

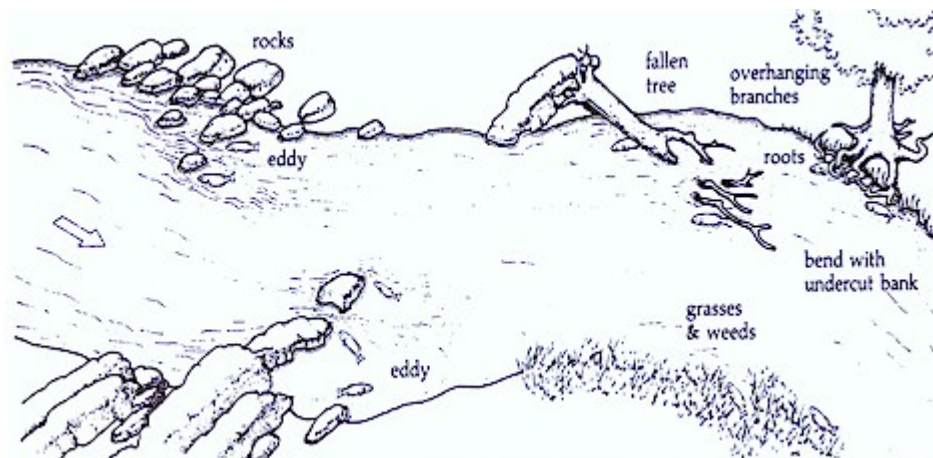


**Know your fish habitat, or you may catch catfish when you're hoping for perch!**

Find water and you'll find fish, right?

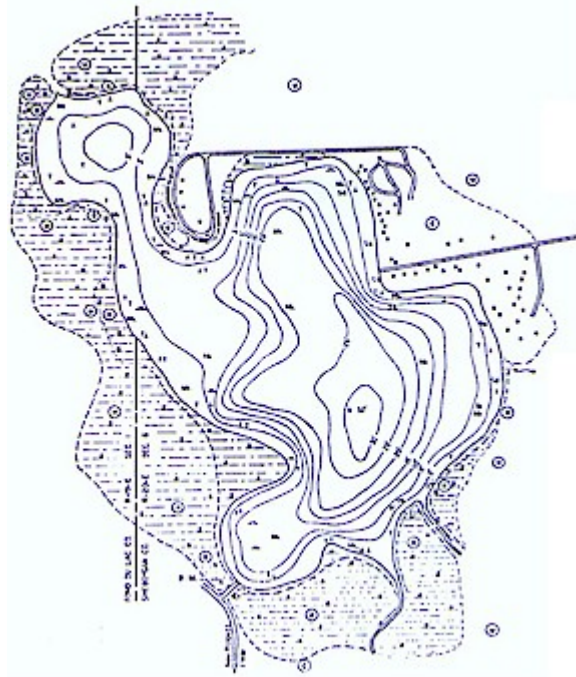
Sure - if you're casting into the living-room aquarium.

Locating fish within a pond, stream or lake requires that you learn to read the weather and other surface signs, because what you see above the water is a clue to what might be below.



**Look for "structure and "breaks" when you arrive at you fishing spot.**

Fish habitat is called "structure". Submerged trees and plants, emergent vegetation, points, reefs, docks, tree stumps, drop-offs, rocks and riprap are all places where fish are apt to be. Look for areas called "breaks" where the bottom changes - from weed to sand, sand to gravel, sand to mud.



**A lake map indicating depth will help you pick out places where fish are likely to be.**

A lake map indicating depth can help you find underwater structure. Because of their light-sensitive eyes, walleye linger in deeper water during the day, and move into shallower water near shoals and weed beds to feed as the sun sets. Northern pike like shallow, cool water with lots of weeds. Read up on the daily and seasonal habits of the species you're after to decide where to fish at different times of the day.

If you don't get a bite within a few minutes, try another spot. And remember to move your line up and down two to four inches occasionally, because most fish like moving bait.

