



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

<http://www.vcfa.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/VCFA.org>

MARCH 2024

The more things change, the more they stay the same! I have been fly fishing for over 40 years now. Like most things, the changes in the sport evolve into different levels of presentation. In reality it is mostly the marketing and presentation that change. I have been tying at The Fly-Fishing Shows for 27 years. I have tied in College Park Maryland, Sommerset and Edison NJ, Marlborough MA and this year Atlanta GA. I always said when I retire, I will do all of them (including Denver and Sam Mateo) – maybe next year. I love the shows as a tier and presenter (speaking about our fishery) and I get to know and make friends with the who's who in the sport. I also get to see presentations and new merchandise that come around each year. During the last two years, I have noticed very few new things to come around. For the newbie, it is still a world wide open with new things to learn and techniques to try. Though the names and faces change, the casting is still the same. The dynamics have not changed. Though materials are altered, the flies are the same (perhaps with different names). Rods and reels are developed through newer technology, but the casting stroke and results remain constant.

In essence, time marches on and everyone looks for their way of making a mark on the sport. Even some of the guides boast of catching more fish. The fish are going to bite when they are ready. It is true that the experience a guide brings to the table is a valuable resource and that is why we pay them – big bucks! But they are not all equal. An article for the future. The shows are still fun, but that is due to the public that stop by to ask about a pattern or gain information about fishing the Chesapeake Bay. I have seen very little in a presentation, gadget, pattern or tool that is truly new or that enhanced the world of fly fishing in the past few years. Gadgets have different names, Flies use different materials (and

new names), tools still hold your thread and pick out the fur, but the function, design and use are the same. Perhaps that is how we keep fresh the pursuit of fly fishing. I just hope the skills and history of things don't get lost in a redesign of our sport. Then again, maybe my age is showing. I won't say I have seen it all and done it, but most of it has been done by our predecessors long before us.



The shows are still fun! Mostly meeting new tiers and presenters and getting to share what I have learned over my 40 years in the sport. I will never claim to “know it all”, or “am the greatest fisherman”. My journey is still a learning one, looking for that new morsel to better my skills and knowledge. I feel that will be the case until I hang up my hat. That pursuit is the thing that brings me enjoyment to the sport. That said,

I did pick up a few new tips at the show and I was able to meet new people and share some things with them. I was also able to enlighten new people to our fishery and direct them to some of our fine local guides. In the end, I think that is what makes things worthwhile. There are always new people to the sport who don't know, and are learning. Passing on our skills and knowledge will help them get through the learning curve and get excited about fishing and everything it has to offer.

This month we will have Wayne MacMasters as our guest presenter. Wayne is an excellent guide in our home waters and has led his clients to many citation Speckled Trout. He targets Trout, Redfish in the Winter, Spring and Fall. In the warm weather months, he has targeted Cobia with an abundance of success. He does not just take you to the fish, Wayne guides you! He will work with your presentation and help improve your skills to catch more fish.

Presidents message continued on next page

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Lawrence Clemens, President: Vice-President, John Adametz: Treasurer, Gordon Meeks: Secretary, Lee Owen and Jim Saddler: **MEMBERS AT LARGE:** Carl Allen, David Dembicki, Gary Green, Mark Kirkby, Chris Malgee, Ed Pacheco, Chris Viano

Many thanks to all of you who attended our banquet in January. We had a great turnout with over 60 members and guest present. We had a good time and raised some funds for the club to keep us trucking along. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Lee Owens and Mark Kirkby for organizing the event. It was a monumental effort to get the food ordered, raffles organized, room set up and taken down. Also, kudos to Bill Seemueller and Carol Atkins for securing the location. It was perfect! The Izaak Walton league is a great facility to hold this event. I wish to particularly acknowledge your Board of Directors who work so hard to make all our events successful. Ed Pacheco, Jim Saddler and Carl Allen for helping to get everyone checked in. That took away from their time to enjoy the dinner social time. Finally, for everyone that attended, I hope you had an enjoyable evening. Thank you for attending and supporting the Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers. We will continue to improve our club and make it a resource that you can value.

SPECIAL EVENT!

[CLICK HERETO REGISTER](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAFA62CA5F58-47954173-vcfa)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAFA62CA5F58-47954173-vcfa>



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers *proudly presents* Trout Fishing in Moving Waters



Featuring Dayle Mazzarella, multi-decade Guide, founder of Fly Fishing Western Wyoming, and Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor



- Learn the art and science of fly fishing for trout! Equipment, reading water, knots, flies, casting techniques, landing fish, etiquette, and more!
- Saturday, March 23, 8a-230p, Bayside Presbyterian Church, 1400 Ewell Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455
- 6 1/2 -hour fly fishing clinic! Only \$20 for VCFA members, \$50 for non-members members (includes one-year VCFA membership, normally \$35)
- Lunch on your own 12p-1p. No equipment required.

\$500 value!!



Assisted by John Adametz, Casting Chair, Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers, founder of Adametz Fly Fishing Academy, and Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor

Hosted by Tidewater's premier Fly Fishing Club, Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers!



All are welcome! Space is limited! Sign up NOW at www.VCFA.org!

[CLICK HERETO REGISTER](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044EAFA62CA5F58-47954173-vcfa)

SPECIAL EVENT!

2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

These are the items planned at this time. They are subject to change

MONTH	SPEAKER	FLY OF THE MONTH
JANUARY 20	BANQUET	NO FLY
FEBRUARY 18	WAYNE MACMASTERS	HALF AND HALF
MARCH 21	STEVE ATKINSON	MUSHMOUTH
MARCH 23	DALE MAZZERELLA	NO FLY
APRIL 6	POQUOSON FLATS TRIP	NO FLY
APRIL 18	CARL ALLENS ALASKA	EP PEANUT BUTTER
MAY 11	PICNIC	NO FLY
JUNE 20	KEVIN DUBOIS	SILI-MINNOW
JULY 18	CASTING CLINIC	NO FLY
AUGUST 15	COLBY TROW	TBD
SEPTEMBER 19	TBD	BORSKI SLIDER
OCTOBER 17	TBD	SURF CANDY
NOVEMBER 21	TBD	S.F. DECEIVER
DECEMBER	NO MEETING	NO FLY

INDICATES MEETINGS THAT ARE IN ADDITION TO OUR GENERAL MEETING AND ON A DIFFERENT DAY

These are the items planned at this time. They are subject to change

SATURDAY, MARCH 23: WE ARE PLANNING A SPECIAL CASTING EVENT FEATURING DALE MAZZERELLA. DETAILS WILL BE SHARED ONCE THEY ARE FINALIZED.

AUGUST 17: WE MAY BE HAVING A SPECIAL TYING SESSION DURING THE DAY WITH COLBY TROW. WHEN CONFIRMED, WE WILL OPEN IT TO THE FIRST 10 PERSONS TO RESPOND.

All tickets for the current rod raffle have been sold! We will hold the drawing at the general meeting on March 21, 2024



Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

WADE FISHING WEEKEND

How many times have I been asked “where can I fish from shore?”, “where can I wade fish?” Almost seemed like a lifetime away when I was asking the same question.

Let’s fish Crab Creek at Lynnhaven Inlet, located just behind the Brock Environmental Center. Meet club members while flyfishing on Saturday March 9th, or Sunday March 10th. Signups are NOT needed, and you can fish in this area anytime you have available.

High Water Times

Saturday 7:52AM

Sunday 9:41AM

Rigg up with your favorite 6/7/8wt fly rod with appropriate line of your choice, with your favorite Clouser, Deceiver, or Half/Half, leader/tippet 6-9 ft, 10-15lb mono or fluorocarbon. Typically, Sea Trout, Redfish, Flounder, or Striped Bass could be caught. The water will be cool so you might want to wear waders and boots, with warm jackets, hat, and sunglasses. You can enter the area near #2 Crab Creek and find the shallow area to fish from casting to the opposite shoreline.

If you don’t have waders, you can cast from the shoreline in #1 or #2 Crab Creek (see attached).

I can be contacted at 757-651-5688, See you there.

Ed Pacheco





The Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers

March 21, 2024

Bayside Presbyterian Church

1400 Ewell Road

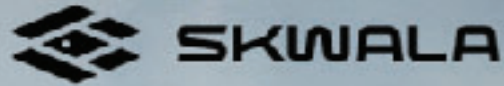
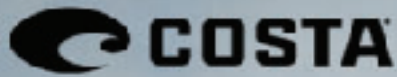
Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Please Join us on Thursday, March 21, 2024 for our General Meeting of the Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers. This month we will have a special guest speaker who will give a presentation on a topic critical to the fishery and health of the Chesapeake Bay. Ben Ames, President of the Northern Neck Anglers Club will give a presentation and documentary on "The Biggest Little Fish You've Never Seen".



6:30 We will tie the Fly of the Month - A Whitebait Mushy
Daylight savings time also means casting help available on the lawn
7:30 Ben Ames Presentation

**All 100 rod raffle tickets have been sold,
so we will hold the drawing for the winner!**



FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

2024



Date: April 19, 2024

Location: Virginia Beach Museum of Contemporary Art, 2200 Parks Ave, Virginia Beach, VA 23451

Time: Doors open at 5:00; movie starts at 7:00pm

Tickets: **\$35** →

(includes film, two drinks, raffle ticket)

All proceeds go to Lynnhaven River Now, Elizabeth River Project and Release over 20.



Current Culture Fly



**SCENES FROM THE VCFA
BACK BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE
PICKEREL TRIP**

FEBRUARY 10, 2024

PICTURES BY: LEE OWENS



LEE OWENS

THE GROUP SHOT



DAVE DEMBICKI



GETTING READY TO FISH



MARK KIRKBY



CHRIS MALGEE RIGGING UP



LEA GRYK, FIRST PICKEREL



CASTING CORNER

John Adametz

John Adametz is passionate about fly fishing and is a credentialed Master Casting Instructor with Fly Fishers International. He is a member of Virginia Coastal Fly Anglers club where he volunteers as Vice President and Casting Chair and is the Founder of Adametz Fly Fishing Academy. Contact information: john.adametz@gmail.com, cell 240.818.6787



CASTING TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

To uplevel our club casting knowledge and skills, let's develop a common understanding of a few foundational casting terms! By being able to discuss casting using common terms, we'll be better able to describe what is occurring during our casts, and better able to help one another!

There are many more terms than listed here and I borrowed those listed here from the Fly Fishers International Casting Instruction Program.....a great resource and highly recommended. Note: I have taken wide liberties in some cases to simplify! Enjoy and Tight Lines!

Fly casting - the act of casting a fly line with a fly rod

Loop – shape of the fly line that is formed during a cast

Rod leg – portion of the loop that is connected to the fly rod

Leading edge – front edge of a casting loop that separates the fly leg from the rod leg

Fly leg – portion of the loop that is connected to the fly

Creep – casting motion in the opposite direction while the loop is still unrolling. This is a timing error.

Wide loop – large distance between fly leg and rod leg

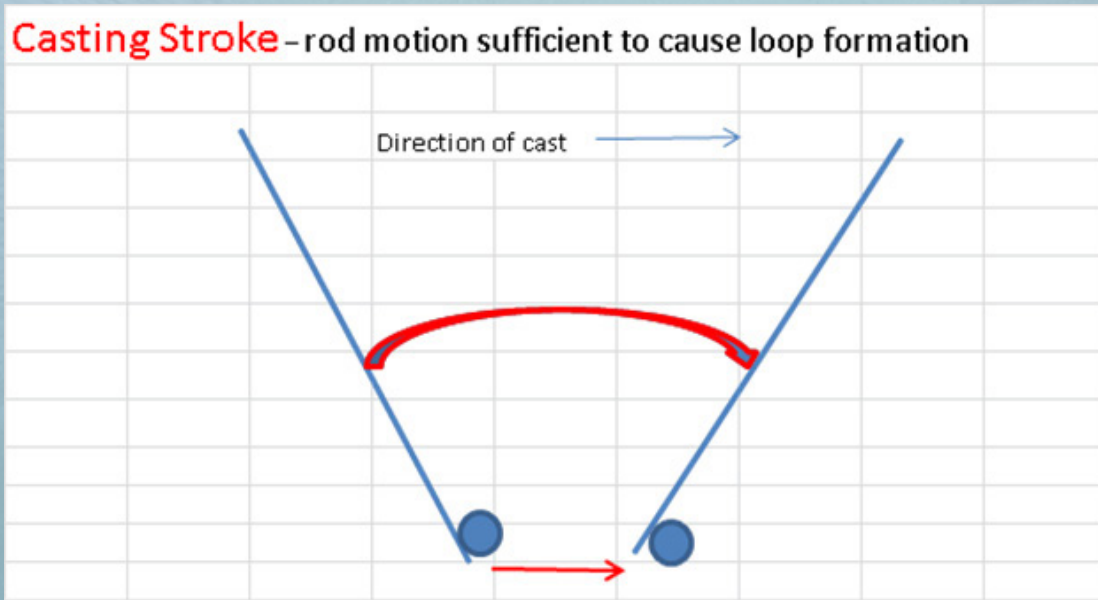
Narrow loop – small distance between fly leg and rod leg

Casting plane – plane of the cast

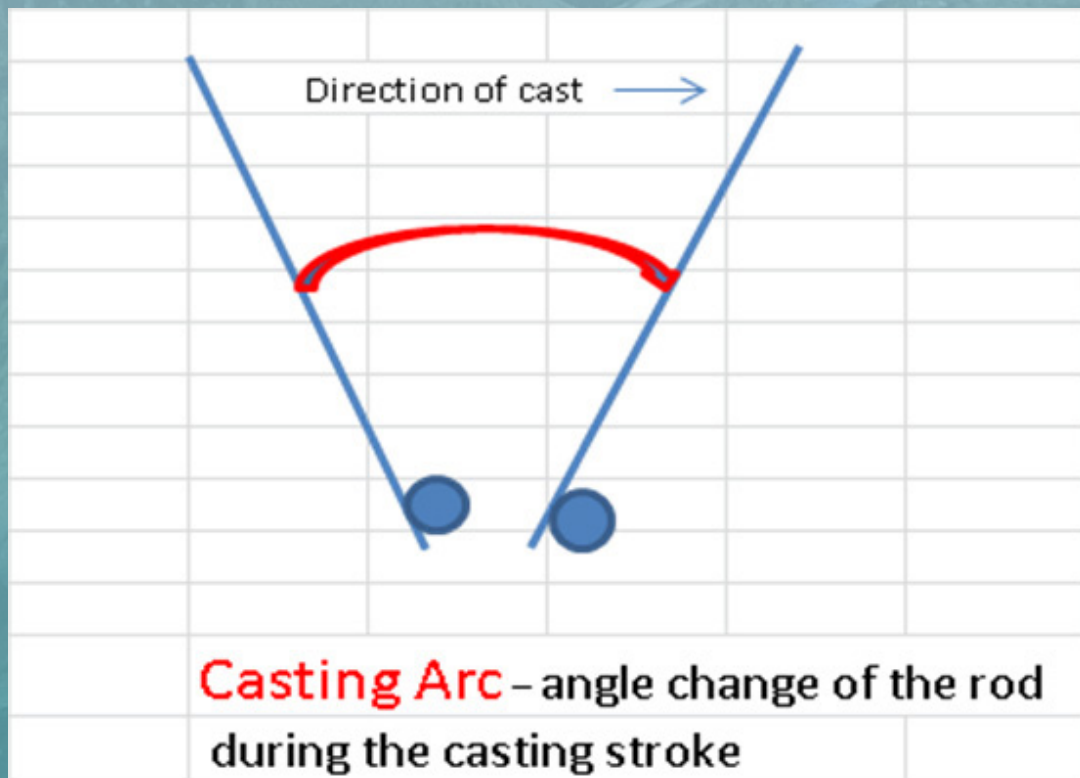
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1. CASTING STROKE

1. Fly rod motion sufficient to cause loop formation
2. Rod translation and/or rotation during a fly cast sufficient to cause loop formation

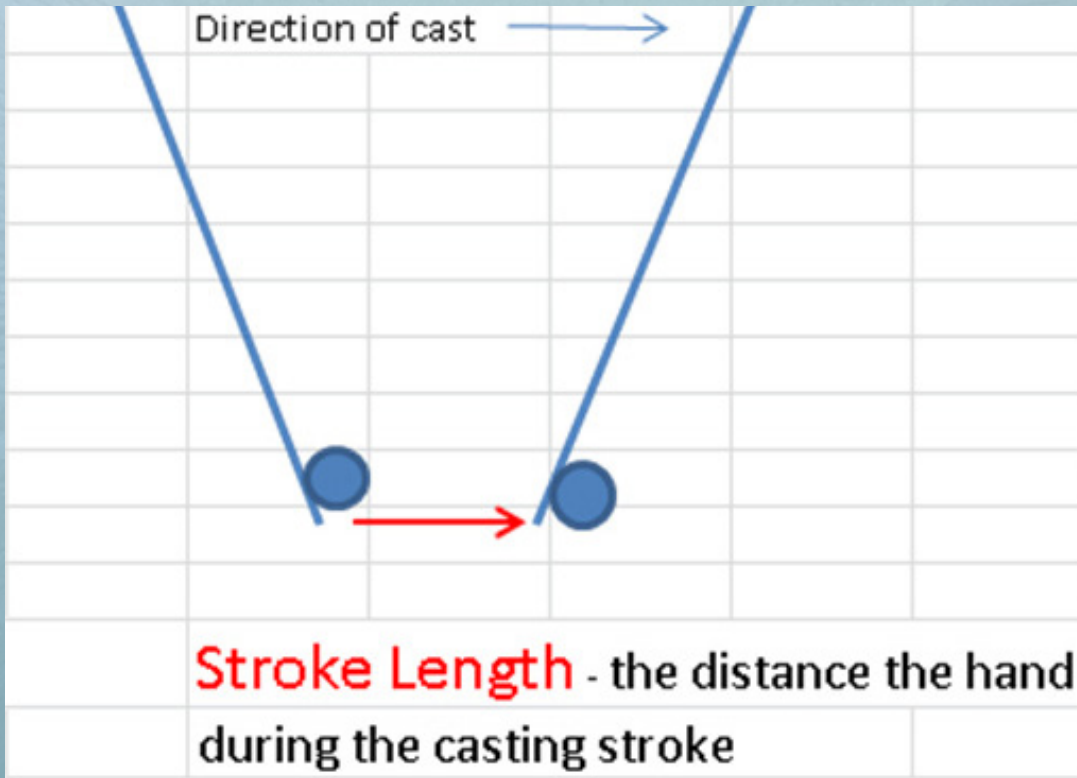


2. CASTING ARC - The angle change of the fly rod during the casting stroke

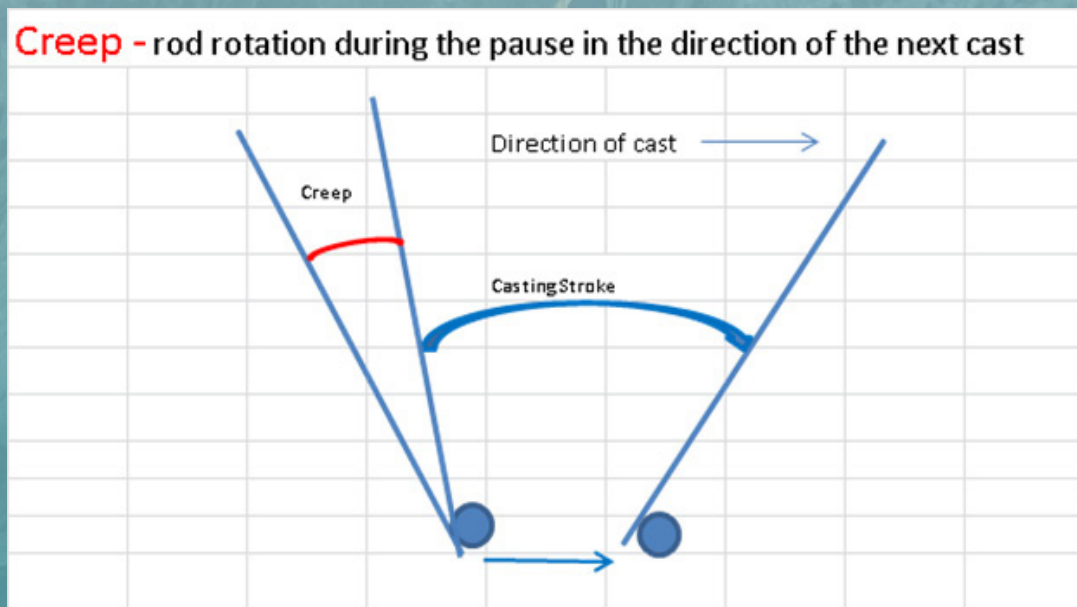


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3. **CASTING STROKE LENGTH** (stroke length) - The distance moved by the rod hand during the casting stroke

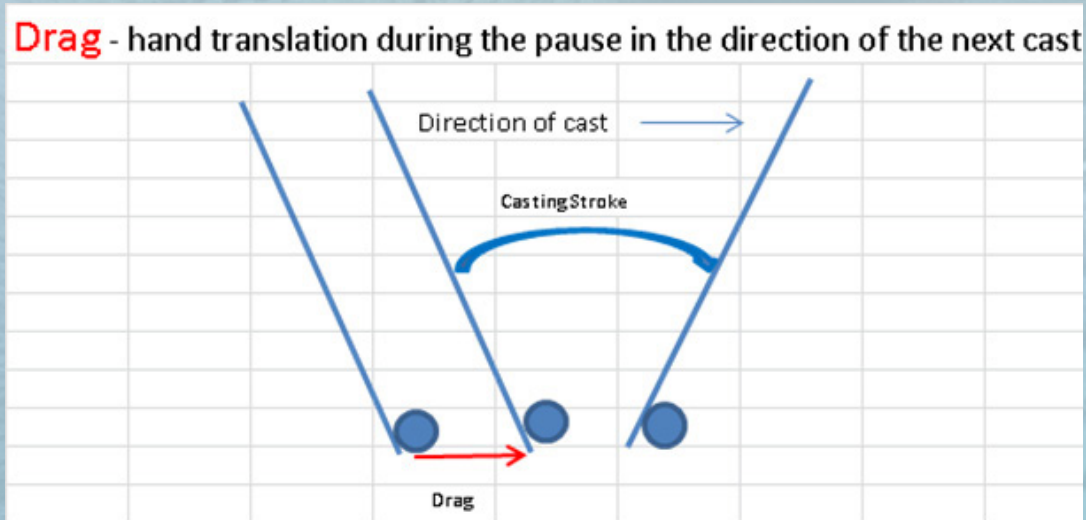


4. **CREEP** - Rod rotation during the pause in the direction of the next cast.

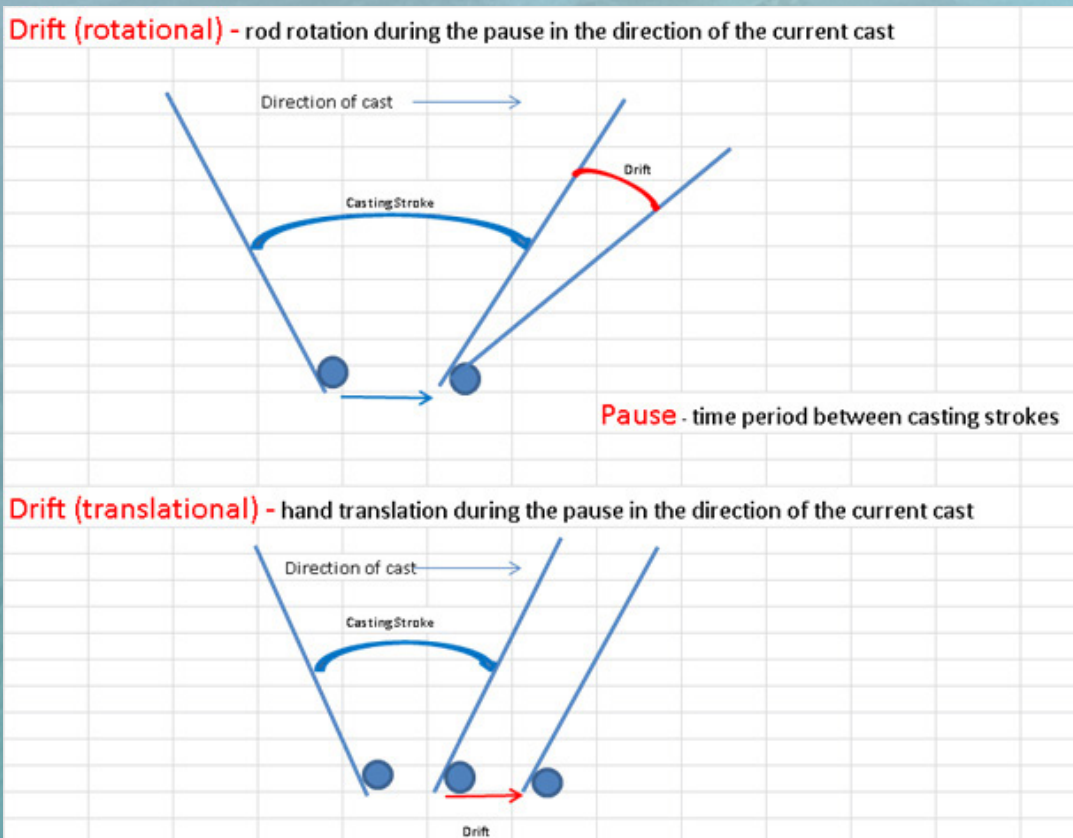


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5. DRAG - Hand translation during the pause in the direction of the next cast.



6. DRIFT- Rod rotation and/or hand translation during the pause in the direction of the current cast.



7. MEND - re-positioning the fly line after loop formation on a delivery cast.
Aerial Mend - mending before the line lands on the water
Water Mend - mending after the line lands on the water

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8. **SINGLE HAUL/HAULING** - pulling on the fly line with the line hand while fly casting
Double Haul - hauling on consecutive casts (back cast and forward cast)

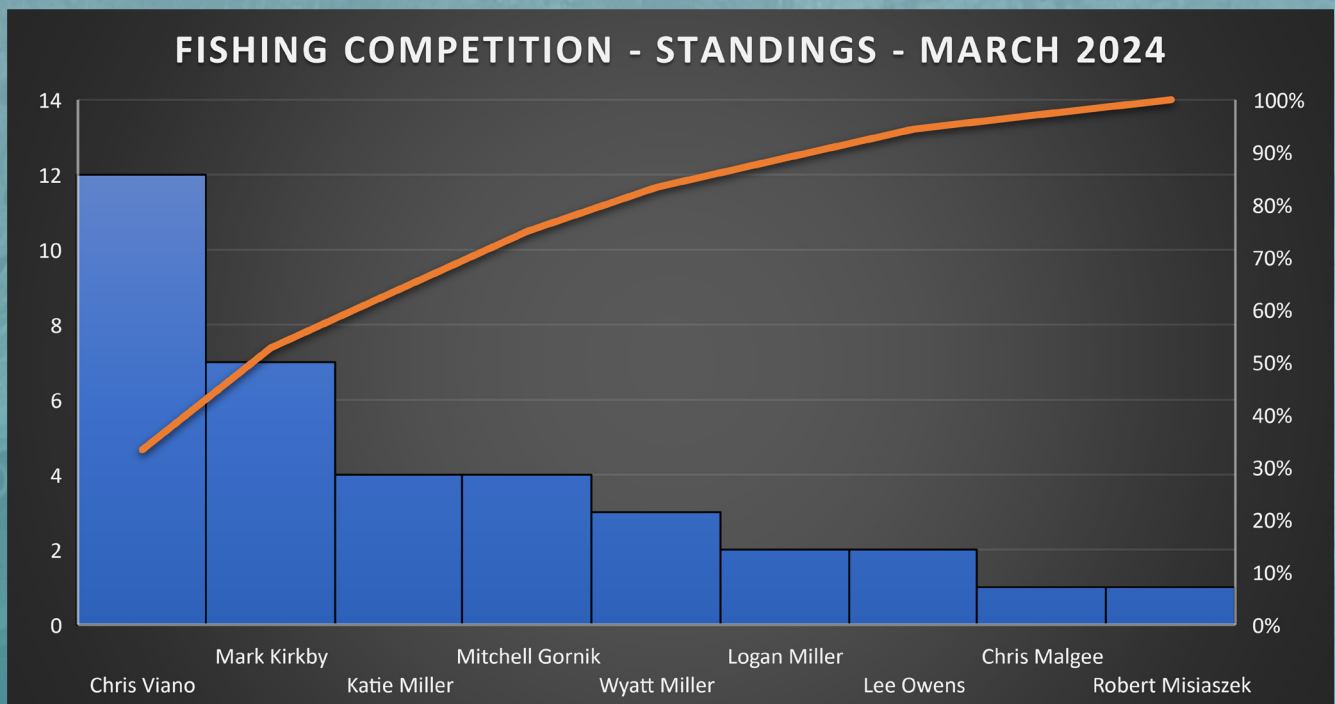
9. **CURVE CAST** - Delivery cast in which the fly line and/or leader lands in a curve, caused by rod motion before loop formation

10. **PAUSE** - The time period between casting strokes

11. **TAILING LOOP** - Caused by a concave rod tip in which the top (fly) leg dips toward and crosses the bottom (rod) leg



11. **TRAILING (UNDERSLUNG) LOOP** - Straight or upward curving top leg that falls below the bottom leg due to gravity



CHRIS VIANO-12, MARK KIRKBY-7, KATIE MILLER-4, MITCHELL GORNIK-4, WYATT MILLER-3, LOGAN MILLER-2, LEE OWENS-2, CHRIS MALGEE-1, ROBERT MISIASZK-1

VCFA FISHING TOURNAMENT

JANUARY: BRIM	FEBRUARY: PICKEREL	MARCH: LARGEMOUTH	APRIL: SHAD
MAY: BLUEFISH	JUNE: LARGEMOUTH	JULY: ALL GAMEFISH	AUGUST: SPANISH MACK.
SEPTEMBER: REDFISH	OCTOBER: SPECK. TROUT	NOVEMBER: SPECS/REDS	DECEMBER: STRIPER

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT!

Annual fishing tourney for 2024 rules!!! With a bit of input from VCFA members, we will adjust the tourney a bit to hopefully get a few more members out fishing.

We will continue with the monthly specific fish, same fish each month as last year. Each month will be a specific fish as listed above. We will also include a running largest fish competition for points that will be awarded at the end of the year. The largest fish will be in every gamefish species, no lizard fish, puffers, croaker, chub, and such. If there are questions of species as we can't possibly list them all, it will be left to a vote by the VCFA board to be counted in the running tourney. Also, the monthly listed fish will be eligible for bonus points. For each consecutive month you have the largest fish, you will earn 1 extra point. For example, it's January and you catch a monthly listed fish, a speckled trout let's say, if in February no one catches a larger speck, you will be awarded 1 point. A point will be awarded each addition month until someone catches a bigger speck. You will not be awarded for largest fish, unless it is caught in the month it is fish of the month, until the end of the year but consecutive points will be earned monthly.

Largest fish competition is limited to fish caught in VA, NC and MD only. No FL tarpon, peacocks, oscars and such just to keep it fair to all.

We will continue to award points as last year as listed below with extra points awarded for citation size fish. You may register as many citation size fish for points as you catch, but points will only be awarded for 1 citation per species.

We will grade by length so all fish must be pictured with an accurate measurement. In the event of a questionable picture or similar size fish, 3 members of VCFA will decide the length. Members will be chosen at random to ensure fairness. This is for fun, and we are an honest group with integrity.

In the event of a tie for length, points will be awarded by time of entry.

Please post pictures to VCFA going fishing page and to email to VirginiaCoastalFlyAnglers@gmail.com. If you don't have access to a computer, Facebook etc, bring your photos to the monthly meeting. This should give us plenty of pictures to compose for our annual banquet.

Good luck and get fishing!!!

- 1st place = 5 points
- 2nd place = 4 points
- 3rd place = 3 points
- 4th place = 2 points
- any entry not placed = 1 point
- citation fish = 5 points



by: [Ryan Lockwood](#)

posted in: [Press Releases](#)

January 31, 2024

Conservation Community Responds After Menhaden Study Bill Again Stalled by Virginia Lawmakers For second year in a row, legislators delay passage of bill that would support three-year study to determine the ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance of the Atlantic menhaden population in Virginia waters.

(RICHMOND, Va.) — Delegates in the Virginia General Assembly’s Studies Subcommittee voted on Monday to push House Bill 19 into the 2025 legislative session, effectively stalling its passage for the second year in a row. HB 19 would have directed the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, in collaboration with the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, to study the ecology, fishery impacts, and economic importance of the Atlantic menhaden population in Commonwealth waters. The results would allow the VMRC to make better-informed decisions about menhaden management in Chesapeake Bay.

Conservation and recreational sportfishing organizations have expressed disappointment with this latest legislative setback, in the face of increasing anecdotal and scientific evidence of localized depletion of menhaden in the Chesapeake.

“It is disappointing that this important bill to support better science and data collection is stalling again, despite the public support from Chesapeake-area anglers, scientists and conservationists,” said Chris Macaluso, director of the Center for Marine Fisheries for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. “To manage the Chesapeake Bay effectively, there is a need for robust data about the specific, concentrated impacts of this industrial-scale harvest of a critical forage species to Bay fisheries and habitats. It is also critical to better fisheries man-

Continued on page 10

agement to understand the impacts of the thousands of red drum, striped bass, and other sport and game fish that are trapped annually in commercial nets.”

“The fact that the industry was involved in designing the study, and then turned and lobbied against the bill, is yet another breach of public trust,” said Steve Atkinson, president of the Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association.

Menhaden have accounted for more than 60 percent of all commercial fish landings in Chesapeake Bay for over five decades. Yet sampling in the Bay has shown that the relative abundance of menhaden has decreased almost 16-fold in the last 40 years. While Atlantic menhaden are not classified as overfished coastwide – meaning up and down the Atlantic coast – localized depletion in the Bay from decades of industrial fishing could be a critical factor in the decreased availability of food for predators like striped bass, bluefish, redfish, cobia, and other sportfish, as well as ospreys, whales, and commercially important species.

“For decades we’ve known that menhaden are extremely important to the Chesapeake and Atlantic ecosystems, as well as invaluable forage for gamefish such as red drum and stripers,” said Capt. Chris Dollar, a Virginia fishing business owner and Chesapeake conservation advisor for the Coastal Conservation Association. “What’s been missing, however, is better science to get a handle on the health and abundance of the Bay’s local menhaden population. It’s no surprise that Omega Protein flip-flopped in their support of the study bill, but it’s extremely disheartening that a handful of elected officials agreed with them to again derail this vital research.”

“The MRAA is disappointed to see that this important legislation is once again delayed and that menhaden reduction fishing will continue in Virginia waters, without a comprehensive understanding of the potential economic and environmental impact,” said Chad Tokowicz, government relations manager for the Marine Retailers Association of the Americas. “Studies like this are integral to gaining a more in-depth understanding of the Virginia menhaden fishery and will provide much-needed data to inform important fisheries management decisions.”

The study was specifically proposed to examine:

The Chesapeake Bay menhaden population (seasonal abundance, movement rates, and predator consumption rates)

Commercial fishery impacts on the menhaden population (fishery effort patterns, localized depletion analyses, and recreational fishery effects)

Economic impacts of menhaden policy (socioeconomic tradeoffs in management, ecosystem services of the menhaden resource, and modelling conservation vs. removals)

In the 2023 legislative session, an introduced precursor bill, Senate Bill 1388, would have directed VIMS to begin the three-year study this year. However, it was heavily amended and instead directed VIMS to merely develop a study methodology with input from VMRC and fishery stakeholders. That methodology was published last October by VIMS, and advocates were hopeful it would finally lead to a bill authorizing and supporting the study.

Atlantic menhaden, which studies indicate comprise as much as 30 percent of the diet of striped bass, are removed from Virginia waters by industrial fishing operations to be “reduced” to fish meal, oil, and products used in livestock and fish farming feeds. Omega Protein, owned by Canadian-based Cooke Seafood, removes more than 100 million pounds of menhaden from

Continued on page 11

the Chesapeake Bay each year, in addition to nearly 240 million pounds of menhaden from Virginia state waters outside the Bay.

Stock assessments indicate the Atlantic striped bass stock has been declining for years, with particularly concerning low populations in the Chesapeake Bay estuary, the primary spawning ground for 70 to 90 percent of the striped bass stock. Population declines and the resulting reduction in catches have led to a 50 percent loss in the economic value that striped bass fishing generates in Virginia. In neighboring Maryland, fisheries managers reported the 2023 year class of striped bass was one of the lowest ever recorded.

Virginia continues to be the only East Coast state allowing reduction fishing of menhaden in its waters.

Learn more about the recreational fishing community's push for better management of menhaden in the Chesapeake Bay, Atlantic Ocean, and Gulf of Mexico.

Photo Credit: Chesapeake Bay Program

[CLICK HERE TO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)

https://www.trcp.org/2024/01/31/conservation-community-responds-after-menhaden-study-bill-again-stalled-by-virginia-lawmakers/?fbclid=IwAR3mQDYtvIXjvQarFvvfa-hAia-bRr8W4_1g6w_ijuQR8YLaVTWOjtXJl-Fw_aem_AUmlFik-HLZ-8zCsbCZO2k2lm0Q-3XG_KYAA2ZoutoO7V3O4NmkfE3iVeM2hZyZpXCrU



CHRIS OWENS WITH A VERY NICE WINTER TROUT

Maryland Cancels Trophy Striped Bass Season

The breeders in the upper Chesapeake will get a break from April 1 to May 15.

- February 13, 2024

[CLICK HERETO READ FULL ARTICLE](#)



The Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay is off limits to striped bass fishing from April 1 to May 15. Stephen Badger / Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Recent emergency regulations from the [Maryland Department of Natural Resources](#) have canceled the striped bass trophy season in 2024, affecting the Maryland portion of Chesapeake Bay. Currently, anglers can continue to catch-and-release fish for striped bass in Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries until the end of March. From April 1 to May 15, fishing for striped bass is now prohibited.

The changes, approved by the [Maryland General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review](#), were made to bolster striped bass spawning populations. [Chesapeake Bay](#) is a crucial spawning and nursery area for 70 to 90 percent of Atlantic Coast [striped bass](#), so the emergency measures aim to safeguard mature fish during their spring spawning migration.

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More Striped Bass Changes

These Maryland-specific actions are in addition to coast-wide recreational measures set by the [Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission \(ASMFC\)](#). In January, ASMFC approved an [addendum \(PDF\)](#) to the Interstate Fishery Management Plan for Atlantic Striped Bass that aims to reduce fishing mortality in 2024. For Chesapeake Bay anglers — which includes charter boats — the addendum implements a 19- to 24-inch slot limit and a bag limit of one fish per person, per day. For anglers fishing in the ocean, the addendum implements a 28- to 31-inch slot limit and a coast-wide daily bag limit of one fish.

What Caused the Emergency Striper Closures?

To be blunt, five years of below average spawning success for striped bass has been disastrous. [In 2023, Maryland's annual striped bass young-of-year index had a value of 1.0.](#) That's significantly lower than the long-term average of 11.1. This key index measures reproductive success. Unfavorable environmental conditions, such as warm winters and low water flows, were identified as contributing factors to the decreased spawning rates.

“The recent recruitment numbers of juvenile striped bass show that additional management efforts are necessary to protect the overall population,” said Lynn Waller Fegley, Maryland's DNR Fishing and Boating Services Director.

The repercussions of these lowly spawns are expected to really show in the adult striped bass population over the next few years, as the juveniles mature, leading to reduced abundance of legal-sized fish. A comprehensive striped bass stock assessment is scheduled to be released in 2024 to determine how the species responded to previous management actions made by Maryland and other coastal states.

What's the Future Hold?

Don't be surprised if the emergency trophy season closure becomes an annual occurrence. Maryland is considering establishing these new rules permanently. In past years, the [striped bass](#) trophy season has taken place during the first two weeks of May. This is when large female striped bass typically make their way up the Chesapeake Bay to spawn in the same rivers where they hatched.

Maryland is also considering extending the recreational and charter boat summer closure by an extra week — from July 16 to Aug. 7 — and closing the commercial hook-and-line season during the recreational and charter boat summer closure. Data show this period is the hottest part of summer when [striped bass](#) are most vulnerable to dying after being caught and released.

CALL TO ACTION: Albie Management in North Carolina

- February 14, 2024



Feature Photo: A false albacore being tagged off the coast of Massachusetts. 40% of these tagged fish swam to North Carolina waters in the following weeks. Photo Credit: Rex Messing | SIMMS Fishing

Basic guardrail management has been proposed for the false albacore fishery in North Carolina. Rule 15A NCAC 03M .0523 is proposed for adoption as transcribed below. This blog breaks down the basics of the proposed rule, the opportunities it presents and how you can use your voice to support the future of your fisheries.

WHAT DOES THE RULE SAY?

15A NCAC 03M .0523 FALSE ALBACORE

- (a) If the level of landings of false albacore in a calendar year exceeds 200 percent of the five-year average of North Carolina recreational and commercial landings combined from 2018-2022, the Fisheries Director shall issue a proclamation as set forth in Paragraph (b) of this Rule.
- (b) In accordance with Paragraph (a) of this Rule and after prior consent of the Marine Fisheries Commission, the Fisheries Director shall, by proclamation, impose the following requirements on the taking of false albacore:
 - (1) for recreational purposes, specify a bag limit not to exceed 10 fish per person per day, not to exceed 30 fish per vessel per day; and
 - (2) for a commercial fishing operation, specify a trip limit not to exceed 3,500 pounds in any one day or trip, whichever is more restrictive.
- (c) A proclamation issued in accordance with Paragraphs (a) and (b) of this Rule shall become effective January 1 of the year following the year when the determination is made that a proclamation shall be issued. The proclamation shall expire when the level of landings falls below the landings level in Paragraph (a) of this Rule in a subsequent calendar year and after prior consent of the Marine Fisheries Commission.

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

In simplest terms, the rule established basic guardrails for false albacore if the state finds a significant increase in landings compared to a five-year average of landings. If landings exceed 200% of this five-year average for landings (2018-2022), the following regulations will be enacted:

A 30 fish maximum limit on recreational boats or 10 fish per person (if less than 3 people on board)

A 3500lb trip limit for commercial boats.

HOW IS THIS A WIN FOR ALBIES?

This sets a benchmark for the rest of the coast for managing false albacore. There are no known commercial or recreational regulations to directly manage the species in state or federal waters. Several states in the Northeast are watching this very closely and are poised to follow the lead of North Carolina.

Commercial and recreational landings have increased in the last ten years. In North Carolina, over 50% of commercial trips land less than 50 pounds a day, with trips exceeding 500 pounds accounting for only 3% of total landings. An average of 319,000 pounds of albies are landed in North Carolina across all sectors in a year. North Carolina makes up a small percentage of recreational landings, but North Carolina commercial landings are substantial in relation to coastwide commercial landings.

Positive action at this meeting would build a framework for future action in other states.

WHAT DOES THE SCIENCE SAY?



All indications from preliminary science show this is a connected coastal stock. What we do in North Carolina impacts the entire coast. 40% of the false albacore tagged in Nantucket Sound during the fall migrated to NC within a month of leaving Massachusetts. You can learn more about The Albie Project in EP124 of The Guide Post Podcast – available on Apple Podcasts & Spotify.

[CLICK TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)

THE WHITEBAIT MUSHY

This pattern was designed by Dave Skoke and Captain Jamie Boyle to target False Albacore in the North East. They brought the pattern to North Carolina, where it took Harkers Island by storm. Since it's inception, the fly has been a great pattern for many North Atlantic gamefish including Bluefish, Striper Bass, Speckled Trout and Redfish. It is a durable pattern and though originally tied using Unique Hair, many modern materials can be substituted with equal results. I have tied these using Squimpish hair and Nyat hair with good results. The fly originally used softex to set the wing (and still can) but I prefer not to use that adhesive as it is highly carcinogenic. In place of the Softex, I use Solarez UV resin. The functionality of the fly is the same either way.

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

Materials List:

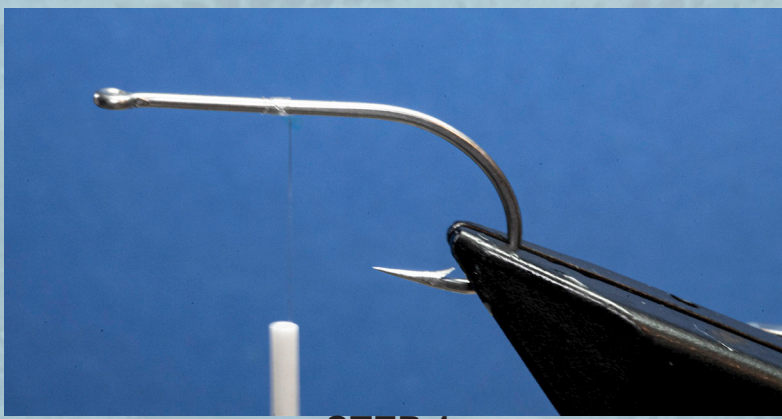
HOOK:	Gamakatsu SC15, Size 1/0
THREAD:	Mono
BODY:	Unique Hair, Nyat Hair or Squimpish
FLASH:	Mirage Flashabou
EYES:	Flat Stick on
FINISH:	Solarez Flex Formula UV Resin



TYING TIPS:

- Use a sparse amount of material when tying it in. Remember you will be folding it back on itself for the top and bottom
- You can add a few turns of lead to the hookshank to weight the fly before tying it.
- When applying the eyes, I find it helpful to use an old clean bodkin. Stick the sticky back of the eye to the tip of the bodkin. Apply a small drop of LOCTITE ULTRGEL CONTROL superglue on the eye, then carefully apply it the side of the fly, just behind the hood eye. About 1/8 inch back.
- If you desire a more silvery lateral line, you can use silvershyFlashabou or any other flash material you like. Tie it on the fly in place of the Mirage Flashabout.

Other effective colors include all White, Gray over White, and Tan over White



STEP 1

Tie the thread on the hook midway down the shank.



STEP 2

Tie a sparse amount of Unique Hair on top of the hook shank. It should extend to the rear of the hook about one and a half to two hook shanks.



STEP 3

Wind the thread forward to behind the hook eye, then tie in a piece of Body Braid or Silver Tinsel.



STEP 4

Wind the Body Braid back to the point where the tail is tied in, then back to the eye of the hook. Tie it off and trim the excess



STEP 5

Tie in some Flashabou (or silver tinsel) on top of the hook shank. With the monofilament thread, you can wind down the shank to help keep the material on top of the hook. Bring the thread back to the hook eye.



STEP 6

Tie in the top color. It should be twice the length of the area from behind the hook eye to just short of the tail. Then tie it on top of the hook with half facing rearward and half facing forward. Note the tie in point is behind the Body Braid!



STEP 7

Turn the fly over and tie in the bottom color in the same manner as the top.



STEP 8

Using a UV Resin (Solarez Flex in this case) coat the area behind the tie in point and the bend of the hook. You can cure it at this point, but I wait until Step 11 to cure the epoxy.



STEP 9

Work the thread forward under the hair that you left forward the hook eye. You should be behind the eye of the hook.



STEP 10

Fold the top over the hook shank and secure it with a couple wraps of thread. Make sure the material is 190 degrees around the top and sides.



STEP 11

Repeat with the bottom. Once secured make a few extra turns of thread. I now use the light to cure the flex epoxy in the body. By doing that now, it helps to get some of the epoxy in the top and bottom hair to keep things together without getting too much of a build up. You can always add more if you wish.



STEP 12

Apply an eye to both sides of the head. Then make two turns of thread to hold them in place. Tie off and whip finish the thread, then add a light coat of Solarez Thin Hard, or Bone Dry to cover the eyes.

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