



FISHING REPORT
CLOSING SEASON 08/09



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The Río Pampas was going down furiously and just a bit muddy. The sequels left by the great risings of the winter could still be seen in the surroundings. The river wasn't the same anymore. Large sandbanks, undermined slopes and trees that had been taken to unimagined places were successively creating a landscape that was perfectly possible in a Tolkien story. What would be of those productive small pools, or those slopes that offered shelter to wonderful trout? And, in short, what would be of the trout themselves? The questions were still resounding in my head when the first rainbow of the season sank the strike indicator, answering partially all my inquiries.

The beginning of season 08-09 was beyond atypical. Something new came up every step we took: traces closed by the trees knocked over by the winter snow, rivers running where short ago cattle had been grazing, grasslands buried under sand and branches... But trout were certainly there, we only needed to know their location and quantity.

The first results already set the trend. The biggest trout would be found in the small spring creeks. Browns as well as rainbows of 15 inches on the average kept coming up to the wide range of flies we offered. The rivers were no longer full of those insatiable young trout that would take anything on their way. Instead, we found a cleverer population, considerably superior in size. The lakes and pools of the region were the only environments without change: 3, 4 and 5 were still giving their beautiful energetic rainbows and their few fat multicolor browns.

The floats in Río Corcovado gave the first surprises: an extraordinary rainbow, after biting and running various meters upstream, jumped and cut the tippet 0x. It was the first catch of the season that exceeded 20 inches and it was gone, leaving us the memory of its dark back and perfect silhouette blowing up the river's surface in a thousand pieces... It wouldn't be the last one.

The season went by among memorable days in Río Pampas, with dries that surprised us with the quality and quantity of their fine browns; strange new pools in Río Pico, where the vitality of their rainbows shocked us catch after catch; winds that made the cast a hard task; and many other things that left unforgettable moments of simple and complete joy.

But there was more: except for a few rainbows and browns around 25 inches –caught in Corcovado, Pampas and Negro rivers– trophy pieces had not appeared yet. Until one morning, after having coffee or “mate” observing the haze above the water, we embarked ourselves to see what happened if we decided to enter Vilches pool before the first lights of the morning touched the water, instead of making our regular visit at dawn. And what up to that moment was complete confusion and disappointment, started to clear out along with the day: we caught four rainbows ‘of the good ones’ and, most importantly, we opened a ‘track’. From that moment on, we only had to make an effort to leave early in the morning to catch two or three rainbows over 20 inches in a couple of hours. The ‘rincón’, ‘callejón de juntos’ and ‘puesto Vilches’ were visited every week, and the beasts of the pool were there over and over again. The most surprising catch might have been a tremendous rainbow female over 25 inches and 10 pounds; it jumped at least three times his size out of the water in its fight to come off the black leech hardly holding on to its jaw.

And when it seemed that nothing else would happen, the brooks arrived to Corcovado. They weren't many –just two or three per journey– but every one of them was better than the previous. Most of them surpassed easily 15 inches and 3 pounds, true giants for the species. Maybe the biggest one escaped, no one knows; only the deer hair mouse fly it took away...

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River Conditions / Fish Report:

	November - December	January - February	March - April
WATERS	<p>Unsettled. Small rivers muddy on rainy days. Río Corcovado, the spring creeks and pools were safe options by the clarity and stability of their waters.</p>	<p>Regular. Rivers settled in a relatively low level, but were very stable. Pools kept fresh and oxygenated.</p>	<p>Slightly unsettled. Rain and early snowfalls provoked a premature rise in the waters' level. Once more, the best options were the pools and Río Corcovado.</p>
WEATHER	<p>Cold and stable. Despite the low temperatures recorded at night, days were pleasant and winds were noticed at random.</p>	<p>Temperate and windy. Temperatures kept within the summer range (10 to 20°C), but winds didn't cease as they use to.</p>	<p>Cold and unsettled. These months were essentially marked by sudden weather changes. Rain, wind and snowfalls interspersed among nice fall afternoons.</p>
FLY / FISHING	<p>Big browns with dries. Fishing was very good in general, especially in small water courses where 3 pound browns lunged over and over again at the presence of big dries. The presence size of rainbows was slightly inferior to browns'.</p>	<p>Fun and subtle. The condition of waters caused trout to locate themselves, almost exclusively, in hot spots –banks, pools, etc.– and allowed us to get a considerable number of well sized pieces using very subtle techniques.</p>	<p>Big rainbows and fontinalis brooks. The entrance of nourished runs of fontinalis brooks to Corcovado allowed catching very good pieces –from 2 to 4 pounds–, mostly acting with streamers and fast sinking lines. We caught dozens of rainbows between 2 and 10 pounds, and a few fontinalis brooks, one of which surpassed 4 pounds in weight.</p>

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