



TARPON TOAD

(Readers: also check out Enver Hysni's tarpon toad in the May 2010 issue of *On The Fly*)

Smitty writes, "This is THE go-to tarpon fly for the Tampa Bay area. From Homosassa to Key West, this fly is used by more Florida guides than any other. This particular color combination is a favorite of local guide Bryon Chamberlin, who was a guest speaker at a SCFF meeting and a board member of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishers. It has been used with great success in and around Tampa Bay (also chartreuse as well as a tan and rust color variation). It's a fairly simple pattern to tie to be so

deadly.

Materials:

Hook: Gamakatsu SC12 S size 1/0
 Thread: Flat Waxed Nylon black (or color to match body)
 Tail: Purple Marabou Blood
 Feathers (Tan, yellow chartreuse or orange)
 Collar: Black Schlappen, palmered (Chocolate brown, green chartreuse or black)
 Body: Purple EP Fibers (Tan, yellow chartreuse or orange)
 Eyes: Large Mono Nymph Eyes



Tying Sequence:

Step 1: Wrap the tying thread on the front half of the hook, and continue the thread towards the bend in the hook. Tie two full purple marabou feathers at the bend in the hook to create the tail. Secure the tail by making the first two wraps of thread loose, and make several tight wraps. Wrap the tying thread one third of the way down the hook shank.

Step 2: Tie the black Schlappen feather in just behind the tail, and wrap towards the eye of the hook. As you wrap the Schlappen, use your fingers to stroke the barbules toward the bend in the hook. Once you have wrapped the Schlappen, use several strong wraps of tying thread to secure the feather to the hook shank. Use your scissors to cut the tag end of the Schlappen.

Step 3: Tie several clumps of poly yarn in a spent wing fashion. You will need at least 5 clumps to create the head of the fly.

Step 4: Tie in Large Mono Nymph Eyes ahead of the yarn head by cross-wrapping the center bar of the eyes to the hook shank. Once the eyes are secure, wrap the thread around the hook shank just behind the eye of the hook. Use a whip finisher to finish the fly, and cut the remainder of the tying thread.

Step 5: Use your scissors to trim the head in an oval shape. Apply head cement or zap-a-gap to the thread head and the thread that has secured the lead eyes. Allow the head cement to dry, and the fly is completed.