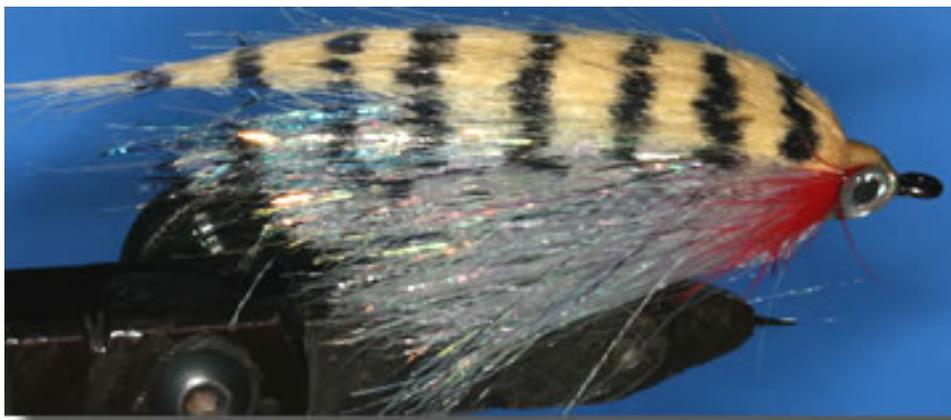


PIN FISH



By Bob Bates

People tying salt water patterns are in the minority at FFF conclaves in the middle of Montana. However, Kevin Murphy from Palm Bay, Florida was coming through and contacted tying organizers about demonstrating some of his patterns. He showed us how to tie a great imitation of a pinfish at the 42nd Annual International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Livingston, MT.

This article is designed for fly fishers around the Gulf of Mexico, but some of the techniques can be applied to other fly tying. According to *McClane's Standard Fishing Encyclopedia* pinfish are found from the south side of Cape Cod, Massachusetts south to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. It is also found in Bermuda. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department says that adult pinfish (*Lagodon rhomboids*) prefer protected waters of the Gulf between 30 and 50 feet deep, while juveniles are common over seagrass beds or other structures such as rocky bottoms, jetties, pilings, and in mangrove areas where there is cover from predators. It grows to 4.5 inches long and is a popular target for kids.

Why is it important to the fly angler? It is the preferred food for snook, tarpon, red fish, sea trout and several other carnivorous saltwater species. Fishing techniques are influenced by what you are going after. Mostly use sinking lines, for retrieves use long strips or short strips. Be erratic. Some days one system works and some days another system works. Bring along all of your lines and rods. Just remember that you are going after some mean and sometimes large fish.

Materials List

Hook: Mustad Signature 4/0

Thread: Mono thread 6/0 clear

Body: Crystal chenille, red

Overbody: Polar Flash, pearlescent

First topping: Purple Polar Flash two bundles

Second topping: Super Craft fur, tan

Gill Plate: Marabou, red

Eyes: 3D dome eyes

Tying steps:



1. Attach thread on the shank just above the point, and tie on a piece of chenille. Make a few wraps of chenille to keep the rest of the materials open.



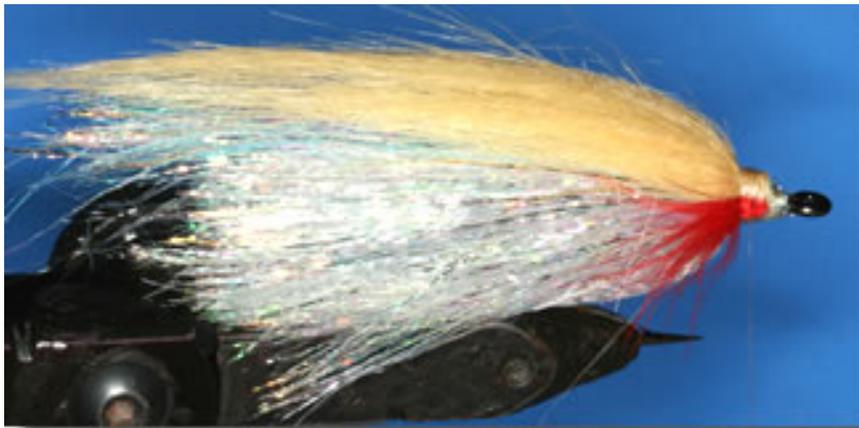
2. Attach, one at a time, four bunches of Polar Flash around the hook. You can still see red chenille inside. Cinch real tight on the material. Trim any excess Polar Flash, and put some head cement on the tie down area.



3. Tie two bunches of rainbow or purple Polar Flash on top of the pearlescent Polar Flash. Cinch real tight on the material. The rainbow color Polar Flash gives it a little depth to the fly. One bunch went all the way back, and a small left over piece was tied on top.



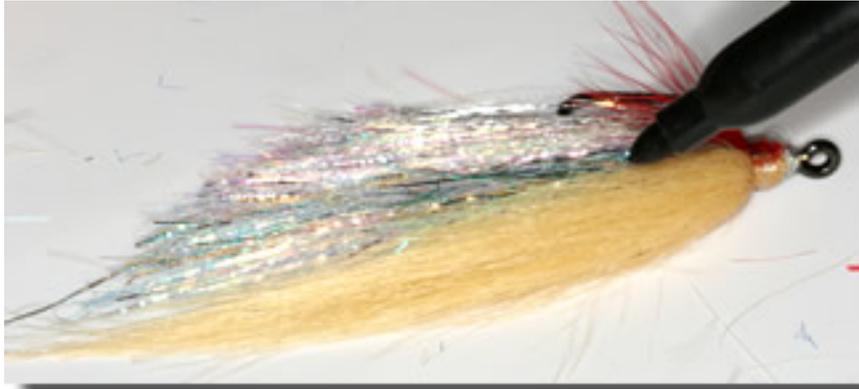
4. Put cement on tie down area before winding thread over the Super Craft fur. Let it soak in a little, and then the Super Craft fur will not come out because there is a little knob there. The mono thread lets you tie it on hard.



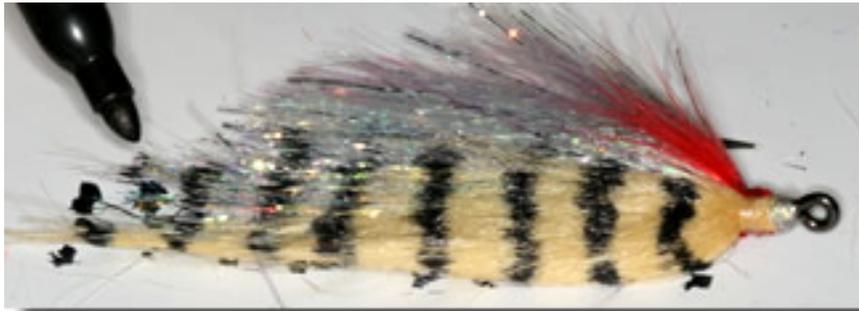
5. Tie on the red marabou gill plate.



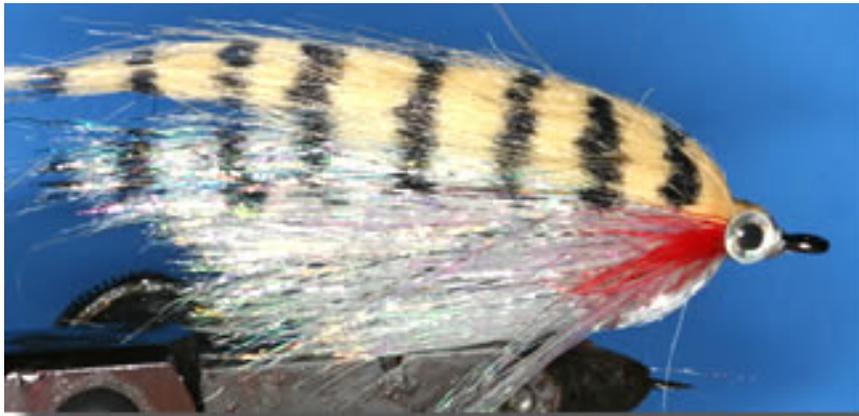
6. It is much easier to trim a fly from the rear. Just jab in scissors and snip. Trim to get the profile you want. Don't over cut it.



7. Don't try to draw a line with the magic marker. To put stripes on take a magic marker and dot it. If you dot it hard enough the line will show through, and you can follow the line on the other side.



8. Flip it over, and dot the other side.



9. Put fly back into vise, and put on the dome eyes with a sticky back. Then coat head and eyes with epoxy. If anything can go wrong with epoxy it will. Biggest problem is little pieces sticking up, so really clip everything clean. Kevin used 5 minute epoxy during the Conclave. At home he uses 30 minute epoxy and puts the fly on a wheel to cure. You have to be very deliberate putting the epoxy heads on.

Closing comments: This is not a difficult fly to tie, and if you are in the market for big salt water fish, try a few. One thing that makes it an attractive pattern shows up when the fly is back lighted. The red crystal chenille gives it red glow like a live pin fish. Kevin ties them in larger sizes for peacock bass and striped bass.

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