

Fly of the Month:

February 2011

Marabou Clouser

Hook: Mustad C70SD

Under Wing: White Marabou

Over Wing: Dyed Marabou

Flash: Pearl flashabou or mirror flash

Eyes: 5/32" dumbbell eyes

Thread: white

~ In 1984 Bob Clouser developed the original clouser minnow consisting of buck tail, metallic dumbbell eyes and hook. Since then fly fishermen have been creating all kinds of variants from this very effective pattern. A very popular Puget Sound variation is the Marabou Clouser.

The Marabou Clouser stays true to Mr. Clouser's light over dark theme to imitate the general impression of a baitfish. Instead of using buck tail, we replace it with marabou. This fly tied in pink is an excellent resident Coho pattern. Gig Harbor Fly Shop's Gary Marston, calls this fly his "go to fly" for the Puget Sound.

Here are a couple of tips when working with marabou. Marabou can be a little tricky to work with. It is so soft and light it wants to float around everywhere and stick to everything, making it a hassle to manage. Put a small glass with an inch or so of water by your vise so you can dip your fingers in it. Now when you are ready to tie in your marabou, wet down the marabou a little, this will make it much easier to work with. Like a lot of materials in fly tying, be careful of how much you use. It is easy to pile on the material because you think that the fish will see your fly better this way. Every good tier and fly fisher I know will tell you, go sparse!

When selecting your marabou at the fly shop it is a good idea to take it out of the package before you buy it and examine the feathers. For this particular fly you want to look for feathers that have long barbs. That will give you more flexibility in the size of your fly.

A note on the construction of this fly; make sure you tie your barbell eyes on top of the hook along with the white marabou. When your fly is in the water it will turn upside down and simulate the lighter colored belly of a baitfish.



Ties & photo by Ryan Haseman