



<b>FISH:</b>	<p>Steelhead - The oh so pretty silver bow that ventures to the glorious great lakes and makes it return ...for many fly anglers – spending countless hours on the river on a frigid cold n’ damp day swinging for steelhead is dreamy, and landing a chromer is the icing on the cake!</p>
<b>ROD:</b>	<p>Single hand 7 wt / 9.5 foot to 10 foot in length fly rod – medium to fast action (I use and recommend Thomas and Thomas Fly Rods) Two handed spey rods and “switch rods” are used as well by the advanced fly angler.</p>
<b>REEL:</b>	<p>The reel should match the 7 weight rod, and it’s strongly recommended to have a quality smooth drag. The reel should have a large enough arbor to hold the fly line plus 100 yards of gel spun 20-30 lb backing. I use and recommend Abel Reels and Ross Reels.</p>
<b>LINE:</b>	<p>A good quality 7 wt , weighted forward floating line is a must – I use Cortland fly lines.</p>
<b>LEADER:</b>	<p>There are tapered, pre-made cold water leaders available at any fly shop. I use the Cortland . To extend the life of the tapered leader, have a spool of 1x and 2x tippet material to tie on when your store bought leader becomes too short. 10 – 15 lb test tapered leaders are recommend, depending on location and average fish size.</p>
<b>FLIES:</b>	<p>You can use a variety of flies and tube flies. There are the classic egg patterns, traditional wet flies, stone flies, (I like the stone flies with a bright orange bead head), egg sucking leach, woolly bugger and much more.</p>

	<p>A fly with contrasting colors is almost a must in cloudy water. In the lowest, clearest water, large bright flies can be effective at times, but going small and natural is the rule in those conditions - especially where steelhead face heavy angling pressure.</p> <p>Steelhead can seldom resist a dead-drifting egg pattern or a steelhead woolly buggler in the right colour! A good fly box runs the spectrum from small and dull to large and bright!</p>
<p><b>CONVENTIONAL GEAR:</b></p>	
<p><b>LURES:</b></p>	
<p><b>TECHNIQUES:</b></p>	<p><i>Indicator fishing:</i> An technique that’s popular and is to give a “drag free drift” . Basic rigs are some what simple; they consist of a fly, a weight, and a leader/tippet, and a indicator (called a “thingamabobber” in fly lingo) all fished off the end of a floating fly line. This rig is designed to fish vertically in the water column, suspended under a float ( thingamabobber).</p> <p>Some choose to have no indicator and prefer to “tight line” aka czech nymphing, and many times that’s my preference over indicator style – If I choose to fish this method! Tight lining a nymph rig is an acquired taste!</p> <p>Above all, I love swinging a wet fly or casting a streamer and I will cover those techniques in another issue.</p>
<p><b>OTHER ESSENTIALS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waders: A good set of waders are needed, and boots with vibram rubber soles are my personal favourite as they grip rocks very well. I add studs to my boots for extra grip.</li> </ul>

- Forceps/ fishing pliers/ nippers for line
- A rubber coated net to land the fish in (please don't bank your fish)
- A trash bag (if you see trash / old fishing line, please help keep our rivers clean (even when others don't)
- Layers of clothing (steelhead fishing is usually good on cold and rainy days – dress well and keep dry!)
- Back pack (to stash all your day gear)
- SPF buff (bandana)
- Polarized sunglasses – in amber lens
- warm hat



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