



CAPTAIN DEAN HEALTH UPDATE AND BELIZE TRIP REPORT

Captain Dean Update



From Belize - most likely, you are aware that the Rising Tide Captain, Dean Myers (at left), has been dealing with severely infected wounds on his lower legs (www.flyfishbelize.com). This situation began almost two years ago and has been evolving. In November of 2022, he spent a month at a Cancun hospital for treatment. It appeared that he was healing and so began the 2023 season with high hopes. However, as the first half of 2023 unfolded, the wounds began to get worse to the point that he was unable to guide. A wound specialist was located who practiced in three different Central American countries. In June, he entered a special six week in-clinic program where he received 4 or 5 hours of treatment a day. He recently completed the intense six week program and the infections have been contained and he's returned home.

The healing process is continuing and seems to be progressing well. As soon as he is completely healed and able to move forward with his usual maintenance program with the Rising Tide and to be on the water guiding as normal, we will begin taking bookings for the Rising Tide. We anticipate it will be another two months before his condition reaches that point. Look for more updates as we move along.

The Belize Catamaran Mothership?

Our son, Scott, and I had a Rising Tide trip booked for the last week of July. Obviously, with Captain Dean's treatment program, that wasn't going to happen. However, Scott has a very tight schedule and the only dates available for him to travel were the last week of July so we began looking at options. We love living on the water in Belize (been doing it together for over 35 years) and using a mothership as our home base while we explore the varied flats for tarpon, permit, snook, bones, etc etc. So we decided to try something different and chartered a 50' Catamaran which came with a captain and cook. We brought along our own pair of guides – these were guides we knew well from our many years of fishing with them while on the Rising Tide.



When it comes to preferred species, Scott's passion and mine differ. He is a passionate tarpon (above right) addict while I'm fully committed to taking 100 permit (at left) by time I'm 85 years old. The mothership approach allowed each of us the flexibility to fish in the areas that were most productive for our preferred target fish. This did involve one of us each day taking longer boat rides than normal in the past when using the Rising Tide. With the ability to move our home base daily, it worked out fine. However, as conditions unfolded during our week, tides and winds were more

favorable for tarpon – we had the worst possible west winds which blew the water off our favorite permit flats making finding fish difficult. Below is a report on the tarpon and permit results.

Tarpon



Conditions for Scott's tarpon fishing were good with low tides helping pull "baby" tarpon (10 to 30# fish) out from the mangroves and making them more available. He had a week with lots of activity, having more than 25 tarpon eat his fly, almost all sight casting. Mixed in with the "baby t." were some large fish up to one of approximately 120# that was on for 45 minutes before pulling free.



The fish in the series of photos below was taken sight fishing on a long-time favorite tarpon flat:



Permit and the Catamaran



Why is the small permit at left worthy of a photo? For me, it was a significant fish because it was my 75th permit released and it was taken in the last hour of our last day. As referenced earlier, permit conditions were tough, but there were special moments with tailing fish on the flats. There were some "eats" and getting to #75 was my goal for the trip. I'm fortunate enough to have released many permit of 15 to 25+ pounds at the Ningaloo Reef in Australia, Cuba, Mexico, and mostly in Belize, but this little one has a special place in my memories. Incidental fish taken included bonefish (taken from a school of permit!), snook, and a collection of mangrove snappers.

Living on the water using the catamaran was a good experience. While not as roomy as the Rising Tide, it was very comfortable. It carried sea kayaks and paddleboards for extra activities. Most surprising is that it had 4 smallish queen-sized beds – photos below, left to right: bedrooms were tucked into the pontoons; cook and meals were outstanding.



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