

Introducing Saltwater Fly Fishing

Agenda

- Meeting between 9.00 and 9.30
Introductions and safety
- Part 1—Species, Times, Tides
 - Part 2—Rods, lines, Reels
 - Refreshments
- Part 3—Leaders, flies, clothing.
- *Next Course P2. Intro to Casting*



SEAi~

Certified group facilitation and adult education.
Certified first Aid 2008.
Dip Business Management.
Rural tourism development

Each course lasts for three hours. The cost of each course is 90.00 euros per person. Travel can be arranged if required.

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Course 1 Introducing Saltwater Fly Fishing South East Angling Ireland



SEAi~ SWFF part one

Lines

Weight-forward means that the bulk of the lines weight is pushed up in to the front 30-feet of the line to give casting weight. Behind this first 30-feet the fly line tapers quickly to a thin running line that can be shot easily. The heavy front of the line is used to work and flex the rod in to its casting arc, and once the line is cast the loose running line is shot through the rings to increase the casting distance.

The "belly" of the line refers to the section between the very front end of the line and the beginning of the taper towards the thin running line rearward of the weight-forward section. A normal long belly section sees the lines weight evenly spread along its length. This creates a smoother casting loop, the line slows down faster, and the touch down of the line as it hits the water is less harsh giving improved presentation. Lines with a short belly and the weight very concentrated are not easy to cast and will "smack" down on the water very hard, which can put shy feeding fish off.

A shooting head has all the weight concentrated in the first 30-feet of the fly line and is used just as a casting weight is used to first load the rod then cast it using that stored power. Then the lines weight 'shoots' and pulls the loose thin backing line with it. The shooting head is useful for extreme range when you need to search the maximum amount of water, but in reality have they have lost some popularity. Most modern weight-forward lines shoot extremely well and medium distance casts are more than enough to locate willing feeding fish.

Leaders

Consider that saltwater flies are big. Usually 2-inches long or more. There are no problems getting the fly to turn over at the end of the cast. Start by attaching a 30-inch butt section of 20lbs to 30lb Rio hard mono line. For estuary fishing and light surf where there is a chance of fish being shy a more supple line gives slightly better presentation. In heavy open sea surf conditions or when you're casting into a head wind, then a stiffer butt section of 30lb of Rio hard mono cuts through the wind slightly better.

There is no need for tapered sectional leaders for normal sea fly fishing. A 5 to 6-foot length of 8lb to 15lb Fluoro carbon knotted direct to the butt section fishes really well and gives perfect turnover of normal sized flies. You can create a tapers (DEMO), these tapered leader cast smaller flies pretty well. You can use the same formula for standard mono-filament line, though Fluoro carbon is more resilient at taking the knocks and abrasion when up against rocks or hard teeth.

I use a special knot to connect the lines together. I've never had one of these fail, but I do draw the knot slowly together and make sure the coils of line are evenly closed. Add some spit, this keeps the knot cool in the initial closure stage and adds basic lubrication. You can then fully pull the knot together as normal. For attaching the fly to the leader use a uni-knot or a normal tucked half-blood knot. Both are very reliable and easy to tie in wet and windy conditions, or when standing waist high in the surf.

Clothing.

Demonstration of the layered system, including breathable waders, boots and jackets.