



The Bigfoot Forums

The Web's most popular one-stop shop for Sasquatch talk.

[Bigfoot Forums](#)[IPB Portal](#)[BFF Posting Guidelines and Policies](#)[Live Chat](#)[Calendar](#)[Members](#)[Search](#)[Help](#)

Welcome Guest ([Log In](#) | [Register](#)) · [0 New Messages](#)

▷ [Bigfoot Forums](#) > [Bigfoot/Sasquatch Discussion](#) > [Cryptozoology](#)

strange fish in New Mexico...

Options ▼

 [tugboatwa](#)

Feb 26 2004, 03:50 PM

Post #1



Official Scribe of the BFF



Group: **BFF Administrators**

Posts: 5,031

Joined: 24-February 03

From: Washington

Member No.: 181

http://www.daily-times.com/artman/publish/article_8958.shtml

Strange fish at Morgan Lake a true story

By Darren Marcy- Feb 26, 2004, 12:38 am

MORGAN LAKE — Many local e-mail accounts have seen a forwarded message containing rumors of an Amazonian fish that was found at Morgan Lake at the Four Corners Power Plant.

The talk isn't just a rumor. The fish photos are real and the story about the strange South American species being found in Morgan Lake are true.

The message, with photos of the fish, have been circulating for nearly two weeks.

The way the Internet is these days, it's hard to believe anything that shows up in the In Box.

Most of the messages seemed to include a caveat, as the sender wasn't sure if the photos and story were a hoax or not.

Nathan Tohtsoni, a spokesman for the power plant, confirmed the fish, believed to be a red pacu, was found in a canal leading from the lake to the plant Feb. 14.

Morgan Lake water is used to cool the coal-fired units.

The fish looked an awful lot like an oversized piranha, of which the pacu is closely related. In juvenile stages, it's very difficult to differentiate between a red pacu and a red bellied piranha.

Both fish are native to the Amazon Basin.

The pacu was dead when it was retrieved by an auxiliary operator and is believed to have been in Morgan Lake for at least four years.

"Employees spotted one in 2000," Tohtsoni said. "We can guess it's been there at least four years. Those are the only ones that have been spotted. We're assuming it's the same fish. As far as we know we don't have a population of them."

The red pacu found at Morgan was about 20 inches long and about 10 inches deep, but the most interesting — almost frightening — part of the fish was inside its small mouth.

The red pacu carried an impressive set of teeth, but unlike the piranha, the pacu's teeth look like molars.

The fish is a vegetarian, eating fruit, nuts and vegetation primarily. The fish is known to swim inland during floods to eat fruit that has fallen from trees.

South Americans are known to fish for the pacu by baiting hooks with fruit, and guide services offer the chance to catch red pacu along with Peacock bass and other species.

The pacu is a characin, which includes the piranha and tetras, another popular aquarium fish.

It's possible the fish could have been dumped in Morgan by someone who found it outgrowing their home aquarium. Red pacu are popular fish but are too large for all but the largest fish tanks.

The red pacu is the smaller of two similar subspecies. The red pacu can grow to be 40 inches in length, while the black pacu can grow much bigger than that.

An explanation that is just as likely is that the fish accidentally was stocked in the water by the Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife department.

The department stocks Morgan with bass, which come from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatchery in Texas where red pacu are known to live.

In fact, one angler currently holds the Lake Texhoma record for red pacu.

Morgan Lake is also home to another alien invader, the pleicostomus, which is another aquarium fish likely the result of a fish tank release.

Biologists at the power plant aren't concerned about the lake, even if — on the off chance — there are more red pacu in the lake. Because the fish eats vegetation, there is no concern for the lake's thriving bass fishery.

"We know this particular species of fish eats vegetation and insects," Tohtsoni said. "We don't believe it's harming anything else. You can see, he did well for himself."




But the discovery of the fish could actually be a feather in the lake's cap.

Now, Morgan Lake can officially lay claim to have been the home of the New Mexico state record red pacu.

Darren Marcy: darrenm@daily-times.com

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you post will be misquoted and used against you.

Posts in this topic

-  **tugboatwa** *strange fish in New Mexico...* Feb 26 2004, 03:50 PM
-  **Fishbone35** *Cool! Here's a link to a pic of the Texas...* Feb 28 2004, 01:01 PM
-  **New York Believer** *B) cool, we used to have black Pacu as a pet once...* Feb 29 2004, 08:39 PM

« Next Oldest · **Cryptozoology** · Next Newest »



1 User(s) are reading this topic (1 Guests and 0 Anonymous Users)

0 Members:



Lo-Fi Version

Time is now: 15th September 2007 - 08:51 PM

Search the Bigfoot Forums with Google!