



This fishing report, provided by Dustin Berg of www.gounlimited.org (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](#)

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



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 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 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

Bluewater Lake: Xavier Hernandez of Grants caught a 35-inch tiger muskie using a Whopper Plopper lure Sept. 20.

Conchas Lake: Mike Murphy of Albuquerque caught a 19-inch, 5.1-pound largemouth bass using a Z-Man Gobi Ned Rig on Sept. 19.

Elephant Butte Lake: Nathaniel Sierra of Albuquerque caught a 24-inch, 7.5-pound largemouth bass using a chartreuse 12 to 15-foot diving crankbait Sept. 21.

Lake Roberts: Omarie Chrisman of El Paso, Texas, caught a 25-inch, 7-pound catfish using chicken pieces Sept. 13.

Pecos River: Eric Chavez of Albuquerque caught 31 smallmouth bass and six largemouth bass ranging in size from 9-19 inches using a 3-inch paddle-tail swimbait near Santa Rosa on Sept. 17.

Rio Grande: Mike Jozwiakowski of Santa Fe caught and released a 19-inch brown trout using a black Woolly Bugger fly in the upper box Sept. 22.



Mike Murphy of Albuquerque caught a 19-inch, 5.1-pound largemouth bass using a Z-Man Gobi Ned Rig on Sept. 19 at Conchas Lake.

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: Fishing for trout was good when using corn and salmon, peach PowerBait.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 35 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was good when using spinners and prince nymph flies.

Clayton Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using chicken liver and homemade dough bait.

Conchas Lake: Fishing for largemouth bass was fair to good when using Ned Rigs.



Mike Jozwiakowski of Santa Fe caught and released a 19-inch brown trout using a black Woolly Bugger fly in the upper box on the Rio Grande on Sept. 22.

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 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). Tentative stocking of Rio Grande cutthroat trout is set for spring 2023.

Cowles Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Coyote Creek: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Eagle Nest Lake: Fishing for rainbow trout was good when using Pistol Pete spinner flies, Woolly Bugger flies and Joe's Flies. Fishing for pike was good when using gold Double Cowgirl spinners.

Eagle Rock Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using pink PowerBait Mouse Tails.

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: Fishing for trout was good when using ginger flies and green Pistol Pete spinner flies with a water-filled bobber.

Lake Alice: Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms.

Lake Maloya: Fishing for trout was good when using Trout Magnet lures, garlic PowerBait and worms.

Los Pinos River: Fishing for trout was fair when using Panther Martin spinners and nymph flies.

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

Monastery Lake: Monastery Lake has reopened to the public. We had no reports from anglers this week.

Morphy Lake: Morphy Lake State Park has reopened to the public. We had no reports from anglers this week.

Pecos River: Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 54 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using 3-inch brown trout-pattern Rapala lures, copper beadhead flies and worms.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery Monday morning was 66 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs and beadhead nymph flies.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 429 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using black Woolly Bugger flies.

Rio Hondo: Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was 33 cfs.

Rio Mora: Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 27 cfs.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Penasco Monday morning was 17 cfs.

Santa Cruz Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using chartreuse PowerBait.

Shuree Ponds: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using caddis dry flies and beadhead nymph flies.

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 walleye was slow. Fishing for white bass was fair when using deep-diving lures while trolling. Fishing for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass was fair when using swimbaits, spinnerbaits and topwater lures. Fishing for crappie was slow. Fishing for catfish was fair when using punch bait and nightcrawler worms. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low 70 F range and the water clarity was clear.

Northwest Fishing Report

Abiquiu Lake: Fishing for smallmouth bass and catfish was slow to fair when using live worms.

Animas River: Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 435 cfs.

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

Bluewater Lake: Fishing for tiger muskie was fair to good when using Whopper Plopper lures, Rat-L-Trap lures and homemade streamer flies.

Brazos River: Fishing for trout was good when using hopper dry flies and black and gold Panther Martin spinners.

Canjilon Lakes: Fishing for trout was good when using worms, Pistol Pete spinner flies and orange PowerBait.

Cochiti Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using chicken liver and cut bait.

El Vado Lake: El Vado Lake can be accessed at Hargroves Day Use Area off State Road 322 and the Main Park area off State Road 112. The Rio Chama can be accessed at the North El Vado Day Use Area on State Road 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 El Vado Lake State Park's webpage](#) or call (575) 588-7247.

Fenton Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using leech-pattern flies and Woolly Bugger flies.

Grants Riverwalk Pond: The pond has dried up due to pump failure. The city is planning to repair the pumps but is taking this opportunity to dredge the pond. They expect the pond to be offline for at least two to three months. Fish stockings will be discontinued until all work is done.

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

Jemez Waters: Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 32 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using mop flies and worms.

Laguna del Campo: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using silver spinners and orange PowerBait.

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



Xavier Hernandez of Grants caught a 35-inch tiger muskie using a Whopper Plopper lure Sept. 20 at Bluewater Lake.

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

McGaffey Lake: Stocking efforts have been suspended due to extremely low water levels and unstable ground conditions. Lake conditions will be monitored and stocking will resume once conditions improve.

Navajo Lake: Fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass was fair when using Ned Rigs. Fishing for pike was slow to fair when using jerkbaits. Fishing for kokanee salmon was slow.

Rio Chama: Streamflow below El Vado Lake and below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 103 cfs and 404 cfs, respectively. Fishing for trout below El Vado Lake was good when using nightcrawler worms and small Rapala trout pattern lures. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was fair when using worms and PowerBait. 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.

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

Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1): We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

San Juan River: Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 497 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using midge dry flies and midge emerger flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using orange glitter PowerBait and worms.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using chartreuse split tail soft plastic baits on a gold jighead.

Tiger Park Reservoir: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for catfish was slow when using hot dogs.

Trout Lakes: Fishing for trout was good when using olive leech pattern flies.

Southwest Fishing Report

Alumni Pond: Fishing for bass was fair when using small perch-pattern diving lures, jointed swimbait and flies. Fishing for catfish was slow when using worms.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Bill Evans Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for crappie was slow to fair when using white grubs. Fishing for bass was slow to fair when using crankbaits. Fishing for white bass was fair when using small crankbaits. Fishing for catfish was good when using live shad and gizzard shad cut bait.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for catfish was good when using shad and cut bait. Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass was fair to good when using chartreuse 12 to 15-foot diving crankbaits. Fishing for white bass was good when using white and chartreuse curly-tail grubs. Fishing for crappie was slow to fair when using grubs and live minnows. Fishing for walleye was slow to fair when using nightcrawler worms.



Nathaniel Sierra of Albuquerque caught a 24-inch, 7.5-pound largemouth bass Sept. 21 at Elephant Butte Lake.

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

Gila River: Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 104 cfs. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut bait.

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

Lake Roberts: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using chartreuse PowerBait and flies. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using chicken pieces and nightcrawler worms.

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 Dam Monday morning was 0 cfs.

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

Trees Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using nightcrawler worms.

Young Pond: Fishing for all species was slow.

Southeast Fishing Report

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using peach PowerBait. Fishing for catfish was fair when using live worms. Fishing for bass was fair to good when using live worms.

Bataan Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using shrimp, worms and chicken liver.

Berrendo Creek: We had no reports from anglers this week. Please visit the [Open Gate webpage](#) for more information on [this property](#).

Black River: Streamflow at Malaga Monday morning was 5 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.

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 longnose gar was fair when using cut bait. Fishing for catfish was fair when using cut bait.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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



Eric Chavez of Albuquerque caught 31 smallmouth bass and six largemouth bass on the Pecos River near Santa Rosa on Sept. 17.

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

Eunice Lake: Fishing for largemouth bass was good when using blue and silver Roostertail spinners.

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using hot dogs.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

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

Lake Van: Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms and shrimp.

Oasis Park Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using homemade garlic dough bait.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 99 cfs. Fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass was good when using 3-inch paddle-tail swimbaits.

Perch Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms and stink bait.

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

Rio Ruidoso: Streamflow at Hollywood Monday morning was 5 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 and Tricks – What to know about kokanee salmon snagging season

Kokanee are land-locked sockeye salmon. Although not native to the Southwest, kokanee thrive in some of New Mexico's deeper and colder, plankton-producing lakes. In late fall, large schools of 4-year-old kokanee gather to spawn and die.

A popular method for catching kokanee is snagging — the intentional taking of fish by hooking the body rather than the mouth. Kokanee are the only fish in New Mexico that may be legally snagged, and only during the special kokanee snagging season. If another species is caught by snagging, it must be immediately returned to the water.



The red kokanee salmon shows the transformation that a male kokanee undergoes during spawning season. In addition to the red coloring, they develop a hooked jaw and humped back. Photo courtesy of Ken Howell.

Each autumn, the department collects millions of kokanee eggs and milt to fertilize eggs and hatch fry. The young fry are used to stock Heron, Navajo, El Vado and Eagle Nest Lakes. The success of these collection operations is essential to maintain vibrant and healthy fisheries for anglers to enjoy. As a result, Heron Lake, Willow Creek and designated no-wake areas at Navajo Lake have seasonal closings (see listing below), and no kokanee salmon may be in possession while fishing during these closures at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Snagging Season Dates by Location

- **Oct. 1-Dec. 31:** Open at Rio Chama (El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area), Navajo Lake (excluding buoyed no-wake areas and shoreline within the no-wake areas at the Pine River Boat Ramp and Simms Boat Ramp), Pine River, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake.
- **Oct. 1-Nov. 10:** Closed at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.
- **Nov. 11-Dec. 31:** Open at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Buoyed no-wake areas and shoreline within the no-wake areas at the Pine River Boat Ramp and Simms Boat Ramp are closed to kokanee snagging throughout the snagging season.

- **Bag Limit** (during special kokanee salmon snagging season) *Kokanee salmon* – 12 per day – 24 in possession.

See the [2022-2023 New Mexico Fishing Rules and Information](#) for more details.

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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