

September, 1999

Y2K

Since this will be the last Angling Destinations newsletter you will receive this century, we just wanted to take a minute to thank everyone for the wonderful year we've enjoyed. We have had the pleasure of sharing angling adventures with many of you in Chile, Alaska, the Bahamas, the Seychelles and on our home waters in Wyoming and Montana. We have always enjoyed our conversations with you and we have listened closely to your advice, suggestions, great stories and angling tips. These conversations have forged friendships that have often led to great days on the water. This is what makes this business so much fun and we appreciate all of you more than you'll ever know. Thank you!

We feel we have a great lineup of destinations for this season from new bonefish resorts in the Bahamas and the Seychelles to tarpon in Mexico and trout in Montana. So take a look inside and call us for more details on any of these outstanding destinations.

SEYCHELLES

UPDATE ON THE LODGE

In our last newsletter we stated that the Seychelles had "the best bonefishing on the planet Earth". Nothing we have heard from our returning fishermen has done anything to change our mind. One returning angler stated "We have never had a previous fly fishing trip that even came remotely close." We won't go over the details of this fantastic fishery in this report again. If you would like

a copy of our last newsletter and our report on the incredible Seychelles, give us a call and we will get one in the mail right away.

What we want to tell you is that the resort being built on Alphonse Island plans to be operational by January 7, 2000. The *Tam Tam*, the live-aboard catamaran that we are currently booking, will be the concessionaire for

the lodge and the same crew will handle the bonefishing operation. The lodge will take bookings for only 10 anglers at a time. No boats, other than those of the concession holder, will be permitted within one kilometer of the atoll. Close monitoring of the fishery will continue to check for degradation. The fishing day will begin at 7:30 A.M.

and the trip to St. Francois Island will take approximately 30 minutes aboard the *Tam Tam*. Anglers will leave the flats at 4:30 P.M. in order

to reach Alphonse by 5:00 P.M. Guides will use 18' SeaArk flats boats. Most of the fishing is done while wading on the beautiful and exceptionally firm, white sand flats of the atolls. The *Tam Tam* will act as a base station during the day.

On average, Seychelles bonefish are very big, averaging 5-7 lbs. Larger fish up to 14 lbs. have been landed and world record fish of 19-20 lbs. have been seen, or hooked and lost, on the outside edges of the atolls. The fish are surprisingly unsophisticated and are not spooked by flies or fishermen. Perhaps this will change, but for now, this is the most beautiful and rewarding bonefishing on the planet. Other species include giant trevally up to 120 lbs., big-

"This is almost like getting to fish Christmas Island 30 years ago...except the fish are bigger and the trevally more plentiful."

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eye and blue trevally, barracuda up to 75 lbs., and a variety of grouper, triggerfish and sharks.

The fishing season runs the first week of September to the first week of June. May and September are windier and more like year-round conditions at Christmas Island.

This is an ideal spot for non-fishing companions who

“Every day we saw rays foraging on the flats. These rays were not followed by one or two bonefish but by whole squadrons, perhaps 15-20 fish. We spooked them when we waded too close, but they would quickly return as soon as we departed.”

can play tennis or indulge in a variety of water sports including diving at the PADI certified dive center. Beachcombers and sunbathers will enjoy the powder-soft, white sand beaches which surround the atolls. Bicycles will be provided by the resort to explore the island. An old copra plantation has been preserved and can be visited.

These islands of Alphonse, St. Francois and Le Bijoutier form one of the most remote and beautiful places on this planet. Combine this beauty with the cutting edge of bonefishing, world-class trevally fishing and a luxurious and well

“The climate in the Seychelles is wonderfully tropical with warm equatorial weather year round. The temperature rarely exceeds ninety degrees. December through February brings the northwest monsoon and higher than average rainfall. May through September brings the southeast monsoon and wind. March, April, October and November are usually calm with slight sea conditions.”

managed resort and you have the raw materials of an exceptional angling experience. We are returning to the Seychelles this October and will be happy to answer any questions regarding the resorts progress upon our return home. Please call us for complete details on this destination. The cost is \$4,995.00 for 7 nights/6 days fishing and includes all meals, lodging, fishing and the flight to and from Mahe and the atoll. Single occupancy and non-fishing rates are available. The price does not include alcohol, gratuities or costs incurred while in Mahe.

SOME UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

We've heard stories about a unique fishery that has been discovered in the narrow channels between the hundreds of islands that comprise the Pacific coast of **Chile**. Silver salmon and huge rainbow trout are reported to take streamers and dry flies with unbridled willingness. Fishermen are reporting 10-20 fish days with all the rainbows in the 22-27" range. There are three options to fish these fjords: The first is to split your Puyuhuapi Fjord trip headquarters between a comfortable family-owned inn in the quaint costal village of Puerto Cisnes and a guest cabin in the magnificent Quelat National Park. The second choice is the luxurious option of using the hotel/spa in the fjord as your base. This is especially attractive if you have a non-fishing spouse. The third option is a mothership trip departing from Puerto Aisen. This option is definitely exploratory. There are no land based lodges that exist in the area of Aisen Fjord. Although we haven't experienced any of this as yet, we have a trip planned for next year (see Exploratory Trips insert). We would also be happy to get you in touch with fishermen who have experienced this fabulous area. Call today for details. . . . Or how about a grand tour on horseback of **Montana's Beartooth Mountains**. Trips run 5-10 days and include some of the best high country fishing Montana has to offer. Start at Wounded Man Lake for cutthroats and rainbows, pack to Lightning Lake for golden trout and end at Frenchy's Meadow on Slough Creek. . . . Or how about spending New Year's Eve at **Deep Water Cay Club**. Thursday, December 30, 1999, to Monday, January 3, 2000, for only \$2,000.00 per person. . . . We also feel we have, without a doubt, the best facility in **Los Roques**. Warm hospitality, delicious cuisine, personalized service, comfortable rooms, professional and bilingual guides and great boats may cost a bit more, but it also makes our choice on Los Roques one of the premier bonefish lodges in the world. . . . And don't forget **Martin McCord's Belize Live-aboard** (see our last newsletter). We are receiving rave reviews and many people are re-booking for 2000 and 2001. . . . If you're interested in traveling north to **Alaska**, try our exclusive tent camp on one of the best of Alaska's famous rivers, the Kanektok River. . . . And for couples, we suggest **Mexico's Playa Blanca** just south of Ascension Bay. Great fishing and all the amenities for non-fishermen. Call today for details on any or all of these trips.

ADVANCED DRY FLY FISHING

TIPS FOR SELECTIVE TROUT

Sight fishing, whether it be with dry flies for trout, poppers for trevally or blind gotchas for tailing bonefish, is the apex of the sport for many anglers. These anglers know that they may catch fewer fish than they might with an unseen underwater fly whether it be nymphing for trout or probing bonefish muds. But, somehow this visible connection between the fly and the fish leads to heart stopping moments. It is at that precise moment between the perceived take and the hookset that sight fishermen become truly addicted. One of the most addicting forms of sight fishing is dry fly fishing for large selective trout. What follows are some advanced dry fly hints for the dedicated fishermen who would rather pursue trout on the surface.

1. The key to getting the proverbial drag free float is the length and thickness of the tippet. The ideal tippet length and diameter allows you to cast small S curves or waves in the tippet. If the tippet falls back on itself or stacks, it is too long or thin. If the tippet lands in a straight line behind the fly, the tippet is too short or too thick and it will drag the fly. Before all else, you must work to achieve this balance.

2. It is important to understand that a trout has a feeding lie for very specific reasons having to do with the energy required to feed. This fish will repeatedly rise along a very narrow slot and will take the naturals at a very specific point along this path. Water hydrodynamics dictates this path and the point of minimal caloric loss to feed. Bigger fish will always take the best

spots. Here they can use the water's pressure to plane up to take the surface fly and then down to the resting lie with a minimum of energy expended. Your fly must achieve a natural drift only along this small slot, but it must match this path exactly. It must not deviate slightly right or left where it is not calorically economical for the fish to rise. A trout knows this small stretch of water intimately. A large smart trout will not take an artificial fly that is floating unnaturally or is even slightly out of its range...period.

3. When you see rising trout, take your time and plan a strategy. Take a deep breath and think. Plan where you will enter the water. Plan the point that will give you a clear backcast. Avoid wading into feeding fish. They will spook and alert your intended upriver fish. Prepare your tackle before you enter the water. Plan how you will achieve a drag-free float.

4. Your first cast will always be your best opportunity to catch your prospective quarry. So once again, don't alert fish to your presence. Use the lightest weight line possible. The lighter the line the softer it hits the water and the quieter the presentation. A 3 weight line creates about half the strike force of a 6 weight line. Also use neutral or gray toned lines. If you can see bright or light lines better, so can the fish. Don't false cast over fish. Cast away from the fish with a sidearm motion to dry your fly. Don't false cast a wet leader and line over feeding fish. This will send a cascade of small water droplets onto the fish. This is especially a problem with braided butt sections. Don't pop your fly off the water when initiating the backcast. Wait until the fly line and

the butt section are off the water before initiating your backcast.

4. Naturals float with their bodies on the water. In recent years, traditional palmered hackle dry flies and the sparser Catskill patterns have often been abandoned in favor of newer patterns that allow the body to sit flush in the surface film. Use parachute, comparadun or thorax patterns or snip the hackles on the underside of your conventional palmered flies.

5. Don't use paste type floatants which tend to mat hackles together creating an unnatural appearance. Instead, use liquid floatants combined with drying crystals. But remember, a treated fly will leave an oil slick on the surface. This slick almost surely alerts the fish for no naturals have a prismatic halo around them. To avoid this problem try dragging the fly under the water to remove the excess floatant then false cast away from the fish to dry the fly. Also, we have observed that a tippet treated with floatant is much more visible floating on the surface film than a tippet that sinks. Wipe off only the last foot or so of tippet and run it through your saliva coated fingers or coat it with a sink compound. It will then be virtually invisible.

6. Adjust your strike speed to match the type of water you're fishing. In fast water, a fast strike is almost always necessary while in slow water, the angler must wait until the fish closes its mouth.

Try a few of these suggestions the next time you decide to stalk a large selective trout with a dry fly. You may be rewarded with one of the greatest thrills in all of angling!

ISLA HOLBOX

YUCATAN'S TARPON HOTSPOT!

Lying just off the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, awaits one of the world's premier tarpon habitats. We first became aware of this area's potential for giant tarpon years ago. However, finding guides and accommodations was next to impossible so we put this destination on the back burner. When we heard that a small operation had started on Isla Holbox, we paid special attention. Isla Holbox is a lovely little island with beautiful beaches that are, at least for the time being, not prowled by tourists but by flamingos, pelicans and spoonbills.

But it is the tarpon that will draw you to Isla Holbox. While baby tarpon and snook are available year round on the shallow, clear, mangrove flats, it is the migratory fish that make this destination unique. Beginning in April, migrating schools start to move into the shallows and feed in 10-40 feet of clear water. June, July and August seem to be the most consistent with more fish and less wind. Low winds keep the water clear and make finding large tarpon much easier. These large fish begin moving out of the area in September.

Bonefish are also present during these spring and summer months as are barracuda, snapper, permit and jack crevalle. But tarpon are the consistent players in this area and the other species should be considered a bonus.

The lodging is basic but clean and neat with air-conditioning and hot and cold running water. The experienced and well-trained cadre of four guides will pick you up each day on the beach in front of your ocean view room. The owner of the Tarpon Club at Isla Holbox is Alejandro Vega. Alejandro is an accomplished flyfisherman and fly tier. His affable guides have many years of professional guiding experience and a lifetime of fishing this area. They can accommodate all forms of light tackle angling and fly fishing. The guides use seaworthy 18' pangas, equipped with first aid kits, seat cushions and life jackets. These boats are as at home in the open water as they are in the shallow water of the mangrove flats.

Continental breakfasts and delicious ample lunches with plenty of cold beverages and bottled water are included. You are however, responsible for your own dinners. The local restaurants are happy to help and offer excellent fresh seafood.

Round trip travel between Cancun and Isla Holbox is included in the price and involves a 30 minute air taxi. Trips run Saturday to Saturday.

So come visit friendly Isla Holbox where giant tarpon feed only ten minutes from your hotel door. This has got to be one of the best destinations in the world for tarpon from 2-200 lbs! Call us today for complete information on this unique spot.

IN ADDITION . . .

AD NOW ON LINE!

Before we get into the 21st century, Angling Destinations has decided to get into the 20th... we are now on line! Please have a look at our new online home. We will try to have pages for all our destinations and we'll put each issue of *Travelnotes* on line. We've even put the booklet "Tips to Improve Your Bonefishing" online. We are at:

WWW.ANGLINGDESTINATIONS.COM

RIO PRODUCTS AD

If you noticed the new Rio Products ads in *Fly Rod and Reel*, *Saltwater Fly Fishing* and *American Angler*, you've seen Rio owner Jim Vincent and Rio line designer Marlin Roush in white lab coats fishing for bonefish on beautiful white sand flats. The location is Grey's Point Inn on Acklins Island. The guide is Garron Williamson. Give these Rio lines a try. We've been using their 8 wt. bonefish lines and really like them. Grey's Point Bonefish Inn is a great spot to give your new Rio line a try too!

NEW PERMIT TACTIC

From Belize River Lodge comes this new technique. "Besides the traditional slow retrieve of crab patterns, use a Bonefish Slider cast near the group or behind the lead fish. Then start your retrieve slowly and speed up your strips as the fish start to chase the fly, as though it was a small shrimp or fish fleeing. This works well with small Grizzly Tarpon flies also."

Days of the Full Moon, 1999/2000

September 25

January 21, 2000

May 18

September 13

October 24

February 19

June 16

October 13

November 23

March 20

July 16

November 11

December 22

April 18

August 15

December 11

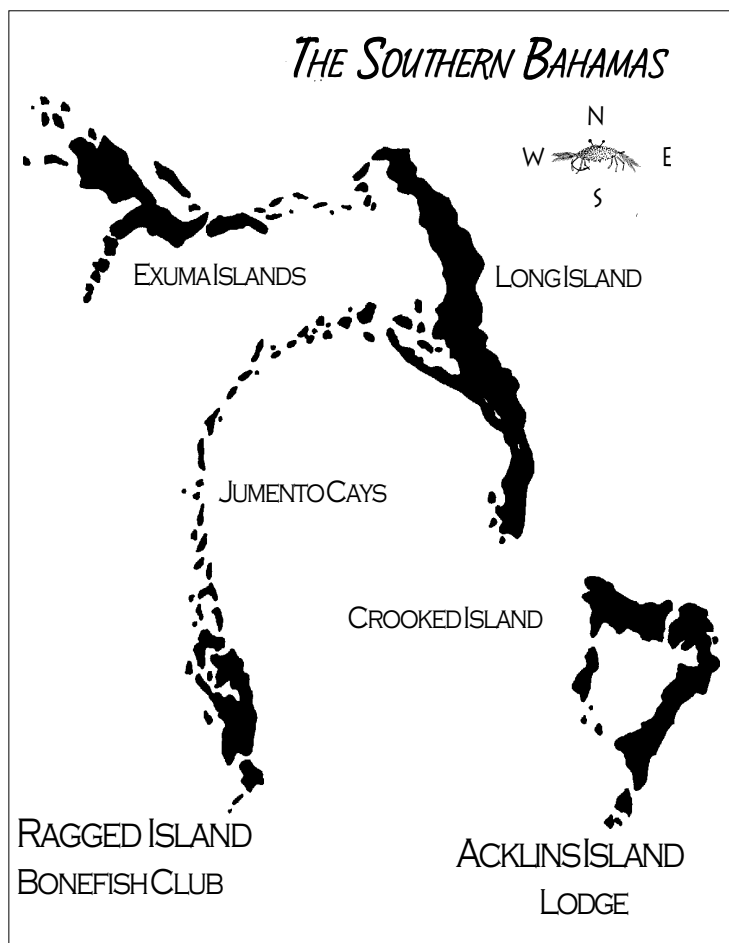
THE SOUTHERN BAHAMAS

TWO NEW BONEFISH LODGES OPEN

The southern Bahamas begin at the end of the Exuma chain where the smaller cays curve into Long Island. From here south, many of the cold weather fronts that affect the famous more northerly islands of Andros, Grand Bahama and Abaco lose their punch and dissipate into harmless cirrus clouds. These southern islands include Crooked and Acklins Islands situated just south of Long Island, with Ragged Island and the Jumento Cays to the southwest, and Inagua Island even further south. These islands can often be visited in January, February and March when winds and cloud cover sometimes shut down the more famous northern flats.

Angling Destinations is now representing two new lodges in these southern islands. One lodge is on Acklins Island and the other on Ragged Island. Although it can be more difficult to reach these southern islands, it is well worth the effort. We have worked closely with these two new operations and are committed to providing the finest fishing opportunities available on these sensational, weather-friendly islands. Both these new lodges offer excellent opportunities to fish remote and untouched flats, have American input and financing, have excellent equipment and have worked hard to train their guides. Both lodges understand Ameri-

can tastes and needs regarding meals and accommodations. And finally, both lodges represent significant departures from the *modus operandi* at the Bahamian-owned resorts that, in the past, provided the only game in town. At these resorts, anglers often had to put up with glitches and inconveniences if



they were committed to fishing these islands. We encourage you to read this section carefully. These two new lodges present unique opportunities in rarely visited corners of the Bahamas. As always, the early bird gets the worm. We expect the next 2-3 years to offer the best opportunities to only the boldest and most adventuresome anglers. So please give us a call today, many of the best dates for spring 2000 are already filling up!

ACKLINS ISLAND LODGE

There is no doubt that Acklins Island offers some of the best bonefishing in the Bahamas. Huge, white sand flats reveal, at times, staggering populations of bonefish. With the majority of the flats providing excellent wading on hard bottomed, crushed coral and packed sand, Acklins Island is truly one of the last great unspoiled bonefisheries in the Bahamas.

Many of our returning Acklins Island live-aboard and lodge clients told us these were the finest bonefish trips they have ever experienced. But what has been bonefish heaven for many anglers has been just too rustic and rough around the edges for others. This has been a real dilemma for us and has required a careful assessment of anglers' expectations and needs. Especially with groups where perhaps not all members "knew what they were getting into".

We feel now that this dilemma of a great fishery, for some anglers, in too rustic a setting, has been solved. In the fall of 1999, **Acklins Island Lodge** will open its doors.

This beautiful new lodge was built on a hill to provide both a panoramic view and a cooling, insect erasing breeze. The lodge features 5 air-conditioned rooms with private baths, and will accommodate 8 anglers. The club-

house and dining room are nicely appointed with comfortable furnishings, a fly tying desk, full bar, and a wrap-around deck. A state of the art reverse osmosis water system allows guests to enjoy fresh water showers and clean drinking water straight out of the tap! A great deal of attention is paid to the menu, which features fresh grouper, dolphin, wahoo, and lobster.

The boat fleet is extensive and in good repair. Three new Bay Skiffs with four stroke, Honda 50 hp engines have recently been purchased. These three skiffs are very comfortable and deliver you to the flats with quiet speed. There are also two smaller skiffs with Johnson 25 hp engines, which are ideal for stashing in the "back country" for access to many secret spots. Finally, there are two 22' offshore boats. These boats are perfect for exploring the excellent fishing over patch reefs or the untouched offshore trolling for wahoo, dolphin, and tuna. If you choose, you can spend the day by combining fishing, snorkeling and spear fishing. Whichever option you choose, you will find the guides to be experienced, knowledgeable, patient and a pleasure to spend the day with. These guides will be led by the well-seasoned guide, Rupert Cox. Rupert will work closely with on-sight managers, John and Krista Sampson, the owners of one of Montana's premier fly fishing lodges. Together they will ensure that every detail of your stay is attended to.

So come experience a superb variety of saltwater fishing opportunities on one of the most remote islands in the Bahamas. And, while you're at it, stay at one the most comfortable lodges you'll find on any of the out islands!

RAGGED ISLAND BONEFISH CLUB

Stretching southwest in a great semicircle from the west point of Long Island lies a chain of beautiful and deserted cays. These Jumento Cays arc south some ninety miles, until they terminate at Ragged Island. Ragged Island has only one town, a remote settlement of 75 people who meagerly live on what bounty the sea provides. Only a few of the local natives own cars and with good reason, on Ragged there are only a couple of poorly maintained roads. The ocean provides a simple life for these natives and the big event each week is when the mail boat arrives. With only an occasional sailboat ever reaching these cays, the extensive flats, patch reefs and sandy pockets sit waiting, untouched and absolutely pristine. This is truly an untapped paradise for the light tackle sports fisherman.

After nearly a year of waiting impatiently, while enduring false starts and mounting frustrations, the **Ragged Island Bonefish Club** is finally in operation. The club was built on a hill to take advantage of cooling breezes and to provide a scenic view. The rooms are clean and comfortable with air-conditioning, satellite TV, and private baths. The lounge area includes a full bar where you can enjoy conch fritters and a cold Kalik beer while you watch the big screen satellite TV, play pool, or tie flies at the tying bench. For meals, you'll have the choice of chicken, steaks, and local seafood. Or if you want 7 nights of lobster, just tell the cook; you can select your meal in the morning and they'll have it ready for you that evening. A desalination plant provides plenty of pure, clean

water for your pleasure.

Fishing weeks turn around on Saturdays and include unlimited guide time. If you want to sleep in and fish late, your guide will conform to your schedule. If you are the dawn to dark type, your guide will accompany you all day. We think this will give some of the more famous destinations with jaded, unambitious guides who demand short work days a real run for their money. Ragged Island guides are trained by experienced U.S. flats guides and have well-maintained, brand new, pro skiffs at their disposal. Bonefish are abundant and uneducated here. Much of the fishing in the Ragged Islands is done by wading the many beautiful white sand flats. The softer flats will be poled as will many of the deeper permit flats. Mutton snapper and jacks are often seen on these deeper flats cruising on the backs of rays. Arrangements can also be made with the club to fish the many patch reefs and pockets for snapper and jacks or the bluewater for tuna, dolphin and wahoo. These options make Ragged Island and the Jumento Cays truly an angler's paradise.

However, getting to Ragged Island is not the simplest part of the trip. There are no scheduled commercial flights to Ragged Island. Maybe that will come, but for now groups can charter from Ft. Lauderdale, Georgetown in the Exumas or Nassau. The paved runway is 4,200' and is in excellent condition.

If you have ever dreamed of unexplored, unfished and untouched flats this is your chance. Give us a call today for information on both these great new destinations.

BIG HORN RIVER

PERFECT FOR THE BEGINNER AND THE EXPERT

Because everyone has had such great trips on the Bighorn River this year, we thought it was time to remind you again that this legendary river offers some of the finest trout fishing in the lower 48. With consistent stream flows and prolific insect life, this river holds more trout per mile than any other river in Montana. While it is possible to catch twenty plus inch trout on dry flies almost any month of the year, it is the sensational nymph fishing that is the bread and butter of beginning and intermediate fly fishermen. Twenty seems to be the magical number on the Bighorn for both beginners and experts. A novice armed with a good guide can often catch twenty fish in a day and it is possible for expert fishermen to catch a twenty inch trout on # 20 dry fly.

Let Angling Destinations arrange a Bighorn River trip for you. We know the best guides and the best lodges. We'll pick the best times for nymphing or streamers. And we know the best months for dry fly fishing from baetis to pale morning duns and black caddis to tricos. In July, August and September, we can combine a Bighorn trip with fishing on private ranch streams in the Bighorn Mountains. You can spend 2-3 days on the Bighorn and 2-3 days in absolute solitude on our private ranches. In October, November and December, we'll help you combine a great Bighorn trout trip with upland birdhunting or waterfowl hunting. Northeastern Wyoming and southeastern Montana is a sportsman's mecca and we're proud to show off our home waters. Give us a call and we'll give you all the details.

RUBY SPRINGS LODGE

FISH MONTANA'S FAMOUS WATERS

Another outstanding trout area is in western Montana where one can fish the Madison, Big Hole, Beaverhead, Jefferson and Ruby Rivers. These are some of the finest rivers in America and we recommend the Ruby Springs Lodge situated on 500 acres overlooking five miles of private river. Six cabins accommodate twelve anglers and are spaced along the river's bank with privacy and comfort in mind. After your day of angling, you will savor a cuisine to satisfy the most discerning gourmet. This is a lodge designed for fly fishermen by fly fishermen. Treat yourself to a perfect day of your own design. Call today for details.

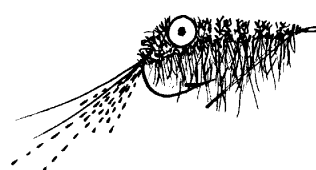
Ghost Shrimp



Hook: Mustad 34007 or Tiemco 8115 Size 4- 8
Thread: White
Collar: Pearl Crystal Chenille
Body: White mohair or dubbing segmented with gold wire
Eyes: Burned monofilament, painted
Mouth: Tan sheep fleece
Hackle: White saddle hackle
Antennae: Pearl Krystal Flash

As this fly has become more widely used, it has proven to be a very good choice for tailing bonefish in very skinny water. This fly lands quietly and seems just visible enough to interest very wary big bones.

Kenny's Mantis Shrimp Fly



Hook: Mustad 34011 Size 1 or 1/0
Thread: 6/0 tan uni-thread
Mouth: Wild boar hair & 20 strands of rootbeer Krystal Flash
Underbody: .025 lead wire
Eyes: 13 mm stainless bead chain
Body: Gold tinsel chenille & wild boar underfur
Weedguard: 60 lb. fluorocarbon

Kenny Schwam of Delaware River Anglers sent us this fly, a picture of a 10 lb. bonefish caught with this fly and complete tying instructions. If you would like a copy of these instructions, give us a call or call Kenny at 215-830-9766. Kenny writes: "This fly is similar to Jim Orthwein's Golden Beady-Eye Shrimp. I only tie this fly for big bonefish which seem to really like to eat these nasty little carnivorous shrimp. This fly works very well in Florida and the Bahamas and has caught plenty of bones 8 lbs. and up. It works especially well at Sandy Point and accounted for most of the big bonefish I caught there."

ATTENTION DOCTORS, LAWYERS, & DENTISTS.

Due to the overwhelming success of our Bighorn River fly fishing trip last May, Angling Destinations, in conjunction with Classic Sports International, will be hosting two exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities for 1999-2000. Each seminar will offer CME Cat.1 approved 1999 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. See below.....

MAY 13-18, 2000

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 lunches & 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

NOVEMBER 10-15, 1999

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

BAHAMAS NEWS

BANYAN BEACH

TREASURE CAY, ABACO

We're receiving rave reviews about the fishing. The new boats are working well and are helping to access some of the more remote areas of the marls. This has helped the guides find some remarkably uneducated fish. Some of these areas are turning out to be great spots for big fish! With all the amenities available for non-fishermen, this destination provides anglers with a spot where everyone will be happy...including you!

NORTH ANDROS **JOULTER CAYS &** **THE WEST SIDE**

Our April trip was great! While the lodge is not fancy, the rooms are clean, air-conditioned and quite comfortable. . . and the food is terrific. Owners Kenny and Patrick Robertson run a great show. We enjoyed the wonderful friendly bar after great days in the Joulter's and on the remote west side out of Red Bay. If you love exploratory fishing, the west side is your cup of tea. Patrick plans to set up an overnight camp on the west side with guides Gerald and John. This will provide adventuresome anglers the opportunity to fish some truly remote areas and maximize fishing time for a 2 day period.

SOUTH ANDROS **BAIR BAHAMAS**

Bair Bahamas Guest House is completely sold out for spring of 2000. If you are interested in this exceptional lodge, we urge you to think about booking for spring 2001. Bair Bahamas offers the best guides, boats, food and accommodations on Andros. No wonder everyone who books Bairs ends up going back again and again.

GRAND BAHAMA **BONEFISHING LTD.**

Beginning October 1, Grand Bahama Bonefishing LTD. will be housed in the comfortable confines of the Lucayan Reef Village. This beautiful new hotel has bars, restaurants, a casino, swimming pools, and a private beach. Golf is available at the world class Lucayan Country Club owned by the hotel.

Once again, the Pinder brothers are guiding and they have new boats and motors. The Pinder brothers are some of the finest guides in the Bahamas and have a very loyal following. This is a first class operation that promises you great fishing while your non-fishing companions enjoy the activities and amenities of Freeport and the new Lucayan Reef Village Hotel. If you are interested for spring, you should call us upon receiving this newsletter.

PELICAN BAY

GRAND BAHAMA ISLAND

We are receiving good reports on this operation after their reorganization in early March. Guides Ken Cooper, Ted Cooper and Tommy Rolle have been trained by Greg Vincent and have been well received by our fishing guests. They are planning to add two more boats to their operation, but only when they are comfortable with the guide manning the boat. Each boat has a brand new Yamaha engine. Lunches have been greatly improved and response to this has also been good. Pelican Bay guests will be housed in the new addition promising better views and quieter, more upscale accommodations. Once again, Pelican Bay offers complete resort amenities for non-fishing spouses and guests while providing outstanding flats fishing to the dedicated angler. Pelican Bay is booking up quickly for spring so plan accordingly.

PETE & GAY'S GUESTHOUSE **SANDY POINT, ABACO**

Now undergoing a complete renovation including larger rooms with private bathrooms. This removes the last criticism we hear from returning anglers of Pete and Gays Guesthouse. As always, anglers rave about the food and atmosphere.

NETTIES DIFFERENT **OF ABACO**

A lot has happened at Netties in preparation for the upcoming season. Two new 18' boats with center console will allow Nettie to offer trolling and reef fishing options this year. All the existing flats boats will be overhauled and improved. Nettie has decided to hire someone to manage the bonefishing operation. Collin Hield will lead the training of guides and will be a definite plus for this operation. The physical property has been improved tremendously. In addition to the extensive new landscaping, a beautiful lap pool and a jacuzzi, there will be a half-court basketball court, a volleyball court, and beach bonfire. For variety, there will be a beach barbecue a couple nights a week. All these improvements promise a much more complete and enjoyable program at Netties for this fall and spring.

SANDY POINT

PATRICK'S ADDITION

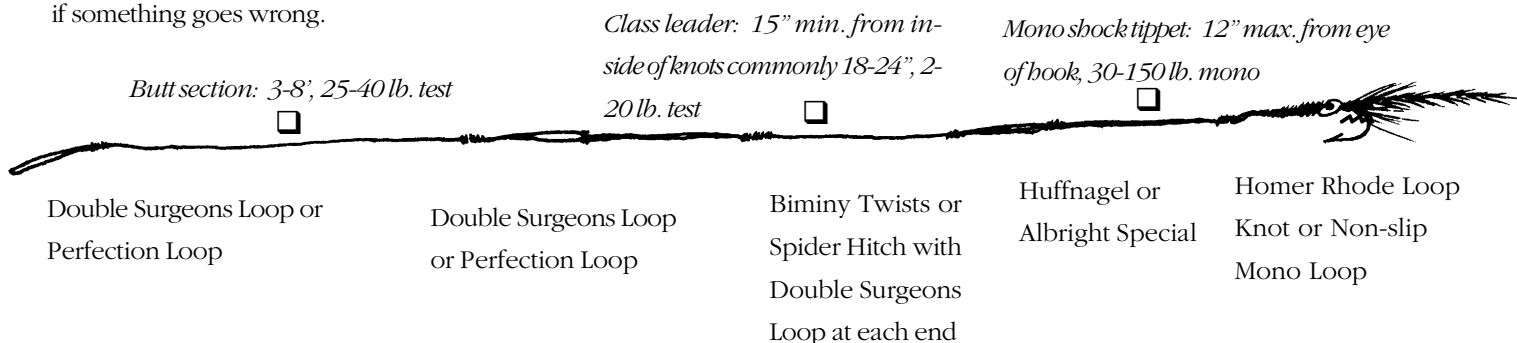
The ever busy guide Patrick Roberts is adding an addition on his home that will provide housing for two anglers. This room will have a private entrance and meals will be taken in Patrick's home. For those of you that have fished with Patrick you know he is the best. We feel confident that Patrick's lodging option will provide an enjoyable alternative to the lodges in Sandy Point. We will keep you updated on the progress of Mr. Robert's construction.

IGFA SPECIFICATION LEADERS

We continue with a schematic primer on important saltwater leaders, their uses, knot options and section length ranges. In this issue, we discuss IGFA leader options. If you would like a copy of the first installment to this series on terminal tackle, please give us a call.

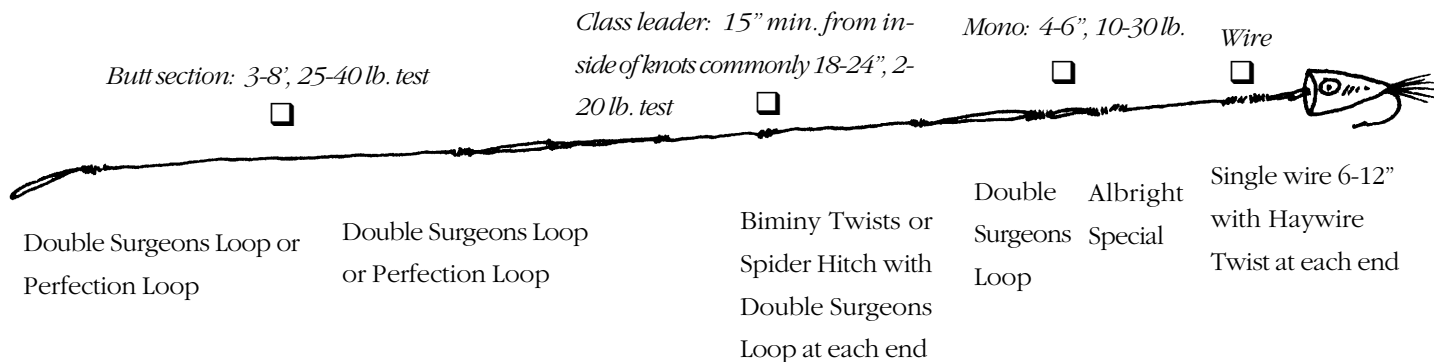
MONO SHOCK TIPPET

This leader is designed for fish such as billfish or tarpon and conforms to IGFA Specifications. Flies, shock tippet and class leader can be pre-rigged and changed quickly. You can vary the weight of your shock tippet depending on your quarry. The class leader (the section between the butt and the shock tippet) is designed to be the weakest link in the chain to prevent the loss of the entire fly line if something goes wrong.



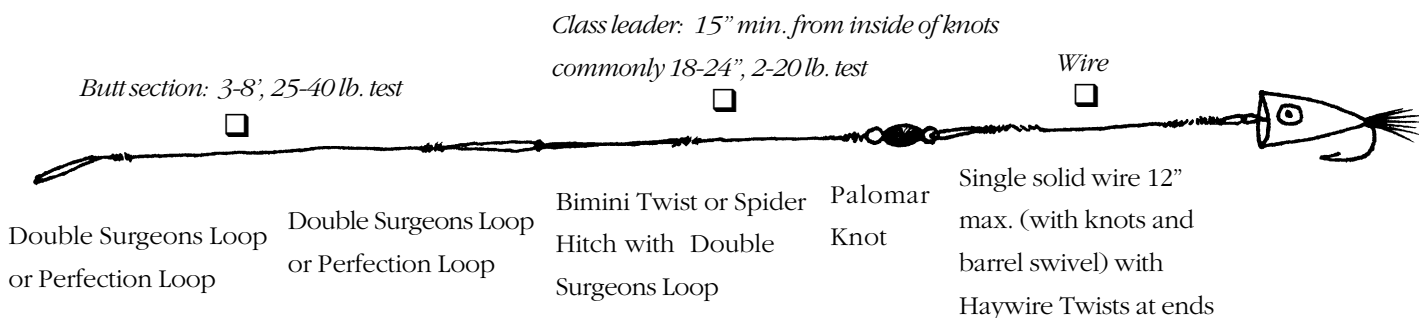
WIRE BITE TIPPET

This leader also conforms to IGFA Specifications and is designed for toothy fish such as bluefish, shark, wahoo and barracuda. Because their teeth can easily sheer through heavy mono, you need a wire bite tippet. In this diagram, a small section of mono is added to the wire so that flies and class tippets can be pre-rigged and changed quickly. This mono section can be eliminated using an Albright knot to the loop in the wire. The bite tippet should be a maximum of 12" from the class leader to the eye of the hook.



NON-TWISTING WIRE SHOCK TIPPET

Since flies attached to wire often twist causing kinks, the addition of a swivel between the class tippet and the wire will often eliminate this problem. The class leader still needs to be a minimum of 15" from the inside of the knots and the shock or bite tippet can be no more than 12" including knots and swivel.





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