



# Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing Trips

Fishing News - Acute Angling's Spring '2005 Newsletter  
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Volume 7 - Issue 2

**FISHING NEWS**

Spring 2005

## .... Spring Notes ....

≪ **New Variety Lake Trip** - One week only, limited to six anglers, this unique, comfortable trip offers a great mix of species including trophy peacock bass, giant redbtail and surubim catfish, pirapitinga and more.

≪ **New Jatapu Variety Exploratory** - After 3 years of discussions, the Wai-Wai Indians have finally agreed to let us fish in their huge reservation. We're putting together an exploratory trip next February for hard-core campers only. Big Peacocks, giant catfish, traírao, bicuda and more.

≪ **2005 Peacock Bass Exploratory** - We're already filling next December's exploratory trip to another new, potentially great trophy peacock fishery. About a dozen spaces remain.

### 2005 Fishing Show Schedule

**March 3-6 - Suffern, NY** - This is our first year at the biggest U.S. fishing show. Come and see us at booth #123.

**March 17-21 - Toronto, Canada**  
We're returning to the great white north to spread the word about fishing in the far green south to our Canadian friends.

Stop by and visit us at any of our shows. Book a trip at the show and receive a special show discount. .... PR

**NEW - Advance Group Policy** - In recognition of group booking efficiencies and an incentive to early booking, Acute Angling is making group pricing benefits available on selected trips. If you have a large group, call for details.

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# The Peacock Bass Lodges of Rio Xeriuini

As much as I love exploring new places, sometimes returning to an old favorite can be just as rewarding. This winter I had the opportunity to return to one of my all-time favorites.

The Xeriuini river lodges provide a superb combination of great peacock bass fishing and surprising comfort and luxury in the heart of the Amazon jungle.

Macaroca and Posao Lodge are located on the Xeriuini river, a beautiful, pristine paradise enclosed within one of the Amazon's largest National Parks.

Long sealed against the predations of commercial fishing, the Xeriuini is reserved for the exclusive sportfishing use of the Xeriuini Lodges. With access to over 200 kilometers of crystalline black water and white sand beaches, anglers can explore gigantic lagoons, winding braids and endless peacock bass structure.

Mid-January found me back in the comfortable, laid-back atmosphere of rustic Macaroca Lodge on the lower Xeriuini. Built completely of local materials, Macaroca exemplifies a mode of Amazon structural engineering probably thousands of years old.

But don't let the outside style fool you - inside are all the comforts of home. Hot showers, spacious rooms, air-conditioning, comfortable beds, big bathrooms and 110 VAC provide a luxurious home base to pursue the world's greatest freshwater gamefish, the Amazon peacock bass.

During certain of our trips, after a half week of fishing in Macaroca's beautiful waters, we are able to take advantage of accommodating conditions and fish our way upriver to Macaroca's sister lodge, Posao. This migration gives our anglers the opportunity to experience a totally different region, with dif-



Fly-fishing doesn't get much better than this!



Comfortable rustic cabins, complete with A/C and hot showers await anglers at the end of the day.

## Macaroca & Posao Lodge Offer Luxury Fishing Trips

ferent characteristics and fresh locations, all during the same trip. The next three days are spent, once again, pursuing the awesome peacock bass.

Having returned here for six years running, I always seek to learn something new about the waters of the region. Sometimes we hike into landlocked lagoons and ambush fish that have never seen a lure, sometimes we wend our way up creeks in search of whatever swims there. These for-

.... Continued on Page 2

# Xeriuini Peacock Bass Trips .....Continued

ays, coupled with the river's changing moods and water levels have provided some of the most interesting and productive days of fishing I have ever experienced. On one occasion, accommodating water levels allowed me to take advantage of good travel conditions and run upriver for an over night exploration of the Xeriuini's most distant waters and it's fast running upper tributaries.

Leaving well before dawn, my guide, Jose-Maria, and I settled down for the nearly six hour journey to the Xeriuini's changeover from jungle river to savannah creek. The attraction? What else? Trophy peacock bass. Wellington Melo, my long time friend and associate promised that was what I'd find. It was like sending a bear after honey. I packed and ran... and ran for what seemed like forever! But by late afternoon, we finally arrived.

I tend to waste no time when it comes to fishing. Without further ado, I unfurled my fly rod and set about probing the water to

were eyeballing each other from opposite ends of my Bogagrip, which he pulled down nicely past the 15 pound mark. Unbelievably, my stupid fisherman saying actually came true! Thankfully, this time I had the sense to just keep my mouth shut and go back to fishing.

For the rest of the afternoon I waved what seemed to be a magic wand over the waters of the upper Xeriuini, conjuring into being one of the best days of fly fishing I have ever experienced. From that single lagoon, I hauled out exactly 41 peacocks in three hours. More amazingly, 12 of them were in the teens, with the biggest one tipping the scales at 19 pounds. If not for a stack of photos, I'd still have a hard time believing it myself.

Jose-Maria and I spent the night camped on the beachfront real estate that my first opponent of the day had so kindly staked out for us. The next morning we went back to work on the same lagoon with wildly high expectations. We caught a few, but things seemed relatively quiet, so we moved on. The morning ended with about 15 fish caught out of 3 lagoons, topping out at 9 pounds. All in all, a nice morning's fishing but an order of magnitude's difference compared to the afternoon before. Well, I guess that's fishing. (How's that for another stupid fisherman saying?)

'2006 Xeriuini River Schedule			
Please Note - Dates are contingent on air schedules.			
	Departs	Returns	Openings
<b>Group 1</b>	Jan. 4th, 2006	Jan. 13th, 2006	- open -
<b>Group 2</b>	Jan. 11th, 2006	Jan. 20th, 2006	- open -

Sample Itinerary		Please note - This itinerary may vary as trip logistics are finalized.
<b>Wednesday</b>	Depart Miami via International flight to Manaus Brazil, usually leaving about 9:00 PM EST.	
<b>Thursday</b>	Arrive in Manaus. After clearing customs you are met by our agent and transferred to the domestic airport for a charter flight to the Xeriuini River. Arrive at the lodge by mid-morning. Enjoy a delicious brunch. Then, relax and unwind or set up your gear and get in an extra half day of fishing.	
<b>Friday through Wednesday</b>	Six full days of fishing. Your angling day begins with breakfast at 6:00 AM. Your guide is ready to depart at first light, although you can remain in camp at your leisure. Relax for an hour at lunchtime each day. Return to camp before dusk for appetizers, drinks and bragging, followed by a delicious dinner. Jungle hikes, spotlighting trips, and local village visits can be arranged. Conditions permitting, we will provide anglers with the opportunity to experience the entire river by swapping lodges mid-week. Fish your way up or down while your baggage is transported ahead for you.	
<b>Thursday and Friday</b>	Early Sunday morning, transfer back to the airstrip via fast boat then to Manaus by charter flight. Overnight in Manaus then transfer to international airport in the morning. Arrive in Miami about 4:00 PM Sunday afternoon.	

see if Wellington was right. It didn't take long. Within 10 yards of the lagoon mouth, I hooked a heavy fish. After a second's pause and a quick headshake, he took off running for the shallows in front of a sandy white beach. I'm not sure what he was thinking of, but he certainly made a spectacular sight, half out of the water, wake bulging behind his broad back. After cruising the first hundred feet of beachfront at a pace normally attributable to a psychotic bonefish on drugs, he abruptly turned and headed for deep water. From there, my 9 weight Loomis bent to the task and eventually calmed him down. We boated a glistening 12 pound peacock.

Full of smiles, Jose-Maria and I congratulated each other on our quick success. Then I spouted one of my stupid fisherman sayings. "Okay, that's a good beginning, now let's go catch his father." That sort of thing is usually enough to doom me for the rest of the day, but not this time. On the very next cast, not 10 feet from the first, I hooked up again. I'll spare you the details. Suffice it to say that Mr. Peacock did his job and I did mine. Ten minutes later we

The Xeriuini is an excellent destination for any fisherman and companion; from first time or part-time peacock anglers to masters of the art. During the winter-long dry season, the river consistently provides high daily catch numbers with an excellent percentage of medium to large peacocks up to 22 pounds. Jigs, jerk baits and big surface plugs account for most of the conventional caster's success. The crystalline black water provides remarkable visibility, making the Rio Xeriuini a fly fisherman's delight and one of the best fly-fishing rivers in the Amazon. We've put together our 2006 schedule, including an expanded (optional) two lodge itinerary, at the Xeriuini's economical \$3200 regular price. Full groups are welcome and, with our new advance group policy, they can earn additional package benefits if reservations are made early.



A Xeriuini Fly Rod Sampler.

# Spring '2005 Dorado Exploratory (and How it Came to Be)

A large part of my job involves catching fish - and that's always a very good thing. I can't think of anything else I'd rather do. Folks are always telling me, tongue in cheek, what a tough job I must have. I often find myself jokingly responding with the universally expected



cliché, "Well, it's a tough job but somebody has to do it". Of course, even I don't believe that answer most of the time.

There is, however, another side to the job. In order to successfully mount a high quality fishing trip in a remote area, a complex set of logistical, tactical and practical pieces have to fall into place. And I've never found them to do so by themselves. They take a lot of careful, detailed effort and planning. When it comes to that side of the job, I believe the validity of the cliché answer with all of my heart. As true as this is of our regularly scheduled trips, it's dramatically intensified when it comes to an exploratory trip. Every single logistical component represents a first time arrangement and covers altogether new ground.

Our work for this year's dorado exploratory began last June. In an advance visit, my partners and I investigated the feasibility of mounting a U.S. style fishing trip in Brazil's Pantanal. We searched for points of entry, fishable water, lines of support and scientific data on fish populations, migratory patterns and ambient conditions. A week

and a half of careful research gave us the data needed, and we made the decision to move forward with a full-scale exploratory expedition.

In February, with our trips scheduled for April and May, we headed back to put together the pieces that will make it all work. We needed a houseboat, charter air-planes, camp staff, translators, vans, drivers, a hotel, scheduled flights, supply mechanisms and all the fuel,



Kayama, Santa Lucia's slightly smaller sister ship.

food and drink we would need to remain independent for a period of three weeks in the middle of the world's largest wetland. We started with the biggest piece of the puzzle. We made appointments and we scoured the small city of Corumba's historic wharf, looking at boat after boat. When they all started to blend into one, we knew it was time to make some decisions. We started to talk to owners and to our utter amazement, boat after boat was unavailable. We heard, "No, I only want to sell; No, sorry not for charter; What, three weeks out of port, no way!; No, the owner's in France and can't be reached; and so on and on. The days stretched into a week and we began to comb other Pantanal towns, Porto Joffre, Cuiaba, Casseres. No good. Things were looking bleak.

Meanwhile, the other pieces were put into place. We found a wonderful first class hotel in Corumba. We contracted a quality air taxi provider and we reserved air-conditioned vans. We hired operating-

'2005 Pantanal Dorado Schedule			
	Departs	Returns	Openings
Group 1	April 18th, 2005	April 27th, 2005	- 2 openings -
Group 2	April 25th, 2005	May 4th, 2005	- 2 openings -
Group 3	May 2nd, 2005	May 11th, 2005	- 2 openings -

Sample Itinerary	
Monday	Depart USA via International flight to Sao Paulo, Brazil, (leaving about 9:00 PM from MIA or 2:00 PM from LAX) .  Arrive in Sao Paulo. After customs, board domestic flight to Campo Grande, then Corumba, where you are met by our agent and transferred, either directly to the houseboat or the general aviation airport for a charter flight to meet the houseboat (depending on our location at the time). Arrive at the boat by mid to late -afternoon. Eat, then, relax and unwind or set up your gear and get in an extra evening of fishing.
Tuesday	Six full days of fishing. Your angling day begins with breakfast at 6:00 AM. Your guide is ready to depart at first light, although you can remain on the houseboat at your leisure. Explore the marsh and its many creeks, braids and rivers. Relax for an hour at lunchtime each day. Return to the houseboat before dusk for appetizers, drinks and bragging, followed by a delicious dinner.
Wednesday Through Monday	In our effort to map and categorize the fishery, we will be continuously covering new water, therefore, each trip will end in a different location. On Tuesday transfer back to the airstrip for a charter flight, or directly to Corumba by boat . Overnight in Corumba at the beautiful National Hotel.
Tuesday	Transfer to airport on Wednesday afternoon. Board domestic flight to arrive in Sao Paulo. Depart Sao Paulo via international flight (leaving about 10 PM).
Wednesday	

## Complete Trip Details

staff, knowledgeable Pantanal guides and a pilot, all for the boat we still didn't have. Then, 8 days into our search, we finally found her.

The good news; We found a bigger and better boat than we had expected. Air-conditioned, roomy cabins with private bathrooms, new Mercedes and MWM diesels, a big lounge and a big dining room. The bad news; The boat was held by an estate and she hadn't run for over a year. The heirs weren't interested in doing the necessary refitting to get her shipshape again. So, we weighed the advantages and made a decision. We formed a new partnership, made an investment and an ambitious refurbishment is already under way.

The end result? We'll cruise the Pantanal on the comfortable, spacious, newly refitted Santa Lucia. Her roominess allows us to provision with thousands of gallons of diesel, gasoline, bottled water, soda and beer, food, motors, gear and staff and everything 3 groups of 8 fishermen will need to operate autonomously while exploring the giant Pantanal. Even better, she'll hold more staff than we had expected. This will allow us to implement a truly unique mechanism that we only dreamed might be possible.

South Americans have been fishing for dorado since long before the first Europeans stumbled onto its shores. The Paraguay river drains the Pantanal, a giant fish nursery half the size of the state of Texas. Dorado, being migratory fish,



Hotel Nacional - Corumba



# Dorado Exploratory ..... Continued

make their up the Paraguay and into the vast marsh to spawn in its shallow, grassy regions. This is where we'll head to try our U.S. style fishing techniques; casting artificial lures and flies. Locals, however, have fished for dorado for decades in a very different style, mostly using live bait and deep trolling techniques. What's best? We don't have to guess. We will have access to both options.

In what we believe is a first of its kind, we will be manning each boat with two guides on most fishing days. One, will be a local Pantanal guide, knowledgeable about the region's myriad waterways and well-versed in local techniques for dorado as well as the great variety of other large gamefish available here. The other will be one of our regular, experienced Amazon peacock bass and Urariquera river guides, expert in artificial lure and fly presentation, boat positioning and small water techniques. Everything will be covered.

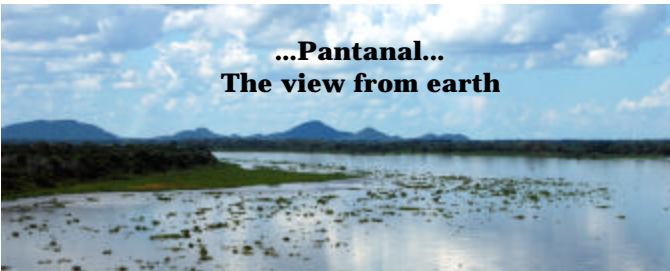


And everyone benefits. The angler has a mother lode of capability at his disposal and the option to experiment with a wide variety of techniques. He'll catch fish, no matter what the conditions, location or technique needed. The guides will learn from each others expertise, they'll share the work and help each other serve the clients needs. We expect to gain the most of all by ensuring the angler's success and by creating a highly skilled cadre of guides, unique to the region.

Our goal for April's exploratory is to work our way through Brazil's great swamp as big breeder dorado leave their spawning grounds, hungry and accessible in small river headwaters. We will use this exploratory to map and understand the region's fishery and fishing characteristics. Based on research data from the Brazilian government, input from local experts and fishermen and recent scientific assays, we've developed a plan of exploration that will help us to locate the region's optimal dorado habitat. We will be very mobile, using the Santa Lucia's capabilities to traverse the marsh from its Southern regions to the far North, fishing new water each week.

In addition to dorado, we hope to successfully encounter big suribim (flathead catfish) up to 80 pounds, giant jau catfish (up to 200 lbs.), pacu or pirapitinga (*Piaractus*), into the 20 pound class and piraputanga, a small brycon that fights like a psychotic trout, as well as several other Pantanal species. Besides what we'll find under the water, the Pantanal is a nature lovers delight. Birds, capybara, monkeys, cayman, anaconda, anteaters, jaguars and more can be sighted. The shorelines literally abound with readily visible wildlife, concentrated by the seasonal floods

. Considering our basic goals, it was never our expectation to be able to offer comfort and luxury as well. The way things have worked out, however, it seems we'll be able to achieve our exploratory goal and be traveling in pretty nice style as well. If you seek adventure and exploration ..and don't mind a little extra comfort thrown in .. then this is the trip for you. We only have



...Pantanal...  
The view from earth

several openings remaining at the extraordinary original price of \$2850. Call to join us this April or May and fish in one of the world's most fascinating environments. Call Toll-free; 866 832-2987 (Paul Reiss) or 866 431-1668. (Garry Reiss)

**Houseboat**

**Details**

**Charter Flight**

**Hotel**

**Transfers**

**Hosts**

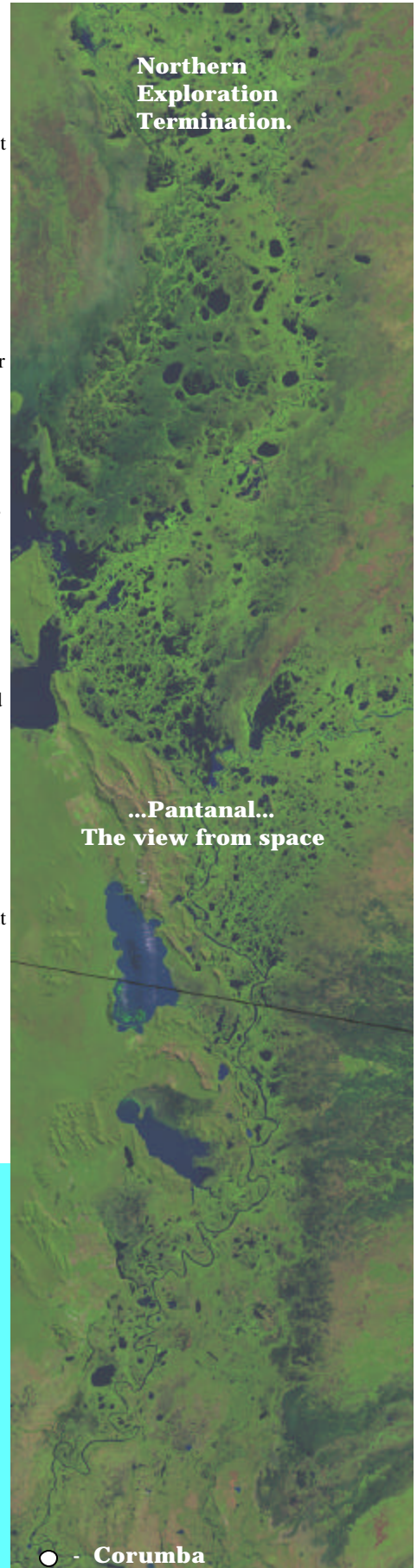
**Name;** Santa Lucia. **Client Accommodations;** 4 Double occupancy, air conditioned cabins. **Crew;** 8 guides, cook, engineer, pilot, housekeeper, manager, hosts, Total 14-16 staff. **Amenities;** Air-conditioned lounge, separate air-conditioned dining room w/TV, Stereo, Open bar. **Equipment;** 16 foot aluminum fishing boats w/15 hp, 4 stroke Honda motors, ice chests, fishing accessories. **Generators;** Dual MWM 45KWH

**Time;** 30 - 60 min. flight duration to airstrip, **Airline;** Visa Aero Taxi - DAC (Civil Aviation Department) overseen.

**Hotel Nacional;** First class accommodations, double occupancy, pool, spa, gym, game room, restaurant, bar, lounge.

**Vehicles;** Air-conditioned vans for all client transfers.

Paul Reiss, Wellington Melo and Nicky Guedes



Northern  
Exploration  
Termination.

...Pantanal...  
The view from space

● - Corumba

# The Great 'Amazon Flood' of '2005

The Amazon basin is the world's most striking example of a pulsative ecology. Driven by a mostly self-generated natural cycle of rainy and dry seasons, the Amazon basin's waters rise and fall in a counterclockwise seasonal progression. In the regions famous for their trophy peacock bass, the rains stop and the waters begin to recede in June and July in the south, reaching fishable levels by August and September. Slowly but surely, the cycle moves northward. The central basin fishery becomes fishable in November and December and the northern regions reach their low levels by January. For outfitters with mobility, such as Acute Angling, this creates a dependable peacock bass fishing season from September through March

The cycle continues westward, moving out of trophy peacock waters and comes full circle again when the rains return anew in each region. The rains begin to inundate the south by December, moving into the central regions in March and finally flooding the north by April.

Just as temperate zone dwellers have learned to depend on the cycle of the seasons to plant and harvest their crops and to plan and direct their lives, so have Amazonians adapted to the cycle of their river's changes. And so have we fishing outfitters, operators and agents, planning and scheduling our trips around Nature's generally dependable cycles.

Sure, there are variations. And we're very well prepared. We don't even start fishing until well after the waters drop, and we stop long before the rains return. We're mobile. If one river is higher than expected we move to another. If the river's headwaters are too shallow, we move downriver. Our risk averse schedules allow us to avoid most water level issues and our flexibility enables us to resolve the ones we can't avoid. For these reasons we've had a long track record of optimal water levels over the last decade.

The 'Amazon Flood of 2005' changed the stakes this year. The rains started amazingly early. Not just a week, or even a month early, but almost three months ahead of the norm. After a great beginning to the season, mid-January brought an intense storm to the Central Amazon region that raged for a week, with wind and river waves not seen in a century. When the storm finally abated, the skies simply never cleared. Instead, the constant overcast yielded days and days of steady rain. The rivers began to rise, the basins began to fill and still the rains continued. Finally after two weeks of downpour, the heavy flooding began. Rivers rose over their banks, inundating the vast lowlands floodplains. The baitfish left the rivers with the peacocks following close behind. Trying to fish in these conditions is an uncomfortable exercise in futility at best, a vacation disaster at worst.

We won't let it happen to you. We will never knowingly subject our clients to these conditions. We use the only logical alternative and we give you the option to cancel the af-

fectured trip. It is rescheduled for the future, when conditions are once again excellent and our client can truly experience the 'trip of a lifetime' that he is expecting. So, as the rains continued, the painful process of cancellation began, always with the hope that the rains would stop and the rivers would return to normal next week. But the weeks went on and the rains continued. Soon there was no more question. Three meters of water above the banks meant that this season was over. None of our staff or guides could remember an event such as this in their lifetimes.

Call it the hundred year rains, if you wish, or the year nature rebelled. In either case, the rescheduling, as painful as it felt at the moment, averted fishing disasters for our clients. The end result is that the anglers' trips are salvaged and they are free to come at an optimal time. No conscientious outfitter continued to operate once the banks had been breached (with the sad exception of a few less than considerate operators - see below). We fully understand the feelings of disappointment when a fisherman is 'all dressed up with no place to go'. We fully understand the hassles of rescheduling flights and vacations. We, in fact, experience our own extreme set of complications with every cancellation. But we will always cancel in favor of sending you on a trip that we know ahead of time will be a disappointment; that is a promise and a guarantee.

What happens if your trip is cancelled? Once the situation is assessed, we work hand in hand with you to reschedule your trip and get all of the details resolved. A raincheck is issued for the next satisfactory date. We then go to work with Loyd Aero Boliviano (the international carrier) to reschedule your flight. If you bought your international ticket through us, we will absorb the date change penalty. Your trip price is then reapplied to your raincheck date with a price guarantee; even if the specific trip you were booked on goes up in price, your raincheck date for that trip will not cost a penny extra, we guarantee it.

If this was truly the hundred years rain, we probably won't see another event like this in our lifetimes. But if we do, if nature somehow chooses to break her own rules again, you can be certain that you'll still be able to experience the quality of fishing you expect on your trip of a lifetime. We guarantee it and we'll make it happen when conditions are right.

**Note:** As I arrived at the Manaus airport on my way home, having bowed to the unmanageability of the adverse conditions, I was startled to see a column of over 50 anglers arriving, rods tubes erect and ready to fish. My mouth wanted to run over and yell, "Go back, go back", but fortunately my brain took control. No sense making them miserable ahead of time. Clearly some operator(s) had opted to allow this horde of anglers to come, knowing full well that they were not likely to see more than a dozen or so fish all week! We consider putting profit before customer satisfaction to be improper and we will never knowingly put you in this position. We will always give our clients the opportunity to reschedule and avoid such circumstances.



Image provided courtesy of Jungle Photos (www.junglephotos.com)"  
**Flooding in the Amazon makes peacock bass fishing unproductive.**

# Tactics & Techniques

## Selecting Amazon Peacock Bass Tackle

First time Amazon peacock bass anglers are understandably excited. The fish of their dreams is waiting to ambush their lures in an exotic place they can hardly imagine. They've invested time, money and emotional energy and they're charged up and ready to go. This, however, is the time to keep a cool head and make sure that you are properly prepared. As in the well-known credit card commercial;

Booking an Exotic Fishing Trip - \$2500 to \$4500  
 Airfare to get there - about \$1000  
 Being properly prepared - Priceless

Lets look at what tackle should go in your gear bag, step by step.

**Step 1. The Lures** - When peacocks are in full feeding mode, anglers could probably toss their shoes into the water and get strikes. Lure selection, however, becomes critical as soon as conditions make the fish a little more selective. To optimize your lure selection, anglers should focus on the following four classes of lures;

**Prop Baits** - The classic peacock fisherman's tool, these big, gaudy plugs are best known for the spectacular surface explosions they elicit. Anglers should bring at least a half dozen assorted samples, concentrating on the larger sizes (up to 2 oz.). Among the best choices are Luhr-Jensen Woodchoppers, Amazon Rippers and High-roller's Magnum Riproller. Lighter versions of these lures do not always perform as well and carry smaller, less durable hooks.

**Swimming Plugs** - A great all-purpose type of peacock bass lure. These baits are easy to use and work under almost all conditions. Recommended models include; Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow (3/4 oz., floater), 7 inch Cotton Cordell Red Fin, large Bombers and floating Rapala Magnums. Bring a half dozen.

**Walking Stick Baits** - Sometimes a slowly sashaying stick bait will trigger violent peacock strikes. Brands include; Zara Spook (3/4 oz.), Super Spook (1 oz.) and Mega-Bait (2 oz.). Bring 3 or 4.

**Jigs** - This is the ultimate peacock bass bait. Nothing catches as many peacocks as a properly fished 1/2 oz. peacock jig (strip it—don't jig it). Either tie your own or buy a high quality pre-tied model, such as Sidewinder's Peacock Rattle Jig. (See our Volume 6, issue 3, Fall 2003 Newsletter for the recipe to tie your own). Bring at least a dozen (more if you'll be fishing piranha laden waters).

**Other Lures** - 95% of the peacock bass on our trips are caught by the 4 types of lures detailed above. Sometimes, however, conditions call for a specialized tool. Carry at least one or two large spoons (Johnson's silver minnow - 1 and 1/8 oz.), a few big Rattletrap lures, and perhaps a small, deep diver. Of course, every angler has their favorite lure, one that they just know is going to change the face of peacock fishing and land them a world record. By all means, bring it, but don't bring too many. Weight limits and space considerations demand that you focus on the most productive items.

**Step 2. The Rods and Reels** - Peacock anglers often bring overly heavy gear. Yes, the peacock is an extraordinarily powerful and violent fish, but rod and reel selections should be made based on the lures you'll be using. Heavy tackle makes you tired, resting anglers don't cast and lures in the boat don't catch fish. Keep your gear reasonably light so that you can fish steadily, make good casts and properly work the lures that will ultimately bring in your trophy.

Based on the lures recommended in Step. 1, Here is a summary of the rods and reels best suited to fishing with them.

**Medium/Heavy Outfit** - This rig will effectively cast and work the heavy prop baits. Whether you're a baitcaster or spin aficionado, select a Medium/Heavy rod (like the G. Loomis Escape MHC - we recommend 3-piece travel rods). Avoid overlong (max. 7') rods and long handles. They just make working the lure more difficult.

Select a fast-retrieve reel. For spin fishermen, this is easy; any medium sized reel (i.e. Shimano 4000 series) has a fast retrieve. For baitcasters, you'll need a 6.3:1 or faster retrieve and these are not the norm in mid-sized gear. We recommend an Ambassadeur 5600 series reel in a modest price range. Don't neglect this parameter of gear selection. Slow retrieving reels will make it difficult to properly work your lure and leave you very tired at the end of the day.

If you can skillfully operate either type, spin or baitcaster, the baitcaster is the better choice here.

**Medium/Light Outfit** - This is recommended for jigs and other small, lightweight baits. In the hands of an experienced fisherman with a properly set drag, a quality outfit in this category will efficiently handle even the largest peacock bass while providing unparalleled casting ease, efficiency and accuracy with light lures. If you can skillfully operate either type, the spinner is the better choice here (i.e. Loomis Escape MLS and Shimano 2500 spinner).

**Medium Outfit** - This is a U.S. black bass fisherman's bread and butter tool. Bring your favorite. Retrieve rate is not critical with this rig. A good example would be a 7 foot medium rod (Loomis Escape MC) and a Shimano Calcutta 250 size reel. Use this for Zara Spooks, Yo-Zuris and medium size baits. This rod also makes an excellent backup for either of the other two rods described above (rods break).

**Step 3. Line** - Peacock bass fishing in the Amazon requires braided line. Peacock's tough mouths call for a solid, stretch-free hookset. Great tensile strength is necessary to withstand their violent strikes. The need for casting accuracy demands a thin, light, flexible line. Monofilament's characteristics will not serve this fishery. Even if you've never used braid before, don't worry, our guides know the knots and how to use the line. You'll quickly become comfortable.

**Braid Options** - For spinning tackle, we recommend a quality thin braid such as Power Pro. Use 30 lb. for medium and light gear. Lines up to 50 lb. test are appropriate for your heavier gear. For baitcasting gear, either a thick braid (such as 30 lb. Fireline) or a heavier test thin braid (50 or 65 lb. test Power Pro) is recommended. These will prove to be more resistant to backlashes and "digging in". A hint for new braid users. When tying your line onto your reel's arbor, place a small piece of electrical tape over the first turn of line. Subsequent wraps will dig into the tape and help to anchor the braid firmly onto the arbor. This will prevent the line from spinning on the spool and will assure that your drag works properly.

**A Warning** - Despite their high tensile strength, even these powerful lines will not allow you to out-muscle a peacock. Their explosive initial bursts will break these strong braids like sewing thread if your drag is not properly set. Even if your line survives the initial onslaught, something else will give. Hooks will straighten, rods or reels may break. Peacock bass cannot be "horsed". Use a properly set drag (you must be able to manually pull out line) and your angling skills to lead fish away from structure and slowly and steadily tire them out.

**Step 4. Traveling Light** - Be judicious with your tackle selections. Almost all charter operators have a 44 lb. (20 Kilo) weight limit.

**Step 5. Where to Buy** - All of the individual items recommended here, as well as complete destination specific packages are available at [www.Tackle-box.net](http://www.Tackle-box.net) or call 866 832-2987 or 866 431-1668 for assistance. Lower priced or higher value alternatives are also available.

**Next Issue - Fishing Accessories** - There are more fishing gadgets made than stars in the sky. Although every one of them appears to be critically necessary before you leave, some seem downright silly once you get there. To help sort through the accumulation, we'll present a detailed analysis of what to consider in our next issue.

## New Trips - New Destinations, for '2005/2006

# Lagos Romeros - Houseboat Adventure

What could be better than a fishery that holds big peacock bass? Well, how about one that holds big peacocks PLUS huge aruana, pirapitinga, redtail cats and surubim too! Usually we have to travel huge distances



to ever more remote areas to encounter opportunities like this, but this time, we found an untouched fishery right under our noses, just off the Rio Branco.

"What!", those of you in the know exclaim, "There's no peacock fishery in that giant white

water tributary!" Well, you're right and you're wrong. The river itself does not provide a satisfactory peacock fishery because it's "white" water characteristics are anathema to peacock fishing, however, hidden within its complex basin are chains of isolated lakes - chock full of peacock bass. Located in the state of Roraima, this region holds the same giant strain of *Cichla temensis* found in its more famous nearby neighbors, such as the Tapera, the Xeriuini and the Agua Boa.

During a period of unusual rains this season, a break in the all encompassing overcast allowed us to take a one-day fly in and wet a line in the lakes. In a period of about 4 fishing hours, we caught over 25

peacocks (including a 12 and a 15 pound trophy) and a dozen big aruana up to 10 pounds! This was all accomplished in only the first 2 lakes in the chain. We were so busy, and having so much fun scoring with the peacocks and aruana on the surface, that we never even tried subsurface tactics for the cats and pirapitinga. It was enough to convince me that we had found a great spot to fish for big peacocks with the added bonus of the availability of other big, exciting gamefish. This upcoming season, we'll fish the Rio Branco's hidden lakes with a small scale fishing operation designed to offer a comfortable mechanism for accessing this fresh and completely unpressured fishery.

A small houseboat will serve as a very comfortable and civilized base camp within the chain of Rio Branco Lakes. The houseboat offers pleasant accommodations, excellent food and an always open bar. The trip will cost \$2800 for six full days of fishing with all domestic charters and transfers included. We are pleased to offer this truly unique fishing experience with excellent trophy potential (including peacocks into the 20 pound class) at an extremely affordable price. We plan one week only, limited to a group of six adventurous Amazon anglers.



# Upper Jatapu - Exploratory Camping

This one is for the hardcore angler only. The upper Jatapu River, isolated by impassable waterfalls below and protected by an Indian reservation above, has long beckoned to us as a potentially outstanding variety fishery. Now we finally have the chance to operate a full scale exploratory trip within its most interesting and varied section.

The trip will be operated by Amazon Fringe Expeditions and will use their proven exploratory technique of total immersion in the fishery. Nothing fancy. Pup tents, riverbank camping and barbecued fish. We'll carry our camp with us as we wend our way through the descending river's changing environments. With this simplicity comes extreme mobility and flexibility. Three weeks of exploration, with six anglers per group should provide in-depth exploratory data and tell us just what this river's potential really is.

A three day visit here, three years ago gave us a tantalizing taste of the



The Jatapu's variety includes the outrageous looking traira and a unique local strain of large peacocks.



river's variety. Descending rapidly, we passed through waters holding a true potpourri of Amazon species. Big, ugly traira, big bicuda and some of the biggest black piranha we've ever seen ambushed our swimming plugs in the narrow upper channels, while the slower, wider central section produced big peacocks on the surface and small payara in the quick running rocky areas. Every deep hole boasted a contingent of big Amazon catfish. Now, with an extended time table and the fishing efforts of six anglers each week, we hope to uncover all of the river's secrets.

If you're not afraid to rough it and you're looking for some fishing excitement and variety, then join us next February, 2006 on the upper Jatapu and become among the first outsiders to experience these beautiful hidden lands. \$2650 per angler for six days of fishing.

# '2005/6 Featured Trip Schedule

Note - Available spaces shown as of 2/17/05

## PEACOCK BASS TRIPS- Fall 2005

## The Best Values in the Amazon

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Comfort and Mobility - Igapo Acu Reservation</b>							
1	Sept. 21, 2005	Sept. 30	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- FULL -
2	Sept. 28, 2005	Oct. 7	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- 2 openings
3	Oct. 5, 2005	Oct. 14	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- 2 openings
4	Oct. 12, 2005	Oct. 21	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- 4 openings
5	Oct. 19, 2005	Oct. 28	6 full days	Leandro N.	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- 2 openings
6	Oct. 26, 2005	Nov. 4	6 full days	Leandro N.	Igapo Acu	\$2450	- FULL -
<b>Lagos Romeros - Houseboat Trip - Rio Branco Lagoons - Peacock Bass &amp; Variety</b>							
7	Nov. 9, 2005	Nov. 18	6 full days	Wellington	R. Xeriuini	\$2800	- open -
<b>Thanksgiving Holiday - Lodge Trip - Xeriuini River - Air-conditioned Comfort</b>							
8	Nov. 16, 2005	Nov. 25	6 full days	Wellington	R. Xeriuini	\$2500	- open -
9	Nov. 23, 2005	Dec. 2	6 full days	Wellington	R. Xeriuini	\$2500	- 4 openings
<b>Exploratory Safari Camp- - Rio Papagaio - Moveable floating bungalows</b>							
10	Nov. 25, 2005	Dec. 4	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Rio Negro	\$2900	- FULL -
11	Dec. 2, 2005	Dec. 11	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Rio Negro	\$2900	- 5 openings
12	Dec. 9, 2005	Dec. 18	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Rio Negro	\$2900	- 8 openings

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 (15 - 50/day) with an average size around 5 pounds. Trophy fish in the high teens are common and monsters over 20 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 within an Indian reservation, this sportfishing-only reserve's peacock bass populations have burgeoned in recent years, while our ongoing explorations have opened up new, even more highly productive water in this gigantic fishery.

One week only, limited to six anglers, this unique, comfortable trip offers a great mix of species including trophy peacock bass, giant redtail and surubim catfish, pirapitinga and more.

A unique, 'one-of-a-kind' bargain. Luxurious Macaroca lodge, and rustic Posao lodge, both located on the beautiful Xeriuini River, provide air-conditioned comfort and great peacock bass fishing. If you can travel during the Thanksgiving Holiday season, you can fish them both for less than the price of either one on our special itinerary!

Fish the headwaters of beautiful, black water tributaries of the Rio Negro, far from the reach of the growing crowd of novice peacock bass operations. Live in comfortable, movable floating bungalows with daily access to new water. These tannin-stained fisheries favor surface action and explosive topwater strikes. Good daily catch averages (5 - 20/day) and plenty of giant fish opportunities. A high proportion of huge trophies up to 26 pounds are caught in this region.

## PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - Winter 2006

## Air-Conditioned Lodge

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Winter 2006 - Rio Xeriuini - A Protected Clear Water Fishery in Northern Brazil</b>							
14	Jan. 4, 2006	Jan. 13	6 full days	Wellington	2 Lodges	\$3200	- open -
16	Jan. 11, 2006	Jan. 20	6 full days	Wellington	2 Lodges	\$3200	- 6 openings
<b>Winter 2006 - Fly-in, Rio Tapera - Amazonia's most beautiful Peacock River</b>							
17	Feb. 3, 2006	Feb. 12	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Roraima	\$3650	- 2 openings
18	Feb. 10, 2006	Feb. 19	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Roraima	\$3650	- 2 openings

Beautiful white sand beaches and clear black water provide an extraordinary setting on this comfortable, air-conditioned lodge trip. Enjoy the laid-back atmosphere while catching excellent numbers (15 -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.

## Floating Safari Camp

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 22 pounds.

## MULTI-SPECIES VARIETY TRIPS - Winter 2006 - Urariquera River Camp

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability
<b>Wild &amp; Beautiful Waters - Fish for record-class payara, pirapitinga, giant catfish &amp; more</b>							
19	Jan. 11, 2006	Jan. 20	6 full days	Paulo Petry	Urariquera	\$3650	- open -
20	Jan. 18, 2006	Jan. 27	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Urariquera	\$3650	- 1 openings
21	Jan. 25, 2006	Feb. 3	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Urariquera	\$3650	- open -
26	Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22	9 days	6 full days	Paulo Petry	Urariquera	\$3650	- Openings -
<b>Upper Jatapu Exploratory - Pup-tent camping - Variety Fishery</b>							
27	Feb. 8, 2006	Feb. 17	6 full days	Wellington	R. Jatapu	\$2650	- FULL -
28	Feb. 15, 2006	Feb. 24	6 full days	Paul Reiss	R. Jatapu	\$2650	- open -

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 has yielded 5 IGFA records so far with many more on the horizon. We've seen payara over 27 lbs., pirapitinga over 25 and giant catfish well over 200. If you can land them on rod and reel, you can demolish world records. Live in comfortable bungalows and enjoy excellent meals in a safari style camp in the middle of the river's most productive region.

A unique exploratory trip in an Indian reservation. For hard-core campers only. Very basic accommodations; Sleep in Pup tents; Eat fish; Bathe in the river. Remarkable variety. Peacock bass, giant catfish, trairao, bicuda and more. The Land that Time Forgot.

**NEW - Special Group Dates & Rates- Acute Angling can set aside entire weeks for full groups - Call for details!**

Acute Angling can arrange your choice of exotic fishing trips - anywhere in the world ... 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  
P.O. Box 18 - Califon, NJ 07830 Website: [www.AcuteAngling.com](http://www.AcuteAngling.com) - E-mail: [Webmaster@AcuteAngling.com](mailto:Webmaster@AcuteAngling.com)

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