



## *Lake Jozini Fishing Report*

### **FISHING CONDITIONS:**

The fishing conditions have improved since the water levels have started to rise. The water has risen onto the banks vegetation areas where different species of tilapia breed in the summer months. Shoals of Catfish have been seen attacking the baitfish in the water less than half a metre deep. Some decent size Tigerfish have also been known to enter very shallow water in search of a meal. Different species of water birds (Storks, Herons, Kingfish etc) have also taken advantage of the increased number of baitfish in the shallows. All the activity has caught the interest of crocodiles, keen on an easy meal, so be aware at all times.

### **CATCHES:**

Some good size Tigerfish have been caught since the start of the rainy season. Again live bait is your best option, this being the Tigerfishes natural prey. Dead drifting with sardine has also resulted in some fishing, particularly with the Catfish. Martin Smuts (Skipper) together with his father Walter Smuts (Reserve Manager) have had some really good days out on the boat, as well as fishing from the bank, with at least 6 Tigers over 3 Kgs, the biggest being 3.5 Kgs. Tigers between 1 – 3 Kgs are the average good size fish. Small Tigers have kept the fishing days bright, with a couple being caught on almost every outing. CONGRATULATIONS to Mr Gorden Rooi who caught a 3.14 kg Tigerfish over the Christmas holidays, his first Tigerfish in many years. A 4 kg plus Tiger was caught at the Gorge by Mr Troy Minne (from Nisela Safaris) using live tilapia as bait. Catfish have also been on the bite, the biggest one landed was over 8 kgs. Catfish of between 2 – 3 kgs are your average size fish. Redbreasted Tilapia of just under 2 kgs are highly sort after fish, but are very difficult to catch. The only Redbreasted Tilapia caught have been on Fly. The favoured fly is the Filoplame Dragon, fished in amongst the weedbeds in water no more than a meter deep.

### **TRICKS OF THE TRADE:**

Do yourself a favour and get a bucket of live bait. The method is to fish a drop off, an area of water where shallow water drops steeply to deep water of 3 meters plus. Tigerfish patrol these drop offs. The rig would be, to have a float that will suspend the bait about a meter off the bottom. A steel wire trace of no less than 30 centimeters must be used (shorter traces get swallowed and bitten off), single or double hooks hooked under the dorsal fin of the live bait keep it upright and alive. Tight lines.

