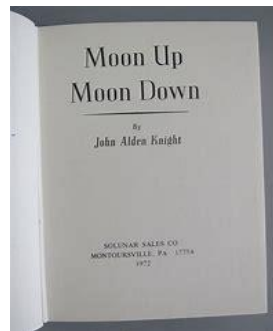


To Solunar or not to Solunar?



I think we have all heard about or been exposed to Solunar Tables at one time or other. I've personally heard one of our members some years back opine during a monthly meeting on the merits of these tables...but what are they?

Generally attributed to John Alden Knight in 1926 who was a self-professed fly fisherman, hunter, writer, film maker...you get the idea. He actually took a very scientific approach to the question of fish behavior and when they were most active feeding in particular. He started with 33 factors and one-by-one eliminated them until he was left with three – the sun, the moon and the tides. Before you ask, and John did too...there are no tides on streams so how does this apply? Turns out the conclusion is the effect of the sun and the moon specifically and the tides are just a result of the effect of the two celestial bodies.

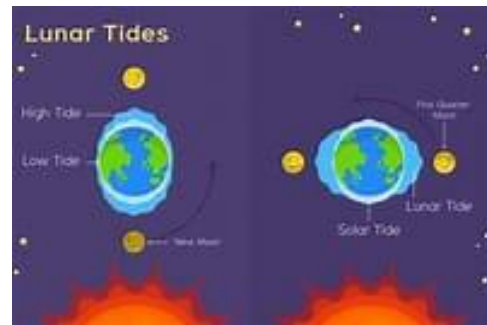
For brevity's sake, and you can research on your own, there are peak days, months, and times of varying lengths. Let's concentrate only on days for the moment.

Major periods - Are approximately 2 hours duration. They begin when the moon is overhead and when the moon is under our feet. Normally these are the moments of greatest fish activity during each day.

Minor periods - Are intermediate periods of approximately 1 hour which coincide with the rising and the setting of the moon. During these periods there is also an increase in fish feeding activity in relation to the rest of the day.

Keep in mind that these periods are linked to the movement of the sun and the moon so the times are never set but change daily.

The theory has proponents and of course detractors but there have been scientific research projects that have demonstrated correlation between fish feeding activity and the solunar tables. Here's an example of a chart for Phoenix:



| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Date | Sep 28, 2022 |
| Location | Patriot Square, United States |
| Day Rating | |
| Best Time | 01:01 - 03:01 |
| Best Time | 13:35 - 15:35 |
| Second Best Time | 08:07 - 10:07 |
| Second Best Time | 19:03 - 21:03 |
| Sunrise | 06:21 |
| Sunset | 18:17 |
| Moonrise | 09:07 |
| Moonset | 20:03 |
| Moonphase | Waxing Crescent |
| Moon Illumination | 9% |

So there you have it. It's an interesting concept and has a lot of proponents so check it out and decide for yourself if you think it may help your fishing (catching).