

Float Selection

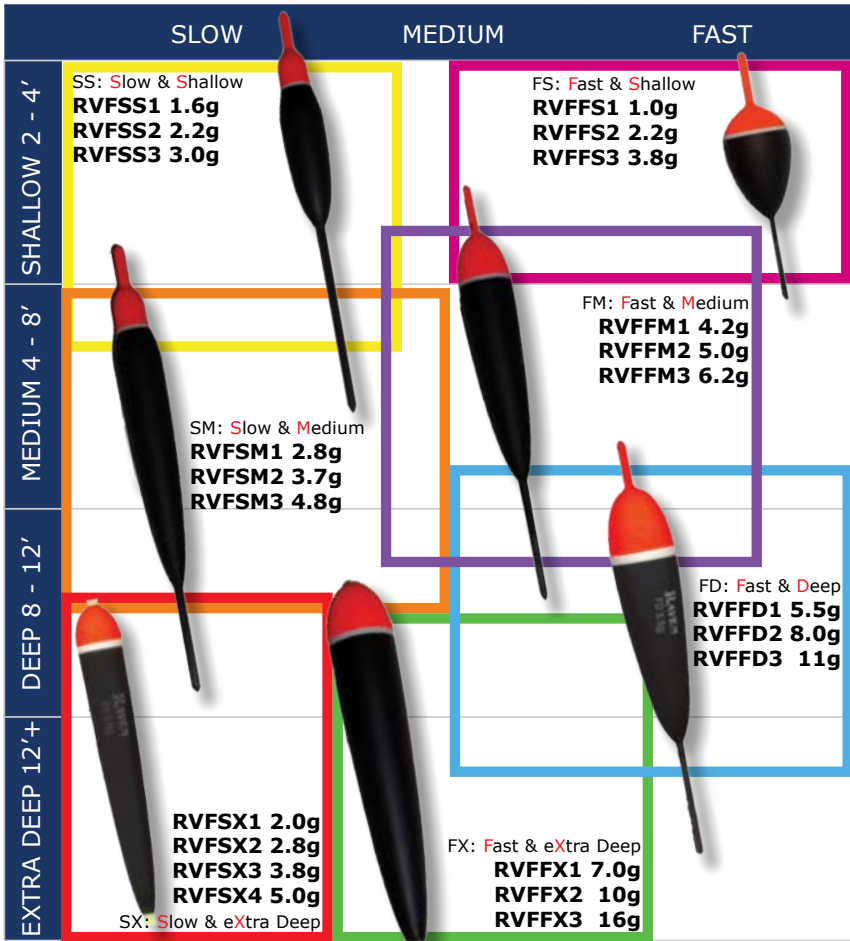
For any type of river fishing it is vital to select a float that can be rigged “top and bottom” with silicone sleeves (float caps) or rigged through the centre (slip float). These types of floats will keep the line above the water, allowing the float to be checked or held-back without pulling under. Floats that are rigged “bottom only” are useless for all but the slowest river conditions, as they pull under whenever the float is checked.

Next, select a float with the right diameter and carrying capacity for the water conditions. The larger the diameter, the more buoyant and stable the float will be in the current. The greater the carrying capacity (marked in grams), the farther you can cast, the deeper you can fish and the better the float will track as it trots down river.

However, a larger diameter float offers more resistance to a striking fish. The amount of resistance that a fish feels is a combination of two factors. The first is the force required to pull the tip of the float under water. The second is the total weight of the rig.

For example, let’s compare the *Raven*[®] FS 3.8g float (*model: RVFFS3*) to the *Raven*[®] SM 3.7g float (*model: RVFSM2*). Both floats have nearly the same carrying capacity and total weight, so they cast and fish about the same. However, the FS float is more stable in current due to its larger diameter tip, while the more slender SM float offers significantly less resistance to a striking fish.

The trick is to choose a float that is large enough to get the bait where you need it and sensitive enough to show every strike (before the fish drops the bait). If your float pulls under too often in the current or won’t track straight, change to a larger or thicker float. If the fish are hitting lightly and dropping the bait quickly, switch to a smaller or more slender float. Remember, for maximum sensitivity, always shoot your float so that only the coloured tip sits above the water line. The following chart shows which float to use in what situation.



KEY TO SUCCESS:

Carry a range of floats that use the same size float caps. This allows a quick change from one size of float to another, without cutting the line and re-rigging. Add a third float cap to the bottom of the float to hold the float firmly. It also acts as insurance in case one of the other float caps breaks off. Running the float caps just past the ends of the float will help reduce tangle-ups when casting.

