

Little Stone's Chum Baby

The Chum Baby is a pattern developed by Bob Triggs, a Western Washington guide on the Puget Sound, and has proved to be a very simple yet effective chum fry imitation. When coho and coastal cutthroat are feeding out-migrating chum salmon fry during March - May this pattern can be extremely effective fished with short erratic strips. This fly also works well in lakes and streams where small baitfish are present.

A simple and effective pattern for spring and early summer (or any) time sea run cutthroat beach and river fishing. A good pattern to tie up on those winter days where there is low water and like five fish in your entire favorite winter steelhead river of choice.

MATERIALS

Hook: #6 - 10 Gamakatsu SS15 or comparable hook

Thread: Black or Brown 3/0 or 6/0

Bead: optional - Gold bead sized to fit hook

Tail/Wing: Pearl Crystal Flash topped with Gray Squirrel Tail or Buck Tail

Body: If stainless hook is used just the bare hook is fine or the body can be wrapped with silver Tinsel or Flashabou

Thorax: 4-5 strands of peacock herl



METHOD

1. Put the bead on and start the thread at the top 1/8 of the hook just in behind the bead.
2. This is the time to tie in the silver tinsel if using, wrapping the thread to the bend of the hook and then to just behind the bead head. Be sure that you keep the thread base very even so that the tinsel lays flat. Wrap the tinsel forward and tie it off just behind the bead head.
3. Wrap the thread back over the tinsel about a 1/8 of the shank length and tie in 4 to 6 stands of crystal flash. The crystal flash should be about 1-1/2 to 2 shank lengths long.
4. Tie the squirrel or buck tail in right over the top of the crystal flash. I prefer the squirrel tail, because of the white tips of the hair, which resembles the tail of a chum fry.
5. Tie in 4 - 6 stands of peacock herl and wrap them forward forming a thorax.
6. Whip finish, head cement and catch fish.