

instances, casts are made 4m - 5m above the logjam and flies allowed to drift back and sink into it. Interestingly, fish caught using this technique tended to be smaller. In adverse fishing conditions (such as a drop in pressure or water temperature), the larger tigers hold tight in deep holes, behind or underneath structure. This makes fly placement and presentation very tricky. At such times when fish are reluctant to actively hunt and feed, the only path to success is to cast tight and let one's fly sink as deep as possible.



steal the flies right out of the hooked tigers' mouths, taking bites out of the other and, on occasion, slicing the hooked tiger in half! Once an intimate knowledge of the rivers was acquired, we could accurately predict areas and structure that would hold trophy fish. The aggressive response triggered by a hooked tiger could be used to good effect in these situations. If a smaller fish was hooked while drifting into a promising stretch of water, the small fish was not brought in immediately but left in the current about 8m from the boat. This would often lure the bigger tigers from their lies into the main channel - and into a feeding frenzy. Although very frustrating for the angler

FEEDING BEHAVIOUR

Interesting observations were made on the different sizes of feeding fish and how this affected the fishing. When the larger fish were off the bite, we generally caught fish between 4lb and 8lb since they could move and feed more freely with the larger hunting fish absent. A drop in feeding activity by smaller fish more often than not signalled that the larger specimens had come out of the structure and were actively feeding. During this stage, keeping one's focus for that one big hit was paramount. We always advise guests to be prepared for a hit each time they strip their line, in an attempt to prevent the angler from getting a fright on the strike and either jamming up on the fish or losing all coordination and failing to set the hook.

When these tigers were feeding aggressively, a good proportion of those brought to the boat would have others chasing them. We witnessed tigerfish

Top: A lady angler tussling with a big tiger.

Above left and below: The release is almost as pleasurable as the catch. Smiles all round when the hard work comes together.

