

## **Fly Fishing Gear List:**

**Rods:** Fly rods in the 6-8 wt. range are the ideal size for Belize bonefish. The lighter rods (6&7) are great when there is little or no wind and an 8-weight rod has more than enough muscle to deliver a fly in even the stiffest of gales. For permit, we prefer an 8, 9 or even a 10 weight if the wind is up. Most permit may fall in the 8 – 15 pound range, but best to be prepared in case a 30 pounder inhales your fly. For Belizean tarpon fishing, 10 to 12 weight rods will fill the bill.

The choice of rod length is important. Nine or nine-and-a-half foot long rods are optimum. More line can be picked up off the water with the longer rods, with less surface disturbance. Also, for the vast majority of fly anglers, longer casts can be achieved with less effort using the longer fly rods.

**Reels:** Should be anodized, corrosion-resistant saltwater models that will hold a full fly line, plus approximately 200 yards of 20 – 30 lb. backing. Reels equipped with high quality, smooth, drags are essential to prevent break-offs from the blistering runs of a hooked fish.

**Lines:** A weight forward saltwater taper floating line is ideal for most of the sight fishing you will encounter. There are times when an intermediate sinking (or intermediate sink tip) line is the answer for tarpon. If you want to try for a diversity of species in deeper water, bring a Teeny T-350 or T-450 line. Anglers should also bring along some sort of line cleaner for the lines as well, since saltwater has a way of making them sticky after a few days use.

## **TAKE CARE**

**Note:** Wipe sun creams off hands before handling rods, tippet and flies. Creams act as lubricants and cause slippage, and impart scents to flies that deter strikes. Rinse rods and reels in fresh water after each use. Salt water is very corrosive. Use reels made for salt water when possible. Rinse your rods and reels in fresh water daily after fishing.

### **Leaders:**

#### ***Tarpon***

Custom Fly Leader 20 pound class tippet – 60, 80 or 100 pound shock tippet

#### ***Bonefish***

Tapered Leaders 10'-12' long – 8 or 10 pound

#### ***Permit***

Tapered Leaders 10'-12' long – 15 to 20 pound

### **Suggested Flies**

***Bonefish*** – Bonefishing is in very skinny water, all bonefish flies should have small eyes or no eyes.

Horror	6,8	Rootbeer Shrimp	4 & 6
Chico's Bonefish Special	6,8	Bonefish Slider – Tan	4
Christmas Charlies – Tan or Pink	6,8	Matthew's Turneffe Crab	6 ( <i>good for permit too</i> )
Gotcha	6	Mangrove Critter	4

Crazy Charlie – Tan or Pink	6,8	Del Brown Merkin	4 ( <i>good for permit too</i> )
Bunny Bone - Tan	6,8	Snapping Shrimp – Tan or Pink	4,6

**Permit** – Most Belizean permit are taken on Crab patterns. The Del Brown Merkin style patterns are the most successful. The TCL guides like tan, creamy brown and olive crab flies. For the skinny water flats off Placencia, it's important to have small and lightly weighted crabs (smaller than typically fished at Ascension Bay for instance). It's a good idea to have some patterns tied with weedguards. Most of the time, **the guides prefer lightly weighted patterns**. Tie some with either the smallest lead eyes or even bead chain eyes. Most times, guides will recommend sizes 4 or 6. Occasionally particularly on deeper flats, permit will take mantis shrimp imitations or Clouser Minnows fished high in the water column. Their diet also includes food items more difficult to imitate, like clams, immature spiny lobsters and sea urchins. Creative fly-tiers may try to imitate these other food forms.

Del Brown's Merkin	2, 4, 6 (Brn/Tan, Olive)	Bauer Flats Crab	2, 4 & 6 (Olive)
Matthews' Turneffe Crab	2, 4 (Olive or Lt. Tan)	Moffo's Fleeing Crab	2 & 4 (Brn/Tan, Olive)
Puglisi Fleeing Crab	2, 4, 6 (Tan, Brown)	Isley's Raghead	2 & 4 (Amberish Tan)
Popovics Ultra Shrimp	4 (Tan)	Samson's Mantis Shrimp	2, 4 (green and golden tan)

**Tarpon** – Belizean tarpon take many of the traditional Keys style tarpon flies, especially on deeper flats or when rolling in channels. However, at times when they feed selectively on sprats or glass minnow, (especially in the lagoon at Tarpum Caye). Then, more realistic patterns (like the RM Flatsides or Gummy Minnows) or small Clouser Minnows (1 ½ - 2 ½ inches) may be needed. I like these small Clousers tied on #1 or #1/0 Eagle Claw 254 SS hooks. These are small enough to imitate the glass minnows, but strong enough to land a 60 – 80 pound tarpon. Glass minnow imitations should be fished with a slow and very slight “twitch & flutter” retrieve, rather than conventional “strips”. Your guide will instruct you. On occasion, the lagoon tarpon will also strike a popper.

hook	Clouser Minnow	2 – 1/0	Gummy Minnow	#1- 1/0 254 SS
longshank	Cockroach	1/0 – 3/0	Murphy's RM Flatsides	2 – 2/0
	Red/White Tarpon	1/0 – 3/0	Streaker	1/0 – 3/0
	Grizzly Orange Tarpon	1/0 – 3/0	Whistlers	1/0 – 3/0
	Tarpon Glo	1/0 – 3/0	Black Death	1/0 – 3/0

**Jack Crevalle, Snappers & Other Miscellaneous Species**

Grizzly Deceiver – Green	2/0, 3/0	Big Popper – Blue	3/0
Grizzly Deceiver – Blue	2/0, 3/0	Pencil Popper	2/0
Clouser – Tan or White	4, 1, 2/0	Seducer	2/0, 3/0

**Barracuda**

Cuda Fly – Green (double hooked tandem wire)	3/0
Needle Fish – Fluorescent Green/Yellow & White	3/0
Royal Schwartzman (pearl)	1/0

**Spin Fishing Suggestions**

	<b>Bonefish</b>	<b>Permit</b>	<b>Tarpons (S-M)</b>	<b>Tarpon</b>
<b>RODS:</b>	Lt - Med Lt	Med Lt – Med	Med	Med
Hvy	5.5 - 7 ft	5.5 – 7 ft	5.5 – 7 ft	5.5 – 6.5
ft				
<b>LINE (lbs.):</b>	6, 8 or 10	15	15-20	20-25

<b>REEL:</b>	150 yd	250 yd	200 yd	175 yd
<b>MONO LEADERS:</b>			60#	80# or
100#				
<b>CUDA LEADERS:</b>	18" to 24" wire, 30 to 50 lb test			

### Lures

	Heddon	Lucky 13	Color: Red & White, Bull Frog
	Rapala	CD-11 Sink, CD 14 Mag	Color: Red & White, Orange
	Yo-Zuri	4 1/4" Crystal Minnow	Color: Red & White, Blue Mackerel
	Cisco Kid	7 – 9"	Color: Fire Tiger
	Rebel	3" Pop R's 3/8 oz.	Color: Green Perch, Silver Shad, Silver
Blue	Arbogast Poppers	2 1/4"	Color: Frog, Perch, Coach Dog
	Slug-Go	6" w/off set hooks; 3/0, 5/0	Color: Rainbow Trout
	Body Jig Heads	1/2 oz.	Color: White or Red Heads
	Tube Lures	Tandem Hooked	Color: Green, Pink
	Little Wormy Jigs	1/4 oz.	Color: Yellow, Tan, Pink
	Diamond Jigs	3/16 oz.	Color: Tan, Brown
	Phillips Wiggle Jigs	1/8 oz.	Color: Pink, Brown, Tan, Yellow