

Early Season Tip #3 Attractor Streamers

Big, highly visible streamers produce great results early in the year. This is due to some simple facts: first - the trout are hungry after a long winter; second - they are being energized by warming water; third - they have not recently seen large numbers of artificial prey.

Generally, streamers that pulse and breathe and fish well when moved slowly will be more productive than other patterns until water temperatures approach 55F. At 55F and above, a faster retrieve will work better. Streamers with marabou and/or rabbit strip components will flutter and “swoon” on a slow strip as well as the pause. This excites the predatory trout, but does not require a burst of high energy speed to capture.

Consider the following patterns for starters: Conrad Sculpin, Articulated Zoo Cougar, Ditch Pig, Mad Pup, Galloup's Dungeon, Peanut Envy, Circus Peanut, Woolly Sculpin.

Color is often critical and will change from day to day, sometimes in the course of a single day. Yellow, white, chartreuse, black, olive, and tan should be in the rotation. Flies with added flash improve the odds on overcast days.

In addition to a slow “jerk-strip” retrieve, try dredging deep with a dead drift swing. Allow your cast to swing without added movement from your rod through the arc. If wading, let the fly hang straight downstream a few seconds before picking up for the next cast.

Good luck!