

FISHING LINES

MANY DIFFERENT TYPES

Five years ago monofilament was the most popular fishing line, but local bait shops we spoke to recently say they now sell about 80-percent braided line and 20-percent mono.

Mono will catch more fish. Fish apparently don't see it as easily, but braided line is stronger, lighter and therefore you can cast it further, so you don't have to get as close and you don't spook the fish.

Strength for strength, braided line is skinnier than mono. A piece of braided line that will break at 20 pounds is about the same thickness as a piece of mono that will break at 6 pounds.

Problems arise when you take a small lightweight 6-pound-test line rated reel and spool it up with some 20-pound braided line. The skinny braided 20-pound line will fit on the reel and pass around the rollers just fine, but it will break at a much higher test (20-pounds) than the 6-pound reel was designed for, so the reel itself will break before the line.

Monofilament is used for both saltwater and freshwater casting reels. Monofilament is the recommended line for spinning reels. Cheap monofilament lines are stiff. Relaxed lines are slightly more expensive, easier to cast and do not spring or stick out on the reel.

Replace monofilament at least once a year— more frequently if it is subject to intense casting activity or heavy lures on a regular basis. Line can also be weakened by numerous long runs or fights with large fish.

Never discard monofilament into fishing water. It is a threat to both fish and birds as well as being illegal. Most tackle shops and many area fishing piers have receptacles for old fishing line.

Microbraided Line Most people simply call it *braided line*, but it's a very fine woven braid, a micro-braid. The line is made of nylon and kevlar a super strong space age thread used to make bullet proof vests. It is extremely light but because of its composition won't hold its color very long. It turns a milky grey.

Braided dacron is preferred by some offshore fishermen using conventional reels. It is relaxed on the spool and has little stretch so it gives good hook setting response. Dacron is resistive to fatigue and an excellent trolling line.

When casting or fighting a fish, line can come in contact with all types of abrasive elements including barnacles, rocks, docks, logs, and even other fish. Line should be stripped of all abrasions. Some anglers recommend that after a particularly tough fight with a fish, at least 10 feet of line should be cut off and all swivels, snaps, leader, lures or hooks retied.

Joining two lines

Overlap the ends of two lines of similar diameter for about 6". Choose one end and form a Uni-Knot circle, crossing the two lines about midway of the overlapped distance. Tie the Uni-Knot, making six turns around the two lines. Pull the tag end to snug the knot tight around the line. Use the loose end of the overlapped line to tie another Uni-Knot and make it snug.

Pull the two standing lines in opposite directions to slide the knots together. Pull them as tight as possible and snip the ends close to the nearest coil.

Leader to line When tying a leader of no more than four times the test weight of the line, double end the line and overlap with leader for about 6 inches. This may seem awkward at first but the light line must be doubled to gain the strength needed for the knot. Make the Uni-Knot circle with the doubled line. Tie the basic Uni-Knot, making three turns around the two lines and snug the knot. Now tie the Uni-Knot with leader around the doubled line. Again use only three turns. Pull the knots together as tightly as possible and trim the ends and loop.

