

Fly Tying Bench — Poly-Whitebait by Don Coleman

It is May, so it must be time for the Suncoast Fly Fisher's Annual Night Time Snook Fishing Extravaganza. Many flies work well for fishing for snook under the dock lights and if you look at your back issues of "On The Fly" you will find some good examples in the "Tying Bench". In the Sept. '06 issue are two good flies - Ken Doty's Snook Fly and Jack Gartside's Gurgler. Clouser style flies in all white can be productive and we covered several types in the Oct. '06, Nov. '06 and the Jan. '07 issues. In the Mar. and Apr. '07 issues we highlighted various styles of Deceivers; tied in all white materials, these are also productive. Here is another excellent fly for night-time snook fishing and we'll let our old friend Don Coleman who introduced the fly to SFF tell you how to tie it.PS

Poly-Whitebait Flies an EP Style fly

by Don Coleman

Despite my preference for tying flies with natural materials, there is one fly that uses artificial material that has been very productive from South Florida to New England. While it requires entirely different fly tying techniques, it is relatively easy to tie. Enrico Puglisi not only designed his series of "EP Flies" but also markets the flies and materials used to tie his flies. His EP Fibers and Sea Fibers set the standard for polypropylene fibers. Similar fibers are sold as Neer Hair. His Peanut Butter fly, designed to imitate Baby Bunker (menhaden) is particularly useful for imitating laterally compressed, sawbelly type flies like the Scaled Sardines and Green Backs which are common on the saltwater grass flats. Many commercial fly tiers have copied Enrico's flies and call it by other names. I am strongly of the opinion that tyers should give credit where credit is due and not steal designs created by others.



Poly Whitebait Fly tied by Don Coleman
Photo by Paul Sequeira

Materials:

- Hook: Eagle Claw 254SS or equivalent
- Size: 2 through 1/0
- Material: EP Fibers, Sea Fibers, Neer Hair or other polypropylene fibers
- Thread: Lava Lace mono thread or white thread of your choice
- Eyes: Molded plastic
- Coloring: Permanent marking pens, color as desired

Tying Instructions:

The Peanut Butter style fly is usually tied on 1x short hooks. Sizes #2 to #1/0 seem best for the grass flats and can be used for both sight fishing and blind fishing. Enrico uses fine Larva Lace thread; I simply use my usual White, 6/0 Uni-Thread to tie the fly. He ties a sparse bunch of white fibers at the bend for a tail. He then ties sparse bunches (you cannot use bunches that are too sparse) spaced along the shank of the hook. Enrico lays a bunch of white fibers for the belly of the fly across the top of the hook shank and brings both ends around under the shank and secures with thread wraps. The top of the fly is tied with sparse bunches of colored fibers (*or plain white fibers and colored with permanent marking pen ...ps*) laid along the top of the shank and folded back and secured. (*Repeat this procedure to fill the hook shank. ...ps*) Mylar flash can be tied in between bunches if desired, as can red flash for gills (I don't bother). Molded eyes are then Gooped to the sides and the fly is trimmed to the desired shape. The poly fibers can be marked with waterproof marking pens if desired. EP flies do not absorb water, which allows easier casts and quick drying.