

Does barometric pressure affect fish behavior?

Q Does barometric pressure affect the behavior of fish?

A Yes: As a general rule, fish are more likely to bite during cool weather when the pressure is falling and less likely to bite under bright skies when the pressure is rising, said Kurt Welke, a fish biologist with the state Department of Natural Resources.

Barometric pressure, or the measurement of the weight of air, affects fish in

shallow water more than fish in deep water, according to the outdoor website *trails.com*. A fish's swim bladder controls its equilibrium, and when the pressure is high the swim bladder compresses and the fish loses its sense of balance. It's believed that fish feel uncomfortable when this happens and are less likely to feed, the website said.

Fish usually are seeking cover or moving into deeper waters during high pressure conditions. Before and after a storm, the

pressure is lower and fish tend to be more aggressive in their feeding habits. They may also be more active as pressure begins to rise after low-pressure systems linger for a few days.

Fish tend to bite best during stable weather periods when barometer readings are between 29.90 and 30.05. In this range, they are most comfortable and actively feeding, the website said.

— Devin Rose