

## Joe's Smelt



### Materials

Hook	4x - 8x hook size 2 through 8
Thread	Black and Red 6/0
Tail	Red Schlappen Fibers
Body	Silver Tubing
Throat	Red Schlappen Fibers
Wing	Mallard Flank or Pintail Flank Feather

Start your thread behind the eye of the hook and lay a thread base to the bend of the hook. Tie in a small bunch of red schlappen fibers for the tail. The tail should be about equal to the gape of the hook. Cut a piece of silver tubing  $\frac{1}{2}$ " longer than the shank of the hook. Pull the material from the center of the tubing. Slide the tubing over the shank until it extends a little past the tail tie in point, the tubing will unravel a little behind the tie in point, that is okay. It should be about the same length as the entire tail. Hold the ends of the tubing and secure with 3 or 4 wraps of thread. Apply 3 or 4 half hitches and cut the thread and apply head cement to the thread wraps. Gently pull the tubing toward the eye, then lift it until the eye pokes through the bottom of the tubing. Reattach your thread with a jam knot over the tubing approximately  $\frac{1}{8}$ " behind the eye. Trim off any tubing on the eye side of the tie in spot. Tie in a small bunch of red hackle fibers for a throat on the underside of the fly. The throat should be a little longer than the gape of the hook. Now select a mallard or pintail flank feather for the wing. The feather should be long and narrow rather than short and wide. Strip the fluff at the base of the feather. Loosely tie the feather in on top of the hook leaving it a little longer than the tail ( $\frac{1}{4}$ "). Then pull the stem out over the eye to shorten the wing. This will also cause it to "tent" over the body. Secure the feather with 4 or 5 wraps and cut off the excess. Form a small, tapered head. Use 3 or 4 half hitches or a whip finish to finish the head. Clip the thread and place a small amount of head cement on the thread head.