a 34-inch northern pike using a jig worm Jan. 28. Martin Gonzales and Kristina Parrack of Nambe caught 50 perch using jigs tipped with worms Jan. 24. Timothy Errickson and Kristina Bueche of La Mesilla caught 60 perch using jigs tipped with worms Jan. 24.

**Pecos River:** Valerie Wyatt of Roswell caught her limit of rainbow trout in Carlsbad using a Kastmaster lure Jan. 30.

**San Juan River:** Evan Torres of Albuquerque caught a 26-inch brown trout in the Texas Hole using a red annelid Jan. 17.

**Santa Rosa Lake:** A.J. Pino of Albuquerque caught a 28-inch 8-pound walleye using a 5-inch paddle tail swimbait Jan. 23.

**Tingley Beach:** Beaux Morgan, age 5, of Albuquerque caught an 18.5-inch rainbow trout using salmon eggs Jan. 29. Adaline Morgan, age 4, of Albuquerque caught a 16-inch rainbow trout using salmon eggs Jan. 29.

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](mailto: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.



**A.J. Pino of Albuquerque caught a 28-inch 8-pound walleye using a 5-inch paddle tail swimbait at Santa Rosa Lake.**

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## **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 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 was open to ice fishing. Fishing for trout was fair to good using jigs tipped with worms and Kastmaster spoons. Fishing for perch was good using small ice fishing jigs tipped with worms.

**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.

**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. Ice fishing for trout was good using PowerBait and dough bait.

**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 42.4 cfs. Fishing for trout near the hatchery was slow to fair using small nymph and egg pattern flies.

**Rio Grande:** Stream flow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 365 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair using nymphs fished close to the bottom, white Woolly Buggers and small Griffith's Gnat dry flies for rising fish in the evenings.

**Rio Hondo:** Stream flow Monday morning near Valdez 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 July 1, 2021.

**Springer Lake:** Anglers reported that the lake was iced over.

**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 white bass and walleye was fair in 40 to 50-feet of water using vertical jigs with vibrating blades and Gulp Minnows.

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**Northwest Fishing Report**



**Abiquiu Lake:** The boat ramp is open. Anglers reported that there is a lot of ice on the lake.

**Animas River:** Water flow below Aztec Monday morning was 164 cfs.

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

**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. Bluewater Lake 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 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 37.5 cfs, respectively. Fishing for trout below El Vado Lake was fair using spinners and nightcrawlers. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was good using size 14-18 beadhead midge nymph flies.

**Cochiti Lake:** Visitors to the lake will need to make a reservation by purchasing a ticket at least 24 hours in advance through [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). 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. El Vado Lake is open only at the Dam Day Use Area. Annual pass or \$5.00 entry fee applies.

**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. Fishing for trout was slow to fair using Velveeta cheese, earthworms and mealworms.

**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. Heron Lake is open for ice fishing. Fishing for rainbow trout was fair using rainbow trout spinners tipped with fireballs or worms (jigging).



Beaux Morgan, age 5, of Albuquerque caught an 18.5-inch rainbow trout using salmon eggs at Tingley Beach.

**Jemez Waters:** Stream flow on the Jemez near the town of Jemez Monday morning was 19.8 cfs.

**Laguna del Campo:** Closed for the season; will open May 1.

**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:** Fishing for catfish near Albuquerque was fair using cut bait.

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

**San Juan River:** Stream flow Monday morning was 377 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 good using salmon eggs and green PowerBait.

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

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## **Southwest Fishing Report**

**Alumni Pond:** Fishing for trout was slow.

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

**Bill Evans Lake:** Anglers reported fishing for all species was slow.

**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 and walleye was slow. Fishing for catfish was fair to good using cut bait and shad.

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

**Gila River:** Stream flow Monday morning was 61.2 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:** Fishing for trout was slow using salmon eggs.

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

**Rio Grande:** Stream flow below Elephant Butte Monday morning was .64 cfs.

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

**Trees Lake:** Fishing for trout was good using salmon peach PowerBait and worms.

**Young Pond:** Fishing for trout was good using corn and nymph scented PowerBait.

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### **Southeast Fishing Report**

**Alto Lake:** We had no fishing reports from anglers this week.

**Bataan Lake:** Fishing for trout was good using dough bait and PowerBait.

**Black River:** Stream flow at Malaga Monday morning was 5.10 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.



Xaryan Padilla, age 8, Elijah Garcia, age 6, MyKaila Garcia, age 11, and Ezekiel Padilla, age 2, caught 7 trout using PowerBait at Carlsbad Municipal Lake.



**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 Ozark Trail Sexy Shad Jerkbait.

**Carlsbad Municipal Lake:** Fishing for trout was good using corn 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 fair to good using light green garlic PowerBait.

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

**Grindstone Reservoir:** We had no fishing reports from anglers this week.

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

**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. Fishing for trout was fair using PowerBait.

**Pecos River:** Stream flow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was .66 cfs. Fishing for trout in Carlsbad was good using Kastmaster lures.

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

**Ruidoso River:** Stream flow Monday morning at Hollywood was 1.97 cfs.

**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 was fair to good using 5-inch paddle tail swimbaits.

**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.

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## Tips and Tricks - Christina Mann's double hook trout fishing setup

In January, I caught my biggest trout. Several people said I would not tell them where I caught it, but I am happy to say that it came right out of Bataan Lake, near downtown Carlsbad. I will also tell you exactly what rig I used to catch it! I like talking to other people and helping them catch fish too, especially children. When children get involved with fishing, it makes my day.

The setup:

I use snelled hooks, size 4. First, a sliding sinker is placed inline. Then a Palomar knot is used to tie a snap swivel to the end of the line. A Palomar knot is the best fishing knot to use, in my opinion; said to retain 98% of its line strength. Before attaching a pre-rigger hook with leader and loop to the swivel, slide 1-3 red beads and an optional spinner blade onto the hook leader so that they rest just upline from the hook. Next, tie a dropper loop on the line far enough above the terminal snap swivel. The two hooks that are going to be attached to the line do not tangle with each other. Another snap swivel is attached to the dropper loop with a double half hitch knot. The hook loop could be directly connected to the dropper loop, but the swivel adds movement to the bait and movement equals attraction.

This rig requires close attention and a tight line - it is very interactive. When using this rig, I only fish with one rod. The larger hook (size 4) must be set, or the fish steals the bait. The purpose of the large hook is to prevent it from being swallowed.

I have seen fishermen use tiny treble hooks because they hold PowerBait well. Often, the trout swallow the hook. It is a fairly sure way to catch fish, but these tiny hooks are deadly fish killers. Please do not use tiny hooks unless you are fly fishing. Consider this; the general rule is that the bigger the hook or lure, the bigger the catch.

I was fishing on a dock one day, with people at the other end watching me haul in fish after fish and even a double. One guy asks me to show him how I do that. I said, "Sure"! First, I took his hook off the end and produced a red bead from a packet. I slid the bead over the loop of the hook, setting it above the hook. I explained that it was instinctual for most Salmonids to key in on salmon eggs, which is what the red bead mimics.

The red bead is my angle on the "Shasta fly," a bait consisting of a salmon egg on top of a mini marshmallow. Dumb as it sounds, it works. (My bait is usually cheap white bread. Tear the crust



Christina Mann with a trout she caught, in January, in Bataan Lake.



Christina uses snelled hooks, size 4. First a sliding sinker is placed inline, then a Palomar knot is used to tie a snap-swivel to the end of the line.

off and throw it to the ducks. Take a quarter piece, mold it into a ball around the hook and you are set.)

On a different day, another person allowed me to show him how to attach the second hook and listened while I explained that the second hook doesn't just double the chance of another bite, it *triples* it! When the bait on one of the hooks jiggles or is nibbled on, the second bait moves simultaneously. It is right there in front of the fishes' eye, rather than ten feet away and stationary. Remember, most bites are reactionary (triggered response) rather than appetitive (hunger/taste response).

Consider salmon returning to spawn at maturity in Pacific freshwater streams. They cease to eat when they leave the ocean. They will never eat again; just mate and die. But they still bite the fisherman's lures or egg sacs that are cast from the banks. Their bite response is entirely instinctual.

If you try Christina Mann's double hook trout setup or red beads with your setup, please email us at [funfishingnm@gmail.com](mailto:funfishingnm@gmail.com) and let us know how you do.

Tight lines!

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