



Lake Jozini Fishing Report

FISHING CONDITIONS

Winter is now in full swing and a drop in temperature can be felt even before the sun disappears over the horizon. A thick belt of fog hangs over the lake on most mornings preventing the sun's rays from warming the water surface.

The shallows seem almost lifeless compared to a few weeks ago, when thousands of small tilapia could be seen scurrying away from the waters edge. On occasion, a swirl breaks the water's glass-like surface showing a rare sign of life. The baitfish it seems have disappeared.

On a sunny winter's day however, when the sun has had a chance to give much needed encouragement, closer inspection and a careful approach may reveal good news...Tigers on the hunt!

CATCHES

Since our official start of winter, no reports of any monster fish has been made, although smaller fish of up to 2kg have been caught on a regular basis. Don't forget though, even a couple of smaller Tigers are well worth the effort.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

I still believe that live bait is the best bait. When walking along the shallows it may seem that the local population of small tilapia have migrated up the Pongola river, but this is not so. By simply going out a little later, once the sun has warmed the water's surface, one can greatly increase your chances of finding live bait. Try and keep only what you will use as live bait, tilapia of 5cm or less.

Tigerfish, holding just below the water's surface, tend to be very skittish, so as I have already mentioned, careful approach to favourite spots, bays and other places likely to offer fish is paramount. Once fish have been spotted, either by movement or sighting the fish themselves, a gentle cast should be made just off of your target and then slowly retrieved. Your rig should consist of nothing more than swivel, trace, hook and bait. A shallow float can be added when fishing blindly into promising spots.

Remember that with fishing, the more tricks you have up your sleeve the more chances you have of catching that once in a lifetime monster. So experimenting with different tactics will sometimes put you into fish on otherwise fishless days.

Tight lines,
Martin Smuts, Skipper for Royal Jozini Big 6

