
Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Getting it to the bottom

Re: Getting it to the bottom

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URL:

I take my cues from better bait/spin guys. A good baiter will run drag freeish drifts on a tight line bouncing bottom and feel bottom through the rod the whole way. It's all by feel, not sight. Many of them even use artificial nymphs to do it, though most of these guys are either tipping those nymphs with maggots or else using millworms, helgramites, and the like. Many also use jigs, to ensure the offering is down there, not just the shot.

High stick/bottom bounce nymphing with a fly rod is essentially trying to do what they do. Having fly line makes drag free more difficult. This is compensated by the fact that less weight makes drag free easier, and us fly guys only need the weight to get down, and not to cast. That gives us an advantage in certain situations.

Many guys even use heavily weighted "anchor" flies in place of some of the shot. It's the equivalent of the jig.

I think the ultimate result is that with a fly rod, you can do it with less drag provided you do it fairly close to you, and the water isn't too deep or fast. These conditions negate the fly line disadvantage while maximizing the advantages of needing less weight. But if you are forced to do it at a distance, the spinning rod would be the better tool but you can get away with a fly rod by using indicators and good line management, or else purposely adding drag (example swinging wets). If the water is very deep or fast, the spinning rod is the better tool but you can get away with a fly rod by using amounts of weight that are typically more associated with a spinning rod. But with only moderate currents and moderate depths and fairly close to you, and we have the superior tool for the job.

So, the point? If you are fishing a deep, fast run, and want to be on bottom, you need to be using an amount of weight typically associated with spinning gear. Either a whole lot of micro shot, or a couple of BB sized. At lesser currents and depths we need less weight than they do, but still approaching that.