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Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : Line wt debate

Re: Line wt debate

Author: : gzacckey

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URL:

To answer the original poster's question.

Last year my primary rods were a Cabelas 8.5' 3 wt FT+ and a Z-axis 8.5' 4 wt. Both are considered fast but not ultra fast. They both are equipped with SA Mastery GPX lines. So far this year I've been primarily using my 4 wt since the 3 wt is actually my oldest grandson's rod.

My home streams are the Tully, Manatawny, and Hay Creeks. On these streams the 3 wt was my favorite. Unfortunately, I bought the FT + on closeout and when I went back to buy another FT+ they were all gone. My 4 wt does the job nicely and I'm sure a 5 wt would also get the job done. I like lighter rods for their physical weight, the enhanced enjoyment when fighting fish and ability to apply more pressure to a fish when using lighter tippets. You can accomplish some of these same objectives by using slower action or more expensive rods and other configurations but I prefer lighter rods. I have three 3wt rods of various actions and lengths. The FT + is the fastest, longest and offers the most utility.

Last spring I fished Pine and Lt. Pine creeks. The 3wt worked very nicely on Lt. Pine. However, I used a 5 wt on Pine when the wind kicked up. I would have used a heavier rod if I had one. I'm not very good at casting into the wind so it's easier for me go up in rod weight.

The FT+ has more 20"+ fish than any of my other rods. Mostly because I fished it and both my grandsons used it a lot last year. These fish were taken from the Lt. Schuylkill, Tully, and a private pond.

Someone made comment on what would happen if a musky was hooked up on a 3 wt. That brings up a good point. I believe the 3 wt is best balanced for tippets of 4x and smaller. That way you know your tippet will break long before your rod. So I wouldn't recommend using a 3 wt for steelhead on 2x tippets. The 3 wt will also be less forgiving if you fight large fish by lifting your rod overhead and create a very sharp angle between rod and line. Basically, you're fighting the fish with the tip of the rod rather than the butt and this can result in a snapped rod. You can break a 5 wt the same way but the heavier rod should take more abuse.

At this point in time (I'm constantly updating my views) I feel the three weight rod offers a great combination of enjoyment and utility on the size streams that I normally fish. It's up to you to decide what will work on your waters.

I don't believe there is a best rod that will cover all PA trout fishing but an 8.5' or longer rod in 5/6wt will certainly do almost everything for trout (or bass or Steelhead) in PA it just may not be as much fun and for me fishing is all about the fun factor.

Good luck on your search. And good luck on that whole One Rod Theory. I had just one rod once. I think I was

