

Tying Bench – Peter Koga’s Salt Water Shrimp Tied by Larry Morse

This fly was originally tied as the Bonefish Squimp pattern that has been very successful in the Bahamas. Peter Koga modified the original pattern for use on the bonefish flats of Oahu. It has attracted many species in Tampa Bay, including Spotted Trout and Pinfish using two to three inch retrieves to drag the fly across the flats. A slightly more aggressive retrieve will suspend the fly in the water above the flats and has attracted Ladyfish. Note: every other nuisance fish present on the flats will also be attracted by this fly, so tie several as it will get chewed up fairly quickly.



Materials

Hook: Number 6 or 4 depending on the size of the body desired.

Thread--White or tan flat-waxed nylon.

Eyes--Large gold bead chain eyes for shallow water with little current. Lead dumbbell eyes for deeper water or faster current.

Legs--Any rubber leg material you have on hand will work. The fly shown is tied using Ginger Spandflex which has proven to be more durable.

Body--Tan Ice Dubbing. Color can be varied to match the flats.

Wing--Sparse bunch of flash or white fish hair for an under wing which is topped with a sparse bunch of natural squirrel tail.

Tying Sequence

1. Wrap thread base from just behind the hook eye to slightly beyond the bend in the hook.
2. Tie eyes on top of the hook shank at the bend of the hook.
3. Attach two sets of legs on the bend (front) side of the eyes. One short pair slightly splayed over the top of the hook shank and one pair slightly longer than the hook shank tied to each side of the shank. Note that the first wraps of thread should not be tightened to avoid too much splaying of the legs. Let the tag ends lie over the eyes and tie them off behind the eyes.
4. Tie a dubbing loop on the opposite (back) side of the eyes, insert dubbing. Adjust dubbing to create a tapered body from the eyes back to the hook eye and twist the loop until a tight dubbing rope is created.
5. Wrap the dubbing rope once on the backside of the eyes and then do a figure eight over the top of the eyes. Taper the wrap to the hook eye and tie off.
6. Turn hook over in the vise and tie in the under wing and over wing near the shank's eye on the hook side (bottom) of the shank. Length should match the longest pair of legs attached in step 3.
7. Attach a final pair of legs on either side of the hook shank at the same place the wing is tied in. Legs should extend to the end of the longer pair tied in step 3. Leave a short tag beyond the hook eye. Whip finish and apply head cement to the thread.