

The weather at Patagonian BaseCamp seems to have reverted back to a normal pattern, with mixed sunny and rainy days, but nothing has changed with the fishing! Guests are still landing a much higher than average number of large fish, trout in the 21-25-inch range, than we are used to seeing. It is hard to know if this is a cyclical phenomena, or if fish are getting larger quickly due to the

ever-increasing number of spawning salmon in the rivers down there (meaning a lot more high protein in the trout's diets, between the salmon eggs and the out-migrating salmon smolts), or...? Whatever the case, we're all for it!

Mike Mercer

– Mike Mercer



IT WAS A FUN WEEK! River levels this past week came to a perfect level, and as autumn begins to creep in, some of our brown trout are beginning to don their spawning jackets. They are really becoming gorgeous. As the weather has been perfect for fishing – some sunny, some clouded, and some rainy days – we experienced a lot of success on all different techniques; everything from small dry flies to huge streamers produced strikes. Steve caught the biggest fish of the week, a huge 25 x 15-inch brown trout, on a Ninja Cicada, floating down the Rio Figueroa. But the crown for “the king of the week” should go to John. Every single day he came back to the lodge having brought a number of 20-inch plus fish to the net. His biggest was a 24-incher caught from one of the small, hidden tributaries to the Rio Palena. We can only occasionally fish those waters as we need the right water level... John hit it just right...just like he did on the Figueroa, Palena and Rosselot. He was a big-fish magnet! Speaking of the Rosselot, it was “on fire” this week as the golden stones came off in good numbers. Kevin and Ed and John and Peter had a feast floating through the class 4+ rapids with guides Nick and Craig – there were stretches

of river where every cast resulted in a take. Steve and Shelley repeated the same float the next day and the party just continued.

I don't often have the chance, but this week I treated myself to joining the group doing the overnight trip on the Palena. Kevin invited me to join him on his cataraft on the last day. Fishing was just spectacular. We caught a bunch of fish - including 5 or 6 doubles – but my best memory came as I was drifting a Golden Chubby Chernobyl through a deep run. A huge brown slowly came to the surface, opened his frighteningly large white mouth, and tenderly sipped the fly from the surface. All in slow-motion, and we all - Kevin, guide Ben, and I – saw it unfold, step by step. And then all of a sudden ... the slow motion action was over! The war had just begun after hooking him. I was fishing a 6-weight rod and it took me a while to get him to the surface and to the net. He dove, time after time, back into the depths. But we managed it and the almost 24-incher made a great object for Ben's photography art. I just have to post this picture. It's simply too beautiful. Thank you Kevin, for sharing this with me – it should have been your fish.

Water conditions:

- ▲ Water color – clarity was perfect
- ▲ Water level – on all rivers, just perfect
- ▲ Water temperature – between 48° and 58°

Weather conditions:

- ▲ Wind speed – hardly an issue this week.
- ▲ Air Temperature – 55° TO 75° F
- ▲ Sunny days, clouded days and some rainy days, but all perfect conditions for fishing

Fishing Conditions:

- ▲ A good and fun combination of dry flies, droppers and streamers
- ▲ Fly lines – streamers on 200-grains lines and some on dry lines in the #6-#7 class
- ▲ Biggest fish landed for the week – 25x15-inch brown by Steve, followed by 24- inchers by John and Pat, and a high number of 20 to 23-inchers by everybody else.

Marcel Sijnesael

Signature Destinations are available only thru The Fly Shop® and our agent/fly shop network

There are still a few spots remaining at Patagonian BaseCamp, during some prime 2012 weeks. If you are interested in visiting, please let us know by giving us a call at: **(800) 669-3474** or shooting us an email and we will get right back to you.

Until the next report, tight lines and all the best fishing.

Log on to our website, or better yet call us today for information, reservations or rates.

