

---

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Steelhead 2013-2014 Thread

Re: Steelhead 2013-2014 Thread

Author: : fishingood

Date: : 2013/8/21 10:05:12

URL:

Quote:

i cant wait to go up it will be my first time, i guess sucker spawns are the fly to use huh... is the best time usually middle of october after some rainfall?

Honestly, there really is no one best fly to use in Erie, fish will be hitting different things at different times. For example, when fishing for fresh run fish in the first pool or two above the mouth of a stream, I've found they will sometimes be hitting only emerald shinner imitations. However, as the fish face changing conditions, and make their ways upstream, their preferences will change.

In my opinion, the best fly will be the one you can drift/ swing flawlessly. Also, as the day gets brighter and warmer, or for clear water, you will want to slowly downsize your flies unless you are fishing streamers. A solid, "entry level" assortment of steelhead flies, however, would consist of both crystal meth and regular sucker spawns in orange, yellow, pink, chartreuse (a hot fly for myself the past few seasons); glo bug eggs in yellow, orange, pink, chartreuse, and blue (throw some blood dot eggs in there); wooly buggers in a few colors, some san juan worms, some "infamous PA pink worms", some minnow imitation streamers, some prince nymphs, bead head nymphs, and black stonefly nymphs. Don't be afraid to bring some experimental patterns along, sometimes all it takes is to put something in front of the fish they haven't seen yet.

The past few seasons, my best steelhead fishing has been from late October into early November. Just keep an eye on that USGS gage, the one at Walnut should give you a good idea of how the West tribs are, while the one at French Creek can give you a good idea of the east tribs. Generally, a few days after a heavy rainfall should be a good time to go, with fresh fish, and water conditions in which the water is clear enough that you can see the fish moving, but stained enough that you can't see the bottom in most places, and the fish aren't as finicky.

For anyone who is new to this, here is a good read, that covers everything you need to know:

[http://dharmaofthedrift.blogspot.com/ ... -fishing-primer-part.html](http://dharmaofthedrift.blogspot.com/...-fishing-primer-part.html)