

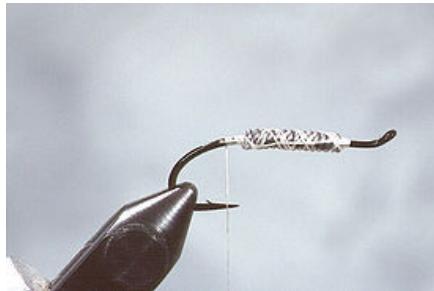
Fly Pattern Sheet - Sockeye Magic

compliments of 2GuysFlyFishing.net



Hook: UTE Salmon
(#6 for sockeyes; #4 for silvers)
Thread: 210 Denier, white
Weight: .030 lead
Tail: Bunny strip, extension of the body
Body: Bunny strip, Ginger (natural)
Hackle: Bunny strip, Hot pink

Notes: This is one of my "secret flies" and was an evolution of fishing for on the Russian and Kenai Rivers. Several years ago my partner, Lance and I noticed that fresh Sockeye would occasionally take our ginger bunny fly we were fishing as a flesh pattern. We also noticed that most of the strikes occurred at the end of the drift. We started targeting bright Sockeyes with the flesh pattern and discovered we were more successful than we had been with any pattern we had previously used. Later that year, during the silver salmon run, I gave the flesh pattern a try and had limited success. The Silvers were very tolerant of the pattern on a dead-drift, but didn't pick it up as well as the Sockeyes. I added a baby pink, soft hackle collar on the premise that Silvers had a preference for that color. The pink improved the take rate. I also changed the hook style from our standard #6 3XL streamer hook to a #4 standard salmon iron as a good sized Silver would straighten out the streamer hook. A few years later, while fishing the early run of Sockeyes on the Russian I ran out of my standard ginger flies but still had a few of the ones with pink hackle I used for Silvers from the previous fall. The Sockeyes went nuts. My hook up rate doubled, at least. The last modification was to replace the collared hackle with bunny. Only thick, soft, webby hackle worked well as a collar and it's not real common. So I started using bunny and it works as good, if not better, than the hackle.



Lead the hook shank from above the point to the loop backed wire. Bind down the lead with thread, leaving the thread at the rear of the shank.



Attach a ginger bunny strip on top of the shank just above the hook point. Separate the hair leaving about a hook gape length of hide for the tail.
(I prefer, and think the fly works better, if you use darker hair from the top of the hide. Pale ginger to cream hair doesn't seem to work as well.)



Wrap the bunny strip forward and tie off just as it comes off the lead wraps. Try to tie off on the bottom of the shank. Trim the excess.



Tie in, hide up, the pink bunny strip. Tie it in on the opposite side of the tie off spot of the ginger strip.



Make one to one and one-half wraps of pink bunny. Tie off, trim and smooth the hairs back.



Bind down the bunny strip with a tapered head. Whip finish and trim your thread. The finished fly should have a veil of hot pink fur that flows over the ginger body.

Fishing notes: Present this fly dead drift directly (head on) to the fish. I usually use a floating line and a 9' to 10' leader with just enough spit shot 20-24" up on the leader to present the fly at the fish's level. Presentation needs to be to a holding fish. In my opinion, Sockeye don't take flies when they are moving. Don't chase fish! Find a pocket or hole where they are stopping to rest and present flies to the fish that come to you. Some fish, in my opinion, will take a fly, some won't. If you're lucky you'll get to see them suck in the fly (they very rarely move far for a fly). Most of the time the line just becomes tight. It's a lot like nymph fishing. This pattern often does not work as well in bright sunlight as smaller chartruese patterns. I often fish Sockeye Magics in low light as I feel that first thing in the morning is the best time for targeting sockeyes.