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Trout Fisher

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FRONT Early bird (Nick Reygaert)

HERE Storm warning (Russell McKendry)

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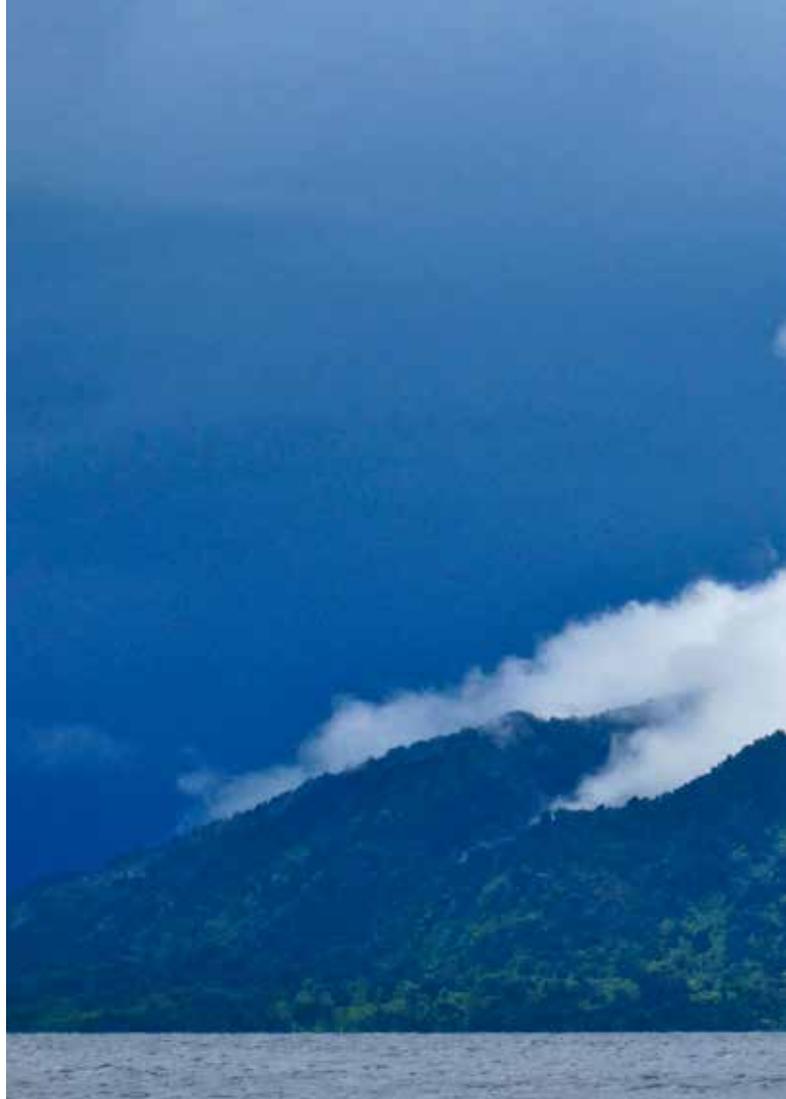
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Our Heritage; editorial comment

New Zealand trout fishing management consists of a quango and a government department, both under the same minister.

Since their formation around 30 years ago, successive governments have:-

- minimised the cost to fish nationwide;
- directed both agencies to maximise angler exploitation of a public resource (trout);
- allowed industry to diminish another public resource that supports it (freshwater);
- sold public land bordering both public resources with minimal regard to public access;
- promoted unlimited tourism nationwide;
- reduced both agencies' ability to fulfil their legal obligations towards anglers, trout and freshwater, through lack of finance.

Much of our trout fishing is now dominated by commercial interest and frequently, overcrowded. Resulting or incidental, separate or combined, these two factors are THE major sources of the growing dissent among resident anglers.

It's time for fresh legislation.



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UNIVERSALLY IMPORTANT

At the beach with Oliver Edwards

My guess is that many NZ flyfishers, certainly you Ex-Pats of a 'certain age' will know very well about all the baggage we flyfishers in the UK carry....yes I'm talking historical of course – all the rubbish spewed forth – and put in print by the privileged few in the late 18/early 1900s. I'm pointing straight at the 'Toffs'...who thought the Southern chalkstreams were the be all and end all, of trout fishing with fly. In those distant days, if the 'flaay' on your leader didn't float, and didn't have a pair of wings, you were nothing short of a scoundrel...and this attitude still persists in some of our Southern Chalkstream counties TO THIS DAY.

So while streamer fishing has gained its pass, thanks entirely to many large reservoirs being stocked with (mainly) rainbows in the mid-1960's, using one on a river today is still NOT DONE....that's to say it all depends which river you intend using one in. Mainly, they are just about tolerated.

For me the fog finally cleared in 1992 when the organisers of our largest outdoor angling fair invited Dave Whitlock over from the States. When the show ended they asked me if I'd like to take Dave up to Yorkshire for a few days fishin'....can a frog fart! When Dave saw the river – a foot up and a touch beery – he pulled out a largish fly box and opened it...My God, they'll put him in jail, he'll never see the US again. The box was full of dead sparrows, dead budgies, some long-deceased, dried-up frogs and mice corpses. I should have told him that on this particular water the estate had a maximum hook size of 12! Truth is, I was intrigued. So I zipped it.

Well of course he caught some browns but what really got to me was their size. Not what you guys catch, this is Yorkshire after all, but they were all MUCH LARGER than what the usual punter caught, BY FAR. As he hoisted number five into his landing net, I deigned to mention that we in England didn't actually fish steamers on rivers. His look was one of absolute incredulity He then said something like, "What! Don't fish streamers... don't you guys wanna catch big fish?" But I for one was well hooked – deeply. Soon after I acquired some #4's and #6 long shanks and was cranking out streamers. It's fair to say that day with Whitlock was, for me, a turning point. I really fell big time for streamer fishing, and it's stayed with me.

It wasn't long before I began to experiment and one avenue of streamer fishing that seemed totally unexplored was the freshwater crayfish....and to a large extent, still is! It's hard to work out why too



THE DRESSING

HOOK – Size to match body length of the natural mostly to
WEIGHT – Lead wire/lead foil or lead Dumbbells ... amount
THREAD – Super-Strong gel-spun types... Moser 'Power 3'
UNDERBODY – Deer Hair, long, straight. Colour to match
OVERBODY – Fine Chenille, colour to match natural.
OVERBODY COVERING – Vinyl sheet, 'Flexibody'; 'Thin-sk'
PINCER CLAWS – Soft tanned Rabbit pelt, colour to match
WALKING LEGS – Thickest 'Sili Legs' available, plain or b
ANTENNAE – Stripped hackle stem, dyed or coloured with

because, let's face it, in both flowing and stillwater they are universally important BIG TROUT fodder.

Your native crayfish, the Koura, is quite different to ours. Nonetheless, at the editor's request I'm supplying a challenging but very satisfying pattern which I first tied nearly 20 years ago. It's been seen by many US fly tyers who have requested tying details.

(Koura are THE main food source for larger lake trout in the central North Island. This pattern has strong triggers of shape and movement that will be recognised by trout anywhere and can be adjusted to match local species. Ed.)

ANT



aken – Wide Gape – Down Eye.
t/size, your choice.
Silk' etc. Brown, olive.
natural.

in', etc. Colour to match natural.
h pincer claws on natural.
arred.

h a waterproof marker pen. Colour as natural.

According to 'British Freshwater Crustacea' – the Keys (Freshwater Biological Association) in the British Isles – we only have only one naturally occurring freshwater crayfish, the 'White-Clawed' or Atlantic Stream Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*). This is widespread in England as far North as Northumberland, in parts of Wales and also common in Ireland. However, today it is endangered and its range MUCH reduced, even absent in places – more later! From this booklet I see we have other species – or did have – ALL EXOTIC. These are:-

The Noble, or Red Clawed Crayfish – farmed, endangered, only one known enclosed population. No mention of it today as a problem species.

The Turkish, or Long Clawed Crayfish – imported (into London), escaped or released into local ponds. It is said now to have a naturalised population in the Grand Union Canal. No mention of it today as a problem species.

The Louisiana Crawfish, or Red Swamp Crayfish – in the past imported by aquarists for its vivid colouration (and other purposes?). No mention of it today as a problem species.

The North American Signal Crayfish – The #1 Bogeyman. First introduced into Britain (from Sweden) in 1976, this species is THE major carrier of crayfish plague. Like the other exotic species, its interest is the restaurant



Mackenzie Rabbits

By Dave Boyle

In 2006, I wrote about the Rabbit fly and how I tied them using two or three clumps of rabbit fur instead of the more conventional method of laying a strip of rabbit skin down the shank. Twelve years on my passion for the rabbit has taken on a new lease of life.

While most of my fishing time is spent fly fishing the southern lakes, rivers and Mackenzie canals, occasionally I like to go spinning or spend a relaxing hour or so trolling the lakes. The trout and salmon I have taken during these times are predominately caught using a Christmas Tree or Skeleton Tassie Devil and they have become long time favourites. During the many hours spent fly fishing the Mackenzie canals for salmon and trout, I often thought about their colour patterns and how effective they were. So on a wet, windy afternoon, sitting in the caravan at Lake Ruataniwha, I set up the fly tying vice and tried to imitate both colour schemes. The results proved effective, catching salmon, rainbows and occasionally the odd brown in the glacial coloured water of Lake Ruataniwha.

I fish these patterns in the canals using a SA Deep Water Express. This shooting head line gets the fly down deep and fast when the canals are flowing at their fastest, with a sink rate of 7-10IPS. The flow rates in the canals change frequently. Some days there appears to be little or no flow and the canals resemble a large expanse of stillwater, so it's a good idea to carry a few different lines and be prepared to change for the current conditions. As well as the DWE (my go-to line), I also carry uniform sink slow and fast sinkers, to avoid getting a belly in the line and help maintain direct contact with the fly.

A floating line is the line of choice when stalking fish along the edges. 5-8lbs fluorocarbon tippet is the go here; hook a big fish in the fast flow of the canals and you'll probably wish you had 10-15lbs connecting you to your fly. Because of the pressure these fish receive due to the popularity of the canals, when spotting fish cruising the shoreline, be prepared to change flies and methods frequently. These are big fish and didn't get that way without becoming fussy. It may also become necessary to take a deep breath and drop down in tippet size.