



2022-23 Fishing Regulations Summary Sheet

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

What's New

BAITFISH: Shad added as approved baitfish species in the Pecos River drainage.

See page 7
in **2022-23 Fishing Rules & Information Booklet**

TROUT DAILY BAG LIMITS:

Trout bag limit increased to statewide limit (5 trout per day) at Tingley, Red River City Ponds, Red River Hatchery Ponds, Goose Lake, and Rio Grande below Elephant Butte Lake. Cutthroat trout limit increased at Seven Springs Kid's Pond.

See page 16

KOKANEEL SALMON

SNAGGING: New kokanee snagging season dates at Heron Lake and Willow Creek, November 11 — December 31. Abiquiu Lake closed to kokanee snagging.

See page 17

TROTTLINES: Waters open to trotlines defined by river drainage.

See page 25

WALLEYE AND SMALLMOUTH LENGTH LIMITS:

No length limit on walleye statewide. No length limit on smallmouth bass in the upper Rio Grande mainstream within Rio Arriba and Taos Counties.

See page 26

NEW SPECIAL SUMMER

CATFISH WATERS: Harris Pond and Trees Lake added as Summer Catfish Waters.

See page 27

AGE RESTRICTED

WATERS: Age restricted waters categorized into three new categories. Estancia Pond now open to all anglers. New youth fishing opportunity at Rock Lake Hatchery Ponds and Alto Kid's Pond.

See page 33

Important Reminders

IN MARCH 2022, the New Mexico Supreme Court ruled that the Landowner Certification of Non-Navigable Water Rule (19.31.22 NMAC) was unconstitutional. By means of this Court order, all watercourses in the state, that can be legally accessed, are open for public recreational use. Public recreationists are reminded that private property damage remains illegal.

See page 8 for information on criminal trespass.

IT'S ILLEGAL TO POSSESS, TRANSPORT AND STOCK LIVE

GAME FISH: It is illegal to possess, transport or stock live game fish into any water (except in the water where legally caught) without a permit from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF).

See page 7

BAITFISH RULES: Baitfish species approved by drainage.

Processed and packaged fish are not considered baitfish and may be used statewide where bait use is legal. Bullfrogs, dead or alive, cannot be used as bait.

See page 7

NEW MEXICO TROUT AND BASS CHALLENGE: Catch the five species of trout to complete the New Mexico Trout Challenge and four species of bass to complete the New Mexico Bass Challenge. For more information go to <https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/fishing-challenges/>

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BUY A LICENSE ONLINE, BY TELEPHONE OR AT LICENSE

VENDORS: Licenses and stamps can be purchased online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us beginning March 21, 2022. The NMDGF Information Center is open Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., except holidays, to answer questions and sell licenses: 1-888-248-6866. Licenses and stamps 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

Boating Regulations and Registration

Basic boating regulations: <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd/> or call: 1-888-667-2757.

Boater registration information: www.mvd.newmexico.gov or call: 1-888-683-4636.

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Special Trout Waters: Red, Green or Xmas

Designations for Special Trout Waters are easy to identify. Signs are posted at each location with bag limits and tackle restrictions for Red Chile Water, Green Chile Water and Xmas Chile Water.

See pages 18-21

Free Fishing Days

June 4: New Mexico Free Fishing Day. No license required (all other fishing rules apply).

September 24: National Hunting and Fishing Day. No license required (all other fishing rules apply).



◀ Download the entire 2022-23 Fishing Rules & Information booklet.



For more information on specific waters, please visit the Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner. ▶

SCAN ME

Bag Limits

The possession limit for each species is twice the daily bag limit.

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| Brown trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, Gila trout or kokanee salmon | 5 per day |
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- ▶ 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 is 3 trout at Laguna del Campo.
 - ▶ Possession of kokanee salmon is not permitted at Heron Lake and Willow Creek during the closed season, October 1–November 10.
 - ▶ Bag limits may be different for Special Trout Waters. See pages 18–21.

Lake trout	2 per day
Cutthroat trout	2 per day

- ▶ Cutthroat bag limit is 5 cutthroat trout at Seven Springs Hatchery Kid's Pond. No more than 5 trout, including cutthroat, may be harvested at Seven Springs Kid's Pond.
- ▶ Any trout with red slash marks below the jaw is considered a cutthroat.

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 Higby 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, Summer Lake Stilling Basin, Roswell Kid's Pond (Spring River Park), Tingley Beach, Young Pond.

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

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season

Bag Limit (during Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season)

Kokanee salmon	12 per day
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Designations of Special Trout Waters (STW)

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
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For a full list of Special Trout Waters, please see pages 18-21 of the RIB.

Warm Water Size and Bag Limits

Black Bass	5 per day
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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 blueheads and Special Summer Catfish)	15 per day
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In the Animas River and San Juan River, in San Juan County, there are no bag or possession limits.

Crappie	20 per day
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Striped Bass	1 per day
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In the Animas and San Juan Rivers, in San Juan County, there is no bag or possession limit.

Northern Pike	10 per day
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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
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40-inch minimum size limit. Found only in Bluewater Lake and Quemado Lake.

Walleye	5 per day
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White Bass	25 per day
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Yellow Perch	30 per day
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All other warmwater game fish (bluegill, sunfish, bullheads)	20 per day
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Possession Limits

Trophy Bass Waters	2 per day
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Largemouth bass, 14 inches or longer. Bill Evans, Clayton Lake and Lake Roberts.

Special Summer Catfish Waters	2 per day
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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, Harris Pond, 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, Trees Lake and Young Pond.