



# Arizona Game & Fish

MANAGING TODAY FOR WILDLIFE TOMORROW

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## Fishing Report

Jan. 18, 2005

### Been Fishing?

[Tell us about it.](#) Your comments may be added to the weekly fishing report. We could really use reports on lake temperatures each week from now through summer. With those in hand, we can provide everyone a better idea of fish activity levels.

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Internet home page: [azgfd.com](http://azgfd.com)

Recorded public call-in line: (602) 789-3701

### Rory's Tip

Warm weather should make ideal conditions to go fishing. The best fishing right now is for primarily for trout. The urban lakes were stocked late last week with incentive-sized trout. Trout have been stocked at Saguaro and Canyon Lakes. This is a great time to hit a southern triple: Parker Canyon, Pena Blanca or Arivaca lakes for trout. Near Prescott, try Goldwater or Lynx lakes. This is also the leading edge of the wild rainbow trout spawn at Lees Ferry.

For warmwater fish, the best bet right now is Apache Lake for smallmouth bass. Apache is also in some prime quail habitat. Take along your shotgun just in case the smallies aren't biting. Two other good bets are fishing either Canyon or Saguaro lakes using trout-like swim baits to catch monster largemouth bass.

Use caution at most lakes: the runoff the past few weeks has resulted in lots of floating debris. Later in the season, that debris can become nutrients or habitat. Right now, it mostly constitutes a boating hazard.

Be sure to get your 2005 fishing license: thanks to rising lake levels, this ought to be a standout fishing year.

### Central Arizona

### Related Information

- [Lake Levels](#)
- [Stocking Schedule](#)
- [Where to Fish](#)
- [Urban Fishing](#)

## Central Arizona

**URBAN LAKES** — The urban lakes received an [incentive stocking](#) of larger trout, and more of them last week. Trout are biting on Power Bait, worms, small spinners, or spoons. Remember to use light (2- to 6-pound) line and minimal weight. Trout are biting throughout the day, but are most active in the mornings or evenings.

**TEMPE TOWN LAKE** — Water is still flowing through the lake. Watercraft of any kind are restricted. Fishing is allowed from the shore; however, many of the normal access points are closed. The water is turbid. There are reports of a few rainbow trout being caught. Fishing is poor.

**LAKE PLEASANT** — Recent runoff raised the lake more than 10 feet. These added nutrients should help fish grow outs. Watch out for floating debris. One angler reports catching 25 white bass and one striper about 30 feet deep. Another angler reports catching white bass, crappie and largemouth bass slow trolling small jigs with 2-inch Power Grubs and live minnows.

**ROOSEVELT LAKE** — As of Tuesday, the lake was 45-percent full at elevation 2,098 feet and rising. The Salt River was flowing at 687 cfs Tuesday morning and Tonto Creek was at 58 cfs. The lake has come up 21 vertical feet since Dec. 30. [Salt River Project](#) expects the lake to reach the 70-percent level following spring runoff. Keep in mind that 75-percent capacity is just 6 feet shy of the old maximum water level before the dam was raised in 1995. Expect fantastic fishing this spring. Fish are in winter patterns. Some crappies are being caught trolling in 15-20 feet of water using Power Grubs and Jumping Cholla jigs. Windy Hill area is best, although a few crappies are being caught off the Tonto Arm of the lake. Bass fishing has been slow with some being caught using drop shot rigs. Many fish under the slot are being caught in the 10- to 13-inch range. Fishing for smallmouth has also been slow but try using inline spinners and crayfish imitations, especially off rocky points and cliff walls. Remember, the slot is in place for smallmouth as well. Carp fishing is winding down, use corn or dough bait. The channel catfish bite has slowed. Use baits like corn, stink baits, and hotdogs. Please harvest largemouth bass under the 13-inch slot. Call the Mesa Game and Fish office at (480) 324-3544 if you catch a tagged flathead catfish. Note: Anglers are reminded of the slot bass size limit that remains in effect at Roosevelt, where bass between 13 to 16 inches must be released immediately. Also, those bass below 13 inches and above 16 inches that are kept can only be gutted with the head and tail attached so the legal length can be determined. All other fish such as crappie, catfish and bluegill harvested from the lake must have a piece of skin attached to the fillets so species can be determined.

**APACHE** — Lake is 95-percent full at 1,909 feet. Has received significant runoff from tributaries. The nutrient influx should help fish grow-outs. Water is being released from Apache until the lake reaches 11 feet below its maximum, which is its typical winter level. Largemouth bass fishing is slow. Try the mouths of coves and off points. Spinnerbaits and lures like a Shad Rat-L-Trap are working. Drop shotting (tight lines) of Carolina-rigged or Texas-rigged worms is also effective. Smallmouth fishing is good on windy days and very good in general this time of year. Wind-driven waves stir up the bottom; try along rocky bottoms and off cliffs with crawdad crank imitations. Fish for them along the cliff walls in 5-15 feet of water. Walleye can be caught off cliffs and rocky points with inline spinners or

drifting night crawlers. Try rock-runners with worm harnesses or shad-patterned crankbaits for walleye after dark. Yellow bass can be found around balls of shad. Spoons have been the most effective bait lately. Catfishing is slow. The Arizona Game and Fish Department is tagging walleye with a blue spaghetti-type tag near the dorsal fin. If you catch one, please note the tag number, location caught and accurate length of the fish and call the department's Mesa office at (480) 324-3544. You can keep the tag and the fish. There is a certified scale at the marina boathouse.

**CANYON** — Lake is 94-percent full at 1,657 feet. Has received runoff from tributaries. Water is also being released from Apache Lake into Canyon. Rainbow trout were stocked last week and will be stocked again next week. For trout try traditional baits like Power Bait, salmon eggs, and spinners. For monster bass try imitation trout lures. Bass fishing continues to be slow. For bass, drop shotting is still the method of choice, Texas-rigged or Carolina-rigged. Senkos and Westy Worms have also been catching fish. Target smallmouth with crawdad imitation lures right at dark. At night try noisy topwater lures and crankbaits near shad boils. This is also a great lake for yellow bass, jig spoons in and around balls of shad. A few walleye are being caught trolling along cliffs. Shad imitation Rat-L-Traps can be effective for walleye here. Catfish, sunfish and carp fishing are very slow.

**SAGUARO** — Lake level is 1,525 feet (93-percent full). Received some runoff from tributaries. Around 200 cfs is being released into the Salt River. One angler reports catching six trout and one bass using small spinners fished from shore. Another angler caught five largemouth bass; three on tube baits and two on twin-tailed grubs in the area of Mesquite Flats where the water was turbid, adding that the highlight of the day was watching a bald eagle catch a one-pound bass. Bass fishing is slow, but the water movement in the lake could make fish a little more active. Fish are being caught by drop shotting (tight lines) or with Senkos in 20-50 foot depths. Some anglers are trying imitation rainbow trout swim baits to hook a monster. This is slow fishing at best, but you know if you catch one it won't be a dink. Rainbow trout will be stocked this week. Use Power Bait, corn, salmon eggs, and inline spinners like a Vibrex or Rooster Tail. Yellow bass can be caught jiggging spoons (1/4-ounce KastMasters) or cut bait. Try to locate shad in 40-60 feet of water and jig through them. Catfishing is slow. Try stink baits, hotdogs or shrimp. There is a certified scale at the marina to get an official weight and still release your catch. Two witnesses are needed for the weight to be official.

**BARTLETT** — Lake level was at 1,795 feet (95-percent full). The lake is murky from all the recent runoff. Use caution when boating: the lake has lots of debris, including wood. Fishing is slow for bass. Some are being caught with crankbaits and spinners but drop shotting remains the best method for catching largemouth bass. Crappies are suspended and not really biting. Catfishing has really slowed. Some channel and large flatheads may still be caught near the dam. Use live bait such as bluegill or small carp for the flatheads and shrimp, hotdogs or stink bait for the channels. Remember, the live bait must come from the lake itself not transported from another body of water!

**HORSESHOE** — Lake is temporarily holding some water (90 percent). Fishing is poor. Upstream from Horseshoe Dam is an unlimited harvest area for all game

fish. The deep pool below the dam (Catfish Point) is known for producing flathead and channel cats. The Colorado pikeminnow and the razorback sucker are endangered and must be released immediately.

**VERDE RIVER** — Current flows are approximately 1,410cfs. Measurements are taken at [Tangle Creek](#) just above Horseshoe Lake. The river is not fishable and blown out. Remember that no baitfish can be transported into this part of the river (above Horseshoe). For further information concerning regulations, call the Arizona Game and Fish Department at (480) 324-3544.

**LOWER SALT RIVER** (below Saguaro Lake) — Starting at the confluence with the Verde River, the Lower Salt is blown out and not fishable. Rainbow trout stockings will continue once flows return to normal. Approximately 226 cfs is being released from Stewart Mountain Dam.

### **Colorado River Northwest**

**LAKE POWELL** — Report courtesy of [wayneswords.com](http://www.wayneswords.com). (<http://www.wayneswords.com/lpfish.htm>) Lake elevation: 3,595 feet. Water temperature: 45 to 52 F. Water temperature has reached winter levels, making it difficult to catch fish. Not impossible, just difficult.

**LEES FERRY** — Report courtesy of [Lees Ferry Guides](#). This is the leading edge of the spawn. The large daily flow fluctuations move substantial amounts of food and the fish feed like crazy.

On Mondays through Saturdays, water releases from Glen Canyon Dam will range between 5,000 cfs and 20,000 cfs. The 20,000 cfs release will be maintained for about 11 hours (from 9 a.m. until about 8 p.m.) and the 5,000 cfs release will be maintained for about six hours (from 1 a.m. until about 7 a.m.). The other hours are transitional, where releases will be between the daily high and the daily low. Releases on Sundays will range between a low of about 5,000 cfs to a high of about 8,000 cfs.

The January through March high fluctuating releases are intended to benefit the endangered humpback chub. Scientists have recognized that the humpback chub population has been in general decline since high fluctuating flows were curtailed in November of 1991. Those flows helped keep the non-native fish, especially the rainbow and brown trout, in check. The trout are thought to prey upon and compete with native fish such as the endangered humpback chub. This is the third consecutive year of high fluctuating winter releases as part of the experimental flows.

**LAKE MEAD** — No new reports.

**LAKE MOHAVE** — No new reports.

**WILLOW BEACH** — No reports.

**TOPOCK MARSH** — No new reports.

**COLORADO RIVER BELOW DAVIS DAM** — No reports.

### **Southwestern Arizona**

**HAVASU** — Striped bass fishing is fair to good. The best fishing has been during the pre-dawn hours and sunset hours. During the rest of the day slow trolling with anchovies and white Rat-L-Traps have been successful. Shoreline angling should be picking up for stripers in the 12- to 16-inch range. It is always good for boat anglers to follow the flocks of seagulls. Stripers feeding on schools of shad will push the baitfish to the surface, and at times both stripers and shad can be seen jumping out of the water. If able to locate this type of disturbance on the water's surface you should do well with shad imitation lures. All other fishing is slow or at least challenging at the present time. Remember; both smallmouth and largemouth bass must be a minimum of 13 inches to possess. All largemouth and smallmouth bass less than 13 inches must be released immediately. For all you anglers that like to snag for shad, it is legal this year (see the 2005-2006 regulations for additional information). Also, the size of a legal cast nets has been increased from a 3 ft. radius to a 4 ft radius (6 ft diameter to 8 ft diameter).

**PARKER STRIP** — Water releases should be back to normal following the January draw down. Keep in mind that Thursdays have the lowest flows of the week. Releases from Alamo Lake are carrying a high sediment load resulting in very poor visibility on the upper portions below Parker Dam. Use shad jigs in the deeper water and Rapalas in the shallows. Look for largemouth bass to be suspending over deep-water structures. Smallmouth bass are found mostly upriver around the rockier shorelines. There have been a few decent sized stripers taken recently ranging from 7 to 9 pounds. Catfish will continue to be slow through the winter months, but might still be enticed with night crawlers, goldfish, or frozen shrimp. Small worms work well for bluegill and redear too. The Parker area is known for some monster sunfish that will fill your pan and then some. Try working baits around grass beds just off shore.

**MARTINEZ LAKE/COLORADO RIVER** — The cold rainy weather has slowed down fishing success. It will pick back up following several sunny warm days. Recently, anglers on the lower Colorado River have been having good success catching redear sunfish in the ¾- to 1.5-pound size class by working vegetation beds with small spinners. Redear sunfish are still being taken near Hidden Shores. As you boat up river from Martinez Lake, keep a sharp eye out for sand bars. Be aware that also on this stretch of the river there is the presence of Giant Salvinia (unwanted invasive weeds). This plant could be on your props, in live wells, and on boat hulls when leaving the water. Be sure to clean all areas free of weeds as they can be transported to unaffected lakes and rivers.

**MITTRY LAKE** — Recent reports have been lacking for this area. Because of the time of year it can be assumed that channel catfish and flathead catfish have been taken by any or all of the normal catfish baits (worms, live bait, stink bait, shrimp). Crappies should also be biting on minnows and small jigs as well.

**YUMA AREA RIVERS/CANALS** — Recent reports for this area is also lacking. Continue to use the normal catfish baits for catfish and worms for the various sunfish in the system. The best time to go out will be after a few warm days.

**FORTUNA POND** — Anglers are out and in full force for the winter trout stockings here. They are catching trout on both spinners and Power Bait. Another stocking of trout is planned for sometime during the week of Jan. 17. You need a trout stamp if you are planning to fish for trout (four-fish limit). There are also stocked channel catfish in the pond, which average 2-3 pounds (four-fish limit). Attention anglers:

Effective January 2005, the daily bag/possession limits for fish caught at Fortuna Pond will be: four trout, two largemouth bass (13-inch minimum), four channel catfish and 10 sunfish of any combination.

**REDONDO POND** — No recent reports have been turned in for this area. Largemouth bass and bluegill/redear sunfish are the predominate fish in the pond. Fish for them the same as you would else.

**YUMA WEST WETLANDS POND** — Effective January 2005, the daily bag/possession limits for fish caught at the Yuma West Wetlands Pond is: two trout, one largemouth bass (13-inch minimum), two channel catfish and five sunfish of any combination. For detailed information see the 2005-2006 Arizona Game and Fish Department's Fishing Regulations. Currently there hasn't been any trout stocked in the pond.

**EHRENBERG** — No recent reports have been turned in for this area. Fishing for flatheads will continue to bite on bluegill or other live bait in the main channel. Worms and green crankbaits will continue to attract bass in the backwaters. Just a reminder, Cibola Lake closed to fishing and all entry as of Labor Day.

**ALAMO LAKE** — Fishing is still really lousy. The lake level is at 1,141 feet in elevation. Cholla ramp is approximately 7 feet under water, and will be closed until further notice. The releases are matching the inflow, which is at 3,000 cfs. The main ramp is operational. The lake has not cleared up at all. There is a fish advisory here. The advisory recommends that people limit consumption as follows for bass and black crappie. Children under age six: no consumption; Women of childbearing age, one 8-ounce fish meal per month; All other adult women, three 8-ounce fish meals per month; Adult men, four 8-ounce fish meal per month. For catfish, the consumption guideline is slightly different: for children under the age of six, no consumption is recommended; for women of child-bearing age, one 8-ounce fish meal per month; for all other adult women, five 8-ounce fish meals per month; for adult men, six 8-ounce meals per month. If you have any questions, call the park at (928) 669-2088.

#### **North Central Region**

##### **Williams Lakes:**

**KAIBAB LAKE** — No report. Expect snow and ice.

**CATARACT LAKE** — Campground is closed. Expect snow and ice.

**CITY RESERVOIR** — No report. Expect snow and ice.

**DOGTOWN LAKE** — Campground gate is closed. No report.

**WHITEHORSE LAKE** — Campground gate is closed. No report.

**JD DAM** — No report. Expect snow and ice.

**SANTA FE** — No report. Expect snow and ice.

##### **Flagstaff Lakes:**

**LOWER LAKE MARY** — The fullest it has been since 1995. Expected to be stocked soon with small trout that should grow to catchable size by March.

**UPPER LAKE MARY** — Recent runoff filled it to within four feet from the top of the spillway. No recent fishing reports. There is a health advisory here. Mercury has been detected in the fish. Do not eat the walleye or more than 8 ounces (uncooked weight) of any fish caught.

**ASHURST LAKE** — No report. It is receiving inflows via the ditch from Coconino Reservoir.

**KINNIKINICK LAKE** — No report. Expect snow and ice.

**OAK CREEK** — A recent storm caused severe flash flooding in Oak Creek Canyon. Fishing is poor.

**LONG LAKE** — No report.

**SOLDIERS & SOLDIERS ANNEX** — No report. There is a health advisory: Do not eat fish from these lakes because mercury has been detected.

**BEAVER CREEK** — Has had recent high flows.

**WEST CLEAR CREEK** — Has had recent high flows.

**STONEMAN LAKE** — No report.

**BLUE RIDGE** — No access. Should fill this spring.

**KNOLL LAKE** — No access. The road is closed. Should fill this spring.

**MINGUS LAKE** — The last stocking for the season was Oct.18. No reports on catching. Mingus will be stocked again in late April or early May.

**DEAD HORSE STATE PARK** — Recently stocked with trout last week.

**LYNX LAKE** — No reports. Stocked on Nov. 8 with rainbow trout. The next stocking is scheduled for the week of Feb. 14.

**FAIN LAKE** — Was stocked last week with trout. No new reports on success.

**VERDE RIVER** — As of Monday morning, flows again had dropped significantly at Camp Verde.

**GOLDWATER LAKE** — Stocked recently with rainbow trout. No new reports on success. The next stocking is scheduled for the second week in February.

### **Mogollon Rim**

**Note:** Some Forest Service Roads are closed. The FS 300 (Rim Road) is closed. Expect snow or muddy road conditions on some open roads. The roads to Woods Canyon Lake and Willow Springs Lake are closed. For most of the lakes, expect snow or ice.

**CHEVELON CANYON LAKE** — No report. Expected to fill this spring. Snow and

ice conditions prevail.

**BEAR CANYON LAKE** — No report. Expected to fill this spring. Snow and ice conditions prevail.

**BLACK CANYON LAKE** — No report. May not fill completely this spring but should receive significant runoff. Snow and ice conditions prevail.

**WILLOW SPRINGS LAKE** — No report. Expected to fill this spring. Snow and ice conditions prevail.

**WOODS CANYON LAKE** — No report. Expected to fill this spring. Snow and ice conditions prevail.

**GREEN VALLEY LAKE** — Recently stocked. Fishing is very good. This lake is part of the urban fishing program and requires an urban fishing license. This lake contains rainbow trout, bluegill and catfish. Power Bait, salmon eggs and worms are effective. Try crappie jigs, small Rapalas, crankbaits and small spoons.

## **White Mountains**

## **Southeastern Arizona**

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