

Subject: : Tips and Tricks

Topic: : Flies in trees

Re: Flies in trees

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Date: : 2012/3/5 9:11:57

URL:

Well, frankly, I don't see much of a difference between the time it takes to get a fish off of a barbed hook or an unbarbed hook. Nor to the damage of the fish's mouth, it's a rare event that either doesn't just slip out easily for me. With fish in water, I grab fly with hemos, lift and twist, fish comes off.

The exception may be with large hooks (and large barbs), like streamers, buggers, stoneflies and the like. There I think there's a benefit to the fish. But more often than not I'm using nymphs no bigger than a 14 and dries no bigger than a 12, and they come out pretty easily even with a barb in place.

Your mileage may vary, and if for you, it takes longer on a barbed hook, absolutely, use it.

Nonetheless, I do use barbless hooks. It's to protect ME and the fly. Human skin is a different beast than a fish's mouth, as is clothing. And I hook those quite often. And there's not much of a disadvantage to going barbless, my landing rate doesn't seem to suffer much.