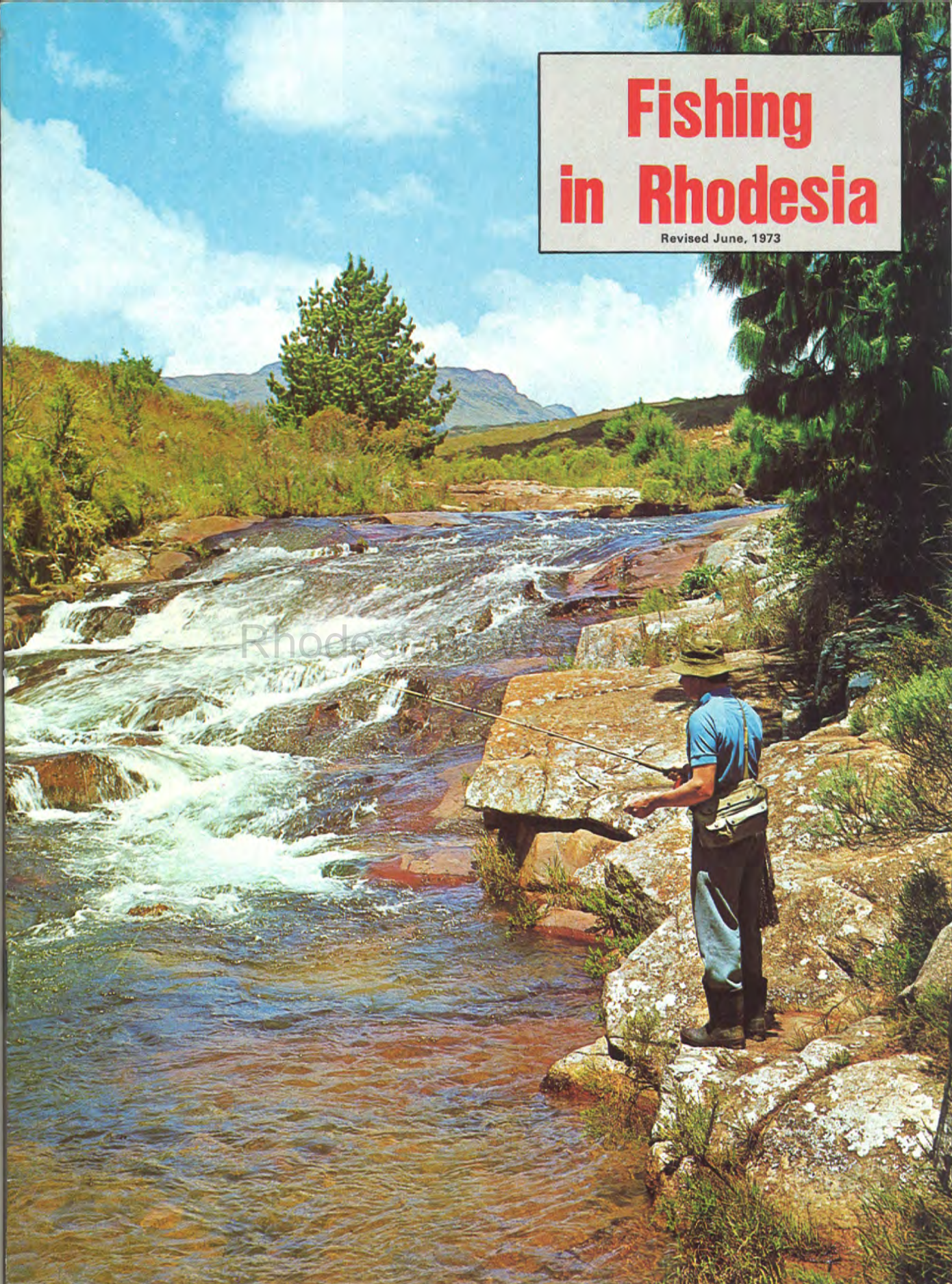


Fishing in Rhodesia

Revised June, 1973





The Zambezi River flows for 700 kilometres along Rhodesia's northern border. In addition to offering some of the world's finest fresh-water fishing, along its length are the superb tourist attractions of the Victoria Falls, Lake Kariba and Mana Pools Game Reserve.

RHODESIA offers the angler the finest range of fresh-water fishing in Africa—in some of the most spectacular and beautiful settings in the world:

- Lake Kariba, where 5 250 square kilometres of mountain-framed lake conceals the prince of fresh-water sporting fish: the striped and long-toothed Tigerfish.
- The Zambezi River, where Bream of different varieties and the giant catfish, the Vundu, share the depths with crocodile and hippo.
- The Eastern Highlands, where among the soft, wooded peaks of the Inyanga Mountains or the jagged crags of the Chimanimani Mountains, swiftly running streams abound with flashing Trout.
- Lakes where, in addition to indigenous species, Black Bass not normally found in the tropics have found a new home suitable for rapid growth.

Much of Rhodesia is a watershed, and from the upland areas tiny springs rise, combining into streams and then into rivers, which flow north to the Zambezi River and Lake Kariba, south-west to the Limpopo, south-east to the Sabi and east to the Pungwe. Along these rivers many man-made lakes have been created, providing ideal habitats for the breeding and growth of indigenous and exotic species.

In these clear, unpolluted waters over a hundred species thrive. Not

all, of course, are of interest to the angler, but there are enough to furnish him with a dramatic repertoire of fishermen's tales.

In Rhodesia the angler may pass from one type of fishing to another in a matter of hours, on highways that link the tourist areas. And, in between his fishing, he and his family can enjoy the natural wonders of this fortunate land.

While fishing on the Upper Zambezi, he is within earshot of the thunder of the world's largest waterfall, the Victoria Falls, and within

minutes of the Victoria Falls National Park, with its large population of wild animals.

At Kariba, after experiencing the thrill of catching his first Tigerfish, he can enjoy other exciting watersports or take time off to visit the slender, 129-metre-high concrete wall that seals the Kariba Gorge and holds back the world's largest man-made lake.

At Lake Kyle, where the country's best Black Bass fishing can be enjoyed, he is only a few kilometres from the ancient Zimbabwe Ruins, the remains of a walled city, the origins of which have been lost in the dim past.

In the Eastern Highlands, superb scenery surrounds him, and here the sparkling streams cascade in beautiful waterfalls. Here, too, there is evidence, in stone walls stretching across hundreds of square kilometres of country, of a past occupation that is now forgotten.

Even while visiting the cities of Salisbury and Bulawayo, he is only minutes away from dams or rivers that offer good sport.

Main species of fish in Rhodesia

117 species of fish may be found in Rhodesia's lakes and rivers. Here is a brief guide to those that will provide the angler with either excellent sport or a tasty addition to the table—or both.

TIGERFISH (*Hydrocynus vittatus*)

Undoubtedly Rhodesia's finest sporting fish, noted for its striking appearance and fighting qualities. The Tigerfish has a streamlined silver body with black stripes, fins edged with orange, and a hard, bony head with long, razor-sharp, interlocking teeth. Average size in Lake Kariba is 3,175 kg to 4,082 kg in

rivers and other lakes, 0,907 kg to 1,814 kg. A ferocious predator.

BREAM

This is a widely accepted misnomer for many fish in the Cichlidae family, subdivided into Small-Mouth (non-predatory) and Large-Mouth (predatory) bream. These fish provide excellent sport, are good to eat, and are widely distributed in rivers, lakes and dams. The main types are:

MOZAMBIQUE BREAM (*Tilapia mossambica*): Average size in most rivers and lakes 1,361 kg. Normally non-predator, but larger specimens omnivorous. Within Lake

Kariba and the middle Zambezi, the Mozambique Bream has proved to be a different type (*T. mortimeri*) and reaches a larger size.

REDBREASTED BREAM (*T. rendalli*): Average size 0,907 kg. Redbreast most vivid in breeding season (Nov.-Jan.). Wide distribution. Weed-eater, but also predatory.

GREENHEADED BREAM (*T. macrochir*): Feeds on minute animal and vegetable organisms. Found in Lake McIlwaine and in the Zambezi River above the Victoria Falls. Average mass 0,907 kg.

YELLOWBELLY BREAM (*Serranochromis robustus*): Predatory type. Found in the Zambezi River above Victoria Falls, in Lake Kyle, near Fort Victoria, and Mazoe Dam, near Salisbury. Average size 0,454 to 0,907 kg.

Other bream the angler may encounter are the Black Bream (*T. placida*) in the lower Sabi and Lundi rivers, in the south-east of the country, and the Threespot Bream (*T. andersoni*), above Victoria Falls, Banded Bream (*T. sparrmanii*) widespread, and Green Bream (*Sargochromis codringtoni*) above the Victoria Falls and Lake Kariba.

BLACK BASS (*Micropterus salmoides*)

This fish is not native to Rhodesia, but has flourished since its introduction. Specimens over 3,629 kg have been landed at Lake Kyle, and many other dams have been stocked with this popular fish.

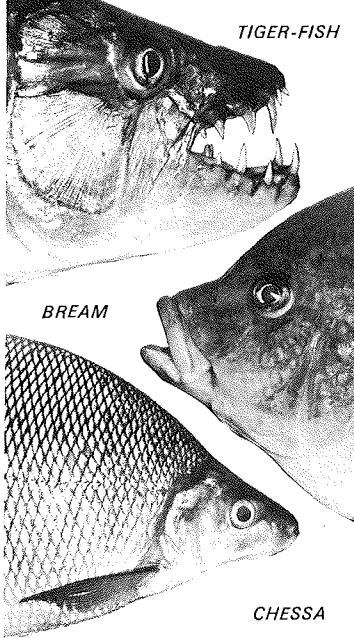
MIRROR CARP (*Cyprinus carpio*)

Although not native to Rhodesia, the carp has found conditions in Rhodesia suitable for rapid growth. The second largest carp ever caught was landed at Mazoe Dam, near Salisbury, in 1965. It weighed 24,381 kg. Not widespread but found in some dams in the Bulawayo area.

TROUT

There are three species of Trout to be found in the Eastern Highlands, all of which have been introduced from other parts of the world.

RAINBOW TROUT (*Salmo gairdneri*): Most widespread of the Trout family and a favourite sporting fish. Fish of 0,227 to 0,454 kg are usual in the streams, with fish of over 0,907 kg in the dams and lakes.



The largest rainbow trout caught in the Inyanga area weighed 3,827 kg.

BROWN TROUT (*Salmo trutta*): Considered by many to be the most wily of Trout. In the best streams of the Inyanga National Park these fish average 0,681 kg. The record is 3,175 kg.

AMERICAN BROOK TROUT (*Salvelinus fontinalis*): Not widespread, but as it is easier to catch than the Rainbow Trout or Brown Trout, it is a popular fish with beginners.

VUNDU (*Heterobranchus longifilis*)

This giant catfish, found in Lake Kariba and the Zambezi River below the lake, attains a weight of up to 45 kg. Average weights are 18 to 22 kg. A powerful fighter and the largest freshwater fish in South-Central Africa.

CHESSA (*Distichodus schenga*) and **NKUPE** (*D. mossambicus*)

Two very similar fish of the Citharinidae family, with deep, compressed bodies and small mouths. Strong fighters, providing good sport if fished for with light tackle. Usually weights of 1,361 kg (Chessa) and 2,041 kg (Nkupe) are average, but at Kariba Nkupe of 5,443 kg have been landed. Found in Lake Kariba and the Zambezi River below the lake.

HUNYANI SALMON (*Labeo altivelis*)

A good fighting fish, especially if fished for with light tackle. Found over much of the country. Attains a size up to 3,175 kg.

Other fish the angler will encounter are: Bottlenose (*Mormyrus longirostris*), average, 4,536 kg; Cornish Jack (*Mormyrops deliciosus*), average 5,443 to 6,350 kg; Barbel (*Clarias gariepinus*), above the Victoria Falls, grows to a particularly large size, 22 kg being fairly common; and Large scaled Yellowfish (*Barbus marequensis*), widespread. Smallmouth Yellowfish (*Barbus holubi*) up to 3,175 kg are found in Lake Kyle.

RHODESIAN FRESH WATER ANGLING RECORDS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Cornish Jack | 12,247 kg |
| Eastern Bottlenose | 9,973 kg |
| Tigerfish | 15,507 kg |
| Nkupe | 5,8 kg |
| Chessa | 5,103 kg |
| Large scaled Yellowfish | 3,289 kg |
| Silverfish | 1,304 kg |
| Hunyani Salmon | 3,062 kg |
| Purple Mudsucker | 4,308 kg |
| Redspotted Mudsucker | 3,402 kg |
| Silver Barbel | 0,624 kg |
| Vundu | 47,628 kg |
| Sharptoothed Barbel | 30,845 kg |
| Squeaker | 0,737 kg |
| Greenheaded Bream | 2,268 kg |
| Redbreasted Bream | 1,616 kg |
| Mozambique Bream | 3,204 kg |
| Black Bream | 1,985 kg |
| Rainbow Trout | 3,827 kg |
| Brown Trout | 3,175 kg |
| Largemouth Bass | 3,997 kg |
| Carp | 24,381 kg |
| African Mottled Eel | 8,278 kg |
| Electric Barbel | 2,409 kg |
| Tarpon | 1,361 kg |

These records are from the list compiled and regularly up-dated by the Rhodesian Fish Records Association. The association is always pleased to receive notification of any large specimens caught in Rhodesia, as well as applications for official records. The keeper of records is the Curator of the Queen Victoria Museum (also Keeper of Ichthyology), P.O. Box 8006, Causeway, Salisbury, Rhodesia.

Where to find the fish

Fishing locations are legion in Rhodesia, but the following is a general guide to areas that offer good fishing, are easily accessible on tarred highways, are within easy reach of tourist areas and offer facilities for accommodation.

THE ZAMBEZI RIVER ABOVE THE VICTORIA FALLS

Above the great Victoria Falls, the Zambezi River offers a wider variety of angling than any other single location in Rhodesia. The rapids and sandbanks, the swiftly flowing channels, sluggish lagoons and over-hanging banks offer ideal breeding grounds for many species.

Along the Rhodesian shore of the river (which is the border with Zambia) the Victoria Falls National Park stretches for 55 km above the Falls themselves. Along this bank many fishing sites are provided. One is enclosed and has an ablution block.

On the river, within sight of the spray-clouds rising thousands of metres above the 1 700-metre-wide, 100-metre-high, Victoria Falls, the angler can pit his skill against Tigerfish, up to eight varieties of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bream, Yellowfish and large Barbel.

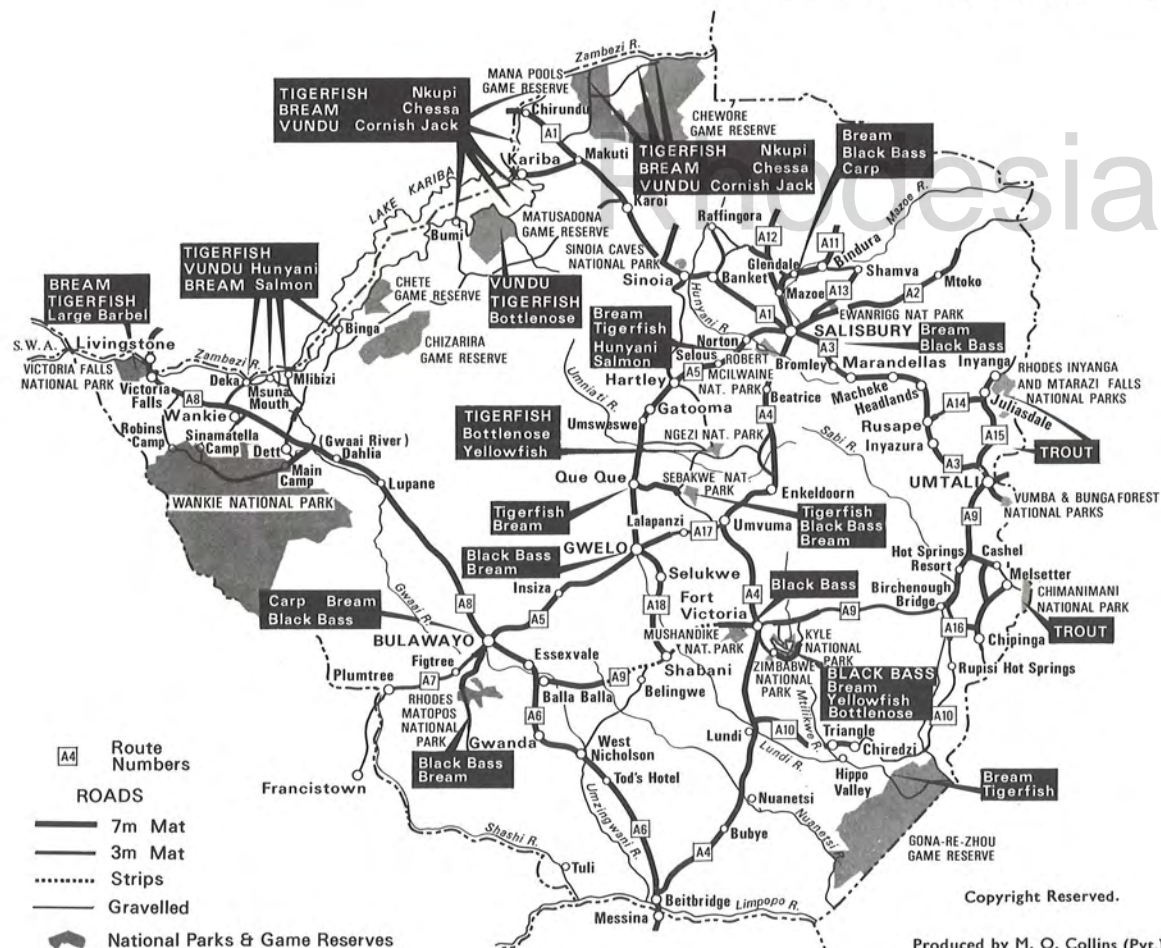
Accommodation at Victoria Falls ranges from luxury hotels (one with a Casino), to comfortable motels,

to National Park cottages and camping and caravan sites. When not fishing, the visitor may view the Falls themselves, fly over them in light aircraft, cruise up the river, or view game in the nearby national park.

THE ZAMBEZI RIVER BELOW LAKE KARIBA

After passing through the steep, inaccessible Kariba Gorge, the Zambezi River flows at a slower rate in a huge 200-kilometre curve, changing its course from north to east. Here it passes through the wooded Zambezi Valley, where large populations of big game are to be found. At Mana Pools Game Reserve, 450 kilometres north of Salisbury, the angler can combine exciting fishing with game-viewing amongst superb riverine scenery. Tigerfish, Bream, Chessa and Nkupe

Continued after Tigerfishing section



RHODESIA

Tiger-fishing at Lake Kariba





An angler returns from a morning's sport with a good catch of Tigerfish. Boats of all sizes may be hired, from small three-seaters to cabin cruisers with sleeping and dining accommodation which operate three-day fishing safaris.

AN ANGLER'S first experience with a Tigerfish is something to remember. First, this voracious predator strikes with venom and vigour. Then the acrobatics begin, with lunging dashes, high leaps out of the water accompanied with frenzied head-threshing that rattles the spoon, and often a headlong dash towards the angler that means a slack line, and often a lost fish.

The Tigerfish grows to its greatest size in Lake Kariba, the 5 250 square kilometre inland sea created when the Zambezi River was dammed at the entrance to the steep Kariba ("the trap") Gorge.

The lake, with its year-round sunshine, has become a major Rhodesian tourist attraction, for with the 129-metre-high dam wall itself, watersports, game-viewing along the shore, a crocodile farm, and superb scenery, the visitor, even if he is not an angler, finds much to see and do.

The developed area of the lake, near the dam wall and the town of Kariba, offers a wide range of sophisticated hotel and motel accommodation and tourist services, to cater for the many visitors who arrive by road (370 kilometres from Salisbury on a full-width tarred

highway) or on the daily scheduled Air Rhodesia services.

But one of the great attractions of Kariba is that the developed area is confined in an area near the dam wall, and that once one is out on the lake, or along the shore only a few miles from the town, one is in contact with an Africa that has not changed in a thousand years.

The fish eagle cries overhead, elephant and antelope graze on the lush growth along the waterline, and in the clear, unpolluted waters of the lake itself a vast population of fish exists. The prince among these is the Tigerfish, the zoological name for which—*Hydrocynus vittatus*—is translated as "striped water dog". The Tigerfish has all the virtues an angler seeks in a sporting fish: a beautiful appearance and above-average fighting qualities.

The general conformation of the fish is sleek and streamlined, its back is a blue-green, shading through shining silver sides to pink on the belly, with dark stripes running from the gills to the tail. To set off this striking combination of colours, the fins are an orange-gold. In opposition to the beauty of the body is the functional, bony

head, with its large eyes and savage mouth with razor-sharp, interlocking teeth.

Basil Hill, a leading Rhodesian angler who has had experience of catching Tigerfish in Kariba since the lake was created in 1961, gives this advice to those testing their skill against this superb fish for the first time:

"To be a successful Tigerfisherman, tackle must be in good working order. The outfit for normal Tigerfishing should consist of a semi-stiff rod between two and two-and-three-quarter metres in length, and a good multiplying or fixed spool reel capable of holding at least 183 metres of 9 kg to 11 kg line. A quick retrieve is essential, so the reel should have a gear ratio of at least three to one. A gaff, landing net and sack are necessary.

"A note of warning: always have great respect for the jaws of a Tigerfish, especially when removing the hook. A slip may result in the loss of a finger.

"Once hooked the Tigerfish fights with great speed and power, diving and leaping, shaking its head in an endeavour to throw the hook. Slack line at this stage will result in a lost fish.

"There are three proven methods for catching the Tigerfish. First, for the angler who is keen on trolling. This is done in deep water, such as the Sanyati Gorge or bush-cleared areas, when a 76 mm spoon is used, or, alternatively, a spinner with a fillet attached to a 7/0 hook. The fillet must be firmly tied on with cotton. When trolling, remember to use a keel sinker or a good ballbearing swivel to avoid twist in the line.

"The second method is "stick fishing", which produces very good results if the angler is prepared to lose a certain amount of tackle. The procedure is to tie up to a tree in 4½ to 12 metres of water and lower a small fish or fillet over the side, varying the depth. Or select a clearing in the semi-submerged

trees and spin with a spinner and fillet or small fish.

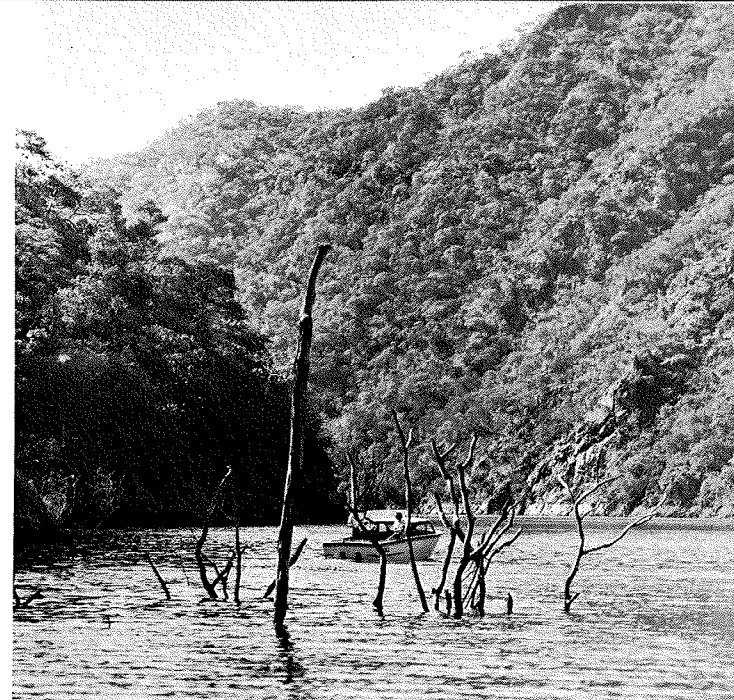
"The third method used, and one which has proved most successful, is to select an area either around submerged islands or parallel to a row of trees in the bush-cleared area. Stop the engine and let the boat drift. Then start casting and spinning, varying the distance and depth, with a spinner and fillet. The best spinner to use has a long fluted blade with a 7/0 hook attached to the end."

Kariba for the angler must be considered in two parts: *Kariba East*, which includes the town of Kariba and the area round the dam wall, the Gachegache and Sanyati basins, the Sanyati Gorge, and the lake as far as Bumi Hills; and *Kariba West*, which is the upper reaches of the lake and the Zambezi River just before it enters the lake and its tributaries, the Deka, Gwaai and Mlibizi. Both areas offer wonderful fishing, but Kariba East is a more developed area, handling as it does the greatest part of tourist traffic to the lake.

These two areas are connected by a fast, scheduled hydrofoil service. This service operates in conjunction with a car ferry, allowing the motorist to travel from Kariba to Mlibizi, and onward to Wankie and the Victoria Falls. Stopovers at fishing and touring resorts en route may be made.

At *Kariba East* there is a wide choice of accommodation, from air-conditioned hotels to caravan and camping sites. Boats can be chartered from several companies, and tackle can be hired or bought from most lakeshore establishments. At Bumi Hills, 60 kilometres uplake from Kariba town, there is a hotel specialising in fishing and game-viewing holidays. The hotel is reached by a daily launch service.

At *Kariba West* there are four resorts which cater particularly for



The fishing locations at Kariba are scenically splendid, but one of the most spectacular is the Sanyati Gorge, where boats can penetrate for 13 km from the lake itself, between steep wooded cliffs that rise on either side.

the fisherman: Deka, Mlibizi, Msuna and Binga. Deka and Msuna are reached from a turn-off from the town of Wankie, and are situated on the Zambezi River, and the river where it meets the lake, respectively. Mlibizi and Binga are situated on the lake itself, and are reached via a secondary turn-off from the main Bulawayo-Victoria Falls road 48 km south of Wankie Town. They provide chalet accommodation and caravan and camping facilities. All are liquor licensed and have stores, but both offer restaurant facilities. Boats, tackle and guides can be hired at all resorts.

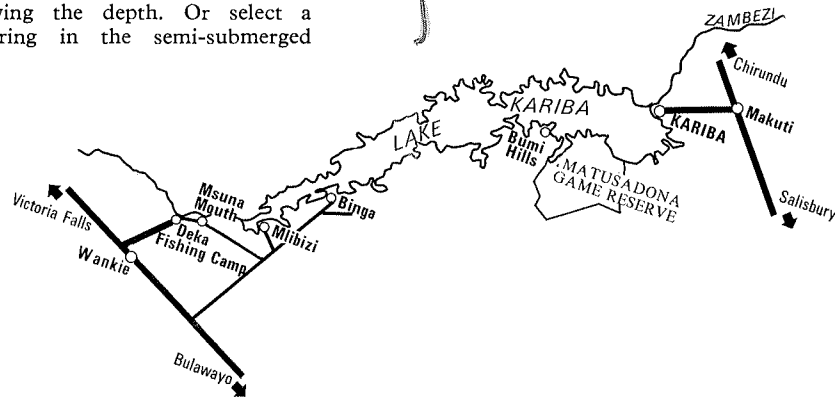
The scenery at Kariba West, as the lake narrows and the Zambezi River winds its way through the Devil's Gorge into the lake, is spectacular. Due to the undeveloped nature of the surrounding country, game-viewing here is excellent, and the colourful tribal life of the local Batonka people adds considerable interest to any visit.

Anglers who venture on to the lake in small boats are warned to remain near the shore. Lake Kariba is a vast body of water by any standards, and weather conditions are subject to rapid change. The visitor is required to notify the hotel or motel where his boat is

moored of his departure time and the time he expects to return. Larger boats, with radios, are required to maintain contact with the Lake Navigation Control and Lake Safety offices at Kariba town, Sinamwenda and Binga.

One of the Africa's major fishing tournaments is held annually at Kariba, devoted entirely to the catching of Tigerfish. Held in late September or early October at Kariba East, it is a team event which in 1972 attracted 356 anglers from many countries. The average catch of Tigerfish during the three-day contest is 2 267 kg and the record single fish caught weighed 9,242 kg. ■

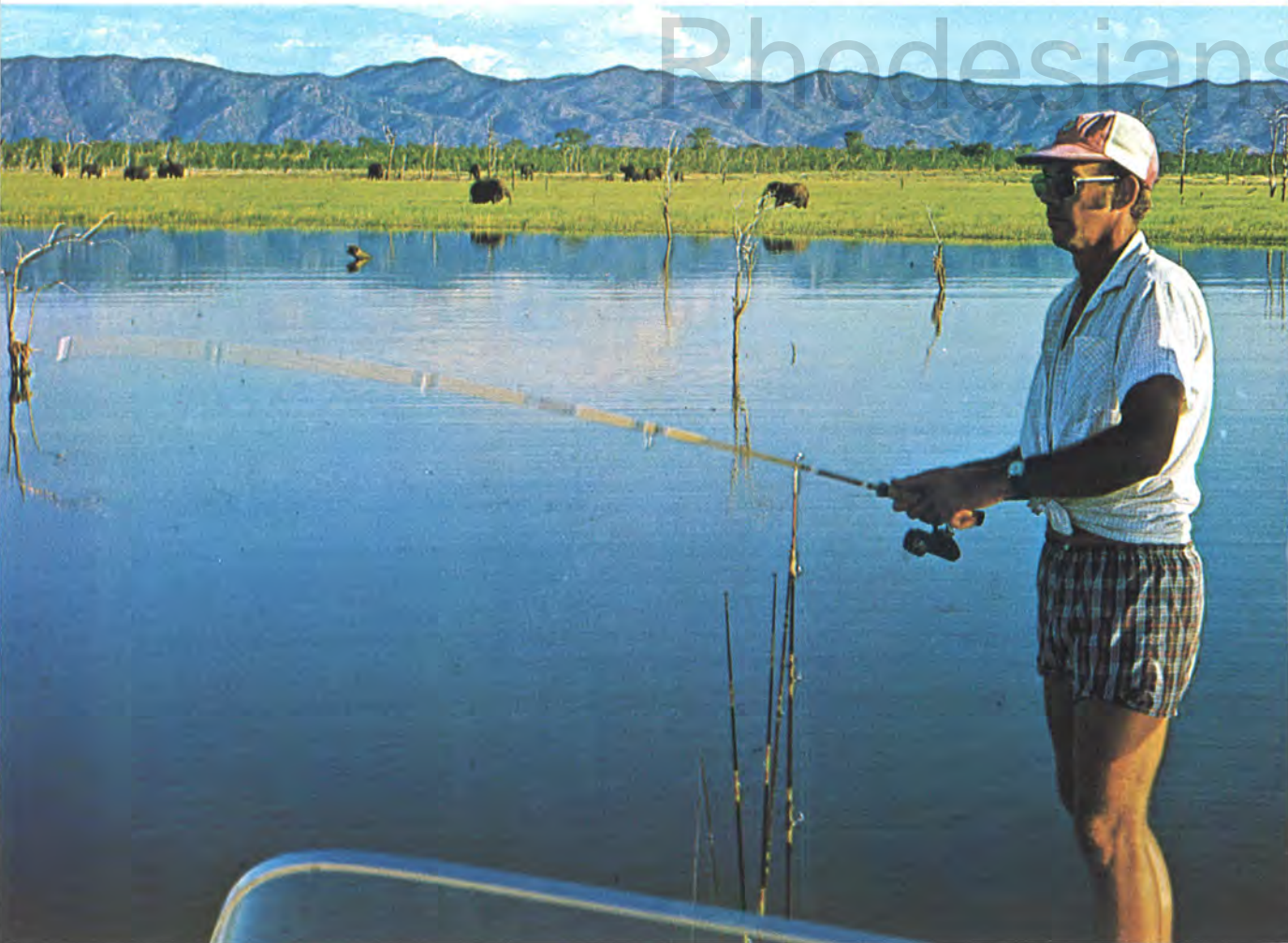
Of course, Tigerfish are not the only fish the angler will catch at Kariba. Others which are great favourites with local fishermen are the many types of Bream (Tilapia), Chessa, Nkupe, the giant catfish known locally as the Vundu (up to 45 kg), Bottlenose and Cornish Jack, to mention only a few. Tigerfish also occur in the Zambezi River above the Victoria Falls and below Lake Kariba, and in rivers and lakes elsewhere in Rhodesia, though they do not grow to such a large size.





Left: Visitors wishing to gain a closer view of the 129-metre-high dam wall may do so by applying for permission at the Rhodesian border post. This allows them to proceed to the abutment on the southern side of the wall, where views down the Kariba gorge can also be obtained.

Below: Where else in the world can an angler fish within sight of a herd of elephant grazing on lush, lakeshore vegetation. This picture was taken near the shore of the Matusadona Game Reserve across the lake from Kariba town.



ZAMBEZI RIVER *cont.*

are prolific, with Cornish Jack and Vundu also present.

Accommodation is provided at a Tree Lodge, National Park lodges, and camping and caravan sites along the river bank. Anglers are warned to take care, for Mana Pools Game Reserve is well populated with crocodile and hippo in the river itself, and elephant, buffalo and many species of game on the banks and in the surrounding area.

SALISBURY AREA

Good Black Bass and Bream fishing can be had in the Cleveland and Prince Edward dams close to the city. The dams are under the jurisdiction of the Salisbury & District Angling Society, and permits to fish in Cleveland, at 50 cents per person per day, are obtainable at any fishing-tackle dealer.

Thirty-eight km from the city, on the main Bulawayo road, Lake McIlwaine provides good Tigerfish, Bream (3 species), Barbel, Hunyani Salmon and Bottlenose sport. The largest Tigerfish recorded weighed 7,370 kg and a Bream of 3,373 kg has been landed.

At week-ends, the clubs and boat stations of this national park bustle with activity, but boats can be hired throughout the week. Fishing fees are very reasonable.

On the southern shore of the lake is a game park.

Thirty-two km from Salisbury, on a fine broad road into the hills north of the capital, one of the country's loveliest dams—the Mazoe Dam—offers three and a quarter km of



shoreline from which to fish for Black Bass and Carp, as well as Bream and Yellowfish. The present Rhodesian and South African record Carp was caught in these waters: it weighed 24,381 kg. This is the second largest Carp ever officially recorded anywhere in the world. The largest Black Bass landed weighed about 3,175 kg.

A fee of 25 cents per angler is payable to the African warden who patrols the dam.

LAKE KARIBA

At Kariba, amid superb scenic surroundings, the angler will enjoy angling for Rhodesia's largest Tigerfish and Bream, as well as Vundu, Chessa, Nkupe, Bottlenose, Barbel and Hunyani Salmon.

See Tigerfish section for details of Lake Kariba.

Within the Rhodes Matopos National Park, the angler may stay in National Parks accommodation, some of which overlooks the stocked dams, such as this lodge at Maleme.

BULAWAYO AREA

The Rhodes Matopos National Park, with its fish-stocked dams constructed in most picturesque settings, offers angling for Bream, Bass, Silverfish, Yellowfish and Barbel. The main fishing-dams are Matopos on the border of the park (with all the mentioned species and Carp), Mpopoma, Toghwana, Maleme, Mesilumu and Mtshelili.

Maleme Dam, a beautiful 17 hectare reach of water cradled in a narrow valley between wooded hills, is especially inviting because comfortable accommodation in the form of attractive thatched National Park cottages is available there, as well as very good camping and caravanning facilities.

The Matopos, with its rugged scenery of granite rocks, a game reserve where white rhino and a wide variety of antelope may be seen, rock paintings, and Cecil Rhodes's grave, is a concentrated and varied tourist area.

East of Bulawayo are Ncema and Umzingwane dams (Bream, Barbel, Yellowfish) and Inyankuni dam (Bass, Bream and Barbel).

The Upper Hillside Dam, six kilometres south of Bulawayo is stocked with Black Bass and Bream. The Lower Ungusa Dam, 14 kilometres north of Bulawayo, provides the area's best Bream, Barbel and

International fishing competitions

There are two major international angling tournaments held in Rhodesia each year. Both are team events.

At Kariba there is tournament exclusively for Tigerfish and at Lake Kyle a similar contest for Black Bass.

The International Tigerfish Tournament is held each year towards the end of September at the Rhodesia National Anglers' Union site at Charara, a few kilometres from the town of Kariba.

During the 1972 contest, 356 anglers from many countries participated. The average catch of Tigerfish during the three-day contest is over 2 267 kg and the largest Tigerfish caught during any contest was a 9,242 kg specimen

landed in 1964.

Details of the tournament are available from the Secretary, International Tigerfish Tournament, P.O. Box 8062, Causeway, Salisbury.

At Lake Kyle, near Fort Victoria and the Zimbabwe Ruins, the 1973 Kyle International Bass Fishing Tournament is being held towards the end of July. During the 1972 tournament 352 anglers took part, catching 309 kg of Black Bass. The largest specimen caught was 3,288 kg.

Details of the tournament are available from the Director, Fort Victoria/Zimbabwe Publicity Association, P.O. Box 340, Fort Victoria.

Carp fishing, while Khami Dam, 21 kilometres west of Bulawayo, offers good Bream, Carp and Barbel fishing.

MIDLANDS

The Que Que district is well endowed with fishing waters. The Umniati, flowing north to Lake Kariba, is the principal river, and its large tributaries—the Ngezi, Umsweswe, Sebakwe and Kwe Kwe—offer many secluded fishing spots to be discovered by the exploring angler. The 580-hectare Ngezi Dam in the Ngezi National Park and Lake Sebakwe (1 518 hectares), in the Sebakwe National Park, have also been developed as fishing-waters. Ngezi offers good sport for Tigerfish, Yellowfish and Bottlenose, and at Sebakwe, Black Bass, Tigerfish and Bream may be found. National Park accommodation, and caravan and camping facilities, are available at both national parks.

Closer to Que Que itself are the smaller dams of Cactus Poort and Dutchman's Pool, the last-named being extremely popular. Upstream of Cactus Poort, on the Kwe Kwe River, the Whitewaters Dam serves fishermen from Gwelo, as does the Ngamo Dam: they are stocked with Bream, Black Bass and Yellowfish.

FORT VICTORIA

Twenty-five miles from Fort Victoria is 91-square-kilometre Lake Kyle, Rhodesia's largest lake after Kariba. Here excellent Black Bass and Bream fishing can be had. Bass over 2,722 kg are becoming quite common, while the Bream average 0,681 kg.

Similar fishing is available at Mushandike Dam, 16 km west of Fort Victoria.

Among other projects, interesting work is being carried out at the Lake Kyle Fish Research Station on the introduction of breeding species, including the Smallmouth Yellowfish. This fish can grow to over 9 kg in weight and has excellent sporting properties. Catches of Yellowfish have already been reported.

EASTERN HIGHLANDS

The angler in search of Trout in Rhodesia will find his sport lodged in beautiful surroundings, for most of the country's fishing is confined to the magnificent downlands and mountains on Rhodesia's eastern border, notably in the Inyanga region. The cold, steeply-falling



The fisherman will find Rhodesia's waters pleasantly uncrowded, and scenically varied. Above is a view of Lake Sebakwe in the Midlands area, near Que Que.

streams and the attractive man-made lakes (like Troutbeck Lake and Loch Moodie, which are hotel-owned, and Mare, Rhodes, and Purdon dams and Lake Gulliver in the Rhodes Inyanga National Park) provide an ideal stronghold for Rainbow and Brown Trout, the former being the most common species.

A constant restocking and management programme is maintained, and when necessary, large numbers of trout fingerlings are released into the Pungwe, Inyangombe, Marora and Mare rivers, as well as into some of their small tributaries. At the Mare Dam and Rhodes Dam a management programme is main-

tained to ensure good fishing throughout the year. In the Purdon Dam and Lake Gulliver are found some of the largest fish in the national park waters. Over 8 000 fish were taken from dams and rivers in the national park during the 1971/72 season, including fish of over 1,814 kg.

There are also private lakes and streams in the Inyanga area, where visiting anglers may fish on payment of fees. At Troutbeck Inn and Montclair Hotel, private lakes are stocked for the benefit of the hotels' guests.

The Inyanga area offers a choice of hotels, as well as National Parks lodges and cottages, and caravan and camping facilities.

There is good trout fishing also at Lake Alexander, 37 kilometres north of the eastern mountains centre of Umtali. But perhaps the most spectacular setting for trout fishing exists in the Chimanimani National Park, set high in the Chimanimani Mountains, near the village of Melsetter. Access is on foot (there is no road into the mountains) and accommodation is in a mountain chalet with dormitories. The fishing here is excellent. It is a place for a real enthusiast and lover of the remote and lonely.

Fly only, dry or wet, is the rule for all trout fishing, some of the favourites being Walker's Killer, Wilber, Wildcat, Coachman, Kemp's Favourite, Invicta and Coch-y-Bondhu.

Fishing other than for trout in this eastern region can be had 8 km from Umtali at Fern Valley Lake,

which is stocked with Bream, Black Bass and Tigerfish, amongst other species.

SOUTH-EASTERN LOWVELD

This is an area that in many ways typifies Rhodesia, for adjacent to each other are vast agricultural estates established on land only recently converted from virgin bush, and uninhabited country teeming with wild animals.

Through this area, less than 1 000 metres above sea level, flow the Lundi, Chiredzi and Sabi rivers. At Chipinda Pools, and below the attractive Chiribira Falls on the Sabi and the Selawandoma Falls on the Lundi, the fishing is good for Tigerfish, three species of Bream, Bottlenose and Yellowfish. At the confluence of the Sabi and Lundi the river widens and here Tarpon and Sawfish have been occasionally caught.

Much of the fishing in the Lowveld is within the Gona-re-Zhou Game Reserve, where caravan and camping facilities are available. The nearest hotel is at Chiredzi, within 24 kilometres of some of the fishing waters.

Fishing clubs

There are 56 angling clubs in Rhodesia, representing 10 000 individual fishermen. The largest club is the Rhodesia Angling Society, with its headquarters in Bulawayo, which has an estimated membership of 3 000. The national body is the Rhodesia National Anglers' Union.

The visiting angler may well wish to contact the angling clubs along his route, for there is no substitute for local knowledge of fishing conditions and locations. The visitor will find he always receives a warm welcome.

Some clubs have private premises on lakes and rivers, and also control stretches of good fishing water near the towns and cities. To mention a few: Salisbury and District Angling Society have premises at Lake McIlwaine, Fort Victoria and District Angling Club at Lake Kyle, Wankie Angling Club at the confluence of the Zambezi and Deka rivers, and the Rhodesian Anglers' Union at Charara, near Kariba town.

Fishing seasons and licences

Only for trout fishing is there a set fishing season in Rhodesia. In lakes and rivers outside the trout fishing areas the "season" is determined by the climate. As the weather becomes colder, the fish require less food, and "go off the bite". However, due to the variations in altitude in Rhodesia, even in the middle of winter the temperatures at Lake Kariba, the Zambezi River below the lake, and the South-Eastern Lowveld are high enough to allow year-round sport.

The trout fishing season at Inyanga is: in Mare Dam and Rhodes Dam, all year round; in the rivers, streams and other dams from 1st November to 31st May. In the Chimanimani National Park the season runs from 1st October to 30th April.

The "winter", or cool season, in Rhodesia is from the middle of May to the middle of August.

Trout fishing in Rhodesia is the cheapest in the world. At Inyanga the charges for rivers, streams Rhodes Dam and Mare Dam are: daily, 50

cents; weekly, \$2; and monthly \$4. At Lake Gulliver the charge is \$2 per day, and Purdon Dam \$1 per day. At the Chimanimani National Park the charges are: daily, \$1; weekly, \$4; and monthly, \$8.

Permits are available from the local wardens' offices at Inyanga and Melsetter and visitors should ascertain current regulations and conditions from these offices.

Fishing in the Zambezi River along its complete length (including Lake Kariba) is free.

At Lake McIlwaine, Lake Kyle, the Matopos dams and other waters within national parks, permits must be obtained in advance of fishing. Charges for fishing in these waters are (approximately): per day, 20 cents; per week, \$1; and per month, \$2.

Near the towns and cities there are private dams and stretches of rivers which are leased by fishing clubs. Details of these and the nominal charges imposed are available from tackle shops in the individual areas.

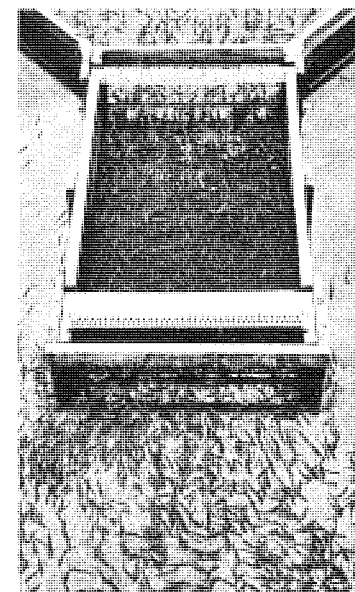
Trout hatchery

Fishery research and development is carried out in Rhodesia by the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management. One of the most fascinating aspects of their work is undertaken at the Trout Hatchery just downstream from the Mare Dam, in the Rhodes Inyanga National Park.

Here, in large ponds, thousands of Rainbow, Brown and Brook Trout are reared, for release into national park waters and private lakes. The public is permitted to visit the hatchery on Mondays to Fridays at 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sundays at 9 a.m. to noon, 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The sight of the water being lashed into a foam by a thousand fish as food pellets are thrown into the ponds is something to be remembered.

The Department also maintains a Fisheries Research Institute at Kariba, and fish research stations at Lake Kyle, Rhodes Matopos National Park and Lake McIlwaine.



A fascinating sight for any ardent fisherman: thousands of trout fingerlings in one of the grading ponds at the National Parks trout hatchery in the Rhodes Inyanga National Park. Thousands of fish are reared here for release into the park's many streams and rivers and the Mare Dam.



Above: On the Zambezi River, a few kilometres above the Victoria Falls

Below: Lake Kyle is Rhodesia's premier Black Bass fishing venue.

Right: A Vundu, caught at Msuna, Kariba West.

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