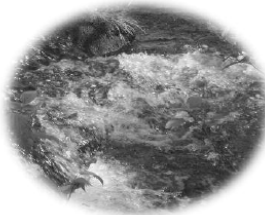


Words to Help You Understand Currents



Eddy: A submerged boulder or log is the first place most anglers learn to look for fish. The obstruction slows down water and creates an eddy, a slow, swirling area on the downstream side.

Undercut: An area where the bank overhangs the water, is another good place to look for trout. Undercuts are usually formed on the outside of a curve, where fast moving water cuts the channel more deeply than it does on the inside. There is usually a nice, deep lie at the bottom of the channel.



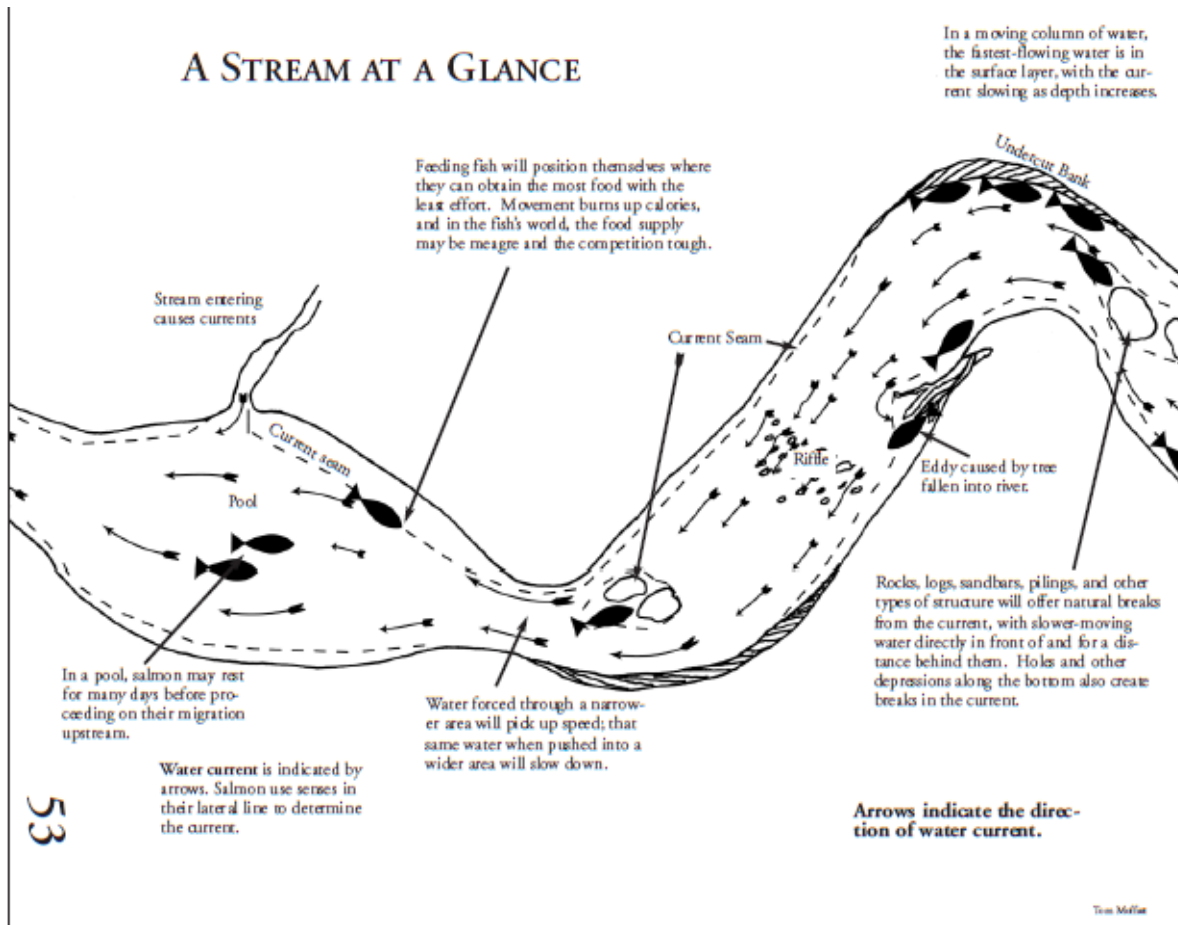
Gilbert van Ryckeborsel

Pools are wide, deep sections of water. Salmon usually rest in the slow water at the bottom of the pool. They tend to feed at the head or tail of the pool, because there is a constriction there to funnel food items together.

Riffle: An area where friction breaks up a stretch of water. Riffles are usually caused by beds of small to medium sized boulders.



A STREAM AT A GLANCE



Clues to Look for in Streamside Exploration:

1. Direction of stream flow
2. Disturbance of the surface to give hints on water speed, stream bottom unevenness
3. Speed of stream flow in different stream areas, and where eddies and other areas of calm water exist
4. Stream curvature, that affects current speed
5. Riffle areas
6. Where is it likely that side streams or springs flow into the stretch of stream or river.
7. Imagine the ways in which higher water flows and levels, and lower water flows and levels, will impact the stream bottom. That may help in planning other trips to the stream.



HERE IS WHAT A RIVER NEEDS TO GIVE TO A SALMON OR TROUT...

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Oxygen

- *Fish will thrive in oxygen-rich waters.* Most animals cannot exist long without a supply of oxygen
- Wave action, riffles, wind, and green plants all help dissolve oxygen into the water.
- Stagnant, very warm, weed-choked water tends to have less oxygen and, as a result, fewer life forms than cool, clean, moving water.
- Indicators - an abundance of riffles in a stream, bright green healthy plants in a pond, or a rich variety of readily seen life forms all indicate a healthy body of water.



Mayfly nymph

illustrations by J. O. Pennanen



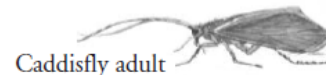
Caddisfly nymph

Food

- *A healthy population of fish will exist only where there is a good food supply.*
- Some species have definite dietary preferences and are built to capture and eat a particular type of forage in a specific manner that is easiest for them.
- The main food items of interest to the fly fisher are baitfish of all sizes and shapes; *crustaceans*, such as crayfish and shrimp; *aquatic creatures* such as leeches and frogs, as well as insects like mayflies and stoneflies; *terrestrial creatures* that fall in the watersomewhat, such as worms, caterpillars, and mice, plus insects such as grasshoppers and crickets; *miscellaneous items* such as eggs, mulberries, etc.



Damselfly adult



Caddisfly adult



Mayfly adult



Dragonfly nymph

Shelter

- *In the more confined quarters of lakes, streams, rivers, or inshore habitat, fish will usually be found confidently but cautiously feeding somewhere near an area that will provide them sanctuary if threatened.*
- On streams and lakes, this protection will come in the form of undercut banks, deadfalls (trees that have fallen into the water), weed beds, sharp drop-offs, or rock ledges.

Comfort

- *A single body of water is likely to have a variety of temperature readings.*
- Fish will choose an area in which to feed that is within a preferred temperature range.
- Freshwater fish are usually classified into either coldwater or warmwater categories.
- Shallow water can change temperature quickly. Sun, wind, cooler evenings, and tide changes all can have a dramatic effect on water temperature in a short time.
- Deeper water will tend to be cooler and maintain a steady temperature longer.
- Temperature will also be affected by the existence of springs, inlets, power plant discharges, dam releases, and currents.

Attachments

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