Identification Notes for wildlife law enforcement

CATEGORY: PRODUCTS

Scientific Names: 

Common Name/s: Fishing Flies

PROBLEM: The species source of wildlife parts used by the fishing fly industry is difficult to determine. CITES, MMPA, MBTA, and the Tariff Classification Act regulate many of these species.

PARTS OF A FISHING FLY
(after Venaird, 1980)

LIST OF SPECIES USED FOR BODY, WING, TOPPING, TAIL, AND HACKLE: (Species underlined may require permits)

Domesticated Mammals: cow, rabbit, mink.

Wild Mammals: seal, otter, polar bear, North American black bear, white-tailed deer, elk, caribou, and moose; Old World and New World rabbits, weasels, moles, foxes, and squirrels.

Domesticated Birds: ducks, geese, turkey, chicken, ring-necked pheasant, and ostrich.

Wild Birds: peacock, green Peafowl, coot, moorhen, Mandarin duck, silver, Amherst, golden, and Reeves Pheasants; North American mallard, wood duck, and teal; Old World and New World partridge, grouse, and snipe.

LIST OF SPECIES USED FOR CHEEKS: (Species underlined may require permits)

Birds: grey junglefowl, North American wood duck, starling.

IDENTIFICATION TIPS:

Caribou, deer, elk, and moose: Hairs are thick and light; when bent they will kink and fold.

Rabbits and moles: Fine, soft fur.

Some seals and polar bear: Hairs are translucent; they look like monofilament fishing line.

Macaws and parrots: Feathers are naturally red, blue, yellow, and green.

Grey junglefowl: The glossy orange-brown spotted neck feathers are often used for the cheeks.

Golden pheasant: Neck feather pieces are orange with black bar and black tip.

North American waterfowl: Vermiculated tan and grey pieces of flank feathers often used.

Peacock and peafowl: Deep fluorescent green pieces of tail feathers frequently found.

OTHER References below (many available at public libraries) list the species traditionally used in flies. Examine materials exported from the U.S., other mammal and bird property, and materials at tackle and bait shops. Synthetic materials and non-protected species may be labelled as substitutes for regulated species.

WATCH FOR Fishing accessories, lures, and bait imported through postal and air freight channels. Protected species feathers imported with domesticated bird and feather quota imports.

FROM: 1. Korea, Taiwan, and Hong Kong use domesticated species and exotic pheasants to produce inexpensive flies.

2. Thailand, India, and Africa use North American and Old World species in the average priced and quality flies they manufacture.

3. European countries use North American and Old World species to produce expensive and high quality flies. Protected species are often used.

REFERENCES:

