



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](#)

[\(Valid April 1 to March 31; 2022-2023 licenses are on sale now\)](#)



2022-23 Fishing RIBs Available Online!

The 2022-2023 Fishing Rules and Information Booklets (RIBs) are now available online-only for download and use. [English](#) and [Spanish](#) PDF versions are available. In addition to the full RIBs, a one-page summary of “What’s New and Important” can also be downloaded in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

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!

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.

Catches of the week

Cochiti Lake: Ensley Aguilar of Santo Domingo Pueblo caught a 33.5-inch, 9-pound, 8-ounce pike using a shad pattern Glide Swimbait April 26.

Elephant Butte Lake: Mark Melhoff Sr. of Carrizozo caught a 20-inch, 2.5-pound walleye using a garlic nightcrawler April 29. Jaqlene Tinsley of Las Cruces caught a 20-pound flathead catfish using cut shad bait on the north end of the lake April 24.

Fenton Lake: Coda and Mason Saunier, ages 10 and 5, of Rio Rancho caught their limit of trout using garlic PowerBait April 23.

Monastery Lake: Gilbert Salas of Albuquerque caught his limit of trout using a Pistol Pete Mafia Pete spinner fly April 15.

Pecos River: Corey Mcdowell of Pecos caught an 18-inch brown trout using worms April 26.

Santa Cruz Reservoir: Santiago Holguín, age 5, of Bosque Farms caught 19.25-inch and 17.5-inch rainbow trout using PowerBait April 30.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Roman and Emiliano Perea, ages 3 and 10, of Albuquerque caught an 18-inch rainbow trout and a limit of trout using salmon peach PowerBait April 21.

Ute Lake: Kathy Leal of Logan caught a 5.66-pound smallmouth bass using a live minnow April 28.

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.



Santiago Holguín, age 5, of Bosque Farms caught a 19.25-inch and a 17.5-inch rainbow trout using PowerBait April 30 at Santa Cruz Reservoir.

Northeast Fishing Report

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

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

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 38.5 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Clayton Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using various PowerBaits and spoons. Fishing for walleye was fair when using curly tail grubs. Fishing for bass was fair when using crankbaits.

Conchas Lake: Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass was fair to good when using shallow diving jerkbaits. Fishing for walleye was fair when using crankbaits and curly tail grubs. Fishing for white bass was good when using Bomber and Rat-L-Trap crankbaits.



Costilla Creek: The Department is implementing 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 involves 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 2023. 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.

Corey Mcdowell of Pecos caught an 18-inch brown trout using worms April 26 on the Pecos River.

Cowles Ponds: All U.S. Forest Service land in the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District is currently closed. For more information, [visit the Santa Fe National Forest webpage](#) or call the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District office at (505) 425-3534.

Coyote Creek: Coyote Creek State Park is currently closed due to wildfire concerns. For more information, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call (575) 387-2328.

Eagle Nest Lake: Fishing for rainbow trout was fair to good when using salmon peach PowerBait, corn and red worms. Fishing for pike was fair when using rainbow trout pattern crankbaits.

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

Gallinas River: All U.S. Forest Service land in the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District is currently closed. For more information, [visit the Santa Fe National Forest webpage](#) or call the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District office at (505) 425-3534.

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

Lake Alice: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using corn.

Lake Maloya: Fishing for trout was good when using Gulp Worms and pink and brass Kastmaster lures.

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

Maxwell Lake 13: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Monastery Lake: The lake is currently closed. For more information, [visit the Open Gate webpage](#).

Morphy Lake: Morphy Lake State Park is currently closed due to wildfire concerns. For more information, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call (575) 387-2328.

Pecos River: All U.S. Forest Service land in the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District is currently closed, as is Pecos Canyon State Park. For more information on the Forest Service closure, [visit the Santa Fe National Forest webpage](#) or call the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District office at (505) 425-3534. For more information on the Pecos Canyon State Park closure, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call (505) 670-8196.

Red River: Streamflow below the hatchery Monday morning was 89.4 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using San Juan worms and large heavy nymph flies. The water levels were high, and the river was muddy.

Rio Grande: Streamflow at the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 640 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using San Juan worms and large heavy nymph flies. The water levels were high, and the river was muddy.

Rio Hondo: Streamflow Monday morning near Valdez was 38.4 cfs.

Rio Mora: All U.S. Forest Service land in the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District is currently closed, as is Pecos Canyon State Park. For more information on the Forest Service closure, [visit the Santa Fe National Forest webpage](#) or call the Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger District office at (505) 425-3534. For more information on the Pecos Canyon State Park closure, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call (505) 670-8196.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was 65.6 cfs.

Santa Cruz Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using garlic PowerBait and cheddar PowerBait.

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

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

Storrie Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon peach PowerBait and green garlic PowerBait. The boat ramp and lake access to all motorized vessels is closed. Forest fires in the area are likely to impact the lake. For more information, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call (505) 425-7278.

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

Ute Lake: Fishing for walleye was good when using live minnows, Berkley Gulp minnows and crankbaits in 8 to 12 feet of water on gravel points. Fishing for white bass was fair when trolling Model A Bomber lures and Bandit 200 crankbaits on the main lake near the dam. Fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass was very good when using spinnerbaits, chatterbaits, medium diving crankbaits, Senko worms, live minnows and swimbaits. Fishing for crappie was good when using live minnows, small grubs and Road Runner lures on the Ute Creek arm of the lake. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low 60-degrees Fahrenheit and the water clarity was stained.

Northwest Fishing Report

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

Animas River: Waterflow below Aztec Monday morning was 1,240 cfs.

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

Bluewater Lake: Fishing for tiger muskie was fair when using crankbaits and swimbaits.

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 1,630 cfs and 1,790 cfs, respectively. 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.



Coda and Mason Saunier, ages 10 and 5, of Rio Rancho caught their limits of trout using garlic PowerBait April 23 at Fenton Lake.

Cochiti Lake: Due to the Cerro Pelado Fire, Cochiti Lake is closed for fishing and all recreation. For more information, visit the [US Army Corps of Engineers website](#).

El Vado Lake: El Vado Lake can be accessed at Hargroves Day Use Area off of State Road 322 as well as the Main Park area off of State Road 112. The Rio Chama River can be accessed at the North El Vado Day Use area on SR 95 10 miles west of U.S. Highway 84. Lake levels are steady but expected to drop as crews work on the El Vado Dam. The Dam Day Use Area is closed due to the ongoing construction. State Road 112 over the dam will experience periodic closures. For more information, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call (575) 588-7247.

Fenton Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using garlic PowerBait. Please remember, only two cutthroat trout are allowed to be harvested per day within the regular five-fish limit.

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

Jemez Waters: Streamflow on the Jemez River near the town of Jemez Monday morning was 67.6 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using worms.

Laguna del Campo: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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: Fishing for pike was fair to good when using streamer flies, jerkbaits and crankbaits. Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using trout pattern lures. Fishing for smallmouth bass was slow to fair when using crankbaits and skirt jigs.

Rio Grande: Fishing for catfish near Albuquerque was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms and shrimp.

Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1): Fishing for trout was fair to good when using PowerBait.

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

San Juan River: Streamflow Monday morning was 302 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using size 22 Baetis nymphs, crystal flash midge flies, zebra midge flies and midge cluster dry flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using PowerBait, worms and spinners.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon peach PowerBait.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for bass was fair to good when using Senko worms and Woolly Bugger flies.

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

Southwest Fishing Report

Alumni Pond: Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using white beadhead hare's ear flies and garlic PowerBait.

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

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for largemouth bass was fair to good when using soft plastic jigs.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for white bass was good when using crankbaits. Fishing for catfish was good when using large shiners. Fishing for walleye was good when using large shiners. Fishing for crappie was good when using live minnows.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for catfish was good when using cut gizzard shad bait. Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass was fair to good when using chartreuse crankbaits, jigs and soft plastic lures. Fishing for white bass was good when using white Bombers, jointed Rapalas and Rat-L-Trap lures. Fishing for crappie was good when using small jigs and live minnows. Fishing for walleye was fair to good when using garlic nightcrawler worms and curly tail grubs.



Mark Melhoff Sr. of Carrizozo caught a 20-inch, 2.5-pound walleye using a garlic nightcrawler worm April 29 at Elephant Butte Lake.

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

Gila River: Streamflow Monday morning was 41.2 cfs.

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

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

Percha Dam: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Quemado Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using silver Panther Martin spinners.

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

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Monday morning was 4.16 cfs.

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

Trees Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using worms, PowerBait and shrimp.

Young Pond: Fishing for all species was slow.

Southeast Fishing Report

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait, salmon eggs 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 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 that the lake will be out of commission until later this year.

Bosque Redondo Lake: Fishing for largemouth bass was good when using spinnerbaits.

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

Brantley Lake: Fishing for white bass was good when using spinners and curly tail grubs.

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 bass was fair to good when using small swimbaits and 3-inch plastic worms.

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

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

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

Kids' Pond at Santa Rosa Fish Hatchery: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait.

Lake Van: Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver.

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

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 91.5 cfs. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using worms.

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

Ruidoso River: Streamflow Monday morning at Hollywood was 5.82 cfs.

Santa Rosa Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair when using live minnows. Fishing for bass was fair when using live minnows.

Sumner Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using jigs and worms.

Timberon Ponds: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using pink PowerBait.

Tips and Tricks – Locking Forceps for Removing Hooks from a Fish's Mouth

How do you easily remove a hook from a fish's mouth? Locking forceps are a tool that help secure the hook for a safe removal without sticking your fingers into the fish's mouth. When removing a hook and releasing a fish, it is paramount that you have minimal contact with the fish and try to keep it in the water through the process. Locking forceps are a huge help with this task.

Three good reasons for using locking forceps:

1. When using your fingers to dislodge a fishhook (especially with smaller fish hooked deep in the mouth) it often requires gripping the fish with your free hand while you poke and prod inside the fish's mouth with your fingers until the hook comes free. This process removes the fish's protective slime and can cause injury to the fish's mouth and gills, which can cause fatality. Locking forceps allow you to grip and remove the hook from the fish's mouth with surgical precision.

2. When your fingers are in the fish's mouth trying to poke the hook free, you run an increased chance that the hook dislodges from the fish and directly into your finger. Hooking yourself is not fun. Locking forceps secure the hook and help to avoid unintentionally catching your finger.

3. The whole process of catching a fish is cleaner when using locking forceps. The fish stays cleaner because the process of removing the hook is simplified. The angler stays cleaner as well and doesn't get the fish's slime on clothes, sodas or your lunch .



Locking forceps clamp onto the hook and lock in place, allowing for secure hook removal from a fish's mouth.

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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A graphic illustration of a green alien with a fish head, holding a fishing rod. The alien is crossed out with a red prohibition sign (a circle with a diagonal slash). To the left of the illustration is the New Mexico Game and Fish logo, which features a bison head inside a circular border with the text "NEW MEXICO GAME & FISH".