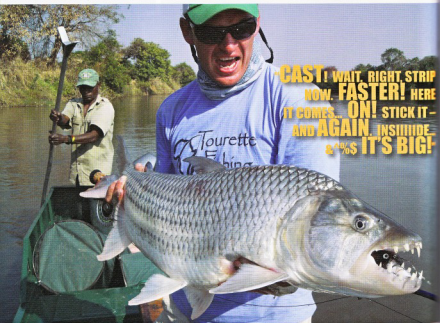


Yes, it'll come back - cast! Cast! Wait. Right, strip now. Faster! Here it comes... On! Stick it - and again. Insiiiiide... &^%\$ it's big!" I won't carry on with the rest of this transcript from our recent season in

habits of the Tanzanian tigerfish and the fishery. This in turn led to us refining our tackle and fly fishing techniques, details of which we share with you in this article together with observations made during the season.

and drop-offs, rocky outcrops offering riffles and big eddies, deep undercut outside banks and, at the headwaters, rapids of astounding beauty. What this means to the fly fisher is simple: no cast is made without thinking about where



CAST! WAIT. RIGHT. STRIP NOW. FASTER! HERE IT COMES... ON! STICK IT - AND AGAIN. INSIIIIIDE... &^%\$ IT'S BIG!

Tanzania - suffice it to say that the fish in question ripped 30m of line, tore through a fallen tree and spat the fly out in disgust! The Canadian clients on the boat were shell-shocked, trying to piece together what had just happened. We shared a knowing grin with Sixbet, our coxswain, similar moments of chaos having been repeated many times during an epic season chasing trophy tigerfish in Tanzania.

Last year, we spent 114 days guiding on both the Mnyera and Ruhudji rivers which make up the Tengo Tiger Fishery in Tanzania. Having spent seven weeks setting up in the area, we entered the season thinking we had the fishery pretty much worked out. This soon changed as we came to understand the intricate

UNDERSTANDING THE SYSTEM

First, it is imperative to have an understanding of the waters being fished. Both these rivers flood seasonally, with water levels rising over 2m between the dry and wet season. Much like the lower Zambezi, we focus on the area when the waters begin to drop until the rains arrive (when the water level literally rises as you watch it). Both rivers are an average of 50m wide, many areas narrowing down to 30m, with the widest sections around 100m. Competent fly casters can reach either bank when drifting the middle.

The rivers are rich in structure: loads of fallen trees and submerged timber, sandbanks and associated deep channels

the fish will be holding in the associated structure. Fishing is done off the drift and off anchor when trying to get flies into the deeper holding areas which is both technical and exciting. Drifting a productive stretch while planning one's strategy, knowing you have only one shot at the prime lie and possibly a trophy tigerfish, is fly fishing par excellence.

EVOLUTION OF TERMINAL TACKLE

To achieve consistent results, one has to adapt to the local conditions - an evolution of sorts as fly fishing in new territories provides a completely fresh angle on how best to target certain species. We ended off the season in 2008 using standard 20lb leaders attached to