



This fishing report, provided by the Department of Game and Fish in cooperation with Dustin Berg of www.gounlimited.org ("supporting disabled anglers"), 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.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Tell us about your latest New Mexico fishing adventure, or your catch of the week. 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. Fish weights and measurements are provided by the angler and printed here as received.

[CHECK OUT THE LATEST STOCKING REPORT](#)



[The 2024-25 license year is here. Get your new Fishing License now!](#)

2023-24 Fishing Licenses are no longer valid. A 2024-25 Fishing License is now required since the new license year began on April 1. The [2024-25 Fishing Rules and Information Booklet \(RIB\)](#) is available online in English and will soon be available in Spanish and in print.

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 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.

NORTHEAST

NORTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Charette Lakes: Richard J of Albuquerque caught a 16-inch and 17-inch rainbow trout using Pautzke Fire Bait on April 13.



Pecos River: Jacob Ashbaugh of Santa Fe caught a 26-inch rainbow trout using a Panther Martin spinner on April 12 (above, left). Markose Pacheco of Villanueva caught a 25.5-inch brown trout using a black, leech-pattern fly on April 5 (above, right).



Santa Cruz Reservoir: Tu Williams of Albuquerque caught an 18-inch brown trout using white corn on April 12.



Ute Lake: Annie Knapp, age 6, of Tucumcari caught and released a 14-inch smallmouth bass using a 3-inch Jackall Yammyfish stickbait on April 13.

NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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

Charette Lakes: Fishing for trout was slow to fair when using Pautzke Fire Bait.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 20 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Clayton Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Colorado Spoons and various types of PowerBait.

Conchas Lake: Fishing for smallmouth bass and walleye was fair to good when using swimbaits and crankbaits.

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

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

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

Eagle Nest Lake: The lake is open to fishing and boating. Fishing for trout was good when using corn. Fishing for pike was slow to fair when using swimbaits. For updated lake conditions, visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-377-1594.

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

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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Alice: Ice fishing season has ended.

Lake Maloya: Ice fishing season has ended. The ADA dock is open to anglers, with priority given to mobility-impaired persons.

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

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

Monastery Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs and gold spoons. The lake is part of the Department's [Open Gate Program](#). Please [visit our website for more information about this property](#).

Morphy Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait and spinners.

Pecos River: Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 248 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using Panther Martin spinners and Wooly Bugger flies.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 56 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using salmon eggs.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 435 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using BWO Flies, mayfly nymphs, Caddis dry flies and Streamer flies. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using Streamer flies.

Rio Hondo: Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was 36 cfs.

Rio Mora: Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 112 cfs.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was 139 cfs.

Santa Cruz Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using white corn and Pink PowerBait.

Shuree Ponds: Closed until July 1.

Springer Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Storrie Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using worms and Garlic PowerBait.

Stubblefield Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Ute Lake: Fishing for walleye was good when using Rapala Shad Raps. Fishing for white bass was very good when trolling using various crankbaits that dive 8-10 feet deep. Fishing for bass was very good when using 3-inch, Jackall Yammyfish stickbaits, Rapala DT crankbaits, Bandit 200 crankbaits, chatterbaits and Keitech swimbaits. Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using Punch bait. The main lake water surface temperature was in the mid-50 F range, and the water's color was lightly stained from wind.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Abiquiu Lake: Hunter Doerwald of Santa Fe caught a 29-inch walleye using a Red Willie's Leech fly on April 10.



Lake Farmington: Richard Rayford of Farmington caught a 25-pound catfish using chicken liver mixed with Kool-Aid on April 8.



Navajo Lake: Alexander Gonzales of Farmington caught a 36-inch pike using a rainbow-trout-pattern Rapala X-Rap lure on April 7.



San Juan River: *Ava Lee Denson of Corrales caught and released a 20-inch brown trout using nightcrawler worms on April 9.*

NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Abiquiu Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair to good when using red, leech-pattern flies. [Contact the Abiquiu Lake Main Office at 505-685-4371 for updated lake conditions and closure information.](#)

Animas River: Streamflow below Aztec Monday morning was 477 cfs.

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

Bluewater Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Panther Martin spinners, Kastmaster lures and Yellow Garlic Glitter PowerBait. Fishing for tiger muskie was fair when using blue-and-silver spinners. Fishing for catfish was fair when using hot dogs.

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

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

Cochiti Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using white swimbaits. Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms. Fishing for pike was fair when using orange Mamba flies and jerkbaits.

El Vado Lake: Closed due to dam construction project. 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 Kastmaster lures and Chartreuse PowerBait. For updated lake conditions and potential closure information, [visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-829-3630.

Grants Riverwalk Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Heron Lake: Fishing for carp was fair to good when using Boilie Bait.

Jemez Waters: Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 240 cfs.

Laguna del Campo: Closed until May 1.

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

Lake Farmington: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using chicken liver mixed with Kool-Aid.

Liam Knight Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

Navajo Lake: Fishing for brown trout was slow to fair when trolling using crankbaits. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using Rapala X-Rap lures and Streamer flies.

Rio Chama: Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 590 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 693 cfs. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was slow to fair when using 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 only two trout.

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

Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1): Fishing for trout was fair when using rainbow-colored, Garlic PowerBait.

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

San Juan River: Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 515 cfs. The Bureau of Reclamation has scheduled a decrease in the release from Navajo Dam from 500 cfs to 350 cfs on April 16, at 4 a.m. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using size-22, Red Annelid flies and size-24, root-beer, Foam-Wing Emerger flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using nightcrawler worms.

Seven Springs Kids' Pond: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs, worms and Yellow PowerBait.

Tiger Park Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using spinners and green, leech-pattern flies.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Salmon Peach PowerBait. Fishing for bass was fair to good when using leech-pattern flies.

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

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Elephant Butte Lake: Bill Foster of Deming caught and released a 23-pound blue catfish using cut bait on April 8 (above, left). Kim Foster of Silver City caught a 14-inch white bass using a white crankbait while trolling on April 8 (above, right).



Lake Roberts: Leah Flores of Las Cruces caught her limit of rainbow trout using Pink PowerBait on April 14.



Rancho Grande Ponds: Austyn Riley, age 12, of Laguna Pueblo, caught his limit of rainbow trout and harvested a turkey during the youth, spring turkey hunt April 12.

SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Alumni Pond: Closed for repairs until further notice.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs and PowerBait. Fishing for bass was fair when using Rooster Tail spinners.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using crankbaits and Garlic PowerBait.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using cut bait. Fishing for walleye was fair when using blue crankbaits.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using minnows. Fishing for crappie was fair when using Erie Dearie lures. Fishing for white bass was slow to fair when trolling using white crankbaits. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut shad bait and cut carp bait.

Escondida Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait and salmon eggs.

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

Gila River: Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 262 cfs.

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

Lake Roberts: Fishing for trout was good when using Pink PowerBait and Glitter PowerBait.

Percha Dam: Fishing for white bass was fair when using Underspin swim jigs.

Quemado Lake: Fishing for all trout was fair when using crawfish baits.

Rancho Grande Ponds: Fishing for trout was good when using Orange PowerBait.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 771 cfs. Fishing for bass in the riverside ditches near Los Lunas was fair to good when using smoke-colored, plastic grubs.

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

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

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

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK



Roswell game wardens attended the Friends of Oasis Fishing Clinic at Oasis State Park on April 13. Kids learned about the importance of managing our fisheries with fishing limits, and why

officers enforce those limits. Casting was coached by our officers, and kids rotated through stations that included fish identification, tips for choosing tackle, and other conservation-minded messaging.

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

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

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 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. The lake is full but needs time for aquatic habitat to develop to sustain a healthy fish population. The city hopes to reopen the lake for recreational purposes in June.

Bosque Redondo Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bottomless Lakes: Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait.

Brantley Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair when using hot dogs.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using Pink PowerBait.

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

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

Dennis Chavez Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Eunice Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using Kastmaster lures.

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using homemade dough bait and white-colored PowerBait Power Eggs.

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

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using Mepps spinners.

Harry McAdams Park Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

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

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was fair when using spinners.

Ned Houk Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Oasis Park Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using a variety of different PowerBait.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 69 cfs. Fishing for smallmouth bass was good when using black Streamer flies.

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

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

Rio Ruidoso: Streamflow at Hollywood Monday morning was 39 cfs.

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

Santa Rosa Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using Senko worms.

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

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

Tips, Tricks and Stories – Dry-Dropper Fly Setup

By Dustin Berg

You might notice that within the weekly fishing report a “dry-dropper fly setup” is often one of the fishing methods that people are using to catch trout. Today we will go over how to create this setup.

The “dry” refers to a dry fly that floats on the water’s surface. The “dropper” refers to a wet fly, or nymph fly, that sinks below the water’s surface. The dropper is attached to the dry by a length of fishing line determined by the angler fishing the setup. The length of line between the dry and the dropper is chosen based upon the depth of the water body and at what depth the angler suspects fish are feeding.



A stimulator fly as the dry and a Baetis, bead-head fly as the dropper (above, left). A foam Black Cricket fly as the dry and a Krystal Flash midge emerger as the dropper (above, right).

The idea is simple, in that you are fishing with two flies at once increasing your offering to the fish. When a fish eats the dry fly, it is obvious because you watch it happen. The dry fly also acts as an indicator relaying any fish activity on the dropper fly. When a fish eats the dropper fly you rarely see it because it is happening below the water's surface. When this happens, you will see the dry fly pause, make an odd movement or disappear below the water's surface much like a traditional bobber. You must react quickly upon noticing any slight, odd movement of the dry because the fish will usually eat the dropper and spit it out as soon as it notices that it is not a bug, which can be fast!

Four-pound test fishing line is generally a good choice of fishing line to tie from dry to dropper. When tying the line to the dry fly, tie it through the eye of the hook (the same eye of the hook tied to your main line coming from your rod). The dropper is usually tied 1 to 3-feet below your dry.

If you try a dry dropper for the first time or have a dry-dropper setup you have had success with, we'd love to hear about 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!



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