

Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : How long of a leader?

Re: How long of a leader?

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

Leader length is one of those constant adjustment things. I don't just vary by stream and time of year, every pool may be different.

The basic trade-off is castability (shorter leader = easier turnover, better accuracy, tighter loop to put under obstacles), vs. drag free drift (the more fine tippet material, the better the drift).

My average is around 9 ft. On a really tight stream it may be 6 ft. On a smooth water limestone using midges it might go 12 feet.

For a beginner, I'd recommend 6-7 ft of taper, 2-3 ft of tippet for a total of 9 ft. Then add or subtract tippet as needed for the situation, you'll learn what you need quickly.