Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing
Topic: : Calling salt "fin"attics
Re: Calling salt "fin"attics
Author: : Fishidiot
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A shock tippet is heavier than the preceding section of tippet to ensure that there is a "weak link" in the overall leader that is less than the breaking strength of the backing. Think about it: If your shock tippet is 50lbs and the rest of the leader is just as strong, and your backing is 30lb test - when a big fish runs off into your backing and you break him off, the break will occur in the backing and you'll lose your entire fly line. Always ensure that your leader has a section with a lower breaking strength than your backing. This also true for snags. If you snag the bottom and you have a tippet without this weak link, you risk breaking off the entire fly line or shooting head rather than just losing the fly and shocker. All my salt fly reels have 30lb backing and I always have leaders with a section maxing out at 20lb test (or less). This weaker length of leader usually precedes the shock tippet and is known as "class tippet." This is a term not often used in freshwater FFing because most fresh guys don't use shock tippets. Most salt guys use a class tippet of 20lb (this is the standard for most tarpon fishing) as the International Game Fish Association has decreed that in order to be considered FFing by the "rules" all leaders must have a class tippet that maxes out at 20lb test. Of course, one can certainly deviate from this (and some shark and tuna guys certainly do) but 20lb has become something of the standard for salt fly fishing.