

Making the Bait

The Rainbow Loggerhead is legendary in northern Saskatchewan, so much so that a competition is held yearly to see which fisherman can reel in the greatest number of this wily foe. It is well known that the Loggerhead is disdainful of worms but cannot resist furry caterpillars, but this delicacy is difficult to find in the north. Fortunately, wool pasted to common red wrigglers is enough to fool the fish. In a side competition, teams of worm artists vie to see who can assemble the greatest number of faux worms in twenty minutes. Teams work in public lavatories, starting with worm-rich cow manure and tufts of wool and ending with a pail of not-caterpillars and the manure flushed down the toilets. One of this year's teams occupied three stalls, which they called Potty A, Potty B, and Potty C, and went to work. Potty A and Potty B were chugging along at a good clip, but Potty C had a problem sticking the wool on the worms. Potty B suggested that Potty A find a worm, toss it over the stall's partition, Potty B would affix the wool and toss the worm back over to Potty C, who would do the final grooming. And that is what they did, though the procedure significantly slowed down Potty B and C. They didn't win, but they learned a valuable lesson: to be successful, every potty needs to wool its own bait.

