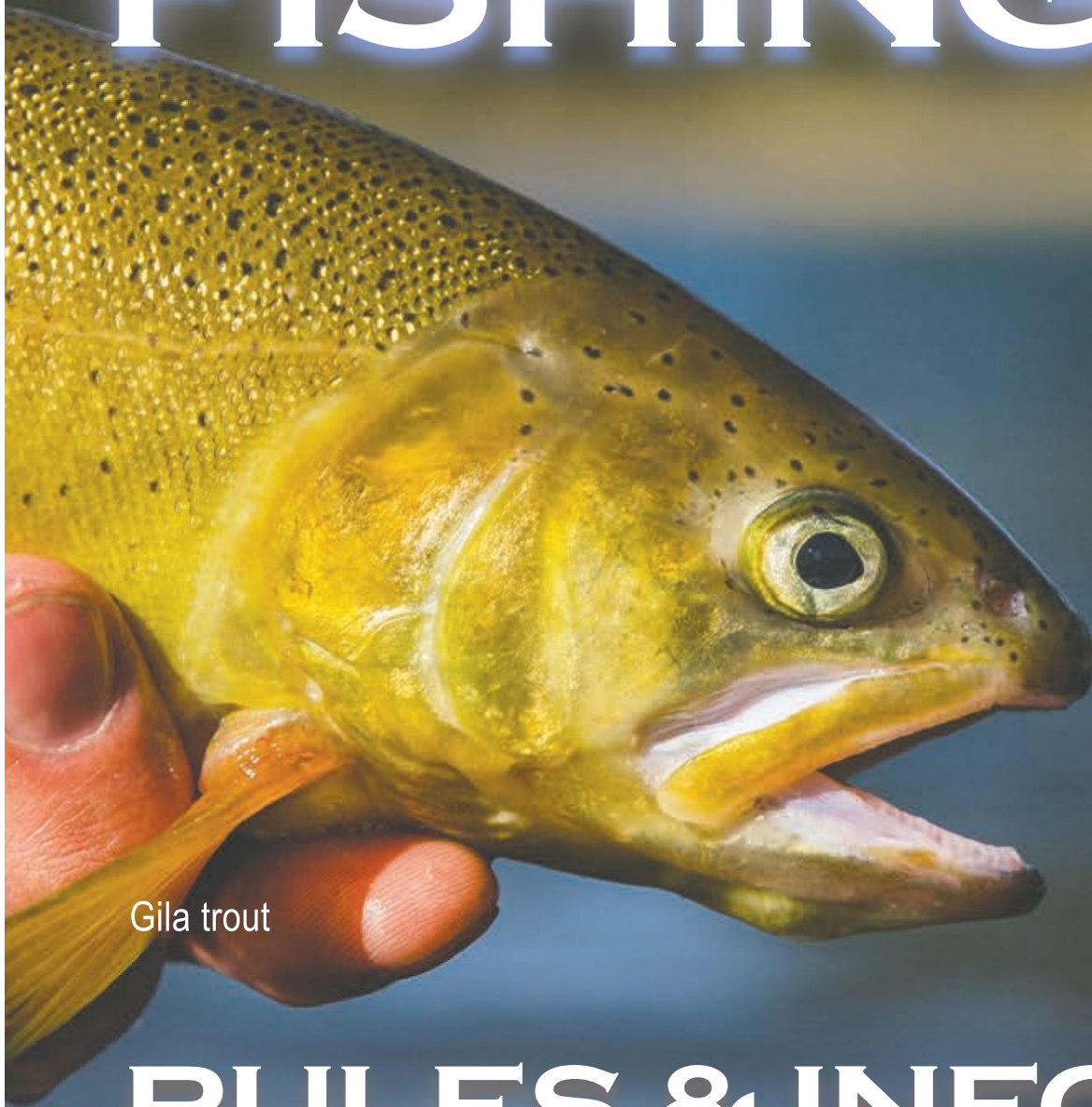




New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

2019–2020 NEW MEXICO FISHING



Gila trout

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 Message from the Director

Fishing is a long-held tradition shared by generations of New Mexicans, and our state offers some of the most unique angling opportunities found in North America. Whether an easily accessible location or a world-class fishery favored by anglers from around the globe, our diverse state has something for everyone.

The hard work the Department of Game and Fish does to preserve these traditions and protect these resources makes us proud, and this past year significant progress has been made to improve habitat and fishing opportunities across the state. More than 1.5 miles of trout habitat along the San Juan River have been restored and two new boat ramps modernized. Gila trout restoration in Whitewater Creek near Glenwood allows anglers for the first time in decades to fish this native trout in the Catwalk National Recreational Area. Plans to expand Gila trout production at the Glenwood State Fish Hatchery are also underway.

Access for anglers has also been increased around the state through partnerships with public and private entities through the Open Gate Program. Warm and cold water fishing opportunities, such as Berrendo Creek near Roswell, Timberon Ponds near Cloudcroft and Rancho Grande Ponds near Reserve, have been expanded.

Our goal with these initiatives is to provide anglers and outdoor enthusiasts more opportunities to enjoy the spectacular fisheries our state has to offer. This would never be possible without your support — through your license purchases and interest and engagement in the work of the Department.

This new license year, I encourage you to explore the many different opportunities across the state. While more always remains to be done, you can rest assured the Department will continue its work on your behalf for the benefit of New Mexico's fisheries and citizens.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael B. Sloane". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael B. Sloane, Director — New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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Mission of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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

New Mexico State Game Commissioners

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

Paul M. Kienzle III, Chairman – Albuquerque; Bill Montoya, Vice Chairman – Alto; Craig Peterson – Farmington; Ralph Ramos – Las Cruces; Chance Chase – Artesia; Robert Ricklefs – Cimarron; Dick Salopek – Las Cruces

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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

Michael B. Sloane, Director; Vacant, Deputy Director; Vacant, Assistant Director; James Comins, Assistant Director; Robert Griego, Colonel – Field Operations

Regional Offices

Northwest Office (new location): (505) 222-4700
7816 Alamo Rd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120

Southwest Office: 2715 Northrise Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88011 (575) 532-2100

Northeast Office: 215 York Canyon Road, Raton, NM 87740 (575) 445-2311
P.O. Box 1145, Raton N.M. 87740

Southeast Office: 1516 W. College Ave., Roswell, NM 88201 (575) 624-6135

Online Licenses

License Sales <https://onlinesales.wildlife.state.nm.us>

Important Telephone Numbers

General Information and License Sales 1-888-248-6866

Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Information. (505) 222-4728

Operation Game Thief (OGT) 1-800-432-4263

TDD (number for hearing impaired) (505) 476-8143

New Mexico Fishing Rules and Information 2019–20 is published by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507 © 2019. Cover: Gila trout. Photo by Andrew Miller | andrewmillerstudio.com. Courtesy of the photographer and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What's New & Important

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

What's New

It's Illegal To Possess, Transport and Stock Live Game Fish (page 7)

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

New Baitfish Rules (page 7)

Baitfish use now allowed in Regular Trout Waters with updated baitfish species by drainage and body of water. Processed and packaged fish are no longer considered baitfish and can be used statewide where bait use is legal. Bullfrogs, dead or alive, cannot be used as bait.

New Requirements for Trotline Tagging (page 25)

Trotlines identification tags must list the angler's Customer Identification Number (CIN).

New Spearfishing and Bow Fishing Rules (page 6)

Crossbows may now be used. Spears can be discharged above and below the water surface.

No Trotlines in Special Summer Catfish Waters

Trotlines may not be used in Summer Catfish Waters.

Important Reminders

Buy a License Online, by Telephone or at License Vendors

Licenses and permits can be purchased online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us beginning March 25, 2019. The NMDGF Information Center is open Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., except holidays, to answer questions and assist with purchases: 1-888-248-6866. Licenses and permits also may be purchased at local vendors or any NMDGF office.

50% Discounts for Resident Military and Veterans

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

Boating Regulations and Registration (page 34)

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

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

Free Fishing Days

June 1 New Mexico Free Fishing Day. No license required (all other fishing rules apply).

September 28. . . New Mexico Free Fishing Day. No license required (all other fishing rules apply).

Special Trout Waters: Red, Green or Xmas

Designations for Special Trout Waters are easy to identify. Signs are posted at each location with bag limits and tackle restrictions for Red Chile Water, Green Chile Water and Xmas Chile Water. See pages 18–21 for complete information and locations.

License Fees

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

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

| License Type | Resident | Nonresident |
|---|-------------------|-------------|
| Annual Fishing | \$25.00 | \$56.00 |
| One-day Fishing. | \$12.00 | \$12.00 |
| Five-day Fishing | \$24.00 | \$24.00 |
| Junior Annual Fishing (age 12–17) | \$5.00 | \$15.00 |
| Senior Annual Fishing (age 65–69) | \$8.00 | NA |
| 70 Years and Older Annual Fishing | NC | NA |
| Free license available to New Mexico residents only and does not require a Habitat Stamp, Habitat Management & Access Validation or Second Rod Validation. If obtained at a license vendor, a \$1 vendor fee may apply. | | |
| Handicapped Annual Fishing | \$8.00 | NA |
| Second Rod Validation. | \$4.00 | \$4.00 |
| Game-hunting & Fishing | \$30.00 | NA |
| Squirrel and game birds (other than turkey) and fishing | | |
| Junior Game-hunting & Fishing. | \$15.00 | NA |
| Squirrel and game birds (other than turkey) and fishing | | |
| Senior and Handicapped Game-hunting & Fishing | \$20.00 | NA |
| Disabled Veteran Game-hunting & Fishing | \$10.00 | NA |
| Habitat Stamp | \$5.00 | \$5.00 |
| Mandatory on all U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management properties. | | |
| Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV) | \$4.00 | \$4.00 |
| Not required for individuals 17 years of age and younger or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege (page 4). HMAV does not replace the Habitat Stamp. | | |
| Gila Trout Fishing Permit | NC. | NC |
| Free for select locations, page 3. | | |
| OTC License Reprint (if license is lost or destroyed). | NC. | NC |
| If obtained at a license vendor, a \$1 vendor fee may apply. | | |

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

NA = Not Available.

NC = No Charge.

License Information

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

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

While fishing in New Mexico, anglers 12 years and older must possess a valid New Mexico Fishing License or Game-hunting & Fishing License. Licenses are valid April 1 through March 31 of the following year. A New Mexico Fishing License is not required on tribal reservations and private Class-A lakes.

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

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

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

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

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

Habitat Management & Access Validation (HMAV)

In addition to a New Mexico Fishing License or Game-hunting & Fishing License, once each license year (April 1–March 31) anglers must purchase a Habitat Management & Access Validation. The HMAV is not required for anglers 17 years of age or younger, or in conjunction with any free fishing license or privilege. The HMAV will automatically be added to the shopping cart with your first purchase of a fishing, hunting or trapping license for persons 18 years of age and older.

Habitat Stamp

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

Second Rod Validation

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

Gila Trout Fishing Permit (Free)

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

License Information

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

New Mexico Residency Requirements

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

1. A United States citizen who has been domiciled in New Mexico for a period of not less than 90 days immediately preceding the date of application for a license and who does not claim residency elsewhere for any purpose. Temporary or seasonal residents, who maintain a primary residence outside of New Mexico, do not qualify for resident licenses.
2. A citizen of another country who is legally in the United States and can verify residence in New Mexico for 90 days immediately preceding his/her license application.
3. A student who has attended an educational institution in New Mexico while residing in the state for at least one full term preceding the application for a license. Students also must present a certificate or letter from the institution verifying their enrollment and attendance.
4. A member of the U.S. Armed Forces who is assigned permanently to a military installation located within New Mexico and who presents with his/her application a certificate or letter that verifies the military assignment and is signed by the commanding officer. The spouse or dependent of such person, living within the same household and similarly certified by the person's commanding officer may also purchase resident licenses.

Military and Veteran Licenses

50% Discount for Resident Active Military and Veterans

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

Free Licenses for 100% Disabled Veteran New Mexico Residents

New Mexico residents who are 100% disabled veterans of the armed services are eligible for a free lifetime Game-hunting & Fishing License. Disabled veterans may apply to NMDGF for a Disabled Veteran card, which allows the holder to fish, hunt small game and obtain a free 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. However, if trapping or if hunting turkey or other big-game species, the Habitat Stamp and Habitat Management & Access Validation are required.

Disabled Veterans Game-hunting & Fishing License

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

Military Rehabilitation Fishing License

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

License Refunds and Transfers

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

License Information Is Public Record

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

Parental Responsibility Act

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

Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



Boaters and anglers make fish and wildlife conservation possible. Their purchases of licenses, sporting equipment and fuels provide funds essential to sport-fish and wildlife management. Through the USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, excise taxes for fishing equipment, motorboat fuel, sporting arms and archery equipment support important projects, including native trout restoration, boat facility maintenance, fish hatchery operations, lake renovations, waterfowl-habitat maintenance and much more.

General Regulations

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

It is illegal to:

- Pollute streams, lakes, banks and other waters.
- Fish, hunt or trap on private land without possessing valid written permission from the landowner.
- Fish without possessing a license if 12 years of age or older.
- Use a license that has been issued to another person.
- Fish with more than one rod without a Second Rod Validation if 12 years of age or older or fish with more than two rods at any time.
- Sell, offer for sale, or purchase game fish or parts taken in New Mexico.
- Possess game fish without a valid license, possession (donation) certificate or other evidence the fish were legally taken (*Possession Certificate*, page 41).
- Stock fish or fish eggs in any waters without a permit from NMDGF.
- Import live fish or fish eggs into New Mexico without a permit from NMDGF.
- Possess or transport any live game fish away from the water where they were caught (page 7).
- 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 (*New Mexico Fishing Waters* map, page 11).
- Fail to return and release immediately all threatened and endangered species of fish, except Gila trout, in waters where designated (pages 18–21).
- Leave a fire unattended or improperly handle fire.
- Handle a firearm recklessly or carelessly.

Further information and complete Laws of New Mexico for hunting and fishing are available online:

http://www.nmcpr.state.nm.us/nmac/_title19/title19.htm

Bow Fishing and Spearfishing

Bow fishing and spearfishing are legal means of take for game fish species and unprotected species in lakes and reservoirs open to angling. Bag and length limits for bow fishing and spearfishing are the same as angling. Bow fishing and spearfishing for game fish are not allowed in any river, stream, Special Trout Water or Trophy Bass Water (for largemouth bass). Arrows for bow fishing must be attached by a line, string or rope to enable retrieval of fish. Crossbows can be used for bow fishing. Legal means of take for spearfishing include spears, gigs and arrows with barbs. Spears can be discharged above or below the water surface. Local ordinances and/or prohibitions may apply at specific locations or waters, and the local managing agency should be contacted prior to bow fishing or spearfishing. Snorkelers and SCUBA divers should consult New Mexico State Park regulations prior to spearfishing.

Possessing, Transporting and Stocking Live Game Fish

Each year, NMDGF expends considerable time and resources to control and eradicate unwanted fish and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). New rules have been adopted to address the spread of unwanted fish species. It is illegal to release any live game fish into any water in New Mexico (except for fish legally caught in the water where fished) without a permit issued by NMDGF. It is also illegal to possess or transport any live game fish away from the water where caught. It is the responsibility of the angler to be certain that all fish harvested and taken home are dead before leaving the fishing water area. Please help us protect your aquatic resources by stopping the spread of unwanted fish species.

Bait and Baitfish

Possession of and use of any baitfish while fishing is illegal, except as defined below. Baitfish may not be used in Special Trout Waters, Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge or Bottomless Lakes State Park. Bluegills and sunfish (genus *Lepomis*) taken legally by angling may be used as live or dead bait in the water where taken.

Commercially packaged and processed fish which are dead are not considered baitfish and are approved for use in all waters where the use of bait is legal. Roe, viscera, and eyes of game fish taken legally may be used in all waters where the use of bait is legal. Chumming is allowed in all waters, except Special Trout Waters. Goldfish or bullfrogs may not be used as live or dead bait in any waters.

Live and dead baitfish use exceptions

Live and/or dead baitfish are approved for the drainages and waters listed in the table below. This includes Regular Trout Waters (for locations in table only) where the use of bait is legal.

Approved live and/or dead baitfish locations

| | |
|---|---|
| Rio Grande Drainage | .Fathead minnow, red shiner and shad |
| Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs. | .Fathead minnow, red shiner, shad and golden shiner |
| Canadian River Drainage | .Fathead minnow, red shiner, white sucker and shad |
| San Juan River Drainage | .Fathead minnow and red shiner |
| Gila River and San Francisco River Drainages | .Fathead minnow only |
| Pecos River Drainage (excluding Bitter Lake | .Fathead minnow and red shiner |
| National Wildlife Refuge and Bottomless Lakes State Park) | |

Approved dead-only baitfish (cutbait) locations

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Statewide | Common carp |
| Heron Reservoir | White sucker |

Taking Baitfish (minnows)

Baitfish may only be taken for personal use and only by anglers who are currently licensed or 11 years of age or younger. Permitted methods for taking minnows include: angling, dip nets, cast nets, traps and seines. Seines may not be longer than 20 feet, and the mesh size may not be larger than 3/8-inch square. All protected species of fish (including endangered and threatened species) taken with seines, nets, and traps must immediately be returned to the water.

Criminal Trespass

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

Criminal Trespass 30-14-1 NMSA 1978

- A. Criminal trespass consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon posted private property without possessing written permission from the owner or person in control of the land. The provisions of this subsection do not apply if: 1). the owner or person in control of the land has entered into an agreement with the Department of Game and Fish granting access to the land to the general public for the purpose of taking any game animals, birds or fish by hunting or fishing; or 2). a person is in possession of a landowner license given to him by the owner or person in control of the land that grants access to that particular private land for the purpose of taking any game animals, birds or fish by hunting or fishing.
- B. Criminal trespass also consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon the unposted lands of another, knowing that such consent to enter or remain is denied or withdrawn by the owner or occupant thereof. Notice of no consent to enter shall be deemed sufficient notice to the public and evidence to the courts, by the posting of the property at all vehicular access entry ways.
- C. Criminal trespass also consists of knowingly entering or remaining upon lands owned, operated or controlled by the state or any of its political subdivisions, knowing that consent to enter or remain is denied or withdrawn by the custodian thereof.
- D. Any person who enters upon the lands of another without prior permission and injures, damages or destroys any part of the realty or its improvements, including buildings, structures, trees, shrubs or other natural features, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to the owner, lessee or person in lawful possession for civil damages in an amount equal to double the value of the damage to the property injured or destroyed.
- E. Whoever commits criminal trespass is guilty of a misdemeanor. Additionally, any person who violates the provisions of Subsection A, B or C of this section, when in connection with hunting, fishing or trapping activity, shall have their hunting or fishing license revoked by the state game commission for a period of not less than three years, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17-3-34 NMSA 1978.
- F. Whoever knowingly removes, tampers with or destroys any "no trespass" sign is guilty of a petty misdemeanor; except when the damage to the sign amounts to more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000), is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to imprisonment in the county jail for a definite term less than one year or a fine not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or to both such imprisonment and fine in the discretion of the judge.

Posting Requirements for Trespass 30-14-6 NMSA 1978

- A. The owner, lessee or person lawfully in possession of real property in New Mexico, except property owned by the state or federal government, desiring to prevent trespass or entry onto the real property shall post notices parallel to and along the exterior boundaries of the property to be posted, at each roadway or other way of access in conspicuous places, and if the property is not fenced, such notices shall be posted every five hundred feet along the exterior boundaries of such land.
- B. The notices posted shall prohibit all persons from trespassing or entering upon the property, without permission of the owner, lessee, person in lawful possession or his agent. The notices shall: 1). be printed legibly in English; 2). be at least one hundred forty-four square inches in size; 3). contain the name and address of the person under whose authority the property is posted or the name and address of the person who is authorized to grant permission to enter the property; 4). be placed at each roadway or apparent way of access onto the property, in addition to the posting of the boundaries; and 5). where applicable, state any specific prohibition that the posting is directed against, such as "no trespassing," "no hunting," "no fishing," "no digging" or any other specific prohibition.
- C. Any person who posts public lands contrary to state or federal law or regulation is guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

Operation Game Thief

www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ogt/

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

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

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

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



Open Gate Program

www.wildlife.state.nm.us/open-gate/

More Places to Fish and Hunt

Open Gate is a voluntary access program available to landowners statewide. It provides sportsmen/women more places to fish, hunt or trap. Fishing and hunting is only allowed on leased lands during the seasons and dates that the landowner specifies in his/her lease agreement.

Information and locations of Open Gate leases can be found on the website listed below. Some properties may have special rules for certain activities. These rules will be posted on the property. It is the responsibility of the sportsman/woman to know and obey posted rules. Citations can be issued for violation of any rules or regulations.

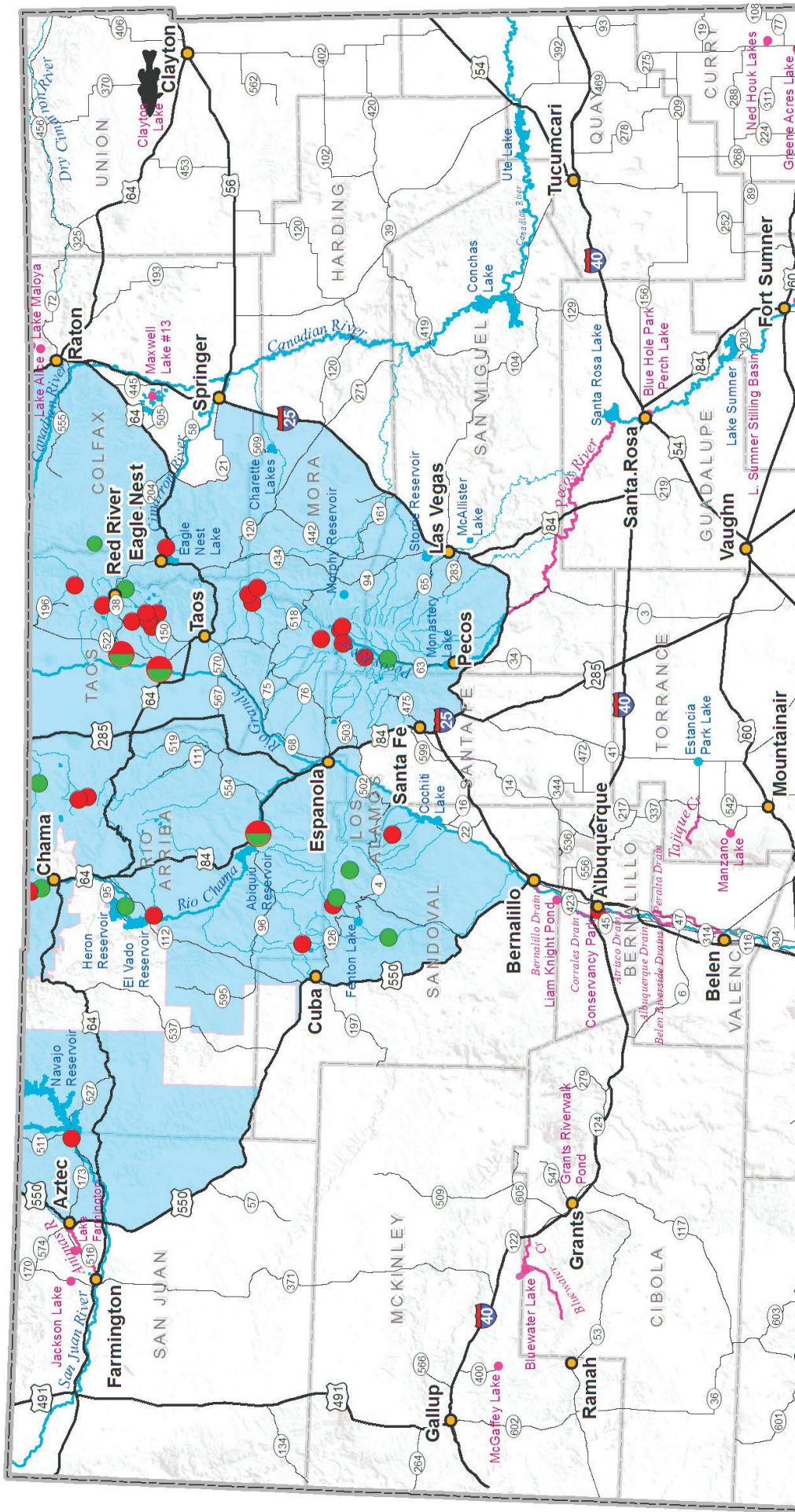
Landowners Can Earn Extra Cash

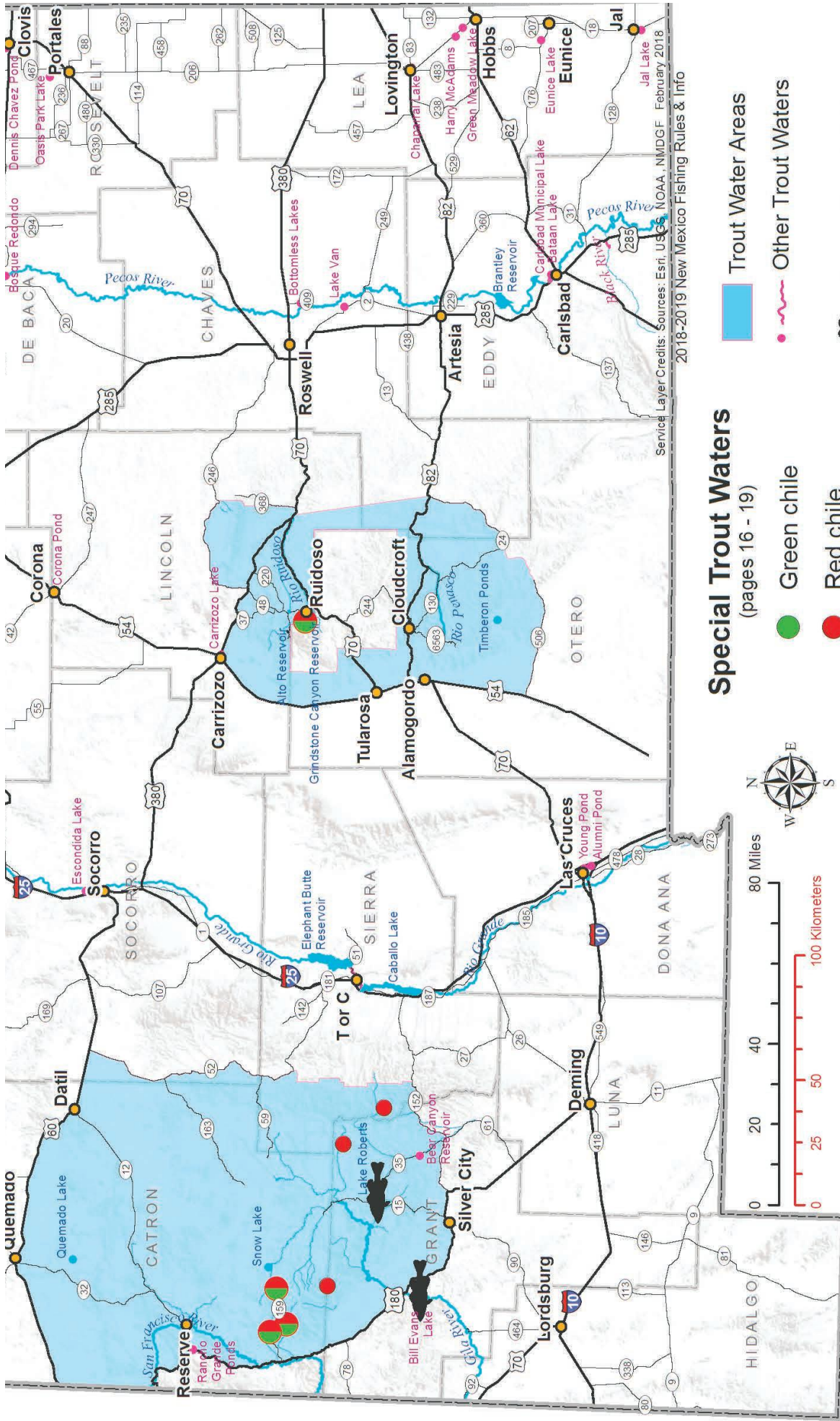
The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is interested in leasing more lands with good habitat for fishing, hunting and/or trapping. Landowners can sign an agreement with NMDGF and receive a per-acre payment. Under some circumstances, NMDGF will pay for right-of-way across the property of a landowner, so anglers and hunters can access larger 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/open-gate/>



New Mexico Fishing Waters

Licenses and General Information: **1-888-248-6866** or www.wildlife.state.nm.us





Special Trout Waters

(pages 16 - 19)

- Green Chile
- Red Chile
- Xmas

Trout Water Areas

⋯ Other Trout Waters

Trophy Bass Waters

(page 25)

Service Layer Credits: Sources: Esri, USGS, NOAA, NMDGF, February 2018

2018-2019 New Mexico Fishing Rules & Info

Coldwater Game Fish

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

Rainbow Trout

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

Weight: 31 lb., 12-½ oz.

Length: 33-½" Girth: 24-¼"

Numerous black spots on a light body

Pink streak along sides



Brown Trout

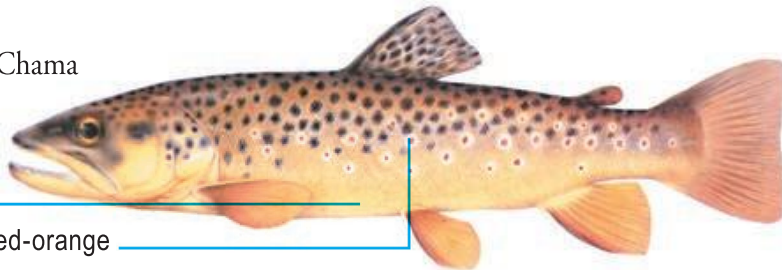
N.M. Record: July 9 '46, Rio Chama

Weight: 20 lb., 4 oz.

Length: 34-½" Girth: 21"

Abdomen usually yellow

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



Brook Trout

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

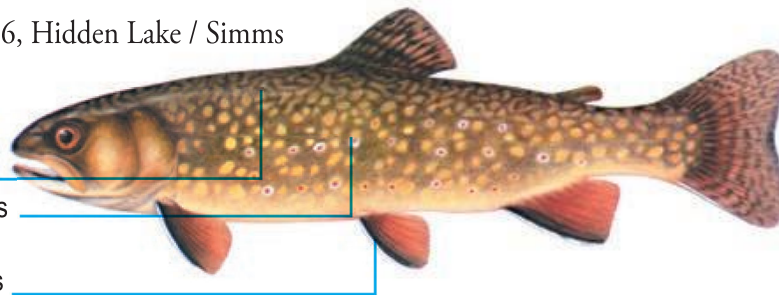
Weight: 5 lb., 0 oz.

Length: 21" Girth: 14-½"

Light wavy lines on back

Yellow spots and small red spots with halos on sides

White edge on front of lower fins



Lake Trout

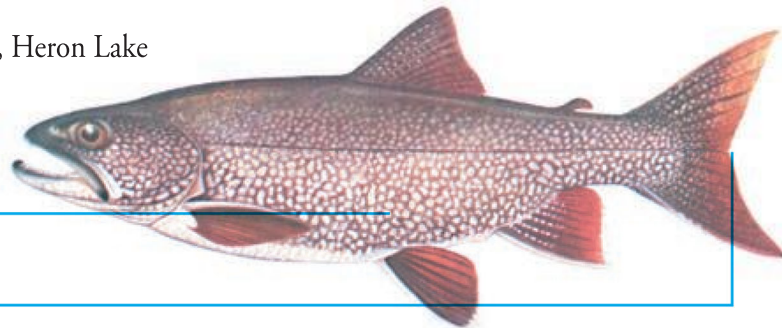
N.M. Record: February 24 '99, Heron Lake

Weight: 31 lb., 6 oz.

Length: 41-½" Girth: 26"

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

Indented tail fin



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

Cutthroat Trout

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

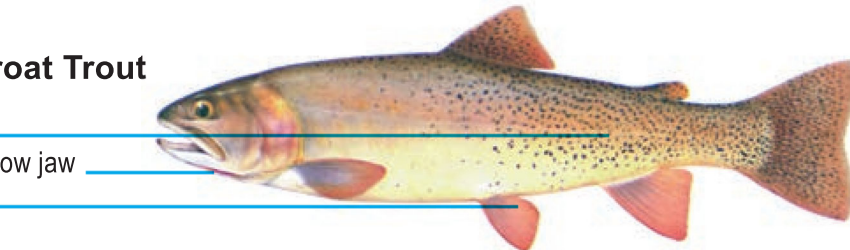
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (Native, state fish)

Large, dark irregular spots
Red slash mark below jaw



Snake River Cutthroat Trout

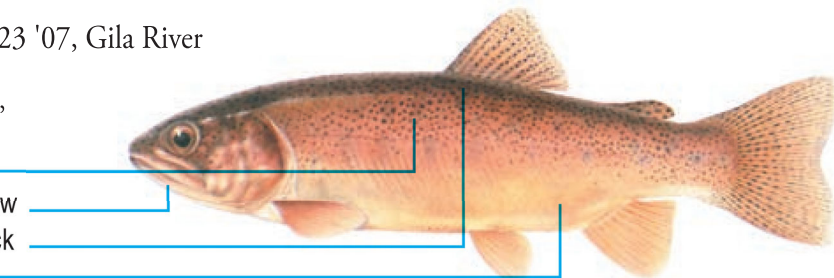
Small, profuse spots
Orange-red slash mark below jaw
Red-orange lower fins



Gila Trout (Native)

N.M. Record: November 23 '07, Gila River
Weight: 4 lb., 8 oz.
Length: 20" Girth: 13-3/4"

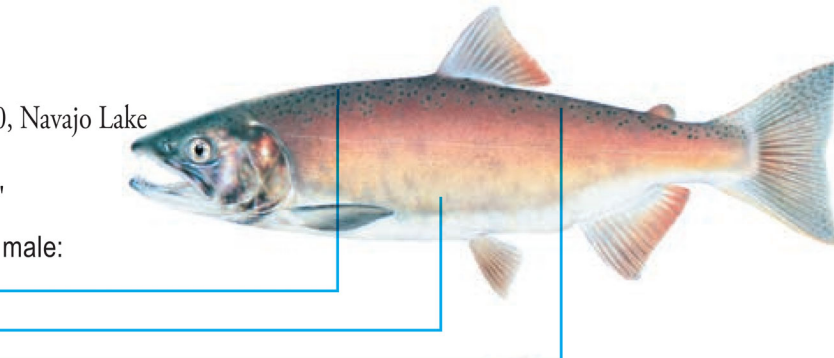
Small black spots
Yellow slash mark below jaw
Dark olive-green along back
Golden-yellow belly



Kokanee Salmon

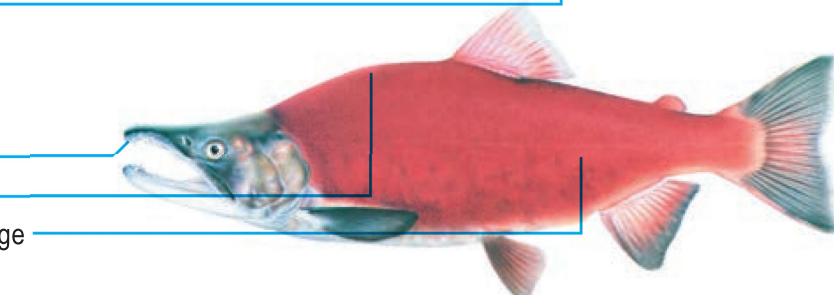
N.M. Record: October 13 '00, Navajo Lake
Weight: 4 lb., 0 oz.
Length: 24" Girth: 13-1/2"

Female and non-spawning male:
Blue-green along back
Silvery sides
Few spots



Kokanee Salmon

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



Coldwater Game Fish

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

Where To Find Coldwater Species

Rainbow Trout

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

Brown Trout

Numerous 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, Whitewater Creek near Glenwood, and Black Canyon in the East Fork Gila watershed are easily accessible and excellent locations to spend a day fishing for a native Gila trout. For anglers ready to hike, Mineral Creek near the town of Mogollon and Mogollon Creek in the mainstream Gila watershed provide opportunities to catch a wild Gila trout while enjoying beautiful scenery. Gila trout are also stocked in Sapillo Creek below the Highway 15 bridge and in the Gila Forks area during cooler months of the year.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

Anglers can pursue native Rio Grande cutthroat trout in many of New Mexico's streams, rivers and lakes. Streams including 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 the adventurous angler, hiking up the Rio de las Vacas, Rio Santa Barbara or the upper Pecos watershed provides great fishing in some of the most beautiful landscapes in New Mexico. Rio Grande cutthroat trout are also stocked in the state's high mountain lakes, such as the Trampas Lakes and Horseshoe Lake, and in rivers including the Rio Grande and Rio Chama.

Kokanee

Navajo and Heron lakes provide great opportunities for kokanee trolling. Eagle Nest, El Vado, and Abiquiu lakes are also stocked with kokanee. In the fall kokanee snagging is a popular activity at these waters.

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 more easily accessible streams are Cabresto Creek above Questa and Tecolote Creek near Las Vegas. Brook trout may also be found at Cabresto Lake and Hopewell Lake.

Lake Trout

In the 1980s, lake trout were introduced at Heron Lake. Since that time, a self-sustaining population has become well established. Fishing is best during spring and fall months.

Coldwater Regulations

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

General Information

In New Mexico coldwater species include trout and salmon. Catchable-size trout that have been reared at hatcheries are stocked in more heavily fished waters. Smaller trout and salmon are stocked where waters can better support their growth. Some waters suit native Rio Grande cutthroat populations, while other waters are better for naturally reproducing non-native brown trout, and still others that may be too warm during summer are cool enough in winter to be stocked with hatchery-raised rainbow trout. Trout water areas are displayed on the *New Mexico Fishing Waters* map, pages 10-11.

License Information (pages 3–5)

Trotlines

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

Baitfish

Baitfish use is now allowed in Regular Trout Waters (see page 7).

Free Gila Trout Fishing Permit

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

Help Stop the Spread of AIS & 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!

More information about how to stop the spread of whirling disease and Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), including zebra and quagga mussels and didymo (aka *rock snot*), is provided on page 35.



Regular & Winter Trout

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

Bag Limits for Regular & Winter Trout and Kokanee Salmon

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

- Bag limit of 5 fish is considered any combination of trout and/or salmon with the exception that no more than 2 lake trout and/or 2 cutthroat trout may be included in the limit.
- Trout bag limit is 4 trout at the Tingley Beach Central Pond and the Children's Pond.
- Trout bag is 3 trout at Laguna del Campo, Red River Hatchery Pond, Red River City Ponds, Goose Lake and Rio Grande (Elephant Butte to Caballo Lake).
- Possession of kokanee salmon not permitted at Heron Lake and Willow Creek during the closed season, October 1–November 7.
- Bag limits may be different for Special Trout Waters. See pages 18–21.

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.

Winter Trout Waters

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

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

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

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



and Kokanee Salmon

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

Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season

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

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

Each autumn NMDGF collects millions of kokanee eggs and milt to fertilize eggs and hatch fry. The young fry are used to stock Heron Lake, Navajo Lake, Abiquiu Lake, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake. The success of these collection operations is essential to maintain vibrant and healthy fisheries for anglers to enjoy. As a result, Heron Lake, Willow Creek and designated no-wake areas at Navajo Lake are closed October 1–November 7, and no kokanee salmon may be in possession while fishing during these closures at Heron Lake and Willow Creek.

Snagging Season Dates by Location

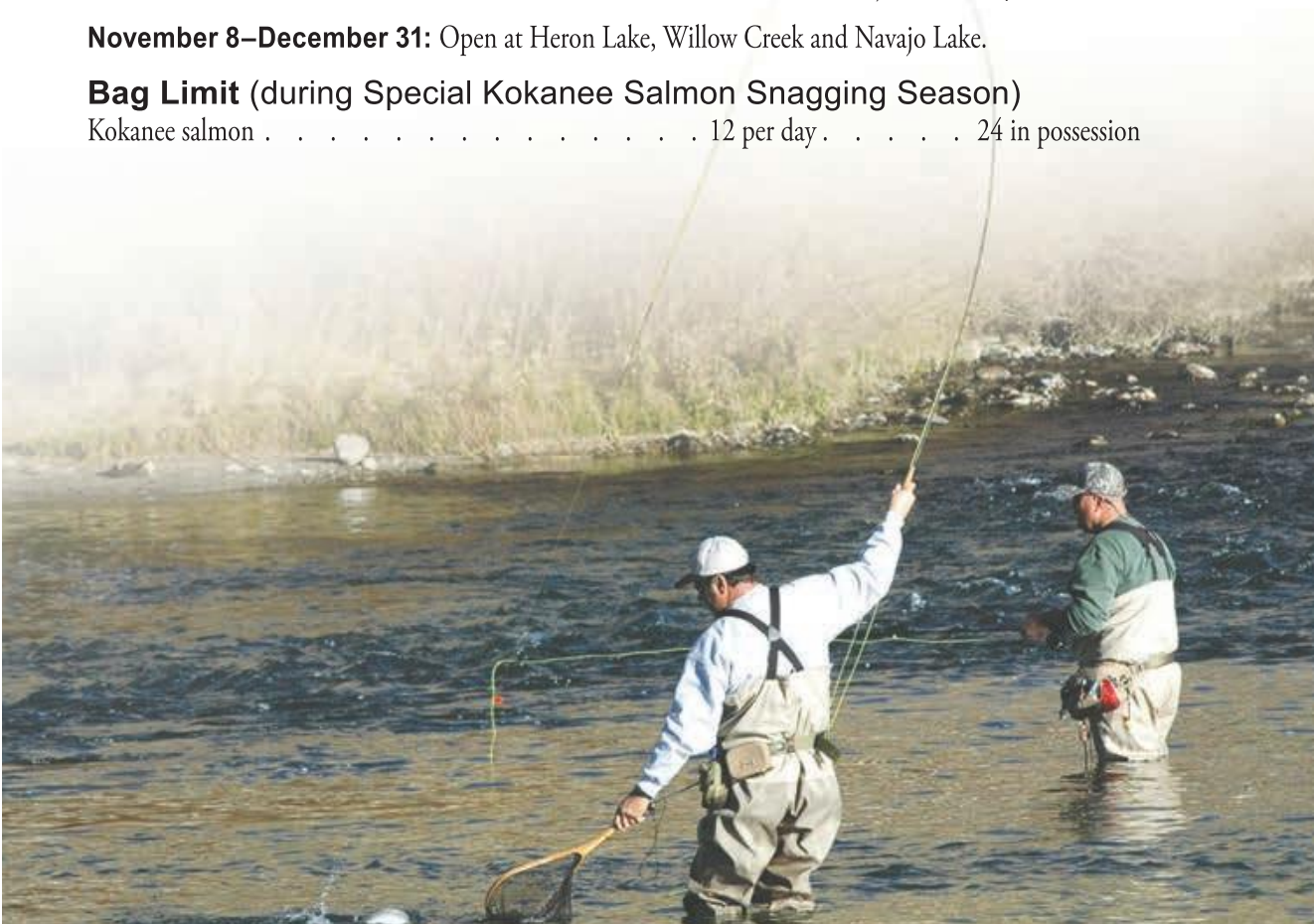
October 1–December 31: Open at Abiquiu Lake, Rio Chama (El Vado Lake to west boundary of Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area), Navajo Lake (excluding buoyed no-wake areas and shoreline within the no-wake areas at the Pine River Boat Ramp and Simms Boat Ramp), Pine River, El Vado Lake and Eagle Nest Lake.

October 1–November 7: Closed at Heron Lake, Willow Creek and Navajo Lake (buoyed no-wake areas).

November 8–December 31: Open at Heron Lake, Willow Creek and Navajo Lake.

Bag Limit (during Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season)

Kokanee salmon 12 per day 24 in possession



Special Trout Waters

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

General Information

Special Trout Waters (STW) are managed to enhance the unique angling opportunities available in New Mexico. Regulations vary for STWs — some are managed to produce trophy-size trout, some to improve conservation of native trout, and others to enhance the overall trout population structure and density. Regulations are tailored to each water and may include reduced bag limits, catch-and-release for native Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout or increased harvest for nonnative fish species. Many STWs require artificial flies and lures with a single, barbless hook. Anglers must never disturb rocks, plants, or sediment to attract fish. Chumming and baitfish use are not allowed in any Special Trout Water. By following these regulations anglers help to conserve healthy fisheries in New Mexico and promote high-quality fishing experiences for everyone.

Designations of Special Trout Waters

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



Red Chile Water
Catch-and-release
with tackle restrictions



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



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

Locations of chile waters are listed on the pages 19–21.

Native Trout Conservation Waters

Several Special Trout Waters have been established to help protect and conserve Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Nonnative trout species can outcompete or hybridize with native trout species. In order to protect native trout species, unlimited bag limits in some waters have been established for nonnative trout species (rainbow, brown, and brook trout). These waters are listed on page 20 under Red Chile (Native Trout Conservation).

General Bag and Possession Limit Restrictions

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



Red Chile Water

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

Catch and release only.

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

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

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

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

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

Pecos River in the Pecos Wilderness above Pecos Falls.

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

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

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

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

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

Tingley Beach South Pond within the Albuquerque Conservancy Park.

Catch & Release Tips

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

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

Special Trout Waters

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



Red Chile Water (Native Trout Conservation)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Green Chile Water

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

Bag limit two (2) trout only.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Valles Caldera National Preserve all waters within preserve.



Xmas Chile Water

Tackle restrictions: Any legal tackle.

Bag limit two (2) trout only.

Gilita Creek and Willow Creek from its confluence with Snow Creek upstream to its headwaters including Little Turkey Creek.

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

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

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

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

Rio Ruidoso from Fridenbloom Drive upstream to the Mescalero Reservation.

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

Warmwater Game Fish

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

Smallmouth Bass

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

Weight: 7 lb., 3 oz.

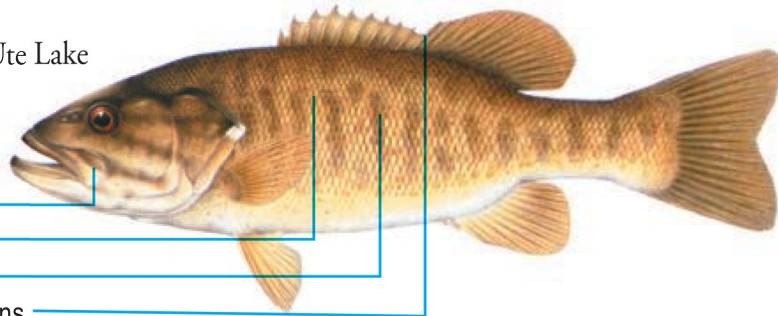
Length: 24" Girth: 16-½"

Upper jaw extends to eye

Uniform olive-brown color

Vertical barring

Shallow notch between dorsal fins



Largemouth Bass

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

Weight: 15 lb., 13 oz.

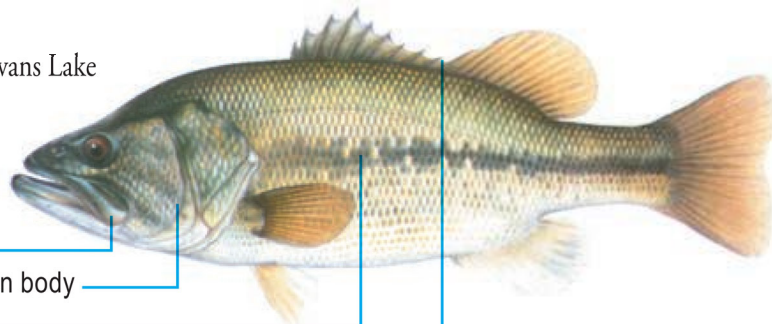
Length: 26-½" Girth: 24-¾"

Upper jaw extends beyond eye

Scales on cheeks smaller than on body

Horizontal stripe on side

Deep notch between dorsal fins



Bluegill

N.M. Record: 1963, Lovington Lake

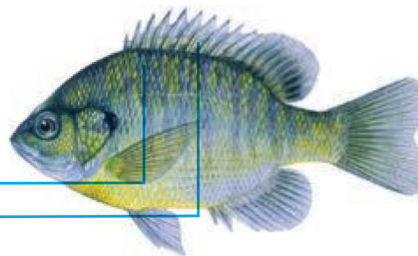
Weight: 3 lb., 1-½ oz.

Length: 11-¾"

Deep bodied, large lower jaw

Olive or dark green back

Two dorsal fins joined, appearing as one



Channel Catfish (Illustrated)

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

Weight: 36 lb., 8 oz.

Length: 38" Girth: 26"

Blue Catfish

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

Weight: 54 lb., ¼ oz.

Length: 43-½" Girth: 30-¼"

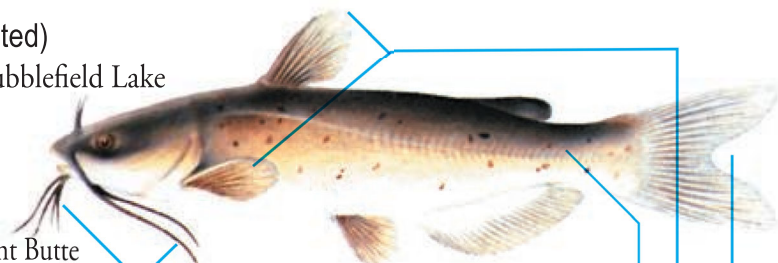
Flathead Catfish

N.M. Record: June 7 '79

Ash Canyon/Elephant Butte

Weight: 78 lb. 0 oz.

Length: 47-½" Girth: 31-½"



Long barbels around mouth

Small, irregular black spots, no scales

Uniform sharp dorsal and pectoral spines

Deeply forked tail

Handle with Care!

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

Striped Bass

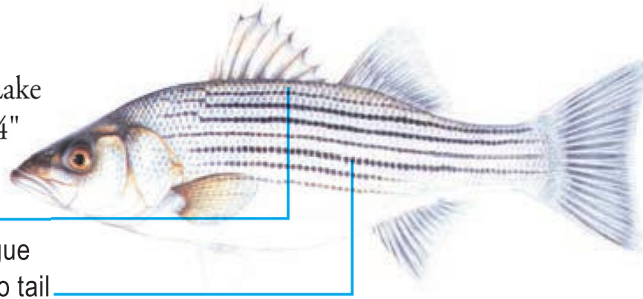
N.M. Record: April 1 '92, Elephant Butte Lake
Weight: 54 lb., 8 oz., Length: 45" Girth: 34"

Slender body, up to 55 pounds

Olive or blue back

Teeth in two parallel patches on back of tongue

Silvery sides with 7 to 8 stripes that extend to tail



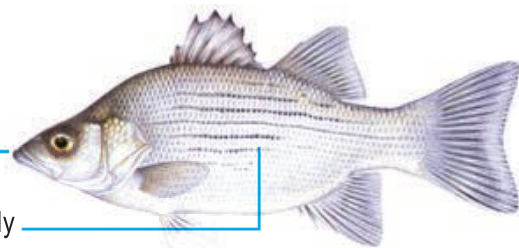
White Bass

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

Teeth in a single patch on back of tongue

Deep body, seldom exceeds 3 pounds

Horizontal stripes are less distinct on bottom half of body



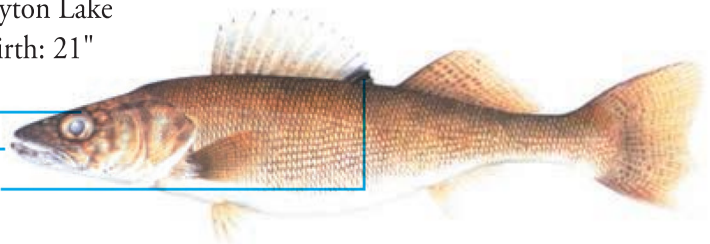
Walleye

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

Milky eye corneas

Large canine teeth

Two fins on back, dark area on first fin



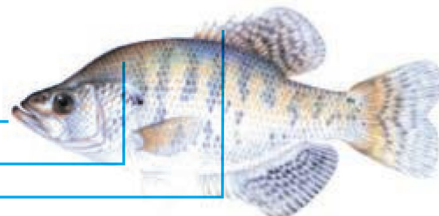
Crappie

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

Deep bodied, large lower jaw

Olive or dark green back

Two dorsal fins joined, appearing as one



Tiger Muskie (only in Bluewater Lake and Quemado Lake)

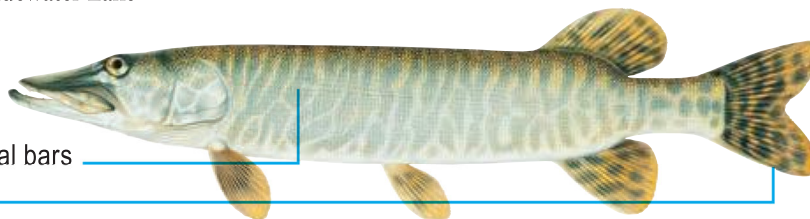
N.M. Record: August 23 '12, Bluewater Lake

Weight: 38 lb., 2 oz.

Length: 50-1/2" Girth: 24-1/2"

Similar to Northern Pike, except sides have dark vertical bars

Tail and fins are spotted



Northern Pike

N.M. Records: November 21 '74, Miami Lake / March 7 '78, Springer Lake

Weight: 36 lb., 0 oz.

Length: 53" Girth: 29"

Large mouth with sharp teeth

Sides are gray-green with rows of yellow and white spots

Top fin at the rear of body



Warmwater Game Fish

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

Where To Find Warmwater Species

Largemouth Bass

Some of the best largemouth bass fishing in New Mexico is found in the smaller lakes. Bill Evans Lake offers opportunities for trophy-sized fish. Conchas and Ute lakes provide good fishing opportunities. Concentrate on structure wherever available.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass populations are very good at Navajo Lake, Ute Lake and Conchas Lake—and though more abundant at Navajo, Ute and Conchas lakes—any of these lakes provide good opportunities to catch large fish. Smallmouth bass typically gravitate near rocky areas and ledges. Fishing around these locations year-round is suggested.

Walleye

Ute, Santa Rosa and Conchas lakes provide good walleye numbers. Fishing is usually best from April through May, after fish have spawned.

Catfish

Catfish populations and sizes are highest in New Mexico's larger reservoirs. Blue catfish up to 40 pounds are common at Elephant Butte Lake. Very good populations of large channel catfish can be found at Conchas, Caballo, Storrie and Ute lakes. Clayton and Grindstone lakes contain excellent populations as well. Shallow murky water near inlets provides good fishing during late evening and night.

White Bass

White bass fishing is outstanding at Elephant Butte Lake and Ute Lake. Brantley, Conchas and Sumner lakes also provide good opportunities for catching white bass. From late spring to early summer, exciting opportunities occur in areas where shad or other forage fish congregate.

Tiger Muskie

Tiger muskies are a crossbreed of northern pike with muskellunge. Bluewater Lake currently supports a high-density population of tiger muskies. Above average catch rates at this lake for most of the summer are common. The minimum length limit is 40 inches for tiger muskie. The daily bag limit and possession limit are the same: one (1) tiger muskie 40 inches or longer.

Leave No Trace. Keep New Mexico Beautiful.

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



Warmwater Regulations

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

General Information

Warmwaters include all streams, lakes, and ponds, except those designated as trout waters (map, page 11). Warm-water fish, also known as spiny-ray fish, include species such as largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, walleye, catfish, sunfish, white bass, and striped bass. Many of these fish occur wild in self-sustaining populations throughout New Mexico. Some of these populations depend on supplemental stocking. Each year, NMDGF stocks thousands of largemouth bass and channel catfish and millions of walleye fry to increase and improve angling opportunities.

Trotline or Set Line Use

A trotline (throw line, limb line, set line, jug line, or "Yo-yo" line) is a line without a rod or reel attached. It does not need to be handheld nor closely attended. Trotlines are limited to 25 hooks. Trotlines belonging to two or more people may not be joined or tied together. Anglers may not fish with more than one trotline. Anglers may not check, pull up, or tamper with the trotline of another person. Any person using a trotline must attend it personally at least once every calendar day and remove or release all game fish that are caught.

A person fishing with a trotline must attach an identification tag that is visible above the water line. The identification tag must list the angler's Customer Identification Number (CIN). Anglers 11 years of age and younger must list their Customer Identification Number (CIN) or their name and date of birth on the identification tag.

Trotlines may be used to take game 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; and Rio Grande downstream from its junction with the Rio Chama. Trotlines may not be used in Special Summer Catfish Waters.

Bait and Baitfish

New rules and regulations for bait and baitfish are listed on page 7.



Warmwater Regulations

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

Warmwater Size, Bag and Possession Limits

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

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

Crappie 20 per day

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

Northern Pike 10 per day
In Eagle Nest Lake, there are no bag or possession limits. Northern pike may not be returned intentionally to the lake.

Tiger Muskie 1 per day
40-inch minimum size limit. Found only in Bluewater Lake and Quemado Lake.

Walleye 5 per day
14-inch minimum size limit.

White Bass. 25 per day

Yellow Perch 30 per day

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

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



Special Warmwaters

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

Special Summer Catfish Waters

Many small lakes and ponds are stocked from May–September with 17-inch or longer channel catfish. These waters offer great opportunities throughout the summer to catch big catfish. To make these unique angling opportunities possible, reduced bag limits have been established on these waters. Trotlines may not be used in Special Summer Catfish Waters.

Special Summer Catfish Waters 2 per day

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

Trophy Bass Waters

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

Trophy Bass Waters 2 per day

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



Regulations for Specific

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

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

Alto Lake: Shore fishing hours: 5 a.m.–11 p.m.; Boat hours: Sunrise to sundown; Restricted to boats without motors only; City boating permit required; Special Summer Catfish Water²; No trotlines.

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

Animas River (San Juan Co.): No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass (page 27).

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

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

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

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

Black Canyon Creek (Grant Co.): Closed to fishing November 1–June 30 upstream of waterfall barrier at Black Canyon Campground; Special Trout Water⁴; Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

Black River: Winter Trout Water³.

Blue Hole Park Pond (Santa Rosa): Open only to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶, 65 years and older⁷ and individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. Special Summer Catfish Water²; No trotlines.

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

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

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

Bottomless Lakes State Park: Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines; Fishing with baitfish is illegal.

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

Cabresto Creek (Cabresto Canyon to the headwaters, not including Lake Fork or Cabresto Lake): Special Trout Water⁴.

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

Canada Tio Grande: Special Trout Water⁴.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

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

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

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

Cimarron River: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

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

Columbine Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Waters

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

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

Conoco Lake: Special Summer Catfish Water²; No trotlines.

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

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

Dennis Chavez Pond: Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water²; No trotlines.

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

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

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

Estancia Pond: Open only to anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶, 65 and older⁷ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸. Winter Trout Water³; Special Summer Catfish Water²; No trotlines.

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

Fenton Lake: Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only; Parking area open to vehicles from 6 a.m.–9 p.m. May 1–October 31 and from 7 a.m.–7 p.m. November 1–April 31.

Frijoles Creek (Taos County): Special Trout Water⁴.

Gavilan Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Gilita Creek: Special Trout Water⁴; Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

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

Grants Riverwalk Pond: Open to all anglers. Special Summer Catfish Water². Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

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.

Grindstone Lake: Shore fishing hours: 5 a.m.–11 p.m.; No boats allowed within fenced or buoyed areas near intake and water diversion structures; City boat permit required; Boat hours: Sunrise to sundown; Boats restricted to oars or electric motors only; Boats restricted to trolling speeds.

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

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

Heron Lake: Boats restricted to trolling speeds; Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ open November 8–December 31.

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

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

Italianos Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Regulations for Specific

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

Jack's Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

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

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 and younger and up to two parents or guardians directly supervising youth angler(s); Open to anglers 65 and older⁷ or anglers/individuals with disabilities (Handicapped Fishing License)⁸; No boats or flotation devices allowed.

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

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

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

Liam Knight Pond (Corrales Community Pond): Special Summer Catfish Water² and Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

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

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

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

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

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

Mineral Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴. Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

Mogollon Creek (Grant and Catron Co.): Closed to fishing year-round upstream of Trail Canyon; Open to fishing, July 1–October 31 downstream of Trail Canyon to FS Trail 153; Special Trout Water⁴; Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

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

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

Nabor Creek & Nabor Lake: Special Trout Water⁴.

Navajo Lake: Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season¹ October 1–December 3; Designated no-wake areas closed October 1–November 7, (page 17).

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

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

Palociento Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

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

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

Waters

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

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.

Rancho Grande Ponds: Summer Catfish Water²; Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

Red River: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

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

Rio Cebolla: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

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

Rio de las Vacas: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio de los Pinos: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

Rio Guadalupe: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio las Animas: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Ruidoso: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Santa Barbara: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rio Valdez: Special Trout Water⁴.

Rito del Padre: Special Trout Water⁴.

Roswell Kid's Pond (Spring River Park): Open only to anglers 11 years of age and younger⁶; Special Summer Catfish Water²; Winter Trout Water³; No trotlines.

San Antonio River: Special Trout Water⁴.

San Gregorio Lake: Restricted to boats without motors only.

San Juan River (below Navajo Dam): No bag or possession limit for channel catfish or striped bass (page 27); Special Trout Water⁴, only two flies per line may be used.

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

Sapillo Creek (Grant Co.): Gila Trout Permit⁵ (free) required.

Sargent Wildlife Area: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

Seven Springs Hatchery Kid's Pond: Open 8 a.m.–5 p.m. to anglers 11 years of age and younger⁶.

Regulations for Specific

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

Shuree Ponds: Special Trout Water⁴; Open to fishing July 1–December 31; Daylight hours from 30 minutes before sunrise until sunset; One pond is posted for anglers 11 years of age or younger⁶; Restricted to boats without motors only.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sumner Lake (Stilling Basin): Winter Trout Water⁴.

Tanques Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Timberon Ponds: Summer Catfish Water². No trotlines.

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

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

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

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

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

West Fork Gila and All Tributaries (Catron Co.): All tributaries to West Fork of Gila closed to fishing; Headwaters to East Fork confluence Gila Trout Permit ⁵ (free) required.

West Fork Luna Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

Whitewater Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴; Gila Trout Permit ⁵ (free) required.

Woodrow Canyon Creek: Closed to all fishing.

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

Willow Creek (Catron Co.): Special Trout Water⁴; Gila Trout Permit ⁵ (free) required.

Yerba Creek: Special Trout Water⁴.

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

Waters

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

Youth Only Waters

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

Harris Pond (Las Vegas)

Shuree Kid's Pond (The Valle Vidal)

Seven Springs Hatchery Brood Pond (Jemez Mountains)

Roswell Kid's Pond (Spring River Park)

Youth and Individuals with Disabilities⁸ Only Waters

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

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

Youth, Senior⁷ and Individuals with Disabilities⁸ Only Waters

Estancia Park Lake (Estancia)

Harry McAdams Park Ponds (Hobbs)

Red River Hatchery Pond (Red River)

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

Youth 14 Years of Age and Younger, Senior and Disabled (Handicapped) Only Waters

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

-
- Endnotes:
- ¹ Special Kokanee Salmon Snagging Season, see page 17.
 - ² Special Summer Catfish Water, see page 27.
 - ³ Regular and Winter Trout Water, see page 16.
 - ⁴ Special Trout Water, see pages 18–21.
 - ⁵ Gila Trout Permit Water, see page 3.
 - ⁶ Licenses are not required for Anglers 11 years of age or younger, see page 3.
 - ⁷ Senior Fishing Licenses, see page 3.
 - ⁸ Handicapped Fishing License, see page 3.
 - ⁹ Junior Fishing Licenses, see page 3.
 - ¹⁰ Reduced bag limit of two (2) largemouth bass. Spearfishing and bow fishing for largemouth bass in these waters is prohibited.

Boating Regulations

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

Basic Boating Regulations

1. All motorized and sail-powered vessels 10 feet or longer in length require a title. All motorized vessels of any length must be registered. Title and registration must be obtained from the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division online: www.mvd.newmexico.gov, by telephone: **1-888-683-4636** or by visiting a New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division office.
2. The vessel registration number must be affixed permanently to both sides of the vessel's bow with block letters that measure 3 inches in height and are clearly visible. A valid registration decal must be placed on the port side 6 inches behind (aft) the registration number.
3. Proof of boater education must be carried by all operators born on or after January 1, 1989.
4. All persons in canoes, kayaks or rafts must wear a personal flotation device at all times.
5. Children 12 years and younger, must wear a personal flotation device while the vessel is underway.
6. Vessels while operating must carry: a life jacket of good condition for each person on board; one USCG approved throwable device; oar/paddle, bailing bucket and stout rope at least one boat length; whistle/horn, fire extinguisher and navigation lights if operating at night. Vessels may be inspected for required equipment.
7. Boating while under the influence of drugs or alcohol is prohibited and strictly enforced.

For additional information and boating-safety classes offered statewide by the New Mexico State Parks Division visit online: www.emnrd.state.nm.us/spd or telephone: **1-888-667-2757**.

- ▶ **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 35).

Waters with Special Restrictions

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

Waters restricted to boats with oars or electric motors include: Bear Canyon Lake, Bill Evans Lake, Conoco Lake, Fenton Lake, Green Meadow Lake, Grindstone Lake, Hopewell Lake, Lake Maloya, Lake Roberts, Morphy Lake, Quemado Lake, Snow Lake and Tucumcari Wildlife Area.

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

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

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Personnel

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

Aquatic Invasive Species

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

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) are any nonnative plants, animals or pathogens that can harm our aquatic environment and the economy. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish works with state, federal and private partners to stop the spread of AIS, and you can help.

How You Can Help:

- Remove all mud and aquatic plants from boats, trailers and gear, including waders and wading boots.
- Pull all drain plugs and empty live wells.
- Air and sun dry boat compartments and equipment.
- Do not transfer live gamefish from one waterbody to another (see page 7).
- Report suspicious watercraft or AIS sighting immediately to the AIS Coordinator: (505) 629-9867, Operation Game Thief: 1-800-432-4263 or the NMDGF Information Center: 1-888-248-6866.

For information about rules and regulations, watercraft inspections, the voluntary watercraft seal program and more, visit: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais/



CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY



Catch and Release or...

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

Are My Fish Safe to Eat?

Tests have shown many of New Mexico's waters are contaminated with mercury, PCBs and in some instances DDT. To help anglers make informed choices about what can be safely eaten, the following consumption advisories by region are provided on the pages 36–40. Occasional consumption of fish from these waters does not constitute a substantial health risk, however higher consumption over a longer period of time could result in health problems. These advisories are guidelines only and do not suggest any health risks from camping, swimming or boating in these waters. Also, handling fish will not result in exposure to dangerous contaminants.

How To Use the Consumption Advisory Chart

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

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

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

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

Northwest Consumption Advisory⁽¹⁾

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

NA* No Advisory

(1) Coldwater bag and possession limits are listed on pages 16–17 and 18–21.

Catch and Eat?

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

Northwest Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

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

NA* No Advisory

⁽¹⁾ Coldwater bag and possession limits are listed on pages 16–17 and 18–21.

Catch and Release or ...

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

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

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

Catch and Eat?

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

Northeast Consumption Advisory—continued⁽¹⁾

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

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

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

NA* No Advisory

(1) Coldwater bag and possession limits are listed on pages 16–17 and 18–21.

(2) Warmwater bag and possession limits are listed on page 26.

Catch, Release or Eat?

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

Southeast Consumption Advisory⁽²⁾ (How to Use the Chart, page 36)

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

NA* No Advisory

⁽²⁾ Warmwater bag and possession limits are listed on page 26.

Possession Certificate



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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

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

residing at: _____ tel.: (____) ____-____,
Address and telephone of license holder required. Please print.

on this day: ___/___/___ at: _____,
Date of transaction; Place of transaction.

hereby convey to: _____ the following fish:
Full name of person receiving game fish.

Detailed description of the kind and number of fish donated. (Example: one channel catfish weighing approximately 3 lbs.)

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

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

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



Title VI Funding: Certain programs of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish receive federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior. These programs are therefore subject to requirements of the New Mexico Human Rights Act and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, which prohibit discrimination because of ancestry, sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age or physical or mental handicap. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please send a detailed description of the incident by certified mail to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. If you desire further information on Title VI, write: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240. The Department of Game and Fish will schedule public meetings and operate facilities that are accessible to physically impaired persons. Reasonable accommodations will be made for other impairments, including hearing and sight. If special aids are required, call (505) 476-8027 or write to P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 at least three working days prior to the meeting date. To initiate a complaint, write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, Public Civil Rights Accessibility & Disability Coordinator, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; (703) 358-1724.

Fondos de Titulo VI: Ciertos programas del New Mexico Department of Game and Fish reciben fondos federales del U.S. Department of the Interior. Estos programas son subyugados a requisitos de la ley de New Mexico Human Rights Act and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, que prohíben la discriminación por razones de ascendencia, sexo, raza, color, religión origen nacional, edad o impedimento físico o mental. Si usted cree que ha sufrido discriminación en cualquier programa, actividad o comodidades, por favor envíe por correo certificado una descripción detallada al Department of Game and Fish. Si desea mas informacion sobre Titulo VI, por favor escriba a: Department of Game and Fish, ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504 or Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Washington, DC 20240. Al programar sus reuniones públicas, el Department of Game and Fish operará en facilidades que proveen acceso para personas con incapacidades físicas. Las personas con otras incapacidades, inclusive del oído y de la vista, recibirán acceso razonable a las reuniones. Si usted necesita algún auxiliar o ayuda especial, por favor llame al número (505) 476-8027 o escriba a P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504, por lo menos tres días antes de la reunión. Para iniciar una queja, escriba a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Inclusive Workforce Management, Public Civil Rights Accessibility & Disability Coordinator, 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041; (703) 358-1724.

Family Fishing & Education

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

Family Fishing Statewide

Locations and information about fishing opportunities across the state are available online:
www.wildlife.state.nm.us/family-fishing/

Free Fishing Camps

The Fishing Skills Program offers free camps with experienced professionals and seasoned volunteers to train students of all ages basic skills, including: tackle, knots, fly-fishing and fly-tying (basic to intermediate), fish handling and cleaning, aquatic outdoor safety, New Mexico fishing rules and regulations, and more.

To schedule a fishing camp in your community or at your school and learn more about angling opportunities in New Mexico, contact the Sport Fishing Education Coordinator: (505) 222-4727.



Fish Hatchery Tours

More than 2 million game fish are raised from eggs at our state's fish hatcheries and released each year in the lakes and streams of New Mexico. Hatcheries offer opportunities for students to view fish at each stage of development, to learn firsthand about aquatic conservation, and to fish at nearby facilities. Educational kits are available to prepare students before they visit. 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

P.O. Box 67 – 9 Hatchery Road, Glenwood, NM 88039

Fishing pond. Raises rainbow trout and Gila trout.

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

HCR 74, P.O. Box 61 – 26 Fish Hatchery Road, Pecos, NM 87552

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

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

29 Hatchery Road, Los Ojos, NM 8755

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

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

P.O. Box 410 – State Route 515 #185, Questa, NM 87556

Show pond. Raises rainbow trout.

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

1025 Hatchery Road, Santa Rosa, NM 88435

Raises rainbow trout, walleye and largemouth bass.

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

346 Forest Road 314, Jemez Springs, NM 87025

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

Off-Highway Vehicles

OHV Permits and Information: www.B4uRide.com

Know the Laws, Operate Safely and Enjoy!

New Mexico laws for off-highway vehicles (OHV) are designed to protect all citizens, while ensuring responsible and safe OHV use. OHVs include all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs), motorcycles and snowmobiles. Anglers 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 17 years of age or younger must wear a DOT approved helmet and goggles or safety glasses. Whether young or old, it's every rider's responsibility to know and observe the laws. Before riding on public land, visit www.B4uRide.com.

New Mexico OHV Code of Ethics

- Learn about the area in which you will ride. Contact public-land managers or private-property landowners to understand area restrictions and receive permission before you ride. Get maps of the area(s) and stay on trails and/or areas designated for OHV use.
- Be courteous on the trail. Allow right-of-way to hikers and horseback riders, and when encountering horses—pull off of the trail on the low side, stop your engine, remove your helmet, and speak to the rider. Wait until all horses have passed and moved beyond 50 feet before restarting your engine.
- Minimize your impact on other hunters and anglers using the trail. Respect seasonal closures and avoid operating at peak-hunting hours. If retrieving game with an OHV, do it at midday to minimize disturbance to others. Cross streams where designated and at a 90-degree angle wherever possible.
- Leave gates and fences as you found them, and remember it's illegal to travel or fish 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 illegal 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) 222-4728.

Glossary of Terms

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

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

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

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

Artificial Fly or Lure: A lure is made of wood, metal, or 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 are not included.

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

Aquatic Invasive Species: Nonnative harmful and undesirable plants, animals, insects or organisms (page 35).

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

Baitfish: Live or dead nongame fish species used as bait. Nongame fish species include: common carp, fathead minnow, golden shiner, shad, red shiner, and white sucker. Goldfish, dead or alive, cannot be used as bait in any water. Commercially packaged and processed fish that are dead are not considered baitfish.

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

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

Chumming: Attracting fish with organic materials that will not injure aquatic life. Chumming is allowed in all waters, except Special Trout Waters. In any Special Trout Water it is illegal 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 page 7).

Disabled Veteran License: Annual reduced-fee game hunting and fishing licenses or lifetime free privileges are available to residents who are disabled veterans of the armed services (page 5).

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

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

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

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

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

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

License Year: April 1, 2019 and ending March 31, 2020. A new license is required every April 1.

Landowner Permission: It is illegal 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.

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

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

Resident: See New Mexico Residency Requirements, page 4.

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

Glossary of Terms

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

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

Snagging: Taking fish by hooking the body rather than the mouth. Kokanee salmon are the only fish that may be legally snagged, and only during Special Kokanee Snagging Season (page 17). If another species is caught by snagging, it must be immediately returned to the water.

Spearfishing: Bag and length limits for spearfishing and angling are the same. Legal means of taking include spears, gigs and arrows with barbs. 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, stream or Trophy Bass Water (for largemouth bass).

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

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

Angler Code of Ethics

Never spill or dump pollutants onto the land or into the water.

Never leave behind trash, including discarded fishing line, old hooks or bait containers.

Always leave a fishing site as clean or cleaner than it was found.

Report environmental damage and pollution to the authorities.

Prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Never use fish as live bait if those fish do not live in the water being fished.

Use only legal tackle, maintain gear and respect all fish and wildlife.

Keep no more fish than legally allowed, and never wastefully discard fish.

Practice conservation and properly release game fish not kept.

Know and abide by all angling rules and regulations.

Report illegal fishing activities to the proper authorities.

Treat every angler, boater or person in the field with courtesy and respect.

Obtain written permission from landowners for private lands or waters and never trespass.

Respect the space of other anglers and allow room for any angler playing a fish.

Observe all safety regulations.

Watch boat speed and wake while maintaining a safe distance from other boats and anglers on the shore.

Educate fellow anglers about fishing ethics, especially those new to the sport.

Promote ethical behavior by example and inform others how anglers conserve resources and protect the environment.

Make a Difference ...

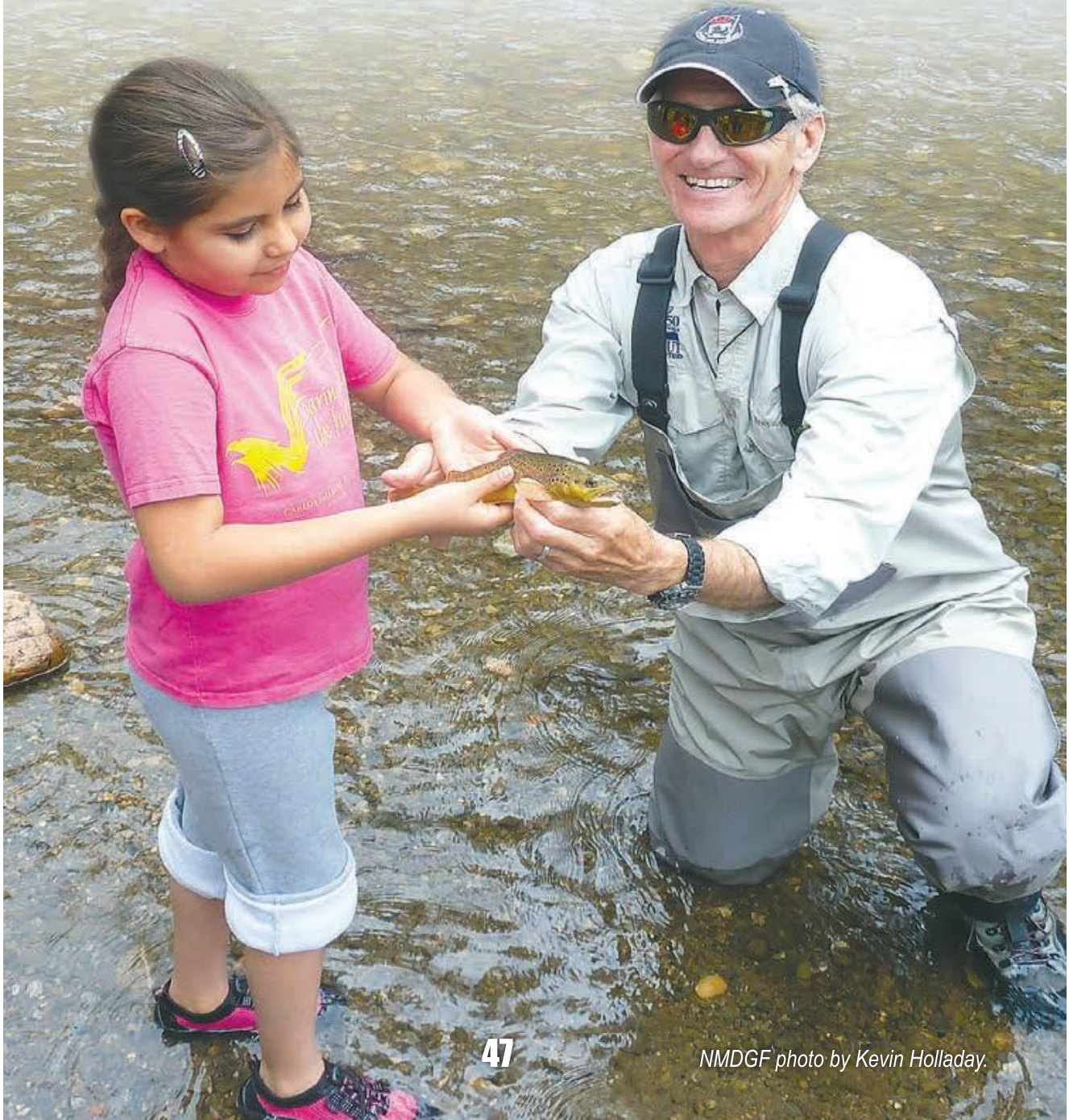
General Information: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/volunteer

Become a Wildlife Conservation Volunteer!

Volunteers play an important role to help the Department provide programs and services across the state. From wildlife conservation and aquatic education to off-road vehicle safety and habitat restoration, volunteers share their time and talent to help provide programs and support initiatives that otherwise might not be possible.

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

For information about the variety of volunteer opportunities available, visit us online: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/volunteer





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

Transporting live gamefish is illegal.

Protect New Mexico waters.

Empty your live wells, pull plugs and
drain all water (pages 7 and 35).

Visit: www.wildlife.state.nm.us/ais



Photomontage by Ron Short