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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Tippet size; it's your thing!

Re: Tippet size; it's your thing!

Author: : troutbert

Date: : 2013/4/29 8:02:05

URL:

Quote:

afishinado wrote:

The best tippet diameter to fish is a function of the size and wind resistance of fly, the stiffness of the tippet material, as well as the length of the tippet, the fish, and the stream conditions.

A formula to use as a starting point is fly size / 4 + 1

Examples:

Size 12:  $12 / 4 = 3 + 1 = 4x$

Size 16:  $16 / 4 = 4 + 1 = 5x$

Size 20:  $20 / 4 = 5 + 1 = 6x$

Size 24:  $24 / 4 = 6 + 1 = 7x$

This is a good starting point. Some other things to consider:

For normal streamer fishing, do not go lighter than 3x. Fish hit streamers harder than nymphs and dries. Decent sized brown trout frequently break 4x tippet when streamer fishing. But with 3x they rarely break it.

(An exception to this might be when fishing very small streamers. A friend of mine ties "streamers" on size 12 standard hooks, that look more like wet flies. And on streams where you're sure there are only brookies, no browns, you might use 4x instead of 3x.)

There is a difference between fishing a big open stretch of water, like the upper Delaware, where there is room to let a big fish run, and a smaller stream where there are a lot of tree roots and downed trees, logjams, etc.

On streams with a lot of obstructions, trout will often go hard and fast right towards the nearest obstruction, and break you off in about 2 seconds after being hooked. So, adjust your tippet size accordingly. Even a medium sized trout can make a strong first run. Where there is a lot of "woodwork" adjust towards heavier tippet, so you can turn the fish right away.