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Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Lead

Re: Lead

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URL:

I've tried many of the nymphing methods and at one time or the other use most of them, depending on conditions:

Dry / dropper

Indicator with single or multiple flies

No indy straight upstream (Joe Humphries style)

Czech nymphing

Centerpinning(toid) with an indy and a line of shot

Bouncing the bottom with shot

They all work. I choose each of the above method depending on conditions.

Here are some observations I have with regard to weighted flies and/or adding weight to your tippet or leader:

I find that fishing weighted flies with little or no added weight to the tippet allows a direct connection to the fly by eliminating the slack and hinging effect between the weight and the shot. When experimenting with Czech nymphing, which uses heavily weighted flies, I discovered or rather confirmed this by using weighted flies vs. unweighted flies and shot.

Fishing weighted flies need not be a chuck and dredge operation. As an experiment, I tie regular patterns including small ones with a little weight. When I was able to sight fish with nymphs in low and clear water and watch the fish take, I found even a micro shot above my fly makes the take imperceptible many times. With a lightly weight fly, and no shot, I often was able to see enough movement on my line to know to set the hook. Also I was better able to keep my fly down nearer to the bottom with a weighted fly and no shot. My primary laboratory for wild fish is Valley Creek since I live close by, but I've also gave it a go several times in clear water conditions at the Letort, Spring, Fishing Creek, and the Delaware River. The fish are educated to anglers, they know the game, and spit out a fly very quickly in most cases. I find my strike detection is much better without much if any weight added to the tippet. With the weight on the line, the fish must pull against the shot at the hinge point and many strikes go undetected.

I rely a lot on slack casts and mends to get to the bottom and stay there, but even with weighted flies you may need to fine-tune the weight to get to the bottom. I've found that Tungstun Tacky weight to most useful when a little more weight is needed. You can add or subtract it easily (unlike shot), can make it as light or heavy as you need (unlike shot), and it doesn't seem to hang up as much (unlike shot).

Also, borrowing from a centerpinning rig, I find when added weight is needed, a string of a little weight spaced

~~along the tippet often works far better than a couple of shot pinned a foot or so above a fly. The spreading out of the weight lessens the hinging effect.~~

In extreme depth and current speed, I've also borrowed from my carp / sucker rig from my youth, and the slinky rigs I used to use for steelies. When my flies constantly hang up, a string of shot at the point sometimes works to help you get down without easily snagging. When a fish takes, the fly is ahead of the weight and strikes are felt or seen a lot easier because of this.

The seeming infinite amount of experimenting you can do with flies, rigs, techniques, equipment, etc., is one of the greatest things I like about fly-fishing. Good luck.