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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Nymphing in shallow runs/deep pools

Re: Nymphing in shallow runs/deep pools

Author: : PhilC

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URL:

1) optimal depth depends on the stream. Generally, the deepest water/hole in a certain section is usually a good place to nymph. I usually only nymphs the riffles/faster water...fish don't hold too much in this type water if it is shallow. If the water is shallow and fast it has less of a chance to be broken up by rocks and competing current to create a less current resistant spot for a fish. Now fish will go into shallow water that isn't moving too fast but this is a risky/less protected area so it has to be "worth it" in that there is a hatch or its prime feeding time.

2) Change weight and/or adjust indicator. The distance of your indicator depends on depth and current speed...I think some use 1.5 times the depth of the water as a rule of thumb. I am familiar with knotted sections of my leader (ie my thingamabobber has left its mark) so I just pick a usual spot and adjust as needed. As for weight, it depends on how fast you need to get the fly down. If you have time to mend and let the fly sink then not as much weight is needed. If you need it to sink quickly then add more weight. I know guys who swear by minimal weight and can throw some really cool casts with slack (like a pile cast) so the fly can sink more readily in one spot like pocket in a riffle. I have yet to get into this technique vs adding weight...I like to keep in as close contact to the fly as possible and if there's a lot of slack on your line it can be more difficult to detect a strike or set the hook when your indicator stops. That said, I mainly fish small/medium size stream where you can get out over the riffles. On bigger water this (less weight more mend) style works well. I watched guys on the SR using switch/spey rod to throw some awesome mends and get drifts comparable to the center pinners. I'd like to try this on bigger water around me, like the Lehigh...