



ROYAL JOZINI FISHING REPORT

FISHING CONDITIONS

The water levels on Lake Jozini are still very low. This is an advantage to us fishermen as the fish are more congregated around structure or in shallow bays where bait fish seek refuge. With this being our rainy season, the Pongola River has come down in torrents of chocolate colored water. This has resulted in some areas, especially close to the river mouth, being unfishable as the water clarity has been greatly reduced. Hot summer days are becoming more common now, and after two or three days of hot, sunny weather the fishing is incredible.



THE FISHING

This month we have enjoyed some really good fishing, with catches being recorded on all outings. Resident lodge owner Ges Frans accompanied me one morning for his very first outing on Lake Jozini. It was a late start, but the conditions were favorable, with calm water that one finds before an afternoon thunder shower. We picked a spot where the water clarity was good. After a little while during which some good fish were almost caught, Ges landed his first Jozini tigerfish. A beautiful fish of 3kg – what a way to start.

Fishing with me one morning was Alistair Brown (who is no stranger to big fish), who after releasing some baby tigers hooked into a decent specimen of 3.9 kg.

On another occasion, my good friend Richard Langley and I went out on the boat. Richard doesn't consider himself much of a fisherman, although recent visits to Lake Jozini have proved otherwise. He managed to hook and land his personal best tigerfish of 3kg. Congratulations to these successful fishermen.

Note, not all fish caught have been mentioned as small (i.e. less than 2 kg) fish are released without much fuss.

TRICKS OF THE TRADE

Most fishing tactics are proving successful at the moment. Sardine and tilapia fillets are your best bet, as the scent from these baits is able to attract fish even in discolored water. A float set at a depth that will keep your bait off the bottom, will also improve your chances of getting a few bites. Spinners and rapalas do have their place in my tackle box, especially when the fishing is as great as it has been lately. So... come and join me for some fantastic fishing on Lake Jozini.

Martin Smuts, Skipper for Royal Jozini Big 6