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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : silk fly line

Re: silk fly line

Author: : gfen

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URL:

I'd call it a handicap, but that doesn't mean its an insult or a slight.

The handicap of silk line is in such things as the proper care and feeding of it. Stretching it, dressing it, drying it, storing it, etc. All of these things require an amount of work that PVC doesn't require, and yes, its absolutely a con when considering a real silk to a modern plastic line.

I can also assume, having never used, that after enough time it will begin to waterlog and lose floatability and feel until you go through the necessary process to re-dress it. This is also a con, and I'd say a handicap.

Now, in the actual use of it for fishing? Its probably not a handicap in the slightest. There's perhaps a difference in feel and casting, but its not going to be a handicap. If anything, it would appear from what I've read to be an advantage in apples-to-apples comparision fishing (until it needs a re-dress).

On the other hand, you have the bamboo rod...Removing the obvious craftsmanship and artisans who create it from the mix, and talking about only a lever to move line... I'm willing to see less of an actual hardware change from a guy who uses glass and another who uses graphite. If anything, bamboo IS a handicap in apples-to-apples comparision. Its heavier, easier to break, requires upkeep, will eventually start to ebb some of its initial response and quirks (which, I suppose, it will gain new ones). Graphite is graphite. Its going to be able to be created almost as slower as cane, should never change from its off-the-rack dynamics regardless of use, and is infinitely more durable.

Its also less satisfying, but now we've moved into intangibles and an area of acceptable mockery from Sight (et al). To qoute yourself, "it's just a preference for the feel of the tool in hand."

So, when you weigh it all together, are you handicapping yourself from a technical standpoint? I'd say very likely with silk and absolutely with bamboo. Does it matter? No. Does anyone care? Only if they've got nothing better to do.

Which, having met Sight Nymph, is I suspect why he's having fun at the expense of some of the traditionalists here.