New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

2016–2017 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
A Great Year for Fishing in New Mexico

It’s going to be a great year for fishing here in New Mexico, as abundant monsoon rains and bountiful winter snows have replenished our lakes and streams.

Fisheries around the state have benefitted greatly from the improved conditions and should produce excellent angling opportunities. From the trophy-class trout waters of the San Juan River to the bass-rich shores of Brantley Lake, angling in New Mexico couldn’t be better.

We’re bringing back the big ones, those huge trout we’ve been stocking along with our regular loads, and we’ve added habitat improvements to popular fisheries such as the Red River and Pecos River.

We’ve stocked native trout in high mountain lakes, restored them in the Gila Wilderness and brought them back to much of their historic range in most of northern New Mexico. And we’ve done it all with the support of anglers like you who buy licenses, fishing equipment and boat fuel. That’s where we get the money for our programs.

Speaking of thanks, starting this year, we’re providing all resident military veterans and active-duty members a 50 percent discount on a fishing license. It’s the least we can do for our servicemen and women who sacrifice so much on our behalf.

Also, everyone who use boats on our state’s waters when angling are asked to help keep destructive aquatic invasive species such as quagga and zebra mussels from spreading to our waters. Always clean, drain and dry your watercraft and remember all boats are now subject to inspection and decontamination if needed before launching.

Now, let’s go fishing!

Alexandra Sandoval, Director
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
# Contents

General Information .................................................. iv
What’s New ............................................................. 1
License Fees ............................................................. 2
License Information .................................................... 3–5
Parental Responsibility Act .......................................... 5
General Regulations ................................................... 6
Criminal Trespass ....................................................... 7
Regulations for Specific Waters .................................... 9–13
Map of New Mexico Fishing Waters ......................... 15
Boating Regulations .................................................. 16
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) ..................................... 17
Warm Water Regulations ............................................. 18–20
Warm Water Size, Bag and Possession Limits
Bait and Baitfish ......................................................... 19
Open Gate Program ................................................... 20
Sportfish Restoration Program ................................... 21
Warm Water Game Fish .............................................. 22–23
Special Trout Waters ................................................ 24–26
Cold Water Game Fish .............................................. 28–29
Regular & Winter Trout and Kokanee Salmon ............ 30–31
Cold Water Bag and Possession Limits
Operation Game Thief ................................................ 31
Special Kokanee Snagging Season .............................. 32–33
Catch and Release or Catch and Eat? ......................... 34
Consumption Advisories ............................................. 34–38
Consumption Advisories
Northwest, Northeast, Southwest and Southeast Areas
Donation Certificate .................................................... 39
Glossary of Terms ...................................................... 40–42
The Angler’s Code ....................................................... 42
Free Fishing Day ......................................................... 43
Family Fishing Statewide .......................................... 44–45
Off-Highway Vehicles ............................................... 46
Educational Outreach .................................................. 47
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
Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman, P.O. Box 587, Albuquerque, NM 87103-0587
William “Bill” Montoya, Vice Chairman—125 Little Creek Hills Road, Alto, NM 88312
Robert Espinoza, Sr.—P.O. Box 6792, Farmington, NM 87499
Ralph Ramos—921 Jana Court, Las Cruces, NM 88005
Robert Ricklefs—167 West Cito Road, Cimarron, NM 87714
Elizabeth Atkinson Ryan—P.O. Box 1612, Roswell, NM 88202
Thomas “Dick” Salopek—975 Holcomb Road, Las Cruces, NM 88007

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

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 ............................................................... 1-800-432-4263
24-hour Depredation Hotline .......................................................... 1-888-727-4883
TDD (number for hearing impaired) .................................................. (505) 476-8143

New Mexico Fishing Rules and Information 2016–17 is published by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish / Information and Education Division, One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507 © 2016. Cover: NMDGF photo by Martin Perea / Art direction by Ron Short. Gear courtesy of the Sportsman Warehouse, Albuquerque, N.M.
Buy a License Online or by Toll-free Telephone

Licenses and permits can be purchased online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 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.

Licenses and permits also may be purchased at any NMDGF office or over the counter (OTC) at local vendors.

New 50% Discounts for Resident Military and Veterans

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

New Rules for Watercraft

The State Game Commission adopted new rules to help combat the spread of aquatic invasive species. See page 17.

New Special Trout Waters

San Antonio River from Valles Caldera National Preserve downstream 2.0 miles and all waters of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Daily bag limit of two trout, any length.

Bowfishing

Bowfishing is now a legal means to take game fish in reservoirs and lakes open to fishing. Bowfishing is not allowed in any special trout 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. All daily bag limit(s) for species and waters apply.

Dates to Remember

June 4 . . . . . . National Fishing Day. Fish without a license (all other fishing rules apply).

September 24 . . National Hunting and Fishing Day. Fish without a license (all other fishing rules apply).

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program

Boaters and anglers help to 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 Sport Fish and Wildlife 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.
License Fees

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

Licenses, stamps and validations may be purchased online: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us), toll-free: 1-888-248-6866, at all NMDGF offices or over the counter (OTC) at local vendors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>License Type</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Fishing</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$56.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-day Fishing</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-day Fishing</td>
<td>24.00</td>
<td>24.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Annual Fishing (age 12–17)</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Annual Fishing (age 65–69)</td>
<td>8.00</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 Years and Older Annual Fishing</td>
<td>Free</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Game-hunting &amp; Fishing</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Game-hunting &amp; Fishing</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military Game-hunting &amp; Fishing</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled Veteran Game-hunting &amp; Fishing</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habitat Stamp</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mandatory on all U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management properties.

Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) 4.00 4.00

This fee is waived for individuals under 18 years of age, residents anglers 70 years and older or 100%-disabled veterans in conjunction with their free license (page 4). HMAV does not replace the Habitat Stamp.

OTC Duplicate License (if license is lost or destroyed) NC NC

Duplicate licenses obtained from a vendor will be charged a one dollar ($1) fee.

Over-the-counter purchases are charged an additional vendor fee of one dollar for each document.

All fishing licenses include a trout stamp.

NA = Not Available.

NC = No Charge.
Licenses, Stamps and Validations: Online and Over-the-Counter (OTC)

While fishing in New Mexico, persons 12 years and older must possess a valid New Mexico Fishing License or Game Hunting & Fishing License. Fishing-license years begin April 1 and end March 31. 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 residents anglers 65–69 years of age.

Free Licenses for New Mexico residents 70 years and older are available at all NMDGF offices and license vendors. Free Senior Fishing Licenses are not available to nonresidents. Free licenses for 100%-disabled veterans (page 4) are available by application at the NMDGF Headquarters in Santa Fe, NM (page iv). These 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 severe physical or developmental disabilities. This license requires the holder to purchase and possess 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 which is purchased separately. The HMAV is not required for anglers under 18 years of age, residents 70 years and older or 100%-disabled veterans in conjunction with their free fishing license.

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 purchased separately and valid for one license year (April 1–March 31). This validation is not required for anglers under 12 years of age and New Mexico resident anglers 70 years and older or 100%-disabled veterans. Funds from the sale of the Habitat Stamp are used for 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 12–69 years of age must purchase a Second Rod Validation. This validation is not required for New Mexico residents 70 years and older or 100%-disabled veterans. All other license regulations, such as bag and possession limits, remain the same.

Gila Trout Fishing Permit Free for Select Locations

A Gila Trout Fishing Permit is required to fish in the Special Trout Water reaches of Black Canyon and Mogollon Creek. This permit is free and available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us and at local NMDGF offices.
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 a special license for hunting and fishing in New Mexico on the military reservation only.

Military and Veteran Licenses

New 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 pages 40 and 42 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 American 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 Licenses

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 Veterans Small Game & Fishing Licenses are available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us, at NMDGF offices and at local vendors. A Habitat Management & Access Validation and Habitat Stamp if applicable (page 3) are required with the Disabled Veterans Small Game & Fishing License.
Discounted Licenses for Active Duty Military

Residents who are active-duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard and who are on leave for 30 days or less are eligible for a Five-day Temporary Fishing License ($12).

These licenses are sold only at NMDGF offices and online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us. A Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation are required if applicable (page 3).

Resident Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing License

New Mexico residents who are members of the National Guard or the U.S. Armed Forces and were called to active duty on or after April 3, 2003 are eligible for a free Game-hunting & Fishing License for the year following their deactivation and return to New Mexico. Proof of service must be presented at an NMDGF office. A Habitat Management & Access Validation and Habitat Stamp are not required. This is a once-in-a-lifetime benefit.

Military Rehabilitation Fishing License

Members or veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces in rehabilitation programs which 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, with the following exceptions: 1.) the last four digits of a taxpayer identification number, a financial account number or a driver's license number; 2.) all but the year of a person's date of birth; and 3.) a social security number.

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.
Be Aware of What’s Legal and What Isn’t

Laws of the State of New Mexico make illegal: polluting streams, lakes, banks and other waters; leaving unattended or improperly handling fire; discarding refuse on public or private land without permission; and reckless handling of firearms or hunting while intoxicated.

Furthermore, 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 pole without a Second Rod Validation if 12 years of age or older.
- 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 sample 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 fish or other animals that are protected by law as endangered or threatened species.
- 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 15, ‘New Mexico Fishing Waters’ map).

For further information, complete New Mexico hunting and fishing laws are available online at: http://www.nmcp.state.nm.us/nmac/_title19/title19.htm

Also Remember . . .

- All game fish taken other than by angling, bowfishing or spearfishing must be returned immediately to the water where taken.
- It is the angler’s responsibility to return and release all endangered species of fish immediately to the water where taken.
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.
- 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 piece of 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.
- If a person trespasses while involved in hunting, trapping or fishing activities he/she will have his/her hunting, trapping or 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 where upon 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!
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.
Animas River (San Juan Co.): No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass (page 18).
Aspen Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to all fishing.
Bataan Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.
Bernardo Waterfowl Area: Boats restricted to no motors; No trotlines; Posted access only.
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: 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 under 12 years of age⁶, 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 del Apache NWR: Special regulations apply; Information available at refuge office.
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.
Brantley Reservoir: Catch and release for all fish.
Butler Street Reservoir: Open 5 a.m.–10 p.m.
Cabresto Creek (Upper Cabresto Creek and its tributaries from Cabresto Canyon to the headwaters): Special Trout Water⁴, catch-and-release only fishing for cutthroat trout and unlimited take for other trout.
Capulin Creek (Bandelier/Dome Wilderness, Sandoval Co.): Catch and release fishing only.
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 March 1–October 31; Boats may be used only during fishing seasons and are restricted to trolling speeds.
Río Chama: Special Trout Water⁴; Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ October 1–December 31 from El Vado Lake to the western boundary of Río Chama WMA.
Cimarron River: Special Trout Water⁴.
Clayton Lake: Open to fishing at noon March 1–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.

Conservancy Park/Tingley Beach Kids Pond: Open sunrise to sunset; Winter Trout Water¹; Special Trout Water¹; 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.

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

Conoco Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water¹.

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 under 12 of age⁶ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸.

Doctor Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Eagle Nest Lake: Open 5 a.m.–10 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 Park Lake: Open only to anglers under 12 years of age⁶, 65 and older⁷ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. 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.

Gilita Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

Grants City Pond: Open to anglers under 17 years of age⁶, 65 years and older⁷ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸; Special Summer Catfish Water².

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 under 12 years of age⁶.

Harry McAdams Park Ponds (Hobbs): Open to anglers under 12 years of age⁶, 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 11–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.

Jack’s Creek: Special Trout Water.

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

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

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 older or angels/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License); No boats or flotation devices allowed.

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

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

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

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

Main Diamond Creek: Closed to fishing above the confluence with the East Fork of Diamond Creek and the South Diamond Creek drainage.

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

McAllister Lake: Closed to all fishing due to fish kills by low water conditions and golden algae blooms.

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

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

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 Water; Gila Trout Permit (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 Water.

National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs): Inquire at refuge offices for regulations.

Navajo Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season October 1–December 31.

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

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

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

Pecos River: Special-trout and Winter Trout Water³.

Perch Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water².

Pine Lodge Creek: Closed for Rio Grande cutthroat 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.

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. Special Trout Water⁴; Ponds are open to fishing March 1–November 15.

Red River Hatchery Pond: Special Trout Water⁴; Reserved for anglers under 12 years of age⁶, 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 Costilla: Special Trout Water⁴; Camping allowed in designated areas only with permission from Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association.

Rio de los Pinos: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Grande: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Guadalupe: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio las Animas: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Pueblo: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Ruidoso: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Valdez: Special Trout Water⁴.

Roswell Kids Pond (Spring River Park): Open only to anglers under 12 years of age⁶. Special Summer Catfish Water².

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 18); 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.

Sargent Wildlife Area: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond: Open to anglers under 12 years of age⁶.

Shuree Ponds: Special Trout Water⁴; Open to fishing July 1–December 31; Daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset; One pond is reserved for anglers under 12 years of age⁶; Boats restricted
to no motors only.

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

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

**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 Water³.

**Tingley Beach Kids Pond**: See page 9, *Conservancy Park/Tingley Beach Kids Pond*.

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

**Tucumcari Wildlife Area**: Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only.

**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**: A 7-day Vehicle Pass ($20) or an NPS Senior/All America Pass is required. A $40 preserve only annual pass is available. Each angler, regardless of age, is required to obtain a free Valles Caldera National Preserve fishing permit for each day of fishing on the preserve. Fishing permits are available at the Valle Grande Entrance Station and can be obtained upon arrival on the date fishing will take place. Reservations are no longer accepted. For further information visit: [http://www.nps.gov/vall](http://www.nps.gov/vall).

**Vermejo River System (Vermejo Park Ranch)**: Unlimited take of brook trout.

**West Fork Gila and All Tributaries (Catron Co.)**: Closed to fishing upstream of the waterfalls between Forest Service Trail No. 151 crossing of the West Fork of the Gila River near White Creek Cabin and Forest Service Trail No. 151 crossing of the West Fork of the Gila River near Lilley Canyon.

**Woodrow Canyon Creek**: Closed to all fishing.

---

**Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species!**

**CLEAN, DRAIN and DRY** your boat and gear every time. To learn more about how responsible anglers prevent contamination of our fishing waters see page 17.
Waters
Licenses and General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Willow Creek (Rio Arriba Co.): Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ open November 13 –December 31.

Willow Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴.

Young Pond: Open to all anglers. Special Summer Catfish Water².

Youth Only Waters
Must be under 12 years of age⁶ 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 Kids 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 11 years of age⁵ or younger.

Youth, Senior³ 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)
Grants City Pond (Grants): Open to anglers under 17 years of age⁹, 65 years and older⁷ and anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸.

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 pages 32–33.
² Special Summer Catfish Water, see page 18.
³ Winter Trout Water, see page 30.
⁴ Special Trout Water, see pages 24–26.
⁵ Gila Trout Permit, 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.
New Mexico Fishing Waters

Licenses and General Information: 1-888-248-6866 or www.wildlife.state.nm.us
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 are 3-inch tall and 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, as well as children 12 years and younger, must wear a personal flotation device at all times.

5. Vessels while operating must carry: a life jacket of good condition for each person on board; one USCG 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.

6. 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 17).

Waters with Special Restrictions

Waters restricted to boats without motors include: 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, Both, 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 while performing duties use motor boats on all 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.

New Rules for Watercraft

The State Game Commission adopted new rules to help combat the spread of AIS. Changes include:

• 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.
• 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/aquaticaliens)
General Information
Warm waters include all streams, lakes, and ponds, except those designated as trout waters (pages 24–26 and 31). All persons 12 years or older must possess a current New Mexico fishing license while fishing in New Mexico. Resident anglers 70 years and older must possess a free Senior Fishing License. All anglers must have a Habitat Management & Access Validation. Only anglers 17 years and younger and residents 70 years and older or 100%-disabled veterans are exempt from purchasing this validation. A Second Rod Validation is free to New Mexico residents 70 years of age and older.

Warm Water Size, Bag and Possession Limits

**Black Bass**
- 5 per day
- Largemouth and spotted bass: 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)
- 15 per day
- In the Animas River and San Juan River, San Juan County, there are no bag or possession limits.

**Special Summer Catfish Waters**
- 2 per day
- Special catfish limit applies to Bataan, Blue Hole Park Pond, Bosque Redondo, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Conoco Lake, Corona, Dennis Chavez Pond, Escondida, Estancia Park Lake, Eunice, Grants Riverwalk Pond, Green Acres, Green Meadow, Jal Lake, Lake Van, Ned Houk, Oasis State Park, Perch Lake, Roswell Kids Pond (Spring River Park), Tingley Beach and Young Pond.

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

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

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

**Brantley Reservoir**
- 0 per day
- Catch-and-Release fishing only, for all species.

**Possession Limit** for each location is twice the daily bag limit, except tiger muskie which is one fish.
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, Caballo Lake, Rio Grande downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge and the Animas River. Frozen talapia 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.

Baitfish **may be used** with the following use restrictions. Gila River and San Francisco River drainages: fathead minnows only. Pecos River and San Juan River drainages: fathead minnows and red shiners only. 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 under 12 years of age. 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 ¾-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.

**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 of 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 under 12 years of age (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 24 hours.
Warm Water Regulations
Licenses and General Information: 1-888-248-6866

_Trotline or Set Line Use—continued._

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.

**Trotlines may not be used in the following:** Bataan, Bear Canyon, Bill Evans, Bosque Redondo, Bottomless Lakes, Carlsbad Municipal, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Corona, Escondida, Estancia Park Lake, Eunice, Grants Riverwalk Park, Green Acres, Green Meadow, Jal, Lake Van, Ned Houk, Oasis State Park and Tingley Beach.

NMDGF officers, personnel or designees may use trotlines in any water while performing official duties, such as population surveys or fishery management.

---

**Open Gate Program**

Open Gate is a voluntary access program available to landowners statewide. Its primary purpose is to provide sportsmen and women more places to fish, hunt or trap. NMDGF leases lands and waters for a variety of fishing, hunting and trapping seasons. Fishing and hunting is only allowed during the seasons and dates that the landowner specifies in his/her lease agreement.

Information about current Open Gate leases may be found on the NMDGF website listed above. Anglers can use this information to locate and learn about properties that match their interests.

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.

**Be a Respectful and Courteous Guest**

- Leave all gates as you found them.
- Don’t block gates or roads with parked vehicles.
- Pick up any trash along the way.
- And if you see the landowner, don’t forget to offer an appreciative _thank you_!

**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/.
Where To Find Warm Water Species

White Bass
Fall surveys have indicated that white bass populations are highest at Conchas Lake and Ute Lake. During the past year, white bass numbers have improved slightly at Elephant Butte and Caballo. Fishing from late spring to early summer in areas where shad or other forage fish congregate could provide exciting opportunities.

Largemouth Bass
Some of the best largemouth bass fishing can be found in New Mexico’s smaller lakes. Bill Evans Lake offers trophy-sized fishing opportunities. Fishing at Conchas and Ute lakes should be good. Concentrate on structure where available.

Smallmouth Bass
Smallmouth bass populations are very good at Navajo Lake, Ute Lake and Conchas Lake. Though the highest abundance can be found at Navajo, Ute and Conchas have good numbers of larger fish as well. Numbers and size also have improved at Elephant Butte Lake. 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. Anglers can expect above average catch rates at this lake for most of the summer. 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
Recent surveys indicate the highest and most stable populations of walleye are found at Caballo Lake. Ute Lake and Conchas 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. Elephant Butte, Conchas, Caballo and Ute lakes have very good populations, and 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.

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!
Warm Water 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

Blue Catfish
N.M. Record: June 20 ’05, Elephant Butte
Weight: 54 lb., ¼ oz.
Length: 43-½” Girth: 30-¼”

Channel Catfish (Illustrated)
N.M. Record: April 12 ’99, Stubblefield Lake
Weight: 36 lb., 8 oz.
Length: 38” Girth: 26”

Flathead Catfish
N.M. Record: June 7 ’79
Ash Canyon/Elephant Butte
Weight: 78 lb. 0 oz.
Length: 47-½” Girth: 31-½”

Handle with Care!
Long barbels around mouth
Small, irregular black spots, no scales
Uniform Sharp dorsal and pectoral spines
Deeply forked tail
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: 19-½” Girth: 18-⅛”
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: 13-½"
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: 50-½” Girth: 24-½”
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
Special Trout Waters

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

General Information

Special Trout Waters (STW) have reduced bag limits or catch-and-release restrictions. These regulations help to provide high-quality fishing experiences for anglers. Most Special Trout Waters require artificial flies and lures with single, barbless hooks (page 40). While fishing in Special Trout Waters, anglers may not disturb rocks, plants, or sediment to attract fish.

License Information

To fish in New Mexico, all persons 12 years or older must possess a valid New Mexico Fishing License or Game-hunting & Fishing License. A Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) is also required, however, this validation is free to anglers under 18 years of age, New Mexico residents 70 years and older and 100%-disabled veterans. Also free to New Mexico residents 70 years and older are Senior Fishing Licenses and Second Rod Validations, available at NMDGF offices and license vendors.

General Bag and Possession Limit Restrictions

All fishing in an STW 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 an STW where the bag limit is zero, anglers must not possess fish from another state water and may not possess fish over the daily bag limit for that STW.

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

A free Gila Trout Permit is required to fish in the Special Trout Waters of Black Canyon and Mogollon Creek. This free permit is available online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us and at NMDGF offices.

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.
Artificial Fly or Lure with Single, Barbless Hook
Catch-and-release only. All trout must be returned immediately to the water where taken.

Black Canyon upstream from waterfall barrier at Black Canyon Campground. Unlimited take of brown trout allowed upstream of fish barrier. Open from July 1–October 31.

Cabresto Creek upstream from Cabresto Canyon to headwaters. Catch and release for cutthroat trout. Unlimited take for all other trout.

Capulin Creek on Bandelier National Monument and U.S. Forest Service property.

Doctor Creek upstream from 1/4 mile above its confluence with Holy Ghost Creek to its headwaters.

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 Area.

Pecos River in the Pecos Wilderness above Pecos Falls.

Rio Cebolla upstream from the Seven Springs Day Use Area to the headwaters. *Unlimited take of brown trout allowed from McKinney Pond upstream to the headwaters.

Rio Costilla from Valle Vidal boundary 2.4 miles downstream to Latir Creek.

Rio Guadalupe from Porter Landing Bridge 1.3 miles downstream to Llano Loco Spring.

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

Rio Valdez in the Pecos Wilderness from 0.25 miles below Smith Cabin upstream to its headwaters.

San Juan River from Navajo Dam downstream 3.5 miles as posted. It is illegal to fish with more than 2 flies on a single line when fishing the Special Trout Water on the San Juan River.

Tingley Beach's southernmost pond.

Valle Vidal and Greenwood Area all streams.

One trout only, at least 16 inches.

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

Two trout only, any length.

San Antonio River from Valles Caldera National Preserve boundary downstream 2.0 miles.

Valles Caldera National Preserve all waters within preserve.

Two trout only, at least 15 inches.

Shuree Ponds on Valle Vidal.
Artificial Fly or Lure with Single, Barbless Hook—continued.

Two trout only, at least 12 inches.

- **Pecos River** in the box canyon 0.5 miles above the confluence of the Mora River and Pecos River upstream 1.0 miles to 0.25 miles below Cowles Bridge.
- **Red River** from the confluence of Goose Creek to 1 mile upstream as posted.

Two trout only, any length.

- **Rio Chama** on posted portion of 2.9 miles within the Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area.
- **Rio De Los Pinos** from U.S. Forest Service Roads 284 and 87A, 2.5 miles upstream to the private land.
- **Río Pueblo** between the bridge at Mile Marker 55 on N.M. Hwy. 518 upstream 1 mile to the Cañon Tio Maes trailhead as posted.
- **Sargent Wildlife Management Area** for all waters within the WMA including the Rio Chama, Rio Chamita and Sixto Creek, but excluding Nabor Creek and Nabor Lake.

Any Legal Tackle or Bait

Four trout only, any length.

- **Tingley Beach** at central and kids pond.

Three trout only, any length.

- **Laguna del Campo** is open to anglers 14 years or younger and 65 years and older only.
- **Rio Chama** from Abiquiu Dam downstream 7 miles to U.S. Hwy. 84 bridge at Abiquiu.
- **Red River** from 0.5 miles below the walking bridge at Red River State Hatchery downstream to the confluence with Rio Grande.
- **Red River Hatchery Pond** is open to anglers under 12 years of age, 65 and older or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License) only.
- **Red River City Ponds** is open March 1–November 15 (page 11).
- **Rio Grande** from the Colorado stateline downstream to the Taos Junction Bridge.
- **Rio Grande** from Elephant Butte Dam downstream to and including Caballo Lake.
- **Rio Ruidoso** from the border of the Mescalero Reservation downstream to Friedenbloom Drive.

Two Gila trout, any length.

- **Gilita Creek** and **Willow Creek** from the confluence of Snow Creek upstream to the headwaters. Unlimited brown trout.
Where To Find Cold Water 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 are anticipated at Heron Lake this year and expected to impact kokanee fishing. Navajo Lake may provide a more favorable alternative for trolling during the 2016 season. Eagle Nest Lake also is stocked every year with kokanee and should provide good trolling.

Lake Trout

In the 1980's, lake trout were introduced at Heron Lake and since have established a self-sustaining population. Fishing is usually best during spring and fall months. Low water levels are anticipated in 2016 and may impact access.

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. Many streams were affected by fires, but 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 with some of the most beautiful scenery in the state. Rio Grande cutthroat trout also are occasionally stocked in New Mexico’s high mountain lakes and rivers, including the Rio Guadalupe, Rio Grande and Rio Chama.
Cold Water 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”

**Snake River Cutthroat Trout**  
Small, profuse spots  
Orange-red slash mark below jaw  
Red-orange lower fins

**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (Native, N.M. state fish)**  
Large, dark irregular spots  
Red slash mark below jaw

**Gila Trout (Native)**  
N.M. Record: November 23 ’07, Gila River  
Weight: 4 lb., 8 oz.  
Length: 20”  Girth: 13-3/4”

**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

Spawning Male  
Long snout  
Arched back  
Sides turn pink-red to orange
General Information

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 at NMDGF offices or license vendor.

In addition to a valid license, a Habitat Management & Access Validation (purchased separately) is required. This validation is not required for anglers 17 years or younger and residents who are 70 years or older or 100%-disabled veterans. Second Rod Validations are also available free-of-charge to residents 70 years and older. 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, Caballo 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 (including Winter Trout Waters) is not permitted—with the following exceptions: Abiquiu Reservoir, Clayton Lake, Jackson Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Navajo Lake, Caballo Lake, Rio Grande (downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge) and the Animas River. 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.

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).


Drains: Albuquerque, Belen Riverside, Bernalillo, Corrales and Peralta.
Bag Limits for Regular & Winter Trout and Kokanee Salmon

Brown trout, brook trout, rainbow 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 fish at the Tingley Beach Central Pond and the Children’s Pond.
- Possession of kokanee salmon not permitted at Heron Lake and Willow Creek during the closed season, October 1–November 10.

Lake trout . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 per day . . . . . . . . 4 in possession
Cutthroat trout . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 per day . . . . . . . . 2 in possession
- Any trout with red slash marks below the jaw is considered a cutthroat.

Gila trout
Black Canyon, Mogollon Creek . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Catch-and-release only
Willow Creek, Gilita Creek . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 2 per day . . . . . . . . 2 in possession
All other locations, unless designated closed . . . . . . . . . . . 5 per day . . . . . . . . 10 in possession

Operation Game Thief

Poaching Harms Everyone.
Poachers are thieves stealing New Mexico’s fish and wildlife and spoiling a resource held in trust for anglers, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy. Operation Game Thief (OGT) is a silent witness program to help stop illegal poaching and trafficking by offering rewards for information leading to the arrest of poachers. Funded by donations from individuals and organizations and not from tax and license fees, rewards include: $750 for cases involving elk or bighorn sheep; $500 for cases involving deer or oryx; $350 for cases involving pronghorn antelope; $250 for cases involving turkey, bear, cougar, javelina, ibex, Barbary sheep, endangered species, small game, fish, raptors and furbearers; and $50 for cases where a warning citation is issued. OGT’s toll-free hotline is 1-800-432-4263 and available 24/7 and 365 days a year. Violations can also be reported online at: https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us/public/ogt.

Operation Game Thief Needs Your Support
If you are an individual or organization concerned about poaching and its impact on New Mexico’s fish and wildlife, please contact OGT at 1-800-432-4263 or send your tax-deductible donation to: Operation Game Thief, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504. All donations received are used solely to pay rewards and promote the program.
Kokanee Salmon

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 and Willow Creek are closed October 1–November 10, and no kokanee salmon may be in possession while fishing during these closures at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

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), Pine River, El Vado Lake, Navajo Lake, and Eagle Nest Lake.

**October 1–November 10:** Closed at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

**November 11–December 31:** Open at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

**Bag Limit**

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

### Navajo Lake and Pine River
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 following pages. 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 or toll free: 1-866-885-2997. 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/environ_exposure/fish/
www.epa.gov/waterscience/fish/
www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/advisories/index.html.

Northwest Consumption Advisory(1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>&lt;10</th>
<th>10–14</th>
<th>14–18</th>
<th>18–22</th>
<th>22–26</th>
<th>26–30</th>
<th>30+</th>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abiquiu Lake</td>
<td>Brown trout</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury, PCBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury, PCBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury, PCBs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smallmouth bass</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bluewater Lake</td>
<td>Tiger muskie</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canjilon Lakes</td>
<td>Brook trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>.</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA = No Advisory
(1) Cold-water bag and possession limits are listed on pages 24–26 and 30–33.
## Northwest Consumption Advisory—continued (1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Water</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Size (inches)</th>
<th>Contaminant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>10–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cochiti Lake</strong></td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern pike</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White bass</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>El Vado Lake</strong></td>
<td>Brown trout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kokanee salmon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heron Lake</strong></td>
<td>Kokanee salmon</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lake trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake Farmington</strong></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Largemouth bass</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Navajo Lake</strong></td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crappie</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kokanee salmon</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Largemouth bass</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern pike</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smallmouth bass</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rio Grande</strong></td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Otowi Bridge</strong></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>to Rio Chama)</strong></td>
<td>River carpsucker</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rio Grande</strong></td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Cochiti Lake</strong></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>to Otowi Bridge)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rio Grande</strong></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(US I-25 to 550)</strong></td>
<td>White bass</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>San Juan River</strong></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NA** = No Advisory

(1) Cold-water bag and possession limits are listed on pages 24–26 and 30–33.
## Northeast Consumption Advisory

(How to Use the Chart, page 34)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SIZE (inches)</th>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>10–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabresto Lake</td>
<td>Brook trout</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cutthroat trout</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charette Lakes</td>
<td>Black bullhead</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>.NA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow perch</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clayton Lake</td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>.1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conchas Lake</td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Largemouth bass</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smallmouth bass</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td>.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eagle Nest Lake</td>
<td>Kokanee salmon</td>
<td>.NA</td>
<td>.NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern pike</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>.NA</td>
<td>.NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow perch</td>
<td>.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Maloya</td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>.NA</td>
<td>.NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td>.NA</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maxwell Lakes</td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>.NA</td>
<td>.NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos River</td>
<td>Brown trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Pecos NH Park to Headwaters)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rio Grande</td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Rio Chama to Embudo Creek)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuree Ponds</td>
<td>Rainbow trout</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springer Lake</td>
<td>Black bullhead</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern pike</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yellow perch</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Storrie Lake</td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White sucker</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Northeast Consumption Advisory—continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SIZE (inches)</th>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>10–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stubblefield Lake</strong></td>
<td><strong>Black bullhead</strong></td>
<td>. . . .</td>
<td>4 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Channel catfish</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>4 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Walleye</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>White sucker</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>. . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Yellow perch</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>. . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ute Lake</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bluegill</strong></td>
<td>. . . . .</td>
<td>. . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Channel catfish</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>4 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Largemouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Smallmouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Walleye</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>1 . . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>White bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>3 . . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Southwest Consumption Advisory

(How to Use the Chart, page 34)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SIZE (inches)</th>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>10–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bear Canyon Dam</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bluegill</strong></td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td>4 . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Channel catfish</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>4 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Crappie</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>. . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Largemouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>4 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bill Evans Lake</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bluegill</strong></td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td>4 . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Largemouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Caballo Lake</strong></td>
<td><strong>Blue catfish</strong></td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td>4 . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Channel catfish</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>3 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Crappie</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>. . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>River carpsucker</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>4 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Smallmouth buffalo</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Walleye</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>4 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>White bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>1 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elephant Butte Lake</strong></td>
<td><strong>Carp</strong></td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td>2 . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Channel catfish</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>1 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Crappie</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>. . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Largemouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Smallmouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>2 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Striped bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>. . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>White bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>1 . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lake Roberts</strong></td>
<td><strong>Bluegill</strong></td>
<td>. . .</td>
<td>NA . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Largemouth bass</strong></td>
<td>. . . . . . .</td>
<td>3 . . .</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA = No Advisory

(1) Cold-water bag and possession limits are listed on pages 24–26 and 30–33.

(2) Warm-water bag and possession limits are listed on page 18.
## Catch, Release or Eat?

### Licenses and General Information:

**1-888-248-6866**

---

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WATER</th>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>SIZE (inches)</th>
<th>CONTAMINANT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>&lt;10</td>
<td>10–14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avalon Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Data on Avalon Lake unavailable. However, DDT, PCB presence up- and down-stream suggests the likelihood of substantial contamination)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brantley Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Catch and release only of all species by order of New Mexico State Game Commission)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlsbad</td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Lakes</td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>½</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Lake Carlsbad and Bataan Lake)</td>
<td>Spotted bass</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos River</td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(North boundary of Brantley WMA to US 70)</td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos River</td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Catch and release only of all species by order of New Mexico State Game Commission)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pecos River</td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Texas border to Carlsbad Municipal Lakes)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Rosa Lake</td>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Smallmouth bass</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumner Lake</td>
<td>Carp</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Channel catfish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Flathead catfish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walleye</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White bass</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NA = No Advisory

*(2) Warm-water bag and possession limits are listed on page 18.*

---

**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!
Use this certificate if you give fish, fish parts or game animals to a person or organization.

I, __________________________________________________________  on this day: ___/___/___,
(Full name of license holder. Please print.) (Date of transaction)

located at: ___________________________________________________________________________ ,
(Place of transaction)

hereby convey to: _____________________________________________  the following fish(s) or fish parts:
(Person or organization receiving donation)

____________________________________________________________________________________ ,
taken under my valid fishing license number: _________________________  and taken on: ___/___/___.

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.

The NMDGF Donation Certificate is also available online at: www.wildlife.state.nm.us.

**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, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

**Fundos 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 o 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, Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, Virginia 22203.
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; or six continuous years as a traditional member of the National Guard or Reserves, or as a commissioned officer of the U.S. Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, other than for training purposes only.

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. Soft-plastic lures may be used on the Rio Grande Special Trout Water below Elephant Butte Reservoir.

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 17).

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 19 and 30). 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: Shall mean compound, recurve or long bow. Sights on bows shall not project light or magnify.

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. Bowfishing is not allowed in any special trout 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 designated warm 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 19 and 30).

Disabled Veteran License: Reduced-fee license are available to residents who are disabled veterans of the armed services (page 4).
Licenses and General Information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

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

**Game-hunting License or Game-hunting & Fishing License:** An annual Game-hunting License is valid for hunting all small game and both upland and migratory game birds. An annual combination Game-hunting & Fishing License is valid for fishing in addition to hunting small game. Both types of 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](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us). All hunters must purchase one of these licenses in order to apply for any big-game license or before purchasing any over-the-counter big-game or turkey license.

**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 under 18 years of age and resident anglers 70 years and older or 100%-disabled veterans in conjunction with their free license.

**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 under 12 years of age, resident anglers who are 70 years and older (required for resident hunters and trappers 70 years and older) or residents who are 100%-disabled veterans in conjunction with their free license.

**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](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us).

**License Year:** Twelve month period, beginning April 1, 2016 and ending March 31, 2017. 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.
Glossary of Terms

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

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. No drawing is required to purchase these licenses.

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

Resident: New Mexico resident who does not claim residency elsewhere for any purpose. For full description, see page 4.

Second Rod Validation: 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 (pages 32–33). If another species is caught by snagging, it must be immediately returned to the water.

Spearfishing: Spearfishing season is April 1–March 31, 2017 during legal fishing hours. Bag 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.

Veteran (N.M. Resident) New Mexico resident veteran of active duty in the U.S. Military, National Guard or Military Reserve Component (National Guard and Reserves must have completed at least 6 years continuous honorable service), U.S. Public Health Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (PHS and NOAA must have been as part of a military operation).

The Angler’s Code

- 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.
Will your child remember the experiences of a lifetime or another video game?

Free Fishing Days
Fish without a license statewide.
All other rules and regulations apply.
June 4 and Sept. 24
Get outdoors! Find a fishing hole near you:
www.wildlife.state.nm.us
Albuquerque
Tingley Beach–City of Albuquerque Bio Park: Winter rainbow trout; Summer catfish.
Albuquerque Area Drains: Rainbow trout, catfish, bass.

Grants
Bluewater Lake: Trophy tiger muskie.
Grants Riverwalk Pond: Rainbow trout and summer catfish. Open to anglers 17 years of age and younger, 65 years and older and individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License).

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.

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.

Raton
Lake Maloya: Rainbow trout.

Moriarity
Manzano: Rainbow trout.
Corona Pond: Winter rainbow trout and summer catfish.
Estancia Park Ponds: Rainbow trout.

Taos
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.

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.
Clayton and Springer areas
Clayton Lake: Rainbow trout, walleye, bluegill, catfish, largemouth bass.
Springer Lake: Northern pike and channel catfish.

Santa Rosa
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.

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

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

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

Clovis
Green Acres Pond and Ned Houk Ponds: Winter rainbow trout and summer catfish.

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

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.

Ruidoso
Ruidoso River (Sacramento Mountains): Rainbow trout.
Grindstone Reservoir: Rainbow trout, smallmouth bass and catfish.
Alto Lake: Winter trout and summer channel catfish.

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.

Licenses and General Information: [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)
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 arrestor. 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 under 18 years of age 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.
Free Fishing Clinics

If you are new to angling or your fishing technique has become a bit rusty, the Fishing Skills Program offers free clinics to learn from experienced professional trainers and seasoned volunteers. Students of all ages are welcome and learn 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 clinic at your community or school and learn more about angling opportunities in New Mexico, contact Kevin Holladay, Aquatic Resources Education Coordinator: (505) 476-8095.

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
Brood 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
Brood fishing pond on-site. Raises Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
New Mexico Outdoor Expo

Fun for the entire family. Improve your fishing, shooting and outdoor skills.

Free Event: August 20–21, 2016

City of Albuquerque Shooting Range Park

Free events for children and adults include: catfish and bluegill pond, casting and fly tying, climbing wall, kayak instruction, firearm and archery target shooting, exhibits and much more. Learn from experts how to improve your fishing, shooting and outdoor skills. For directions and information visit: www.wildlife.state.nm.us