



This fishing report, provided by Dustin Berg of [www.gounlimited.org](http://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!

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## 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

**Alto Lake:** Blaine Hahn of Roswell caught a 17-inch rainbow trout using peach PowerBait Oct. 29.

**Caballo Lake:** Tim Molina of Albuquerque caught several nice blue catfish as well as a 23-inch walleye and a 25-inch walleye using cut bait Oct. 29.

**Elephant Butte Lake:** Michael and William Sage of Los Lunas caught a 3.5-pound smallmouth bass using live minnows Oct. 22.

**Grindstone Reservoir:** Sara Kirk and James Kirk of White Sands caught their limit of rainbow trout using salmon, peach PowerBait Oct. 22.

**Hopewell Lake:** Richard and Ryan Edmonds of Sandia Park caught their limits of trout using brown, leech-pattern flies Oct. 29.

**Rio Chama:** Ambrose Manzanares Jr., age 8, of Española caught a 19-inch rainbow trout using pink PowerBait below Abiquiu Lake on Oct. 26.



**Samule Kovac V, age 8, of Bernalillo caught a 16-inch rainbow trout using garlic PowerBait Oct. 29 at Tingley Beach**

**Rio Grande:** Rob Vigil of Española caught a 19-inch rainbow trout using worms near Pilar Oct. 23.

**Tingley Beach:** Matthew Duran, age 11, of Albuquerque caught an 18-inch rainbow trout using green PowerBait Oct. 29. Samule Kovac V, age 8, of Bernalillo caught a 16-inch rainbow trout using garlic PowerBait Oct. 29. Clarence Padilla of Albuquerque caught and released a 14-inch rainbow trout using a black Joe's Flies spinner Oct. 26.

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. Fish weights and measurements are provided by the angler and printed here as received.

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## Northeast Fishing Report



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

**Charette Lakes:** Closed to boating and fishing until March 2023.

**Cimarron River:** Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 2 cubic feet per second (cfs). Fishing for trout was fair to good when using baetis flies and worms.

**Clayton Lake:** Closed to boating and fishing until March 2023.

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

**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.



**Richard and Ryan Edmonds of Sandia Park caught their limits of trout using brown leech pattern flies Oct. 29 at Hopewell Lake.**

**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 salmon-peach PowerBait and Kastmaster lures.

**Eagle Rock Lake:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using chartreuse PowerBait.

**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 brown, leech-pattern flies and black Woolly Bugger flies.

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

**Lake Maloya:** Fishing for trout was good when using size 20-22 flies and nightcrawler worms.

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

**Maxwell Lake 13:** Closed to boating and fishing until March 2023.

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

**Morphy Lake:** Closed to boating and fishing until March 2023.

**Pecos River:** Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 98 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

**Red River:** Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery Monday morning was 72 cfs.

**Rio Grande:** Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge Monday morning was 338 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms near Pilar.

**Rio Hondo:** Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was 26 cfs.

**Rio Mora:** Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 30 cfs.

**Rio Pueblo:** Streamflow near Penasco Monday morning was 28 cfs.

**Santa Cruz Reservoir:** Fishing for trout was good when using Woolly Bugger flies and PowerBait.

**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 walleye was fair when vertical jigging with blade baits in 30-35 feet of water. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when vertical jigging with blade baits in 28-30 feet of water on flats. The main lake water surface temperature was in the lower 60 F range and the water was stained.

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## Northwest Fishing Report

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

**Animas River:** Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 303 cfs.

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

**Bluewater Lake:** Fishing for tiger muskie was good when using shad pattern jerk baits, jointed Rapala lures and swimbaits.

**Brazos River:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**Canjilon Lakes:** Fishing for trout was good when using red wiggler 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 garlic-peach PowerBait.

**Grants Riverwalk Pond:** The city is in the final stages of repairs; stocking will resume soon.

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

**Jemez Waters:** Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 40 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair to good when using worms and salmon eggs near Battleship Rock.

**Laguna del Campo:** Closed to fishing until March 2023.

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

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



**Ambrose Manzanares Jr., age 8, of Española caught a 19-inch rainbow trout using pink PowerBait on the Rio Chama below Abiquiu Lake on Oct. 26.**

**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 kokanee salmon using size 6/0 weighted snagging hooks was good near the dam.

**Rio Chama:** Streamflow below El Vado Lake and below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 103 cfs and 125 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 to good when using pink 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):** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using spinners and flies.

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

**San Juan River:** Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 429 cfs. In response to sufficient flows in the critical habitat reach, the Bureau of Reclamation has scheduled a decrease in the release from Navajo Dam from 400 cfs to 300 cfs on Nov. 1 at 4 a.m. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using size 24 midge-pattern 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 orange PowerBait, salmon-peach PowerBait and Trout Magnet lures tipped with salmon eggs.

**Tiger Park Reservoir:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using spinners and flies.

**Tingley Beach:** Fishing for trout was good when using green PowerBait, garlic PowerBait, rainbow trout pattern Rooster Tail spinners, black Rooster Tail spinners and black Joe's Flies spinners.

**Trout Lakes:** Fishing for trout was good when using copper Dardevle spoons.

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## Southwest Fishing Report

**Alumni Pond:** Fishing for trout was good when using small, chartreuse Gulp minnow jigs.

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

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

**Caballo Lake:** Fishing for catfish was good when using cut bait. Fishing for walleye was fair when using cut bait.

**Elephant Butte Lake:** Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth bass was fair to good when using live minnows, green spinners and Senko worms. Fishing for white bass was fair to good when using live minnows.



**Michael and William Sage of Los Lunas caught a 3.5-pound smallmouth bass using live minnows Oct. 22 at Elephant Butte Lake.**

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

**Gila River:** Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 394 cfs.

**Glenwood Pond:** Fishing for trout was good when using yellow spinners and brown dry flies.

**Lake Roberts:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using chartreuse PowerBait and flies.

**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 trout was fair to good when using homemade garlic dough bait.

**Young Pond:** Fishing for trout was fair to good when using orange garlic PowerBait.

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## Southeast Fishing Report



**Alto Lake:** Fishing for trout was good when using peach PowerBait.

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

**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 12 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:** 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:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

**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.

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

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

**Pecos River:** Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 99 cfs.

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



**Blaine Hahn of Roswell caught a 17-inch rainbow trout using peach PowerBait Oct. 29 at Alto Lake.**

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

**Rio Ruidoso:** Streamflow at Hollywood Monday morning was 21 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.

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## Tips and Tricks – Catch and Release Fishing

This week's tips were shared by a New Mexico fly fisherman. Catch-and-release fishing gives us the best of all worlds: We can enjoy catching fish, and we can help support the fish population, so we can enjoy it even more next time.

### Start with Barbless Hooks

A barbless hook will help you remove the hook from the fish with greater ease and much less damage than a barbed one. It will also be a heck of a lot safer for you, in the event you accidentally snag yourself. (It happens to the best of us!)



**A stimulator dry fly with a smashed-down barb.**

Fishing barbless may mean you lose a fish now and then, but the ones you release will end up healthier to be caught another day. If your fly or lure uses a barbed hook, just crimp down the barb with a pair of needle nose pliers. Once you start fishing barbless, it will become a comfortable and easy habit.

### Bring Fish In Quickly

Imagine getting exhausted by going a few rounds in a boxing ring, and then immediately having to hold your breath under water for a minute or longer. That's about what it's like for that fish you just brought in.

The time you spend fighting a fish is by far the most stress that fish will ever experience. Studies show that it can actually take several days for a fish to restore itself to normal energy levels after a fight. Add to that the suffocation that occurs while you're holding the fish out of water, and you've got a seriously compromised animal that may not be able to recover.

So, don't keep that fish on the line longer than necessary.

- Use the heaviest tippet you can get away with, so you won't have to worry much about breaking it off.
- Once you hook up, only let the fish run if it really needs to.

- Most of the time you should be able to bring your fish in with a minimum of fuss, in a short time.

### Use a Fish-Friendly, Rubber Net, Wet Your Hands and Handle Fish as Little as Possible

Fish are slippery! That's because they have a protective coating of mucus that protects them from harmful microorganisms in the water. Rubbing off that coating leaves the fish vulnerable to disease.

- Keep the fish in the water and out of the air as much as possible
- Always wet your hands before handling a fish you intend to release. If you're fishing in cold water, keep a towel handy so you can dry off afterward.
- Don't drag a fish up on the bank, or put it in your boat.
- Use a net with a rubber bag, rather than the old-style knotted nylon nets. You can find inexpensive nets like this online, and you can even get a replacement rubber bag to fit your existing net.

Let us know how your fishing trip goes! Share your tips and tricks with your fellow anglers by emailing us at [funfishingnm@gmail.com](mailto:funfishingnm@gmail.com) and let's help the next generation of anglers find success.

Thanks for reading and supporting our angling community!

