



Casting To Working Fish, Isla Navarino, So Chile



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We are in the tenth year of publishing our monthly newsletter with updates on the great flyfishing 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.

SPANNING THE GLOBE WITH THE ULTIMATE FLY ROD HUNTING ADVENTURE

Given the time and the resources to circumvent the globe while staying near the same latitude, here is our ideal of the ultimate worldwide fly rod hunting adventure. We have visited all of these southern hemisphere destinations in the past, coupling two of them together during the same trip three different times. However, only in our dreams have we ever put all of them together in one extensive “around the world” adventure.

AFRICA: There are many options for quality safari and game viewing experiences. Some focus on certain types of animal life and others offer a broad-based potpourri of creatures. With all trips where wildlife or marine creatures are involved, timing is a critical element. Since our main interest is in using our fly rods, we would favor being able to time the Africa portion of our trip to combine a complete wildlife viewing encounter with the best tiger fishing available. The best place to find both



is in the Lower Zambezi National Park where both the land based and swimming creatures are protected from poaching and netting. The distinctive appearance of a tigerfish (above) designates it as a fish that belongs in the African scene. Also, it is this appearance that has placed it on many anglers “bucket list” as a fish they want to pursue and capture

a photo of. At Fly Fishing Adventures, we know the best lodges and guides in the Lower Zambezi National Park from personal experience. For other African wildlife viewing possibilities, we maintain an “associate relationship” with a travel agency in South Africa which knows and understands all the options.

SEYCHELLES: Lying off the eastern coast of Africa in the Indian Ocean is a spectacular collection of 115 islands and atolls, over half of them uninhabited. We fly into the capital city of Mahe which is just a four hour flight from either Johannesburg, South Africa, or Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. From there, we choose from the two best options in the Seychelles. The first are the stunning Seychelles’ sister atolls of Alphonse and St. Francois which offer a very comfortable five star tropical resort for accommodations. This protected fishery has earned its long standing reputation as one of the world’s top salt water flats destinations. Contrasting Alphonse’s established popularity in the flyfishing community is their new operation, Astove Lodge. Astove offers total privacy and exclusivity for



just six rods on one of the most beautiful atolls in the Indian Ocean. This is one of the most special (and expensive) remote fishing lodges in the world. Both these operations offer outstanding bonefishing, Giant Trevally (above right), milkfish and a host of all the premier Indian Ocean saltwater flats species.

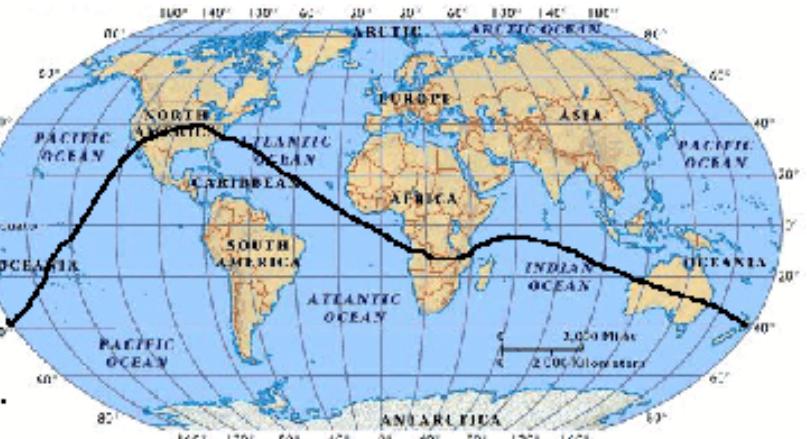


NINGALOO REEF, NW AUSTRALIA: Don't put away the salt water rods – we're moving to the northwest corner of Australia where the small town of Exmouth is found. The attraction here is the marine life that is spawned by the spectacular Ningaloo Reef (at right). There are large bonefish, Giant Trevally, Golden Trevally, a variety of very large shark species, snappers, but from my experiences, the most important attraction are the permit. This is an outstanding spot to take both of the Indo-Pacific permit species and, with our traditional Caribbean permit, complete a global permit Grand Slam. Like the Seychelles, there is also "world class" snorkeling and diving with an opportunity to swim with Whale Sharks and/or Humpback Whales.

NEW ZEALAND: So far, we've seen the craziness of casting for tigerfish while in close proximity to elephants, hippos, and crocodiles and fished some of the world's best salt water flats fly waters.....now it's time to take out the 4, 5, and 6 weight rods. As has been covered frequently in this newsletter over the last dozen years, New Zealand offers the most outstanding challenge of stalking individual trophy-sized trout in crystal-clear waters. Fishing with the best of the quality New Zealand guides is by itself a wonderful experience.....and they know the best options in all the conditions for maximizing your experience in the land of the Kiwi. Whether you're looking for the finest in service-oriented accommodations or are more budget oriented with your lodging, New Zealand has all the possibilities.

DIRECTIONAL CHOICES: Obviously, there is an "east to west" or "west to east" choice in the approach to this itinerary. You could begin in either New Zealand or Africa. Most likely, the choice of beginning point would be decided by the month you would prefer to be in the each location. Africa (if you want the best timing for tigerfish), the Seychelles, and New Zealand would be the most time-sensitive parts of the agenda.

TIMING: Spending a minimum of a week in each destination (maybe two in NZ) and allowing for travel time and a few side trips, this is probably a minimum of a six to seven week itinerary.



PRICE: I could make a fairly accurate guess on the cost (without counting air), but if the cost was the primary factor in your decision, this is probably not the trip for you.

SALTWATER FLATS FISHING – “DAWN TO DUSK”

Tom Brutsche, Ron Knowles, and Lee Lewis have been taking an annual mothership trip for the past ten years so they could be considered veterans of the experience. During their early trips, they pursued the variety of species available in Belize – tarpon, bonefish, permit, snook, etc. However, the last several years, their focus has become almost exclusively the most prized target in the realm of fly fishing, the ultimate fly rod hunting challenge, the permit.



On their trip this year, they had a spot open and asked a fly fishing friend, a former world champion fly caster, to join them. This was his first time using a "floating lodge" to fish the finest permit flats on the globe, the area inside the barrier reef off the central coast of Belize. Obviously, this past world champion caster had many fly fishing adventures to compare to so his thoughts on the trip were meaningful.



His comments on his time aboard the 58' Hatteras, the floating lodge Rising Tide (above, left), included:

- “more prime permit time on the water than anywhere else.”
- “guides attitude and fishing sense were a ten out of ten.”
- “atmosphere and food on board both exceptional.”
- “did not see another angler the entire time.”
- “amount of time on the water is unique – sun up to sun down fly rod hunting.”

Below: I to r: small permit ready for release; returning to the Rising Tide for breakfast; casting to tailing permit at dawn and looking for tails at sunset.



Personally, the Belize mothership trip is something we've done more than 70 times since the late 80's. In the relatively few comments above, this veteran, globe hopping, fly angler captured the overall appeal of the trip.

THE CALENDAR - BOOKING A BELIZE MOTHERSHIP TRIP

The Belize mothership trip can be difficult to book. This is due to the fact they only do three trips a month and each trip is a private experience (unlike a party boat). The limited trips, plus the dedicated repeat anglers who re-book each year limits the available weeks. As of today, every month for 2016 has at least one open week remaining. If this is on your ‘bucket list’ for 2016, now is the time to inquire about available timeframes. If you'd like to see a Belize mothership newsletter, just hit reply and ask.

In August, there will be three generations of Muelrath's fishing Belize from a mothership, including our 12 year old grandson looking for his first bonefish on a fly. Look for our report in an upcoming newsletter.

JUNE MEMORY PHOTO

The smiling face of Bernie Alper has graced our newsletter in the past, always with a trophy ten+ pound brown trout from New Zealand. This time, it's a large rainbow from NZ, but they were not able to get it on a scale so you'll have to guess at the weight. Bernie reports, “The large rainbow was taken on the surface with a big fly imitating a large cicada.”

PHOTO CREDITS: Banner photo – Dave Fudurich and Sarah Kitson; Africa, tigerfish – John Landis; Fishing with the elephants – Betty and Paul Wilms; Giant Trevally – George Toledo; permit – Tom Brutsche.



An enthusiastic traveling fly fisherman,
Don Muelrath
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