

Subject: : Gear Talk

Topic: : steelhead setups

Re: steelhead setups

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Quote:

so other than the bright color stuff what kind of "buggy" looking flies are productive?

You can catch the ultra-aggressive ones on streamers, buggers and the like. That situation is somewhat rare.

The bright stuff is the staple. Darker, more opaque colors like red when the water is colored up some. Back off to whites and pastels as it clears up. At least that's the general rule (what you try first). The reality is that you switch colors often and all day long. It's typical to throw one color and get a hit or two, before they turn off. Then change colors and another hit or two.... And sometimes, an oddball color, like blue or purple, is actually the ticket.

Have nymphs. Small stonefly nymphs are used often. Hare's ears and pheasant tails work. They're trout. Generally I only resort to nymphs in non-ideal situations, when the water is lower than I'd like and the fish are skittish. There are days when it completely changes the complexion of the day. Those fish have seen meat, eggs, and egg imitations over and over and over, and the pod literally parts like the red sea as your offering drifts down through em. But nymphs, apparently not so intimidating, and sometimes those same fish will inhale a well presented nymph.