

MORE FISH IN THE NET

Tips to improve your success on the water

CHOOSE YOUR LEADER AND TIPPET WISELY

"Fish do not break off - you break them off." Fly fishers across the Southeast should heed these words of wisdom from legendary saltwater angler, and big tarpon guide, Stu Apte.

However, there is no perfect tippet and leader for all situations. Choice depends on technique, type of fly, type of water and angler skill.

Ask yourself the following questions:

- Fluorocarbon or nylon?
- Long or short?
- Thick or thin?

THINGS TO CONSIDER...

- Fluorocarbon is heavier, stronger and stiffer than nylon. That makes it a good choice when you need to get flies down faster. Fluoro's stiffness also transmits strikes more clearly. Nylon is more supple and floats better than fluoro.
- A good rule of thumb is to match the length of your leader to the length of your rod. Longer leaders in the 12 ft range are good for wary fish in clear, slow water. Shorter leaders work well in faster water, or when using heavy flies, and also in windy conditions.
- The X scale indicates how thick a piece of leader or tippet material is. The leader and tippet material that most fly fishers use ranges from 0X (the thickest) to 7X (the thinnest). Thinner tippet allows flies to get down in faster water more quickly and helps dry-fly anglers make more delicate presentations. Thicker tippet helps fly fishers make accurate casts and makes it easier to turn over heavier flies. It is also stronger, which makes it harder for anglers to break fish off.

