



**PRESS RELEASE**

**March 30, 2009**

## **Reel Adventures Films Fishing Shows and Explores Tourism Possibilities in Guyana**

**North Rupununi, Guyana** – Robert Arrington, the host of the fishing television show, Reel Adventures, is a man of his word. At the end of a previous show he filmed in Guyana in October 2008, he stated, “[Guyana] is a place I will never forget and I will return often.” He made good on that promise in about five months. From March 17-29, Mr. Arrington, along with his videographer, Joshua Gregory, were back in Guyana to film more fishing shows and to research options for fishing and birding tourism.

For this visit, Mr. Arrington explored four rivers in Guyana’s North Rupununi region. Over nine days a team of explorers used two boats outfitted with 15-hp outboard engines to cover roughly 280 miles along the Burro Burro, Sipiruni, Essequibo, Rupununi and Rewa rivers. Mr. Arrington and Mr. Gregory filmed the trip for future episodes of Reel Adventures, but the main goal was to explore the potential for developing a string of fishing lodges in partnership with Amerindian communities that can be used for catch-and-release sport fishing, birdwatching, and scientific research-based trips.

The group started the trip at Surama village, along the Burro Burro River, then traveled to the Sipiruni River and connected to the Essequibo River. After spending one night at the Iwokrama River Lodge, they continued along the Essequibo River until connecting with the Rupununi River and ending at Rewa village. Throughout the trip, they practiced catch-and-release fishing, including for Arapaima at Rewa.

The team consisted of local boat captains and guides; lead fishing guide, Robert (Fred) Allicock; and escorts Sydney Allicock (Surama Village leader and North Rupununi District Development Board Chair) and Judy Karwacki (Conservation International project representative).

At the end of the trip, Mr. Arrington said, “Upon the completion of my second expedition here in Guyana, I am even more sure there is great potential among the community of traveling fishers and outdoor enthusiasts, and throughout Guyana. We are currently working on a strategic plan to build a series of lodges complete with modern yet eco-friendly accommodations. This venture will be in partnership with the Amerindian communities and the people of Guyana. I am very excited and eager to begin.”

Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) and Conservation International (CI) were the major supporters for the expedition, and the trip would not have been possible without Surama Village’s hard work and contributions. Wilderness Explorers and Caribbean Airlines also made significant contributions. In-kind support was provided by Rock View Lodge, Cara Lodge, Iwokrama River Lodge, Rewa Lodge and Small Planet Consulting.

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Reel Adventures first became interested in Guyana after James Currie, the host of Birding Adventures, a partner show that focuses on birdwatching, met a group from the Guyana Sustainable Tourism Initiative (GSTI) – a joint project of the Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) – United States Agency for International Development / Guyana Trade and Investment Support (USAID/GTIS) project – at their Guyana exhibit at the 2008 American Birding Association convention.

The shows filmed during this trip will air in multiple time slots on the Fox Sports Network and Comcast in the United States to a potential audience of millions. Portions of previous episodes of Reel Adventures filmed in Guyana are streaming on the show's website: [www.reeladventures.tv/videos/guyana/guyanap1\\_video.htm](http://www.reeladventures.tv/videos/guyana/guyanap1_video.htm).

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