

The Osprey Fly Box *“Grouse and Flash”*

I've come to know **Dan Cahill** quite well since he's come into the club, the trip to the Bulkley and Dragon Lake last fall with him and Frank DG is one I'll always remember.

One thing you soon learn about Dan is **he fishes a lot**, both locally and up country. It's not uncommon for him to be on the road at 4 am on Saturday for the drive to an interior lake, fish all day (including the evening rise), arriving back home at midnight or even later. Dan just loves to fish! During what for me is the off season, (November to April), he'll be out fishing every weekend at least one of the two days, sometimes both if things have been really productive. All this practise means Dan has become quite an astute cuttie and coho fisherman and this month he shares one of his favourite cuttie patterns with us.

“I fish the Harrison and Fraser throughout the winter months, primarily in search of cutthroat. My fishing partner introduced me to this fly, which is more effective when there are no eggs or fry about to hold the cutthroat's attention and they've turned their mind to insect life. When the water is clear and air pressure is up (warm sunny winter days) there are many mayflies and stoneflies hatching. That is when this fly works best.”

Dan says for the body to be that nice pearlescent colour you should use white thread under the pearl Flashabou. After the body is tied down you can change your thread and dub a very small thorax so when you wind the hackle against it the hackle will flair out a bit.

Dan will vary the colour of the thread used to under the body get subtle differences and also vary the shade and length of the hackle.

Hook: Mustad 3906, size 12-14
Thread: Uni-thread 8/0 Camel and white)
Body: Pearl flashabou
Thorax: Hair's Ear (brown) or synthetic
Hackle: light green or greyish brown partridge or grouse
Pearl flashabou

“On the main stem Fraser look for long sloping beaches/bars, smaller rocks on the riverbed, and a fairly slow current. Simply fish it on a down and across swing with a floating line. Fish usually take it either at or near the end of the swing.”

“On the Harrison fish it on the flats, again down and across swinging it over the indentations in a gravel bottom. You will usually be fishing in more current than on the Fraser.”

Dan also says you should not hesitate to try this pattern suspended under a strike indicator when fishing a deep slot. He also offers the following advise for fishing for cutties, do not just wade out thigh deep and start flailing away in the deep water, first you should fish the shallow water right near the bank, you'd be surprised how often cutties will hold right near shore.

