

Jim Shockey (BC) is now up to 26 Ovis species and 27 Capras after taking the Kuban (Western) tur, mid-Caucasian tur and Caucasian chamois in Russia during August 2014. As always, Jim has provided us a hunt report:

This was actually my second try for these animals. On my first try in 2013, we encountered sustained 60 mph winds for the first three days of the hunt, and on the fourth, I received word from my family that my 86-year-old father was

in the hospital back in Canada and the prognosis was not good. Unfortunately, my father passed away while I was en



Jim Shockey (BC) took this massive, heavy-horned Kuban (Western) tur in Karachayevo-Cherkesiya, Russia during August 2014.

route home. It was a very sad year for the Shockey clan, as we also lost Louise's father earlier in the year.

*As with the year before, we were met by a representative, **Alex Sharapov**, at the airport in Moscow, where he cleared my firearm without any problem. We stayed overnight and flew to Mineral'nyye Vody and from there drove to Cherkessk in the Karachayevo-Cherkesiya Republic and on to our base camp deep in the Aksaut Gorge for our Kuban (Western) tur hunt. Our guides, **Ivan Yuphkin** and his partner Ali, were obviously hardened mountain men; thin, tough and made of spring steel, a point they proved over and over again on the hunt. They were as physically fit as any guides I've had the pleasure*



This Caucasian chamois was taken by Jim Shockey (BC) in the western Caucasian Mountains during August 2014.

of hunting with and consummate professionals. I would have loved to hire them for my outfitting operations.

Long story short, we took horses to the high country, set up a minimal spike camp and backpack hunted into the rugged peaks from there every day. We saw more than a dozen male Kuban tur and a bunch of females and I shot an 11½-year-old, massive old warrior at 330 yards. For the record, the horns were 32" long and had 15" bases, the heaviest horns Ivan and Ali had ever seen.

We then hunted Caucasian chamois in another part of the gorge, and again, climbed thousands of vertical feet over the course of the hunt. I shot my chamois at 300 yards, dropping it stone dead and head first over a cliff. Unfortunately both horn tips broomed off on the fall, but still it was a great

we hunted.

We saw at least 20 different male tur over the course of the hunt and I ended up taking a 10½-year-old tur at 300 yards. Interestingly, that tur was lower, in the timbered rock bluffs and had a broken back leg that had mended in an ossified grapefruit-sized ball of bone ... probably the reason the growth rings were so close together. All in all, one of the best and physically demanding hunts I've experienced.



Jim Shockey (BC) took this 10-year-old mid-Caucasian tur from Kabardino-Balkariya, Russia in August 2014.