

Lines and Leaders

CFFA

1974

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Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association

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"Lines and Leaders" is Connecticut Fly Fishermen's Association, Inc., periodic publication, distributed to its membership and allies of conservation. Mailing address: CFFA, P.O. Box 42, Windsor Locks, Ct. 06096. Forward all manuscripts and material for publication to this address, attention of the editor. CFFA regular membership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Meetings are held at either the Federal Savings and Loan Auditorium - Windsor, or Raymond Public Library - East Hartford. Notification of meeting place is announced in the monthly 'Newsletter', and local news media. Directors meet on the first Wednesday of every month. CFFA should be notified of any change in your address as this publication is delivered via bulk rate mail and therefore cannot be forwarded. CFFA's objective: Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly Fishing and to Conserve Game Fish Waters.

NOTES FROM THE NOVEMBER BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

Treasurers balance as of 10-31-74 is \$2479.01.....Peter Kemp is the CFFA liaison with the Housatonic Fly Fishermen's Association.....The Eastern Council of CFFA will not have a meeting in December. Their fly tying school is going strong.....Deflector built on the Yantic; signs also posted. Water watcher needed for the Jeremys. Farmington to be tested.....A shocking was held on the Jeremy's from the Hewitt Dam to Raymond Brook with the following results: 63 trout, one 13" and one 15 3/4".....An agreement has been signed with the new owners of the rearing pool; \$100.00 plus insurance per year. 2000 brook trout have been stocked in the rearing pool.....CFFA patches are in and will now cost \$1.50.....A meeting was held with Ted Bampton to discuss the plans of the DEP. Some of the ideas were: flow on the Farmington River, reservoir bill, and stream encroachment.....CFFA now has 242 members as compared to 218 last year.....Peter Kemp met with HFFA to discuss our mutual interests. They want to get together for joint ventures.....RASA did not include CFFA as a sponsor and now has bad relations with the New England legislatures.....Eastern Council of the Federation-Eastern affiliates to get dues put into national federation; minimum flow being looked into for the Delaware River; Eastern conclave being looked into for 1976..... Mark Philippe to try to organize a children's fly fishing day.....

Anyone who would like to contribute stories, tales, cartoons, ideas, jokes, or anything that may be of interest to the general membership, please forward it to:
Ron Zawoysky
Hunter Rd.-RFD #2
Vernon, Ct., 06066

PRESIDENTS PRESENTATION

As of March 1975 our current president, Joe D'Addario, Jr., will be resigning from his position as CFFA president. He will remain on the Board of Directors, and will continue to aid and support CFFA functions. It has become customary at such times to present the out-going President with a collection of flies tied by the membership. Thus, it is requested that every member tie one fly..even if you have never tied before. Send your fly (no matter how it looks), together with its and your name to:

Ken Parkany
503 Bush Hill Rd.
Manchester, Ct., 06066

or bring your fly to a general membership meeting and give it to Ken. All flies received will be mounted and will be presented to Joe at the Annual CFFA Banquet in February. Please send the fly to Ken before February 1, 1975.





by Gary J. LaFontaine

[Montana Missives is a stream of letters containing tales of Trout. They are reprinted here with the author's permission..... Ken Parkany]

(from letter received 5 October 73):

"Here's just a short note, including the report on the Scarlet Ibis (not included here, Ed.) that you sent. First, droppers in general. My selections have scant basis, since I am no expert with the dropper rig - but like most fly fishermen I gather a "favorite" because at a random moment a certain fly caught a certain fish.

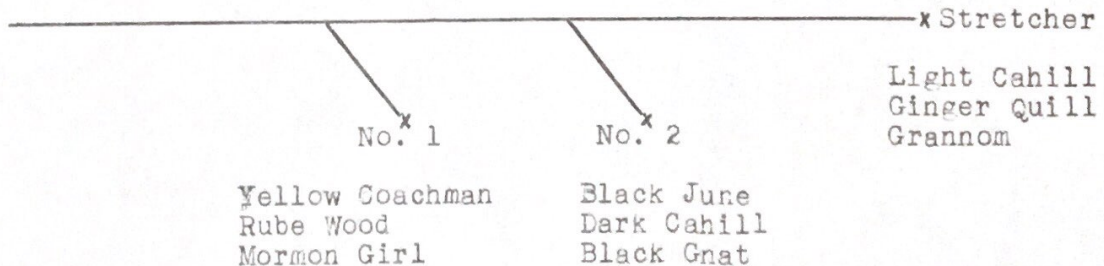
For the No. 1 dropper I like an attractor, a number 14, with white or yellow in the construction. On the three-fly rig this lead pattern dances and dips at the surface, and the brighter visibility of the white or yellow clues the fish to the trailing flies.

For the No. 2 dropper I almost always use a size 12 Black June, tied with a hair wing of Monga Ring Tail that spreads flat along the back. Wet and sleek, the pattern must look like a beetle to the fish. On a three fly rig, as it has worked for me, the second fly usually outfishes the stretcher by a slight margin, even if the stretcher and two droppers are the same pattern.

For the stretcher I select a pattern to match any predominant insect, using a size 10 fly that anchors the droppers in the water; and in the natural drift portion of the cast it is the more subtle pattern as the stretcher that takes the most fish.

I alter a cast if a single pattern among the three is especially effective, and often ^{use} three smaller matching flies if a riser becomes selective."

Three Dropper Rig



(Droppers tied on with Double Turle)

THE FEATHERED HOOK

"THE BLONDE SERIES"

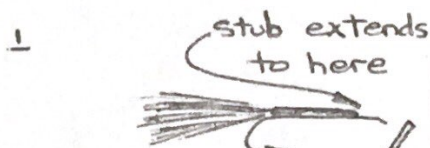
by RON ZAWOYSKY

The Blonde series of bucktails was originated by the late Joe Brooks for use in fishing salt water. They are used to imitate the bait fish that are abundant in coastal waters. They are now used throughout the world in fishing the salt. I personally experienced good luck with them on my first try at salt water fishing. I took two three pound bluefish on a platinum blonde (after the second fish there wasn't much left of the fly) while fishing at Narragansett Pier. They have also caught a few mackerel for me.

Tying saltwater flies is a welcome relief to tying the tiny trout flies that are necessary today. The hook sizes vary from 4 to 5/0 and should be stainless steel for durability. The flies are fun and easy to tie.

The following are the instructions for tying the Platinum Blonde, a pattern that I have had success with in my limited experience with the salt:

1 Secure 2/0 thread on the hook and tie in a tail of white bucktail approximately 2 inches long. Let stub of bucktail extend almost to the eye of the hook to provide an even body base and wind down with thread.



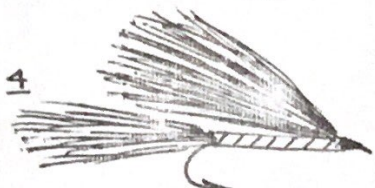
2 Tie in wide flat silver tinsel just behind the eye. 2



3 Wind the tinsel first toward the bend and then back to the eye and tie off. This will give a more durable and even body.



4 Tie in another bunch of bucktail about 2 inches long for a wing. Elevate the wing to about a 45 degree angle by taking a few turns behind the wing.



5 Finish the fly with a good whip finish and apply 2 or 3 coats of lacquer to the head.

Other variations of the Blonde are as follows:

	<u>Tail</u>	<u>Body</u>	<u>wing</u>
Argentine	white	silver	blue
Honey	yellow	gold	yellow
Strawberry	orange	gold	red

I think that everyone that has fly fished freshwater should try the salt. Its not everyday that you can catch a three pounder on a fly in freshwater, but its practically a daily occurrence in the salt.

WHERE TO GO

by Howard Weldon

Information for this month's article was supplied me by past President of the Housatonic Fly Fishermen, Lionel MacDonald. Lionel resides in North Haven, Connecticut, and tells me that one of his favorite streams in that area and possibly the most popular river in the New Haven area is the Mill River.

The Mill River has its beginnings in the northern end of Cheshire and West Wallingford. It flows first through the Hamden Fish and Game Association's land where it is closed to the public. It is stocked by the Association and though closed to the public on their land, fishing on the river is bound to benefit from their stockings since the trout spread out and sooner or later inhabit public water as well.

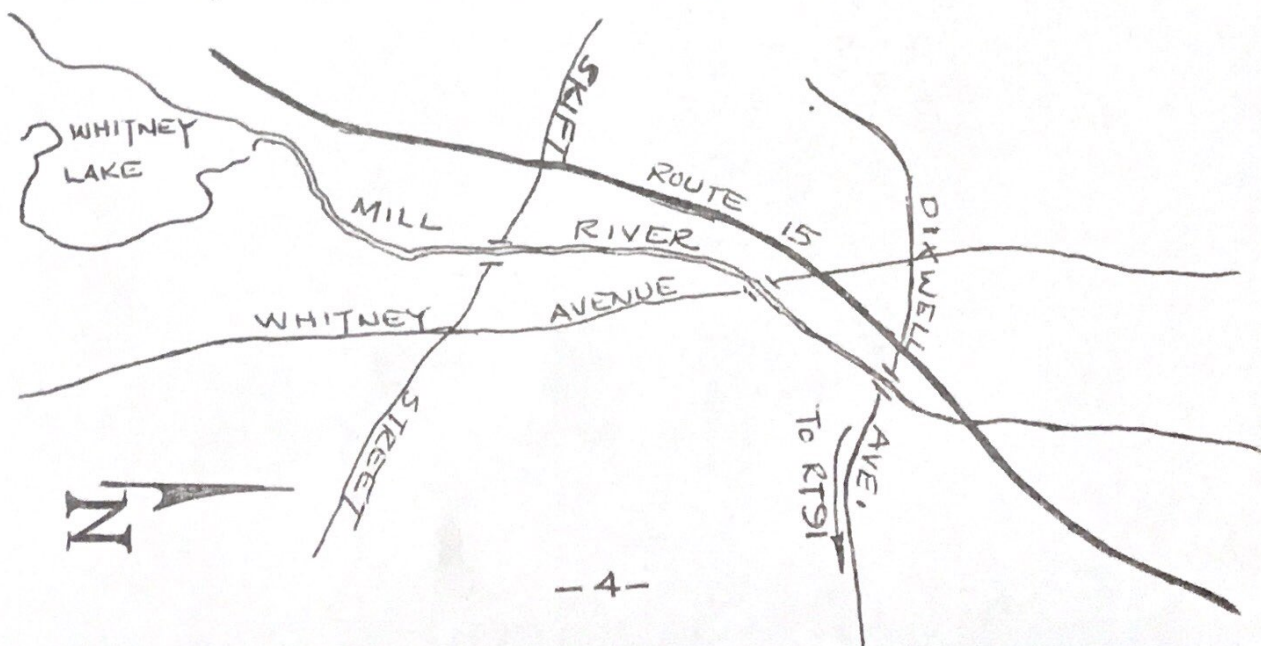
The river then flows along approximately a 3 mile stretch bounded by the cement bridge on Tuttle Ave. in Hamden and the cement bridge on Skift Street in Hamden. The river basically parallels Rt. 10 (Whitney Ave.) in Hamden and New Haven. This stretch of water is stocked with Brook, Brown, and Rainbow Trout by the state and is open to public fishing. It flows finally into Whitney Lake which is owned by the New Haven Water Co. and is closed to fishing.

The river itself averages approximately 20 feet in width and according to Mac has a varied assortment of bottom and water types. Some stretches of the river are best suited to bait and spin fishing (primarily because of heavy streamside foliage) while other stretches are prime fly water. The water is very clear and even after a heavy rain the water clears rapidly. Insect life is abundant with all the common species being present. Some stream improvement (deflector dams) has been done by the Housatonic Fly Fishermen near the IBM plant in the Hamden area.

The stocked fish normally run 10 to 12 inches with an occasional larger holdover fish being taken. Fishing pressure is typical of Connecticut, hordes of people on the first two weeks of the season with the pressure dropping exponentially from there.

Directions to the stream are easy: Take 91 south to the first exit for Hamden, (Dixwell Ave.). Dixwell Ave. crosses the Mill River. If coming down Rt. 15 just take Rt. 10 south which as previously mentioned is Whitney Ave.

Remember, there's not much time left ---GOOD FISHING



THE TINY BLUE WINGED OLIVE

by Jay Conant

This late season mayfly, a member of the Baetis species, is on the water for about two months and therefore deserves serious attention by fly fishermen.

The body of this small mayfly is a pale olive color, and about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch long. The wings are medium to dark grey and about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long. The two tails are light grey in color.

The nymphs are found in shallow gravelly runs. Baetis nymphs are brown or olive brown in color. These nymphs are quite active and imitations should be fished with plenty of action.

The duns can be found hatching somewhat sporadically from 11:00A.M. until dark in pools and flats with medium currents. Imitations should be tied in sizes 18, 20, and 22. Hackle and tail should be medium blue dun. The body should be olive fur toned down with grey or brown fur. Wings should be medium grey duck quill segments or hackle tips.

At dusk, the spinners return to the water. Wingless patterns, with hackle clipped top and bottom, will be most effective at this time. Fishing the spinners is particularly difficult. In the fading light, the pattern is nearly impossible to see. The rises, always subtle - never splashy or showy, are also difficult to locate in the falling light.

I have had mixed success in fishing this hatch. Some of my most frustrating days on the stream have been while fishing the Baetis hatch. On two occasions, almost exactly a year apart, in the same pool on the Battenkill River, I have been solidly defeated by 20 to 25 "rising" trout. On both occasions, fish worked steadily for a little over an hour, and managed to avoid my best - as well as my worst - efforts. After some thought, I believe these fish were nymphing just below the surface, and not taking the duns.

(Cont. on page 10)

Salt Spume



FISHING THE SALT

BY

PETER L KEMP

Those of us who have been waiting for the restoration of the Atlantic Salmon spawning runs in the Connecticut River system had cause for rejoicing this summer when, on July 18th, Edward Binke of Middletown, Ct. found a dead 30" Salmon, in the river near Middletown. According to Ted Bampton, E.P.A. Deputy Comm. the fish was identified, by means of a brand on its back, as one that had been released from the Dept's Salmon River stock out ponds in March 1972.

This Salmon found by Binke, is the first concrete evidence that any of the thousands of salmon smolts stocked, ever made it back to where they were released. Fisheries experts desperately want live male and female specimens that have returned in order to use them as breeding stock for future stocking.

The Connecticut River system and its tributaries, once sustained huge spawning runs of this much sort after game fish. However, dams and pollution ended those runs during the latter part of the last century. Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, and the Restoration of Atlantic Salmon in America, have been striving for several years to bring back the Salmon to the Connecticut River. This summer showed signs that their work was not in vain.

However, despite this encouraging start to the Atlantic Salmon program, the Federal Government is now trying to force the previously mentioned states to introduce Pacific Salmon into this same system. Primarily, NOAA, Dept. of Commerce, plans to introduce the Coho Salmon. This has already been tried in the Thames River and proved unsuccessful, basically because at the time that the Coho were in the River - so were the Stripers, who thought the Coho made a good meal!

Following is a copy of a memo put out by Dick Buck of RASA, which is self explanatory. As members of CFFA we stand to benefit most from the return of the Atlantic Salmon, therefore it is up to us to take the action that Dick Buck recommends. Remember that the time for filing comments is limited, so get them in early! Also, let RASA know you have submitted your comments, as they act as a clearing house for the exchange of information: This can be accomplished by sending a copy of your comments to: RASA, Box 164, Hancock, New Hampshire, 03449, or, if you prefer send your copy to me, care of, The Anglo Angler, P.O. Box 408, Unionville, Ct. 06085.

RESTORATION OF ATLANTIC SALMON IN AMERICA, INC.

BOX 164, HANCOCK, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03449

TELEPHONE: (603) 525-3355 (3324)

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Memorandum to the RASA Organization, and Organizations and Individuals interested in the NOAA Proposal to Introduce Pacific Species of Salmon to New England Waters:-

On October 8, 1974 John Calhoun, President, Connecticut River Watershed Council, Inc.; James Brown, Eastern Executive Director, Trout Unlimited; and I met on the above NOAA proposal with Dr. Robert White, Administrator, NOAA; Robert Schoning, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service; Dr. William Aron, Director, Office of Ecology and Environmental Conservation and Russell Norris, New England Regional Director, NMFS. The meeting was arranged at RASA's request.

Our stated purpose, and recommended program, was to request officially that NOAA postpone consideration of its proposal to introduce Pacific species of salmon to New England waters until such time as it could be determined whether or not the Atlantic Salmon Restoration program was to be successful, and that the financial and moral support of NOAA be directed to the restoration program for Atlantic salmon. We made six principal points.

First, we cited evidence, as reported by the Fish and Game Department of the State of New Hampshire, that Coho salmon previously planted in neighboring streams, the Exeter and Lamprey Rivers in New Hampshire, wandered on their return and were taken in 1972 by sport fishermen in the Merrimack River (15% of 1972 Coho catch by sport fishermen). We pointed out that these same sport fishermen would take Atlantic salmon seeking to return to the Merrimack, thereby preventing the substantial upstream migration necessary to a adequate escapement for upstream spawning and sport-fishing. We would expect the same pattern to prevail in the Connecticut River.

Second, we pointed out that if Coho salmon were introduced to the estuarine area in massive stockings, as is NOAA's plan, the commercial fishermen would claim that the full potential of the resource was not being realized, and that they should have access to this source of revenue. They would demand netting rights, and considering the political implications involved, they would probably receive such rights.

Third, we would not agree that any proof exists to the effect that Cohos would not damage Atlantic salmon reproduction and growth, should they ascend the fish ladders and compete in the habitat.

Fourth, we cited that a Coho program would dilute the effort on the Atlantic salmon restoration, from a funding and availability of manpower point of view.

Fifth, we asserted that inland upriver communities in New England were in need of additional important freshwater fisheries to satisfy the increasing recreational needs of the area, and that an adequate sport fishery existed already in the estuarine and salt water areas, with bluefish, striped bass, and other species available in abundance.

Sixth, we stressed the aesthetic, sociological and economic value of a successful Atlantic salmon fishery. Atlantic salmon are indigenous to New England rivers, and people would come from all over to fish for and watch this greatest of all game fish. Cohos would not attract tourists in any important numbers, because Cohos are present on the Pacific Coast and in the Midwest.

NOAA's principal reply to our presentation was that if the Pacific species became competitive with the Atlantic restoration, it could be curtailed at once. Our counter was that this would be highly unlikely, because political pressures would act to hinder a cancellation of the Coho problem.

As the meeting progressed, it became apparent that neither side was prepared to relax its position. Finally, Dr. White announced that NOAA would proceed as planned, with the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, to be followed by the Final Statement, in accordance with requirements of the Council on Environmental Quality.

It is therefore important that all interested organizations and individuals take the following action at this time:

1. Write Robert W. Schoning, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA, Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20235, requesting copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the NOAA Proposal to Introduce Pacific Species of Salmon to New England Waters.
2. Write Joan Harrison, Coordinator, Environmental Impact Branch, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Boston, Massachusetts 02203 (tel. 617-223-7210) asking for Guidelines on how to comment on Draft Impact Statements.
3. Prepare and submit to Robert W. Schoning, or as otherwise directed in the statement, comments on the Draft Statement. (This is necessary even if you have previously registered your opinion with NOAA.)
4. Send copies of your comments to the Fish and Game Commission in your State, and to the Governor. In the last analysis, if the States don't want the program, the NOAA proposal will not prevail.

PISCATORIAL POTPOURRI

by Rich Colo

As I look back on this past season's fishing, I've tried to recapture in my mind the most rewarding and enjoyable experiences. There was the evening on the Farmington fishing the Still River Pool where the visible fly life on the water was minimal but fish were rising to that small baetis imitation like clockwork. There was the evening on a beautiful stream in Pennsylvania where the selectivity of the fish was astonishing. I left that Utopia with the true knowledge that luck plays only a small part in our conquests on the stream. My reminiscing is taking me away from the point of my article... I was surprised to recognize some common denominators in the situations I seemed to enjoy most. With the understanding that someone's candy is another's poison, I will try to recreate what I considered to be my greatest delight in trout fishing and also explain a major pitfall related to that dream.

The most common point seems to be the time. There is a certain magic about the hour before dark. As most other things are settling down at this time, the stream starts to come alive. Where an hour ago there was nothing but the flashes of sunlight, they are now replaced by the flashes of our adversary in pursuit of his minisule Mayfly.

The place we want to be is at the tail of a long pool where the water is shallow and slow. As dusk settles in, this is where the fish will migrate to; this is where the fish has all the time in the world to look at your fly-- it is also where a poor cast will send him dashing for cover.

We have to match our tackle to this situation. Remember it's still light out; dusk is just settling in. We want a rod with a delicate tip which will handle a light line. Our leader is long and fine. If we had to pick a time of year, it would be the middle of summer. If we had to pick a fish, it would be the brown. If we had to pick a fly, it would have to be the small baetis (blue wing olive, size 20).

The stage is set now for a fantastic hour of fishing. With many of us the realization of this beautiful dream never materializes, and, in most situations the reason is the same. We step into the water at the tail end of the pool. The first fish to start rising are toward the head. Now I don't mean the head of the pool but well into the pool before the fanning out at the tail. Our immediate reaction is to go after these fish. This is where so many of us make our

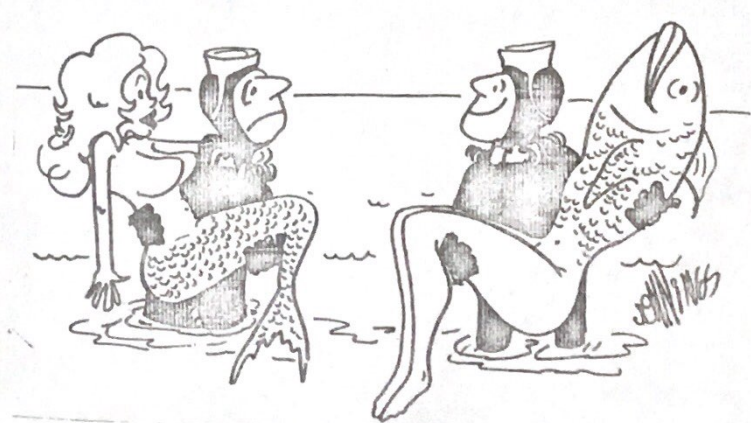
mistake. Stay put! If we would just hold tight for another five to ten minutes. Try thinking of something less important, like your job or family. Do anything but don't think of moving up in the tail and going for those fish. Your patience will be rewarded tenfold, for in that period of time fish will be moving down. Before you know it, you have a half dozen fish rising in the area where you would now be standing if you went for the first risers. Now you can systematically work up the pool.

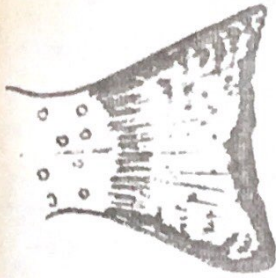
Situations like this are not that difficult to find, but remember, when you do---Wait!

THE TINY BLUE WINGED OLIVE (cont. from page 5)

My best success with this hatch has been on cool, overcast days when the flies come off sporadically over a three or four hour period. The fish are more easily fooled during these periods.

The Tiny Blue Winged Olive is generally on the water from mid August until the end of October. This season, I had some nice fishing to this hatch in early november.





CAUDAL FINIS

by Ken Parkany

FILLET

FILET ~~MIGNON~~

I'm sure just about everyone knows what filet mignon is, but who ever heard of filet fillet? A few fishermen have and it's more than just a matter of semantics. Filet mignon is a very tender cut of beef featured in good restaurants, and not always available in supermarkets. Filet fillet is a tender, extremely tasty cut of fish, not featured in good restaurants, but possibly available in your local supermarket, and certainly in your favorite fishin' hole.

Think I'm putting you on? I'm not. An office friend, Jim King, told me about it while we were discussing fish over lunch recently. I was a bit skeptical myself until Jim showed me a tackle company brochure that not only explained the meaning of filet fillet, but illustrated how to obtain it. My interest in passing along the information is not necessarily to promote the killing of fish, but rather to provide another excuse for those who do.

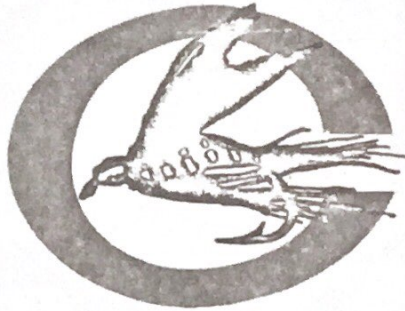
First obtain the fish. Next cut your standard fillets from the back and sides, and don't throw away the rest just yet. Take the head and cut into the cheek area (on both sides) behind the eyes. Next scrape out the little bit of flesh, the filet fillet, and remove the skin.

O.K., now what? Well, don't plan on serving a family of four, three, two, or even one (unless you exceeded your creel limit). Freeze them. Let them accumulate until you have enough for a treat of a lifetime - filet fillet, a "gourmet's delight".

I read recently that Sen. William Proxmire has charged that the Army and Air Force are operating exclusive fishing camps in Canada and Alaska for high-ranking military and civilian guests. Personally, I don't think that is a bad idea. But I wonder if somebody should send the Army and Air Force some "Limit Your Kill" patches. I'm also wondering why the Navy hasn't been accused of operating an exclusive fishing Yacht!



"I told you to let them accumulate!"



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"Organized to Preserve and Promote the Pleasures and Traditions of Fly fishing and to Conserve Game-Fish Waters."
