

# Wading for a Bite



Fishing from shore can create a dilemma. You may not be able to cast far enough to reach some fish. One trick is wading closer. Chest waders or hip boots will help.

Waders and hip boots come in two types—“stocking foot” or “boot foot.” “Boot foot” means the boot is part of the wader or hip boot. “Stocking foot” means a neoprene sock is sewn onto the wader or hip boot. A boot is laced up over top (just like putting shoes over your socks). Both work well, but stocking foot types are usually more comfortable. Waders and hip boots are made of different materials.



**Rubber** – Waders or boots made from rubber are inexpensive and durable. They are good for walking through brush, but they offer no thermal protection from cold water. If they are folded during storage, older rubber boots can leak near creases.

**Neoprene** – Neoprene waders or boots are durable. They are great for wading in cold weather, because neoprene traps body heat but can be less comfortable to wear.

### **Breathable fabric** –

Breathable fabric allows air and body moisture to pass through but blocks water. It is comfortable for all day wear but won't trap heat like neoprene.

Waders and hip boots also have different types of soles and choosing the right one can be an important decision.

**Felt** – Felt is great on rocky bottom streams. However, walking on muddy bottom streams or muddy banks can be slippery with felt soles.

**Rubber treads** – Rubber treads are a good choice for muddy bottom streams or lakes and ponds. Newer tread designs now make for better footing.

**Studs** – Metal studs on rubber soles help anglers wade into swift current where other boots won't grip. Be careful, because they can still be slippery when walking across smooth rocks and surfaces.



## **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)**

Anglers should be aware that they could spread AIS as they move from one waterway to another. Dry your gear or clean it with hot water (140-degrees F) before entering new waters. Allow equipment to dry to the touch and then dry for another 48 hours. Remember that thick material like the foam in life jackets or felt boot soles may be harder to clean or take longer to dry. Learn more about AIS from the Spring 2008 *PLAY* newsletter, "Sci-Fi in the Real World," or visit [www.fishandboat.com/ais.htm](http://www.fishandboat.com/ais.htm).