

WEATHER AND WATER COLOR GUIDELINES

WEATHER:

---The fishes' **adjustment** to a changing environment is **not fast**. **Weather** conditions are usually not stable and can **change hourly, daily, weekly, etc.**

---The **cold front** is the **starting point** for determining our chances for success. **Pre frontal** conditions will give **good fish movements**, **post frontal** conditions will give **bad**, or little movement of fish.

---**After** a severe **cold front** passes, the **fish become inactive** and may drop to 60 feet or more if available. As the weather(light) conditions **become more stable**, the fish **gradually resume** more normal daily **movements over** a period of **several days**.

---The **reaction of the fish** to cold fronts **will vary** as to time, strength, and distances.

---Cold fronts and light conditions **affect all species** of fish, freshwater or saltwater. The **only fish** that is noticeably **active** right **after a cold front** is the **carp**. The **largemouth bass reacts the most severely** of all gamefish species and as a result is the **most difficult to catch**. If we can catch this fish consistently, the other species will not be a problem.

---**Weather (and temperature)** should be **viewed in terms of light**. The lighter or brighter it is, the tougher the fishing will be. The darker the conditions, the better it will be.

---A **fish is comfortable at any temperature** because he is a **cold blooded** creature. A fishes' **growth, movement, and digestion increases with warmer temperatures** and decreases with colder temperatures. The **best movement of all species** of fish, freshwater and saltwater, will occur **on the hottest, muggiest day of the year**.

WATER COLOR

---**Water clarity controls how deep fish are**, where they start from(sanctuary), **how shallow they come on migration, and how long they stay**.

---The **selection of good water color is the most important thing** a fisherman can do to **make a good catch**. It helps offset the severe effects of changing weather on fish.

---**Clear water means deep fish**, short migrations, **slow growth and reproduction**, and **increased weed and moss growth**. These are all things that **make fishing more difficult**.

---The **more dingy**, cloudy, or darker the water is, the **better the conditions** for fishing and the shallower fish move on migration. The **interpretation** of structure and presentation of lures or bait **becomes much easier the shallower one fishes**.

---**Weed growth is related to water color and bottom conditions**. The clearer the water the **greater and deeper the weed growth**, the darker the water the less the weed growth. Mud or **soft bottom supports heavy weed growth** while a rocky or firm sandy bottom would not.

---If **weed conditions** are **excessive**, good **fishing** will be **tough**. If the weed condition is a small one, fishing should be easy.

---**Water color** can be put into **5 categories** from easiest to most difficult fishing: **white-sandy, red-sandy, Yellow-green, clear, and brown-cypress**. **Yellow-green** the **best water color** usually found **in northern natural lakes**.

---**Seasonal changes** in water color occur in **both natural and manmade lakes** due to **algae growth, pollution, boat activity, wind, and rain runoff**.

---There are few **reservoirs** that do not have **different water color in different areas**. A good rule is to **move towards the headwaters if** the water is **too clear**.

The above are concepts taken from the book "**Spoonplugging—Your Guide To Lunker Catches**", written by Buck Perry, the father of modern day structure fishing. Consult the book for more accurate and complete information. Bucks' **website** is at: buckperry.com.