

Don't "High Stick" Those High Modulus Carbon Rods

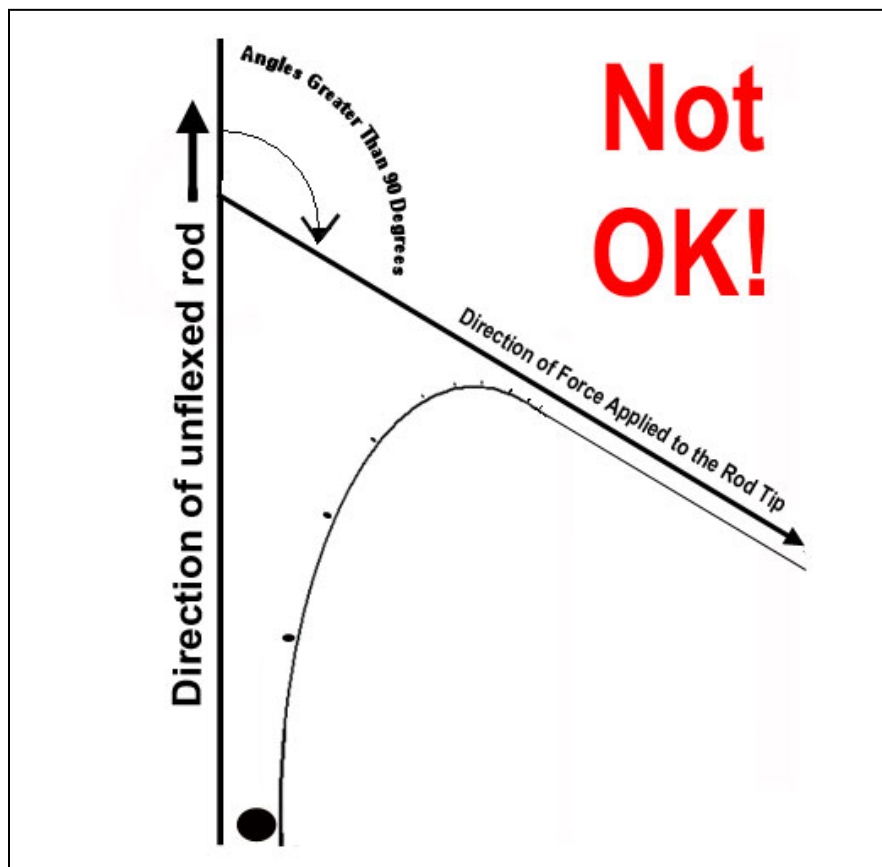
All fishing rods are not created equal. Rods made from a mixture of composite fibers such as E-Glass and Kevlar and combined with Graphite, can almost be bent to the point where they can be tied into a knot. While these rods are almost indestructible, they lack the capacity to cast maximum long distances and have very poor bite detection.

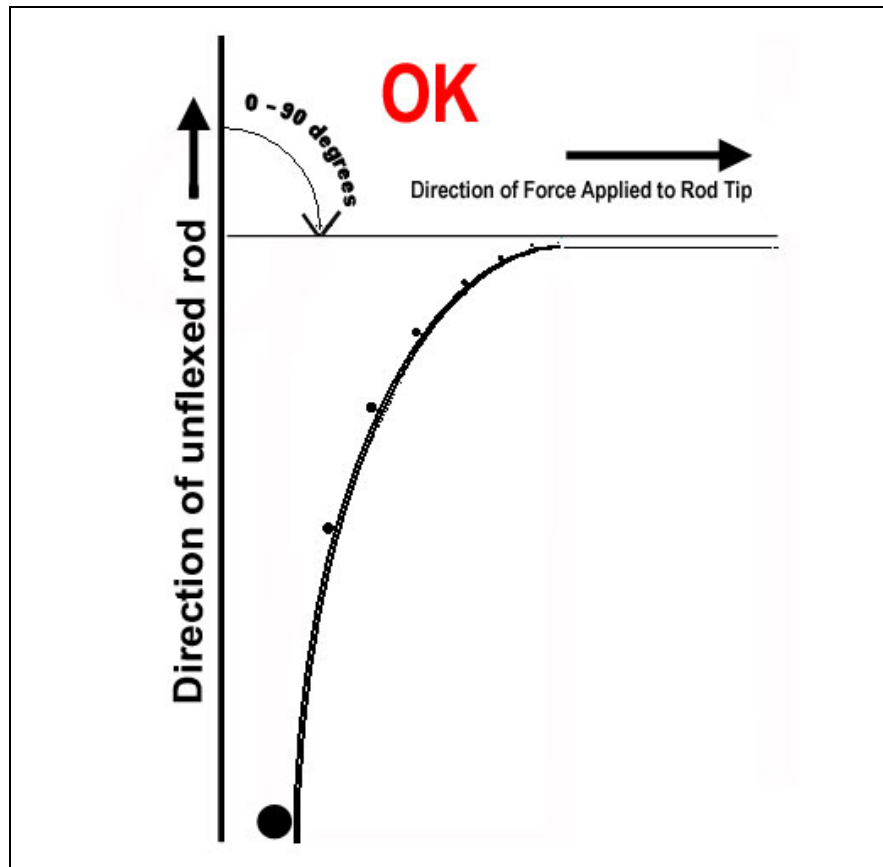
This is not the case with High Modulus Carbon rods. While they can offer maximum casting distances and ultimate sensitivity for the fisher, there are limitations in amount of bend that can be applied to these rods.

High Modulus Carbon rods will not withstand very much of this practice that is commonly called "High Sticking".

WHAT IS "HIGH STICKING"?

"High Sticking" a fishing rod is when you pull back on the rod so far that the rod forms more than a 90 degree angle to the line.





A little about graphite; for our purpose of discussion, graphite is rated by "Modulus of Elasticity," This refers to the relationship between stress and strain. It usually defines the stiffness to weight ratio of the fibers used to construct the rod blank. Generally speaking, the higher the modulus of the fiber used to make the blank, the lighter the resulting blank can be for any given stiffness. A graphite fiber called IM6 pretty much revolutionized the industry. With IM6, you had a high modulus, high strain rate graphite that made it possible to produce a lighter, more sensitive long casting surf rod.

The modulus of graphite used in rods keeps getting higher and higher, making for more sensitive, lighter and more efficient surf rods that have the capacity to make longer and longer cast. But with this comes a trade off.

There is no doubt that the higher the modulus of a carbon rod , the easier it is to break the rod and the less (angler) abuse that it can withstand. Unlike fiberglass and other mixed composite rods, the

thin walls of high modulus carbon rods just cannot stand up to any handling that may apply pressure to the tip of the rod at an angle of much greater than 90 degrees with the rest of the rod.

For example, take a common plastic soda straw - it is a hollow cylinder similar to a fishing rod blank. Slowly bend it while watching. There is an angle of bend where the cylinder will start to take an oval shape. At a certain point, failure will occur - it will fail by compression of the bottom of the cylinder - with a straw, notice how the thing will instantaneously crimp and collapse when its limit is reached.

This same principle applies to **ALL** High Modulus Carbon rods!

Even if the carbon rod does not break while it is being “High Sticked”, it is very possible and highly probable that you are creating areas of stress fatigue in the rod blank that over time may lead to rod failure during normal rod usage such as a cast.

TIPS FOR SURF FISHING CARBON RODS

- When fighting a fish, keep your rod no higher than 75 to 60 degrees with the water. Never have your rod straight up and down while fighting a fish, especially a big fish.
- Maintain correct drag settings
- Use a proper shock leader
- When landing a fish, you should lower your rod as the fish nears the beach.
- When beaching a fish, your rod should be completely lowered when your shock leader has wound around the reel spool so the fish can be dragged up on to the beach using the shock leader and not your rod tip
- Never drag a fish on to the beach using the rod tip

Avoiding “High Sticking” your High Modulus Carbon rod will help insure you many years of fishing pleasure with the rod.