



Integrated shooting heads are often an advantage in this drift-and-cast fishing. An integrated 300-grain line (which will match a 9-wt rod) with intermediate running line is great here. This setup allows you to fire off quick and efficient casts while drifting, as well as mending the running line as you drift the short distance it takes for your fly to sink into the zone. This also gives you immediate contact with your fly when you start your retrieve – as opposed to a large belly forming in the line when fishing a full sink line in the same way. If you want to take any other

lines, a full-length DI-7 for fishing deep holes off-anchor, and an intermediate line for fishing the shallows and the occasional popper will cover all scenarios.

Terminal tackle is standard as for most tigerfishing: a 5ft - 7ft, 15lb - 20lb leader connected to your fly of choice, with a 5cm - 10cm piece of #3 piano wire. Many of the tigerfish patterns that work on the upper Zambezi and Okavango will work on the lower Zambezi. Clousers, Polar Fibre Baitfish, Whistlers and small Sin Profiles all have their place. Productive colours include black, grey and black, olive and grey, red and black, fire tiger, and chartreuse. In contrast to tigerfish on the upper Zambezi and Okavango,

however, tigers on this stretch show a distinct preference for blue-and-white flies, probably because of the kapenta in the system. Clousers, Whistlers and Polar Fibre Baitfish tied in this colour combination work well and should definitely have a place in your fly box. An 8- or 9-wt rod matched with a suitable reel capable of holding 150 yards of 20lb backing will complete your tackle requirements.

WHERE TO CONCENTRATE YOUR EFFORTS

As with many fisheries, it is best to fish areas with structure. Fly fishermen have to make sure their efforts are as productive as possible, so fishing smarter not harder is the name of the game.

Left: Successful patterns include Steve Farrar's Baitfish Profile, red and black Clousers and Fire Tiger Clousers. Below: Drift-fishing is the norm, targeting likely lies along the bank and submerged structure.



“AN ADDED BONUS OF FISHING THE LOWER ZAMBEZI OVER THESE DRY MONTHS IS THE WORLD-CLASS GAME VIEWING.”

