



Plenty of Water.... We Love It!....(continued)

I use a fairly simple approach to dealing with changing conditions. Basically, there are four constantly changing variables that any fly fisherman deals with everytime they go out - they are 1)Weather Conditions/light conditions, 2)Water Temperature, 3)Water Level, and 4) Water clarity. Around those 4 variables most every decision is made in some fashion. Below are some brief thoughts on each, while page 2 contains a simple chart that I utilize in my teaching and on trips that I believe is a good place to start.

The Variables

Weather - weather dictates whether we go or no. Weather dictates the water and light conditions. Winter and Summer and alike in that they are stable seasons, generally, that is weather patterns are consistent. Spring and Fall are times of quickly changing weather, and times when we frequently have severe weather.

Water Temperature- changes with the season and dictates hatches, fish movement, spawning, you name it. Like a medical patient the temperature is a general indicator of what's going on. Generally, fishing for trout is best between 45 and 65F and arguably 55-60F is prime. That will vary with stream and location.

Water Level - will affect how fish feed, move, spawn, their location, etc.

Water Clarity - will affect how fish feed and what they can see, and equally as important, how well they can see you.

On page 2 you will find a simple chart to use as a starting point in making decisions on how and what to fish during changing conditions.

Tight Lines & Good Fishing

Where Fly Fishing Is A Professional Passion....

A Guide's Perspective for Addressing Changing Conditions Month of May

Water level

HIGH	<p>Wet Flies, Streamers, Nymphs with or without Flash, Eggs, Large Dries, and Large Dries with Droppers</p> <p>Go 1 size heavier on Tippet...If you'd normally use 5 or 6x then try 4 or 5x. In heavier flow you can get away with it. Extra weight needed on sinking rigs.</p>	<p>Wet Flies, Streamers, Nymphs with lots of Flash, i.e., Flashbacks, Eggs, Y2K's, Nuclear Eggs, small flashy patterns if fishing tailwaters, Go 1 size heavier on the Tippet, Extra Weight needed on sinking rigs. Shorter Leader.</p>	<p>Wet Flies, Streamers, Nymphs, also large nymphs with lots of flash, anything with Flash on it, Eggs, Y2K's, Nuclear Eggs, etc, go 1 to 2 sizes heavier on tippet, especially if you know big fish are there. Extra Weight needed on sinking rigs. Shorter leader.</p>
NORMAL	<p>Wet or Dry, Flies and Sizes that are appropriate for the time of year, carry both large and small versions of your favorite patterns. Use normal tippet and weight if you are using a nymphing rig.</p>	<p>Wet or Dry, Some flash on the sinking patterns, Dry /Dropper rigs; Normal tippet size or 1 size heavier. Use appropriate weight and normal leader length, say 9 feet. For most places this is the best conditions of all, as the murk affords you some "cover."</p>	<p>Streamers, Flashy nymphs all sizes, Eggs, Y2Ks, Nuclear Eggs, use 1 to 2 sizes heavier on tippet, as you can get away with it with the cover of "stained water"; use Shorter leader, will work well especially if you are using weight. On some tailwaters Dries work here.</p>
LOW	<p>Mostly Dry or Dry/Dropper combos, use smaller patterns and lighter tippet. If you normally use 5x consider 6 or 7X and maybe going to fluorocarbon. If using bead heads consider small ones and also going to glass bead flies as an alternative if bead heads dont produce.</p>	<p>Wet or Dry, Some Flash on Sinking flies, Great conditions for fishing hatches on tailwaters as the murkiness helps cover your presentations and leader/tippet. Small streams go one size larger on tippet.</p>	<p>Typical Fall or Summer post T-storm conditions, use Large Terrestrials, Streamers, Nymphs w/Flash, Smaller Eggs & Y2Ks but keep weight to a minimum to avoid snags. Use 1 to 2 sizes heavier on tippet and a shorter leader.</p>

CLEAR

MURKY

MUDDY

Water clarity