

# Fishing the Bung



The whole idea of the bung is to detect those very subtle takes that would never be felt or otherwise noticed. To this end I have always made every effort to keep things as tight and straight as possible.

I only fish a maximum of 6 inches of leader from the fly line to my bung. I then tie my leader from the bend of the bung hook, New Zealand style, so as not to have any potential for slack line. My spacings for the flies will depend on the water I am fishing over but as a rule, droppers at 3', 6' and point at 10'. Droppers are kept short but will start at about 6 inches to allow for a couple of fly changes.

If you know you are fishing over deeper water or that fish are holding deeper you can fish to a maximum point depth of around 14', but as your bung will foul in the top rod ring when playing a fish, any longer than this and you will be unable to land your fish.

Fly size will depend on conditions but as a rule a heavyweight grub on point to anchor it down and to get the other flies down quicker, then a size 10 in the middle and a 12 on top. Obviously if you have a pattern that is really working then I will put three of it on. I generally fish Black early season then Olive as water warms up.

Cast out and make sure that your flies have turned over and are lying straight, if so leave everything alone. If you need to, give the line a couple of pulls to ensure it is straight.

Common mistake with the method is people expect the bung to sail under, in my experience this very rarely happens. I watch the bung for any adverse movement, sometimes it is just that it is swinging around on the breeze and it stops and holds its position in the wave for a second, that is a fish. I give a short foot long draw and if it tightens up then happy days. If not then you have not pulled your flies out of the feeding zone and the short draw can often induce a take from a fish that has been paying attention to your flies.

If you get into the habit of reacting to any unnatural movement of the bung you will be amazed how often there is a fish on the end.

*Mark Mathieson*