Subject: : Tips and Tricks
Topic: : tippet and leader suggestions
Re: tippet and leader suggestions
Author: : afishinado
Date: : 2013/8/24 17:51:55
URL:

I agree, a 9' 5x leader / tippet is a good place to start for trout most times. I've noticed many newer FFers seem to graviate towards using very light tippets for the flies and fish they are catch, I guess thinking the fish will see their line. The above formula is a good starting point to assure your tippet is not too light for the flies you are casting (or at least *trying to* cast).

The rule of thumb for tippet size is fly size / 4 +1

Size 8 fly / 4 = 2 + 1 = 3x

Size 12 fly / 4 = 3 + 1 = 4x

Size 16 fly / 4 = 4 + 1 = 5x

Size 20 fly / 4 = 5 + 1 = 6x

Size 24 fly / 4 = 6 + 1 = 7x

The above formula is good for remembering tippet sizes streamside. For a more detailed explanation here is a chart with some solid guidelines on tippet choices and which to use under different conditions.

From the explanation with the chart in the link:

Most tippet sizes will support three or four fly sizes before they either get too stiff for a lifelike presentation or too thin to straighten a fly. In general, choose the heavier size if the water is dirty or turbulent, choose the finer size if the water is very clear and the fish are spooky. For average conditions choose the middle size.

Above, the size of fish you expect to catch the amount of snags in the in the stream or river is not factored in. For big fish and/or logs or weeds or even fast water nearby, usually choose tippet on the stronger size of the chart.

Also for nymphing, I choose stronger tippet (and flouro) because it is more abrasion resistant when flossing the rocks and is causes less tangles when fishing droppers.

LOL...if your elbow to elbow fishing for steelies, your neighbors also appreciate stronger tippet.

Be prepared to catch fish by using the proper leader / tippet or you'll end up like the floppy hat guy....

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not this.jpg (53.19 KB)