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Press Release

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Navajo Lake State Park Announces Access Changes to Accommodate Salmon Snagging

Navajo Dam, NM –The Pine Main boat ramp and “No Wake” zone, the Sims Mesa “No Wake” zone, and surrounding shoreline within “No Wake” zones will be closed to anglers from October 1 through November 7 per the New Mexico Game and Fish 2019-2020 Rulebook. The rest of Navajo Lake will remain open to snagging, including the spillway to the far corner of the dam. No fishing is allowed within 150 feet of boat ramps, walkways, or any other infrastructure at any time.

Snagging is a technique for harvesting soon-to-die spawning salmon. Anglers cast heavyweight treble hooks into schools of fish and then reel them in. Anglers are allowed to harvest 12 fish per day and have 24 in their possession.

The salmon snagging season runs October 1 through December 31 at Navajo Lake, El Vado Lake, Abiquiu Lake, Eagle Nest Lake and the Chama River from El Vado Lake to the west boundary of the Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area. The snagging season at Heron Lake and Willow Creek is from November 9 through December 31.

For more information on snagging, please consult the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish “New Mexico Fishing Rules and Information” booklet available online at, www.wildlife.state.nm.us. For more information about Navajo Lake State Park, please call (505) 632-2278 or visit www.nmparks.com.

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