



New Mexico Fishing Rules & Information

Bass

Catfish

Perch

Crappie

Pike

Salmon

Sunfish

Trout

Walleye



Cutthroat in the Pecos



Smallmouth Bass



Fishing at Trout Lakes

2011 - 2012 LICENSE YEAR

Visit Our Web Site www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Search Keyword: **NMDGF**



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What's New in 2011

Tingley Beach Bag Limit

The bag limit at the central and children's pond is 4 fish.

Combination Hunting and Fishing License applicants

An authorization number will be provided by the Department prior to April 1 to residents who selected one of the online combination hunting and fishing license options. This authorization number will serve as the applicants legal Small Game and/or Fishing License. Customers may obtain their authorization number by accessing their customer account after March 30.

Contact the Department of Game and Fish

Main Office

Department of Game and Fish
PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504
1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Web Address

www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Area Offices

Northwest Area(505) 222-4700
3841 Midway Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109

Northeast Area(575) 445-2311
215 York Canyon Rd., Raton, NM 87740

Southwest Area(575) 532-2100
2715 Northrise Dr., Las Cruces, NM 88011

Southeast Area(575) 624-6135
1912 W. Second St., Roswell, NM 88201

Important Phone Numbers

To obtain publications and forms(800) 862-9310
Operation Game Thief(800) 432-GAME
General information(505) 476-8000
TDD (hearing & speech impaired)(505) 476-8143
Fisheries Management(505) 476-8055
Wildlife Management(505) 476-8038
Law Enforcement(505) 476-8066
Conservation Services(505) 476-8101
Fax (licenses/procurement/payment)(505) 476-8137
Hunter Education(505) 222-4731

Free Fishing Days!

Take your family fishing! You may fish without a license on June 4, National Fishing Day and Sept. 24, National Hunting and Fishing Day. **All other fishing rules still apply.**

Photo credits: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish,
Cover images by Dan Williams, Kevin Holladay and Chris Guikema

License Fees and Definitions

Licenses, Stamps, and Validations

Fishing and hunting licenses may be purchased at more than 200 license vendors state wide, all Department offices, on our Web site at www.wildlife.state.nm.us or by mail using Form 3 on page 18. See page 15 for eligibility requirements for Junior, Senior and Handicapped licenses.

Licenses	Resident	Nonresident
Annual Fishing	\$25.00	\$56.00
One-day Fishing (midnight to midnight)	12.00	12.00
Five-day Fishing	24.00	24.00
Junior Annual Fishing (age 12-17)	5.00	28.00
Senior Annual Fishing (age 65-69)	8.00	NA
*70 and Over Annual Fishing	FREE	NA
Handicapped Annual Fishing	8.00	NA
General Hunting & Fishing	62.00	NA
Junior General Hunting & Fishing	23.00	NA
Senior or Handicapped General Hunting & Fishing	31.00	NA
Small Game & Fishing	33.00	NA
Disabled Resident Veteran Small Game & Fishing	10.00	NA
Junior/Senior Small Game & Fishing	16.00	NA
Duplicate License	6.00	6.00
Habitat Improvement Stamp	5.00	5.00
Habitat Management & Access Validation	4.00	4.00
Second Rod Validation	4.00	4.00

(Vendor fees are \$1 extra per document. All fishing licenses include a trout stamp. NA means not available.)

*No Habitat Improvement Stamp, Habitat Management and Access Validation or Second Rod Validation is required with this license. This free license is available to New Mexico residents ONLY.

Attention: Applicants for Combination Hunting and Fishing Licenses

An authorization number will be provided prior to April 1 to residents who select one of the combination hunting and fishing license options online. This authorization number will serve as the applicants legal Small Game and/or Fishing License.

Be aware that applicants selecting any combination hunting and fishing license will not be able to hunt or fish legally without their authorization number.

Customers may obtain their authorization number by accessing their customer account after March 30.

License Requirements

ALL persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. Anglers 11 years of age and younger do not need a fishing license. Resident anglers 70 years of age and older need a Free Fishing License available at any Department office or license vendor. New Mexico fishing licenses are not required on Tribal Reservations and private Class "A" Lakes.

License Year

The fishing license year is April 1 - March 31. Annual licenses expire March 31. New licenses are needed each April 1.

Second Rod Validation

A validation that allows anglers to use two fishing rods in all waters. A Second Rod Validation must be purchased by anglers ages 12 to 69 prior to fishing with two rods. A Second Rod Validation is free to resident anglers 70 and older. Bag and Possession Limits remain the same.

Habitat Stamp

A Habitat Improvement Stamp is required for all anglers from age 12 through 69 who fish on US Forest Service and BLM lands in New Mexico and must be purchased separately. Only one stamp need be purchased in any license year and is required for 1-day, 5-day, or annual fishing license. Habitat Improvement funds are used for such projects as restoration of lakes and trout streams.

Habitat Management and Access Validation

A Habitat Management and Access Validation must be purchased separately by all anglers, hunters and trappers. Only those younger than 18, 100% Disabled Resident Veterans and resident anglers 70 and older are exempt from purchasing this validation. Only one validation need be purchased in any license year and is required for 1-day, 5-day, or annual fishing licenses.

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

Anyone fishing for Gila trout in the following waters must possess a Gila Trout Fishing Permit: Black Canyon, Mogollon Creek, and Iron Creek. These free permits are available online at www.wildlife.state.nm.us, at Department offices, and from license vendors in the Gila area.

Definitions

Angling

Taking or attempting to take fish by hook and line, with the line held in the hand or attached to a pole or rod or other device that is held in the hand or closely attended.

Artificial Fly or Lure

A lure is made of wood, metal, or hard plastic. A fly is made from fur, feathers, or man-made materials resembling or simulating insects, bait fish, or other foods. Living or dead arthropods and annelids, or rubber or plastic moldings of these or other foods are not included. Soft plastic lures may be used on the Rio Grande Special Trout Water below Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Artificial Lights

Artificial lights may be used in taking all species of game fish. If you use lights, consider leaving firearms and bows at home. It is illegal to shine lights where big game may be, or are reasonably expected to be, if you also possess a sporting arm capable of killing animals. Convicted violators face loss of their license privileges!

Bag Limit

What you may catch and keep in one day.

Barbless Hook

A single hook, from which any or all barbs are removed or bent completely closed, or manufactured without barbs.

Definitions and General Regulations

Definitions continued

Chumming

Chumming means attracting fish with organic materials that will not injure aquatic life. Chumming is allowed only in the following waters: The Gila River downstream from its junction with its East Fork; the Rio Grande downstream from its junction with the Chama River, and all designated warm waters. It is unlawful in any Special Trout Water to disturb aquatic plants, sediment, or rocks to attract fish, or to angle in the immediate vicinity of the disturbance.

Fishing Waters

See map on page 4.

Game Fish

Game fish include: bass, catfish, bluegills, sunfish, crappie, perch, pike, salmon, tiger muskie, trout, and walleye.

Ice Fishing

Ice fishing is allowed during the open season and hours, except at Monastery, Santa Cruz and Springer lakes. Commission owned or managed lakes may be closed to ice fishing when conditions are unsafe. For more information, visit the Department's Web site.

License Year

The license year is April 1 through March 31.

Native American Lands

Permission must be obtained from the Tribal government before going on any reservation to fish. A state fishing license is not required to fish on reservation waters (a state fishing license is required at Cochiti Lake). Fish or game taken on and from reservations must be accompanied by an official tribal document showing lawful possession.

Nongame Fish

Nongame fish include buffalo, carp, gar, shad, and suckers.

Possession Limit

The total number of fish you may have in your possession in your camp, your vehicle, and in your home.

Resident

A resident is anyone who has lived in New Mexico for at least 90 days immediately before buying the license and does not claim residency anywhere else for any purpose. A temporary resident who maintains a home outside of New Mexico may not buy a resident license. A student at a New Mexico educational institution for at least one full term and members of US Armed Forces permanently stationed in New Mexico or a New Mexico resident stationed outside New Mexico, may purchase resident licenses if they submit a verifying certificate from their School Dean or Commanding Officer.

Second Rod Validation

A validation that allows anglers to use two fishing rods in all waters. Bag and Possession Limits remain the same. See page 2 for fees.

Single Hook

A hook with only one point.

Spearfishing

The spearfishing season is April 1 - March 31 during legal fishing hours. The same bag limits apply as angling. The legal means of taking are spears, gigs and spears with barbs discharged under the surface of the water. Scuba divers and snorkelers may only spear fish in impoundments (reservoirs, lakes and ponds) open to fishing. No spearfishing is allowed in Special Trout Waters.

It Is Illegal:

- For persons 12 years of age or older to fish without a license on their person;
- To use someone else's license;
- For anglers 12-69 or nonresidents 70 and older to fish with more than one pole in any water without a Second Rod Validation;
- To release bait fish into fishing waters;
- To litter or pollute any waters or the banks of any waters;
- To leave a campfire burning and unattended;
- To sell, offer for sale, or purchase game fish or parts taken in New Mexico;
- To stock fish or fish eggs in any waters without a permit from the Department of Game and Fish;
- To import live fish or fish eggs into New Mexico without a permit from the Department of Game and Fish;
- To take fish or other animals that are protected by law as endangered or threatened species;
- To catch game fish by net, seine, trap, grappling, or other means not allowed in the New Mexico fishing regulations;
- To use any mechanical or electrical device capable of catching or killing game fish, except as permitted by regulation;
- To catch game fish by snagging except kokanee salmon during the Special Kokanee Snagging Season;
- To fish in any Class "A" Lake without consent from the owner.
- To fish with more than 2 flies on a single line when fishing the special trout water of the San Juan River.

For a complete look at New Mexico's hunting and fishing laws go to: http://www.nmcp.state.nm.us/nmac/_title19/title19.htm

Remember:

- All game fish taken by methods other than angling or spearfishing must be immediately returned to the water.
- Bows and arrows may NOT be used to catch game fish.
- It is the angler's responsibility to release any endangered species of fish immediately to the water.

No Trespassing on Private Lands

You must obtain permission before entering into or onto private lands, including streambeds.

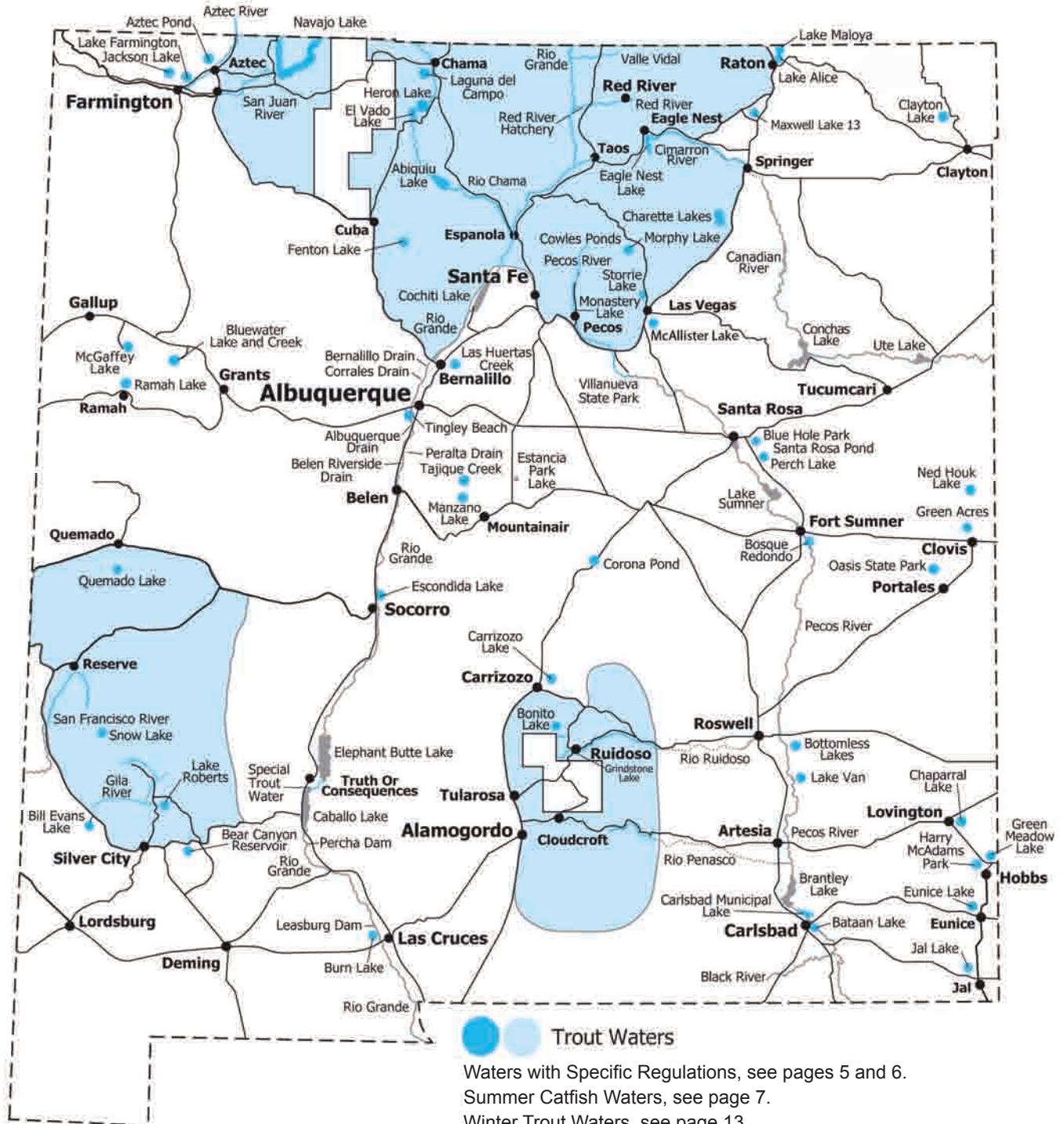
Criminal trespass consists of:

1. Unlawfully entering or remaining upon posted private property, without possessing written permission of the owner or person in control of the land.
2. Entering or remaining on private unposted lands knowing that consent to enter or remain is denied or withdrawn.

It is illegal to destroy no-trespassing signs. If convicted of trespass you will lose hunting and fishing privileges for three years, and fines are severe.

Much of New Mexico's public land is intermingled with privately owned land. The landowner's rights include control of access across private land unless access is by public road. If private land blocks access to public land, the angler must seek another access or receive landowner permission to cross.

New Mexico Fishing Waters



Waters Closed to Fishing

- Gila trout waters: West Fork Gila River and all tributaries above waterfalls between USFS Trail 151 crossing near White Creek Cabin and USFS Trail 151 crossing near Lilley Canyon, Big Dry Creek from Golden Link Cabin upstream, Little Creek from the waterfall barrier upstream, Spruce Creek, Main Diamond Creek above the confluence with East Fork Diamond Creek and the South Diamond Creek Drainage, East Fork Mogollon Creek upstream of Trail Canyon and Woodrow Canyon, McKnight Creek, Sheep Corral Creek and White Creek from the waterfall near White Creek Cabin upstream.
- Rio Grande cutthroat trout waters: Pine Lodge Creek.
- Lakes with posted portions near dams or at outlets: **Alto, Bonito, Cochiti, Stubblefield, Maxwell 13, Eagle Nest, Navajo,** and Laguna Madre.
- Hatcheries: The rearing portions of **State and Federal fish hatcheries.**

Regulations For Specific Waters

- Abiquiu Lake Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 14.
- Alto Lake Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. The posted portion near the outlet is closed to fishing.
- Animas River (San Juan Co.) No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass, page 7.
- Aspen Canyon Creek (Grant Co.) Closed to fishing.
- ☀️❄️ Bataan Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Bernardo Waterfowl Area Boat use is restricted to boats without motors. No trotlines. Access is as posted.
- ❄️ Bear Canyon Lake Winter Trout Waters, page 13. No trotlines. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motor.
- Big Dry Creek (Catron Co.) Closed to fishing from Golden Link Cabin upstream through its headwaters.
- ❄️ Bill Evans Lake Winter Trout Water, page 13. No trotlines. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Black Canyon Creek (Grant Co.) Open to fishing from July 1-Oct. 31. Special Trout Water, pages 9-10. Unlimited take of brown trout above fish barrier. Free Gila Trout Permit required.
- ❄️ Black River Winter Trout Water, page 13.
- Bluewater Reservoir One tiger muskie longer than 40 inches.
- Bonito Lake Season is April 1 through Nov. 30. Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. No boats or floating devices allowed. The posted portion near the outlet is closed to fishing.
- Bosque del Apache NWR Special regulations apply. Get information from the refuge office.
- ☀️❄️ Bosque Redondo Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- ❄️ Bottomless Lakes State Park: Winter Trout Water, page 13. No trotlines. No fishing with bait fish.
- Brantley Reservoir: Catch and release for all fish caught.
- ☀️❄️ Burn Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Butler Street Reservoir: Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Cabresto Creek (Upper Cabresto Creek and tributaries from Cabresto Canyon to headwaters): Special Trout Waters, Catch and release fishing for cutthroat trout and unlimited take of other trout.
- Capulin Creek (Bandelier/Dome Wilderness, Sandoval Co.): Catch and release fishing only.
- ❄️ Carlsbad Municipal Lake Winter Trout Water, page 13. No trotlines.
- ☀️❄️ Carrizozo Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- ☀️❄️ Chaparral Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Charette Lakes (Upper and lower) Season is noon March 1 through Oct. 31. Boats may be used only during fishing seasons and are restricted to trolling speeds.
- Chama River Special Trout Water, pages 11-12. Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season from El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama WMA, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, page 14.
- Cimarron River Special Trout Water, pages 9-10.
- Clayton Lake Season is noon March 1-Oct. 31. Boats may be used only during fishing seasons and restricted to trolling speeds.
- Cochiti Lake Boats restricted to trolling speeds. Spillway closed to fishing.
- Conchas Lake Smallmouth bass less than 14 inches must be released.
- ♿️ Cowles Pond (smaller of two ponds) Open only to children younger than 12 and handicapped anglers.
- Doctor Creek Special Trout Water, page 10.
- Eagle Nest Lake Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 14. Day use only, no overnight camping allowed. Posted portion near dam is closed to fishing.
- El Vado Lake Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 14.
- ☀️❄️ Escondida Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- ☀️♿️ Estancia Park Lake Open only to children younger than 12, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers, page 15
- ☀️❄️ Eunice Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Fall Canyon Creek (Grant Co.) Closed to fishing.
- Fenton Lake Boat use is restricted to boats with oars or electric motors. The parking area is open to vehicles 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Gilita Creek (Special Trout Water) pages 9-10.
- Glenwood Hatchery Brood Pond Open daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.
- ☀️♿️ Grants Riverwalk Pond Open to youth 17 and younger, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers, page 15.
- ☀️❄️ Green Acres Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- ☀️❄️ Green Meadow Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Harris Pond (Las Vegas) Open only to children younger than 12, page 15.
- ❄️♿️ Harry McAdams Park Ponds (Hobbs) Winter Trout Water, page 13. Open to children younger than 12, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers, page 15.
- Heron Lake Boat use restricted to trolling speeds. Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season open from second Friday in November through Dec. 31, page 14.
- Hopewell Lake Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Iron Creek (Catron Co.) Special Trout Water, pages 9-10. Free Gila Trout Permit required.
- Jack's Creek Special Trout Water, pages 9-10.
- Jackson Lake Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- ☀️❄️ Jal Lake Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Laguna Madre (Maxwell Lakes) The posted portion within 150 feet of the outlet is closed to fishing.
- Laguna del Campo (Burn's Canyon Lake) Season is May 1-Oct. 31. Open daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Open to persons 14 years or younger, 65 and older, handicapped anglers or up to two parents/guardians in direct supervision of a child or children 14 years or younger who is fishing. No boats or flotation devices are allowed, page 15.
- Lake Maloya (Sugarite State Park) Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Lake Roberts Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- ☀️❄️ Lake Van Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Little Creek (in Catron Co.) Closed to fishing from the barrier upstream through all tributaries.

Regulations For Specific Waters

- Maddox Lake Not open to the public.
- Main Diamond Creek Closed to fishing above confluence with the East Fork of Diamond Creek and South Diamond Creek drainage.
- Maxwell Lakes 13 and 14 Season begins noon March 1 through Oct. 31, boats restricted to trolling sped.
- McAllister Lake All fish killed due to golden algae bloom. The lake remains closed to fishing.
- ☀️ McGaffey Lake Boat use is restricted to those without motors. Summer catfish water. See page 7. No trotlines allowed.
- McKnight Creek (Grant Co.) Closed to all fishing.
- Mogollon Creek, East Fork (Grant Co.) Upstream of Trail Canyon and Woodrow Canyon Creek is closed to fishing. Downstream of Trail Canyon is open to fishing from July 1 through Oct. 31. Special Trout Water, pages 9-10. Free Gila Trout Permit Required.
- Monastery Lake Open daylight hours 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. No boats or floating devices are allowed. Closed to ice fishing.
- Morphy Lake: Season is April 1 through Oct. 31. Boat use is restricted to those with oars or electric motors.
- Nabor Creek & Nabor Lake Special Trout Water, pages 9-10.
- National Wildlife Refuges Obtain regulations from refuge offices.
- Navajo Lake** Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, see page 14.
- ❄️ Ned Houk Winter Trout Water, see page 13. No trotlines.
- ☀️❄️ Oasis State Park Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, see pages 7 and 13. No trotlines, boats or flotation devices allowed.
- ❄️ Pecos River Special Trout and Winter Trout Waters, see pages 9-10 and 13.
- Pine Lodge Creek Closed for Rio Grande cutthroat restoration.
- Pine River Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 14.
- Quemado Lake Bag limit is one tiger muskie longer than 40". Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Ramah Lake Boats are restricted to trolling speeds. The north shoreline is private property and closed to the public.
- Red River Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- ♿️ Red River City Ponds East Kids pond is open only to anglers 12 and younger and handicapped anglers, page 15. Middle pond is open with no age restrictions. Special Trout Water, pages 9-10. Ponds are open to fishing March 1-Nov. 15.
- ♿️ Red River Hatchery Pond Special Trout Water, pages 9, 10 and 15. Reserved for anglers younger than 12, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers. No boats or flotation devices are allowed. Open daylight hours 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag and possession limits are 3 trout.
- Rio Cebolla Special Trout Water. Unlimited take of brown trout from McKinney Pond to headwaters. See pages 9-10.
- Rio Costilla Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10. Camping is allowed only in designated areas.
- Rio de los Pinos Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Rio Grande Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Rio Guadalupe Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Rio las Animas Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Rio Pueblo Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Rio Ruidoso Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Rio Valdez Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- San Antonio River Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- San Gregorio Lake No motor boats.
- San Juan River below Navajo Dam** No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass, page 7. Special Trout Water, only two flies per line may be used in the STW, pages 9-10.
- Santa Cruz Lake Hours are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Closed to ice fishing.
- ♿️ Santa Rosa Pond at Blue Hole Open only to anglers younger than 12, 65 and older and the handicapped, see page 15.
- Sargent Wildlife Area Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Sheep Corral Creek (Grant Co.) Closed to all fishing.
- Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond Open only to children younger than 12, see page 15.
- Shuree Ponds Special Trout Water, pages 9-10. Season is July 1-Dec. 31, during daylight hours 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. One pond is reserved for anglers younger than 12, see page 15. Boat use is restricted to those without motors.
- ☀️❄️ Silver Pond (Corona Pond) Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, see pages 7 and 13. No trotlines.
- Snow Lake Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- South Diamond Creek and tributaries (Catron and Sierra Co.) Closed to fishing.
- Spring River Park (Roswell) Open only to children younger than 12.
- Springer Lake Boats are restricted to trolling speeds only when water storage is less than 1,000 acre feet. Closed to ice fishing.
- Stubblefield Lake** The posted portion within 150 feet of outlet is closed to fishing.
- Spruce Creek (Catron Co.) Closed to all fishing.
- ❄️ Sumner Lake Stilling Basin Winter Trout Water, see page 13.
- ☀️❄️ Tingley Beach Hours are sunrise to sunset. Winter Trout Water, page 13. Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10. Summer Catfish Water, page 7. No trotlines. No boats or flotation devices. Children's pond open to children 12 and younger, page 15. Bag limit at the central and children's pond is 4 fish.
- Trail Canyon Creek (Grant Co.) Closed to fishing.
- Tucumcari Wildlife Area Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Ute Lake Smallmouth bass less than 14" must be released.
- Valle Vidal Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10. Season is July 1 through Dec. 31, during daylight hours 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.
- Valles Caldera National Preserve Open by reservation only. Visit www.vallescaldera.gov for more information.
- Valley Improvement Association Ponds (Belen) Open only to children younger than 12, see page 15.
- Vermejo River System** on Vermejo Park Ranch and Leandro Creek on public lands. Unlimited take of brook trout.
- White Creek (Catron Co.) Closed to fishing from waterfall near White Creek Cabin upstream to headwaters.
- Woodrow Canyon Creek Closed to all fishing.
- Willow Creek (Rio Arriba Co.) Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season open from second Friday in November through Dec. 31, see page 14.
- Willow Creek (Catron Co.) Special Trout Water, see pages 9-10.
- Young Pond** Open only to children younger than 12, see page 15.



Summer Catfish Water



Winter Trout Water



Handicapped Water

Warm Water Regulations

General Information

Warm waters are all streams, lakes, and ponds except those designated as trout waters (refer to map on page 4). ALL persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. Resident anglers 70 and older must have a Free Fishing License obtainable at any Department office or license vendor. All anglers must have a Habitat Management and Access Validation. Only those younger than 18, 100% Disabled Resident Veterans and resident anglers 70 and older are exempt from purchasing this validation. A Second Rod Validation is free to residents 70 and older.

Warm-Water Bag & Possession Limits

Black bass _____ 5 per day
Largemouth and spotted bass- 14-inch minimum size limit.
Smallmouth- 12-inch minimum size limit. Conchas and Ute reservoirs have 14-inch minimum smallmouth size limit.

Catfish (all species except bullheads) _____ 15 per day
In the Animas and San Juan Rivers in San Juan County, there is no bag or possession limit.

Special Summer Catfish Waters _____ **2 per day**
Special catfish limit applies to Bataan, Bosque Redondo, Burn, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Corona, Escondida, Estancia Park Lake, Eunice, Grants Riverwalk Pond, Green Acres, Green Meadow, Jal, Lake Van, and McGaffey lakes, Oasis State Park, Tingley Beach.

Crappie _____ 20 per day

Striped bass _____ 2 per day
In the Animas and San Juan Rivers in San Juan County, there is no bag or possession limit.

Northern pike _____ 10 per day

Tiger muskie _____ 1 per day
One fish longer than 40 inches. Found only in Bluewater and Quemado lakes.

Walleye _____ 5 per day
Walleye- 14-inch minimum size limit

White bass _____ 25 per day

White bass/striped bass hybrids _____ **25 per day**

Yellow perch _____ **30 per day**

All other warm-water game fish _____ **20 per day**
(bluegill, sunfish, bullheads)

Brantley Reservoir _____ 0 per day
Catch-and-Release fishing ONLY, for all species

Possession Limits: Twice the daily bag limit

Bait and Baitfish

It is illegal to use any live protected fish, gar, goldfish, common carp, river carpsucker, smallmouth buffalo, bullfrogs or bullfrog tadpoles as bait in any waters containing protected fish. Fish of the genus Lepomis (bluegills and sunfish), common carp, river carpsucker, smallmouth buffalo, bullfrogs or bullfrog tadpoles may only be used as cut bait.

Exception: Fish of the genus Lepomis (bluegills and sunfish) taken by legal means of angling may be used as live bait in the water from which they were taken. This only applies to the following: Abiquiu Reservoir, Cochiti Lake, Elephant Butte Reservoir, Caballo Reservoir, Stubblefield Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Clayton Lake, Conchas Lake, Ute Lake, Santa Rosa Lake, Lake Sumner, Brantley Reservoir, and Navajo Reservoir.

The roe, viscera and eyes of legally taken gamefish may be used in any waters where bait use is legal. Baitfish may be taken by angling, nets, traps and seines.

It is illegal to release baitfish into fishing waters that contain game fish. **Goldfish may not be used as** live bait or cut bait in any waters.

It is illegal to use bait fish in any trout waters except fathead minnows and red shiners may be used in the following: Abiquiu Reservoir, Clayton Lake, Jackson Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Navajo Lake, Caballo Lake, Rio Grande downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge and the Animas River.

It is illegal to use any baitfish in Bottomless Lakes State Park.

Bait fish may be used with the following restrictions: Only fathead minnows may be used as bait in the Gila and San Francisco river drainages; only fathead minnows and red shiners may be used in the Pecos and San Juan river drainages; only fathead minnows, red shiners, and shad may be used in the Canadian river drainage and Rio Grande. In Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs, golden shiners also may be used.

Taking Minnows

Minnows, which are all nongame fish, may be taken for personal use only as bait by licensed anglers and children younger than age 12. Restrictions for each drainage noted above still apply. Angling, dip nets, cast nets, traps, and seines are permitted for taking minnows. Seines can be no longer than 20 feet and mesh size can be no larger than 3/8 inches square. All protected species of fish, including endangered and threatened species, taken in seines, nets and traps, must be immediately returned to the water.

Warm Water and Boating Regulations

Trotlines Or Set Lines

A trotline (throw line or set line) is a line without a rod or reel attached. It need not be held in the hand or closely attended. Trotlines are limited to 25 hooks. Joining or tying together lines of two or more people is illegal.

An identification tag that is visible above the waterline must be attached to the trotline. The tag must include: name, address, fishing license number, and date when the line was set. Unlicensed anglers under 12 years old must include their age on the tag. Only one person's name is permitted on each trotline. You may not fish with more than one trotline. You may not operate another's trotline. Every person using a trotline must personally visit it every 24 hours. Trotlines may be used in taking fish in most warm waters.

Trotlines may not be used in the following waters: Bataan, Bear Canyon, Bernardo Waterfowl Area, Bill Evans, Bottomless Lakes, Burn, Carlsbad Municipal, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Corona, Escondida, Estancia Park Lake, Eunice, Grants Riverwalk Park, Green Acres, Green Meadow, Jal, Lake Van, La Joya Waterfowl Area, McGaffey, Ned Houk, Oasis State Park, and Tingley Beach.

Trotlines may not be used in any trout waters except:

Abiquiu Lake, the Chama River down stream from the northern boundary of the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, the Gila River down stream from its junction with the East Fork, Navajo Lake and the Rio Grande downstream from its junction with the Chama River.

Basic Boating Regulations

For boat registration/title contact your local Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) office. Call 1-888-MVD-INFO or go to: www.state.nm.us/tax/mvd/.

1. Any motorized (including sail) vessel, 10 feet or longer, must have a title. All motorized vessels of any length must be registered. Title and Registration must be obtained through MVD.
2. The vessel registration number must be permanently affixed to each side of the vessel's bow in 3" high block letters, in a contrasting color to the hull. A valid registration decal must be placed on the port side 6" behind the number.
3. Operators born on or after Jan. 1, 1989 must carry proof of boater education.
4. Anyone in a canoe, kayak, raft, or a child 12 years or younger must always wear a life jacket.
5. All vessels are subject to inspection for required equipment.
6. Vessels must carry while operating, a good condition life jacket for each person on board, one USCG throwable device, oar/paddle, bailing bucket, stout rope of at least boat length, whistle/horn, fire extinguisher and navigation lights if operating at night.

For boating information, call State Parks Division at 1-888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com.

State Parks offers free boating safety classes around the state and on-line throughout the year.

BUI is strictly prohibited and enforced.

Wear your life jacket. The majority of fishermen who drown, were not wearing their life jackets at the time of the accident.

Special Boating Restricted Waters

Waters Restricted To Boats Without Motors

Bernardo Waterfowl Area	San Gregorio Lake
La Joya Waterfowl Area	Shuree Ponds
McGaffey Lake	

Waters Restricted To Boats With Oars Or Electric Motors

Bear Canyon Lake	Lake Maloya
Bill Evans Lake	Lake Roberts
Fenton Lake	Morphy Lake
Green Meadow Lake	Quemado Lake
Hopewell Lake	Snow Lake
Jackson Lake	Tucumcari Wildlife Area

Waters Where No Boats Or Flotation Devices Are Allowed

Bonito Lake	Red River Hatchery Pond
Burns Canyon Lake	Tingley Beach
Monastery Lake	Oasis State Park

Waters Restricted To Boats During Fishing Season and at Trolling Speeds Only

Charette Lakes, Both	Cochiti Lake
Clayton Lake	Maxwell 13 & 14
Heron Lake	

McAllister Lake (No anchor use allowed)

Ramah Lake

Springer Lake, when less than 1,000 acre feet

Department of Game and Fish Personnel
Department of Game and Fish personnel and others authorized by the Director may use motor boats while on official duties on all lakes where this use is otherwise prohibited.

Remember!

A red flag displayed above a stopped boat indicates a water skier is down in that area—USE CAUTION.

Special Trout Water Regulations

General Information

Special Trout Waters (STW) have reduced bag limits or are catch-and-release only. These regulations give anglers a chance for high-quality fishing. Most Special Trout Waters require artificial flies and lures that have single, barbless hooks. See page 2-3 for definitions. Disturbing rocks, plants, or sediment in STW to attract fish is illegal.

License Information

ALL persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. You may use two poles in Special Trout Waters if you purchase a Second Rod Validation, see page 2. Resident anglers 70 and older must have on their person while fishing, a Free Fishing License available at any Department office or license vendor. All anglers must have a Habitat Management and Access Validation. Only those younger than 18, 100% Disabled Resident Veterans and resident anglers 70 and older are exempt from purchasing this validation. A Second Rod Validation is free to residents 70 and older.

General Bag and Possession Limit Restrictions

Anglers must stop fishing in STW when they have taken their daily bag limit. Anglers may continue fishing in Regular Trout Waters, but MUST count those STW fish toward their daily bag limit. Possession limits are same as daily bag limit in all Special Trout Waters.

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

Anyone fishing for Gila trout in the following waters must possess a Gila Trout Fishing Permit: Black Canyon, Mogollon Creek, and Iron Creek. These free permits are available online at www.wildlife.state.nm.us, at all Department offices and license vendors in the Gila area.

Catch & Release Tips

Many of our game fish have restricted bag limits and/or restricted size limits which require releasing live fish back into the water. Follow these tips to ensure a healthy release:

1. Land the fish quickly; don't play it to exhaustion.
2. Use a landing net whenever possible.
3. Keep the fish in the water.
4. Do not squeeze or grab any part of the fish. Wet your hands first if you must handle the fish.
5. Gently remove the hook (barbless hooks are easier).
6. If the hook is deeply swallowed, cut the leader. A fish's body fluids will dissolve the hook in a matter of days.
7. Let a tired fish recover. Hold it by the tail in the water with one hand. Gently support it from below and just behind the head until it swims away.
8. Never toss a fish back into the water.

Whirling Disease Continues to Pose a Serious Threat to New Mexico's Trout Population

What Is Whirling Disease?

This disease of trout is caused by a tiny parasite, *Myxobolus cerebralis*. It starts as an extremely durable spore that can remain dormant in sediment at the bottom of lakes and streams for up to 30 years. The parasite consumes the cartilage of young fish. Damage continues until the spinal column deforms into a curve, the fish's brain becomes inflamed and eventually the fish dies.

Once disease-positive fish are released into a body of water, there is virtually nothing that can be done to entirely eliminate the disease. Whirling disease is already established in several streams in New Mexico including the Pecos, San Juan and Red River. The impact of the disease on the future of our fisheries is difficult to predict. Because the spores of *Myxobolus cerebralis* remain viable for so long, there is little that can be done to eradicate the parasite once it is established in a watershed.

While we remain optimistic about our ability to produce whirling disease-free trout from hatcheries, our primary concern is preventing the spread of the disease to our native trout. Please visit our Web site to learn more about whirling disease in New Mexico: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/.

What Can Anglers Do?

The most important thing anglers can do to prevent contaminating additional trout waters is to take the following steps:

- Wash off all mud and weeds from your boat, trailer, waders and wading boots.
- Drain all the water from your boat, coolers and livewells before you leave your fishing site.
- Never use trout or trout parts as bait.
- Always dispose of fish heads and entrails in a solid waste facility and not in our streams, lakes or even your sink drain.
- Do not transfer fish from one stream or lake to another body of water. It's against the law and can spread whirling disease.
- If you plan to stock your own private water with fish, you MUST obtain a permit from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Call (505) 476-8055 for more information.

Get More Information

Great sources of current whirling disease information can be found on the internet. Please visit these Web sites:

- The Whirling Disease Foundation www.whirling-disease.org
- Montana Whirling Disease Task Force www.whirlingdisease.org
- Trout Unlimited www.tu.org

Special Trout Water Regulations

Special Trout Waters-Artificial Fly or Lure, Single Barbless Hook

<p>Catch-and-Release Only.</p>	<p>Black Canyon from waterfall barrier at Black Canyon Campground upstream. *Unlimited take of brown trout upstream of fish barrier. Open from July 1-Oct. 31. Cabresto Creek from Cabresto Canyon upstream to headwaters. Catch and release for cutthroat trout. *Unlimited take for all other trout. Capulin Creek on Bandlier National Monument and U.S. Forest Service property. Doctor Creek from .25 mile above its confluence with Holy Ghost Creek upstream to its headwaters. Jack's Creek from the waterfalls located .25 mile downstream of NM 63 crossing upstream to its headwaters. Mogollon Creek from barrier at waterfalls near Forest Service Trail 153 to confluence of Trail Canyon. Open from July 1-Oct. 31.</p>
<p>ALL trout must immediately be returned to the water*</p>	<p>Nabor Creek and Nabor Lake on the Sargent Wildlife Area. Pecos River in the Pecos Wilderness above Pecos Falls. Rio Cebolla from the Seven Springs Day Use Area upstream to its headwaters. *Unlimited take of brown trout from McKinney Pond upstream to headwaters. Rio Costilla from Valle Vidal boundary 2.4 miles downstream to Latir Creek. Rio Guadalupe from Porter Landing Bridge 1.3 miles downstream to Llano Loco Spring. Rio Las Animas within Gila National Forest, Black Range District. Rio Valdez in the Pecos Wilderness from .25 mile below Smith Cabin upstream to its headwaters. San Antonio River from Valles Caldera Preserve boundary downstream 2.0 miles. San Juan River from Navajo Dam downstream 3.5 miles as posted. It is illegal to fish with more than 2 flies on a single line when fishing the special trout water on the San Juan River. Tingley Beach southernmost pond. The bag limit at the central and children's pond is 4 fish. Valle Vidal all streams.</p>

<p>1 trout only, at least 16"</p>	<p>Cimarron River from east end of Tolby Campground downstream 1.4 miles to first US 64 bridge.</p>
<p>2 trout only, at least 15"</p>	<p>Shuree Ponds on Valle Vidal.</p>

<p>2 trout only, at least 12"</p>	<p>Pecos River the box canyon .5 mile above the confluence of the Mora and Pecos upstream 1 mile to .25 mile below Cowles bridge. Red River from the confluence of Goose Creek for 1.0 mile upstream as posted.</p>
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<p>2 trout only, any length</p>	<p>Chama River a posted portion of 2.9 miles within the Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area. Iron Creek from barrier 4 miles upstream of Turkey Feather Trail to its headwaters. Rio De Los Pinos from US Forest Service Roads 284 & 87A, 2.5 miles upstream to the private land. Rio Pueblo between the bridge at Mile Marker 55 on NM 518 upstream 1.0 mile to the Cañon Tio Maes trail head as posted. Sargent Wildlife Management Area all waters within the WMA (except: Nabor Creek and Nabor Lake), including the Rio Chama, Rio Chamita, and Sexton Creek.</p>
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Special Trout Waters-Any Legal Tackle or Bait

<p>3 trout only, any length</p>	<p>Laguna del Campo (Burns Canyon Lake) Anglers 14 years of age or younger and 65 and older. Chama River from Abiquiu Dam downstream 7.0 miles to the US 84 bridge at Abiquiu. Red River from .5 mile below walking bridge at Red River State Hatchery downstream to confluence with Rio Grande. Red River Hatchery Pond Anglers must be 12 years of age or younger, 65 and older, or handicapped. Red River City Ponds open March 1- Nov. 15. Rio Grande from Colorado line downstream to the Taos Junction bridge. Rio Grande from Elephant Butte Dam downstream to and including Caballo Lake. Rio Ruidoso from the Mescalero Reservation border downstream to Friedenbloom Drive.</p>
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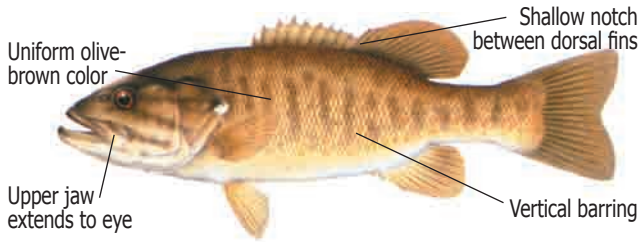
<p>2 Gila trout any length, unlimited brown trout</p>	<p>Gilita Creek and Willow Creek upstream from confluence of Snow Creek to headwaters.</p>
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Warm-Water Gamefish

Smallmouth Bass

NM Record: 3-31-06 Ute Lake

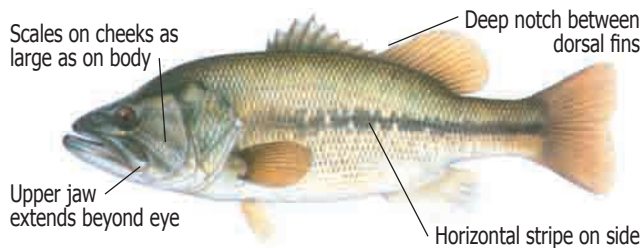
Weight: 7 lb., 3 oz. **Length:** 24" **Girth:** 16-1/2"



Largemouth Bass

NM Record: 3-24-95 Bill Evans Lake

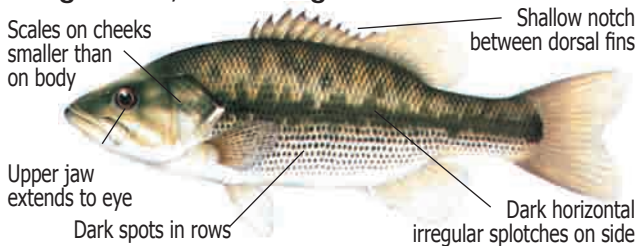
Weight: 15 lb., 13 oz. **Length:** 26-1/2" **Girth:** 24-3/4"



Spotted Bass

NM Record: 3-26-88 Cochiti Lake

Weight: 4 lb., 8 oz. **Length:** 18" **Girth:** 16"



Channel Catfish (Illustrated Below)

NM Record: 4-12-99 Stubblefield Lake

Weight: 36 lb., 8 oz. **Length:** 38" **Girth:** 26"

Blue Catfish

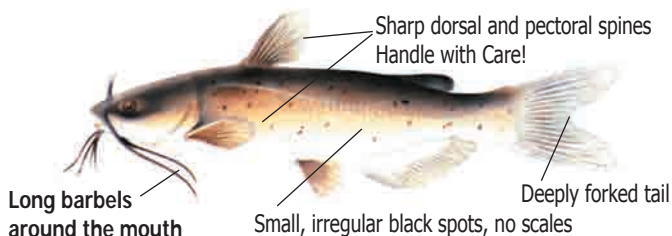
NM Record: 6-20-05 Elephant Butte

Weight: 54 lb., 1/4 oz. **Length:** 43-1/2" **Girth:** 30-1/4"

Flathead Catfish

NM Record: 6-7-79 Ash Canyon/Elephant Butte

Weight: 78 lb., 0 oz. **Length:** 47-1/2" **Girth:** 31-1/2"



Striped Bass

NM Record: 4-1-92 Elephant Butte

Weight: 54 lb., 8 oz. **Length:** 45" **Girth:** 34"



White Bass

NM Record: 6-8-83 Bill Evans Lake

Weight: 4 lb., 13 oz. **Length:** 19-1/2" **Girth:** 18-1/4"



Walleye

NM Record: 9-19-89 Clayton Lake

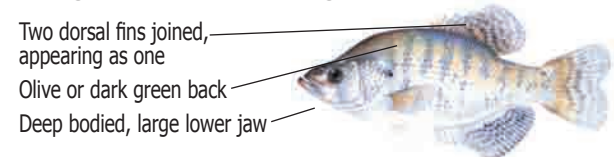
Weight: 16 lb., 9 oz. **Length:** 32" **Girth:** 21"



Crappie

NM Record: 3-2-83 Black River

Weight: 4 lb., 9 oz. **Length:** 16" **Girth:** 13-1/2"



Tiger Muskie (occurs only in Bluewater and Quemado lakes)

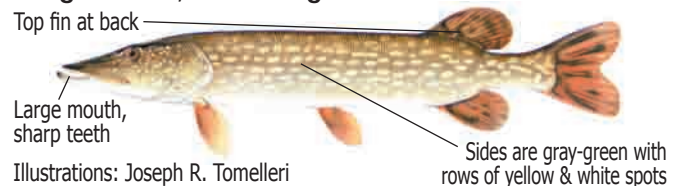
Similar to Northern Pike except sides have dark vertical bars



Northern Pike

NM Record: 11-21-74 Miami Lake & 3-7-78 Springer Lake

Weight: 36 lb., 0 oz. **Length:** 53" **Girth:** 29"

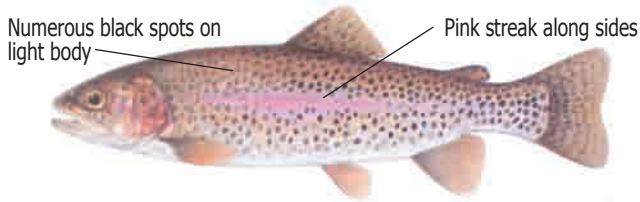


Illustrations: Joseph R. Tomelleri

Cold-Water Gamefish

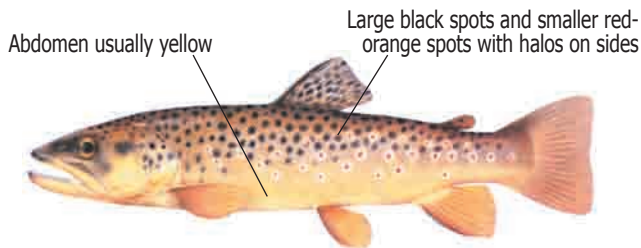
Rainbow Trout

NM Record: 3-13-99 Santa Cruz Lake
Weight: 31 lb., 12.5 oz. **Length:** 33-1/2" **Girth:** 24-1/4"



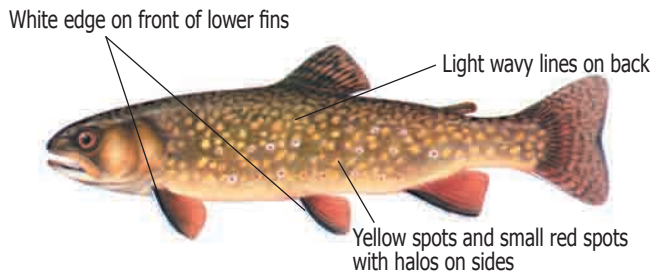
Brown Trout

NM Record: 7-9-46 Chama River
Weight: 20 lb., 4 oz. **Length:** 34-1/2" **Girth:** 21"



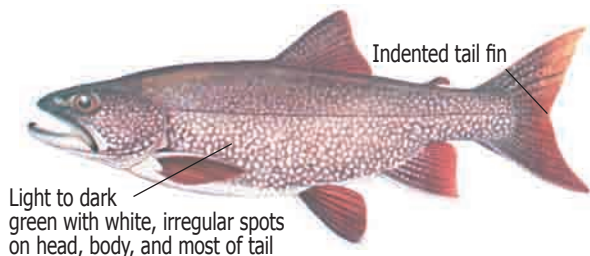
Brook Trout

NM Record: 9-23-96 Hidden Lake/Simms
Weight: 5 lb., 0 oz. **Length:** 21" **Girth:** 14-1/2"



Lake Trout

NM Record: 2-24-99 Heron Lake
Weight: 31 lb., 6 oz. **Length:** 41-1/2" **Girth:** 26"



Cutthroat Trout

NM Record: 6-27-81 Latir Lakes
Weight: 10 lb., 2 oz. **Length:** 24-5/8" **Girth:** 18-1/2"

Snake River Cutthroat Trout

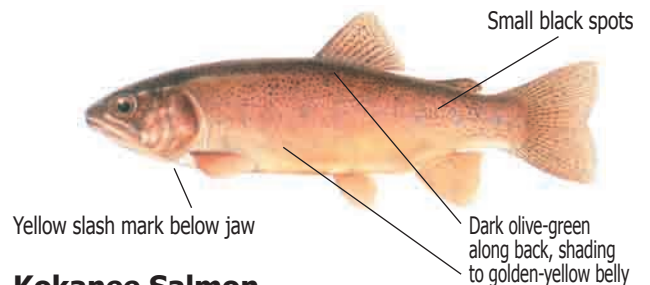


Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (Native - State Fish)



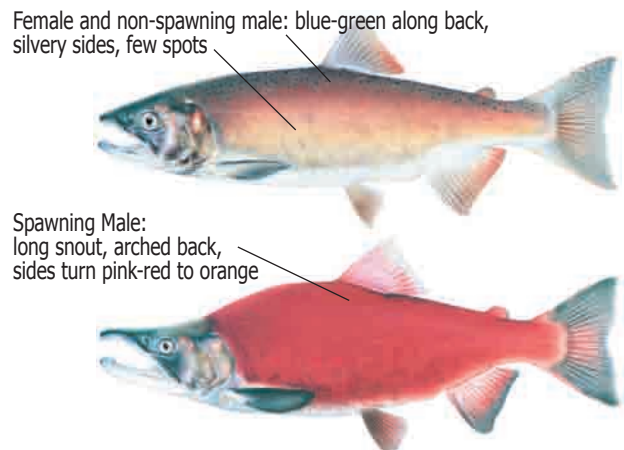
Gila Trout (Native)

NM Record: 11/23/07 Gila River
Weight: 4 lb., 8 oz. **Length:** 20" **Girth:** 13-3/4"



Kokanee Salmon

NM Record: 10-13-00 Navajo Lake
Weight: 4 lb., 0 oz. **Length:** 24" **Girth:** 13-1/2"



Life size reproductions of all New Mexico's record game fish are on display at the Santa Fe office, 1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, New Mexico. For more information on record fish, contact the Public Information and Outreach Division at (505) 476-8000.

Regular Trout, Winter Trout and Kokanee

General Information

Catchable-sized, hatchery-reared trout are stocked in heavily fished waters. Smaller trout and salmon are stocked in waters that can support their growth. Some waters support fishing for native Rio Grande cutthroat. Other waters support naturally reproducing populations of non-native brown trout. Still other waters are too warm in summer, but in winter can be stocked with hatchery-raised rainbow trout.

License Information

ALL persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. Resident anglers 70 and older must have a Free Fishing License available at any Department office or license vendor. All anglers must have a Habitat Management and Access Validation. Only those anglers younger than 18, 100% Disabled Resident Veterans and resident anglers 70 and older are exempt from purchasing this validation. A Second Rod Validation is free to residents 70 and older.

Trotlines

Trotlines are not permitted in trout waters, except Abiquiu Lake, Caballo Lake, Chama River below the northern boundary of the Monastery of Christ in the Desert, Gila River downstream from its junction with its East Fork, Navajo Lake, and the Rio Grande downstream from its junction with the Chama River.

Baitfish

It is illegal to use bait fish in any trout waters except in the following: Abiquiu Reservoir, Clayton Lake, Jackson Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Navajo Lake, Caballo Lake, Rio Grande downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge and the Animas River. See page 7.

Goldfish may NOT be used as bait in ANY waters.

It is illegal to release ANY baitfish into fishing waters that contain game fish.

Regular Trout, Winter Trout & Kokanee Bag Limits

You MUST STOP FISHING when you reach your bag limit. No catch-and-release fishing is allowed after obtaining your bag limit.

Brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, or kokanee salmon — 5 per day
10 in possession

A 5 fish bag limit shall be any combination of trout and salmon, except only 2 lake trout and/or 2 cutthroat trout may be included in the limit.

The trout bag limit at the Tingley Beach Central and Children's pond is 4 fish.

It is unlawful to possess kokanee salmon at Heron Lake and Willow Creek during the closed season from Oct. 1 - Nov. 10.

Lake trout — 2 per day
4 in possession

Cutthroat trout — 2 per day
2 in possession

Any trout with red slash marks below the jaw is considered a cutthroat.

Gila trout — Catch-and-Release
Black Canyon
East Fork Mogollon Creek
Iron Creek
Gilita Creek
Willow Creek
5 per day, 10 in possession
Anywhere else unless closed to fishing

Winter Trout Waters

Winter Trout Waters

Winter trout waters are stocked with hatchery-reared rainbow trout between Nov. 1 and March 31, when water temperatures are cool.

Bag and Possession Limits

See above.

Streams

Black River

From 1 mile upstream to 1 mile downstream of Higby Hole.

Pecos River

From SE boundary of Villanueva State Park downstream to Santa Rosa Lake.

Lakes

Bataan
Bear Canyon
Bill Evans
Bosque Redondo
Bottomless Lakes State Park
Burn
Carlsbad Municipal
Carrizozo
Chaparral
Corona
Escondida
Eunice
Green Acres
Green Meadow
Harry McAdams Ponds
Jal
Lake Van
Ned Houk
Oasis State Park
Sumner Lake Stilling Basin
Tingley Beach

Drains

Albuquerque
Atrisco
Belen Riverside
Bernalillo
Corrales
Peralta

Special Kokanee Snagging Season

General Information

Kokanee are land-locked sockeye salmon. Although not native to the Southwest, kokanee do quite well in a few of our deep, cold, plankton-producing lakes. In late fall, four-year-old kokanee form giant schools, spawn and then die.

Snagging is one technique for harvesting these soon-to-die salmon. Snagging is the intentional taking of fish with hooks where the fish is caught in a part of the body other than the mouth. Only kokanee salmon can be legally caught by snagging during kokanee snagging season. If other species are caught by snagging, they must be immediately returned to the water.

Each autumn, the Department of Game and Fish mounts a massive operation to obtain millions of kokanee eggs and milt. The fertilized eggs soon hatch and fry are stocked in Heron, Navajo, Abiquiu, El Vado, and Eagle Nest Lakes. This collection operation is the reason the snagging season at Heron Lake and Willow Creek is closed from Oct. 1 - Nov. 10. Without this egg and milt collecting operation, a kokanee salmon fishery would not exist in New Mexico.



Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season

Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

Abiquiu Lake, Chama River from El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area, Pine River, El Vado Lake, Navajo Lake, and Eagle Nest Lake.

Oct. 1 - Nov. 10

Snagging Season is closed at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

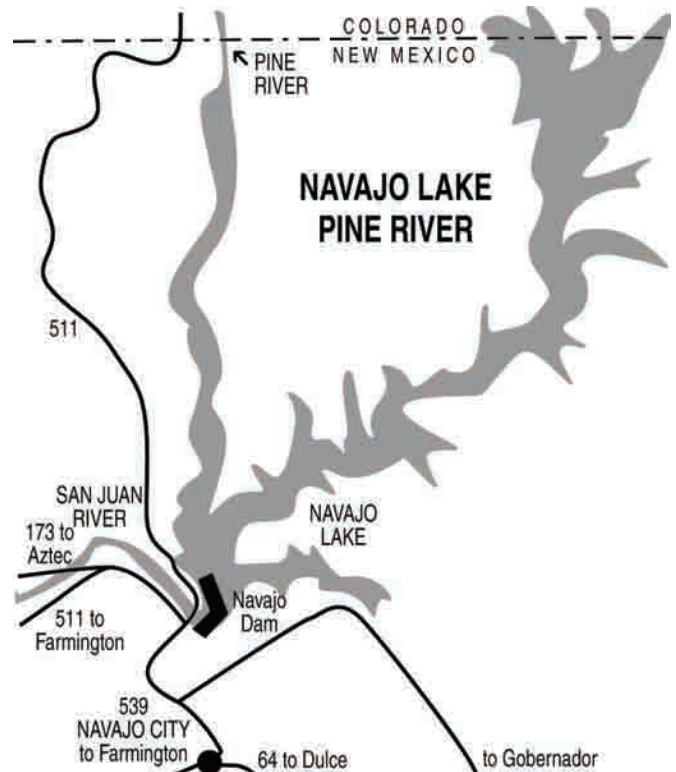
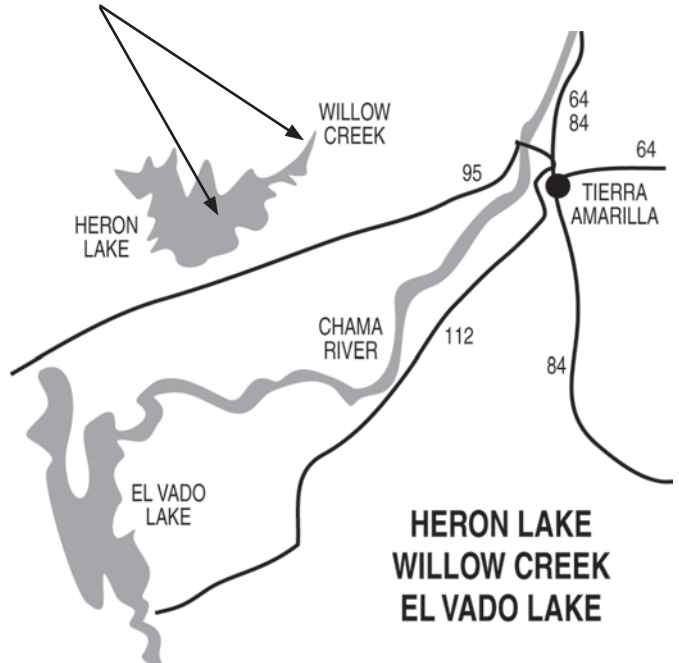
Nov. 11 - Dec. 31

Snagging Season is open at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Bag Limit

Kokanee salmon ————— 12 per day
 24 in possession

Closed from Oct. 1 - Nov. 10



Junior, Senior and Handicapped Waters

Definitions

Junior Fishing License

To hold a Junior Fishing License, resident and nonresident anglers must be between 12 and 18.

Senior Fishing License

To hold a Senior Fishing License, anglers must be age 65 through 69 AND be a resident of New Mexico.

Free Senior Fishing License

Resident anglers 70 and older must have on their person while fishing, a Free Fishing License available at any Department office or license vendor. These anglers do not have to purchase a Habitat Stamp, Habitat Management and Access Validation, or a Second Rod Validation. Free Senior Fishing Licenses are NOT available to nonresidents.

Handicapped Fishing License

To hold a Handicapped Fishing License, anglers must be a resident of New Mexico and show proof of a severe disability because of one or more physical disabilities resulting from amputation, arthritis, blindness, burn injury, cancer, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, muscular dystrophy, muscular skeletal disorders, neurological disorders, paraplegia, quadriplegia and other spinal cord conditions, sickle cell anemia, and end-stage renal disease, or you must have a combination of permanent disabilities which cause comparable substantial functional limitations.

No special application form is necessary to hold a handicapped fishing license but proof of disability is required.

Bag and Possession Limits

Statewide bag and possession limits are in effect for these waters.

Youth-Only Waters

Anglers must be 11 years of age or younger to fish in most Youth-Only Waters. These anglers do not need a fishing license.

Harris Pond in Las Vegas

Shuree Kid's Pond in the Valle Vidal

Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond in the Jemez Mountains

Spring River Park in Roswell

Valley Improvement Association Ponds in Belen

Young Pond in Las Cruces

Tingley Beach Kid's Pond in Albuquerque (12 and younger)

Youth, Senior and Handicapped-Only Waters

Estancia Park Lake in Estancia

Harry McAdams Park Ponds in Hobbs

Red River Hatchery Pond in Red River

Santa Rosa Pond at Blue Hole Park in Santa Rosa

Grants Riverwalk Pond in Grants (17 and younger)

Youth and Handicapped-Only Waters

Cowles Pond north of Pecos (smaller of two ponds)

Red River City East Kid's Pond in Red River (12 and younger)

Anglers Under Age 14, Senior and Handicapped-Only Waters

Laguna del Campo (Burns Canyon Lake) near Los Ojos Hatchery. Up to two parents/guardians may also fish if they are in direct supervision of a child or children younger than 14.

Attention: Off-Highway Vehicle Users

New Mexico has requirements for off-highway vehicles (OHV), designed to protect all citizens and ensure responsible use. OHVs include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles, dirt bikes and snowmobiles. It's the rider's responsibility to know the law.

New Mexico residents must have their OHVs registered with the Motor Vehicle Division to legally operate on public lands. Nonresidents whose OHVs are not registered or have an off-highway use permit from another state, must obtain a New Mexico nonresident OHV permit to legally operate on public lands in our state. Nonresident permits cost \$48 for a two-year permit or \$18 for a 90-day permit. Permits are available online at www.B4uRide.com, at any Department office or by calling (505) 476-8140.

All riders younger than 18 must wear a helmet with protective eye wear, complete an approved OHV safety course and obtain a safety permit, be visually supervised by a parent or guardian and only operate an age appropriate size-fit ATV. For information on approved safety training courses and size fit standards, go to www.B4uRide.com.

New Mexico Law prohibits the operation of OHVs on private lands or roads without the permission of the landowner or leaseholder. It's illegal to cut fences, harass livestock, ride within an earthen tank or interfere with persons engaged in agricultural practices. OHVs must be equipped with a U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrestor, not exceed 96 decibels and have a headlight and taillight if driven at night. It's illegal to operate an OHV while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. There is a 10 M.P.H. speed limit within 200 feet of a business, person, horseback rider or occupied dwelling. OHVs may not be operated on any paved street or highway, except to legally cross a road. All law enforcement officers have the authority to enforce OHV laws.

For more information, visit the OHV Program website: www.B4uRide.com or call (505) 476-8140 or (505) 476-8171.

Habitat Stamp and Sportfish Restoration

Habitat Improvement Program



Hunters, anglers and trappers who use U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands are required to purchase a \$5 Habitat Improvement Stamp helping fund habitat improvement projects statewide. This fiscal year, the program accumulated \$983,400 in "stamp" sales. The Department funded projects totaling \$978,724. Agency partners and sportsmen's groups contributed additional funding, bringing the total spent to \$3.0 million, completing 62 projects including:

- 59,396 acres of vegetative treatments
- 67.4 acres of riparian enhancements
- 45 in-stream structures for fish
- 2 road barriers to protect critical habitat from vehicle access
- 10.8 miles of obstructive fencing was removed or modified to permit wildlife movements
- 30 wildlife-watering sites
- 2 erosion control structures
- 3 population or habitat surveys
- 300 hours of extra law enforcement effort, and
- 1 parking area for waterfowl hunters
- 481 existing structures were maintained in this time frame.

Program partners are pursuing the development of habitat improvement plans at a landscape level. This effort will help managers identify and overcome wildlife's limiting factors and seek other funding partners to implement improvement projects.

Sportfish Restoration Program



Anglers financially assist many fisheries programs in New Mexico every time they purchase a fishing rod, reel, tackle box, lure, bait, fishing line, electronic fish finder, boat gasoline, or other sport fishing product.

Anglers' assistance comes from a 10% federal excise tax on fishing equipment that produces money for state fisheries programs. New Mexico's share is more than \$3 million annually.

Boaters also benefit from the purchase of equipment. States must spend 15 percent of the monies to develop and maintain boat facilities.

Hatchery renovation, boat ramps, public fishing easements, walleye stocking, lake rehabilitation, kids' fishing clinics, research projects, bass and trout stocking, and more have come from these dollars. You pay! You benefit!

Donation Certificate



Fish may be legally donated to another person with a Donation Certificate that states the name and address of the donor, the name and address of the recipient, the kind and number of

fish donated, license number of the donor, date, and county where the fish were caught, and the date, and place of donation.

Donated fish, given the same day they were caught, apply to the donor's daily bag limit.

I _____
 Address _____
 City and State _____
 Hereby convey to:
 Recipient's Name _____
 Address _____
 City and State _____
 The following game fish or parts:

Taken by me under NM Fishing License #: _____
 On _____ In _____
 Date County

Date of Transaction: _____
 Place of Transaction: _____
 Donor's Signature: _____

I affirm that the above information is true and correct. I understand it is unlawful to pre-date or otherwise falsify a certificate or donation.

Title VI Funding

Certain programs of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish receive federal funds from the US Department of the Interior. These programs are therefore subject to requirements of the New Mexico Human Rights Act and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibit discrimination because of ancestry, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or physical or mental handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please send a detailed description of the incident by certified mail to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. If you desire further information on Title VI, write: Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, US Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240. The Department of Game and Fish will schedule public meetings and operate facilities that are accessible to physically impaired persons. Reasonable accommodations will be made for other impairments, including hearing and sight. If special aids are required, call (505) 476-8027 or write to PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 at least three working days prior to the meeting date. To initiate a complaint, write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Title VI Funding

Ciertos programas del New Mexico Department of Game and Fish reciben fondos federales del US Department of the Interior. Estos programas son subyugados a requisitos de la ley de New Mexico Human Rights Act and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, que prohíben la discriminación por razones de ascendencia, sexo, raza, color, religión, origen nacional, edad o impedimento físico o mental. Si usted cree que ha sufrido discriminación en cualquier programa, actividad o comodidades, por favor envíe por correo certificado una descripción detallada al Department of Game and Fish. Si desea más información sobre Título VI, por favor escriba a: Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, US Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240. Al programar sus reuniones públicas, el Department of Game and Fish operará en facilidades que proveen acceso para personas con incapacidades físicas. Las personas con otras incapacidades, inclusive del oído y de la vista, recibirán acceso razonable a las reuniones. Si usted necesita algún auxiliar o ayuda especial, por favor llame al número (505) 476-8027 o escriba a Post Office Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504, por lo menos tres (3) días antes de la reunión. Para iniciar una queja, escriba a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

Operation Game Thief, Form 3

Turn In a Poacher, Earn a Reward!

Rewards for the arrest or charges against game violators are:

- \$750 for cases involving elk or bighorn sheep,
- \$500 for deer or oryx,
- \$350 for antelope,
- \$250 for turkey, bear, cougar, javelina, ibex, Barbary sheep, endangered species, small game, fish, raptors and furbearers.
- \$50 for cases where a warning citation is issued.

Call: **800-432-4263** to report poachers and remain anonymous.



Operation Game Thief

Operation Game Thief (OGT) continues to be a successful deterrent to wildlife law violators. Operation Game Thief was established in 1977 as a way to report game and fish violations. It allows the reporter to remain anonymous. The reward fund does not use tax or license fees. It comes from clubs organizations, businesses and from thousands of men and women who have contributed anywhere from a few to hundreds of dollars each.

Operation Game Thief needs your support. Please send a check payable to Operation Game Thief and mail it to the Department of Game and Fish, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Your donation is tax deductible. All the money is used to pay rewards in wildlife cases and promote the program.

During 2009/2010, the Department received \$16,243 in donations to Operation Game Thief. Conservation Officers investigated a total of 183 new cases that were generated as a result of calls to the OGT telephone number. The result from these tips led to 64 criminal charges. More than 28 convictions and \$4,180 in fines were levied because concerned citizens like yourself took the time to call in a tip for Conservation Officers to investigate. Operation Game Thief paid \$7,000 in rewards.

The State Game Commission revoked all hunting, fishing and trapping privileges of 872 people who failed to pay penalty assessment, 75 for big game violations and 277 people who failed to comply with the Parental Responsibility Act. In total, the Commission revoked 1,224 people of their hunting, fishing and trapping privileges. A total of \$34,100 in penalty assessments was collected.

Parental Responsibility Act

The New Mexico Parental Responsibility Act requires the State Game Commission revoke the recreational and professional licenses of anyone who does not comply with a court-ordered child support obligation.

The purpose of the act is to eliminate child support arrearage. This will help reduce the number of children living at or near the poverty level and decrease the financial obligation that falls to the state when parents do not provide for their children.

There are currently 4,349 individuals that have their hunting and fishing privileges suspended because of the Parental Responsibility Act. For more information about this law, please contact the Department's Law Enforcement Division at (505) 476-8065.

Instructions for Form 3 Over-the-Counter Licenses by Mail

All persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. Anyone who hunts protected game must have a license, regardless of age. All nonresidents must be licensed, even for hunting unprotected nongame species.

Do not use this form to apply for draw licenses or permits. Do not use this form to purchase a Deer OTC license until you know whether you were successful in the deer draw. Use Form 3 ONLY for the licenses listed. Over-the-Counter licenses, except ibex and nonresident furbearer, also are available from all license vendors in New Mexico.

- Print all answers legibly.
- Photocopies of Form 3 are acceptable but it must have an original signature.
- Check all applicable licenses.
- Submit fees listed on Form 3.
- Do not fax Form 3.
- Include a \$1 vendor fee with the total amount for all licenses.
- Mail orders for licenses should be received in our office at least 14 days before the license is needed.
- Pay only by credit card, check or money order made payable to Department of Game and Fish. Do not mail cash. Persons using any license purchased with a worthless check or credit card can be prosecuted for using a license unlawfully procured and are subject to a one-year revocation of all hunting and fishing privileges.
- You must sign Form 3.

Return Form 3 with your payment to any Department office or mail it to:

Special Hunts Office
Department of Game and Fish
PO Box 25125
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Fishing in the Northwest



Fishing Forecast

Navajo Lake: If you have a boat, Navajo is the place to go! Navajo offers a wide variety of game fish to choose from. The crappie fishing is good, especially during mid-May. Kokanee fishing should be good during the summer. Most shallow coves support a substantial bass population. Northern pike fishing should be good to excellent.

Heron Lake: It's hard to beat Heron for kokanee salmon. You also may try for lake trout while you're there. During recent surveys, a number of 20 pound plus lake trout were caught and released.

Middle Rio Grande Valley Drains: Drains are perfect for fishing during winter months, when everything else is closed or buried in snow. The major drains, from Bernalillo south to Belen, provide plenty of trout fishing for any skill level-from novice to advanced. They are stocked from November through March.

San Pedro Parks Wilderness: You have to hike in, but your hard work will pay off. Rio Grande cutthroat trout are abundant in the three main streams. The best time to fish will be after runoff and before the middle of summer, when water levels recede to low levels.

Bluewater Lake: Why not try hooking a monster tiger musky! You'll need special gear, not only for hooking, but also for the care you'll need to take when handling and carefully releasing these fish. Remember, there is a one musky bag limit, AND it needs to be over 40" long. Trout fishing should be fair to good this spring and summer. Some 20"-24" rainbows were caught during recent fish surveys.

Ramah Lake: In an effort to stabilize the fish community, largemouth bass were restocked last fall. They should be catchable this summer, but don't forget the 14" size limit. For good trout fishing, go early in the season. Rainbow will be stocked throughout the spring as water conditions allow. Green sunfish are extremely abundant. Do the lake a favor by taking some home with you.

Consumption advisories (Please see page 21 for an explanation of this table.)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)							CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	30+	
Abiquiu Lake	Brown trout		4	4	2				Mercury
	Carp			1	1				Mercury, PCBs
	Channel catfish		3	2	2	1			Mercury, PCBs
	Rainbow trout		No advisory		3				Mercury, PCBs
	Smallmouth bass		2	1					Mercury
	Walleye			1	1				Mercury
	Crappie	2							Mercury
Bluewater Lake	Tiger muskie							3	Mercury
Cochiti Lake	Carp				0	0			PCBs
	Channel catfish				1	1			Mercury, PCBs
	Crappie	2							Mercury
	Northern pike							1	Mercury
	Walleye					1/2			Mercury
El Vado Lake	White sucker		4						Mercury
Heron Lake	Kokanee salmon	No advisory	No advisory	4					Mercury
	Lake trout		No advisory	No advisory	No advisory		4		Mercury
	White sucker		4	4					Mercury
Lake Farmington	Channel catfish		3						Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4				No advisory		Mercury
Navajo Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Crappie	3	2						Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2		1/2				Mercury
	Northern pike					3		1/2	Mercury
	Rainbow trout			4					Mercury
	Smallmouth bass	3	2	1					Mercury
Rio Grande (Chama River to Otowi Bridge)	Carp				1/2	0			PCBs
	Channel catfish				0	0	0		PCBs
	River carpsucker				0				PCBs
Rio Grande (Otowi Bridge to Cochiti Lake)	Carp				0	0			PCBs
	Channel catfish			1/2	1/2				PCBs
Rio Grande (US 550 to I-25)	Channel catfish			3					PCBs
	White bass	0	0						PCBs

NO advisories have been issued for fish tested in the following waters: El Vado Lake (brown trout, kokanee salmon and rainbow trout), **Navajo Lake** (white sucker), **San Juan River** (rainbow trout).

Fishing in the Northeast



Fishing Forecast

Conchas Lake: Smallmouth bass, white bass and channel catfish populations remain good.

Ute Lake: White bass and walleye populations have increased and fishing should be excellent in 2011. There are lots of channel catfish. The smallmouth bass population consists of larger individuals.

Eagle Nest Lake: The rainbow trout population is good and larger fish should be available. The increased stocking of kokanee boosted the numbers and summer trolling and fall snagging should be excellent. Yellow perch up to 13" continue to do well in Eagle Nest Lake.

Pecos River: Brown trout in the upper canyon are abundant. The Department plan to stock 50,000 rainbow trout in the canyon. For a unique experience try the Pecos National Monument section. Visit: <http://www.nps.gov/peco/planyourvisit/fishing.htm>.

Red River: The Red River should be great in 2011. Latest surveys show high trout densities upstream of the Town of Red River. The middle Red River (Town of Red River to Questa) brown trout population remains low. Successful rainbow stocking has increased the overall trout numbers. The lower Red River near the Red River State Fish Hatchery should be good with some large trout available. The Department will stock 40,000 rainbows this year.

Clayton Lake: The walleye population is above average. During the 2010 egg collection, biologist captured and released three fish larger than the state record. There also are many bullhead catfish which provide great fishing for kids. The Department plans to stock 200,000 walleye fry and 20,000 rainbow trout.

Springer Lake: The northern pike population remains high, and a few fish up to 12 pounds were captured in the latest survey. Channel catfish population is above average and they offer a great opportunity for kids to catch fish.

Consumption advisories (Please see page 21 for an explanation of this table.)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)							CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	30+	
Cabresto Lake	Brook trout	4							Mercury
	Cutbow trout	4							Mercury
Charette Lakes	Black bullhead		1						Mercury
	White sucker		4	4					Mercury
	Yellow perch		1	1					Mercury
Clayton Lake	Bluegill	1							Mercury
	Channel catfish				4		1		Mercury
	Walleye				2	2	1/2		Mercury
Conchas Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Channel catfish			3	1				Mercury, PCBs
	Largemouth bass		3	2	1				Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		3	2					Mercury
	Walleye		3	2	1		1/2		Mercury
Eagle Nest Lake	Rainbow trout		No advisory	No advisory	4				Mercury
	White sucker		4						Mercury
Lake Maloya	White sucker	No advisory	4						Mercury
Pecos River (Headwaters to Pecos National Historical Park)									
	Brown trout	No advisory	No advisory	4					Mercury
Rio Grande (Embudo Creek to Chama River)									
	Carp				1	0			PCBs
	Channel catfish			1	1				PCBs
	White sucker			1					PCBs
Springer Lake	Black bullhead	4							Mercury
	Channel catfish			4	3		2	1/2	Mercury
	Northern pike						2	2	Mercury
	Yellow perch	4	4						Mercury
Storrie Lake	Carp			No advisory	No advisory	4			Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	2		1			Mercury
	White sucker		No advisory	4					Mercury
Stubblefield Lake	Black bullhead		4						Mercury
	Channel catfish				4	4			Mercury
	Walleye				2	2			Mercury
	Yellow perch		4						Mercury
Ute Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Channel catfish				2				Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2	1	1				Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2						Mercury
	Walleye			1	1	1/2	0		Mercury

NO advisories have been issued for fish tested in the following waters: Canjilon Lakes (brook trout, rainbow trout), **Charette Lakes** (rainbow trout), **Eagle Nest Lake** (kokanee salmon), **Lake Maloya** (rainbow trout), **Maxwell Lakes** (rainbow trout, channel catfish), **Pecos River** (white sucker), **Shuree Ponds** (rainbow trout), **Springer lake** (carp), **Stubblefield Lake** (white sucker).

Fishing in the Southwest



Fishing Forecast

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing should be fair for channel catfish, largemouth bass and bluegills. Fishing should be good for rainbows from November-March.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing should be good for channel cats, largemouth bass and bluegill throughout spring and summer. Fishing should be good for rainbows from November-March.

Burn Lake: It will be stocked several times this summer with 1.5 pound channel catfish. Concentrate your fishing at night or late evening. It also will be stocked with rainbow trout in the winter.

Caballo Lake: The lake holds a good population of walleye in the 15-22 inch range with blue and channel catfish ranging from 10-20 inches.

Elephant Butte Lake: Current lake conditions appear to favor largemouth bass. Fish for them early morning and late evening from spring to early summer. White bass fishing will be fair throughout the lake during late spring and summer. Expect to find fewer striped bass,

but some will be larger than 30 inches. Expect to find more blue catfish at the north end of the lake and channel catfish at the southern end of the lake. The walleye population is fair. The typical size is 15-22 inches.

Escondido Lake: It will be stocked this summer with 1.5 pound channel catfish. Concentrate your fishing at night or late evening. It also will be stocked with rainbow trout in the winter.

Lake Roberts: Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegill will be good from spring to early summer. During winter months, fishing for stocked rainbow trout should be good.

Quemado Lake: Fishing at Quemado Lake will be good for stocked rainbow trout throughout the year, but will slow in the summer when water temperatures increase. Tiger musky are available throughout the year. There are two new water circulators in the lake to help control algal blooms in the summer.

Snow Lake: Fishing for stocked rainbow trout will be best from November-March. Expect fishing to be slowest in the summer.

Safe to eat? Consider these guidelines

Tests have shown that many of New Mexico's waters are contaminated with mercury, PCBs or in some cases DDT. To help those who fish to make informed decisions as to what they safely can eat, the New Mexico Environment Department, the New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish have prepared fish consumption advisories. The occasional consumer of fish from these waters is at little risk. However, ingestion of contaminants at high levels found in some of these fish over a long period of time could result in health problems.

The advisories presented on the following pages are only guidelines and relate only to fish consumption. There are no contaminant-related health risks from camping, swimming or boating in these waters. Handling fish will not result in exposure to dangerous contaminant levels.

Things to remember when using the charts:

- The charts list state waters, fish species, fish lengths and

corresponding recommendations for maximum numbers of 8 ounce meals of fish a person safely can consume in one month.

- Missing sizes mean no fish in those sizes were tested. However, because contaminants accumulate in fish, older (larger) fish tend to have more contaminants in their bodies.
- Eating the maximum amount of contaminated fish of one species means you should not eat any more contaminated fish of any species for a month. "No advisory" means you can eat as many fish as you want.

• "0" means that these fish are not recommended for eating.

- The numbers represent consumption limits only and not bag limits.

If you have questions about these advisories, please call the Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau (505) 827-2470 or toll-free at (866) 885-2997 or visit: <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/SWQB/advisories/index.html>. If you have questions about health concerns related to consumption of contaminants, call the Department of Health toll-free at (888) 878-8992.

Consumption advisories (Please read instructions above to understand this table.)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)							CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	30+	
Bear Canyon Dam	Bluegill	4							Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	4					Mercury
	Crappie	1/2							Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4	3					Mercury
Bill Evans lake	Bluegill	4							Mercury
	Largemouth bass			2					Mercury, PCBs
Caballo Lake	Blue catfish		4	4					Mercury
	Channel catfish			2	2	2			Mercury
	Crappie		3						Mercury
	River carpsucker			4	4				Mercury
	Smallmouth buffalo				2	2	1		Mercury
	Walleye		4	2	2	1	1		Mercury
	White bass		2	1				Mercury	
Elephant Butte Lake	Carp			2	1				PCBs
	Channel catfish			1	1	1/2			Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2	1	1				Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		1						Mercury, PCBs
	Striped bass					1	1/2		Mercury
	White bass		1	1/2					Mercury
Lake Roberts	Largemouth bass			3	2				Mercury

NO advisories have been issued for fish tested in the following waters: Lake Roberts (bluegill).

Fishing in the Southeast



Fishing Forecast

Santa Rosa Lake: Surveys show good numbers of large walleye. Fishing should be excellent for large crappie. Largemouth and smallmouth bass numbers have been stable and should increase in size from previous years. The quality of fishing at Santa Rosa Lake is dependent on lake levels. Check water levels before planning any fishing trip. The prey species in Santa Rosa are crawfish and gizzard shad. Try crawfish imitations in the spring changing to shad imitations in the summer and fall.

Sumner Lake: Surveys indicate a large population of walleye. Fishing should be good April and May. Smallmouth and largemouth bass fishing is expected to be good as well. Try fishing top water in early summer for fun action. Check lake levels and water releases since they can impact fishing success. Shore anglers should have better success during the spring and fall before and after high summer water temperatures push fish into deeper water. The main prey in Sumner Lake is crawfish and gizzard shad. Try crawfish imitations in the spring changing to shad imitations in the summer and fall.

Brantley Lake: Fish numbers remain low due to toxic golden algae blooms. There have been fewer algae blooms this past winter, so fishing could improve. If you go, concentrate on the upper portions of the lake for channel catfish and white bass. Brantley is catch and release fishing only.

The Ruidoso River: The Ruidoso River is still recovering from the flooding of 2008. Fishing may be fair for small brown trout and good for rainbows. Concentrate on areas away from construction zones where the stream has been disturbed. Habitat restoration projects are being planned and should be implemented soon.

Grindstone Lake: Stocking of rainbow trout has been sporadic the last few years due to water quality problems. During the summer, try fishing early in the day (before the sun hits the water) and cast to rising fish. Recently stocked channel catfish should be increasing in size and fishing for them should improve.

Big Catfish: Numerous waters around the Southeast will be stocked this summer with 1.5 pound channel catfish. Concentrate your fishing at night or late evening. Most types of catfish bait will work. Be patient and quiet for better success. Please release small catfish. The bag limit is 2 catfish in these waters.

Winter Trout: Starting in November many waters around Southeast New Mexico will be stocked with catchable rainbow trout. Most prepared trout baits work well but do not forget flies on a casting bubble, small spinners, and cast master-type lures.



Consumption advisories (Please see page 21 for an explanation of this table.)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Avalon Lake		No data is available, but data from upstream and downstream suggests that substantial contamination is likely.						DDT, PCBs
Brantley Lake	All species	Catch and release only by order of State Game Commission						DDT
Carlsbad (Lake Carlsbad and Bataan Lake)								
Municipal Lakes	Carp			0	0			PCBs
	Channel catfish			1/2	0			DDT, PCBs
	Spotted bass		1					PCBs
Pecos River (US 70 to north boundary of Brantley WMA)								
	Carp		3	1				DDT, PCBs
	Channel catfish		2	2	2			DDT, PCBs
Pecos River (Brantley Wildlife Management Area)								
	All species	0 catch and release only by order of State Game Commission						DDT
Pecos River (Carlsbad Municipal Lakes to Texas border)								
	Carp		1	1/2	1/2			PCBs
	Channel catfish			0				PCBs
Santa Rosa Lake								
	Bluegill		3					Mercury
	Channel catfish			3	1/2	1/2		Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2					Mercury
	Walleye			1	1/2	1/2	1/2	Mercury
Sumner Lake								
	Carp		4	2				Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	2	2	1		Mercury
	Flathead catfish		4		2			Mercury
	Walleye			2	1	1/2	0	Mercury
	White bass		3	1/2				Mercury



Protect our resources

Your actions can help keep disease, invaders at bay



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

New Mexico's precious and fragile fisheries are being threatened by a host of invasive and unwelcome species, many of them deposited in our clean waters by anglers.

By practicing a few common-sense techniques, anglers can take the lead in staving off attacks from whirling disease, rock snot, chytrid

fungus, zebra and quagga mussels, and New Zealand mudsnails in our lakes and streams.

By paying attention to how – and especially where – we release our catches, baits or pet fish, we also can protect native and sport fish from invasive threats such as northern pike, goldfish and white suckers.

Check, clean, dry

It only takes one spore or one cell to contaminate a stream or lake with a disease or invasive species. Anglers can prevent spreading invasives from one water to another by cleaning and drying waders and other equipment before fishing somewhere else.



Didymo, also called rock snot, can smother stream bottoms and threaten fish habitat. It has been found in the Pecos River.

- **Check:** Before leaving a river, stream or lake, remove all obvious clumps of algae and plant material from fishing gear, waders, clothing & footwear, canoes & kayaks, and anything else that has been in the water and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the site.

- **Clean:** Soak/spray and scrub boats and all other hard items for at least one minute in either very hot (140°F) water; a 2 percent bleach solution, or a 5

percent dishwashing detergent solution. Absorbent materials such as clothes and felt soles on waders should be soaked for at least 40 minutes in very hot water (140°F), or 30 minutes in hot water (115°F) with 5 percent dishwashing detergent.

- **Dry:** If cleaning is not practical, after the item is completely dry to touch, wait an additional 48 hours before contact or use in any other waterway.



Goldfish were outcompeting trout and other game fish at Quemado and Bluewater Lakes.

No rogue stocking, please

While it may be tempting to release an unwanted goldfish or introduce a popular game fish into another fishery. The newcomers may multiply so fast that they displace the game fish, which happened at Quemado and Bluewater lakes when goldfish were

introduced. Bait buckets of unused live minnows can be the beginnings of new populations of white suckers and other unwanted species. Most recently, northern pike released in Eagle Nest Lake threaten one of the state's best trout fisheries.

Preserve New Mexico's natives

Populations of native sport fish such as Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout can be spoiled by the introduction of one non-native trout that will interbreed or outcompete the natives. Anglers can help sustain



Rio Grande cutthroat

pure-strain native populations by making sure no non-native fish are released in native streams. Fish either should be kept for consumption, where legal, or released in the same spot they were caught.



Don't move a mussel

Zebra and quagga mussels are among the most serious threats to U.S. fisheries and waterways. Spreading rapidly across the country by hitching rides on boats, motors and equipment, the microscopic to 2-inch long mussels can ruin motors, clog waterworks and cut hands and

feet with their razor-sharp shells. Once established, the mussels are impossible to remove. Boaters can help prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels by thoroughly inspecting and cleaning their boat and all equipment, draining all water, and drying everything, including motors and trailers, before entering another water.