



Photo: Caroline Scott



Over the past couple of years, the focus has been on the great fishing at recently discovered venues, and the quintessential tigerfishing destination, the lower Zambezi, has fallen out of the spotlight somewhat. This article aims to highlight the fly fishing potential of this area, when to fish it, and which tackle and methods are currently productive. Depending on who you speak to, the lower Zambezi is described as either the Zambezi River as it flows from below Kariba to the Zambezi Delta in Mozambique, or any number of parts thereof. For me the lower Zambezi is that part which flows from below the Kariba Dam to the headwaters of Cahora Bassa.

WHEN TO GO

As with most tigerfishing venues, planning your trip to coincide with optimum conditions is vital. Local knowledge is best, and speaking to anglers in the know will provide you with useful information. Avoid unscrupulous lodge owners who are merely looking to up their occupancy – prime fishing dates disregarded. To give you an idea of how specific a season can be, I will advise fishing a chosen destination for a maximum of 12 weeks each year, and many areas for only eight weeks or so. Don't be tempted by late or early season specials. The only discount you will receive will be in the "fish landed" department.

