

GASPE REPORT: DON POWELL

Ann runs a remarkably diverse service that can be individually tailored to client/group needs- she has assisted me tremendously in becoming familiar with the treasure available on the rivers of the Gaspé. I shall be making my third trip in June shortly and my fourth trip overall (I went last September also).

The season runs from the first day in June to the last day in September on the York, Dartmouth and St. Jean which are the rivers I have fished. Sight fishing is beyond belief for those who have not experienced it in the gin-clear waters of these rivers. Classic dry line wet fly swing is the normal approach with a single hand rod since the rivers are 40-70 feet wide. Anglers use Spey rods, but they are not necessary and in fact make landing fish difficult in some of the brushy limestone canyon beats. The guides know this water intimately- all live in the area and have fished these rivers exhaustively. They are enthusiastic, helpful and will fish from daybreak to sunset without regard to a set number of hours fishing day. If you want to get back for dinner by 7:00 PM you better make that clear to them! Success rates can be high depending on conditions and angler skill- I have been fortunate enough to hook 9 multi-sea winter adults and four grilse of which I was able to land six adults and two grilse in 14 days of fishing these waters. Largest = 45" snout to fork of tail, 32 pounds, runner-up = 39 1/2", 23 pounds. Peruse the current issue of Fish and Fly to view the beauty Pete Soverel took on a Bomber the day after I left last June! Only negatives: 1) some clients may be uncomfortable in a bilingual situation although virtually all the locals do speak English; 2) Air fare can be quite expensive.

Hope that helps- I highly recommend going to experience it yourself...each time I go I run into members in the Who's Who of the fly fishing world. Believe me, these folks wouldn't be there if it wasn't something very special. I believe the average angler just doesn't know this type opportunity exists for such a reasonable price.

Don

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