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Subject: : Beginner Forum

Topic: : Hookset: how do I get tiny flies to reliably take?

Re: Hookset: how do I get tiny flies to reliably take?

Author: : pcray1231

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URL:

I actually think I do better with hooking fish on smaller flies.

1. Use lighter hooksets. No bass fishing styled yanks.
2. Pay attention to angle. The hookset has to be to the side or back of the fish, never pulling it forward. If, for instance, you commonly fish small flies downstream of you, this can explain your difficulty.
3. Timing is crucial. Fish should turn down with the fly. A lot of times, when using small flies, the fish are real visible as they hang out near the surface sipping little bugs rather than shooting up from the depths. This means you see it all happen, which can cause you to anticipate and set the hook just as it's taking, which is too early.
4. Make sure fish is actually taking the fly, rather than last second "semi-refusals", which basically means bumping it with their noses or lightly "mouthing" it. I run into this with midges sometimes and those really picky fish, but I'm usually good with trikes. If you have trouble, you can try altering the fly or the drift. But often the best advice is to find fish feeding in some current rather than the super slow water. In current, they gotta be more committed to get their meals.

Also, if you tie, try a different hook. You can even buy small sized hooks with larger hook gaps.