



Stalking tailing permit, Belize



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THE FRAILTIES OF SALT WATER FLY FISHING



Your guide quietly says, “tarpon at 1:00, 80 feet away, coming slowly.” Your eyes take a few seconds to sort out his message and you see the target – a tarpon of about 50#’s slowing swimming directly at you (at left). It’s easy to understand the excitement of sight fishing and hunting trophy fish in saltwater. It may be bonefish, permit with tails waving in the air, snook on the edge of the mangroves, or a large barracuda slowly cruising a flat. How special are those experiences? However, what is seldom written about is how fragile are those opportunities. Sight fishing on shallow salt water flats is dependent on conditions being right. Low pressure systems, heavy cloud cover, exceptionally high winds are just some of the disruptions to the joy and excitement of salt water fly fishing, either keeping fish off the flats or making fish hard to see.....and because it’s all about the electricity caused by stalking sighted fish, uncooperative conditions diminish the experience.

With over 40 years experience fishing the salt flats, there is a philosophy I have adopted about conditions and their impact on what constitutes a “good trip” while fishing in the tropics. During a week-long trip, with six full days of fishing, I consider it a “good trip” with 2 – 2 – 2:

- Two days with marginal or just OK conditions
- Two days with great conditions
- Two days with poor conditions

This month’s newsletter is devoted primarily to reporting on some world-class salt water flats fishing experiences. However, in many cases, poor conditions impacted the experience for at least part of these trips – that’s the realities (or frailties) of salt water flats fishing!

SPECIAL TIME IN THE SEYCHELLES – A REPORT

Often, when anglers think of the Seychelles, the focus is on the sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois. However, over the last several years, some of the outer atolls have been developed and have exciting fisheries, especially for GT’s. Josh Luft Glidden (at right with GT) visited Cosmoledo, one of those outer islands. This is Josh’s report:



“Cosmoledo was a great experience and I'm glad I went. However, it was a bit of a mixed bag in terms of the fishing. Two and a half days were a wash due to marginal weather (solid overcast, heavy rain squalls, and high winds). The others were a bit slow, but I still managed to land some good fish. The final tally was 7 Giant Trevally (GT's), 3 nice Bonefish, 1 big Yellowmargin Triggerfish, 1 Bluefin Trevally, and 1 Grouper. The Bonefish on lighter rods and tippet were particularly fun to catch. The guides were all super cool. The accommodations were great. All of the cabins were air conditioned. That was key in the Seychelles heat. All of the food and cocktails were fantastic.”

Below: Great photos - Bones and GT's



DANA AND JOHN LANDIS PHOTO ESSAY REPORT FROM THE BAHAMAS

There are many rustic bonefish lodges in the Bahamas, but rustic would not describe the high-end Andros Island lodge visited by Dana and John Landis twice in the last 6 months. The fishing, plus the ambiance and cuisine at this lodge, was so attractive they returned four months later with good friends and traveling companions, Annette and Rob Pizzie. Thanks for their submission of another “Landis’ Photo Essay.”

Below, l to r: some nice bones – are Dana’s fish really that much larger than John’s?



Below, l to r: on their return trip, Dana and John were joined by Annette and Rob. The four of them have had fun together around the globe, from the Seychelles to New Zealand (note: Rob does not always suck his thumb during dinner). The lodge is a top Bahamian lodge with an ideal Andros Island location. Dana and John enjoy a pre-dinner drink together.



Below, l to r: the first half of their second trip with the Pizzie's included poor conditions which kept bonefish off the flats. There were back-up options that included other species like barracuda, snappers, and even a trigger fish.



NEW ZEALAND – CONSIDERING THE OPTIONS

NZ travelers each have their own, individual, trip expectations. The options are many.....from family trips to hard core fishing, to couples trips blending world class fly fishing with the finest touring opportunities.....there are various approaches to planning a NZ adventure. With 20 years of personal NZ trips for my wife and I, plus helping assemble itineraries for over 100 NZ travelers, we do know a few things about the options and decisions involved in putting together the perfect trip to match expectations. In our next newsletter, we will explore the possibilities.

BELIZE – RISING TIDE UPDATE

Our family has used a mothership to access the great variety fishery that is Belize since the late 80's - when our kids were in their early teens. In that time, we've done this trip over 80 times so have a thorough understanding of the fishery and the most productive way to fish it. From the variety fishery in the north (bonefish, tarpon, snook, jacks, barracuda, etc) to the world class permit fishery in the central portion of the country, living on the protected waters inside the barrier reef has provided us 1000's of exciting memories. Many of those memories, separate from the fishing opportunity, come from just being together in a beautiful, tropical marine environment.

For over half of those 35+ years, we've been with Captain Dean Myers and his lovely wife and extraordinary cook, Georgia (Georgia at right in her updated kitchen with new fridge/freezer and new stove). The mothership, Rising Tide, has recently had a remodel with the new kitchen, fresh paint, updated toilets and AC machinery, and in process are new drapes and furniture re-coverings (note: "in process" as of my trip).

If you'd like to see an update on what's new with the Rising Tide in Belize, click on this link for a report from our recent trip: [Rising Tide - Trip Report](#)



DISCOUNTED WEEKS – RISING TIDE

The year of 2024 has been lightly booked due to Captain Dean's health issues of 2023. Now that he is fully operational, he is anxious to fill the following weeks and is extending a 20% discount for any bookings for these weeks.

6/14 – 21
7/12 – 19
8/11 – 18
9/15 – 22
10/6 – 13
10/25 – 11/1



11/24 – 12/1

12/2 – 9

For the details and pricing on the tropical marine adventure with the Rising Tide, this is the website:

<https://www.flyfishingadventures.org/belize>

SOME DOWNSIDE IN AUSTRALIA



tarpon-like.”

During the last several years, this newsletter has carried many exciting trip reports from Australia, primarily from the Ningaloo Reef area. This year, mostly we have reports about poor conditions.

John Pound was making his first trip to the Ningaloo Reef. He reports that the “fishing was tough.” An offshore cyclone hit just as he arrived.....water was rough and the fish difficult to see. Fortunately, he was able to take a nice Queen Fish (at left), a golden trevally, and two blue trevally. The queen fish is one of the great sport fish available here.....with their aerial antics and boney mouth, think “baby



Personally, I was making my 8th trip to Australia. During that time, I’ve experienced some of the most exciting trips of my fishing lifetime with many unique and thrilling moments with GT’s, permit, golden trevally, large sharks, queen fish, etc. However, this year, the fishing gods had me pay my dues. I visited the east coast to sample that area for my first time. I hit record rainfall – one day actually had over 30 inches of rain! My guide tried everything he could, but it just wasn’t meant to happen. Then on to Exmouth and the Ningaloo Reef in the far north west corner of Australia. Although dry, tough conditions plagued me. My highlight was the permit at right.

WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, it lists the destinations around the world where we can provide reliable information and help you prepare for your trip: [Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)

MAY MEMORY PHOTO



Experienced salt water fly fisher, Glen Prichett, created a rewarding memory by taking his first double digit bonefish in the Bahamas!

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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