

Fly Fishing for Drum

By **Ron Russell**

TACKLE

ROD- Recommend an 8-10 foot fly rod capable of handling a 6-10 weight fly line. A graphite composite model is preferred that has a fast tip action. Also select a rod designed for the saltwater environment that has non-corrosive hardware and is easy to clean. Some suggested manufacturers of quality rods are: ORVIS, G. LOOMIS, SAGE, LAMIGLASS, ST. CROIX, REDDINGTON, & FENWICKLINE- Recommend that you match the line weight to the rod line weight, but you can go up/down a weight if the rod will handle it. Preferred line types are a weight forward sinking or a sinking shooting head. Select lines that have markings such as WF8I (intermediate sinking) WF9S (sinking) or possibly a line measured in grains such as 300,400, or 500. Never hesitate to ask a reputable source to explain the differences between all the types available. A fast taper line will help you cast bigger flies and will turn over better in windy conditions. Some **recommended lines** to select are an Orvis Intermediate, Sly Line, Density Compensated Class II, III, or IV, and Depth Charge (200,250,300,350,400,500 grain) SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS Wet Cell I, II, III, IV, Mastery Striper, Bonefish (sinking), TEENY T series, CORTLAND 444SL Big Game SI, 444 WF SII,SIII, SIV.

REEL- Recommend you select a reel that will tolerate the saltwater environment. Select one that has enough capacity to hold the fly line plus 150-300 yards of backing. A good drag system is a must when fighting big fish and will prevent costly damages. Preferred drag system is a compression disc type system of either cork or metal. When selecting a reel, remember to see if it balances properly when attached to the rod or it may cause you to cast inefficiently. Some suggested reels to use are: ORVIS Battenkill Disc, DXR, or Odyssey, PENN International Saltwater, SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS System 2, ABEL 3N, TIBOR Riptide, or LAMSON LP series.

LEADER- Leaders can be very confusing to know which is the best one to use. To keep it simple a tapered leader of 3-8 foot long will do the job in stained water (which is where most red drum live). The butt section should be about 30-40 pound test and taper down to a tip of 8-15 pound test, with a shock leader of 30-40 pound test. If you make your own leader use IGFA standards or a 3 ft. 40 lb. 2 ft. 25 lb., 1 ft 12 lb. 6 inch 30 lb. way of making up a leader on your own. Due to water clarity it is not necessary to have an invisible leader, just one that works for you. Some good names to look for when buying leaders or leader materials are ORVIS, RIO, CLIMAX, SCIENTIFIC ANGLERS, MASON, ANDE, and MAXIMA.

FLIES- As there are numerous flies that could be listed to catch Red Drum you will no doubt want to try them all until you find ones that catch the fish. Listed are the flies that are known by me that work in our type of fishing waters.

DECIEVERS- Sizes 4,2,1,1/0 Colors Red/White,Black, Chartreuse,Chartreuse/White, Red/Yellow

BEND BACKS- Sizes 2,1,1/0 Colors- Red/White,Chartreuse,Yellow, Black

CLOUSERS- Sizes 4,2,1,1/0 Colors- Red/White,Chartreuse/White,Chartreuse/Yellow,Brown/Yellow,Black, Black/WhiteBrown/Orange,Olive

LOCATIONS

BARRIER ISLANDS- Recommend trying the north end of Smith Island, middle to north end of Myrtel Island, south and north end of Wreck Island, south and north end of Cobb Island, and the marsh land behind the islands at high tide.

INLETS/CREEKS- Recommend trying Lynnhaven Inlet, Rudee Inlet, Owls Creek, Penninsula creeks and inlets,Poquoson Flats, Eastern Shore creeks both bayside and seaside, Elizabeth River, and Mobjack Bay.

OCEAN FRONT/SANDBRIDGE- Try around the piers at both locations when there is a northeast wind in the fall. Also along the surf from Sandbridge to False Cape.

