



Hook :- Whatever you like ! Size 14 to 6, long shank, short shank, wet or dry.

Body :- Usually ribbed dubbing of your choice.

Tail :- Nearly always a large bunch of marabou, colour of your choice. Add a touch of flash if you wish.

Eyes :- Polystyrene bean-bag beads or foam rod.

The Booby fly was first designed and used by English reservoir fishermen in the 1950s and 60s when the local water authorities decided they could make some money by stocking their reservoirs with trout and charging people exorbitant fees to fish for them. Coarse fishermen began to take up fly fishing in increasing numbers and the movement led to some non-traditional techniques and flies being developed. Reservoirs are generally deep and the sinking line, buoyant fly, method was used by shore based anglers to reach the fish that stayed deep in the cold winter months. After all, if you have paid a day's wages for half a day's fishing you want to make it worthwhile. So was born the Booby. It became ( and still is) a very effective fish catcher, so much so that its use was banned on some waters. This seems to have been because it is so attractive to the stocked rainbows that they would take it fished static and some unsporting types would cast out, let the fly and line sink, and then put their rod in a rest and wait for a fish to come along and hook itself.

The Booby is a style of fly rather than a particular dressing but the common component is the large 'eyes' at the front of the hook that give the fly its buoyancy .... lots of buoyancy. Behind the eyes you can let your imagination run riot with what you use but whatever you tie on should have some pulsating, fish attracting movement and preferably a bit of flash.



Booby eyes were originally bean-bag beads wrapped in nylon stocking material but these days lengths of closed-cell foam rod in various colours and sizes are available from fly tying suppliers. Or you can make your own.



The technique when booby fishing is to use a sinking line, preferably fast sinking, with only about three feet of straight mono leader, which you cast out and let sink. The idea is that the flyline lays on the bottom and the buoyancy of the fly lifts it a couple of feet. You then retrieve a little line and the fly dives. You pause and the fly lifts again, and so on.

I recently rediscovered my box of Boobies and gave the method a try at Huntsman Lake, which is deep enough in some areas to make it worthwhile, and I actually caught a fish. From memory, I have also used Boobies to catch a couple of decent fish from the granite domes that drop straight into the water at Snake Point, and one at Blackman's Lagoon. I'll have to use them more often, especially on those days when there's nothing showing and there is deep water available.

