

As we enter into the cold half of the year and prime trophy trout season, fishing is improving, though I haven't caught any really big trout just yet. The water in the north half of the area is crystal clear, and the catching is stupid easy at times up this way. On one recent trip, I and two others caught over 150 fish, mostly small keeper trout, with a couple of slot reds and some trout around 20 inches thrown in. On a couple of other occasions, we've experienced a similarly easy bite on trout a bit larger on average, though not quite as numerous. All the catching has been on dark or natural soft plastics and sinking Corkies. Mostly, depth has been a key. The fish are preferring areas waist to navel deep more than the shallows. Fishing in low light conditions and/or with strong currents moving makes for much better productivity.

Down south, the water is in less good shape. The brown tide around the mouth of Baffin isn't too bad, and I've made a couple of decent catches in that area of trout between 3 and just over 5 pounds, again on sinking Corkies and soft plastics tossed in waters about 3 to 4 feet deep. Much of the time, bait activity is scarce, and the fishing is slow. Further into the recesses of Baffin, the water quality is worse, but I do have reliable reports of some bigger fish coming out of the back, trout up to 7 ½ pounds. The depth key is the same over there, meaning the fish are coming out water that's close to the swag, in three to four feet depths, close to even deeper basins. And, the bite is best on soft plastics and Corkies. A Catch 5 or a bent-tailed original Corky might improve the chances in the mucky stuff.