

November, 2002

VALUE IN A DOWN MARKET

Let's face it... this has been one tough year! It started with the horror of 9/11 and continued with the accounting scandals at Enron and WorldCom which precipitated the volatile recent "corrections" on Wall Street. Like a tech stock heavy 401-K, the angling world has felt the effects too. With the accumulation of wealth in the bull market of the 90's, many fishing lodges altered their programs to attract these increasingly affluent anglers, while these same anglers demanded more and more amenities. This circle spiraled higher and higher until recent events forced a certain "correction" in the angling world as well. Many anglers have been forced to examine their angling budget and reassess what they "need" on a fishing junket.

Fortunately for us, most of our clients conclude that what they really need is good fishing. They may scale back on the amenities, but to stop fishing is just not a viable option. We deal with a very dedicated crew of anglers and the truth is, none of us are willing to stop traveling

while we wait for better economic news. One of our more colorful clients summarized his philosophy in light of our most current economic situation:

"Hey, I'm not going to quit living. I'm almost 55, relatively healthy, but like all of us, with a limited future. This life is no dress rehearsal... so let's go fishing! Just let me know the spots that have the best "bang for the buck".

With this sage advice in mind, we started thinking about this concept of "bang for the buck" or as we like to call it "capital conservation". So, what follows are some angling destinations that offer great fishing opportunities at a great price:

LONG ISLAND, BAHAMAS

For dedicated fishermen, try Atlantic Hideaway. With great food, boats and guides and the extensive habitat of

Deadman's Cay as a backdrop, seven nights and six days fishing is only \$1795.00 making this spot a real bargain.

For a bit more, consider Greenwich Creek which at \$2195.00 offers great value and all you need in the way of meals or lodging.

If you are looking to save a little money this year by combining a family trip with a spot where you can get in a bit of fishing, try renting one of our homes in the Deadman's Cay area. Let us hire a guide for you part-time and with an arranged rental car, fish the rest of the time self-guided and explore the island's untouched beaches.

CROOKED ISLAND, BAHAMAS

Frank and Ruth's Guesthouse with guides Clinton Scavella and Mike Carroll combines great boats, comfortable air-conditioned accommodations and home cooked meals for only \$1850.00 per week. Clinton and Mike are terrific guys who work hard to make your trip a success making this operation definitely qualify as one of our best "bang for the buck" locations.

If you want a bit more upscale accommodations and meals or want to bring a non-angling wife or companion,



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Pittstown Point on Crooked Island also offers great value. With week packages starting at \$2150.00 this picturesque spot offers great food, experienced guides and good boats, all under the tutelage of an American manager making this spot a sure winner!

ACKLINS ISLAND, BAHAMAS

Now that Acklins Island Lodge has re-opened, there are two great values on this remote island. Acklins Island Lodge offers comfortable, air-conditioned accommodations, delicious meals and an untapped fishery for only \$2150.00 per week. While Grey's Point offers similar accommodations and basic home-cooked meals, this lodge has perhaps the most extensive out-the-front-door fishery in all the Bahamas. Grey's Point is perfect for partial self-guided weeks or if you seek quality after hours fishing. At \$2350.00 a week, Grey's Point Bonefish Inn qualifies as a good fishing value for money spent.



COSTA DE COCOS, MEXICO

The excellent guides fish long hours, the food is great, the permit are abundant and the bar is a great meeting place after a long day on the flats. With all the activity in Ascension Bay, Chetumal Bay, which sits on the border between Belize and Mexico, remains relatively untouched. At \$2350.00 per week, Costa de Cocos maximizes your dollar per fishing hour ratio, provides a great diversity of fish species, and takes you well off the beaten path... a great opportunity in anyone's book.

MECA LIVE-ABOARD, BELIZE

Martin McCord is one of the top three guides in Belize. He works hard and fishes long hours. He serves excellent meals and offers comfortable accommodations aboard his 45' *Meca* which was built specifically for these Belizean waters. At \$2200.00 per person with a party of four, you pick up almost a whole extra day of fishing in six days by eliminating long runs to and from the traditional land-based lodges making this adventure a great value.

So there are a few money saving suggestions! Please ask us about others great trips that offer fishing value for dollars spent.

GOLDEN DORADO IN ARGENTINA

In Argentina, the freshwater dorado is known as the "river tiger". It is a radiant, golden salmon-like fish with a powerful jaw jam-packed with sharp teeth. Imagine crossing a pit bull with sea-run brown and throw in the aerial pedigree of a big Alaska rainbow and you've got some idea of the allure of this species. Now here's the best part... these voracious fish are taken in the gin-clear waters of the Ibera marshland usually with

floating lines and often with top-water flies or sub-surface streamers. After a wicked strike, dorado explode in a series of heart-stopping jumps interspersed with relentless, line-stripping runs.

The fishing is done by stalking the shallows with Hells Bay skiffs complete with poling

platforms which are manned by excellent guides. The ideal water conditions of this 3.2 million acre wetland (more than twice the size of Florida's Everglades) allows anglers to sight-fish for cruising fish that range in size from 5-18 lbs. This is "tarpon fishing" in freshwater and should be on any well-versed fisherman's must-do list (even the diehard, saltwater-only angler).

You certainly won't have to rough it on this trip! Accommodations are in the form of spacious en suite bedrooms, fully air-conditioned with two double beds and French windows that open out to a shaded veranda. A separate building accommodates the elegant living room, bar and dining room where sumptuous meals are taken. A 20 meter pool is the perfect place to cool off after a hot day in the wetlands and is also a great place to siesta during the heat of the day (before you head out to catch the evening bite).

If beautiful, exotic fish, violent strikes and powerful runs are your passion, you need to venture south and try your skills on the golden dorado. If you appreciate lovely accommodations and fine dining, all with a backdrop of one of the world's most beautiful and unique landscapes, then please consider visiting this lovely 3000 acre estancia this year. Catch an Argentinian "tiger" and experience a truly unique angling destination.

KAMCHATKA

Russia's Kamchatka Peninsula seems to be on every diehard trout angler's mind these days. Kamchatka seems to have been "discovered". Most fly fishing magazines have run major stories on Kamchatka and angler's mailboxes are filling with information about the peninsula. But is all this just hype or the truth? And if true, what are the best spots? And what is the right trip for you? As anglers struggle to decipher this information, we thought it high time to help clarify the situation. It may not be as confusing as you might think!

The 750 mile long Kamchatka Peninsula is roughly the size of California with a total population of 400,000 people, three-fourths of which live in Petropavlosk, the Russian nuclear sub base and the only real town on the entire sub-Siberian peninsula. From Petro north, hundreds of rivers drain east to the Pacific and west to the Sea of Okhotsk forming what may be the last and most magnificent wild trout, salmon and steelhead fishery left on earth. Since the peninsula was opened in the early 90's, less than one thousand anglers have explored its waters.

But are all the rumors just exaggerations? Is it all just more angling hype?... in our experience, no.... in fact, hell no! On our three previous trips to Kamchatka, we have experienced some of the finest fishing for big rainbow trout, steelhead, salmon and several species of char that we've found anywhere in the world... and we've floated and fished literally scores of rivers in Alaska including the Alagnak, Goodnews and Kanektok rivers. Kamchatka reminds us of the early days in Alaska when huge fish were everywhere and you could pursue them in complete solitude.

So if we have convinced you that the rumors are true, what are the best opportunities in Kamchatka? In our experience, there are just four groups actively exploring the peninsula's plethora of pristine watersheds. From this group, there are just three rivers that we can recommend at this time to our clients. That means these experiences offer well-financed and well-organized outfitters, good infrastructure, reliability and of course, excellent angling. What follows are our suggestions:

SEDANKA SPRING CREEK

The Sedanka runs for a little more than a hundred miles before its confluence with the Tigil River. Very remote and very pristine, this river offers easy wading and some of Kamchatka's best dry fly fishing for 18"- 23" rainbows. Anglers fish a small

section of the river each day and make camp each evening in one of four base camps strategically located about 8 miles apart. While rafts are used to move groups downstream camp to camp, most fishing is done by wading this clear, shallow river. Big fish, dry flies and the only other anglers you'll see are in your group of eight. We recommend June and July for big 'bows with dry flies (before the char or pink salmon enter the river).

ZHUPANOVA RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Like the Sedanka, the Zhupanova River is remote and loaded with rainbow trout, as well as char and salmon. The Zhupanova is an easy (130 miles) flight from Petro. Also, like the Sedanka, anglers float, fish and then overnight at six camps that are spaced at appropriate distances along the river. The food is excellent, the staff is eager to please and anglers can enjoy hot showers and modern tents with permanent bunks. The fishing is excellent with dry flies and mouse patterns for rainbows 20"-24". However, the biggest fish are often taken using a sink tip line delivering traditional Alaskan streamers like egg sucking leeches and crystal buggers. The trout are huge, the river beautiful, and the camp comfortable... world class angling by anyone's standard.

ZHUPANOVA RIVER CEDAR LODGE

If you seek Kamchatka's biggest rainbows, want the comforts of the peninsula's only fixed lodge, are not as committed to the dry fly and are willing to fish streamers more often, this should be your choice. At Cedar Lodge, the guides are excellent, the scenery spectacular and the rainbows are big. Anglers are housed in large double rooms each with a private bath making this the most comfortable option available in Kamchatka.

DVUKHYURTOCHNAYA RIVER FLOAT TRIP

Last, but certainly not least, the Dvukhyurtochnaya River (we call it the 2-Yurt) has been floated only a few times. The reports are of awesome rainbows with dry flies, streamers, nymphs and top-water mice patterns. The Dvukhyurtochnaya River carries only moderate flows and fishes more often like a small stream. This trip is a must do for adventuresome anglers looking for a true wilderness experience. Anglers start their week on a beautiful lake and fish the river's mouth for big 'bows. The first night is spent in cabins (with a great hot springs nearby). The next day, the float trip begins. You will camp in comfortable tents riverside and fish to your heart's content.

KAMCHATKA, AUGUST TRIP REPORT

On our trip to the Kolpakova River this year, our group experienced the passing of a kidney stone by one trip member and the fringes of a category III typhoon, as well as the strongest pink salmon run in many years (which affected the Kolpakova's rainbow population in some unpredictable ways). Between the five of us, we had over 80 miles of fishable water. We were the only anglers to fish the upper 35 miles since last summer. On all our forays up and down the river, we saw absolutely no trash or any other anglers. In fact, the only evidence we saw of other humans was the footprint of a solitary sable trapper who lived 60 miles up the river.

Despite bad weather associated with the typhoon (that caused the Kolpakova to rise and become a bit off-color), we had excellent silver salmon fishing and very good rainbow fishing, especially on the upper river. These late summer 'bows were corpulent, well-fed bruisers that went from 15 to 24 inches. They were stronger and fatter this year in early September than they were last year in late July. As good as it was, our fishing was not as good as last year. We concluded that this was due to the bad weather and the heavy pink run. High water spread the 'bows out and the slightly off-color water made it harder for us to find them (or them to find us).

But how does the Kamchatka pink run effect the 'bows? Our theory is this: Pinks (humpies) show up in even years sometimes in incredible numbers... this was one such year! Pinks spawn in redds spaced very close together. They are very aggressive to predators and have very small eggs. This then, is their survival strategy.

Predators, such as rainbows, can't penetrate their close-set defenses and even if they do, the small eggs provide poor caloric benefit for the effort expended. As a result, 'bows go upriver looking for other sources of protein like decaying salmon flesh, maggots and the eggs of other salmon, especially chum salmon. For instance, find a spawning area for chums (which spawn further apart and have bigger eggs) and you'll find rainbows just below the redds. Cast below a decaying salmon and often a rainbow will strike your flesh fly. As proof of our theory, the more we traveled upriver (further away from the spawning pinks), the more (and bigger) rainbows we caught.

Another interesting note, last year in July, we had great dry fly fishing and great surface action with traditional mouse patterns. This year (in early September), the 'bows were making their living on the bottom and while egg sucking leeches, glow bugs and flesh flies worked well, the 'bows were not looking up to either mouse patterns or hatching insects, even if the insect hatches were fairly heavy. We joked that egg sucking adams and egg sucking mice would be the best patterns to use.

With this in mind, if you seek dry fly fishing, we feel it is better to go to Kamchatka in late June through the first week in August. Once the salmon, with their bellies laden with roe and their flesh already beginning to die, flood into the rivers, the 'bows are no longer interested in little bugs, they just want to dine on

the big protein diet the spawning salmon provide.

As time goes on, we'll learn more about the specifics of Kamchatka, but until more of this peninsula's incredible rivers are further explored, these elaborate and intricate details (well- studied and taken for granted in Alaska and the lower 48) will remain largely a mystery in what is one of the world's last great wildernesses. For some anglers, this is part of Kamchatka's allure and if you are not

willing to take the plunge into the unknown, you shouldn't go to Kamchatka.

Regarding other important details of our trip: we had a staff of six very



friendly Russians including an interpreter, a chef, and a young fellow who managed the wood fires in our yurt. We had two American guides for five anglers. Our yurt-style tents were rustic, but comfortable and provided a safe haven from the bad weather. Our food was delicious, plentiful and definitely prepared with a Russian bent. Our guides used two zodiac-style inflatables with brand new 4-stroke Honda outboard jet engines. They could run in six inches of water and were perfect for this river.

Would we do anything different if we had it to do again? Yes... we would put the camp higher above the spawning pinks or go earlier before the spawn. But who knew? This is adventure fishing and there are no guarantees. Anglers who travel into "terra incognita" must be prepared to weather such difficulties associated with the unknown.

CROOKED & ACKLINS ISLANDS

THIS IS THE THIRD INSTALLMENT IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON VARIOUS ISLANDS IN THE BAHAMAS. IN LAST APRIL'S NEWSLETTER, WE DISCUSSED ABACO ISLAND AND IN THIS ISSUE, WE'LL VENTURE FAR TO THE SOUTH TO ONE OF THE MOST REMOTE AREAS IN THIS ISLAND NATION AND COVER THE VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES AVAILABLE ON CROOKED AND ACKLINS ISLANDS.

From a jet at 35,000 feet, Crooked and Acklins Islands look like one big, boomerang-shaped island sliced in half by a narrow channel. This vast semi-circle of land blocks the prevailing winds and waves and in the island's lee, huge deposits of sand settle-out creating a vast, white-sand shallows called the "Bight of Acklins". This bight is a shallow water paradise for the light tackle angler. Hard-bottomed flats, narrow cuts and creeks and bright, neon blue deeper channels cover over 400 square miles of prime Bahamian "reel" estate.

Acklins Island is a narrow outcrop of limestone and palmetto scrub that rises out of the deep blue of the Atlantic. At the north end of Acklins, near Atwood Harbor, tucked inside a perfect Bahamian creek system, stands Grey's

Point Bonefish Inn. Perched on a hill with a panoramic view of the flats, Grey's Point boasts some of the best "out-the-front-door" fishing in all the Bahamas. Grey's Point offers six, very clean, air-conditioned rooms and a brand-spanking new, colorfully painted dining room/club house complete with satellite TV and pool table. Authentic Bahamian fare such as lobster, conch, grouper fingers are simply prepared and perfect for the eat, sleep and fish hardcore angler. But make no mistake, this

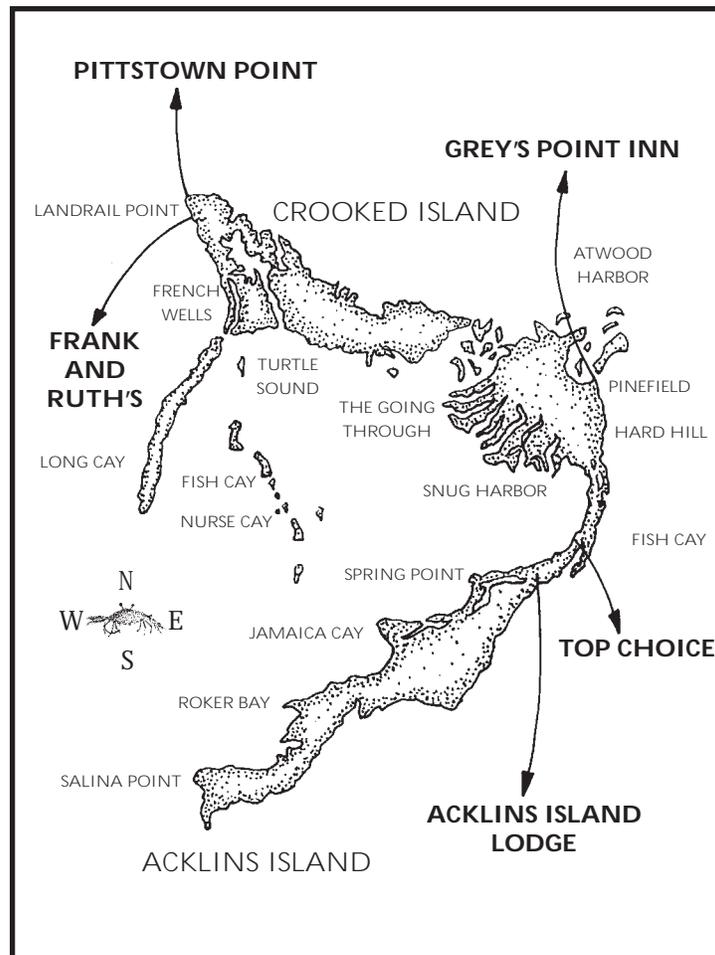
spot is as remote as it gets in the Bahamas and anglers should come prepared with

lies the big bay called Snug Corner and the island's most narrow stretch. Here,

built on a hill with a commanding view of both the dramatic Atlantic to the east and the leeward Bight of Acklins to the west, is the beautiful Acklins Island Lodge. This lodge was unfortunately closed for over a year while the American and Bahamian partners ironed out some land title issues. With the issue now resolved, the lodge is being prepared to re-open. This is good news to the many anglers that loved this comfortable and strategically located facility. Acklins Island Lodge plans to re-open in the spring of 2003 and to offer the same services and amenities that made this lodge one of our most popular remote 'hotspots'.

With Grey's Point Inn fishing both the north end of

Acklins including Atwood Harbor and the extensive flats of Lovely Bay and Snug Corner, Acklins Island Lodge will fish south to Jamaica Cay and Roker Bay. The lodges will only overlap at Snug Corner making it possible to fish three days at AIL and three days at Grey's thereby covering Acklins from "top to bottom". In all fairness, it would take a month, maybe a season to adequately probe this island's bonefish habitat... in six days you will only scratch the surface. Maybe that's why so



all their angling gear including bug spray and a flexible attitude. The guides are good "if not highly sophisticated", work hard and are learning more about their fishery with each season. The inn is run by the Williamsons... a friendly and hardworking family. They are eager to please and are very accommodating as long as you make your wishes known.

About thirty minutes south from Grey's Point, past the rustic settlements of Pinefield, Hard Hill and Mason's Bay,

many people return to Acklins year after year!

What Crooked Island lacks in out-the-door-fishing is gained in diversity, amenities and sheer electric-blue Bahamian beauty. The comfortable little resort at Pittstown Point sits on a dramatic stretch of white sand beach. With rooms so close to the water you can hear the waves lapping at the shore, this is a perfect spot for couples and die-hard anglers alike, especially for those seeking a variety of oceanic, as well as angling experiences. From offshore angling for marlin, sailfish, tuna, dorado and wahoo to reef and cut fishing for jack crevalle, grey snapper, 'cuda and mutton snapper to exquisite inshore shallow water opportunities for bonefish, permit and tarpon, this is a spot that merits any diehard angler's serious attention. With American guide Carter Andrews at the helm, this is one of the most sophisticated out-island experiences available in the Bahamas. Carter has personally trained four excellent guides who run superb fast boats, can throw a cast net with the best of them and know the complex and extensive flats of the leeward bight extremely well. With these guides, you can bonefish the best tide of the day, then net some pilchards and running with your live-well full, motor to one of a hundred places to chum for snappers and jacks. If you throw out twenty pilchards in ten minutes and don't start a feeding frenzy, you just motor to another spot where grey snapper, mutton snapper and cudas mob your live offerings. Throw a 2/0 Lefty's deceiver or a green and white Clouser and you'll get anything from a one pound grey snapper to a ten-pound mutton snapper to a twenty-pound jack crevalle. Great fun!

After a long day on the flats or reefs

or in the "big blue", the emollients of Pittstown Point are soothing indeed. A comfortable bar just off the new dining room offers your favorite libation and with Reggie the bartender offering up card tricks along with the cold Kalik beers and G o o m b a y Smashes, the cocktail hour passes quickly. Meals are wonderful and feature fresh local seafood and homemade Bahamian desserts like key lime pie and coconut cr me pie. A traditional "rake 'n scrape" band often entertains in the bar.

If you're looking for a little more budget-minded experience than what Pittstown Point offers and don't want to sacrifice anything in the way of reef and flats fishing, you can fish with Clinton Scavella and Mike Carroll of Frank and Ruth's Guesthouse headquartered in Landrail Point. Accommodations are in the form of a small guesthouse complete with A/C and a full kitchen. Meals are taken just across the street at a wonderful local restaurant 100 yards from the guesthouse. But what is perhaps best about this Crooked Island option are the guides and boats. Clinton and Mike are wonderful people, very friendly, and willing to do what it takes to make your trip special. Both run state-of-the-art flats boats complete with big motors (to make the run to French Wells painless), trim

tabs, live-wells and poling platforms. For instance, Clinton runs an 18.5' Silver King Grande Master with a 115 hp Mercury that eats up chop and runs in 6" of water. Mike operates a beautiful new 19'



Action Craft. I cannot overemphasize how accommodating these guides are and how much they aim to please. They truly know what it takes to satisfy a client's expectations. As such, this may be the best bargain in all the Bahamas!

While the hardcore angler

can enjoy either island, anglers seeking more amenities (or with non-anglers in their party) should probably visit Crooked Island. Acklins Islanders tends to be a bit less sophisticated and generally more shy and reserved. This is probably because Acklins Island is a harsher environment with fewer population centers. The Bahamian government has made more improvements on Crooked Island and therefore jobs and sophistication have followed. If you seek remote, think Acklins... if you seek resort-style living or budget opportunities, consider Crooked Island. Or you can spend three days at Acklins Island Lodge, three days at Grey's Point and three days on Crooked and fish this extensive archipelago from north to south and east to west... you'll surely sample some of the best bonefishing in all the Bahamas!

ACKLINS & CROOKED ISLANDS

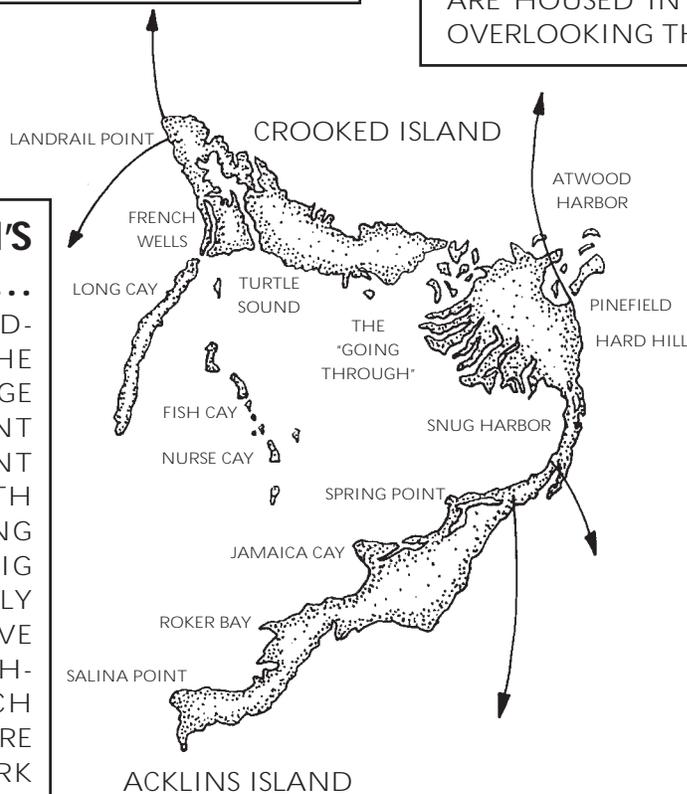
PITTSTOWN POINT... DRAMATICALLY LOCATED WITH A NEON BLUE REEF AND A BEAUTIFUL WHITE SAND BEACH OUT THE FRONT DOOR OF YOUR ROOM, PITTSTOWN PROVIDES EXCELLENT GUIDES AND BOATS, DELICIOUS FOOD, COMFORTABLE A/C ACCOMMODATIONS ALL UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF AMERICAN MANAGERS. THIS IS THE PERFECT SPOT FOR SERIOUS ANGLERS AND THEIR NON-ANGLING COMPANIONS.

GREY'S POINT BONEFISH INN...

THIS SMALL AND VERY REMOTE LODGE IS FOR DEDICATED ANGLERS ONLY. WITH SOME OF THE BEST OUT-THE-FRONT-DOOR FISHING AVAILABLE ANYWHERE IN THE BAHAMAS, ANGLERS CAN FISH 24/7 IF THEY WISH. MEALS ARE SERVED IN THE NEW CLUBHOUSE/DINING ROOM AND FEATURE LOTS OF LOCAL SEAFOOD SERVED BAHAMIAN STYLE. ANGLERS ARE HOUSED IN COMFORTABLE A/C ROOMS OVERLOOKING THE EXTENSIVE LOCAL FLATS.

FRANK & RUTH'S GUESTHOUSE...

ANGLERS ARE HEADQUARTERED IN THE LOVELY SMALL VILLAGE OF LANDRAIL POINT AND USE EXCELLENT BOATS COMPLETE WITH TRIM TABS, POLING PLATFORMS AND BIG MOTORS TO QUICKLY ACCESS THE EXTENSIVE FLATS ON THE SOUTH-EAST SIDE OF FRENCH WELLS. THE GUIDES ARE EXCELLENT AND WORK VERY HARD TO MAKE YOUR TRIP A SUCCESS. ANGLERS TAKE MEALS IN A GREAT LOCAL EATERY LOCATED JUST ACROSS THE STREET FROM FRANK & RUTH'S VERY CLEAN AND NEAT, AIR-CONDITIONED GUESTHOUSE. THIS TRIP IS ONE OF THE BEST BARGAINS IN ALL THE BAHAMAS.



TOP CHOICE...

ANGLERS SHOULD BE CAREFUL HERE! REPORTS OF BRACKISH WATER, LOW WATER PRESSURE, IFFY GUIDES, POORLY MAINTAINED EQUIPMENT AND POOR ATTENTION TO DETAIL MAY MAKE TOP CHOICE A POOR CHOICE AT ANY PRICE. WITH ACKLINS ISLAND LODGE AGAIN AVAILABLE, THESE SAME FLATS CAN BE ACCESSED IN COMFORT AND SAFETY WITHOUT THE HEADACHES RETURNING ANGLERS REPORT FROM TOP CHOICE.

ACKLINS ISLAND LODGE... THIS BEAUTIFUL SMALL LODGE IS LOCATED ON A HILL WITH A COMMANDING VIEW OF BOTH THE OCEAN AND THE EXTENSIVE FLATS ON THE WEST OR LEE OF THE ISLAND. ACKLINS ISLAND LODGE HAS A REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENT FOOD, COMFORTABLE, CLEAN ACCOMMODATIONS AND A WILLINGNESS TO SEEK OUT THE ISLAND'S BEST FISHING. RECENTLY REOPENED AFTER A YEAR'S HIATUS, THE AMERICAN OWNERS HAVE SPRUCED UP THE GROUNDS AND MADE CONCERTED EFFORTS TO CREATE THE INFRASTRUCTURE THAT MADE "AIL" ONE OF OUR MOST REBOOKED DESTINATIONS IN ALL THE BAHAMAS.

TAHITI

Having taken five trips to the Seychelles in the last five years, it seems that we have always held those experiences up as the gold standard of bonefish trips. The Seychelles' reputation is well-deserved. We are anxious to continue our explorations in this remote island nation and probe as many of its ocean treasures as possible. However, two long flights and complicated logistics make this journey difficult for some people.



It is for this reason that we have monitored closely recent developments in the South Pacific area of French Polynesia. Only an eight-hour direct flight from Los Angeles, French Polynesia is a relatively easy hop for most traveling fishermen and certainly easier to reach than Christmas Island making it attractive to anglers with limited time.

Contrary to what has recently been published in the Florida-based Angling Report, we are receiving reports of outstanding bonefishing from returning anglers who have been willing to swim against the current of conventional wisdom. Currently, there are two areas that hold great promise for not only bonefish and trevally, but for numerous other species as well.

The first is on the remote island of Tetiaroa best known perhaps as the retreat of Marlon Brando. Tetiaroa is only a 30-minute flight from Papeete and is very civilized with amenities and services appropriate for adventuresome couples

and non-anglers alike. The island's hard-bottomed flats hold bonefish that average a staggering 6-7 lbs! Anglers are housed in quaint thatch-roofed, beach bungalows with private baths surrounded by a teak deck and shaded by coconut palms. This is a true island paradise... one of the most beautiful spots on earth.

For those interested in only the most remote of French Polynesia's atolls, groups of four anglers can charter a 40 foot live-a-board captained by Tahiti's most experienced outfitter. This mothership's ability to travel comfortably and safely in this very remote area makes this option the best way to find the prime bonefishing grounds and to be at the right place at the right time.

No matter what option you choose, live-aboard or lodge, these opportunities all are being reported to offer superb fishing in areas that have not seen much, if any, angling pressure. Priced similarly to the quality lodges of the Bahamas or Mexico, French Polynesia offers great value for your fishing dollar.

We will be hosting a group of anglers next month in the Tuamotus and are sending AD staff to the land-based lodge in November. We will publish trip reports on these spots on our web site (www.anglingdestinations.com) in mid-November. We are planning a hosted trip to French Polynesia next April, but many other dates at each destination are still available for winter and spring 2003.

LATE BREAKING NEWS!

SECOND LODGE OPENS IN TAHITI

The intersection of experienced, responsible lodge developers and great fisheries are usually quite rare. We have just received some exciting news that a second high quality operation has laid the ground work to develop a fixed lodge in the prolific waters of the French Polynesia's Tuamotu Group. Similar in many ways to the world class fishing of the Seychelles, the Tuamotu area holds fantastic promise for great bonefishing, as well as giant trevally and a host of other species. The season starts in October when the fishing is usually excellent with good numbers of fish present, as well as large singles and doubles. Quality angling holds up until late April when there seems to be a decline in the flats population due to increasing water temperatures.

Anglers will be housed in rustic, yet comfortable bungalows just a short distance from the water. All the fishing is done on foot with skiffs only used to move anglers from one area to another. In their inaugural season, the lodge will only accept four clients per week, a testament to their interest in the long term sustainability of this resource.

Only an hour's flight from the main island of Tahiti (only 8 hours from L.A.!), access to this fishery is far easier than some of the other "exotic" bonefish locales such as Christmas Island or the Seychelles. And all this comes at the "Christmas Island" price of only \$2,950.00 a week!

Angling Destinations will be visiting this new lodge in mid-November. In light of all the controversy, we want to see the flats firsthand, fish them and then report back to you the angling realities of French Polynesia, hopefully ending much of the confusion once and for all!

A DAY IN THE BIGHORN MOUNTAINS

One of the best parts about operating a fishing travel business is that our clients never scold us if we decide to actually go fishing. In fact, usually clients give us all the rationalization we need with a "Good for you, e-mail me some photos when you get back". We call it product development, our wives call it something else. Is this a great job or what!!

The predictions for the upcoming weekend were for beautiful August weather, so Brad and I decided to play hooky on Friday and spend a few days probing the Bighorn Mountains for big fish. We left A.D. headquarters after collecting messages and answering only the most urgent of phone calls. We grabbed our backpacks, a few freeze dries and the makings of a fish chowder and left our responsibilities at the trailhead into the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area... less than twenty minutes from our office, but due to the demands of our work schedule, all too rarely visited.

It took us six hours to hike in and five hours to hike out. In those 11 hours, we crossed four 10,000 foot passes in a grueling testament to the absurd lengths fly fishermen will go in pursuit of their quarry. Of the three days we spent on this adventure, we fished only one day... but what an incredible day it was! We won't tell you where we caught these fish (unless you ply us with beer and swear eternal silence). We will tell you that much of our fishing was with dry flies or small nymphs droppered off dries and that most of our success came after sighting cruising fish. Most of our fish were over sixteen inches, a few were over eighteen and one Rubenesque hen was over twenty-one inches and weighed in at a mind-numbing seven pounds! This fat lady took a #12 ginger quill that was the only fly in our boxes that imitated the large gray drake spinners that the light wind had piled up against the lake's rockiest shore. Here, gangs of sixteen plus inch cutts' lazily slurped up these large spent spinners in an act of gluttony that, judging by their fat bellies, was not an isolated event.

Rises to our dries were agonizingly slow. The fish climbed up through the mesmerizingly clear water as if suspended in Karo Syrup. These slow motion takes define the cutthroat species

and encourage anglers to strike as if Valium was being fed to them on a slow drip. Sometimes the larger cutts' would rise confidently to our dries only to refuse this delectable morsel and veer off, mouths agape, to inhale the droppered nymph... our only clue to strike was the slowly closing white mouth. Patience in striking was a virtue here. Adrenaline translated to



as many misses as takes. After seven incredible hours, we left rising fish at 5:00 P.M. when the first of the hail started to noisily plop on the calm surface of the lake. We were afraid that the glacial rock heaps that defined our decent route would get too slippery if the hail turned to rain. We reluctantly turned our backs to the risers insuring that discretion would be the better part of valor this day. We started our decent to camp from this 10,600-foot aerie. Our route took us through fields of wildflowers and over fresh elk tracks now lightly salted with fresh hailstones. We hiked in silence, neither of us quite

believing what we had just experienced.

If you are a fit angler with a will to explore, give us a call. Many lakes and streams like this sit waiting in the Bighorns. They demand only stamina and a willingness to camp. If this describes you, we can arrange either horsepack or backpack guides both of which allow hardy anglers to access Wyoming's high country lakes and streams for a true "peak experience".

HIGH COUNTRY FLYFISHING KIT

- ◆ two 10' 4x leaders & 1 each 4x, 5x, 6x tippet spools
- ◆ assort. split shot / dry fly floatant / nippers / hemostats
- ◆ flies (take at least two in each size):

nymphs: in #12-16 zug bug, hare's ear, pheasant tail, prince nymph, soft hackle red fox squirrel tail, grey, pink & tan shrimp, in #18-24 light and dark quill-bodied midge pupae & dubbed olive and cream.

dries: in #14-20 Adams, parachute Adams, #14-18 blue dun, red quill, March brown, light & dark elk hair caddis, #14 humpy with white wings or white pine moth pattern, #8-10 yellow hopper, #14 black beetle, #14-16 red & black ant, #16 light Cahill, #14-20 brown & cream spinners, #16-24 cream, olive, black midges, #12-16 assorted attractors like Wulffs, royal coachman, or whatever you have lying about.

streamers: in #6-10 wooly buggers in black, purple and brown (take a few with bead heads), black leeches, muddler minnow.

total weight: 196 grams

BAHAMAS NEWS

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Tiamo Resort on South Andros has recently hired a new professionally trained chef making Tiamo's already great meal service even better! Tiamo is a wonderful spot for adventure-some couples with kayak tours, daily snorkeling excursions and nature walks available in addition to the great bonefishing. Speaking of bonefishing, ex-Mangrove Cay Club guide Ornard Green is now working full time at Tiamo bringing both his excellent flats boat and his considerable expertise to the south island. With the addition of a trained chef, an expanded wine cellar and this very experienced guide, Tiamo gets our unqualified endorsement especially for couples looking for a bit of rustic luxury.

The Bair Bahamas Guesthouse continues to offer the best opportunity on South Andros for discriminating anglers. If you are looking for a small lodge that offers the best in guides, boats, food and accommodations, this is it! Although we have numerous bookings already for spring 2003, if you act quickly upon receiving this newsletter, there are some wonderful dates open.

Ricardo Burrow's **Rickmon Bonefish Lodge** has just purchased two brand new 20' and one 18' Action Craft flats boats. Each new boat has a 150hp Mercury engine which will allow access to More's Island within 30 minutes if weather permits. Ricardo has also built a new beachside bungalow complete with a wrap-around porch. This bungalow can be requested and is perfect for fishing couples.

On **Grand Bahama Island**, **Pelican Bay Hotel** has begun a new two day fishing with one overnight option in the Berry Islands. It has been very successful and merits your close attention as part of a longer stay. Pelican Bay also has a new 25' center console that they are using to access reefs just minutes offshore from the boat dock at the hotel. By using mujara as chum, fly-rodgers are having great luck on the reef edges for skipjack tuna, bonito, jacks, snapper, 'cudas and sharks. Pelican Bay is planning to offer this opportunity to visiting anglers after the bonefish guide day. They can leave the dock at 4:00PM and within seven minutes (weather permitting) be on the reef. Pelican Bay is perfect for couples with all the amenities for non-

anglers, deluxe resort living, wonderful restaurants, great bonefishing and now a new reef program for the die-hard angler who wants to target multiple species!

On **Grand Bahama Island**, the highly-regarded **Pinder Brothers** have retired their loan on their four excellent flats boats and on their building. This is a Bahamas success story and speaks volumes about the amount of repeat business they are receiving and therefore the quality of their guiding... any experienced angler can read between the lines here! **Grand Bahama Bon-**

efishing, LTD. and the Pinder Brothers work out of the Lighthouse Point Hotel which is an absolutely beautiful spot with its own private pool, beach and restaurant. This is a perfect spot for both serious anglers and their non-fishing family and friends...

On **Long Island**, guide "Docky" Smith will begin operating his new 65' live-aboard in early December. These trips are perfect for up to six adventure-minded anglers. This is the only live-aboard operating legally in the Bahamas at this time. Docky will fish the south end of Long Island, well-removed from the flats reached by the guides from the Deadman's Cay area. This is not a luxurious yacht. It is comfortable and clean

making it perfect for anglers willing to trade a few amenities for unpressured angling opportunities.

Returning anglers have sent us very positive reports on their trips we have arranged to **Inagua Island** with guide **Ezzard Cartwright**. This large island has a somewhat unique fishery for the Bahamas with snook and tarpon consistently available, as well as bonefish and permit. Anglers are reporting great food and very comfortable, if not fancy, accommodations which round out this excellent fishing destination. If you want remote, but don't want to rough it, you may want to try this opportunity.

The deluxe camp on the west side of **Andros Island** (that we reported in our last newsletter) is now accepting bookings. **Flamingo Cay** is a first-class operation integrating new Hell's Bay flats boats, excellent lodging and meals, as well as superb remote fishing into one of the most intriguing opportunities available to anglers able to afford the best.



Fishing Lures

One of our favorite guides tells a story about the day he guided a husband and wife from Texas on one of our private Wyoming ranches. The husband was an experienced fisherman, and as soon as he reached streamside, he took off upstream, leaving his wife to "learn" from the guide.

The wife was a rather flirtatious and buxom blond, who was dripping with jewelry. Her angling skills were weak at best and the guide struggled to teach her the skills necessary to catch a fish on the beautiful little stream. The wife, as she became more and more frustrated, also became more and more flirtatious with the guide.

He thought he had better cool her off a bit so decided to sit on the bank and watch her for awhile. She flailed away in obvious frustration and when she did manage to get the fly on the water, no fish ever rose to her offering. The guide decided to check the pattern she was using and perhaps suggest a new fly.

He waded up next to her and with all the professional acumen he could muster said "What do you have on?"

She lightly leaned against him, smiled and seductively said. "Chanel No. 5."

Oh - it was gonna be a long day!



AND ALSO OF INTEREST...

To fly fishermen, the holy triumvirate of the **Madison, the South Fork of the Snake and the Henry's Fork** are well known. Along with less well-known options such as **Teton Creek, the Fall River** and the waters of **Yellowstone Park**, this area is one of the world's best and we know the best guides and lodges in the area. Give us a call if you're looking for a classic western vacation...

Another great western option is on the **Kootenai**

and Yaak Rivers which are shouldered against Canada and Idaho in northern Montana. Enjoy less pressured water for westslope cutthroats averaging 10-20", beautiful log home living, savory meals and Montana's 1995 Guide of the Year...

If you seek permit on a fly, give **El Pescador's** new lodge at **Punta Gorda** in southern Belize a try. This beautiful new facility is in the heart of some of the world's most productive permit grounds and the owners bring a wealth of experience with them.

If you're looking for a great family vacation next summer and don't mind "roughing it" a bit, you can horsepack into the high country with **Flatiron Troutfitters**. This camp is quite comfortable and is very strategically located to access numerous streams and lakes loaded with trout. Next summer, we'll have a 4-person raft with a 3hp motor to quickly access some incredible high lakes that previously required a two

hour hike to reach. We each took our families on this trip last summer. We had great fishing, wonderful meals and a happy crew afterwards. Look at our trip reports under "recent adventures" on our website anglingdestinations.com for a complete report.

If you've never fished **Montana's**

Bighorn River and its incredible 5000 trout per mile, you have missed an angling motherlode. We recommend the **Kingfisher Lodge** for the best guides, boats and accommodations.

This is our home

waters, so we know all the hatches and are uniquely qualified to plan your trip.

Angling Destinations, Inc. has started construction on its new offices and we should be in by next May. We can't wait! We have a great view of the mountains and lots of room. We're building a spacious two bedroom apartment off our offices so if you're in our area and want a place to stay while you're fishing our great local waters, give us a call and we'll put you up!

We found a great new classic alkaline spring creek east of Missoula, Montana that has abundant insect life, good vegetation and therefore, not surprisingly, big trout! The family that owns this property has lived in this area for four generations. They have just recently completed a beautiful, two-story, hand-huned log "cabin" (a serious understatement) that is available to visiting anglers for a very reasonable added fee. Call us for all the details!

Days of the Full Moon

2002	May 16
November 20	June 14
December 19	July 13
2003	August 12
January 18	September 10
February 16	October 10
March 18	November 9
April 16	December 8



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Bahamas

Rickmon's Lodge, Pittstown Point, Greenwich Creek, Grey's Point, Banyan Beach, Tiamo Resort, Frank & Ruth's Guesthouse, Grand Bahama Bonefishing Ltd., Bair Bahamas, Ragged Island, Tranquility Hill, Pelican Bay, Acklins Island Lodge, Stafford Creek Lodge, Atlantic Hideaway

Belize, Mexico

Belize River Lodge, Turneffe Flats Lodge, Turneffe Island Lodge, Casa Blanca, Playa Blanca, Casa Redonda, Isla Holbox, *Meca* and *Seaduction* Live-Aboards, Costa de Cocos, El Pescador, Journey's End Resort, Black Point Lodge, Punta Gorda

Wyoming, Montana

Private Ranches, Mountain Streams, Mountain Horsepack Trips, Madison Valley Ranch, Ruby Springs Lodge, Flatiron Troutfitters, Bighorn River Country Lodge, Lewis and Clark Expeditions, Kingfisher Lodge

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

ANGLING DESTINATIONS IS COMMITTED TO PRESERVING BOTH THE FISHERIES WE DISCOVER AND THE FRIENDSHIPS 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 SEEKING BONEFISH IN THE BAHAMAS, TREVALLY IN THE SEYCHELLES, SALMON IN ALASKA OR TROUT IN THE ROCKIES, WE CAN DRAW ON OUR COMBINED YEARS OF FISHING THE WORLD TO MEET YOUR NEEDS. OUR DESTINATIONS 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!

