

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Night Fishing During the Colder Months?

Re: Night Fishing During the Colder Months?

Author: : salmonoid

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URL:

I think it can be effective throughout the winter months, especially on limestoners, as the water temperature won't completely crash. But that's just a hunch and isn't backed by any facts (yet). A few weeks ago, when I was fishing at night, I got the crazy idea that I wanted to land a trout at night in each month of the year, and so that is now in the back of my mind as a goal. I kept telling myself I was going to knock November off that night, but November is still on the list after that night. A couple of things were probably working against me - it really wasn't that far into the night yet (only about 5:45 or 6:00PM) and I had to leave to get home. Naturally, I sat in accident traffic for an hour on the way home and could have fished for another hour and arrived home at the same time. And, it was raining on and off as well. I've done well after rain moved through and, but I've never landed a fish at night in the rain. I also hated one aspect of the location I was fishing - glaring spotlights in the background that I'm sure cast my silhouette into the stream. The fish were mostly hunkered down and I only had one half-hearted strike right as I was feeling guilty about sticking around longer when I should, and my conscience was telling me I probably should leave to go home. Oh, the ethical dilemmas one faces 😊

Last year, I fished a freestoner on a night in late October which ended up with a terminal frost settling in. The air temperature went down to 24 degrees and the stream looked like it was steaming as the air temperature dropped. I did spot some fish out, holding in a run, but didn't get so much as a discernible sniff at what I was tossing. I'm probably guilty of fishing big surface flies too long, and should switch over to a big streamer, or run a mouse/dropper combo instead. I guess I love the auditory thrill of a brownie drowning a mouse too much.

My feeling is that a big brown is not going to turn down a big tasty morsel anytime of the year. Whatever primeval cost/benefit ratio calculator they built into their brains will kick in eventually if you present something to them any time of the year, although probability will be highest in the warmer months. I also feel that post-spawn, they're going to be taking what they can get to build up their spent reserves, so you're not nuts to at least try it.