agweather connection



By Trevor Kugler

Weather can impact your success or failure as an angler to a much greater degree than you might think. The examination of the weather can provide more insight into the behavior of fish than almost any other single study.

Without getting too crazy about how the weather impacts fishing, let's discuss those things that are easy to pay attention to. The first are fronts. There are three types of fronts: cold fronts, warm fronts, and stationary fronts. When you watch the weather on the news, fronts are the lines on the weather map. They're normally red for warm fronts, blue for cold fronts, and a combination of red and blue for stationary fronts. When a front passes over the river, stream or lake that you intend on fishing, it affects the behavior of the fish.

As a cold front passes, the temperature and humidity fall, and air pressure begins to rise. The passing of a cold front is generally thought to have a negative effect on fishing. I've heard many people say that fish seem to have lockjaw immediately following a cold front. And on the other hand, the passing of a warm front often implies that inclement weather is approaching and air pressures may fall (which is important to fishermen). Many people think of warm fronts as fish-catching fronts.

Many biologists attribute heavy feeding activity prior to the passage of a front to the fact that the passage of a front very often means winds and storms, which cloud the water and make feeding more difficult. That's something to keep in mind. The bottom line is that the weather affects the behavior and feeding activity of the fish and can be used to the angler's advantage.

When fronts pass, the barometric pressure changes. When the atmospheric pressure fluctuates, it affects the air bladders in fish. A fishes' air bladder is what it uses to stabilize itself at different depths of water. When a fishes' air bladder isn't feeling right it won't want to eat.

These are the basic ways that the weather impacts the behavior of fish. You can increase your odds of catching fish by paying attention to the weather and fishing accordingly.

Trevor Kugler is an avid angler and cofounder of http:// www.JRWfishing.com. He has more than 20 years experience fishing for all types of fish, and 15 years of business and Internet experience. He currently raises his three-year-old daughter in the heart of trout fishing country...Montana!



Free download

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Download the WxScope Plugin
- For slow Internet connections, call (405) 325-3126 for a free CD
- <u>Click here for the Windows software.</u>
- Click here for the Macintosh software.



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Photo by John Boston

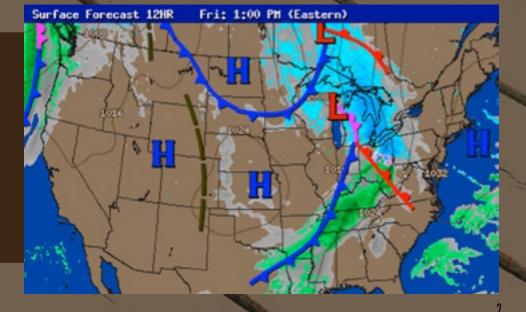
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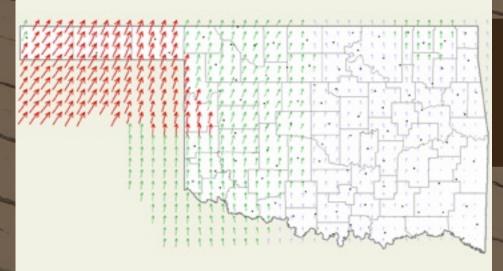
Just save this image and link it to htp://agweather.mesonet.org

Forecast of fronts

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Forecasts"
- Click "Short-range forecasts"
- Choose "12-hour national forecast map"
- Then scroll over the "Forecast" button located near the top and center of the page.
- Scroll over "Surface" and click. "Surface" is third from the left under the "Forecast" option.

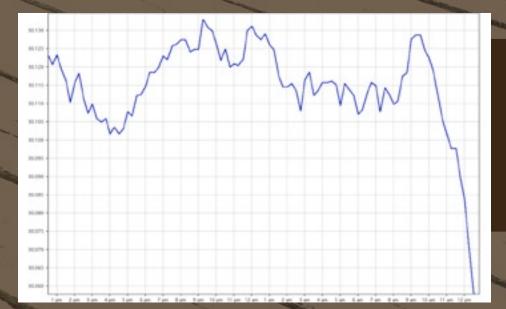


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Winds

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Current Weather"
- Click "Wind"
- Choose "Wind Vectors"



Air pressure

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Atmosphere"
- Click the "Air Pressure" button
- Then select the "Sea-Level Pressure Graph" button
- Choose the nearest Mesonet station and select your desired time frame. Then click "Get Graph."

Cloud cover

- Go to http://agweather.mesonet.org/
- Click on "Weather"
- Select "Radar and Satellite"
- Click "Visible" found under the "Satellite Images" heading in the lower left.

Did you know?

• You **must have** permission to fish on private property

June 7-8, 2008 are **free fishing days**. No state fishing licenses or permits are required. (City permits may still apply)

 The Wildlife Department will provide free fish for your farm pond if you meet certain criteria

> There are daily and size limits on different species of fish for any body of water in Oklahoma

All annual fishing licenses
expire Dec. 31

 All required licenses or written evidence of exemption must be carried while fishing

 To see the complete Oklahoma Fishing Guide 2008, click here

120 David L. Boren Blvd., Suite 2900 | Norman, OK 73072-7305 | phone: 405.325.3126 | fax: 405.325.2550 | http://agweather.mesonet.org/ Agweather is a product of the Oklahoma Mesonet, a joint program between OSU and OU