Fly Of The Month

By Jim Ferguson

The Puget Prawn

The Puget Prawn is a pattern from the book "Steelhead Fly Tying – Art and Design" by Dec Hogan and Marty Howard. This is one designed by Dec Hogan.

Hook:	Daiichi 2051 or your choice, size 1.5 – 3/0
Thread:	6/0 Burgundy
Antenna:	Long orange polar bear or substitute with strands of moose body hair
Eyes:	Plastic dumbbell eyes or ones formed by melting ends of heavy monofilament. Do not use heavy metal dumbbell eyes (they will turn the fly upside down and mess with the balance of the fly)
Body:	Four to five sections of orange seal fur or substitute
Legs:	Dyed orange Guinea
Shell/Carapace:	Feathers from the lower neck of dyed orange Ring-necked Pheasant

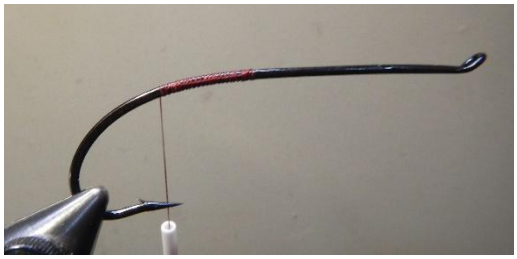
The top feathers over the body should get smaller as you go from the bend to the eye of hook. The length of the guinea fibers should get shorter as you go from the bend area to the eye of the hook. This

pattern has its roots in the General Practitioner and one of the prawn variations designed and used by Harry Lemire.

Step – By – Step Directions

1. Mount hook in vise. Bend barb down if you desire prior to mounting hook. Try to keep shank level as in Fig, 1. Attach tying thread about where the hook starts to drop off and wrap thread to the rear so thread hangs in a line with the half way point between tip of hook point and barb point (as in Fig.2).

Fig. 1 

Fig. 2 

2. Mount a small dyed orange lower neck feather from the pheasant with the concave side up as in Fig. 3. The tip of the feather should be slightly past the rear of the hook bend. Select the antenna material (dyed orange polar bear, polar bear substitute, moose main, or long tips from a dyed orange deer tail). Tie in the antenna material as in Fig.4. The length of the antenna should extend about a hook's length past the bend of the hook. Be sure to clean out the underfur. You do not have to stack the fibers.

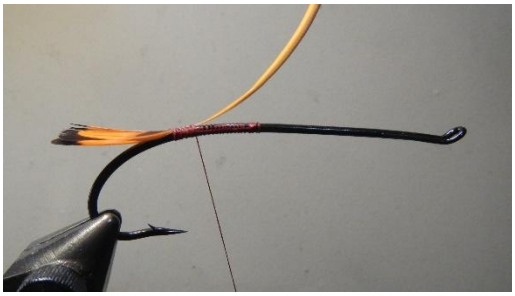
Fig. 3 

Fig. 4

3. Tie in an equal sized lower neck feather with the concave side down to form a cup over the antenna. The tips of the lower and upper feather should be equal and form a clam shell like formation around the antenna material as in Fig.5. Trim off the waste. Form a dubbing loop and insert the seal fibers into the loop for spinning as in Fig.6. In this example, there will be 4 body sections. Wrap your tying thread forward ¼ of the remaining shank distance. As you tie, try to visualize the shape of the prawn. Their body is fatter at the front and tapers down as you get to the tail. Remember, the head of this prawn is near the hook bend and the tail will be near the eye of the hook.

Fig. 5 

Fig. 6

4. Spin the dubbing loop to form a spiky rope like shape as in Fig.7. Wrap the dubbing forward in touching turns as in Fig.8. Trim off the waste.

Fig. 7 

Fig. 8

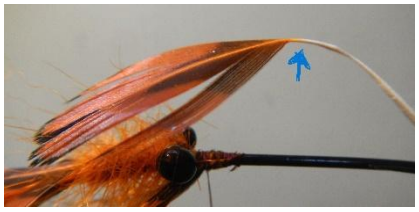
5. Mount the eyes at the end of the first body section as in Fig. 9. Use some figure eight wraps. You may want to make a few figure 8 wraps with sone dubbing to fill in the gap between the eyes. Filling in the space will help in forming a platform for a future step where a feather will lay across the top of the eyes. Prepare a guinea feather (the one with the longer fibers) and tie it in by the tip. Fold the guinea and wrap it around the shank to form the legs of the prawn as in Fig.9. Pull the guinea down to form a throat and make a few wraps back to position the fibers as in Fig. 10. Using pressure applied by pinching the top and bottom at the tie in position will help in sweeping the guinea back towards the bend of the hook (as in Fig.10).

Fig. 9 

Fig. 10

6. The Carapace covering the front body section should use the larger of the 4 feathers selected to form the body coverings. In Figure 11 you see the feather selected being held over the front body section. If it is tied in as is, it will kick upwards instead of hugging the top of the body. In Figure 12 you can see a curve where the blue arrow is pointing. This curvature is formed by holding the feather between the middle finger and the thumb of the left hand with the thumb nail exerting pressure of the bottom side of the stem. Pull the feather stem to the right while pinching the feather. This causes the stem to flatten as well as increase the curvature. Careful! The stem easily rotates which causes a problem with mounting it flat on top of the hook.

Fig. 11 

Fig. 12 

7. Mount the Pheasant feather on top of the shank so it forms a hood over the body and feathers cupping the antenna. In Figure 13 you can see how far back to place the tips, The blue arrow shows how the tips of the top feather should match the tips of the lower feathers enveloping the antennas. Figure 14 shows a top view of how the feather fits between the eyes.

Fig. 13 

Fig. 14 

8. The rest of the fly is a repeat of the first body construction. Form a dubbing loop of seal, wrap a second body section to the ½ shank position (as in Fig. 15) , form a second section of legs using slightly shorter (should be) fibers than first section, and cover the top with a second carapace feather which should be slightly shorter than the first carapace piece. The tips of this second feather should reach to the halfway position on the first carapace as shown in Fig. 16. Figures

17, 18, & 19 show the construction of the 3rd body section. Figures 20, 21, and 22 show the construction of the last body section. The last step is to put a little dubbing after the last body section and form a thread head as shown in Figure 23. Whip finish the head, add head cement and the fly is complete. During the tying process, head cement can be used and the process of pinching the guinea to sweep the fibers towards the hook bend can be employed. These critters swim backwards like a crawdad.

Fig. 15

Fig. 16

Fig. 17

Fig. 18

Fig. 19 

Fig. 20 

Fig. 21 

Fig. 22 

Figure 23 shows the completed fly from the side view.

Fig. 23