

# OSPREY FLY BOX

## UV EGG SUCKING COHO SPANKER

contributed by  
Sandy McKinlay

Fall is here .... and hopefully, the coho will be as well. The past couple seasons have been difficult. Last year, the number of returning fish was low and rivers, the Harrison in particular, was high .... not a good combination. Let's hope that the Fall of 2017 is not another one that we'd like to forget about ....

Generally speaking the most productive coho fly fishing water is the slower moving "frog" water. That doesn't mean that flowing, walking speed type water won't produce fish; it's just that slower moving water is a better focus for us. This type of water allows us to cast a fly and retrieve it at varying speeds to try and elicit a strike from a coho.

Typically, the most effective line is a clear slow sinking fly line whether it be a traditional line weight forward line or one of the shooting head styles of fly lines i.e. a RIO Outbound. A long clear section of fly line is desirable as coho in freshwater can be spooky, moody and difficult. Also .... use fluorocarbon leaders or a long fluorocarbon tippet as the invisibility of this type of line is unbeatable when coho fly fishing. The benefit of using fluorocarbon line is that it disappears in the water allowing the angler to use a bit heavier line than if monofilament had been used. For coho 10 to 12 lb tippet is recommended.

Last piece of equipment necessary is ammo of course ... the flies you've carefully tied in preparation for "The Return of the Coho". You really can't have too many flies when chasing coho, they can turn on and off a particular fly pattern like a light switch. Once a couple fish have been caught on a certain fly, sometimes the recipe for continued success on is just a fly change away.

Typically, flies should be fairly sparse and sleek with a variety of sizes to cover different types of situations. However, there will be conditions when a larger fly will be the ticket to success. Good coho colours are chartreuse, red, yellow, purple, blue, pink, gold, silver and copper. These these colours can be combined to create all sorts of fly variations. The use of UV

materials and flash can also be very useful for enticing a bite.

Andrew Redmont designed the Coho Spanker. In his words ....

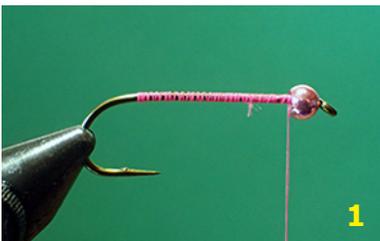
*"The Secret is Out .... Coho Love UV Flash! This hot little Coho fly pattern shines bright in the water on dark and rainy day fall days. Fishing this fly is a lot of fun because Coho absolutely crush it. In order to get the best results, I recommend using a long steady retrieve with a type 3 sink tip. Look for slow moving deep pools with cover – Coho love spots like these!"*

### MATERIALS



- Hook:** Mustad R74-9672 Sizes: #6
- Thread:** Fuschia / Hot Pink
- Bead:** Nymph Head - Pink - 5/32"
- Tail:** Arctic Fox - White
- Flash in Tail:** UV Minnow Belly & Mirror Flash - Blue.
- Body:** Steelie Blue Krystal Flash Chenille & UV Pearl Polar Chenille - Medium.
- Legs:** Barred Black & White Rubber Legs
- Head:** Senyo's Laser Dub - Fuschia/Hot Pink

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS



- Debarb the hook.
- Slide Pink Nymph Head Bead on hook.
- Build a thread base.

- Tie in a tuft of White Arctic Fox for tail.



**TYING INSTRUCTIONS** *(continued)*



3

- Fold 5 or 6 strands of UV Minnow Belly around thread and tie in on top of fly. Wrap thread back to bend of hook and forward to bead again.
- Tie 2 or 3 strands of Blue Mirror Flash down each side of the fly.



4



5

- Tie in a length of Medium Steelie Blue Krystal Flash Chenille and a length of Medium UV Pearl Polar Bear Chenille.



6



7

- Twist the Krystal Flash Chenille and the Polar Bear Chenille together.
- Wrap the twisted chenille forward to the front of the hook. Stoke the fibers back as the chenille is wrapped forward.
- Leave about an 1/8" behind the bead for the legs and the dubbed head.



8



9

- Tie in barred legs - two on each side of the fly.
- Dub a Fushcia/Hot Pink head in front of the legs. Brush lightly with a dubbing brush.



10

**Note:** I prefer to create a dubbing loop when working with bigger flies.

- Apply a drop of head cement along the thread (about 1") and whipfinish.



11

**Note:** Using this method, the whipfinished knot is securely cemented WITHOUT getting head cement in the dubbing (or hackle).

- Top view of the fly.



12

*The Finished Fly*

**Hang On!**  
*According to Andrew ...*  
**Coho crush this fly!**



*UV Egg Sucking Coho Spanker*