

TIGERFISH

The Copper Clouser

One fly for tigerfish? Well, maybe not.
But if you have to choose...

where the whole is
greater than the sum of parts

by Keith Clover

Besides imitating bulldogs, the Copper Clouser also resembles the colouration of tigerfish.

Zambia is undoubtedly home to some of Africa's finest tigerfishing waters. From the Barotse Floodplains in the west, to the lower Zambezi in the east and everything in between, the Zambezi River and her tributaries afford the adventurous fly angler a myriad tigerfishing opportunities. Fly anglers from all over the world travel to her wild rivers in a quest to temporarily remove these toothy critters from their homes. In so doing, they contribute to the Zambian economy by supporting the

tourism industry and associated services. Rumour has it that copper mining also contributes to the Zambian economy. Like any functioning symbiotic relationship, these two industries are linked and support each other. Maybe not to any significant level, but the link is there nonetheless in the form of a fly that we have found to be our bread and butter over the past three seasons.

Enter the Copper Clouser – the mainstay of many a Zambian copper mine

(possibly cable theft, courtesy of Eskom) and catalyst to landing trophy tigers, backing burns and big smiles. Copper is nothing new to tiger flies. The Copper Tigger-style of fly (in numerous colour combinations), compliments of Bill Hansford-Steele, has been a stalwart in many a tiger fisherman's fly box for years. Copper is included in this pattern for both weight and durability. Like any good fly, the Copper Clouser borrows components from the Tigger and a host of others in an attempt to produce a fly