

TOP FISHING SECRETS

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Topographic Maps

Maps for finding roads, trails, parks, and put-ins streamlining fishing trips and as a consequence you'll spend less time looking for "where" to fish and more time fighting fish. A topographic map is a secret weapon for out-catching anyone who doesn't have one.

Timothy Kusherets



This representation of a Topographic map, contribution of [DeLorme Maps](#), has everything needed to show anglers where, when, and how to get to some of the best fishing spots. Trails, Rivers, and Roadways on these maps often times show access points to water that cannot be found on any other type of map making it an invaluable tool for any fisherman.

Topographical maps not only identify the lay of the land but some of the best places to fish. Tributaries, bends, and drop-offs prime holding spots of fish and are clearly marked on most topographic maps. Roads are clearly marked to identify surface and undeveloped roads that drift-fishing anglers are sure to encounter. Knowing where to put in boats is a vital element to a good day of fishing. Surface features where there are severe gradients are those where fish are likely to hold at the bottom of; this information alone makes it worth the purchase of the map, but there is more. Topographical maps identify launches not listed on any other kind of map; these launches are manmade and natural and are great tools for scouting out holds when rivers run low or high. Trails are perfect for bank anglers who want to recon rivers that offer regular runs of fish forecasted by the region but left to individuals to find the best fishing spots.

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The best topographical maps will have designated rivers and lakes located near the front of the booklet with species of fish that frequent each waterway; this is yet another reason that this type of map is indispensable when it comes to a recon.

Reputable Topographical Maps will have these elements:

Highways to streamline travel times, shortest distances between points, capable of fishing multiple systems on a single trip.

Back-roads show the best access points to water whether fishing fresh or saltwater systems.

Trails for hiking to the water where most anglers and boaters will not be able to access diminishing fishing competition.

Borders (Counties, Regions, and Territories) will be clearly marked so anglers can verify fishing regulations that will invariably where borders are concerned.

Rivers are clearly marked. Cross-reference them with roadways, trails, highways, and city streets to find the best fishing spots making access points to water easy to find.

Lakes are important to consider when fishing tributaries that feed into and out of them. Topographic maps will identify boat launches and parallel roadways for easiest access.

Bays, Coves, and Inlets are essential holds for many species of fish and will be clearly marked on almost all topographic maps.

Boat Launches are absolutely essential when considering fishing fresh or marine environments. Take time to verify how large and steep each launch is as some are poised on primitive roads where launching may become difficult if your boat is too large or wide for the ramp.

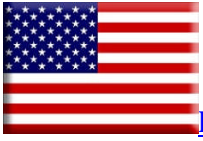
Species of Fish are found in some of the best topographical maps making it that much easier not only to find where you'd like to hit the water but also make it an important tool for designating fishing seasons for each area.

Parks often times have varied fishing regulations that absolutely must be adhered; in almost all cases game wardens will not forgive ignorance if you keep fish where waters may only be catch-and-release.

Elevations identify the slope of rivers and the severity of water currents. Observing elevations an angler can figure out where to start fishing and where to stop. Elevations and topographical maps are the meat and potatoes of figuring fishing trips and the available species with each season. Each month of the year will have varied volumes of water largely dependant on precipitation whether it's snow, ice, or rain.

Terrain Types affect the amount of water flow and soil saturation rates; this translates into water conditions that could overflow banks causing flooding during spring, fall, and winter months.

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[DeLorme Topographic Maps](#)

Maps and Charts for every region of United States (Paper and Electronic Publications).



[The Atlas of Canada](#)

Instant online maps and charts for the entire country of Canada.

(Very Detailed map and terrain information for all Provinces of Canada.)



[British Towns and Villages Network](#)

Maps, Relief Charts, and Topographic Charts of United Kingdom