

Belize River Lodge And Long Caye Outpost Lodge

Historically the first fishing lodge in Belize, and still going Strong!

FLY FISHING RECOMMENDATIONS

All **FLY FISHING** supplies (lines, leaders, flies) can be purchased at a local flyshop in your area or online. Belize River Lodge also has a full selection of flies and leaders for sale and a full range of fly rods and reels (8 wt, 10 wt and 12 wt) for rent at the Lodge. Please check with us before your arrival in Belize or during your check-in at the Lodge.

RODS: Bonefish: 7 - 8 wt
Tarpon (5 to 75 lbs), Snook, Permit, & Cudas: 9 - 10 wt
Large Tarpon (80 to 150+ lbs): 11 – 12 wt

REELS: Anodized with excellent drag systems.
Capable of holding your fly line and at least 150 yards of 20 lb. or 30 lb. backing.

LINES: Floating lines (8 wt, 9 wt &/or 10 wt): All Bonefish & Permit fishing
Floating lines (9 wt &/or 10 wt): Tarpon & Snook fishing on the Flats and along the mangroves.
Intermediate lines (10 wt, 11 wt &/or 12 wt): Snook & Tarpon fishing in the rivers & deeper saltwater flats and channels
Sink tips: For channels & river fishing 300 to 600 grain.
Scientific Angler & Rio lines are good options.

While in Belize, daily fishing will depend on your target species and weather conditions. Below is a Rod/Reel/Line ideal set-up for every possible situation, however, not everyone has all the equipment and many anglers may only have an 8wt and 10 wt. Don't worry about purchasing everything before your trip, our BRL guides are happy to help you fish with your equipment on hand. If at some point, you really need a rod or reel for a day or two, BRL has a full complement of fly rods and reels for rent.

- 8 wt floating for Bonefish
- 9 wt or 10 wt floating for Permit, small tarpon and snook
- 10 wt intermediate for tarpon and snook in rivers
- 10 wt 300/400 grain sink for tarpon and snook in rivers and deeper channels
- 11 wt or 12 wt intermediate for large tarpon in bays
- 11 wt or 12 wt 600 grain sink for large tarpon in channels

Very few anglers have all of the above and our guides can easily work out what to use with what you bring down. Many guest may rent if they need something for the day.

LEADERS: Bonefish Tapered Leaders 10' long leader - 10 to 12 lb tippet
Permit Leaders 10' long leader – 12 to 16 lb tippet
Snook/Small Tarpon - Custom Fly Leader. 20 x 40's or 20 x 60's
Large Tarpon - Custom Fly Leader 20 x 80's or 20 x 100's
Toothy Critter Wire Leaders 7 1/2' tippet - 30 lb wire

FLY FISHING RECOMMENDATIONS continued

SHOCK TIPPET: Clear mono, 10 Yd coils in test #60, #80, #100

If you are tying your own leaders, here are a few guidelines.

FISH SPECIES	BUTT SECTION	CLASS LEADER	SHOCK TIPPET
<i>Bonefish</i>	12" to 24" of 20 lb.	9 Ft. Tapered	10 Lb.
<i>Permit</i>	12" to 24" of 20 lb.	9 Ft. Tapered	12 - 16 Lb.
<i>Tarpon</i>	4 Ft of 40 Lb.	2 Ft. of 12 - 20 Lb.	18" of 60 to 100 Lb.
<i>Snook/Jacks</i>	4 Ft of 40 Lb.	2 Ft. of 12 - 20 Lb.	18" of 60 Lb.
<i>Barracuda</i>	4 Ft of 40 Lb.	2 Ft. of 12 - 20 Lb.	1 Ft. of 30 Lb.Wire

Mike's Closet (Tackle Shop) at BRL: We have in stock a selection of flies & lures that work well at BRL. If you cannot find a particular fly or if you don't want the hassle, no worries, you can get the flies you need while at the Lodge. We also have leaders and lures available for sale along with rental equipment, both fly and spin. If you would like, your guides can look through your selection of flies at BRL, before leaving for LCOL.

Rental Equipment: BRL has rental equipment, subject to availability.

Fly fishing equipment is top quality, mainly Sage rods, 8 wt's, 10 wt's & 12 wt's, & Teton, Sage or Bauer saltwater reels. All reels have Rio lines. We also have a few 8 wt, 9 wt & 12 wt Winston rods in our rental equipment. Spin fishing equipment is also top quality, mainly Ugly Sticks with Shimano or Penn reels

SUGGESTED FLIES: Below are Mike's fly recommendations, feel free to add or subtract depending on what you would like to fish for. This recommendation is based per skiff (2 anglers) for a 7 night/6 day package. This is a "barebone" list and *if you would like to specialize on a particular species, you should get more flies for that species*, ie if you want to mainly target Tarpon, you should get more tarpon flies. Please note, that we have a full selection of flies available for sale at the Lodge.

BONEFISH (12 total)

Bonefishing can be in very skinny water into deeper water. An assortment of flies for one foot or less of water, chain eyed flies for medium depth and lead eyes for deeper water. A few of each is recommended. Weed guards on flies may be needed if fishing over seagrass.

- 2 each Chico s Bonefish Special 6
- 2 each Gotcha 6
- 2 each Crazy Charlie - Tan or Pink 6
- 2 each Deep Water Gotcha 4
- 2 each Bonefish Slider - Tan 4

BONEFISH AND PERMIT – BRL Must

- 2 each Spawning Shrimp 4

PERMIT (12 total)

Tan and olive are the most popular colors in Central Belize. There are a few flies listed that have another fly very similar pattern, either/or will work, both are not needed.

- 2 each Bauer s Fur Crab - Tan or Olive 4
- 2 each Raghead Crab - Tan or olive / Casablanca 4
- 2 each Merkin / Beck's Fleeing Crab 4
- 2 each Danger Muffin 4
- 2 each Money Crabs - Tan or Olive 4

If you would like to fish for small/medium tarpon, you may want a dozen flies. If you are looking at large Tarpon fishing, you will want 6 to 12 large tarpon flies for your trip.

FLY FISHING RECOMMENDATIONS continued

TARPON (12 total)

- 2 each Cockroach 3/0
- 2 each Red/White Tarpon 3/0
- 2 each Toads – Black/Purple and Red/Black. 2/0 or 3/0
- 2 each Black Death 2/0 or 3/0
- 2 each Grizzly Orange Tarpon 3/0

TARPON: LARGE

- 2 each Tarpon Snake - Black, Red/White, Yellow/Red 3/0 or 4/0 – *black is the favorite*
- 2 each Whistlers 3/0 or 4/0
- 2 each Homeslice 3/0

TARPON, SNOOK, JACKS (12 total)

- 2 each Deceiver - Green, Blue 1/0 or 2/0
- 2 each Deceiver - Chartreuse 1/0 or 2/0
- 2 each Puglisi Everglade 2/0
- 2 each Seducer - Red/White and Red/Yellow 1/0 or 2/0
- 2 each Deepwater Clouser - Red/White and Chartreuse/White . . 1/0, 2/0
- 2 each Big Popper – Yellow and Blue 3/0
- 2 each Gurglers - Black, Yellow or White 1/0, 2/0
- 2 each Half & Half – Chartreuse/white with and without flash 1/0, 2/0

Note: In the fall months, the guides prefer to use chartreuse and white, some with flash, other no flash Deceivers, Clousers and Half and Half's for Tarpon and Snook.

BARRACUDA

- 4 each Cuda Fly - Green (double hooked tandem) 3/0

Bonefish, Permit, Tarpon & Snook

Bonefish (*Albula vulpes*): Average in Central Belize is 3 lbs. Can land as small as 8” and as big as 7 IBs. Bonefish live in inshore tropical waters and move onto shallow mudflats to feed with the incoming and outgoing tides. Adults and juveniles may school together, and they may be found singly, in pairs or schooled in bigger groups. **Length of average cast needed:** 25 feet to 40 feet

Permit: 6 to 30 lbs average size with smaller and bigger landed. Permit are usually found in shallow, tropical waters such as mudflats, sand flats, coral and channels. They are usually seen as individuals or in small schools. **Length of average cast needed:** 25 feet to 50 feet

Tarpon (*Megalops atlanticus*): Average size in Central Belize varies. Resident fish range 5 lbs to the 80 lbs, with a few being over 100 lbs. Migratory Tarpon size range about 80 lbs to over 175 lbs. Tarpon are found in both saltwater and freshwater habitats and are able to survive in brackish water, waters of varying pH, and habitats with low oxygen content due to their swim bladders, which they use primarily to breathe. They are also able to rise to the surface and take gulps of air, which gives them a short burst of energy. **Length of average cast needed:** 30 feet to 60 feet

Snook: Average size 8 to 15 lbs in Central Belize, with smaller and bigger being landed. Snook live in shallow coastal waters estuaries, and lagoons and often move between saltwater to fresh water. Snook feed on smaller fish. The snook is considered an opportunistic predator and studies show a positive relationship between their size and the size of their prey, meaning that as the snook grows it feeds on larger and larger prey. **Length of average cast needed:** 20 feet to 30 feet.

Most flats and fishing areas can be home to multiple species, so plan to be prepared with a Bonefish rod, a snook/tarpon rod, permit rod and if they are around a large (75 + lbs) tarpon rod.