

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : New to the Sport

Re: New to the Sport

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URL:

I'm of the opinion that there is a huge change from a 5 wt flyrod to a 6... Much more than from say 4 to 5 or any other line change. What I'd suggest is that you decide what you want to fish for most of the time.

If you like trout, an 8' 5wt is going to be about right for almost any water in PA. You can fish big water with it, you can fish tiny mountain creeks. You can fish for bluegill and small bass with it. I even got a 20" smallie on one. (My first rod, a whitewater classic from BassPro, which I still enjoy using) But a 9' 6wt is going to be a lot of rod on all but the biggest trout streams.

A 9' 6wt is going to be a good rod for light warmwater use. I use mine for bluegill, because you will be throwing some larger flies like poppers and sliders. It's going to be a little too light for bigger bass flies, but smallies will hit larger mayflies and caddis. I use my 9' 6wt for smallies a lot, because I tend to throw sliders like the Clouser Floating Minnow for them. These are not too hard to cast, even in the larger sizes. It might be a little tough to use a 6wt for weighted flies though. And you can use this one for trout on medium and larger streams if you put a fairly long leader on the line.

There really is no rod that is perfect for all situations, and trout vs warmwater is a wide gap to cross. But you don't need a golf bag full of rods either. You'll probably end up with that many, but you don't really need 'em.

\$100 is fairly tight for the budget, but I'll second the recommendations above. As I noted, I am very happy with my bass pro shops 8' 5wt. And Cortland makes some rods that cast beautifully. They may not have hand tooled hardwood reel seats, but I don't think that's a major priority.