



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT Rebbekkajr.zenfold.com

WATFAA FRESHWATER AUTUMN EDITION 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

I Hope you all enjoyed the festive season and now like myself are waiting for the weather to cool down a bit, so we get some serious fishing in. Many members, however, braved the heat and participated in the Marron season and although the season is short many had great success. A report and pictures are in this edition.

I would like to remind members that the Perch Bash is again being held over the Easter long weekend. For anyone who has not participated in the Bash I believe you are missing out. During the day we fish for Redfin using soft plastics and lures, but early mornings and late evening for those who are keen, we fly fish for trout. This has proved to be an ideal combination in the past. To save any confusion I will take the bookings for this event and pass your information onto John Goulding for invoicing. **The cottage will be open for booking from 4pm Wednesday 14th March 2018 Email me on stewie54@live.com.au or ring 0418942899**

After several members remarked on the amount of time David G spends in the garden at the cottage. It was proposed and unanimously supported by council that the garden bank at the cottage will be known as the **DAVID GELLATLY NATIVE GARDEN**. This is in acknowledgement of the many hours of work and the endeavor David has put into this garden. John McConigley has kindly offered to carve a sign that will be erected on the Winter Wash weekend in June.

I would also like to remind members to be extra vigilant at this time of year and be bushfire aware, if you intend to go off the beaten track let someone know.

It is nice to see we have had several new members this season. I hope that the new members will be able to attend some of the annual club competitions and possibly some if not all the activities evenings that are listed in the calendar in each freshwater. Remember the quickest way to find out where the good fishing areas are, is to participate within the club.

Our dam owners have all received a Christmas hamper complimented with a couple of bottles of wine. The club has done this for several years now and is a token of our appreciation for their continued support in allowing us access to fish and stock dams on their property.

I would like to thank Dan Ivanoff for his presentation on dry fly fishing, (February meeting). Dan always gives an informative talk which is backed up by research as well as personal trial and error. Again, Dan had members absorbed in this topic, with many participating as they enthusiastically asked questions during the evening. Dan did mention that he felt that there are five dry flies he would always have with him when he has the opportunity to fish the South West, they were:

Red Tag Wee Creek Hopper Elk Hair Caddis Parachute Adams Stimulator

A reminder to club members that the April activities evening will be an **Auction** so if you intend to buy or sell, now is the time to start preparing for this event.

Thank you for your support

Stewart(Taffy) King

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Calendar of events

January	8/1/2018 to 5/2/2018	Marron season
February activities	8/2/2018	Dan (Fly world)
March activities	8/3/2018	Fly Casting Competition
Perch Bash	30/3/2018 to 2/4/2018	Easter Long Week End
April activities	12/4/2018	Tackle Auction
May activities	10/5/2018	Graeme Hird – Line mending techniques
May Fly's	30/4/2018 to 4/5/2018	
June activities	14/6/2018	Recfishwest - Andrew Rowlands
Winter Wash	2/6/2018 to 4/6/2018	
July activities	12/7/2018	Fly Tying – Streamer Patterns and wets
August activities	9/8/2018	Quiz Night
September activities	11/9/2018	Video night – Anatomy of a trout stream
Fish A Fest	22/9/2018 to 24/9/2018	
October activities	11/10/2018	Tackle Auction
November activities	8/11/2018	Dan (fly world) Fly Tying – Dry Flies, Nymphs and Buzzers
November Nymphs	22/10/2018 to 26/10/2018	
December activities	11/12/2018	Christmas wind up

This is a guide, activities nights' programing can be subject to change

Marron Season 2018

The Marron season got off to a great start. Although the season is short, many members look forward to this time of the year and are keen to participate. If you are willing to put the hard yards in, you can still find some very fine specimens of this native freshwater crustacean. Peter McAppion proved this with a trip to some favored spots on the Warren, easily catching his bag limit, with these monsters amongst them. On the second day, Brian Ward joined up with Pete, going to the lower part of the Warren and within two hours both had their bag limits of good size Marron.



Pete and his monster marron



Shawn Saunders was also successful in his hunt for these magnificent crayfish, this time near Donnybrook, easily bagging his daily limit, again with some nice specimens amongst them.



Bryan Ferrara also went to Pemberton for the opening few days and the last weekend of the Marron season and experienced the highs and lows during his trip. He reported that there were people absolutely everywhere and many had set up occupation well ahead of the opening of the season, some even blocking access to well-known spots!

He got stung by four bull ants, stripped off in the bush to get them off and to check for any more, bumped his head, ...no hair so it hurts more, fell over and landed on his thumb! A comedy of errors but managed to get some nice marron from several spots on the Warren. Although it was hard work along some of the steep banks.

He didn't get his quota on either of his trips 14 and 11 respectively, but friends and family from Perth were happy with what they got.

Marron Management

(Acknowledgement – WA Fisheries Dept.)

The main objectives for managing the marron fishery are to:

- preserve a sustainable recreational wild marron fishery;
- support the production of high-quality marron by the aquaculture industry and
- maintain research programs for selective breeding and conservation genetics.

Marron are endemic to Western Australia. Due to environmental and fishing pressures, commercial wild harvest of marron was banned in the 1950s and the wild fishery became wholly recreational. However, ongoing changes to natural marron habitat, such as declining water quality and quantity, meant even greater levels of protection were needed to keep the fishery sustainable. Over time this has involved reducing the recreational fishing 'effort' (the amount of fishing) for marron.

In 1987, after marron catches collapsed due to overfishing and drought, the fishery was closed for two years then reopened with much stricter fishing rules.

Fisheries manage recreational marron fishing through seasonal and area closures; size, bag and possession limits; and restrictions on the type of fishing gear used. In addition, recreational fishers require a licence to take marron.

In 2004 the season was shortened to only 16 days but it has now been extended to one month.



- Marron are the largest freshwater crayfish in Western Australia – and the third largest in the world.
- They are endemic to south-west WA and fishing for them has long been a WA tradition.
- A marron has a head and thorax protected by a hard shell called a carapace, and a muscular abdomen and tail.
- Marron belong to the genus *Cherax* within the *Parastacidae* family. They are decapod crustaceans, which means they have 10 legs. These include large claws for grasping food, fighting and moving. The next pair of legs consists of two small pincers for picking up food particles and stuffing them in their mouths.
- Marron have two eyes on the end of eyestalks but also rely heavily on touch and taste, using one pair of large antennae and smaller antennules. They are most active just after sunset.
- Marron can grow to more than 380 mm in total length. They range in colour from jet-black to brown or even striped, red and cobalt-blue, a rare natural version now farmed for aquariums.

Distribution and habitat

Marron are endemic between Harvey and Albany. Over the past century, marron were stocked into farm dams and waterways from Hutt River north of Geraldton inland to the WA Goldfields and east to Esperance on the south coast. They have also been stocked into commercial aquaculture farms in South Australia.

Marron don't thrive in water with high salinity, low oxygen or high temperatures. They prefer to live in parts of rivers and dams where there is permanent water and plenty of suitable habitat and food, such as rivers and dams containing fallen trees and submerged leaves.

Destruction of riverbank vegetation, increasing salinity, climate change and reduced river flow are affecting all of south-west WA's freshwater systems.

In response to these environmental pressures, marron have reduced their range within rivers. The healthiest populations are generally found in rivers that are still largely in their natural state, with well-forested catchments and plenty of vegetation on the banks.

Types of marron

Two types are found in WA: hairy marron (*Cherax tenuimanus*) and smooth marron (*Cherax cainii*).

Smooth marron are found in most south-west rivers and dams. They are what most marroners have seen and captured and are the farmed aquaculture species.

Hairy marron are listed as critically endangered and only found in the upper reaches of Margaret River. (The head and sometimes tail (of larger marron) are covered in short hairs.)

Lifecycle

Juvenile marron are rarely seen. They hide under rocks and in forest litter on the river or dam bed. The speckled colouring that camouflages them changes as they grow older.

Marron grow mostly in summer, when water temperature is warmest. They grow by moulting (shedding their shell, exposing a larger shell, which had been forming underneath). During the short time the new shell takes to harden, marron are especially vulnerable to attack. In winter, with cooler water temperatures, marron are less active and their growth rate slows.

They reach sexual maturity at two to three years of age. They spawn in early spring when water temperatures start to rise and in favourable seasons will produce more eggs (usually between 200 and 400, but large females may produce up to 800). The eggs take nearly half a year to develop inside the females. During mating, the males pass on a sperm packet that the females use to fertilise their eggs after laying.

Once the eggs are fertilised, the females carry them in a large mass under the tail until they hatch in late spring. The hatched larvae then hang under the mother's tail, clinging to fine hairs. They stay there for many weeks, feeding on nutrients from the yolk sac and moulting several times.

By summer, these tiny juveniles are ready to actively feed. They drop away from their mother and remain in waterways close to where they were hatched.

FLY LINES

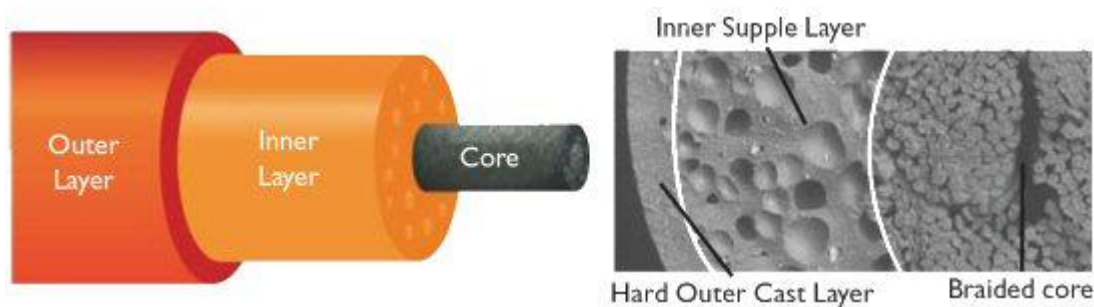
Terminology and problems

(Acknowledgement: RIO Fly Fishing Products and Guide)

Fly Lines can be very confusing so here's a guide for those new to fly fishing to help you understand what they are all for.

Fly Lines come with weight rating (AFTM) which lets you know the weight of the line. The line weight should be matched to your fly rod's weight.

Fly Lines are made with an inner braided core that gives the line it's strength and has a plastic outer coating. Depending on that outer coating the line will either float or sink.

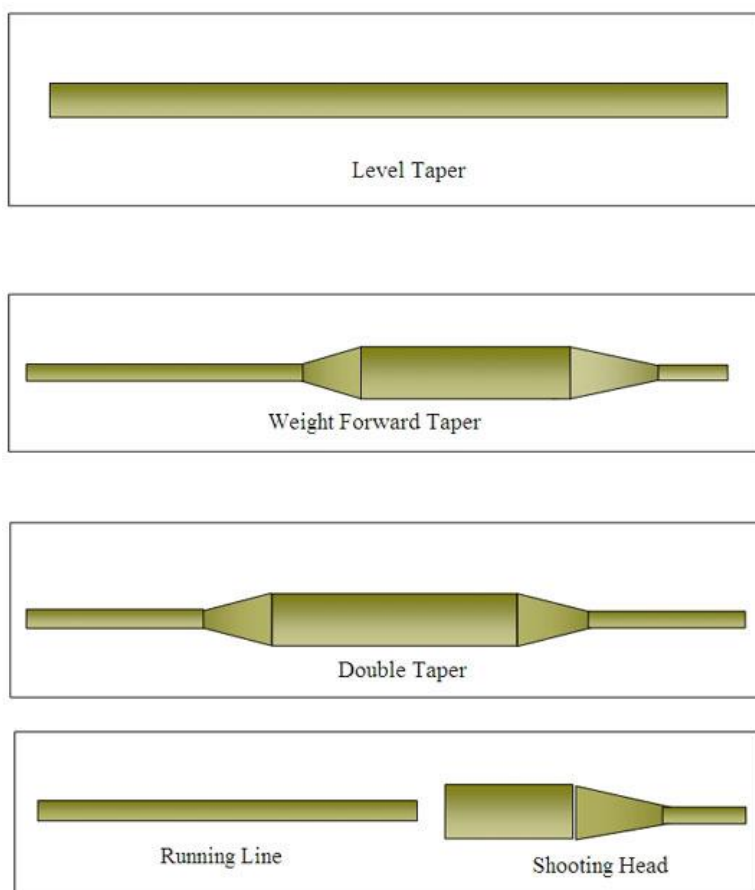


It's the weight of the line that allows us to cast it. Where the weight is situated is controlled by the line taper; a fine tip section to allow for delicate presentations, a thicker middle section with the weight for casting and a long tail section (running line) helps the line slide through the rod guides and gain distance.

Fly Lines are constantly evolving, with new designs continually becoming available like the latest and greatest from Airflo: The Ridge Line which as the name suggests, features a line with small grooves along the length of the line which reduces friction allowing for longer casting. Check out the Ridge line here.

Lines in NZ tend to come in two tapers, a weight forward taper and a double taper with the weight forward being favoured because of its ability to cope better in windy conditions.

[Fly Line Tapers](#)



Floating Fly Lines

These are the most common type of line used in NZ and can be used for a wide variety of fly fishing. Particularly suited to sight fishing with nymphs and dry flies.

- It's the materials used in the coating of a floating line gives them their buoyancy.
- Floating fly lines used in NZ will be of a Weight Forward or a Double Taper design.
- Tapers are important as they signify what use the line is best suited for.

A **Weight Forward floating fly line (WF)** as the name suggests has more weight in the front half of the line hence it casts better in windy conditions, short casts and also will cast longer distances. Some are designed for delicate presentations while others for distance. So the WF lines are used for most general fly fishing situations.

A **Double Taper (DT)** has the weight in the middle, with a longer fine tip section that allows for delicate presentations. The back half of the line is the same as the front half, so the line can be reversed which doubles the life of the fly line. They are best suited to smaller streams where delicate presentations are required.

For NZ conditions, particularly when sight fishing, line colour is important, dull earth toned lines are best, as bright lines will spook fish. It's no so important on the likes of the Tongariro

were the fish don't seem to be bothered so much and the extra visibility of the line can be a help.

Sinking Fly Lines

The coatings on sinking lines have a denser outer coating so that they sink. The speed at which they sink is controlled by the density of the coating so there are slow sinking intermediate lines that sink at 1/2 inch per second down to the fast sinking lines that sink at 7 inch per second or more. Match the sink rate to where you are fishing and what you are trying to achieve.

Sinking Lines are used in combination with nymphs or lures/wet flies where extra depth is needed to sink your flies down to where the fish are. Lakes and medium to larger rivers for example. You can estimate your flies depth fairly accurately by counting; 1 second = depth in inches (of your fly lines sink rate).

An **intermediate fly line** will sink at a relatively slow rate. Intermediate fly lines are ideal where you want your fly to sink slowly, with the fly line slowly settling into the water column. There's a Slow Intermediate line that sinks at just 0.5 inches per second.

This line is used when fishing lakes to take your flies just below the surface, under the surface wake or in shallow water where your line would otherwise be on the bottom. Or use it on rivers when fishing nymphs or wet flies just below the surface when fish are on emerging nymphs. An Intermediate fly line will sink at 1.5 inches per second are used when fishing lakes that have lots of weeds and you want to keep the fly just above the weed. And also has applications when fishing rivers to aid sinking your flies to a medium depth.

A **fast sinking fly line** will sink quickly at a uniform rate as indicated on it's box. Fast sinking lines will sink from 3 to up to 7 or more inches per second. Which sinking line is best really depends on how you want to use it, how far down you need to get your fly and how quickly you want to get it there. In fast moving water or really deep pools, a fast sink rate will be needed. Otherwise, a slow sinking rate will generally work well and they are easier to pick up and retrieve than the fast sinking lines.

Shooting Head Fly Lines

These lines are designed so that you can change the heads for different situations. The shooting heads come separately to the running line and are connected with a loop to loop

connection, the running lines are a fine diameter to reduce friction through the rod guides which with the heavier shooting head allows the line to shoot easily. Therefore they are used for distance casting and the lines we stock are aimed specifically at fishing the likes of the Tongariro where the combination of distance and depth are desirable.

[Specialty Fly Lines](#)

There are a range of these for different situations. e.g.;

The **Depth Finder**: An integrated shooting head/running line with 3 fast sinking tips. These have similar applications to the Shooting Head lines where depth and distance is required. Use them when fly fishing for Salmon or for Sea run trout at the river mouths, fly fishing large heavy water rivers like the Tongariro river.

Forty Plus: A **Weight Forward fly line** with the distance casting performance of a shooting head with floating fly lines, intermediate fly lines and sinking fly lines options. These lines are all about distance with a line for all situations. If you fish places where distance would be beneficial, like lakes then this type of line should be considered.

[Getting the Best out of your Fly Line](#)

Fly lines do need to be looked after, they pick up grime over time so it's a good idea to give them a clean every now and again in warm water with a mild soap.

They also need to be kept lubricated, there are many line treatments available to achieve this, you'll notice a big difference right away as the line will zoom through the rod guides giving more distance and reducing the effort required.

Out of all your fly fishing tackle the fly line is one of the most important, a good quality line will help your casting so it's good advice to buy the best you can afford, generally with fly lines the price indicates quality.

[Why do I get coils and memory in my fly line?](#)



All fly lines are coiled at final manufacture to fit onto the packaging spool. This process does not add twist to the fly line, however, the line should be removed from the spool in the reverse direction. If the spool is taken apart, and the line is removed sideways a coil at a time, this will add a lot of twist instantly. An attempt to take out this twist by stretching the line, can only result in a temporarily straightened line. The 'energy' is still there, and is stored in the line. It will 'remember' this, and eventually try to coil back up. A salt water fly line with a braided monofilament core and harder plastisol will compound this more than a softer fresh water fly line with a nylon multifilament core.

There are several other things that will add to twist and coiling. First and foremost is fighting fish. Fish do somersaults underwater while trying to get away. Of course large saltwater species will put more twist into a fly line than a trout. Recently, we had a customer, who complained about a Deep Sea line. When he first got the line, it performed perfectly, but after several dozen big mean saltwater fish, the line acted like a slinky.

We asked for the fly line back and upon examination on the factory floor, the line had about a thousand and one twists and coils. We gently moved the coils out to the tip and voilà! the line lay straight. This angler had never taken the coils out of the fly line. Over-ambition and targeting moving fish will both tend to twist a line much quicker than the ideal practice of shooting all the line you have out each cast.

[Removing Twist](#)

Even when we put on a new fly line on to a reel, it's good practice to unroll, (Never pull the line off coil by coil!) and stretch the line out the full length on grass or carpet. Then, with gentle pressure from the thumb and forefinger, starting at the end of the running line or backing, move all the winds to the tip or leader end and out forever. For best results, we might do this two or three times. Leave the tip end of the line free when winding it onto the reel. It's worth repeating this process a couple of times during the season or any time you see those twists appearing in the line.

For more aggressive line tapers (with a big difference between body diameter and running line), or for lines with very obviously twisted running line, it can be more effective to detach the line from the backing. Begin moving out the twist from the back of the rear taper. First in the direction of the leader and then one or more times from that same point in the direction of the backing. Repeat this direction until your running line lays straight then re-connect and you're good to go.

You could take advantage of fast flowing water to help remove twists or a boat angler can trail the line out behind at slow speed, in either case, first cut your fly off the leader, or take off the leader. Run all the fly line out to the water for a few minutes then as you wind in on the reel. Use that gentle thumb and forefinger pressure to help remove coils.

Please note the editor is not advocating the use of any particular product as a range of products are available and you may have a preference. Rio Fly Fishing is identified here, as their website is the source of this article.

MEMBERS PROFILE

John McConigley



Fishing in NZ



Cutting his way to a spot on the warren

Q. Where were you born and where did you grow up?

I was born in Melbourne, but moved to England, then the US, then Ireland where I spent my formative years. Eventually I found my way to Perth where I remained. There was, and is, a lady involved.... we recently moved to Albany.

Q. Can you remember when you first became interested in fishing?

I was hooked on trout fishing when I was six or seven years old. My father died in the Second World War and my mother took it upon herself to teach me fly fishing, which my father loved. She couldn't use his split cane rods and silk lines, so she tied some nylon (very new then) to a short stick and tied on a wet fly; a Butcher, I think. She flicked it into the peaty waters of Shannagh Lough in Donegal and to our amazement hooked a brown trout in the dorsal fin. It was gold with big red spots. I thought it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. Every spare moment after that was spent fly fishing.

Q. What is your favourite fishing memory?

My memory is crowded with fishing moments, but one of my favourites is hooking and landing a superb brown trout of just under 7lbs below a rock bar in the Warren, way back in 1975

Q. What is the most unusual fish you have ever caught?

One of the strangest fish I have caught was when I was fishing for salmon in Alaska. I had a sluggish take and landed a cross between a flathead and a stonefish. The guide, who fell about laughing, said it was called a Double Ugly.

Q. What kind of fishing do you like best and why?

My favourite type of fishing would be fly fishing in rivers, when conditions are suitable. Clear running water draws me like a magnet. Add trout and I am in heaven.

Q. When did you join WATFFA?

I joined WATFAA nearly fifty years ago, very soon after the club started.

Q. Why did you become a member

To get to know other like-minded trout anglers and to be involved in club activities.

Q. What developments would you like to see in freshwater fishing

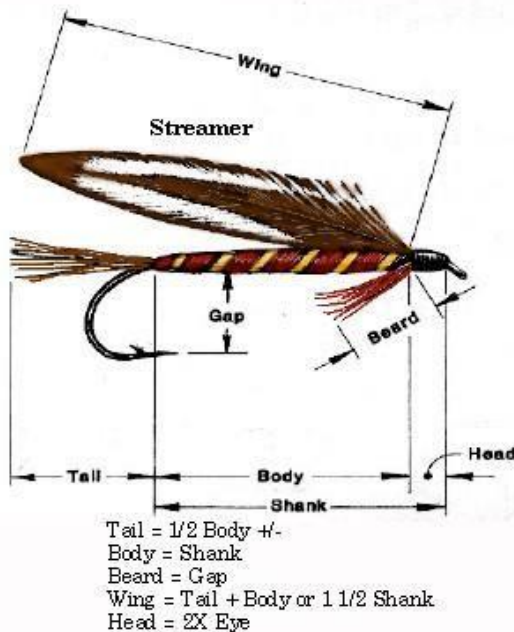
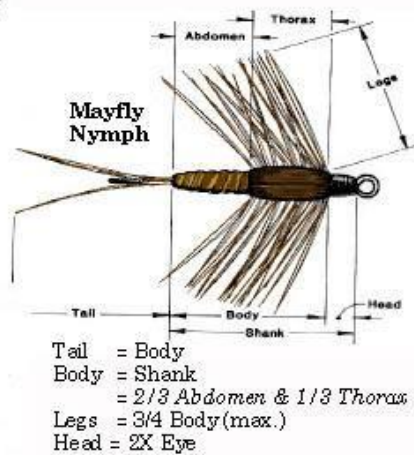
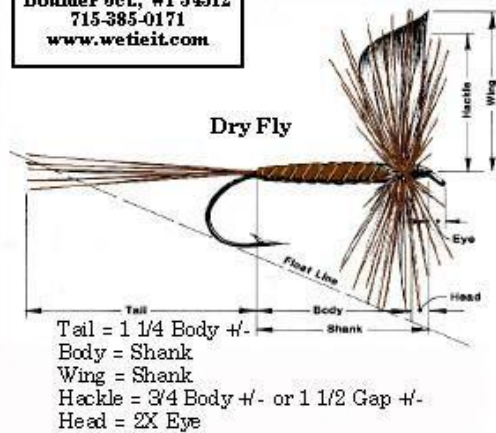
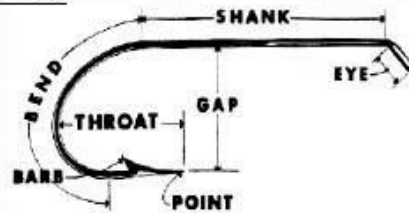
I would love to see more water available for trout fishing in WA, and an increase in club membership, especially of younger anglers who get out and explore our rivers and streams



FLY TYING

Hook & Fly Proportions:

Bill Sherer's
We Tie It Fly Shop
P.O. Box 516
Boulder Jct., WI 54512
715-385-0171
www.wetieit.com



Acknowledgement: Suvisiaci Obrazok at www.pinterest.com.au

Tying the Blob

Variations are:



Hook

Partridge Big Mouth Nymph
Size 10, 12

Body

Fire Orange Electric Fritz

Head

Globrite Floss No5 (Fire
Orange)

Thread

Orange

Tail

Orange Marabou



STEP 1 : Take a pinch of Hot Orange Marabou and secure with winding turns along the hook shank. Return the thread to the place just opposite the barb.



STEP 2 : Take a length of blob fritz, strip a small amount of fritz fibres from the end so the centre core is left bare. Tie the core in and secure with thread. Now return the thread to the eye of the hook.



STEP 3 : I've found that the easiest way to tie blob fritz is to perform one wrap of fritz around the hook shank, then wet your fingers and stroke the fritz fibres back towards the hook bend, then another wrap of fritz, wet fingers, stroke back and repeat.



STEP 4 : About 5mm from the hook eye, hold the fritz taught and strip away the fibres from the core of the remaining fritz. Brush the fibres back with wet fingers from the last wrap that you did. Now wrap the striped core around the hook shank a couple of times and tie off with thread. Now trim the waste core and whip finish and trim any other waste including thread.



STEP 5 : Now to finish the head. Take your preferred colour of glo brite floss, catch in and produce a neat head. Whip finish and varnish.

Acknowledgement "Diptera.co.uk".



FROM THE ARCHIVES

SPAWNING TIME

*Its cold work down at the trout ponds for spawning time is here
And the Rainbows always lay their eggs at the coldest time of the year
From the holding pond to the spawning race the female trout leaps out
Swimming around in circles and wildly thrashing about.*

*We hope again for our usual take and half a million to hatch
To stock the waters of the West, for angler's keen to catch
We send our fish all over the State, to many a dam and lake
So we take the eggs and hatch them out, all for the fisherman's sake*

*The spawners are cold and icy and slippery to hold
But the men who work at the trout ponds become immune to the cold
To their job they are dedicated and strive to do their best
So visit the Pemberton Trout Ponds the only one in the West*

*We take the eggs to the Hatchery and place them in hatching trays
And the young fish show signs of hatching at the end of twenty-eight days
At sixty days old they are classed as "Fry" and are ready to place in the stream
To quickly grow to a catchable size of which all fisherman dream*

*The days are cold but work goes on as thousands of eggs we take
We have to be very careful and try not to make a mistake
When we are handling the spawners from roughness we have to refrain
Though our hands are swollen and freezing and we are wet to the skin with the rain*

*The hatch goes from May to September so there's plenty of cold work to do
And we work right along through Winter to satisfy anglers like you
So next time you're fishing for Rainbows and flicking a fly in the spray
Spare a thought for the men at the Trout Ponds and the work they are doing today*

This poem was written by Quokka and was published in the WATFAA Journal Volume 1.
September 1969



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