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Subject: : Stream Reports

Topic: : Little Lehigh, Lehigh County 6/10/09

Re: Little Lehigh, Lehigh County 6/10/09

Author: : GreenWeenie

Date: : 2009/6/15 14:42:29

URL:

You've got to match tippet size to hook size. Too many people try and cast a #12 Adams on a 7x tippet and all they get is a twisted mess that floats like crap.

A good rule of thumb is hook size divided by 3 equals tippet size (#12 hook / 3 = 4x tippet). However, if using fully hackled flies with large wings go with a heavier and longer tippet because a lighter tippet doesn't have the strength to keep a fully dressed dry fly from spinning and turning your tippet into a tangled and twisted mess. As Pcray and Jayl say, longer tippets will help.

I think the problem is light tippets get used as a crutch rather than working on technique. No one really wants to admit that the reason they aren't having success is because they can't present the fly right – it is much easier to blame lack of success on the damn trout and the fact that the tippet is just too big! (I know, I used to do this and about 5 years ago I stopped carrying anything finer than 6x and my catch rates have drastically increased.) The other factor is there is the romantic image that everyone loves to believe about needing long casts using fine tippets and small flies to catch the largest and most selective trout. You hook into a 14"+ wild trout on anything smaller than 6x and more often than not you'll be lucky if you manage to keep him on for more than 2 seconds let alone actually land him. And if you're using a fast action rod, most fast action rods have trouble protecting a 5x tippet so forget about protecting anything smaller.