

CHAFFING GEAR ON FLY FISHING TIPPETS?

Can I use a small free-sliding straw over my light tippet material to protect it from abrasion when fly fishing for world records?



Question: *I enjoy the challenge of targeting large fish on light tippet, but constantly run into the issue of my tippet becoming chaffed by part of the fish. I use a shock tippet that is within IGFA specifications, but it is not long enough to protect my class tippet from the body or tail of the fish. I've found that by placing a free sliding drinking straw over my class tippet, I can prevent my tippet from becoming chaffed, and have been landing more fish. Because the straw is not impacting the breaking strength of the tippet, is this an IGFA legal method?*

Answer: When fishing with light tackle, drag pressure, line diameter, and chaffing are all aspects that make this type of fishing so challenging. Chaffing is one of the biggest issues that light tackle anglers encounter when targeting larger species of fish, on both fly and conventional tackle. Increasing the diameter of the line or tippet by using a protective straw (or other device) negates the risk of chaffing and therefore gives the angler an unfair advantage over the fish. Therefore, IGFA rules prevent anglers from using any sort of chaffing guard over their class tippet, mainline or backing.

REEL PROBLEMS WHILE PURSUING A WORLD RECORD

If my drag knob falls off during the fight is it IGFA legal when the mate picks up the part and hands it to me?



Question: *While recently fighting a potential world record fish, my reel basically fell apart while I was trying to adjust the drag. Because we were using such light drag, the adjustment knob was barely on the thread, and in the middle of the fight, it popped off and the working parts of my drag fell onto the cockpit floor. The crew quickly recovered the different pieces and proceeded to hand me the pieces, in correct order, until I had completely reassembled the reel and secured the drag knob with no one ever touching the rod and reel, except for me. I eventually landed the fish and am curious as to whether this catch would be IGFA legal?*

Answer: First of all, congratulations on a great catch, especially with everything being considered. The situation you described would be completely IGFA legal. Even though multiple people touched the internal components of the reel when they fell off, none of them did so while it was attached to the reel and you were fighting the fish. In this case, the angler fought the fish and also reassembled the reel completely on their own without anyone touching the rod, reel or line while fighting the fish. In essence, this is no different than the crew assisting the angler into a harness or fighting belt, which are both legal when done properly. Congratulations again on a fine catch and some great team work in the cockpit!

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