

# EASTERN SIERRA FOCUS

By CJ Webb June 2021

**2021 Inland Water Fishing Regulations** have changed, so download the app to see if there are any changes to the waters you enjoy fishing.

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>. It tracks your current GPS location and will tell you the regulations of the water where you are standing and regulations for waters within a designated area or approximately a five-mile radius. Take a look, it's pretty thorough. This will probably make the new regulations easier to understand.

***STAY ALERT DEER MIGRATION*** - Mule deer continue to migrate to their summer grounds in large numbers at lower elevations and into the high country where they will birth their fawns. This seasonal road crossing causes accidents and death, so please stay vigilant and watch out for deer browsing on shrubs near or along the roadside early morning and at dusk. This is really important as the migration seems to be heavier this year so please stay alert. Part of our usual herd are ready to drop their young, so if you see any fawns lying in the bush, LEAVE them alone as their mothers are nearby.

## **Fishing Tip: by Landon Mayer**

### **High Dirty Water of Spring Run-off Pt III. Dry-Dropper**

"While you may not get match-the-hatch dry-fly fishing during high water, you can still catch fish on top using a dry-dropper rig. Sometimes when high water forces trout up along the edges of the river, and dirty water makes the fish comfortable in calf-deep water, a dry-dropper rig makes perfect sense.

Use a larger dry than normal to ensure it stays afloat in the heavy flows. Big flies like Salmonflies, Golden Stones, and Green Drakes often hatch during or near runoff, so your larger dry fly won't seem out of place. Some of my favorites for this season are Charlie Boy Hoppers, Fat Albert's, and Amy's Ants from size 6 to 10.

Big dries require a heavier (2X), shorter (7.5') leader to turn the flies over easier and give you more accuracy while targeting the soft pockets along the river's edge. Remember, this isn't far and fine" fishing on the Henry's Fork. When you are concentrating on a current break along the river's edge in bank-full drift before you need to pick and make another short, accurate presentation.

When I attach my nymph dropper, I tie the monofilament to the bend of the top hook because it helps the dry fly land upright, and prevents some of the tangles that are common when you attach the tippet to the eye of the hook.

Three of my favorite droppers in the South Platte drainage are red or chartreuse Copper Johns, black Pat's Rubber Legs, and pink or red Chamois Worms, all sizes 10 to 16. But there is no 'wrong' dropper fly in this kind of water--nymphs, streamers, eggs, and worms are all good in dirty water. Just make sure the flies are

independently weighted so you don't have to use split-shot, which can complicate things, and ruin the simplicity of a dry-dropper rig.

I view the high water of spring as an opportunity, not a disadvantage. The trout are unpressured, comfortable, and often feeding aggressively. Go get 'em?"

**Comment:** This is the best article I've ever seen about "dirty water" situations. Hope it has been helpful! cj

### **Legislative News:**

***AB 817*** - Assembly Member Jim Wood of Santa Rosa authored Assembly Bill 1387 in 2019 and was reintroduced as AB-817 and state this legislation will transition California's calendar-based fishing license to one that is valid a full 365 days from the date of purchase and a mobile phone app that makes fishing easier and more accessible. AB-817 is also different because of its sponsor. In years past, such proposed legislation had been sponsored by CSL, but this year, the Coastal Conservation Association of California (CCACAL) has picked up the torch to sponsor the bill.

In 2020, our CA Fish & Game Commission approved our state R3 program, which is designed to "Recruit, Retain, and Reactivate" (R3) new anglers and hunters in California. The 365-day license served as one of the critical steps in getting more anglers fishing. CDFW is completely onboard with R3 and growing this program with the 365-day license in place.

### **UPDATE of AB-817: Tracking Notifications:**

AB-817: Sport fishing licenses: electronic display: 12-consecutive-month licenses. Tracking Notification: On 01-JUN-21 the following history action was applied: "Read third time. Passed. Ordered to the Senate."

### **CDFW 'Buy a Stamp' to help a Game Warden**

Officials at the CDFW are urging anglers to contribute to a Warden Stamp Program that helps game wardens and the enforcement of fish-and-wildlife laws.

According to the CDFW, purchase of the \$5 stamp will "procure vital equipment, protective gear, and training for wildlife officers and enhance the department's K-9 Program." Information on how to make a donation is available at: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/wardenstamp>

### **Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Stocking**

Updated trout releases will be on their web-site (<http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FishPlants/>) or call their specific region (Inland Deserts 855.887.1275)

### **AT THE BENCH: New materials!**

**Light illusions** – Sybai Ghost Hair and Ghost Flash Ghost hair is a fine translucent synthetic hair. Loads of loose hair in this hank; I'd prefer if all the strands were trapped through the cable-tie holding the hank together. Ties in tight and small, this is fine, soft stuff which slicks down when wet. According to the blurb this fine light hair is non-absorbent, so flies tied with Ghost Hair will be a little heavier when wet, but nothing like casting a wet streamer tied with natural hairs or even feathers.

This selection of colors: tan, olive and black, points at imitative or suggestive streamers. A little white or some added sparkle would fill out the selection. Which is where Ghost Flash comes in, basically Ghost Hair with added flashy fibers – the flash look like Angel Hair or similar. This is a good mix; missed fibers hanks or dubbings can look fine in bulk but when you take a small pinch or bunch you have a lot of the basic stuff and very little flash – Ghost Flash is a rich mix with plenty added flash fiber.

Nice stuff, which lends itself to smaller flies, streamers, shrimp – fresh and saltwater. The full range of both hairs includes hotter and brighter colors. From Sybai stockists.

### **A Bead of Two Halves**

As the product name ‘suggests’ these are half beads. To make a whole bead you pick two colors and slip the halves onto a hook shank, each facing the right direction of course. Then Rotate the small half beads until the sides fit together, the halves sort of interlock, and then tie as normal. Well almost, the design of the Half Beads means there is no need for one end of the hole through a bead to be wider, so you can get your thread tighter to the bead and jam it right against the eye-ring of your hook.

Think of the rear half as a hot-spot. Rather than tying a colored collar of thread or floss, you simply fit a colored Half Bead behind the more typically colored half. Or maybe a gold front with a silver half behind it to make a bead head more attention-grabbing.

Half Beads are tungsten beads and I’d say the weight of two halves compares with one conventional bead. They are neatly made and easy enough to fit. Half Beads are available in four sizes, 2.4mm, 2.8mm, 3.2mm and 3.8mm – the halves must be the same size if they are to fit together. The Fly Tying Boutique list 14 colors, all the usual and a few bright colors, for example the chartreuse beads are fluorescent.

Fitting Half Beads is oddly satisfying and flies produced with are certainly different.

[www.flytyingboutique.com](http://www.flytyingboutique.com)

### **Dubber’s Palette**

They come in handy flat boxes, medium fine synthetic dubbing in 30 colors.

Two boxed sets, 15 colors in each. Sparkle Dubbing is available in sets, or as single packets.

The substrate for this dubbing is a fairly fine, very soft synthetic fiber. Like other synthetics, Antron for example, this is glossy, though this seems a little less slippery and more co-operative than Antron.

Handles fairly well. As I pull tufts out of these tubes it’s clear that the staple lengths varies from color to color, some tufts pull out a couple of inches, some longer. I’d prefer the fiber length a bit shorter and more consistent, but you can of course sort that with a couple of snips of sharp scissors. From the box, which is really a row of tubes, are pure single colors. Looking at the two boxes you have more or less a full spectrum, some

primary colors, more are mixed colors, orange, olives, browns and pinks, pleasing clarets and olives and more – excellent range of colors. For some, tying a pure color is fine; to make a more interesting dubbing this mixes with itself reasonably easily. In these boxes, there are colors you might not use by themselves, blues, and purples, white and cream for example, however those colors will come in useful for mixing – maybe a few more than you need, but you’ll fine uses in time.

On thread, this is a soft, slippery fiber, twisting it onto thread Sparkle dubbing seems to tangle on itself pretty well, although the staple length is long and it reminds you somewhat of SLF. It’s like sliding a slim tangled dubbing ‘noodle’ along your thread. Spread and opened up, placed into a loop and spun, Sparkle Dubbing handles well, the softness of the fiber means it stays put and cords easily. It gives a fuzzy dubbed surface.

On a hook dubbed tight, you get a fine halo of gleaming colored fibers. Easy to brush out and make more shaggy. Easy to control, dub thin and slim, dub a little heavier for a more substantial body. You’ll like the packaging, slim, light and convenient. The dubbing itself seems to work well and is versatile, so you could use this for small Bugs and Jigs and just as easily could dub the bodies of salmon flies. Check Semperfli for the full color range (30 in two boxes).

**LOWER OWENS is 280cfs as of 6/2.** Water conditions, fishing conditions and hatches are good. The one change is the fish feeding on the surface are getting pickier, letting the naturals drift a lot longer for inspection. People are scared off by flows this high but if you wade carefully or stay on the bank these flows are excellent. Good hatches from 6 in the morning until dusk and no-people works for me. The only real downside is the heat but perfect for early starts and late finishes. Some Little Yellow stoneflies are coming off midday, heavier mid-afternoon. Late afternoons/evenings are picking up with mayflies #16-18 and caddis hatches bringing more fish to the surface. Midges early with Mayflies and Caddis mid-day to mid-afternoon. There is a larger PMD (#16-18) that is now coming off mid-day all the way to about 7 pm. Dry fly action has been picking up especially in the evening. Just remember what spots the fish were in before and move to find the corresponding water now. Drop offs that were 6" deep are now 1' + and holding fish. DRIES: Extended Body BWO #18-22, Hi-Vis BWO #18-22, Large dry with #22-26 midge emergers and adults, Stimulator #8-12, Para Caddis #16-20. NYMPHS: Pheasant Tail #14-22, Hares Ear #16-22, Zebra Midge #18-22, Olive Hot Spot Jig #18, B/H Prince #10-14, Chamois Caddis #14-18, Bottom Roller Physco Rhyco #10-14, Uncased Caddis Green #14-16, Juju Baetis #18-20, Glass Bead Micro May Olive # 20-24, Caddistropic Pupa #16-18, Gold Bead Epoxy Stone #8-10. STREAMERS: Wooly Bugger Olive & Black #10-12, Mini Sculpin Olive & Black #10-12.

**ROCK CREEK LAKE – No Report – very sorry!**

**UPPER OWENS** – 57 cfs as of 6/28. Conditions are already changing to more of a post-runoff state. This is generally the slowest part of the season. Fishing is usually slow until later in the month but right now the crowds are gone, and the fishing is good enough to be worthwhile. True to form it's a day-to-day thing, one day good the next day tough. We are starting to see a few more Tricos, 6-8 for the female emergence and 9-10 for the spinner fall. Also, try midges early and some bigger caddis with a mixture of small (BWO) and larger mayflies (PMD's) with caddis midday and then caddis and midges in the afternoon. The mayflies are really fading out and surface activity is slowing way down. The resident fish have been keying into the mayflies and midges, so we suggest trailing a midge (#18-24) or mayfly (#16-22) behind an attractor nymph.

**DRIES:** Griffiths Gnat #20-24, Parachute Extended Body BWO #18-22, Elk Hair Caddis #20-22, Para Caddis #16-22, EC Caddis #16-20, Baby Boy Hopper #14-16. **NYMPHS:** Zebra Midge #16-22, Prince Nymph #12-16, Copper John #14-16, Tungsten Jig Baetis #18-20, Black Beauty #22, Beck's Sulphur Emerger #16-18, PMD Batwing Emerger #16-18, S&M Nymph #20-22, Medalion Midge #20-24, Bling Midge #22-24, OCD Caddis #14-18. **STREAMERS:** Shock Collar Leech #10, Woolly Bugger White, Olive, or Brown #6-14, Punk Perch light or dark #10-16.

**CROWLEY LAKE** – Water conditions are good and fishing and hatches are fair to good. Lake Elevation is at **6767.9 as of 6/28**. Most of the perch have moved out into 20-30 feet. The trout seem to move in and out from day to day with deeper water being better lately. The trout are getting more selective especially in shallower water, and now they are getting selective out in deep water as well. Be aware that the currents are usually stronger than you would ever guess, without sufficient weight, in 25' of water you might actually be fishing 4' down 20' away. Late morning the trout bite tapers off into only perch but move around, the trout are eating at different times at different places. McGee Bay, Sandy Point, Christmas Bay and Hilton Bay have been the most consistent spots. The fish are eating much smaller food than usual out in deeper water and some really wild combinations have been working so change flies frequently. Nymphs: Shaft Emerger #14-16, Albino Baron #14-16, G/B Opti Tiger #16-18, Optimidge Olive/Dun #16-18, and Double Bead Zebra sliver/black small, Copper Clown, Damsel Nymphs #14-18. Streamers: Crystal Bugger Black #8, Marabou Leech Burgundy or Brown #12, Perfection Perch #4, Hornberg #8-14.

**HOT CREEK** - Water condition is good. Flows are at **50.9cfs as of 6/28**. Outside of the fish getting more and more selective nothing much has changed. Caddis and Tricos (7-10 am) and PMDs 10-12 although the PMDs are fading fast. The dry fly fishing has gotten a lot tougher, nymphing has been more consistent. Scuds and caddis are a good choice all day. Please be mindful of other anglers there are plenty of spots to fish on Hot

Creek but it has been crowded. The fish (including the bigger ones) have moved into the faster, shallower water so shorten up and keep your drifts real short. The fish are in there and they're hungry. Note: the weed beds are coming back with a vengeance.

**DRIES:** R.P. Emerger #2, Sparkle Flag Black #20-22, Yellow Stimulator #8-16, Mother Shucker #24, CDC Baetis Dun #20-24, Para Caddis #18-22, PMD patterns #16-20. **NYMPHS:** Beck's Sulphur Emerger #16-18, T Midge #24, Zebra Midge #18-22, Grey/Olive Scud #16-18, Tailwater Scud Tungsten #14-18, S&M nymph #16-18, Little Brown Bug #16-18, Medallion Midge #18-24 | Buckskin #16-20, Rainbow Warrior #18-20, Barr's Emerger #16-22, Deep Six Pupa #18. **STREAMERS:** BH Bopp SlumpBuster, Perfection Perch #4-8, Punk Perch #10-16, Hornburg #10-14.

**CONVICT LAKE** – No Report

**MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN** – Road is open and no report. Try your usual "stuff" and it will probably work.

**SAN JOAQUIN**

Running at **53.2cfs as of 6/28**. Fishing has been good from about 8:30 to 1 then slower until late afternoon when it picks back up. This is going to sound wishy-washy but there's incredible diversity in the food available. First thing in the morning its midges and caddis size #12-18. Around 10 some PMD's #16-18 start emerging sporadically. All afternoon there are off and on hatches building into the evening. Big caddis, mayfly's #12-18 with some stoneflies #8-16. Mornings until mid-afternoon nymphing is best after that the dry fly action picks up. **Dries:** Elk Hair Caddis #12-18, Para Caddis #14-20, Sparkle Flag PMD #16-18, Lawson's Thorax PMD #16-18, and CDC Flavilenea Dun #12-16. **Nymphs:** B/H Flash Back Pheasant Tail #14-18, Tungsten Black Beauty #20-22, Nori's Caddis #18-22, B/H Prince #10-20, Hogan's S and M Nymph #18-22, Anderson Bird Of Prey #10-16.

**JUNE LOOP** – No Report, but if you prefer one water and know it well, try your favorite flies for that water.

**LUNDY LAKE** – County stocked trophy trout on Thursday and fishing has picked up with the mix of "new blood" so try along the south west corner using dark olive streamers, and woolly buggers, and reports of good hatches along the back trail to the Brookie ponds. Brookies have been hitting small dries if you can present them over logs, so hone up your casting for this.

**VIRGINIA LAKES** – All lakes have had incredible hatches, from midges, then midges and midges again but dispersed between them have been blue dragonflies, black caddis, dark dun mayflies and June Bugs. Does anyone have a pattern for a June bug? That might be the next hot fly. With all the hatches going off, the best flies have been dries i.e., green body mosquito, Griffith's Gnat, black elk hair caddis, Black Gnat para, prince nymph without a dry, olive anything bugger, my Dirty

Doc, Spruce Fly (not many were tried, too bad), red throat Matuka, crystal buggers in dark green, and anything small around 16-18's up in the higher lakes. The lakes have been stocked heavily and I've seen 50 fish days on dries, most in the 6-8" range. American River hatchery had a water temperature issue and sent over about 800 pounds of beginner fish for the novice fly angler to hone their skills (just kidding). It's been a ride but those pesky little guys have been rising like grunion, some clearing the water and possibly running from predators.

**BRIDGEPORT RESERVOIR** – There were some good reports from fly anglers stripping streamers down near the dam, as well as fishing midges under indicators. Report from Ken's.

**EAST WALKER** – Flows are down to **26.4cfs as of 6/28**. Unfortunately we seem to be about a month ahead of normal on the conditions down there as right now it's more like August conditions. The water is getting pretty warm but we have still been having some night time temperatures in the low to mid 30's which has helped a lot. There were also some evening thunder showers this past week which helped as well. Right now the fish are still healthy and from reports we've been getting are releasing well. It's best to fish early and late in the day so as to not stress the fish too much, we'd recommend fishing until 10 or 11 in the morning then start up again around 6 or so in the evening. The action has still been pretty good with a couple good streamer reports coming in this week as well as a lot of dry and dry/dropper action. Straight nymphing is also good but it's a little bit tricky with the low water. The caddis is hatching daily and there are a lot of cicadas hatching as well, this makes for some really fun action on top. Some patterns to try: Chernobyl Ant, Madam X, Foam Dead Stone, Chubby Chernobyl, para hopper, Zebra Midge, Flashback emerger, Radiation Baetis, Perdigon Nymph, Zuddler, Sculpzilla, Dead Drift Crayfish. Report from Ken's.

**NOTE:** It is up to us to protect this fishery, or we can be more concerned with ego gratifying pictures and videos and watch the death spiral of a once great fishery. If you must **take pictures keep the fish in the water at all times and debarb your hooks** even though it's technically no longer required. Pinching your barbs will help released fish stay healthy and in turn keep a healthy population in the river. In spite of these changes the DFW has made to the regulations, hopefully the angling community will take it upon themselves to take care of this world class fishery.

**HONEYWELL POND** – No Report. Call Ken's.

**SCEIRINE RANCH** - Lots of good dry/dropper action in the mornings and evenings, probably best to just be booking half day sessions down there for now. As with the California side, we'll do our best to keep an eye on how the fish are doing and pass on any information if it gets to warm to fish.

**KIRMAN LAKE** – No new news from Kirman this week, since they planted those brookies last week. When we hear something, we'll pass it on!

**WEST WALKER** – 107cfs as of 6/28. Same report as last month from a few anglers on the West this past week, it sounds like the water got muddied up for a couple days from the thunder showers but has otherwise been clear. It sounds like the fish are mostly hanging out in the deeper pools where you'll need to get your nymphs a little deeper to get to fish. Some of the fly anglers have been able to coax some fish toward the surface with hopper/dropper rigs which is always fun. You might need to cover some water to find where the fish are hiding.

### **CALIFORNIA DEPT. OF FISH AND WILDLIFE** **2020 Proposed Inland Water Regulations for 2021**

Below is the link with all the changes on the CDFW web-site info page: Please provide comments to these changes for any water if you feel would be detrimental to the resource. They need your input in order to make informed decisions on all these waters.

Every person or agency recommending that a regulation be added, amended, or repealed must submit a petition to the commission at the site listed: (<https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Petition-for-Regulation-Change>) using this petition form. You can contact their office to see when the next meeting will be held to submit regulation changes on time and whatever is on the books today can be changed. Also include your comments to Governor Newsom at: (<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>). Here is the Executive Director's contact information: Melissa Miller-Henson - [fgc@fgc.ca.gov](mailto:fgc@fgc.ca.gov) (916) 653-4899 or (916) 653-7229.

### **Fly-Fishing Apps**

"Fish Head Nervous Water Apps LLC, \$6.99 iPhone and Android"

Not only the best app for steelhead rivers, but surf, and also helpful in most any trout-fishing situation around the country. It has a river directory with flows and where and when to find the best windows of action. It's handy when you're actually packing to go fishing; it's quick, organized with the most pertinent information available.

**Orvis Fly Fishing Green Mountain** - Digital, iPhone, Android is a grand-daddy of fly fishing apps that is free and packed with tons of general interest fly-fishing news, advice, discussion and entertainment you'll never be able to digest it all. It has Tom Rosenbauer's podcasts, casting videos for every stream, flats, or surf situation; knot =tying instruction, fishing reports, up -to-date news feeds, fly pattern descriptions and recommendations with built-in links so you can buy flies you're interested in. It's sort of geared toward beginners, but its solid information and we could all use a little tune-up now and again. Loren Elliott

**The Pocket Fisherman by Magic Mobile**



This app will help you find out more about the specific species of fish, as well as regulations and records of 49 Continental states regarding fishing in their deep waters. The app also comes with a GPS map that tracks the nearest tackle shops and marinas. You can easily identify the fish by either searching for its name or looking at the gallery of fish images. It's the most comprehensive fisherman app so far as it comes with a summary of each type of fish, description, appearance, weight, natural habitat, and its average length.

\* Strong moonlight will interfere with these showers. Best viewing after Midnight looking to the East. Dates will vary slightly. See you on the water CJ!

### **YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK**

The COVID-19 pandemic will continue to affect park operations in 2021. Visitation to the park will be managed in accordance with recommendations from public health officials, and in line with the [CDC COVID Data Tracker Levels](#). The purpose of following this system is to be responsive to changing conditions, protect public and employee health, and sustain park operations.

A reservation is required to drive into Yosemite through September 30, 2021. You must display your permit on your dashboard at all times while inside the park.

#### **Day-Use Reservations**

Reservations are available on [recreation.gov](#), with most reservations available in spring, and limited reservations available seven days before the arrival date (e.g., make a reservation for an arrival date of September 30 on September 23):

Reservations are available each day at 8 am Pacific time. Reservations are taken almost immediately. Be sure to have an account and be logged in and ready to get a reservation promptly at 8 am Pacific time.

The non-refundable reservation fee is \$2 and is included in the \$35/car park entrance fee. If you have an annual or lifetime pass, be sure to specify you're a current pass holder to pay the discounted rate (\$2).

Cancelled reservations become available immediately on [recreation.gov](#).

### **CalTrans Highway work along US 395**

**Inyo County** - North of Cartago to South of Olancho, they will widen the highway to two-lanes. Contact the Bishop Office to check on any change of start date.

**Mono County** - Upgrade signs, striping and guardrail repair as needed.

**Virginia Lakes Road** was resurfaced and re-stripped this past week. They will continue to replace signs along the road as they become available.

### **TIDBIT'S - Meteor Shower Calendar 2021**

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>(no. per/hour)</u></b>
July 29	Delta Aquariid*	20
Aug. 12	Perseid	90
Sept. 29, Oct. 7	Unnamed	50-100
October 21	Orionid*	10-21
Nov. 5	Southern Taurid	10-20
Nov. 17	Leonid*	10-20
Dec. 14	Geminid*	100-200
Dec. 22	Ursid*	10