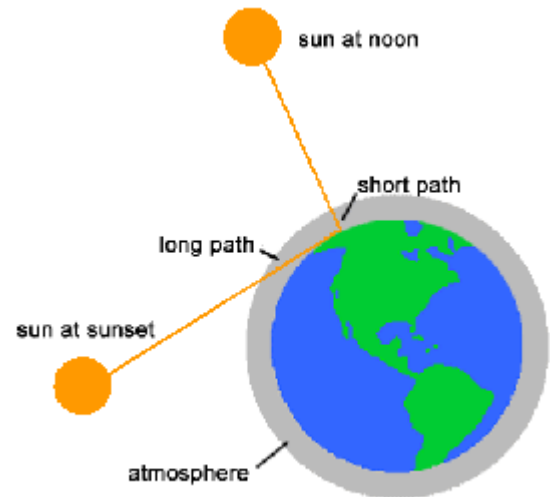


SWEET LIGHT

Outdoor photography and fishing have something in common. You get more bites and better photos early in the morning and late in the afternoon. Many photographers refer to this early or late light as sweet light, golden light, or the magic hour.

When the sun is low in the sky there are warmer colors. Light passes through more of the atmosphere, scattering short wavelength light from the blue end of the spectrum, but letting long wavelength light from the red end of the spectrum through. This results in “warmer” colored photos. Many people don’t notice the change in light, but you can train your eye to see it. Film and digital sensors pick it up so that photos taken at sweet light can often look redder than the scene you remember when you took the picture.



Northern latitudes like Idaho have lower sun and longer shadows more of the day than southern latitudes, especially in winter, when we have relatively sweet light much of the day.



When the sun is low in the sky there are longer shadows. These shadows are not as blocked out as they are when the sun is higher, and can be photogenic in their own right.

Shoot fast and often, because the very best light may last for just a few minutes. Use a tripod or image stabilization since light levels are lower. Choosing the right time of day may be just what you need to turn an ordinary photo into something special.