



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](#).



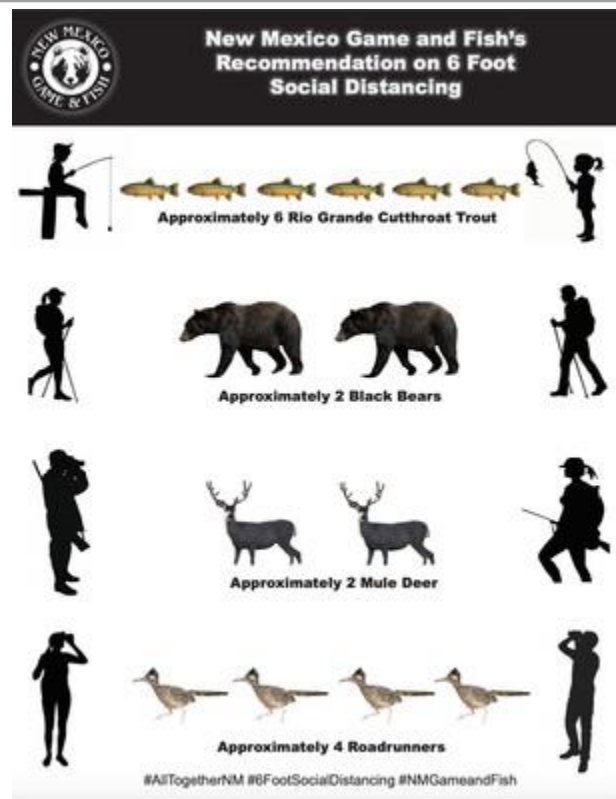
Catch all the challenge species that are found throughout New Mexico or a New Mexico State Record Fish and receive a certificate and challenge coin for your accomplishment!

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

Cabresto Lake: Mathew Medina and Michael Mendoza of Los Chavez caught and released 14 brook trout while ice fishing using small glow tungsten ice jigs with glow plastics Dec. 26.

Rio Grande: Tom Chrobocinski of Ojo Caliente caught an 18-inch rainbow trout using a brown spinner Dec. 20.

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.



Michael Mendoza, pictured, and Mathew Medina of Los Chavez caught and released 14 brook trout while ice fishing at Cabresto Lake on Dec. 26.

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 2022.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 2.83 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was fair 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. For updated lake conditions visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 868-2270.

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: The State Parks Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department has temporarily closed Eagle Nest Lake to boating and ice-fishing due to recent winter weather conditions that created unsafe lake surface conditions. The lake is currently closed to all watercraft, including canoes, kayaks, inflatables and all types of motorboats. Park staff will continue to monitor ice conditions for ice fishing. While boat ramp access is closed, the



Tom Chrobocinski of Ojo Caliente caught an 18-inch rainbow trout using a brown spinner Dec. 20 on the Rio Grande.

park is open for day-use access. Hiking trails remain open at the park. For updated lake conditions visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 377-1594.

Eagle Rock Lake: Anglers reported the lake was frozen but unsafe for ice fishing.

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.

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 fair when using trout pattern Panther Martin spinners, salmon eggs, red PowerBait and worms.

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

Rio Grande: Streamflow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 370 cfs. Fishing for trout from Pilar to the confluence of the Red River was good when using brown spinners, small beadhead nymph flies and midge larvae 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 all species was slow. The water surface temperature was in the upper 40 to lower 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Northwest Fishing Report

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

Animas River: Waterflow below Aztec Monday morning was 277 cfs.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Fishing for trout was fair 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 95.7 cfs, respectively. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was good when using olive leech pattern 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.

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 18.2 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using pheasant tail nymph flies and pink annelid flies. Fishing the Rio San Antonio for trout was fair when using beadhead nymph flies.

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: 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 268 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 fair to good when using PowerBait.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was fair to 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 when using corn, salmon peach PowerBait and marshmallows.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using live worms and chartreuse PowerBait.

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 catfish was good when using cut carp bait and shad.

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

Gila River: Streamflow Monday morning was 63.9 cfs. Fishing for Gila trout was good when using salmon eggs, red PowerBait and live worms near the Catwalk Recreation Area.

Glenwood Pond: Fishing for trout was very good when using salmon peach PowerBait, spoons and spinners.

Lake Roberts: Fishing for all species was slow.

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 0.00 cfs.

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

Trees Lake: Fishing for trout was very good when using garlic PowerBait and shrimp.

Young Pond: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using garlic-scented lime green PowerBait.

Southeast Fishing Report

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using salmon peach PowerBait and worms.

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 to good when using buzz baits in the afternoon.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Fishing for bass was fair to good when using buzz baits in the afternoon.

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 floating nightcrawler worms and Panther Martin spinners.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using nightcrawler worms and garlic PowerBait.

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

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was good when using green PowerBait and cheese baits.

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

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 15.9 cfs.

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. For updated lake conditions visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at (575) 472-3110.

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

Tips and Tricks – New Year's Fishing Trip

My New Year's Fishing Story

By Michael A Trujillo Jr. of Albuquerque

It was just into the New Year, 2017, when my buddy convinced me to join him on a fishing trip to the San Juan River. We ended up spending three days out on the San Juan, fishing from Cable Hole all the way down to Texas Hole. I've fished the San Juan plenty of times, but never in the peak of winter. Let's just say, it was FREEZING! Literally! My guides were frozen with ice most of the time, making it pretty difficult to get some good casts in, but the fishing was fair. We used PAM and ChapStick to mitigate the frozen guides, and it worked OK for the most part.



Michael A Trujillo Jr. at the Texas Hole on the San Juan River with his personal-best winter catch.

It was snowing the entire three days, and we were out in the water all day, every day. I was wearing gloves, but I made the mistake of getting my hands wet pretty early on. My hands were

numb most of the trip, but I was dedicated and determined to keep up with my more experienced buddies out there. I had a good time and got into some fish.

It was a great experience with minimal fishing pressure. I don't know if I will ever do that again, but if I do, I'll be sure to make better use of a net and keep my hands out of the water. Fishing the San Juan in January can be brutal, especially if you are wading like we were.

Tight lines, amigos. Good luck to you in the New Year, and Happy Holidays!

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!

