

FISHING INFORMATION

Big Fish Awards Program

You can qualify for a New Mexico Fishing Award. Just weigh and measure your catch, fill out the application form for NM State Record Fish application (which can be downloaded from our website www.wildlife.state.nm.us under FISHING) and return to the Santa Fe Office, NM Dept. of Game and Fish, Attn: Public Information and Outreach Division, PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Any fish legally taken in New Mexico is eligible.

Award Rules: Anyone may enter. Any fish legally taken by angling in New Mexico will be considered if it meets or exceeds the minimum size in the table below. A witness is needed; this may be the person who weighs and measures the fish. Send photo if possible.

Species	Minimum Length in Inches
Bass – Largemouth	20"
Bass – Smallmouth	14"
Bass – Spotted	14"
Bass – Striped	34"
Bass – White	15"
Bluegill	9"
Catfish – Blue	28"
Catfish – Channel	24"
Catfish – Flathead	36"
Common Carp	35"
Crappie	14"
Kokanee Salmon	17"
Longnose Gar	22"
Northern Pike	38"
Sunfish – Green	10"
Sunfish – Longear	10"
Tiger Muskie	
Trout – Brown	20"
Trout – Brook	14"
Trout – Cutthroat	15"
Trout – Gila	
Trout – Lake	25"
Trout – Rainbow	20"
Walleye	26"
Yellow Perch	12"
Other Species	Please write us

Boat Registration

Where do I register my boat?

Information for registering your boat is available from you local Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) field office (1-866-891-0665 or www.mvd.newmexico.gov) For information on boat license and rules for boat use, contact NM State Parks and Recreation Department 1-888-667-2757 or www.emnrd.state.nm.us.

Where do I go to sign up for Boat Safety Class?

NM State Parks and Recreation Department 1-888-667-2757 or www.emnrd.state.nm.us.

Fishing/Stocking Reports

Does the Department compile a fishing report or stocking report?

Get up-to-date fishing reports provided by the Department and information on fishing regulations, special waters, and answers to other pertinent question by calling our Fisheries Division at 505-476-8055. You can also access the current fishing and/or stocking reports on our website www.wildlife.state.nm.us under the Fishing section. The fishing report is updated every Tuesday and the stocking report is updated every Friday.

Free Fishing Day

What is “free” fishing day?

Free Fishing day are first Saturday in June to coincide with National Fishing Day and the fourth Saturday in September. Please view our Fishing Rules and Regulations for the exact dates of Free Fishing Day.

Group Fishing Privileges/Restrictions

I have a group of handicapped youngsters I want to take fishing? Are there special arrangements we can make to go fishing free?

The law allows the Director to grant free fishing privileges to certain groups (i.e. nursing home residents, groups in mental health rehabilitation programs, etc.) Such consideration should be requested in writing to the Department, explaining the group involved, the benefit to be derived, how the privilege will be used, and any other information deemed useful in considering the request. Privileges are available only to mentally and physically handicapped groups.

Hatchery Tours

Where are your hatcheries, and are they open for tours?

The Game and Fish Department has six hatcheries or fish rearing facilities. You can contact the Hatchery for tour & operation hours.

Hatcheries	Location	Phone Number
Lisboa Springs	Pecos	505-757-6360
Red River	Questa	575-586-0222
Seven Springs	Jemez Springs	575-829-3740
Los Ojos (Parkview)	Chama	575-588-7307
Glenwood	Glenwood	575-539-2461
Rock Lake	Santa Rosa	575-472-3690

Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Info

When does the special kokanee salmon snagging season begin? Where can I find this information?

The kokanee salmon snagging season dates can be found in our Fishing Rules and Regulations Booklet. The booklet can be found on our website www.wildlife.state.nm.us or calling 1-800-862-9310 to have the publication mailed.

Why does snagging season at Heron Lake and Willow Creek start later than the rest of the state?

Spawning operations are held each fall at Heron and Navajo Lake in order to ensure there are continued supplies of kokanee in the state. Department employees, using electro-fishing boats, collect spawning kokanee and temporarily store them in holding pens until eggs and milt can be collected. Afterwards, the kokanee are released back into the lake. The eggs and milt are mixed, water added to activate the milt and the fertilized eggs are hauled off to incubators at the hatcheries. Although eggs are sometimes available from out-of-state sources, it's cheaper, more reliable and more efficient for the department to collect eggs when the kokanee spawn.

License Requirements

Who is required to have a fishing license?

A fishing license is required of all anglers age 12 and older who would like to fish in New Mexico. Resident 70 years of age and 100% New Mexico Disable Veterans can obtain a free annual license from their local vendors or Department offices.

Mercury Levels in Fish

How do I obtain information regarding mercury levels in certain fish?

Contact the New Mexico Environment Department, Surface Water Quality Bureau at 505-827-0187 or website <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/Mercury/>. You can also find the consumption advisories in the Fishing Rules and Regulation Booklet.

Stocking of Private Ponds

I would like information regarding stocking my private pond. Whom do I contact?

Contact Fisheries Division at 505-476-8055. They can provide a list of certified vendors. There is a list posted on the website www.wildlife.state.nm.us under Fishing.

Two Poles

Is it legal to use two poles to fish?

You may use two poles in warm-waters provided you have a second rod validation on your license. We do have warm waters that are designated as winter trout waters and stocked with trout thus limiting them to one pole during a specific time frame. Please view the Fishing Rule and Regulation Booklet for more information.

Whirling Disease

What is whirling disease?

Whirling disease, *Myxobolus cerebralis*, is spread by microscopic spores found on the bottom of ponds, lakes, and rivers. It cannot be contracted by humans and fish carrying the spores are safe for consumption.

In the life cycle of the disease, the spores are eaten by tubifex worms and develop into Triactinomyxons while inside the worms. The Triactinomyxons are released from the tubifex worms into the water, where they cling to the bodies of trout and burrow into the fish's nervous system. Another metamorphosis within the fish results in a mature spore attacking the cartilage right behind the fish's head. After several weeks, that results in spinal deformities and "whirling" motions by the fish. Black tails are additional evidence

of a whirling-disease infection. Young rainbow and cutthroat trout, birth to nine months, are particularly vulnerable to whirling disease, although brown trout are relatively resistant to it. Brown trout are native to Europe and evolved with whirling disease.

What can I do to help prevent the spread of whirling disease?

Anglers can take many steps to reduce its spread. Moving live infected fish, or parts of dead infected fish, is probably the biggest source of contamination. Anglers should never move live fish and always should dispose of fish entrails and skeletons properly in trash receptacles on land rather than throwing fish parts into the waters. Do not use kitchen-sink disposals to dispose of fish parts. Anglers also can thoroughly wash and dry their boots and other gear after fishing in public waters.

Specific Area Questions

How can I find out about the water flow conditions of various streams and rivers in the state?

The US Geological Survey – Water Resource Division maintains an excellent website at <http://nm.water.usgs.gov/> or you can contact their hotline at 1-888-275-8747 or 505-830-7900.

I would like to know the water level at certain lakes?

Please visit our website www.wildlife.state.nm.us, click on Fishing, then click on Lake Levels or Natural Resources Conservation Service at www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/cgi-bin/resv-graph.pl?state=NM.

I would like to fish at the Costilla Reservoir. I would also like to find out about camping and fishing conditions. Whom do I contact?

Costilla Reservoir is a 90 acre privately owned reservoir on Costilla Creek, 10 miles east of Costilla, NM. It is owned and operated by Vermejo Park Ranch. You can contact them at 575-445-3097 or www.vermejoparkranch.com.

I would like information about Navajo Dam?

Navajo Dam is operated by Bureau of Reclamation, you can contact the superintendent at 505-632-2278 or www.usbr.gov/projects/FacilitiesByState.jsp?StateID=NM

I would like information about Santa Cruz Lake?

Santa Cruz lake is operated by Bureau of Land Management, you can contact the Taos office at 575-758-8851, 505-927-3314 or www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/recreation/taos/santa_cruz_lake.html

I would like information about State Parks Lakes?

You can contact NM State Parks for information about their areas, toll free 1-888-667-2757 or www.emnrd.state.nm.us.

NM State Parks	Contact Number (Superintendent/Manager)
Bluewater Lake	505-876-2391
Bottomless Lake	575-624-6058
Brantley Lake	575-457-2384
Caballo Lake	575-743-3942
Cerrillos Hill	505-474-0196
Cimmarron Canyon	575-377-6271
City of Rocks	575-536-2800
Clayton Lake	575-374-8808
Conchas Lake	575-868-2270
Coyote Creek	575-387-2328
Eagle Nest Lake	575-377-1594
El Vado Lake	575-588-7247
Elephant Butte Lake	575-744-5923
Fenton Lake	505-829-3630
Heron Lake	575-588-7470
Hyde Memorial	505-983-7175
Leasburg Dam	575-524-4068
Living Desert Zoo & Garden	575-887-5516
Manzano Mountains	505-847-2820
Messilla Valley Bosque	575-523-4398
Morphy Lake	575-387-2328
Oasis State	575-356-5331
Oliver Lee Memorial	575-437-8284
Pancho Villa	575-531-2711
Percha Dam	575-743-3942
Rio Grande Nature Center	505-344-7240
Rockhound	575-546-6182
Santa Rosa Lake	575-472-3110
Storrie Lake	505-425-7278
Sugarite Canyon	575-445-5607
Sumner Lake	575-355-2541
Ute Lake	575-487-2284
Vietnam Veterans Memorial	575-377-2293
Villanueva	575-421-2957