

Sukhee-esentsengel-2019-05-02.mp4

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:00:10] So fishing I started like eight years ago. It was just coincidence I'd been to very wonderful river which was called Shishged. And this is one of the remotest area here in Mongolia. And we have very beautiful population of Taimen, healthy population. And the remoteness kind of help this unique fish species to remain in their natural habitat. So that was the really amazing adventure for me. So I fell in love with the fishing from that fishing experience. So. And just for explanation there, Mongolia is usually is a country of the spin fishing. And fly fishing is was like kind of something very unique. Even though I couldn't really get too wealthy fly fishing, but since you have a hook now, fish on a hook with a fly rod, then you see immediately what's the difference? And most experience. So this is the I mean, the starting point when I get to fishing and the fly fishing especially. It's very interesting, I was the first to like Mongolian tourist was in in foreign investment fishing company and as a foreign Mongolian tourist in Mongolia, because they will only, will operate there at that time. And I had also some other anglers from all over the world, including some Czech people, German people and Japanese as well.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:02:03] Yeah, there's very good story, and actually, Amra is our co-partner, is founding member of their fly shop Mongolian. We had some good opportunities to go fishing together. And of course, then since you are together, then you talk about a lot of fishing and and there is another third partner, of fly shop Mongolia is gambar. And so somehow we get together in our philosophy about the fishing and Mongolia as well.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:02:37] Fishing in Mongolia had united us. And so we, because I'm already started the shop already like three years ago, now? Or four years ago. So once I was impressed and I was like a very, uh, and I said, look how we can maybe can pool together and somehow to develop the fly fishing in Mongolia and fishing in general. And as a Mongolian natives, we would like to, you know, address this issue, especially not only fishing from from fishing perspective, but also from the conservation perspective, because I'm raised very conservation minded person and there is not so many rivers which have this unique fish taimen and other species as well. So that's I think where we start to have a lot of talks and we say, look, we have a shop, fly shop. We have distributorship from the well, you ask for brand names. So we have to base on that, we should like make awareness here in Mongolia, especially for Mongolian anglers to get involved into fly fishing. Second, these, of course, we will take also as a Mongolian natives have operations and destination. Open up for the international anglers because this is, I think, our passion. So I would just summarize that passion has united us, and this is how we started the business. We are not rich or we don't do it making a lot of money, but this oh the old saying, is love of the fly fishing which united us.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:04:21] So Mongolia is very unique, I would say even I've I've been not traveling around the world like, like you are. But Mongolia is one of those very interesting countries. It's a very, it's a nomadic country. It's has a very big territory and a lot of rivers as well, especially on northern Mongolian west or northern part of Mongolia. And oh, the river and the fish that this is our uniqueness compared to the other river. Of course, everyone talk about taimen. And taimen could be reaching like I'm not sure how the US, but this could be reaching like one metre or 50, 60 centimeters. But I think this is one of the uniqueness of Mongolia because this fish is still here in the natural habitat. Taimen is here on the red books and and also protect for the government as well. And we still have some healthy population in some rivers. This is, for example, wonder uniqueness. The

second Mongolian generally is very you know, I would say it gives a lot of also other opportunities for fishing. For example, Mongolian giant grayling in Khovd and Altai, which just only exists in Mongolia and other type also like Lenok and different type of Graylings as well. So it's like all type of fishing for the fly in, fly fishing in general. And as I said, Mongolia has only three, 3.3 million population. And this is a very low density of the in the countryside. So you will there, go there and you will see only the landscape with beautiful rivers and landscapes. But will, you will not see other people. So it's still like, still exclusive place to go in fishing because it's all, every trip, ever fly fishing trip is kind of adventure. So every river has its own uniqueness and its every centimeter or a metre of the rivers could be having, you know, treasures. And it's, it's unknown. So that's, I think, main characters of Mongolia. So just to summarize again, it is like still pristine habitat of time in another fish population, pristine rivers. You know, a lot of people, not so many anglers. And yeah, it's remoteness as well. It's wildness. This, I think, makes Mongolia very unique in compared to other countries, other territories is still very interesting destination for fly fishing.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:07:05] Yes, I think it is. You should understand that Mongolia is a landlocked country so it doesn't have access and the main resource of economies and mineral mining, mainly mining. So we do not export other products or services to other countries, but mainly is our mining. So, Mongolia has kind of rich in minerals. So we have gold, copper, coal, other like very rails, metals, something like that. But, Mongolia also wants to have a kind of second source of the export. And this is tourism. But tourism needs a lot of development and tourism needs a lot of infrastructure. But somehow still we are a poor country. And somehow this also protects the river as well. And somehow I think also the foreign anglers or international anglers, which coming they are looking for the wildlands, and they're looking for untouched nature without any infrastructure that you want to really have. You know, experience the fishing in the nature by themselves. And so coming here in Mongolian fishing, having experienced all these people, I think they all want to come back again. And they also some of them like, you know, Charlie and others. They also want to have help us help for like future ultimate. There's a local community to preserve the rivers and the fish and we as outfitters, of course, are all very much interested that to preserve the fish and the rivers. And we would like also, you know, joined the forces to help not only the local communities, but generally preserve this unique asset in Mongolia, like fish in rivers and whole ecosystem. And that's, I think, coming international language coming here. We have already like regulation on the fishing. We have licensing procedures. Make sure International anglers bringing U.S. dollars like kind of export of tourism. And this is good. And we want to have a sustainable and the courts for taimen for example, given every year. And this is limited. And this also like makes a lot of attraction and also a lot of, you know, a willingness to people to come and fish for time in another type of fish species. So in general, I would say yes, the if not international anglers. Yeah, I think the awareness could be a much slower, a much lower. And yeah, we can just based on the more and more coming tour, tourist, we can expand that. We can, you know, conduct a lot of practice on sustainable fishing and conservation. So this is I think, it's very good that we have a lot of interest from international anglers.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:10:12] It's defense, like we are, and I would differentiate two type of things, it's a global warming, of course, it's sometimes you can see that every year rivers could be different, the rivers could be flooded. Some some period, some period of time, some other period of time there will be like less water. And you also some rivers are drying out. So this is, I would say, is the impact of the global, global warming, which, of course, impact of a very, very sensitive environment in Mongolia. Because Mongolia's, I would say, is only 4 percent, 5 percent, is only forested. Biggest majority of the land is still Gobi and steppe, like it's deserts and stamps in some areas, of course, mountains,

another type of landscape. But in the northern part we have of this ecosystem, that the pristine water and fish. So, yeah, this is one part. The second part is, of course, the mining and mining also impacts a lot. It could impact the whole ecosystem, especially if it impacts one river. And we have some kind of like disasters as well that coal mining or other mining's to get polluted some rivers and the whole population of the river gets, you know, very endangered. And we sometimes see, for example, a very good example here in Mongolia's UB [Ulaanbaatar, the capital] and Orkhon River. In UB, we have a the Tuul river here, just crossing by. And they still have fish, but there is no taimen anymore. And we have only maybe up in the watersheds, where they're beginning, there was a very healthy population. Some of the smaller fish like Grayling or trout fish, but not taimen. So this is one example. Whole city impacts the river. But in certain areas, for example, just one small mine, many have not proper, you know, management of the mine. Then we have some kind of disaster which impacts a whole river and the fish as well. So this is still well, one of the biggest dangers. Well.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:12:28] Yes, this is the concern, especially from I would say from different perspective. I think Mongolian nomadic from the culture. And they love camping. They love countryside, they like nomadic lifestyle. So this is very, a good thing. But historically, Mongolians are not anglers and not fishing. So they will not touch the fish at all. They will not be eating fish. So they will not be actively fishing. Only in extreme case they will fish again. Even the, the famous story of Genghis Khan says he had to eat the fish because he was hungry, hungry and the difficult times. So so historically, Mongolian are not fishermen, but they getting more and more interest in the fishing and not only youth, but in general whole, because they want to be in the nature with a river side and have a fishing. But the fishing is well, it's kind of non-sustainable to say, damaging. It's spin fishing, and spin fishing has always like three hooks, the barbs, and and having catching fish with that, you will impact the fish in very heavily way. So the fish gets hurt and not even they survive. And this is the practice here. And we want to change that. We want to, that the young people, doesn't matter about of the ages, but we want to introduce to fly fishing. But fly fishing in general, if you have a problem here, that fly fishing is very, get into fly fishing is very, very expensive. Starting with the gears. And you know, waders, boots and for for spin fishing, you just get one rod. And this all made from basic from Chinese produces very low cost. So it's easily to get, buy a very cheap one and start the fishing immediately. And, you know, most of them, they kill fish. Just take the fish. Not release the fish. So the second biggest problem here is uh catch and release as well.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:14:42] Love fishing, love fishing. Of course. First of all, is being in nature. Now, I am also working in a one of the biggest private group in Mongolia. As an executive. And a lot of working sitting in businesses at a, you know, office type of work. But I always want to go and to be in nature and enjoy the fishing. And the fishing, of course, is I don't know.. I just want to give you an example. When I was fishing that my when I'd first fish, when I got back to my work. I couldn't remember my password. So they think I think this is what's the change and say, look, this is actually the God like created you to be with the nature. Being the whole time in office and all, so it is kind of unique. So you feel that you belong there, and you you, you could be part of the ecosystem.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:15:42] And this is, I think, why the fishing was so amazing for me. And, you know, some kinds of magnificent, kind of like a magic. So I I every time when I go fishing, it's like kind of, how to say in English, it's like incredible happiness feeling.

James Thull [00:16:04] Mm hmm.

Esentsengel Sukhee [00:16:05] Just to be there and fish and look for a bite. You know, have a thrill, and at the end of it, to release a fish. And that's once you have this, what you have this, how to say satisfaction. Yeah, I think I think I would go to see Patagonia maybe spot to see also Alaska to see all this moving, you know, seasonal migration of the salmons. I think these two areas, maybe also Scandinavia. This there I think I would be very interested to go, but as I said, I think the Mongolian rivers and they can also compete with these destinations.