

50 YEARS
lonely planet
OF TRAVEL

New Zealand

(Aotearoa)

Travel guide to

Spey rods

Local secrets
Best planning
advice
100%
researched
& updated

Like a tv series no definitive outcome!

What I knew

Bush, fish, snakes, smell of eucalypt, currawongs, parrots lyrebirds, weather





What I didn't know

Local hood wtf

No gummies

Spey learning curve

- My previous rods (made in OZ) don't really work
- Flying solo
- No comparisons to other bamboo spey rods
- Casting
- Line type/application
- River local knowledge
- Quicksand
- Fish habitat, locations, food, weather, local pests etc....
- Internet *Americanism's*

Skagit Lines

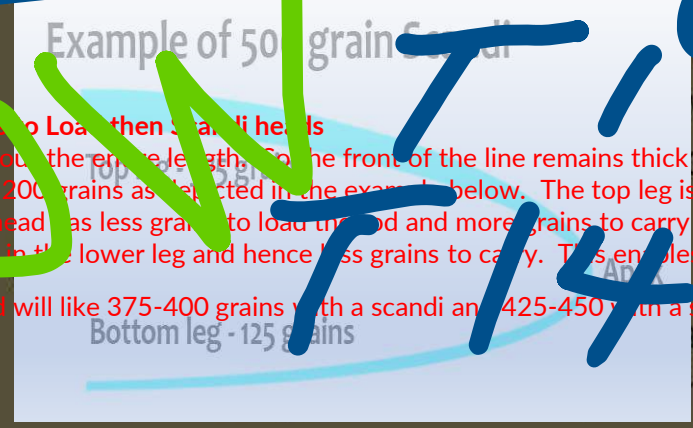
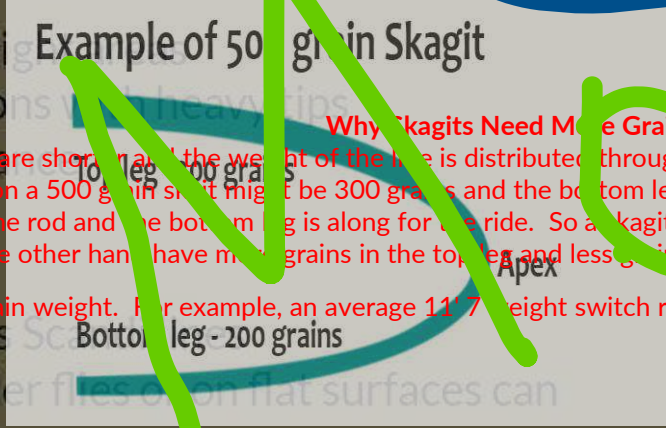
Scandi Lines

Originally developed on the West Coast of the US, skagit lines were designed for fishing with heavy sink tips. The large diameter of the front of the line helps to turn over heavy, wind resistant patterns that are often difficult to cast with conventional fly lines. Due to their shortness they are also great for stripping earner type patterns. Now these lines are often used for many other kinds of fish where large flies are cast, such as musky, saltwater, bass, trout, etc.

Scandi lines on the other hand have more grains in the top leg and less grains in the lower leg and hence less grains to carry. This enables Scandi lines to load with a lighter amount of grain weight.

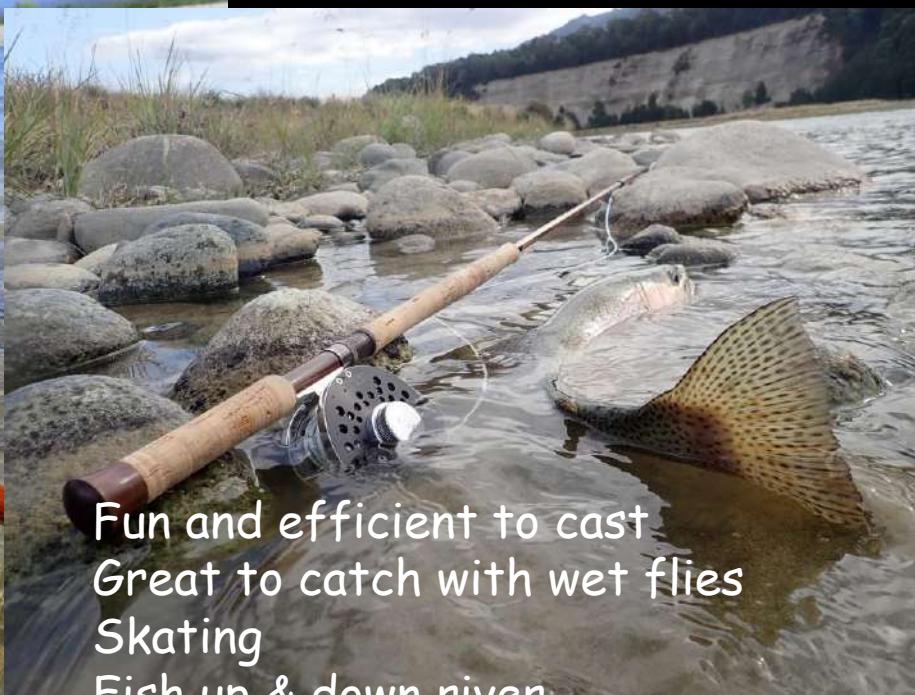
Traditionally Spey casting uses touch-and-gone waterborne anchors. Skagit casting uses only waterborne sustained anchors meaning the sink tip and fly is allowed to sink beneath the surface of the water for a couple of seconds prior to the formation of the back cast D-loop and forward stroke.

Scandi heads are longer than Skagit heads, typically 30 to 40 feet in length. This overall length lends itself well to distance casts and touch-and-gone style casting (single spey, snake roll, etc). Where scandi heads do poorly (compared to Skagit) are in wind or with heavy flies/tips.



Why Skagits Need More Grains to Load than Scandi heads
This is because skagit lines are shorter and the weight of the line is distributed throughout the entire length. So the front of the line remains thick and heavy. The top of the top leg or the "top leg" on a 500 grain skagit might be 300 grains and the bottom leg 200 grains as depicted in the example below. The top leg is what does the majority of the loading of the rod and the bottom leg is along for the ride. So a skagit head has less grain to load the rod and more grains to carry through the delivery. Scandi lines on the other hand have more grains in the top leg and less grains in the lower leg and hence less grains to carry. This enables Scandi lines to load with a lighter amount of grain weight. For example, an average 11' 7" weight switch rod will like 375-400 grains with a scandi and 425-450 with a skagit.

SNAP
DRIFT
LAUNCH
BOUNT
TIPS
SIPS



Fun and efficient to cast
Great to catch with wet flies
Skating
Fish up & down river
Cast to opposite bank
Cast over runs
Easier to retrieve bigger fish no net



NYMPHING eeeek V's wet fly (:

Why spey rods?

SPEY Composite v's bamboo

Composite

- Cast easier @ the moment!!!!
- Lighter
- Cheaper
- More knowledge by others/shops
- Numb!!!!!!!

- Easley broken!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Bamboo

✓ delicate

(to - retrieve, -casting tbc)

- ✓ Heavier
- ✓ Doesn't break at the wrong time
- Structural limitations
- Not as many spey rod makers



Spey rod things



I know

- Longer/ wind loading
- Longer apparently easier to cast but heavier
- 450 grain throws intruder fly+ T11
- 420 grain on existing rod casts for scandi
- Existing rods struggle with 420gr +T8 particularly in wind and heavy'ish fly

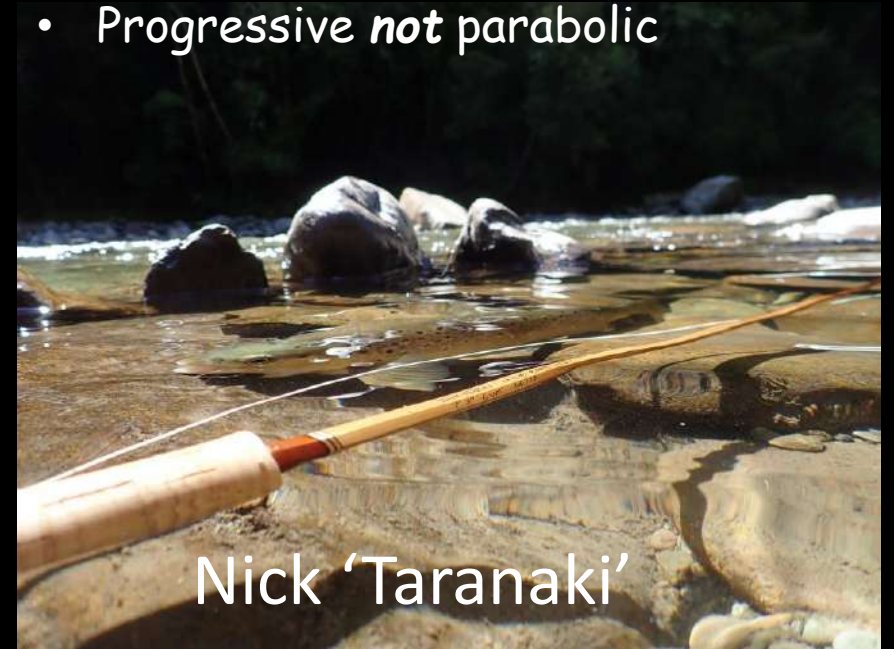
I don't know

- What ratio of length to taper can a bamboo rod be before compromising casting capabilities and fly size?
- How short works?
- How heavier grain weight can bamboo realistically cast?



Design brief

- Skagit & scandi
- Wind loading
- Intruder flies/similar
- Planing form limitations
- Stronger in butt and mid sections
- Progressive *not* parabolic



Nick 'Taranaki'



Proposed

- A summation of my existing rods, taking the dimensions & 'feeling' that seem to work and applying!
- Advice from Bob Clay
 - longer better to cast acts like a spring
 - 11' preferred rod length
 - Skagit heads better for bigger flies
 - 12' rods big rivers but not often (heavy)
- Other makers (USA) web sites

Solution for this rod

- 10'6" wind loading and physical weight, worried if too long same issue of weakness as other rods, **JUST** don't know bamboo capabilities yet!
- 2 butts !!!!!!! for comparison
 - Scandi lighter 'parabolic' for length ratio
 - Skagit 'swollen' progressive more power
- 3 sections

10'6" 420 grain beautiful balance fun to play with

- Skates flies
- Powerful scandi
- Deep bending
- YUUUUUUUUUUUM!
- Needs new scandi line for better lighter presentation





10'6" 480 grain

- Happy'ish!!!!
- Strong and confident
- *A little* difficult to cast (may be me) deep bends to show real character!!!!!!!!!!!!
- Better tip/mid section strength for line placement better feel noticeable to 420 gr.
- Casts a great distance 60ish+ feet
- Casts with T8 easily actually the heavier better so far

DEVELOPMENT season '2' tba.

- I now have a better idea of bamboo limitations/capabilities
- Make 11' by new longer mid/tip sections use existing butts before starting new rod! TESTING LENGTH v's THICKNESS & casting capabilities
- Make longer sections before splicing find extremes/failing points
- Resolve hinging/sweet spots in taper
- 4 piece rod for hiking
- Hex rod for altering 10'6" to 11'0" to 12' etc.....(out of interest)

• **IDEALLY** next rod will be both
Skagit/Scandi

- **Salmon is the real target!** Bigger casting distance, stronger rod?

Local hood on a great day



Big thanks Nick

and all involved to create Kiwi Cane

Looking forward to a little company on the river