

What type of line should I use for Bass fishing?

This question comes up often when it comes to Bass fishing on a fly rod. Your line selection is determined by the depths and water type fished more than anything. Also matching line weight to the rod.

Opinions vary on this quite a bit however I like a sink tip line for most Bass fishing. I can control the depth fished and present an offering in a more natural way.... Horizontally. When fishing subsurface, from three feet to about 10 feet deep I'll choose a sink tip line 90 percent of the time.

Floating lines (WF-F) have their place, especially for top water, or around shallow areas with cover/structure. They cast easier for the most part and are a solid choice if you're limited to one outfit. The issue comes into play when trying to get a bit deeper. When fishing sub surface with a floating line your fly is moving in an unnatural way and that can mean the difference between getting bit, and casting practice. From surface to about 3 feet a floating line works well.

There are many specialty lines available. Heavy weight forward heads and "bass bug" type lines. They also have their place, but I find many clients rely on the line more than controlling their loops to facilitate a good cast. Heavily weighed lines also tend to splash more when cast and can spook fish easily.

Here's a link to a AFTA fly line weight chart for reference. This is only a guideline but gives a starting point to understand line weights as they relate to specific rod weights:

<http://www.sexyloops.com/beginners/lesson2/aftm.shtml>

