

The Blob

By Beth Jappay



No, it's not a horror movie. It's a unique pattern brought to us by those crazy Brits. I admit it--it's the name that caught my eye while I was perusing fly tying materials, leading me to investigate this fly further. I did research and learned that this fly has won fly fishing tournaments, and is so effective it has been banned in certain parts of Britain. OK, now I'm really interested. I love trying new things, and the material that is used to tie it has a pretty cool name: FNF (short for Frozen North Flyfishing) Jelly Fritz.



This material is the brainchild of Kevin Porteous, a well-known figure in the competition fly fishing world. In the water it is both translucent and has great movement. It comes in multiple bright colors, which seem to be an important part of its success. One theory I have read is that this pattern is imitating balls of Daphnia, a type of plankton. Others feel it is a straight out attractor pattern. It seems to work best on planted rainbow trout and brookies. It is the simplest of patterns to tie--just attach the chenille to the back of the hook and wrap forward. The variations involve the choice of colors, and whether a tail or flash or foam is added.



There are multiple different ways to fish a blob. Most common would be as a dropper on a multiple fly rig, fished under an indicator or on a midge tip line. For example, a balanced leech as the point fly, and the blob on a dropper 3' above it. Many times the blob attracts the attention of the fish, which then takes the duller bugger or nymph. Blobs can be trolled or stripped as well, and an intermediate line works well for that method. In my experience blob patterns work better on rainy and overcast days.

There are floating blobs as well.
If it has foam eyes it would be a booby blob.



If the foam is on the backside, it is called a FAB, short for Foam Arsed Blob (or Fat Arsed Blob). The FAB is what I have used the most, and with the best success.



Interestingly, I have found this fly only works for me when the water is cold. Last January/February/March I caught a ton of fish on FABs. When I fish with FABs I use the same set up as I do for booby fishing, of which I went into detail last month. When I fish with a FAB I use it as the point fly, and since booby fishing is upside down, this puts The FAB above my dropper in the water column. I most often pair a FAB with a booby leech pattern.

The fish seem to take FABs and blobs differently, often inhaling them subtly and deep. Sometimes the take feels like getting hung up on a weed. It is not uncommon for me to feel a take and hook and land fish to find it had taken both of my flies, inhaling the FAB first without me detecting it and then taking the booby more obviously.

Because the take is so subtle, it is important how you hold your line in your rod hand if you are trolling. Mike Garrett, who teaches fly fishing at OSU, teaches his beginning students to not fish with the line under the index finger. That is because the tendency when detecting a take is to squeeze the hand tight, and if the line is between the index finger and the rod, the fish will break off. He teaches them to hold just the grip. I troll with the line between my index and middle finger, well to the side of the grip. As I am trolling I am wiggling my index finger, feeling for a change in resistance. This method is so sensitive I can tell when I have picked up weed, and greatly increases my likelihood of detecting a subtle FAB, blob, or booby take. Since you can't grip a line held laterally between two fingers all that hard, I don't get the break offs that Mike is trying to get his students away from.



Just like fish like to nibble on boobies, they like to nibble on FABs too. I also use a slip strike to set the hook with this fly combination, as discussed in last month's article.

If you want to tie up some FABs or blobs, I recommend using a Hanak 900 BL hook in a size # 8 - 12, and (for FABs) an 8 mm foam cylinder (white and yellow are the colors I use most). Just start out with 2-3 colors of [FNF Jelly Fritz 15mm](#). I recommend the colors "Zest", "Safety Orange", "Prawn", "Competition Pink", and "Blushing Sunburst" as a good place to start.

If you have liked my Booby and Blob articles, give your thanks to Scott. He didn't know what to do with the Booby/Blob/FAB box I tied for last February's auction, so he put it in the raffle. Then he unexpectedly won it, and still didn't know what to do with it. Scott, you inspired me to write these articles.