



Acute Angling - Exotic Fishing

Fishing News - Acute Angling's



FALL '2005 Newsletter



Volume 7 Issue 4

FISHING NEWS

Fall 2005

.... Fall Notes

✍ **Trip Openings** - Several openings remain on great trips this season. Call us about our Thanksgiving Special, our January Macaroca Lodge and February Urariquera River Camp trips. Places are available for trophy peacock, huge payara, giant catfish and pirapitinga.

✍ **Exploratories** - We have 2 major exploratory trips coming up this winter, with great expectations. Look for reports in our winter newsletter.

✍ **Group Trip Set-ups** - Have a group organized and a date in mind? Tell us what you want and we'll put a trip together to suit your preferences.

Fishing Shows

For 2006 we'll be hosting **Amazon Fishing Seminars** at selected fishing shows, as well as manning our booth. Don't miss these interesting sessions.

Garden State Outdoor Sportsmen's Show, Edison, New Jersey - New Jersey's biggest show, January 12th-15th, 2005. We look forward to seeing all of our friends again.

Suffern, New York - This will be our second year at the Northeast's most popular show. Be sure to visit us.

Toronto, Canada - Our Canadian friends have been enjoying great success on our peacock bass trips. This year's dates are Mar. 16 through 20.

Book a trip at any of our shows and receive a special show discount...PR

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From Flood to Drought

By the time this issue goes to print, the Great Amazon Drought may have become world-wide media material. Less than 8 months ago, all of Amazonia was abuzz over the amazingly early arrival of the flood season. The rains came early and in earnest and by February all of the best fishing rivers had swelled over their banks and sent the fish into the forests. It was the great Amazon Flood. Now, just 3/4 of a year later everything had come full circle. Just as the season was beginning anew, the waters dropped to their lowest recorded level in 70 years. We were witnessing the great Amazon Drought.

Sadly, this event took a terrible toll in human suffering and seriously impacted the affected region's economy. Between the flood and the drought, it has been a very difficult year for the Amazon. Our sportfishing pursuit pales in importance to those serious concerns and we can only hope that our efforts and economic input will help in the region's recovery.

Acute Angling's responsibility is to its fishing clients. In spite of the giant scale

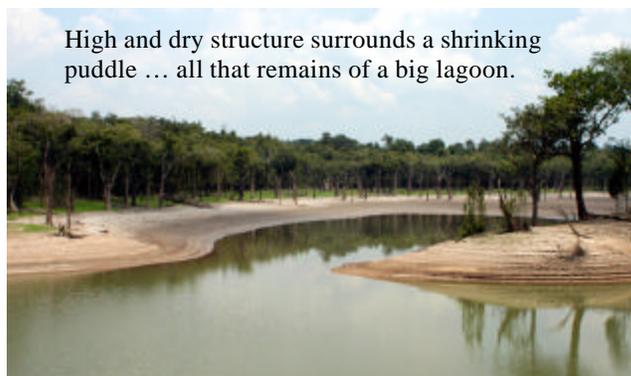
events occurring, we knew we had to find a way for our anglers to fish successfully. Like many of the surprises nature deals fishermen, there's often some good news and some bad news from a fisherman's perspective. The bad news? Well, without the usual water depths, the Igapo Acu's flooded forest was high and dry. All of the beautiful, complex structure



The Amazon Angel Yacht

we're used to fishing was now literally looming over our heads. The good news? Well, instead of thousands of productive spots with a fish or two each, we were down to maybe a tenth the number, but they often held hundreds of peacocks. Once you found them, you could haul in fish until your arms were tired. Sometimes a fish on every cast. It was a fishing trade-off.

'2005 Amazon Angel Yacht Trip Results



High and dry structure surrounds a shrinking puddle ... all that remains of a big lagoon.

The conditions didn't provide as many trophies as usual, but they produced extraordinary numbers.

In a region where water levels rise and fall 30 to 40 feet between the rainy and dry seasons, outfitters need to be flexible and mobile in order to deal with changing conditions. Our Amazon Angel trips are designed with this in mind. Our mobility allowed us to get to where

.... Continued on Page 2

Amazon Angel Fishing ReportContinued

the fish were, in spite of extraordinary conditions. We had the tools needed to deal with the surprises Nature sent our way.

Our first week of fishing in September, yielded high numbers. Our anglers quickly learned to take advantage of what the water levels offered them. They knew that spots that held fish, held lots of them. Ten anglers boated 1483 peacocks. Honors for the week's biggest fish were garnered by Jerry Bennett of Springfield, MO, with a 15 pound peacock that attacked a Woodchopper on the surface. The father and son team of Bill and Alec Ramlow jointly took the prize for the most fish with an impressive total of 314 peacocks landed.

Our second group followed the lead of our first, taking advantage of the ever-dwindling water levels. They caught 1119 peacocks. Dave Otter of Canonsburg, PA took big fish honors with a 15-pounder and Rick Perrson of Miami, FL and Chad Winder of Gooderham, ON, Canada landed 323 peacocks between them.

Water levels continued to fall and by the time the third group arrived, navigation began to become a problem. Luckily, our

When our fourth group arrived, we headed North in search of deeper water on the Rio Negro, but the confluence of events in the Amazon finally took its toll on our plans. The low water near Manaus, a series of recent riverboat groundings and a bureaucratic snafu forced us to leave the Angel behind and go to plan "B". We flew our entire group to Barcellos, a region to the north on the Rio Negro with completely normal water levels. There we boarded a newly chartered yacht and went searching for the slowly dropping water levels that peacocks like so much. The fishing was slow while we struggled to find the right waters, but the group capitalized when we finally did. A respectable total of 512 peacocks were caught. Oran Adams and Michael Kerr, both of Boaz, AL caught 118 peacocks between them and Oran landed a 20 lb. monster.

Our last week found conditions settling in for excellent fishing. Our group of 9 anglers landed 888 peacocks. The father and son team of Earl and Randy Hancock set the pace with 277 peacocks. Harry Lindsey and Bill Eaddy, from West Columbia and Columbia, SC, respectively, each caught 16 pound trophies.

We humans have done quite a job making over much of our planet, but we still can't control Nature. We've just experienced an extreme drought. We've witnessed the terrible devastation wreaked by Hurricane Katrina. We call these things "once in a lifetime" or "100 year" events in order to try to come to grips with our helplessness before powers beyond our control. We tell ourselves, "Well, it'll go back to normal next year", and then we go about our business and hope that it actually comes to pass.

"Normal", for the Igapo Acu region, is a highly productive, trophy fishery with spectacular structure. Each day brings new water, new experiences and hand-to-hand combat with the wild-est, fiercest freshwater fish known to fishermen, anywhere.

For 2006, Acute Angling will be returning to the Igapo Acu with 6 Amazon Angel yacht groups. Due to rising gasoline prices and the falling dollar, prices will rise a bit from previous years, but this great trip, at \$2950, is still, without a doubt, the best mother-ship fishing value in the Amazon. Available openings typically fill quickly, especially for larger groups, so be sure to contact us early to reserve your preferred dates.

	Dates contingent on air schedules.	Departs	Return	Openings
Group 1	Sept. 20th, 2006	Sept. 29,	- open -	
Group 2	Sept. 27th, 2006	Oct. 6,	6 spaces	
Group 3	Oct. 4th, 2006	Oct. 13,	- open -	
Group 4	Oct. 11th, 2006	Oct. 20,	4 spaces	
Group 5	Oct. 18th, 2006	Oct. 27,	- open -	
Group 6	Oct. 25th, 2006	Nov. 3,	- open -	

Statistics	Gp. 1	Gp. 2	Gp. 3	Gp. 4	Gp. 5	Totals
Total # of Fish Caught	1483	1119	1770	512	888	5772
Biggest Fish per group	15 lb.	15 lb.	14 lb.	20 lb.	16lb.	20 lb.
# of Anglers per group	10	11	12	12	9	54
Avg # caught per angler	148	102	147	43	98	107

group that week consisted of a boatload of skillful and avid anglers with tireless arms. They hauled in an amazing total of 1770 peacocks. Michael Quinn of Wescosville, PA and Alphonso Arroyo of Oakland, CA shared top honors with a brace of 14 pounders, while brothers Steve and Ed Martinez of El Sobrante, CA outperformed everyone with 341 peacocks. And these guys did all this in a shortened week! We finally just ran out of water. Our ability to navigate came to an end and we had to move before we waited out the season on a sand bar. So we packed up a day early and headed out while we still could.

The Amazon Angel II - Construction Planned

The Amazon Angel has served us very well. We've learned what's great about her and we've learned the places where we can make things even better. Now we're in the planning stages of building a new yacht that we expect to be the perfect peacock bass fishing mother ship; Efficient and fast, comfortable and dependable. We hope to begin construction within the next year and if all goes smoothly, she could launch in 2007 or 2008.

Although blueprints have not been finalized, most of the vessel is thoroughly planned. The new Amazon Angel II will have a "regional" design hull, making her extremely stable and navigable in Amazon waters. The AAI will draw less water, giving her even greater mobility and flexibility than her namesake.

Overall, she'll be smaller but bigger! The AAI will be shorter from stem to stern than her namesake, but wider in beam.

The result will be more useable area for both passengers and crew. We've learned the importance of moving boats and people quickly and efficiently, so the flow of anglers and equipment on AAI will be smooth and easy, in a spacious area. The ceilings will be higher! AAI is being designed for our American client's stature. The only time you'll have to bow your head, is when your fishing partner catches a bigger peacock than you.

Cabins will be large, individually air-conditioned, with private bathrooms and full-sized beds. The dining and lounge areas will be combined to offer a roomy, all purpose, relaxation area.

Although we know that all of these features and creature comforts are important, we won't forget why you fish with us. We'll offer all of this while still providing the superior service and dedication to quality fishing that our clients are accustomed to.

Acute Angling Goes to Costa Rica

Join us for great inshore and offshore fishing at beautiful Parismina Lodge.

Ready for a fishing party? We're going to turn a whole gang of our fishing addicted clients loose on Costa Rica's unsuspecting resident tarpon schools. What will happen when a crop of anglers weaned on peacock bass power gets their hands on pure tarpon poundage is anybody's guess. Acute Angling will be hosting a full group at Costa Rica's best east coast fishing destination, Rio Parismina Lodge this coming spring.

Located near the mouth of the Rio Parismina, the lodge sits at a confluence of four great fisheries. Less than a mile from the dock is the seemingly endless Caribbean Sea, with its resident near-shore tarpon schools. On calm days, just a short ride away in Parismina's big powerful boats, are readily available offshore species, including wahoo, sailfish and tuna. Stay closer to home and fish the river mouth and you can encounter huge snook (five world records have been set here). Finally, head inland into the national park on one of Parismina's flat bottomed jon-boats and you can explore mile after mile of freshwater river and creek environment, filled with machaca, mojarra and guapote (an aggressive cichlid related to the peacock bass). No matter what the weather or your personal fishing preferences, there are great fishing options available every day.



Jenny Reiss and her guide pose with a silver-plated Rio Parismina tarpon

Rio Parismina Lodge is a great place to bring the whole family. The wide variety of fishing options ensures excitement for everyone in this tropical fishing paradise, while the lodge's big rooms, beautiful gardens and comfortable facilities provide a pleasant and relaxing vacation environment, even for non-fishers.

Acute Angling is now including Rio Parismina in its schedule of featured trips. We've made arrangements with the lodge to set aside the full week beginning May 6th, 2006 especially for Acute Angling clients, hosted by Paul Reiss. Our anglers will enjoy the full range of Parismina's great options (for 3, 4 or 7 day trips) at an optimal time in Costa Rica's east coast fishing season. Not only is this all-inclusive trip logistically convenient (with direct flights on domestic carriers from many U.S. Airports), but we're also planning to offer a special agenda of activities in San Jose for our group. If you want even more variety or would like to see more of this beautiful country, we can also arrange other exciting Costa Rica activities, including roosterfish and billfishing on the West coast, white-water rafting, jungle tours and more.

Finally, to put the icing on the cake, all of this will be available at a special, reduced price for Acute Angling clients and mailing list members. If you'd like to join us, please call early to reserve your place. PR

The Incomparable Rio Urariquera South America's Most Amazing Giant Fish Variety Trip is Better than Ever!



most exotic sportfish in the world, the Rio Urariquera is truly a fisherman's dream come true.

For 2006, we've moved our comfortable Rio Urariquera camp to a new upriver location, providing access to almost twice as much prime fishing water as before. This region has never been sportfished in an organized manner before and promises to provide even more of the exciting fishing we enjoyed in our previous location, where we broke five different world records. In order to take advantage of this superior location, we've traded away some

Sprawling on the Amazon basin's rocky and mountainous northern fringe, lies the fantastic Rio Urariquera. Teeming with wildlife, surrounded by spectacular scenic vistas and home to some of the biggest, toughest and

accessibility. This new spot is so far out there, that we can realistically say, you just can't get there from here. Reaching the camp is no longer practical by any means other than a float plane, so we've adjusted our itinerary to take advantage of this great new location. Although it's still a complex schedule, our arrival at the camp is now by air. This season we'll be flying in to a calm, backwater right near our camp.

Spaces are available on several of the weeks in our upcoming season. At \$3650 per angler, this season's Urariquera trips will provide the ultimate exotic fishing opportunities in a new, essentially unexplored section of the river.



Amazon Research Update

The Latest News on Acute Angling's Scientific Activity in the Amazon

Acute Angling's commitment to increasing the knowledge base and promoting conservation of Amazon fishes continues. Now, our own research and our collaboration with and support of various other research activities in the Amazon is beginning to show productive and important results.

Cichla DNA Analysis - This state-of-the-art project, under the guidance of Professora Izeni Farias of the University of Amazonas in Manaus, is designed to definitively identify the natural distribution and population characteristics of the five currently recognized species of peacock bass, by directly comparing their genetic material.

Acute Angling, because of its access to a wide range of remote peacock fisheries and its ability to encounter and sample large numbers of specimens has been providing fin clipping samples (for DNA testing) and catch data from released fish for the project. Dr. Farias has recently published two technical posters with some eye-opening preliminary results from this exciting project.

In a genetic analysis comparing specimens from two diverse rivers (the Unini and the Xeriuni), Dr. Farias' work has uncovered new information about two species of peacock bass; The first is *Cichla orinocensis* (called *borboleto* in Brazil and 'butterfly' by the American anglers there - note that this is not the same fish called 'butterfly peacock' in Florida - that fish is *Cichla ocellaris*). The other species is *Cichla temensis* (the giant peacock - our trophy fishing quarry). The populations of *C. orinocensis* on these two rivers have been shown to have significant genetic difference from each other, as might be expected due to their great geographical separation. However, surprisingly, the DNA of the corresponding populations of *C. temensis* showed essentially identical genetic make-up between the two rivers, indicating that intermingling and gene flow between these two populations has recently occurred.

These results demonstrate that a distance of ~100 Km between the mouths of tributaries of the Rio Negro can function as a barrier to the dispersion of some species as seen in *C. orinocensis*, but not others as in *C. temensis*. Different species of peacock bass can exhibit different patterns of migration, reflecting different life strategies. (See our

for the full text and illustration of the poster.)

Cichla Temensis Color and Pattern Variation Study - Our fish crazy host and guide, Paul Reiss, is so far gone about Amazon fishes that's he's returned to school as a doctoral candidate in ichthyology at Rutgers University, specializing in (what else?) peacock bass. In an effort to clarify long-standing confusion about the extraordinary range of peacock bass color and pattern variation, a detailed study has been initiated, designed to determine the characteristics of the color morphs and the reasons why it occurs. Initial data is in and the results may surprise you. See the detailed article on page 6.



Your donations (and YSI's consideration) have helped to provide this state of the art YSI water testing equipment. We depend on your continuing generous support.

Projeto Pirandirá - We're proceeding on a historic first project to study the life cycle of the giant payara (*Hydrolycus armatus*) on the Urariquera river. Under the direction of Dr. Paulo Petry, PhD, we will monitor the sustainability and health of the fishery and try to unravel the migratory behavior of this mysterious sportfish. This work will provide the data to coordinate conservation plans with fishing activity, so we can preserve this great fishery for future generations.

Help from our Friends - The International Gamefish Association has been instrumental in helping us move our projects forward through their help in managing our funding efforts. IGFA is committed to the betterment of sport fishing around the world.

We need your help too! Research costs money and unlike U.S. fisheries research, grant money is not readily available to study these wonderful, but exotic species. If you believe, as we do, that these priceless fish must be protected, please help by making a fully documented, fully tax-deductible contribution for these projects, in cooperation with the International Game Fish Association (IGFA).

We put our money where our mouth is. Acute Angling is carrying its share of the load. We will once again match

the first \$5000 in contributions received from donors this season. So this is a very good time to help science help your sport and get a tax deduction too. For every dollar you contribute, two dollars will wind up being available for this important research. Help us to study the behavior, biology and distribution of these awesome Amazon gamefish. The more we know, the more power we have to protect

Specimen Number _____		A. Head height	_____
Date _____		B. Eye diameter	_____
By _____ Weight _____		C. Standard length	_____
Scale Grade _____		D. Height	_____
		E. Premaxilla to opercule	_____
		F. Girth	_____

Fin Ray Counts		Scale Counts	
1. First Dorsal	_____	7. Lateral Line	_____
2. Second Dorsal	_____	8. Circumcaudal	_____
3. Caudal Fin	_____	9. Predorsal	_____
4. Anal Fin	_____	10. Above lateral line	_____
5. Pelvic Fin	_____	11. Below lateral line	_____
6. Pectoral Fin	_____	12. Gill Rakers	_____

Baseline physical information for peacock bass is being recorded on forms like these to monitor species data.

Color and Pattern Change in Giant Peacock Bass

Cichla temensis, the giant peacock bass occurs in a striking variation of color and pattern. The differences are so distinct that these morphs have often been thought to be two separate species.

Throughout its range in lowlands Amazonia, *C. temensis*, is the largest and most commercially important of the *Cichla* (peacock bass) species, both as a sportfish and for consumption. It occurs in its two distinct forms throughout its range in the Amazon basin. This variation has been the source of ongoing confusion among sportfishermen, locals and biologists. The two forms are even referred to by completely different common names; the "Speckled Peacock Bass" and the "3-barred Peacock Bass" (known locally as 'Tucunare-paca' and 'Tucunare-açu', respectively). These common names are descriptive of the respective color and markings.

Several possible explanations for the variation are reflected in the popular beliefs. The most common opinion among locals and sportfishermen alike is that the *C. temensis* variants represent perma-

nently different individuals within the population. A less commonly held opinion is that they are separate species or sub-species. Although not commonly considered among the popular beliefs, a third possibility is that they may be color changes occurring in individuals within the population.

Scientists and fishermen are alike in certain ways. Neither of them likes mysteries when it comes to understanding the target of their pursuits and passions. So the two disciplines came together to take closer look at this one. Recently, a study was begun, based on the hypothesis that the cause of the color and pattern differences in *C. temensis* variants is a change within individuals and is related to spawning or seasonal cycles. This hypothesis resulted from a decade of field observations of *C. temensis* in Amazonia from the perspective of a fisherman. Specimens are commonly encountered showing characteristics intermediate between the extremes of the variation, indicating a possible gradual change (see the illustration).

Specimens of the 3-barred variant are not observed at a size smaller than that associated with sexually mature individuals capable of spawning (approximately 1 kilogram, 320 mm). Observations of nests, spawning sites and fry-guarding parents have not demonstrated specimens of the speckled variant engaged in spawning or rearing activity. Additionally, color changes related to spawning behavior have been found in other species of the family Cichlidae, as well as other fishes.

The hypothesis was tested by examining the gonad maturity of 100 specimens displaying the full range of color and pattern variability shown in the illustration. The results showed clear correlation between the color and pattern gradient and the level of gonad maturity. In simple terms, the more "Açu-like" a specimen, the closer it was to spawning condition. The more "Paca-like" a specimen, the less ready it was to spawn. This provides clear evidence that the color and pattern variants shown in the illustration at left are simply peacocks changing their clothes. Just like us, they put on their finest outfit when it's time to meet the other sex.

The analysis will be repeated in other fisheries to further confirm the findings. As the results are fully analyzed, it is expected that a paper will be written describing and explaining the conclusions in greater detail. We'll make it available to our anglers on the Acute Angling website in the Science and Conservation section.

This important new information has become available as the direct result of the generous contributions Acute Angling's clients have been making to IGFA's sportfishing research fund. Please keep the help coming and send a contribution. See page 6 for more information.



Level 1 - Açu
Full, bright gold color. Upper fins with distinct blue cast. Lower fins bright red. Black bars dominate. Spots essentially gone. Gill cover pattern sharp and distinct.



Level 2 - 3/4 Açu
Mostly gold/brass color. Upper fins with blue tinge. Lower fins bright red. Black bars becoming dominant. Spots still visible, but fading. Gill cover pattern clear.



Level 3 - 1/2 Açu
Significant gold/brass color mixing with darker brown. Upper fins grey. Lower fins dark red. Black bars equal in prominence to spots. Gill cover pattern emerging.



Level 4 - 1/4 Açu
Gold/brass color beginning to appear. Upper fins dark. Lower fins very dark red. Black bars faint in relation to spots. Gill cover pattern mostly blended.



Level 5 - Paca
Gold/brass color essentially absent. Upper fins dark. Lower fins dark brown/red. Black bars faint in relation to spots. Gill cover pattern well-hidden.

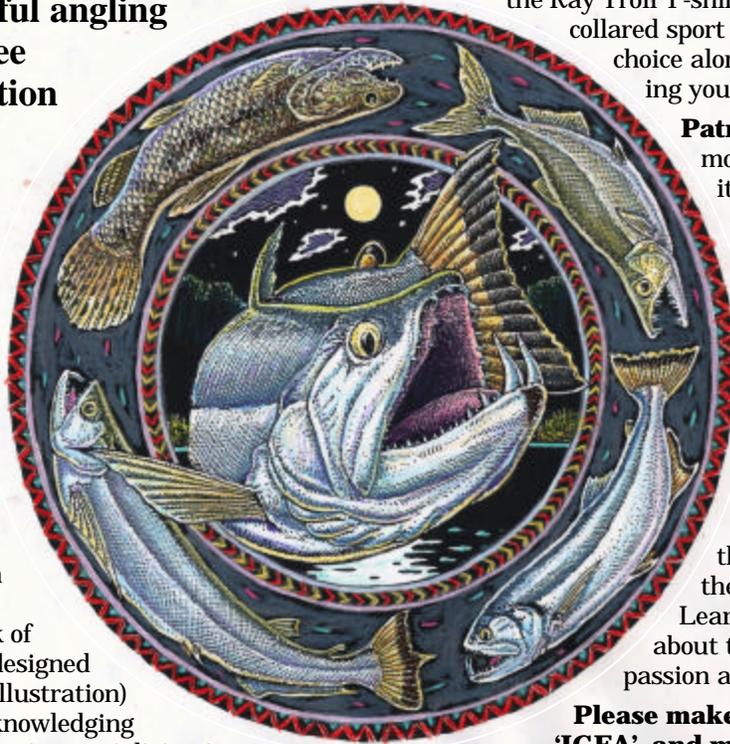
2006 Research Fund Drive

Receive Great, One-of-a-Kind, Donor Premiums

Help science, help sportfishing and help yourself to a beautiful angling gift. Make a tax-free charitable contribution and receive these unique premiums with our thanks;

Donor – Any contribution. - Receive a certificate suitable for framing, honoring your contribution to the improvement of sportfishing knowledge and conservation, plus a validated receipt for your tax-exempt contribution.

Helper—Any contribution of \$75 or more - Receive a unique T-shirt with a work of art by Ray Troll specially designed for Projeto Pirandira (see illustration) along with a certificate acknowledging your help. Ray is a noted artist specializing in Sportfish; www.trollart.com. Wear it with pride.



Supporter – Any contribution of \$150 or more - Receive the Ray Troll T-shirt and a beautiful Acute Angling collared sport shirt in the size and color of your choice along with a certificate acknowledging your support.

Patron – Any contribution of \$500 or more. - Receive all of the above items and receive a beautiful, signed print of the original Ray Troll "Projeto Pirandira" work, created specifically for this sportfishing fund-raising effort.

Collaborator – Any contribution of \$1000 or more. - A day of Ichthyology study with Dr. Paulo Petry. Make your way to either the Harvard Museum in Boston, The Tropical Hotel in Manaus, Brazil or meet him in the field and spend a day studying the science of fishes with Dr. Petry. Learn more than you can imagine about the subject of your sportfishing passion and help better the sport.

Please make your donation check out to; 'IGFA' and mail it to; - Acute Angling 9 Powelson Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844

New - Uraima Falls Super-Economy Trip

A Great Package Deal for Giant Payara on a Budget!

Lately, trip prices have been grinding their way inexorably upward. Gasoline prices keep rising, charter air prices are going through the roof and the dollar is steadily sinking against South American currencies. So here's a pleasant, unexpected surprise. An amazing bargain offer for one of the world's most famous fisheries, Uraima Falls, Venezuela.

Acute Angling, in cooperation with the owners of Uraima Falls, has put together a package designed to avoid the worst of the rising cost factors and to provide our anglers with a special opportunity. **A payara fishing trip to Uraima Falls for \$1750!**

Here's how we did it. Every aspect of the fishing and accommodations remains intact. We've made no changes in the superb service, the excellent guides or the comfortable jungle elegance of the lodge. Instead, we attacked the logistical costs. First, we've eliminated the charter flight. Sure, it takes a little more effort to get there, 2½ hours by van and then 2½ hours by speedboat, but we've eliminated the single biggest component of



the cost. Then, we went after the high priced hotels and transfers in Caracas. They are no longer a cost factor, because the land and water itinerary we've configured allows us to get out of Caracas and into La Paragua (a small town near the lodge) all in one day, thus avoiding the Hiltons and Sheratons and taxi cabs and all that expensive hassle.

By the afternoon of the second day, you're on the river, challenging the world's biggest payara. After two more full days and a half day of fishing on day five, we reverse the process and have you connecting with your international flight home on day six. Fast, simple and cheap!

Put it together with relatively inexpensive international flights and the ability to get it done in a single week and you've got a great deal. If you've been dreaming of a chance at a world-record payara, then don't miss this incredible opportunity to do it on a shoe-string. This package is offered from December through May. Please call us, toll-free, at 866 832-2987 for availability.

New Pantanal Dorado Schedule for '2006

WE'RE HEADING BACK TO THE WORLD'S LARGEST WETLAND TO PURSUE GOLDEN DORADO, BIG CATFISH AND MORE

Last year's Pantanal exploratory was a great fishing success, in spite of a blast of unexpected Antarctic

weather. Once we passed through the unseasonable freeze and figured out the region's patterns, we caught fish by the bucketload. So we're going back in 2006. This time, earlier (at the end of the region's summer) to avoid any weather surprises and be better prepared to get on the fish right away. We'll be operating from our beautiful, comfortable houseboat, Santa Lucia for three weeks during late March and early April. If you're looking for a unique experience, great fishing, comfortable accommodations and a spectacular natural environment, then this is a trip you won't want to miss.

Variety is one of the Pantanal's great attractions. Our anglers have a whole cornucopia of exotic fish to catch including piraputanga, piavucu, biara, pacu, jau, big piranha and many more. The fighting stars of the region include;



Dorado - The most famous of the Pantanal's fish denizens and the primary object of our pursuit. An exceptionally strong swimmer and jumper, do-



rado typically range from 5 to 15 lbs, although twenty plus pound trophies can be common at the right time and place.

Their arm-wrenching strike is a testament to their aggressiveness and ferocity. As soon as you set the hook, these wild leapers explode out of the water in a series of outrageous jumps, making them a fisherman's delight.

Suribim - These highly sought after catfish are unusual in their affinity for open water. They are powerful fighters and will occasionally heave their big streamlined bodies completely out of the water. Reaching sizes in excess of 75 lbs. for Cachara and over 100 for Pin-

tado, these are definitely catfish of a different whisker.

Pirapitinga - These broad shouldered brawlers can grow over twenty pounds and use their wide flat bodies to great advantage in the Pantanal's flowing waters.

We'll encounter all of these great fish and more on our 2006 Pantanal variety trips. Santa Lucia accommodates 8 anglers per week. Price per angler is \$3250, double occupancy. Departure dates will be **March 20th, March 27th and April 3rd, 2006**. Call to reserve your space or for more information.



AMAZON TIDBITS - NEWS FROM THE RIVER

Even more amazing than the amazing fishes of the Amazon, is the amount of rumor and gossip generated about it. This column will appear from time to time in an effort to report actual news before it evolves into wildly inexplicable fiction.

Rico Floatplane Flips - One of Rico Airline's new Cessna Caravan Floatplanes, carrying only the pilot and copilot on a routine charter flight, attempted a normal water landing on a Rio Negro tributary. Unfortunately, the crew may have forgotten to retract the ground landing gear. After touching down on the water, the shiny new airplane flipped over its nose and ended-up upside down in the water. No one was injured. The airplane, however, loaded with expensive, high tech electronics, won't be flying again anytime soon. That leaves only one Caravan floatplane serving a great number of operations. The impact of this unfortunate event will be felt in longer delays for anglers arriving and leaving from remote camps. No word as yet when another airplane will be available. You may need to be very patient while waiting to get to camp on your next trip.

Fishing and the Amazon Drought - The extreme Amazon drought has severely impacted the health and well-being of peo-

ple along the main stem of the Amazon, the southern Amazon basin and its major tributaries. Surprisingly, it has, as yet, not had a very significant effect on the fishing. As the primary areas for peacock fishing move north with the season, almost all of the northern tributaries as well as the upper Rio Negro remain at essentially normal levels. Right now, the fishing is very good. If rains begin arriving at their normal time and intensity to the south, it is expected that the northern regions will experience very little change and no negative impact in their normal fishing pattern. We will, of course, be monitoring the conditions and we'll keep you posted on any changes that may occur.

Barbara Silva joins Acute Angling. - If you've fished here before, you've probably met Barbara. Formerly the primary bilingual staff member of Loyd Aero Boliviano's Manaus airport team, Barbara, as you might imagine, has had a lot of experience working with American anglers. Barbara is currently training as a camp host and will be present and available to help our anglers at many of Acute Angling's upcoming locations. A resident of Manaus and of Guyanese/Brazilian descent, Barbara speaks excellent English. We welcome her to our team.

'2005/6 Featured Trip Schedule

PEACOCK BASS - Fall 2005 - Our Last Remaining Openings for 2005

Lagos Romeros - Houseboat Trip - Rio Branco Lagoons - Peacock Bass & Variety

7 Various Dates Dec. '05 6 full days Wellington R. Xeriuiini \$2800 - 4 openings

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

Thanksgiving Holiday - Lodge Trip - Xeriuiini River - Air-conditioned Comfort

8 Nov. 16, 2005 Nov. 25 6 full days Wellington R. Xeriuiini \$2500 - 2 openings

A unique, 'one-of-a-kind' bargain. Luxurious Macaroca lodge, and rustic Posao lodge, both located on the beautiful Xeriuiini 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!

9 Nov. 23, 2005 Dec. 2 6 full days Wellington R. Xeriuiini \$2500 - 1 opening -

TROPHY PEACOCK BASS TRIPS - Winter 2006 Air-Conditioned Lodge

Winter 2006 - Rio Xeriuiini - Protected Clear Water Fishery in Northern Brazil

14 Jan. 4, 2006 Jan. 13 6 full days Wellington 2 Lodges \$3200 - open -

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.

16 Jan. 11, 2006 Jan. 20 6 full days Wellington 2 Lodges \$3200 - 2 openings

Winter 2006 - Fly-in, Rio Tapera - Amazonia's most beautiful Peacock River

17 Feb. 3, 2006 Feb. 12 6 full days Paul Reiss Roraima \$3650 - FULL -

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.

18 Feb. 10, 2006 Feb. 19 6 full days Paul Reiss Roraima \$3650 - 2 openings

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

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Wild & Beautiful Waters - Fish for record-class payara, pirapitinga, giant catfish & more								
19	Jan. 11, 2006	Jan. 20	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Urariquera	\$3650	- FULL -	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.
20	Jan. 18, 2006	Jan. 27	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Urariquera	\$3650	- FULL -	
21	Jan. 25, 2006	Feb. 3	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Urariquera	\$3650	- 2 openings	
26	Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 8, 15 & 22	9 days	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Urariquera	\$3650	- Openings -	

PANTANAL VARIETY TRIP - Spring 2006 - Houseboat Santa Lucia

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability	Description
World's Largest Wetland - Fish for golden dorado, suribim, pirapitinga, & more								
27	Mar. 20, 2006	Mar. 29	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Pantanal	\$3250	- open -	Brazil's amazing Pantanal is the world's largest fish nursery. Hundreds of species of freshwater fish call this beautiful, giant marsh home. We'll be steaming along behind the best fighters among them on our comfortable, air-conditioned houseboat, Santa Lucia. Powerful, leaping golden dorado will head our list, with big surubim catfish, brawny pirapitinga and a host of others providing exciting backup. Come and see one of Brazil's most beautiful and fish-laden places.
28	Mar. 27, 2006	April 5	6 full days	Paul Reiss	Pantanal	\$3250	- open -	
29	April 3, 2006	April 12	6 full days	Wellington	Pantanal	\$3250	- open -	

PEACOCK BASS YACHT TRIPS - Fall 2006 - Best Value in the Amazon

#	Depart	Return	Fishing	Host	Location	Price	Availability	Description
Amazon Angel Yacht Trip - Comfort and Mobility - Igapo Acu Reservation								
1	Sept. 20, 2006	Sept. 29	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Igapo Acu	\$2950	- open -	Our most popular trip and a perfect introduction to peacock bass fishing. 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 is an exclusive access, sportfishing-only region.
2	Sept. 27, 2006	Oct. 6	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Igapo Acu	\$2950	- 6 openings	
3	Oct. 4, 2006	Oct. 13	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Igapo Acu	\$2950	- open -	
4	Oct. 11, 2006	Oct. 20	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Igapo Acu	\$2950	- 4 openings	
5	Oct. 18, 2006	Oct. 27	6 full days	Barbra Silva	Igapo Acu	\$2950	- open -	

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

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