

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : mouse fly.

Re: mouse fly.

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The motion is really what gets them to strike, so the more of a disturbance your fly creates the better you will do. You basically fish it exactly like you would fish a bass popper. I pull a thick sheet of black foam over the back (i've seen this pattern listed recently as "moorish mouse"). If you do that the fly will move more water and tends to fish better the more waterlogged it becomes.

The phase of the moon is probably a bit overblown. The moon hits the water differently depending on the mountains and trees, so you can almost always find shaded places to fish. Its basically just like fishing during the day. If there is a bright moon, the fish can see almost as well as they can in the day, and you have to be more careful about approaching them.

I'm convinced that fish use changes in light to hunt. I've often hooked fish immediately after a train passes when fishing on the little J. The train shines a little bit of light on the water when it passes, and I've had too many hookups immediately after this happens for it to be a coincidence.

Don't go out at night with just a mouse pattern. Sometimes they like the mouse, but many nights you'll do much better fishing under the surface. My best producing night flies are the woolly sculpin (size 2) and giant heavily hackled wet flies (size 1/0). The mouse is 3rd. Usually black is the best color by far, but sometimes they like white. Carrying other colors is probably unnecessary because the physics of vision make it very difficult to see color well in low-light conditions.

Also, if you ever want to night fish in central PA, send me a PM. I go out a lot and I don't mind company. Its hard to take good photos in the dark by yourself.