

The dead to the world drift

By Ian Cox



I have fished still water a bit too much lately. In fact it has been so long since I fished a river that I may have forgotten how. Worse still I fear with the mother of all droughts on its way, it looks like it may be some years before I get to fish a river properly again. That is the downside. The positive is that when you do one thing or one type of thing for any period of time you begin to get better at it. You may even become reasonably good. I wouldn't be so bold, but I do think that the added time I have spent on the dam has resulted in me picking up a tip or two.

One of the more nifty ones is the dead to the world drift. You have heard of the dead drift that is the technique where you leave your fly out their free to drift as the current or wind pleases, giving it a twitch now and then in the hope this will make the fly look lifelike. The dead to the world drift is a dead drift combined with a nap. Yup it fly fishing come full circle. No longer to you have to mind your line with the odd little twitch aimed at telling the fish

that there is something alive at the other end. You accept that trout don't actually give a damn. They eat it because it is there and you catch fish when your fly is lucky enough to be there when the fish is.

With the dead to the world drift you can lie back and nod off secure that if a fish is dumb enough to eat your fly then it is also probably dumb enough to hook itself. All you have to do is wake up in time.

The beauty of this technique is that it is so simple. There is literally nothing you have to do. And you don't have to be on dry land. It works just as well on a float tube. And believe me; it does work. I have lost count of the number of fish I have caught while either fast asleep or in a state of near sleep.

Yes have even been smashed up a couple of times in circumstances where I might not have had I been awake, but then I probably would not have caught the fish in the first place if I had been awake. It's a case of swings and roundabouts.

Yes there is also the chance that the rod will get away from you but if you are really worried tie it to you big toe or something. However truth be told while losing a rod can happen it is in fact quite difficult to do.

Is it fly fishing? I think so but what is fly fishing is also an open question where opinions are driven as much by personal belief as anything else.

In the meantime perhaps a pillow and a deckchair do have a place in the still water fly fishers kit or better still maybe kick boats should have seats that adjust to a reclining position! So until next time, it's a case of sweet dreams and tight lines.
