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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Size matters! Do you know yours??

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New to the sport, you will find that knots, tippets, leaders, etc. are very important to understand. No big secret here. But you'll also find that you'll need certain length leaders and tippets for certain conditions. I'm not going to get into what lengths of each to use in which circumstances. I'll leave that to our resident experts. But unless you have a tape measure running the length of your arm, these tips might help. Also, it's a good way to measure a fish, without lined landing nets, etc.

If you spread your hand out, from the tip of your pinky, to the tip of your thumb, on average, is 9". Mine is exactly that. Many times you'll use 18" of tippet, so this can be handy.

From the base of my fingers (so "top" of palm) to the inside of my elbow is 10.5" - this is how I knew my Brown today was @ 10". It's quick and we can get that fish back ASAP. I might have a been slow today, since it was my first and I was enjoying him. But it will help moving forward. If you see me lay a fish on my arm and he's touching my inner elbow and the tip of my middle finger, he's a nice 14".

If I hold a line at the base of my middle finger in one hand, and stretch the line, as if I were drawing a bow, that's 29" (from chin, to tip of the thumb while holding the line). Then pull the line with my other arm, spreading the line fully across my chest, so that I'm standing like a scarecrow, arms out, that's 5' of line. So if I do it twice, that's 10'. Once at 10', I can grab the line at my shoulder (essentially taking off 29") and that's damn near a 7.5' leader (a common size to use).

If I want an even foot, I just drop my...well you get the idea.

Can you tell I'm bored?

Anyway, that's my tip for day.