



Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

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 Paul Reiss - Guide

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FISHING NEWS

Fall 2000

...New, joint fishing newsletter...

- ?? We've combined our efforts to get more fishing information out to more of you, more often.
- ?? Our new, guided trip schedules are ready for fall '2001 and winter '2002.
- ?? Several places remain for this year's giant payara at Uraima Falls and freshwater dorado in Argentina.
- ?? Fishing reports—Fall 2000

Getting out these newsletters, although a labor of love, can be pretty tough during our peak fishing seasons. So we've teamed up to make it more efficient. We think that we'll be able to get more issues out and reach more of you this way. We hope you like the format. Please call, write or e-mail us with any comments or suggestions you may have. Tight Lines ... GV, PR

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World Record Payara Lurk at Uraima Falls, Venezuela

South America is home to many of the greatest freshwater gamefish in the world. There aren't enough superlatives to adequately describe the fighting prowess of its big, fierce predators. The peacock bass, revered for its awesome power and ferocity, has become famous as a result of its television appearances. The acrobatic golden freshwater dorado has enjoyed worldwide recognition and respect for decades. But, amazingly, the giant payara, the fighting champion of them all, is almost completely unknown outside its native haunts.

Take the bone-jarring strike of a peacock bass and the aerial exploits of the dorado, couple that with immense, high speed runs and you have the blueprint for the payara's fighting strategy. A typical encounter with one of these beasts begins with a pounding strike on your plug or fly. For a second or two, it feels as though the payara is as surprised as you are to feel this strange new

resistance. But a second or two is all you get before these fanged speed demons take off on the first of many blistering runs. A big payara can easily peel off 100 yards of line

before stopping to gather its resources. Then they start jumping....and jumping. The sight of a huge, slab-sided predator like this throwing itself through the air is breathtaking. Not only does it have more stamina, but a big payara's fight is just as exciting and spectacular as anything a peacock or dorado can muster. That's really saying something!

The waters of Uraima Falls contain the largest payara in the world and IGFA's record books can prove it. The current all tackle world record of 39 lb. 4 oz. was set here along with several other IGFA line class records. A giant 40 pounder is still awaiting certification. A typical day's fishing at Uraima Falls provides anglers with upwards of a dozen feisty payara. Fish average about 12-



Giant payara are one of the world's most exciting gamefish.

A big Payara's fight is just as exciting and spectacular as anything a peacock bass or freshwater dorado can muster.

pounds each, with plenty of fish in the 20-pound class. . .30-pounders hook-up fairly often, but they're awfully tough to land.

The comfortable lodge, located on an island surrounded by descending levels of the falls, is the last thing one would expect to find in this starkly primitive jungle locale. Fishermen enjoy spacious, private bedrooms with real beds, sheets and pillows in traditional, local Indian-style thatched huts. Each round hut contains two bedrooms, a sitting area and a real bathroom with flush toilets, running water and a hot-water shower. This just isn't roughing it! Uraima Falls provides a haven of comfort in the middle of the jungle. Several openings are still available during our featured weeks this February.

By Paul Reiss



Freshwater Dorado Update - '2001

Sécore River, Northeastern Bolivia...

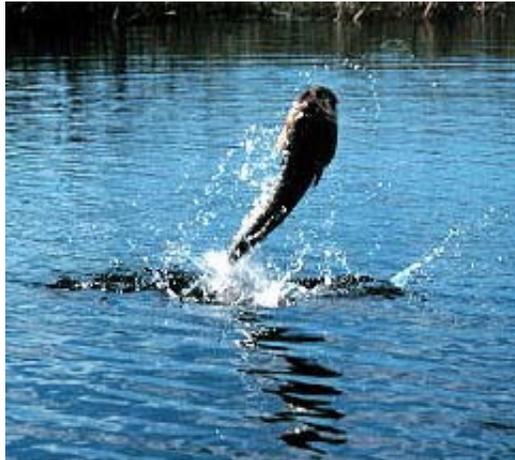
Along Bolivia's Andean Cordillera there are numerous pristine freestone rivers flowing east into the steaming rainforests on the eastern slope of the mountains. One such river especially worth noting is the **Sécore**. Paul and I recently visited this breathtaking river and highly recommend the trip for adventurous anglers looking for unparalleled scenery and huge dorado in absolutely untouched fishing conditions. The stunning Sécore looks like the North Umpqua transplanted into the Amazon rainforest. The average size dorado we landed in the Sécore was about 18-pounds! Huge pacú and a predatory fast water catfish that readily takes flies can be caught right alongside the dorado.

The fishing season on the Sécore runs from June through October. Paul and I will be happy to host groups of four or more on 5-day fishing adventures. We are tentatively planning a hosted trip in mid-August, 2001. Fishing on the Sécore is physically demanding and involves a good deal of daily walking and wading over slippery boulders – in other words, this is not a trip for someone who is not relatively fit or is physically challenged. The accommodations are simple, but the fishery is superb! Trip prices for the 2001 season will be about \$2,500 excluding international airfare. Feel free to call us for details...

Rio Dorado, Northwestern Argentina...

After visiting the Sécore, I went directly to an intriguing exploratory on the Dorado River near the town of Salta, Argentina. O'Farrell Safaris has put together an exciting new program which offers horseback trips into the spectacular and pristine Dorado River. Running at perhaps 400 c.f.s, the dorado looks and fishes exactly like a freestone trout fishery (complete with stone, caddis and mayfly hatches). The dorado here aren't particularly large (2-10-pounds), but they are extremely plentiful and a good caster can expect to easily catch 25-30 fish a day.

Keep in mind that a 2-10-pound dorado is all the fish you'll want to handle on a 5 or 6-weight rod. The scenery on the river is magnificent – imagine a beautiful little freestone "trout" stream surrounded by magnificent semi-tropical rainforest. O'Farrell's trip is not for everyone, as it involves a 2-hour horseback ride in to the river and is, due to its remoteness, limited to wade fishing only. If you're up for such an adventure, I highly recommend fishing the Dorado River. Peak fishing is from Mid-November through Mid-March. Call me for booking details...



Dorado take the fight to the air!

Iberá Marsh, Northeastern Argentina...

Without a doubt, some of the most intriguing and aesthetic dorado fishing is found in the Paraná's clear water feeder streams. Dozens of these clear feeder streams are found throughout the Paraná system. Access dictates which rivers can be fished as much of the country has little or no road systems and the ones that exist are nearly impassible if it rains.

Argentina's finest clear water feeder stream is the Corrientes River – especially at it's headwaters on the Iberá Marsh!. The Iberá is indeed one of the most spectacular and inviting clear water fisheries I have encountered anywhere in the world. It is a giant spring creek teeming with big dorado and myriad other fish species. The water is so clear that you feel like you are drifting in a massive aquarium. The largest fly-caught dorado I've ever seen was a 33-pounder caught by Jorge Xifra two years ago at Rincón del Diablo lodge in the Iberá Marsh. The fish was sighted in shallow water and taken on a floating line!

A few remaining spaces are still available on my hosted weeks at Rincón del Diablo Lodge departing from Miami on Fri., Mar. 2, '01, returning to Miami on Saturday, March 10 or departing from Miami on Thursday, March 8, '01, returning to Miami on Friday, March 16. Call me for up-to-the-minute availability...

by Garrett VeneKlasen

New 'Winter Economy' Trips to Lake Guri Available

For the very first time, Peacock Bay lodge is offering a variation on its Fall Economy Trips during selected winter weeks. This might be the best deal ever to fish famous Lake Guri in Venezuela. How about 7 days, 6 nights with five full days of guided fishing for the amazing price of \$1375 per person during Guri's peak season? The lodge offers great food, comfortable accommodations and a convenient, southern lakeshore location. There just isn't a better way to access Venezuela's Lake Guri and its giant Peacocks and saber-toothed Payara. Our



clients have caught peacocks here ranging up to 18-pounds, morocoto, and payara over 20 pounds. Available Dates for Winter, '2000/2001 include;

Depart - December 10th	Return - Dec. 16th
Depart - January 12th	Return - Jan. 18th
Depart - February 18th	Return - Feb. 24th
Depart - March 4th	Return - Mar. 10th
Depart - April 5th	Return - Apr. 11th

Includes transfer help at airports, ground travel, fishing, boats and guides, accommodations and meals, refreshments, local beer and liquor. Call 908 832-2987 for information and reservations.

Tackle-Box.net - The International Anglers source for Specialized Fishing Tackle Outfits

So you've decided to take that trip of a lifetime! You've set the dates, gotten your shots, renewed your passport. All you need to do now is to get your fishing tackle together. Think you're all done? Oh no! Not by a long shot.

International trips to faraway places for exotic species call for tackle you may never have seen or even heard of before. Peacock bass hit lures that look like propeller driven baseball bats in Halloween colors. Payara eat diving plugs as long as your forearm. Have you ever cast a tailed streamer fly that swims upside down? Dorado think its food! This just isn't the stuff adorning the shelves of your typical tackle shop.

Anglers discovered long ago that when it comes to fish, not only does one size not fit all, but sometimes, ultra-selective fish won't even play without exactly the right shape, size, motion and color bait. Fishing today has become a highly technical, exacting sport. Tackle manufacturers have proven up to the challenge, producing an incredible variety of quality gear,

perfectly matched to specialized fishing applications. There is in fact, so much variety that no one store or outfitter can stock it all. The fisherman is left to scour the stores, the catalogs and the internet in a time-consuming and expensive effort to ensure the success of his trip by taking along the right gear.

Now, with the introduction of Tackle-Box.net, this problem has been solved. This amazing new Internet tackle shop uses "Smart System" technology to select and prepare exactly the right outfit of lure, rods, reels and accessories for your trip. Tackle-Box's patented "Tackle Wizard" asks you several simple questions about your trip, then offers a complete package of gear perfectly tailored to your specific personal preferences. Edit, add or delete to suit your needs and with the click of a mouse, your specialized, trip specific fishing tackle is on its way. Tackle-Box's great prices will save you money along with saving you time and aggravation. Visit us soon at;

www.Tackle-Box.net

109 Peacock Bass in a single day! ...A client's first-person account

We started off fishing different baits. It took less than half an hour for me to realize that my brother, Ken, was catching five fish on a jig to each fish I caught on a Woodchopper, so I switched. We were fishing primarily points at the mouths of lagoons. As we continued fishing down the banks of the main river, a pattern emerged. We found that we were not only catching fish at the points, but we were catching even more at adjacent steep clay bank drop-offs along the main river. By 10:00am we had caught 50 fish when we headed back to camp for lunch. After eating, we headed back out. We continued fishing clay banks using jigs and found a couple more very productive areas. The pattern was definitely working. We fished the jigs more slowly where the banks dropped off quickly and were able to catch dozens of fish at each clay bank we found that held fish. These fish were all between 2 and 8 pounds and put up a real battle on medium spinning gear. Once we caught a couple we could sit there for another 15 minutes and catch fish on just about every cast.

We lost count of how many doubles we had during the day. Nearly every time one of us would hook up the other could throw a jig right behind the fish that he was fighting and hook up as well. I couldn't believe how hard the fish hit those jigs! They always hit just after you "jig" the lure, and you better be holding onto your rod tightly because they nearly jerk the rod right out of your hands. We found one spot out in the middle of a lagoon with a dead tree sticking out of the water. We must have pulled 30 fish out of that hole. Although the river was mostly bug-free, the *motukas* (horse flies) were not easily discouraged in this particular lagoon. In fact, they were relentless! The bottom

of our boat looked like a fly graveyard. Having been beaten into submission by the sun and the *motukas* we decided to take a swim at the entrance to the lagoon. It was a beautiful location with a sandy beach. We swam for about 15 minutes and it was a welcome respite. In that lagoon Ken caught a 12 pound fish - a real battle on the medium light action spinning rod he was using. I never would have guessed he could land a fish that big on such light gear. We knew as soon as he hooked it that it was a good one, because it started taking line right away and didn't stop for about 20 seconds.

That was one of three big fish Ken caught on jigs that day, including a 9 and a 10 pounder.

I'll think twice before inviting my "non-fishing" brother on another trip where he'll have the chance to outfish me -- and using tackle that I provided no less! By 5pm we were up to 85 fish. We didn't think we had much chance of beating the previous river record of 104 fish. We pulled up to what the three of us decided would be the last clay bank we would fish. Even our guide, Beni, was excited about the prospect of breaking the record, but with 20 fish to go and not much time left we weren't too hopeful. Besides that, we were very tired from reeling in those 85 fish. We were spending as much time fighting fish as we were throwing jigs, and fighting those fish really tires you out. At 5:40pm we caught fish number

105! Woo Hoo! We did it! We broke the record! We decided to catch "cinco mais" if we could, just to make it a little bit tougher for the new record to be broken. We didn't quite make it, stopping at 109 after fishing out that hole. All in all, it was an outstanding day of fishing and one that I will remember for a long time to come. **By Jaimie Scott; rwjr@connet80.com**



REMAINING OPENINGS - WINTER HOSTED TRIPS:
**WINTER 2001 FISHING
 SCHEDULE**

Jan 3 - Jan 12	'Peacock Bass Safari Camp - Rio Tapera, Brazil - 6 1/2 Days - \$3250
Jan 24 - Feb 2	'Peacock Bass Safari Camp - Rio Tapera, Brazil - 6 1/2 Days - \$3250
Jan 24 - Feb 2	'Peacock Bass Safari Camp - Rio Tapera, Brazil - 6 1/2 Days - \$3250
Feb 14 - Feb 21	Giant Payara at Uraima Falls - 5 1/2 Days - \$2995 1 opening
Feb 21 - Feb 27	Giant Payara at Uraima Falls - 4 1/2 Days - \$2495 4 openings
Mar 2 - Mar 10	Freshwater Dorado - 6 Days - \$3250 Ibera Marsh, Argentina 1 opening
Mar 8 - Mar 16	Freshwater Dorado - 6 Days - \$3250 Ibera Marsh, Argentina 1 opening

All other Winter 2001 Dates are full—Look here for more trips 

*Visit us at the Garden State
 Outdoor Sportsmans' Show
 Edison, NJ - Jan 11-14, 2001*

*Find out more information about our new,
 Fall '2001 and Winter '2002 schedules at:*

www.acuteangling.com/2001Sched.html

*Or visit our booth (#421) at this year's
 hunting and fishing show; Jan. 11-14 at the
 New Jersey Convention and Expo Center.*

NEW! Fall '2001 and Winter '2002 Featured Trip Schedule

Amazon Angel Yacht Trips - New, Easier, Fly-in Itinerary

Oct. 3rd - Oct. 12, 2001 - 6 days of peacock fishing w/Paul - \$1950
 Oct. 10th - Oct. 19, 2001 - 6 days of peacock fishing w/Paul - \$1950

Fly-in Safari Camps - Live amid the Amazon's mystery

Nov. 28th - Dec. 7, 2001 - 6 days of peacock fishing w/Paul - \$1995
 Dec. 5th - Dec. 14, 2001 - 6 days of peacock fishing w/Paul - \$1995

Fly-in Mystery River - Explore a new Peacock Bass Fishery

Dec. 12th - Dec. 21, 2001 - 6 days of peacock fishing w/Paul - \$2500

Multi-Species Bonanza - Payara and Sardinata in Venezuela

Nov. 11th - Nov. 17, 2001 - 4+ days of fishing w/Paul - \$2650
 Dec. 2nd - Dec. 8, 2001 - 4+ days of fishing w/Garrett - \$2650

Winter Fly-in, Tapera - Amazon's beautiful Peacock River

Jan. 2nd - Jan. 11, 2002 - 6+ days of fishing w/Garrett - \$3450
 Jan. 9th - Jan. 18, 2002 - 6+ days of fishing w/Garrett - \$3450
 Jan. 16th - Jan. 25, 2002 - 6+ days of fishing w/Garrett - \$3450
 Jan. 23rd - Feb. 1, 2002 - 6+ days of fishing w/Garrett - \$3450

Winter Fly-in Safari, Rio Urubaxi - A Giant Peacock River

Jan. 9th - Jan. 18, 2002 - 6+ days of fishing w/Paul - \$3450
 Jan. 16th - Jan. 25, 2002 - 6+ days of fishing w/Paul - \$3450

Payara at Uraima Falls - World Record Class Payara

Feb. 10th - Feb. 16, 2002 - 5+ days of fishing w/Paul - \$2995
 Feb. 17th - Feb. 23, 2002 - 5+ days of fishing w/Garrett - \$2995

These featured trips are personally hosted by Paul Reiss or Garrett Veneklasen. When you fish with us, you won't find yourself up some remote river without the proverbial paddle. We personally manage our trips and are on-site, fishing with you. We can help with fishing techniques, tackle and extras that no absentee agency can provide. With Garrett or Paul, you have a guide who speaks your language and is dedicated to making your trip a success.

Brazil '2000 — Southern Amazon Fishery; Fishing Reportsnews from near and farFall '2000 Trips

Fishing would be so simple if it weren't for annoying little things like weather, water levels, temperature and fish behavior. This fall the Amazon challenged us with all of these factors during our peacock bass trips. It was up to us to work within Nature's conditions and turn fishing into catching. Using our mobility and flexibility, coupled with our guides' and clients' ingenuity and fishing skill, we not only succeeded but we developed some great new techniques to deal with varying water levels and fishing conditions.

Our October Amazon Angel trips had challenges before they even began. Four straight days of heavy rain not only shut down the airports in Manaus, but they raised water levels a good six feet over what we expected. Our planned destination, the Rio Matupiri, was over its banks and into the jungles. We could hear the peacocks smashing bait a hundred feet into the woods, but we couldn't get at them. So we moved the yacht into Lago Tacquia, a giant (40 mile long) flooded forest. It took a little experimenting, but we quickly figured out how to get at the fish. They were congregated at sloping points throughout the flooded system. A well presented jig, streamer fly or crankbait hauled them in. Feeding fish readily took surface baits. Our fishermen got so good at it, that a father and son team from New Jersey, the Malavoltas, set the all time single day record for the southern fishery - 104 peacock bass.

Our November fly-in Safaris were likewise greeted with a raspberry by Mother Nature. Just 10 days before our

scheduled arrival at the Rio Caures, a huge storm dumped 20 inches of rain throughout the mid-north region. As we watched



Tod Shuttleworth's big peacock

the water levels rise we quickly decided to move our camps. We headed back to the Southern region, where the Matupiri had dropped to perfect levels. The quick move allowed us to fish in optimal conditions where all of our usual peacock techniques worked well. Lots of big fish were caught, including several 15's, four 16's, two 17's and a 19 pounder caught by ex-pat Tod Shuttleworth of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Our Nov 1st group caught an incredible total of 1270 peacocks including another record-breaking day (see page 3) by two brothers, Jaimie Scott and Ken

Glaser), from Oregon and Arizona respectively.

Garrett's trip to the beautiful Rio Caura in Venezuela also found high water. In spite of the conditions, anglers caught excellent numbers of big payara and sardinata on both conventional and fly tackle. Anglers cast to steep riverbanks for feeding payara. When conditions allow, you can drift right over schools of bait-chasing sardinata.PR