
Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Smallmouth set up

Re: Smallmouth set up

Author: : Sylvaneous

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URL:

I was recommended an 8 wt. And I have one. And I have another fast 8 wt that I have up-lined to a 9 wt. That being said, I also have a fast 6 wt that I bought an extra spool for a 7 wt line. I think a 7 wt. is good for most river smallmouth situations. I think I could get away with one line lower than when I use the 8 wt. That An 8 wt. makes handling and heaving smallmouth flies over 2 inches much easier. Some people use smaller flies for smallmouth. That's fine. I use bigger flies; more matched to what I use with spinning tackle. I don't know that a 7 wt is any more *delicate* than the same line in an 8 wt. There really isn't much delicacy. I really don't think there can be much of a difference in what I'll say is the spook factor between the two.

It also could matter if you are fishing more heavily weighted flies or sink tip lines. You'll want an 8 wt. probably, I mean, depending on the fly you throw. Packing a bunch of lead or beads or cones on a fly with rabbit strips and you'll want the 8 wt. not the 7 wt.

Distance is a consideration. I just will be easier to throw a sz. 2 clouser or conehead bugger or bunny fly a good distance with an 8 wt. If you will not be trying to get deep and fishing moderate sized flies, like 6's, 4's and 2's and not too big poppers, gurglers or sliders, a 7 wt would be good.

Length isn't much of an option. 9 ft. is standard. My smallmouth river is a fairly BIG river, the Middle Allegheny. Cover is subtle and spread-out. I throw larger flies far, so a 9 ft. 8 wt is my standard. Echo rods make a Pat Ehler series that is 8 ft. 4 ". That would be great for a 9 wt flinging junk from my kayak to largemouth. If you don't have to carry or mend much line, they might be a consideration for you. I want a 9 ft.