

## Ice on 2015

By : Weston Niep



The freeze is here and is planning to overtake our open water over the next month. Though the freeze seems as though it is working against us, it is actually offering one last bounty for outdoorsman like us. The process of freezing water has a profound effect on the behavior of fish and wildlife. The most obvious of these relationships is that of wildlife to freezing water. Water is usually the most limiting factor for animals overwintering in Colorado. Therefore, they will be clinging to any last remaining pockets of open water. For you duck and deer hunters, finding water that will stay open during the freeze will provide a bountiful honey hole for the late season.

The other relationship to consider is that of fish to freezing water. The process of ice on has more effects on fish than you can count on one hand. I tend to focus on the two that have the most effect on the fish I will catch. First, a big word that I love to throw around this time of year, hyperphagia is the behavior of overeating or compensatory eating. Basically, trout know they have some hard months ahead and are doing everything possible to mitigate the impacts of winter. The second effect of freezing water on fish is turnover. Turnover is the event of a lake inverting its different temporal zones. In short, the optimal temperature for fish to occupy is right up against the shore increasing your chances of landing a monster from the deep.



## Fishing Reports

Fall is giving way to winter making for an interesting time of year to be an angler. The question this time of year is not "Should I go fishing today?". Instead

we ask ourselves, "How cold will I get attempting to catch a fish today?". It is cold and getting colder, but the fishing is on fire! Fish are moving to their wintering holes in the rivers making for 25 fish days in some rivers. Turnover

has begun in many of our large water bodies bringing the monsters of the deep close enough for shore anglers to get in on the action.

### Granby Reservoir

It's time to hammer some big lakers and rainbows on Granby. Shore anglers have found more and more large fish on the ends of their lines as the cold has set in. Locate areas with rapid drop offs accompanied by a complex of cobble to boulder size rocks. White tube jigs with a 1/8 ounce jig head and a chunk of white sucker meat are always a great option for this time of year. Cast your tube jig as far as will go, leave your bail open and wait for line to start peeling off your reel. Once you have a fish freely taking line, flip the bail and set like bill dance. Also, don't forget about your cast-masters, any pattern with orange seems to be attracting fish right now.

### Colorado River @ Parshall- 200 cfs

The Colorado is fishing great right now. Fish are stacking up in deep holes and aren't afraid to eat. Large streamers are working well in all forms of action including your traditional strip approach and your less traditional nymph approach. Seriously, throw a streamer or wooly buggie on as your lead fly of your nymph rig, you'll be shocked at the fish this can produce. Other nymph choices include girdle bugs (Pat's rubber legs), and a small baetis pattern as your last fly. Fishing is best after the sun has warmed the water for an hour or two so no need to be the early bird here.

**Do you have someone that you'd like to include in the Fly of the Month Club?  
Please sign up on our website  
[www.wamboltwealth.com](http://www.wamboltwealth.com) or send an email**



# November 2015 Fly Of the Month Club



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# Worth the Weight

By: Peter Sticher

Like every fly fisherman, I eagerly anticipate the season when warm nights and sunny days bring fish to the surface to feed on dry flies. Living in the Rocky Mountain West, this season is regrettably shorter than I would like, with Fall frosts creeping down the mountains in early September, and the often unpunctual Spring failing to arrive and sweep out high elevation snows until mid-July. It is in these cold months, and in-between times when fish are not actively feeding at the surface, that we need to go deep and plumb the depths of the river with nymph rigs in order to hook up.

I began my fly fishing career, like many of you, with a single dry fly on the water, and the words "drag free drift" echoing in my ears. When drifting a dry fly down the river, we were taught to constantly mend and loop our fly line upstream so that it would not catch in the current and transfer an unnatural drag or pull onto our fly. The transition from dry fly fishing to nymph rigs cast beneath a strike indicator is a challenge for many fly fishermen. Whether it is the fear of losing flies among the rocks on the bottom of the river, or the ghosts of our tutors telling us to go with the flow and match our drift to the surface of the river, nymphing does not come easily to most.

The common sin of fly fishermen when nymphing is not getting their flies deep enough. Trout spend the majority of their time (and do 75% of their feeding) close to the bottom of the river, taking refuge from the river's current behind the boulders and logs that make up the bottom of the channel, and in the slow-water depths of pools. The challenge for the angler is to get wet flies and nymphs into this zone of lower velocity on the bottom of the river, through the layers

of faster water speeding along the surface. These pockets of slow water that hold fish might be quite small, requiring the angler to get their offering down quickly so as not to drift over the heads of the trout. With so many different weights on the market, let's take a minute to discuss the merits and uses of each.

In order to get your flies into the feeding zone on the bottom of the river, you need to have enough tippet or leader between your strike indicator and flies (typically 1.5X - 2X the depth of the water being fished), and you will need to add weight. Whether you are adding the weight to your line or incorporating it into your fly, it is important to understand the relative merits of each type of metal commonly available on the market.

### TIN

Tin weights are a relatively recent addition to the fly angler's arsenal and have a density of 7.31 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. A non-toxic alternative to the traditional lead weights, Boss Tin is made in Colorado and can be pinched to your leader or tippet to help sink your flies. An innovative change brought to the water by Boss Tin weights is their "Stix" shaped weights whose long, slim profiles tend to snag less than the traditional round splitshot. For a long drift or shallow water, tin is a great option.



### BRASS

Brass has a density of 8.70 g/cm<sup>3</sup> and is the second lightest weight metal commonly used as a weight for flies. Found in the form of beadheads and coneheads and tied into flies, brass adds a little flash to fly the while while aiding it in the slow sink as it progresses downstream. By itself, a brass beadhead adds only minimal weight and should be accompanied by extra weight attached to the line, or a second beadhead pattern dropped beneath the first.

### LEAD

Lead is among the cheapest and most common metals used in fly fishing. Having a density of 11.34 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, this malleable metal is wound in wire form around the core of many fly patterns, and can be pinched to your leader as a splitshot. Noticeably heavier than brass or tin, a little lead goes a long ways in sinking your flies.

### TUNGSTEN

When short drift distances or extreme water depths make it difficult to get your flies to the fish, it is time to break out the tungsten! Tungsten has the greatest density and is approximately 2x heavier than brass and 1.5x heavier than lead at 19.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup>. Commonly found in the form of a bead or conhead that can be tied into your fly, or a putty that can be pinched onto your line, no metal on the market will get you down deep as quickly as tungsten.



## Fly of the Month

### Fly of the Month

**Pattern:** Morrish October Caddis Pupa

**Size:** 10

**Family Matched:** Caddis

**Species Matched:** October Caddis (Genus *Dicosmoecus*)

**Life Cycle:** Emerging Pupa



Among the largest of the North American Caddis, the "October Caddis" or *Dicosmoecus* is a real-world example of saving the best for last! Measuring up to an inch long and emerging from their rocky Western streams throughout the late fall, the October Caddis is one of the most significant late season hatches for both trout and the fly fisher!