

Observations on the Killer Shrimp

(*Dikerogammarus villosus*)



The photograph above shows the size and colour variation of killer shrimp from a spooning. Note also that the diet is almost 100% shrimp with just a few Corixidae.

I suspect some of the colouration may be due to digestion processes but if fish do regurgitate their stomach contents then they will be used to seeing them and when I scatter the results of spooning back into the water I do tend to get a 'boil' .

Talking to David Moore, the first of our three speakers at the December 2017 meeting, he said the bulk of the shrimps as trapped are mixtures of greys and greens sometimes with a touch of purple in them.

My boat partner David Hardick swears by a hare's ear either light in colour tied with a pale yellow thread or a darker one done with tan. I have blended hares ear and seals fur to match most of the colours in the photograph and have caught on most of them, then on a hard day a small soft orange one is a killer.

I find I do best on flies smaller than #12's tied to Kamasan B175 hooks or some of the straight eyed fresh water hooks such as the B180/181/182/animal series. I also use some of the Drennan Specialist hooks.

My most successful pattern is a tan coloured fly to a #14 B982/980 which gives a ~5mm shrimp which takes most of my three pound or over fish. The last fish I spooned only had shrimp in it from 15mm down to 3mm with 60+% smaller than 7mm and I took it to a tan B175 #14.

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