



Patagonian Basecamp Report

F E B R U A R Y 3 , 2 0 1 2

Just when we thought there would be no rain in Chile ever again, it showed up! And it was a good thing, revitalizing the smaller streams and temporarily flushing the bigger rivers, as well. While this past week's guests had some wonderful stream fishing, they were also able to experience Marcel's outstanding "Plan B" program, a series of small lakes implemented when the rivers get high, or if we have guests that enjoy stillwaters. As usual, many big trout were hooked, both on large dries and streamers. I recall fishing one of these lakes several years ago when fishing at Marcel's

place, and hooking an enormous brown trout - one I felt sure was 30-inches plus - that I lost after a brutal give-and-take battle, ending with the hook simply popping free. I got to see the whole thing - the fish rocketing out of its shoreline lair, engulfing my streamer, then turning and ripping line out into the lake - and I can assure you, no river fish has been more memorable. Those lakes are awesome!

Mike Mercer
- Mike Mercer



AND FINALLY THE RAINS CAME and they came hard. But we needed it, so it was welcomed with open arms. The first three days it rained almost non-stop, blowing out the Palena and Figueroa rivers. The Rosselot, which is lake-born, continued very fishable and some huge fish were hooked and some even landed. Rick caught a 25-inch rainbow on his first day, on the same day Al lost his fish of a lifetime...after hooking an estimated 30-inch brown and battling it for more than 10 minutes, in it's final run it spit the fly. On the Palena, Kim caught her first 20-incher. The rivers blew out on the second day, giving us a good excuse to fish some hidden and seldom-fished lagoons. It is always a thrill to see huge browns and rainbows coming from the depths, and that is exactly what these small lakes offer; it's a true blessing to have them as a refuge. In fact, after visiting them, we always wonder why we don't fish them more often! Mike and Kim spent a remarkable day on one of those small lakes - Kim fishing a dry fly, while Mike plumbed the depths with a streamer. A huge brown inhaled Kim's fly, but spit it out before she could even set the hook; immediately Mike threw his streamer at him and again he hit, but again he

got away. Craig, the guide, decided to let it rest for a bit. After lunch he rowed back to the same spot and Mike's first cast was rewarded with a solid hookup. The fish got airborne and showed his estimated 26/27 inches, then made a run for a log, and that was the end of the story. The leader broke, leaving the anglers with just memories.

Only a day after the rains passed away, the rivers came back to perfect clarity and flow. The Palena was fishing great and Mike got his redemption by catching, in this order, a 24, 23, 22 and 20-inch brown with guide Ben. The Pico and Figueroa were back to spectacular, with big-numbers-landed days, and the biggest brown of the week for Dan. Guide Ryan had just announced, "Last cast for the week, Dan," when the 25-incher inhaled his streamer. Not a bad way to end one's week!

On that same last day, Marcel took Jean on a jet boat trip on the Palena, where they did pretty good business in a tiny little tributary flowing through a meadow, landing 4 fish over 20-inches. All were a spectacular butter-yellow color, and ready for a big fight.

Water conditions:

- ▲ Water color - from perfect to completely blown out, back to perfect by the end of the week. Lakes and lagoons perfect.
- ▲ Water level - rivers and streams got huge after the rains, but almost back to perfect by the end of the week
- ▲ Water temperature - between 48° and 60°F

Weather conditions:

- ▲ Wind speed - we have seen it all during the week
- ▲ Air Temperature - 55° TO 70° F
- ▲ First three days heavy rains, followed by drizzle and sunshine at the end of the week.

Fishing Conditions:

- ▲ Because of the weather most of the guides opted for streamer fishing. But some days dry fly fishing was still pretty good
- ▲ Fly lines - streamers on 200 grain lines and some on dry lines in the #6-#7 class
- ▲ Biggest fish landed for the week - 25-inch rainbow by Rick and a 25-inch brown by Dan. At least another 15 fish over 20-inch.

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.



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