

Belize River Lodge And Long Caye Outpost Lodge

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

CONVENTIONAL TACKLE/SPIN FISHING RECOMMENDATIONS

Most tackle, lures and spin equipment can be purchased online. There are many online retailers such as Cabelas (www.cabelas.com), Bass Pro (www.basspro.com), Captain Harry's (www.capharry.com) and Angler's Ammo (www.anglers-ammo.com); all have a very good selection of spinning rods and reels along with most of the recommended lures. "Buggs" can be purchased from website (www.buggsfishingstore.com).

Lure names and colors change often, faster than we can keep up with. If you cannot find a specific lure, you can find something to substitute. When purchasing lures, you are looking for the following:

Bonefish & Permit: Fished mainly on shallow flats, but flats can either be turtlegrass, coral or sand flats, so look you need a lighter jig for grass and a little heavier jig for sand. Weed guards will be needed for turtle grass flats.

Tarpon & Snook: We fish in different bodies of water, so you need to look for three different suspending lures - Surface, 2 to 10 feet and 10 to 25 feet. This covers all water depths.

For *colors*, anything similar to the colors listed will work.

Sometimes lures are hard to find. BRL also has a good selection of lures available for sale at the Lodge. Note: Due to high import duties into Belize, lures at BRL may be 2 times to 4 times the cost of in the USA.

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.

Recommended rods, reels, line weights:

	BONEFISH	PERMIT	SNOOK & TARPON(S-M)	TARPON(L)
LINE (lbs):	10	15	12 - 17	20 - 25
ROD:	6 - 7' (lt)	6 - 7' (med)	6 - 7' (med)	7' med - hvy
REEL:	150 yd	250 yds	150 yds	250 yds

CUDA LEADERS: 18" to 24" wire, 30 to 50 lb test

Mono leader material (clear 10 yds coils in test 60 lb, 80 lb, & 100 lb)

Tarpon leaders preferred use of mono.

SUGGESTED LURES: Below are Mike's lure recommendations, feel free to add or subtract depending on what you would like to fish for & what is available. Recommendations are based on per skiff (2 anglers) for a 7 night/6 day package.

BONEFISH and PERMIT

Mainly be fished for on shallow flats, under 6' of water under 6' of water. Some flats will be sand, some coral and some turtle grass. Some jigs can have weed guards & some without.

<u>Bonefish & Permit</u>	<u>Size/Weight</u>	<u>Depth of Water</u>	<u>Color</u>
3 each Phillips Wiggle Jigs	1/8 oz, 1/4 oz, 3/8 oz	6" to 6'	Pink, White, Brown/Tan
3 each Back bone Jigs	1/8 oz, 1/4 oz, 3/8 oz	6" to 6'	Pink, White, Brown/Tan
2 each Buggs Hot Head Bugg	3/16 oz	6" to 2'	Natural, New Penny
2 each Buggs Slider Bugg	3/16 oz	6" to 2'	PBT, New Penny
2 each Buggs Double Bunny Jig	¼ oz	3' to 4'	New Penny, PBT

SNOOK and TARPON: Along the mangroves and flats

Need floating or suspending lures. You will be fishing in 0 to 3 feet of water. Lure size is 3" to 4" in length and should look like a floating minnow. Range of colors: any fishy colors, chartreuse, white, pearl, red/white, etc.

<u>Snook & Tarpon (shallow water)</u>	<u>Size/Weight</u>	<u>Depth of Water</u>	<u>Color</u>
2 each Heddon Zara Spook	4 1/2" – 3/4 oz	Topwater popper	Red/White
2 each Rebel Pop R, Magnum	3" – 1/2 oz	Topwater popper	Green Perch, Red/White
2 each Mirrolure 52M	3 5/8" – 1/2 oz	3 – 8 ft	Red/White
2 each Rebel Saltwater Super Pop R	3 1/8" – 5/16 oz	Topwater	Any
2 each Yo-Zuri Crystal Minnow	4 3/8" – 3/8 oz	Floating	Red/White, Blue Mackerel
2 each *Beastie Bugg	1/4 oz, 3/8 oz	3' to 10'	Backcountry, Ngt'sWatch New Penny, Texas Tea
2 each *Curl-Tail Jig with extra gold glitter tails		6" to 2'	Red Chaser/Glow Chartreus

SNOOK and TARPON: Deep Channels and Rivers

Fishing in 5 to 20 feet of water. Lure size is 3" to 5" in length. Range of colors: any fishy colors, chartreuse, white, pearl, silver or gold with a dark back, red/white, etc.

<u>Tarpon & Snook (deep water)</u>	<u>Size/Weight</u>	<u>Depth of Water</u>	<u>Color</u>
3 each Bomber B07A	2.625" – 1/2 oz	8 to 10 ft	Fire Tiger
2 each Rapala CD-11 Sink	4 3/8" – 9/16 oz	9 – 13 ft	Red/White, Orange
2 each Mirrolure 65M	3 1/4" – 1 oz	10 – 20 ft+	Red/White
2 each Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap	3 1/2" – 3/4 oz	Sinking	Red/White, Silver or Gold with Black back
1 to 2 bags Storm Wild Eyed Jigs	4" – 1/2 oz	Sink, very weighted	Any Fishy color (Fire tiger, Red/White)
1 each Slug-Go	6" w/off set hooks	Sink, very weighted	Rainbow Trout, Pearl
1 bag Squirmin' Shad	3"/4" w/off set hooks	Sink, very weighted	Chartreuse Silver Flake

- Off set hooks & hooks for wild eye jigs, Slug-Go's and Squirmin' Shad in sizes 3/0, 5/0

BARRACUDA

3 each Tube Lures	12" to 14", Tandem Hooked	Green, Pink
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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 lbs. 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.