



Wind is another factor to be considered when choosing a boat. The low, aerodynamic profile and shallow drafts of the drift boat make them easier to row in the high winds and open plains of Wyoming and Montana. If you need to haul your boat either to or from the launch or are looking for one boat that can float both rocky and deep rivers, a raft will be the boat you need!



As we enter the year of 2021, dream with us for a minute. Maybe this is the year you get to purchase a fishing boat and float with us! Its ok, go ahead and pull the trigger! Your partner called and told us it was ok!

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Fly of the Month · January 2021



It is a longstanding joke around the fly shop, and one I break out with a grin whenever a giddy angler is trying to reel themselves back in from buying more flies and gear. The client inevitably says, “My significant other will kill me if I buy anymore flies!” To which I respond, “No, it’s ok! They actually called the shop a little while ago saying, you could buy a boat!” This is received with a laugh and wistful sigh, “If only I could get a boat!” Well, dream with us. Let’s imagine that your “someday” might actually happen sooner than later.



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FLY OF THE MONTH • Beadhead Holo Midge • Size 20

With almost 17,000 midge species crowding the waters of North America, sometimes it pays for your fly pattern to stand out from the herd! The Beadhead Holo Midge is a flashy, heavy metal midge pattern that will help you get down deep while seducing the attention of even the most reluctant trout! Tied with a holographic mylar, this fly pattern shoots of a rainbow of light as it drifts down the river and is certain to become one of your favorite midge patterns this season!



Dry/Wet: Wet | **Fly Category:** Attractor Pattern

Family: Midges & Chironomids | **Species:** N/A | **Life Stage:** Larva, Pupa

Fishing Rafts Vs. Drift Boats – Which is Right for You?

By: Peter Stitcher

So, let us start the conversation if a fishing raft or a drift boat will be the best fit for you. Putting aside little things like cost, and where you are going to hide this boat from your significant other, here are the key points you will need to consider the merits of a fishing raft versus a drift boat.

Why do you float?

It goes without saying that if you are reading this and are a part of our community that you fly fish! The key enticements of owning any river boat are those 100-yard-long effortless drifts, the ability to touch miles of water in a single day, and being able to fish every rock and seam in the river. What you need to consider when selecting a boat is are you looking for a multipurpose craft or solely a lean, mean fly fishing machine? My kids (Emily, 8 and Aiden, 11) love the river, and while I can get them to



row for a mile and fish with me, it is the prospect of hot springs, riding the rapids, and week-long camping trips that really excites them! Drift boats are hunting crafts, and while they can hold food and beer for a long day on the water, if you are looking to camp and for comfort, the versatility and amenities of a raft might be a better fit.

Who do you want to float with?

For some, the river is a sacred space best shared with one or two close fishing buddies, while for others they may want the option to pile the entire family in the boat for a little white-water trip or weekend “booze cruise”. Who you envision sharing your boat with will be a vital factor in the type of craft you choose. Your standard drift boat is made to comfortably carry up to three people, one on the oars and passengers seated front and back. Rafts offer much greater versatility via their variable sizes (12’-16’ for most fishing rafts) and interchangeable frame components, comfortably holding 1 – 6 passengers. If you are planning to share the rowing responsibilities, drift boats are much easier to row and maneuver, but when it comes to awnings, amenities, and soft seating for many, rafts will take the prize.



Where & when do you float?

The rivers you plan to float will play a big factor in the type of boat you will want to purchase. In high flowing rivers without a lot of exposed boulders, drift boats might provide a more comfortable ride with their shallow drafts and ease of rowing. In more technical waters with variable flows and the likelihood of some unintentional “pinball action” with the boat bouncing off boulders, a raft will be much more forgiving.

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