

Fishing Factors 101

1. Weather

a. What is the weather doing?

- Is it sunny or cloudy?
- Sunny- fish do not have eyelids thus they avoid direct sun light look for fish in shady areas
 - o Boat docks in summer are good place to find fish
- Cloudy – fish tend to move around a little more
- Windy or Calm?
- Windy – wind blows small microorganisms that baitfish eat to shorelines, look for fish along wind blown shores
 - o Throw moving type baits, ie: spinnerbait crankbait
- Calm – fish tend to hold to structure, ie: rock piles, ledges, wood, weeds, etc.
 - o Throw slow type baits, ie: worm, tube, jig
- Cold Front – that’s when you see the big “L” on the map on the news.
 - o Fish generally get tight to the cover, laydowns, rocks, weeds, etc.
- Rain – fishing is good right after a rain storm

2. Time of Year

a. 8 general seasons

- Winter
 - o Fish down deep
- Early Spring
 - o Fish move up
- Pre Spawn
 - o Fish up shallow
- Spawn
 - o Fish shallow (1-6feet)
- Post Spawn
 - o Move out to 10-15feet
- Summer
 - o Fish go deep or under cover, ie; boat docks, lily pads, weed mats, fallen trees, etc.
- Early Fall
 - o Move up shallow with lake turn over

- Lake turn over is when the cold top layer of water sinks because its denser than the warm water below that's been warming up all summer.

- **Late Fall**

- Go on feeding frenzy as water temps cool and bait fish die off

3. Water Clarity

a. General rule

- The darker the water color the darker the bait, the clearer the water color the more natural color bait
- Find a bait that contrasts the dark water (gold blade on spinnerbait in dark water on sunny day)
 - 3 water colors
 - Gin clear (like a water bottle)
 - Stained (looks like tea with out cream or sugar)
 - Dark or Muddy (coffee with cream and sugar)

4. Water Temperature

a. Fish like temps between 50-55 to 70-75.

- When colder or warmer temps are present fish will tend to be sluggish and not move around much
 - Use slower moving baits below 50 and above 75 degrees
 - When temps are between 50-75, use faster moving baits

5. Air temps

a. General rules used to gauge water temp without electronics

- Air temps in Spring are generally 5-10 degrees warmer than water temps
- Air temps in Summer are generally the same as water temps
- Air temps in Fall are generally 5-10 degrees cooler than water temps

6. Moon phase

a. Moon phase affects fish more during spawn

7. Barometric Pressure

a. Higher the pressure the less likely a fish is going to be moving around

b. The steadier or falling pressure the more likely a fish will be moving around

8. Tide

a. On tidal bodies of water the tide is key to finding fish

- 3 tides

**Incoming – water moves in expands body of water,
moves bait to back of creeks, coves and backwaters**

**Outgoing – water moves out shrinks body of water,
moves bait to mouth of creeks, coves and backwaters**

**Slack – water stops moving, usually 30 minutes before
and after a dead high or low, look for fish on main part of river, weeds, piers, wing
dams, eddies**