

TOP FISHING SECRETS

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Hydrographs and Fishing

Ever changing water levels effect the way fish behave

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Hydrograph image provided by the United States Geological Survey U.S.G.S.

Hydrographs are everywhere in the U.S., U.K., and Canada. They tell you about fishing conditions of many rivers and lakes. The ever changing levels effect the way fish behave, and if you know how to anticipate the fluctuations, hitting into fish becomes commonplace while fishing stories get better and better, more fish more stories...it makes sense.

One of the very last things you should check before heading out the door is the condition of the system you intend to fish. It is possible that Man-made monitored systems can change due the needs of Public Utility Departments; so if a dam is on the river or lake you want to fish focus on this tip.

Ecologist and Regional Utilities work together to form a friendly environment for Nature and the needs of human beings. We need electricity and fish need hospitable environments of which to propagate, feed, and migrate and sometimes that involves raising the levels of lakes and rivers abruptly. It can happen so fast that drastic fishing

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conditions can take place from the time you leave the house to the time you get to the water. Pay attention to developing patterns of rising and falling levels of Hydro-Electric Dams. When an area has been devoid of rainfall for some time, Ecologists ask that rivers be raised to stimulate migration of holding salmon and trout. Bear in mind that as rivers rise fish migrate and go off the bite. Holding fish further upstream will gravitate to the banks and hold until the waters stabilize and subside. Though this particular artificial condition is good for fish, it can be disastrous to anglers.

If you can anticipate the pattern of when the Dams allow more water out downriver you'll avoid getting to the water just as fish go off the bite.

Many anglers know that travel time can translate into hours; which will allow just enough time for substantial changes for fishing conditions to take place.

It's true, it may never happen to you, but this tip will help anglers understand the need for monitored systems to stimulate migrating fish to move upriver so they can spawn, especially when a drought takes place. Time it right and you'll get fish on the hook every single time you head out to the great outdoors.

Take a camera with you and practice catch-and-release, because with this tip you're sure to get more fish than ever before.