

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## FLESH FLY

*contributed by*

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When I decide to go fishing in December or January, I never forget to tie a few Flesh Fly imitations. It is very easy fly to tie, very effective fly for rainbows and dolly varden feeding on decaying salmon.

### COMMENTS

Flesh flies are standard patterns used most often by steelhead and pacific salmon folks. The idea is to make a fly that looks like a piece of flesh that has been ripped off of a salmon by a bear or other predator while the unlucky fish was trying to make its way to the spawning grounds. If you add some white, it might look like the decaying flesh of a salmon that finished the spawning task and expired as they always seem to do. Once expired, their bodies feed countless animals and birds. Some pretty large chunks of flesh always seem to get washed away to be picked up by other salmon or large trout.



Bunny leeches are another type of flesh fly. The steps and techniques are pretty much the same whether tying a bunny leech or a marabou flesh fly. Whether you're wrapping rabbit fur strips or marabou feathers around the hook, you still need to make sure you don't wrap over the fluffy stuff, and that the

fly "breathes" right. For those who wish to tie bunny leeches, use these techniques but change the materials to rabbit strips instead of marabou feathers

You'll be surprised by the variety of fish you can catch with this type of fly. Flesh flies look like an easy meal.

If you want to add weight, you can slip a bead or cone over the hook before you begin tying the fly, or you can wrap lead wire around the hook first. For a real heavy fly that keeps the hook pointing upward, try hourglass or barbell eyes for weight.

### TYING NOTES:

- Tying in a tail use a rabbit strips. For flesh colour, use a light pink or cream marabou, then wrap cross-cut rabbit
- Tying this on a small size 6-8 egg hook can be deadly during the late trout season.
- Taper your rabbit tail to a point. It gives the fly better action.
- This fly is also great in olive, black, and white as sculpin, leech, and minnow imitators.
- They can also tied in articulated style.



*Egg & Flesh Fly Selection*

### MATERIALS



<b>Hook:</b>	Almost Any Hook - Size #2 - 10
<b>Weight</b>	<b>Optional</b> - Lead Wire, Beads, Cone Heads
<b>Thread:</b>	Pink 6/0
<b>Tail:</b>	Rabbit Zonker - White
<b>Flesh Accent</b>	Light Pink Marabou
<b>Body:</b>	Cross Cut Rabbit - White / Cream

**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**



- Debarb the hook.
- Wrap lead wire around shaft of hook - 10 to 12 wraps.
- Lay down a thread base entire shank of hook, including lead wire.



- Cut off a section of rabbit zoner - length to match size of the hook.
- Taper the rabbit strip to a point
- Tie the zoner strip about half way down the hook shank.



- Prepare a marabou feather by stroking the marabou back from the tip.
- Tie in by the tip in front of the zoner strip.
- Make two or three wraps of marabou, stroking the feather back with each wrap.
- Tie off and clip the excess.



*The Finished Fly*

*Flesh Fly*

- Tie in cross cut rabbit strip in front of the marabou.
- Wrap forward to the eye of the hook.



- Tie off and clip the excess.
- Make a small thread head, whip finish and add a drop of head cement.

- Any combination of weight can be used. More weight will be required in heavy water conditions.
- Can use a combination of lead wire and a bead or cone.
- Additional "flesh accent" can be added just behind the bead / cone head.



*The Finished Fly*

*Cone Head Flesh Fly*