



# Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

Fishing News - Acute Angling's Fall '2003 Newsletter  
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Paul Reiss - Guide



Volume 5 - Issue 3

FISHING NEWS

Fall 2003

## .... Fall Notes ....

☞ **Trip Openings** - We still have openings left for some of this winter's best trips. Call us about our January Lodge and February Fly-in trips. Places are available at Uraima Falls and on our Urariquera trips for huge payara, giant catfish and world record-class pacu.

☞ **Exploratories** - We're planning more explorations this year! We'll try a new giant peacock bass fishery in February. We're also looking for freshwater dorado in Southern Brazil. If we meet with success, we'll have more interesting new trip options for next year. Look for reports in upcoming newsletters.

☞ **World Record** - I was pleased to receive notification from IGFA that my 70+ lb. Red-Tail Catfish, caught on 30 lb. Fireline on the Rio Alegria last February, has qualified as the new 50lb. line class record. Come fish with us and beat it.

## Fishing Shows

**Toronto, Canada** - This year, we're going north to tell our Canadian friends about warm places with big fish. The show runs from March 17th through March 21st. Stop by and visit us. Book a trip at the show and receive a special show discount.

**Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show, Edison, New Jersey** - Once again, we'll be at our accustomed spot at New Jersey's biggest show, January 9-12th, 2004. We look forward to seeing our friends again ... PR

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# Fall '2003 Fishing Report

We start our fishing season each year with one of our most widely popular and consistently productive series of trips. The Fall Amazon Angel peacock bass trips are designed to provide anglers with the best of both worlds; A comfortable, air-conditioned, highly-mobile, home-base to cruise the most primitive and pristine waters of the Amazon - coupled with hand-to-hand combat with the wildest, fiercest freshwater fish known to anglers, anywhere.

Our first group arrived in late September and immediately got to work fishing the Matupiri/Igapo Acu region, a complex network of southern tributaries of the giant Amazon river. Living aboard the yacht, the 11 anglers spent their days exploring the myriad lagoons, tributaries and channels of this gigantic watershed in their 16 foot fishing boats. Each day brought new successes and more trophy fish.

Water levels, color and clarity are critical to peacock bass fishing success. The first week yielded an attractive mix of fishing con-

ditions. Fairly high water levels in Lago Tacuia (a giant lake full of structure) were stacking fish up on points and steep banks. Anglers took advantage of the opportunity to catch great numbers of fish in concentrated locations. The Upper Matupiri, with relatively lower water levels, retained unusually clear



visibility and produced a big share of the week's trophy fish. One of the biggest advantages we have in this region is our flexibility in accessing good fishing conditions. We search for optimal conditions and then tend to concentrate our efforts there, while always keeping in mind the additional pleasure anglers derive from seeing new water and new places.

The first group boated a total of 1317 peacocks. Trophy fish accounted for 19 of the week's total. Honors for the week's biggest fish were garnered by Martin Lustig of St. George, Utah, with a 19 and 1/2 pound monster that attacked a big Luhr-Jensen woodchopper on the surface. Phillip Little of Whitesburg, Kentucky, took the prize for the most fish with



The Igapo Acu system's clear water yields excellent fly-fishing opportunities.

## '2003 Amazon Angel Yacht Trip Results

an impressive total of 275 peacocks landed. You have to admire a work ethic that yields over 45 hard fighting peacocks every day.

Our second group on the yacht made short work of bettering the previous week's efforts. It seems that once you tell fishermen how good it was last week, they won't rest until they outdo it. This group caught 1492 peacocks - of which 55 fish were in the trophy class, and 3 were over 20 pounds. John Hayduk, of Miami, Florida, took big fish honors with a 21-pounder

By the beginning of our third week, water levels had subsided to their seasonal lows. Fish began to be more spread out on structure than in earlier weeks. It took more work, but provided even greater rewards. Our third group boated over 1800

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# Amazon Angel Fishing Report .....Continued

fish, with almost 60 fish in the teens. Big fish honors went to Bob Pugh of Columbia, Missouri with a 21 pound trophy.

Steadily dropping water levels made each week quite different. By the third week, the Matupiri River's production had diminished, so we adjusted by exploring new areas in the headwaters of the Igapo Acu's main source where water levels proved to be perfect.

This virgin area proved to be tremendously productive, with optimal water levels and beautiful black water lagoons. Our anglers enjoyed great small-water fishing, although sometimes, powerful peacocks took advantage of the surrounding deadwood structure and headed directly into it, leaving behind straightened hooks, snapped lines or broken gear. You can only shake your head at the strength and violence of these extraordinary fish. It's this unique, unexplainable and indescribable ex-

Acute Angling's 2003 Amazon Angel Yacht Trips					
Statistics	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Totals
Fish Caught	1317	1492	1805	1386	6000
Trophy Fish <small>(fish in the teens)</small>	19	55	57	31	162
Biggest Fish	19½ lb	21 lbs.	21 lbs.	21 lbs.	21 lbs.
# of Anglers	11	11	10	8	40
Average #	120	135	180	173	150

## New '2004 Amazon Angel Yacht Trip Schedule

Please Note - Dates are contingent on air schedules.

	Departs	Returns	Openings
<b>Group 1</b>	Sept. 22nd, 2004	Oct. 1st, 2004	<b>8 places</b>
<b>Group 2</b>	Sept. 29th, 2004	Oct. 8th, 2004	<b>- open -</b>
<b>Group 3</b>	Oct. 6th, 2004	Oct. 15, 2004	<b>6 places</b>
<b>Group 4</b>	Oct. 13th, 2004	Oct. 22, 2004	<b>- open -</b>
<b>Group 5</b>	Oct. 20th, 2004	Oct. 29, 2004	<b>- full -</b>

Week 4 began slowly after a few days of heavy squalls cooled temperatures and muddied the waters. Things picked up quickly, however, as the weather and water cleared. The fourth group wound up their week with 1386 fish caught. Jack Goldsmith of Lake Mary, Florida, won his second "big fish shirt" with a 21 pound trophy.

The accompanying chart categorizes the great fishing our anglers experienced. The southern Amazon's Igapo Acu system, a catch and release only fishery that has been closed to commercial and unapproved fishing, continues to become more productive every year.

For 2004, Acute Angling will be scheduling 5 groups in this superb fishery. Our fall yacht trip is without a doubt, the best mother-ship fishing value in the Amazon. Available openings are filling fast, especially for larger groups, so be sure to contact us early to reserve your preferred dates. ... PR

## New Research to Protect Gamefish

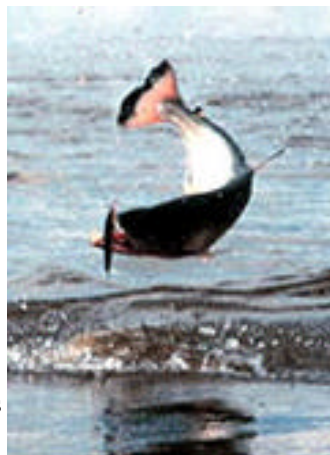
### Acute Angling Spearheads Amazon Sport Fishing Research Project

**The Secret is out.** Sportfishermen all over the world have discovered the awesome fighting characteristics of peacock bass, payara and other Amazon gamefish. Almost too quickly, they've become a fishing sensation. Although popular interest is a good thing for the sportfishing business, sometimes it can be a direct threat to the health of a sensitive, unprotected fishery. With the overnight advent of a slew of new, sometimes less than careful, trip operators, it's time to take steps to protect these unique tropical fisheries.

Conservation efforts in the U.S. have helped to reverse decades long deteriorations of fish stocks in dozens of regions. Florida's inshore fisheries have blossomed anew; New Jersey's stripers have made a triumphal return; and most U.S. fishing destinations are better than they've been in the last fifty years. With an improved scientific understanding of Amazonian fisheries, preemptive steps can be taken to assure that these exciting species never suffer serious declines and remain protected and vital in spite of the increased pressure of current popular interest.

What's good for fish is good for anglers ... and for Acute Angling as well. So we've joined forces with Bio-Ama-zonia Conservation International to lend our support on two fronts in this effort. We're collecting catch and release data and genetic information throughout our peacock bass fishing range, to be used in an exhaustive study of all Brazilian Cichla species. We've also taken the lead on a historical first project to study the life cycle of payara (Hydrolicus species) on the Urari-quera river. This important work will help to separate the myth from the facts, so that conservation and fishing activity can be optimally coordinated to help preserve these exotic fisheries.

Research costs money and we need your help. Bio-Ama-zonia is a U.S. non-profit organization and is accepting fully tax-deductible contributions for these projects. To make your contribution more meaningful, matching funds from the Brazilian government are currently available. In addition, we at Acute Angling have also pledged to carry our share of the load. We will match the first \$2500 in contributions received from our angling clientele. So this is a very good time to help science help your sport and get a tax deduction too. For every dollar you contribute, three dollars will be available for this important research.



**Our payara study will shed new light on these great fighters.**

Help us to study the behavior, biology and distribution of these great Amazon gamefish. To contribute to the Amazon Sport fishing fund, please make your check out to Bio-Ama-zonia Conservation Intl. Be sure to write "sport fishing fund" in the memo section. Please fill out the form below (or find it on-line at [www.acuteangling.com/research](http://www.acuteangling.com/research)). Please send checks, accompanied by the form, to;

Acute Angling  
9 Powelson Drive  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

Acute Angling will match your contributions (up to \$2500). A confirmed acknowledgement will be returned to you for your tax records by Bio-Ama-zonia Conservation International.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Donation Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

# Fall 2003 Images - Amazon Angel Trip Photos



Jack Goldsmith and his fishing partner, Evans Bridges, with a bevy of 20 lb. peacocks.

Joaquim, a Mura Indian of the village of Tapaji guided us on a jungle walk. Here he demonstrates the Nin-gatu people's ancient palm weaving skills.



Jim Hughes and his son Paul, shed some light on a visiting caiman acquaintance.

### Peacock Facts

This brilliantly colored male peacock belongs to the species Cichla Monoculus. Although never reaching the huge



size of the Cichla Temensis pictured on these pages, Monoculus provides great sport on light tackle and is one of the most beautiful of all peacocks. This specimen was caught in the Igapo Acu.



Fishing a murky creek yielded this juvenile Arapaima. They can exceed 250 lbs.



Rick Persson and his fishing partner, John, Hayduk, display a brace of 20 pounders. John's 21 lb. fish was the largest on week 2.



Like mushrooms after a rainstorm, hammocks sprout in the jungle at midday. Our Anglers concentrate on how best to enjoy a delicious shore lunch while suspended. From left to right: 1. Murray Perlman (snoozing), 2. Horace Reiger, 3. Rick Perrson, 4. Jeff Gouveia and 5. Steve Otter.

Many thanks to our intrepid anglers for sharing their photos. Have you noticed they're all smiles when holding big fish?

# Make Your Own Peacock Jigs

## This super-productive peacock bass lure is easy to tie!

**In previous issues, we've told you how effective the peacock rattle jig can be and we've told you how to fish it. Now, learn how to make your own in 4 easy steps.**

**Before you start.** The Peacock Rattle Jig is a particularly effective tool for the peacock bass angler because it's designed to successfully hook and land big fish as well as little ones. It is very important therefore, that the key design ideas and the quality level of the components are retained when you build yours. It makes sense to use the most effective fishing lure possible so that you can maximize the payoff in fish landed for the time and effort you'll expend using it. Here's our recipe.

### Ingredients:

- 1/2 ounce Ultimate darter type jighead with extra strong 5/0, wide gap hook (i.e.—Kalin/Gamakatsu).
- Extra large bucktails in contrasting colors.
- Heavy, stiff mono (60 to 80 lb.) for the tail.
- Bright Flash material (i.e. Flashabou).
- Monocord tying thread.
- Zap-a-gap instant glue.
- Tie-on rattles.

### Tools

- A strong, solid fly tying vise with jaws big enough for the jig hooks (i.e. Regal Engineering).
- Thread bobbin
- Whip finisher
- Scissors

### Process

**Step 1. Make a tail** - Cut a 4 inch piece of stiff mono and insert it in your vise. The jaws will crush the end and leave a nub that will help to retain the tail later. Leaving a long (6 inch) tag end, wind 5 loops of monocord tying thread onto the monofilament right at the base of the vise. Snip off a section of bucktail (add some flash if you like) and, holding it against the



mono, affix it with 10 to 20 winds of thread. Finish by using the tag end to manually tie it securely to the mono. Add a drop of Zap-a-gap over the thread.

**Step 2. Attach tail and rattle** - After the glue has dried, measure the tail against the jighead and cut it to the desired length. As you did before with the tied end, now insert the bare end into the vise to crush it and form another retaining nub. Insert the hook end of the jighead into the vise and anchor the



tail with a few loops of thread in behind the nub. Hold a rattle in place on the hook shank and tie it

into place, further fastening the tail's monofilament, using 25 to 50 winds of thread. Apply the Zap-a-gap so that it flows onto and between the threads. Allow to dry.

**Step 3. Add upper body and flash** - Snip off a large section of contrasting color bucktail and apply it to the upper part of the jighead. Secure the upper body section with several winds of thread. Add strands of flash so that they trim the left and right sides of the upper body. Secure with thread and then seal into place with Zap-a-gap.

### Step 4. Add lower body and trim

Turn the jig in the vise and repeat the process above using the contrasting color of bucktail for the lower body. Distribute the strands so that they drape both sides of the hook. Wind thread to securely fasten all bucktail and trim, then glue carefully with Zap-a-gap. It won't make your jig piranha proof, but it will hold up better and last longer despite a good pounding by hungry peacocks.



### Considerations

**Colors** - A wide variety of colors can be effective, depending on water conditions. Natural colors, such as olive and white, black and white and lightly shaded, less contrasting patterns work well in clear and very lightly stained water. Darker

black water conditions call for brighter colors. Red and yellow, red and white and chartreuse with plenty of bright flash are more readily seen in water with lower visibility. The onboard rattle further helps the jig get noticed in these conditions. Don't be afraid to experiment, but keep water color and clarity in mind.



**Hooks** - The wide gap, 5/0, extra-strong hook is a critical component. If the hook gap is not great enough to get around the fish's jawbone, the point will embed in bone and is unlikely to penetrate to the barb. Additionally, the resulting position will provide enough leverage so that a big strong fish will readily straighten the hook. Any 1/2 ounce jig head with any hook will catch the little ones, but bigger fish will make short work of mediocre hooks and hardware, often leading to a serious case of angler heartbreak.

**Material** - Another key factor is the use of bucktail. There are many synthetics available that are often easier to tie and less expensive to buy. Resist the temptation. Real bucktail is a unique, hollow fiber that imparts an all-important natural pulsing motion to the jig. It's well worth the minor extra effort and expense it incurs.

Complete jig building kits, including all of the tools and materials specified, are available from [www.Tackle-box.net](http://www.Tackle-box.net).

# INTRODUCING PATRICK NICHOLL

OUR NEWEST STAFF MEMBER WILL  
HOST NEW FEATURED TRIPS  
DURING OUR '2004 SCHEDULE

Patrick Nicholl was born in Boa Vista, Roraima State, Brazil. His father, a teacher and a British native, came to South America to seek adventure. He found it quickly by becoming a gold miner in the jungles of Guyana. There he met Patrick's mother and they later settled down to raise a family in Boa Vista. Returning to the life of a teacher, the elder Nicholl made sure that his Brazil-born children learned to speak his native language as well as theirs.

Two years in England have polished Patrick's English language skills. His sister, the Director of Tourism of Roraima State, has helped him to gain a solid foundation in the service aspects of Brazilian eco-tourism and sport fishing. With a year of camp operation, interpreting and hosting experience in the great sport fisheries of Northern Brazil behind him, he has the credentials necessary to sup-



port our high standards and levels of trip satisfaction. We were pleased to have the opportunity to add Patrick to our staff and to put his skills to work for Acute Angling.

Beginning this winter, Patrick will share hosting duties on many of our featured trips. By next fall, he will be helping us to augment our fishing schedule by hosting featured trips of his own. We know you'll enjoy fishing with Patrick and we know that he'll continue to guarantee Acute Angling's high standards.

Oh yeah, he catches trophy fish too. He's just so darn big that a 20 lb. peacock looks a baitfish next to him. Well, OK, maybe not exactly. Welcome Patrick. May you catch many more.

## Rio Urariquera - Land of the Giants Monster Fish, Amazing Variety and Pristine Beauty

**Giant Fish**, great variety, beautiful scenery and the most exciting river you've ever fished; that's what we're offering on our first full season at Urariquera Fishing Camp. Places are still available in January and February at this extraordinary destination. Six full days of fishing, comfortable safari camp accommodations and an exclusive bio-reserve location. \$3250 per angler, double occupancy. Huge payara, giant catfish, monster pacu and plenty of world record opportunities. Here's seven easy-to-interpret pictures. Visit [www.AmazonFringe.com](http://www.AmazonFringe.com) or call us, toll-free at 866 832-2987 for more information.



# '2004 Featured Trip Schedule

## WORLD RECORD VARIETY TRIPS - Winter 2004

### EXPANDED SCHEDULE - Description

Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Explore new waters - Fish for record-class payara, pacu, giant catfish &amp; more</b>						
Jan. 14, 2004	Jan. 23	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$3250	- 1 opening -
Jan. 21, 2004	Jan. 30	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$3250	- FULL -
Jan. 28, 2004	Feb. 6	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$3250	- 2 openings -
Feb. 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th	9 days	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$3250	4 weeks open
Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability

We've discovered a spectacular new destination on the fringe of the Amazon basin. The beautiful Rio Urariquera, closed to sport fishing since 1952, holds an amazing variety of gamefish. Protected by the pristine Maraca Island Bio-reserve, this fishery yielded 3 IGFA records last year and will certainly produce many more. We've seen pirapitinga over 25 lbs. and giant catfish well over 200. If you can land them on rod and reel, you'll demolish the world record. Live in comfortable bungalows and enjoy excellent meals in a safari style camp in the middle of the river's most productive region.

During the dry season, saber-toothed payara pursue huge schools of bait fish up the Paragua river to the beautiful, rocky Uraima Falls. Excellent daily catch averages (typically 8 - 20/day - averaging over 12 lbs.) and more giant trophy payara (up to 40 pounds) than anywhere else in the world!

### Winter 2004 - World Record Class Payara at Uraima Falls, Venezuela

Mar. 21st,	Mar.	5½ days	Paul Reiss	Venezuela	\$3250	- 6 openings -
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## PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - Winter 2004

Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Winter 2004 - Macaroca Lodge - A protected Fishery in Northern Brazil</b>						
Jan. 14, 2004	Jan. 22	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$3475	- open -
Jan. 21, 2004	Jan. 29	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$3475	- open -
<b>Winter 2004 - Giant Peacock s - Fly-in Luxury Yacht Safari on the Urubaxi</b>						
Jan. 28, 2004	Feb. 6	6+ full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$3650	- FULL -
Feb. 4, 2004	Feb. 13	6+ full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$3650	- 6 openings -
<b>Winter 2004 - Fly-in, Tapera - Amazonia's most beautiful Peacock River</b>						
Feb. 11, 2004	Feb. 20	6+ full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$3650	- 4 openings -

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 excellent numbers (20 - 30 /day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds). The lodge features spacious rooms, a screened dining area with panoramic river views and complete bathrooms with hot showers. Enjoy a taste of luxury in the jungle.

The Rio Urubaxi / Paduari region is a giant fish system with enormous average sizes. 20 pounders are actually common here! This top-water oriented system has already yielded a 26 and 1/2 pound monster! Recommended for experienced anglers seeking a trip with a serious shot at a world's record.

Live in comfortable floating bungalows on white sand beaches surrounded by "Jurassic Park" jungle and clear black water. Great for fly fishermen and plug casters alike. Fantastic daily catch averages (20 - 70/day) with fish up to 22½ pounds.

## PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - Fall 2004 - The best values in the Amazon

Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Fall 2004 - Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Comfort and Mobility - Matupiri River</b>						
Sept. 22, 2004	Oct. 1	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$2150	- 8 openings -
Sept. 29, 2004	Oct. 8	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$2150	- open -
Oct. 6, 2004	Oct. 15	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$2150	- 6 openings -
Oct. 13, 2004	Oct. 22	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$2150	- open -
Oct. 20, 2004	Oct. 29	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$2150	- FULL -
Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Fall 2004 - Fly-in Safari Camp - Live amid the Amazon's mystery</b>						
Nov. 3, 2004	Nov. 12	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$2195	- open -
Nov. 10, 2004	Nov. 19	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$2195	- open -
Dec. 1, 2004	Dec. 10	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Brazil	\$2195	- 8 openings -
Dec. 8, 2004	Dec. 17	6 full days	Pat Nicholl	Brazil	\$2195	- open -

### Description

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 - 50/day) with an average size around 5 pounds. Trophy fish in the high teens are common and monsters up to 22 pounds are taken here each trip. Return every evening to fine food and drink and the secure comfort of the yacht. Enjoy jungle hikes, Indian village visits, spotlighting, and more, on this unique and exclusive adventure. Protected in a sport fishing reserve, peacock bass populations here have burgeoned while our ongoing explorations have opened up new, even more highly productive water.

### Description

Fish the headwaters of the beautiful, black water tributaries of the Rio Negro, isolated and far from the reach of the growing crowd of novice peacock bass operations. Live in comfortable floating bungalows that provide access to new water as they move up and down-river. Dark water in this consistently productive fishery favors surface action and explosive topwater strikes. Excellent daily catch averages (12 - 20/day) and plenty of big fish sight-fishing opportunities. In recent years, we've had a high proportion of huge trophies caught, up to 25½ pounds, in this area.

**NOTE - We can offer these great trips at other dates as well, although pricing and itinerary may vary. Acute Angling can also book you on your choice of other exotic fishing trips - anywhere in the world ... Call us and let us know what you'd like to catch!**

**Join us on the fishing trip of a lifetime!**

Contact us, Toll-free, at; Paul Reiss - (866) 832-2987 Garry Reiss - (866) 431-1668 - FAX (908) 832-2989  
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