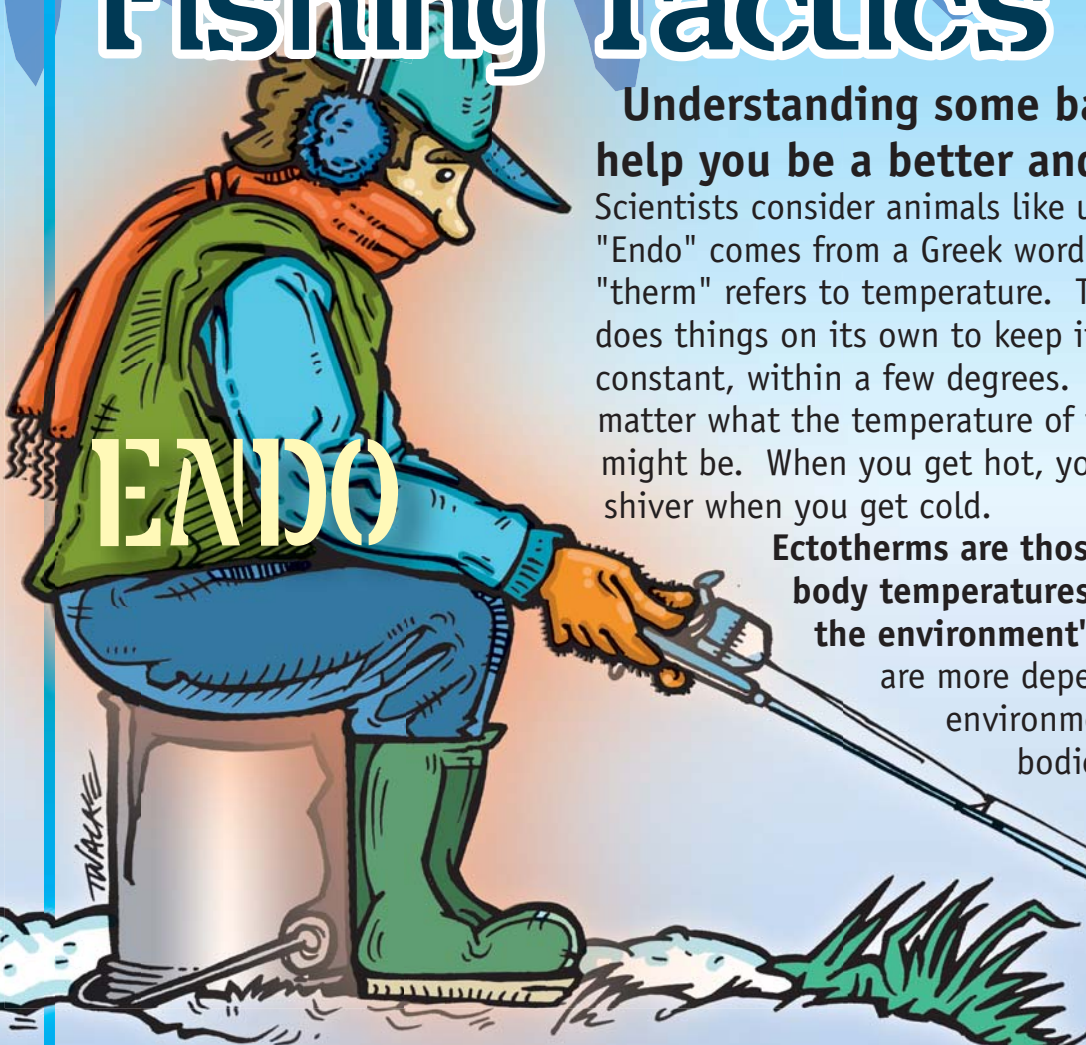


# Cold-Weather Fishing Tactics



**Understanding some basic biology can help you be a better and safer angler.**

Scientists consider animals like us to be endotherms. "Endo" comes from a Greek word that means "within;" "therm" refers to temperature. That means your body does things on its own to keep its temperature constant, within a few degrees. This happens no matter what the temperature of the environment might be. When you get hot, you sweat, and you shiver when you get cold.

**Ectotherms are those critters that have body temperatures that change with the environment's temperature.** They are more dependent on the environment to maintain their bodies at a certain temperature.

**Fish are ectotherms.** When the water gets cold, ectotherms slow down. That means they don't eat as much. It also means that fish won't hammer your lure as they do when the water is warmer.

They become nibblers when the water is cold. They also won't move far to check your offering.

So you should change your tactics when fishing cold water. Use bait to entice the fish to check out your rig. Then keep it still or slowly moving to give them extra time to hit.

Some fish move to different areas from where they lived in the summer. Some fish gather in slower areas in rivers and streams. Don't be surprised if you need to explore some new areas to find winter fishing hotspots.

