

AMAZON GAME FISHES

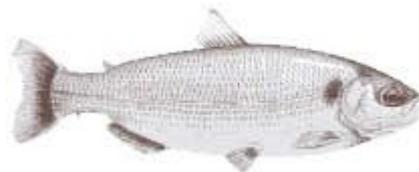


SCALE FISHES



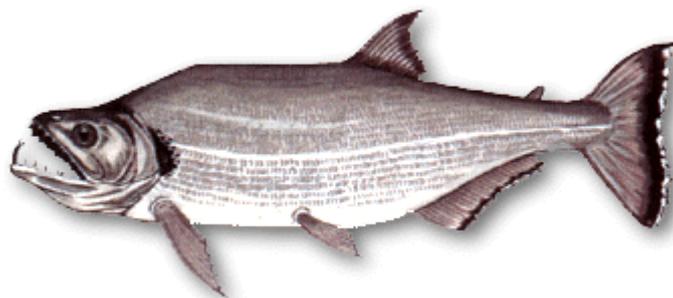
TUCUNARÉ (PEACOCK BASS) (*Cichla* spp)

Belonging to the Cichlidae family, there are at least 14 recognized species in the Amazon. The size, colors, shape and marks may vary a lot from one specie to another, but all have a circular mark/dot on the tail. They're essentially diurnal and live on lake, lagoons, on the edge of the rivers' channels or even inside flooded forest areas. The peacock bass is the only fish to chase down its pray, which make them very sportive. Size goes from 30inches to more than 1 mt, reaching up to 27 pounds.



MATRINXÃ (*Brycon amazonicus*)

Despite its smaller size and weight (up to 80inches and 5kg), the *matrinxã* has rough mouth, strong teeth and provide great fights and fun. Feeds mainly on fruits, seeds, insects and eventually smaller fishes. Prefer clear waters and rapids. Artificial lures and flies works best.



CACHORRA (PAYARA) (*Hydrolycus scomberoides*)

This voracious specie feeds on fish and attacks pray sometimes larger than itself. Payara can be found either in river channels, lakes and flooded forests, and has two huge sharp teeth so long that the top part of the head has two holes to fit them into when the mouth is closed. They provide relentless jumps and lots of fun on vibrant fights.



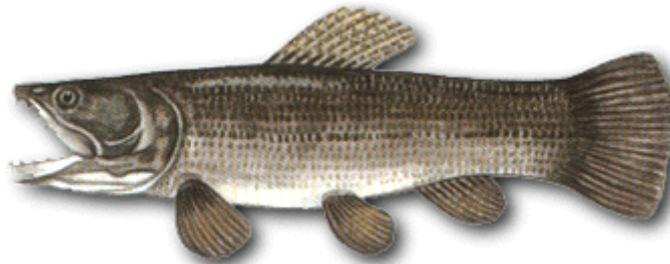
BICUDA (SPOTTED PIKE-CHARACIN) (*Boulengerella cuvieri*)

Predatory characteristics and very sportive. It prefers still waters and is found mainly along the riverbanks and on the edge of flooding forest areas and lakes. Feeds on smaller fishes and has ravenous appetite. As it has very hard mouth, demands powerful strikes to hook it. Also jumps out of the water many times before surrender.



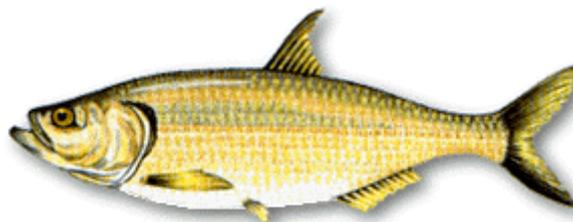
ARUANÃ (AROWANA) (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*)

Feeding mainly on insects and spiders, the Arowana can jump out of the water to catch its pray on trees. It has an elongated body, very large mouth and sensorial barbells on its jaw. Lives in still waters' lagoons, lakes, rivers' tributaries and flooded forests. Can grow up to 1mt long and weight over 11pounds. It is a very strong specie and provide fabulous fishing.



TRAIRÃO (GIANT TRAHIRA) (*Hoplias macrophthalmus*)

Another voracious predatory specie which feeds on fish. It has very sharp teeth and lives mainly on still shallow waters, preferring areas with muddy soils and aquatic vegetation. Can be catch both with live baits and artificial lures. Big individuals goes up to 44pounds.



APAPA (KING GOLD) (*Pellona castelnaeana*)

Actually there are two species: the yellow apapa (more common, reaching over 24inches), and the white apapa (up to 19inches). It's a brave specie which lives usually on shoals both in river and flooded forest areas. Very sportive jumping out of the water when hooked.



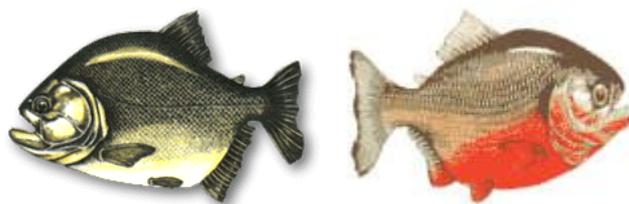
PIRAPITINGA (RED-BELLIED PACU) (*Piaractus brachypomus*)

Herbivorous specie with an inclination for fruits. During the flooding season it goes inside lakes, lagoons and flooded forests searching for fruits and seeds which fall in the water. Generally lives on deeper waters, coming up to the surface to feed. Due its rounded shape and violent attitude, provides fisherman exciting battles.



TAMBAQUI (*Colossoma macropomum*)

Herbivorous specie with an inclination for fruits. During the flooding season it goes inside lakes, lagoons and flooded forests searching for fruits and seeds which fall in the water. Generally lives on deeper waters, coming up to the surface to feed. The *Tambaqui* can grow up and weight much more than the other species from the same family (over 99pounds) and it is one of the most important commercial fish in the Amazon. It has indescribable force and violent runs, generally to the bottom. Fisherman may take hours in one single fight with a big *Tambaqui*.



PIRANHA PRETA (BLACK PIRANHA) (*Serrasalmus rhombeus*)
PIRANHA CAJÚ (RED PIRANHA) (*Pygocentrus nattereri*)

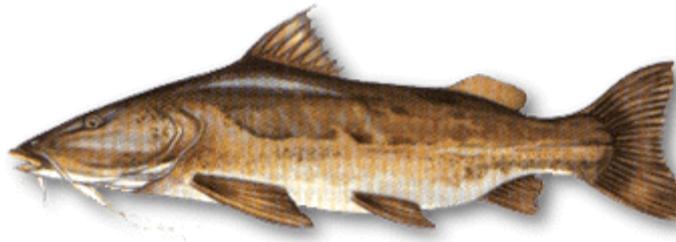
The Amazon has at least 20 species of *piranhas*, varying mainly on colors and size. In common they all have extremely sharp teeth and protuberant mandible. The black piranha is solitary and live mainly in black and clear water rivers while the red piranhas lives in large shoals on muddy waters lakes and lagoons. They're brutal and provide violent attacks, often brake lines and destroy lures.

CATFISHES



BARBADO (FLATWHISKERED CATFISH) (*Pirinampus pirinampu*)

Light gray color, long and flat barbells. Can reach 80inches and weight ranges from 6 to 26 pounds. Despite its diversified feeding habits, only natural baits like small fish and worms are used on fishing. Heavy fights when hooked.



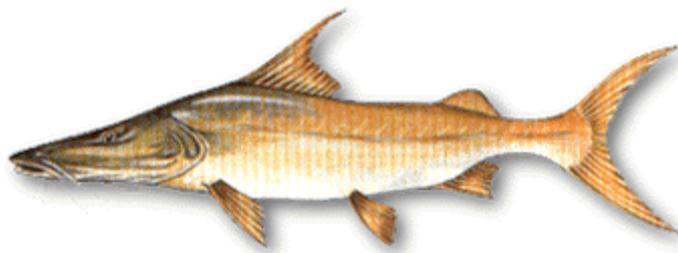
JAÚ (GILDED CATFISH) (*Zungaro zungaro*)

Also known as the Giant Catfish, the *Jaú* has thick body and large flat head; it may reach 1,5mt long and 220pounds. Lives on deep pools in larger rivers and feed on smaller fishes. It's common to fish for them at night, using natural baits (must keep in the bottom). They search for logs, stones and vegetation to escape when hooked, that's when the fisherman's ability is very important to be successful.



SURUBIM (BARRED SORUBIM) (*Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*)

Important in commercial fishing but also on sport fishing, it can be found in a wide variety of habitats, such as flooded forests, river channels, lakes and shallow areas. They feed on fish but also crabs and other small aquatic life. Besides the *Barred Sorubim*, there are also other very similar species like the Caparari (tiger sorubim).



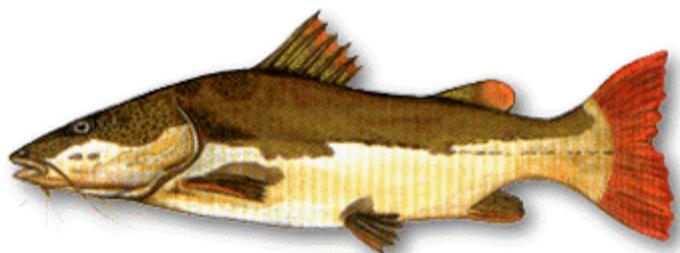
DOURADA (*Brachyplatystoma rousseauxii*)

An avid predator, attacks violently smaller fish shoals. Its flesh is very appreciated and highly commercial. Can reach 1,5mt long and weigh 44pounds. It is spread in diverse habitats, from ponds in large rivers to rapids and stony areas. It's a very strong fish hard fighter, providing exciting challenges to fisherman.



PIRAÍBA (LAULAU) (*Brachyplatystoma filamentosum*)

A colossal fish. Spread through the whole Amazon Basin, it is found mainly in deep places and confluences of large river. To catch them fisherman need extra-heavy equipment. It can reach 2mts long and 660pounds! The ones up to 176pounds are called *filhote*, which means "son". Live baits of entire fish are used.



PIRARARA (REDTAIL CATFISH) (*Phractocephalus hemiliopterus*)

With an enormous bony head, this fish has incredible strength. It's one of the most colorful and beautiful catfish in the Amazon. With a maximum reach of 1,5mt long and weight over 110pounds, they feed mainly on fish but also fruits, crabs and others. To catch a *Pirarara* may be one of the most wearing but rewarding experiences on a fishing trip in the Amazon.

Fonte: Pesca Amadora - Brasil - Empresa das Artes/Abril Multimídia/Embratur