

Report from Bolivia

Fred, John, and Bud vs the Dorados



Big Dorado

April 2011

Report from Bolivian Jungle 4/27/2011

Intrepid Casters risk Broken Rods far from
UPS delivery sites.

At the Asunta Camp, deep (260 miles) in the Bolivian Jungle in Amazon head



waters, three intrepid Trout Unlimited members, Fred Miller, Bud Isaacs, and John Davenport risk TSA searches, single engine insertion, and lost luggage to fish for the aggressive Dorado. (Called Golden Dorado for those not upset by redundancy.)

What we've learned the first two days.

Fred learned that using your rod to play a Dorado no matter what the size will break the rod. Fred broke two 9 weights the first day!

John learned that setting the 3/0 barbless hook by raising the rod tip, causes Dorados to laugh hysterically.

Lessons from Fabian and Juan Carlos our Argentine Guides:

- Fish the cast every time the fly hits the water, no matter how bad the cast.
- Strip as soon as it hits if they are hitting near the surface. This quick strip straightens the line and facilitates a strip set. Throw in some mends and let it sink for 6 seconds to get down about a foot if they are not looking up for prey.
- Point the rod at the fish or the expected strike, always. The rod is used only to launch the fly. After that is it useless, even though this seems like you're hand lining.
- Get the fish on the reel quickly. Coils of line around your feet and fingers are not a good idea.



- Put your hand on the bottom of the reel so that during an unexpected run, the spinning reel handle will not launch your thumb into hyperspace. Intelligent use of the drag on your reel can save your thumb, rod, and fish.
- Flies - At this moment, bushy bulky black flies with another color (red, chartreuse, or purple) 4 inches or longer are working well. Spun deer hair heads are being trimmed by the guides so that they will sink into the slightly off color water. John and Bud's own flies have lasted through 3 fish or more. Flyshop tied Andino Deceivers are getting shredded after two or three strikes. Francesca, John's 4 year old granddaughter, tied the fly on the right that also worked.
- Keep stripping after every missed strike. The Dorado will continue to strike at the moving fly thinking it's one of a pod of bait. Fred had six hits during the same retrieve by the same fish.
- Fish around logs and obstructions like bass.

