

Choosing a Shooting Line

That's Right for You



Properly matched shooting lines to your heads is just part of the equation needed for longer accurate casts, all around better performances with increased hook ups.

By Walt Geryk 2017

Searching for the latest shooting line, RIO has one, but is it better for all situations?

Let's compare the latest Powerflex Max Shooting Line to the very popular ConnectCore Shooting Line.

Tested Swinging Flies for Steelhead 6 to 10 pounds and Trout in the 12" to 21" Range. Shooting Line Lengths; under 25' and up to 60'...reel to head (excluding head to fly)

I find both these shooting lines have unique advantages that can fit specific types of fly fishing.

First, let me say that shooting lines are very important to getting optimum distances with easy casting, which results in better performances that all anglers are searching for. After rigorous testing and comparing these two lines, I conclude that both are worthy of being on my reels, but for different species of and sizes of fish.

The Powerflex Max has a higher buoyancy and slickly comes off the water. With these two properties, easier casting and 10% and 15% added distances are achieved without any loss of accuracy. Now, this sounds great, but there is a definite notice in added line stretch with the Powerflex Max. This stretch results in less hook setting power at distances beyond the 25 feet of the shooting line on the water. When fishing for larger fish (5 plus pounds) at this distance and further, I find there are many more misses, even when there's the feel of a strong pull. *Powerflex Max shooting line also seems to tangle less in comparison to others.*

The ConnectCore, on the other hand, with its low stretch property has much higher hook setting capabilities. Tested on steelhead, I had a higher rate of solid hook ups, 8 out of 10. Compared to the Powerflex Max of 4 out of 10. *These comparisons were made with 30' to 60' shooting line lengths, reel to head.*

Now for most of you trout anglers, you may find that the line stretch may not to affect your hook ups at all. With smaller fish and if needed to go long, I usually find that the drag of the line in and on the water with a subtlety motioned hook set is always more than enough to get locked up.

My conclusion is that with the higher floatability which allows for easier pick up off the water when shooting the line. The RIO Powerflex Max is a good choice for the trouter looking for added distances.

I like the Powerflex shooting line on my trout and shad set ups.

I prefer the ConnectCore for all larger species such as Atlantic salmon, steelhead and stripers. It all has to do with the least amount of stretch occurring with longer casts.

And I Like More Hook Ups! The ConnectCore and The Powerflex Max each offer 4 diameters. There's one that will fit your needs.

Keeping all fly, spey and shooting lines clean and well-dressed will add performance, extend line life, makes casting easier and allows for optimum distances. I recommend Endura, the #1 Fly Line Dressing.



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