



The ultimate in 'hosted' angling adventures throughout the Amazon

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Taking in one of our Amazon angling adventures? Going to be using 'Lip Grippers'?

If there's one angling activity guaranteed to cause controversy, it is the use of 'Boga Grips' or other 'Lip Grippers'.

As an angler of over forty years, I would never consider including these in my UK/EU freshwater fishing kit, even when fishing for predators such as pike. However, the Amazon is a different story, with many of the species possessing razor sharp teeth, spines, or other sharp structures, which makes fish management i.e. getting them on the boat and removing the lure or hooks, extremely challenging. This is where 'lip grippers' prove their worth and if used correctly provide safety for both the angler and fish alike. But there is a **correct** way and an **incorrect** way to use them.



There are many types of lip gripper available, with the well-known 'Boga Grip' being one of the most hard wearing and effective on the market, albeit being quite expensive. Care needs to be taken when selecting a suitable lip gripper and those with 'crushing' or 'sharp' jaws should be avoided at all costs, as they will invariably result in fish damage. Many lip gripper manufacturers also include a built-in scale, which is ideal for weighing, prior to the fish's release.

In use, operate the lip grippers to hold the fish in the water (*which also helps protect their slime coating, scales and skin*), remove the hook / lure as quickly as possible, lift the fish gently out of the water to weigh it, use its chin or gill plates to hold the fish whilst removing the grips (*species dependent*) or if retaining in the grips, fully supporting its belly for a few quick pictures. Return the fish as soon as possible, and its job done. Avoid suspending the fish by the lip grippers, we see all too many photos of big fish being hung up by their jaws and this can, depending on the species have the potential to cause lasting damage and/or fully avoidable fish

