



Floating Large Dries On The Minipi River, Labrador



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We are in the twenty-first 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.

RE-OPENING OF WORLD CLASS FISHERIES – SALTWATER FLAT’S DESTINATIONS REPORT

THE FISH OF THE SALTWATER FLATS: For those unfamiliar with the most sought-after species of the saltwater flats, here they are – top row l to r: tarpon, jacks, barracuda, permit. Bottom row: bonefish, giant trevally (GT’s), milkfish, snook. Several of these are Caribbean species while others are found on flats in the Pacific and Indian oceans and a few are found everywhere on saltwater flats.



(NOTE: The July newsletter had a similar article but featuring the world’s most unique freshwater fisheries)

Many of the globes Bucket List destinations have been off the market due to Covid and are now back. This is a report on some of the world’s most unique saltwater fisheries. Many of these experiences require planning far in advance, sometimes more than a year-out is necessary to get the best options. Note: some countries are still requiring Covid vaccination for entry.



BELIZE: This is one of the world’s great variety fisheries and, if you are a dedicated permit fly fisher, some of the globe’s finest permit flats are also found here. Lodges, like Turneffe Flats and El Pescador, provide an exciting flats fishing experience, but our personal favorite is the Belize Mothership, Rising Tide. Since the late 80’s, we have personally taken over 70 Belize mothership trips, most of them as a family (see report below on our most recent), so we know it well. This link will take you to our Belize Mothership newsletter: [BELIZE](#)

CUBA: Castro was an avid scuba diver and maybe the best thing he did was recognize how special Cuba’s marine environment was. He created five extensive Marine National Parks where no marine life or fish could be killed and the result of these protections was a fabulous salt water flats fishery. Because of the ongoing

protection, these flats have maintained their vibrance and, today, still provide a quality experience. For a trip report on Cuba, click on this link: [CUBA TRIP REPORT](#)



CASA BLANCA AND PLAYA BLANCA, YUCATAN: In the 1990’s, soon after it opened, we visited Casa Blanca and we were there when Playa Blanca was built. Since those early days, these sister saltwater flats lodges have developed a reputation as two of the finest lodges in the Caribbean. Located in the pristine Si’an Kaan Biosphere of the Yucatan, south of Cancun, they are only accessed via charter plane which is provided by the lodges. Additional info is available through this link: [CASA BLANCA AND PLAYA BLANCA](#)

SEYCHELLES: This is another story of how government protections have enabled an outstanding marine environment to endure and provide an experience today that may even exceed that of 20 years ago. Some of the out-islands, like Cosmoledo and Farquhar, provide a world class fly fishing experience, but our favorites are the sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois. Alphonse provides an ambiance that makes this a great place to combine some of the world’s best flat’s fishing with a couples’ experience. John Landis first visited as a single and has since returned more than once with Dana, and traveling friends, Annette and Rob Pizzie. This is one of his trip reports: [SEYCHELLES](#)



NINGALOO REEF, EXMOUTH, AUSTRALIA: This is one of the globe’s more recent salt water flats discoveries. We have been here seven times since 2013 and it has been worth the extensive travel necessary to reach. We have always tied in time in New Zealand when visiting the Ningaloo – although a packing nightmare, it makes a terrific dual environment trip, combining the fabulous streams and rivers of the land of the Kiwi with the remote flats of the far northwest corner of Australia. This link will help you understand why this is such a unique marine world and exceptional flats fishery: [THE NINGALOO - TWO APPROACHES](#)

COMBO TRIP – EASTERN IDAHO AND FERNIE, BC



Dom Rinaldi and Scott Humphrey did a July road trip that included two of the west’s finest fisheries – Fernie, BC and eastern Idaho. They fished four days in Idaho including the Teton River and the overnight float trip through the South Fork Of The Snake River canyon, one of the west’s top experiences. Regarding the overnight float, the report was “Fun, had a blast....food was amazing and the fishing decent with both nymphs and dries.”

The Fernie portion was a good news/bad news story. They had a very unusual mid-July 5 day rain storm that created high and roiled waters. They still managed to take some native West Slope Cutthroat and rainbows, but the highlight of the trip was after the rains left on their last day. They “hit it right” with a Bull Trout explosion that was a fly fishing fantasy experience. It

occurred where two rivers came together. They released more than 20 bulls – most of them were in the 5 to 7# range with the largest around 10#. It was so intense that during one period they had a hook up on virtually every cast.

Below, Scott and Dom with a double header. The left fork of the two rivers showed the effect of the heavy rains with muddy water while the other river was running clear. Scott (with the orange hat) and Dom with some of their bulls.



FAMILY STUFF ON THE RISING TIDE, BELIZE



When our son, Scott, was in his early teens, almost 40 years ago, he developed his passion for salt water flats fly fishing using Belize motherships as our floating base. For years, we'd take a family trip every Thanksgiving week. Some of those trips were epic and sometimes we'd hit an early cold front for part of our trip. But always, the family (wife Marte, daughter Holli, son Scott and I) loved being together in the isolation of the private confines of the mothership, inside the sheltered waters of the Belize barrier reef.

Our trip this year included yours truly, son Scott, and 14 year-old granddaughter, Sophia. Our #1 trip objective was to enjoy being together and share with Sophia the same flats her dad had cut his teeth on those many years ago. Hopefully, with the aid of the excellent guides/teachers on the Rising Tide, she'd be

captured by the excitement of fishing the flats and learn the basics. For Scott and I, our fishing objectives would be secondary.



The highlight had to be Sophia jumping six tarpon over 40#, with two of them over 100. She didn't get any of them to the boat, but she learned how to set the hook and watch their spectacular leaps as they cartwheeled above the surface (photos above and at right). One fish, estimated at 120#, gave her thrills for over an hour before the hook pulled as she finally got it close to the panga.



The weather was challenging for the first four days before improving daily the last three and concluding with a final morning of perfect conditions. Sophia was a good student and developed many skills. She would catch the first bonefish she ever saw (left). Along with the barracuda (left below), she would release at least 5 different species of snappers, jacks, ladyfish, and assist her Dad in pulling a snook from the mangrove

roots. She did not have anything to do with the empty wine bottle on the dinner table. Dad and Sophia take an afternoon swim with an assist from the anchor rope. We had a memorable evening together stalking tailing permit on the shallow flats just inside the barrier reef, with waves rolling over the reef as a backdrop.....I was lucky enough to find time to release permit #74, the small fish at right, in my quest to take 100 of these devil fish!



RISING TIDE, BELIZE – OPEN DATES FOR 2023

The Rising Tide has completed the rebookings of past clients for the first six months of 2023 and is now taking new bookings. As of now, there is at least one week open in each month. If you'd like additional information, just hit reply and ask.

Pricing and lots of additional info (including many actual trip reports) is available on the website www.flyfishbelize.com

WHAT WE DO AT FLY FISHING ADVENTURES

This is a link with a description of who we are and what we do.....also, listing the destinations around the world that we can provide reliable information regarding the experience and how to prepare for your visit:

[Fly Fishing Adventures - About What We Do](#)



AUGUST MEMORY PHOTO



This weighed 11.5# brown was taken by Doug Monnig in New Zealand. Doug had five double digit browns during the two weeks he fished with his favorite guide – they have been fishing together for 20 years.....this may have been his best trip ever!

PHOTO CREDITS: tarpon – Scott Muelrath; jack – Bob Ogle; barracuda – Julia Scheumann; permit – Art Hinckley; bonefish – Dana and John Landis; G.T. – Tom and Nathan Howard; milk fish – John Landis; Fernie – Dom Rinaldi and Scott Humphrey; Belize family – Sophia and Scott Muelrath.

An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
Fly Fishing Adventures
www.flyfishingadventures.org
888-347-4896