



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2023-24 Fishing Licenses are no longer valid.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 CATCH OF THE WEEK



Ute Lake: Hideki Nakazono of Santa Fe caught his very first bass using a gold Kastmaster lure on March 25.

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 41 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 was good when using white curly tail grubs, white fluke lures and green tube baits.

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 fair to good when using Green PowerBait and 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Maloya: Fishing for trout was good when using silver spoons. 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 Green Garlic PowerBait and white Pistol Pete spinner flies.

Pecos River: Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was 272 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using worms, Panther Martin spinners, and Woolly Bugger flies.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 78 cfs.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 939 cfs. Fishing for trout was slow. Angler's reported high water levels and poor visibility due to runoff water from melting snow in the high country.

Rio Hondo: Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was 42 cfs.

Rio Mora: Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was 131 cfs.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was 169 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 fair when using worms and Garlic PowerBait.

Stubblefield Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Ute Lake: Fishing for walleye was good when trolling using Berkley Flicker Shad lures and Wally Diver lures. Fishing for white bass was very good when using black and white swimbaits and various crankbaits that dive 8-10 feet deep. Fishing for bass was very good when using gold Kastmaster lures, swimbaits, wacky rigged Berkley Generals and MaxScent Hit Worms. Fishing for crappie was fair when using live minnows over brush in 15-20 feet of water. Fishing for catfish was fair when using Punch bait. The main lake water surface temperature was in the low-60 F range, and the water's color was clear.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK

Abiquiu Lake: *Xavier Segovia of Española caught a 24-inch brown trout using a yellow Rooster Tail spinner on Aril 23.*



Cochiti Lake: Javier Rodriguez of Albuquerque caught and released a 25-inch walleye using a crankbait on April 21.



Navajo Lake: Mathias Charley of Farmington caught a 22-inch brown trout using a Blue Gill pattern spinnerbait on April 20.



San Juan River: Emilio Padilla, age 17, of Los Lunas caught a 24-inch brown trout using a 1.5-inch crankbait on April 27.

NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Abiquiu Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair to good when using red, leech-pattern flies. Fishing for trout was fair when using yellow Rooster Tail spinners. 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 590 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 walleye was fair when using crankbaits. Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using green spinnerbaits and Ned Rig Z-Man Mud Minnows.

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 fair to good when using beadhead nymph flies. 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 319 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using worms near Jemez Springs.

Laguna del Campo: Closed until May 1.

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

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

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

McGaffey Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using green PowerBait.

Navajo Lake: Fishing for brown trout was slow to fair when using spinnerbaits. 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 939 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 1,280 cfs. 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 372 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was good when using size-22 and size-24, black midge Foam-Wing Emerger flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using 1.5-inch crankbait lures.

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 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



Bill Evans Lake: Peggy Reese of Mimbres (above left) caught her first largemouth bass, 18.5 inches long and 2.88 pounds, using a red Bomber lure on April 21. Tim Abreu of San Lorenzo (above right) caught a 14-inch crappie using a Rapala lure on April 21.



Elephant Butte Lake: Salomon Lara of Las Cruces caught a 4-pound smallmouth bass using a chartreuse-colored crankbait on April 22.



Lake Roberts: Manuel and Yamileth Montellano of Deming caught a 14-inch rainbow trout using PowerBait on April 22.



Quemado Lake: *Jameson Hubbard Gomez, age 7, of Las Cruces caught a 20-inch rainbow trout using Yellow Salmon Egg PowerBait on April 19.*

SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Alumni Pond: Closed for repairs until further notice.

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

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for bass was fair to good when using Bomber lures. Fishing for crappie was fair to good when using Rapala lures.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using cut bait. Fishing for crappie was fair when using small jigs.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using chartreuse crankbaits. Fishing for white bass was very good when using Crème jig spinners. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut shad bait and cut carp bait.

Escondida Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Corn PowerBait.

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

Gila River: Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 209 cfs.

Glenwood Pond: Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait.

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

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

Quemado Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Yellow Salmon Egg PowerBait.

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

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 1,070 cfs.

Snow Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using flashy spinners, worms and Orange PowerBait.

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

Young Pond: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using hotdogs and cheese.

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK



Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Jonathyn Olona of Las Cruces (above left) caught an 8-pound largemouth bass using a 6th Sense Stroker Craw on April 24. Orlando Reyna of Carlsbad (above right) caught a 4-pound spotted bass using a crankbait on April 22.



Chaparral Park Lake: Nick Keele of Hobbs caught a 5-pound and 3-pound largemouth bass using a Texas-rigged, pumpkin-green-colored plastic worm on April 23.



Pecos River: *Matt Castillo of Carlsbad caught a 17-inch spotted bass using a Z-Man Slim Swimz lure at 6 Mile Dam on April 28.*

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Alto Lake: Fishing for bass was fair to good when using nightcrawler 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 59 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: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using crawdad pattern soft plastic lures and crankbaits. Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait worms and eggs.

Chaparral Park Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using Texas rigged pumpkin green colored plastic worms.

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

Dennis Chavez 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 PowerBait and Kastmaster lures.

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 bass was fair to good when using skirt jigs.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 87 cfs. Fishing for bass was good when using Z-Man Slim Swimz at 6 Mile Dam.

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 22 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 – Wipers Provide Exciting Fishing Opportunity

By Melissa Garnett, Public Information Specialist – Southeast Area, NMDGF

The hybrid striped bass or “wiper” was first developed in the 1960s by South Carolina fisheries biologists. This cross—often dubbed the Palmetto Bass after The Palmetto State from whence she hails—consisted of a female striped bass and a male white bass. The fish demonstrated a phenomena known as hybrid vigor, when the cross of two species outperforms its parents. Palmetto Bass were easier to raise, grew faster and were hardier than either parent species. People began farming and fishing for Palmetto Bass, and stocking efforts were focused in reservoirs where the striped bass was declining, but angling pressure was high.

Florida fisheries biologists later developed the Sunshine Bass, another hybrid striped bass with a male striped bass and female white bass. The striped bass fishery in the St. John's River was on the decline, so when biologists could find healthy females, they spawned them to make more striped bass. This forced hatchery biologists to develop a technique to fertilize white bass eggs, which required chemical preparation of the egg. Once the recipe was perfected, the Sunshine Bass was born.

From there, the popularity of wipers has spread across much of the country and recently to New Mexico. The hatchery production of hybrid striped bass includes incubation of fertilized eggs, producing live feeds for newly hatched fish, or fry, and pond grow out. This process requires precise planning and careful attention to detail. Fish farming is as much an art as it is a science. A fish farmer worth his salt can look at a pond and know if it's ready to be stocked or harvested based on the color of the water. A fish farmer can look at a tank of young fish and know by their swimming behavior if they're ready for more food or larger foods. So thank your dedicated fish hatchery people when they stock your lakes!



Wipers do well in slow-moving streams and large reservoirs with goodshad populations. New Mexico Game and Fish has been stocking them annually in Caballo since 2022. The first round of wipers are already 15 inches in size, and ready for anglers. NMDGF is partnering with New Mexico State University to evaluate the effects of wipers on the rest of the fish community in Caballo, and the survival of the wiper post stocking. Results of his research are pending. Some pointers from our pros:

- Watch the action of gulls or other fish-eating birds at a reservoir. Check out where they're surface feeding on small fish. Where gulls are feeding, there will be schools of wipers as well. Try "jump fishing": get to the action area quickly, throttle back upwind, shut off the motor, and drift down through surfacing fish.
- Once you make a catch at a school of surface-feeding bass, try again and again. Such feeding eruptions last only a short time, usually in late afternoon or early morning, especially in late summer and early fall.
- Use jigs or crankbaits resembling shad in spring and summer, baitfish in fall, using a heavy rod and line. Live shad is a good, all-around bait.
- To catch more than one bass at a time, place two or more reflective lures simultaneously on your line at 18-inch intervals. Try jigs or jiggging spoons.
- In reservoirs, look for riprap on shorelines, rocky points, just off islands, sudden drop-offs, old river channels or sand bars. In rivers, check out places where streams enter, bridge pilings disrupt current flow, above wing dams, or downstream from a lock and dam.
- Use a depth finder to locate schools of bass. They prefer sandy or gravel lake bottoms. No matter where you find them, they aren't going to stay in one place long.

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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