

# Dare to fish with just one fly?

Text: Miki Äikäs

Salmon fishers have thousands of flies which they are using in different kinds of fishing situations. Choosing the fly is always personal choice, but also the influence of other fishers will have an effect in this case.

From time to time, some new "super" flies pops out and most of these patterns become familiar from the internet, or from some hardcore fisher, who has lots miles under his belt.

In salmon fishing, there are times when the salmon will bite everything. On the other hand, there are also difficult times, when choosing the right fly becomes very important. Many times it is more important how we present the fly to the fish, but the fly is the final thing that makes the salmon take it.

Personally, I ultimately have only few flies or models which I trust in any circumstances. Vimur and Ally's Shrimp have given me a bunch of salmon and if I have to choose only one fly for the salmon it would be one of these two. Which one, that is the hard question.

I decide to pick a few salmon fishers I know, and ask them a hypothetical question, if they would dare to use only one pattern during the season and what that would be. These guys are picked from hundreds of salmon fishers and they are anglers who really like to fish.

I asked them to answer one simple question: "If you had to pick only one fly for the whole season, what would it be?" They also told me how they use the pattern during the season.

Of course, I had to loosen the line bit and let some room to vary the size and dressing during the season, but mainly the key points would be clear for these questions.

We still have to remember that it is the fisherman who decides what fly to use, not the salmon.

Black and Green works  
in everywhere", flies and  
picture Eirik Fjelldal.



On the banks of Reisa.

# Jani Huhtamäki

Finnish angler Jani Huhtamäki (52) is one of those salmon anglers who hooks a fish when others don't get anything. He has fished salmon for 30 years and spends his time nowadays in northern Norway places like the Tana and Reisa. He has fished a number of times also in Russia. He works as a self-employed "Garage Guy" making his living with building cars.

He has some very large Atlantics under his belt, like 125 cm, 120 cm, 117 cm and many fish between 110 cm to 115 cm... and more to come. This guy doesn't make any noise about his fishing, and doesn't like to hang on the internet.

"My choice for the "one fly" is

a very simple tube. One-inch long Aluminum tube with black Fox wing and few strands of flashabou. The fly doesn't require any hackle and I use this with the same size thru the season. I don't see any reason to have it bigger or smaller, cause this works very well. I have also used it for the sea trout, and it works well.

In the late 90's I saw this fly on a Finnish angler's fly box and since then I have used it regularly. We call it "MikaMika", after the guy with who I saw it first time, as his first name is Mika.

Nowadays I fish only four to five hours per day, some days even less. It suits me better and when I fish, I try to concentrate on it as well as possible. I use that fly in different conditions

like any other flies, with sinking lines as also with floaters when the water is suitable for that. Nothing special with the swing. Just cast and hope that salmon will bite it.

I strongly believe that presentation is more important for the take, so the fly itself doesn't mean so much. Of course the fly must look good in the water and more importantly it shouldn't get tangled when casting. When you find a good rhythm for your fishing it is the way to succeed.

In this fly you have a good contrast and it always swims well.

With this particular fly in the pictures I have landed a few very large bucks. As you see, a fly can be very simple and the salmon will take it anyway. ●

# Dave Bishop

David Bishop has been a guide and outfitter on the Gaspé Peninsula for over 30 years. His home rivers are the Grand Cascapedia, Petite Cascapedia and Bonaventure, although he has fished just about everywhere in the province and neighboring provinces for Atlantic salmon and trout. He has wielded a DH rod for over 20-years now and loves to share his knowledge with anyone who wants to take up the sport of fly fishing, whether it be for Atlantic salmon or any other species.

After selling his two lodges, Salmon Lodge and Dunkillie Lodge on the Gaspé Peninsula in 2008, David headed to Patagonia, Chile to guide for a couple of seasons and if it was not for his beloved salmon, he might not have come back.

He is one of the founders and owners of the Gaspé Fly Company, a fly and accessory distribution company that services all of Canada.

He lives on the banks of the Cascapedia River with his chocolate lab Forrest where they continue to float, fish and guide the amazing rivers of the Gaspé Peninsula together.

"EASY! That would be the Paul Caron Stonefly.

What I love about this fly is that I can use it wet, skating or dry, depends on the leader I am using or if I choose to grease it up or not. It is a black winged fly and I love black for all fish plus it has a chartreuse green body also seems to be a favorite with salmon ;) ... It is my "go to" pattern during most of the year and although not my first choice for super early season, it



Happy Dave with fine late season salmon.

EASY! That would be the Paul Caron Stonefly.

is my number one fly for 95% of the season so it is why I would choose this if I had to choose one.

Like I said above, it is my go to fly for almost the entire season but the reason I love it is cause it has a nice parachute hackle that vibrates in the water, it also allows the fly to be fished dry if you put on the silicone or you can sink it easily enough by using fluorocarbon tippet. It has a very unique profile and it has proven to be affective from NB to Labrador and especially here in Quebec. It is a variant of Lee Wulff's version of

his stonefly. I like how this is tied compared to his version (Wulff) as it is actually tied and not just glued all in one piece. There are several ways to tie it, many use a pin for the post but I like the PC version as it uses the residual wing hair for the post, which makes it lighter and also allows you to cut the post to a profile that you want, either big or smaller making it very versatile.

I use this fly with floating lines almost exclusively, but I see no reason why you could not use it with a sink tip. The post and hackle tied around that post offer some vibrations which may be one of the reasons it stimulates so many fish for me! I am not a salmon but that is my theory. I like to swing it fairly fast, actually I usually swing my flies faster than most anglers or guides and that is because I want a fish to commit 100% to my fly. When many mend upstream after a cast, I usually will not mend of mend downstream to speed up my flies." ●





*I think I  
would have  
to go for  
Vaehæniva.*

year I can see my first Vaehæniva entry with a 10.2kg/22.5Lbs salmon from the Gaula. The same year I remember loosing big fish in the Eidselva and hooking up with several fish in both the Orkla and Namsen rivers. So to cut it short, my diary tells me that the Vaehæniva has caught a substantial number of fish - ranging from June to September and under most possible and impossible conditions. Maybe not the fly ruling my list of top 5 biggest fish. But it has certainly grown to be one of my «workhorse» flies I've used a lot and fish with great confidence. Not to mention a fly that's given me plenty of awesome memories.

The essence of the fly (apart from being black and originally with a somewhat strong silhouette), is for me the combination of a mirage tinsel and green dubbed body tied on a black tube. Together with a mirror flashed wing, these materials pick up light and reflect on each other, giving it that haunting greenish tint when swimming through the water. You can hardly go wrong in a Norwegian river with a fly that revolves around a black and green theme. Make no mistake about it, this fly is just brilliant under low light conditions and/or as a night fly. I guess that was also the intended purpose of the fly by the inventor himself. But by changing some of the material in the fly and maybe dressing it a bit differently you easily have a «base fly» and a workhorse to be used any time of the day under many conditions.

If being 100% true to the original pattern here is important, I guess it's

through the years. In other words, a very passionate salmon angler.

*"I think I would have to go for Vaehæniva.*

*I have 3-4 flies that have been really good over quite a few years, so choosing one fly over the other was tougher than I initially first thought. Taking into account that I mostly fish Norwegian rivers in June/July, wanted to have some sort of well founded basis and not just merely the last couple years fresh in mind - I took a peek into my fishing diary that I started writing back in 2001. This diary is by no means a scientific study in any shape or form, just a few notes on every fish I caught over 7 Kg/15 Lbs and some where, what, how and when.*

*I remember tying up a few Vaehænicas after reading an article back in 2006. In my diary the same*

## Eirik Fjelldal

Eirik Fjelldal is a 43-year hardcore salmon fisher from Råholt, Norway. He started out fly fishing as a youngster chasing sea run browns and Atlantic salmon on smaller rivers in northern Norway, but soon moved over to bigger rivers and bigger fish. He has been fly fishing for over three decades and spends around 5-8 weeks each summer chasing Atlantic salmon all over Norway. He has fished rivers like the Gaula, Orkla, Alta, Namsen, Laerdal, Målselva, Eidselva and Lakselva to name a few.

He has been associated with Flyfish Europe for the past eight years collaborating on projects for both Scientific Anglers and Scott Fly Rods. He is also member of Scientific Anglers Pro Staff. Also done various fly tying and fly casting clinics

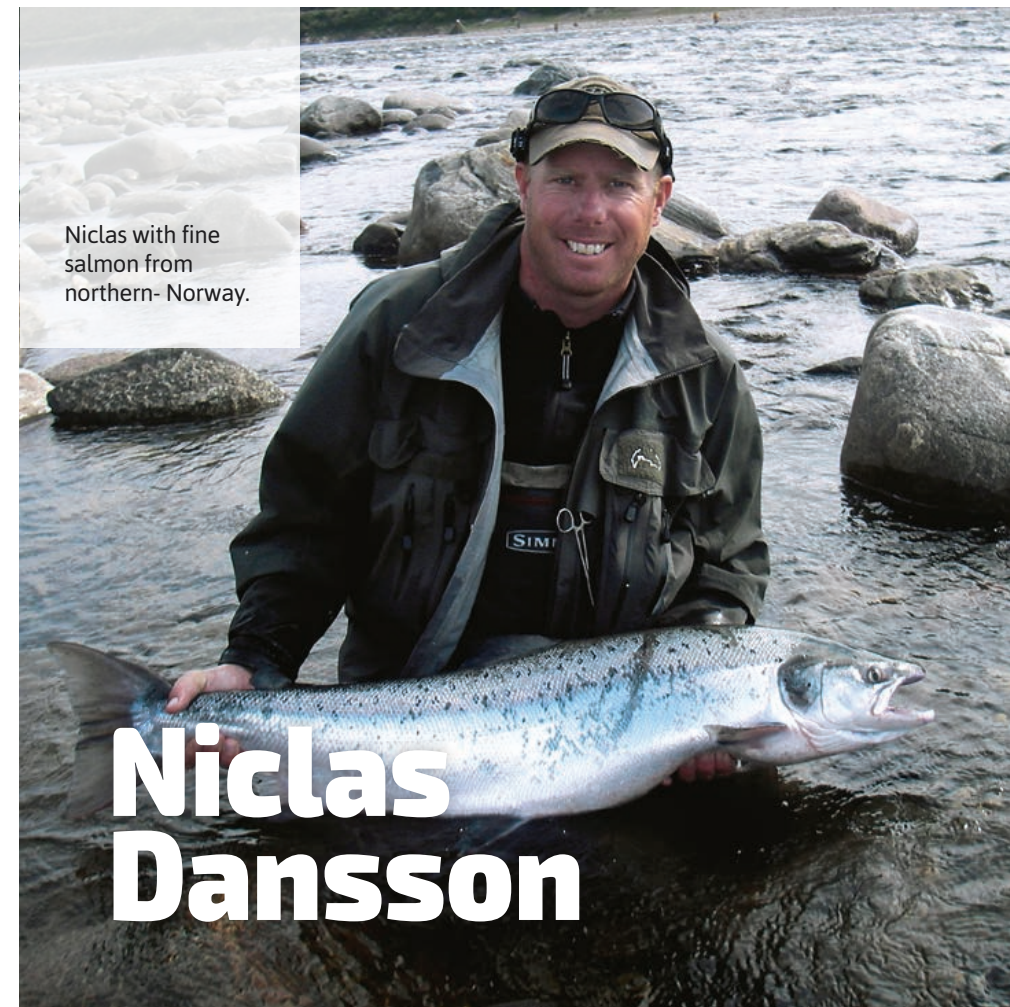
fair to say that the way I tie and dress some of these flies deviate some from the original, but I have kept what I consider the essence of the fly. I use 2-3 different variants depending on how I want to fish them, where and when. Just changing the size, shade of green in the body, the amount of flash and maybe most importantly, what type of hair and feathers for wing and hackle.

How I choose to fish the fly and with what line depends very much on the character of the pool - water temperature and where I expect the fish to be holding etc. When I use this fly during late evening or night, I usually go for a Vaehæniva tied on a plastic tube and weighted down just a little in the front with a turbo disc. With a big fly I usually try to fish it with speed and I want the fly to come swimming across the current - showing the fish the broad side of the fly.

Small flies I often slow down the speed and let it «hang» more in the current. I usually go for a float/intermediate or Hoover/intermediate type of fly line in both these scenarios. In low water conditions a floating line with a rod length of the tapered leader.

When I use this fly during the day and on a sinking line - the fly is usually just tied on a brass tube and fished with a loose hanging hook on a short leader.

I always have 2-3 rods rigged up with different lines. Under normal conditions I often first cover the pool with a close to surface type of line - to see if I can get a fish to rise. Then I change rod and go for a heavier line to dig the fly down, presenting it closer to where the fish maybe lying. The size of the fly combined with the right speed and depth is often a key deciding factor - like with any other fly. ●



## Niclas Dansson

42-year-old Niclas "Ted" Dansson is one those fishermen who really do fish. When I thought about who might be the guy from Sweden in this case, he was first on my mind. Actually, he loves fishing more than most of us and why not, because he lives in Norrköping, quite near the world-famous river Em in Sweden, which is his favorite place to fish salmon and sea trout. He spends most of his time there thru the season.

He started salmon fishing in 1990 and since then it has been his passion.

He does fish also in the Gaula in central Norway and in the Tana with other rivers in northern Norway.

Also northern parts of Sweden have become familiar to this hardcore salmon fisher.

*"If I have to pick only one pattern thru the season it would be a version of "Magentaflugan", Magenta fly.*

*Better said it is a black version of it with magenta colored under wing.*

Magenta is a very effective in colored water in spring time, but also very good during the summer in clear waters in northern Norway.

*This fly works extremely well in early season on the river Em and also early salmon fishing in the Gaula, which has been in my schedule year after year. Also in northern parts of Sweden I've been successful with this fly with Baltic Salmon.*

*I fish with this fly with many different ways, mainly depending on the conditions. In cold water, when salmon is lazy, I use sinking lines and try to offer the fly as slow as possible.*

*When the waters warm up and become clear, I speed the fly a bit, but of course depending on the current and the place I fish.*

*When the water is getting "too warm" I try to have a fly as close to the fish as possible, and force it to strike. In the river Em this becomes very important, especially when fishing sea trout." ●*



Two handsome  
Gentlemen.

Photo: Thies Reimers

# Bernd Kuleisa

Bernd Kuleisa, born 1957 in Northern Germany, not far from Hamburg where he and his wife Ulla still live.

He was chief editor of Germany's leading fly fishing magazine called "Fliegenfischen" for a long time, actually eleven years from 1987 til' 1998. He still works as a journalist in Germany for different magazines of fly fishing.

He has written many books about salmon and trout fishing, and still gives two-handed casting clinics being a highly asked casting teacher in Germany and Austria. Taking away the fear of a two hander and having fun, without pressure is a prime learning target of Bernd's courses.

His books "Success with the Two Hander" and "Easy for Salmon" are standard works in the German speaking market.

Bernd's biggest fish with the

*The Cascade  
is legendary  
in Ireland and  
Scotland and  
lots of salmon  
go on its  
account.*

Cascade so far: a 12 kilo salmon from the river Gaula in Norway and a 8 kilo sea trout caught around the corner at the river Stör in Germany.

He has a website where you can find more info: [www.bernd-kuleisa.de](http://www.bernd-kuleisa.de)

"For this question I can give a straight answer without any hesitation: it would, no it is and will be the Cascade. Really I fish this fly

almost the whole season for Atlantic salmon and sea trout. About 20 years ago, when I met the great Scottish fly fisher Andy Murray, he recommended this fly warmly and I took it, fished it and have to say, it is my clear and absolute number 1 in the swing the fly business. The Cascade was invented by Alastair "Ally" Gowans, who is also responsible for another pretty famous fly called, make a guess, yes, the Ally's Shrimp. Last year I gave him a call just to say thank you. The Cascade is legendary in Ireland and Scotland and lots of salmon go on its account. The big but and most interesting for many readers and fishermen might be, it proved to be an outstanding fly for sea trout at my home river Stör - I only need to walk a few minutes to fish some nice pools there- and for salmon in Norway. For many years the Gaula was and still is my river. Almost 30 years now.

A lot of rivers that have a kind of natural turbidity and are so called

tea colored the Cascade is my ticket to success. This also applies to the Gaula in it's probably best condition, a little bit higher than normal and this kind of brownish, cognac colored and slightly muddy touch of water. In this case I mainly fish the Cascade as a tube around 10 cm in length, sometimes a little bit longer. There I like to present the tube with an intermediate line or a Sink Tip like float/sink 2. Smaller Cascades in sizes from 8-12 are really a good choice as soon as the water gets lower and warmer. Then I go back to a straight floater and longer leaders.

The Cascade in my eyes acts and appears as a shrimp fly. On the other hand I would not reduce it just to this one point. It is more...a way more. She gives this sweet smell of attraction and those small glitter effects do the rest. It is a shrimp fly with a catchy appeal and lots of charm and enchantment. Meanwhile I like the golden Variation a little bit more than the original version with a silver body. Gold is a good choice when you have sun at the water. Superb!"

"Grilse, smaller salmon and really big ones, sea trout- all those fish- they seem to really like to take the Cascade. At my river I even get nice by-catches. Believe it or not, pike go for it. Just a tip aside...I know magazine is Called CS and not Chasing green. But I even caught some nice walleyes (Zander in Germany) with it, so at least we are back at CS.

The Cascade simply is a great fly. Try it and if you don't, well you make a big mistake...that's for sure!" ●

## MikaMika

by Jari Hultamäki

Very simple fly, easy to tie.

Not much to say about it, but worth trying.

- ✓ one inch Aluminum tube
- ✓ under the wing, a few rounds of dubbed black wool
- ✓ wing black Fox, few strands of flashabou



## Paul Caron Stonefly

by Dave Bishop

(original pattern Paul Caron)

This receipt is from the original maker, but I made some additional notes.

- ✓ Alec Jackson hook.
- ✓ Wrap shank with black tying thread (3/0 waxed monocord). Apply a little glue.
- ✓ Wrap body using Glo-brite fluo. multi-yarn #12 (fluorescent green) - two, three or four wraps
- ✓ according to the size of the hook. (I suggest using some white yarn to build up the body first)
- ✓ Varnish (4-5 coats plus drying time between each one) with Hard as Nails to a fine glossy finish.
- ✓ Tie in wing (finest black deer tail hair you can find) and tie/post-up ends (wing hairs should flare). (Usually the softest and best hair to use from bucktail is the middle part so you are actually using the finest hairs possible)
- ✓ Tie in 2 quality (stiff) white (badger) hackles to the base of that post and wrap them (parachute style)
- ✓ around the post and tie off.





## Vaehæniva

By Eirik Fjelldal  
(original pattern Mikael Frödin)

I usually tie this fly in two versions - one on a brass tube, the other on a plastic tube with a disc or conehead. I also use some different hair on those two versions. The brass tube version I use some polar bear as underwing and TD as mid and top wing. On the plastic tube version I go for a Monkey hair wing or just TD.

- ✓ Tube: Black outer tube and fluorescent green inner plastic tube.
- ✓ Tying Thread: Black 12/0 or 14/0 Veevus/ Benecchi
- ✓ Body: 1/2 half: Mirage tinsel/Mirage SW flash. 1/2 half Gaudy green sss dub/Glitz or similar. On big flies I use sss Glitz.
- ✓ Hackle: On Plastic tube: After finishing off the whole wing segment: Black Spey Plum/small black ostrich feather. Strip one side of feather and tie in only two turns. Then a black chickabou feather before finishing off with a cone or disc.

On the brass tube version I only use a black soft hackle and then a black blue eared pheasant before tying in the last wing segment. If you want the fly somewhat «lighter», you can use an olive hackle with the black for example.

- ✓ Wing: Couple of peacock black Mirror flash doubled. Short piece of Black TD (no longer than where the hook point will be) Few strands of Gaudy Green sss flash/ or similar. Midwing Black TD. Few strands of Gaudy green flash. Top wing black TD with a few strands of nasty rusty flash, topped by 3-5 peacock herls. If Monkey Hair - I use polar bear or bucktail as underwing and then monkey hair. I also leave out the peacock herls.
- ✓ Sides Jungle Cock
- ✓ Head: Black, silver or metallic green cone head/disc. If you don't want to use a conehead or disc, you may «pimp up» you'r fly with a little fluorescent green head - then you can for example use a fluorescent green tying thread.

## Magenta fly

By Niclas Dansson

I varied many different ways when tying this fly depending on which kind of water I'm going to fish with it.

- ✓ On the Tube- version I prefer Frödin's FITS- system
- ✓ Back part of the body (2/3) I use Pearl- braid, but I tie it over the whole body.
- ✓ Front body SSS- Clear water blue
- ✓ Under wing blue Fox
- ✓ Middle wing Magenta Temple dog
- ✓ Top wing Temple dog or Tanuki- hair. Sometimes I add some Peacock Herls to top of the wing
- ✓ First hackle: black Soft, second Magenta colored Heron
- ✓ sides Jungle Cock
- ✓ head Turbocone



## Cascade

By Bernd Kuleisa  
(original pattern Ally Gowans)

Every salmon fisher knows Cascade. Great all-arounder in every river where Atlantic Salmon migrates.

- ✓ Tail: hot orange & yellow bucktail with clear Krystal hair.
- ✓ Body: half silver and half black floss silk with medium oval tinsel rib.
- ✓ Wing: silver Krystal Hair and black squirrel.
- ✓ Collar hackles: yellow & hot orange.
- ✓ Head: black thread or varnish

