

Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*)



Atlantic salmon creating nest and spawning

Description



The Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), 'the leaper', has been called the king of fish, due primarily to its spectacular ability to clear seemingly insurmountable obstacles. The large body is long and hydrodynamic, measuring up to 150 centimetres in length and weighing up to 39 kilograms. Adult Atlantic salmon are usually silvery-grey with some black spotting, but become reddish with purple spots in the breeding season, when males also develop a hooked lower jaw for fighting.

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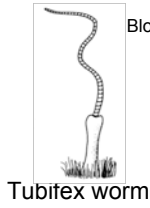
Smolts abound: Making Atlantic salmon spawn in upstream habitat paying dividends

By John Holyoke, BDN Staff
Posted May 19, 2014, at 10:32 a.m.

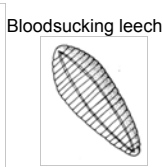
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Macroinvertebrates... Crayfish



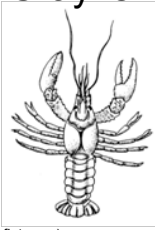
Tubifex worm



Bloodsucking leech



Planaria (free-living flatworm)



Crayfish



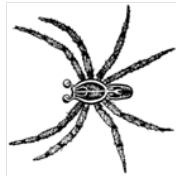
Scud (sideswimmer)



Aquatic sowbug



Water flea



Fisher spider

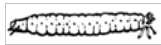
Water mite



Mosquito larva



Midge fly larvae



Crane fly larva



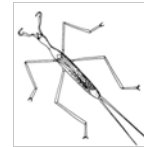
Backswimmer



Black fly larva



Water boatman



Water scorpion



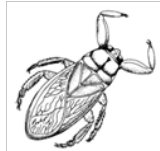
Water strider



Predaceous diving beetle and larva



Dragonfly nymph



Giant water bug



Whirligig beetle



Hellgrammite (dobsonfly larva)



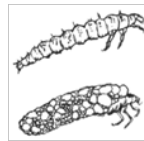
Damsel nymph



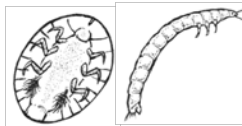
Mayfly nymph



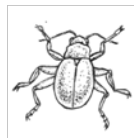
Stonefly nymph



Caddisfly larvae (out and in case)



Water penny (bottom)



Riffle larva and beetle



Gilled snail



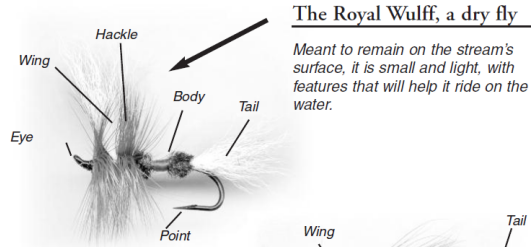
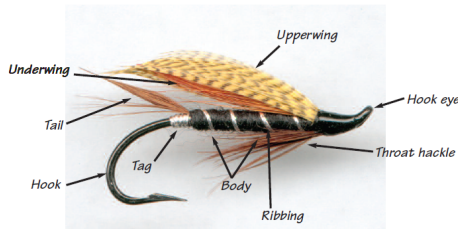
Mussel Clam



Pouch snail

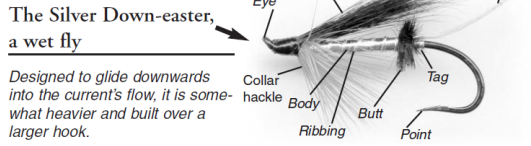
A First Glance at Flies

This guide later looks at flies in detail. But below are two examples, Royal Wulff (upper left) and a Silver Down-easter (lower right) that might serve as an introduction. Flies vary in their features, the particular way in which they interact with the water, and the materials they are made of.



The Royal Wulff, a dry fly

Meant to remain on the stream's surface, it is small and light, with features that will help it ride on the water.



The Silver Down-easter, a wet fly

Designed to glide downwards into the current's flow, it is somewhat heavier and built over a larger hook.

FLY TYPES - A Primer

Fly Type	What they are	Materials	Water Conditions	What they are imitating
DRY FLY	Flies that float on the surface Tied on thin wire hooks with buoyant materials	Classics made with hackle or hair wing. Also "hair bodies" (deer hair)	Low Water	Can be aquatic terrestrial or attractor
WET FLY	Used under the surface Tied on heavier hooks	Made with soft hackle or hair wing. Classics are bucktails streamers, and nymphs	High Water	Can be aquatic, terrestrial or attractor

Aquatics

These flies imitate insects, baitfish, nymphs, crayfish, or other life forms that live in the water.



Mayfly Nymph - an "aquatic"

Terrestrials

These flies imitate creatures that live on land and end up as fish food in the water, such as mice, beetles, or ants.



Mayfly Adult - a "terrestrial"

Attractors

These flies imitate nothing in the natural world but still catch fish. Salmon flies are good examples.

Fly-tying – Getting to Know an Art Form

Tying on your own fly and then casting it into the water and presenting it to a fish is a powerful experience that creates a memory that lasts a lifetime. The first time you drift one of your own flies in the proper fashion and have a fish choose to take it is a true turning point for the beginning fly-fisher.

Many long-time anglers can probably retell the story (in vivid detail) of the first time they cast their fly and caught a fish on it.

In Roman Empire times, techniques were already being developed, describing various materials to place on the hook, “The hook is wrapped with a piece of purple colored wool, to which is attached two plumes from the beard of a rooster which looks like wax in colour.”

There has been a shift in types of materials used to tie flies. For example, African Jungle Cock was commonly used to tie colorful flies, but has since become an endangered species. Tiers are

now moving towards using readily accessible feathers, such as rooster, deer hair, and other mammal hair.

Fly-tying can be an absorbing art form on its own; many people tie flies for the sheer enjoyment of it.

Flies are also a vehicle to gaining an understanding of water levels, flows, time of day etc.

In the beginning, the fly imitated insects, crustaceans and freshwater creatures, now, however, this is not necessarily so. Some flies can be very ornate (some flies contain as many as 32 different “ingredients”) and may not imitate



Bomber – fly tied by Dan Traer

Why do Atlantic Salmon Take a Fly?

When adult Atlantic salmon return from the sea, they stop eating food. Yet salmon anglers are very aware that they will lunge at a passing fly on the end of a line.

Why? No one really knows.

It is speculated that the behaviour reflects irritability on the part of the Atlantic salmon.

Alternatively, some say it is behaviour left-over from the salmon's earlier life in both freshwater and the ocean.

Trout do feed in freshwater, naturally, so it is much less surprising that they streak towards an object resembling a small insect or other creature.

FLY HISTORY -

Dame Juliana Berners and the 15th Century Fly

The earliest known detailed account of fly tying comes from The *Treatyse of Fysshynge wyth an Angle* written by this fascinating woman in the mid 1400s.

In this manuscript she describes in detail a dozen flies. They are even called "The Twelve" perhaps indicating they were the standard for the time. For the Wasp Fly shown, it reads:

"The waspe flye, the body of blacke wull & lappid abowte wt yellow threde: the wings of the bosarde."

True Beginnings

Starting in the mid-1600s there were a few detailed descriptions of fly materials and tying. But it was a slow process. The 5th edition of Izaak Walton's *The Compleat Angler* that appeared in 1676 has a wonderful description of 65 flies with their dressings. As the modern fly rod, reel and leader evolved through the 18th century, so to did the fly evolve, with questions raised by Richard Bowlker in 1744 on the true abilities of more recent fly designs.

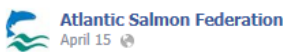
The 19th Century Renaissance

The invention of the dry fly that went with the shift to upstream fly casting revolutionized fly fishing, and by 1886 there were books on the "Science" of flies related to their entomology. Since that time the fly tying literature has expanded enormously, describing simple flies, ornate flies, flies that truly resemble insects and flies from the imagination.



The Fly-tying Bench

From palaces to cabins and tents on a stream, fly tying has held the imagination of those who have loved moving waters. This image of a fly-tying bench from the *Atlantic Salmon Journal* was taken a half century ago somewhere near the Nashwaak River. Were the flies being tyed different from now?

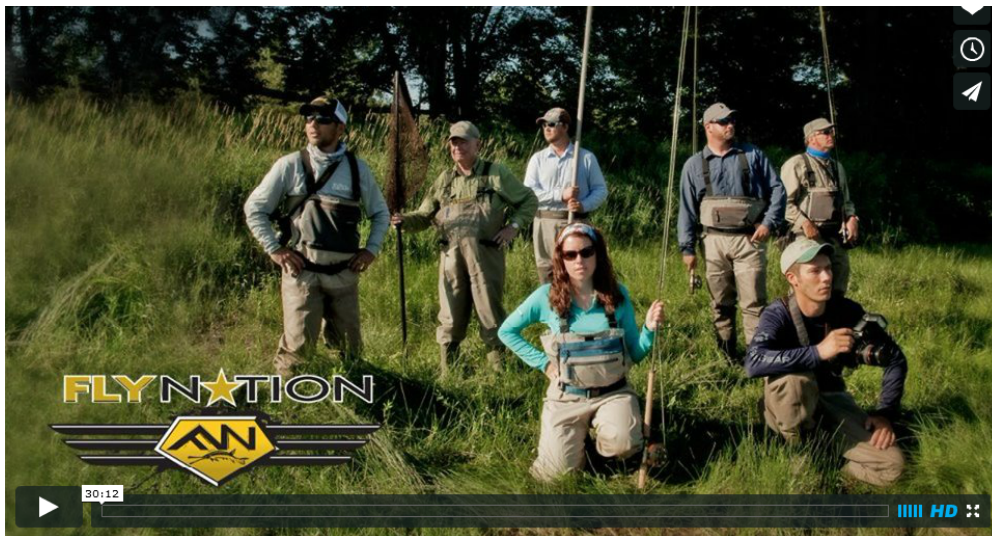


Atlantic Salmon Federation

April 15

What does ASF mean to you? That's the question we put to 9-year old Julian Furlaga. Julian recently attended an ASF fundraising dinner in Moncton, NB where he became fast friends with ASF President Bill Taylor (the pair are pictured below). Julian donated one of his amazing flies for the Moncton auction which helped to raise nearly \$300! Way to go Julian! Here is the letter he wrote to ASF recently: "My Name is Julian Furlaga I live in New Brunswick Canada and I am 9 years old. I tied my first fly at the Dieppe Fly Fishing Forum in 2012. Since then I am a member of the Dieppe Fly Tying Club, which is where I learned to tie many different flies over the last 2 years. Maybe a year ago I started to tie Classic Salmon Flies which is now my passion. I am very lucky to be surrounded by some of the best fly tyers in the world who live here in the Maritimes. I have been very lucky to be able to sit with them and have them teach me Classic Fly tying. I love the challenge of tying Classic Flies and the beauty of them. I would like to Thank all the local tyers and from around the world who have helped and supported me. My good friend Davie McPhail in Scotland for making all the awesome videos that helped me get started tying. Thank you to Jerome Molly for teaching me my favorite fly the Black Dog which was donated to the ASF to raise funds for saving the salmon in the rivers. Most of all a special Thank you to Bryant Freeman my good friend who I spend many days with at his shop learning to tie many different flies allowing me to go through his stuff and use it. I am lucky to have my Dad who takes the time to take me everywhere and get me things I need to tie my flies and to my Mom for putting up with my fur feathers and hooks all over the house. I would like to Thank the Atlantic Salmon Federation for the hard work they do to protect the salmon and their habitat around the world so that we may enjoy fishing for them for many years to come. Thank you Julian."





Fly Nation: The New Brunswick Adventure Extended

from **Vantage Point Media House** PRO 11 months ago NOT YET RATED

Director's Cut. An exclusive extended episode of Fly Nation Season 2 filmed on World-class Atlantic Salmon rivers in the beautiful province of New Brunswick.

New Fly Nation host, Ashley Rae, joins Atlantic Salmon guru Jacques Heroux and Tourism New Brunswick's Serge Collin on an adventure of a lifetime to 3 of the best lodges in the entire province, the Restigouche River Lodge, Wilson's Sporting Camps and the Upper Oxbow Outdoor Adventures lodge. All 3 are truly fly fishing destinations to dream about.

Watch the entire special extended episode online, brought to you by Tourism New Brunswick and make sure to check us out on [Facebook](#) and let us know what you think!