



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.

NOTE: There will be fewer reports available as we move into the cooler seasons and fishing slows. The department will make every effort to provide as much information as possible during the coming winter months.

[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 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

Fenton Lake: Robert Barba, age 3, of Belen caught several rainbow trout while trolling a silver flash Pistol Pete spinner fly from a boat Oct. 5. Sly Ramirez of Los Lunas caught a 21-inch rainbow trout using a black Pistol Pete spinner fly Sept. 21.

Rio Chama: Cooper Luke, age 2, of Albuquerque caught his first trout using a white PowerBait Mouse Tail on Sept. 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.



Robert Barba, age 3, of Belen caught several rainbow trout while trolling a silver flash Pistol Pete spinner fly from a boat Oct. 5 at Fenton Lake.

Northeast Fishing Report

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

Charette Lakes: Fishing for trout was good when using Joe's Flies and salmon, peach PowerBait.

Cimarron River: Fishing for trout was good when using nightcrawler worms.

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

Conchas Lake: Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair when using chartreuse and white 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 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 worms, Woolly Bugger flies and Joe's Flies. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using Mepps #5 red and gold spinners and 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 black 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 garlic salmon eggs, garlic PowerBait and nightcrawler worms.

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



Cooper Luke, age 2, of Albuquerque caught his first trout using a white PowerBait Mice Tail on Sept. 28 on the Rio Chama.

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

Monastery Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using small spinners and trout marshmallows.

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

Pecos River: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs near Pecos. Fishing for trout was good when using 3-inch brown trout-pattern Rapala lures near Santa Rosa.

Red River: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs and beadhead nymph flies.

Rio Chama: Fishing for trout was good when using white PowerBait Mice Tails.

Rio Grande: Fishing for trout was fair when using worms.

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

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

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

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

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 when using live minnows in 30-40 feet of water. Fishing for white bass was fair when using deep-diving lures while trolling and vertical jigging with spoons. Fishing for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass was fair when using small swimbaits, crankbaits and various soft plastics fished on drop shot rigs on rocky points. 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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 silver flash Pistol Pete spinner 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: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs, 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.

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



Sly Ramirez of Los Lunas caught a 21-inch rainbow trout using a black Pistol Pete spinner fly Sept. 21 at Fenton Lake.

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 when using snagging hooks was fair near the edges of the dam.

Rio Chama: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using white PowerBait mouse tails near Chama. Fishing for trout below El Vado Lake was fair 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using chocolate, foam-wing, emerger flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using worms.

Seven Springs Brood Pond: Fishing for trout was good when using gold beadhead nymph flies and black woolly worm flies.

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 to good when using shad and white topwater lures.

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 slow when using plastic worms. 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 when using nightcrawler worms.

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

Gila River: Fishing for catfish was good when using cut bait.

Glenwood Pond: Fishing for trout was fair when using brown dry flies.

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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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.



Fishing for walleye was slow when using night-crawler worms at Elephant Butte Lake this past week.

Southeast Fishing Report

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

Bataan Lake: Fishing for catfish was slow when using shrimp and nightcrawler worms.

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

Black River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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: Fishing for largemouth bass was fair when using wacky rigged, watermelon red flake plastic worms,

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 catfish was fair to good when using shrimp.

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

Lake Van: Fishing for catfish was slow when using stink bait.

Oasis Park Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using garlic nightcrawler worms.

Pecos River: We had no reports from anglers this week.



Fishing for catfish has been fair to good when using bluegill cut bait at Santa Rosa Lake over the past week.

Fishing for smallmouth and largemouth bass was good when using 3-inch, paddle-tail swimbaits.

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

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

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

Rock Lake Hatchery Kids' Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Santa Rosa Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using bluegill cut bait.

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

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

Tips and Tricks – Beginner fly-fishing tips

By Darren McBride

A person does not have to be the greatest at casting a fly rod to catch fish. Most fish are caught 15-40 feet out.

- Accuracy is more important than distance when you are starting out.
- A hook in the water catches more fish than a hook in the air. Let your fly work in the water even if it was not the exact cast you wanted.

Water conditions can help determine the best type of fly to use.

- Aside from “matching the hatch,” as a rule of thumb, in clear water use a bright-colored, sparkly fly; and in darker, murkier water, use a darker-colored fly. If in doubt, a black body fly with some red on it should give you decent results either way.

There are three basic knots needed for getting started. A website called Animated Knots provides a good a visual reference:

- The perfection loop knot — <https://www.animatedknots.com/perfection-loop-knot> — is used for tying a loop-to-loop connection between the fly line and leader (if the fly line and leader do not come with prepared loops).
- The surgeon's loop knot — <https://www.animatedknots.com/surgeons-loop-knot> — is used for tying a loop-to-loop leader to a tippet or a tippet to a fly hook



Search for Orvis Basics of Fly Fishing with Pete Kutzer on YouTube to learn more about how to make a basic cast or how to store your fly rod.

- The clinch knot — <https://www.animatedknots.com/improved-clinch-knot> — is used for tying a tippet to a fly hook.

You can check with your local fly-fishing companies to see if they offer fly fishing classes. If you are unable to attend a fly-fishing class, or you just want to do it yourself, search for Orvis Basics of Fly Fishing with Pete Kutzer on YouTube. These five-minute videos will teach you how to make a basic cast, break down and store your fly rod, hook a fish and land a fish. He also covers some more-advanced fly fishing techniques as well.

If you want to see a fly fisherman putting technique to action, search for Orvis Basics of Fly Fishing with Tom Rosenbauer. He will help you learn how to read the waters of a river, how to fish lakes, how to understand what type of flies to use and when to use them.

It is important to emphasize that you do not need the most expensive equipment and that keeping it simple while having fun is the best way to start.

Reading the New Mexico Fishing and Stocking Reports helps identify where anglers are having success and which waters have been recently stocked. From there, it is all up to you to go out and put a line in the water. If you are fishing and not having any luck, then change what you are doing. Put on a different fly, move to a new location, fish deeper or on the surface, or retrieve your line faster or slower. Change what you are doing until you find out what works for you.

If you are a beginner, watch a few of these videos, make some practice casts in the yard, get a few flies, and then you should be able to go out and catch some fish and have a great time doing it.

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!



Clean, Drain and Dry your watercraft.

Stop Aquatic Aliens!



Protect New Mexico Waters.

www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais

