

# What destination, in only ten years, has joined the very elite list of those delivering the highest percentage of satisfied clients in the entire 30 years of Frontiers' history?

**A**s we enter the Millennium, Frontiers enters its 31st year of offering the finest fishing, bird shooting, wildlife photographic safaris and Elegant Journeys throughout the world. The name has become an institution among discriminating traveling sportsmen and women and synonymous with reliability, sound judgment and attention to detail in often logistically complex parts of the world.

It is no surprise that the destination which has drawn so much attention, been so popular, and enjoyed the high repeat business and satisfied client levels over ten years of operations has been the most complex of them all to operate. It is also the one which has enjoyed the most Frontiers attention and involvement from its inception in 1990 through to its most recent successful year in 1999.



*To find out which  
it is and why,  
please continue . . .*



# Why does the Ryabaga Camp on the Ponoï capture the imagination of so many?

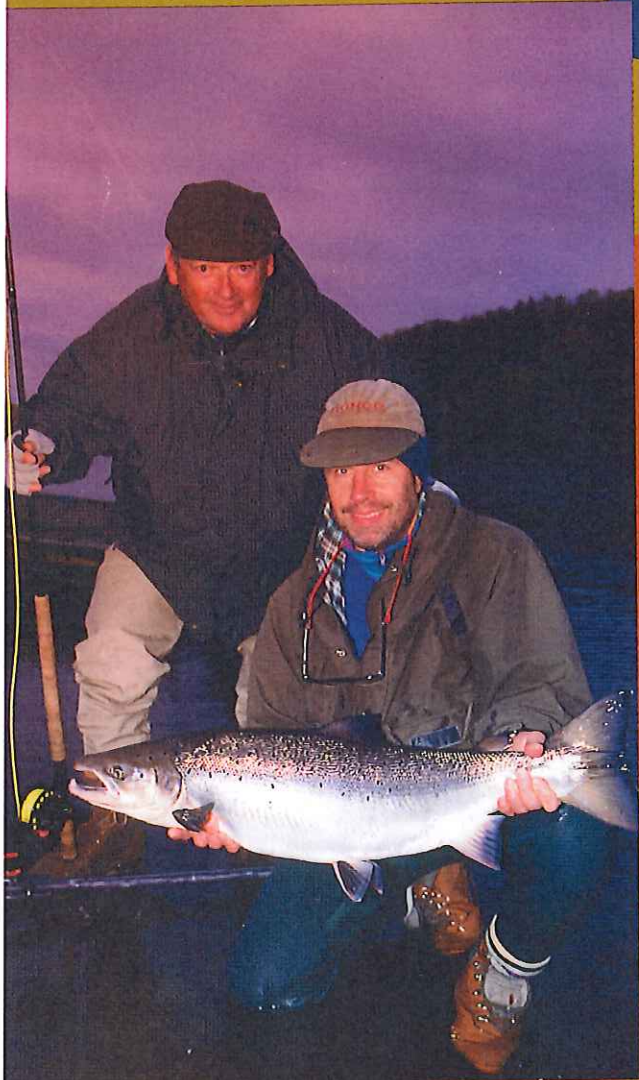
## The Fishing

The fishing is certainly a major attraction to the Ponoï and there have been some extraordinary "fishing tales" over the years. Guests have caught as many as 150 salmon to their own rod in a week with weekly totals reaching over 1,400 fish, while others who have fished only skated and dry fly have landed 65 fish, attracting over 180 rises to their fly in the week.

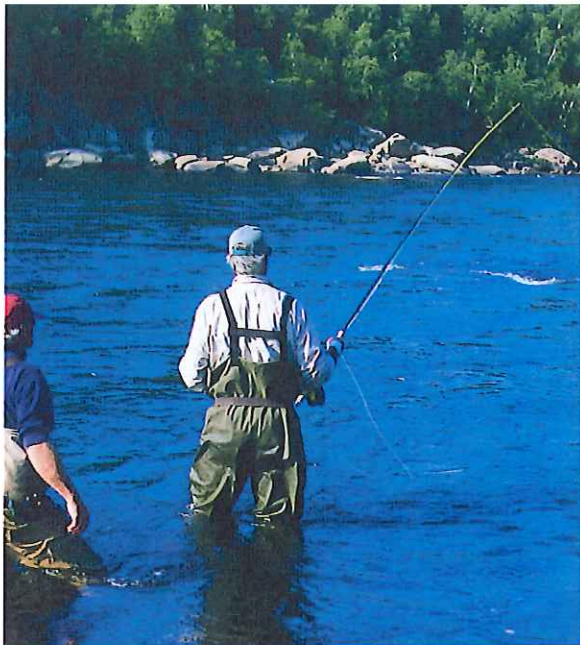
Of course, we all know that no fishing is always like this and therefore one also has to examine the downside — how reliable is the Ponoï? Our "worst" seven-year average for a single week is 17 salmon per rod in 6 days which, across an 18-week season, demonstrates great reliability. Compare this to other global Atlantic salmon destinations and this statistic comes into sharp focus. The \$9,000-plus weeks of Iceland's famous rivers struggle to boast a true 17 fish per rod per week average over five years, even in prime time.

### *Did you know . . .*

- The largest salmon caught on the Ponoï was over 30 pounds.
- The Ponoï produced 1,543 salmon over 10 pounds last season including several hundred over 15 pounds and, in one five-week period alone, 35 fresh silver fish over 20 pounds.
- Unlike other rivers, there are no long hikes or climbs to reach pools or beats. Though an ideal fly fishing river, it is an easy river to handle physically, comfortably fished wading or from boat.
- All beats can be accessed by boat; therefore, fishing is not reliant on helicopters or weather.
- The Home Pool is usually the most productive pool on the entire river, often producing over 1,000 fish in a season.
- All the guides agree that Ponoï salmon are so aggressive it is possible to prick to the bend of the rod and still have them return to take a fly.







## The Guides

On many Atlantic salmon rivers around the world a guide simply points to where the fish are, often in a different language, and leaves his fisherman to his devices. Our guides can do this if you wish, but otherwise you will find them among the most pro-active and knowledgeable in the world. We draw our guide team from around the world and insist on a degree of longevity to ensure our clients enjoy an ever-improving experience. They are trained in the use of jet boats, helicopter safety and CPR as well as being expert fishermen and pleasant company. We think that the guides on the Ponoï make a huge difference to the experience not only in catching fish but also in expansion of knowledge in fishing and casting techniques. Countless numbers of guests return feeling that their time with the guides was a revelation on all matters fishing related.

### *Did you know . . .*

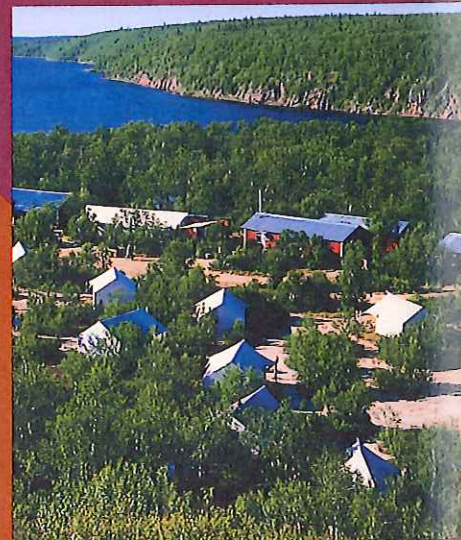
- Our guide team offers more than 50 seasons' experience on Ponoï.
- Our Russian guides are among the most experienced and often guide in Argentina in the off-season.
- All our guides can teach spey, roll and snake casting with double-handed rods.
- Our current guide team consists of five Russians, four British, one South African and one Australian.

## Camp Services and Logistics

The Ponoï Camp has become as famous as the fishing that it accesses. Many guests who come to the Ponoï for the first time marvel at the standard of service, facilities and food quality that come together in this truly wilderness location. A combination of long serving, well-trained Russian and Western staff make up an impressive and proud, service-orientated in-camp team. The camp enjoys the luxury of no less than four mechanics and four chefs as well as many other equally important back-up staff who ensure that the camp is clean and working effectively at all times. It is the attention to detail in camp, as well as the logistics of routing supplies from as far away as the U.S. and U.K. through to Helsinki and Murmansk and into camp where Frontiers has had the greatest impact.

### *Did you know . . .*

- Your fuel is supplied by a M-26, the largest helicopter in the world.
- The total number of staff working on the Ponoï camp is often in excess of thirty.
- The camp consumes over 75 tons of kerosene, 26 tons of gasoline and 12 tons of diesel per season and it has its own fuel depot.
- The total years experience of camp staff on Ponoï is over 75 seasons.
- The three MI-2 pilots that are used to fly guests out to their fishing have a total of 11,513 cockpit hours between them.
- The camp enjoys 24-hour piping hot water from good powerful shower-heads plus full electric power.
- We fly in 18,360 eggs per year.
- The three MI-8 pilots who fly guests from Murmansk to Ryabaga and back have 28,435 hours of experience between them.



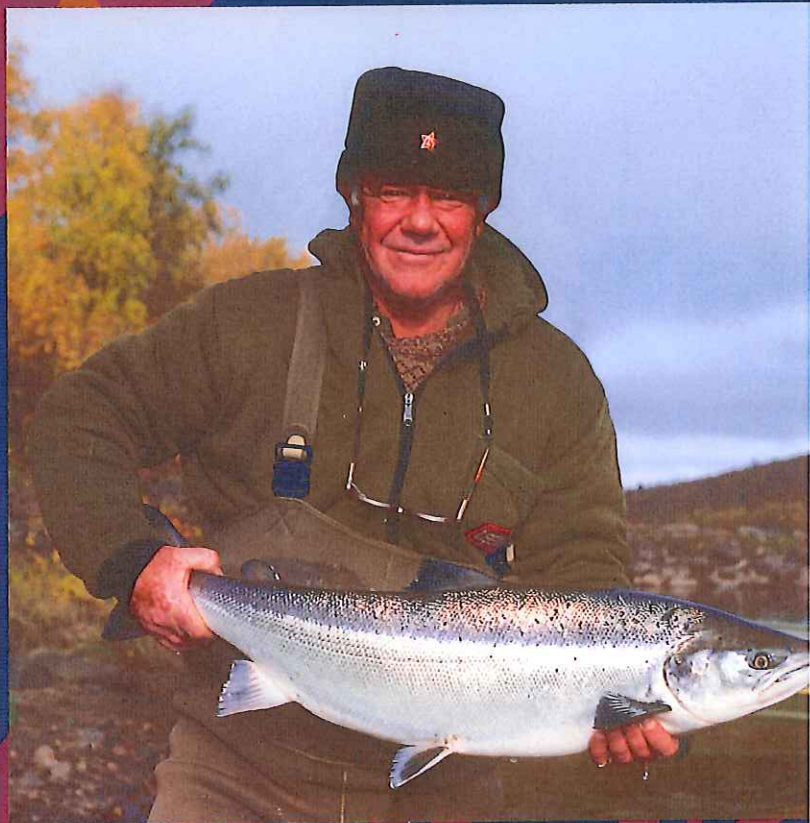
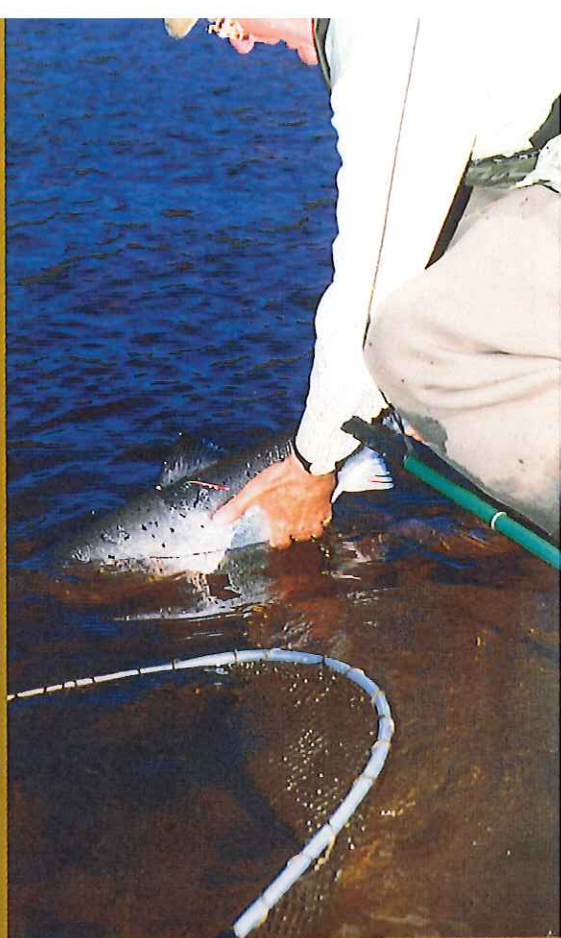


## The Scientific Work

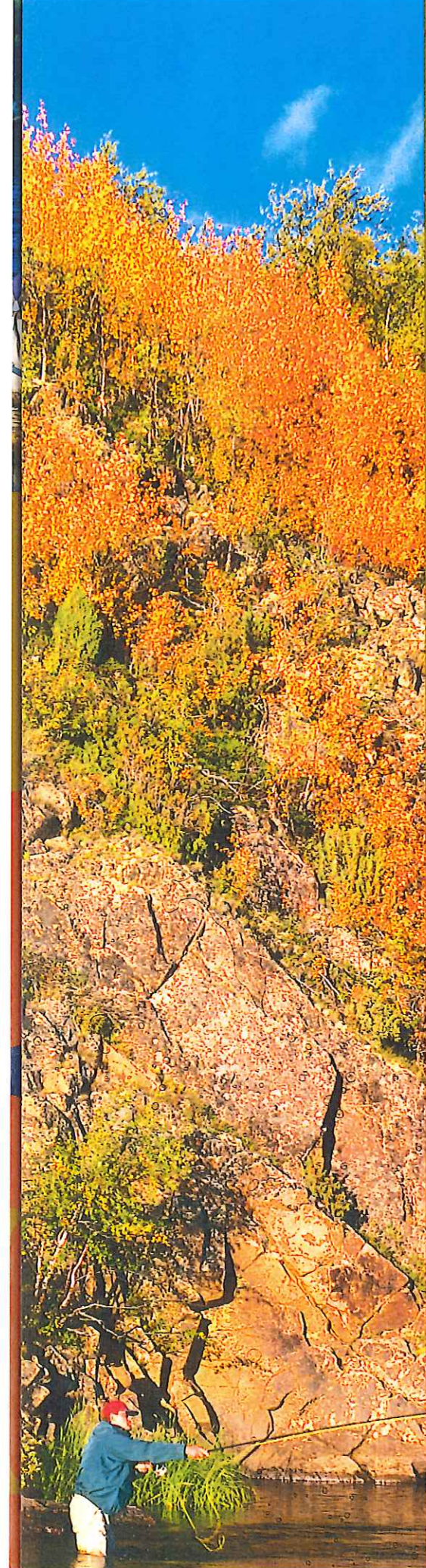
We think that our presence on the Ponoï has helped protect and enhance what is the world's finest and unique river. In 1993 we succeeded in having the Russian scientific nets removed from the mouth of the river. We also embarked, with the assistance of the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Russian organization PINRO, upon one of the most extensive scientific projects on a pristine salmon river ever undertaken. Much of the work has been completed but the tagging program remains and involves all our guests. We have a resident scientist living in camp throughout the season logging data.

### *Did you know . . .*

- According to the ASF Scientific Project Ponoï, over time, salmon runs on the Ponoï have averaged over 22,000 autumn fish and 9,000 summer fish, but in recent years, with the net removal and increased smolt counts, the runs have increased to as many as 45,000 autumn fish.
- Autumn-run Ponoï fish come into the river in their thousands and spawn the next autumn, over winter again and then return to sea. With a total of over 18 months in the river, no wonder they are so fat when they arrive.
- Parr densities have increased by as much as 17 times since 1993.
- That we log as many as 158 tagged recaptures a season including one or two the same day, confirming the value of our catch-and-release policy.
- Thousands of fresh salmon run into the Ponoï even after it has iced over.
- Space is still available for the 2000 season from the last week of May through September. Please call Frontiers now to initiate plans for your dream Atlantic salmon fishing week at the storied Ponoï.



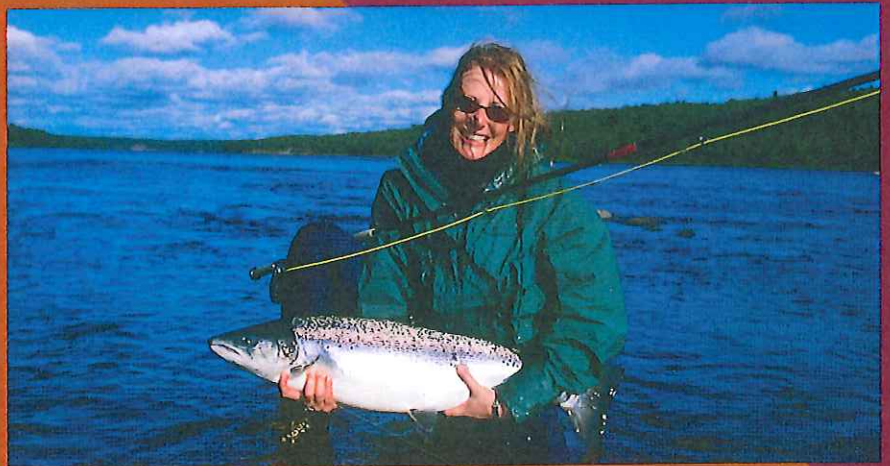




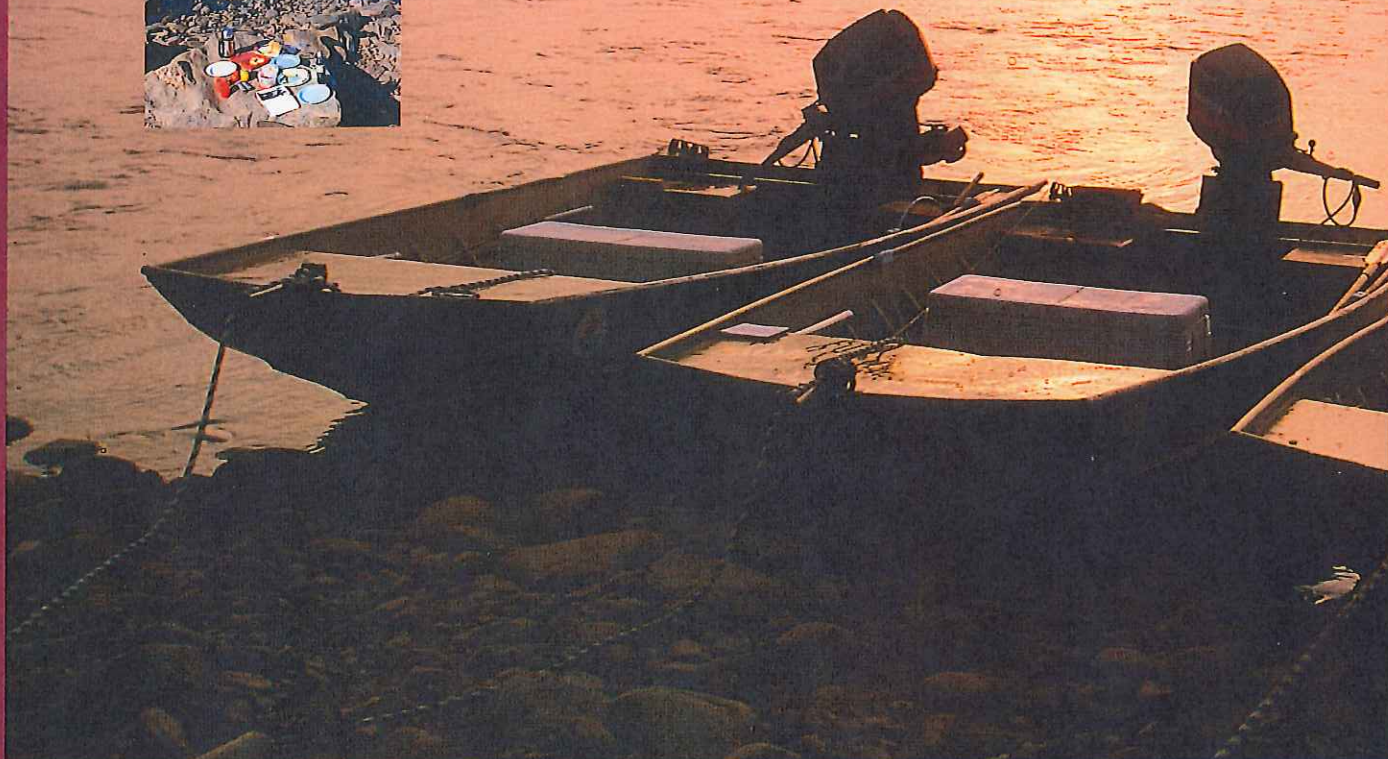
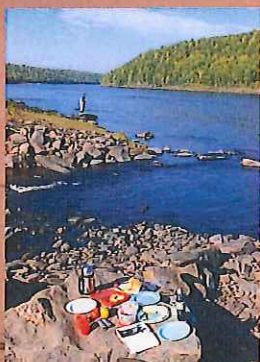
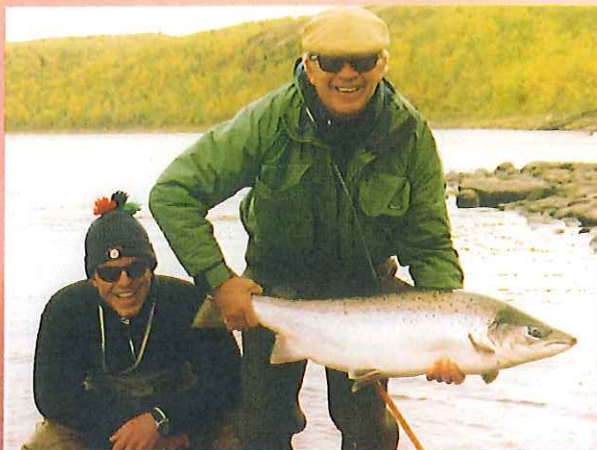
# The Ponoï River

was researched by Frontiers owner Mike Fitzgerald with an exploratory team in 1990, and since then one of the most intense, expensive and demanding operations has been developed to take guests comfortably to perhaps the last pristine Atlantic salmon river that exists today — a river that enjoys unblemished habitat, that has no nets at its mouth, that can boast a large percentage increase not only in its parr counts throughout the system but also in an ever-increasing number of larger salmon returning each year.

To have achieved the coordination of such an operation is remarkable in itself but to have become the destination with top levels of guest satisfaction and repeat travel within a specialist travel company such as Frontiers is astonishing in such a demanding location.







# Frontiers®

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