



Stalking Browns, New Zealand



IN THIS ISSUE:

- AMAZING GT HUNTING – BEST GT FISHERIES?
- APPRECIATION FOR THE PART AND HINCKLEY REPORTS
- THE PART REPORT – NEW ZEALAND
- PURSUING PERMIT – TWO BELIZE RISING TIDE REPORTS
- WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES
- NOVEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

We are in the fifteenth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the great fly fishing venues, trip reports and insights for our traveling fly fishers. We've been to most locations and pride ourselves on our ability to research new destinations. Whatever unbiased information on timing and locations we can provide comes at the same cost to you as booking direct – i.e., NO EXTRA COST.

AMAZING GT HUNTING



If you've done a lot of fly rod hunting for GT's, you know they are among the most aggressive feeders of all the finned hunters. Watching a 40-50# GT charge your fly or popper in three feet of water is one of fly fishing's greatest thrills. However, eating birds flying a few feet above the surface gives "aggressive" an entirely new definition.



These photos are just two of the frames from an amazing new video made by the BBC. It is just two minutes in length, but it has hour's worth of exciting GT shots. If you'd like to see the entire two minute video, it is available through this YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h4pxLHG0Wzs> Makes me think that my GT flies would be more effective if they had large wings on them.

BEST GT FISHERIES?



Are there still some outstanding GT fisheries in the Pacific or Indian Oceans remaining to be discovered? Maybe. However, in today's world, there may be very little to be found that is still "new." From personal experience two of the world's great GT fisheries are pictured in these two photos. At left is a large GT from the sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois in the Seychelles. At right, is Herle Hamon with a GT



from the Ningaloo Reef in the far corner of NW Australia (also a great place to take Pacific Permit). I've had memorable experiences in both locations, but my last trip in March to the Ningaloo provided an incredible series of GT stalking experiences in the shallows inside the reef.

APPRECIATION FOR THE PART AND HINCKLEY REPORTS

Our newsletter is fortunate to have personal trip reports from flyfishers with varying degrees of angling experience: from novices to experienced “experts” who have passed the tests of time and acquired a vast array of incredible memories and knowledge very few of us can relate to. For trophy trout (John Part) and the ever-challenging permit (Art Hinckley), these two gentlemen each bring us reports a few times a year relating the realities and thrills of their angling efforts in pursuit of their specific trophy species. Even for them, the challenge of taking trophies does not always work out well – it is the nature of pursuing the special fish (high risk – high reward!). For example, Art Hinckley recently had a permit week without releasing a fish – tough conditions were part of this week, but also the fickle nature of the species and some poor luck.

We’d like to extend an enthusiastic “tip of the hat” and thank you to these two gentlemen for their informative and interesting contributions to the newsletter. They bring us a perspective that can only be obtained by many years of both outstanding angling success and enduring the frustrations of pursuing our sports top challenges.

THE PART REPORT – NEW ZEALAND



Twice a year, we are proud to bring to our newsletter THE PART REPORT on New Zealand. The report below is written by John Part who, for the past 15 years, has been a twice-a-year visitor to New Zealand. He is an outstanding trout angler who has a passion for stalking brown trout in NZ. He brings a sense of reality to his descriptions of stalking the trophy browns of New Zealand. John has achieved a degree of notoriety by releasing over 60 browns that weighed in excess of ten pounds from his NZ adventures. At left, John (without hat) with a nice brown from this years trip.

THE PART REPORT: “This was probably one of my more successful trips to fish the Northern part of New Zealand’s South Island, given the very tough fishing conditions and weather we encountered. Eleven days’ fishing for 91 brown trout. The biggest was just over 10 pounds, but in truth was a rather ratty specimen that would have gone easily 14 or 15 pounds in his best condition. There were another seven fish over 8 pounds.

What sets this fishery and my guide apart among even the best brown trout fishing is the consistency of opportunity in the face of poor weather and water conditions. This October the weather see-sawed. There were day after day of grey skies and cold southerly winds, and one night of torrential rain that turned most rivers unfishable, but curiously left untouched others in neighboring valleys..... One day of dour light Scott had me wading up a hundred yard stretch under some overhanging trees. He found seven nice fish lying near the bank, feeding well. We got six of them and I stuffed up the seventh. My only job was to stop them running upstream to alert the others. That stretch looked much like a dozen others, but it was special.....” If you want to read John’s complete report, click on this link: [THE PART REPORT - OCT '17](#) Note: the particular NZ guide referenced in this Part Report was the subject of a newsletter article about fishing in “blown out” conditions in our special [New Zealand - Ningaloo Reef Report](#) earlier this year. While the top guides in NZ can find water to fish in almost any conditions, the article in this report details a dramatic example of this guide having productive days under terrible conditions.

PURSUING PERMIT – TWO BELIZE RISING TIDE REPORTS



Stalking tailing permit on shallow flats is a great fly rod challenge and enjoying success provides our sports top thrill. Usually, success is hard-earned and associated with a lot of frustration. There is no better place on the planet to get numbers of permit shots than the shallow flats visited by the floating lodge, the Rising Tide, in the central part of Belize. Don Armstrong (left) was on his second Rising Tide trip accompanied by friend, Mark Cooper, who was taking his first mothership trip in Belize. From first timer Mark on his experience: “Belize was great. The accommodations aboard the Rising Tide and the versatility that it provides were very impressive. I didn’t have the good fortune of landing a Permit, but did hook one and had shots at others. I would definitely recommend this trip to others, especially those who want a trip more focused on Permit, but with options to do other things if needed. The hospitality of the staff/guides was fantastic.”

Don is becoming a regular contributor to our newsletter with his concise reports on his globe-hopping fly fishing adventures. He was able to add three permit to his total on this September trip. Don's comments: "The Rising Tide is comfortable, the food good, and great crew/guides. The best thing is being able to try different places away from all the other operations in Belize."

While Don is relatively new at the Rising Tide experience, Art Hinckley (right with a 16 pounder from his recent trip) has been doing two trips a year for more than ten years – one trip in the early spring and the other in the late summer-early fall. Dennis Banks is a regular partner of Art's and they are always joined by a third permit chasing friend – this trip it was Chuck Jeannes on his third trip with them. Dennis has released a total of 64 permit and Art is at 121. Chuck took three fish on this trip and now has a total of six.



Art always puts together a report on their trips which details each days activity and where they fished, also tracking the movement and different anchorages of the Rising Tide. Below, as a sampler of the complete report, are some excerpts from their recent trip report.....if you'd like to see the entire report, the link is below.

"The guides were all great as usual and Radiance did a great job in the kitchen and on the boat. Overall, the fishing was extremely slow so we were happy to catch 11 permit....."

Day 2 - Beautiful weather at Sand Fly with 5-10 E wind. I got one 16 lbs while wading early morning and got a couple more good shots with no luck. Neither Dennis or Chuck got very many shots, but Dennis had one eat his fly without hooking up. Late afternoon we moved to Blue Grounds.

Day 3 - Beautiful weather at Blue Grounds with 5-15 E wind changing to NW and then to NE late afternoon. I got one 10 lbs early morning while wading and then didn't get another decent shot until about 5 pm. Dennis only got a couple good shots. Chuck got around 15 good shots with no luck.

Day 4 - Started out partly cloudy with 10-15 W wind then turned calm mid morning and ended with 10 E wind in the afternoon. I caught two, 7 lbs early morning while wading and one a little smaller mid morning from the boat. I only got 4 more shots the rest of the day for a total of 6 shots. Chuck also got two about the same size as my two and only had 3 shots all day. Dennis with Dean had 5 shots with no luck. Late afternoon we moved back to Sand Fly."

Link to Art's complete report: [Permit Trip Report - Art Hinckley](#)

WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we can provide reliable information regarding the experience and how to prepare for your visit: [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

NOVEMBER MEMORY PHOTO

Art Hinckley is best known for his permit exploits, but this fall, he found time to take this colorful Cutthroat highlighted by some beautiful Montana Autumn colors.....nice photo!



An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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