
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Questions about trout and warm weather

Re: Questions about trout and warm weather

Author: : afishinado

Date: : 2010/6/30 14:26:05

URL:

Great questions Atlas.

Atlas wrote:

As a newbie this year I have never been through a warm water period while fly fishing for trout so I have a few questions...

1) What water temps are too warm to fish for trout without killing or hurting the fish? Are there guidelines for this?

Most believe (myself included) if the stream temp reaches 70*, it is too warm to fish. Some say wait until it cools a degree or two, but my feeling is that it's time to give the trout a break. Stressing them when the water temps are up is not a good thing. I suggest you find a cooler stream or fish for warmwater species

2) Do limestone streams typically reach temps that put them "off limits" or is it pretty safe to fish these streams during the summer?

The main source of Water from Limestone/Spring comes from deep under the ground. The temperature underground does not change with the seasons, therefore, in nearly every limestoner or spring creek, the water remains cool enough to fish in the summer. It's not a bad idea to test the stream with a thermometer before fishing.

3) Are there other ways, besides water temp, to determine if the fish are too stressed from the heat or water levels to safely catch and release?

Fish that lay close to the bottom and are lethargic and/or are all huddled up in a confined area is a sure sign of stressed fish. It is likely they are holding close to a spring or colder trib to survive the warmer water temps.

The way I look at it, I fish for trout 10 months a year and can skip July and August. I try to give them a break, especially with the low water and high temperatures we've been having this summer. I pursue warmwater fish in July and August (SMBs mostly) and actually look forward to fishing for them each summer. If I get the trout bug, I choose a tailwater fishery or a cool limestoner for trout.

Good fishing.