

# New Mexico Statewide Weekly Fishing Report

*NM Fishing Report prepared for ABQSportfishing.com by Bill Dunn*

**Week of April 18, 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](mailto: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:**

**Navajo Lake:** On April 11, Janell Sanchez of Albuquerque caught her first smallmouth bass. It weighed 4 pounds 8 ounces. At the time she was fishing for northern pike on the San Juan arm.

**Chama River:** On April 16, Mark Lein of Georgia caught a 20 inch german brown. He was fishing below El Vado and using an artificial minnow. On April 18, Joe Gill of Gallup caught a 6.14 pound largemouth bass. He was using a crank bait.

**Heron Lake:** On April 17, Martin Trujillo of Albuquerque caught a 13.5 pound lake trout. He was trolling a rainbow bomber. On April 18, David McCulloch of Rio Rancho caught a 10.2 pound laker. He was using a white jig. On April 19, Tom Hepplewhite of Albuquerque caught a 10 pound laker. He was trolling a Rapala at 30 feet. On April 20, Carley Perry of Los Lunas caught a 10.4 pound laker. He was using a red and white flat fish.

**Ute Lake:** On April 18, Kris Bosley of Amarillo caught a 6.13 pound largemouth bass. He was using a craw. On April 19, Terry Scarafiotti of Nogal, NM caught a 5.88 largemouth bass.

**Elephant Butte Lake:** On April 19, Steve Bell of Elephant Butte caught an 8.32 pound largemouth bass. On the same day and in the same tournament, Skip Ward of T or C caught a 5.87 pound largemouth bass.

**Cochiti Lake:** On April 20, Kevin Schroeder of Albuquerque caught and released a 7 pound 4 ounce largemouth bass. He was using a custom painted Rattle Shad.

## **NORTHEAST AREA**

**CHARETTE LAKES:** Fishing was fair using assorted power baits for trout up to 16 inches.

**CIMARRON RIVER:** Water flow below Eagle Nest Lake as of Monday was 41cfs. Trout fishing was slow-to-fair using bead head nymphs and spinners.

**CLAYTON LAKE:** Trout fishing was very good using power bait, Pistol Petes and spoons. Anglers picked up a few walleye and catfish using the same baits. Fishing pressure was light.

**CONCHAS LAKE:** Fishing was slow for all species. A few smallmouth bass and largemouth bass were taken by anglers using tubes and senkos.

**COYOTE CREEK:** Trout fishing was very good using power bait, salmon eggs, copper john barrs and elk hair caddis.

**EAGLE NEST LAKE:** Trout fishing was fair-to-good using power bait, salmon eggs, spinners and Pistol Petes.

**LAKE MALOYA/**

**LAKE ALICE:** Trout fishing was rated as fair at Lake Maloya and slow-to-fair at Lake Alice. Most of the fish caught were taken on home made dough baits and were in the 8-to-10 inch range.

**MCALLISTER LAKE:** Closed due to high golden algae content.

**MAXWELL LAKE 13:** Trout fishing was fair-to-good using power bait, salmon eggs and spinners. We had no reports on other species.

**MONASTERY LAKE:** Trout fishing was fair using Pistol Petes, salmon eggs and power bait.

**MORPHY LAKE:** Trout fishing was very good using salmon eggs, power bait, wooly buggers, Pistol Petes and spinners.

**PECOS RIVER:** Water flow near the town of Pecos on Monday was 215cfs. Trout fishing prior to the latest runoff was good using copper john barrs, black wooly buggers, night crawlers and salmon eggs.

**RED RIVER:** Water flow below the hatchery was 82cfs. Trout fishing was fair using copper john barrs, wooly buggers and night crawlers.

**RIO GRANDE:** The water flow Monday morning at the Taos Junction Bridge was 719cfs. Trout fishing was fair using wooly buggers, small jerk baits and spinners. We had no reports on other species.

**SPRINGER LAKE:** Fishing continued to be slow for all species this past week. Fishing pressure was very light.

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

**STUBBLEFIELD:** Fishing was slow for all species.

**UTE LAKE:** Walleye fishing was very good this past weekend as several anglers reported catching limits. Best baits were minnows, crank baits and jerk baits fished in 5-to-15 feet of water. Fishing was good using chatter baits, tubes, senkos, robo worms, crank baits and jerk baits for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Fishing was good using minnows and jigs for crappie and a few white bass. Fishing was fair-to-good using stink bait and cut bait for catfish. Surface water temps ranged from 49-to-55 degrees.

## **NORTHWEST AREA**

**ABIQUIU LAKE:** Fishing was good using crank baits, tubes, jerk baits, spoons, grubs and minnows for walleye. A few brown trout were taken by anglers using crank baits and minnows. Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair using tubes, craws and jerk baits.

### **ALBUQUERQUE**

**AREA DRAINS:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**BLUEWATER LAKE:** Fishing was slow for all species. A few trout were taken on power bait and spinners.

**CHAMA RIVER:** Monday morning water flows below El Vado and Abiquiu were 547cfs and 776cfs respectively. Trout fishing was slow in both areas.

**COCHITI LAKE:** Bass fishing was slow but a few fish were taken by anglers using crank baits, tubes and chigger craws. A few northern pike were taken by anglers using crank baits and spinner baits. We had no reports on other species.

**EL VADO LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**FENTON LAKE:** Trout fishing was good using spinners, black and olive wooly buggers, Pistol Petes, power bait and salmon eggs.

**HERON LAKE:** Fishing from the bank was fair using salmon eggs, power bait and spinners for trout. Fishing from boats was fair using jigs and trolling assorted crank baits at 20-to-30 feet crank baits for lakere and rainbow trout.

**JACKSON LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**JEMEZ WATERS:** Water flow on the Jemez as of Monday morning was 134cfs near Jemez Springs. Prior to the latest snows, trout fishing on the Rio Guadalupe, San Antonio, East Fork and Cebolla was good using copper john barrs, bead head hares ears, royal wulffs, worms, spinners and salmon eggs. Runoff over the weekend muddied up the streams and slowed fishing.

**MANZANO LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**MCGAFFEY LAKE:** Trout fishing was fair using worms, salmon eggs, power bait and spinners.

**NAVAJO LAKE:** Fishing was slow-to-fair using crank baits, jerk baits and jigs for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Fishing was good using jigs for crappie in La Jara, Uhl and Bancos canyons. Fishing was fair-to-good using crank baits, jerk baits, jigs and swim baits for northern pike. We had no reports on other species.

**RAMAH LAKE:** Fishing was slow.

**SAN JUAN:** Water flow below Navajo Lake as of Monday morning was 510cfs. Trout fishing through the Texas Hole and Upper Flats areas was fair-to-good using small hair jigs, chamois leeches, San Juan worms, parachute adams, and red annelids. Fishing through the bait waters was fair using night crawlers, cheese, salmon eggs, hair jigs and jerk baits.

**SANTA CRUZ LAKE:** Trout fishing was good using power bait, salmon eggs, worms, spoons and spinners.

**TINGLEY BEACH:** Trout fishing at the Youth and Central Ponds was good using Pistol Petes, spinners and power bait mixed with bread. Fishing for bluegill was good using worms. Fishing at the Catch and Release Pond was good using RS2s, midges, egg patterns, chamois leeches and small streamers.

## **SOUTHWEST AREA**

**BEAR CANYON:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**BILL EVANS LAKE:** Trout fishing was fair using power bait, salmon eggs, worms and corn. Bass fishing was fair using swim baits and jigs. A few bluegill were taken on worms. We had no reports on other species.

**BURN LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**CABALLO LAKE:** Fishing was slow for all species but there were a few white bass taken by anglers using crank baits and grubs.

**ELEPHANT BUTTE:** Fishing was good using white crank baits, white jerk baits and white grubs for white bass. Fishing was good using jerk baits, tubes, chigger craws and crank baits for largemouth bass and smallmouth bass. Several of the bass weighed in at a tournament were over 4 pounds. Fishing was fair using crank baits and jerk baits for crappie. Fishing was fair-to-good using cut bait, shad and stink bait over baited holes for catfish. Fishing was good using grubs and minnows for walleye. Fishing was slow-to-fair using live for striped bass.

**ESCONDIDA LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.

**GILA RIVER:** Water flow on the Gila as of this past Monday was 68cfs. Trout fishing on the Forks was slow-to-fair using small bead head nymphs and worms. Devon Fletcher fished Sapillo Creek on the 13th and reported a great day catching rainbows and Gila trout on an assortment of dry flies and on big Gila (16+ inches) on a gold ribbed hare's ear.

**GLENWOOD POND:** Trout fishing was good using salmon eggs and power bait.  
**LAKE ROBERTS:** Trout fishing was fair using wooly buggers, salmon eggs, worms and power bait. Fishing for bass was slow-to-fair using worms and crank baits. Fishing was fair using stink baits for catfish.  
**PERCHA DAM:** Fishing was fair using chartreuse and white grubs for walleye. We had no reports on other species.  
**QUEMADO LAKE:** Trout fishing was fair using spoons, Pistol Petes and power bait. Fishing for tiger musky was good for some and slow for others. Best baits were Rapala husky jerks.  
**RIO GRANDE:** Water flow below Elephant Butte on Monday was 2,600cfs. Fishing below Elephant Butte was slow. Fishing below Caballo was fair using grubs and crank baits for walleye. We had no reports on other species.

## **SOUTHEAST AREA**

**BATAAN LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.  
**BONITO LAKE:** Trout fishing was good using power bait and Krocodile spoons. Pilar Ritcherson and Brandon George of Artesia caught several fish between 14 and 17 inches on power bait while Michael Chavez of Roswell caught an 18.5 inch rainbow on a spoon.  
**BOSQUE REDONDO:** Trout fishing was good using power bait, salmon eggs, corn and worms.  
**BOTTOMLESS LAKES:** We had no reports from anglers this week.  
**BRANTLEY LAKE:** Anglers are to practice catch and release for all fish here as high levels of DDT were found in several fish. We had no reports from anglers this week.  
**CARLSBAD MUNICIPAL LAKE:** Trout fishing was slow-to-fair using power bait, salmon eggs, worms and spoons.  
**GRINDSTONE RESERVOIR:** Trout fishing was good using Pistol Petes, salmon eggs, spinners and power bait.  
**JAL LAKE:** We had no reports from anglers this week.  
**LAKE VAN:** Trout fishing was fair using power bait, worms and salmon eggs. Fishing pressure was very light.  
**PECOS RIVER:** Water flow on Monday below Sumner Lake was 109cfs. Fishing was slow for all species.  
**PERCH LAKE:** Fishing was slow but there were a few trout taken by anglers using Pistol Petes.  
**RUIDOSO RIVER:** Water flow at Ruidoso on Monday was 12cfs. We had no reports from anglers this week.  
**SANTA ROSA LAKE:** Fishing was fair-to-good using crank baits, grubs, minnows and worms for crappie. Fishing was fair using chigger craws, chatter baits, tubes, senkos, spinner baits and crank baits for smallmouth bass and largemouth bass. Fishing was fair using crank baits, grubs, spoons, spinners and worms for walleye. Surface temps ranged from 48-to-55 degrees over the weekend.  
**SUMNER LAKE:** Fishing was slow-to-fair using silver Kastmasters, minnows, grubs and chigger craws for a mix of walleye and largemouth bass. Water surface temps over the past weekend ranged from 47-to-52 degrees.

## **Stocking Report:**

**Crews stocked 24,449 rainbow trout averaging 10.4 inches in length in the following waters: BONITO LAKE, CHAMA RIVER-Below Abiquiu and Below El Vado, CHARETTE LAKES-Lower, COW CREEK, COYOTE CREEK-NE Cuba, COYOTE CREEK-Near Guadalupe, COYOTE CREEK POND, FENTON LAKE, GALLINA CREEK, GALLINAS ICE POND, GALLINAS RIVER-Near Las Vegas, GLENWOOD POND, JEMEZ RIVER, JEMEZ RIVER EAST FORK, LA JUNTA CREEK, LAGUNA DEL CAMPO-Burns Lake, MCGAFFEY LAKE, MONASTERY LAKE, PECOS RIVER-Cowles to Village of Pecos, RIO GRANDE-Middle, RIO PUEBLO, RUIDOSO RIVER, SANTA CRUZ RESERVOIR, SEVEN SPRINGS BROOD POND, TAOS CREEK-aka Rio Fernando De Taos & VALLECITOS.**

**In addition crews stocked 1,577,932 walleye fry in Conchas Lake, 183,552 kokanee salmon fingerlings in El Vado Lake and 187,794 fingerling rainbow trout in Eagle Nest Lake.**

**In addition, crews stocked 811,610 walleye fry in CONCHAS LAKE.**