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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Smallmouth Rod

Re: Smallmouth Rod

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URL:

Fly Rod choice is broken into parts of importance.

Primary importance being whether the line wt. will cast the flies used to go after a particular gamefish. Murray and Clouse would recommend 8 wts. because they use heavy, wind resistant flies, thus needing a line wt. that will cut the air and propel the fly to the target. Keep in mind if you are fishing smaller rivers or creeks for smallies, your weighted flies are not as heavy. and maybe your wind resistant flies are not excessively so either. So their allegiance to 8wts is founded and will serve you nicely but it may be a overkill for the smaller creeks and rivers. And heavy in the hand too.

Secondary importance is whether the length/flexibility/strength will stand up to the larger of the species you are after. If you have a shot at 20" smallies but catch mostly 12" fish I'd pick a rod that would handle 15" fish easily. Also, consider that river depth flow increases the stress or "pull" on the rod. Remember a 12" smallie in the Susky fights harder, makes stronger runs and runs quicker than a a 18" trout.

So in my eyes you need something over 9' and at minimum line wt. of 6 with a heavy action (tip flex) to throw larger flies. I use a 6 wt 10' with a med action. It is my steelie rod and does a pretty good job on the susky. I also have a 9' 7wt tip flex for windy days and as a back up. (funny thing is it was my first rod for the job but I hated it when I got the ten footer until it got windy and the 10'-6wt wouldn't do it.

Here is the deal...don't buy a rod because you think it will fight the fish nicely. (make them feel bigger) Or not buy one that will do the job of casting because you think it will horse the fish in. So what if when you set the hook on a few 6" bass that they go over your head. When you hook one that is 16" you will be glad you had that 6-7wt. rod.

HTH

Maurice