

plans are finely tuned everyday. Special consideration is due to the likely event of someone hooking into one of the beast GT's that inhabit this area. The combined force of the Hell's Gate morning express and a *caranx ignobilis* certainly does make the Indian Ocean seem a lot larger. For us, a thorough pre-fishing session briefing is essential. Here the planned route, fishing techniques and strategy are all discussed at length. A properly planned session is a more successful one.

There are a couple of aspects that are invaluable when fishing the waters off the Gates. Firstly, communication is absolutely vital, and so our skis are fitted with two-way radios. This addition we feel has since proven absolutely critical for increasing the strike rate of a fishing session. The concept is basic. Once a ski goes away with a fish, he radios the other skis. Any skis in close enough range quickly get onto the shoal, which almost always results in multiple screaming reels.

Another approach that has worked with outstanding results is to fish with only one rod. Once it has been established what the 'cuda are feeding on, there is no point in fishing with more, as the pace of the fishing only results in burn offs, messy double hookups and tangles. A better approach is to have the second rod rigged as a spinning stick. Thus, as soon as a fish is boated,



one can sight-cast a small spoon to the many 'cuda that follow the hooked fish to the surface. Pulling baits becomes boring when you get the taste for watching fish smash a fast retrieved spoon on the surface.


One thing that certainly is a luxury but is highly recommended is to have a backup boat. We initially started using a backup boat off Inhaca after having to cut off long-fighting kingies, but now — if logistics allow — we never leave without one. Having a backup boat bolsters the confidence of newcomers to the sport, and allows them to have a more relaxed and enjoyable experience. It also offers a host of additional benefits, including getting livebait. Everyone knows how effective livebait is, but is often a scarce luxury on a ski due to the large distances one has to travel to catch liveys, as well as having them "kicking" on the ski.

Live-wells on the backup boat are fully stocked early in the morning after having used the fishfinder and GPS to locate shoals of baitfish out deep. Thus, in conjunction with the two-way radios, fresh liveys can be continually delivered

to the individual skis.

Having the facility to keep livebait, alive (as well as keeping deadbait, frozen) can make the difference between an average morning's fishing and a world-class one. An added bonus of the backup boat is that it can be used to take pre-release photos of fish, as well as to film and capture the excitement.

Hell's Gate offers numerous activities apart from the world-class angling. Rods and reels are readily exchanged for masks and fins when exploring some of the shallow reefs outside of Hell's Gates. The Santa Maria marine reserve is only a short paddle from the mainland peninsula. The reserve has some of the best snorkelling on the entire coastline, with a 15 to 20m vertical wall, crystal-clear water and not a wave in sight. The fish density is immense.

Thus far Inhaca has been fished by flyfishermen and ski-boaters at a low and reasonably sustainable level. Indeed, there are still plenty of fish in the sea. 

Rob and the Tourette Fishing team run guided fishingski and flyfishing safaris to Inhaca Island each year between November and May. For further details visit <www.tourettefishing.com> or contact <keith@tourettefishing.com> or phone 084 622 2272.

© Angler Publications

DURBAN PLASTICS

MEMBER OF THE FIRE WOOD HOLDINGS GROUP

Driven by quality

Contact us for all your perspex and polycarbonate requirements.

Both products, including the bronze tint polycarbonate are sold in sheets or cut to size or template.

Contact details

Durban, 99 Sydney Road
Tel: (031) 301-7511

Email: info@durbanplastics.co.za

Johannesburg, 153 Queensbury Road, Benoni
Tel: (011) 963-0041

Email: gauteng@durbanplastics.co.za

www.durbanplastics.co.za

PERSPEX®
FROM LUCITE®

Make your African sport fishing safari a reality

Visit www.tourettefishing.com for more info on our fully customisable:

- Fishing ski safaris • Tiger fishing safaris
- Wild Coast expeditions • Overland fishing safaris



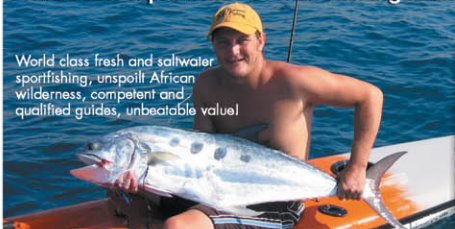
Phones: +27 (0) 33 344 2250

Fax 1: +27 (0) 33 345 1600

Cells: +27 (0) 84 622 2272

e-mail: keith@tourettefishing.com

World class fresh and saltwater sportfishing, unspoilt African wilderness, competent and qualified guides, unbeatable value!



Excalibur Tackle

Prepare yourself, for the fight of your life!

Finest hand built custom rods for all disciplines of fishing in southern Africa.

Built to suit the species you target, and your personal fishing style.

Suppliers of:

- AVET Reels
- Katana Hooks
- Atomix Lures
- All essential end tackle



Phone & Fax: + 264 (0)64 501 959
Cell: + 264 (0) 811 286 496

Email: sue@excalibur-tackle.com
Website: <http://www.excalibur-tackle.com>