



What flies to bring

Bonefish Fly list (size 4's most with some # 2's - all year)

Bonefish Gaz

McKnights crimp (merkin color and tan) – size 4

Kwabbit

Bone voyage

Foxee clouser

Ragin Cravin

Veverka's mantis shrimp

Gotcha (extended wing)

Puglisi spawning shrimp

Peterson spawning shrimp

Note : In general and unless an angler has fished the Bahamas on several occasions the flies we use are bigger than most people have in their standard fly boxes for bonefish. Many of the crazy charlies, gotchas for example that anglers have been using in places like the Yucatan are just too small for here. The patterns themselves may be Ok but generally the smaller hook sizes (8,10) can be too small for the larger fish here on Grand Bahama. Many of our flies that we use are about 2 inches in overall length.

Note : Grand Bahama bonefish are also very keen on crab imitations so have some crab patterns that are around hook size #4 and weighted appropriate for bonefish rather than the heavier weights for Permit.

Weight Proportions:

Best thing with bonefish flies is to have an assortment of weighted eyes. For lead eyes then 1/100 or 1/80 oz lead eyes (normally sold as mini lead eyes) should make up 20 % of your selection. 30 % should be lead eyes in The 1/50 oz (Normally sold as X-SMALL or 5/8 inch). 25 % should be medium and large bead chain eyes. 10 % should be slightly heavier – 1/36 Oz for possible deep water Bonefishing. 15 % should be very lightly weighted flies for tailing fish in skinny water.

Hook Sizes:

Hook sizes vary from one manufacturer to another so a size 4 hook from one manufacturer may be close or identical to a size 6 of another. The same goes for shank length. Mostly # 4's and # 6's are the most popular size

although some #2's are also suggested. Grand bahama Bonefish are generally larger than most other destinations so if there is ever any question then best to lean towards the larger size.

Hook sizes and models suggested:

Mustad Signature C47D S (shrimp hook) – size #4, #2

Tiemco 800S – Size #6

Tiemco 811S Size # 6, #4

The above are chemically sharpened hooks so are very ' sticky ' straight out of the box and do NOT need sharpening.

Mustad 34007 – Size #4

Mustad 3407 – Size #4

The above 2 Mustad models need sharpening – I suggest tiers sharpen hooks immediately before putting the fly in the vice. Always carry a small good quality file if hooks are not chemically sharpened. If hooks are chemically or pre-sharpened then DO NOT sharpen.

** N.B. – There are many other quality hook products out there so please do not limit your self to only those hooks above. ***. Just ensure they are sharp (chemically or by manually filing) and appropriate for saltwater fishing.

Colors:

Generally flies should be more drab in overall color ie light browns, tan, cream and some olive. Some bright colors can be incorporated as rubber legs or tags or bright heads on some flies only. Also have some flies with flash in them. Gold and rusty brown are very effective.

Commercially tied flies:

We have a selection of popular and productive flies available here at the resort however as these are imported they are not easily or quickly obtained or replaced and therefore should a large in house group for example purchase many dozens of flies then selection choices and amounts available do vary. These flies are available at \$ 5.00 per bonefish fly. If you know you want to purchase commercial flies here prior to your trip we always advise that you let us know as soon as possible. This helps us maintain a bigger and wider choice of flies.

Custom tied bonefish flies:

We offer custom tied bonefish/permit/tarpon flies for our location. These flies will be more durable than commercially available flies due to extra care taken in tying and more glues used in securing materials and eyes. Email for details at gregfish@h2obonefishing.com – Cost is \$ 6.50 per bonefish fly or a 12 set selection for \$ 70.00. Permit and tarpon flies at \$ 8 per fly. These flies are not stock piled and are tied on request so please bring an empty fly box and allow a minimum 3 weeks notice for orders. Please do not think that these are a necessity. The commercially tied flies listed are excellent choices. Some anglers however just prefer a custom set.

Fly Tying:

Pelican bay encourages all anglers who also enjoy the art of fly tying to get busy on their vice. Anglers can not only tie some of the commercially available flies mentioned above but can also get creative and design new patterns or slightly alter existing ones to create a larger selection. Those that like to tie standard patterns like gotcha's and Charlies then make sure you tie a good selection with wings that are extended past the hook bend by ½ inch to even 1 inch past the hook bend. Please make note of the weight proportions above as to eye choices.

Permit flies:

Merkin – medium sizes

Raghead crab – medium and large

Note – actual pattern is not too critical as long as it is a true Crab imitation.

Also some large mantis shrimp imitations have worked.

Ensure there are heavier lead eyes with the crab flies compared to say bonefish patterns which are more 1/80 - 1/50 oz listed as Mini - X-Small. The most common and appropriate lead eye is size SMALL (1/30 oz or 1/32 oz).

Barracuda flies (all year):

Needlefish flies

Large streamers – 8 inches long.

Large Poppers

Orange, chartreuse and yellow colors. Many anglers purchase barracuda tube lures also and use them on a 12 / 15 lb rated spinning outfit.

Tarpon flies (May to July):

Cockroach – 1/0's and 2/0's.

Stu apte tarpon flies - orange/yellow, white/blue, olive barred, brown barred – 2/0's and 3/0's

Bunker style flies.- Black/purple, red/black, Orange/white.

Tarpon toads – Chartreuse, char

Don't forget to have 60 or 80 lb shock in Fluorocarbon.



*** Please note : While the waters fished by H2O Bonefishing are very well known as a great Bonefishing location there can be seasonal shots at permit and tarpon however Permit have also been fished every month of the year April – September the best. Neither of these two species however are in as prolific numbers as the bonefish and are considered bonus fish to the great Bonefishing. Permit can be encountered while fishing the flats for bonefish and from late March onwards it is advisable to have a crab pattern rigged and ready to go on a 9 or 10 wt should opportunities present themselves. The same to a certain degree as to the tarpon although from late May through the summer. A 10 wt is the best overall choice for both species or a 9wt for permit and a 10/11 for tarpon. Of the two species available between the tarpon and Permit, the angler should consider the permit to be the more likely. Tarpon fishing here is very specialized and we normally only encourage it for those anglers that are staying to fish for 5 or more days.

OUTFITTER PRICING FOR NON INCLUDED ITEMS:

A limited selection of Flies and other equipment is available as follows ::

Fly rod set up of Rod/reel/fly line - \$ 20.00 per day

Spinning Rod and hooks : \$ 15.00 per day

Shrimp bait (Flown in from Florida) - \$ 10.00 per day per boat.- Please allow 2 weeks notice for any bait requirements as the lodge does not always carry bait.

Tapered saltwater Bonefish or Permit Leaders - \$ 6.00 per Leader

Knotted tarpon leaders with 60 or 80 lb shock - \$ 9.00 per Leader

Commercial bonefish Flies - \$ 5.00 per fly

Custom bonefish flies (tied here on the Island) - \$ 6.50 per fly

Crab patterns for permit - \$ 7.50 per fly.

Tarpon Flies - \$ 7.50 per fly.

***** NOTE ON FLY AMOUNTS *****

It is often quite hard to accurately predict how many flies and/or patterns an angler may need on any given day or trip as the factors that determine the realities of fly amounts is based on the most unpredictable of factors. For example, on some days the fish react to the fly far more aggressively than others and therefore the need for a variety of flies that day is not needed but then again those aggressive takes may lead to more break off's so you may need quite a few. Also variations in weather, say on very calm days anglers may have to drop down in tippet size so have less margin for error when setting the hook or fighting fish so lose more flies. Some days an angler can use the same fly or pattern all day and may only wet a few flies and on other days can wet a dozen or more flies trying to find what the fish are looking for. Again, all factors that cannot be predicted until you are on the water. Therefore over the course of say a week the variations can be as little as 12 flies used to over 60 flies that hit the water that week. That variation therefore is 5:1 so coming with 20 flies for example may be a few too many or 40 flies too few. At the end of a trip you can have 2 anglers having used the exact same pre-trip information and fish only days apart yet say the total opposite as to whether they had the correct amount of flies. There is no set formula. Better to have a few more flies than not enough is the general rule. Having already committed significant amounts to a destination angling adventure an angler should not neglect his or her fly selection. That is after all

the very first contact between angler and fish and the bonefish is not aware of the time and expense that has gone into your trip and has absolutely no sympathy or consideration for the angler. No anglers that have experienced Bonefishing have come away hating it so chances are good that whatever unused flies you purchase for your trip will find their way to the water at some point in your future travels.

OFFSHORE FLY FISHING (May to Sep) :

For Our Offshore fly fishing program there are no charges for the specialty Fly equipment ie 9-16 wt rods and matching reels or for the flies and leaders used. This is part of the package as most people do not have such large fly fishing equipment and specialty gear for this type of fly fishing.

