

Sam Potter / [TightLine Fly Fishing](#)

Authorized Guide with the National Park Service for the Upper Current River and the National Forest Service for Mill Creek, Spring Creek, Little Piney and the Eleven Point River.

Does line size matter?

A good friend of mine was fishing with his father last week and they were using two different line sizes. One was using 7x fluorocarbon and the other was using 5x. One was using small flies and the other was using flies that were much larger. They both caught fish so does line size matter? It can matter, but most of the time it depends on how you are fishing and where you are fishing. These two were fishing with different methods... I will leave it at that for you to figure it out.

The Curse of the multi-fly hatch

I have seen multi-fly hatches several times and even took some photos of the event. It is a great sight to see when the air is filled with insects and the fish are rising. BUT it can also mean a challenge to the fisherman. Usually, but not always, the fish are rising to just one of these bugs. Ease of catching and amount available would be my guess as to why they choose one over another. I have heard it argued nutritional value is also a factor... but I think not with a brain the size of a pea and no television to teach them the value of nutrition. Taste has also been suggested as a factor, and I would argue with that as well. If there are several insects of one type and they are easy to catch, wouldn't it be more beneficial to survival, less energy spent means a greater return. Why do they sip tiny little Tricos when they could be eating a caddis that is 4 times larger? A spent Trico doesn't fly away or dance on the water, they just lay there. A tiny meal, true, but they are easy and there is little energy spent sipping them. A tiny olive struggling to dry wings and just drifting along as the process develops is also easy. I don't know how many times I have had fishermen tell me that they see caddis flying, but they can't get a trout to rise to their dry fly. Just because caddis are flying doesn't mean they are on the water where the fisherman is seeing them. They could be hatching a mile downstream and not on the water at all where the fisherman is seeing them. The caddis could have hatched the day before and a mile downstream. Fish do prefer one bug over another but, the trick is to find out which one they are preferring at that time. Experiment with

different flies until you find the fly they want. Getting locked in on fishing just one fly can lead to frustration and thinking that these fish are too smart.... mmmmmm, maybe they are secretly wired in and we don't know it yet.

"A Bad Day Fishing Is Still A Great Day"