



Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

FISHING NEWS - Acute Angling's Spring '2003 newsletter

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FISHING NEWS

Spring - 2003

.... Spring Notes....

☞ **NEW**—This winter, together with a handful of adventurous anglers who joined us, we hit paydirt on our Urariquera exploratory trip. We've found one of the best variety fisheries in South America. As a result of our explorations, we will be offering week-long safari style expeditions to this fantastically beautiful and productive river. Look for a detailed article on our website soon, or call us for a complete information package.

☞ **New Schedule** — Our Updated Fall 2003 and Winter 2004 Schedule has been prepared. We've added some new trips and moved around some old favorites. Learn how to experience the fishing trip of a lifetime on page 6.

☞ **Tapera Revisited** - After a two year hiatus, we're heading back to the beautiful, peacock-laden, Rio Tapera this coming February. Four places remain on this exclusive peacock bass trip

Fishing Show

Baltimore, Maryland - The Canton Boat Show and Fishing Expo - This spring, we'll be exhibiting for the first time, at this fairly new, indoor / outdoor, in-water boat and fishing show. Located at the Baltimore Marine Center at Lighthouse Point, downtown Baltimore, the show runs from April 10th through April 13th. Stop by and visit us at Booth #39. Book a trip at the show and receive a special show discount. PR

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LAND OF THE GIANTS

Have you ever dreamed of finding the perfect fishing hole? Loaded with fierce, giant fish who've never seen a lure before..... With endless variety, endless fish-holding structure and endless miles of water...With fish bigger than anything anyone has ever seen before

...Where every strike might be a world record! Well, we've found your fishing hole.

On our first visit here, we explored this remarkable fishery with fantastic fishing results but absolutely no creature comforts and no logistical support. We only lasted three days on the river. We knew we needed to come back with a complete

expedition to put the Urariquera's suitability as a sport-fishing destination to the test. So this year, we mounted a detailed, three-week exploratory voyage. Six intrepid anglers joined us each week to help us put this fishery to a full test.

We came fully prepared with specially designed boats, satellite photos, experienced guides and a provisional permit from IBAMA, Brazil's counterpart to the EPA. Acceding to the river's power, we set up camp in an accessible and manageable location for a safe and comfortable fishing operation. Surrounding the soft sand of a pretty beach overlooking the rushing waters, we couldn't have found a more attractive setting.

This fantastically rich fishery didn't disappoint us. It proved to be full of fish, bigger, and with even more variety than we anticipated.

Our expedition was such a great success, that we've decided to move in for good. This year we're building a full scale, safari-style camp

and offering comfortable, 6-day trips for up to eight anglers. The new Urariquera Fishing Camp is host to some of the world's biggest, most exciting gamefish, including;

Payara - One of the greatest of all gamefish, the



Urariquera Fishing Camp

payara offers a formidable mix of fighting attributes. Gut wrenching strikes, blazing, line stripping runs and acrobatic, head-shaking leaps characterize this fanged monster's battle technique. The Urariquera offers payara into the 20 pound class, with even bigger fish lurking in the deep pools and tailwaters of this mighty river.

Pacu - Known as "Pirapitinga", this brawny battler provides muscle-wrenching fishing thrills. Vicious strikes are followed by prolonged, powerful runs. Reaching sizes over 20 lbs, these robust giants provide an extended battle. Undoubtedly, the world record pacu is waiting to be landed in these waters.

Jau - Among the world's largest catfish,

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The Ultimate Variety Fishing Trip

huge jau are found throughout this fishery. The world record was recently shattered here by an 85 pound monster. That's only the beginning. There are jau lurking in the depths that may easily double that size. Landing them on rod and reel, however, is the challenge.

The variety doesn't end there.

Bicuda – (boulengerella spp.) A large, pike-like characin that takes to the air in wild leaps. Reaching 3 feet long, they provide a breathtaking aerial performance.

Matrincha and Yatorana – Up to 10 pounds, these large brycons fight like trout on drugs. Powerful runs punctuated by flying leaps characterize their fighting style.

Piraiba – The Amazon's largest catfish, these monsters are known to exceed

300 pounds. Not often caught on rod and reel, specimens over 200 pounds lurk in the Urariquera.

Piranha – Big piranha roam here. Anglers can readily fight potential record sized fish, into the 6 pound class.

Jundira – A feisty small catfish, one of our anglers caught the world record jundira here this past January.

Peacock bass – Smaller specimens of Cichla Monoculus and Ocellaris can be found in quiet backwaters here.

Pescada – A freshwater drum, up to 10 pounds, they feed in backwaters and sandy beaches and are a shore lunch treat.

Red-tailed Catfish – An Amazon giant, this cat can exceed 100 pounds. A new IGFA line class record was just caught here.

Others – We haven't even seen them all yet. Who knows what else lurks in the untouched waters of the Urariquera. Certainly many more world records await in this land of giants.

The River - Like no place else you've fished before, the Urariquera is one of the most breathtakingly beautiful rivers in the



lands the 75 mile long island of Maraca, one of Brazil's most carefully guarded national treasures. With unbelievably convoluted braids, separating and rejoining endlessly, the waters range from 6 feet to 600 feet wide.....from slow moving, lagoon-like pools to raging white-water torrents...from shallow, jungle-lined passages to bottomless, stone-walled chasms. This incredible

optimal environments for an amazing variety of species, both resident and migratory and is one of the greatest natural fish hatcheries in the world. The

Urariquera exceeds every fisherman's wildest dreams.

Urariquera River Camp - Simple, comfortable, efficient and environmentally correct were the design goals for this new facility. Anglers enjoy secure, land-based, double-

occupancy bungalows, complete with toilet, sink, shower, lights and fans. Cool nights make sleeping in the breezy, screened units a pleasure and make blankets a necessity. The camp's fully equipped kitchen provides excellent meals in the roomy, screened dining room. A palate pleasing variety of dishes with a taste of Brazil or a touch of home are offered at every meal. The camp is equipped with 110 volt generators, refrigerators, shortwave radio and daily laundry service. Built to be completely removable without breaking a single branch or leaving a single trace, the camp blends into the pristine, Maraca Island riverside forest.

Maraca - "Ilha de Maraca", the giant riverine island in the heart of the Urariquera is one of the richest natural biospheres remaining in the world today. Few tropical ecosystems have been protected as carefully as this critically important reservoir for species preservation and biodiversity. Maraca includes habitats ranging from rainforests and semi-deciduous forests to natural savannahs, lakes, and palm swamps. This pristine environment is home to a wide-range of plants, trees, mammals, reptiles and fishes, undisturbed by man's environmentally destructive progress.

Join us in 2004 on this great variety fishery. Not only is the fishing superb and the accommodations comfortable, but the spectacular river and gorgeous surroundings are sure to make this one of the most memorable experiences of a lifetime. Three exclusive groups are scheduled for next January (page 6). Call Paul Reiss at 908 832-2987 to book or for more trip



Winter 2002/2003 Images - Client Trip Photos



Ed Perlman and a beautiful trophy peacock bass



Jessica Cook shows off her 18½ lb. giant Pacu



Capt. Jack Wadkins displays a big Aruana



Elaine Reidel hefts her enormous catfish (left) and an Unini Peacock



Steve McCreary and his guide show off a big peacock bass.



Chuck McCann's guide holds his 21½ pounder



Jeff Berzon scored big with this lunker



Warren Van Varick and an Urariquera Payara



Murray Perlman and an Unini River trophy peacock bass



Ralph Kimbrough and his guide hold an enormous Urariquera River Jau catfish .



John and Ron Flournoy hold a huge doubleheader of Rio Alegria peacocks.



Jim Micinilio changes hats - from catfisherman to peacock bass angler - on the Rio Unini.

We've received so many great photos from our winter trips that we can't fit them all in this issue. We'll include another Client Trip Photo page in our next issue, coming this summer. Many thanks to all our anglers for sharing their images.

Fishing Report - Winter 2003

Simply the Best Fishing Season We've Ever Had!

We began this fishing season feeling like we had two strikes against us. First, it seemed last year's great fishing was going to be a tough act to follow. Second, blaring reports warned of an impending "El Nino" phenomenon, threatening to wreak havoc with water levels and weather throughout Amazonia. Like all dyed-in-the-wool fishermen, we pressed on anyway and were rewarded with our best season ever, a big fat home run in the ninth inning. It seems you still can't trust the weatherman, even on a global scale.

Our December Fly-in safari trips on the Unini caught the peacock bass in an early season courtship mode. Extremely aggressive just before spawning, they rewarded interloping anglers by crashing big woodchoppers with violent abandon. (You'd probably get annoyed too if someone tossed a big propeller wielding baseball bat into your romantic prelude). Each week featured excellent numbers of peacocks with an abundance of trophies into the 20 lb. class. Big fish honors on the first week went to Steve

McCreary of Tampa, Florida, with his 21-pound trophy peacock bass. Jeff Berzon, of Hartford, Connecticut won the big fish shirt by landing a 22 lb giant on the second week. Anglers boated dozens of giant red-tailed cats, with Elaine Riedel of Crestline, Ohio hauling in an enormous 95 pound monster.

Our Urariquera Exploratory expedition was a fantastic success (see cover story), with big payara, big pirapitinga (pacu sp.) and giant catfish punctuating the extraordinary beauty of the river. Russell Jensen of Bronx, New York, set two world records in one week. Warren Van Varick set another record two weeks later with his 85 pound jau catfish. Among the expedition's big fish, a 19 and 1/2 pound payara was landed by Jenny Reiss, of Madison, New Jersey during the first week. Other notable catches are shown in the chart to the right.

Even clearer than usual, the crystalline Rio Xeriuni had the lowest water levels we've ever encountered. Travel became slow and difficult, significantly cutting into fishing time, but our anglers were persistent and the fish were perfectly accommodating once we made our way to them. Good numbers and a respectable percentage of big fish were caught. Tony Otten, of Toronto, Canada captured the largest fish at Macaroca Lodge, the downriver facility, with an 18 and 1/2 pound trophy, while Scott Heffernan of Summerfield, North Carolina, took the honors upriver, at Posao, with a 21 and 1/2 pounder.

For mid-February we had planned an exploratory peacock bass trip to a previously unfished river in the northwestern part of the Amazon. Even when nature is being accommodating, there's never any assurance that local bureaucrats will do the same. At the last

minute, a small town mayor had a change of heart and we were unable to complete arrangements for permission to explore our planned destination. So we changed plans. We went off to fish the Rio Alegria, also never sport-fished before. When we arrived, I wasn't so sure that the change would be for the better. This was a small river, with sparse structure and few and shallow lagoons. Well, we were here and one way or another, we were going to find out. Five adventurous anglers had joined me and we set to work.

Holy mackerel! (or holy peacock bass under the circumstances). The Alegria was loaded with giants. Everyone caught fish bigger than they had dared to dream. The sizes were staggering and every single angler caught their personal best here. The biggest fish of the week was a 25 and 1/2 pound beast caught by first time peacock angler, John Flournoy of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Close behind was Pete Jackson with a 25 pounder and Bill Crain with a 24. An incredible total of 32 peacocks over 20 pounds was caught during the week. To put the icing on the cake for me, I managed to hook up with and land a 70 pound, line-class record, red-tailed cat.

"El Nino" or some other sneaky weatherman's trick finally caught up with us on our last peacock bass trip of the season. Scheduled for the Urubaxi, we were forced to change plans at the last minute and head to another river when the Urubaxi's water level dropped precipitously, stranding our planned transport, the Amazon Angel yacht, near the newly unnavigable river's mouth.

Well, the Unini had been great for us in December, so we elected to head right back there. And it fished great again. This time we hit the peacock's after the spawn was over. With the river down and their fat stores depleted from the long reproductive cycle, the peacocks were once again aggressively striking ... this time to fill their bellies. Steve Townson, of Algarve, Portugal caught the trip's biggest peacock, a 23 pound hog.

In spite of all the curveball's the weatherman threw at us, our 2003 Winter season produced tremendous fishing results. Much of the credit for the great numbers we experienced should go to the dawning enlightenment of the people and governments of Amazonia. Recently enacted regulations have begun protecting these high-quality peacock bass rivers from the depredations of indiscriminate commercial fishing. It hasn't taken long for the improvements to become visible and measurable. Each year, on these protected fisheries, the peacock bass have been getting larger and more numerous. It's only going to continue to get better. We plan to have an even greater season next year. PR

	Unini 1	Unini 2	Macaroca	Posao	Alegria	Unini 3	Tot/Avg.
Fish Caught	827	1018	688	751	588	1044	4916
Trophy Fish <small>(fish in the teens)</small>	66	68	22	26	131	81	394
20 lb. Class	5	7	0	1	32	6	51
Biggest Fish	21 lbs.	22 lbs.	18½ lbs	21½ lbs	25½ lbs	22 lbs.	21¾ lb
# of Anglers	9	9	6	8	5	7	43
Average #	92	113	114	94	117	149	114

Species	Size	Species	Size
Payara	19½ pounds	Jau Catfish	85 pounds
Pacu	20½ pounds	Jundira Catfish	12 pounds
Matrincha	9 pounds	Red-Tailed Cat	29 pounds
Piranha	6½ pounds	Bicuda	7½ pounds

Miami to Manaus - Direct Flights are Back

Acute Angling focuses many of its angling destinations in the remote Brazilian Amazon. This region remains one of the most pristine, natural ecosystems in the world, making it a prime destination for naturalists, ecologists and, of course, fishermen. That same remoteness, unfortunately, makes Manaus, the 'only major city in the region, a marginal stop for airlines serving South America. Since Sept. 11th, travel there from the U.S. has been limited and difficult. Air carriers have wandered in and out of the route and endlessly varied their schedules. Most have just abandoned direct flights on the route altogether.

We were thrilled two years ago when TAM Airlines decided to pick up the route with daily direct flights from Miami to Manaus. Unfortunately, it didn't last. TAM overextended themselves by offering too many flights for too few passengers and by the end of the fishing season they dropped the route altogether.

As the 2002-2003 fishing season approached, we prepared our gear and scratched our heads, wondering how we would get our clients to Manaus. Enter Aeropostal, another South American carrier that decided to enter the playing field with Miami - Manaus flights, stopping over in Caracas. Two months later, exit Aeropostal. With their sudden departure in the middle of the fishing season, we were forced to fly

Varig Airlines to Manaus, unfortunately via Sao Paulo. Our clients were amazingly patient and understanding when they learned that the flight that should have taken five hours was now going to take fourteen. The only way to make it shorter would have been to parachute out over the

Amazon. We had some very travel-weary anglers arriving in Manaus, but as this year's incredible fishing results show, they will agree it was well worth it.

As our fishing season began winding down this winter, we received great news. Lloyd Aero Boliviano, the original carrier that served the Miami—Manaus route, announced through an industry press release that they would restore their service to Manaus beginning in 2003. LAB stated that they were adding two, new 767 jets to their fleet of Airbuses. Their

reinstated flights from Miami to Manaus will be based on the schedule used before they left the route in 2000. We were thrilled with the news. LAB is a dependable airline, and with the additional jets in their fleet, service should be even better. Travel times will be dramatically reduced while fishing time will increase. It doesn't get better than that

We're already looking forward to next year. Now that we can rest easy regarding our international air flights, we'll be busy upgrading our camps, updating our documentation, and looking for new ways to make your trip as successful and pleasurable as possible. GR

'03/'04 Sample Itinerary - Brazil Peacock Bass Trips

- Wednesday** Depart Miami via LAB flight to Manaus Brazil, 9:00 PM
- Thursday** After clearing customs you're met by our agent and transferred to the domestic airport for a charter flight to the camp. Arrive in time for lunch and perhaps an afternoon fishing session.
- Friday to Wednesday** Six days of fishing. Your day begins with a 5:30 AM wake up. Breakfast is at 6:00. Guides are ready at first light. Relax at lunchtime each day. Return to camp at dusk for appetizers, drinks & bragging, followed by a delicious dinner. Jungle hikes, spotlighting, catfishing and local village visits can be arranged.
- Thursday** Thursday, transfer back to Manaus via charter. Transfer to international airport by late evening. Depart Manaus via International flight. Arrive in Miami about 6:00 AM Friday morning.

Catfish & Peacocks - Perfect Together

Anglers have asked me over and over, "Can I plan a trip to catch big peacocks and giant catfish together". In the past, my answer had always been



Giant Red-tailed Cats, like this 60-lb. beast offer a great challenge to anglers on the Unini.

better answer now The terrific Rio Unini.

Protected from commercial fishing by the Brazilian government's designation as a catch and release sport fishery and protected by nature with a rocky waterfall near its mouth, the Unini has the best of both worlds. Giant peacock bass up to 25 pounds and huge red-tailed catfish, up to 100 pounds, roam these waters.

The winding, braided Unini is lined with structure laden, still-water lagoons, prime real estate for

"Well, not really." It was best to simply decide which one you actually want to focus on and to plan around that species; anything else would depend on pure luck". I've got a much

giant peacocks. Lurking around huge fallen trees, shallow ridges or underwater points, aggressive peacocks explode on big surface lures in this classic black-water fishery.

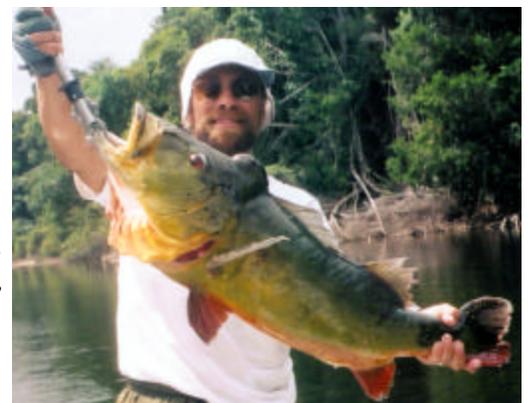
With good daily numbers and a high percentage of big fish, anglers come here to pursue their trophies.

In the river's bends, deep holes and channels, the red-tailed catfish reigns supreme.

Peacock Bass grow particularly big on the Unini like this hefty 20 pounder taken on a fly.

Patrolling their underwater fiefdoms, these big cats inhale anything the river brings their way. Offer them a small piranha or a piece of cut bait and you'll end up holding on for dear life as these huge, powerful creatures head for other end of the river or the nearest sunken tree, whichever comes first.

Join us on the fish-laden Unini this coming December, 2003. Explosive peacock bass and powerful giant catfish make for a great combination of fishing thrills, in a great camp, at a great price. PR



'2003 / '2004 Featured Trip Schedule

Fall 2003 - PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - BRAZIL

Openings shown
as of 3/25/03

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Fall 2003 - Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Comfort and Mobility - Matupiri River						
Sept. 24th, 2003	Oct. 2	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2150	- 4 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 (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.
Oct. 1st, 2003	Oct. 9	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2150	- 3 openings -	
Oct. 8th, 2003	Oct. 16	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2150	- 1 opening -	
Oct. 15th, 2003	Oct. 23	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2150	- 5 openings -	

Fall 2003 - PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - BRAZIL

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Fall 2003 - Fly-in Safari Camp - Live amid the Amazon's mystery						
Nov. 12, 2003	Nov. 19	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2195	- FULL -	Live in comfortable floating bungalows. Dark water in this consistently productive fishery favors surface action and explosive topwater strikes. Excellent daily catch averages (12 - 20/day) and a high proportion of trophies up to 25 lbs.
Dec. 3rd, 2003	Dec. 11	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2195	- FULL -	
Dec. 10th, 2003	Dec. 18	6 days of fishing	Brazil	\$2195	- 6 openings -	

Winter 2004 - PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - BRAZIL

Winter 2004 - Macaroca Lodge - A protected Fishery in Northern Brazil						
Jan. 14th, 2004	Jan. 23	6 days of fishing	Upper Lodge /Lower Lodge	\$3475	- open - - 2 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).
Jan. 21st, 2004	Jan. 30	6 days of fishing	Upper Lodge /Lower Lodge	\$3475	- open - - open -	
Winter 2004 - Giant Peacock Bass - Fly-in Luxury Yacht Safari						
Jan. 28th, 2004	Feb. 5th	6+ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3650	- open -	The Rio Urubaxi / Paduari region is a giant fish system with enormous average sizes. 20 pounders are 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.
Feb. 4th, 2004	Feb. 12th	6+ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3650	- open -	
Winter 2004 - Fly-in, Tapera - Amazonia's most beautiful Peacock River						
Feb. 11th, 2004	Feb. 19th	6+ days of fishing	Brazil	\$3650	- 4 openings -	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.

Winter 2004 - EXOTIC VARIETY TRIPS - NEW!

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Explore new waters - Fish for record-class payara, pacu, giant catfish & more						
Jan. 14th, 2004	Jan. 23rd	6 days of fishing	Urariquera	\$3250	- open -	We've discovered an exciting new destination on the fringe of the Amazon basin. The beautiful Rio Urariquera holds big payara, big pacu, and giant catfish. Located within the pristine Maraca Island Bio-reserve, this fishery has yielded 3 IGFA world records and should produce many more. Live in comfortable bungalows and enjoy excellent meals in a fixed, safari style camp in the middle of the river's most productive region.
Jan. 21st, 2004	Jan. 30th	6 days of fishing	Urariquera	\$3250	- 2 openings -	
Jan. 28th, 2004	Feb. 6th	6 days of fishing	Urariquera	\$3250	- open -	

Winter 2004 - FRESHWATER DORADO TRIP

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Winter 2004 - Golden Freshwater Dorado in the Iberá Marsh — Argentina						
Mar. 7th, 2004	Mar. 14th	5½ days of fishing	Argentina	\$3650	- open -	The crystal clear Iberá Marsh is a spectacular wildlife reserve brimming with capybara, caiman and untold numbers of birds. The Marsh yields plenty of hard-fighting dorado into the 20-pound and even 30 pound class. Good numbers are caught daily and every angler on the trip raves about the experience!

Winter 2004 - PAYARA TRIPS

Depart	Return	Days of Fishing	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Winter 2004 - World Record Class Payara at Uraima Falls, Venezuela						
Mar. 14th, 2004	Mar. 21st	5½ days of fishing	Venezuela	\$3450	- open -	During the dry season, saber-toothed payara pursue huge schools of bait fish up the Paragua river to the spectacular, rocky Uraima Falls. Excellent daily catch averages (typically 8 - 30/day - averaging over 12 lbs.) and more giant trophy payara (up to 40 pounds) than anywhere else in the world!
Mar. 21st, 2004	Mar. 28th	5½ days of fishing	Venezuela	\$3450	- open --	

NOTE - Some of the above trips may also be offered at other, non-featured dates, however pricing may vary and we may not be hosting those dates. We can also book you on other exotic fishing trips around the world. Call us and let us know what you'd like to catch!

Join us on the fishing trip of a lifetime!

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