

ISSUE #9 | Q1 2020

SPORTFISHING ADVENTURES

THE WORLD'S BEST FISHING DESTINATIONS

USA

PYRAMID LAKE'S
CUTTHROATS

FRANCE

ENTERING A NEW WORLD

ERITREA

THE RED SEA JEWEL

CENTRAL
AFRICA

GOLIATH TIGERS ON THE FLY

+ INSTAGRAM ANGLERS, NEW TACKLE, LATEST IGFA RECORDS, FISHING ART & MORE...



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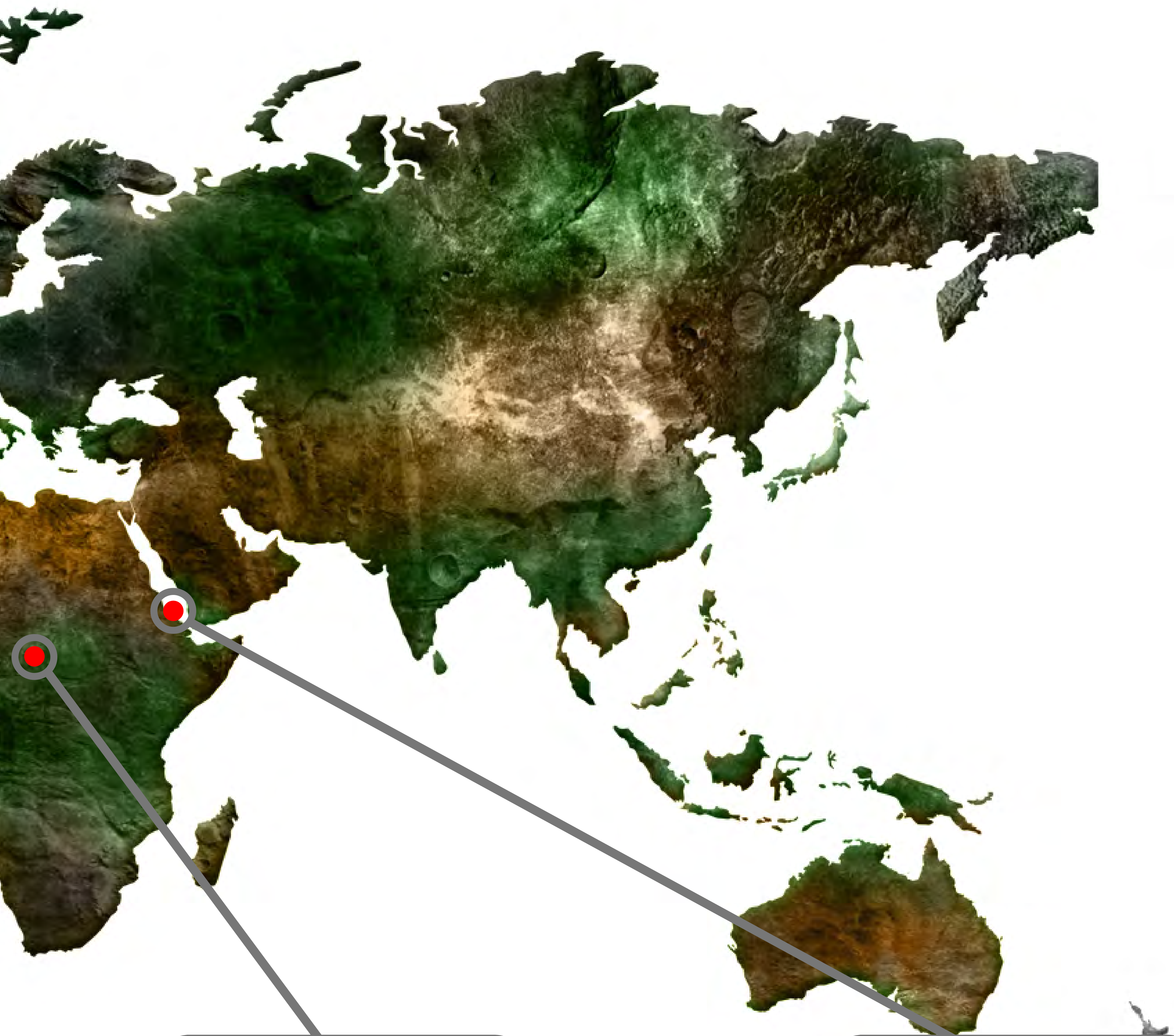
WHERE ARE WE TAKI



USA

FRANCE

ING YOU THIS TIME ?



CENTRAL AFRICA



ERITREA

EDITORIAL



Dylan Smith
Editor in Chief

Stay home, safe and healthy

With the recent worldwide pandemic, the last few weeks have seen lots of countries closing their borders, and asking their citizens to stay home. There's no doubt that this unprecedented event will affect small and big businesses for years, and it is already putting a serious threat on small touristic operations, like fishing lodges for example. Saving lives and businesses has never been so easy: all we need to do is stay home and limit our interactions with others as much as we can. Tie flies, play with your kids, change old trebles on lures, watch TV shows, or even start a workout program! We have so much we can do compared to 50 years ago !

So until you can cast your line again, stay home, safe and healthy.

Dylan Smith



COVER SHOT:

Trophy goliath tiger on the fly, from François Botha's article, p.92





SPORTFISHING ADVENTURES

THE WORLD'S BEST FISHING DESTINATIONS

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The Atlantic Salmon Trust

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IGFA

NEW RECORDS



Miller's *Squirefish*

Sahra Miller continues to impress by setting the new IGFA Women's 1-kg (2 lb) Line Class World Record with this beautiful 5.15-kilogram (11-pound, 6-ounce) snapper (squirefish) she caught fishing the shoreline of Shark Bay, Western Australia. She played the record catch for an incredible 1.5-hours after it hit a McCarthy Plastic she was using. Catching this record from shore is a true testament to her patience and skill as an angler.



Bluch's Rainbow Trout

Aussie angler Frank Bluch is no stranger to light line records. He recently caught this 13.3-kilogram (29-pound, 5-ounce) rainbow trout to set the new IGFA Men's 2-kg (4-lb) Tippet Class World Record. Frank was fly fishing in Lake Ruataniwha, New Zealand, and landed the record trout in 7 minutes after it ate a white Beadhead Super Flash Zonker fly. This is Frank's 16th IGFA World Record in tippet classes of 2-kg (4 lb) and lighter, and his 24th overall.



Sherbovich's *Taimen*

Russian angler Ilya Sherbovich visited the Tugur River, Russia, late last year in search of record-setting taimen; the trip was a success, to say the least. Not only did he set the new IGFA All-Tackle World Record, but he also set the IGFA Men's 12, 16, and 20 lb Tippet Class World Records for taimen. His heaviest catch maxed out his 50-kilogram scale, so the catch was officially recorded at 48.62-kilograms (107-pounds, 3-ounces) once the weight of the sling was deducted, although the fish was likely larger than the approved weight. He caught all four fish while fly fishing, weighed them in a sling, and released them all to fight another day.



Methner's *Speckled Peacock*

Lucas Methner is now the fifth person holding a tie for the IGFA All-Tackle Length Record after he caught-and-released this stunning 90-centimeter speckled peacock. Lucas was throwing a propeller lure in the Uneuixi River, Brazil, and landed his first IGFA World Record after a 5-minute fight. Who will be the first to land a 92-centimeter fish and knock all five names off the list?

IGFA

LATEST NEWS



IGFA Launches Three New Trophy Fish Clubs

The IGFA Trophy Clubs recognize individual trophy game fish catches for certain eligible fresh and saltwater species. To qualify for an IGFA Trophy Club, the fish must meet either the required length or weight, as listed below. All past and present catches are eligible, provided they can be appropriately documented and were caught per IGFA Angling Rules.

[Read more](#)



Jason Schratwieser Elected President

The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) Board of Trustees have unanimously elected Jason Schratwieser as president of the organization.

Schatwieser has served the IGFA as conservation director since 2003 and has been influential in transforming the IGFA into highly respected conservation organization within the recreational angling space.

[Read more](#)



IGFA Rules Pertaining to Using Scent on a Fly

Captain Fly Navarro of Fly Zone Fishing and IGFA President Jason Schratwieser explain the IGFA rules regarding the use of scent on a fly.



The IGFA Names 2020 IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame Inductees

In recognition of their extraordinary contributions to recreational angling around the world, The International Game Fish Association (IGFA) named five fishing greats to the 2020 class of the IGFA Fishing Hall of Fame.

[Read more](#)

TRAVEL FRANCE

FRANCE

ENTERING A NEW WORLD

Text by Rudy van Duijnhoven, pictures by
Rudy van Duijnhoven and Philippe Dolivet





Beauty of a Léguer river brown trout.

According to stories that were told many centuries ago, there is a gateway to a new world in the land that was put under water when the Lac du Drennec reservoir was filled in 1981.

Even shortly before the water levels started to rise in the reservoir, special ceremonies were still held here. But also without this gateway, you think you are in a diffe-

rent world in Bretagne all together anyway.

In recent years a great many rivers in France have suffered from pollution and significant levels of fish mortality. The whole of France? No, there is a small area, like in the comics of Asterix and Obelix, that has largely escaped this downfall. Here, in Bretagne, or Brittany as it is called as well, you will find wild brown trout on natural, largely unspoiled rivers. Next

“

Here, in Bretagne, or Brittany as it is called as well, you will find wild brown trout on natural, largely unspoiled rivers.

”

to that Lac du Drennec is situated here, one of the best trout reservoirs of France and fly-fishing for seabass along the coast of Bretagne can be exceptional too.

The term 'Brittany' for this area dates back to the immigrants from Great Britain, that settled here between the third and sixth century. Part of the population of Brittany still speaks Breton, a Celtic language that is closely related to the traditional languages from Ireland, Wales and Cornwall. French is still the language that is used in

general in Bretagne though.

Accessible


Lac du Drennec has a size of about 110 hectare, with a maximum depth of 20 metres and a total length of the shoreline of about ten kilometres. The brown trout in this lake, that is surrounded by nature, originate for the most part from the creeks that run into the reservoir. These small rivers are used by the trout on the lake for spawning and trout have been caught on the lake that were over twelve pounds

in weight! The rainbow trout are reared on a small plant where the river comes out of the dam; every year thousands of trout are planted into the Lac du Drennec. A lot of small baitfish, including roach, inhabit the lake and are an excellent food source for the trout, there are no or hardly any pike or perch on this lake.

The shoreline of the lake is, where allowed, well accessible for angling. Apart from fly-fishing, it is also allowed to fish here with a spinning



A strong fight at Lac du Drennec.



The Elorn river not only has a healthy population of trout, it also has the largest salmon run in the country.



“

We landed rainbow trout up to about two pounds in weight, one brown trout and a number of good-sized roach.

”

rod in combination with natural bait or lures. During a dry summer the water level can go down considerably, so much so that even the village that got submerged by the reservoir appears again. When I visited the area in June some years ago, the lake was still filled to its maximum level; in Bretagne they must have had about the same type of spring as the people of the Benelux...

Wading along the shoreline, Philippe Dolivet and myself fished here with floating lines

in combination with a team of small wet flies and nymphs just below the surface of the water. Fish could be seen rising here and there at regular intervals and we hooked fish both close to shore and further out. We landed rainbow trout up to about two pounds in weight, one brown trout and a number of good-sized roach. The action was almost non-stop, but the larger trout remained out of reach. With a 20 foot leader and a weighted nymph I managed to gather a few trout and roach from close to the



Philippe guides a client on the Elorn in the direction of a rising trout.







This B&B in Brézéant, with the typical Breton roof made of slate stone, is many centuries old.



Patterns that have proven their worth on the rivers of Bretagne.

bottom in deeper water.

The salmon run

The Elorn is among the rivers in France that sees the largest run of Atlantic salmon every year in this country. Some four to five thousand salmon, of which about a thousand are spring salmon and the rest are grilse, will run up this river to spawn; a huge number for this river. It is a fascinating sight to see a salmon of five to ten pounds in weight pass your position while you are fishing nymphs or dry flies for trout on the river.

“Flyfishing for salmon is the most interesting in autumn’, according to Philippe Dolivet, “than the salmon are spread evenly among the pools of the Elorn”. The Elorn is in total about 56 kilometres long, it starts to flow near Monts d’Arree, than it runs via places like Sizun and Landivisiau to Brest where it runs into the sea. The river is also the birthplace of the famous dragon of the Elorn... We did not see any dragons, what we did see however on both the upper and lower Elorn, is a beautiful natural river with deep pools, runs

and a lot of plant growth in the water at certain places. The water level was a lot higher than usual for the end of June, which made fishing the river a bit more difficult, but the clarity of the water did not suffer much from the high level. One can fish here for a very nice population of wild brown trout, fish that can be several pounds in weight sometimes.

Hooking a seatrout is quite well possible here too, they can often be found in the deeper pools, hiding under overhanging trees, close to

shore. Small dry flies are most successful here, on one of the pictures one can see a collection of flies for the rivers of Brittany.

The Léguer and the Penzé are examples of creeks where good sized trout can be caught as well. One often has to cast with very limited room around oneself, with overhanging trees and trees that have fallen in the water, a dense growth of bushes along the water, etc. but this fishery is always worth the trouble.

Flyfishing for seabass

Another very interesting method of flyfishing that Bre-

tagne has to offer is flyfishing for seabass. Philippe Dolivet has a 4,80 meter Carolina Skiff available for this, equipped with two 40 HP Honda outboard engines, with which he can target several bays close to Brest. Because the boat can be launched and taken out of the water quickly, he can always fish there where the chance of success is optimal for his clients.

The boat has also a combination of Humminbird Side Imaging Sonar and GPS on board. Apart from life-vests the people on board can also make use of Winston fly-rods for line classes #7 through 12, Danielsson fly-reels,

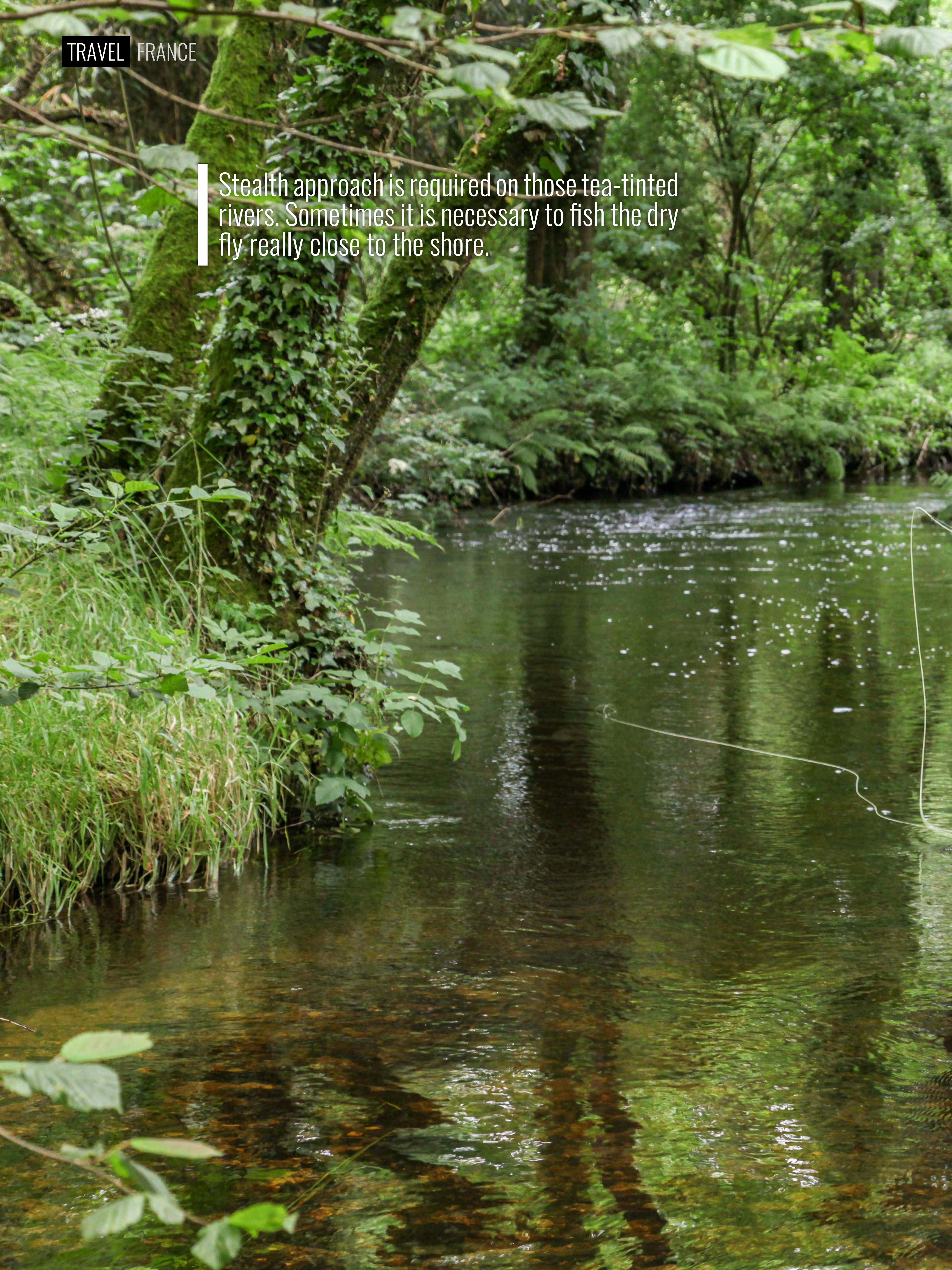
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Another very interesting method of flyfishing that Bretagne has to offer is flyfishing for seabass.

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Stealth approach is required on those tea-tinted rivers. Sometimes it is necessary to fish the dry fly really close to the shore.





Rio fly-lines and tippet material, plus seabass flies that are tied according to Philippe's patterns by Fulling Mill.

Two setups are usually enough here. One set with a floating or intermediate fly-line for fishing shallow parts of the bay or areas where seabass can be caught on surface patterns (poppers, gurglers). The second set is equipped with a fastsinking fly-line in order to deliver Deceivers, Clouser Minnows, imitations of sandeels etc. at a greater depth. Like everywhere, imitations that

are fished fast will often get you the most takes as is the use of fluorocarbon of 28 to 35/00 for the tippet of your leader. From small bass that hunt in schools up to fish of several kilo's in weight, without doubt the take and the fight in the beautifully clear water is spectacular.

When, after such an exciting fight, you are put on the picture with such a good sized, silver coloured seabass and the fish goes back unharmed in the water, then you do indeed think that you have entered an altogether different world.



Nice seabass on the fly for this happy client !

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