

## Product Review: FINS Braid



Over the last several years we (Braxton and I) have used several brands of braided fishing line, most did not impress us. They were either too stiff, didn't handle well on baitcasters or did not perform well in windy conditions on spinning gear. This off season we had the opportunity to join the FINS Fishing pro staff. FINS is a braided line company that markets themselves as making "situational Braided lines". They make four basic braids, "Original PRT", "Windtamer", "XS" and "Shock Absorbing". They also make "PRT IGFA" and "Hollow Core". In the past I had used FINS "PRT, which is a 4 strand spectra fiber line, and I liked it but for whatever reason never tried any of their other products. Since signing with FINS we have used most of these lines in a wide variety of situations and I can honestly say FINS is the best braid on the market. They realize that no one line can do everything well. Being a tournament redfish angler I use braid on both baitcasters and spinning reels. On my baitcasters I need a strong, durable line that still casts well while having a certain forgiveness factor while using plugs. For this I use the "Shock Absorbing" braid, usually in 30-50lb. While this may seem like overkill for 7lb redfish, 50lb "Shock Absorbing" braid has the diameter of 14lb mono. The extra strength allows me to quickly defeat an upper slot redfish and get it in the boat quickly and still is small enough to cast well without digging into itself on baitcasting reels. The "Shock Absorbing" braid also stretches up to 10% which allows me to use it in situations, like plug fishing, where previously I had to use monofilament. It gives me that forgiveness factor of being able to stretch a little instead of pulling the treble hooks out of the fish's mouth. On my spinning gear I need a small diameter, light line that can still cast a light lure a mile directly into the wind without worry of wind knots. For this I use "XS" in 15lb. "XS" or "extra smooth" is an eight strand spectra braid that is rounder and smoother than other braids. 15lb FINS "XS" has about the same diameter of 6lb mono, while still having the strength to wrestle a big redfish from under the mangroves without fear of breaking off. In extremely windy situations I switch to FINS "Windtamer" which is woven a little tighter and cuts through the wind with ease without fear of wind knots, tip wrapping or backlashes. I have found a company that makes a braid for every situation I can think of. To try FINS out for yourself visit [www.finsfishing.com](http://www.finsfishing.com) or pick some up at your local Dicks Sporting Goods.



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