

The Osprey Fly Box

“Egg and Skin Fly”

This fly was originally featured in the Osprey News January 1974 issue. As many of us will be hitting the Squamish, Chehalis, Vedder or other local rivers in the coming months, I thought we should have a look at this patter originated by **Rick Jones**.

“No doubt flyfishermen have been using similar patterns for years but my version of this fly was born around Christmas of 1968.

I had fished the Vedder River for years with only moderate success. I read every book on flyfishing for steelhead that I could find. They were all similar in that they spoke of the warm waters of Oregon and California or summer run fish. The methods in these books failed miserably on the Vedder River. I fished through runs for ours only to find that float fishermen could pick up steelhead in the water that I had just covered. I thought about this frustrating situation a lot and came up with 3 conclusions:

1. I wasn't fishing deep enough.
2. My fly wasn't going slow enough.
3. The flypattern was not exciting enough to prompt a strike.

If flyfishing the Vedder is to be a success, all of these problems must be dealt with. The first problem I hoped to solve was the best fly pattern.

I researched volumes of books for a suitable pattern but could not find what I was looking for. I asked all the float fishermen what they considered the most deadly lure. The answers were the same-“Roe”. The best imitation I was able to come up with is what I called the “**Egg and Skin**” fly. It is a very simple fly to tie and a dozen can be whipped up in 10 minutes. Here is the recipe:”

Tying Tips

Use a #2 Mustad hook (the heavier the shank the better).

The hook is wrapped with lead wire to speed its sink.

The body is made from fluorescent red plastic. Best is the material from children's bicycle handle streamers. Cut this into thin strips and wrap over lead tightly.

Alternate fluorescent salmon colored wool and white wool as a collar hackle the same length as body.

Finish with a red head.



Tie large or small fly on the #2 hook depending on water clarity (large for poor water conditions small for good conditions). This pattern should be fished slow and deep as would a bait fisherman using roe.

The Egg and Skin fly has produced very well on all types of migratory fish whether they be salmon, cutthroat or steelhead. It is not a pretty pattern but it is simple and will take fish – **Guranteed.**”

Times change, and one the flies Rick gave me to use for the picture use edge bright instead of the bicycle streamer and also substitutes white, orange and yellow steelhead (egg) yarn for the wool of the original.