



Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

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FISHING NEWS

Fall 2001

.... Special freshwater dorado issue

• **NEW**—This issue marks our first species oriented newsletter. Although it is one of the world's greatest gamefish, the freshwater dorado is virtually unknown outside of South America. We hope to remedy that.

• **NEW**—Fall 2002 Schedules. Many of you have requested more advanced notice, so we're publishing our new schedule earlier this year.

This issue was planned to reach you in late September. We were moving along reasonably well on that schedule until the unthinkable horror of "September 11" occurred. Just thinking of what lay under that plume of acrid smoke over the eastern horizon was enough to destroy any attempts at concentration and productivity. Please excuse the delay.

As the rest of America slowly got back to work, so did we. Although our topics are trivial in comparison to the profound and staggering blow suffered by our country, we hope that our redoubled efforts reflect the powerful response by all Americans to this threat to our way of life. PR

Inside this issue:

<i>Freshwater Dorado - An Introduction to Aquatic Gold</i>	2
<i>.Dorado Trips for '2002 - Itinerary and details</i>	2
<i>Fisherman's Handbook "Fly-Jigging" peacocks</i>	3
<i>New Airline & New Services from Acute Angling</i>	3
<i>The Ibera - A land of water and living islands</i>	4
<i>Urainia Falls '2002 trip</i>	5
<i>Rio Urubaxi - The next world record peacock bass?</i>	5
<i>Acute Angling's Complete '2001/2002 Schedule</i>	6

New Featured Trip for 2002! Freshwater Dorado in the Ibera Marsh A New Safari Trip Opens Virgin Waters in the Heart of the Marsh!

Sometimes it's difficult to do the simplest math. For example, there are cases where one and one just don't add up. Consider this.....

Fact: The dorado is one of the greatest fighting gamefish in the entire world. This extraordinary jumper combines the swimming habits of a salmon with the ferocity and predatory instincts of a tiger shark. It violently hammers lures and flies, then immediately explodes out of the water in a series of outrageous leaps and line stripping runs.

Fact: The Ibera Marsh, one of the most beautiful, pristine wildernesses in the world, is loaded with some of the largest dorado in existence. Big golden breeders migrate up the Corrientes river and spend December thru March deep in the heart of the gigantic Ibera.

Any fisherman who can add would simply

take these facts and conclude that one can simply go to the heart of the Ibera if one wants to catch big dorado. Nice reasoning, but in this case one and one don't simply make two. The problem with this equation is that, until now, you just couldn't get there from here.



20 lbs. of fighting dorado, leaping virtually in your face, is sure to get your adrenaline running!

People have long fished the rivers that drain the marsh as well as its outer fringes. In fact, those areas get a fair bit of pressure. But until now, the only way to get into the heart of this country-sized wilderness was to grab a sleeping bag and a tent and hack and haul your way in. Not so simple! Not nearly as simple as the two basic facts make it seem.

That's where we come in; Think of us as the fishing math police. Our job is to find a solution to this problem and make this equation add up. So we reached into our collection of fishing tactics and pulled out a technique that has been serving us very well for many years in



Argentina's most exciting fishery !

the heart of Brazil's Amazon wilderness. We dropped a fully equipped, fully staffed safari-style bungalow camp right down in the middle of the marsh. For the first time, anglers can get into these virgin waters without the hardships of the past. The comfortable camps provide excellent home-cooked meals and give us a secure base right in the heart of the dorado's innermost stronghold. We now have easy access to the most remote waters, where other anglers simply can't reach. The myriad channels, braids and lagoons form a network of beautiful, fishable dorado habitat. And our catch and release policy will ensure that we help to preserve this remarkable fishery for the future.
..... PR

Fresh-Water Dorado What are They?

We're glad you asked. They just happen to be one of the best fighting fish in the world!

While the beautiful and powerful freshwater dorado has long been one of the most admired fish in the southern portion of South America, it is almost completely unknown in the rest of the world. The largest species, *Salminus maxillosus*, is found mainly in Argentina, Bolivia, Southern Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay. Ichthyologists have given the beautiful golden dorado an unusually appropriate name; *Salminus*, meaning salmon-like, and *maxillosus*, describing the fish's immensely-powerful jaws.

Outside of South America, the dorado suffers an identity crisis. Many anglers confuse this distinct migratory gamefish with other, generally less voracious, species. Although its migratory behavior and its body are reminiscent of the salmon, it is not at all related. The dorado does not die after spawning and never swims in the ocean. And while its common name is similar, the dorado is a freshwater gamefish and not to be confused with the saltwater "dolphin" fish (called 'el dorado' in many Spanish-speaking countries). One hook-up will quickly dispel any question about their ancestry!

Dorado are exceptionally strong swimmers. They typically range in size from 5 to 10 pounds. In some fisheries, twenty pounders are common. Although the current IGFA all-tackle record is 51 pounds, giants of up to 70 pounds have been recorded. Their intense, almost radiant, golden color is marked with holographic black horizontal stripes. This patterning, coupled with their powerful jaws and razor sharp teeth have earned the dorado the sobriquet "River Tiger" in Argentina.

These steel-jawed hunters are strongly piscivorous and feed primarily on a mullet-like fish called *sabalo*. A big dorado will



22 pounds of golden warrior

happily feed on any size *sabalo* - ranging from two-inches to two-pounds. Anglers have excellent success with lures and flies that can imitate this favorite food. The dorado is a great jumper and a prodigious fighter. Once fooled with a bait, their arm-wrenching strike is a testament to their aggressiveness and ferocity. As soon as an angler sets the hook, these wild leapers explode out of the water in a series of outrageous jumps.

Conventional gear for big dorado is virtually the same as that used for trophy peacock bass (although a wire leader is essential). 7-inch jerk baits, Rattle Trap-type lures, spoons and jigs are very productive. In the clear water of the Ibera Marsh, one of the more effective dorado lures is a gold colored, 1 and 1/8 ounce Johnson's "Silver Minnow". These relatively light baits allow anglers to fish for dorado with light to medium spinning or bait-casting tackle. Watching one of these big, golden aerialists cartwheel its way across the water on the business end of what is essentially a largemouth bass rod is incredibly exciting. Bringing it to the boat on such light gear is doubly gratifying.

Fly fishermen are best equipped with an 8-9-weight fly rod and either a 200 to 300 grain, 24-foot sink tip line or a full floating line depending upon water conditions. A heavy steel leader is a must, as these fish will chew through any kind of monofilament as though it were sewing thread! Dorado take a variety of streamers, sliders and even Atlantic

salmon-style Bombers during ideal conditions (tied on 3/0 to 6/0, heavy, long shank hooks).

Because of the crystalline water clarity of the Ibera Marsh and the manner in which they forage, cruising dorado can often be seen feeding along the water's edge. This allows for some excellent sight casting opportunities. Accurately throwing big streamer flies or casting flashy lures is often rewarded by a fast and intense new relationship with one of the most beautiful but obstinate fish you'll ever meet.

March 2002 - Dorado Trip Features

This year our featured trips on the Iberá Marsh will be operated in conjunction with River Plate Anglers. As the popularity of dorado fishing has begun to grow among American anglers, we became concerned that the growing pressure from existing lodges at the marsh's southern end would begin to adversely impact the fishery. With up to a dozen boats fishing the same water on any given day, the fishing and the aesthetic quality of the overall experience might be significantly affected.

As a result, we spent last year's dorado season working with River Plate to develop a mechanism to access the immense and virtually untouched northeastern quadrant of the Iberá Marsh. Using safari camps similar to those we use in the Brazilian Amazon, River Plate has created a comfortable base of operations in this pristine region, far from the overcrowded waters at the marsh's southern exit into the Corrientes River. The new camp's strategic location allows for shorter boat rides and the

ability to access prime fishing water earlier in the morning and later in the day to coincide with prime dorado feeding periods.

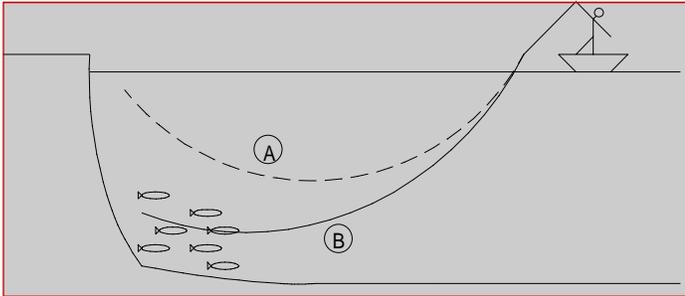
River Plate's guides are among the most knowledgeable warm water experts in South America and are well accustomed to fishing with spin, casting, and fly anglers alike. We will fish from 16-foot Jon-style boats with 15HP outboards and electric trolling motors. The new camp's accommodations are very comfortable, spacious, double occupancy "bungalows", each with its own individual shower and toilet facility, wood floor, running water, lights and fans over each bed.

Anglers will arrive at Buenos Aires where they'll board our charter flight to the camp. Five and a half days of the best dorado fishing in the world while exploring the marsh's spectacular environment are accompanied by sumptuous, gourmet quality meals. At week's end, anglers will board the charter to return to Buenos Aires and continue their journey home. PR

New Feature - The Fisherman's Handbook - "Fly-Jigging" - A deep technique for peacock bass

When all conditions are just right, Amazon basin peacock bass tend to position themselves in shallow lagoons to forage on the available baitfish. We anglers love to find them there because this makes them fairly easy to get at with basic techniques. But what happens when conditions change? Simple...techniques have to change as well.

Extremely low water in the lagoons can force peacock bass to give up their secure small-water positions. The cooler



river water provides an excellent alternative location, but with a serious shortcoming - the peacocks stand a very good chance of becoming dolphin food if they wander too far from the banks. For this reason anglers need to use techniques that allow them to present a bait to fish holding tightly to the deepest point of a steep bank. Conventional tackle allows easy access via deep running plugs or jigs, however the fly-fisherman is typically at a disadvantage here. Try "Fly-jigging" to help get

your fly to the fish more effectively in a slow moving river.

Weighted lines (200 to 500 grain) are excellent tools for getting the big streamer flies that peacocks like, down fairly deep. But they don't get the fly deep enough while it's still close to the bank. The sinking action of the line is resisted at its end by the fly's tendency to float. This causes the line to belly and forces the fly to follow a curved path away from the bank (dotted line A). By adding weight to the fly (up to approximately 1/10 ounce), we can reduce it's drag on the line, increasing it's sink rate and assuring that it follows a straighter, deeper path (solid line B).

A well balanced rig can consist of a fast-action, 10 weight rod, a 400 grain weighted line and a fly with weighted eyes up to 1/10 oz. With a little practice, it's possible to keep all that weight in the air and still deposit your fly right up against a steep bank. Give it some time to sink. The weighted fly will now descend as fast as the line, keeping the entire arrangement fairly linear. This will put your fly in the strike zone and eliminate the belly that can make detecting a strike and setting the hook far more difficult.

Casting a weighted fly can be difficult and sometimes a bit perilous. It isn't a good windy day activity. Under any conditions, it's a good idea to wear a hat and cover up exposed skin as a protection against the occasional dropped backcast. A 1/10 oz. of lead hitting bare skin at high speed can put an unpleasant end to a pleasant activity. When conditions are right, however, this technique can be extremely productive.

Faster, Easier, Better - TAM Opens New Routes to the Amazon - and lowers the price!

The Airlines - On one hand, they're the bane of a fishing travel business' existence, while on the other hand, we couldn't get where we're going without them. So we live with them as best we can. This year they've finally given us some good news; a new, quality airline (TAM), more flights (daily) and lower prices. What do you know!

As of September, 2001, TAM Brazilian Airlines began daily Airbus operation between Miami, FL and Manaus, Brazil. The new route features a schedule that interacts perfectly with the logistics of moving clients in and out of remote fisheries using local charters or floatplanes. The late evening departure from Miami provides a dawn arrival in Manaus. This allows the small charter planes to fly to camp as soon as clients arrive. On the return, a dawn departure from camp puts you aboard a homeward bound TAM flight by noon. The end result - most anglers can make it home and into their own beds by the end of a single traveling day.

TAM is one of the largest and best-run airlines in South America. Flying a fleet of new Airbuses, TAM offers superior service and comfort in every class. A wide range of routes and code-sharing with many partners enables Acute An-

gling to provide TAM's service, through-fares and booking procedures throughout North and South America. Frequent flyers can apply their TAM miles to Continental's OnePass, American's AAdvantage and Delta's Skymiles program.

Here's the best part. This new and improved service is significantly less expensive than previously available flights. TAM's non-stop international segment pricing starts well below other options.

The addition of TAM's new service is just one part of Acute Angling's complete trip packages. We'll take care of all of your travel needs. • We block space in advance for all of our angling adventures and we'll assign your reservation as soon as you book a trip with us; • In cooperation with Zierer Visa service, we've now made it possible for our clients to quickly and simply obtain passports and visas in one simple package; • No consulate visits are necessary and everything can be completed in just a few days; • Together with TravelGuard International, we also offer complete travel insurance packages. • It's our goal to continue to improve the quality and simplicity of all aspects of our service so that the only thing you need to worry about is how to land that big fish when you get there.

The Ibera Marsh - Land of Living, Floating Islands

As the world continues to become smaller, people are increasingly encroaching upon its innermost hidden places.

Development and environmental change follow close on their heels, leaving fewer and fewer of the planet's natural ecosystems intact. Only through extreme inaccessibility or overt human intervention can a natural area remain pristine. The Ibera Marsh of northern Argentina, one of the world's most beautiful fishing destinations, has survived and thrives because it combines both of these protective factors.

The Corrientes River drains an area of crystal clear up-welling water larger than the state of Delaware, that comprises the Ibera Marsh. This huge, remote marshy-land area and its internal lagoons form one of Argentina's most important biological areas and most valuable regional assets. In order to preserve the natural resources of this ecosystem, its huge complex of wetlands and its high diversity of animal and plant species, Argentina created the "Ibera Reserve" by law, on April 15, 1983.

Ancient river beds form the underlying geological basis for the area's mixture of swampland, marsh, lagoons, sloughs and mutating braids and streams. Evaporation and transpiration provide and recycle the bulk of the marsh's rainfall, only a quarter of which is drained by its river exit. The Ibera's changeable geography and its water retention characteristics make it a highly specialized environment.

Much of its uniqueness derives from the great mass of vegetation it contains. Huge, intertwined mats of floating water hyacinths capture particles deposited by the wind and the water, forming soil layers that permit the rooting and growth of a variety of plants and trees. Over time,

these have evolved into true 'floating coasts'. Loose segments migrate through the marsh as 'floating islands'. Directed by the wind and currents, they form the system's changeable network of fishable water .

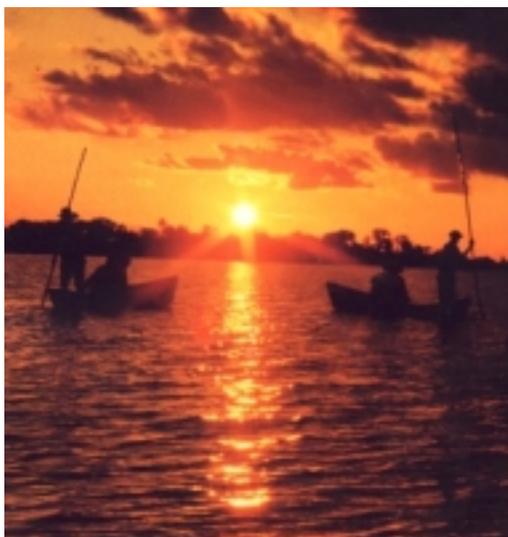
The Ibera's massive interlaced complex of plant roots, stems and leaves serves to create the effect of a giant biofilter. Coupled

with the marsh's up-welling source, its water is consistently crystal clear. The marsh contains a maze of channels, lagoons, bays and tributaries seemingly coming from every direction. As sparkling river channel braids themselves, deep holes and riffles form an anglers dream vista of perfect holding water for giant Dorado. Conditions at the beginning and end of the Ibera's summer (our winter) become optimal for encountering (and sight-fishing) big breeder dorado whether fly-fishing or casting.

An amazing abundance of wildlife calls the reserve home, including over 350 species of birds, 85 species of mammals, and more than 70 reptiles and amphibians. Anglers can see abundant cayman and majestic marsh deer and hear a constant cacophony of birds. An amateur naturalist carrying a bird guide of the region will soon have its pages stained and dog-eared.

One interesting and important Marsh denizen is the capybara (carpincho). Known as the world's largest rodent, this semi-aquatic creature depends on the marsh for food, shelter and water. Like all rodents, the capybara has continuous-growth incisors. Mainly herbivorous, small herds of this exclusively South American species graze on the marsh's succulent water plants from mid-afternoon till late at night. Attaining sizes of over 120 pounds, the capybara once provided sustenance for the marsh's original Indian population. Today, it is raised commercially as a source of the region's famed leather goods.

Between the spectacular vistas, the incredible fishing and the proliferation of wildlife, entering this rich ecosystem conjures up visions of what America's Everglades might have been like in centuries past. It will make you feel as though you've stepped into another time.



Winter 2002 - Giant Fish Trips

Uraima Falls - Home of Giant Payara

Drifting your streamer into the seams of the broad-shouldered current, it's easy to lose yourself in the roaring majesty all around you. The surroundings are simply spectacular. As if that wasn't enough, imagine having your contemplative reverie interrupted by a huge, rude, fanged intruder blasting into the air from the midst of the roiling waters with your fly hanging like an ornament from his



jaw. Suddenly he decides that your whole fly-line is going to be his and heads off downstream like a freight train. As you feel your backing melting away, your mind finally shifts into fight mode. Trying to recover from your immediate disadvantage, you start to palm your reel and hope you'll have a chance to begin regaining line. Well, this is what it's all about isn't it? You're a big boy and you'll fight it out, win or lose. It definitely doesn't get much better than this!

Unless you take into consideration, the delicious meals, the excellent accommodations and the top-notch personal service provided as part



of your payara pursuit at Uraima Falls. The source of almost every IGFA payara record ever caught, this great fishery remains the single best place to catch these hard-fighting, prehistoric-looking, fanged monsters. We have several openings remaining for our February featured trip. Don't miss this opportunity to join us in a quest for the record books.

Rio Urubaxi - Land of Giant Peacock Bass January Safari Trip combines Comfort and Seclusion

A Twenty pound peacock bass is a true monster. Catching one is an awesome experience. From the nerve shattering blast of its violent strike, through tackle-busting runs and the boat soaking cascade of its last ditch dive, the whole experience can be over in just a few minutes. But when it's happening, it feels as though its in slow motion and lasts for hours. Later, you'll go over it in your mind for days. The euphoric afterglow (or fisherman's high) lingers for weeks. And the memory lasts a lifetime.

Only a handful of destinations in the entire world can offer an angler this prized opportunity. Premier among them is the Rio Urubaxi/Paduari region in Northwestern Brazil. This black-water fishery, with its beautiful white sand beaches, holds some of the biggest peacocks ever captured and could very likely be the locale to provide the world's next all-tackle record. Our first few trips have yielded peacocks up to 26 and 1/2 pounds! The lucky few clients who have already experienced this fishery have routinely landed peacocks in the 20 pound class.

Places are still available for our January 2002 Fly-in Safari. This trip is recommended for anglers who are specifically seeking a trophy or a shot at the world's record.

Groups are limited to 8 anglers. At optimal water levels, daily numbers of peacocks caught are typically around a dozen per day, per angler. Although a relatively low total by Brazilian standards, as many as half of these spectacular fish weigh over ten pounds, with even bigger giants lurking around the next corner in any lagoon.

This year we expect to make our trip especially comfortable as well as productive. Before the river drops, we will be moving the Amazon Angel yacht into the system to act as our base of operations. The comfortable, air-conditioned yacht will provide our groups with superior accommodations in the middle of one of the most remote fisheries in the world. Our Cessna Caravan

floatplane will deliver clients directly from the airport to the yacht, minimizing travel time and maximizing your time on the water. If you want to battle monster peacock bass during the day and brag about them over a cold drink in an air-conditioned lounge in the evening, then you won't find a better opportunity than this. For more information, please call me at 908 832-2987.PR

"This clear, black-water fishery, with its beautiful white sand beaches, holds some of the biggest peacocks ever captured and could very likely be the locale to provide the world's next all-tackle record."

UPDATED! - '2001 and '2002 Featured Trip Schedule

PEACOCK BASS TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
2001 - Fly-in Safari Camps - Live amid the Amazon's mystery - Caures River						
Nov. 28th, 2002	Dec. 7	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- Full -	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. 5th, 2002	Dec. 14	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$1995	- 2 openings -	
2001 - Macaroca Lodge - A Hot new Fishery in Northern Brazil - Xeriuni River						
Dec. 12th, 2002	Dec. 21	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- 2 openings -	Beautiful white sand beaches and clear black water provide an extraordinary setting at this comfortable lodge. Great numbers (15 -30 /day) with an unusually high percentage of medium to large fish (10 to 20 pounds).
Feb. 20th, 2002	Mar. 1	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2500	- 1 opening -	
2002 - Giant Peacock Bass - Fly-in Camp/Yacht Safari - Comfort and Seclusion						
Jan. 16th, 2002	Jan. 25	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 4 openings -	The Rio Urubaxi/Paduari region in northwestern Amazonas is a giant fish river. The average size here is enormous. 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 world record or a trip where fishing and comfort are a notch above the rest. A maximum of 8 anglers per week will be accepted.
Jan. 23rd, 2002	Feb. 1	6½ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3450	- 5 openings -	
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 (15 - 30/day) with an average size of 5 pounds. Fish in the teens are 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 - Caures River						
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 -	

PAYARA TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Payara at Uraima Falls, Venezuela - World Record Class						
Feb. 12th, 2002	Feb. 19	5½ days of fishing	Venezuela	\$2995	- 5 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
Golden Freshwater Dorado in the Ibera Marsh — Argentina						
Mar. 8th, 2002	Mar. 15th	5½ days of fishing	Argentina	\$3250	- 5 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 up to 20-pounds. Last year, a 45-pounder was taken on spinning gear and a 33-pounder on fly. 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, is typically higher 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 this winter at the
Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show
 January 11 - 14, 2002 - Booth # 471

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