



Patagonian Basecamp Report

F E B R U A R Y 1 7 , 2 0 1 2

Truly, we are experiencing a special year at Patagonian BaseCamp. The numbers of large fish being landed, in particular, have been remarkable! Certainly we see fish like this every year, but typically not with such relentless regularity. . . every single week many fish in the 22"-25" range have been hooked, some landed, and others "long-line released." And while some of those have been on streamers, many more have risen to take large dry

flies...when the weather is warm and sunny, those big fish seem more than willing to come to the surface. There have even been a number of leviathans coaxed up to eat skated mouse patterns - what a treat!

– Mike Mercer



NOW WITH THE RIVER LEVELS PERFECT, we experienced a perfect fishing week. On the first day we saw some raindrops, and for the rest of the week we had changing skies, from sunny to cloudy and everything in between. Only on two days did the air temperatures come over 70 degrees...and immediately the dry fly fishing turned on. For the rest of the week it was mostly streamer, or dry-dropper action.

After 28 years, Bob decided to pick up a fly rod again. It took him, literally, 2 casts and 2 minutes to catch a 23-inch brown trout on the Rio Palena. The second day he repeated the same trick on the Rio Rosselot. Bob is now officially "Big Fish Bob, II." Remember, "Bob I" still holds our lodge record rainbow, at 20 pounds.

The waters around the TempleCamp produced great numbers on the dry fly, with a tan-colored Chubby Chernobyl the most productive fly. Mina and Dennis truly "smoked" them, with multiple days of 50-fish hookups. Mina topped off her last day at the Temple with a great 23-inch brownie. This week the Palena "stayed behind" – without any apparent reason it was strangely off-color.

But as soon as it cleared fishing was on! Mike and Dan caught a number of 20-inch+ fish, with a beautiful 24- inch brown and a 23-inch 'bow as the crowning catches. As it goes, the biggest two browns for Mike broke off. Memories for life and a good reason to come back.

One of the most memorable experiences for me was a day I took Charles to fish some hidden side channels and lagoons, on the Palena. Water we hardly ever fish, and which always pleasantly surprises me. Some are very hard to get to, but just being in there is enough. Imagine how we felt when he landed at least 20 fish, all on the dry fly, and all between 17 and 21-inches. It was just one spectacular surprise!

Water conditions:

- ▲ Water color – clarity was perfect, except for 2 days on the Palena
- ▲ Water level – just perfect - perhaps a bit low by the end of the week
- ▲ Water temperature – between 52° and 60°

Weather conditions:

- ▲ Wind speed – some almost windless days, followed by some windier ones.
- ▲ Air Temperature – 55° TO 70° F
- ▲ One rainy day, and for the rest, overcast and partly cloudy

Fishing Conditions:

- ▲ On most of the days sub-surface action was better, but dries and droppers still did pretty well. Two days of great dry fly action.
- ▲ Fly lines – streamers on 200-grains lines, and some dries on dry lines in the #6-#7-weight class.
- ▲ Biggest fish landed for the week – 24-inch brown by Dan, followed by a number of 23-inchers by Mike, Bob and Mina. Everybody caught fish over 20-inches, with Charles hitting that mark every day.

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.



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