

Reviews

Mick Winterton goes shallow water fishing with the new Redfish line from Scientific Anglers.

The season of 2006 saw a new degree of specialised flats fishing emerge in my back yard up here in the Northern Territory. Until recently most people fished almost exclusively with intermediate fly lines and have always had great success. However, we have started to target fish in ultra shallow water where intermediate lines have had a tendency to snag. Everyone knows how exciting shallow water sight fishing can be but finding floating lines capable of handling heat and the larger flies we use has, up until now, been problematic.

I was told about a new floating fly line from Scientific Anglers, the Redfish Taper, and it has turned into one our most exciting breakthroughs of the past season. The Redfish Taper line is named after a popular species found in many tropical areas of the USA. The environment most of these fly fishers pursue these fish in are very similar to our mangrove-lined estuaries of the East and North coasts of Australia. This line has a new, specially designed, super mono-braided core (3M Tropi-core) that reduces coiling and in turn tangling in the running line, reducing one of the great annoyances of fly fishing, the tangled running line. The new AST coating is incorporated into the coating of these lines, which means less casting effort, permanent slickness and better shooting in the cast. Climate and temperature does not affect the line in its suppleness and delivery either.

Adding to the new slick coating is the Advanced Taper for quick loading and presentation. In the past our guiding

company has always recommended that anglers overload their rod weight by one line weight for shorter, quicker casting. With the new Redfish Taper design this is unnecessary because the head taper is designed to load quickly and shoot well while still allowing sneaky presentations in calm water. It is a great choice for loading medium and fast-action rods and for delivering fast, accurate casts. This line is a great all-round performer in any weather however and not just confined to the tropics, as people are using it as far south as Tasmania.

The Redfish taper fly lines are available in floating line weights #6 through #9. RRP \$129.95.



Mark Bantich sits back and enjoys 'The Cast'.

I have always felt that one of the most difficult concepts to write about in fly fishing is fly casting. Many references that attempt this are either far too complicated or assume the reader has some advanced knowledge of the physics and principles of casting. Peter Wilson's book, 'The Cast', bridges that gap. It provides a sound technical understanding of the craft, accompanied by readily understandable images, and doesn't assume any prior knowledge on the part of the reader, providing ample information for both intermediate casters and beginners alike. This ability to understand the

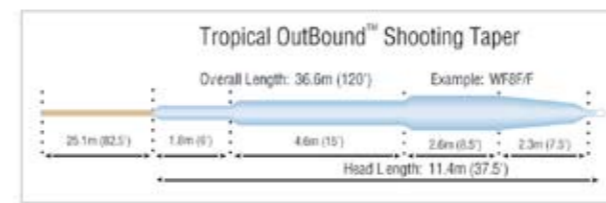
needs of casters is apparent in someone who has achieved casting success at the highest level of competition, with Peter having been an Australian Fly Casting Champion.

While I do disagree with Peter on a few minor issues (such as his thoughts on shooting heads) he is an acknowledged authority on casting and everything he says is backed by experience, both on the water and at competitive casting level. He has clearly tried many casting methods and has outlined the techniques he feels are most appropriate to ensure a consistent casting stroke under all conditions.

This is not just another reference on casting though. To be

Peter Morse considers the New Outbound lines from Rio.

An integrated shooting head system is a fly line that has the head and the running line as a single line; it's a weight forward type line but with a thinner running line for greater distance casting. The Rio Outbound series of fly lines are just that, a very well balanced head and integrated running line system. They come in several versions, one is a cooler water line and the other a tropical rated line. In the cooler water lines they're available as floaters, clear intermediates and sinking lines of several different densities. In the Tropical version they come as floaters and as intermediates and all the Outbounds have Rio's welded loop on the front end.



The big advantages of using heads are speed and distance and these lines deliver these advantages brilliantly. The heads are 38 feet long and the running lines are thin and slick. For those who like to chase pelagics in the south there is no better line for the long casts required, usually in windy conditions, than the type 8 fast sinking Outbound – it is an absolute ripper. For calmer days use the intermediate head,

you'll be thrilled at the distances you can achieve once you master these lines.

The Tropical version is a new release and the Intermediate is a great tropical line. I've used it extensively over the past six months on all sorts of things from permit to barra to spanish mackerel and would happily describe it as one of the new generation of fly lines that have finally closed the gap between fly rod development and fly line development, bringing the potential of the two closer together.

The fifteen foot clear tip makes it ideal for spooky flats situations but the line also sinks fast enough to be very useful in tidal flows where a little more depth is required. The shooting head configuration means instantaneous presentations with minimal false casts and with a good stretch the stiff running line remains very tangle free.

The floating version is a great all round floating line for those who like to fish poppers and surface flies as well as on the flats, but particularly where long casts are the norm. For those who want a sinking line in the tropics the Rio Deep Sea is an excellent choice.

Rio lines are available at all good fly fishing retailers.

able to cast, one needs the correct gear and Peter explains both what is required and why, allowing the reader to understand what the gear is designed to achieve and how it can be adapted to suit the differing conditions we find ourselves fishing in.

Historical chapters on the development of casting and fly rods provide interesting backdrops to the more technical side of things. There is also much to learn in the humorous tales in the chapter titled 'Unique ways to break a fly rod'.

Published by Prowess Publishing and Media, 'The Cast' is available at all good fly fishing retailers. \$49.95.

