

## Night Fishing

Night fishing for trout can be a daunting prospect for the inexperienced angler. Novices are often handicapped by poor casting skills and this can be a setback at night. There are several things to consider if you intend to fly fish at night for trout.

1. Wherever possible fish with a mate (for safety). An experienced mate is best.
2. Avoid wading if at all possible and if you must wade, check out the area in the daylight, noting any problems in and around the water.
3. Practise casting in daylight to judge distance. Some anglers use markers on their line at various lengths to know how much line is out.
4. Carry a torch such as a headlight for use after dark. Turn your back to the river/lake if using your light.
5. If fishing after dark, shorten your leader – 6ft will be sufficient.
6. On most rivers there will be a mayfly hatch before dark followed by a caddis hatch of flies as darkness comes on. Be prepared.
7. Tying flies to your tippet in the dark is frustrating and time consuming. Think about carrying leaders already set up with flies for a quick interchange. If you use a loop connection between fly line and leader this can be done easier than trying to poke a monofilament tippet through a tiny hook eye that may be partially blocked with fly tying fuzz.
8. Novices should wear eye protection in the form of eye glasses or driving, anti-glare specs. It is easy to misjudge things in the dark, so take care.
9. Trout will behave less warily at night and can be caught as close as a rod length away at times, so long casting is usually not required.
10. After dark you will need to 'look with your ears' because human eyesight is poor at night. An experienced angler will be able to estimate fairly accurately where a rising trout is feeding by listening. Not so easy if you are fishing riffly water because of the babbling water noise. Clearly your chances are better in slow pools.
11. If fishing riffly water then a large night fly is probably best because it can be cast and fished as a lure (by feel rather than by sight).

12. At night, the angler can cast directly to a fish rather than trying to manage a long drift. Fish rising in the dark don't spook very easily.
13. Try to avoid false casting any more than necessary. Most tangles result from excessive false casting. A tangle at night is a serious problem.
14. Large fish can be subdued easier at night than in daylight. Use stronger tippet, say 6lb breaking strain minimum.
15. When you return to your vehicle **put your rod away first**- It is easy to break a rod or lose it in the dark. Check all round your vehicle using your torch before you leave.

Has anyone seen my boots??

