

# FLY & TACKLE 2010

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**INSIDE YOU WILL FIND  
INFORMATION ON FLIES,  
RODS, LINES AND  
EQUIPMENT**

## WHEN PREPARING FOR YOUR TRIP ...

remember that our fly fishing shop here in Goose Bay, Labrador carries an extensive inventory of flies (including those hard to find large sizes), leaders, lines, rods, waders and outdoor travel gear. A detailed order form for flies is available by contacting our office, and prepared selections of flies can be tailored to the timeframe specific to your visit to Labrador. For more information please call or e-mail.

In general when you fish for big fish... you use big flies. However we do recommend having some smaller patterns that you would use on your home waters in your fly box. In general your fly sizes should be as follows; dries should range in sizes from 4 through 12, streamers from 2 through 8, nymphs 8 through 14, and for terrestrials like mice and hair poppers, use size 2's.

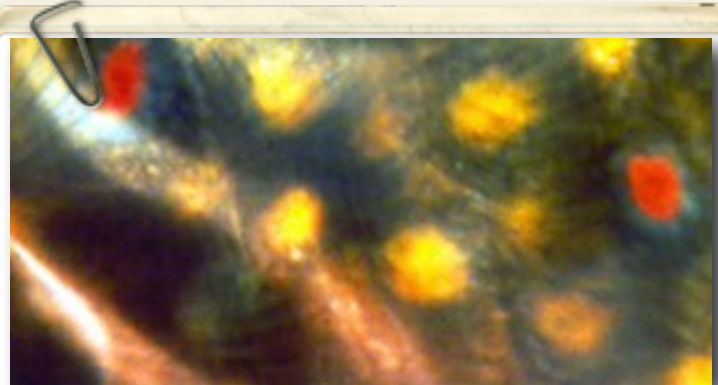
With over 32 species of mayflies alone identified on the Minipi watershed, be prepared for whatever can hatch. For more details on fly selection read on.

When packing your bags be cautious not to exceed the weight limits and guidelines set out by your airline. Most specify a 2 bag maximum with a maximum weight limit of 50 lbs. per bag.

## Getting Ready

Over the past 30 years we have learned a few things about fishing for brook trout.

The following suggestions are a collaboration from our staff will help you be totally equipped for your Labrador journey.



*There is nothing more beautiful than the colouring on Labrador's big brookies.*



*Little wonder the locals call them "Big Red"*



*6.5 pound male M. Sadar*

Have more questions?  
Post your question on the  
weblog, or email technical  
questions to Robin Cooper  
[robin@minipicamps.com](mailto:robin@minipicamps.com)





*Lex Hochner Jr. and Chief Guide Raymond Best on the shores of Lover Boy, Anne Marie Lake.*



*Remains of an abundant hatch.*

## What rods should I bring?

This is probably our most common question, and a very important one at that. You should bring a minimum of two rods, and more than four can be cumbersome. All rods from 5 through 9 weight are suitable, but bringing a 6 weight and an 8 weight is ideal. The basic idea here is that you want a light rod for casting all day and a heavier rod for windy conditions or big bushy flies.

Rods should be 8'6" through 10' in length with 9' rods being the standard. Traveling with two piece rods now is getting hard. We recommend four piece 9' setups because they pack easily in most rolling duffel bags.

You can use two handed spey rods here, and some people like them for when they are sight casting from the boats. Some also prefer to use bamboo. When bringing a bamboo rod we suggest to keep it in line with our graphite rod suggestions. Rods are available from our fly shop.

We carry a great assortment from Sage, and Reddington. We also have waders, jackets, reels, lines and other great stuff. Please call ahead for availability.

## How should I spool-up my reels?

Here on the Minipi presentation is not as important as power. We recommend having weight forward lines. Double tapers are not needed. 99% of the time you will

need a floating line, however there are conditions and situations where sinking, sinking tip and intermediate lines are advantageous to have in your boat bag. Split-shot, sinking tips, or sinking leaders can be used as a substitute for sinking lines with good success. You should have at least a hundred yards of backing on your reels.

## What about leaders and tippet?

You should have about two dozen leaders, or enough material to make about 2 dozen leaders if you prefer to make your own. We generally use 7 foot to 9 foot tapered leaders in 2x size or 10 lb test, or make our own with Maxxima.

If you plan to fish for Northern Pike and even if you don't plan on fishing for pike, be sure to have pike/barracuda leaders or steel wire like haywire, tyger wire or similar. The pike even cut through steel leaders on occasion.

## What should I have in my vest and boat bag?

Your vest should have clippers, hemostats, silicone fly floatant, silica fly floatant, leaders, tippet, fly boxes, insect repellent and sun screen. Your boat bag should have room for your rain jacket and pants, medications, spare spools etc.

If you plan to travel with a two piece rod you must register it with Air Canada, (and possibly other airline carriers you may be using) a minimum of 7 days before your departure or you may be charged for oversized sports equipment.

## Will I need chest waders? And what kind of soles should I have on my wading boots?

For most of the wading that you will do at Minipi, you will need chest waders. It is possible to get away with hip waders, and many now use waist high waders, but chest waders are still the best choice.

Since the terrain and topography of the Minipi watershed can be a tough hike for some, we suggest all anglers pack breathable waders as this will allow a much more comfortable hike when river fishing. Your wading boots should be felt soled and have LOTS of ankle support. The wading here can be challenging during certain conditions. The waters are tea colored with tannic acid, and because of that it is almost impossible to see the bottom below depths if 2' and greater. The rocks are "slimy" here so felts are necessary. We do however discourage the use of spikes and cleats. They are hard on the floors of our boats (and the lodges)

If your stay includes accommodation at our Little Minipi Lake Lodge, we highly recommend that you bring a packable wading staff. The Little Minipi River has more plant life on the rocks than most of the other river in the system and in turn is more slippery and more challenging to wade.

## What do the guides carry with them?

All of our guides at Coopers' are certified professional guides. Not only do they carry their guide equipment, but they have an extensive knowledge of first-aid, bushcraft, and of the Labrador flora and fauna. In their boats the guides carry a

professional first aid kit, dip net, scales, hemostats, pliers, two way radios, snacks, and a few flies.

## How many flies will I need?

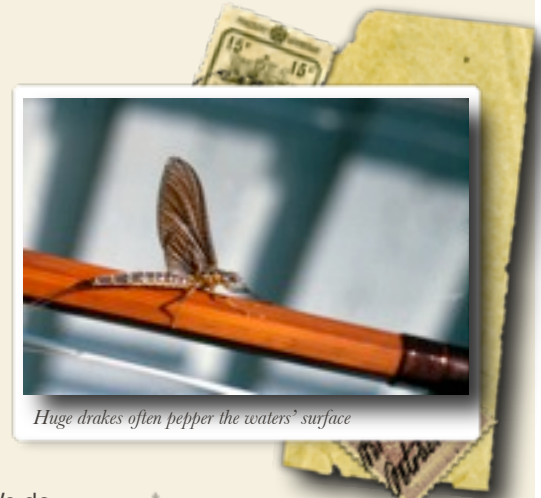
You can never have enough flies, especially the patterns the brook trout are feeding on. Typically though you will find that you will end up using only a handful of patterns, but you can go through a lot of them. A minimum of 6 dozen in assorted patterns should do.

## Are flies available at the lodge?

Yes, flies are available at the lodge for the 2010 season. We do however suggest that you come prepared or purchase your flies in Goose Bay at our fly shop because they will be only be select patterns, sizes and quantities available at the lodge.

A detailed fly order form is sent to each angler prior to your arrival; if you wish to pre-order submit this order form to Robin prior to your trip arrival date.

Some of the guides are accomplished tiers and put out some remarkable flies. If you are interested in additional flies tied by the guides please ask your head guide at the lodge. Each lodge has a fly tying kit. The kits are basic, and include tools and some materials. If you plan on tying while you are at the lodge please bring some extra material to leave for the next angler as they are considered a "community" tying kit.



*Huge drakes often pepper the waters' surface*

## When to Use Dry Flies

With the exception of late August through September, there is always good dry fly fishing. During the late August to September period, streamer fishing is predominant and weighted flies are the key to catching fish.

## NOTES AND DETAILS ON FLY SELECTIONS

**HUMPIES** ... variations of this pattern should include black, red, yellow bellies

**CLOUSER MINNOWS** ... a favourite, especially late season. Standard white / yellow and in mickey finn red / yellow.

**STIMULATORS** ... the classic stonefly, and one of our favourites. We like the orange, green, yellow and red variations. It can be used dry or wet, and works well as a great caddis imitation.

**WULFFS** ... make sure you have a large selection of these flies that include grey, grizzly, black, white, royal, brown, ausable, olive and the Minonipi Wulff. E-mail Robin to get the special Minipi Green, Minipi Brown and the Minonipi Wulff patterns tied by Dave Brandt. (For those of you who do not know Dave, he was an instructor at the Wulff Fly Fishing School and was taught to tie the Wulff's by Lee himself).

**WOOLY BUGGERS** ... have a selection of buggers in plain and beadhead, or conehead. Colour variations should include black, orange and olive. Crystal flash buggers are great too!

**MUDDLERS** ... probably the single most effective Labrador trout pattern. Make sure to have a selection that includes regular and marabou varieties in plain, black, white, yellow and orange.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ...

## JUNE TO JULY

DRIES	STREAMERS	NYMPHS	OTHERS
<i>SIZE 6 TO 16</i>	<i>SIZE 2 TO 12</i>	<i>SIZE 8 TO 14</i>	<i>SIZE 2 AND 6</i>
HUMPIES WULFFS BROWN DRAKES CADDIS MARCH BROWNS CAHILLS IRRESISTABLES STIMULATORS BOMBERS	MUDDLERS MARIBOUMUDDLERS LEACHES WOOLY BUGGERS MICKEY FINNS BUCKTAILS	CADDIS PUPAE BRASSIE MARCH BROWN PHEASANT TAIL HARE'S EAR STONEFLY	LEMMINGS, MICE OR RATS TARPON FLIES POPPERS

## JULY TO AUGUST

DRIES	STREAMERS	NYMPHS	OTHERS
<i>SIZE 6 TO 16</i>	<i>SIZE 2 TO 12</i>	<i>SIZE 8 TO 14</i>	<i>SIZE 2 AND 6</i>
WULFFS BROWN DRAKES GREEN DRAKES HEXAGENIA CADDIS SPINNERS EMERGERS STIMULATORS BOMBERS	MUDDLERS MARIBOUMUDDLERS LEACHES WOOLY BUGGERS MICKEY FINNS BUCKTAILS CLOUSER MINNOWS	CADDIS BRASSIE GREEN DRAKE PHEASANT TAIL HARE'S EAR STONEFLY HEXAGENIA	LEMMINGS, MICE OR RATS TARPON FLIES POPPERS

## AUGUST TO SEPTEMBER

DRIES	STREAMERS	NYMPHS	OTHERS
<i>SIZE 6 TO 16</i>	<i>SIZE 2 TO 12</i>	<i>SIZE 8 TO 14</i>	<i>SIZE 2 AND 6</i>
WULFFS GREEN DRAKES HEXAGENIA CADDIS STIMULATORS BOMBERS	MUDDLERS MARIBOUMUDDLERS LEACHES WOOLY BUGGERS MICKEY FINNS BUCKTAILS DOUBLE BUNNIES GREMLINS CLOUSER MINNOWS	CADDIS BRASSIE GREEN DRAKE PHEASANT TAIL HARE'S EAR STONEFLY HEXAGENIA	LEMMINGS, MICE OR RATS TARPON FLIES POPPERS

## NOTES AND DETAILS ON FLY SELECTIONS CONT'D

**STREAMERS & BUCKTAILS** ... bring your traditional patterns like grey ghost, matukas, sculpins and mickey finns.

**BOMBERS** ... a favourite with the guides. We like the orange, white, brown and grizzly, and make sure to have them as big as size 2 for late season fishing. Yep. That's right. Size 2.

**NYMPHS** ... from stoneflies to brassies, make sure to have an assortment. Our favourites include the caddis and green drake nymphs.

**MICE, BASS BUGS & POPPERS** ... big shaggy mice with no weedguards are best, but leave the weedguards on for pike. Colour variations should be grey to tan, and in sizes 2 and 6.

Bring the bass bugs and poppers for the pike. The chartreuse Kawasaki racing green so popular in the south works great up here.