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Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Indicator

Re: Indicator

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URL:

There are different ways to use "Indicators." Sometimes they are just used to help with detecting movement of the leader without helping the line to float at all. These may just be a different colored section of leader, a small tube/sleeve that slides over the leader, or maybe a small pinch of indicator putty. The foam types, or yarn, cork, plastic, putty, etc. often are used something like bobbers because, in addition to helping to show movement of the line they somewhat float the line where they are connected.

The answer to your question is, that when using an indicator like in the second situation I described, it should go 1.5 to 2 times the depth of the water up from the fly (if the water's about 2 feet deep, it goes 3 to 4 feet up from the fly). When fishing with them you kind of drift the indicator like you would a dry fly. Try to make them drift well in the current without dragging. But you have to try to be aware of and picture how the nymph is drifting underneath. The current is usually flowing faster at the surface than near the stream bed, so the indicator will move faster. You don't want it to drag the fly. Often you should mend the line so that you start the drift with the indicator upstream of where the nymph is under the water. The trick is to get the fly in the best position without drag when it is at the spot where you know or think the fish is. If there is any movement of the indicator, tighten the line. It doesn't have to be a real noticeable "bobbing" - it may just be a slight twitching, hesitation, or sideways movement. There often may not be a fish on the line, but you should tighten the line whenever you think it moves. The fly should touch the bottom every now and then in order to get it down to the fish, and this will look like a take sometimes too. But if the fly settles or keeps getting hung up on the bottom, you need to remove some weight or move the indicator closer to the fly. I may have made it sound more complicated than it is, but you'll get the hang of it with practice.