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# THE ANGLING REPORT

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had made some calls around town indicating that I planned to ask all *Angling Report* subscribers to be on the lookout for similar signs anywhere in the Florida Keys. The punishment for offering permit for sale was going to be a call on our part for a boycott. It would not be surprising if that threat

made its way to the folks at The Good Life and affected their memory of past menu offerings.

For the record, it is not illegal in Florida to sell permit, though there is a possession limit of only two over 20 inches in length. I'm indebted to writer Bob Stearns for that surprising

bit of insight. He agrees with me – and most sensible people in Florida – that selling permit should be illegal. Until that happens, if you spot a restaurant anywhere in the Florida Keys offering permit for sale, let me know. I'll issue a call for a boycott of the place. Write: doncausey@msn.com.

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## OUTFITTER CRITIQUES

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### The Good, The Bad and The Ugly

*(This section of The Angling Report is based entirely on subscriber-written Angler Network Forms. Our policy on these forms is we publish excerpts in the newsletter of Angler Network Forms as received and exert no censorship. Agents, guides, lodge operators and/or outfitters who disagree with anything said about them in this section are free to submit a rebuttal. Only paid subscribers may file Angler Network Forms or request printouts of them. As a subscriber, you can help extend the reach of this program by filing an Angler Network Form yourself. You should have found one inside this issue of your newsletter. For details on how to order printouts of Angler Network Reports, see Trip-Planning Database Service Box.)*

■ Subscriber Marvin S. Beitler has filed a fascinating report on a float trip down the Potomac River in **Maryland** handled for him this past August by Bryan Kelly of The Angler's Inn in Harper's Ferry, West Virginia (304-535-1239. [www.theanglersinn.com](http://www.theanglersinn.com)). He says the float extended from Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, to Brunswick, Maryland, a distance of about eight miles. It lasted from 7:30 in the morning until about 6 pm.

"Bryan Kelly did a great job of directing the boat down the Potomac, and he put us on many fish, principally smallmouth bass and bluegills, but I was fortunate to catch a walleye as well on a black Woolly Bugger," Beitler writes. "In total we netted about 25 fish for the day. Kelly is very knowledgeable about the river, having guided on it for 15 years. We stopped about halfway down the river for a shore-side lunch. This was one of the best trips I have taken near my home in Germantown, Maryland."

Beitler notes he could have combined his trip with a stay at The Angler's Inn, a bed and breakfast, but that was not necessary as the Potomac is near his home. He says subscribers from outside the region may want to explore this option, however, as Bryan and his wife, Debbie, offer angling/lodging packages. Beitler gives the cost of his own outing as \$375 for the day of fishing, plus a \$50 tip.

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■ Subscriber Jan Maizler has checked in with a first-hand report on fishing for tarpon around the island of **Trinidad**. He did so this past August with Captain Danny Agostini (reel tackle@hotmail.com), who operates out of the Reel Tackle Center in Chaguaramas. His trip was set up for him by In Joy Tours ([www.injoytours.com](http://www.injoytours.com)). He writes:



"The area I fished was along the northwest point of Trinidad. There are some passes, or *bocas*, here where the fish roll. There were lots of tarpon rolling, and they appeared to range from 40 to 100 pounds. As just about everywhere else, seeing many rolling tarpon here did not mean many striking tarpon. The *bocas* are 40 to 150 feet deep, and I was not equipped to fish deep water with fly tackle, so I settled on conventional stand-up and spinning tackle in the 20-pound class.

"I fished for three sessions in all,

and I managed to release one 50-pound tarpon. It was a thrill to catch this fish, as the surrounding habitat – tall, forested mountains – was so different from that everywhere else I have caught tarpon. It was also just plain fun to watch all the tarpon rolling, though I would have liked to have had more strikes.

"Most of the tarpon boats fishing the *bocas* were pirogues, which are common in Trinidad. Unlike the *pangas* of Central America, pirogues do not have a rounded, upturned bow. They have sharp, straight bows for cutting into the seas that can get quite large here. While a few boats trolled with downriggers, Capt. Danny and most others simply drifted. I fished the standup tackle with live threadfin herring."

*(Postscript: Maizler says he paid \$650 for his three fishing sessions.)*

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■ Subscriber William L. Sutton has checked in with a letter-length report on an interesting pike fishing opportunity in **Manitoba**. He says he was inspired to send the report by reading subscriber Bob Warstler's August 2008 report on North Haven Lodge, another pike fishing establishment in that same province. Sutton writes:

"I read with interest Mr. Warstler's report on pike fishing on Utik Lake in Manitoba in the August issue of *The Angling Report*. My group of seven

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family member and friends have just returned from fishing another fabulous pike (and brook trout) fishery in Manitoba called God's River Lodge. I thought fellow subscribers would like to know about it.

"God's River, the lake and the lodge, are perhaps 75 miles southeast of Utik Lake. The lodge is not new like North Haven Resort. It has been operating as a fly-in resort for over 40 years. It is also not the "Ritz," though it is comfortable and well designed. It does not cost as much as North Haven. The seven-day package we bought cost \$2,800 versus \$4,500 per person. The fee we paid included the 1½-hour flight from Winnipeg.

"God's Lake is about 65 miles long, with God's River outflow at the northeastern end. The lodge is located on the river near the end of the lake. The lodge is operated by the Cree Nation. They can accommodate up to 48 people in a comfortable main lodge and various cabins. We were the only party that week. We rented two cabins. Each had four bedrooms with a toilet and a shower off of a central living room. A screened-in porch faced the river and the boat dock.

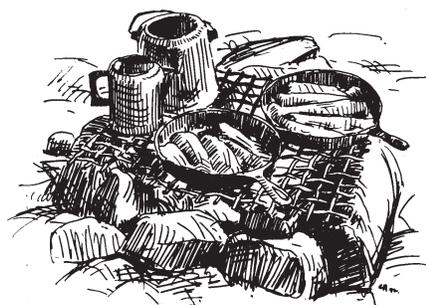
"The food was very satisfactory. Breakfast at the main lodge was excellent. Anything one wanted was cooked to order. We had shore lunches every day of pike and wall-eye, potatoes and onions, canned beans and canned corn. The lunches were not fancy but they tasted delicious on the scenic banks of lake and river. Dinners were full-course and varied: salads or soup; meats or pasta with potatoes and vegetables; and excellent homemade desserts.

"Because of the location, we were able to choose either the lake or the river, or both, to fish each day. The guides are experienced Cree Indians who grew up in the area and know all the spots to fish. They use 18-foot boats with 40hp four-stroke Yamaha engines. They are superb boat handlers.

"The one drawback is, the lodge and the guides know very little about fly fishing. The lodge store has no fly

fishing equipment at all. Fortunately, we had fly fished for pike before and had read Barry Reynolds and John Berryman's book, *Pike on the Fly*, so we had what we needed. We were also equipped for trophy brook trout, but the fishing turned out to be disappointing. Despite some caddis hatches, there were no rising fish. We caught an occasional brookie on #4 Mickey Finn streamers and #1 Deep Clousers (chartreuse and white). Six were over 20 inches. None were less than 16 inches long. It may have been that the water was too warm. The fish were visible in the rapids, hunkered down behind sheltering rocks.

"We turned to the northern pike fishing in both the lake and the river and had practically nonstop action. The lake fish tended to be larger,



measuring up to 45 inches, while the river fish ran upwards of 35 inches. Our most successful flies were #10 Lefty Deceivers and #1/0 Deep Clousers. Black colors were not attractive, maybe because we had very warm, sunny weather. We ran out of nylon-coated knot-able wire leader and had to use black swivel and snap leaders that the store sold for spinning equipment. The pike didn't seem to mind.

"I told the manager, Jim McKay, that he was missing a large potential group of clients in not promoting the fly fishing. I doubt that the pike fishing can be much better anywhere, and I think the brook trout could be great at other times, as I know the big fish were there. I saw them. The cost is very reasonable, and the ability to

fish both lake and river is special. God's River Lodge also offers fly-outs to other lakes and, at extra cost, overnight stays far downriver where the brook trout fishing is supposed to be good. God's River Lodge can be reached at: 204-366-2333. E-mail: info@godsriverlodge.com. Web: www.godsriverlodge.com.

(Don Causey Note: I am putting William L. Sutton on the Subscriber Honor Roll for taking the time to share this opportunity with fellow subscribers. His Honor Roll fishing hat will be going out shortly.)

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■ Two subscribers have weighed in with positive reports on fishing trips to the **Florida Keys**. The first is from subscriber Kenneth Spint who fished Key West for tarpon this past May with guide Shane Wood (305-394-1873). Spint says he saw hundreds of tarpon, some of them the biggest he has ever seen, but they just weren't interested in his flies. "Other guides had the same problem," he writes. "Most had none to the boat or simply quit because of the weather."

As regards the weather, he says one of his two fishing days was perfect, with bright sky, flat water and mild winds. The other day saw winds of 20 to 25 miles per hour and one- to two-foot waves. He gives the total cost of his five-day trip with two days of guided fishing and lodging at the upscale The Gardens Hotel (www.gardenshotel.com) as \$5,000. He gives The Gardens Hotel high marks, incidentally, noting he has seen it rated as the best place to stay in Key West. It is also conveniently located close to the City Marina where guides are based.

The other report is from subscriber A. J. Ripepi, who fished for permit, tarpon and bonefish around Big Pine Key this past June with Capt. Leon Moffo (305-872-4683. E-Mail: captlen@earthlink.net). He reports catching four tarpon and a permit despite very bad weather. "Len did a great job of finding the few fish that were around," he writes. "He is a consummate profes-