

'Flesh Eating River Monster'

An Icon Films Production for five and Animal Planet featuring Jeremy Wade and the 'Monster rod'



Reports from the Kali River on the India/Tibet borders in Northern India, told stories of young adults disappearing whilst swimming or working in the river. The Kali River is a 300km long tributary of the mighty Ganges River high in the foothills of the Himalayas. Jeremy Wade, extreme angler and biologist set out to try and solve this mystery. Months of research and visits to just 8km of this mighty river where all the reports originated, resulted in the television documentary 'Flesh Eating River Monster'.

Echo sounding, remote control underwater cameras and snorkelling murky pools divulged the location of big fish, very big fish, later identified as Goonch Catfish or as they are commonly known Giant Devil Catfish. There were no records of just how big they grew; visually fish in excess of 6ft long were sighted, however which side of 200lbs they weighed was for the next part of the trip. If the Goonch was the flesh-eating monster of the deep, the remainder of the trip was not for the faint hearted. It would require fishing tackle, man enough for the job, especially with the river nearing the monsoon season and snow melts high in the Himalayas likely to flood the valley at any time. The full range of tackle taken for the trip was put to the test as several Catfish ranging up to 161lbs taken from the river. The specialist heavy weight rod built by Chris Ward came into its own on the last 3 days of the expedition when the river was hit by the first flood of the season creating torrential conditions. Jeremy couldn't afford for any fish to escape the pool into the run below, as the water was too dangerous to follow the fish (by jumping in). 'Hit and hold' tactics were required, calling for very strong tackle to cope with the combined force of fish and water. In these treacherous conditions a 72 lbs Goonch was hooked and landed.

Chris built the heavy weight specialist rod, supplied for the expedition by DB Design Group of Surrey, European distributor for Pacific Bay Components. The rod featured a 30/60 stand up tuna stick blank, finished at 7' 6", by incorporating the use of a solid aluminium fighting butt from the big game list of rod components. Cosmetically the rod was finished in black and gold and named 'Monster Fish' featuring the decal of a large Catfish just above the fore grip.

To enjoy the extreme experience watch 'Flesh Eating River Monster', an Icon Films Production for five and Animal Planet.