

## PUGET SOUND SAND LANCE



By Bob Bates

Nathan Keen, from The Avid Angler, Lake Forest Park, WA, was one of 56 tiers who were demonstrating their skills at the first Annual Fly Tying Expo of the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers in Ellensburg, WA April 21, 2007. He was tying this fly along with other favorite saltwater patterns. He has been tying it since year 2000 when he returned to Western Washington from the Orvis Striper School on the east coast. He learned the flat wing style used on this fly from Kenny Abrams while he was there. Perhaps it is a favorite because he has caught many sea-run cutthroat and coho salmon with it. Sea-runs are 18 to 20 inches long, and Cohos range up to 5 pounds. Usually he fishes from shore.

Either a floating or intermediate sinking line may be used. In real shallow water use the floating line. Remember the water depth changes with the tide. If you know what to look for you can sometimes see fish slashing after tiny sand lances and other bait fish. That is a clue to using a hard strip to imitate bait fish fleeing in panic. At other times the schooled bait fish are visible, and they might even create nervous water with their movements. As with other types of fishing, be aware of what is happening and use to your advantage.

If the bait fish aren't giving you clues then use blind casting like other anglers. Cast in any direction and try a variety of retrieves. With casts into deeper water you can let the fly sink a little before retrieving. However, don't forget to work a few casts along the shore.

The fly above looks pretty slim. In the water it will look even slimmer, just like a sand lance.

## Materials List:

**Hook:** Gamakatsu SL, black bonefish size 4

**Thread:** Uni 6/0 white

**Tail:** White bucktail

**Dubbing Ball:** Downey material from a chartreuse saddle hackle.

**Second tail:** White neck hackle

**Third tail:** Chartreuse dyed grizzly hackle

**Highlights:** Lavender Gliss-n-Glow

**Body:** Bill's Body Braid, pearlescent

**Beard:** White bucktail

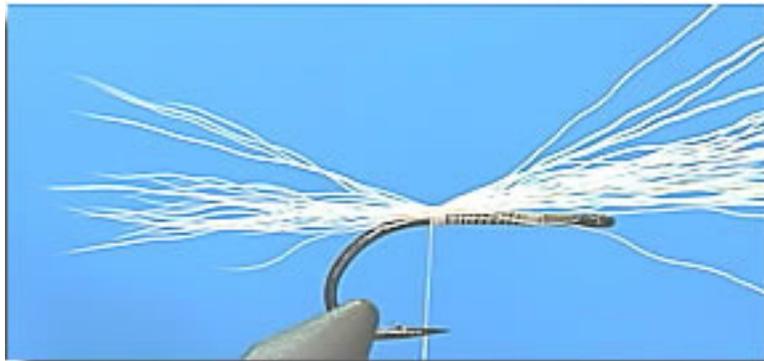
**Wing:** Bucktail, olive, chartreuse and blue (hand mix before tying on fly)

**Overwing:** Dark dun saddle

**Topping:** Peacock herl

**Eyes:** Synthetic or natural jungle cock

## Tying steps:



1. Lay a thread base on shank from front to rear. Stop with thread over point of hook. Then tie white bucktail securely so the tail is a little longer than the hook.



2. Take some of the soft downy material from a chartreuse saddle hackle, dub it on the thread and form a dubbing ball over the tie down point for the tail.



3. With the curved side up, tie in a short white saddle hackle in front of the dubbing ball. The feather should extend a little bit beyond the tail. Tie it flat on top of hook. Materials in this and the next three steps are tied on the hook right on top of the dubbing ball,



4. Tie a chartreuse dyed grizzly saddle hackle over the white hackle. Make it about a gap width longer than the white neck hackle. Tie it flat on top of hook.



5. Tie in four pieces of lavender Gliss-n-Glow a little longer than the chartreuse saddle hackle. Wind thread forward to a point between 1 and 1-1/2 eye widths from the eye. This length of bare hook is needed. Remove the excess material.



6. Tie on a piece of body braid, wind thread rearward over it to the dubbing ball and then wind the thread forward. Wrap the body braid forward to the thread in a single layer, secure and trim excess. Leave 1 to 1-1/2 eye widths of bare shank in front of body.



7. Turn over fly. (It is nice to have a rotary vise for this otherwise take the fly out of the vise to turn it over.) Hand stack a small clump of white bucktail, and tie on a beard right in front of the body. Have it extend about a gap width beyond the hook. Trim excess bucktail.



8. Turn fly right side up. Tie on the pre mixed bucktail overwing right in front of the body. Make the bucktail overwing a little shorter than the tail of bucktail. Trim excess bucktail.



9. Strip barbs from a dark dun saddle feather so that when it is tied on top of the hook the tip will be 1/4-inch shorter than the dyed grizzly hackle tail. Tie the feather flat on top of hook right in front of body. Fold the bare shaft back and wrap thread over it to lock the feather in.



10. Tie in two peacock herls with the tips matching the dark dun feather. Leave the thread a little in front of the tie down point for the peacock herl,



11. Prepare two synthetic or natural Jungle Cock nails, and tie them on each side of the head of the fly. Position them with the tip of each feather about an eye width forward of the dubbing ball. Whip finish. Since the thread was moved forward in the process of tying the Jungle Cock, an efficient way of doing the whip finish is to move the thread rearward. Trim excess thread.

**Closing comments:** I wish that I had some of these flies the last time I went fishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat. My chartreuse Clouser Minnow only fooled one 18-inch Sea Run. With a pocket full of Puget Sound Sand Lances I am sure I would have been more successful.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.  
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at [flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org)