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We are in the fourteenth 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.

#### FROM 25% TO 75% ON HOOK-UPS WHILE NYMPHING

I've always preferred fishing the dry fly when sight fishing for trophy trout. I like watching the fish turn on the fly and that nose stick up! Another reason I prefer dry flies is I used to be awful at getting the hook set when that strike indicator went down. All my guides would tell me "you've got to be fast with nymphs or the fish spits the fly." So.....I knew that and I only had to get the point of the hook to move about 1/4 inch to get it set. Still.....until about five years ago, I must have been one of the world's worst nymph fisherman. It was comical how few times I would get a hook-up when the indicator above my nymph went down.

Something changed about five years ago. I quit raising the rod straight up when the indicator went down. Instead, I figured out (with the help of some of the excellent New Zealand guides) the fastest way to get the hook point to move that 1/4 inch. Now, when the nymph is floating into the strike zone, my mind is focusing on one thing – 'if that indicator goes down, which way am I moving the rod tip'? The answer is 'I'm moving it whichever direction that will get the fastest response at the end of the leader where the fly is'. That direction is determined by where I can use the friction of the water on the fly line to get instant response at the end of the line. For example, if the portion of fly line that is laying on the water has a slight bend to the left, I am moving my rod tip to the right the moment that indicator moves. Visa-versa if the bend in the line is aiming to the right – in that case, my rod tip is moving as fast as possible to the left. This approach gets a much faster response from the end of the line than the old traditional dry fly set of raising the rod which has a longer delay in getting the end of the line to move.



Now, I do get the hook set a solid 75%++ of the time on nymph eats. I still prefer to watch that nose come up and suck in the dry fly, but I no longer feel so inadequate when the conditions dictate that using a nymph is going to be most productive.

#### REPORT: FIRST TIME IN NEW ZEALAND

Didi Toaspern combined six days of fishing with touring and hiking to make her first NZ experience a memorable trip. She is a seasoned trout angler and, in her words, had "fishing days of a lifetime."

Didi put together a comprehensive report on her fishing ventures and it is available, in it's entirety, by clicking on the link below. What follows are some brief excerpts from that report.

“Fly fishing the rivers of New Zealand is a study in contrasts: the predictable and the unexpected, the frustrating and the exhilarating, nymphs and dries, blue sky, crystal water days and cloudy days with brown, raging rivers. I experienced both such days and each was truly memorable.”

“I had already fished 2 days with our first guide and it was clear why he is one of New Zealand’s top guides! We landed at least 10 fish each day and a number of these had been in the 3 to 4 pound range -- all beautiful healthy browns.”

“By the evening before my last day fishing with him, the rain began coming down in buckets, and it continued through the night! The next morning the river by the lodge was a chocolate-colored torrent. At breakfast I was thoroughly prepared to hear that everything was blown-out and fishing impossible. This man knew his rivers.”



“Even with the river high and brown, it was fishable. Right off he spotted a nice fish holding in the shallow water close to shore. I thought I’d seen him too and after a few tries sent the nymph where he directed. Maybe it was the tension of not knowing if and when we’d see another fish, but I was keyed up. I set the hook on an ‘imagined take’ and spooked the fish – not a great way to start the day.....”

To see Didi’s complete report, click here: [Didi's New Zealand Fishing Report](#)

### SAMPLE NEW ZEALAND ITINERARIES

There are many different approaches to a New Zealand trip, depending on your objectives. Most of our itineraries for traveling in NZ fall into one of these two categories:

- hard core fly fishing focusing on unique sight fishing for trophy trout in it’s beautiful environs.
- combo touring and fishing for couples when a non-fishing spouse is involved. It is our opinion that NZ provides the best opportunity on the globe for a top fly fishing experience combined with an overall great couples adventure.

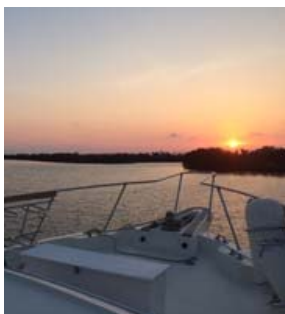
You can also include hiking, golf, hunting, etc. New Zealand provides an array of world class adventure options with a wide range of different levels of service and price ranges. From our 13 years of personally traveling and fishing in NZ, we are familiar with the options and most efficient ways to approach the logistics. If you would like to see sample NZ itineraries, just ask.

### RISING TIDE REPORT – PERMIT IN BELIZE

Permit fishing is best measured by the number of shots you get – if you get enough opportunities, usually things will line up just right and you’ll get one of those buggers to eat. We have always believed that fishing in the “right places” in Belize for permit will generate an average of 4 – 6 shots a day. Our definition of a “shot” was “a cast at a fish that was catchable – i.e., not throwing your fly at the back of a quickly departing fish.” Joe Sugura, an experienced permit angler, defines a permit opportunity (or shot) as a presentation to “a non-nervous fish within casting range for the first shot.” Both definitions are viable and very similar.



Joe was accompanied on a recent Belize trip aboard the mothership, Rising Tide, by friends Rob Rogers, Doug Biederbeck, and Richard Sanders. For the week, they counted a total of 195 permit shots. This was a dedicated permit trip moving south from Belize City. They visited the best permit flats on the globe, waters where it is possible to fish an entire week and only see one or two (or zero!) other anglers. They totaled nine fish released from those shots, five of which were between 12 and 16 pounds.



Comments from Joe about the trip: “All in all we had a successful trip. As I had mentioned to you, it was a pleasure seeing only one competing flyfishing guide/skiff during the course of our trip. Regarding the crew, I found them very helpful and pleasant to be around. Velda is a wonderful cook with a good personality who is always willing to please. It should be noted the weather remained relatively stable throughout the entire week with the exception of day six. The last two days we had several opportunities casting to laid up or non-nervous fish, but there was a noticeable reluctance to connect. As we know, that’s the nature of these fish!”

## **BELIZE: OPEN DATES FOR JANUARY to APRIL, 2017**

We have almost completed the rebooking of our regular clients for the Rising Tide for the first four months of 2017. As many of you know, they only do three trips a month and about 60 - 70% of the weeks for the first four months of the year are filled by regulars. The open weeks as of today for January through April on the Rising Tide are: 1/9 – 16; 1/30 – 2/6; 2/23 – 3/2; 3/27 – 4/3; and 4/18 – 25.

The smaller boat, the Meca, has more availability. Details on both boats and pricing can be found on the website [www.flyfishbelize.com](http://www.flyfishbelize.com)

## **REMEMBERING WILL BAUER**



There are the names of fly fishing legends that almost all fly fishers are familiar with and then there are some who are known in smaller, more select circles. Will Bauer, by any measure, was a fly fishing legend, especially to those of us who passionately fish the saltwater flats.

Will began fly fishing as a kid fishing for steelhead. Somewhere in later life he became totally captured by the challenge of permit fishing. He was one of the foremost developers of permit flies and fishing techniques. He was a good friend of Winston Moore who remembers Will as someone “who shared his drive, absolute passion, almost an obsession, for sight fishing for permit on shallow flats.”

Some further comments from Winston: “It made no difference to Will what the weather was doing, how hard the wind was blowing, high or low tides.

As long as he was in permit country, he would be on the water. I’ve seen him wading flats when the wind was blowing so hard he could hardly stand up. There was nothing casual or cavalier about Will Bauer and sight fishing for permit. He made 4 to 6 trips a year to Belize and I’m quite sure that all of his 161 permit were released in Belize. Will was not only a superb angler, he was a great human being. If you were a true friend of Will’s, there was absolutely nothing he would not do for you.”

## **JUNE MEMORY PHOTO**

Frequently, the names Art Hinckley, Dennis Banks, and Brad Jackson are found in our newsletter. Generally, they are mentioned in reference to permit adventures on the Rising Tide in Belize. However, for a change of pace, a great photo of Brad holding the head of the tarpon taken by Dennis (blue shirt) with Art doing the photo work. Nice colors guys!

**PHOTO CREDITS:** banner – John Landis; New Zealand – Didi Toaspern; Belize – Joe Sugura.



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