

The Times of Northwest Indiana



Outdoors

Whiting man has been traveling the globe for 22 years catching monster fish



Photo Provided - Whiting's Bob Daly caught a 48-pound Golden Dorado on the Uruguay River in Argentina.

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You might dream about catching "monster fish" while watching angling shows or reading magazines.

Bob Daly of Whiting has been doing the real thing -- catching exotic fish around the world -- for 22 years.

"My first trip was to the Amazon in 1990," said Daly, a chemist with Cargill. "I was looking for scenery and adventure. I wanted to go where not many people had been and catch different kinds of fish. It wasn't bad going down there in January when it is summer in the southern hemisphere.

"I've been going there now for 22 years in a row. A lot has changed since I first started going. Not many people knew about these fish back then, but because (of) the attention and popularity, it has become much bigger."

Though he keeps going back to the Amazon, Daly's travels aren't exclusive to this one area.

"I've been to Alaska 22 times, Argentina a couple times, the North Pole, Venezuela, Thailand and Africa," Daly said. "Africa was a very dangerous trip fishing for Tiger Fish. What was dangerous was that you are in the jungle and hippos are walking right next to the tent where you are sleeping. There are gigantic crocodiles, and a lot of malaria. There is no village anywhere near; it was very remote."

He isn't sure how many different monster fish he has caught, but he has 56 of them mounted on his wall.

"My favorite fish to catch is the Golden Dorado from Argentina," Daly said. "They are a very beautiful fish and one of the toughest fighters I've ever caught. They can get up to 50 or 60 pounds; the largest I caught was 48 pounds."

When he first start going to these exotic places, Daly went by himself. Then, for about the past fifteen years, he has been traveling with some of his friends from Chicago.

"I actually met them in the Amazon," Daly said. "We are roughly the same age and talk fishing all the time. I do most of the homework, find and book the places. If I booked a trip on the moon, they would probably go with me."

Their next planned trip is to return to Alaska in September for the 23rd time. After that, the future is bright.

"The ultimate destination for me would be Papua, New Guinea, off the northeast coast of Australia," Daly said. "Talk about remote. There used to be head hunters on that island.

"There is a fish called the New Guinea Bass. It is supposedly the ultimate freshwater fighting fish. I mostly fish for freshwater fish.

"Another place I would like to go is Suriname on the eastern coast of South America where there is the Wolf Fish and really big catfish."

