

From the Fisher's Mouth

1st March 2010

This week I will take a slightly more staid tack and talk about one thing that is often overlooked in fishing, but is the most important part of your fishing system – knots.

The introduction of braided lines into mainstream fishing created the need for boffins around the world to come up with variations on tried and true knots that tie well and have high knot strength.

Braid is a tricky customer in that it has very fine diameter and when under strain cuts like a knife. One of the main questions I get asked is how to join a braided main line to a monofilament leader (for the non-fisherpeople we do this as braid is not as abrasion resistant as monofilament).



Typically I use an 'Albright knot' which is quick and simple but is only about 60% of the original line breaking strain. By creating a short length of double line in the braid and using the same 'Albright knot' you increase this knot strength to around 80%, however depending on what knot you used to create the double is where you may have a weakness. A

better knot still for double line to leader is the 'fusion' knot.

The 'Bimini twist' is the premium knot for doubling braid and with as close to 100% breaking strain it is worth the time and effort to master at home before you try on the water. A quick and easy line doubling knot is the 'spider hitch' which breaks at around 60-70%, however this can be improved with the addition of a 'nail knot' in front of the tag which increases knot strength to over 90%.

Now you have your leader, next is to tie on your lure or a hook. My standard knot for hooks and spinnerbaits is a 'blood knot'. It's quick, simple and has knot strength around 90%. For hard body lures, I use a 'loop knot' which allows the lures freedom of movement and eliminates the need to use a snap or a swivel (snaps and swivels are prone to failure and will let you down at a crucial time).

As with any knot, they all need to be very well lubricated with saliva to make sure that friction doesn't ruin your knot from the start.

There are plenty of websites with animations on how to tie the knots discussed above, however if you want a practical demonstration for a group, fishing club or yourself, email Dave Carter at dave@riverinasportfishing.com to organise an afternoon or evening training session. Dave is the knot guru with all manner of twists and turns to teach the fishing fraternity.