



**A Sisterhood of Anglers.**

## **Understanding Fly Line**

What's the difference between fly line and regular, monofilament fishing line? When you're fishing regular fishing line on a conventional rod, you're relying on the weight of your lure to cast your line out. By contrast, *when you're fishing with fly line, it's the momentum of the fly line built up during your casting strokes that casts your line and fly out.*

When you begin your research on fly line, you'll quickly find that there are endless options out there so here we will talk about the important items that will best suit you as a newbie so you can disregard the other stuff until you're ready to explore more advanced line options!

### **Fly Line Color:**

During daylight hours, fish can see the shadow of any line color however in clear, calm water it could be the flash of the line above the water that could possibly spook a fish. If possible, try to select a hue that is easy for you to see but that is less likely to spook a waiting fish.

### **Fly Line Density:**

Fly line density just refers to the line either being a floating fly line or a sinking (or sink-tip) fly line. Floating lines are very versatile and *every new trout fly angler should start out with a floating fly line.*

### **Fly Line Taper:**

Fly line taper is simply adjustments in the fly line such as added weight and thickness to the first few yards of the fly line to give the angler better line control and accuracy. While there are a plethora of taper options available on the market today, there are two specific fly line tapers that are most common among North Shore steelhead anglers:

*\*The Weight-Forward Taper (coded as WF on fly line boxes)*

Most of this fly line is the same weight and thickness with the exception of the first ten yards of the fly line which has added weight and thickness. The additional bulk at the front end of a WF line makes casting easier, particularly on windy days, allows for longer casts and helps large flies turn over which is needed for a proper presentation.

*\*The Double Taper (coded as DT on fly line boxes)*

Rather than being uniform throughout, the first fifteen feet of line gradually widens in diameter followed by sixty feet of uniform weight and thickness and then the last fifteen feet gradually returning to the exact same dimensions as the front fifteen feet. An obvious benefit of a DT line is that if one end begins to show wear, you can simply flip it because the ends are exactly the same. In terms of performance, anglers who use DT lines often cite advantages like ease of control and roll casts at long distances.

For the range most trout anglers fish on the North Shore, both tapers will perform virtually the same. It's at the long distances when you're into the belly of your fly line that the differences are noticed. *A WF line is our preference of the two for those who are new to the activity. If you're purchasing a fly rod outfit, a WF line is what's most likely to come pre-spoiled on your reel.*

Now that you know about weight, density and taper of fly line, you'll be able to decipher the codes on fly line boxes. The code will be by taper/weight/density. For example a weight-forward, 7wt. floating fly line will appear as WF-7-F on the box. DT-6-S would indicate a double-taper, 6wt. sinking fly line. So if you've chosen a 6wt rod and want a weight-forward fly line you'll look for WF-6-F.

You'll see a variety of different tapers, weights and densities available but look for line types that we've discussed here. Once you become an established angler and are ready for new techniques and challenges, we can then start exploring the other options but for now, keep it simple!

