



The ultimate in 'hosted' angling adventures throughout the Amazon

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### Scientific Classification

Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Class:	Actinopterygii
Order:	Siluriformes
Family:	Pimelodidae
Genus:	<b>Zungaro</b>
Species:	<b>Z. zungaro</b>

## Amazon Species Watch Jau Catfish

Another beauty of the Amazon - THE JAU or Gilded Catfish

The Jau (*Zungaro zungaro*) is one of the three big Catfish species (Piraiba the largest), within the Amazon and Orinoco basins and can be caught throughout Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana and Venezuela. Whilst the current record sits at c.109lb (Brazil) weights of c.200lb are highly likely. The Jau is solid muscle, and is at home in slow moving waters, deep holes as well as in fast currents. Easily identifiable through its dark and often 'marbled' skin, these catfish have strength and stamina on their side, and will always use current and/or structure to their advantage.

Once hooked, they are fierce fighters with a penchant for changing direction when least expected, often catching the angler off guard. One thing's for certain though, give them get the edge and they will run rings around you.

As with the other big Catfish of the region, strong primary and terminal tackle is essential.



### Catching Jau

Use of either 'live' or 'dead' bait are effective and proven techniques. For both, don't be put off by the size of bait you will use, large Jau have huge mouths and can easily swallow in whole fish or chunks of 'cut-bait' at 5lb+, but you will need to get the bait down as quickly as possible and then hold it there. General tackle, a good 30lb-60lb boat rod (6ft 6in – 7ft 6in), coupled with either a heavy-duty multiplier or 12000min baitrunner. Ensure you have at least 200yds of 100lb min braid spooled up. Splice a 10ft-15ft length of 100lb mono/fluoro to the braid (FG knot perfect).

A running lead system works well, with a 4oz-5oz lead on a run ring which should pass easily over any knots between the braid and leader. (See our *catfishing tips publication*)

At the business end, a 6/0 to 10/0 'J' hook or even better a 'circle' hook. If piranhas are a problem, use 100lb single strand wire for the hooklink (haywire twist perfect). If no piranha, you may want to use braid, if so, nothing less than 200lb. Make sure your hooks are strong and of high quality, along with swivels, which should be rated at 120lb – 150lb. Basically, treat this as you would for catfishing in the UK or EU, but on steroids!!

