



New Mexico Fishing Rules & Information

Bass

Catfish

Perch

Crappie

Pike

Salmon

Sunfish

Trout

Walleye

2010 - 2011 LICENSE YEAR

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

Table of Contents and What's New

Table of Contents

2	What's New
3	License Fees and Definitions
4	General Regulations
5	Fishing Waters Map
6	Regulations For Specific Waters
8	Warm-Water Regulations
9	Boating Regulations
10	Special Trout Waters
12	Warm-Water Game Fish
13	Cold-Water Game Fish
14	Regular Trout, Winter Trout and Kokanee
15	Special Kokanee Snagging Season
16	Junior, Senior and Handicapped Waters
16	Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Users
17	Habitat Stamp, Sportfish Restoration and Donation Certificate
18	Operation Game Thief
19	Form 3 - Licenses by Mail
20	Fishing Forecasts and Advisories



What's New in 2010

- The bag limit is now 1 tiger muskie longer than 40 inches at Bluewater and Quemado lakes.
- The striped bass limit has been reduced from 3 to 2.
- In the Rio Cebolla from McKinney Pond to the headwaters, anglers are allowed an unlimited take of brown trout.
- The age restriction on Grants Riverwalk Pond has been changed to allow youth 17 and younger to fish.
- The Capulin Creek on Bandelier National Monument and U.S. Forest Service property has been re-opened to catch and release fishing.
- Upper Cabresto Creek and its tributaries from Cabresto Canyon to headwaters has been designated as a Special Trout Water with catch and release restrictions for cutthroat trout and unlimited take of other trout species
- In the Vermejo River on Vermejo Park Ranch and in Leandro Creek on public lands, anglers are allowed an unlimited take of brook trout.
- The Pine River has been re-opened to kokanee snagging during the same time Navajo Lake is open to snagging.
- At the Red River City Ponds, regulations have been changed. The large pond is now open to all anglers and the small pond is restricted to children.
- Anglers are now allowed an unlimited take of brown trout in Black Canyon above the fish migration barrier.
- The Special Trout Water of the upper Pecos River has been reduced by approximately ½ mile.

Contact the Department of Game and Fish **Main Office**

Department of Game and Fish
PO Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504
1 Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507
Web Address
www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Area Offices

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

Important Phone Numbers

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

Free Fishing Days!

Take your family fishing! You may fish without a license on June 5, National Fishing Day and September 25, National Hunting and Fishing Day. **All other fishing rules still apply.**

License Fees and Definitions

Licenses, Stamps, and Validations

Fishing and hunting licenses may be purchased at more than 230 license vendors state wide, all Department offices, on our Web site at www.wildlife.state.nm.us or by mail using Form 3 on page 19. See page 16 for eligibility requirements for Junior, Senior and Handicapped licenses.

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

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

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

Attention: Applicants for Combination Licenses

Online applicants selecting any combination hunting and fishing license will not be able to fish legally UNTIL they have received their authorization number.

Customers may obtain their authorization number by accessing their customer account between April 7 and April 15. If you wish to fish April 1, you MUST purchase a separate Fishing License.

License Requirements

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

License Year

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

Second Rod Validation

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

Habitat Stamp

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

Habitat Management and Access Validation

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

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

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

Definitions

Angling

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

Artificial Fly or Lure

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

Artificial Lights

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

Bag Limit

What you may catch and keep in one day.

Barbless Hook

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

continued

Definitions and General Regulations

Chumming

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

Fishing Waters

See map on page 5.

Game Fish

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

Ice Fishing

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

License Year

The license year is April 1 through March 31.

Native American Lands

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

Nongame Fish

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

Possession Limit

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

Resident

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

Second Rod Validation

A validation that allows anglers to use two fishing rods in all waters. Bag and Possession Limits remain the same. See page 3 for fees.

Single Hook

A hook with only one point.

Spearfishing

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

It Is Illegal:

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

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

Remember:

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

No Trespassing on Private Lands

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

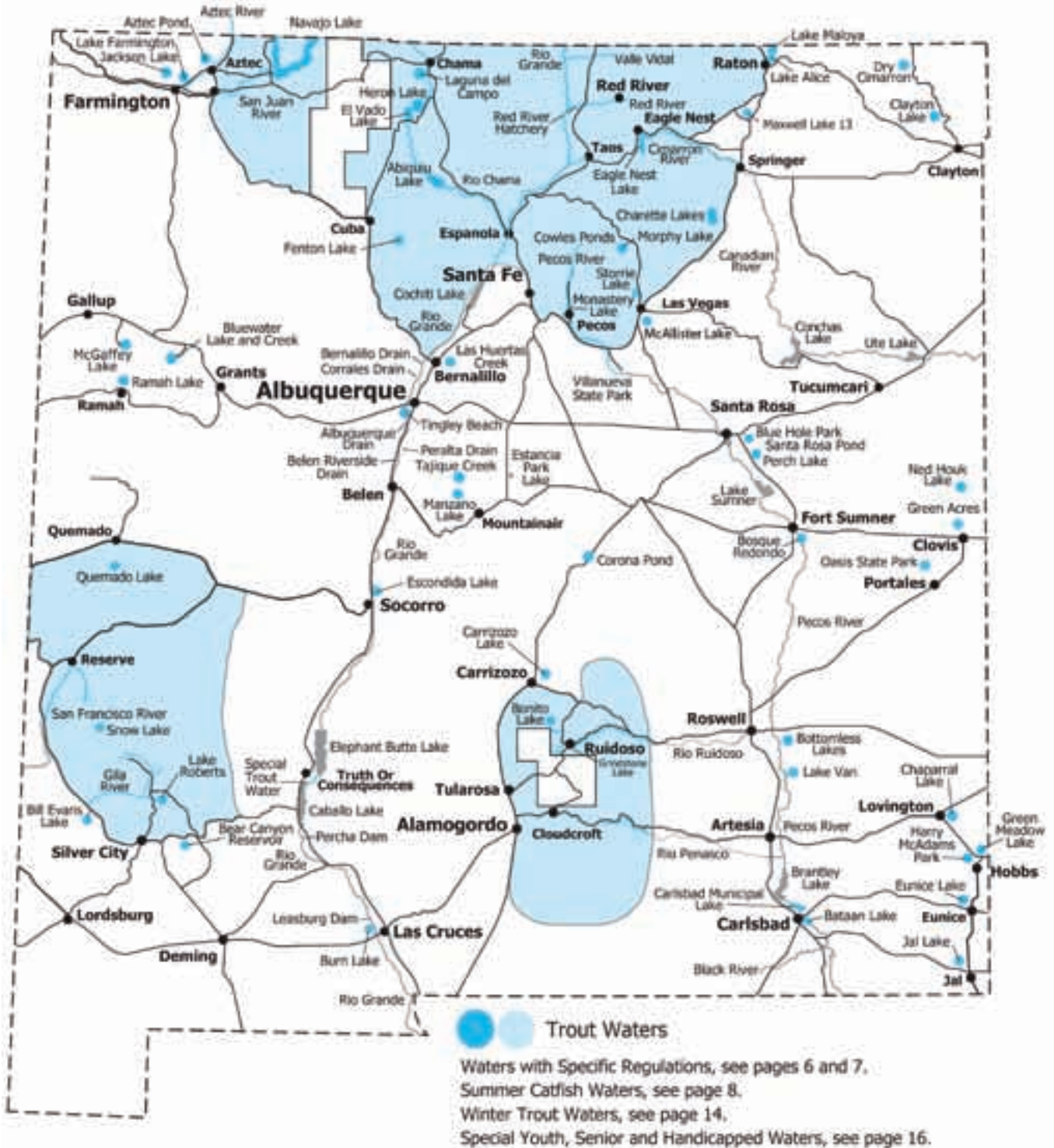
Criminal trespass consists of:

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

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

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

New Mexico Fishing Waters



Waters Closed to Fishing

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

Regulations For Specific Waters

- Abiquiu Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 15.
- Alto Lake: Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. The posted portion near the outlet is closed to fishing.
- Animas River (San Juan Co.): No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass, page 8.
- Aspen Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to fishing.
- ☀️ * Bataan Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Bernardo Waterfowl Area: Boat use is restricted to boats without motors. No trotlines. Access is as posted.
- * Bear Canyon Lake: Winter Trout Waters, page 14. No trotlines. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motor.
- Big Dry Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to fishing from Golden Link Cabin upstream through its headwaters.
- * Bill Evans Lake: Winter Trout Water, page 14. No trotlines. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Black Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Open to fishing from July 1-Oct. 31. Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Unlimited take of brown trout above fish barrier. Free Gila Trout Permit required.
- * Black River: Winter Trout Water, page 14:
- Bluewater Reservoir: One tiger muskie longer than 40 inches.
- Bonito Lake: Season is April 1 through Nov. 30. Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. No boats or floating devices are allowed. The posted portion near the outlet is closed to fishing.
- Bosque del Apache NWR: Special regulations apply. Get information from the refuge office.
- ☀️ * Bosque Redondo: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- * Bottomless Lakes State Park: Winter Trout Water, page 14. No trotlines. No fishing with bait fish.
- Brantley Reservoir: Catch and release for all fish caught.
- ☀️ * Burn Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Butler Street Reservoir: Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m.
- Cabresto Creek (Upper Cabresto Creek and tributaries from Cabresto Canyon to headwaters): Special Trout Waters, Catch and release fishing for cutthroat trout and unlimited take of other trout.
- Capulin Creek (Bandelier/Dome Wilderness, Sandoval Co.): Catch and release fishing only.
- * Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Winter Trout Water, page 14. No trotlines.
- ☀️ * Carrizozo Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- ☀️ * Chaparral Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Charette Lakes (Upper and lower): Season is noon March 1 through Oct. 31. Boats may be used only during fishing seasons and are restricted to trolling speeds.
- Chama River: Special Trout Water, pages 12-13. Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season from El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama WMA, Oct. 1-Dec. 31, page 15.
- Cimarron River: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Clayton Lake: Season is noon March 1-Oct. 31. Boats may be used only during fishing seasons and restricted to trolling speeds.
- Cochiti Lake: Boats restricted to trolling speeds. Spillway closed to fishing.
- Conchas Lake: Smallmouth bass less than 14 inches must be released.
- ♿ Cowles Pond (smaller of two ponds): Open only to children younger than 12 and handicapped anglers.
- Doctor Creek: Special Trout Water, page 13.
- Eagle Nest Lake: Hours are 5 a.m.-10 p.m. Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 15. Day use only, no overnight camping allowed. Posted portion near dam is closed to fishing.
- El Vado Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 15.
- ☀️ * Escondida Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- ☀️ ♿ Estancia Park Lake: Open only to children younger than 12, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers, page 16
- ☀️ * Eunice Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Fall Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to fishing.
- Fenton Lake: Boat use is restricted to boats with oars or electric motors. The parking area is open to vehicles 6 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Folsom Falls (Dry Cimarron Creek): No camping, no fires, no swimming.
- Gilita Creek (Special Trout Water): pages 10-11.
- Glenwood Hatchery Brood Pond: Open daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.
- ☀️ ♿ Grants Riverwalk Pond: Open to youth 17 and younger, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers, page 16.
- ☀️ * Green Acres Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- ☀️ * Green Meadow Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Harris Pond (Las Vegas): Open only to children younger than 12.
- * ♿ Harry McAdams Park Ponds (Hobbs): Winter Trout Water, page 14. Open to children younger than 12, 65 and older, and handicapped anglers, page 16.
- Heron Lake: Boat use restricted to trolling speeds. Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season open from second Friday in November through Dec. 31, page 15.
- Hopewell Lake: Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Iron Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Free Gila Trout Permit required.
- Jack's Creek: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Jackson Lake: Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- ☀️ * Jal Lake: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Laguna Madre (Maxwell Lakes): The posted portion within 150 feet of the outlet is closed to fishing.
- Laguna del Campo (Burn's Canyon Lake): Season is May 1-Oct. 31. Open daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Open to persons 14 years or younger, 65 and older, handicapped anglers or up to two parents/guardians in direct supervision of a child or children 14 years or younger who is fishing. No boats or flotation devices are allowed, page 16.
- Lake Maloya (Sugarite State Park): Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Lake Roberts: Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- ☀️ * Lake Van: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout Waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Little Creek (in Catron Co.): Closed to fishing from the barrier upstream through all tributaries.

Regulations For Specific Waters

- Maddox Lake: Not open to the public.
- Main Diamond Creek: Closed to fishing above confluence with the East Fork of Diamond Creek and South Diamond Creek drainage.
- Maxwell Lakes 13 and 14: Season begins noon March 1 through Oct. 31, boats restricted to trolling speed.
- McAllister Lake: All fish killed due to golden algae bloom. The lake remains closed to fishing.
- ☀️ McGaffey Lake: Boat use is restricted to those without motors. Summer catfish water. See page 8. No trotlines allowed.
- McKnight Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to fishing.
- Mogollon Creek, East Fork (Grant Co.): Upstream of Trail Canyon and Woodrow Canyon Creek-closed to fishing. Downstream of Trail Canyon-open to fishing from July 1 through Oct. 31. Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Free Gila Trout Permit Required.
- Monastery Lake: Open daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. No boats or floating devices are allowed. Closed to ice fishing.
- Morphy Lake: Season is April 1 through Oct. 31. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Nabor Creek & Nabor Lake: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- National Wildlife Refuges: Obtain regulations from refuge offices.
- Navajo Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 15.
- ❄️ Ned Houk: Winter Trout Water, page 14. No trotlines.
- ☀️❄️ Oasis State Park: Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines. No boats or flotation devices are allowed.
- ❄️ Pecos River: Special Trout and Winter Trout Waters, pages 10-11 and 14.
- Pine Lodge Creek: Closed for Rio Grande cutthroat restoration.
- Pine River: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, page 15.
- Quemado Lake: One tiger muskie longer than 40 inches. Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Ramah Lake: Boats are restricted to trolling speeds. The north shoreline is private property, closed to the public.
- Red River: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- ♿️ Red River City Ponds: East Kids pond is open only to anglers 12 and younger and handicapped anglers, page 16. Middle pond is open with no age restrictions. Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Ponds are open to fishing March 1-Nov. 15.
- ♿️ Red River Hatchery Pond: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Reserved for anglers younger than 12, 65 and older and handicapped anglers. No boats or flotation devices are allowed. Open daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. Daily bag and possession limits are 3 trout.
- Rio Cebolla: Special Trout Water. Unlimited take of brown trout from McKinney Pond to headwaters. See pages 10-11.
- Rio Costilla: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Camping is allowed only in designated areas.
- Rio de los Pinos: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Rio Grande: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Rio Guadalupe: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Rio las Animas: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Rio Pueblo: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Rio Ruidoso: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Rio Valdez: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- San Antonio River: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- San Gregorio Lake: Boat use is restricted to those without motors.
- San Juan River below Navajo Dam: No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass, page 8. Special Trout Water, only two flies per line may be used in the STW, pages 10-11.
- Santa Cruz Lake: Hours are 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Closed to ice fishing.
- ♿️ Santa Rosa Pond at Blue Hole: Open only to anglers younger than 12, 65 and older and handicapped anglers, page 16.
- Sargent Wildlife Area: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Sheep Corral Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to fishing.
- Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond: Open only to children younger than 12, page 16.
- Shuree Ponds: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Season is July 1-Dec. 31, during daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset. One pond is reserved for anglers younger than 12, page 16. Boat use is restricted to those without motors.
- ☀️❄️ Silver Pond (Corona Pond): Summer Catfish and Winter Trout waters, pages 8 and 14. No trotlines.
- Snow Lake: Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- South Diamond Creek and tributaries (Catron and Sierra Co.): Closed to fishing.
- Spring River Park (Roswell): Open only to children younger than 12.
- Springer Lake: Boats are restricted to trolling speeds only when water storage is less than 1,000 acre feet. Closed to ice fishing.
- Stubblefield Lake:** The posted portion within 150 feet of outlet is closed to fishing.
- ❄️ Spruce Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to fishing.
- ☀️❄️ Sumner Lake Stilling Basin: Winter Trout Water, page 14.
- Tingley Beach: Hours are sunrise to sunset. Winter Trout Water, page 14. Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Summer Catfish Water, page 8. No trotlines. No boats or flotation devices. Children's pond open to children 12 and younger, page 16.
- Trail Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to fishing.
- Tucumcari Wildlife Area: Boat use is restricted to oars or electric motors.
- Ute Lake: Smallmouth bass less than 14 inches must be released.
- Valle Vidal: Special Trout Water, pages 10-11. Season is July 1 through Dec. 31, during daylight hours: 30 minutes before sunrise to sunset.
- Valles Caldera National Preserve: Open by reservation only. Visit www.vallescaldera.gov for more information.
- Valley Improvement Association Ponds (Belen): Open only to children younger than 12, page 16.
- Vermejo River System on Vermejo Park Ranch and Leandro Creek on public lands: Unlimited take of brook trout.
- White Creek (Catron Co.): Closed to fishing from waterfall near White Creek Cabin upstream to headwaters.
- Woodrow Canyon Creek: Closed to fishing.
- Willow Creek (Rio Arriba Co.): Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season open from second Friday in November through Dec. 31, page 15.
- Willow Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water, pages 10-11.
- Young Pond:** Open only to children younger than 12, page 16.

☀️	Summer Catfish Water
❄️	Winter Trout Water
♿️	Handicapped Water

Warm Water Regulations

General Information

Warm waters are all streams, lakes, and ponds except those designated as trout waters (refer to map on page 5). ALL persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. Resident anglers 70 and older must have a Free Fishing License obtainable at any Department office or license vendor. All anglers must have a Habitat Management and Access Validation. Only those younger than 18, 100% Disabled Resident Veterans and resident anglers 70 and older are exempt from purchasing this validation. A Second Rod Validation is free to residents 70 and older.

Warm-Water Bag & Possession Limits

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

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

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

Crappie _____ 20 per day

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

Northern pike _____ 10 per day

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

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

White bass _____ 25 per day

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

Yellow perch _____ **30 per day**

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

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

Possession Limits: Twice the daily bag limit

Bait and Baitfish

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Taking Minnows

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

Warm Water and Boating Regulations

Trotlines Or Set Lines

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

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

Trotlines may not be used in the following waters:

Bataan, Bear Canyon, Bernardo Waterfowl Area, Bill Evans, Bottomless Lakes, Burn, Carlsbad Municipal, Carrizozo, Chaparral, Corona, Escondida, Estancia Park Lake, Eunice, Grants Riverwalk Park, Green Acres, Green Meadow, Jal, Lake Van, La Joya Waterfowl Area, McGaffey, Ned Houk, Oasis State Park, and Tingley Beach.

Trotlines may not be used in any trout waters except:

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

Basic Boating Regulations

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

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

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

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

BUI is strictly prohibited and enforced.

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

Special Boating Restricted Waters

Waters Restricted To Boats Without Motors

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

Waters Restricted To Boats With Oars Or Electric Motors

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

Waters Where No Boats Or Flotation Devices Are Allowed

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

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

Charette Lakes, Both	Cochiti Lake
Clayton Lake	Maxwell 13 & 14
Heron Lake	
McAllister Lake (No anchor use allowed)	
Ramah Lake	
Springer Lake, when less than 1,000 acre feet	

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

Remember!

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

Special Trout Water Regulations

General Information

Special Trout Waters (STW) have reduced bag limits or are catch-and-release only. These regulations give anglers a chance for high-quality fishing. Most Special Trout Waters require artificial flies and lures that have single, barbless hooks. See page 3-4 for definitions. Disturbing rocks, plants, or sediment in STW to attract fish is illegal.

License Information

ALL persons 12 years or older, while fishing in New Mexico, must have on their person a current New Mexico fishing license. You may use two poles in Special Trout Waters if you purchase a Second Rod Validation, see page 3. Resident anglers 70 and older must have on their person while fishing, a Free Fishing License available at any Department office or license vendor. All anglers must have a Habitat Management and Access Validation. Only those younger than 18, 100% Disabled Resident Veterans and resident anglers 70 and older are exempt from purchasing this validation. A Second Rod Validation is free to residents 70 and older.

General Bag and Possession Limit Restrictions

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

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

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

Catch & Release Tips

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

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

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

What's Whirling Disease?

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

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

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

What Can Anglers Do?

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

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

Get More Information

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

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

Special Trout Water Regulations

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

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

1 trout only, at least 16"

Cimarron River from east end of Tolby Campground downstream 1.4 miles to first US 64 bridge.

2 trout only, at least 15"

Shuree Ponds on Valle Vidal.

2 trout only, at least 12"

Pecos River the box canyon .5 mile above the confluence of the Mora and Pecos upstream 1 mile to .25 mile below Cowles bridge.

Red River from the confluence of Goose Creek for 1.0 mile upstream as posted.

2 trout only, any length

Chama River a posted portion of 2.9 miles within the Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area.

Iron Creek from barrier 4 miles upstream of Turkey Feather Trail to its headwaters.

Rio De Los Pinos from US Forest Service Roads 284 & 87A, 2.5 miles upstream to the private land.

Rio Pueblo between the bridge at Mile Marker 55 on NM 518 upstream 1.0 mile to the Cañon Tio Maes trail head as posted.

Sargent Wildlife Management Area all waters within the WMA (except: Nabor Creek and Nabor Lake), including the Rio Chama, Rio Chamita, and Sexton Creek.

Special Trout Waters-Any Legal Tackle or Bait

3 trout only, any length

Laguna del Campo (Burns Canyon Lake) Anglers 14 years of age or younger and 65 and older.

Chama River from Abiquiu Dam downstream 7.0 miles to the US 84 bridge at Abiquiu.

Red River from .5 mile below walking bridge at Red River State Hatchery downstream to confluence with Rio Grande.

Red River Hatchery Pond Anglers must be 12 years of age or younger, 65 and older, or handicapped.

Red River City Ponds open March 1- Nov. 15.

Rio Grande from Colorado line downstream to the Taos Junction bridge.

Rio Grande from Elephant Butte Dam downstream to and including Caballo Lake.

Rio Ruidoso from the Mescalero Reservation border downstream to Friedenbloom Drive.

2 Gila trout any length, unlimited brown trout

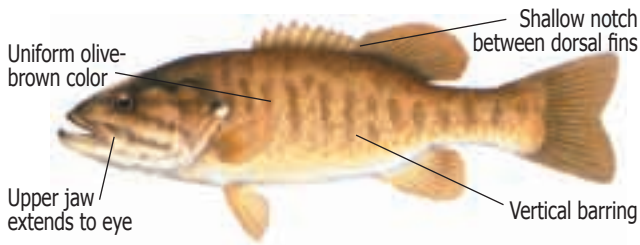
Gillita Creek and Willow Creek upstream from confluence of Snow Creek to headwaters.

Warm-Water Gamefish

Smallmouth Bass

NM Record: 3-31-06 Ute Lake

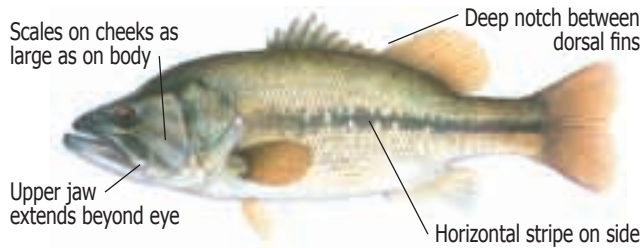
Weight: 7 lb., 3 oz. **Length:** 24" **Girth:** 16-1/2"



Largemouth Bass

NM Record: 3-24-95 Bill Evans Lake

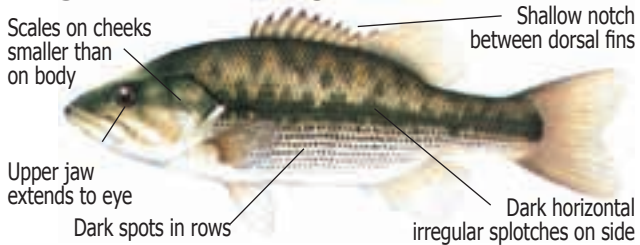
Weight: 15 lb., 13 oz. **Length:** 26-1/2" **Girth:** 24-3/4"



Spotted Bass

NM Record: 3-26-88 Cochiti Lake

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



Channel Catfish (Illustrated Below)

NM Record: 4-12-99 Stubblefield Lake

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

Blue Catfish

NM Record: 6-20-05 Elephant Butte

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

Flathead Catfish

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

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



Striped Bass

NM Record: 4-1-92 Elephant Butte

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



White Bass

NM Record: 6-8-83 Bill Evans Lake

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



Walleye

NM Record: 9-19-89 Clayton Lake

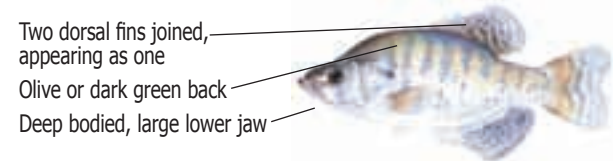
Weight: 16 lb., 9 oz. **Length:** 32" **Girth:** 21"



Crappie

NM Record: 3-2-83 Black River

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



Tiger Muskie (occurs only in Bluewater and Quemado lakes)

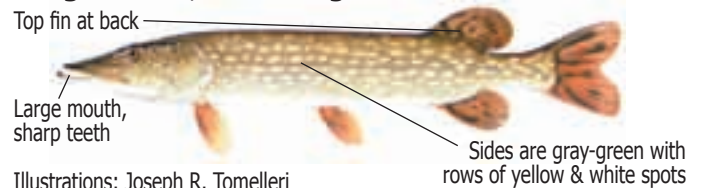
Similar to Northern Pike except sides have dark vertical bars



Northern Pike

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

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

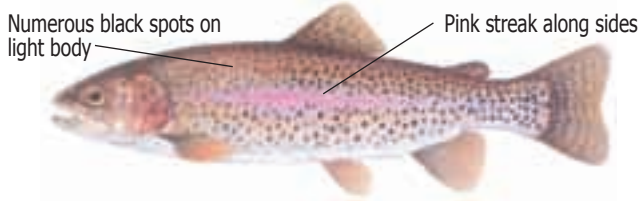


Illustrations: Joseph R. Tomelleri

Cold-Water Gamefish

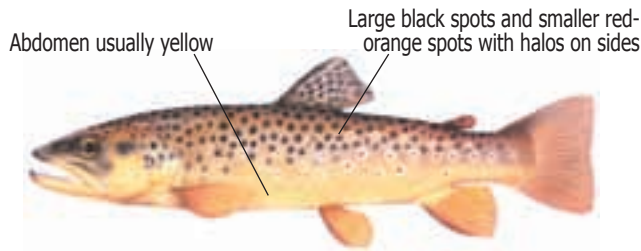
Rainbow Trout

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



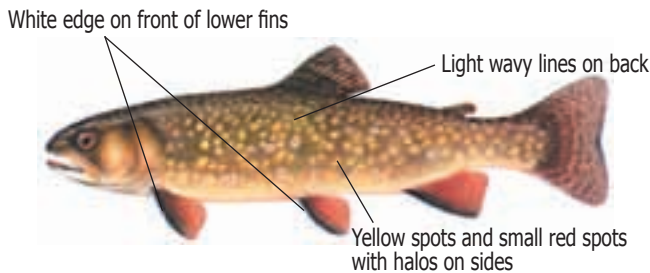
Brown Trout

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



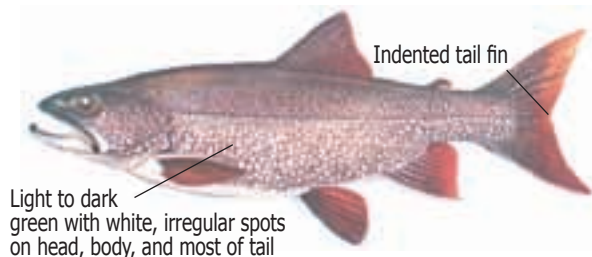
Brook Trout

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



Lake Trout

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



Cutthroat Trout

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

Snake River Cutthroat Trout

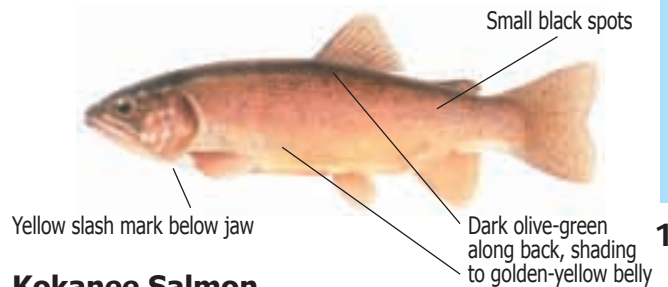


Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (Native - State Fish)



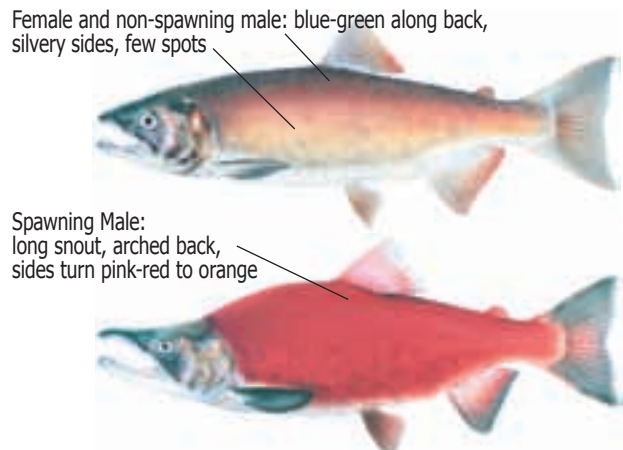
Gila Trout (Native)

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



Kokanee Salmon

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



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

Illustrations: Joseph R. Tomelleri

Regular Trout, Winter Trout and Kokanee

General Information

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

License Information

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

Trotlines

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

Baitfish

It is illegal to use bait fish in any trout waters except in the following: Abiquiu Reservoir, Clayton Lake, Jackson Lake, Maxwell Lake 13, Navajo Lake, Caballo Lake, Rio Grande downstream of the Taos Junction Bridge and the Animas River. See page 8.

Goldfish may NOT be used as bait in ANY waters.

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

Regular Trout, Winter Trout & Kokanee Bag Limits

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

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

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

It is unlawful to possess kokanee salmon at Heron Lake and Willow Creek during the closed season from Oct. 1 - Nov. 12.

Lake trout — 2 per day
4 in possession

Cutthroat trout — 2 per day
2 in possession

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

Gila trout — Catch-and-Release
Black Canyon
East Fork Mogollon Creek
Iron Creek
Gilita Creek
Willow Creek
— 2 per day, 2 in possession
— 5 per day, 10 in possession
Anywhere else unless closed to fishing

Winter Trout Waters

14 Winter Trout Waters

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

Bag and Possession Limits

See above.

Streams

Black River

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

Pecos River

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

Lakes

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

Drains

Albuquerque
Atrisco
Belen Riverside
Bernalillo
Corrales
Peralta

Special Kokanee Snagging Season

General Information

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

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

Each autumn, the Department of Game and Fish mounts a massive operation to obtain millions of kokanee eggs and milt. The fertilized eggs soon hatch and fry are stocked in Heron, Navajo, Abiquiu, El Vado, and Eagle Nest Lakes. This collection operation is the reason the snagging season at Heron Lake and Willow Creek is closed from Oct. 1 - Nov. 11. Without this egg and milt collecting operation, a kokanee salmon fishery would not exist in New Mexico.



Closed from Oct. 1 - Nov. 11



HERON LAKE
WILLOW CREEK
EL VADO LAKE

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season

Oct. 1 - Dec. 31

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

Oct. 1 - Nov. 11

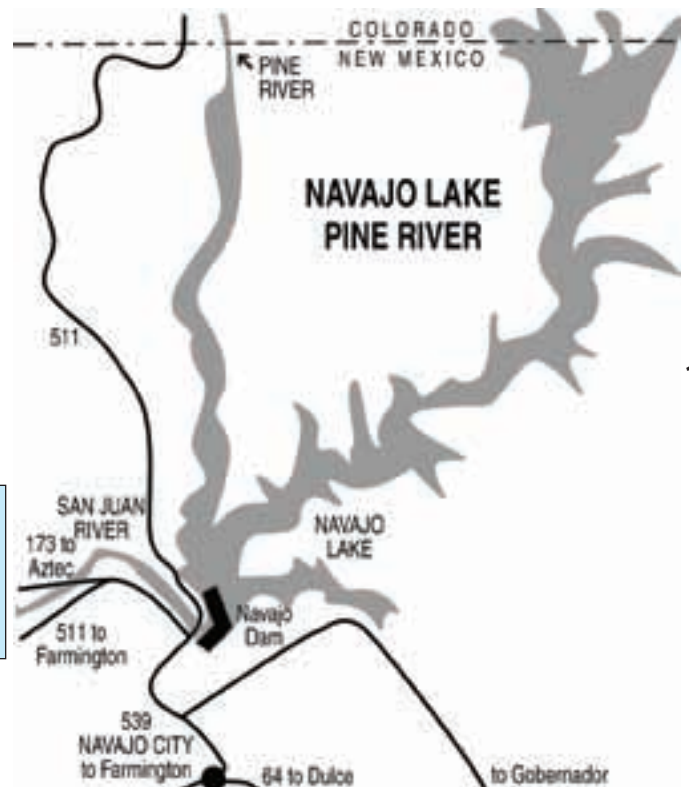
Snagging Season is closed at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Nov. 12 - Dec. 31

Snagging Season re-opens at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season Bag Limit

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



Junior, Senior and Handicapped Waters

Definitions

Junior Fishing License

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

Senior Fishing License

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

Free Senior Fishing License

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

Handicapped Fishing License

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

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

Bag and Possession Limits

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

Youth-Only Waters

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

Harris Pond in Las Vegas

Shuree Kid's Pond in the Valle Vidal

Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond in the Jemez Mountains

Spring River Park in Roswell

Valley Improvement Association Ponds in Belen

Young Pond in Las Cruces

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

Youth, Senior and Handicapped-Only Waters

Estancia Park Lake in Estancia

Harry McAdams Park Ponds in Hobbs

Red River Hatchery Pond in Red River

Santa Rosa Pond at Blue Hole Park in Santa Rosa

Grants Riverwalk Pond in Grants (17 and younger)

Youth and Handicapped-Only Waters

Cowles Pond north of Pecos (smaller of two ponds)

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

Anglers Under Age 14, Senior and Handicapped-Only Waters

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

Attention: Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Users

New Mexico has requirements for off-highway vehicles (OHV) that became law Jan. 1, 2006. The law is designed to protect the safety of all citizens and ensure responsible OHV use. OHVs include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs), snowmobiles and dirt bikes. It is the owner's responsibility to know the laws.

All OHVs used on public lands must be registered and owners must pay user fees used to promote safety and a system of dedicated OHV trails throughout the state. Nonresidents must purchase either a two-year or a 90 day permit available at Department of Game and Fish offices unless the OHV is registered and the user paid a user fee in another state.

All riders younger than 18 must wear a helmet and protective eye wear, must have adult supervision (unless they have taken an approved safety course), carry their OHV safety permit and have a valid license. No rider younger than 18 may carry a passenger even on an OHV specifically designed for two persons. Riders under the age of 10 must have parental supervision and ride an OHV that is age and size appropriate.

Furthermore, the New Mexico Statutes state: "It is unlawful to operate an off-highway motor vehicle on private lands or roads except with the express permission of the landowner or leaseholder of the lands".

Vehicles must have U.S. Forest Service approved spark arrestors and must have a headlight and taillight if driven at night. No rider may ride under the influence of drugs or alcohol. There is a 10 M.P.H. speed limit within 200 feet of a business, person, horseback rider or occupied dwelling. OHVs may NOT be operated on any paved street or highway, except to cross a road after coming to a complete stop.

Department of Game and Fish officers have the authority to request OHV driver identification, registration and check for compliance.

For more information, visit the Web site: www.B4uRide.com or call (505) 476-8171.

Habitat Stamp and Sportfish Restoration



Habitat Stamp Program

Each time a Habitat Improvement Stamp is purchased, sportsmen and women reinforce their support and commitment to New Mexico's wildlife. The stamp is required of all anglers age 12 through 69, fishing on Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service lands.

In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Habitat Stamp Program accumulated \$852,115. Agency partners contributed additional funding, bringing the total spent to \$2.65 million, completing 70 projects. They included:

- 29,467 acres of vegetative treatments
- 8,500 acres of wildlife cover improvements
- 348 acres of riparian enhancements
- 7 miles of in-stream structures for fish
- 1 road barrier and 2 miles of fencing to protect streams from vehicle access
- 15 wildlife-watering sites
- 26 erosion control structures
- 19 population or habitat surveys
- 550 hours of extra law enforcement effort
- 8 wildlife movement structures
- 5 miles of roads removed
- Maintenance of 421 existing structures and 2,812 acres that were previously treated.

Department staff and partners have initiated the process to seek reauthorization of the program, which sunsets in April 2011.



Sportfish Restoration Program

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

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

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

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

Donation Certificate



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

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

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

I _____
 Address _____
 City and State _____
 Hereby convey to:
 Recipient's Name _____
 Address _____
 City and State _____
 The following game fish or parts: _____
 Taken by me under NM Fishing License #: _____
 On _____ Date In _____ County
 Date of Transaction: _____
 Place of Transaction: _____
 Donor's Signature: _____
 I affirm that the above information is true and correct. I understand it is unlawful to pre-date or otherwise falsify a certificate or donation.

Title VI Funding

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

Title VI Funding

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

Operation Game Thief, Form 3

Turn In a Poacher, Earn a Reward!

Rewards for the arrest or charges against game violators are:

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

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



Operation Game Thief

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

Tips from the public led to 160 new poaching investigations during fiscal year 2008-2009. Those tips resulted in 105 completed cases, 58 charges filed, 29 convictions and \$6,521 in fines. The Department paid \$6,500 in rewards and the program received \$10,189 in donations.

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

Conservation Officers made more than 64,371 contacts in the field, checking licenses and patrolling public lands, streams, and lakes. Officers logged approximately 38,218 hours in the field and issued 2,655 citations or criminal complaints for various wildlife-related violations.

The Department collected \$41,175 in fines from 549 penalty assessments, and \$1,850 in Parental Responsibility Act reinstatement fees. The State Game Commission revoked the hunting, fishing and trapping privileges of 122 violators who accumulated 20 or more points, and 298 people who failed to comply with the Parental Responsibility Act. The Commission suspended six outfitters for failing to carry the required \$500,000 of commercial liability insurance.

Parental Responsibility Act

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

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

There are currently 4,017 individuals that have their hunting and fishing privileges suspended because of the Parental Responsibility Act. For more information about this law, please contact the Department's Law Enforcement Division at (505) 476-8065.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Fishing in the Southwest

Fishing Forecast

- **Bear Canyon Lake:** Fishing should be fair for channel catfish, largemouth bass and bluegills. Fishing should be good for rainbows from November-March.
- **Bill Evans Lake:** Fishing should be good for channel cats, largemouth bass and bluegill throughout spring and summer. Fishing should be good for rainbows from November-March.
- **Burn Lake:** will be stocked several times this summer with 1.5 pound channel catfish. Concentrate your fishing at night or late evening. It also will be stocked with rainbow trout in the winter.
- **Caballo Lake:** The lake holds a good population of walleye in the 15-22 inch range with blue and channel catfish ranging from 10-20 inches. White bass fishing is expected to be slow throughout the summer.
- **Elephant Butte Lake:** Current lake conditions appear to favor largemouth bass. Fish for them early morning and late evening from spring to early summer. White bass fishing will be fair to slow throughout the lake during late spring and summer. Striped bass

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

- **Escondido Lake:** will be stocked this summer with 1.5 pound channel catfish. Concentrate your fishing at night or late evening. It also will be stocked with rainbow trout in the winter.
- **Lake Roberts:** Fishing for largemouth bass and bluegill will be good from spring to early summer. Angling for catfish in the summer months could be slow. During winter months, fishing for stocked rainbow trout should be good.
- **Quemado Lake:** Fishing at Quemado Lake will be good for stocked rainbow trout throughout the year, but will slow in the summer when water temperatures increase. Tiger musky are available throughout the year. There are two new water circulators in the lake to help control algal blooms in the summer.
- **Snow Lake:** Fishing for stocked rainbow trout will be best from November-March. Expect fishing to be slowest in the summer.

Safe to eat? Consider these guidelines

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

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

Things to remember when using the charts:

- The charts list state waters, fish species, fish lengths and corresponding recommendations for maximum numbers of 8 ounce

meals of fish a person safely can consume in one month.

- Missing sizes mean no fish in those sizes were tested. However, because contaminants accumulate in fish, older (larger) fish tend to have more contaminants in their bodies.
- Eating the maximum amount of contaminated fish of one species means you should not eat any more contaminated fish of any species for a month. "Unlimited" means you can eat as many fish as you want.
- "0" means that these fish are not recommended for eating.
- The numbers represent consumption limits only and not bag limits.

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

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

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Bear Canyon Dam	Bluegill	4						Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	4				Mercury
	Crappie	1/2						Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4	3				Mercury
Bill Evans lake	Bluegill	4						Mercury
	Largemouth bass			2				Mercury, PCBs
Caballo Lake	Blue catfish		4	4				Mercury
	Channel catfish			2	2	2		Mercury
	Crappie		3					Mercury
	River carpsucker			4	4			Mercury
	Smallmouth buffalo				2	2	1	Mercury
	Walleye		4	2	2	1	1	Mercury
Elephant Butte Lake	White bass		2	1				Mercury
	Carp			2	1			PCBs
	Channel catfish			1	1	1/2		Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2	1	1			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		1					Mercury, PCBs
	Striped bass					1	1/2	Mercury
Lake Roberts	White bass		1	1/2				Mercury
	Bluegill	12						Mercury
Lake Roberts	Largemouth bass			3	2			Mercury

Fishing in the Southeast



Fishing Forecast

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

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

• **Brantley Lake:** Fish numbers remain low due to toxic golden algae blooms during the winter of 2008-2009. There have been no algae blooms this past winter, so fishing should improve. If you go, concentrate on the upper portions of the lake for channel catfish and white bass. Brantley is catch and release fishing only.

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

• **Grindstone Lake:** Fishing should be sporadic throughout the summer for stocked rainbows. Stocking has been sporadic the last few years due to water quality problems. During the summer, try fishing early in the day (before the sun hits the water) and cast to rising fish.

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

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



Consumption advisories (Please see page 20 for an explanation of this table.)

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

Fishing in the Northeast

Fishing Forecast

• **Conchas Lake:** Walleye and largemouth bass populations are down slightly but white bass population is stable. Fishing for channel catfish should be excellent in 2010.

• **Ute Lake:** White bass population continues to be extremely high and fishing in 2010 should reflect this. Channel catfish populations are stable. Fishing for smallmouth bass should be good in 2010, and the new size limit is helping grow larger fish.

• **Eagle Nest Lake:** The rainbow trout population is good and larger fish should be available to anglers. Due to increase stocking, kokanee salmon populations are high. Summer trolling should be excellent for 2010.

• **Pecos River:** Like other waters, the good snow pack will provide excellent stream flows through 2010. Brown trout populations remains above normal. The Department continues to stock rainbow trout.

• **Red River:** The upper Red River should be great fishing in 2010 with high trout densities upstream of the town of Red River. The middle Red River (Town of Red River to Questa) trout population remains low. The lower Red River should be good with some large trout in the population.

• **Clayton Lake:** There is a healthy population of walleye, largemouth bass and bullheads in Clayton Lake. The Department plans to stock 200,000 walleye and 20,000 rainbows in 2010.

Consumption advisories (Please see page 20 for an explanation of this table.)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Cabresto Lake	Brook trout	4						Mercury
	Cutbow trout	4						Mercury
Canjilon Lakes	Brook trout	Unlimited	Unlimited					Mercury
	Rainbow trout	Unlimited	Unlimited					Mercury
Charette Lakes	Black bullhead		1					Mercury
	Rainbow trout		Unlimited					Mercury
	White sucker		4	4				Mercury
	Yellow perch		1	1				Mercury
Clayton Lake	Bluegill	1						Mercury
	Channel catfish				4		1	Mercury
	Walleye					1	1/2	Mercury
Conchas Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury
	Channel catfish			3	1			Mercury, PCBs
	Largemouth bass		3	2	1			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		3	2				Mercury
	Walleye		3	2	1		1/2	Mercury
Eagle Nest Lake	Kokanee salmon		Unlimited	Unlimited				Mercury
	Rainbow trout		Unlimited	Unlimited	4			Mercury
	White sucker		4					Mercury
Lake Maloya	Rainbow trout	Unlimited	Unlimited					Mercury
	White sucker	8	4					Mercury
Maxwell Lakes	Channel catfish				Unlimited			Mercury
	Rainbow trout			Unlimited	Unlimited			Mercury
Pecos River (Headwaters to Pecos National Historical Park)								
	Brown trout	Unlimited	12	4				Mercury
	White sucker	12						Mercury
Rio Grande (Embudo Creek to Chama River)								
	Carp				1	0		PCBs
	Channel catfish			1	1			PCBs
	White sucker			1				PCBs
Shuree Ponds	Rainbow trout		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited			Mercury
Springer Lake	Black bullhead	4						Mercury
	Carp			Unlimited	Unlimited			Mercury
	Channel catfish			4	3		2	1/2
	Northern pike						2	2
	Yellow perch	4	4					Mercury
Storrie Lake	Carp			Unlimited	12	4		Mercury
	Channel catfish		4	2		1		Mercury
	White sucker		12	4				Mercury
Stubblefield Lake	Black bullhead		4					Mercury
	Channel catfish				4	4		Mercury
	Walleye				1	1		Mercury
	White sucker			8				Mercury
Ute Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury
	Channel catfish				2			Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2	1	1			Mercury
	Smallmouth bass		2					Mercury
	Walleye			1	1	1/2	0	Mercury

Fishing in the Northwest



Fishing Forecast

• **Navajo Lake:** Navajo Reservoir should maintain a high water level this year. The crappie fishing is very good, especially during mid-May. Kokanee fishing should be good. Black bass fishing should be fair to good. Most shallow coves at Navajo support a substantial bass population. Northern pike fishing is still very good.

• **Abiquiu Lake:** Fishing for crappie and bass should be fair to good. Walleye fishing should be good again this year.

• **Tingley Beach:** It's hard to beat during the winter months if you live anywhere near Albuquerque. Three ponds provide plenty of opportunity for any skill level, from the novice to the most skilled fly fisherman.

• **Jemez Area Streams:** Water levels should be good and most Jemez area streams are stocked regularly. High mountain streams within the San Pedro Parks Wilderness (SPPW) are always a good bet for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. If you're willing to hike, you will be rewarded. Within the SPPW, the Rio Las Vacas provides the best opportunity for fly fisherman.

• **San Juan River:** It has a great reputation for a reason; lots of large, fat trout. It's always good—often excellent, for rainbows or browns.

• **Ramah Lake:** As of mid-February, the Zuni Mountains are at about 200% of "typical" snow-water equivalent data. Ramah will no doubt get a good runoff this year, but go early in the season! Rainbow trout will be stocked throughout the spring as water conditions allow.

Consumption advisories (Please see page 20 for an explanation of this table.)

WATER	SPECIES	SIZE (inches)						CONTAMINANT
		<10	10-14	14-18	18-22	22-26	26-30	
Abiquiu Lake	Brown trout		4	4	2			Mercury
	Carp			1	1			Mercury, PCBs
	Channel catfish		3	2	2	1		Mercury, PCBs
	Rainbow trout		8		3			Mercury, PCBs
	Smallmouth bass		2	1				Mercury
	Walleye			1	1			Mercury
	Crappie	2						Mercury
Bluewater Lake	Tiger muskie						3	Mercury
Cochiti Lake	Carp				0	0		PCBs
	Channel catfish				1	1		Mercury, PCBs
	Crappie	2						Mercury
	Northern pike						1	Mercury
	Walleye					1/2		Mercury
El Vado Lake	Brown trout		8	8				Mercury
	Kokanee salmon	Unlimited	Unlimited	8				Mercury
	Rainbow trout		Unlimited					Mercury
	White sucker		4					Mercury
Heron Lake	Kokanee salmon	Unlimited	8	4				Mercury
	Lake trout		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		4	Mercury
	White sucker		4	4				Mercury
Lake Farmington	Channel catfish		3					Mercury
	Largemouth bass		4					Mercury
Navajo Lake	Bluegill	3						Mercury
	Crappie	3	2					Mercury
	Largemouth bass		2		1/2			Mercury
	Northern pike					3	1/2	Mercury
	Rainbow trout			4				Mercury
	Smallmouth bass	3	2	1				Mercury
	White sucker		8					Mercury
Rio Grande (Chama River to Otowi Bridge)	Carp				1/2	0		PCBs
	Channel catfish				0	0	0	PCBs
	River carpsucker				0			PCBs
Rio Grande (Otowi Bridge to Cochiti Lake)	Carp				0	0		PCBs
	Channel catfish			1/2	1/2			PCBs
Rio Grande (US 550 to I-25)	Channel catfish			3				PCBs
	White bass	0	0					PCBs
San Juan River (Navajo Dam to Cañon Largo)	Rainbow trout		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited			Mercury

Before Launching...
Before Leaving...
Inspect Everything!



Follow these simple steps:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or other animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate all water from your boat and equipment before transporting them anywhere.
- Clean and dry everything that came in contact with water (including boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, waders, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or other animals into a body of water unless they came from that same body of water.

Why Control zebra/quagga mussels?

- Ruin boat engines and jam steering equipment.
- Reduce game fish populations.
- Make lakes/streams unusable by boaters and swimmers.
- Reduce native aquatic species.
- Degrade aquatic communities and ecosystems.
- Reduce property values.
- Affect human health.
- Affect local economies of water-dependent communities.
- Dramatically increase the operating costs of reservoir operations, water delivery systems, and municipal / industrial water-related processes.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Protect All of New Mexico's Fisheries

Please do not introduce aquatic nuisance species to our waters!



Zebra mussels on a crayfish

Stop the spread of freshwater zebra/quagga mussels!

Zebra and quagga mussels are the only freshwater bivalves in North America that encrust hard surfaces. They are invasive species from the Black and Caspian Sea drainages in Eurasia. They may be microscopic or up to two inches long. They commonly have alternating light and dark stripes, hence the common name "zebra" mussels. They usually attach in clusters and have razor-sharp shells that can cut your hands and feet. Please report any sightings by calling our National Hotline: **1-800-STOP-ANS** (1-800-877-786-7267).

To learn more about aquatic nuisance species visit: www.wildlife.state.nm.us or www.100thmexican.org or www.ProtectYourWaters.net.

New Zealand Mudsnail ALERT



New Zealand mudsnails (NZMS) are native to New Zealand. They have spread to North America. They were discovered in the late 1990s in the Snake River, Idaho and Madison River, Montana. This small invasive quickly spread to waters in Yellowstone National Park and is now found in many waters across the West. People spread NZMS attached to waders and fishing gear or by moving fish or bait.

Why Control New Zealand Mudsnails?

At high densities, NZMS alter aquatic habitats and foodwebs by eating algae and competing with native bottom-dwelling organisms. These ecosystem impacts can reduce trout and other recreational fisheries...FOREVER. Help stop the spread!

To learn more about NZMS go to <http://mudsnail.fws.gov>

Invasive 'Rock Spot' Algae Found in Pecos

Anglers and others who visit the Pecos River Canyon are urged to take measures to prevent the spread of an invasive species of algae that could present many problems for the Pecos River and other state waters.

The New Mexico Environment Department confirmed a bloom of *Dolymosphenia geminata* in the Pecos River near Cowles in August 2008. Commonly called "diatoms," the single-celled alga's large, ugly growths on streamer gravels have earned it the descriptive name, "rock spot."

There are no known health threats associated with eating fish caught in diatom-infested waters.

To help prevent the spread of diatoms, anglers and others are urged to:

Check: Before leaving the river, remove all obvious clumps of algae and look for hidden clumps. Leave them at the site. If you find clumps later, don't wash them down the drain; treat them with approved methods below, dry them and put them in a rubbish bin.

Clean: Soak and scrub anything that may have contacted algae for at least one minute in either hot (140° F) water, a 2 percent solution of household bleach, or a 5 percent solution of salt, antiseptic hand cleaner or dishwashing detergent.

Dry: If cleaning is not practical (pets, livestock), wait until it is completely dry, and then wait at least 48 hours before contact or use in any waterway.

For more information about invasive aquatic species visit the Department website, www.wildlife.state.nm.us.



2010 NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR EXPO

Make plans to attend the 2010 New Mexico Outdoor Expo on August 21 and 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Held at the Albuquerque Shooting Range, this year's event will again feature experts demonstrating and teaching adults and kids how to improve their fishing and shooting skills. Don't miss this adventure-driven FREE event. Visit www.wildlife.state.nm.us for more information.

