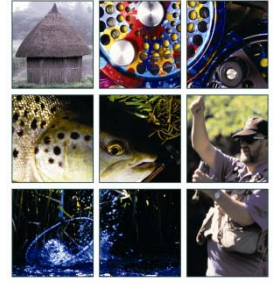


# NOVEMBER - MARCH FISHING ADVICE



## TACTICS

**More than any other time of the year your fishing day will be determined by the weather or the water conditions, so you should adapt accordingly.**

If the water is cloudy and the fish difficult or impossible to see then your ability to spot a 'take' becomes more important than the fly itself. I am a great believer in strike indicators, which are also an ideal way to control your fly depth. The more purist approach is of course to gink up your leader so it floats high on the surface allowing you to strike at the slightest downward twitch.

If the weather is foul in terms of wind, rain or snow then I tend to seek out the spot on the river that most protects me from the elements. I know it is a bit of a wimpy approach but you will have greater success bowing to the elements rather than fighting them.

Generally the default fly for grayling is a nymph, but even when there is snow on the ground hatches will happen, so always be ready to switch when a hatch comes on. The only two species you will see hatching around these months are olives and midges.

## WEATHER

I suppose the great advantage with fishing in winter is that you expect the worst and anything else is a bonus. Fish do need to feed, though they do so at a much reduced rate. Sudden changes in the weather or water level/clarity will stop them feeding but give them a few days of settled conditions and they will be back on the hunt.

## TACKLE TIPS

I tend to wear my chest waders, even on bank fishing beats. Being warm and dry, with protection from soggy banks, wet reeds, wind and rain trumps any disadvantages of having to walk in waders.



## HATCHES

Only two hatches to consider during these months, namely midges and olives

### Large Dark Olive

After a summer break the large dark olives are back and this is a chance to use one of the modern chalkstream classics, the Kite's Imperial made famous by Olly Kite in the 1970's.

Kite's Imperial	size 14
Klinkhammer	14 - 16
Olive Dun	14
Parachute Adams	14
Sawyers Pheasant Tail Nymph	14



**Kite's Imperial**

### Midges

Along with the olives this is the major hatch of the month. I'll hazard that you will use the sub-surface patterns more than the dry, but you should carry all the variants. Have a variety of colours in black, green and red.

Deep Nymph	Bloodworm	12
Common Nymph	Buzzer/Midge Pupa	14 - 18
Emerger	CDC Shuttlecock	14
Adult	Knotted Midge	16



**Black Buzzer**

### Shrimp & Water Hog Louse

Shrimps are one of the most common creatures grayling eat and the ones they actively search for. You will see them rooting around at the riverbed trying to dislodge shrimps amongst the gravel. If the fish are in the margins or shallow water they may be after hog lice; a Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear is an effective imitation.

Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear	8 -10
Weighted shrimp	12 -14



**Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear**



**Dark Olive Nymph**



**Water Hog Louse**



**Large Dark Olive**



**Midge Pupa**