



FAST FACTS Lungwebungu

Notwithstanding the fact that the Lungwebungu River is the largest tributary of the Zambezi River, it is virtually unknown as a tigerfishing venue. Large, even by African standards, the Lungwebungu River flows over 650km in a series of intricate meanders, oxbows and channels. Varying in width from 50m - 200m (where it flows into the Zambezi), the river and its multiple meanderings is confined to a channel roughly 800m wide, much like a snake in a bottle. Stretched out, it would be many times its measured length. Because its meanderings make it unsuitable for water transport, it is not subjected to the same type of river traffic as its parent the Zambezi.

For more information on this venue, contact Tourette Fishing on Tel: (033) 344-2250 or 084 622 2272.



Most tigerfish were in the 4 - 10lb region.

were not subject to the same fate, and they landed some great fish.

The next four days on the river followed a similar routine, with both boats heading out for full days in an attempt to decipher the Lungwebungu River. The fish did not jump into the boat – every fish landed had to be worked for. However, taking into consideration that we were fishing at the tailend of the season with waters at their coldest and heavy winds for most of our stay, the

fishing was as good as could be expected. The purpose of any prospecting trip, however, is to gather information, details and figures that will allow one to make an educated decision on whether a certain project is feasible or not. In fishing terms, our four-day prospect of the Lungwebungu was most promising. Landing a handful of fish between 4lb and 10lb on a daily basis is not poor fishing by any standards. Achieving these results while fishing an uncharted fishery at the end of a season was very pleasing.

IN CONCLUSION

With our brief experience of the system, combined with Gavin's knowledge of flood periods, it was unanimously decided to get back on the Lungwebungu earlier next season. To cast a fly in waters that have never been fished before instills immense feelings of appreciation, respect and joy in any angler. For most fly fishers, however, the opportunities to fish such locations are as scarce as yellowfish's teeth. I, for one, can't wait to get back to the Lungwebungu.

