

## AGUA BOA AMAZON HOUSEBOAT REPORT - RICH HOSLEY

Here is a summary highlight of my trip to the Aqua Boa.

Good group of guys. With the exception of Rex and Herb, we were all strangers yet the chemistry worked very well. Egos and personal idiosyncrasies were subordinated to the greater good of the group and I think we genuinely enjoyed each other. Pretty amazing when one thinks that it was six plus days together on a houseboat.

The houseboat was a great place to headquarter, about 50 miles upriver from the lodge and isolated. Both the fishing and the food were excellent.  
Lots of fish, 45-60/rod per day.

Jeff and I partnered for the week, fishing together every day except for one. We did fine as long as I didn't show up late in the morning or generally slow him down. Actually, I matched him cast for cast all week and was thankful for a 68 y.o. body that allowed me to participate that fully. Only took Ibuprofen for the first two days.

Biggest fish for me was 14#. Herb had the biggest at 18#. I probably had 4 double-digit fish all week. Maybe two dozen in the 6-9# range. Actually my biggest catch was a 60" caiman which I purposely hooked (snagged) at the urging of my guide. A 20 minute struggle ensued with me prevailing.

Next time I would modify my tackle. I fished my 9 wt. with a sinktip 80% of the time and considered it perfect. Even the 3# fish put a pretty good bend in it. I broke off fish on 20# tippet immediately and found myself, along with most of the other guys tying on 30# hard mono straight to my flyline. Even broke off large fish on 30#. Jeff brought his 10wt. and used it in one of the lagoons where the big boys frequented.

The term "combat fishing" was coined to characterize our week. It was "us" against "them." I went through 3 1/2 dozen flies with most of them being reduced to mere shreds of their original profiles (see attachment) and actually was bumming flies the last day. My original 26' sinktip had been "shortened" to 3' by the last day due to five piranha attacks. I borrowed a loop-to-loop sink tip from Jerry and made a loop in the 3' remnant of my line to enable me to keep fishing the last day.

It was definitely the "toothiest" piscatorial environment I have ever been in.

Best regards, Rich Hosley

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