

April, 2000

## BELIZE

For years, we have been touting the benefits of live-aboard yachts. From the Bahamas aboard the *Commander* to the Seychelles aboard the *Tam Tam*, experienced anglers have told us repeatedly that these were some of the best angling trips of their lives. Now, as more and more fishermen are prowling the flats, the benefits of these floating lodges are becoming more and more apparent. A mothership not only allows you to fish the more remote areas not available from land-based lodges, but it gives you more control over your angling experience. You decide when to start your day and when to stop. You decide which species to pursue and, after consultation with your captain, where to pursue them. Because there are no long rides home at the end of the day, you can fish the most productive hours at dusk and plan your dinners either before or after fishing. Over the course of a week, by avoiding trips to and from the lodge, you pick up almost a whole extra day of fishing! More options, more fishing time and

more control, these are all reasons enough to book a live-aboard yacht, but a mothership also provides a great opportunity to spend time with your family or friends. And don't worry about bugs and seasickness, you are moored in the lee of small cays far away from bugs and rough seas.

So from the Bahamas to Belize to the exotic Seychelles, Angling Destinations firmly believes in the benefits of motherships. We will continue to seek out low-occupancy, well-run, live-aboard operations.

What follows are updated and important news on our live-aboard opportunities in Belize.

### BELIZE: ABOARD THE MECA

Martin McCord's mothership the *Meca* has been a sure winner this season. Anglers have been delighted with every aspect of their trips and have been amazed at how hard Martin is willing to work to

put them on fish. Martin is sometimes unbelievable dedicated to producing great results for his clients. We called Martin during early January to check on Brad Wolfe's group (see next story).

Martin answered his cell phone and when asked, "How's the fishing?" Martin replied, "Not so good." Our hearts sank, after all, these were our friends and we were certainly hoping for better news. So we asked to talk to Brad.

*For more information on our Belize live-aboard trips, please consult [www.mothershipflyfishing.com](http://www.mothershipflyfishing.com)*

Brad got on the phone and when asked the same question, he responded with, "Great, we jumped 12 tarpon between the two boats today."

This sums up Martin to a T. If he isn't boating 4 or 5 big tarpon a day, he worries. Martin is a perfectionist with high expectations for his clients' success. In addition, Martin is charming, friendly, very knowledgeable and works hard. Can you ask any more from your guide? We will continue to book Martin and his quest for bonefish, permit, tarpon and snook off the coast of Belize. We urge you to plan well ahead of time to secure the best dates. When you receive this newsletter, it would not be too early to plan for spring of 2001. We believe that there will be more and more demand for live-aboard trips and to that end we are excited about the following news:

### INSIDE:

<b>PAGE 1</b>	BELIZE MOTHERSHIPS	<b>PAGE 6</b>	DANGRIGA, BELIZE
<b>PAGE 2</b>	BELIZE (CONT.)	<b>PAGE 7</b>	ACKLINS ISLAND, BAHAMAS
<b>PAGE 2</b>	TARPON HINTS	<b>PAGE 8</b>	FALSE ALBACORE TUNA
<b>PAGE 3</b>	SEYCHELLES	<b>PAGE 8</b>	SPECIAL NOTES
<b>PAGE 3</b>	CHRISTMAS ISLAND	<b>PAGE 9</b>	NEW LODGE AT SANDY POINT
<b>PAGE 4</b>	MONTANA	<b>PAGE 9</b>	TWO NEW FLY PATTERNS
<b>PAGE 4</b>	DAYS OF THE FULL MOON	<b>PAGE 10</b>	BAHAMAS UPDATE
<b>PAGE 5</b>	KAMCHATKA	<b>PAGE 11</b>	BARRACUDA HINTS & FLY

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## BELIZE

### ABOARD THE SEADUCTION

Charles Westby, one of the Caribbean's most popular guides and captain of the 36' motor yacht the *Seaduction*, has recently been added to our fleet of Belizean live-aboard motherships. Mr Westby also happens to be Martin McCord's best friend. They worked together for many years captaining the motherships out of Belize River Lodge. Between them, they have spent over 40 years guiding the waters of Belize and captaining motherships. Charles captained the *Cristina* and Martin captained the *Permit* and the *Blue Yonder*, all three boats out of Belize River Lodge. Their long-standing friendship enables them to work together with groups of 5-7 people for a two boat charter. These two boats could be anchored together to fish the same water, or they could split up to pursue species in different areas depending on the wishes of the group. Of course, both boats can be chartered separately. The *Seaduction* sports twin 200 hp diesels, has a fore cabin with a double bed and two single beds in the aft cabin. The *Seaduction* has a VHF radio and cellular phone. The prices for the *Seaduction* will be the same as the the *Meca* that is, \$7,200.00 for a party of three and \$5,200.00 for a party of two.

## TARPON HINTS BY BRAD WOLFE

It's a well known known axion. . . "If it can go wrong it will." We all know it as Murphey's Law. I secretly believe that Mr. Murphy must have arrived at his famous conclusion while speeding time chasing giant tarpon with a fly rod. It would not surprise me to learn that old Mr. Murphy came to his famous epiphany immediately after another silver king broke something and graphically demonstrated the law.

With these thoughts on our minds, we touched down in Belize City. . . early winter. . . picture perfect weather. Everything was in place: proper fly reels with copious amounts of backing, tough 10 and 11 weight state-of-the-art fly rods, perfect leaders and fifty enticing taron flies tied on razor sharp carbon steel. Our destination for the week was the mothership the *Meca* captained by Martin McCord, without a doubt, the best tarpon guide in Belize.

The weather held for several days and we experinced fantastic action for tarpon and bonefish. On one spectacular day

we hooked twelve tarpon, all of which were over 60-lbs! during our tarpon "down" time, we fished for bonefish. Belize is alive with large numbers of small to medium-sized bones. Most of our fish were in the 2-3 lb. range, great sport on a fast action six or seven-weight rod. We saw a few schools of permit, caught three nice sized cobia on flies and had several shots at big snook.

*"Martin McCord has caught and released more tarpon in his sixteen years of guiding than 5 other guides combined."*

Species diversity is a good reason to consider Belize as a tropical fishing destination. However, in my mind, tarpon are the main attraction.

These tackle busting fish require solid preparation and experience if you want to land one. Here are a few suggestions for you if you're considering a tarpon adventure.

**1. Use only the very best hooks:** Tarpon have hard bone throughout their mouth. In order to get a shot at a solid hookup, I suggest that you only use Owner "Aki" hooks. These hooks are high carbon steel, large guage and razor sharp. They are quite expensive, but worth the money when you consider your other costs.

**2. Tie your own leaders:** Tarpon will put your terminal tackle to the ultimate test of durability. Knot failure and broken leaders are very common when you tangle with these beasts. Do not trust some guy in a factory overseas to tie your knots. Since you are going to gear up for a tarpon trophy, finish the job by learning to tie a proper tarpon leader. your chances of landing a big fish will improve.

**3. Listen to your guide:** Consider it an investment and listen to what he has to say. Martin McCord has caught and released mor tarpon in his sixteen years of guiding than five other guides combined. Go with the best guides and rely on what they suggest.

There are many other subtleties of fly-casting for these great fish. I have heard it said that hooking a tarpon on the fly is the most exciting ten seconds in all of our sport. I can say from experience that this is absolutely true. Proper thinking and preparation will really pay off in the tarpon game. Remember, on any given day, you may or may not have to match wits with the infamous Mr. Murphy.

*Brad Wolfe is the owner of Orvis Framingham (Mass). Brad is always willing to lend his considerable expertise to your trip planning process and welcomes questions on everything from equipment to flies to destinatons. He can be reached at (508)-872-7711*

## THE SEYCHELLES

### ALPHONSE ISLAND RESORT

If you are a dedicated saltwater angler and haven't yet heard about the Seychelles, you've either been working too hard or in a deep coma. We're often asked if the hype surrounding these lovely islands lives up to the reality. Our answer is an emphatic yes! In fact, there is no way to accurately report the fishing in the Seychelles without sounding like you are exaggerating. We usually just leave it with. . . "It is truly the best bonefishing in the world". And when you combine the Seychelles stunning beauty with the absurd number of bonefish that prowl these hard-packed, white sand flats, you get an idea why most returning anglers get in touch with us quickly to re-book for the following season.

We are receiving great reviews on the newly built **Alphonse Island Resort**. Anglers are reporting the chalets are very comfortable and one angler told us the food was "exquisite". The fishing has been equally superb combining both bonefish numbers and size with numerous other species including the legendary giant trevally. The fishing just seems to get better as fishermen explore new areas. One very experienced New England guide explored the surf zone on the outer rim of the atoll and reported unbelievable fishing for giant trevally in the surf!

Yes, it's a long way to the Seychelles, but we strongly urge you to make the commitment of time and energy - you won't regret it. While the spring season is mostly sold out - there are prime dates available at press time for fall, 2000 and spring, 2001.

## CHRISTMAS ISLAND

### A NEW LODGE

Located 1,300 miles south of Hawaii and only 119 miles north of the equator, Christmas Island, at 140 square miles, is the world's largest coral atoll. This lovely atoll is home to countless schools of bonefish and good populations of giant trevally. With the most consistent and predictably sunny weather of any bonefishing destination on earth, Christmas Island is on anyone's list of top five bonefish destinations worldwide.



For years, if you wanted to fish Christmas Island, you had only one choice of lodges. In the early years, we rarely heard complaints about this operation. But recently, we have heard frustrations voiced about inexperienced guides and little flexibility concerning how and where anglers will fish. Some anglers have even hired independent guides (at an added cost) to insure better fishing. Since there was no other choice, if you wanted to fish Christmas Island, you booked this lodge and accepted the results philosophically because it was the "only game in town".

While it is not our intention to get

involved in the politics of the situation, we feel compelled to report that one of the best guides on the island, Big Eddie Corrie, a life-long resident of the island and a guide for 18 years, has coralled some of the island's best guides, and struck out on his own. Along with American guide Joe Roope of Idaho, they have opened their own fishing lodge called, **Big Eddie and Joe's Christmas Island Bonefishing Lodge**. Joe is an expert fly fisherman and he certainly will lend an important expertise to Big Eddie's operation. We are receiving excellent reports on the food and accommodations and one experienced Christmas Island angler told us that Big Eddie's had "The best guides, best food and best accommodations on the island."

Christmas Island is certainly one of the best bonefish habitats in the world. But through the years, the fishing has become more difficult and a good guide has become more important. Bearing in mind that the fishing is still excellent, it just makes sense to provide yourself with the best guide available during your stay. Big Eddie's also has three 18' poling skiffs to access more remote spots on the atoll. These boats when used by this excellent guide staff, promise a more consistent and productive experience for Christmas Island devotees.

If you are planning a trip to Christmas Island, give us a call and we'll send you a brochure and all the scoop on this new lodge.

## MONTANA

### THE BLACKFOOT, MISSOURI AND SMITH RIVERS ON THE FLY

Because Angling Destinations is located in the Bighorn Mountains just south of the Montana border, we are often asked to assess and compare the major trout centers of these two states. In previous issues, we have told you about the Big Hole, Beaverhead and Ruby River areas. We've discussed Yellowstone National Park and the Beartooth Wilderness just north of the Park. We've recommended our home waters on the world famous Bighorn River and we've told you about Wyoming's little known Sunlight Basin. But there is one trout mecca in central Montana we have never delineated. It's time we rectified this situation and told you about the wonderful Missouri River and the lesser known Blackfoot and Smith Rivers.

When considering a trip to this area, we recommend **Lewis and Clark Expeditions**, a company known for their excellent guides, fishing expertise and for an ability to not only catch fish, but to have a damn good time while doing it. We asked head guide Mike Geary to tell us in his own words about the various options his company offers. What follows is Mike's report:

*"Lewis and Clark Expeditions offers a variety of trips ranging from five day float trips on the Smith River to guided day trips on the Missouri and Blackfoot Rivers. The latter two riv-*

*ers can be laced together with some fantastic private water for a superb week long fishing vacation. Here's a short rundown of the various waters we offer:*

*The Missouri River has 5,000 trout per river mile below Holter Dam with the average size fish being 18". The Missouri is why anglers have backing on their fly reels. Prolific hatches matched with tiny dry flies produce screaming runs by large rainbows. Lweis and Clark Expeditions has a host of quality guides who not only decipher these hatches, but interpret water, tie knots, supply flies and gently release our piscine pals. The staff of the Trout Shop Inn in Craig, Montana can lodge you at the Trout Shop Lodge, an elegant home on a ill, or at a variety of other recreational properties they handle.*

*The Blackfoot River starts in the mountains and whistles down to joining the Clark Fork on its long flow to the Pacific. The Blackfoot runs aloof and wild, shying away from asphalt, telephone poles and cellular phones. . . all perfect habitat for the many rainbow, borwn, cutthroat and bull trout that inhabit the Blackfoot River. We stay at Whietail Guest Ranch nestled up against the Rocky Mountains or at the Sander's House in Helena, Montana. The Whitetail offers family-style meals, horses and cabins. The Sander's house is the most elegant place to stay in Helena.*

*And finally, we hae acces to a private stretch of river where you can walk out on a small knoll, gaze below to the creek and get the feeling that you're the only angler that's ever been there. It is a hidden spot where we fish for three days and camp for three nights. We can host four anglers*

*who are up for wadig a small, intimate creek loaded with trout. . . and you won't see anyone."*

If this sounds good, give us a call and we'll fill you in on all the details.

### ATTENTION

#### DOCTORS, LAWYERS, & DENTISTS

2000 & 2001 SEMINAR DATES

ANGLING DESTINATIONS, IN CONJUNCTION WITH CLASSIC SPORTS INTERNATIONAL, WILL BE HOSTING FOUR EXCEPTIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2000-2001. EACH SEMINAR WILL OFFER CME CAT.1 APPROVED 2000 MEDICAL - LEGAL UPDATE SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE, INC. THE SEMINAR HAS EXTENSIVE CLE AND CDE ACCREDITATION AND MEETS IRS REQUIREMENTS FOR TAX DEDUCTIBILITY.

#### **MAY 20-25, 2000 & MAY 19-24, 2001**

PACKAGE INCLUDES FOUR DAYS OF GUIDED FISHING WITH LOTS OF BIG BROWNS & RAINBOWS AND FIVE NIGHTS LUXURY ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE BIGHORN RIVER RESORT INCLUDING ALL MEALS AND GOURMET LUNCHESES & REFRESHMENTS. IN PAST YEARS, THE DRY FLY FISHING HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONAL IN MAY. ITS NO WONDER MANY PARTICIPANTS HAVE VISITED FOUR YEARS IN A ROW!  
COST: \$1,895.00

#### **NOV. 19-24, 2000 & NOV. 18-23, 2001**

A REAL MONTANA CAST AND BLAST... DO WHAT YOU ENJOY THE MOST: FOUR DAYS FISHING, FOUR DAYS WINGSHOOTING, TWO AND TWO OR THREE AND ONE. COME TO MONTANA AND ENJOY THE BEST FOOD AND LODGING ON THE BIGHORN RIVER AND THE BEST FISHING AND HUNTING ANYWHERE.  
COST: \$2,550.00

## DAYS OF THE FULL MOON, 2000/2001

APRIL 18	AUGUST 15	DECEMBER 11	APRIL 8
MAY 18	SEPTEMBER 13	JANUARY 9, 2001	MAY 7
JUNE 16	OCTOBER 13	FEBRUARY 8	JUNE 6
JULY 16	NOVEMBER 11	MARCH 9	JULY 5

## KAMCHATKA

### NEW TROUT FRONTIER

Jetting south from Siberia into the north Pacific, the Kamchatka Peninsula encompasses a landmass greater than Montana with only one somewhat navigable road into its interior. Kamchatka has been called one of the last great tracts of unspoiled wilderness left in the world.

For most of the twentieth century, due to both geography and ideology, Kamchatka has remained cloaked in secrecy. Kamchatka's pristine, clear streams, magnificent birch forests and smoking volcanoes were locked up tight behind the Soviet's iron curtain.

With Perestroika and then ultimately, the fall of the Soviet Union, sport fishermen began making forays into the peninsula's interior. What they found was truly astounding. . . an Alaska of 50-75 years ago. These lucky anglers reported thousands of clear beautiful streams home to more species (6) of Pacific salmon (including the rare cherry or Masu salmon) than anywhere else in the world. It is now estimated that one third of the total Pacific Ocean salmon run originates in Kamchatka. In addition to the salmon, anglers reported many unique char species and a huge population of rainbow trout that were reported to grow to mythic proportions.

These early trips were tough and the logistics difficult. Returning anglers, al-

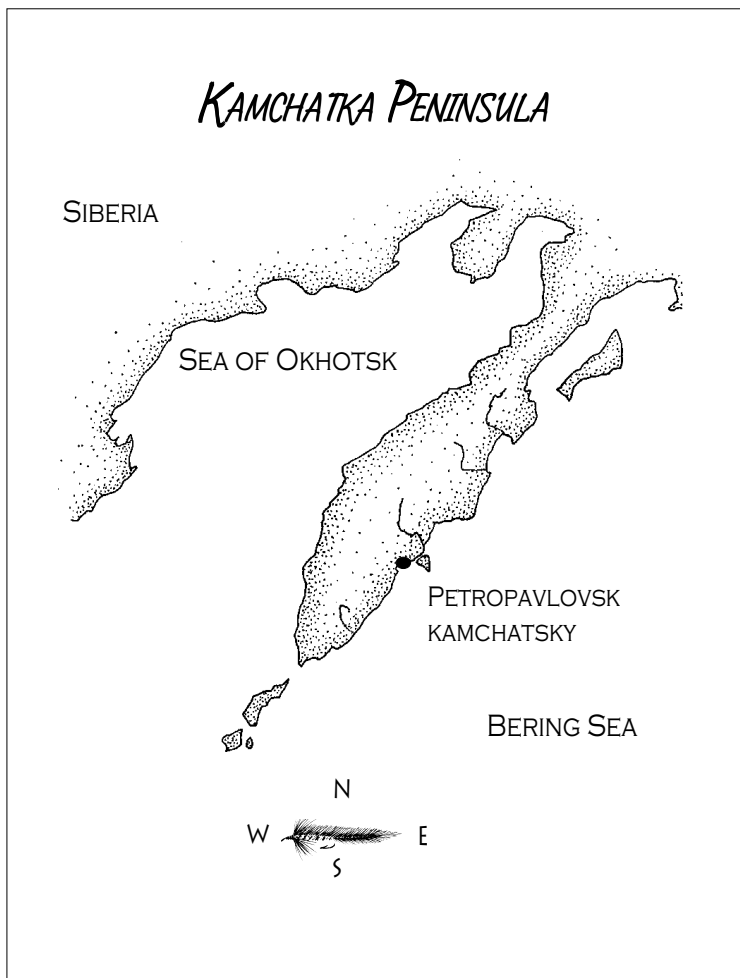
though thrilled with the fishing, were reluctant to return due to disorganized operations, long waits for flights and exhausting teeth-chattering helicopter rides. We could write a novel on our early experiences in eastern Russia. Suffice it to say that vodka-laced Russian Game & Fish officials, overbooked Russian flights, and helicopter flights that ran only because of

Petropavlovsk. Each of the three partners has an extensive background in guiding and managing fishing operations in Alaska and the American West. They all agree that this river offers not only great char and salmon fishing, but is the world's finest rainbow fishery! And they have the experience to make this bold assertion!

After their initial forays into the area,

two questions continued to intrigue them. . . Why are there so many big rainbows and why is the rainbow density so much greater than Alaska? After much research, the answer was surprisingly simple. . . it all boiled down to bugs! Because Kamchatka is further south than Alaska with warmer weather patterns, the riverine insect life is extensive and includes mayflies, caddis flies and stoneflies. This insect life, when combined with the natural chum line of salmon fry, salmon eggs and decaying salmon flesh, accounts for the absurd numbers of rainbows. The average rainbow is close to 22" and 5-lbs. Many fish will exceed 24" and 7-lbs. and a few will ex-

ceed 30". All the fishing is done with floating lines and daily hatches of insects keep these Kamchatka rainbows looking to surface for food. Unlike Alaska, Kamchatka's rivers are rarely visited and you will not hear other boats or airplanes. This is a true wilderness experience. You will fish over 100 miles of river during your stay and each day you will have over 20 miles of river to explore.



under-the-table payments, kept our plans to book any Kamchatka operations on the wish list. We knew the resource was incredible, but until some enterprising Americans were willing to sort out the logistics, we would stay away.

But now, a group that has been exploring the Peninsula since 1991 has established a tent camp on the peninsula only a 45-minute flight from

Anglers are based in a warm and comfortable Alaska-style, fixed tent camp. This camp overlooks the river and is framed by majestic mountains. A central dining tent is surrounded by comfortable, dry, bug-free tents for the camp's 8 anglers. These tents include electricity and heat. The dining tent is equipped with a fly-tying bench and a pot of hot coffee is always on. The menu is American-style with a touch of Russian. Remember, the owners have extensive experience with Alaskan tent camps and certainly know what it takes to make a successful operation.

This camp employs a handpicked staff of American guides who have extensive wilderness experience. The guides use jet boats to get to the hot spots, but once there, wading is the preferred technique. The camp staff is a group of local Russians that have worked with the owners for many years.

One last point, getting to Kamchatka is not much more difficult than traveling to most Alaskan lodges. A mere 4-hour flight from Anchorage and a brief 45-minute flight from Petropavlovsk puts you on the river and in camp. From the moment you land in Russia, you will be escorted 100% of the time by camp staff and a Russian interpreter.

The opportunity to fish areas as pristine as Kamchatka come along rarely in life. If you love to dry fly fish for big rainbow trout and experience some exquisite salmon and char fishing as a bonus, this is your bell ringing. Give us a call today for complete information and a trip brochure. Trips run Saturday to Sunday and run \$4,500.00000 for the year 2000.

## DANGRIGA, BELIZE

A NEW LODGE IN PERMIT HEAVEN

Belize is a land of both dense, unexplored jungles hiding Mayan ruins and crystal clear, coastal waters that conceal spirited species such as snook, bonefish, tarpon and the prized permit.

As you travel south from easily reached Belize City, you enter a gigantic wilderness that is a maze of mangrove lagoons, turquoise channels, reef cuts and clear shallow flats. To find a particular species, you only have to pick a habitat. You'll find undisturbed tarpon lying up in the countless lagoons and river mouths, bonefish on the white sand flats and permit on the shallow marls adjacent to the deep blue water. This area of nearly 700 sq. miles is, in most experts' opinions, the permit capital of the world. Any trip to southern Belize would not be complete without at least one day in pursuit of this ultimate light tackle trophy.

In the past, to access this area, anglers have settled for spartan accommodations and left non-anglers at home. But now, at Sittee Point near Dangriga, a group of fanatical American fly fishermen have opened a new resort they have called **Sunrise Almond Tree Lodge**. Comfortable accommodations are in the form of air-conditioned condominiums, fully furnished and complete with kitchen, living room and 2 or 3 bedrooms. The lodge has its own private beach and dock. A freshwater swimming pool provides a soothing moment to a body hot and sore from battling tarpon and permit. Sea kayaks are also available to guests.

The Belizean guides are trained by experienced American anglers. They

know this area intimately having fished the local waters all their lives. They are a congenial and friendly bunch, eager to work hard poling and sighting fish. This willingness to pole is important because most of the fishing in southern Belize is done from Mexican-style pangas both to access the deeper flats and to protect the fragile coral-laced flats from wadings' effects.

The lodge will have an American angling host on staff during the fishing season to answer questions, sort out guides, assist with terminal tackle needs and arrange day tours. For non-anglers, exceptional diving and snorkeling are a stone's throw away and can be easily arranged by your American host. If you wish to explore the vast uncharted interior, your host can arrange tours to Mayan ruins, or trips to the dense jungle for exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities. The National Jaguar Wildlife Refuge is very close and only one of many possible choices. The local villages of Dangriga, Sittee and Hopkins have some great restaurants managed by ex-patriots that serve delicious fresh seafood and local Belizean favorites. Sunrise Almond Tree provides that rare opportunity for anglers to be truly sated while family and friends delight in other activities.

Packages start at \$1,695.00 double occupancy and include all lodging in a 2 bedroom condo, breakfast and lunch (dinners are taken at local restaurants and are not included), all guiding and boat fees, use of all lodge amenities and an optional overnight camping excursion to Glover's Reef is in the works.

So bring the family and friends and experience this tropical wonderland.

## ACKLINS ISLAND

Acklins Island is a remote, sparsely populated island in the Bahamas chain that offers endless hard-bottomed, white sand flats and some of the best bonefishing available anywhere. If you are a dedicated bonefisherman and love to fish the Bahamas, you owe it to yourself to read the following articles.

### ACKLINS ISLAND LODGE

From early December when we sent the first ever clients to the brand new Acklins Island Lodge, to now, in April, we have been receiving a steady stream of glowing reports on this new lodge. Without exception, anglers are reporting wonderful accommodations, delicious meals, a friendly and eager staff, good guides and equipment and perhaps, most important, a fabulous fishery on hard packed flats. . . but enough from us. Maybe its best you hear about Acklins Island Lodge from an angler who visited the lodge this winter. Tony Spiva of Tennessee sent us the following report. We think it speaks for itself:

*"The Acklins Island Lodge is run by Gary Wilmott who guided for many years out of Jackson, WY on the Snake River. Nicknamed 'The Wedge' Gary was, and is, an outstanding guide and a marvelous flycaster. He is also a very capable manager and, to top it off, a gourmet chef. The meals I had, with other guests, were absolutely the finest I have ever had at a fishing resort or lodge. Gary is doing an outstanding job and Acklins Island Lodge should be a huge success as time goes by.*

*The facilities are all new. The lodge only opened this past fall. The cabins are tastefully decorated, air-conditioned and, as a result of the lodge having its own reverse osmosis water*

*treatment plant, you can drink right out of the faucet. In addition, there is plenty of hot water and the water is very soft. The dining room offers TV via satellite and we watched bowl games each evening along with news and weather. There is a bar and it is well stocked.*

*In short, the physical plant, on a scale of 1-10 is a 10, maybe a 12.5. For the out islands of the Bahamas, it is at least an 18.5!!*

*The fishing was, is and will be, superb. I have seen a lot of bonefish flats on Abaco at More's Island, Chub Cay, etc. but the flats on Acklins are mindboggling. They go on for miles and miles. Lots of fish, not overly spooky, from 2-lbs. up to who knows. I saw several that would top 10-lbs., but did not catch any that large. They are there. From April through October (and maybe into November) there are permit and tarpon. Gary has a large catamaran with twin outboards that can take up to four anglers for offshore fishing for wahoo, dolphin, tuna, marlin, etc. There is little fishing pressure in this area because it is so remote. Gary thinks a world record wahoo is a real possibility in the near future.*

*In short, here is a new resort in a remote area that offers a lot. I'd book early as this is going to become a prime destination for the serious saltwater flyfisherman."*

If this is for you, give us a call for all the details. A special note to single anglers; for a week of fishing, the double occupancy rate is \$2250.00 per person and the single rate is \$2600.00. Compare this to any other lodge in the Bahamas and you will find a savings of \$700.00 to \$1000.00. We urge single anglers to take advantage of this policy while it is still in place. We expect this policy will disappear as the lodge space fills up.

## GREY'S POINT BONEFISH INN

On the north end of Acklins Island, Grey's Point Bonefish Inn has out-the-door access to extensive flats that offer terrific after hours bonefishing. While more rustic than Acklins Island Lodge, Grey's Point offers the serious angler the opportunity to fish three days at Grey's Point and then three days at Acklins Island Lodge. By doing this, you can fish the entire length of the island and enjoy some of the world's best wade fishing.

Rick Ries of Seattle, Washington visited Grey's Point in December. Rick is an experienced bonefisherman and upon returning, sent us a very complete report. We thought you might like to hear some of his comments:

*"We had a great trip, the Williams family was as you said: friendly, great sense of humor, warm and we looked forward to Lavonda's breakfast and cheer each morning. We used the new lodge rooms and they were first class and huge. We averaged about 12-15 fish per day and only caught two that were less than 20 inches. Most fish were on the large (5-8lb) size and while we did not land any double digits, we broke one off and bonked about three others right on the head with cross wind casts when you can only guess where the fly will hit. The low day was about 5 each ... high was 35 (yes 35). Garron was great and he has a great set of eyes. One thing he could do that I've never seen before is to see fish directly into a late afternoon sun patch. Elvis also fished with us. While not as developed a guide as Garron, he is a joyous human being and we looked forward to his coming along and handling the boat.*

*This is just what we were looking for, great flats, all wading, great people, big fish."*

Please call us for all the details.

## FALSE ALBACORE

ON THE OUTER BANKS

This year we're proud to offer the opportunity to fish the fall false albacore blitz on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. If you are a fly or light tackle fisherman, you owe it to yourself to experience one of the ocean's fastest and strongest fish. In recent years, these incredible fish have been "discovered" by fly fishermen. "Fat Alberts", as the locals call them, provide some of the most exciting, fast-paced sight fishing available anywhere in the world. The average fish weights in at a hefty 12-18 lbs. and some go over the 20 lb. mark. Albies make blistering runs and show tremendous sustained power. Recommended equipment includes 9-10 weight rods with reels possessing superior drag systems capable of holding at least 250 yards of backing.

For the fall of 2000, we will be offering a fishing package through Outermost Excursions in pursuit of these elegant speedsters. The action can be incredible but the season is short, so booking early is recommended. A three day/four night package is priced at \$1,450.00 and includes a full eight hour day, lodging, lunch, flies and the latest boat equipped with the best technology.

Your guide, Captain Gil Berke of Outermost Excursions, is a true expert. Captain Berke is a commercial fly tyer for Umpqua Feather Merchants, and a fly casting and flytying instructor with many years experience pursuing false albacore tuna. This autumn fishery is nothing short of amazing and anglers will certainly be exhilarated. And perhaps more important for some anglers, while you are fishing, non-fishing companions have the opportunity to explore the historic Beaufort waterfront and its many unique restaurants and shops.

Please call for complete details and updated availability.



## SOME UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

IMPORTANT NEWS OF SPECIAL NOTE

**ALASKA STEELHEAD...** Over 300 watersheds in Alaska's "pan-handle" have documented steelhead runs. Many experts agree that if this area was not so remote and the access so difficult, anglers would consider Alaska the premier steelhead destination in the world. **The Glacier Bay Country Inn** in Gustavus, AK has spent many years researching this fishery and has organized a mothership operation to access these remote and rarely fished steelhead streams. The vessel used is a 72' Hatteras specially designed for northwest waters. This luxurious yacht provides more than just a comfortable base of operation. The food and accommodations are simply fabulous. Float-equipped aircraft, as well as, on-board jet boats are used to reach otherwise inaccessible areas literally stuffed with bright chromers. There are three trips scheduled for April and May, 2001 and still two spots left on their May 8 departure this year. The price is \$5,995.00.

**DRY FLY FLOAT TRIPS, BLACKWATER RIVER...** if you are looking for a wilderness fishing trip that is perfect for both beginners and experts alike, we recommend float trips on Canada's remote Blackwater River. The Blackwater is loaded with native rainbow trout that average between 1-2 lbs. and readily take dry flies. It is not unusual to catch dozens of trout a day all on caddis and mayfly dry fly imitations. The meals are delicious, the scenery beautiful, the guides are great teachers, and the fishing has been described as the "best dry fly fishing in the world."

**TOBACCO ROOT RANCH, MONTANA ...** this 60,000 acre ranch boasts numerous streams and lakes ranging from 5,500 - 11,000 feet above sea level. Trophy browns, rainbows, brookies and cutthroats are all common and all naturally sustaining populations. There have been no "plants" or "stockings" in over 40 years. This is a multigenerational family-run ranch. The family is deeply tied to the land and has won numerous awards for their conservation record. Wildlife is abundant and the scenery spectacular. This is truly one of the "last best places" left in the world. Remaining space is limited to July and September, 2000.

**ROYAL COACHMAN LODGE, ALASKA...** if you are looking for a small, experienced, fly fishing oriented lodge with an outstanding reputation, we recommend the Royal Coachman Lodge. Daily fly-outs reach unforgettable fishing and one of the most famous Alaskan rivers flows past the log lodge!



## NEW LODGE AT SANDY POINT

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR FANS OF ABACO ISLAND

The biggest bonefish in the Bahamas are often found feeding on shallow flats adjacent to deeper cuts and dropoffs. Trophy bones grow old by learning very young that easily gained deeper water provides an important escape route from sharks and barracuda. The best big fish spots are found on Andros, Great Abaco and Grand Bahama Islands.

One of the best big fish spots in this northern tier of islands is at the southern tip of Abaco near the village of Sandy Point. If you have never fished the extensive marls to the north or the white sand flats to the south or the magical offshore cays to the west of the village, you have missed one of the premier bonefish destinations in all the Bahamas.

This spring, one of Sandy Point's best guides, Ricardo Burrows, along with his wife Monique, have opened the brand new **Rickmon Bonefish Lodge**. We are receiving great reports from returning anglers who have given high marks to the food, accommodations and, of course, the guides. One fellow told us that he expected the fishing to be good, the guides great and the people friendly, but he added, "I didn't expect Ricardo's place to be this nice."

The Burrow's 10 room lodge was built right on the ocean. Some of the rooms have private balconies that look out over the magnificent flats adjacent to the village. From here it is quite possible to watch fish tailing while you enjoy your evening cocktail. A 50 x 20' wooden deck built near the beach provides a great spot for barbecues and to watch the sun slide beneath the horizon over a cold Kalik beer.

The rooms all have air-conditioning, private baths, TV and are roomy and very comfortable. Monique Burrows has considerable experience in hotel management and it shows in all the little details that make or break a bonefishing lodge. We predict this lodge will become one of those rare fishing destinations that combine great food, lodging and service with terrific and very friendly guides. And yes, you can book Patrick, Anthony, Nicholas, Paul, Derreck, Kendall and, of course, Ricardo and stay at Rickmon Bonefish Lodge!

## ADDING NEW MATERIALS IMPROVES OLD DESIGNS

*These two patterns come to us from Chuck Thompson and Franklyn Gorrell at The International Angler in Pittsburg, PA. These guys have fished all over the Bahamas, Belize and Mexico. They know their stuff! They can be reached at 800-782-4222 and welcome your saltwater questions.*

*Chuck describes their approach: "As you will quickly note these are variations on other flies that we have changed to give them more appeal to the fish. The changes are primarily in the materials that when used, give a more lifelike look to the flies in the water. These flies are easy to tie and have been used very successfully in the Bahamas and Yucatan by Franklyn and our guys. We believe the most successful bonefish flies are developed by slightly changing proven patterns. More lifelike materials (i.e., golden bunny fur) tied on the original patterns make for very productive refined flies. It does not always make sense spending your time developing radical new flies when minor changes to existing ones improve your hookup rate."*

### BAAD CRAB



<b>Hook:</b>	Mustad 3407 or Tiemco 811S Size 2, 4 or 6
<b>Thread:</b>	Tan
<b>Legs:</b>	Round med. rubber-brown, knotted
<b>Body:</b>	Velcro coins cut to oblong shape
<b>Eyes:</b>	Burned monofilament or "bug eyes"
<b>Barbell Eyes:</b>	Lead or brass barbell
<b>Claws:</b>	Rubberband knotted

### Tying Instructions

The Velcro coins should be trimmed down each of the 2 sides to give an oval shape. Tie in the legs off the bend of the hook. The eyes and claws can be sized by holding them up to one of the trimmed Velcro coins and tying in at the center of the hook shank (by gluing them in place they remain quite durable and make this pattern much easier and faster to tie). The legs are tied at the opposite end of the hook. Remove the fly from the vise and put on the bottom Velcro coin. Run a bead of Zap-A-Gap down the shank and apply the upper Velcro coin. Squeeze the Velcro and run a thin amount of glue around the edges. Hang to dry. Trim legs and color to suit your preference. When tied in size 6, we usually leave off the claws.

*"There is something for every permit to find delectable in this fly. The slightly oblong body is accentuated with pincers and rubber legs to impart a subtle movement, even when the fly is at rest. This fly also works for bones in smaller sizes and recently caught permit at Casa Blanca."*

### "BUNNY" BREWER'S AMBER



<b>Hook:</b>	Tiemco 811S or 3457, size 4 & 6
<b>Thread:</b>	Yellow Danville
<b>Tail:</b>	Lemon Wood Duck
<b>Underbody:</b>	.025 lead wire
<b>Eyes:</b>	Medium brass bead chain
<b>Body:</b>	Medium amber V-Rib over yellow Danville (2 layers thick)
<b>Wing:</b>	Golden brown rabbit fur flanked by cree saddle tips

*"This is a variation of the standard Brewer's Amber that we have used for years. Our new pattern has caught many bonefish and several permit which makes it particularly appealing to anglers in the Yucatan where permit frequently show up when you are fishing for bones. This fly should give wading anglers a chance at a permit when their permit rig is back at the skiff."*

## **BAHAMAS NEWS**

The big news this year was the fallout from Hurricane Floyd. Abaco and Eleuthera were hit the hardest. Grand Bahama Island had a big mess to clean up while Andros, Acklins, Crooked and all the other islands in the chain suffered only minor damage. As this newsletter is being written in March, all lodges (except as noted below) are operational and quickly returning to normal.

In the next newsletter, we'll give you all the details on the proposed new lodges at the west end of Grand Bahama and on Andros at Mangrove Cay.

### **RAGGED ISLAND BONEFISH CLUB**

We mentioned that this last fall was one of the worst hurricane seasons in the Bahamas in many years. Unfortunately, in a round-about way, Ragged Island Bonefish Club was a victim of Floyd too. The proposed spring opening of the lodge was delayed because the freighter that was carrying the desalinization unit for the lodge sank. In late winter, 1999, it became obvious that a new unit could not be shipped in time for the spring opening. As a result, the opening was postponed until fall, 2000. That's the bad news. The good news is that a few intrepid anglers who visited Ragged Island this spring, despite the lack of amenities, reported fantastic fishing. We will keep you posted about their proposed opening for fall, 2000.

### **SANDY POINT**

For all of you that sent money to Sandy Point in the wake of the hurricane, Patrick and all the "city fathers" wanted us to make sure that we issued you a hearty "thank you". You know who you are and we add our heartfelt thanks too!

## **STAFFORD CREEK LODGE**

### **ANDROS ISLAND**

This small, family-owned lodge caters to only six anglers a week. The rooms all have A/C, rod racks, spacious bathrooms and a private deck overlooking the creek. This is a first class lodge with not only great food and accommodations, but superb guides headed by one of the top five guides in all the Bahamas, Prescott Smith. Our returning anglers are extremely pleased with the entire package and many are re-booking early convinced space will go quickly for fall, 2000 and spring, 2001.

### **BAIR BAHAMAS SOUTH ANDROS**

Bair Bahamas Guest House is almost completely sold out for spring 2001. Like Stafford Creek Lodge, we only receive rave reviews about Bair Bahamas. If you are interested in booking Bairs for spring, 2001, we strongly encourage you to contact us as soon as you receive this newsletter. Bair Bahamas quite simply offers the best guides, boats, food and accommodations on South Andros.

### **GRAND BAHAMA BONEFISHING, LTD.**

The Pinder Brothers are emerging as some of the premier guides in all the Bahamas. We would put David and Jeffrey Pinder on a par with Prescott Smith at Stafford Creek Lodge and Patrick Roberts at Sandy Point. In February, Dr. Joe Scuderi called to request Jeffrey Pinder as his guide for a proposed trip for the end of the month. On February 29, we got a call from Jim Hoffman of GBBLTD. that Joe had caught a 34.5" /15 lb. bonefish. Joe is an experienced bonefisherman and obviously knew the right combination for the fish of a lifetime! Congratulations Joe!

Grand Bahama Bonefishing, LTD. is housed in the magnificent Lucayan Reef Village making it a wonderful spot for both serious anglers and their non-fishing companions.

### **PELICAN BAY**

#### **GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND**

Guides Ken Cooper, Ted Cooper, Tommy Rolle and Carle Rolle (all trained by Greg Vincent) are receiving good reviews by our returning clients. Once again, Pelican Bay offers complete resort amenities for non-fishing spouses and guests while providing outstanding flats fishing to the dedicated angler.

### **PETE AND GAYS GUESTHOUSE**

#### **SANDY POINT, ABACO**

Now undergoing a complete renovation, including larger rooms with private bathrooms (and roomy showers). This removes the last criticism we hear from returning anglers of Pete and Gay's Guesthouse. As always, anglers rave about the food and atmosphere. The flats on the southern tip of Abaco are, without doubt, some of the best in the Bahamas and we feel that when all the elements of a great bonefish trip are considered, Pete and Gay's offers the "best bang for the buck" at Sandy Point.

### **NETTIES DIFFERENT OF ABACO**

Even though Hurricane Floyd passed right over Cherokee Sound on its way to wreaking considerable havoc in Marsh Harbour, Netties survived quite well with only superficial roof and landscaping damage. All has been repaired and the boats and motors have undergone a complete overhaul this winter. Things are back on track at Netties' place!

## BEST SALTWATER DESTINATIONS

FOR NON-FISHING SPOUSES

### BAHAMAS

- \*Banyan Beach Bonefish Club
- \*Grand Bahama Bonefishing LTD.
- \*Pelican Bay Bonefishing
- Nettie's Different of Abaco
- North Riding Point Club

### MEXICO

- \* Playa Blanca
- \* Isla Blanca, Cancun
- Seaclusion Villa

### SEYCHELLES

- \*Alphonse Island Resort
- \*Scuba and snorkeling programs available

### BELIZE

- \*Journey's End Resort
- \*Sunrise Almond Tree Lodge
- \*Turneffe Flats Lodge
- \*Turneffe Island Lodge
- \*El Pescador

## SOME HINTS ON FISHING FOR BARRACUDA

For many anglers, barracuda are a very frustrating fish to catch on a fly rod. Intelligent predators, barracudas will often follow flies, but just as often won't eat the fly.

Kenny Schwam of Delaware River Anglers is a very innovative and productive fishermen. When Kenny tells us how to catch a particular species, we listen. Some of Kenny's ideas are unconventional, but his track record with big barracuda is unsurpassed and his techniques therefore bear investigation:

*"I don't bother with 'cudas under 36" to 40". They don't weigh much, don't fight much*

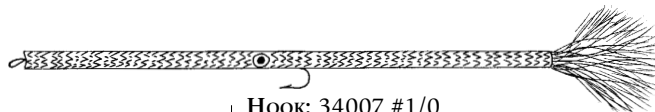
*and always trash your fly, which is only good for one fish anyway. Bigger cudas (4' and over) are awesome light tackle, shallow water fighters that make blindingly fast runs and take spectacular jumps. Cudas are a very underrated gamefish in this angler's opinion.*

*When looking for layed-up fish, pay close attention to the edges of grass beds and/or large bare sand patches surrounded by grass. Cudas like to use the edges of the grass to ambush other fish, exactly like a pike or pickerel. Now, here's the trick to getting hits instead of follows: Don't cast directly at the fish. Bait rarely falls out of the sky and never right on top of any predator. Instead, lay the fly 40' or so in front of the fish. Don't worry, he will see it. Use a steady retrieve - if the fish wants*

*the fly, speed of retrieve won't matter. The conventional wisdom is to use as fast a retrieve as possible. I disagree with this technique. If you fish at moderate speeds with a steady retrieve, this then allows you to speed up if a fish starts to follow. If you are already retrieving as fast as you can, how are you going to speed up? Cudas are pretty smart, they expect their prey to speed up and try to get away. Believe me you can't go too fast for barracuda!*

*Another really good trick is to cast the fly between the sun and fish. This way the fish must look into the sun to see the fly. He will see it, but just not real well. Fish have no eyelids, sunglasses or hats to keep the sun out of their eyes. This is also a really good trick for bonefish, snook, reds and just about any other fish."*

## L & S CUD A FLY



This slick design from Kenny Schwam of Delaware River Anglers incorporates the bite tippet into the fly itself. If you would like a copy of these instructions, give us a call or call Kenny at 215-830-9766. Kenny shares a few hints on equipment:

*"THERE ARE TWO WAYS YOU CAN FISH THIS FLY. THE FIRST IS WITH YOUR STANDARD 10-WT. OUTFIT WITH A FLOATING OR INTERMEDIATE LINE. THIS IS GOOD FOR STALKING LAYED-UP FISH, BUT RATHER EXHAUSTING TO BLIND FISH WITH. THE SECOND METHOD, AND THE ONE I PREFER, IS AN 11-WT. INTERMEDIATE SHOOTING HEAD ON A 10-WT. ROD. I USE 30-LB. MONO FOR RUNNING LINE. BECAUSE THE FLY IS LIGHT AND CUTS THRU THE AIR WELL, CASTS OVER 100' ARE POSSIBLE. IN WINDY CONDITIONS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO MAKE CASTS TO 150'. THIS IS IDEAL FOR MAKING LONG BLIND CASTS WITH MINIMUM EFFORT. I LIKE A STIFF LEADER 8-10' IN LENGTH AND 20-LB. FLOUROCARBON MAKES GREAT TIPPET MATERIAL. THERE IS NO WIRE NECESSARY AS THE FLY ITSELF IS THE WIRE."*

**HOOK:** 34007 #1/0

**THREAD:** 6/0 WHITE UNI-THREAD

**TAIL:** YELLOW MARABOU PLUME

**BODY:** 45-LB. STEELON WIRE AND DAY-GLO 3/8" MYLAR TUBING PINK, GREEN AND ORANGE

**EYES:** 6MM. WIGGLE DOLL EYES

### TYING INSTRUCTIONS

1. CUT TUBING IN TO 12" SECTIONS.
2. PULL OUT THE POLYFIBER CORE.
3. TAKE A WHOLE MARABOU PLUME AND INSERT IN ONE END OF THE TUBING, STICK IT IN AT LEAST AN INCH AND TIE THE TUBING DIRECTLY TO THE MARABOU PLUME. TIE SECURELY AND HALF-HITCH OFF THE THREAD.
4. PUSH THE FEATHER FURTHER INTO THE TUBING SO THAT THE TUBING FOLDS OVER ITSELF. CRAZY GLUE THE END OF THE TUBING. PUT ASIDE TO DRY.
5. CUT A PIECE OF STEELON WIRE 12" LONG AND SNELL THE WIRE ONTO THE HOOK. USE A 1/0 MUSTAD. A GOOD SUBSTITUTE WOULD BE A GAMAGATSU UP-EYE.
6. MAKE A LOOP ON THE END OF THE WIRE 6" FROM

THE BEND OF THE HOOK. USE A CRIMP TO MAKE THE LOOP. THE LOOP SHOULD BE 1/2" LONG. USE A #3 CRIMP.

7. HOLD YOUR SNELLED HOOK UP ALONGSIDE THE TUBING SO THAT THE CRIMP LINES UP WITH THE FRONT OF THE TUBE. THIS ALLOWS YOU TO JUDGE WHERE THE HOOK WILL STICK OUT.
8. POKE THE WIRE LOOP THROUGH THE TUBING WHERE THE HOOK WILL STICK OUT (SLIGHTLY BEHIND THE CENTER OF THE TUBE SHOULD BE ABOUT RIGHT).
9. TIE THE TUBING TO THE CRIMP AND HALF-HITCH THE THREAD OFF.
10. PUSH THE LOOP INTO THE TUBING SO THAT THE TUBING REVERSES OVER ITSELF. USE A GENEROUS AMOUNT OF CRAZY GLUE ON THE CRIMP AND LET DRY.
11. ATTACH THE EYES EXACTLY 2" IN FRONT OF THE HOOK. THIS IS IMPORTANT. CUDAS USE THE EYES OF THEIR PREY AS AN AIMING POINT. USE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF CRAZY GLUE TO ATTACH THE EYES.

NOTE: IF YOUR HOOK DOES NOT LINE UP SIMPLY PINCH THE SNEEL BETWEEN YOUR FINGERS AND TWIST THE HOOK TO A STRAIGHT UP AND DOWN POSITION.



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U.S. POSTAGE  
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SHERIDAN, WY

**Bahamas**

Rickmons Lodge, Acklin's Island Lodge, Grey's Point, Moxey's Banyan Beach Bonefishing Club, North Andros Bonefish Lodge, Grand Bahama Bonefishing Ltd., Bair Bahamas, Ragged Island, Tranquility Hill, Pelican Bay, Mars Bay, Stafford Creek Lodge, Pete and Gay's Guesthouse

**Belize, Mexico**

Belize River Lodge, Turneffe Flats Lodge, Turneffe Island Lodge, Casa Blanca, Playa Blanca, Isla Holbox, Martin McCord's *Meca* and Charles Westby's *Seaduction* Live-Aboards, El Pescador, Journey's End, Sunrise Almond Tree lodge

**Wyoming, Montana**

Private Ranches  
Mountain Streams  
Mountain Horsepack Trips  
Five Rivers Lodge  
Ruby Springs Lodge  
Forrester's Frontier Travel  
Bighorn River Country Lodge  
Lewis and Clark Expeditions  
Montana Birdhunting

**Alaska, Canada, Kamchatka**

Lodges, Float Trips and Tent Camps in  
Bristol Bay, British Columbia  
Russia and Northwest Territories including Bristol Bay Lodge  
Kanektok River Camp  
Royal Coachman Lodge  
Kamchatka Expeditions  
Wilderness Place Lodge

**A**NGLING DESTINATIONS IS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING BOTH THE FISHERIES WE DISCOVER AND THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT WE MAKE. THE MAJORITY OF OUR BUSINESS IS FROM REPEAT CLIENTS. WE TRY AND KEEP AN OPEN EAR TO CUSTOMER FEEDBACK AND TAILOR OUR FUTURE DIRECTION IN A WAY TO

SATISFY SUCH CRITIQUES.

WHETHER YOU ARE SEARCHING FOR BONEFISH AND PERMIT IN SALT, PIKE AND WALLEYE IN CANADA, SALMON IN ALASKA OR TROUT IN THE ROCKIES, WE CAN DRAW ON OUR COMBINED YEARS OF FISHING THE WORLD TO MEET YOUR NEEDS. OUR DES-

TINATIONS ARE UNIQUE. MANY ARE EXCLUSIVE TO US ... AND WE DON'T MIND SHARING.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNTS. THEY REPRESENT SOME OF THE ADVENTURES WE HAVE TO OFFER.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR CALL!

