

New Mexico Statewide Weekly Fishing Report

NM Fishing Report prepared for ABQSportfishing.com by Bill Dunn

Week of March 21, 2009

This fishing report has been generated from the best information available from officers and anglers. Conditions encountered after the report is compiled may differ, however, as stream, lake and weather conditions alter fish and angler activities.

If you have a catch of the week story or just want to tell us about your latest New Mexico fishing experience, send it to us at fishforfun2@hotmail.com. We may include your story in our next report. For catches of the week, include name, date, location, type of fish, length and bait used.

Catches of the week

Elephant Butte: March 14, Rolando Barrueta of El Paso caught a six-pound smallmouth bass. He was fishing from the bank and using a minnow in about 10 feet of water.

Navajo Lake: March 20, Dalton King of Aztec caught a 16-pound northern pike. He was fishing on the San Juan arm and using a Lucky Craft jerk bait.

Cochiti Lake: March 21, Brian Naugle of Albuquerque caught a 5.5-pound smallmouth bass. He was using a shad-colored crank bait and fishing in three feet of water off the riprap. On the same day, Calvin Sanchez of Los Lunas caught a 4.5-pound walleye. He was using a crank bait.

Ute Lake: March 22, Leonard Eastepp of Amarillo caught an 8.68-pound largemouth bass. He was fishing a bass tournament and using a crank bait in shallow water.

Santa Rosa Lake: March 21, Hank Kuhn of Rio Rancho caught a 7.5-pound walleye. He was using a tube.

Lake Ascarate (El Paso, TX.): March 21, Mike Pulido of El Paso, TX caught and released a 10.22-pound largemouth bass. He was fishing a black/blue flake zoom trick worm on a 1/8 oz. shakyhead and JJ's Magic with 10lb trilene sensation. Pictures posted in March photos.

NORTHEAST AREA

CHARENTE LAKES: We had no reports from anglers this week.

CIMARRON RIVER: Water flow below Eagle Nest Lake as of Monday was 5.6cfs. Trout fishing was slow-to-fair using small bead head nymphs and salmon eggs.

CLAYTON LAKE: Fishing from boats was good trolling spinner/worm combinations for walleye and trout. Bank fishing was good using worms and power bait for trout up to 15 inches. We had no reports on other species.

CONCHAS LAKE: Fishing for white bass was fair-to-good using crank baits, minnows, spoons and grubs. Fishing was fair using dough bait and liver for catfish. A few walleye were taken by anglers using crank baits, grubs and jerk baits. Fishing was slow-to-fair using jerk baits, senkos, tubes and chigger craws for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass.

EAGLE NEST LAKE: Bank fishing was good using power bait, salmon eggs, spinners, small hair jigs and worms for trout and a few perch. We had no reports from boaters.

LAKE MALOYA/LAKE ALICE: Trout fishing at Lake Maloya was very good using orange power bait, corn, home made dough baits and salmon eggs. Fishing at Lake Alice was slow with just a few trout reported. They were caught by anglers using salmon eggs.

MCALLISTER LAKE: Closed due to high golden algae content.

MAXWELL LAKE 13: Fishing was a bit slow but there were some good size trout taken by anglers using power bait, spinners and worms. We had no reports on other species.

MONASTERY LAKE: Trout fishing was good using Pistol Petes, spinners and power bait.

MORPHY LAKE: Opens for the season April 1.

PECOS RIVER: Water flow near the town of Pecos on Monday was 209cfs. Before the latest flow increase, trout fishing was fair using bead head hares ears, prince nymphs, salmon eggs and worms.

RED RIVER: Water flow below the hatchery was 82cfs. Trout fishing was fair using small bead head nymphs, worms and salmon eggs. Mike Clayton reported good fishing mid day on the 21st. He caught a mix of rainbows and browns up to 16 inches while using small olive wooly buggers and flashback bead head hares ears.

RIO GRANDE: The water flow Monday morning at the Taos Junction Bridge was 1,010cfs. Fishing on the upper Rio was slow but there were a few trout caught by anglers using large wooly buggers, spinners and night crawlers.

SPRINGER LAKE: Fishing was fair using cut bait and jerk baits for northern pike. We had no reports on other species.

STORRIE LAKE: Fishing was slow for all species. Fishing pressure was light.

STUBBLEFIELD: Fishing was slow for all species.

UTE LAKE: Fishing was good using chicken liver and dough baits in shallow water for catfish. Fishing was fair-to-good using jigs and minnows in about 15 feet of water for crappie. Fishing was good using jerk baits and crank baits for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Fishing was good using jigs, minnows, crank baits and grubs for white bass. Fishing was fair using crank baits and swim baits in shallow water for walleye.

NORTHWEST AREA

ABIQUIU LAKE: Fishing was fair using minnows, grubs, jerk baits and crank baits for walleye and smallmouth bass. We had no reports on other species.

ALBUQUERQUE AREA DRAINS: Fishing on the Albuquerque, Belen and Peralta Drains was fair using spinners, worms and salmon eggs for trout. Fishing on the Corrales Drain below East Ella was fair using parachute adams in the afternoon hours.

BLUEWATER LAKE: This past week there was a lot of angler activity but fishing was slow for all species.

CHAMA RIVER: Monday morning water flows below El Vado and Abiquiu were 553cfs and 200cfs respectively. Fishing below Abiquiu was fair using jerk baits, worms and spinners for a mix of rainbow and brown trout. Below El Vado, fishing was slow with just a few browns taken on spinners and night crawlers.

COCHITI LAKE: Fishing was slow-to-fair using crank baits and jerk baits in the shallows for mix of smallmouth bass, walleye and northern pike. The best action was reported by anglers fishing the riprap area. We had no reports on other species.

EL VADO LAKE: Trout fishing was slow.

FENTON LAKE: Trout fishing was good using Pistol Petes, spoons, spinners, power bait and worms.

HERON LAKE: Bank fishing was slow-to-fair using rainbow power bait for rainbow trout. The best reports came from anglers fishing near the dam. Fishing from boats was slow with just a few small lakers caught by anglers using jigs in 30-to-40 feet of water.

JEMEZ WATERS: Water flow on the Jemez as of Monday morning was 80cfs near Jemez Springs. Trout fishing on the upper Cebolla and the East Fork was good in the afternoon hours using small dry flies. On the Jemez anglers did best using worms and spinners. We had no reports on other streams.

MANZANO LAKE: Trout fishing was fair using salmon peach and garlic power baits, salmon eggs and spinners.

MCGAFFEY LAKE: We had no reports from anglers this week.

NAVAJO LAKE: Fishing was good using spinner baits, crank baits and jerk baits for northern pike. The best action was reported to be on the San Juan arm. Fishing was fair using small jigs in Bancos Canyon for crappie. Fishing was slow-to-fair using spinner baits, jigs, jerk baits and tubes for smallmouth bass. We had no reports on other species.

RAMAH LAKE: We had no reports from anglers this week.

SAN JUAN: Water flow below Navajo Lake as of Monday morning was 504cfs. Trout fishing through the Quality Waters was fair using red annelids, bead head pheasant tails, small hair jigs, wooly buggers, dead chickens and emergers. Fishing through the bait waters was fair using night crawlers, hair jigs salmon eggs, power bait and jerk baits.

SANTA CRUZ LAKE: Trout fishing was very good using power baits, salmon eggs, corn, crank baits and spinners.

TINGLEY BEACH: Trout fishing at the Youth and Central Ponds was good using salmon peach and corn power bait, leeches and Super Dupers. Fishing at the Catch and Release Pond was good using red annelids, zebra midges, dead chickens and small pheasant tail nymphs.

SOUTHWEST AREA

BEAR CANYON: Trout fishing was fair-to-good using salmon eggs, power bait, corn and worms.

BILL EVANS LAKE: Trout fishing was fair using power bait, salmon eggs and corn. Fishing for bass was slow-to-fair using swim baits, jigs, chigger craws and crank baits. We had no reports on other species.

BURN LAKE: Trout fishing was fair using salmon eggs, power bait and worms.

CABALLO LAKE: Fishing continued to be slow for all species. The water was quite murky.

ELEPHANT BUTTE: Fishing was very good using shad and cut bait on trotlines for 2-to-25 pound channel catfish. The best action was in the shallows at the upper end of the main lake. Fishing was good using crank baits and grubs for white bass. There was good white bass action near the Black Bluffs, the Chalk Bluffs and Rock Canyon. Fishing was fair-to-good using minnows, crank baits, grubs, jigs and senkos for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. Most of the bass were in less than six feet of water. A few walleye were caught by anglers using minnows, crank baits and jerk baits. We had no reports on other species.

ESCONDIDA LAKE: Trout fishing was good using Pistol Petes, power bait, worms and salmon eggs.

GILA RIVER: Water flow on the Gila as of this past Monday was 90cfs. We had no reports from anglers this week.

LAKE ROBERTS: Trout fishing was good using spinners, salmon eggs, power bait and wooly buggers.

PERCHA DAM: Fishing was slow with just a few small walleye caught by anglers using white grubs.

QUEMADO LAKE: We had no reports from anglers this week.

RIO GRANDE: Water flow below Elephant Butte on Monday was 1,580cfs. Fishing below Elephant Butte was good using white grubs for walleye and a few white bass. Fishing was fair using worms, spinners and wooly buggers for trout. Fishing below Caballo was slow with a few white bass taken on white curly tail grubs.

SOUTHEAST AREA

BATAAN LAKE: We had no reports from anglers this week.

BONITO LAKE: Opens for the season April 1.

BOSQUE REDONDO: Trout fishing was fair using salmon eggs, power bait, corn and spinners.

BOTTOMLESS LAKES: Trout fishing was good using power bait and salmon eggs.

BRANTLEY LAKE: Anglers are to practice catch and release for all fish here as high levels of DDT were found in several fish.

CARLSBAD MUNICIPAL LAKE: We had no reports from anglers this week.

GRINDSTONE RESERVOIR: Trout fishing was good using salmon eggs, power bait, spinners and small wet flies under a bubble.

JAL LAKE: Trout fishing was good using salmon eggs and power bait.

LAKE VAN: Trout fishing was fair using power bait, cheese, worms and salmon eggs.

PECOS RIVER: Water flow on Monday below Sumner Lake was 1,410cfs. Access to the area below Sumner is closed due to high water release.

PERCH LAKE: Trout fishing was good using Pistol Petes and spinners.

RUIDOSO RIVER: Water flow at Ruidoso on Monday was 4.3cfs. We had no reports from anglers this week.

SANTA ROSA LAKE: Fishing was good using tubes, swim baits, crank baits, chigger craws, senkos and jerk baits for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. Anglers fishing for bass also reported catching several walleye and crappie. Most of the walleye were caught on plastics and crank baits. We had no reports on other species.

SUMNER LAKE: Fishing was slow. There were a few bass and walleye caught by anglers using worms, minnows, grubs and crank baits but most of the fish were small. The lake level was dropping and the water was quite murky.

Stocking Report:

Crews stocked 91,139 rainbow trout averaging 10 inches in length in the following waters: Blue Hole Park Pond, Bosque Redondo, Bottomless Lakes, CONSERVANCY PARK LAKE-aka Tingley Beach, El Riot Creek, Escondida Lake, Estancia Park Lake, Fish Ed. Pond, Glenwood Pond, Green Acres Lake, Lake Van, Manzano Lake, Monastery Lake, Ned Houk Ponds, Perch Lake, Red River – below Questa, Red River hatchery pond, Rio Grande – Elephant Butte to Caballo, SAN JUAN RIVER-Below Quality Waters and University Reservoir-aka Alumni Pond.