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Research Project: Online Research

Topic: Jeremy Wade

## **Page 1 - Career**

Born on March 23, 1956 in Ipswich, England Jeremy Wade has always been interested in fishing. As a child living on the banks of River Stour in Suffolk he was drawn to the sight of the river calling his name. He attempts to catch fish at the age of 7 but fails to have any type of luck. Through his friends from his school he is given guidance and catches his first fish. With the support from his parents he always wanted to fish in different places leading to where he is today.

Wade took his first big trip to India in the year of 1982. With only £200 in his pocket he managed to catch a fish called the Himalayan mahseer and clocked the weight in at 18 pounds. With this accomplishment he returned to England and started writing articles on his experience for a fishing magazine quoting, “Despite the discomfort of traveling at such a basic level, there was a real feeling of achievement and I immediately started saving money to go somewhere else. I wasn't sure where at that point but I knew there must be other exotic fish out there, although probably not as well documented as Mahseer, but possibly even more spectacular.” The next journey to India was in 2005 in the Himalayan foothills and that was where he heard of horrific stories. Stories of people going missing in the rivers, stories of washed up bodies with cuts all over the body and with that came the idea of a show called “River Monsters”. With the show finding its roots, Wade pulled out his gear and started looking for the monstrous fish that would mark the start of Episode 1 of River Monsters. As he finally hooked onto a powerful fish he had to endure the dangerous waters below him and even swam in the strong currents to keep the fish

on. With the fight coming to an end after an hour it was revealed to be a 161 pound Goonch catfish, the largest catfish known in the area. With the first episode of River Monsters being aired, it gained almost a million viewers and with the Goonch catfish being shown in the second episode it was likely that the viewership would only continue to rise.

## Page 2 - Greatest Catches

Jeremy Wade has made enormous strides to capture the most elusive creatures that roam our rivers, our seas, and our oceans. With these accomplishments throughout his career he cemented himself to be a formidable fisherman and with his extensive amounts of catches here are the ones that I myself believe to be his greatest catches.

### 5. Giant Salamander

The Kappa is a folklore that Wade learns during his trip to Japan. A Kappa is known for having a beak-like feature with a turtle-like body but as flexible as lizards. With that knowledge Wade determines that the largest creature that could have abducted children is the Japanese Giant Salamander that resides in the rivers and are known to be the largest amphibians in the world. It can grow up to 1.8m long and with the knowledge Jeremy Wade hand catches the amphibian and puts an end to the mystery that surrounds the folklore of The Kappa.



#### 4. The Goliath Tigerfish

Stories of a fish taking lumps out of people's bodies, scars to back them up, alligators washing up dead with huge holes in their bodies is what brought Wade to the Congo once again. Jeremy Wade travels deep into the Congo River in search for a predator that puts sharks to shame. The Goliath Tigerfish is known as the most deadliest river monster due to its ferocity, its sharp teeth, and strong, large, body.



#### 3. Electric Eel

Judging by the name, many of us who haven't explored the rivers or marine life would be rather confused by the name of a fish that doesn't exist. As Wade travels across South America and into the Amazon River he hears stories that start to resemble something out of a nightmare. Children are running home with burn marks on their bodies, bodies are washing up with nothing but a dark spot seemingly like an electric shot done in the water. With the information he sets out to find and put an end to the stories by locating the electric eels which have become a reality in the Amazon River.



## 2. Goonch Catfish

Catfishes are caught around the world and are known to use their cat like whiskers to look for food by feeling for movement in the water. They eat their food by swallowing the fish whole and in some cases, humans are caught in the crossfire. Found in the Kali River in India this fish could be considered one of Jeremy Wade's most challenging catches. The catfish broke loose from his grip and to gain more line to reel it back him Wade had to take a huge risk. Either lose the fish or rush into the rapid waters which could risk death but, that's what he did. At 5 feet and 7 inches, it is considered one of the largest catfishes caught in his career.



## 1. Giant Stingray

- a. The Giant Freshwater Stingray is one of the largest freshwater fish in the world. Found in Indochina and Borneo they are considered endangered due to habitat degradation and over-fishing. Stories of a large saucer shaped object in the water plagued towns that were in areas of this freshwater creature and that is what Wade took in order to capture and put an end to these stories. After minutes of trying to

reel this creature in, it resulted in one of the largest river monsters being shown on television as seen below, coming in at a 7 feet in diameter.



### **Page 3 - Failures**

Being a foreigner in a foreign nation it comes with many unknown dangers to Jeremy Wade and the crew that follows him. One of the dangers that was not expected was an episode where the soundman, Chris, was struck by lightning during a journey to find food. Being lucky to have rubber sole boots, Chris manages to survive and return to camp safely. Another mistake Wade makes is when he is fishing on Nong Khai which borders another country called Laos. After straying too far away from the Nong Khai border, border patrol is led to his boat and he is nearly arrested and his trip is cut short. The biggest failure that Jeremy Wade has ever encountered was with his fight with the Giant Freshwater Stingray. The one that he catches is not the first Stingray that Jeremy landed. His first attempt was believed to be the largest Giant Freshwater Stingray anyone has ever caught. Believed to be at 700 pounds Wade fights this creature for over an hour and snaps his tendon trying to reel the fish in. Snapping his tendon caused a permanent effect on his arm as there is no longer any muscle in his bicep area and even after the long fight his rod finally gives in. The rod snaps, and takes the beast with it deep into the murky waters of Southeast Asia.

## **Page 4 - Near Death Experiences**

One topic that deserves to have its own page is Jeremy Wade's near death experience whilst traveling to a remote village in the Amazon. The crew and Wade himself were in a plane when the airplane's engine failed. There was nothing they could do and the best they could hope for was a wet piece of land that could cushion their landing. From a YouTube AMA (Asking Me Anything) we are told that Wade and his crew were only a second and a half away from being more likely to die from drowning as the water was up to their heads.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUtM13tZXzE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I3IcKxRO7no>

## **Page 5 - Social Media**

- Facebook:
  - <https://www.facebook.com/JeremyWadeOfficial/>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/RiverMonstersGlobal>
  - <https://www.facebook.com/RiverMonsters>
- Instagram:
  - @thisisjeremywade
- Twitter:
  - @RiverMonstersUK



## Page 1 - Career

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## Page 2 - Greatest Catches

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## Page 3 - Failures

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#### **Page 4 - Social Media and FAQ**

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