

# **HOW TO CATCH TROUT**

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How to Catch Trout by Three Anglers

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**THREE ANGLERS**

**HOW TO  
CATCH TROUT**



## PREFACE.

THIS volume contains a series of essays, by different writers, on the art of trout-fishing. The aim of the authors has been to compress, within the narrowest possible limits, such practical information and advice as will enable a beginner, without further instruction, to attain moderate proficiency in the use of every legitimate lure. In carrying out this design their endeavour has been to avoid unnecessary technicality, to steer clear of "fads," and to confine themselves to statements likely to receive the general assent of experienced anglers.

To make the work as complete as possible a chapter has been added containing a brief statement of the Law of Scotland relating to trout-fishing. This, which is believed to be a novelty

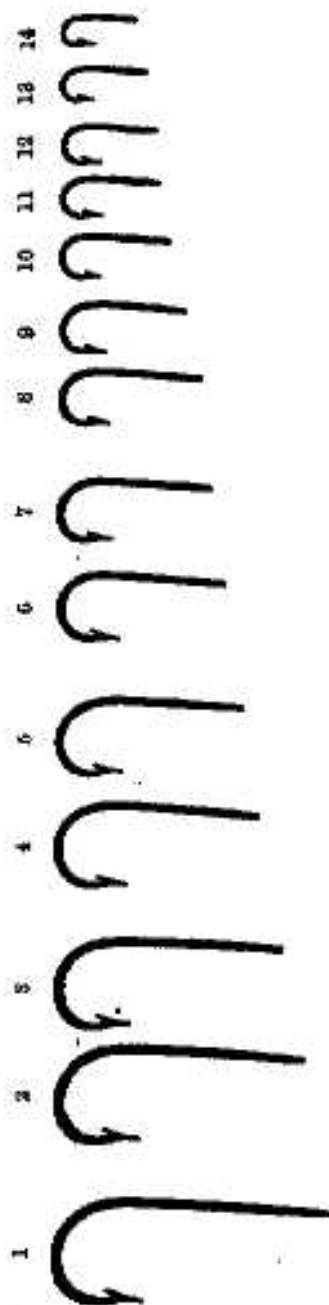
in angling literature, may be of service to readers who are not versed in legal lore.

Although the authors are most familiar with the streams and lochs of Scotland, they are not without the hope that what they have to say may also be found useful by their brethren south of the Tweed.

EDINBURGH, *April 1888.*

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These Hooks are the exact size of "Kendal Bound Beads," from the scrolls of Messrs. W. BARRAZER & SONS, Redditch.



## CHAPTER I.

### WET OR SUNK FLY-FISHING.

THIS style of angling is almost universally adopted in Scotland, and is also common in many parts of England. Although it may not call for such minute study of insect life as is considered necessary by the votaries of dry fly-fishing, it demands an even greater knowledge of the habits and haunts of trout; while in point of excitement and variety it falls in no way short of the rival method.

ROD.—For wet fly-fishing we prefer a light one-handed rod of moderate stiffness, measuring from 9 to 12 feet in length. For a few of the broadest rivers, however, where it is sometimes necessary to cast a very long line, a two-handed rod, 13 or 14 feet in length, may be found more serviceable.

Opinions differ so much as to the best material for rod-making that we think it advisable to leave this matter entirely to the taste of the angler. There is one point, however, as to which it is impossible to be too emphatic,—and that is, in warning the beginner against the use of a rod

in the least degree too heavy. The neglect of this caution is bound to lead to slovenly and therefore unsuccessful fishing. The moment the arm gets tired the casting becomes clumsy, the interest flags, and if a trout be induced to rise he is either noticed too late or struck in such a listless fashion that he escapes without difficulty.

**REEL.**—In selecting a reel it is necessary to see that it is of the proper weight to balance the rod, and runs easily. A ratchet of moderate strength is of great assistance in running a heavy trout, but if too strong it is a constant source of danger.

**LINE.**—The line may be of hair, silk and hair, undressed silk, or waterproofed silk; all of these are good. Its weight and thickness should bear some proportion to the size and stiffness of the rod; and except in the case of the very finest lines, one or two yards of tapered twisted gut should be spliced to the end. Experience will show that this is an important aid to casting.

**GUT.**—The gut casting-line, for a beginner, should not be more than nine feet long. The first two or three strands should be rather thicker than the others, and should taper gradually down from the end of the twisted gut. The remainder should be of the best quality that can be obtained, special care being taken to ensure that its different lengths are perfectly round and free from blemishes. As to the thick-

ness, the angler must be guided by circumstances. A beginner, however, will find it much easier to cast with stoutish gut, and if it be of good quality, and be dropped lightly on the water, he will have more success with it than with finer gut badly handled. We believe thoroughly, however, in the efficacy of fine gut on all waters which are much fished, and strongly advise every angler to accustom himself to its use. It must not be understood, however, that we consider drawn gut necessary, or even advantageous, under all circumstances. Early in the season before the waters have shrunk to their summer level; later in the year when the rivers are running full after a flood; or, even when they are low and clear, if a strong wind be blowing, good undrawn gut will be found quite as deadly. By using it, moreover, time will be saved in landing the trout, and no fisher need be told how this will affect his take at the end of the day.

**FLIES.**—We now come to the most important element in the matter of tackle—to wit, the flies themselves; and here it is necessary to explain that in our Lowland streams two distinct types of artificial flies are used—the winged fly and the spider or hackle. Of these, the winged fly is undoubtedly the closer imitation of the natural insect as we see it playing on the surface of the water. One would think that, in competition