

Trout

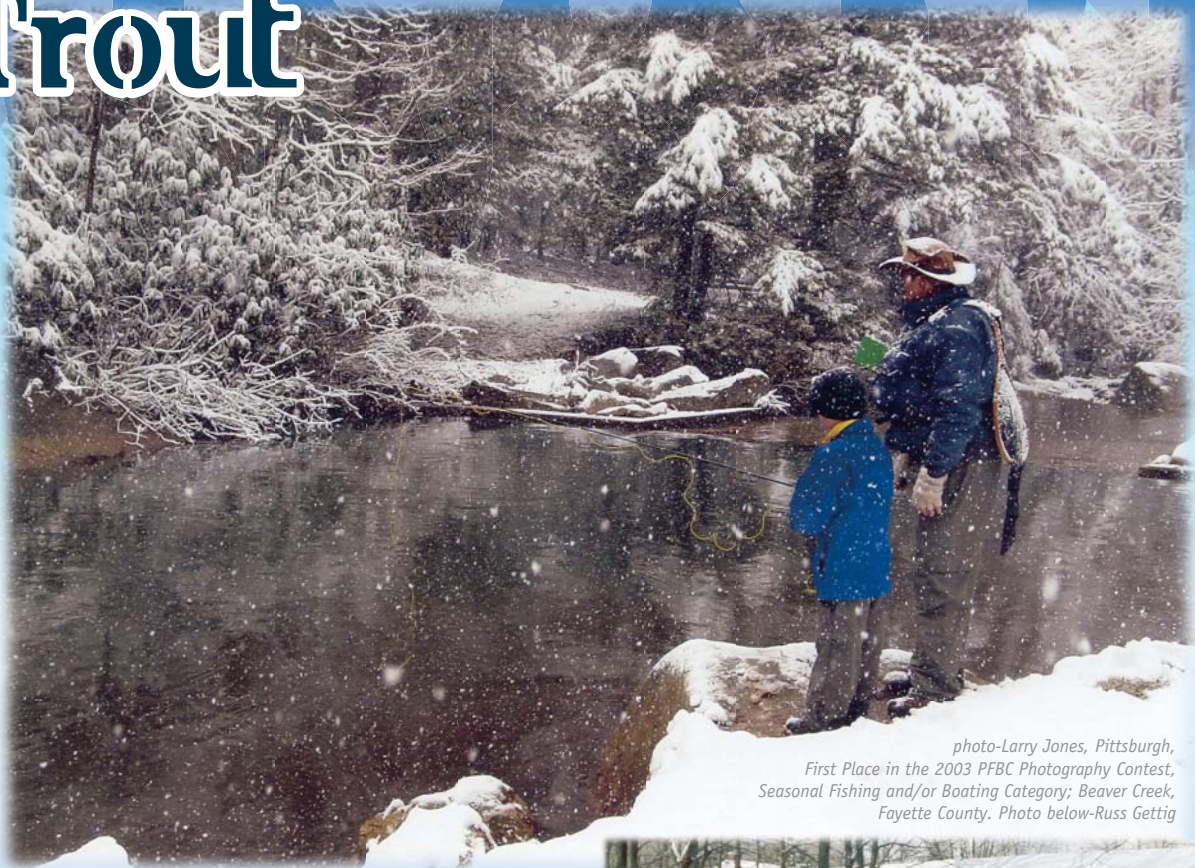


photo-Larry Jones, Pittsburgh,
First Place in the 2003 PFBC Photography Contest,
Seasonal Fishing and/or Boating Category; Beaver Creek,
Fayette County. Photo below-Russ Gettig

Trout are a favorite cold-weather quarry. They often stay more active in colder water than other game fish. A warmup of even a few degrees can put the trout into a feeding mode.

Some trout streams come from springs that have constant water temperatures. These types of trout streams are called **limestone spring creeks**. These are great cold-weather trout fishing spots. The central part of the state has many limestone streams. These streams stay warmer than other kinds of streams, called **freestone streams**.

Freestone streams may also have smaller springs feeding them. Fish may move toward these warm spots. You can locate these springs when there is some ice covering the water. The water will often be warm enough to prevent the ice from covering the spring.



Fish won't fight the current when the water temperature is low. They will be found where the current is slow. Deep holes and big pockets are ideal winter holding spots for trout.

The simple rule is to fish slowly and deeply in the winter. One exception to this rule is when it's bright and sunny. Fish may move into shallow water to soak up the sun's rays.

If you're using bait, minnows or wax-worms fished on a plain hook, you can do very well. Fly anglers may want to fish nymphs or streamers. It takes an especially warm day in the winter to catch trout on dry flies.