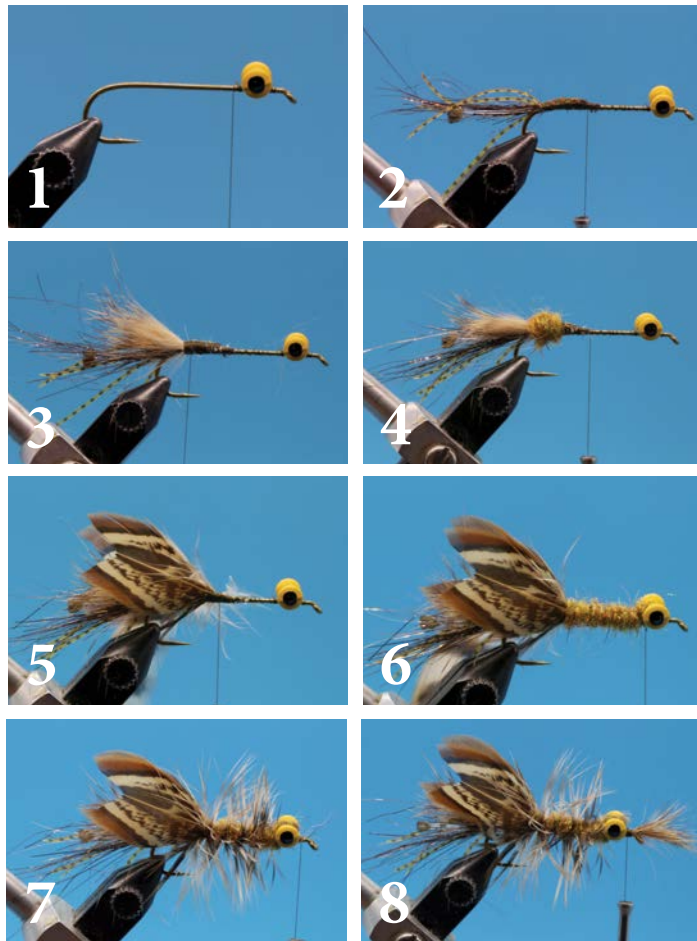




Tying the Near Nuff Crayfish

by Carl Haensel photos by the author

For anglers chasing Smallmouth Bass during the summer, the Near Nuff Crayfish is an excellent pattern that performs well on waters in Pennsylvania. Created and originally tied by the late Dave Whitlock, this innovative pattern has proven itself effective in a variety of colors and sizes. Take a look at the crayfish in your local stream or river, and use tan, olive, orange or rust-colored materials to match the forage that the fish on your home waters pursue. Tie the pattern with a variety of differently weighted dumbbell eyes to provide options for shallow or deep fish. This pattern fools big trout as well, and the large trout rivers in Pennsylvania are great places to try it. With a great deal of materials going into this pattern, new tiers may find it easier to use a few less items. The fly usually fishes fine without the monofilament eyes and flash. ☐



Crayfish are a favorite summertime food for Smallmouth Bass, trout and other predatory fish in Pennsylvania.

Tying the Near Nuff Crayfish Materials

Hook: Size 4-10, 3x long nymph hook or similar

Thread: Tan UTC Ultra Thread 210 or similar

Dumbbell Eyes: Medium to small non-toxic in color of choice

Eyes: Stiff nylon, melted

Antennae: Sili Legs in pumpkin and flash in brown or orange

Dubbing: Dave Whitlock SLF Crayfish golden brown, orange or similar

Claws: Pheasant body feathers or grizzly hen hackle

Legs: Tan barred marabou or saddle hackle

Tail: Rabbit fur

Glue: Cyanoacrylate

- 1 Place the hook in the vise, wrap on the thread, and attach the dumbbell eyes.
- 2 Wrap the thread to the bend of the hook, and tie in the monofilament eyes, rubber legs and flash.
- 3 Attach the rabbit fur tuft at the bend of the hook, allowing it to encircle the shank. The eyes should stick out beyond the fur.
- 4 Create a large ball of dubbing in front of the fur tuft. This is the thorax of the fly.
- 5 Tie in the pheasant body sections as claws. Trim to shape the claws. Tie in marabou or saddle hackle to palmer up the body.
- 6 Wrap the body with dubbing, tapering up to the dumbbell eyes.
- 7 Palmer the hackle up to the dumbbell eyes. Then, add in additional dubbing over the dumbbell eyes to cover the thread wraps.
- 8 Tie in a small piece of fur for the tail of the crayfish, facing forward over the eye of the hook. Glue your wraps near the eye, and your crayfish is ready to fish.