

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Line wt debate

Re: Line wt debate

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URL:

Tom is right. An unexpected gust occurs and who knows where the line and fly ends up.

The ability to cast a 3 weight in windy conditions is a function of line weight, line speed and loop size. The faster line speed generates more forward momentum and the tighter the loop results in less leading edge surface area of the fly line subject to wind resistance.

Traditional, medium action rods are not designed to generate high line speed while still maintaining a tight loop unless you are a very accomplished caster (think Lefty Kreh-like abilities). These rods are designed for what I consider to be 3 weight territory – short delicate presentations in little to no wind. And for delicate presentations you don't want high line speed and tight loops and the leader turning over completely and slamming the fly to the water – you want a somewhat open loop that allows the fly to gently land on the water with as little line disturbance as possible.

Fast action 3 weight rods can generate the necessary line speed and still maintain a tight loop, which will help cut through the wind. You're not going to make a 50 foot cast into the wind with any 3 weight rod but a fast action 3 weight rod in fairly capable hands can probably cut through 30 feet of headwind. However, it that really what a 3 weight should be used for? Personally I don't think so and think heavier lines are more suited for fishing these conditions.