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Subject: : Warm Water & Salt Water Fly-Fishing

Topic: : Muskies!?!

Re: Muskies!?!

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riverwhy,

The Swatara is stocked with Tiger muskies. In my experience, tigers are easier to catch in warmer water. River muskies bite well in winter and many of the biggest fish are taken in the colder months. Part of the reason that the local newspaper big fish contests indicate a lot of muskies in the summer is because that is simply when there are more fishermen on the river and the bass guys get a lot of the muskies by accident. In any event, you can fly fish river muskies throughout the year but I think the "Swattie" might fish better in the summer for the tigers there. As for methods, use an 8WT (or larger) with a floating or intermediate line; a short leader tapered to about 14LB test; a wire bite tippet and the largest streamer you can cast. A six inch olive over white Clouser is a good muskie fly. Chartreuse or orange is good in stained water. Muskies don't usually hang out where there is current although you'll occasionally see one splashing in the riffles chasing minnows or fallfish- this is a fish that's on the feed and very likely to strike. Otherwise, concentrate on deeper, slower pools. I like an overcast day with a cold front coming in with a hint of rain or snow. The best spot for river muskies (esp in winter) is a feeder creek. Fan cast the streamer and work it back rapidly with long strips right where the feeder enters the river. Woody debris along shoreline eddies is also good. Polaroid glasses will help you spot follows. If you don't move a fish, try a few casts low and slow. River muskie guys get a lot of fish on jigs fished slow in cold water. Don't get discouraged if you get skunked. Woolybugger, frankly, is wrong about big bass over 15". They're a great fight and you will get some on muskie flies which will keep things fun during the long lulls between action with muskies. Good luck.