

“We knew it had to happen sooner or later, and it finally has...rain came once again to the Chilean Patagonia! Hardly with a vengeance, though, and the two days of precipitation last week actually helped, getting the various river flows back up to normal levels for this time of year. Tremendous streamer action was had during the darker days, with guests switching back to dry flies in the sunny weather later in the week. What a season!”

Mike Mercer

– Mike Mercer



AFTER MONTHS OF UNBELIEVABLY NICE WEATHER – warm sunny days on tap virtually every single day - last week the climate finally changed, from tropical to arctic, and back again! This meant that despite a few cold, windy days, we enjoyed great river levels (they were beginning to get almost too low without any rain) and a more typical diverse climate. With the high waters early in the week came lower water temperatures; as well, the air temperatures never rose above 75 degrees (quite a shock to our systems as we had grown accustomed to the temperatures being in the 80's and 90's!). Streamer fishing was key and very productive. All the rivers were fishing well and everyone caught fish over 20-inches. Bruce, who was here this year for the 7th consecutive time, caught a huge 25-inch; both Tom and John also did very good business this week with a number of 23 and 24-inches. Marlow and his friend John landed a bunch of fish in the 22 to 24-inch class. On one afternoon John - in a matter of an hour - landed both a 23 and 24- inch trout, beautiful fat brownies.

Tom, who started his fly fishing career here three years ago, brought down his friend Terry. Terry was new to the sport and guide Nick took

him under his wing for the first two days. His casting lessons resulted in some great fish caught by the end the week! Terry was really on fire the last day of the Palena overnight. I think we have a new addict onboard...

The most remarkable moment of the week was told by Marlow. Fishing a white-water section of the Figueroa River with guide Craig, he hooked a huge, 27-inch plus brown on his skated Morrish Mouse... just before hitting a class 4+ rapid. There was no way of stopping the raft, so a serious relocation project began; going through the pounding rapids with a huge trout on the end of the line! The fish jumped a few times, but insisted on staying behind the boat in the heart of the churning maelstrom. Marlow's reel was screaming and rapidly surrendering line - the great trout ran far upstream into the backing. Marlow could still feel the fish at more than 100 yards away...and then the line got caught somewhere on a rock, and the backing snapped. Both fish and fly line, gone in an instant. Below the rapid Craig jumped out of the boat and walked upstream, but never was able to find the line. Maybe on the next float, he'll spot it, and hand-line a huge brown!

Water conditions:

- ▲ Water color – clarity was good and getting perfect by the end of the week
- ▲ Water level – after last week's rain, all is perfect
- ▲ Water temperature – between 48° and 60°

Weather conditions:

- ▲ Wind speed – we have seen it all during the week – one very nasty day, but also several beautiful ones
- ▲ Air Temperature – 55° TO 75° F
- ▲ Two rainy days, two overcast days, and two bright sunny days

Fishing Conditions:

- ▲ Because of the weather, most of the guides opted for streamer fishing. By the end of the week, though, dry fly fishing turned on again
- ▲ Fly lines – streamers on 200-grain sink tips, and dry flies on 6-7 wt. floaters
- ▲ Biggest fish landed for the week – 25-inch rainbow by Bruce, and 24-inchers by Bob, both Johns, and Marlow. At least another 10 fish over 20-inches.

Marcel Sijnesael

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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.

