



Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

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Volume 4 - Issue 1

FISHING NEWS

Winter 2002

.... Our Mid-Season Issue....

• **Trip Openings** - We still have openings left for some of this winter's best trips. Call us to find out about openings on the Urubaxi/Paduari January peacock bass safari. Places are available for this February's comfortable Macaroca Lodge trip. February also offers several openings for payara at world famous Uraima Falls and golden freshwater dorado in the Ibera marsh.

• **Exploratories** - We are planning two exploratory trips this year to investigate the exciting potential of possible new fisheries. If we meet with success, we should have some interesting new trip options for next year. We'll keep you posted, as always.

Once again, we'll be attending the annual Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's show. The show runs from January 10th through January 13th. Please come and visit us. PR

Our Araca trip was graced by the presence of two New York City Firemen. These heroes of Sept. 11th. were immediately shown the respect and gratitude felt by everyone else in the group. Enthusiastic, they unpacked, assembled their tackle and within minutes of arriving were out fishing. One, an inexperienced angler, promptly brought tears to the eyes of his expert partner by catching a 16-lb. peacock on his second cast ever in fresh water. Returning to camp that evening, the two were, understandably, feeling like heroes all over again. That is, until the only fisherwoman in the group returned to camp and casually mentioned her 17-pounder of the afternoon. Fish have absolutely no respect.

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Fishing Report - Fall '2001

This was a season for big fish. All of our fall destinations produced huge peacocks, in the high teens and well into the 20 pound class. Here's an overview of what we experienced.

We started off in October in the Southern part of the basin with our Amazon Angel

yacht trips. A combination of excellent conditions and skillful anglers resulted in both extremely high numbers of fish and a great proportion of trophies. Living aboard the comfortable, air-conditioned yacht, anglers spent their days exploring the myriad lagoons, tributaries and channels of the Matupiri system in their 16 foot fishing boats. Each day brought new successes and bigger fish.

Our first week out, a group of 10 fishing friends from Vail, Colorado filled the boat. They were a competitive bunch and they boated 1290 peacocks. 32 of their fish were in the 12 - 18 lbs. class, and 2 fish in the 19 lbs. class. Honors for the week's biggest fish were shared by Dallas Holliday and Rusty Wood. Our next group on the yacht caught

980 peacocks of which 20 fish were in the 12 - 18 lbs. class. David Rodgers of Missouri and Warwick Jones, an Australian angler, shared the honors for the biggest fish of the week.

1235 peacocks were caught by our third group, with 28 of their fish in the 12 - 18 lbs.

class. Peter M. Longo of New Jersey caught the biggest fish of the week.

Late November saw us moving north, in fact much farther north than expected. Early dry weather coupled with deteriorating conditions on our planned destination, the Caures River (a southern tributary of the Rio Negro), prompted us to move our floating

bungalow camps over 200 miles, in order to fish the northern draining Rio Araca instead.

Our first group arrived just as the camps floated onto the lower Araca, . Even though the camp was still in the last stages of assembly, the fish were more than ready. This group scored big. An extraordinary (for a giant peacock fishery) total of 1358 fish were caught by 11 anglers. 48 of these fish were in the



20 pound peacocks were abundant!

teens and 5 were over 20 lbs. Three anglers tied for the biggest fish of the week (see page 3). We moved the camps gradually upriver over the two week period in order to sample the full range of the Araca's lagoons. Three days of rain raised the river a full meter during the second week, but not before the 10 anglers in that group caught 892 fish of which 42 were in the teens, 3 over 19 lbs, with 1 in the 20 pound class, caught by Trey Atkins of Texas.

Our last fall week found us on the Xeriuni River at the elegant and rustic new Macaroca lodge where more great fishing awaited us. True to form, the Xeriuni produced its typical great crop of big fish. Once again, almost 40 percent of the fish caught were over 10 lbs.

Continued on Page 2

Fishing Report - Fall '2001 ... Continued

Our youngest and only lady angler, Erica Butters, was the proud captor of a huge 20 lb. trophy, the biggest fish of the week.

As thrilled as I was with my client's successes this fall, I'd be lying if I didn't admit to enjoying some of my own fishing thrills. For the last two years I've concentrated on fishing for peacocks on the fly, in an effort to improve as a fly-fisherman. I've inched my way from rank beginner to functional novice and begun catching increasingly bigger fish. It's been my fishing goal these two years to land a 20-lb. peacock on the fly. Believe me, I've worked at it. At times it seemed that every small fish in Brazil was dedicated to keeping my fly safe from the bigger ones. I could catch terrific numbers every day, but it was generally pretty darn difficult to get the big ones on the fly. I caught my share of 10 to 15-pounders during this period, but only 2 fish exceeded that magical 15-lb. limit, a 15-1/2 and a 17- /2.

Finally, my chance came this fall. As I crossed a broad lagoon in order to work the structure on the opposite bank, a huge fish broke just ahead of me, chasing bait. Generally the fishing spirits make sure that at a moment like this your fly rod is put away and your baitcaster has a backlash. But not this time. I had my fly rod in my hand, ready to go. I stood up and to my great surprise, I made a pretty decent cast. I laid the large, sinking fly down right in the fish's path without a glitch. I guess when you do things the way they're supposed to be done, you

get results, because a few seconds later I felt the thump of a big fish. With my wits still about me, I set the hook. Luckily, the big peacock didn't get too pissed off right away. I had time to clear the line as he moved steadily away. But, once I had him on the reel and started to put pressure on, all hell broke loose.

The big fish took me into my backing in a heartbeat. But we were in open water and he had no place to go. Sure, he ran long and hard, but each time I simply turned him back in and recovered the line. Finally, not more than 30 feet from the boat, he got disgusted with the all the fooling around and jumped. My eyes nearly bugged out of my head. I knew immediately that this was my 20 pounder. As calm as I had been, and as lucky as I was to have done everything right so far, this was where I started to lose it. I wanted this fish badly and I began to put too much pressure on him. My young guide in-training saved me. "Calma se, senior Paul", he whispered. I stopped, gathered my wits again and began fishing with my brain, not my heart. Three short runs later, we snapped the Bogagrip onto his jaw and hauled the big beast out of the water. Yes! Goal accomplished!

The glow from this fish will last me for quite some time. But even in the midst of my enjoyment, I know I'll need a new goal right away. After all, I'm heading back in mid-January. So now I'm gunning for the fly-rod world record. I have a feeling that ought to keep me busy for awhile. PR

Little Lady - Big Peacock Bass!

Warning - Articles like this have been known to make dedicated, experienced fishermen cry ... or worse yet, try to hurt themselves. So please, before reading this, tie a long, 4 pound test, mono leader onto your peacock rod. We don't want you hurting yourself with it!

My Acute Angling peacock bass trip to Macaroca Lodge was surely an adventure like none other I had experienced. Although I had traveled through tropical environments and done a limited amount of deep sea fishing, the Brazilian rain-forest and remote Amazon was an altogether new and exciting adventure.

As the week began, I knew next to nothing about the river and the delicate ecosystem we would be exploring, not to mention whether or not I could expect to catch any fish. However, I decided to keep an open mind, take the experience at face value, and accept whatever came my way. Well, this fishing trip turned out to be a terrific learning experience, as I came away with new knowledge about the region as well as about myself. I also discovered that I was able to catch many of the beautiful, prize peacock bass - including a 20 pound trophy. As I became accustomed to my new fishing rod and tackle and our guide, Paulo took us to many of the remote lagoons along the tributary, I began to realize how much fun fishing could be.

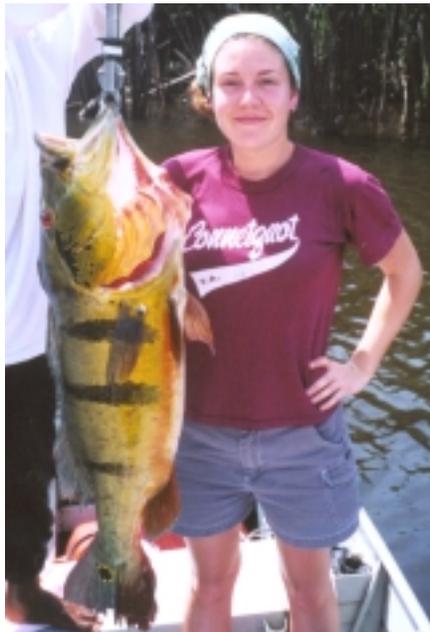
The first day I tried several lures and set-

led on a Yo-zuri floater. It brought in 14 peacock bass that morning and afternoon. I fished exclusively with that Yo-zuri until it had to be retired; completely mangled and unrecognizable on the second to last day. The second day of the trip was surely the highlight as that is when I caught my 20 pounder, with that trusty Yo-zuri. It turned out to be the biggest fish of the week, making both myself and my guide, Paulo, quite ecstatic.

Every day after that was followed by great fishing in areas where the peacock were plentiful and there were opportunities to see exotic animals, birds and other fish. Another memorable afternoon of fishing followed a torrential downpour and thunderstorm, when Paulo dragged the boat through some swampy brush and into a hidden lagoon where the fish were fierce and my strength and endurance were tested; That afternoon, yielded a beautiful 13 pounder for me as well as a pretty good story.

Although I'm not a self-proclaimed "fisherwoman", I can say that I held my own during my Amazon peacock bass adventure. I believe I'm proof that you don't have to have years of experience or fish the world in order to have a fun and fantastic time fishing. What is essential is a sense of adventure, guts and a little luck to get all that you can from your excursion to the Amazon.

.... Erica Butters - Ebutters1@aol.com



Fall 2001 Images - Client Trip Photos



This motley crew caught 1358 peacocks on the Araca

No one could accuse our anglers of slothfulness!



Bruce Mitchell with his Araca giant.



Roy Pride promptly converted his bass-fishing experience into peacock success with this 20+ monster.

Warwick Jones and his 18lb. Matupiri peacock.



The Cessna Caravan floatplane ferried clients into the remote riverside floating camps.



We met some big caiman And some little ones!

Lee Mitchell joined the 20 lb. Club with this beauty.



Fishing success, pristine surroundings and camaraderie marked our December trips.



Lee Barbee shows off his 20 lb. Araca trophy.



Pete Longo Sr. and Jr. show off their Matupiri peacock bass trophies.



UPDATED! - '2002 and '2003 Featured Trip Schedule

PEACOCK BASS TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Winter 2002 - Giant Peacock Bass - Fly-in Camp/Yacht Safari						
Jan. 16th, 2002	Jan. 25	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 2 openings -	The Rio Urubaxi/Paduari region is a giant fish river. with enormous average sizes. Fish in the teens are common, 20 pounders are frequent! The largest caught here was a 26 and 1/2 pound monster! Recommended for anglers seeking a trip a notch above the rest.
Jan. 23rd, 2002	Feb. 1	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 2 openings -	
Winter 2002 - Macaroca Lodge - A Hot new Fishery in Northern Brazil						
Feb. 20th, 2002	Mar. 1	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- 3 openings -	Beautiful white sand beaches and clear black water provide an extraordinary setting at this comfortable lodge. Great numbers (20 -30 /day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds).
Fall 2002 - Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Fly-in Itinerary - Matupiri River						
Sept. 25th, 2002	Oct.3	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- open -	Our most popular trip and a perfect introduction to peacock bass. Explore Amazonia on a comfortable, air-conditioned yacht. Our mobility allows access to 300 miles of majestic waters. Excellent daily catch averages (20 - 30/day) with an average size of 5 pounds. Fish in the teens are quite common and monsters over 21 pounds were taken here Return each evening to the comfort and security of the yacht.
Oct. 2nd, 2002	Oct. 10	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- open -	
Oct. 9th, 2002	Oct. 17	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1950	- open -	
Fall 2002 - Fly-in Safari Camp - Live amid the Amazon's mystery						
Dec. 4th, 2002	Dec. 12	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- open -	Live in comfortable floating bungalows. Dark water in this consistently productive river favors surface action and explosive topwater strikes. Excellent daily catch averages (12 - 20/ day) and a high proportion of trophies up to 24 lbs.
Dec. 11th, 2002	Dec. 19	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- open -	
Winter 2003 - Macaroca Lodge - A Hot new Fishery in Northern Brazil						
Jan. 15th, 2003	Jan. 24	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- open -	Beautiful white sand beaches and clear black water provide an extraordinary setting at this comfortable, air-conditioned lodge. Enjoy the laid-back atmosphere while catching great numbers (20 -30 /day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds).
Jan. 22nd, 2003	Jan. 31	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- open -	
Winter 2003 - Fly-in Safari Camp - The spectacular Tapera River						
Jan. 29th, 2003	Feb. 7	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- open -	Live in comfortable floating bungalows on one of the most beautiful rivers in the Amazon. White sand, clear black water & "Jurassic Park" jungle. Great for fly & plug casters alike. High daily averages (20 - 40/day) & fish over 22 lbs.

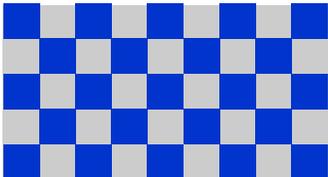
PAYARA TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Winter 2002 - Payara at Uraima Falls, Venezuela - World Record Class						
Feb. 12th, 2002	Feb. 19	5½ days of fishing	Venezuela	\$2995	- 4 openings -	During the dry season, payara pursue huge schools of bait fish up the river to the spectacular rocky Falls. Excellent daily catch averages (typically 10 - 30/day) and more trophies (up to 40 pounds) than anywhere else in the world

FRESHWATER DORADO TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Winter 2002 - Golden Freshwater Dorado in the Ibera Marsh — Argentina						
Mar. 8th, 2002	Mar. 15th	5½ days of fishing	Argentina	\$3250	- 4 openings -	The crystal clear Iberá Marsh is a spectacular wildlife reserve brimming with capybara, caiman and untold numbers of birds. The Marsh yields plenty of dorado into the 20-pound class. Good numbers are hooked daily and everyone on the trip raves about the experience!

NOTE - We can book the trips shown above at alternative, non-featured dates - Pricing, however, may vary and we may not be hosting those dates. Acute Angling can also book you on a full array of exotic fishing trips to other locations... Africa for Tigerfish, Mongolia for Taimen, Australia for Barramundi, even New Guinea for Black Bass! Call us and let us know where you'd like to fish!



**Be sure to visit us next week at the
Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show
Thurs., Jan 10 - Sun., Jan. 13, 2002 - Booth # 471**



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