

THE HUTT VALLEY ANGLER

Issue No 409 : March 2016



Photo of the month “Mike’s Success”, taken by Ross Goodman

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Editorial

This month sees a wide variety of activities available to members, including a weekend trip to Pahiatua, the Doughty Shield competition on the Ruamahanga, a casting clinic in the Belmont Domain and fly tying in the Community House. This is certainly a great time of year to be fishing, and the Wellington region is a great place to do it, so make sure you make the most of these opportunities. And of course, if you do, make sure to take some pictures and jot down a few lines for the next newsletter. All the best

Chris Kuchel

President's Piece

The sun is shining. Male Cicadas are making their noise to attract a mate and the rivers are running very low. Can this really be the end of February? I checked the water temperature for the Hutt recently and it was in the mid 20s. We are told that Brown trout don't like water over 19C so they are most probably under the willows trying to keep out of the sun or poking their heads into the weeds or pipes searching for colder water. We fisherman are hard to please when it comes to perfect weather and what it does to the fish we seek and why we didn't catch a fish on our last outing.



In the next couple of months after a productive committee meeting we will be bringing to the club a few new projects we have been working on. After some thought we are thinking of holding a club workshop in mid April for our newer members and those who are keen to learn a bit more. Also we have been investigating the possibility of running a water safety course that may save your life the next time you venture out. There are a few other projects that we are working on that we hope will progress the club and ease a few problems we have currently. More to come.

Steve has been putting his computer skills to our benefit by re-working the club's web site which is already very good and our main source of new members. Talking of new members; contact Ajit, if you are keen to be part

of the Buddy Program and spend some time out on the water with some of the more mature members.

John Olds and I had a delightful day on the Hutt River with 2 of our newer members Donna and Crystal. John managed to hook a fish for a few moments but the fish decided it was not the day to get caught and showed us how to do a self release. Yes, we are all learners at this fishing activity.

I have been in a few of our sponsors shops lately and there is some good gear to buy at reduced prices, so I would suggest drop in and have a look at the specials on offer and ask in a pleasant way for discount.

For those who came along to the February meeting it was interesting to listen to Chris speak on Czech style fishing. It may not be for everyone but there is no doubt that it certainly is a productive way to catch fish. Chris explained that he now spends more time reading the water before casting which is something we could all learn from. It was apparent from where Chris was getting into fish that we don't need to cast to the other side of the river or stream to catch fish that are at our feet.

I went along to the February casting clinic run by Ian and there was about 10 people there. It was a good night with fine weather and not much wind which is becoming the norm for us and hopefully those who were there learnt something. First learn to cast then fish will come your way.

Janet and I have had relations over from Scotland recently and they keep on asking where is this wind that Wellington is known for. The saying "Windy Wellington" is what we are known for and I suspect in the not to distant future that we will be missing the fine weather that we have become used to.

At our March club meeting we have Strato coming along to give us a presentation on his role as President for Fish and Game Wellington and his fishing exploits overseas. Strato is a welcome guest at our club and I would suggest you get there early as he always draws a big audience.

That's enough time to have a cold drink.

Ross Goodman

March Activities

- 11 – 13th Club trip - Pahiatua
- 14th Club Meeting - King Lion hall 7.30pm
- 15th Committee meeting 7.30pm
- 16th Casting Clinic – Belmont Domain 6.30pm
- 20th Doughty Shield competition – Ruamahanga River
- 30th Fly tying – Community House 7.30pm

Club News

Club night – Monday 14 March at 7.30pm in King Lion Hall, King Street, Upper Hutt. Our guest speaker will be Strato Cotsilinis, who is always interesting and informative. He has information about recent drift dive results which will be of particular interest to all club members.

Casting Clinic – To take advantage of daylight saving and the warmer weather, the casting clinic time has been moved to Wednesday evenings: 16 March 6.30 pm at Belmont Domain.

The co-ordinator is Ian Lawson. If you want to attend, please sign up on the clipboard at our monthly meeting or register on the website. Registration allows us to have instructors available for all attendees and who we contact if there is any change in meeting arrangements.

Fly Tying Meeting -Wednesday 30 March in the Community Meeting Room off Logan Street at 7.30 p.m **Three Handy Flies**

We have in the picture 3 different flies tied and used with good success by Tim Trengrove. There is a bead head nymph, an emerger and a dry fly to cover most situations.

These flies are not complicated and are quite suitable for inexperienced members to attempt. Depending on how long each takes to tie we will make either two or three of these flies.



Library News

The library is open from 7.00 on Club nights. Please make sure that all books and DVDs are checked out and returned through Maureen in the normal way.

For several months we have been using an electronic recording system for all loans. We are now making a catalogue of all our books and when complete it will be available to members. It is showing we have a vast selection of books and DVD's covering a wide range of fishing activities.

Proposal to move to internet banking

At the February committee meeting, it was proposed that HVAC adopts internet banking. At present the club's primary means of paying suppliers and reimbursing committee members is through a cheque based approach. At the March club meeting, members will be asked for their views. In order to help members make an informed decision, following is a summary of the potential benefits to the club.

- Reimburse members quickly
- Statements will be online – central storage reduces clutter
- Record keeping will be clearer and easier to manage
- Regular payments can be set up e.g. printing costs for newsletter
- Provides better audit trail and reduces risk e.g. lost chequebook
- Provides historical trail for new committee members
- Statements can be downloaded easily.
- Improved security through netguard

The cost for this service is \$10 per month. As a non-profit organisation, HVAC may qualify for an exemption from this monthly fee. Further investigation will be required.

Green Trout Guiding

Sponsor of the Club's Guiding Raffle

Phone Jim Rainey (06) 382-5507

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Raffle Winners in February

Congratulations to Paul Stapp for winning the Green Trout Guiding entry. Trevor Jeffries took away the box of flies and Rob Winwood won the Hunting and Fishing voucher. Monthly winners of the Green Trout Guiding raffle go into the annual draw for a fantastic trip with Jim Rainey. You've got to be in to win, so make sure you buy your ticket each month at club meetings.

Fish of the month

Congratulations to Bill Harris for taking out the December Fish of the Month with a 6lb 2oz rainbow hen caught in lake Otamangakau.

The January fish of the month was taken out by Dom Scahill, who landed 4 good sized fish during an outing to a local river. His best fish of the day was a fine 6lb 4oz brown.



Doughty Shield Handicap Competition.

This popular 'fly only' competition will be fished on the Ruamahanga River on Sunday 20 March. Entries can be lodged on the website or by contacting John Millar by email or phone. Details of times and meeting place will be given at the March club meeting. It is intended that The Doughty Shield will be an afternoon/early evening competition.

Change of date for Burgess Shield

Due to a clash with Easter weekend, the Burgess Shield surfcasting competition will now be held on Sunday April 10 at Te Horo Beach. Members please register for this competition/excursion so that transport can be shared. Contact John Millar by email or register on the website.

Members' Workshop in April

We are proposing to hold a members' workshop on April 16 or 17 depending on which day suits our members best. This will be approx. 4 hours duration with a sausage sizzle included. There will be some instruction and advice on tackle and techniques then those attending will buddy up with experienced members for some on-river mentoring. Last year's workshop was well supported by club members, with reports of positive feedback. Some of the topics covered on the day were:

- What to carry in your vest/pack
- Waders. What type? Advantages of each.
- Rods, reels, leaders, nets, sun protection, eye wear.
- Where to fish/reading the water/upstream or downstream?
- How to set up. Indicators, dry fly, dry/nymph, across and down, Czech nymphing, fly selection.
- Netting and handling fish
- Water safety
- Practical on-water casting and fishing tuition.

Pahiatua trip in March

Friday 11th & 13th to fish the Manawatu or Mangatainoka River staying in Pahiatua.

Tukituki trip in April

April 1st to 3rd fishing the Tukituki river. This being a trip hosted by the Hawkes Bay Club staying at their club house. So far I have seven confirmed for this trip. If you wish to attend names to me by Wednesday 21st March please.

All trips are weather dependant, with early bookings essential. Some venues do require a deposit, which should be paid by members directly to the hotel/BB/lodge to secure a bed.

Members will be given the opportunity to sign up for club trips at the monthly meetings. To confirm a place on a club trip, email Damian at c.bengree@paradise.net.nz not less than 3 weeks before the trip date. Damian will send accommodation details to participants as necessary.

GJK Shield

Thomas Fichtner won the GJK Shield handicap competition which was fished over four hours on the Hutt River and tributaries on Saturday 30th January.

Thomas caught two good trout during the competition in the lower reaches of the river, they weighed 5lb 13oz and 4lb 7oz. After the competition had finished Thomas caught and even bigger trout of 6lb 3oz in the Akatarawa River. During the competition Thomas fished with a size 14 Adam's Irresistible and a size 14/16 gold bead Pheasant Tail.

Bill Shkopiak was in second place with one smaller trout. Both of these anglers will pick up points toward the club championship.

Thomas gets 10 points for his win and Bill 8 points for 2nd place.



Goodman Shield Saltwater Fly Competition - Report by John Millar

The Goodman Shield competition was a handicap event and was held once again at Ivy Bay in the Pauhatanui Inlet. It was a glorious hot and sunny day and so very different from the previous year when some competitors retired early with suspected hypothermia. Seven club members rolled up for this event. Those anglers wearing neoprene waders couldn't get into the water quick enough to cool off.

Last time we had seen kahawai chasing bait fish on the incoming tide but there was no surface activity of note this year.

The first person to hook up was last year's winner Trevor Jeffries. He caught and returned a 28 cm kahawai inside the first hour of the competition. Things were looking quite encouraging when Trevor hooked a second fish. This one threw the hook before it could be brought to the net.

Ian Lawson was at the far end of the line of anglers and he was seen to be fighting a fish then he netted and measured it. His kahawai measured 35cm plus and so according to our rules was rounded up to 36 cm.

The competition was set for 3 hours duration with anglers changing positions at half time which coincided with high tide.

In the second half of the competition Thomas Fichtner was able to see fish hunting his fly but he only hooked up briefly and by his own admission it was quite a small fish so would not have counted for scoring.

For most of the others it turned out to be a day of casting practice but it was a very pleasant way to spend the afternoon, always with a chance of catching a fish.

Competition Result

1st place Ian Lawson with 870 points

2nd place Trevor Jeffries with 710 points

Ian earns 10 points towards the club championship for his win and Trevor earns 8 points for 2nd place.

NZ Silver Flies fishing Clinic Nov 2015

By Colin Thompson

Earlier in the year I received an email advertising a two-day fly fishing clinic on the Wanganui River to be conducted by the NZ Fly fishing team. This was a fund raising event to assist with the teams' costs to attend the world champs in Vale Colorado in 2016. Tony Houpt, a current Silver Fly team member, was the guest speaker at our August meeting and I quizzed him about the clinic and he suggested I contact Paul Dewar, NZ Team Captain, to get more details of the clinic. Paul provided me the finer details and costs for the weekend. Spaces were limited and the ratio of one instructor to two participants was very enticing. There would be 7 instructors and only 14 vacancies for the clinic. The message was simple; be in quick to book a place. Therefore, I duly enrolled and things were set in motion.

Accommodation was at The Park Hotel Ruapehu, National Park (sponsor of the Silver Flies). Booking in was easy as they had a range of accommodation choices. I shared a room with two other participants. One from Kapiti region and the other a local from Taumarunui.

I travelled up mid-afternoon Friday hoping to miss the mind numbing traffic delays on the Kapiti Coast. This was not to be and there seemed to be no end of slow traffic until Bulls! I wasn't the last person to arrive. However, I did have my head lights on for the last half hour of the trip. We had a meet and greet that evening and a brief run-down of what was happening next day. It was then that I found out that Chris Kuchel was also on the course. An 8.30am start made me decide to head off to bed early. I also wanted to be asleep before any snoring, from my roomies, began.

The morning began with introductions by the team and some enlightenment on their fishing history. Followed by a whiteboard session on knots, leaders, tippets, indicators and equipment. Then the serious stuff on how to rig up for the 3 fishing methods that we were going to be using over our time on the river. John Bell, Sam Bourne and Tony Houpt shared with us their own methods for setting up for Czech Nymphing, Dry Nymph and Wet Lining & Wee Wets. Other NZ team members spoke about different scenarios with their own set ups.

We were paired up with a team member and then headed off to the Wanganui River close to Taumarunui. Myself and another chap were with John Bell. Chris Kuchel and another guy were with Tim Anderson. We were going to fish downstream from the rail bridge by the Motor Camp. Czech Nymphing was the first method of the day and we spent a fair bit of time setting up before heading to the water. I found this casting method quite difficult to master due to nature of having to keep my entire arm at shoulder height to stay in contact with the nymph as it travelled through the water. I did manage to hook a couple of fish. Later on I will definitely give this method a serious go, however, it does require a lot of continuous casting and I was feeling it at the end of our session.

After a short lunch break we were paired up with different instructors, myself and another chap were with Sam Bourne. I'm not sure who Chris was paired with or where they fished. The area we fished was just down from the main sports field in Taumarunui. We were fishing the Dry nymph method. This I found more to my liking even though the casting was similar to the Czech style it wasn't as much a strain on my shoulder. Sam had some interesting insights to this style of fishing and was more than willing to share with me a lot of little subtleties to detecting strikes as well as placement of the flies. Later in the afternoon it began to rain and the river level started to rise a bit and also to colour up a bit. We decided to head back to National Park. As we drove past the river, by the Power Station, we saw that the river level had risen significantly and very brown. By time we arrived back at the hotel the rain was quite persistent and remained that way until the early hours of the morning. There were concerns that we may not have been able to fish on the Sunday. That night we had a "team meal" and a bit of a natter around the table. There were a few fly tying demonstrations. I was tired and went to bed. There was someone already snoring in the room! It didn't matter as I went out like a light.

Sunday morning turned out to be a cracker, blue sky and a clear view of the mountain from my room. It was reported that the river had risen quite alarmingly during the night but was dropping quickly. There was a bit of a delay in venturing out which gave everyone time to pack their gear and vacate our rooms. There was a brief meeting to decide on the days' plan and a bit of a talk about the opportunities of fishing water that was a bit high due to rain. A group photograph was organised and duly taken for prosperity and then we went with our respective instructors for the day. I was teamed up with Tony Houpt and decided I wanted to give Dry Nymphing another punt as we were in different type of water from the day before. I also thought I would give Wet Lining & Wee Wets a go later in the day. By time we arrived at our fishing spot, the Mahoe Road Reserve, the river was still a little brown and you could only see the river bed in the shallows, but despite this Tony was able to help me spot fish lying up against the riverbank as we worked our way up river (in the past I have read an article that you can still fish a river that is a bit high and coloured up, as the fish are still there). This proved to be true. After fishing up stream, on the way back to our vehicles Tony set me up to do Wet Lining with a range of Wee Wets on the end of my line. Again I was shown a couple of techniques which ironed out a few mistakes I was making.

The clinic finished up at about 2.30ish and we all meet up by the Taumarunui Motor Camp for a late lunch and final wrap up for the clinic.

For me the clinic was a chance to spend a concentrated amount of time amount to get back into fly fishing. Due to a serious shoulder injury in late 2013 and subsequent surgery I hadn't be able to hit the rivers for quite some time. Also the opportunity to fish with some pretty able fishermen was the final enticer. The knowledge I gained over the two days on the river was well worth the effort. The different types of "rig set ups" was informative. Talking to the participants from other regions. The NZ Fly Fishing Team members freely passed on other little bits of information which allowed me to get things right on the river. Also the fishing on the Wanganui River was great. There are a lot of fish in there!

Cheers Colin Thomson



Photo: Chris Kuchel into a Wanganui torpedo

Low water = tough fish?

Summertime tactics revealed

By Chris Dore – reproduced with his kind permission.

So have our southern rivers been low of recent or what? So many people are complaining about fish being too hard to catch, but on closer inspection it usually comes down to angler error or failure to capitalize on the conditions. A recent email from a travelling angler complained about fishing over many Mataura browns for no result. When asked about his set up, 4x tippet and size 14 kakahi queens was the reply... “It worked for my friend in November!”

Lets begin with tackle.

In these low clear conditions 4x simply wont cut it. We are talking 6lb here on rather educated, sometimes specific feeding trout. Now I don’t believe trout see the tippet and refuse on this alone. They do not know what monofilament / fluorocarbon is, but larger diameter tippet presents a larger



surface area, and surface friction / drag on this heavier nylon is far more pronounced. Trout DO know how a fly should behave!

I prefer a soft brand of nylon, something supple, which will move around freely within the various currents with ease. We can often see the main current and edge waters easily enough, but not so often the many micro currents pushing and pulling in umpteen directions. A soft brand nylon in 5x or 6x does the job for me, and works within these currents with minimal effect on ones drift.

Leader length also is something to be carefully considered. You simply do not get a lot of wiggle room in a typical 9' leader. I prefer the longest leaders I can manage, and better still if they do not completely turn over. Think about this – Our goal is to present a fly to the trout in the most natural way possible. Thrown into the mix is our ever-present nemesis, drag. We must get that fly drifting drag free to deceive these fish. If our leader piles up when presented, all that slack line must straighten out in the currents before our fly gets whipped along behind. More slack in the leader = longer drift! The easiest way to achieve this is to either soften down the taper in your leader or by simply attaching a super long tippet, one that is guaranteed to

pile up. Add a reach cast or other slack line presentation into the mix and the trout are yours!

Now we have our leader set up correctly lets take a look at those size 14 kakahis!

You have to imitate what is coming off the water, particularly in low water conditions. Kakahis represent the adult colorburiscus, a larger, rather colourful mayfly most commonly found on the Mataura pre xmas, and in other bush lines hill country streams of the region. Right now they are focussing on the Mataura trouts bread and butter, the ever-prolific Deleatidium. These blue grey duns are best represented by flies of the adams genre, and we all know my penchance for low riding, damp / dry imitations. As long as you match the size, silouhette and behaviour of the natural, you are in the money.

So, at present ones best bet is with flies in the size 16 through 20 range. Deer Hair Emergers, wee CDC's, para adams and the like occupy my fly box at the moment, and takes are forthcoming. Nymphs too should be in the smaller size range, with size 18 being my norm.

As water temperatures rise over the summer months, invertibrete mature earlier than in the cooler months of spring, and so hatch out whilst still at a relatively small size – those size 12's and 14's which served you so well pre xmas must now take the back seat. Think small and dark when considering Mataura nymphs over the next month, and ensure you carry a variety of weights.



Lets now take a look at presentation.

In such low, clear water dropping the tippet across the trouts window of vision is sure to alarm him. Upstream presentations will often put up more fish than they'll deceive.

I like to get directly across from the fish where possible and land the fly upstream and to my side of his position. This way, the leader and line drop away from the fish, and the fly is the first thing to come within sight of the trout.

In many places however, an across stream presentation is not an option, maybe because of an exposed beach, super calm, clear water, or other factors where the trout will see you. I then angle myself downstream but out to the side to reap as many of the benefits possible of the aforementioned across stream presentation. An upstream reach cast will also assist in getting that line well out to the side of the fish – a presentation technique well worth practising.

Over the course of the season I notice anglers striving to lead the trout by quite some distance. Many will attempt to drop that fly as much as a couple of rod lengths upstream of the fish. This is good and well in that the trout will not see the drop of the fly, but when positioned just beneath the surface the trouts window of vision isn't that large. By the time ones 20' lead drifts down into the bingo zone, all those mixed currents have had so much time to wreck havoc on your drift, the fly is probably dragging as it passes your quarry.

With the combination of a long, fine tippet, as across stream presentation as possible and confidence in ones fly placement, I would recommend dropping the fly but a metre or so above the trout, maximum. Believe in your fly placement, focus on where you want to drop the fly, not on the fish, and hand eye coordination will do the rest!

The fly is drifting naturally, the leader is piled, straightening gradually within all those micro currents and the trout is lifting towards your dry....

What happens next is up to you!

Waters Receding After a Flood, Run-off or High water offer Good Fishing Opportunities if you know where to look.

By Tony Bishop – reproduced with his kind permission

It is one of fly-fishing's less than memorable experiences. You travel to the river, arrive at your accommodation, and try to sleep with your head full of the fish you are going to catch tomorrow...

Well you would catch them tomorrow if the river was not recovering from a flood, very high water or run-off. In the morning you are greeted with brown water swirling down the main channel, and spilling out over the banks. Time to pack up and go home? Well you might, but you could be missing out on some great fishing. It is all a matter of how you look at things.

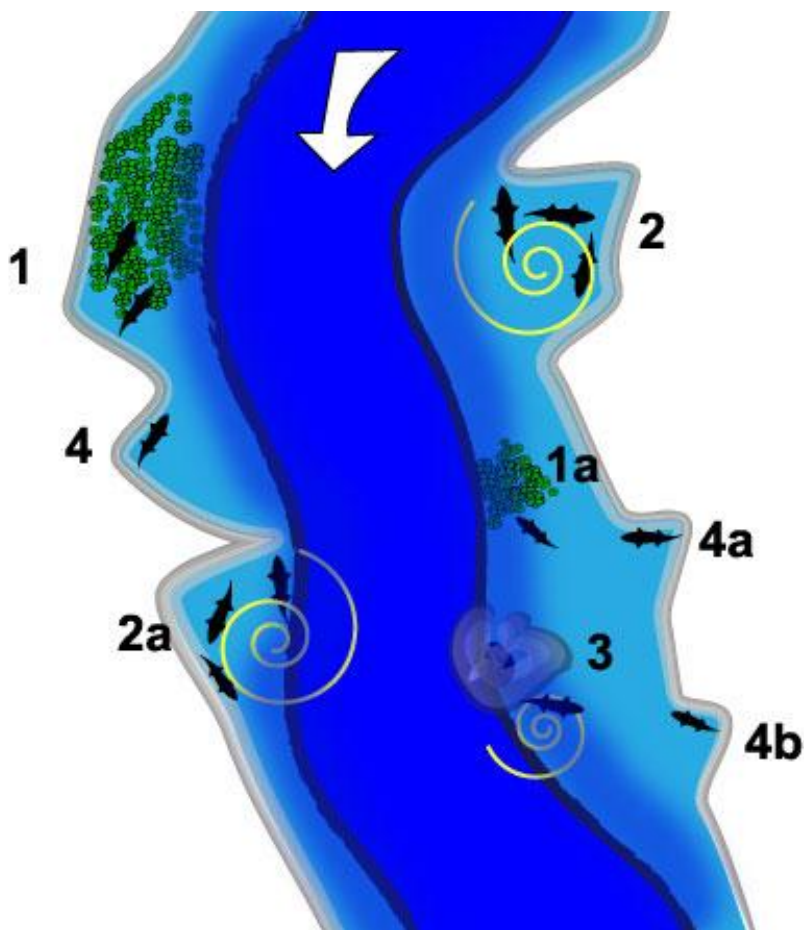
But before going any further I must issue a warning - a warning you ignore at your very real peril:

- Fishing as described in what follows must only be attempted when flood or high-waters are receding, and have receded significantly from the full height of the flood.
- My own unbreakable rule is never wade in water more than mid-thigh deep, and most often knee height or less.
- Always carry a wading stick. Dirty water will make it hard to see the bottom; you need the stick to "feel" your way.
- Keep as far back from the main river bed as possible, and never, ever, not even once, try to wade in the main current, even in small streams.

Look for trout in all the unusual places

In a flood the prime need for a trout is shelter from the strong currents and flows. At the peak of a flood many trout will die or be badly injured when caught in the main flows and dashed against rocks, sunken timber, etc. Much of the time shelter will be found out of the main river, in the water spilt over the river banks.

But lies in this overflow water are not always obvious, because they do not necessarily equate to normal lies when the river is at normal levels.



I have attempted to show in the illustration above some of the possible lies where fish may be holding after the flood but still in high water spilling over the usual banks. The dark blue colour is the main river, the usual river bed. The lighter blue colour represents the water spilt over the usual banks. The spirals represent the current direction behind obstructions.

Nothing is drawn to scale. The over-spilled water may be a few meters wide, or tens of meters.

Lies 1 and 1a

The green represents, well, greenery. It could be bushes partially or completely under water. It may be a tree, its lower trunk under water. Maybe it is a clump of weed or long grass. All these will provide shelter from the main flow.

Greenery provides a number of advantages to a trout. The leaves or grass can help to filter out sediment, sand and grit which irritate gills. The greenery will also help to slow currents and provide good shelter.

The greenery also has another advantage - it will filter out nymphs that have been washed away in the flood, and deliver them to the waiting, and by now, hungry fish.

Trout may hold behind the greenery, or right in amongst it, depending on the density of the foliage.

Lies 2 and 2a

Any obstruction that juts out into the current from dry land can provide shelter from the flow. The obstruction could be a large rock, a natural ground formation, or a big log, etc.

The thing to note here is that behind any obstruction of this type there will be a 'back eddy'. The current curls around the end of the obstruction and forms a eddy.

In these eddies trout are likely to be facing apparently downstream - but they are in fact facing into the current formed by the eddy.

Food being carried by the flood will begin to sink in eddies as the water slows.

Lie 3

This formation could be a large rock, a tree, a large log, etc. that is surrounded by water. This formation will also form an eddy behind it in the strong flows of a flood.

While it would appear to be a good lie - it is usually no good at all.

Being in the main, or close to the main current, the water will be dirty and full of sediment, sand and grit etc. All pretty much bad news for trout.

This lie is probably only filled by trout escaping from the main flow, and resting till they can move away from the main current and to the other lies shown.

Lies 4

These lies are usually only small and carry only a few fish, more often only one.

Now by small, I mean a mere scoop out of the ground around it, and often overhung by grass or bushes. In these 'scoops' a fish can hold in virtually no current, and because there is no current the water is clear of sediment. It is in these lies that I usually hook most fish.

Casting to Flood Fish

When fishing to flood fish it is well to remember that the dirty water can be to your advantage - you may not be able to see the fish, but you can be pretty certain they cannot see you. It is not unusual to get within a rod length of a fish and still not be spotted.

In my experience trout seem to hold higher in the water when it is dirty, than is usual when water is clearer.

I guess that this is because in flood lies we are looking at water that is flowing slower than the main currents and therefore sediment and such falls to bottom more swiftly.

So always fish the top third of the depth first.

In many cases how you cast and where you cast is dictated by the position of the fish. For example if the fish are holding in amongst sunken shrubbery you have limited options.

But a little thinking outside the square may open up some options.

Lies 1 - alternative action

If a fish is holding deep down in shrubbery, grass or weeds, or holding close behind, drifting a big foam fly over them may bring a rise. These fish have been in a flood and have had little opportunity to feed - they will be hungry. A big bug drifting overhead may bring spectacular results. Water overflowing banks pick up all sorts of terrestrial insects and mice, and carries them along.

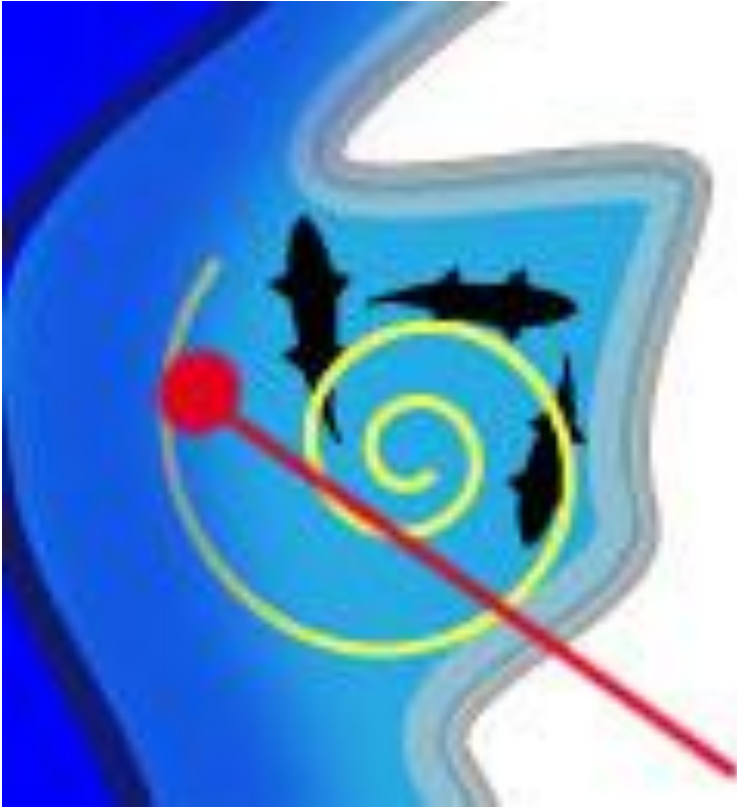
A mouse fly can produce explosive hits in dirty water. Don't worry about a 'drag-free' drift, giving the mouse some movement seems to produce increased bites.

Lies 2 - go with the flow

Try and cast as shown. Get in the outer edge of the eddy and allow the fly to be pulled around by the current.

Now it goes against usual wisdom, but do not strip in line as the fly is pulled round towards you. Allow the line to swing round in the current and then pull away as it moves away from you.

Keep the rod tip low to the water, and your line-hand holding the line up near the first guide. If a fish hits, sweep the rod tip parallel to the water (**never**



up, ever) and pull down with your line hand till all comes tight, **then, and only then, lift the rod tip.**

If you are nymph fishing use an indicator, or a big dry fly as an indicator. In this type of fishing you have little or no idea where you nymph is, as, what is happening at the surface often bears no relationship to what is happening below. An indicator at least gives you a rough idea what is going on below.

Lies 4 - Dapping and other monstrosities

Fishing to lies like numbers 4 is my favourite (well almost - see later) way of fishing dirty water. You can usually get so close to fish you could touch them with a rod tip.

I use two main methods to reach to these fish:

- Fish downstream using something like a dark and weighted 'Woolly Bugger'. Fish it on a 3' to 4' leader, and only from about three rod lengths upstream from the lie, while standing out of the water.

Let the fly drift back a little behind the lie, no need to cast, then twitch retrieve the fly back past the lie - repeat as necessary. If you do not get a hit add a little weight and try again till the fly is hitting the bottom.

- You can use this method using a dry fly especially a big terrestrial. But this time use flicks of the rod tip to release line to allow the fly to drift over the lie. **A mouse fly works super well fished this way.**

- Swinging a mouse fly cast out from the bank and allowed to swing across a probable lie can produce explosive takes.

Trying to use a nymph in this situation is often problematical. It is, well in a word - stupid, to try and wade out to a position where you cast up and across to the fish.

Besides the fish are usually holding right up against the edge of the flood bank. You need to be an exceptionally accurate caster to get your flies close enough to the bank.

But you can try a bastard version of dapping - standing just a little short of a rod length from the lie, flick the nymph on a short leader (3') above the lie and follow it down with the rod tip. You need a well weighted nymph, it must sink quickly. Actually you can use dapping with a dry fly too.

Other Opportunities

One of the opportunities that sometimes pops up in floods or high water is a side channel filling up and providing shelter for trout.

Sometimes this side water can be an old channel that is cut off from the main river at normal levels.

You can use any of the methods described above to cast to fish or likely lies. In my experience fishing these side channels is made for terrestrials and mouse imitations.

Often these channels are draining the low lying ground around them and carrying these creatures to the fish holding there. If you don't want to go to fly fishing heaven a worm imitation can be lethal.

Playing a fish in high water

Playing a fish in flood or high water conditions is not a lot different than playing a fish in normal water, but for one major issue. If the fish makes it into the main current you can most often kiss that fish goodbye.

Get used to spending a lot of playing time putting side-strain on the fish - that is holding the rod parallel to the surface to try and keep the fish heading toward the shore not out toward the main current.

On this note, you will find that you can go up in leader breaking strain several notches above that which you might normally fish. The key here is to



get the fish in as fast as possible for release.

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