

What's the best Fly Rod for Bass fishing?

This question comes up often anytime the subject of fly fishing for Bass is bantered about.

There are plenty of opinions and only you can pick what the best fit is for your style, environment and the size of Bass expected. A good rule of thumb for fly fishing is to match the rod to the size flies being used. Of course, rod actions vary significantly between various manufacturers as well, so the question is not a straightforward one to answer.

For the most part I like a 6-weight rod for smaller streamers, or other offerings and an 8 weight for bigger bugs, top water and so on. Lighter rods can be used, however, just because something can be used doesn't necessarily mean it's a good idea. Do the fish and yourself a favor and go prepared with the ability to land them quickly and release the fish with as little stress as needed to them.

I also like having things that can be useful in different areas. A 6-weight rod can make a nice all-rounder for trout, bass, etc. A good 8 weight rod can be handy on bigger freshwater species like Bass, Stripers, pike and light saltwater species.

Rod actions vary dramatically from model and manufacturer, even the same rods in different weights can flex differently so it's a matter of finding something you like and are comfortable with. Of course, before you know what that is you'll need to be able to cast reliably and have control over your loops.

We recommend trying as many different rods as you can and find what feels good to you. A good rod (and fit for you) is one that casts well throughout the various ranges (close, mid and distance), feels responsive with good feedback and doesn't wear you out. You shouldn't need to overline it or use specialty lines just to get a result from it.

Jon

