Where Are the Dang Fish?!

Learning to "Read" the Water

Fish are…

- **Afraid**

  They will only briefly venture into areas that are unsafe from birds and other predators

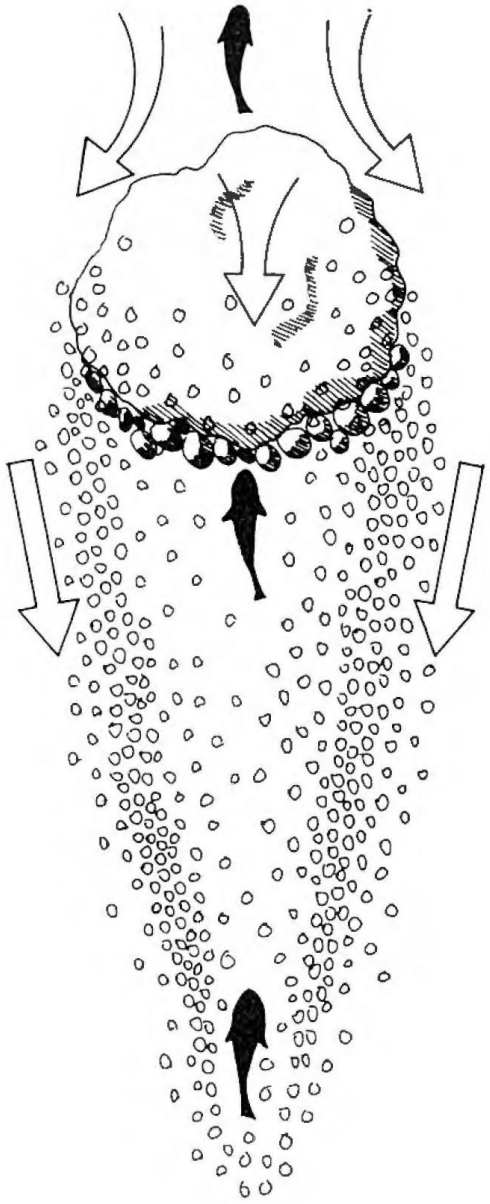
- **Hungry**

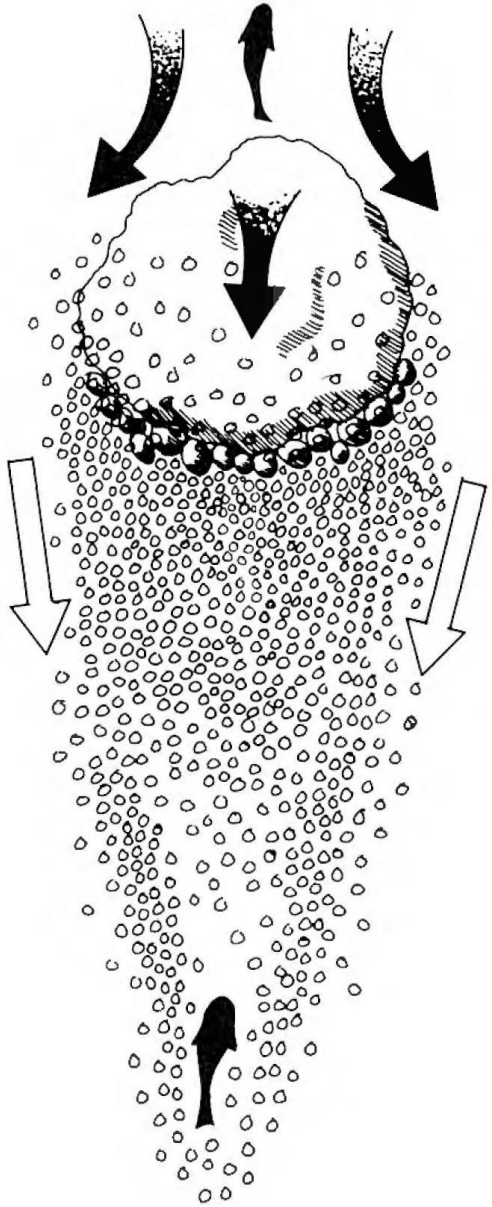
  In a stream, the current delivers food, so they will be near the fast current. In a lake, they will cruise the shoreline near drop-offs.

- **Lazy**

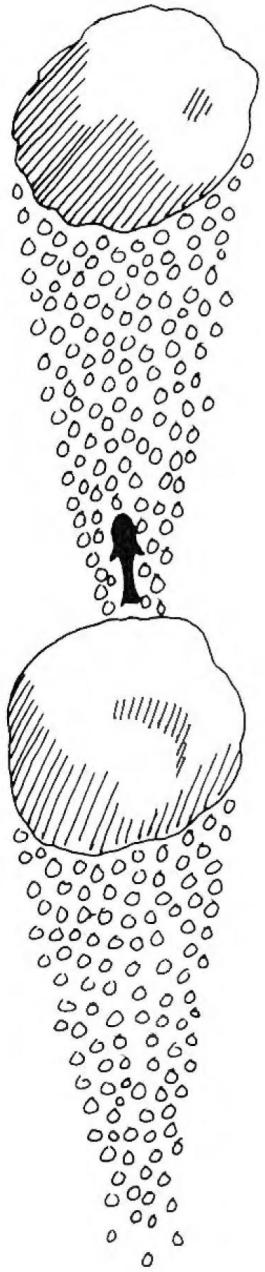
  It's exhausting to swim in the fast current, so the fish will not stay in the fast current for long.

In front of
or
behind rocks
unless it’s too
turbulent

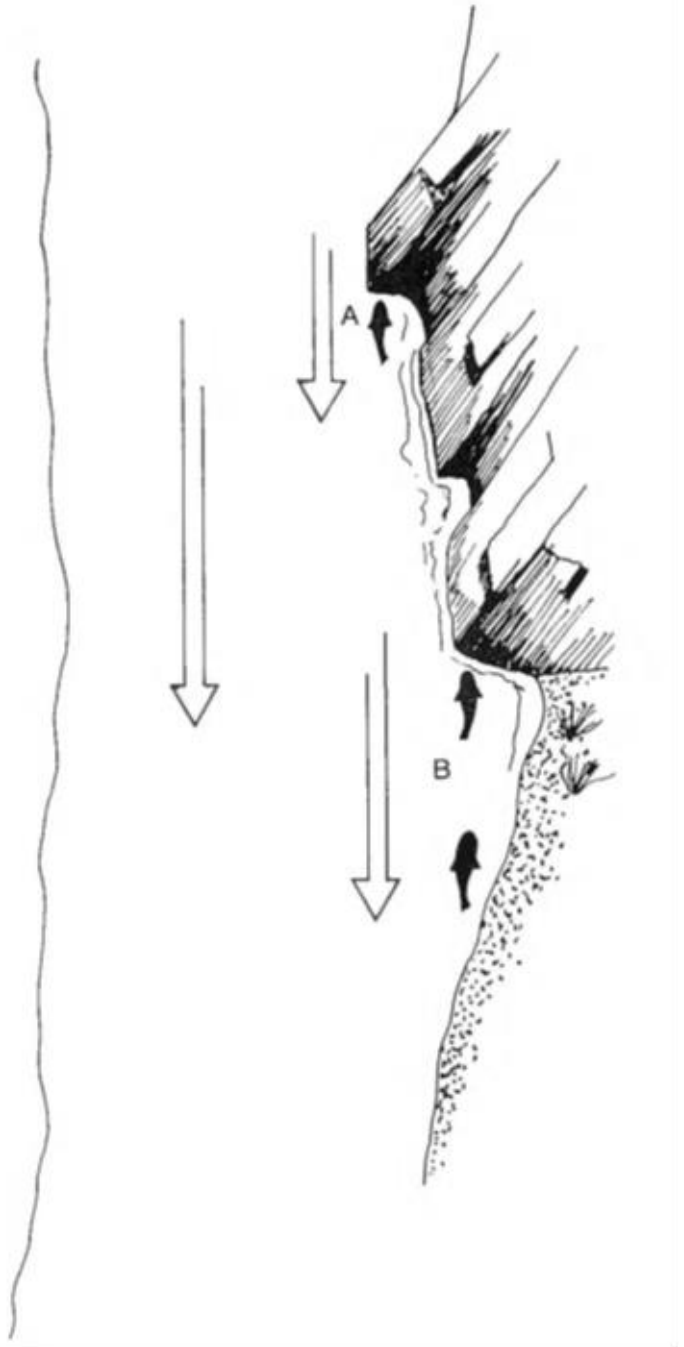




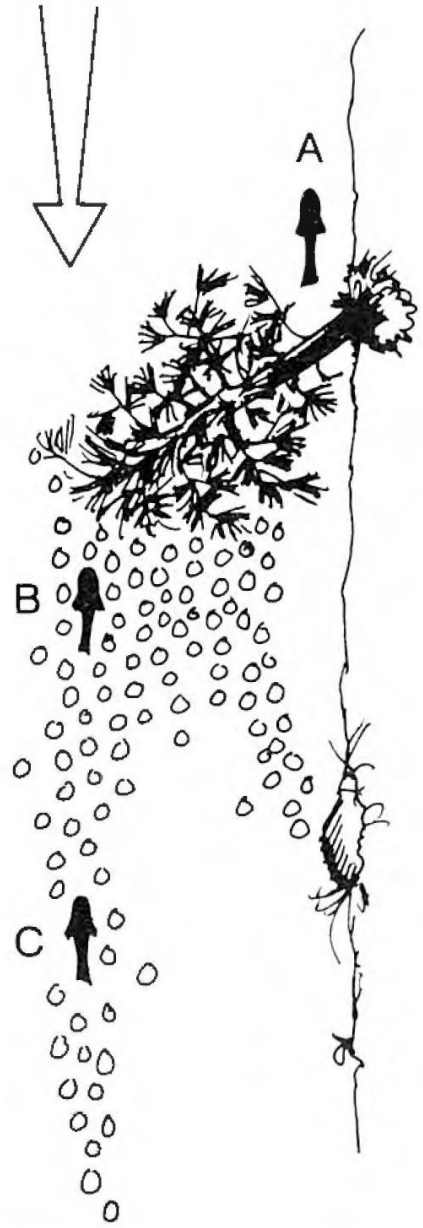
Where one cushion meets another



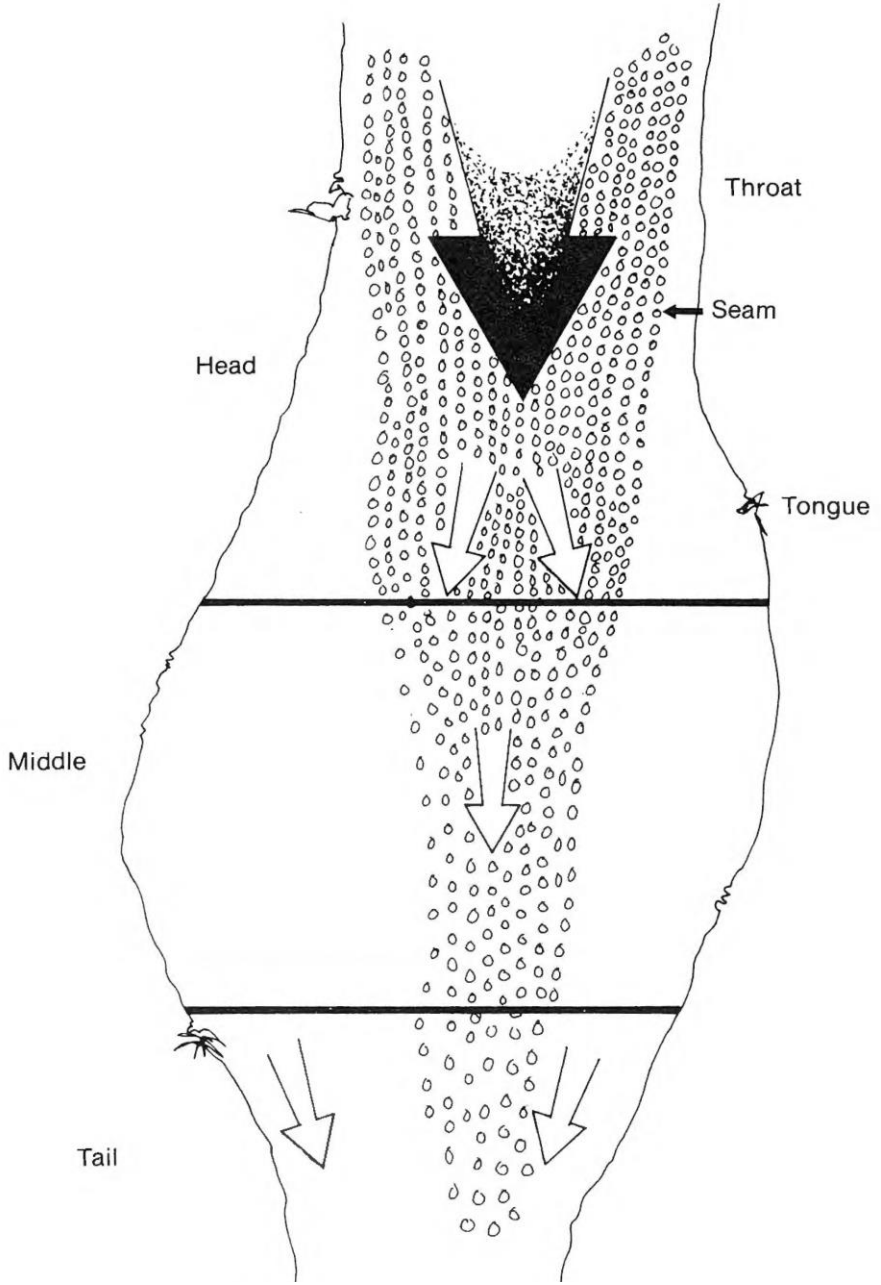
Along ledgerock



Around a sweeper



Parts of a Pond

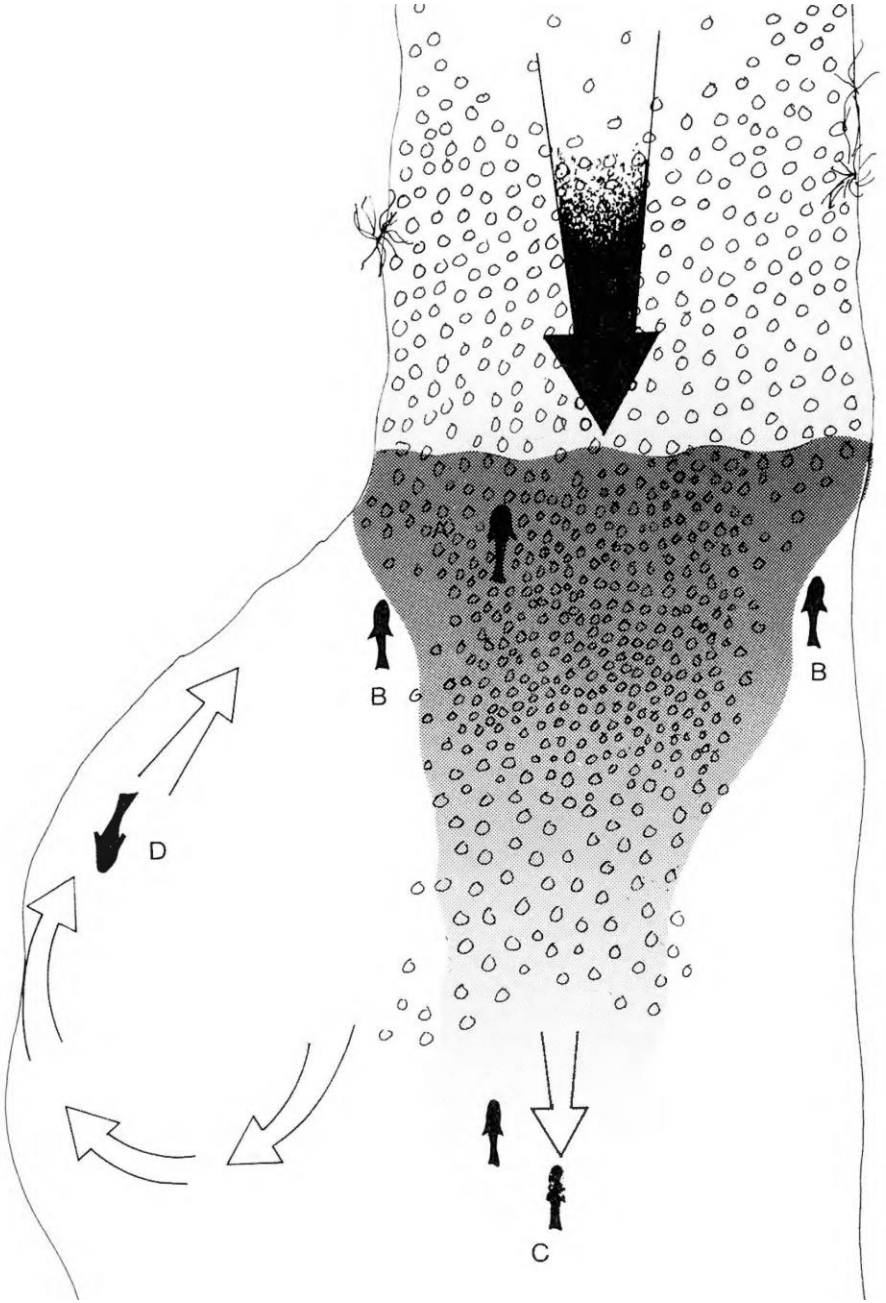


At the drop

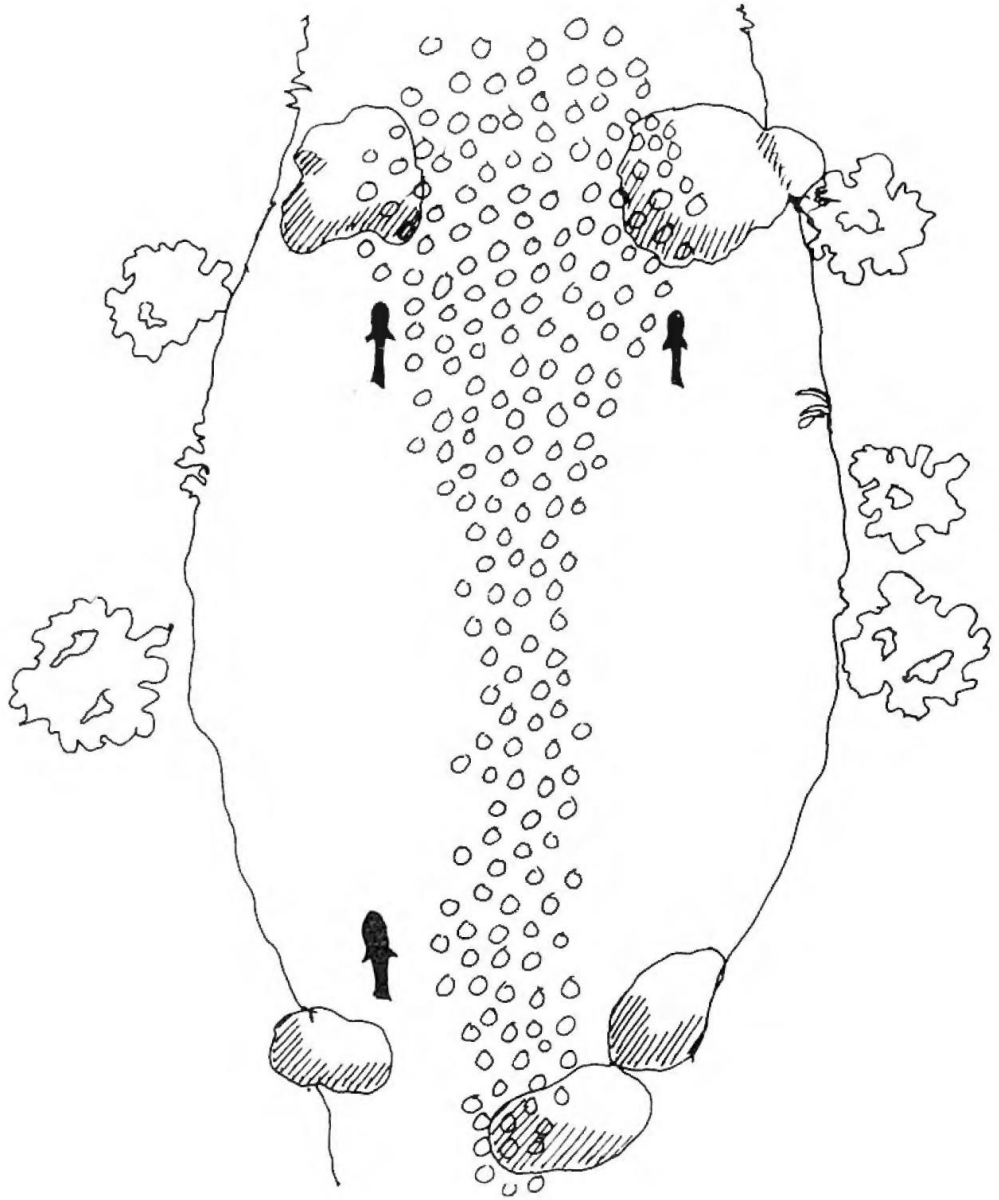
Along the tongue

At the back

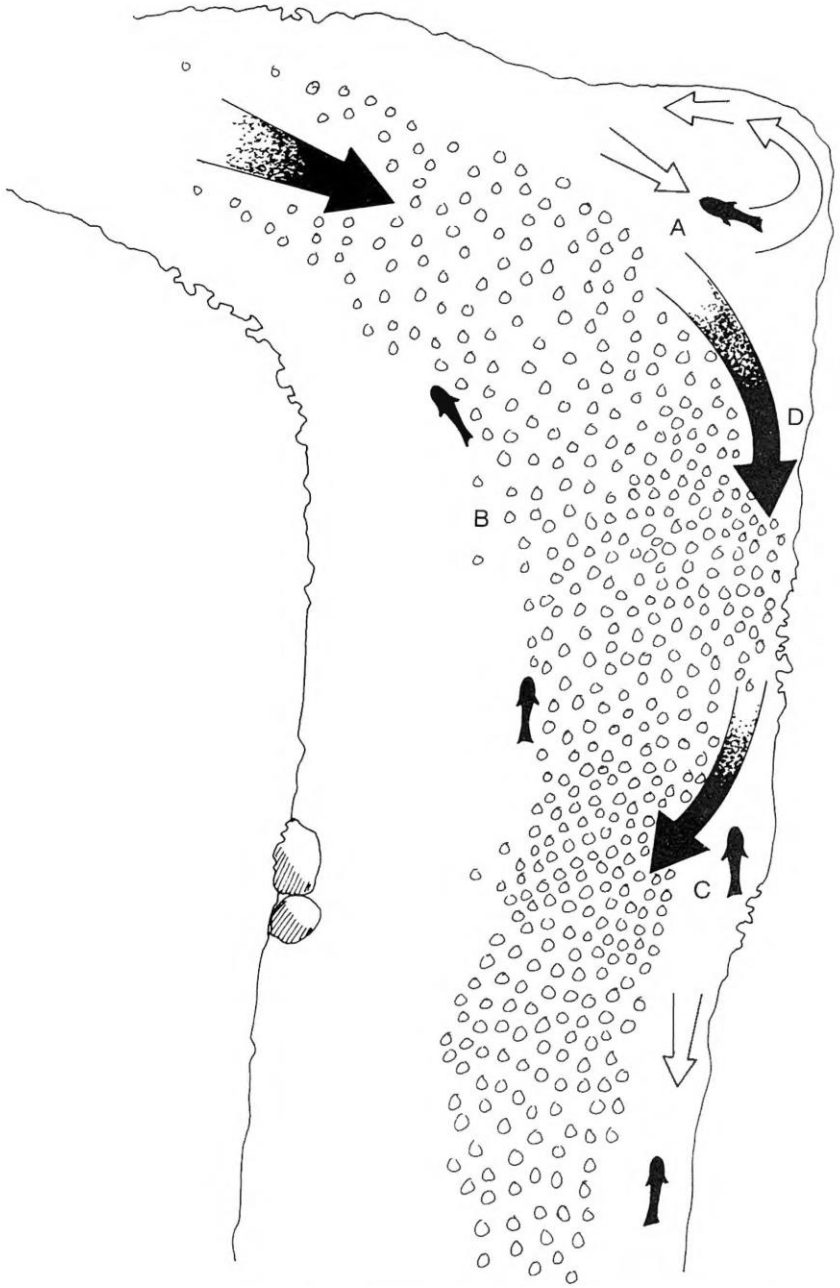
In an eddy



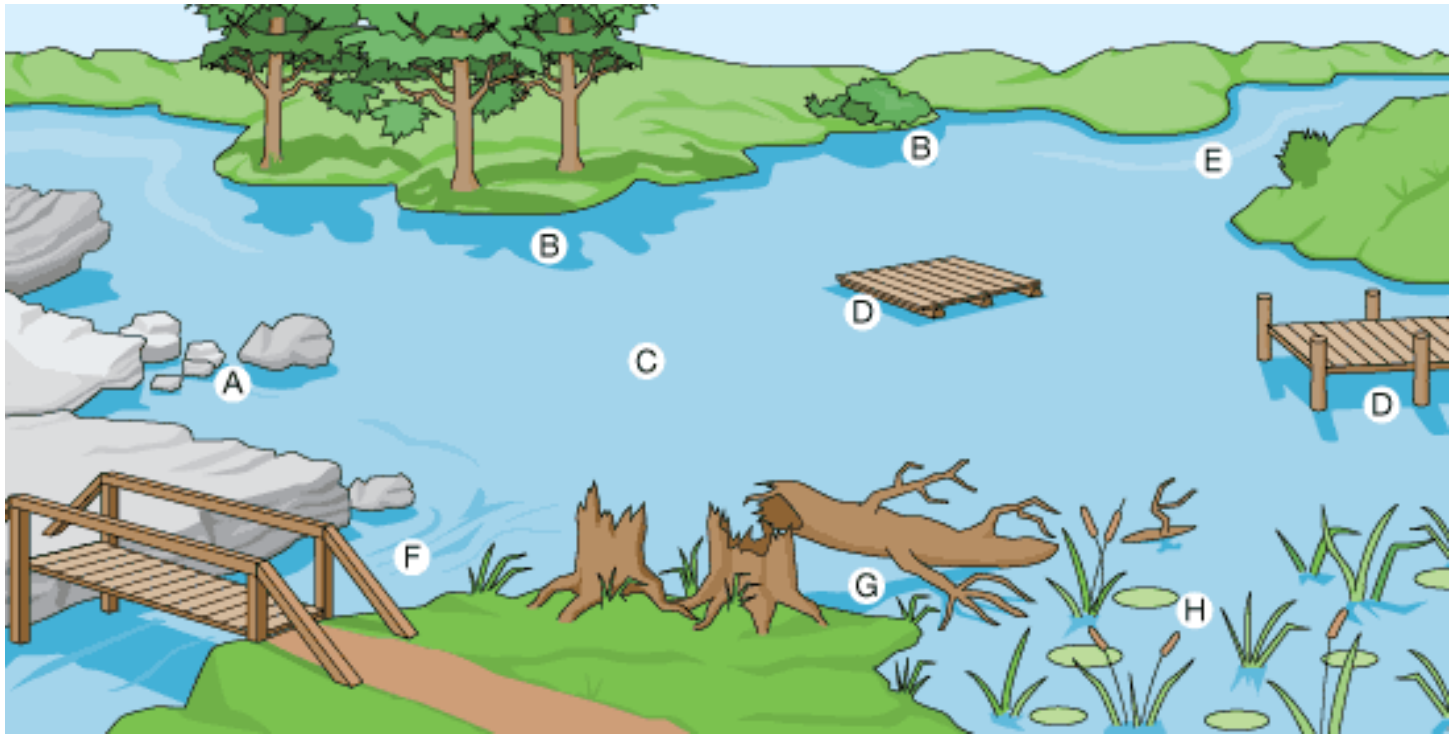
Typical Pond



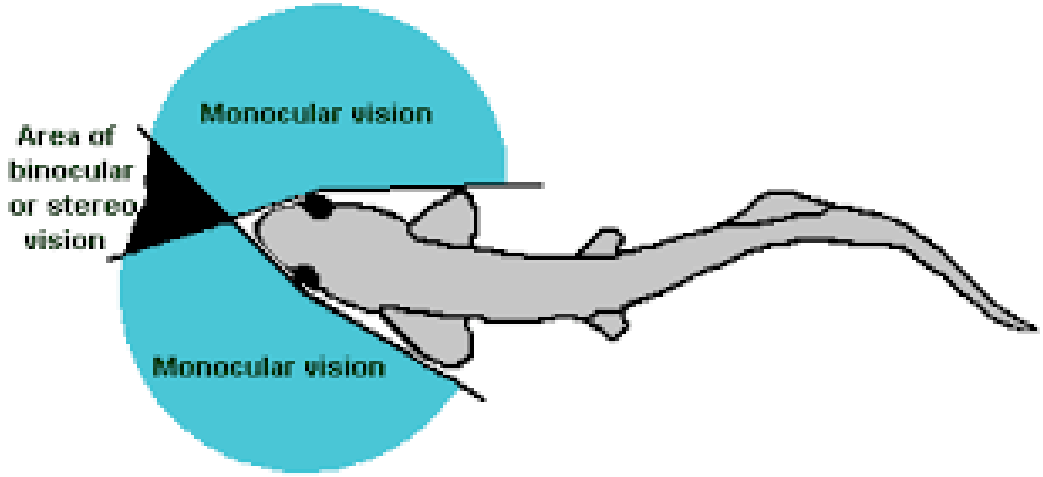
On a bend



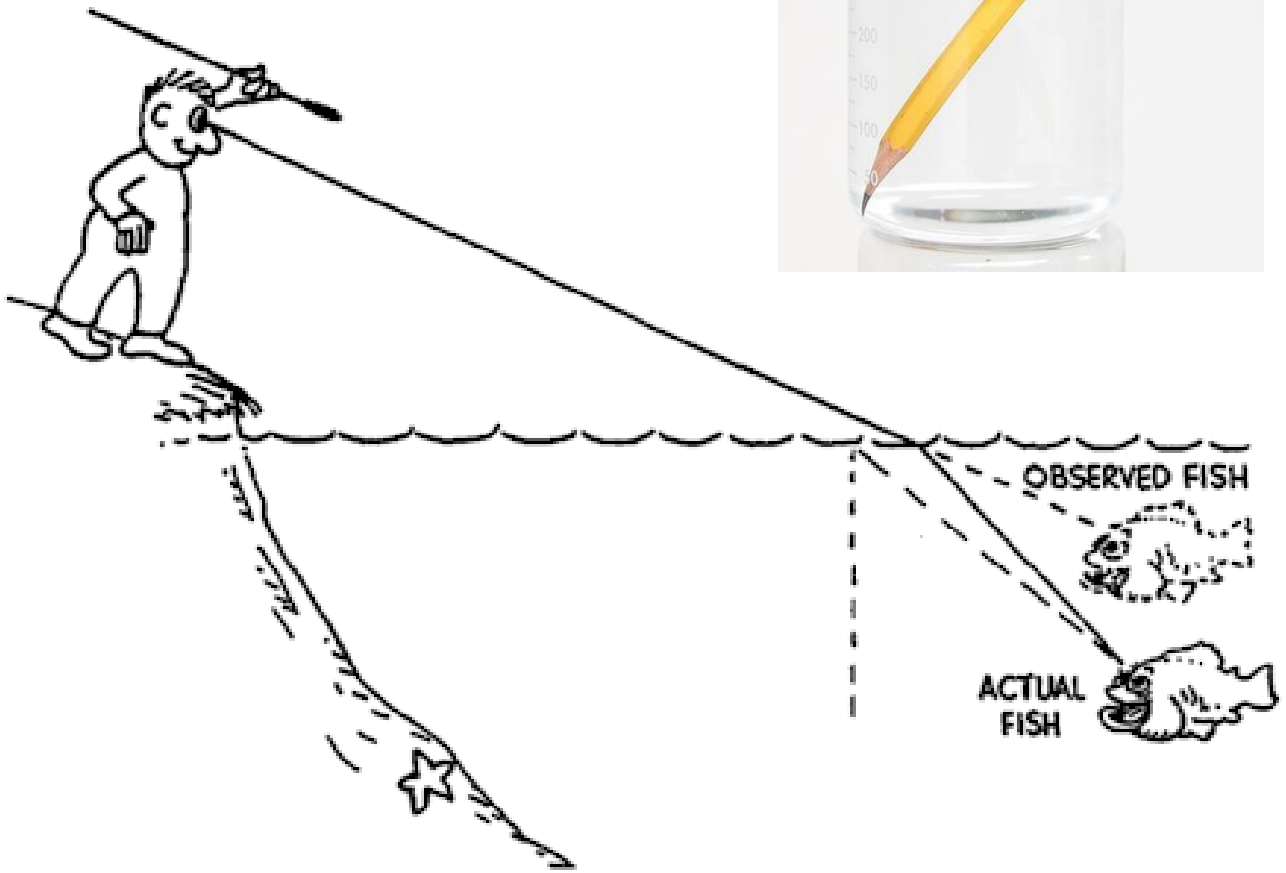
What About Lakes?



I can see you.
☺

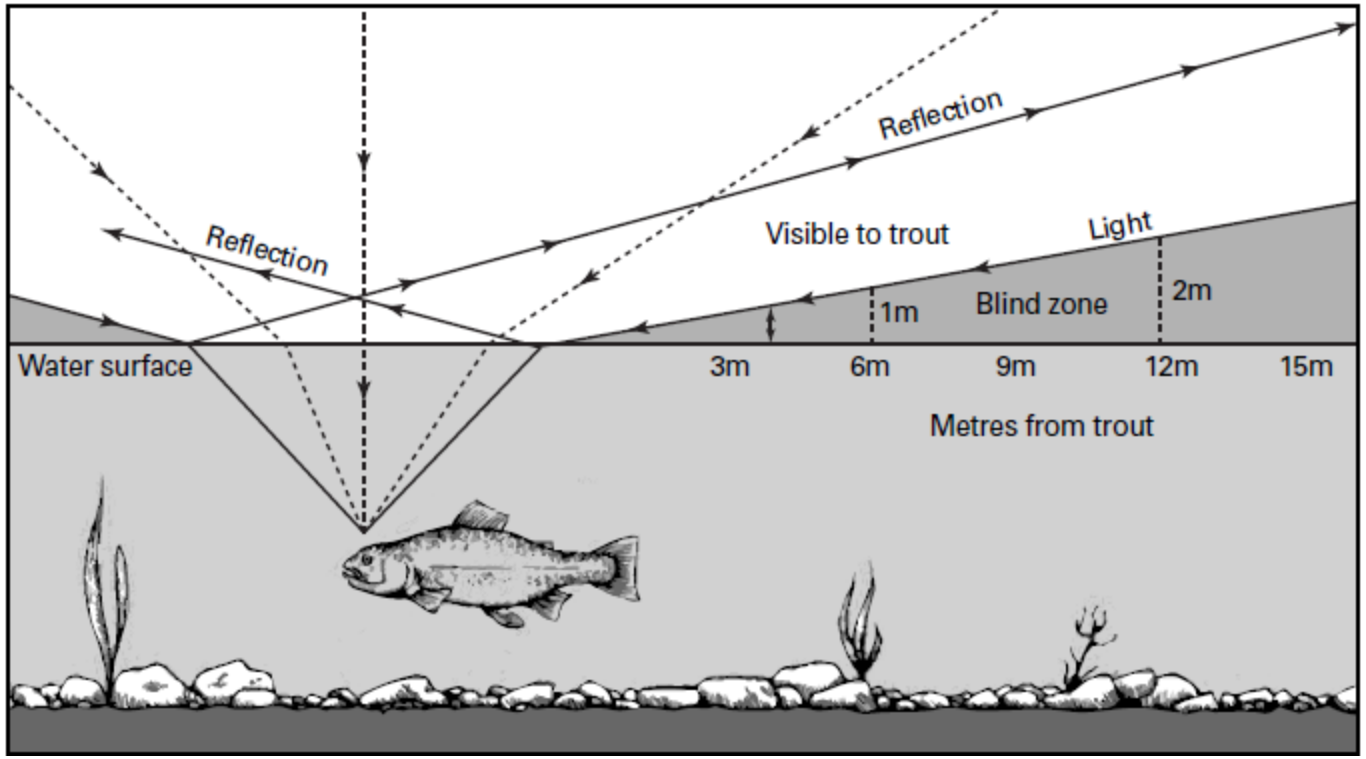

Monocular vision
Area of
binocular
or stereo
vision
Monocular vision

You can’t see me.
☺



Hey, where'd you go?!

Refraction is your enemy; Reflection is your friend.



1 meter = 3.3 feet. 6 meter = 19.6 feet.
Tenkara cast is about 8.2 meters.

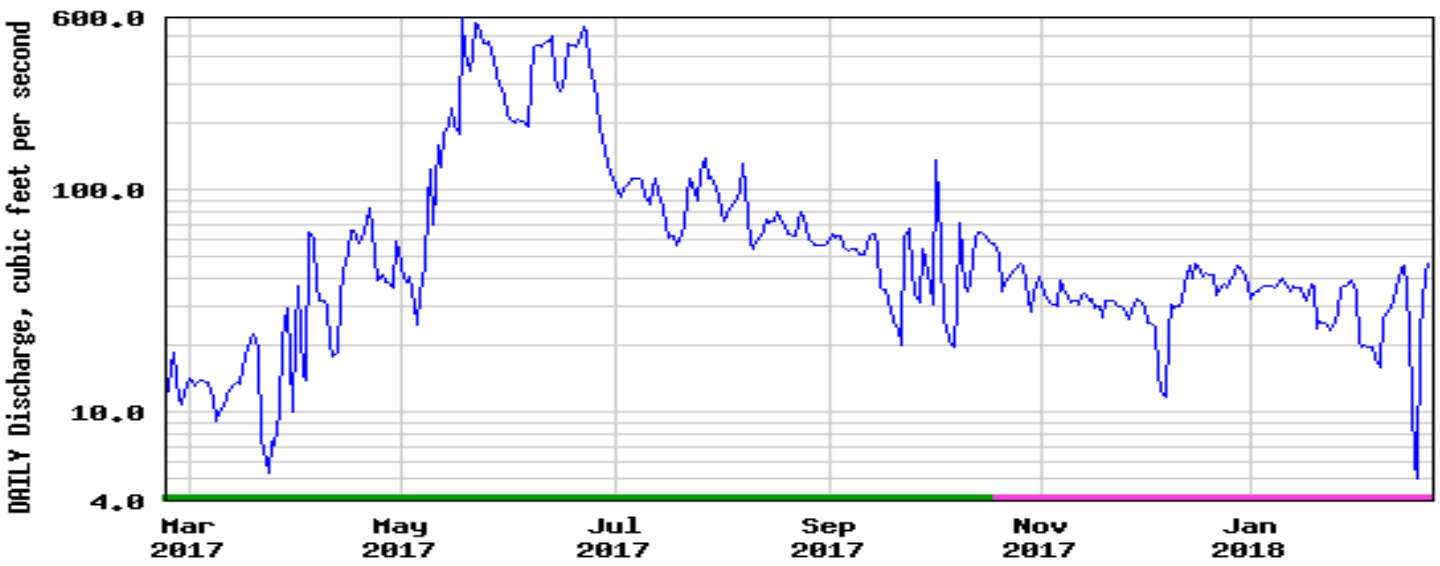
Getting to Know Your Local Streams

- Boulder Creek
- South Boulder Creek
- Walker Ranch
- Indian Peaks Wilderness

- **Fish them often to learn where the fish regularly hold during different times of year.**
- **Avoid winter fishing unless warm (November to February).**
- **Fish lakes in June.**
- **Most anglers don't hike; most hikers don't fish… so hike to find plentiful, dumb fish.**
- **Fish early morning or just before sunset in Summer to Fall.**
- **Fish noon to 4 p.m. in cold weather.**

Boulder Creek

- From 30th Street to end of Boulder Creek Path – catch and release
- Above Boulder Creek Path to Barker Dam – good fishing unless fenced off
- Runoff during late April to late June; flow very low during winter.



South Boulder Creek

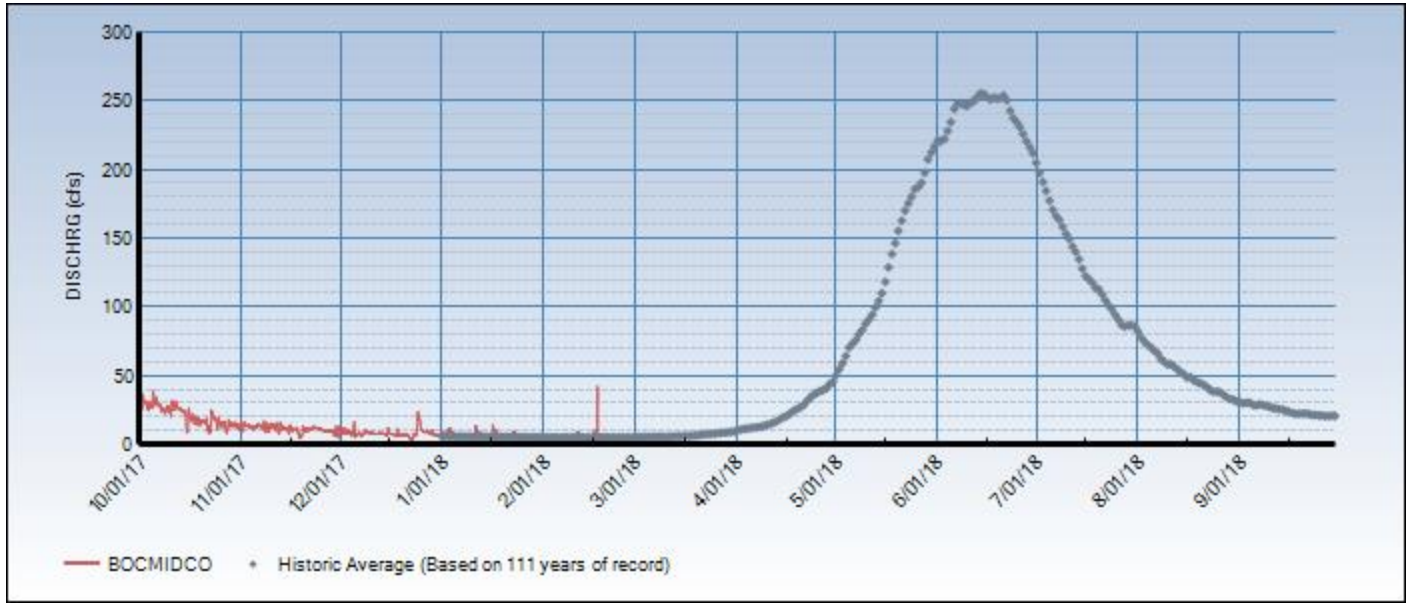
- Bobolink Trailhead, East Boulder Rec Center, South Boulder Road, Marshall Mesa, Eldorado Canyon
- Catch and release recommended; sometimes huge fish from Baseline Reservoir.
- Runoff during June; flow very low during winter; mosquitoes in spring and summer.

Walker Ranch

- Ethel Harrold TH to Martin Gulch, Walker Ranch TH to Kentucky Gulch
- Catch and release recommended; sometimes huge fish from Baseline Reservoir.
- Runoff during late May to early July; flow very low until March; mosquitoes in spring and summer so wear insect repellent.

Indian Peaks Wilderness

- Hessie TH, 4th of July TH, Moffat Tunnel, and many more.
- Catch and release encouraged.
- Dumber fish the higher you go. Smaller fish in creeks, the higher you go.
- Lakes offer good fishing for bigger fish in summer.
- Fishing begins in May; drops in October.



What You'll Mostly Catch

Brown Trout – Lots of smallish ones in local creeks but SBC sometimes has huge ones in the spring.

Rainbow Trout – Not uncommon on Boulder Creek, SBC, & Walker Ranch.

Brook Trout – Common in RMNP, Indian Peaks, and Wyoming. Guilt-free eating!

The Weirdos

River Cutthroat – Intense red markings on gills and slash marks on sides of jaw.

Put them back!

Cutbow – More silver than brown, less intense red, reddish side stripe. Often quite big!

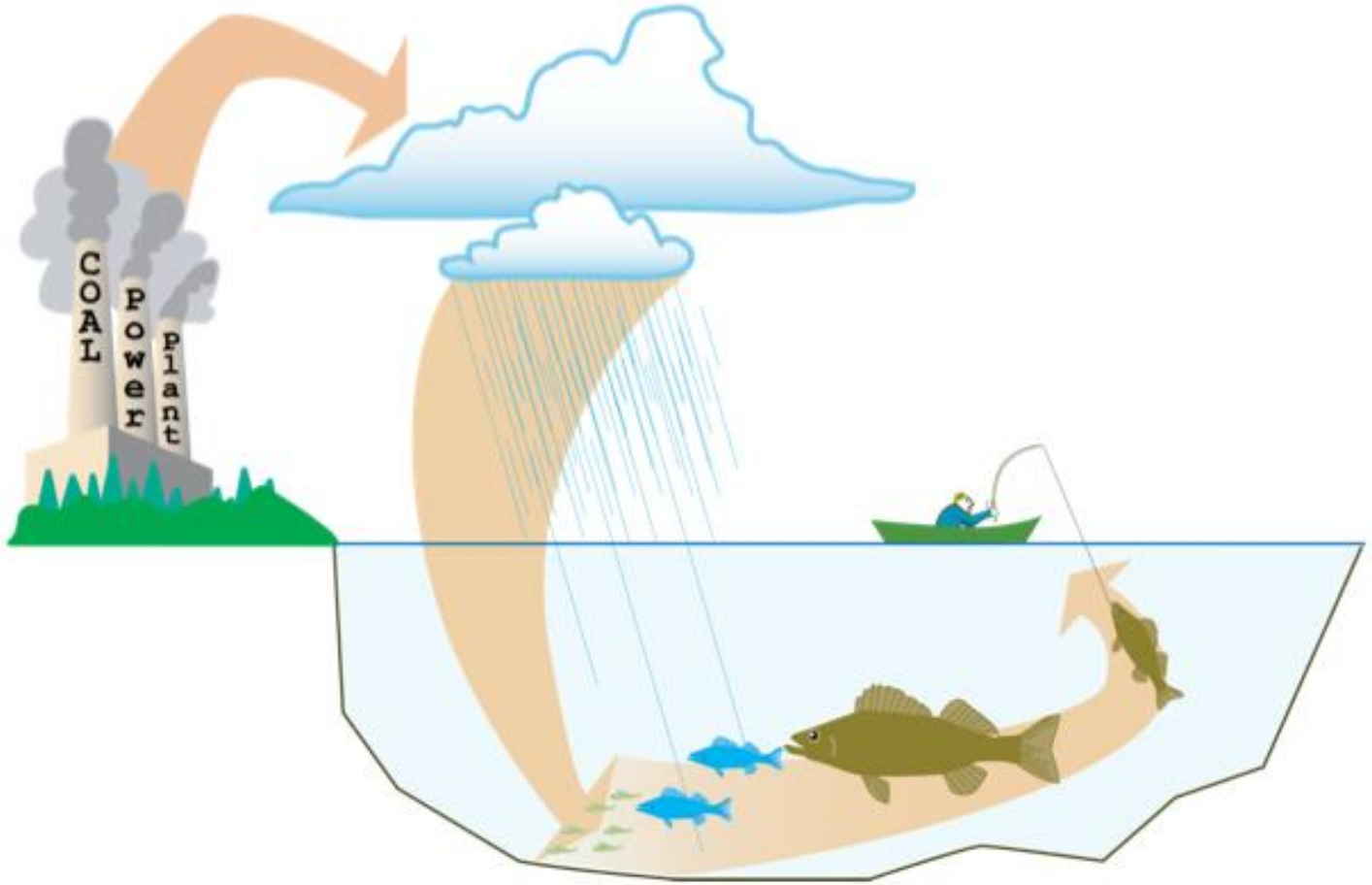
Grayling – Huge dorsal fin. Rare. Aggressive feeders but not that tasty.

The Rules (Colorado)

- Fish only where allowed.
- License required if 16 years or older.
- Observe catch-and-release requirements. Release usually encouraged.
- Check local rules but, where catch is allowed the general rules are…

Type of fish	Daily bag limit	Possession limit
TROUT, ARCTIC CHAR, GRAYLING, SALMON *(except kokanee)* *in aggregate**	4	8
Trout include brook, brown, cutbow, cutthroat, golden, lake, rainbow, splake and tiger trout		
BROOK TROUT *8 inches long or less* *(in addition to trout limit above)*	10	10

Fishing Mostly for Fun, Not Food



The Right Attitude

- ✓ You don’t get “skunked”; you skunk yourself.
  Don’t skunk yourself.
- ✓ Learn something each time you go out.
- ✓ Pay attention. Keep a journal. Ask questions.
- ✓ Take care of your gear.
- ✓ Don’t be endlessly patient.
- ✓ Be stealthy.
- ✓ Be respectful.