

Red, Green or Xmas,
Special Trout Waters are easy
to identify (page 16).



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

2018–2019 NEW MEXICO FISHING



RULES & INFO

Bass, Catfish, Crappie, Perch, Pike, Salmon, Sunfish, Tiger Muskie, Trout, Walleye

wildlife.state.nm.us

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations



One of New Mexico's favorite pastimes just got better

Last year, anglers spent more than 3 million days enjoying New Mexico's diverse fishing opportunities. This year brings even more opportunities to appreciate one of New Mexico's favorite pastimes.

We have improved our Special Trout Water program, giving it a New Mexico flavor. The Red Chile, Green Chile, and Christmas Special Trout Waters offer rules that are easier to follow and provide quality angling experiences. Several new waters in the program promote conservation of New Mexico's two native trout, the Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

This year, we've adopted Trophy Bass Waters to focus management on growing trophy-sized largemouth and increasing your chance at catching that once-in-a-lifetime fish. This new designation, along with bass stocked from the recently expanded warm water facility at Rock Lake State Fish Hatchery, will provide fishing opportunities new to New Mexico.

With your help, we have been successful in keeping New Mexico's waters free of aquatic invasive species. Please continue to keep our waters free from these destructive pests. Remember to clean, drain, and dry your boat and fishing equipment and keep our fish populations healthy.

Fishing is a wonderful experience that can be enjoyed year-round. Please get outdoors and experience the abundant opportunities. I hope you have a successful fishing year.

From one angler to another, good luck!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexandra Sandoval". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alexandra Sandoval, Director

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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Mission of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

To conserve, regulate, propagate and protect the wildlife and fish within the State of New Mexico, using a flexible management system that ensures sustainable use for public food supply, recreation and safety, and to provide for off-highway motor vehicle recreation that recognizes cultural, historic and resource values while ensuring public safety.

New Mexico State Game Commissioners

P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504

Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman	Albuquerque
Bill Montoya, Vice Chairman	Alto
Craig Peterson	Farmington
Ralph Ramos	Las Cruces
Elizabeth Atkinson Ryan	Roswell
Robert Ricklefs	Cimarron
Dick Salopek	Las Cruces

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507 1-888-248-6866

Alexandra Sandoval, Director
 Donald Jaramillo, Deputy Director
 Chris Chadwick, Assistant Director
 James Comins, Assistant Director
 Robert Griego, Colonel – Field Operations

Regional Offices

Northwest Office: 3841 Midway Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87109 (505) 222-4700
 Southwest Office: 2715 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88011 (575) 532-2100
 Northeast Office: 215 York Canyon Road, Raton, NM 87740 (575) 445-2311
 Southeast Office: 1912 W. Second Street, Roswell, NM 88201 (575) 624-6135

Online Licenses, Applications and Harvest Reporting

License Sales and Applications <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us>
 Harvest Reporting www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Important Telephone Numbers

General Information, License Sales and Harvest Reporting 1-888-248-6866
 Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Information (505) 222-4712
Operation Game Thief (OGT) **1-800-432-4263**
 24-hour Depredation Hotline 1-888-727-4883
 TDD (number for hearing impaired) (505) 476-8143

Important Reminders

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Buy a License Online or by Telephone

Licenses and permits can be purchased online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us. The NMDGF Information Center is open Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., except holidays, to answer questions and assist with purchases: 1-888-248-6866. Extended hours for the new license year are Saturday, March 31, and Sunday, April 1, from 8 a.m.–1 p.m. Licenses and permits also may be purchased at local vendors or any NMDGF office.

50% Discounts for Resident Military and Veterans

Residents of New Mexico who are active duty military or veterans can receive 50% discounts on licenses, permits and stamps. See page 4.

Dates to Remember

June 2 New Mexico Free Fishing Day. Fish without a license (all other fishing rules apply).

September 22. . . New Mexico Free Fishing Day. Fish without a license (all other fishing rules apply).

What's New



Red, Green or Xmas: New Special Trout Waters

Keeping *New Mexico True*[™], new designations for Special Trout Waters are easy to identify. Signs with the new Red Chile Water, Green Chile Water and Xmas Chile Water symbols are posted at each location and list bag limits and tackle restrictions. See pages 16–19 for complete information and locations.

No Longer Special Trout Waters: Doctor Creek, Goose Lake, Laguna del Campo, Red River Hatchery Pond, Rio Grande downstream of Elephant Butte Reservoir, Rio Pueblo and the central and kid's ponds at Tingley Beach are no longer designated Special Trout Waters. Reduced bag limits still apply in some of these waters. Specific information is listed on pages 13–14.

New Winter Trout Waters: Alumni Pond, Corona Pond, Estancia Pond, Perch Lake, Rancho Grande Ponds, Roswell Kid's Pond, and Rio Grande downstream of Elephant Butte Reservoir.

New Trophy Bass Waters: Bill Evans Lake, Clayton Lake, and Lake Roberts now have reduced bag limit of two (2) largemouth bass. Spearfishing and bowfishing for largemouth bass in these waters is prohibited (pages 6 and 25).

New Summer Catfish Waters: Liam Knight Pond, Pecos River within Villanueva State Park, Rancho Grande Ponds, and Timberon Ponds.

Aztec Pond: Now designated as Regular Trout Water.

Grants Riverwalk Pond: Now open to all anglers.

Brantley Lake: Catch-and-release restriction lifted, statewide bag and possession limits now apply.

Free Mobile App Available: Free mobile app with easy access to maps, fishing reports, license purchases, rules and regulations, Operation Game Thief and "New Mexico Wildlife" magazine at: <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/home/mobile-app/>

License Fees

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Licenses, stamps and validations may be purchased online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us, toll-free: **1-888-248-6866**, and over the counter at any license vendor or NMDGF office.

License Type	Resident	Nonresident
Annual Fishing	\$25.00	\$56.00
One-day Fishing	\$12.00	\$12.00
Five-day Fishing	\$24.00	\$24.00
Junior Annual Fishing (age 12–17)	\$5.00	\$15.00
Senior Annual Fishing (age 65–69)	\$8.00	NA
70 Years and Older Annual Fishing	Free	NA
Free license available to New Mexico residents only and does not require a Habitat Stamp, Habitat Management & Access Validation or Second Rod Validation. If obtained at a license vendor, a \$1 vendor fee may apply.		
Handicapped Annual Fishing	\$8.00	NA
Second Rod Validation	\$4.00	\$4.00
Game-hunting & Fishing	\$30.00	NA
Squirrel and game birds (other than turkey) and fishing		
Junior Game-hunting & Fishing	\$15.00	NA
Squirrel and game birds (other than turkey) and fishing		
Senior and Handicapped Game-hunting & Fishing	\$20.00	NA
Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing	\$10.00	NA
Habitat Stamp	\$5.00	\$5.00
Mandatory on all U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management properties.		
Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV)	\$4.00	\$4.00
Not required for individuals 17 years of age and younger or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege (page 4). HMAV does not replace the Habitat Stamp.		
OTC Duplicate License (if license is lost or destroyed)	NC	NC
If obtained at a license vendor, a \$1 vendor fee may apply.		

A vendor fee of \$1 per transaction applies for all purchases.

NA = Not Available.

NC = No Charge.

License Information

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Licenses, Stamps and Validations: Online and Over-the-Counter

While fishing in New Mexico, anglers 12 years and older must possess a valid New Mexico Fishing License or Game Hunting & Fishing License. The license year begins April 1 and ends March 31 the following year. Licenses are valid for one license year only. A New Mexico Fishing License is not required on tribal reservations and private Class-A lakes.

Licenses not required for New Mexico resident and nonresident anglers 11 years of age or younger.

Junior Fishing Licenses are available to New Mexico resident and nonresident anglers 12–17 years of age.

Senior Fishing Licenses are available to New Mexico resident anglers 65–69 years of age.

Free Fishing Licenses for New Mexico residents 70 years and older are available online, by phone and at license vendors and all NMDGF offices. Free Fishing Licenses are not available to nonresidents. Free licenses for 100%-disabled veterans (page 4) are available by application through the NMDGF Headquarters in Santa Fe, NM (page iv). These free fishing licenses do not require a Habitat Stamp, Habitat Management & Access Validation or a Second Rod Validation.

Handicapped Fishing Licenses are available to New Mexico residents with a permanent disability in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Applicants must have one or more disabilities that substantially limit major life activities. These fishing licenses require a Habitat Stamp, if applicable, and Habitat Management & Access Validation.

Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV)

In addition to a New Mexico Fishing License or Game-hunting & Fishing License, once each license year (April 1–March 31) anglers must purchase a Habitat Management & Access Validation. The HMAV is not required for anglers 17 years of age or younger, or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege.

Habitat Stamp

To fish U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands in New Mexico, anglers 12 years of age and older must purchase a Habitat Stamp. Stamps are valid for one license year (April 1–March 31). This stamp is not required for anglers 11 years of age or younger or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege. Funds from the sale of the Habitat Stamp are used for improvement projects, including building fish cover, removing sediment from reservoirs and ponds, monitoring and improving water quality, preventing erosion and restoring lakes and trout streams.

Second Rod Validation

To fish with two rods, anglers 12 years of age and older must purchase a Second Rod Validation. This validation is not required in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege. All other license regulations, such as bag and possession limits, remain the same. Three rods cannot be used at anytime.

Gila Trout Fishing Permit Free for Select Locations

A Gila Trout Fishing Permit is required to fish Black Canyon, Gilita Creek, Mineral Creek, Mogollon Creek, Sapillo Creek, West Fork Gila River (headwaters to East Fork confluence), Whitewater Creek, and Willow Creek (including tributaries). This permit is free and available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us, by phone, and at all license vendors and NMDGF offices.

License Information

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

New Mexico Residency Requirements

To qualify for New Mexico resident fees, an individual must meet one of the following criteria.

1. A United States citizen who has been domiciled in New Mexico for a period of not less than 90 days immediately preceding the date of application for a license and who does not claim residency elsewhere for any purpose. **Temporary or seasonal residents**, who maintain a primary residence outside of New Mexico, **do not qualify** for resident licenses.
2. A citizen of another country who is legally in the United States and can verify residence in New Mexico for 90 days immediately preceding his/her license application.
3. A student who has attended an educational institution in New Mexico while residing in the state for at least one full term preceding the application for a license. Students also must present a certificate or letter from the institution verifying their enrollment and attendance.
4. A member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is assigned permanently to a military installation located within New Mexico and who presents with his/her application a certificate or letter that verifies the military assignment and is signed by the commanding officer.
5. A member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is officially stationed at a military reservation located partially in New Mexico and an adjacent state and who presents with his/her application a certificate or letter that verifies the military assignment and is signed by the commanding officer. This applies only for draw-hunt licenses in New Mexico on the military reservation only. The 50% resident military and veteran discount does not apply.

Military and Veteran Licenses

50% Discount for Resident Active Military and Veterans

50% discounts on all licenses, permits and stamps are available to New Mexico residents who are active duty military or veterans. The discount may be claimed by applying for or purchasing any license, permit or stamp online, by telephone or at any license vendor. Residents claiming this discount must be able to provide proof of active duty military or veteran status upon request. **Discount does not apply to:** license vendor fees or the Resident Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing license. For specific eligibility requirements, see 'Glossary' on pages 44 and 46 or visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Free Licenses for 100% Disabled Veteran New Mexico Residents

New Mexico residents who are 100% disabled veterans of the armed services are eligible for a free lifetime Game-hunting & Fishing License. Disabled veterans may apply to NMDGF for a Disabled Veteran card, which allows the holder to fish, hunt small game and receive a deer hunting license. Card holders do not need to buy or possess a Habitat Stamp or Habitat Management & Access Validation when fishing or hunting small game or deer. If trapping or if hunting turkey or other big-game species, the Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation are required.

Disabled Veterans Game-hunting & Fishing License

Residents who are disabled veterans of the armed services, but do not meet the 100%-disabled qualification, are eligible for a \$10 Game-hunting & Fishing License (\$20 savings). Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing Licenses are available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us, at local vendors and NMDGF offices and by telephone. A Habitat Management & Access Validation and Habitat Stamp, if applicable (page 3), are required with the Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing License.

License Information

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Military Rehabilitation Fishing License

Members or veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in rehabilitation programs that include the learning and practice of fishing skills are eligible for free fishing licenses. The rehabilitation program must be sponsored by the federal government or a nonprofit organization authorized by the federal government and it must be under the direction of a military or federal Veteran's Administration rehabilitation center. The Habitat Management & Access Validation and the Habitat Stamp are not required. For more information, please telephone toll-free: 1-888-248-6866.

License Refunds and Transfers

New Mexico Fishing Licenses and Game-hunting and Fishing Licenses are nontransferable and nonrefundable. For more information, telephone the NMDGF Information Center toll-free: 1-888-248-6866.

License Information Is Public Record

Pursuant to the New Mexico Inspection of Public Records Act, Sections 14-2-1 et. seq. NMSA 1978, all information provided when applying for licenses and permits is public record and must be disclosed to anyone when properly requested except as provided by law.

Parental Responsibility Act

The Parental Responsibility Act requires the New Mexico State Game Commission to revoke the recreational and professional licenses of anyone who does not comply with court-ordered child support obligations. The purpose is to discourage parental neglect of children by suspending hunting and fishing privileges until failure to pay court-ordered child support has been corrected. For more information, telephone NMDGF Field Operations: (505) 476-8065 or toll-free: 1-888-248-6866.

Operation Game Thief (OGT): Report Poaching!



What is poaching? Poaching is any illegal act relating to the taking of wildlife. It can be as simple as using bait in a Red Chile Water or as egregious as killing an endangered species. Game wardens depend on honest, ethical people like you to report any suspected illegal activity as soon as you can.

What should be reported? Any activity you believe or suspect is illegal that relates to wildlife can be reported to OGT, and all crimes will be investigated. Many cases are solved each year because someone cared enough about wildlife and ethical hunting, fishing or trapping to report something they didn't think was right. Most of these cases would never have been solved, if someone hadn't cared enough to report them.

Who reports poaching? Nearly all poaching is reported by other hunters, anglers or trappers, though everyone enjoying New Mexico's outdoors is encouraged to report suspicious activity.

What is Operation Game Thief? OGT is a reporting hotline to help stop poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking. OGT is funded strictly through donations from individuals and organizations (not from tax or license dollars). To contribute a tax-deductible donation please call 1-800-432-4263. Rewards of up to \$750 are paid for information leading to the arrest of poachers. OGT's toll-free hotline, 1-800-432-4263, is available 24-7-365. You can remain anonymous, and every call or report will be investigated. Violations can also be reported online at: <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/public/ogt>.

General Regulations

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Prohibited and Illegal

Laws of the State of New Mexico prohibit: polluting streams, lakes, banks and other waters; leaving a fire unattended or improperly handling fire; littering; and to recklessly or carelessly handle a firearm.

It is illegal to:

- Fish, hunt or trap on private land without possessing valid written permission from the landowner.
- Fish without a license in your possession if 12 years of age or older.
- Use a license that has been issued to another person.
- Fish with more than one rod without a Second Rod Validation if 12 years of age or older or fish with more than two rods at any time.
- Release baitfish into fishing waters.
- Sell, offer for sale, or purchase game fish or parts taken in New Mexico.
- Possess game fish without a valid license, donation certificate or other evidence the fish were legally taken (see page 39 for a donation certificate).
- Stock fish or fish eggs in any waters without a permit from the NMDGF.
- Import live fish or fish eggs into New Mexico without a permit from NMDGF.
- Take game fish by net, seine, trap, grappling or other means not permitted by regulations.
- Use mechanical or electrical devices capable of catching or killing game fish, except as permitted by regulation.
- Take game fish by snagging, except kokanee salmon during Special Kokanee Snagging Season.
- Fish in any Class A lake without possessing written consent from the owner.
- Fish with more than two flies on a single line when fishing the Special Trout Water of the San Juan River (page 9, 'New Mexico Fishing Waters' map).
- Anglers must return and release immediately all threatened and endangered species of fish except for Gila trout in waters where designated (pages 14–19).

Further information and complete Laws of New Mexico for hunting and fishing are available online:
http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/_title19/title19.htm

Bow Fishing and Spearfishing

Game-fish species can be taken legally by bow fishing and spearfishing in lakes and reservoirs open to angling. Bag and length limits for bow fishing and spearfishing are the same as angling. **Bow fishing and spearfishing are not allowed in any Special Trout Water, Trophy Bass Water (for largemouth bass), river, or stream.** Arrows for bow fishing must be attached by string, line or rope to facilitate fish retrieval. Crossbows may not be used. For spearfishing, legal means of taking include spears, gigs and spears with barbs discharged under the surface of the water. Local ordinances or prohibitions may apply at a specific location or water, and the local managing agency should be contacted prior to bow fishing or spearfishing. Snorkelers and SCUBA divers should consult New Mexico State Park regulations prior to spearfishing.

Criminal Trespass

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Knowing Makes All the Difference

It is trespassing if . . .

- A person enters private property that is legally posted and they do not have written permission to be there. This includes stream and river bottoms located in private property.
- A person enters private property even though they know that permission to be there has been denied or withdrawn. This applies whether the property is posted or not.
- A person remains on private property after they have been asked to leave by the landowner or person in control of the property. This applies whether the property is posted or not.
- A person enters or stays on property owned or controlled by the State knowing that permission to do so has been denied.

It is not trespassing if . . .

- A person with a valid license enters private property whose owner has entered into an agreement with the New Mexico Game and Fish to allow the public to lawfully hunt, trap or fish.
- A person with a valid license is hunting on private property with a private land license that was issued for that particular property.
- A person with a valid license is lawfully hunting, fishing or trapping on state trust land that is included in an easement between New Mexico State Game Commission and the Commissioner of Public Lands.

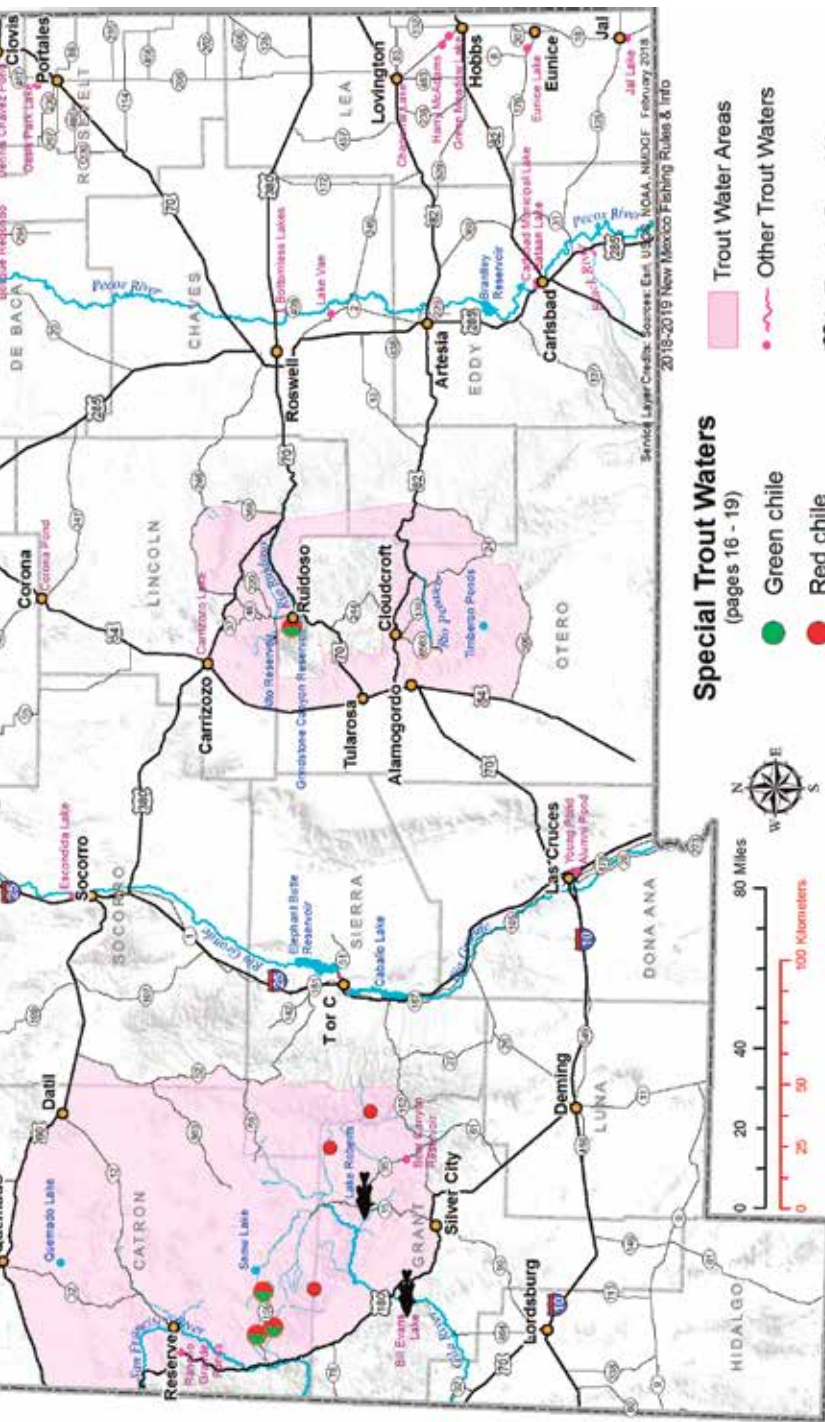
Penalties

- Criminal trespass under Chapter 30-14-1, NMSA 1978 is a misdemeanor.
- Fines up to \$1,000 and up to 364 days in jail, and up to twice the value of damaged property.
- If a person trespasses while involved in hunting, trapping or fishing activities he/she will have his/her hunting, trapping and fishing privileges revoked for at least three years.
- If a person damages any private property while trespassing he/she will be civilly responsible to the owner for the damages for twice the value of the damage.
- If a person removes, damages or tampers with a "No Trespass" sign he/she is guilty of a petty misdemeanor which could result in a fine of \$500 and six months in jail, unless the damage to the signs is more than \$1,000 whereupon he/she will be guilty of a misdemeanor which could result in a fine of \$1,000 and 364 days in the county jail.

Leave No Trace. Keep New Mexico Beautiful.

Pack It In, Pack It Out! Fishing line, hooks and other debris left onshore can become deadly hazards to fish, birds and other wildlife. Help protect our wildlife by keeping our lakes, streams and waterways clean. Pick up all trash and properly dispose it or pack it out!





Special Trout Waters

(pages 16 - 19)

- Green chile
- Red chile
- ● Xmas

Trout Water Areas

~ Other Trout Waters

➔ Trophy Bass Waters
(page 25)

Service Layer Credits: Source: Esri, USGS, NOAA, NADOP, February 2018
2018-2019 New Mexico Fishing Rules & Info

Coldwater Game Fish

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Rainbow Trout

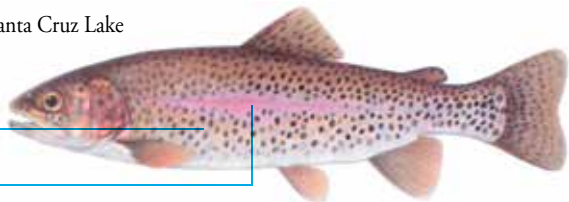
N.M. Record: March 13 '99, Santa Cruz Lake

Weight: 31 lb., 12-½ oz.

Length: 33-½" Girth: 24-¼"

Numerous black spots on a light body

Pink streak along sides



Brown Trout

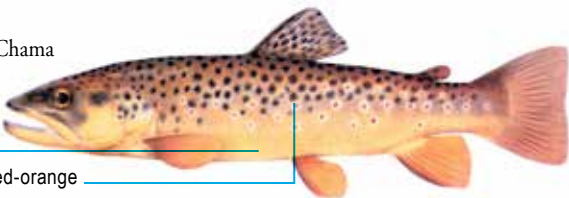
N.M. Record: July 9 '46, Rio Chama

Weight: 20 lb., 4 oz.

Length: 34-½" Girth: 21"

Abdomen usually yellow

Large black spots and smaller red-orange spots with halos on sides



Brook Trout

N.M. Record: September 23 '96, Hidden Lake / Simms

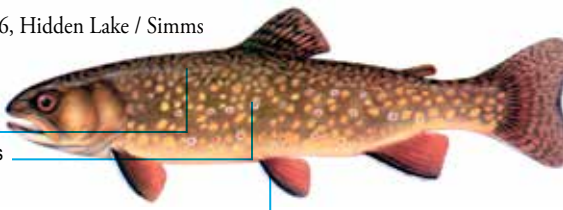
Weight: 5 lb., 0 oz.

Length: 21" Girth: 14-½"

Light wavy lines on back

Yellow spots and small red spots with halos on sides

White edge on front of lower fins



Lake Trout

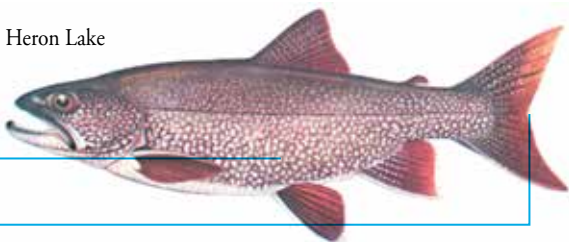
N.M. Record: February 24 '99, Heron Lake

Weight: 31 lb., 6 oz.

Length: 41-½" Girth: 26"

Light to dark green with white, irregular spots on head, body, and most of tail

Indented tail fin



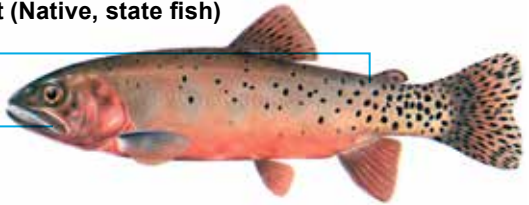
Life-size reproductions of New Mexico's record game fish are on public display at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish headquarters in Santa Fe.

Cutthroat Trout

N.M. Record: June 27 '81, Latir Lakes, Weight: 10 lb., 2 oz., Length: 24-5/8" Girth: 18-1/2"

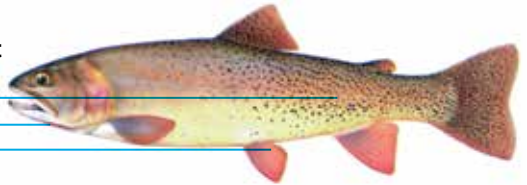
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (Native, state fish)

Large, dark irregular spots
Red slash mark below jaw



Snake River Cutthroat Trout

Small, profuse spots
Orange-red slash mark below jaw
Red-orange lower fins



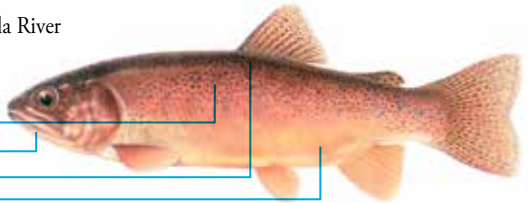
Gila Trout (Native)

N.M. Record: November 23 '07, Gila River

Weight: 4 lb., 8 oz.

Length: 20" Girth: 13-3/4"

Small black spots
Yellow slash mark below jaw
Dark olive-green along back
Golden-yellow belly



Kokanee Salmon

N.M. Record: October 13 '00, Navajo Lake

Weight: 4 lb., 0 oz.

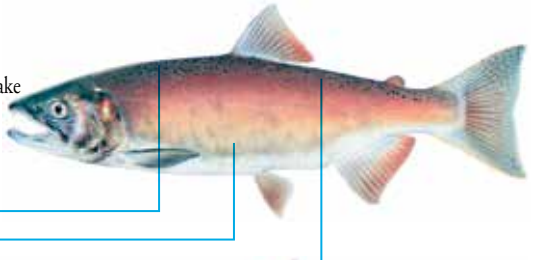
Length: 24" Girth: 13-1/2"

Female and non-spawning male:

Blue-green along back

Silvery sides

Few spots



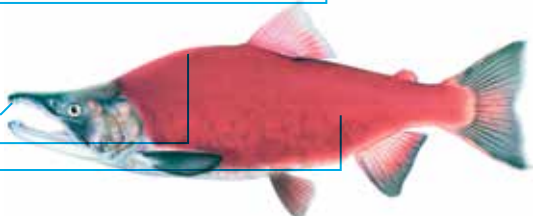
Kokanee Salmon

Spawning Male

Long snout

Arched back

Sides turn pink-red to orange



Coldwater Game Fish

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Where To Find Coldwater Species

Brook Trout

Brook trout are uncommon in New Mexico. Most brook trout populations occur in smaller and more difficult to access streams around the state. Two of the more easily accessible streams to consider include Cabresto Creek above Questa and Tecolote Creek near Las Vegas. Brook trout also may be found at Cabresto Lake and Hopewell Lake.

Brown Trout

Several wild populations of brown trout occur throughout New Mexico. The Rio Grande Gorge supports a thriving population of brown trout in a wild setting. Other waters include the Pecos River, San Juan River, Rio Guadalupe in the Jemez and the Cimarron River below Eagle Nest Dam.

Gila Trout

A number of streams in southwest New Mexico are open to Gila trout angling. Willow Creek near Reserve, N.M. and Black Canyon in the East Fork Gila watershed are easily accessible and great places to spend the day fishing for a native Gila trout. For anglers who are up for a hike, Mogollon Creek in the mainstem Gila watershed provides opportunities to catch a wild Gila trout and enjoy some beautiful scenery. Gila trout are also stocked in Sapillo Creek below the Highway 15 bridge, in the West Fork Gila River and during cooler months in the Gila Forks area.

Kokanee

Low reservoir levels continue to be an issue at Heron Lake and are expected to impact kokanee fishing again this summer. Navajo Lake may provide a more favorable alternative for trolling during the 2018–19 season. Eagle Nest Lake also is stocked every year with kokanee.

Lake Trout

In the 1980s, lake trout were introduced at Heron Lake and since have established a self-sustaining population. Fishing is usually best during spring and fall months.

Rainbow Trout

NMDGF stocks rainbow trout in a number of waters to provide angling opportunity. The Albuquerque area drains and Tingley Beach are stocked weekly during the winter months. The Red River, San Juan River and Cimarron River, as well as Monastery Lake, should provide good opportunities for rainbow trout.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

Anglers can pursue native Rio Grande cutthroat trout in many of New Mexico's streams, rivers and lakes. Streams such as Comanche Creek in the Valle Vidal, Jack's Creek in the Pecos watershed and Alamitos Creek in the Rio Pueblo watershed are easily accessible from roads. For adventurous anglers, hiking up the Rio de las Vacas, Rio Santa Barbara or the upper Pecos watershed can provide great fishing in some of the most beautiful landscapes in the State. Rio Grande cutthroat trout are also stocked in New Mexico's high mountain lakes, such as the Trampas Lakes, Horseshoe Lake and rivers including the Rio Grande and Rio Chama.

Coldwater Regulations

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

General Information

In New Mexico coldwater species include trout and salmon. Catchable-size trout that have been reared at hatcheries are stocked in more heavily fished waters. Smaller trout and salmon are stocked where waters can better support their growth. Some waters suit native Rio Grande cutthroat populations, while other waters are better for naturally reproducing non-native brown trout, and still others that may be too warm during summer are cool enough in winter to be stocked with hatchery-raised rainbow trout.

License Information

To fish in New Mexico, all persons 12 years and older must possess a valid New Mexico Fishing License or Game Hunting & Fishing License. For resident anglers 70 years and older free Fishing Licenses are available online, at NMDGF offices or license vendors.

In addition to a valid license, a Habitat Management & Access Validation is required. This validation is not required for anglers 17 years or younger and residents 70 years or older or 100%-disabled veteran cardholders. Second Rod Validations are not required for residents 70 years and older, and 100%-disabled veteran cardholders. For BLM or U.S. Forest Service lands a Habitat Stamp is required.

Trotlines

Trotlines **are not permitted** in trout waters—with the following exceptions: Abiquiu Lake, Rio Chama (below the northern boundary of Christ in the Desert Monastery), Gila River (downstream from its confluence with its East Fork), Navajo Lake and the Rio Grande (downstream from its confluence with the Rio Chama).

Baitfish

Use of baitfish in any trout waters **is not permitted**—with the following exceptions: Abiquiu Reservoir, Clayton Lake, Jackson Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Navajo Lake, Rio Grande (downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge) and the Animas River. Dead baitfish (non-protected species) may be used in Eagle Nest Lake and Heron Lake. No live baitfish may be in possession while fishing Eagle Nest Lake or Heron Lake.

Goldfish as bait are not permitted at any time in any waters of New Mexico.

Release of any baitfish is illegal and not permitted in fishing waters that contain game fish.

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

Gila Trout Permit Waters: A Gila Trout Fishing Permit is required to fish Black Canyon, Gilita Creek, Mineral Creek, Mogollon Creek, Sapillo Creek, West Fork Gila River (headwaters to East Fork confluence), Whitewater Creek, and Willow Creek (including tributaries). This permit is free and available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us, by telephone: 1-888-248-6866 and at all license vendors and NMDGF offices.

Regular & Winter Trout

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Bag Limits for Regular & Winter Trout and Kokanee Salmon

Brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, 5 per day 10 in possession

Gila trout or kokanee salmon

- Bag limit of 5 fish is considered any combination of trout and/or salmon with the exception that no more than 2 lake trout and/or 2 cutthroat trout may be included in the limit.
- Trout bag limit is 4 trout at the Tingley Beach Central Pond and the Children's Pond.
- Trout bag is 3 trout at Laguna del Campo, Red River Hatchery Pond, Red River City Ponds, Goose Lake and Rio Grande (Elephant Butte to Caballo Lake).
- Possession of kokanee salmon not permitted at Heron Lake and Willow Creek during the closed season, October 1–November 8.

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.
- Bag limits may be different for Special Trout Waters. See pages 16–19.

Winter Trout Waters

When water temperatures are cool, between November 1–March 31, Winter Trout Waters are stocked with hatchery-reared rainbow trout.

Streams and Rivers: Black River (1 mile upstream to 1 mile downstream of Higy Hole; Pecos River (from the southeast boundary of Villanueva State Park downstream to Santa Rosa Lake) Rio Grande (Elephant Butte Reservoir to Caballo Lake).

Lakes: Alumni Pond, Bataan, Bear Canyon, Bill Evans, Bosque Redondo, Bottomless Lakes State Park, Carlsbad Municipal, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Corona, Dennis Chavez, Escondida, Eunice, Greene Acres, Grants Riverwalk Pond, Green Meadow, Harry McAdams Ponds, Jal, Lake Van, Liam Knight Pond, Ned Houk, Oasis State Park, Perch Lake, Rancho Grande Ponds, Sumner Lake Stilling Basin, Roswell Kid's Pond, Tingley Beach, Young Pond.

Drains: Albuquerque, Belen Riverside, Bernalillo, Corrales and Peralta.

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program

Boaters and anglers make fish and wildlife conservation possible. Their purchases of licenses, sporting equipment and fuels provide funds essential to sport-fish and wildlife management.

Through the USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, excise taxes for fishing equipment, motorboat fuel, sporting arms and archery equipment support important projects, including Gila trout restoration, boat facility maintenance, fish-hatchery operations, lake renovations, waterfowl-habitat maintenance and much more.



and Kokanee Salmon

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season

Kokanee are land-locked sockeye salmon. Although not native to the Southwest, kokanee thrive in some of New Mexico's deeper and colder plankton-producing lakes. In late fall, large schools of four-year-old kokanee gather to spawn and die.

A popular method for catching kokanee is snagging, the intentional taking of fish by hooking the body rather than the mouth. Kokanee are the only fish that may be legally snagged, and only during Special Kokanee Snagging Season. If another species is caught by snagging, it must be immediately returned to the water.

Each autumn NMDGF collects millions of kokanee eggs and milt to fertilize eggs and hatch fry. The young fry are used to stock Heron Lake, Navajo Lake, Abiquiu Lake, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake. The success of these collection operations is essential to maintain vibrant and healthy fisheries for anglers to enjoy. As a result, Heron Lake, Willow Creek and designated no-wake areas at Navajo Lake are closed October 1–November 8, and no kokanee salmon may be in possession while fishing during these closures at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Snagging Season Dates by Location

October 1–December 31: Open at Abiquiu Lake, Rio Chama (El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area), Navajo Lake (excluding bouyed no-wake areas and shoreline within the no-wake areas at the Pine River Boat Ramp and Simms Boat Ramp), Pine River, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake.

October 1–November 8: Closed at Heron Lake, Willow Creek and Navajo Lake (bouyed no-wake areas).

November 9–December 31: Open at Heron Lake, Willow Creek and Navajo Lake.

Bag Limit (during Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season)

Kokanee salmon 12 per day 24 in possession

Help Stop the Spread of Fish Diseases!

10 for 10 is a simple and easy rule to follow. Use a 10% bleach solution for 10 minutes to disinfect your waders and fishing gear!

For more information about how to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), including whirling disease, zebra and quagga mussels and didymo (aka 'rock snot'), see page 33.



Special Trout Waters

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

General Information

Special Trout Waters (STW) are managed to enhance the unique angling opportunities available in New Mexico. Regulations vary for STWs — some are managed to produce trophy-size trout, some to improve conservation of native trout, and others to enhance the overall trout population structure and density. Regulations are tailored to each water and may include reduced bag limits, catch-and-release for native Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout or increased harvest for nonnative fish species. Many STWs require artificial flies and lures with a single, barbless hook. Anglers must never disturb rocks, plants, or sediment to attract fish. By following these regulations anglers help to conserve healthy fisheries in New Mexico and promote high-quality fishing experiences for everyone.

New Designations of Special Trout Waters

Keeping *New Mexico True*[™], the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has established three designations for Special Trout Waters: Red Chile Water, Green Chile Water and Xmas Chile Water. Each designation is easy to remember, and signs with new symbols are posted at STWs with bag limits and tackle restrictions provided.



Red Chile Water

Catch-and-release
with tackle restrictions



Green Chile Water

Two (2) trout daily bag limit
with tackle restrictions



Xmas Chile Water

Two (2) trout daily bag limit
with any legal tackle

Locations of chile waters are listed on the pages 17–19.

Native Trout Conservation Waters

Several new Special Trout Waters have been established to help protect and conserve Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Nonnative trout species can out compete or hybridize with native trout species. In order to protect native trout species, unlimited bag limits in some waters have been established for nonnative trout species (rainbow, brown, and brook trout). These waters are listed on page 18 under Red Chile (Native Trout Conservation).

General Bag and Possession Limit Restrictions

All fishing in STWs must stop when the daily bag limit for that water has been taken. Anglers may not continue to fish another STW with a similar or lower bag limit, but may continue if another STW has a higher bag limit or if fishing in Regular Trout Waters. Anglers **must count** those STW fish toward their overall daily bag limit. If fishing STWs where the bag limit is zero, anglers **must not** possess any trout.

Special Trout Waters

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us



Red Chile Water

Tackle restrictions: artificial fly or lure with a single barbless hook.

Catch and release only.

Capulin Creek from the confluence with the Rio Grande to its headwaters.

Cimarron River from the east end of Tolby Campground downstream 1.4 miles to the first U.S. Hwy. 64 bridge.

Jack's Creek from the waterfalls located 0.25 miles downstream of N.M. Hwy. 63 crossing upstream to its headwaters

Mogollon Creek from barrier at waterfalls near U.S. Forest Service Trail 153 to confluence of Trail Canyon. Open from July 1–October 31.

Nabor Creek and **Nabor Lake** on the Sargent Wildlife Management Area.

Pecos River in the Pecos Wilderness above Pecos Falls.

Rio Chama from USGS gaging station located below Cooper's Landing to the Rio Nutrias confluence.

Rio Costilla from its confluence with Latir Creek upstream 2.4 miles to the Valle Vidal boundary.

Rio Las Animas within Gila National Forest, Black Range District.

Rio Valdez in the Pecos Wilderness from the waterfall barrier 0.8 miles below FS Trail 239 upstream to its headwaters.

San Juan River from Navajo Dam downstream 3.75 miles to the Crusher Hole Day Use Area. It is illegal to fish with more than 2 flies or lures on a single line when fishing the Special Trout Water of the San Juan River.

Tingley Beach South Pond within the Albuquerque Conservancy Park.

Valle Vidal and **Greenwood Area** all streams. Open July 1–December 31.

Catch & Release Tips

Many New Mexico game fish have restricted bag and/or size limits which require immediate live release back to the water where taken. To ensure healthy release, follow these suggestions.

1. Land the fish quickly and 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 swallowed deeply, 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 and gently support it from below and just behind the head until it swims away.
8. Never toss or throw a fish back into the water.

Special Trout Waters

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**



Red Chile Water (Native Trout Conservation)

Tackle restrictions: Artificial fly or lure with single, barbless hook.

Catch-and-release only for Rio Grande cutthroat trout and Gila trout.

Bag limit unlimited for rainbow trout, brown trout and brook trout.

Black Canyon upstream from waterfall barrier at Black Canyon Campground. Open July 1–October 31.

Cabresto Creek upstream from Cabresto Canyon to headwaters, not including Lake Fork or Cabresto Lake.

Canada Tio Grande within the Carson National Forest, excluding private land.

Columbine Creek from its confluence with the Red River upstream to its headwaters.

Frijoles Creek (Taos County) from its confluence with Rito de la Olla upstream to its headwaters.

Gavilan Creek from its confluence with the Rio Hondo upstream to its headwaters.

Italianos Creek from its confluence with the Rio Hondo upstream to its headwaters.

Leandro Creek within the Valle Vidal. Open July 1–December 31.

Palociento Creek from its confluence with Rito de la Olla upstream to its headwaters.

Rio Cebolla from the Seven Springs Day Use Area upstream to the headwaters including McKinney Pond.

Rio de Las Vacas from the fish migration barrier located 0.2 miles upstream of FS Road 70 crossing to its headwaters.

Rio Santa Barbara from the West Fork and Middle Fork confluence upstream to its headwaters including the East Fork.

Rito del Padre from the fish migration barrier located about 0.3 miles upstream of the confluence with the Rito Sebadilloso to its headwaters including Rito de los Chimayosos.

South Fork Rio Hondo (Taos County) from its confluence with the Rio Hondo upstream to its headwaters.

Tanques Creek from FS Road 93 crossing upstream to its headwaters.

West Fork Luna Creek from the Carson National Forest property boundary upstream to its headwaters.

Yerba Creek from its confluence with the Rio Hondo upstream to its headwaters.

Special Trout Waters

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us



Green Chile Water

Tackle restrictions: Artificial fly or lure with single, barbless hook.

Bag limit two (2) trout only.

Pecos River in the box canyon 0.5 mile upstream of its confluence with the Mora River to 0.2 miles downstream of the bridge crossing at Cowles.

Red River from its confluence with Goose Creek 1.1 miles upstream to the Carson National Forest boundary.

Rio Chama within the boundaries of the Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area from Heron Reservoir outlet 2.9 miles upstream to Cottonwood Flats.

Rio de Los Pinos from FS Road 284 and 87A, 2.5 miles upstream to the private property boundary.

Rio Guadalupe from its confluence with Deer Creek Landing upstream 6.0 miles to Stable Canyon.

Rio San Antonio from the San Antonio Hot Springs pedestrian bridge upstream 2.0 miles to the Valles Caldera National Preserve boundary.

Sargent Wildlife Management Area for all waters within or adjacent to the WMA including the Rio Chamita, Sixto Creek, and Rio Chama, excluding Nabor Creek and Nabor Lake.

Shuree Ponds on the Valle Vidal. Open July 1– December 31.

Valles Caldera National Preserve all waters within preserve.



Xmas Chile Water

Tackle restrictions: Any legal tackle.

Bag limit two (2) trout only.

Gilita Creek and Willow Creek from its confluence with Snow Creek upstream to its headwaters including Little Turkey Creek. Unlimited bag limits for nonnative trout.

Mineral Creek from its confluence with San Francisco River to its headwaters.

Red River from its confluence with the Rio Grande upstream to the lower walking bridge at Red River State Fish Hatchery.

Rio Chama from the river-crossing bridge on U.S. Highway 84 at Abiquiu upstream 7.0 miles to the base of Abiquiu Dam.

Rio Grande from the Colorado stateline downstream to the Taos Junction Bridge at N.M. Highway 567.

Rio Ruidoso from Fridenbloom Drive upstream to the Mescalero Reservation.

Whitewater Creek from Catwalk National Recreation Trail parking area upstream to headwaters including all tributaries.

Warmwater Game Fish

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Smallmouth Bass

N.M. Record: March 31 '06, Ute Lake

Weight: 7 lb., 3 oz.

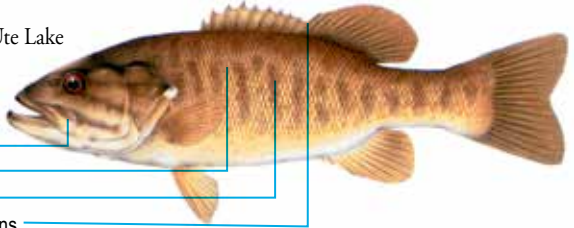
Length: 24" Girth: 16-½"

Upper jaw extends to eye

Uniform olive-brown color

Vertical barring

Shallow notch between dorsal fins



Largemouth Bass

N.M. Record: March 24 '95, Bill Evans Lake

Weight: 15 lb., 13 oz.

Length: 26-½" Girth: 24-¾"

Upper jaw extends beyond eye

Scales on cheeks smaller than on body

Horizontal stripe on side

Deep notch between dorsal fins



Bluegill

N.M. Record: 1963, Lovington Lake

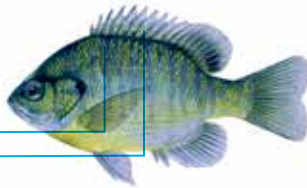
Weight: 3 lb., 1-½ oz.

Length: 11-¾"

Deep bodied, large lower jaw

Olive or dark green back

Two dorsal fins joined, appearing as one



Channel Catfish (Illustrated)

N.M. Record: April 12 '99, Stubblefield Lake

Weight: 36 lb., 8 oz.

Length: 38" Girth: 26"

Blue Catfish

N.M. Record: June 20 '05, Elephant Butte

Weight: 54 lb., ¼ oz.

Length: 43-½" Girth: 30-¼"

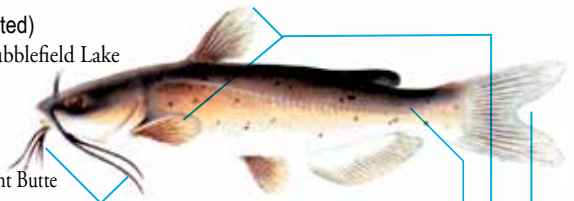
Flathead Catfish

N.M. Record: June 7 '79

Ash Canyon/Elephant Butte

Weight: 78 lb. 0 oz.

Length: 47-½" Girth: 31-½"



Long barbels around mouth

Small, irregular black spots, no scales

Uniform Sharp dorsal and pectoral spines

Deeply forked tail

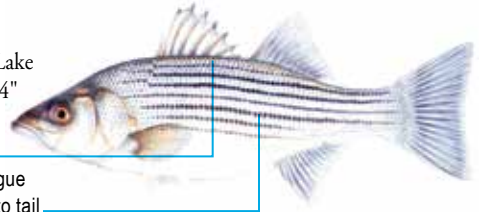
Handle with Care!

Life-size reproductions of New Mexico's record game fish are on public display at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish headquarters in Santa Fe.

Striped Bass

N.M. Record: April 1 '92, Elephant Butte Lake
Weight: 54 lb., 8 oz., Length: 45" Girth: 34"

Slender body, up to 55 pounds
Olive or blue back
Teeth in two parallel patches on back of tongue
Silvery sides with 7 to 8 stripes that extend to tail



White Bass

N.M. Record: June 8 '83, Bill Evans Lake
Weight: 4 lb., 13 oz., Length: 19-1/2" Girth: 18-1/4"

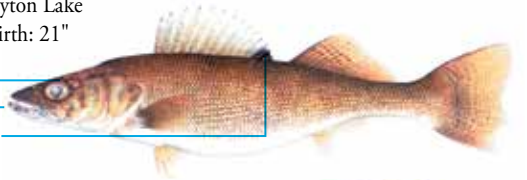
Teeth in a single patch on back of tongue
Deep body, seldom exceeds 3 pounds
Horizontal stripes are less distinct on bottom half of body



Walleye

N.M. Record: September 19 '89, Clayton Lake
Weight: 16 lb., 9 oz., Length: 32" Girth: 21"

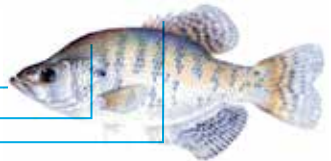
Milky eye corneas
Large canine teeth
Two fins on back, dark area on first fin



Crappie

N.M. Record: March 2 '83, Black River
Weight: 4 lb., 9 oz., Length: 16" Girth: 13-1/2"

Deep bodied, large lower jaw
Olive or dark green back
Two dorsal fins joined, appearing as one



Tiger Muskie (only in Bluewater Lake and Quemado Lake)

N.M. Record: August 23 '12, Bluewater Lake
Weight: 38 lb., 2 oz.
Length: 50-1/2" Girth: 24-1/2"

Similar to Northern Pike, except sides have dark vertical bars
Tail and fins are spotted



Northern Pike

N.M. Records: November 21 '74, Miami Lake / March 7 '78, Springer Lake
Weight: 36 lb., 0 oz.
Length: 53" Girth: 29"

Large mouth with sharp teeth
Sides are gray-green with rows of yellow and white spots
Top fin at the rear of body



Warmwater Game Fish

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Where To Find Warmwater Species

White Bass

Fishing for white bass should be successful at Brantley Lake, Caballo Lake and Elephant Butte Lake. Fishing from late spring to early summer in areas where shad or other forage fish congregate could provide exciting opportunities.

Largemouth Bass

Fishing at Conchas Lake and Ute Lake should be good. Concentrate on structure where available. Don't forget to check out the new Trophy Bass Waters (page 25).

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass populations are very good at Navajo Lake, Ute Lake and Conchas Lake. Although the highest abundance can be found at Navajo Lake, Ute and Conchas also have good numbers of larger fish. Smallmouth bass typically gravitate around rocky areas and ledges year round. Concentrate fishing efforts in these locations.

Tiger Muskie

Tiger muskies are a cross between the northern pike and muskellunge. Quemado Lake supports a healthy population of tiger muskie. Anglers fishing at Quemado Lake can expect opportunities to catch a variety of different sized fish. Bluewater Lake currently supports a high-density population of tiger muskie, and anglers can expect above average catch rates at this lake. The length limit for tiger muskie at both lakes is 40 inches. The daily bag limit and possession limit are the same—one (1) tiger muskie 40 inches or longer.

Walleye

Walleye numbers are good at Santa Rosa Lake, Ute Lake, Conchas Lake, Sumner Lake also should provide good numbers of walleye. Fishing is usually best during April and May, after fish have spawned.

Catfish

Catfish numbers and sizes are highest in New Mexico's larger reservoirs. Brantley, Elephant Butte, Conchas, Caballo and Ute lakes have very good populations. The blue catfish population at Elephant Butte Lake is currently well above average. Shallow murky water near inlets provides good fishing during late evening and night. Clayton Lake also is noted for good-sized catfish opportunities. Don't forget to check out the Special Summer Catfish Waters for opportunities close to home (page 25).

Leave No Trace. Keep New Mexico Beautiful.

Pack It In, Pack It Out! Fishing line, hooks and other debris left onshore can become deadly hazards to fish, birds and other wildlife. Help protect our wildlife by keeping our lakes, streams and waterways clean. Pick up all trash and properly dispose it or pack it out!



Warmwater Regulations

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

General Information

Warm waters include all streams, lakes, and ponds, except those designated as trout waters (map, page 9). To fish in New Mexico, all persons 12 years or older must possess a valid New Mexico Fishing License or Game-hunting & Fishing License (see page 3). Resident anglers 70 years and older must possess a free Fishing License. All anglers must have a Habitat Management & Access Validation, except anglers 17 years and younger, residents 70 years and older, and 100%-disabled veteran cardholders. A Second Rod Validation is not required for New Mexico residents 70 years of age and older and 100%-disabled veteran cardholders.

Trotline or Set Line Use

A trotline (throw line or set line) is a line without a rod or reel attached. It does not need to be handheld nor closely attended. Trotlines are limited to 25 hooks. Trotlines belonging to two or more people may not be joined or tied together. Every trotline must have attached an identification tag that is visible above the waterline. Tags must include the name, address, fishing license number and date when set. Anglers 11 years of age or younger (i.e. unlicensed) must include their age. One name only is permitted on each tag. Anglers may not fish with more than one trotline nor operate another's trotline. Any person using a trotline must attend it personally at least once every calendar day.

Trotlines **may be used** to take fish in most warm waters, however, trotlines **may not be used** in any trout waters (including winter trout water), except: Abiquiu Lake; Rio Chama downstream from the northern boundary of Christ in the Desert Monastery; Gila River downstream from the junction with its east fork; Navajo Lake; Rio Grande downstream from its junction with the Rio Chama.

Bait and Baitfish

In any waters containing protected fish it is illegal to use as bait any of the following: live protected fish, gar, goldfish, common carp, river carpsucker, smallmouth buffalo and bullfrogs or bullfrog tadpoles. **If used as dead bait only**, it is legal to use the following: genus *Lepomis* (bluegills and sunfish), common carp, river carpsucker, smallmouth buffalo, bullfrogs or bullfrog tadpoles.

Exceptions: Fish of the genus *Lepomis* (bluegills and sunfish) taken legally by angling may be used as live bait in the water where taken. This applies only to: 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.

Roe, viscera and eyes of game fish taken legally **may be used** in all waters where the use of bait is legal.

Release of baitfish (dumping bait buckets) into fishing waters that contain game fish is illegal.

Goldfish may not be used as live bait or dead bait in any waters.

Baitfish may not be used in any trout waters, except fathead minnows and red shiners in the following: Abiquiu Reservoir, Clayton Lake, Jackson Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Navajo Lake, Rio Grande downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge and the Animas River. Frozen tilapia is a baitfish and may not be used.

Baitfish may not be used in any winter trout waters (November 1–March 31).

Baitfish of any kind **may not be used** in Bottomless Lakes State Park.

Legal Baitfish Species listed by drainage: Gila River and San Francisco River drainages: fathead minnows only. Pecos River and San Juan River drainages: fathead minnows and red shiners only.

Warmwater Regulations

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Bait and Baitfish: Legal Baitfish Species listed by drainage—continued.

Rio Grande and Canadian River drainage: fathead minnows, red shiners and shad only. Elephant Butte Reservoir and Caballo Reservoir: fathead minnows, red shiners, shad and golden shiners only.

Dead baitfish may be used in Eagle Nest Lake and Heron Lake. No live baitfish may be in possession while fishing Eagle Nest Lake or Heron Lake.

Baitfish may be taken by angling, nets, traps and seines.

Taking Minnows

Minnows may be taken for personal use only by anglers currently licensed or 11 years of age or younger. Restrictions as noted above apply. Methods permitted for taking minnows include: angling, dip nets, cast nets, traps and seines. Seines may be no longer than 20 feet, and mesh size may be no larger than 3/8-inch square. All protected species of fish taken with seines, nets and traps, including endangered and threatened species, must immediately be returned to the water.

Warmwater Size, Bag and Possession Limits

Black Bass 5 per day
Largemouth and spotted: 14-inch minimum size limit. Smallmouth: 12-inch minimum size limit. Smallmouth at Conchas Reservoir and Ute Reservoir: 14-inch minimum size limit.

Catfish (all species, except bullheads and Special Summer Catfish) 15 per day
In the Animas River and San Juan River, San Juan County, there are no bag or possession limits.

Crappie 20 per day

Striped Bass 1 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
In Eagle Nest Lake, there are no bag or possession limits. Northern pike may not be returned intentionally to the lake.

Tiger Muskie 1 per day
One fish 40 inches or longer. Found only in Bluewater Lake and Quemado Lake.

Walleye 5 per day
14-inch minimum size limit

White Bass. 25 per day

Yellow Perch 30 per day

All other warmwater game fish 20 per day
(bluegill, sunfish, bullheads)

Possession Limit for each location is twice the daily bag limit, except tiger muskie which is one fish.

Special Warmwaters

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Special Summer Catfish Waters

Several small lakes and ponds are stocked from May–September with 17-inch or longer channel catfish. These waters offer great opportunities throughout the summer to catch big catfish. In order to offer this unique angling opportunity reduced bag limits have been established on these waters.

Special Summer Catfish Waters 2 per day

Special catfish limit applies to Alto Lake, Alumni Pond, Bataan, Blue Hole Park Pond, Bosque Redondo, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Conoco Lake, Corona, Dennis Chavez Pond, Escondida, Estancia Park Lake, Eunice, Grants Riverwalk Pond, Greene Acres, Green Meadow, Jal Lake, Lake Van, Liam Knight Pond, McGaffey Lake, Ned Houk, Oasis State Park, Pecos River within Villanueva State Park, Perch Lake, Rancho Grande Ponds, Roswell Kid's Pond (Spring River Park), Timberon Ponds, Tingley Beach and Young Pond.

Trophy Bass Waters

Lake Roberts, Clayton Lake and Bill Evans Lake now are designated as Trophy Bass Waters. These fisheries are expected to provide ideal conditions for producing largemouth bass weighing five pounds or more. Since these lakes are small and in order to maintain sustainable trophy fisheries, the bag limit for largemouth bass has been reduced. Anglers are reminded the legal length remains 14 inches or longer and that only 2 fish can be in possession. Additionally, spearfishing and bow fishing for largemouth bass in these lakes is prohibited.

Trophy Bass Waters 2 per day

Largemouth bass: 14 inches or longer. Bill Evans, Clayton Lake and Lake Roberts.

Open Gate Program



Open Gate is a voluntary access program available to landowners statewide. It provides sportsmen/women more places to fish, hunt or trap. Fishing and hunting is only allowed on leased lands during the seasons and dates that the landowner specifies in his/her lease agreement. Information and locations of Open Gate leases can be found on the website listed below. Some properties may have special rules for certain activities. These rules will be posted on the property. It is the responsibility of the sportsman/woman to know and obey posted rules. Citations can be issued for violation of any rules or regulations.

Landowners Can Earn Extra Cash for a Hunting or Fishing Lease

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is interested in leasing more lands with good habitat for fishing, hunting and trapping. Landowners can sign an agreement with NMDGF and receive a per-acre payment. Under some circumstances, NMDGF will pay for right-of-way across the property of a landowner, so anglers and hunters can access large tracts of State Trust and Federal lands. The State of New Mexico provides liability protection to landowners who participate. Funding for Open Gate is provided from a portion of annual Habitat Management & Access Validation sales. To learn more about the Open Gate program, please visit: <http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/open-gate-program/>.

Regulations for Specific

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Abiquiu Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹, October 1–December 31.

Alto Lake: Open 5 a.m.–10 p.m. Posted area near the outlet is closed to fishing; Special Summer Catfish Water².

Alumni Pond: Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water².

Animas River (San Juan Co.): No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass (page 24).

Bataan Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Bear Canyon Lake: Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines; Boats restricted to oars or electric motor only.

Big Dry Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to fishing from Golden Link Cabin upstream through its headwaters.

Bill Evans Lake: Trophy Bass Water¹⁰; Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines; Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only.

Black Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Open to fishing July 1–October 31; Special Trout Water⁴; No limit for brown trout above the fish barrier; Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

Black River: Winter Trout Water³.

Blue Hole Park Pond (Santa Rosa): Open only to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶, 65 years and older⁷ and individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. Special Summer Catfish Water².

Bluewater Reservoir: One tiger muskie, 40 inches or longer.

Bonito Lake: Closed until further notice due to Little Bear Fire.

Bosque Redondo: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Bottomless Lakes State Park: Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines; Fishing with baitfish is not allowed.

Butler Street Reservoir: Open 5 a.m.–10 p.m.

Cabresto Creek (Cabresto Canyon to the headwaters, not including Lake Fork or Cabresto Lake): Special Trout Water⁴, catch-and-release only fishing for cutthroat trout and unlimited take for other trout.

Capulin Creek (Bandelier/Dome Wilderness, Sandoval Co.): Special Trout Water⁴.

Canada Tio Grande: Special Trout Water⁴.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Carrizozo Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Chaparral Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Charette Lakes (upper and lower): Open to fishing from noon March 1–noon October 31; Boats may be used only during fishing seasons and are restricted to trolling speeds.

Cimarron River: Special Trout Water⁴.

Clayton Lake: Trophy Bass Water¹⁰; Open to fishing from noon March 1–noon October 31; Boats may be used only during fishing season and are restricted to trolling speeds.

Cochiti Lake: Boats restricted to trolling speeds; Spillway closed to fishing.

Columbine Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Waters

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Conchas Lake: Smallmouth bass less than 14 inches must be released.

Conoco Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water².

Corona Pond (Silver Pond): Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³;
No trotlines.

Cowles Pond (smaller of the two ponds): Open only to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶
or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸.

Dennis Chavez Pond: Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water².

Eagle Nest Lake: Open 6 a.m.–9 p.m.; Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹
October 1–December 31. Day use only, camping available at Eagle Nest Lake State Park. Posted portion near
dam is closed to fishing. There is no bag or possession limit for northern pike. All northern pike caught **must
be kept** in possession; no pike may be intentionally returned to the lake.

El Vado Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ October 1–December 31.

Escondida Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Estancia Pond: Open only to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶, 65 and older⁷ or anglers/individuals
with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water².

Eunice Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Fenton Lake: Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only; Parking area is open to vehicles from
6 a.m.–9 p.m.

Frijoles Creek (Taos County): Special Trout Water⁴.

Gavilan Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Gilita Creek: Special Trout Water⁴. Gila Trout Permit Water⁵ (free permit required).

Glenwood Hatchery Brood Pond: Open during daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise
until sunset.

Grants Riverwalk Pond: Open to all anglers. Special Summer Catfish Water². Winter Trout Water³.

Greene Acres Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Green Meadow Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines; Boats
restricted to oars or electric motors only.

Harris Pond (Las Vegas): Open only to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶.

Harry McAdams Park Ponds (Hobbs): Open to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶, 65 and
older⁷ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸; Winter Trout Water³.

Heron Lake: Boats restricted to trolling speeds; Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ open
November 9–December 31.

Hopewell Lake: Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only.

Iron Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to fishing upstream of the constructed waterfall barrier.

Italianos Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Jack's Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Jackson Lake: Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only.

Jal Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Regulations for Specific

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Laguna Madre (Maxwell Lakes): Posted area within 150 feet of the outlet is closed to fishing.

Laguna del Campo: Open to fishing May 1–October 31 during daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset; Open to anglers 14 years of age or younger and up to two parents or guardians directly supervising youth angler(s); Open to anglers 65 and older⁷ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸; No boats or flotation devices allowed.

Lake Maloya/Lake Alice (Sugarite State Park): Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only; Open during daylight hours only.

Lake Roberts: Trophy Bass Water¹⁰; Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only. No trotlines.

Lake Van: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Liam Knight Pond (Corrales Community Pond): Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³.

Little Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to fishing from the barrier upstream through all tributaries.

Main Diamond Creek: Closed to fishing above the confluence with South Diamond Creek.

Maxwell Lakes 13 & 14: Open to fishing at noon March 1–October 31; Boats restricted to trolling speed.

McKenna Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to all fishing.

McKnight Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to all fishing.

Mineral Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴. Gila Trout Permit Water⁵ (free permit required).

Mogollon Creek, East Fork (Grant Co.): Upstream of Trail Canyon is closed to fishing. Downstream of Trail Canyon is open to fishing July 1–October 31; Special Trout Water⁴; Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

Monastery Lake: Open during daylight hours 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset; No boats or floating devices allowed; Ice fishing is not allowed.

Morphy Lake: Open to fishing March 1–October 31 (weather permitting). Boats restricted to oars or electric motors.

Nabor Creek & Nabor Lake: Special Trout Water⁴.

Navajo Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ October 1–December 31. Designated no-wake areas closed October 1–November 8, page 15.

Ned Houk Pond: Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines. Special Summer Catfish Water².

Oasis State Park: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines; Boats and flotation devices are not allowed.

Palociento Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Pecos River: Special Trout Water⁴ and Winter Trout Water³; Summer Catfish Water² in Villanueva State Park.

Perch Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water²; Winter Trout Water³.

Pine Lodge Creek: Closed for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration.

Pine River: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ October 1–December 31.

Quemado Lake: Bag limit for tiger muskie is one fish 40 inches or longer. Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only.

Waters

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Rancho Grande Ponds: Summer Catfish Water²; Winter Trout Water³.

Red River: Special Trout Water⁴.

Red River City Ponds: Small (middle) pond is open only to anglers 12 years of age and younger and anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. Large (east) pond is open with no age restrictions. Ponds are open to fishing March 1–November 15.

Red River Hatchery Pond: Reserved for anglers 11 years of age and younger⁶, 65 and older⁷, and anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. No boats or flotation devices are allowed. Open daylight hours 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag and possession limits are three (3) trout.

Rio Cebolla: Special Trout Water⁴; Unlimited take of brown trout from McKinney Pond to the headwaters.

Rio Chama: Special Trout Water⁴; Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ October 1–December 31 from El Vado Lake to the western boundary of Rio Chama WMA.

Rio Costilla: Special Trout Water⁴; Camping allowed in designated areas only with permission from Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association.

Rio de las Vacas: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio de los Pinos: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Grande: Special Trout Water⁴; Winter Trout Water³ downstream of Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Rio Guadalupe: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio las Animas: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Ruidoso: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Santa Barbara: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Valdez: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rito del Padre: Special Trout Water⁴.

Roswell Kid's Pond (Spring River Park): Open only to anglers 11 years of age and younger⁶. Special Summer Catfish Water²; Winter Trout Water³.

San Antonio River: Special Trout Water⁴.

San Gregorio Lake: Boats restricted to no motors.

San Juan River (below Navajo Dam): No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass (page 24); Special Trout Water⁴, only two flies per line may be used.

Santa Cruz Lake: Open 6 a.m.–10 p.m. Ice fishing is not allowed.

Sapillo Creek (Grant Co.): Gila Trout Permit Water⁵ (free permit required).

Sargent Wildlife Area: Special Trout Water⁴.

Sheep Corral Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to all fishing.

Seven Springs Hatchery Kid's Pond: Open to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶.

Shuree Ponds: Special Trout Water⁴; Open to fishing July 1–December 31; Daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset; One pond is posted for anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶; Boats restricted to no motors only.

Snow Lake: Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only.

Regulations for Specific

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

South Diamond Creek and Tributaries (Catron and Sierra Co.): Closed to fishing.

South Fork Rio Hondo (Taos County): Special Trout Water⁴.

Springer Lake: Boats restricted to trolling speeds only when water storage is less than 1,000 acre feet; Ice fishing is not allowed.

Stubblefield Lake: Posted area within 150 feet of the outlet is closed to fishing.

Spruce Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to all fishing.

Sumner Lake (Stilling Basin): Winter Trout Water⁴.

Tanques Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Timberon Ponds: Summer Catfish Water².

Tingley Beach Kid's Pond: Open sunrise to sunset; Special Trout Water⁴; South Pond only; Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water²; No trotlines; No boats or flotation devices; Children's pond open to anglers 12 years of age and younger; Bag limit of four fish for the central and children's ponds.

Trail Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to all fishing.

Ute Lake: Smallmouth bass less than 14 inches must be released.

Valle Vidal: Special Trout Water⁴; Open to fishing July 1–December 31 during daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset.

Valles Caldera National Preserve: Special Trout Water⁴; Fishing permits are available at the Valle Grande Entrance Station and can be obtained upon arrival on the date fishing will take place. For further information visit: <http://www.nps.gov/vall>.

West Fork Gila and All Tributaries (Catron Co.): Mainstream to headwaters now open to fishing. Tributaries remained closed to fishing. Headwaters to East Fork confluence is now Gila Trout Permit Water⁵ (free permit required).

West Fork Luna Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Whitewater Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴. Gila Trout Permit Water⁵ (free permit required).

Woodrow Canyon Creek: Closed to all fishing.

Willow Creek (Rio Arriba Co.): Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ open November 10–December 31.

Willow Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴. Gila Trout Permit Water⁵ (free permit required).

Yerba Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Young Pond: Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water².

Waters

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Youth Only Waters

Must be 11 years of age or younger⁶ to fish in most Youth-Only Waters. A fishing license is not required.

Harris Pond (Las Vegas)

Shuree Kid's Pond (the Valle Vidal)

Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond (Jemez Mountains)

Roswell Kid's Pond (Spring River Park)

Youth and Individuals with Disabilities⁸ Only Waters

Cowles Pond (north of Pecos): Smaller of the two ponds.

Red River City Small (middle) Kid's Pond (Red River): Open only to anglers 12 years of age or younger.

Youth, Senior⁷ and Individuals with Disabilities⁸ Only Waters

Estancia Park Lake (Estancia)

Harry McAdams Park Ponds (Hobbs)

Red River Hatchery Pond (Red River)

Blue Hole Park Pond at Blue Hole Park (in Santa Rosa)

Youth Under Age 14, Senior and Disabled (Handicapped) Only Waters

Laguna del Campo (Burns Canyon Lake, near Los Ojos Hatchery): Up to two parents and/or guardians may fish if directly supervising a child or children 14 years of age or younger.

Endnotes: ¹ Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season, see page 15.

² Special Summer Catfish Water, see page 25.

³ Regular and Winter Trout Water, see page 14.

⁴ Special Trout Water, see pages 16–19.

⁵ Gila Trout Permit Water, see page 3.

⁶ Licenses are not required for Anglers 11 years of age or younger, see page 3.

⁷ Senior Fishing Licenses, see page 3.

⁸ Handicapped Fishing License, see page 3.

⁹ Junior Fishing Licenses, see page 3

¹⁰ Reduced bag limit of two (2) largemouth bass. Spearfishing and bowfishing for largemouth bass in these waters is prohibited.

Boating Regulations

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Basic Boating Regulations

1. All motorized and sail-powered vessels 10 feet or longer in length require a title. All motorized vessels of any length must be registered. Title and registration must be obtained from the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division (NMMVD or MVD) online: www.state.nm.us/tax/mvd/, toll-free: 1-888-MVD-INFO or by visiting your local office.
2. The vessel registration number must be affixed permanently to both sides of the vessel's bow with block letters that measure 3 inches in height and are clearly visible. A valid registration decal must be placed on the port side 6 inches behind (aft) the registration number.
3. Proof of boater education must be carried by all operators born on or after January 1, 1989.
4. All persons in canoes, kayaks or rafts must wear a personal flotation device at all times.
5. Children 12 years and younger, must wear a personal flotation device while the vessel is underway.
6. Vessels while operating must carry: a life jacket of good condition for each person on board; one USCG approved throwable device; oar/paddle, bailing bucket and stout rope at least one boat length; whistle/horn, fire extinguisher and navigation lights if operating at night. Vessels may be inspected for required equipment.
7. Boating while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited and strictly enforced.

For additional information and boating-safety classes offered statewide by the New Mexico State Parks Division visit online: www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd or telephone: 1-888-NMPARKS.

- ▶ **Wear your personal flotation device! The majority of anglers who drown were not.**
- ▶ **Use caution when a red flag is displayed above a stopped boat! It indicates a water skier is down in that area.**
- ▶ **Clean, drain and dry your boat and gear to stop aquatic invasive species** (see page 33).

Waters with Special Restrictions

Waters restricted to boats without motors include: Alto Lake, Bernardo Waterfowl Area, Grindstone Reservoir, La Joya Waterfowl Area, San Gregorio Lake and Shuree Ponds.

Waters restricted to boats with oars or electric motors include: 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 and Tucumcari Wildlife Area.

Waters where no boats or flotation devices are allowed include: Bonito Lake, Red River Hatchery Pond, Laguna del Campo, Tingley Beach, Monastery Lake and Oasis State Park.

Waters restricted to boats at trolling speeds only include: Charette Lakes, Cochiti Lake, Clayton Lake, Maxwell Lakes 13 & 14, Heron Lake and Springer Lake when water level is less than 1,000 acre feet.

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Personnel

NMDGF personnel and persons authorized by the NMDGF Director may use motor boats while performing duties on lakes where use may be prohibited otherwise.

Aquatic Invasive Species

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is working with state, federal and private partners to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). AIS are any non-native plant, animal or pathogen that can harm our environment, economy and human, animal or plant health.

Whirling disease, golden algae, Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra and quagga mussels and didymo (aka 'rock snot') are only a few of the many non-native species that are of concern. Introduction or spread of any of these invasive species

poses a risk, not only to our native aquatic wildlife, but also to water-based recreation including boating and fishing and surface water delivery systems, such as municipal water delivery, hydroelectric power generation and irrigation.

Once established in a body of water, many aquatic invasive species are difficult, if not impossible, to remove. Management actions and costs associated with AIS infested waterbodies are substantial, with costs potentially passed on to the customer. The most effective way to deal with AIS is through education and prevention.



Rules for Watercraft

To help combat the spread of AIS the following rules apply to all watercraft:

- Mandatory watercraft inspection required any time an inspection station is set up and in operation at a waterbody.
- Mandatory inspection and, if necessary, decontamination of all out-of-state registered watercraft or watercraft re-entering the state of New Mexico prior to launching into any waterbody.
- 14-day advanced notification of intent to transport watercraft 26-ft. in length or longer into New Mexico.
- All boaters are required to "pull the plug" and drain live wells, ballast tanks and bilge lines. Owners must take reasonable measures to dry equipment, compartments and/or spaces that are wet or hold water when transporting watercraft in New Mexico.
- Implementation of a voluntary watercraft seal program to expedite boater access to a waterbody with limited need for inspection.

How You Can Help

- **CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY** your watercraft after every trip, including coolers, ballast tanks and live wells. For recommended drying times: www.100thmeridian.org/emersion.asp
- Wash all mud and aquatic plants from gear, including trailer, waders and wading boots.
- Know waters that have tested positive for AIS. For a list of AIS waters: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais
- Dispose of fish heads, entrails and unused bait into solid waste containers.
- Do not transfer fish from one waterbody to another. It's unlawful.
- Obtain a permit from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish if you plan to stock fish in private water(s). For information and assistance: 1-888-248-6866.
- **DON'T LET IT LOOSE!** Never release aquarium plants or animals into any waterbody.
- Report a suspicious watercraft or AIS sighting immediately to:
NMDGF AIS Coordinator: (505) 629-9867
Operation Game Thief: 1-800-432-4263

For more information about rules, watercraft inspection station locations and other AIS news:

www.facebook.com/aquaticaliens

Catch and Release or ...

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Are My Fish Safe to Eat?

Tests have shown many of New Mexico's waters are contaminated with mercury, PCBs and in some instances DDT. To help anglers make informed choices about what can be safely eaten, the following consumption advisories by region are provided on the pages 34–38. Occasional consumption of fish from these waters does not constitute a substantial health risk, however higher consumption over a longer period of time could result in health problems. These advisories are guidelines only and do not suggest any health risks from camping, swimming or boating in these waters. Also, handling fish will not result in exposure to dangerous contaminants.

How To Use the Consumption Advisory Chart

The following table is a consumption advisory only. Some fish may be under the legal minimum length limit, such as walleye and largemouth and smallmouth bass.

Determine the species and length (inches) of the fish and find the lake or river where it was caught. Match the species (row) and size (column) of your fish to determine the number of meals (8 ounces) that can be safely eaten each month. No advisory (NA) indicates an advisory is unnecessary, and **0 (zero) indicates it is recommended not to eat** that species and size of fish. If blank, the species and size of fish at that location has not been analyzed. These advisories are for consumption limits only and are not to be used for size or possession limits.

For questions about these advisories, contact the New Mexico Environment Department–Surface Water Quality Bureau at: (505) 827-2470. For questions about health concerns relating to consumption of contaminants, contact the New Mexico Department of Health–Environmental Health Epidemiology Bureau at: 1-888-878-8992. Further information is also available online at :

https://nmtracking.unm.edu/enviro_n Exposure/fish/
www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/
www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/advisories/index.html

Northwest Consumption Advisory⁽¹⁾

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Abiquiu Lake	Brown trout	4	4	2				Mercury
	Carp		1	1				Mercury
	Channel catfish	3	2	2	1			Mercury
	Rainbow trout	NA		3				Mercury
	Smallmouth bass	2	1					Mercury
	Walleye			2	1			Mercury
	Crappie	2						Mercury
Bluewater Lake	Tiger muskie						3	Mercury
Canjilon Lakes	Brook trout	NA	NA					Mercury
	Rainbow trout	NA	NA					Mercury

NA* No Advisory

(1) Coldwater bag and possession limits are listed on pages 14–15 and 16–19.

Catch and Eat?

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Northwest Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)							CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	30+	
Cochiti Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Carp				2	.2			Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	3	1	.1			Mercury
	Crappie	2							Mercury
	Northern pike3	.2	1	Mercury
	Walleye			1	½	½			Mercury
	White bass		1						Mercury
El Vado Lake	Brown troutNA*	.NA*					Mercury
	Kokanee salmonNA*	.NA*	.NA*					Mercury
	Rainbow troutNA*						Mercury
	White sucker		4						Mercury
Heron Lake	Kokanee salmonNA*	.NA*	.NA*					Mercury, DDT, PCBs
	Lake troutNA*	.NA*	.NA*		4		Mercury
	White sucker		4	4					Mercury
Lake Farmington (Beeline Lake)	Channel catfish		3						Mercury
	Carp				4	4			Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4				.NA*		Mercury
Navajo Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	4	2		½		Mercury
	Crappie	4	4	1					Mercury
	Kokanee salmonNA*	.NA*					Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2		½				Mercury
	Northern pike1	1	½	Mercury
	Rainbow trout			4					Mercury
	Smallmouth bass	3	2	1					Mercury
	White suckerNA*						Mercury
Rio Grande (Otowi Bridge to Rio Chama)	Channel catfish				4	4	4		Mercury
	River carpsucker				3				Mercury
Rio Grande (Cochiti Lake to Otowi Bridge)	Carp			4	4	4			Mercury
	Channel catfish			4	4				Mercury
Rio Grande (US I-25 to 550)	Channel catfishNA*					.PCBs
	White bass	1	1						.PCBs
San Juan River (Cañon Largo to Navajo Dam)	Rainbow troutNA*	.NA*	.NA*				Mercury

NA* No Advisory

⁽¹⁾ Coldwater bag and possession limits are listed on pages 14–15 and 16–19.

Catch and Release or . . .

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Northeast Consumption Advisory⁽¹⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 34)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT	
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30		30+
Cabresto Lake	Brook trout	4						Mercury	
	Cutthroat trout	4						Mercury	
Charette Lakes	Black bullhead		1					Mercury	
	Rainbow trout		NA*					Mercury	
	White sucker		4	4				Mercury	
	Yellow perch		1	1				Mercury	
Clayton Lake	Bluegill	1						Mercury	
	Channel catfish				4		1	Mercury	
	Walleye				2	.2	½	Mercury	
Conchas Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury	
	Channel catfish			2	1			Mercury	
	Largemouth bass		3	2	1			Mercury	
	Smallmouth bass		3	2				Mercury	
	Walleye		4	4	1	.1	½	Mercury	
Eagle Nest Lake	Kokanee salmon		NA*	NA*				Mercury	
	Northern pike					4		Mercury	
	Rainbow trout		NA*	NA*	4			Mercury	
	White sucker		4					Mercury	
	Yellow perch		3					Mercury	
Lake Maloya	Rainbow trout		NA*	NA*				Mercury	
	White sucker		NA*	4				Mercury	
Maxwell Lakes	Channel catfish				NA*			Mercury	
	Rainbow trout			NA*	NA*			Mercury	
Pecos River (Pecos NH Park to Headwaters)	Brown trout	NA*	NA*	4				Mercury	
	White sucker	NA*						Mercury	
Rio Grande (Rio Chama to Embudo Creek)	Carp				3	.3		DDT	
	Channel catfish			NA*	NA*			Mercury, DDT PCBs	
	White sucker			4				Mercury	
Shuree Ponds	Rainbow trout			NA*	NA*	NA*		Mercury	
Springer Lake	Black bullhead	4						Mercury	
	Carp			NA*	NA*			PCBs	
	Channel catfish			NA*	NA*	NA*	2	½	Mercury
	Northern pike					4	2	2	Mercury
	Yellow perch	4	4					Mercury	
Storrie Lake	Carp			NA*	NA*	4		Mercury	
	Channel catfish		4	2		1		Mercury	
	White sucker		NA*	4				Mercury	

Catch and Eat?

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Northeast Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Stubblefield Lake	Black bullhead		4.					Mercury
	Channel catfish			4.	4.			Mercury
	Walleye			2.	2.			Mercury
	White sucker			NA*				Mercury
	Yellow perch		4.					Mercury
Ute Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury
	Channel catfish			4.	2.			Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2.	1.	1.			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2.					Mercury
	Walleye			1.	½.	½.	0.	Mercury
	White bass		3.	1.				Mercury

Southwest Consumption Advisory⁽²⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 34)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Bear Canyon Dam	Bluegill	4						Mercury
	Channel catfish		4.	4.				Mercury
	Crappie	½						Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4.	3.				Mercury
Bill Evans Lake	Bluegill	4						Mercury
	Largemouth bass			2.				Mercury
Caballo Lake	Blue catfish		4.	3.	3.			Mercury
	Channel catfish			3.	2.	2.		Mercury
	Crappie		3.					Mercury
	River carsucker			4.	4.			Mercury
	Smallmouth buffalo				2.	2.	1.	Mercury
	Walleye		4.	2.	1.	1.	1.	Mercury
White bass		1.	½				Mercury	
Elephant Butte Lake	Carp			2.	1.			.PCBs
	Channel catfish			1.	1.	½		Mercury
	Crappie		2.					Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2.	1.	1.			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2.	1.				Mercury
	Striped bass					1.	½	Mercury
White bass		1.	½				Mercury	
Lake Roberts	Bluegill	NA*						Mercury
	Largemouth bass			3.	2.			Mercury

NA* No Advisory

(1) Coldwater bag and possession limits are listed on pages 14–15 and 16–19.

(2) Warmwater bag and possession limits are listed on page 24.

Catch, Release or Eat?

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Southeast Consumption Advisory⁽²⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 34)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)							CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	30+	
Avalon Lake									
(Data on Avalon Lake unavailable. However, DDT, PCB presence up- and down-stream suggests the likelihood of substantial contamination)									
Brantley Lake	Channel catfish		4 . .	4 . .	2 . .	½			Mercury, DDT
	Largemouth bass		2 . .	2DDT
	White bass	½ . .	½ . .	1DDT
Carlsbad	Carp			4 . .	4DDT
Municipal Lakes	Channel catfish			1 . .	4DDT
(Lake Carlsbad and Bataan Lake)	Spotted bassNA*					Mercury, DDT, PCBs
Pecos River	CarpNA*	.NA*					DDT, PCBs
(North boundary of Brantley WMA to US 70)	Channel catfishNA*	.NA*	.NA*				DDT, PCBs
Pecos River	Channel catfish		4 . .	4 . .	2 . .	½			Mercury, DDT
(Brantley WMA)	Largemouth bass		2 . .	2DDT
	White bass	½ . .	½ . .	1DDT
Pecos River	CarpNA*	.NA*	.NA*				.PCBs
(Texas border to Carlsbad Municipal Lakes)	Channel catfish			14					.PCBs
Santa Rosa Lake	Bluegill	3							Mercury
	Channel catfish		3 . .	2 . .	2 . .	2 . .	1		Mercury
	Crappie	3	3						Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2						Mercury
	Walleye			3 . .	1 . .	1 . .	1		Mercury
Sumner Lake	Carp		4 . .	4 . .	4				Mercury
	Channel catfish	4	3 . .	3 . .	2				Mercury
	Flathead catfish		4		2				Mercury
	Walleye			3 . .	1 . .	½ . .	0		Mercury
	White bass	3	2						Mercury

NA* No Advisory

⁽²⁾ Warmwater bag and possession limits are listed on page 24.



Donation Certificate

Use this certificate if you give fish to a person or organization.

I, _____,
(Full name of license holder. Please print.)

residing at: _____,
(Address of license holder. Please print.)

on this day: ___/___/___ at: _____,
(Date of transaction) (Place of transaction)

hereby convey to: _____ the following fish:
(Person or organization receiving donation)

(Detailed description of the kind and number of fish donated; Example: one channel catfish weighing approximately 36 lbs.)

taken in _____ under my valid license number: _____ and taken on: ___/___/___.
(County)

Donor: _____ Recipient: _____
(Signature of license holder) (Signature of recipient)

By signing we understand and acknowledge to postdate, predate or otherwise falsify a Donation Certificate is unlawful.

S

Title VI Funding: Certain programs of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish receive federal funds from the U.S. 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: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. 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 P.O. 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, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, Public Civil Rights Accessibility & Disability Coordinator, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; (703) 358-1724.

Fondos de Titulo VI: Ciertos programas del New Mexico Department of Game and Fish reciben fondos federales del U.S. 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 mas informacion sobre Titulo VI, por favor escriba a: Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. 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 P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504, por lo menos tres días antes de la reunión. Para iniciar una queja, escriba a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, Public Civil Rights Accessibility & Disability Coordinator, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; (703) 358-1724.

Educational Outreach

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Free Fishing Camps

The Fishing Skills Program offers free camps with experienced professionals and seasoned volunteers to train students of all ages basic skills, including:

- Tackle and gear maintenance and assembly.
- Fishing knots and tying.
- How to identify fish species.
- Where to fish and what fish like to eat (the aquatic food web).
- Casting techniques.
- Fly-fishing skills and fly-tying (basic to intermediate).
- Fish handling and cleaning.
- Fishing and aquatic outdoor safety.
- New Mexico fishing rules and regulations.
- The angler's code of ethics.



To schedule a fishing camp in your community or at your school and learn more about angling opportunities in New Mexico, contact Dennis Segura, Sport Fishing Education Coordinator: (505) 476-2555.

Fish Hatchery Tours

Most of the more than 2 million game fish released each year in New Mexico's lakes and streams are raised from eggs at one of our State's fish hatcheries. In addition to maintaining quality fisheries throughout the state, hatcheries offer students extraordinary opportunities to view fish at each developmental stage, to learn firsthand about aquatic conservation and to fish at nearby facilities. Educational kits to prepare students in the classroom before they visit also are available. Kits are designed for grades 4-8 with lesson suggestions that use academic skills such as mathematics, history, literacy, technology and art.

Educators, youth group leaders and homeschoolers can schedule a tour, reserve an educational kit and learn more about student fishing opportunities by contacting their local hatchery.

Glenwood Hatchery, Glenwood, NM: (575) 539-2461

Fishing pond. Raises rainbow trout.

Lisboa Springs Hatchery, Pecos, NM: (505) 757-6360

Show pond with large rainbow trout. Raises rainbow trout. Monastery Lake is nearby for fishing.

Los Ojos Hatchery, Los Ojos, NM: (575) 588-7307

Laguna del Campo (Burns Canyon Lake) nearby. Raises kokanee salmon and rainbow trout.

Red River Hatchery, Questa, NM: (575) 586-0222

Show pond. Raises rainbow trout.

Rock Lake Hatchery, Santa Rosa, NM: (575) 472-3690

Raises rainbow trout, walleye, largemouth bass, channel catfish.

Seven Springs Hatchery, Jemez Springs, NM: (575) 829-3740

Kid's fishing pond on-site. Raises Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Family Fishing Statewide

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Albuquerque

Tingley Beach—City of Albuquerque Bio Park: Winter rainbow trout; Summer catfish.

Albuquerque Area Drains: Rainbow trout, catfish, bass.

Carlsbad

Carlsbad Municipal Lake and Bataan Lake: The Pecos River is dammed in town creating two city lakes. Rainbow trout, largemouth bass, bluegill and catfish.

Clayton and Springer areas

Clayton Lake: Rainbow trout, walleye, bluegill, catfish, largemouth bass.

Springer Lake: Northern pike and channel catfish.

Clovis

Greene Acres Pond and Ned Houk Ponds: Winter rainbow trout and summer catfish

Farmington and Bloomfield areas

San Juan River: World-renowned tail-water trophy rainbow and brown trout.

Navajo Lake: Kokanee salmon, smallmouth bass, crappie, rainbow trout, bluegill, channel catfish.

Grants

Bluewater Lake: Trophy tiger muskie.

Grants Riverwalk Pond: Rainbow trout and summer catfish. Now open to all anglers.

Hobbs

Green Meadows Pond: Bluegill, summer catfish and winter rainbow trout.

Jemez Springs

Fenton Lake: Rainbow trout, brown trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout

Seven Springs Fish Hatchery Brood Pond: Rainbow trout, brown trout; youth 11 years of age and younger.

Las Cruces

Young Pond: Winter trout and summer catfish.

Elephant Butte Lake State Park: Blue catfish, white-bass, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, walleye.

Caballo Lake State Park: Walleye, blue and channel catfish, white bass and crappie.

Moriarity

Manzano: Rainbow trout.

Corona Pond: Winter rainbow trout and summer catfish.

Estancia Park Ponds: Rainbow trout.

Portales

Oasis Lake: Winter rainbow trout, summer catfish and bluegill.

Family Fishing Statewide

Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Raton

Lake Maloya: Rainbow trout.

Roswell

Lake Van Community Lake: Winter rainbow trout and summer catfish.

Ruidoso

Ruidoso River (Sacramento Mountains): Rainbow trout.

Grindstone Reservoir: Rainbow trout, smallmouth bass and catfish.

Alto Lake: Winter trout and summer channel catfish.

Santa Fe area

Monastery Lake (near Pecos): Rainbow trout.

Abiquiu Lake: Rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, crappie, walleye, kokanee salmon.

Santa Cruz Lake: Rainbow trout. No-wake boats only. Anglers with a canoe can get onto the lake for bluegill fishing in the summer months.

Cochiti Lake: Smallmouth bass, crappie, northern pike, white bass.

Cowles Pond (Pecos River, north of Pecos): Rainbow trout. Youth and individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License) only on the smaller upper pond.

Upper Pecos River: Brown trout and rainbow trout.

Santa Rosa area

Santa Rosa Lake: Walleye, crappie, bass and catfish.

Santa Rosa Pond at Blue Hole Park: Winter rainbow trout and summer catfish. Youth, senior and individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License) only. Green sunfish, bluegill, channel catfish and largemouth bass.

Ute Lake: Walleye, channel catfish, white bass, smallmouth bass.

Conchas Lake: Walleye, channel catfish, white bass and smallmouth bass.

Silver City area

Gila River: trout, smallmouth bass and catfish.

Quemado Lake: Rainbow trout and tiger muskie.

Bill Evans Lake: Largemouth bass, rainbow trout and catfish.

Bear Canyon Reservoir: Largemouth bass, rainbow trout and catfish.

Lake Roberts: Largemouth bass, rainbow trout and catfish.

Rancho Grande Ponds: Rainbow trout and channel catfish

Taos area

Eagle Nest Lake: Rainbow trout, kokanee salmon and yellow perch.

Heron Lake: Kokanee salmon, rainbow trout, lake trout.

Red River Hatchery Pond: Rainbow trout. Youth, senior and individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License) only.

Rio Grande: Brown trout, rainbow trout, northern pike, smallmouth bass, Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Off-Highway Vehicles

OHV Permits and Information: www.B4uRide.com

Know the Laws, Operate Safely and Enjoy!

New Mexico laws for off-highway vehicles (OHV) are designed to protect all citizens, while ensuring responsible and safe OHV use. OHVs include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs), motorcycles and snowmobiles. Hunters who use an OHV must ensure their vehicle is properly registered or permitted and equipped with a U.S. Forest Service-approved spark arrester. Nonresidents may register an OHV in their home state or purchase a New Mexico nonresident permit at www.B4uRide.com.

All youth operators and passengers 17 years of age or younger must wear a DOT approved helmet and goggles or safety glasses. Whether young or old, it's every rider's responsibility to know and observe the laws. Before riding on public land, visit www.B4uRide.com.

New Mexico OHV Code of Ethics

- Learn about the area in which you will ride. Contact public-land managers or private-property landowners to understand area restrictions and receive permission before you ride. Get maps of the area(s) and stay on trails and/or areas designated for OHV use.
- Be courteous on the trail. Allow right-of-way to hikers and horseback riders, and when encountering horses—pull off of the trail on the low side, stop your engine, remove your helmet, and speak to the rider. Wait until all horses have passed and moved beyond 50 feet before restarting your engine.
- Minimize your impact on other hunters and anglers using the trail. Respect seasonal closures and avoid operating at peak-hunting hours. If retrieving game with an OHV, do it at midday to minimize disturbance to others. Cross streams where designated and at a 90-degree angle wherever possible.
- Leave gates and fences as you found them, and remember it's unlawful to travel or hunt on private property without the owner's permission.
- Leave areas cleaner than found. A plastic trash bag and bungee cords can be helpful tools to keep land clean.
- Obey trail markers and closure signs. If it's posted closed, stay out!
- Keep your OHV quiet. Excessive sound stresses wildlife and annoys property owners and other recreational users. It also contributes to your own riding fatigue. Less sound allows you to ride more comfortably and others to enjoy their outdoor experience.
- Approach livestock or wildlife on the trail slowly. Sometimes, range cattle will pass the afternoon under shade trees along the trail. If you startle them, they may run directly into your path. Give them time to react and as wide a berth as possible, and remember, it is unlawful to pursue or harass livestock.
- Never mix riding with alcohol or drugs. It's not only illegal, it's dangerous.
- Familiarize yourself with all of New Mexico's laws and requirements for OHV use by visiting: www.B4uRide.com or telephoning: (505) 222-4727.

Glossary of Terms

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Active Duty Military (N.M. Resident): Current active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps or Coast Guard for a minimum period of 90 days.

Members of the National Guard or Military Reserve Component and commissioned officers of the U.S. Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who have completed a minimum of six years of continuous honorable service.

Angling: To take or attempt to take fish by using hook and line with the line either held by hand or attached to a pole, rod or other device that is held in the hand or attended.

Artificial Fly or Lure: A lure is made of wood, metal, or hard plastic. A fly is made with fur, feathers or man-made materials to resemble or simulate insects, baitfish or other foods. Live or dead arthropods and annelids and rubber or plastic moldings of these insects, baitfish or other foods are not included.

Artificial Light: Artificial light may be used to take all species of game fish. However, it is illegal to shine light where game or livestock may be while in possession of a sporting arm which includes bows. Violators face loss of license privileges as well as criminal prosecution. Therefore, if lights are used the possession of a firearm or bow is not recommended.

Aquatic Invasive Species: Nonnative harmful and undesirable plants, animals, insects or organisms (see page 33).

Bag Limit: Number of fish that may be caught and kept in one day.

Barbless Hook: A single hook manufactured without barbs or which has any or all barbs removed or bent completely closed.

Baitfish: Live bait such as fathead minnows and red shiners (see complete definitions and rules on pages 23–24). Release of any baitfish is illegal and not permitted. Goldfish as bait are not permitted at any time in any waters of New Mexico.

Bow: Includes compound, recurve and longbows. Sights on bows may magnify targets but cannot project light. No drugs may be used on arrows. Arrows cannot be driven by explosives.

Bowfishing: Taking or attempting to take game fish with barbed arrows discharged by a bow from above the surface of the water. Arrows must be attached by string, line or rope to facilitate fish retrieval. Game fish may be taken by bow fishing only in lakes and reservoirs open to fishing. Bag and length limits for bowfishing and angling are the same. **Bowfishing is not allowed in any Special Trout Water, Trophy Bass Water, river or stream.** Local ordinances or prohibitions may apply at a specific location or water, and the local managing agency should be contacted prior to bowfishing. Crossbows may not be used to bowfish.

Chumming: Attracting fish with organic materials that will not injure aquatic life. Chumming is allowed only in the following waters: the Gila River downstream of the junction with its east fork; the Rio Grande downstream of its junction with the Rio Chama; and all waters not designated as Trout Waters. In any Special Trout Water it is unlawful to disturb aquatic plants, rocks or sediment to attract fish or to angle in the immediate vicinity of such disturbance.

Dead Bait: Sometimes called 'cutbait,' portions of some species may be used only in designated waters (see pages 23–24).

Disabled Veteran License: Annual reduced-fee game hunting and fishing licenses or lifetime free privileges are available to residents who are disabled veterans of the armed services (page 4).

Game Fish: Bass (largemouth, smallmouth, striped, white), bluegills, catfish, crappie, perch, pike, salmon, sunfish, tiger muskie, trout and walleye.

Game-hunting & Fishing License: An annual combination Game-hunting & Fishing License is valid for fishing in addition to hunting small game. Licenses may be purchased at license vendors statewide, including all NMDGF offices, toll-free: 1-888-248-6866 and online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Habitat Management & Access Validation: Habitat Management & Access Validation must be purchased and possessed by anglers, trappers and hunters. This once-per-license-year fee is used to: lease private lands for public use; provide public access to landlocked public land; and provide improvement, maintenance, development and operation of property for fish and wildlife habitat management. This fee is not required for anglers, hunters and trappers 17 years of age and younger or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege.

Habitat Stamp: All anglers and trappers 12 years of age and older and all hunters must have a current Habitat Stamp to use U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service (where fishing is allowed), and BLM lands in New Mexico. Only one stamp is required each license year (April 1–March 31) to fish, trap or hunt on these lands. The stamp is not required on other public property (such as state, county or municipal lands and parks), other federal lands (such as the Bureau of Reclamation, Army Corps of Engineers and military reservations) or on private property. Funds from the stamp are used to maintain and improve wildlife habitat. This fee is not required for anglers and trappers 11 years of age or younger, or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege.

Handicapped (Handicapped Fishing Licenses): See License Information, page 3.

Ice Fishing: Ice fishing is allowed on all lakes during open-season hours, except Monastery Lake, Santa Cruz Lake and Springer Lake. Commission-owned or managed lakes may be closed to ice fishing during unsafe conditions. For conditions and information, visit online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

License Year: April 1, 2018 and ending March 31, 2019. A new license is required every April 1.

Landowner Permission: It is unlawful to fish on private land without possession of valid written permission from the landowner whose property the angler is fishing, unless otherwise allowed by rule. The landowner's signature including date and telephone number on a valid license, landowner authorization or other paper shall constitute valid written permission.

Native American Lands: Permission from the tribal government for each reservation must be obtained before fishing. A New Mexico fishing license is not required on reservation waters (Cochiti Lake requires a fishing license). However, official tribal documentation showing lawful possession must accompany all fish or game taken on a reservation.

NMDGF: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

Nongame Fish: Buffalo, carp, gar, shad and suckers.

Over-the-Counter (OTC) License: A license available from vendors, NMDGF offices and online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

Glossary of Terms

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866**

Possession Limit: Total number of fish an individual may possess while in camp, vehicle or home.

Resident: See New Mexico Residency Requirements, page 4.

Second Rod Validation: Allows anglers to use two fishing rods in all waters. Bag and possession limits remain the same. See page 3 for further information.

Single Hook: A hook with only one point.

Snagging: Taking fish by hooking the body rather than the mouth. Kokanee salmon are the only fish that may be legally snagged, and only during Special Kokanee Snagging Season (page 15). If another species is caught by snagging, it must be immediately returned to the water.

Spearfishing: Spearfishing season is April 1–March 31, 2018 during legal fishing hours. Bag and length limits for spearfishing and angling are the same. Legal means of taking include spears, gigs and spears with barbs discharged under the surface of the water. Scuba divers and snorkelers may spear fish only in impoundments (reservoirs, lakes and ponds) open to fishing. Spearfishing is **not allowed** in any special trout water, river or stream.

U. S. Military (N.M. Resident): Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their Reserve Components, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, and commissioned members of the U.S. Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Veteran (N.M. Resident) New Mexico resident veteran with a minimum of 90 days active duty service in the U.S. Military, or six continuous years in the National Guard, Military Reserve Component, or U.S. Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Veterans must have been honorably discharged from military service.

Angler's Code of Ethics

- Never spill or dump pollutants onto the land or into the water.
- Never leave behind trash, including discarded fishing line, old hooks or bait containers.
- Always leave a fishing site as clean or cleaner than it was found.
- Report environmental damage and pollution to the authorities.
- Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
- Never use fish as live bait if those fish do not live in the waters being fished.
- Use only legal tackle, maintain gear and respect all fish and wildlife.
- Keep no more fish than legally allowed, and never wastefully discard fish.
- Practice conservation and properly release game fish not kept.
- Know and abide by all angling rules and regulations.
- Report illegal fishing activities to the proper authorities.
- Treat every angler, boater or person in the field with courtesy and respect.
- Obtain written permission from landowners for private lands or waters and never trespass.
- Respect the space of other anglers and allow room for any angler playing a fish.
- Observe all safety regulations.
- Watch boat speed and wake while maintaining a safe distance from other boats and anglers on the shore.
- Educate fellow anglers about fishing ethics, especially those new to the sport.
- Promote ethical behavior by example and inform others how anglers conserve resources and protect the environment.

Make a Difference ...

General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Become a Wildlife Conservation Volunteer!

Volunteers play an important role to help the department provide programs and services across the state. From wildlife conservation and aquatic education to off-road vehicle safety and habitat restoration, volunteers share their time and talent to help the department provide programs and support initiatives that otherwise might not be possible. Plus, the time volunteers contribute is matched in-kind with federal assistance dollars that further our wildlife conservation and education efforts for the citizens of New Mexico.

If you enjoy New Mexico's great outdoors, value and support wildlife conservation and would like to give back to your community, consider becoming a Wildlife Conservation Volunteer.

For information about the variety of volunteer opportunities available, visit us online.



<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/home/contact/wildlife-conservation-volunteer/>



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations

RED
GREEN

OR

XMAS

New Special Trout Waters

Keeping New Mexico True™, new designations for Special Trout Waters are easy to identify. Signs with the new symbols are posted at each location and list bag limits, regulations and catch-and-release restrictions (see pages 16–19).



Red Chile Water
Catch-and-release
with tackle restrictions



Green Chile Water
Two (2) trout daily bag limit
with tackle restrictions



Xmas Chile Water
Two (2) trout daily bag limit
with any legal tackle