

OSPREY FLY BOX

MINKY BOOBY

tied & contributed by

Sandy McKinlay

Love them or hate them, booby flies catch fish and lots of them.

Originally created in the UK as an emerger pattern, the booby has had quite an evolution over the years. Many traditional trout fly patterns (*damsels, dragons, leeches, nymphs*) can be “boobied”, but its most prevalent style these days is the attractor style usually tied with a big marabou tail and bright chenille or fritz body. This style of fly became incredibly popular in the UK and became so deadly at catching fish that the foam booby eyes were actually banned from many reservoirs and stillwaters in the UK.

For one reason or another, a couple years ago, I thought I'd like to have some “booby leeches” in my fly box, so I did a google search and



found the Minky Booby, which had high accolades from anglers for its success in UK stillwaters. I tied a few up in various colours, and put them in my fly box. There they sat for two years.

On our annual sojourn to Corbett Lake in early October, the fishing was pretty

slow – the fish seem uninterested in anything tied on the end of a fly line. So out it came ... I tied on a White Minky Boobie. First cast, and I had a strong tug on the line and then it went limp – on and off in a matter of seconds – must have got caught up in the weeds. I stripped my line in to find that the fly was gone – no curly tails suggesting a bad knot – a clean break, so I can only assume a fish broke me off.

I only had two in my box. I tied on my last white Minky Booby. A couple

casts later, I had another fish on which was landed. Over the course of the next few hours, I landed several fish on that pattern. By late afternoon, the fly was pretty tattered – one eye gone – the flash on one side ripped away. I switched to a black minky booby and got a couple hits, but it wasn't working nearly as well as the white pattern.

That evening, Brandon mentioned that he'd been talking with a fish biologist who happened to be at the lake. He said his go-to fly was a “white leech”. Turns out it was “shit ass luck” that I tied on the right colour. In theory, a “white leech” pattern is supposed to be representative of bait fish, while the other colours would be more representative of leeches.

Booby flies are great flies for deep waters. In this case, I was anchored on the edge of a drop off, casting as far I could over the drop off and then retrieving back up the slope.

I was using a fast sink line and a very short leader – about two feet. After the cast, it is important to let the line sink to bottom – if you are fishing in 30 feet of water, it will take approximately one minute for the line to hit bottom where the fish are often lying. The floatation of the booby lifts the fly off the bottom and in most cases out of the weeds. The size of the booby eyes and the length of the leader will be key to determining how much “up and down” action you get in your fly.

The retrieve was pretty basic – two or three short pulls, 8 to 10 inches each and then a pause. Depending on the amount of floatation from the eyes, the fly rises in the water column on the pause and then dives back towards the bottom down on the next pull. Can't say as I remember when the fly was being taken, but suffice to it was working. Our friends across the pond say that the “gentle *twitching*” (*the result of the short pulls*) will cause tantalizing movement of the Minky Tail with devastatingly effective results.

MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad R50-94840, Standard Dry Fly Hook
Size: #6 – #8
- Eyes:** Upavon Foam Cylinder - 1/2 inch x 6 mm.
Mix & match colours.
- Thread:** Semperfli Nano Silk 12/0 - Colour to match.
- Tail:** Mink Zonker Strip - White, Black, Olive, Brown.
- Body:** Chrystal Chenille or Semperfli Staggle Legs.
Silver, Claret, Olive.
- Back:** Mink Zonker Strip - White, Black, Olive, Brown
- Flash:** Krinkle Mirror Flash - Pearl
- Other:** Zap A Gap

TYING INSTRUCTIONS



1. Debarb the hook and put down a layer of thread along the length of the shaft. Cut a piece of mink zonker about 2½ to 3 times the length of the shaft. Wet the zonker at the “separation point” and separate the mink hairs with a bodkin at the tie in point. Tie in at the bend of the hook with four or five tight wraps. Do not clip.
2. Fold the front of the zonker strip back and move the thread in front of the zonker. Tie in the body material – crystal chenille or straggle legs –in front of the zonker. Wind the thread forward to the eye of the hook.
3. Wind the Crystal Chenille forward to the eye of the hook. Leave approximately one eye length at the front of the hook for the booby eyes. Tie off and clip the excess.
4. Pull the zonker strip forward over the chenille. The tie in point is right in front of the body. Do not crowd the eye of the hook. Tie in and clip the excess if any.
5. Tie in a couple strands on Pearl Mirror Flash on each side of the fly. Clip to length. They should extend to the end of the zonker tail.
6. Trim the sharp edges on each end of the foam cylinder with scissors. Make a couple loose wraps around the centre of the cylinder. After confirming that each side is the same in size, make a few more wraps increasing tension with each wrap.
7. Wind the thread around the hook at the tie in point until the booby eyes are positioned on top of the hook. Make several figure 8 wraps around eyes to secure them into position. Thread will cut the foam, so do not apply to much pressure. Add a drop of Zap-A-Gap on the underside to lock them in position.
8. Bring thread in front of eyes. Whipfinn and clip thread.



BLACK MINKY BOOBY

Black or White Booby Eyes, Black Mink Zonker Strip,
Body: Claret, Red or Silver Chrystal Chenille body.

OLIVE MINKY BOOBY

Yellow Booby Eyes, Olive Mink Zonker Strip,
Body: Olive, Olive UV Gold Straggle Legs

BROWN MINKY BOOBY

Yellow Booby Eyes, Brown Mink Zonker Strip,
Body: Copper Brown Straggle Legs

Tight Lines & Good Luck!