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Issue 292



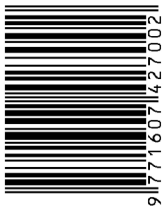
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Understanding Pressured Bass Behaviour | Loskopdam, A Forever Resort | About Homer Circle | Forward-facing Sonar | Meet Troy Batty
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Contact Numbers:	Office: (065) 849 3264, Alternative: (083) 306 2718
Website:	www.sabass.com
Facebook:	SA BASS Magazine
Editor:	Hannes Lindeque – hannes@sabass.com
Assistant editor:	Philip Kemp – philip@sabass.com
Advertising Manager:	Wilma Lindeque – wilma@sabass.com
Subscriptions:	Hannes Lindeque – hannes@sabass.com
Digital subscriptions:	www.magzter.com
Layout and Design:	Storm Deezigns - dee@stormdeezigns.co.za

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SA BASS, which is editorially and financially independent, is a monthly magazine catering exclusively for the bass angling community in Southern Africa. SA BASS is distributed country-wide to outlets, not only in South Africa, but also in Namibia, Swaziland and Botswana.

SA BASS is designed as a specialist bass fishing publication and has catered for a well-defined niche market since April 2001. It enjoys the support and endorsement of non-government organisations, but is not affiliated in any way to these bodies or to any other publishing, environmental or political interest group.

Our mission is to promote bass angling as a socially acceptable and popular outdoor recreational activity, and in addition, to encourage acceptable angling ethics. As such, SA BASS provides pertinent information on a wide range of subjects. These include providing a platform for informed debate on issues affecting the sport of bass angling, providing information on bass angling strategies and techniques, bass angling waters and opportunities, and also creating awareness of new products.

Within this editorial mix, due consideration is given to developing the sport among all the country's people (including the youth), and to the practical conservation of the country's natural resources.

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Bass will use these secondary edge corridors to move or transition between one area to the next so the percentage of fish been present here will always be higher – Jay Röhm-Williams



How to use QR-codes

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2. Keep a steady hand while the QR-code is centred on the screen.
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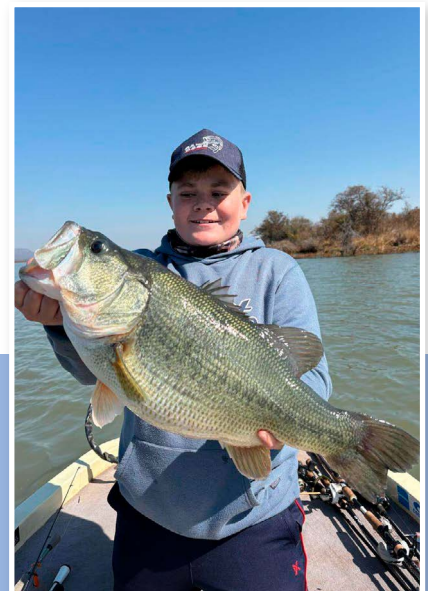
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“3,720kg, Adrian Viljoen, Rhenosterkop Dam, MP”
Image: Maurice Kemp



My Cast



As the waters begin to warm and nature stirs into motion, bass anglers know exactly what this season means: pre-spawn. It's the time when the fish are hungry, aggressive, and on the move, making it one of the most thrilling windows on the fishing calendar. This issue celebrates that energy, while also taking you on journeys across South Africa's finest fishing and leisure

destinations.

We start with a look at ATKV Buffelspoort, a Magaliesberg gem where anglers and families alike can find their perfect balance of adventure and relaxation. Further afield, the Crown River Safari Private Game Reserve offers an Eastern Cape escape where exclusivity and superior bass fishing meet. And of course, we revisit Loskopdam, A Forever Resort, a place where paradise is shared equally by anglers and holidaymakers.

For those hungry to sharpen their skills, we dive into the science and art of targeting bass during pre-spawn. Our Crash Course breaks down where to find them, when to strike, and what lures to trust. We also take a closer look at structure and behaviour: how the 45° slope can give you an edge, and why the second defined edge often holds more bass than you might expect. To add to that, we examine the game-changing role of forward-facing sonar in competitive angling, an innovation that has divided opinion and reshaped the sport.

This issue also pays tribute to legends and leaders. In Hall of Fame, we reflect on the life and legacy of Homer Circle,

whose wisdom stretched beyond the cast. We also sit down with Troy Batty, one of South Africa's top competitive anglers, to hear firsthand what it takes to rise through the ranks.

And finally, because fishing culture is as much about people as it is about the catch, we open the debate around Hook-&-Cook: should bass always be released, or is there still a place for the panfire tradition?

Whether you're here to fine-tune your techniques, plan your next waterside getaway, or simply immerse yourself in the stories of those who shaped our sport, this issue promises to deliver.

Pre-spawn is calling, and may your lines sing with joy!

Hannes Lindeque, *Publisher*

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A 45° rip-rap sections can hold a lot of fish

TARGETING THE 45° SLOPE

Gaining advantage through angles

>> Jay Röhm-Williams



Work that slanted slope properly

Sloping banks have always been notorious target locations for bass anglers during any season. They might not always be easy to find but when you do come across a good stretch of underwater, sloping terrain it be wise not to overlook it. This could not be better advice to follow than now with spring fast approaching and if you want to capitalise on some solid hook ups then best pay attention to them.

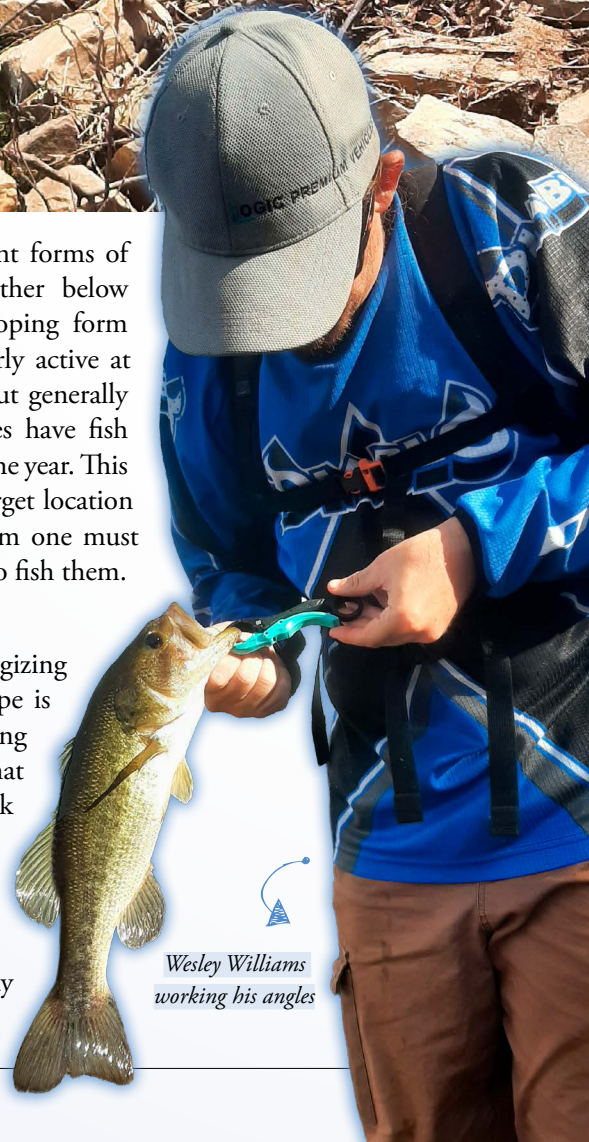
There are a few reasons why the old, trusted forty-five degree slope can be your saving grace when the bite grinds down. However the main factor behind this slanted banks success for holding bass is the simplicity it allows for transition between shallow and deep water. If you know your quarry then you will very well understand that bass love convenience, especially larger fish. The forty-five degree angled bank allows for just that whether it's for hunting, finding comfortable water temperatures or just plain moving from one area to the next.

This particular layout of underwater structure can be found in numerous areas around any

venue. It may have different forms of cover around it too whether below or above as well. Each sloping form of terrain can be particularly active at various stages of the day but generally speaking will in most cases have fish utilising them throughout the year. This makes them a real go-to target location but in order to master them one must figure out where and how to fish them.

Cover

When it comes to strategizing which forty-five degree slope is going to be worth targeting first we must consider what cover is available. If it's thick or scarce vegetation close to the shoreline then there's a good chance the fish will pull up in those low light times of the day to feed. If it is open water



Wesley Williams working his angles

with a rocky floor then we can assume the bass will be in a more suspended depth of the water column idling or on the move. Slopes with underwater grass provide deeper cover so bass might favour hanging closer to the bottom away from the light of day. It's a game of chance of course but never underestimate the value of cover present around these sloping banks as they hold valuable clues.

Depth

So if you haven't figured out by now that depth is a major role player in bass fishing factors then you will learn quickly. The great thing about a forty-five degree slope is that it covers all three main depths in one location. Generally speaking these angled banks start off shallow and then gradually taper off down into deeper water. They can consist of a variety of mixed substrates which can be more favourable to bass at different times of the year. In the colder months we can assume the fish will be sitting deeper at the end of the slope and up shallow in the warmer months. Time of day also has an effect on when the fish will be active at which depth along the slope so it is important to stay mindful while fishing.

Food

If there's prey around to eat then it's safe to say the bass will be somewhere in the vicinity as well. Shallow water closer to the bank is where creatures like frogs, lizards and insects are most likely to be found. In comparison baitfish favour the shallow to medium water on a slope for safety and to feed as well. Bass are well aware of where their prey like to reside so they know that forty-five degree slopes offer food advantages. It also takes less effort to ambush food sources from a shorter distance up against a sloping bank than to give chase through open water.

Temperature

At any time of the day during whichever season the water temperature will change along a sloping shoreline. What cover and substrate below will also add towards the fluctuating water temperature which is highly significant. Rocky, harder bottom areas on forty-five degree bank will hold more heat in the afternoon especially during winter. Shallow sandy bottom shorelines will be better for nesting during the spring. Areas with more cover like laydowns and timber stacks offer more shade during the heat of summer. Aquatic vegetation will offer shelter throughout the day and provide more oxygen to the water. A slanted slope offers bass the option of deciding which depth in the water column will be more comfortable for them to choose from and they will take advantage of that as they please.

All in all a forty-five degree slope on the shoreline is a great and magical place to target fish no matter what the season. Whether they are located in a channel, off a point, along rip rap sections or just in an open bay either way there will most likely be fish hovering around close by. Choosing your approach, which slope is worth targeting first and how to fish it boils down to how well you know your surroundings and in turn how bass behave under



A 45° grassy bank like this has so much to offer

such conditions. There are numerous baits that work well in these scenarios from bottom bouncing jigs, weightless soft plastics, spinner bladed lures and crank baits. It just depends on the conditions of the day and what each slope has to offer in the means of cover or depth. Fishing across these sloping banks can offer a higher percentage of hook ups allowing your lure more time in the strike zone as bass love to patrol from side to side along such slopes.

Spring time is fast approaching and you can bet those bass anglers that gave the colder months a break will be back on the water soon. The advantage an all year bass angler has over them is that they never let the dust settle once and a on the go angler is always better than one who is just warming up again. If you let the forty-five angled slope be your game changer in the future you can kiss "Hail Mary" casts goodbye.

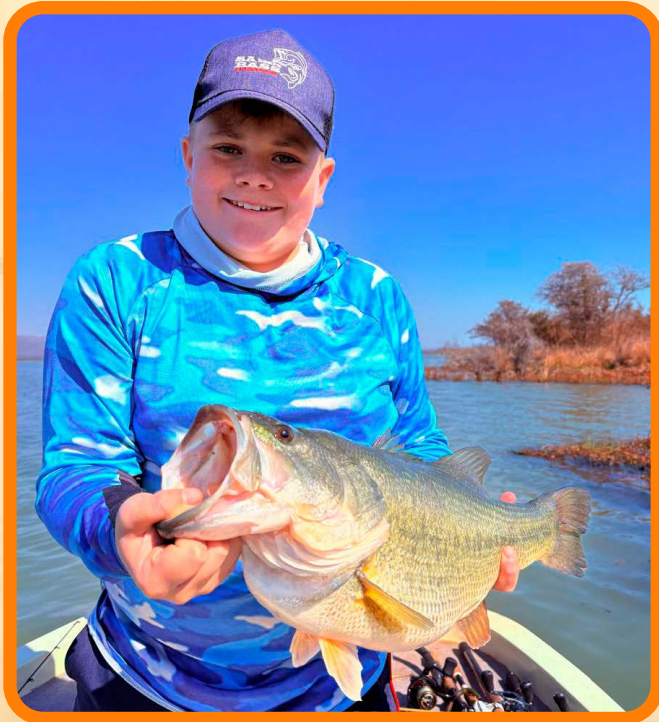
Rods out and safe fishing everyone! 🎣



A rocky angled slope paying off nicely

READERS GO BASSING

To feature in "Readers go Bassing" send your story and pictures to editor@sabass.com
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OPSOEK NA 'N PB

Ek het besluit dat in plaas van 'n dertiende verjaarsdag partytjie wil ek graag eerder op 'n bass-boot op Rhenosterkopdam saam met Maurice Kemp gaan visvang.

Toe; op 15 Julie, besluit ons om saam met MK Fishing Academy Rhenosterkopdam te besoek. Dit was 'n mooi sonnige dag gewees.

Oppad dam toe het ons gesels en het ek genoem dat ek graag my PB (persoonlike beste) wil verbeter. By die dam aangekom, het ek besluit om 'n chatterbait te gooi en na geen byte nie, het ek my kunsas verander na 'n Tour Grade Strike King spinnerbait. Ek het daai spinnerbait gegooi dat dit bars.

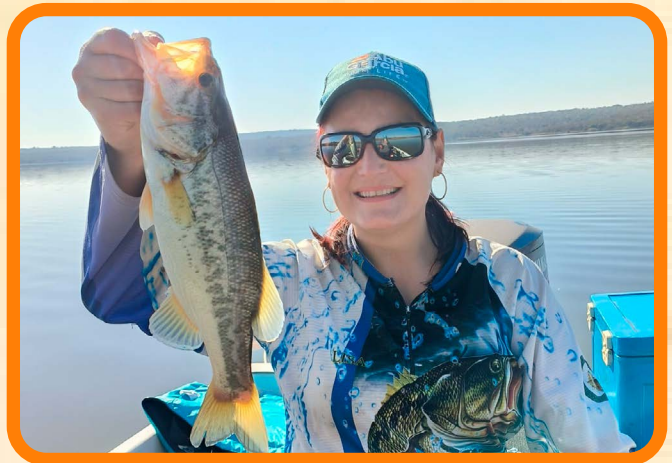
'n Paar ure later het Maurice besluit dat ons 'n ander area moet probeer en ook ons tegnieke aanpas.

Ons kom toe by 'n klein inham by die dam se inloop en ek besluit om maar net aan te hou met die spinnerbait. Ek het spinnerbait teen die riete gegooi, ge-"slow roll" en BOOM!

Daar slaan 'n 3.72kg bass my aas sowat 5m van die boot af. Na 'n groot bakleiery tussen my en die vis was sy uiteindelik veilig in die skepnet. Ek kon my oë nie glo nie. Ek het nog nooit so 'n groot baars eers gesien nie.

Na 'n paar mooi fotos het ons haar weer vrygelaat en het sy in die dieptes verdwyn. Dit was 'n ongelooflike ervaring wat ek altyd sal onthou en wil dit graag weer doen.

– *Adrian Viljoen*



WENNER

Ek het nooit gedink 'n stok en 'n katrol kan my lewe verander nie en het ook nooit gedink basshengel sou my so vasvang nie. Dit alles oor een man... my man!

Ek het die afgelope naweek eerste plek behaal met 'n vis wat regtig nie te groot was nie, die vis het 1,23kg geweeg. In totaal het ek ses visse geland. Ek het die kante van 'n graslyn in 6 tot 10 voet diep water gehengel met 'n Berkley Maxent 4" Hit Worm Green Pumpkin aan 'n Texas-strop. Omrede die watertemperatuur ongeveer 14°C was, het ek die aas baie stadig ingebring – *Lisa labuschagne*



LOSKOPDAM

Wat 'n naweek! Ek en my man, Francois Joubert, het saam met vriende by Marulani oorgebly vir 'n hengelnaweek wat

ons lank sou onthou. Saterdagoggend, 14 Junie 2025, was ons al met sonop op die water – ons op ons boot en hulle op hulle s'n. Soos regte hengelaars, het elkeen sy eie roete gekies, vasbeslote om iets besonder te vang.

Die oggend het stadig begin. Francois het darem 'n mooi 1.6kg bass geland, maar daarna was dit stil... amper te stil. Net 'n paar klein visse hier en daar, niks wat die hart vinniger laat klop nie.

Later die middag het ons 'n oewer gevind waar ons op 'n skool groot bass afgekom het. Ons het besluit om slim te speel en hulle nie te laat skrik nie. Ons het eers die oewer gehengel en toe met 'n plan teruggekeer. Toe verander ons na 'n Strike King Dream Shot kunsas.

Ek het my kunsas so naby aan die kant as moontlik gegooi, dit laat sak en stadig ingebring. Met die tweede gooi... kliek. Ek haak vas... maar toe trek die lyn styf en ek besef; dis 'n vettie!

Die adrenalien skiet deur my lyf. Ek het nie die hoek behoorlik geset nie, so ek moes gefokus bly. Intussen hoor ek Francois se stem:

“Sak jou stok!

Hou die lyn styf!

Moenie laat sy spring nie!”

Dis toe dat die werklike drama begin... Sy kom nader aan die boot, draai mooi teen ons rooi boot, en toe slaan die vrees my! Wat as ek haar nou verloor? Maar na nog 'n goeie stoei, en een mooi skep, was sy in die boot!

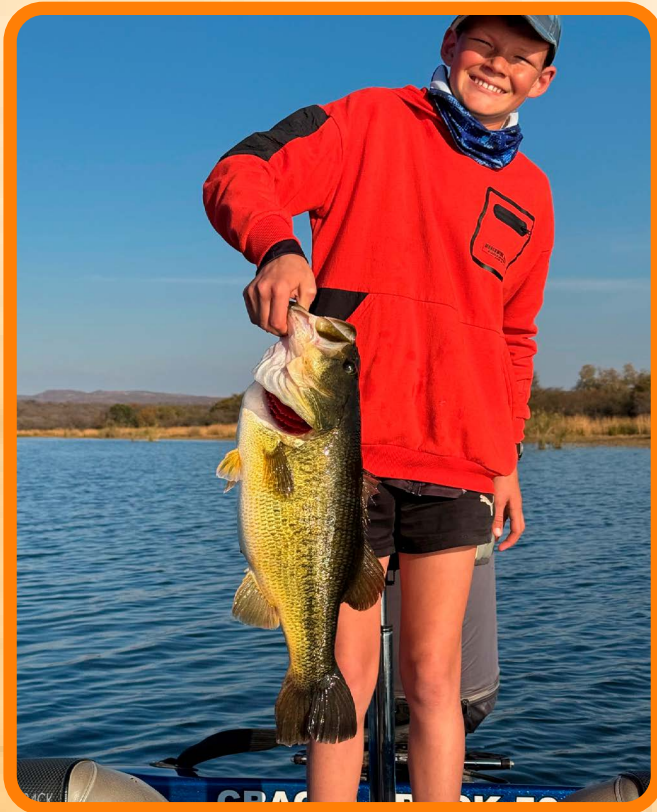
Francois het die skaal uitgehaal en ek staan op die punt van my tone. Hy kyk na my en sê, “Raai.” Ek's soos, “Nee man, sê nou net!” 2.5kg!

Ek het al só lank probeer om oor die 2kg-merk te kom, en toe gebeur dit. My PB, my droomvis.

Die opgewondenheid, adrenalien en trane van blydschap was alles daar. 'n Foto later, en sy was weer mooi terug in die water gesit – gesond en sterk.

Wat 'n dag. Wat 'n vis. Wat 'n herinnering.

– *Izaan Joubert*

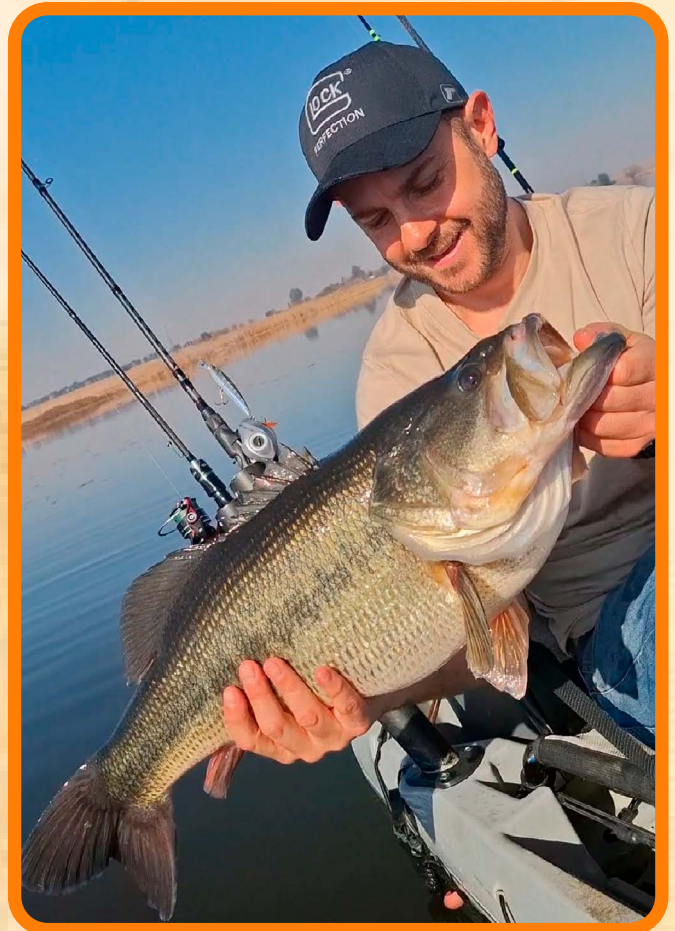


ARABIE

Our son, Roulph Nel Junior, had this great catch last weekend Saturday. We were so excited for this catch and wanted to share it with the readers.

It was a sunny late afternoon at Arabie Dam. Roulph was fishing shallow waters, targeting a rocky area with a Goozan Craw bait on a light Texas rig. He caught about 30 fish for the day of which this 4.165kg was the heaviest and his new PB.

As we understand this is one of maybe three heaviest bass ever caught in Arabie so far. She was safely released after the picture was taken – *Jacoline Nel*



BRONKIES

I was fortunate enough to land this 4kg black bass on a chilly winter morning at Bronkhorstspuit Dam. I was drop shotting chartreuse Brush Hogs around isolated grass beds, in about 4 to 6 meters of water, when I felt the line go tight. It was pleasantly surprising when the “grass bed” I had snagged began to swim towards deeper water. Thinking it was a carp or barbel, I played it very gently on my BFS ultra light setup with 9lb braid and leader. What a fight, and what a memorable experience, particularly for that body of water – *Ross Solomons*

South Africa's Top Competitive Bass Anglers

TROY BATTY (19-07-1964)

Bass fishing in South Africa has grown into a fiercely competitive sport, with top anglers constantly pushing the limits of skill, strategy, and innovation. In this exclusive series, we sit down with some of the country's best competitive bass anglers to gain insight into their journeys, techniques, and what it takes to succeed at the highest level.

From tournament-winning strategies to personal stories, gear preferences, and industry insights, these interviews provide a rare glimpse into the minds of the anglers who dominate South Africa's bass fishing scene. Whether you're an aspiring tournament angler, a weekend warrior, or simply a fan of the sport, this series will bring you closer to the action and the people who live for it.

BACKGROUND & PERSONAL JOURNEY

1. What is your occupation?

I'm small business owner

2. How did you get started in bass fishing?

When I was 10 years old my dad and older brother took me bass fishing with them to a dam outside Bulawayo named Inyankuni Dam. It the first time bass fishing for all of us, as we normally fished for bream and tiger fish on the Zambezi River and Lake Kariba.

3. Who or what inspired you to become a competitive angler?

My father represented what was then Rhodesia in 1979 to the BASS USA Central States tournament. He met Ray Scott, the founder of B.A.S.S., and Ray Scott came to Bulawayo to promote B.A.S.S. This all inspired me to one day make the National Team to fish in America

4. What was the turning point when you realized you could actually compete in tournaments?

I fished a number of junior competitions with some success and grew to love the challenge and excitement of competitive bass fishing

5. Can you share a memorable moment from your early fishing days?

I was about 14 years old and fished a big tournament called the Inyankuni Classic with the late Gerry Leach who at the time was the President of B.A.S.S. Zimbabwe. I had chosen to throw a broken back Rebel lure that my dad had brought back from the States. This lure turned out to be deadly on the weekend and we won the tournament

COMPETITIVE FISHING & STRATEGY

6. How do you prepare for a big tournament?

If I manage to pre fish I will try to get an idea of dam levels, water clarity and limit the number of fish I catch. Catch a fish and move out the area. I re tie all my baits and check line quality.

7. What's your go-to strategy when facing unfamiliar waters?

I would throw baits I have confidence in then target attractive banks that have structure be it rock or weed or reeds. Look for secondary points, changes in bank structure, that is rock to sand or reeds, or small river inlets. If the dam has no visible structure, then using electronics, I would look for drop offs and humps. Power-fish the best looking areas.



8. Do you have a favourite lure or technique that consistently produces results?

My favourite lure would be a punching rig, heavy weight and craw, braided line, pitching into reeds or weed piles. When the bass hits a punching rig, the rod comes alive and the fight is fast and exhilarating.

9. What's the biggest challenge in competitive bass fishing?

The biggest challenge in a tournament is not to get down on yourself. Sometimes it can get very slow and tough. I have caught the biggest fish in a tournament that produced the biggest bag on my last cast. A day at Rust de Winter Dam when it was so tough I had considered going into the weigh-in 30 minutes earlier. Never give up no matter how tough it seems.

10. How do you handle pressure and competition on the water?

I generally power-fish so I sometimes have to slow down or down size or even look for the reaction bite but something different in technique or colour will get the bite. I try to cover banks, possibly where no one has fished

TOURNAMENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

11. How many years have you been competing in the SA BASS Cast-for-Cash bass angling tournament trial?

13 years

12. What has been your most memorable tournament win or experience?

The most memorable tournament win in recent years would be a MLF Gauteng tournament at Rust de Winter Dam, I was fishing with my son Bryn and we got onto a crankbait bite whereby we were culling 1.5 kg fish. We ended with a 10kg plus bag and it was one of those days when everyone had struggled so our bag was exceptional.

13. What's the toughest competition you've ever faced?

Fishing the United States Central Division tournament in South Dakota was next level difficult. The Americans fish so many lakes, such big waters and river systems it is very hard to compete.

14. Have you ever had a major setback in a tournament? How did you overcome it?

I was fishing Champion-of-Champions, a three day individual tournament at Lake Kyle in Zimbabwe. You fish on your own. I had caught all my fish on a large Super Spook and I was in the top three after two days. Final day I had four good fish then lost my lure and probably the biggest bass I have ever hooked. That fish would have won the tournament. I was gutted, I didn't have another spook the same. I lost total confidence. I didn't catch a fish for ages. I then changed my pattern to a spinnerbait and targeted different areas. I didn't get a podium finish but still finished in the top ten.

15. What's your proudest accomplishment in your fishing career?

Making the Zimbabwe National team and competing at the USA Central Division championships.

GEAR & TECHNOLOGY

16. What's your must-have piece of fishing gear?

I think ahead of any electronics a trolling motor with spot lock.

17. How important is technology (electronics, GPS, sonar) in today's bass fishing?

In our circuits I have seen the best of fisherman fish without a depth finder for a couple years, winning tournaments and finals. However certain dams where structure is non visual, or if you need to follow bait fish then your side scan and live views become the difference between you and the winning team.



18. Do you have any sponsorships? How do they influence your fishing career?

My company, Cobat Transport and my son's company Mega Magic, sponsor us. Fishing is an expensive sport and time on the water is most important, so the sponsorship allows us to compete at a higher level.

INDUSTRY & ADVICE

19. What's one thing about competitive bass fishing that most people don't realize?

It can be very tough, so time on the water is essential to build confidence and technique so don't give up - just keep trying and fish more.

20. What advice would you give to someone considering to compete actively?

Tournament fishing can be tough so always remember it is a privilege to be on the water so relax, enjoy the day and focus with confidence.

21. How do you see the sport evolving in the next five to ten years?

I can see the huge progress made by Cast-for-Cash and MLF South Africa to bring in more national and international competitions. I think strong growth in the sport can be expected.

22. What's your opinion on conservation and how anglers can help sustain fish populations?

I believe catch-and-release is non-negotiable. Culling and interfering with nature is not on. Let nature sort

itself out. Making sure the fodder fish are looked after is of upmost importance to produce healthy bass in dams.

FUN & PERSONAL TOUCH

23. What's your personal best bass?

A 5.9kg caught at Lake Mayfair/Cunningham, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

24. If you could fish with any angler, past or present, who would it be?

My son Bryn.

25. What's one superstition or ritual you have before a tournament?

I don't have any.

26. When you're not fishing, what do you enjoy doing?

I play golf or spend time with the family.

27. What's one funny or crazy thing that's happened to you while fishing?

I play golf I was fishing a tournament when the Senko bite was working for me. Then I caught a fish and every time it jumped I could hear rattles. I even doubted myself and glanced on the deck that I wasn't throwing my spook rod. When I landed the fish I found a Junior Spook, lost by a fellow competitor earlier in the day, together with my Senko in its mouth. or spend time with the family.

7


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Standing (L-R) Troy Batty, Pierrie Prinsloo, Biff Humphreys, Terry Burt (Capt), Colin Bester, Steve Lea, Wayne Williams.

Kneeling (L-R) George Blaver, Gerry Jooste, Ian Godfrey, Moosa Ismail, Allen Fagan, Peter Winsor.

Stay tuned as we uncover the passion, dedication, and secrets behind South Africa's elite bass anglers. In the next issue we speak to Bryn Batty. 🐟

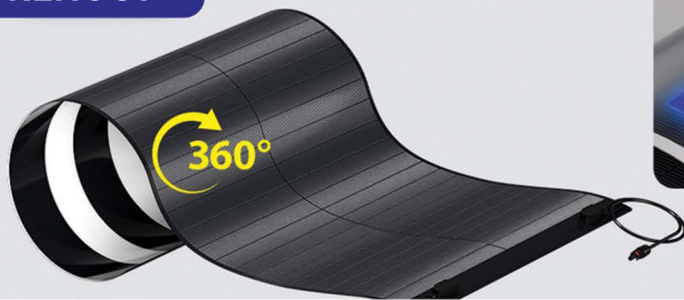
1. Bryn and I at Mteri Dam, Zimbabwe in 2018
2. Troy and Bryn on the weigh-in stage at Arabie Dam
3. Troy with a 2.76kg bass (heaviest fish on day two of the 2025 Cast-for-Cash Championship)
4. A 2.7kg at the Vaal Dam
5. A 2.6kg at Rust de Winter
6. Bottom right
7. Top left



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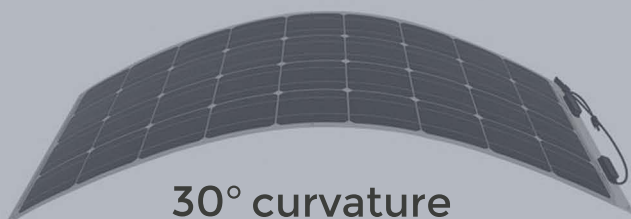
248° curvature



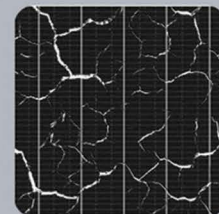
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The Second Defined Edge

>> Jay Röhm-Williams

Understanding pressured bass behaviour

>> When any venue becomes bombarded with bass anglers day after day, weekend after weekend, you can guarantee the bass feel that pressure. I've witnessed countless times how tough the fishing can get when bassing waters have frequent anglers pursuing their passion visiting. The fish are still there but the question is where do they go and how does one still catch them?



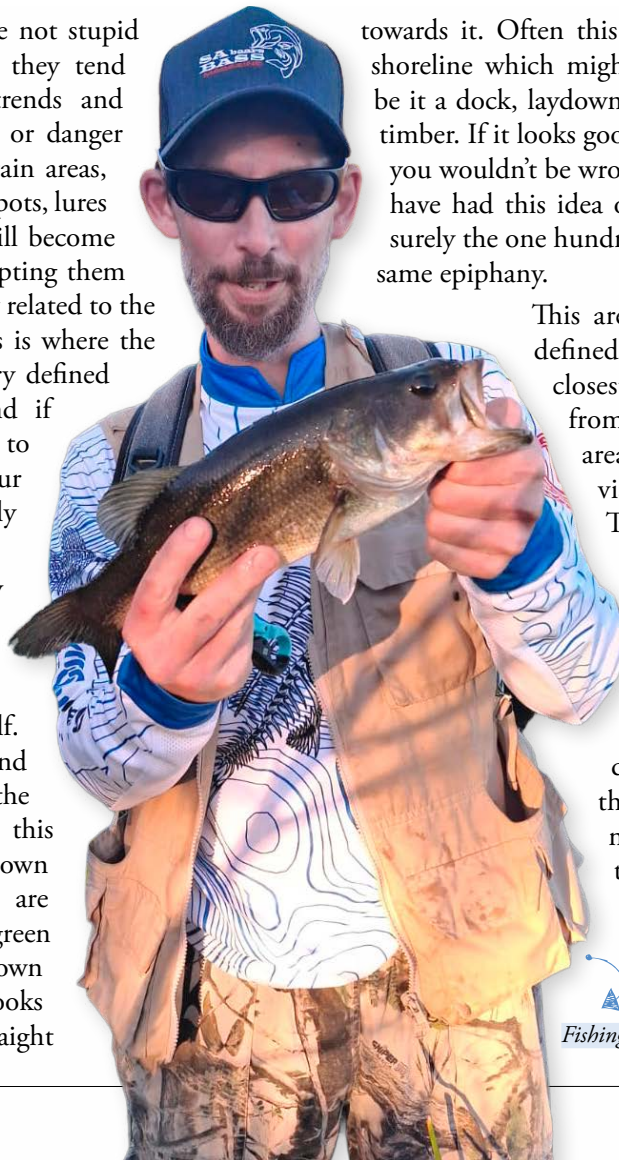
Finding a lovely secondary edge down a channel

Well for one bass are not stupid and after a while they tend to pick up on trends and patterns that relate to threats or danger to their happy existence. Certain areas, especially the easily accessible spots, lures and even particular colours will become all too familiar to them prompting them to not engage with any activity related to the above mentioned factors. This is where the beauty and magic of secondary defined edges becomes applicable and if you don't have an inkling as to where to find them then your chances of success are drastically minimized.

So what is a secondary defined edge in the first place? Excellent question and it took quite some time to figure this out myself. Basically to better understand the theory one must start at the beginning and to highlight this strategy better I shall break it down like this. We as bass anglers are sight hunters much like the green and golden fish we chase down so when we something that looks full of potential we charge straight

towards it. Often this leads us to the first edge of any shoreline which might hold some form of great cover be it a dock, laydown, aquatic vegetation or submerged timber. If it looks good to us it must hold fish, yes? Well you wouldn't be wrong but you must realise that if you have had this idea of the perfect target location then surely the one hundred anglers before you have had the same epiphany.

This area or target zone would then be defined as the first edge. It is normally the closest area within easy casting distance from the shoreline and can be any area within a refined space that holds visible cover up to a certain extent. These areas will often be most fished sections of any venue and therefore highly pressured by anglers. What happens then the fish will slip back off this edge of shoreline and recede away from these areas. This however does not always necessarily mean they have gone deeper down but more likely just further out from the bank. For example if there is a line of lily pads clogging the bank from the shore outwards for



Fishing the field further out - The Author



a little way the area between the shoreline and where the pads ends would technically be your first defined edge. The section of water from where the pads end leading out towards the open water behind would now be your secondary defined edge. Make sense?

In theory then we could draw an imaginary circle around the map of any venue from where the shoreline is to where the first bit of shallow water cover ends. Anything after that could then be considered favourable as a second edge. You can apply this to any form of cover now whether it is a large laydown or whatever. The water depth does not even have to change drastically at all and a secondary edge won't always be found deeper on an actual ledge or step. Another excellent example is a major brush pile washed up on the bank. Normally we would target right into the thick of or fish the edges around the branches that are submerged underwater. In the case of locating that secondary edge though we will now try target the very ends of the branches that may extend and lie further out underwater unseen.

Of course it is not always easy for anglers to locate this second defined edge especially for bank anglers. The trick is look closely to the lay of the land, see how the cover is growing or falling and then try to pin point those areas where the first obvious edge ends and the second edge could be begin. Bass will use these secondary edge corridors to move or transition between one area to the next so the percentage of fish been present here will always be higher.

Remember to always try fishing parallel in these particular zones as well, we can never express this point enough. This will allow your lure presentations to stay within striking range for longer and set you up for greater success where others have perhaps failed. The bass have not left the venue but they can move around, so just knowing where to find them and change your tactics is all that is sometimes required to conquer those pressured bass situations.

Rods out and safe fishing everyone! 🎣

Yellow - first defined edge & Red - second defined edge



Op my houtbordjie

“UNDERSPIN”

>> *Philip Kemp**

In hierdie reeks deel ons graag ‘n paar truuks, of beter bekend as “hacks”, met ons lesers

Stuur gerus jou fotos en storie vir ons na philip@sabass.com indien jy sukses met hierdie truuk gehad het.

Om die baars in vuiler water se aandag te trek wanneer sig nie goed is nie, kan ‘n tammeletjie wees. Die swaaiem by ‘n onderswaai of “Underspin” soos wat hy beter bekend staan, kan meer doele dien as net vibrasie in die water. Kom ons sit so ‘n bietjie klank by.



Omrede die loodkop so lank is, word die kop van die plastiese swemvissie tot die regte lengte gesny.



Die plastiese swemvissie word nou op die loodkop geryg. Maak seker jou hoek kom op die regte plek uit sodat die swemvissie mooi netjies pas.



Die hengelaar benodig net die nodige onderswaai loodkop, plastiese swemvissie en ‘n kort houtskroefie van ongeveer 7mm lank.



Die onderswaaiem roteer onder die plastiese swemvissie en sal nou en dan die swemvissie raak. Bepaal nou waar hy die swemvissie sal raak. Dit is nou presies daar waar jy die 7mm houtskroefie in die plastiese swemvissie gaan indraai. Die skroefie word nie heeltemal ingedraai nie. Daar moet ‘n stukkie van die skroefie uitsteek.



Jou onderswaaiem is nou gereed om gehengel te word. Die roterende swaaiem sal nou en dan teen die skroefie slaan en die klikgeluide wat hy maak is net genoeg om ‘n baars tot die aanval te laat oorgaan. 🎣

**Philip Kemp is ‘n gesoute swartbaars-hengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*

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*Dit is belangrik om baars vir
ons nageslag te bewaar*

HOOK-&-COOK

DIE DEBAT OOR BAARSHENGEL: VANG-EN-VRYLAAT OF VANG-EN-BRAAI?

In die wêreld van varswaterhengel is daar min vissoorte wat soveel passie, argumente en verdeelde menings ontlok soos die swartbaars.

Hierdie gewilde roofvis, bekend vir sy veglustigheid en sy status as trofee-vis, staan sentraal tot 'n aanhoudende debat onder hengelaars: Moet baars gevang en vrygelaat word, of is daar tye wanneer dit geregverdig is om hulle van die ekosisteem te verwyder, selfs op die bord te laat beland?

Die vang-en-vrylaat-kamp: Bewaarders van die sport

Vir baie hengelaars is vang-en-vrylaat nie net 'n voorkeur nie, maar 'n verbintenis tot die volhoubaarheid van die sport. Hierdie benadering word dikwels beskou as 'n wyse van bewaringsgerigte hengel, gebaseer op die oortuiging dat 'n vis se waarde nie

net in sy eetbaarheid lê nie, maar ook in die ervaring en geleentheid wat dit aan ander hengelaars bied.

Groot baars, veral dié van meer as twee kilogram, is geneig om 'n aantal jare oud te wees en het 'n belangrike rol in die plaaslike ekosisteem. Hulle funksioneer as toppredatore en help om ander vispopulasies, soos kleiner vissoorte en indringer spesies, onder beheer te hou. Wanneer sulke visse vrygelaat word, bly hulle 'n aktiewe deel van die natuurlike balans.

Internasionale navorsing ondersteun ook die siening dat 'n gesonde baarsbevolking ekonomiese en toerisme waarde het. Gemeenskappe rondom gewilde hengelbestemmings baat gereeld uit

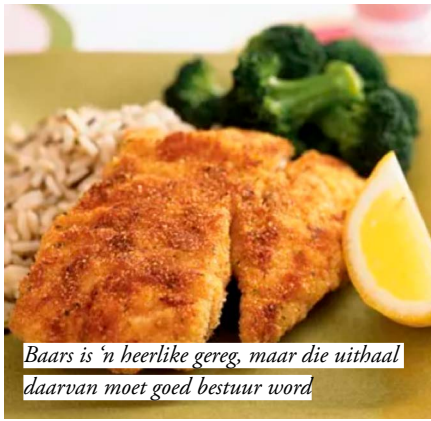
>> *Philip Kemp**

'n florerende sportvisbedryf, wat slegs moontlik is indien visbevolkings met sorg bestuur word.

“Hook-&-Cook”: Praktiese en ekologiese redes vir verwydering

Teenoor hierdie siening is daar ook 'n ander groep hengelaars wat glo dat selektiewe verwydering van baars in sekere konteks geregverdig is, selfs nodig. In baie gevalle word geargumenteer dat baars, hoewel hulle in sekere gebiede inheems is, in ander omgewings as indringerspesies beskou word.

In sommige streke waar baars kunsmatig bekendgestel is, het hul teenwoordigheid ernstige gevolge



Baars is 'n heerlike gereg, maar die uithaal daarvan moet goed bestuur word

vir inheemse visspesies gehad. Hulle vreet kleiner visse en veroorsaak versteurings in ekologiese balanse. Selektiewe verwydering, veral van kleiner of oormatige bevolkings, word dus soms as 'n strategie gebruik om die natuurlike balans te herstel.

Verder word daar dikwels verwys na voedselveiligheid en selfonderhoud as redes om baars te gebruik. In sekere gemeenskappe is vars vis nie bloot 'n sport of stokperdjie nie, maar ook 'n bron van kos. Wanneer baars volop is in 'n watermassa, kan dit dus sin maak om hulle as voedselbron aan te wend, veral indien dit ander spesies help beskerm.

'n Saak van konteks

Wat duidelik blyk, is dat die geskiktheid van 'n vang-en-vrylaat- of vang-en-braai-benadering grootliks afhang van konteks. Aspekte soos die ligging, die oorspronklikheid van die spesie, die toestand van die vispopulasie, en die doel van die hengelaktiwiteit speel almal 'n rol in die besluitneming.

In formele kompetisies is vang-en-vrylaat dikwels 'n vereiste om gesonde visbevolkings te bewaar. In ander gevalle word georganiseerde vangprojekte gebruik om die oormaat van sekere spesies te beheer. Sommige

organisasies werk selfs saam met omgewingsgroepe om data te versamel en volhoubare bestuur te ondersteun.

Respek vir die vis én vir mekaar

Die debat oor baarsvang is nie net 'n wetenskaplike een nie; dit is ook diep persoonlik. Vir sommige beteken hengel 'n sportiewe uitdaging en die trots van 'n trofeevis. Vir ander beteken dit voeding en 'n sinvolle deelname aan ekologiese herstel.

Daar is 'n groeiende besef dat begrip en respek vir ander se benaderings noodsaaklik is. Nie elkeen wat 'n vis eet, is onverskillig nie, en nie elkeen wat een teruggooi, is elitisties nie. Wat saak maak, is die gedeelde liefde vir natuur en water, en die verantwoordelikheid om dit te bewaar.

Slotgedagte

Die "Hook-&-Cook"-debat illustreer hoe kompleks omgewingskwessies kan wees, selfs in iets so alledaags soos visvang. Daar is nie altyd 'n eenvoudige reg of verkeerd nie; eerder is daar plek vir oorweging, samewerking en konteksgerigte besluite.



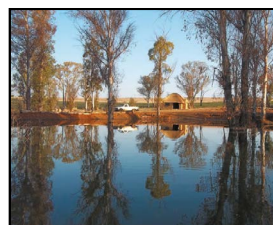
In die ou dae is baars gevang as 'n voedselbron



Vang-en-vrylaat van swartbaars is tog belangrik

Of 'n baars uiteindelik terug in die water of op die bord beland, behoort altyd gepaard te gaan met kennis, respek en 'n langtermynvisie vir volhoubaarheid. Want as daar met wysheid opgetree word, is daar genoeg ruimte en vis vir almal. 🐟

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaars-hengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



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Johnson Outdoors

renews MLF sponsorship



Major League Fishing (MLF) and Johnson Outdoors, a global leader in outdoor recreation, announced the renewal of their partnership for the 2025 season. The partnership builds on Johnson Outdoors' extensive support of MLF and introduces exciting new elements centred around the company's innovative product launches and conservation efforts.

For over 50 years, Johnson Outdoors has inspired outdoor exploration through innovative, high-quality products in watercraft, fishing, diving and camping. Their flagship brands, Minn Kota® and Humminbird®, offer industry leading integration between the brands that elevates the angling experience through their advanced trolling motors, cutting-edge marine electronics, and sonar fish-finders, delivering unmatched clarity and precision for anglers.

As part of the 2025 renewal, Johnson Outdoors has focused their investment on the MLF5 circuits, reaching more than 30,000 competitors and millions of fans across 170 events nationwide – including the Tackle Warehouse Invationals, Toyota Series, Phoenix Bass Fishing League (BFL), Abu Garcia College Fishing and Abu Garcia High School circuits. Johnson Outdoors also offers Toyota Series and BFL anglers a contingency award program, centred around the MEGA Live 2 Forward-Facing Sonar unit, that rewards anglers who leverage this cutting-edge technology in competition.

“Humminbird’s heritage has been rooted in fishing for generations and the entire Humminbird team is excited to partner once again with Major League Fishing to support thousands of anglers across America as they follow

their passion,” said Jeff Kolodzinski, Johnson Outdoors Brand Manager – Fishing. “In an effort to bring things a little closer to home, Humminbird has offered a new contingency program in 2025 that pays Toyota Series and BFL anglers who finish in the Top 10 up to \$500 in regular-season events and up to \$1,000 in regionals and championships for utilizing Humminbird products in competition. We’re excited to help provide anglers a great place to fish and the opportunity to earn a bonus check when they do well.”

Johnson Outdoors has further demonstrated its commitment to environmental stewardship in 2025 by serving as the title sponsor for four MLF Fisheries Management Division (FMD) habitat restoration projects. These initiatives focus on enhancing fish habitats and ensuring the long-term health and sustainability of fisheries across the United States, aligning with Johnson Outdoors' dedication to preserving natural resources for future generations of anglers.

“We’re proud to continue our partnership with Johnson Outdoors into the 2025 season,” said Kathy Fennel, MLF Executive Vice President and General Manager. “Their investment in our grassroots anglers across the MLF5 circuits allows those anglers to reap even more benefits for their dedication and commitment to our sport. The cutting-edge technologies at Johnson Outdoors align perfectly with our mission to elevate competitive bass fishing across all circuits, and their commitment to conservation demonstrates their deep investment in the future of our industry.”

Johnson Outdoors will continue to receive widespread

exposure across MLF5 platforms in 2025, ensuring their brand remains at the forefront of the competitive fishing industry. Their presence will include commercials and graphic billboards featured during MLF5 television broadcasts, along with in-show logo placements and

product mentions during MLFNOW!livestream coverage. Additionally, Johnson Outdoors' innovative products will be promoted across MLF's digital platforms, including the league's website and social media channels, further solidifying their connection with anglers and fans alike. 🐟

About Johnson Outdoors

Johnson Outdoors is a family of core brands preferred by consumers for creating the best possible outdoor experiences, earning the company industry awards, customer loyalty, and above all, consumer trust through innovative, top-quality products. Built on the passion, ingenuity, and expertise of their employees, Johnson Outdoors values creativity and encourages innovation with a commitment to collaboration and teamwork.

Johnson Outdoors Fishing is comprised of the Minn Kota®, Humminbird® and Cannon® brands. Minn Kota is the world's leading manufacturer of electric trolling motors, as well as a complete line of shallow water anchors, battery chargers, and marine accessories. Humminbird is a leading global innovator and manufacturer of marine electronics products including fish finders, multifunction displays, autopilots, ice flashers, and premium cartography products. Cannon is the leader in controlled-depth fishing and includes a full line of downrigger products and accessories.

About Major League Fishing (MLF)

Major League Fishing (MLF) is the leading global tournament fishing organization, hosting over 250 events each year at some of the world's most renowned fisheries. Featuring an elite line-up of professional bass anglers and more than 30,000 competitors across all 50 U.S. states and 20 countries; MLF delivers unmatched fishing resources and entertainment to its members, anglers, sponsors, fans, and host communities. Through its wide range of platforms, including tournaments, expos, international media, and innovative marketing, MLF is committed to provide a lifestyle experience, both on and off the water.



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2026 Toyota Series Schedule



Major League Fishing announced the schedule for the 2026 Toyota Series Presented by Phoenix Boats, set to kick off in January 2026 on Florida’s famed Lake Okeechobee and wrap up in November with the Toyota Series Championship on Pickwick Lake – a Bill Dance Signature Lake – in Counce, Tennessee.

“The 2026 Toyota Series schedule builds on the momentum of an incredible 2025 season,” said MLF Toyota Series Tournament Director Mark McWha. “We’re confident that the 2026 schedule is set to deliver both high-level competition and the chance for grassroots anglers to shine on major stages. From legendary fisheries to exciting new opportunities, the upcoming season is shaping up to be one of the best yet for our anglers and fans.”

As one of the premier tournament trails in the country, the Toyota Series offers the highest payouts at the lowest entry fees available nationally. The series gives anglers the opportunity to compete in familiar regional waters for lucrative awards and advancement to the nationally televised Toyota Series Championship.

For Hardin County and Pickwick Landing State Park, the Toyota Series Championship’s return underscores the

strong partnership between MLF, Tennessee State Parks and local tourism leaders – a relationship that continues to spotlight the fishery’s reputation as a premier fishing destination.

“Explore Pickwick Lake/Hardin County Tourism is pleased once again to host Major League Fishing for the Toyota Series Championship out of Pickwick Landing State Park, Tennessee,” said Beth Pippin, Tourism Executive Director. “Our partnership with Tennessee State Parks and MLF is a valuable opportunity in our efforts to continue our reputation as a national fishing destination. This economic impact drives our economy through sales tax, lodging tax, restaurants and other small businesses engagement, making MLF’s time here a boost to our revenue.”

At the championship, professional anglers will compete for a top prize of up to \$235,000, including a \$35,000 Phoenix MLF Bonus, while co-anglers will vie for a Phoenix 518 Pro bass boat powered by a 115-horsepower outboard, valued at \$33,500.

The winning pro at the 2026 Toyota Series Championship will also earn a coveted invitation to REDCREST 2027, the Bass Pro Tour championship event, where a top prize of \$300,000 is on the line. 🎣

BASICS FOR BEGINNERS

>> Hannes Lindeque



Spring

Sight fishing is a great way to catch bass in the spring.



Where

Comfort and safety are two major factors that determine in which zones bass will move around in.



Big bass

Big bass want quick access to deeper water during the staging and spawning period.



Catch-&-release

Practice good catch-and-release methods to minimize harm to the fish. Use wet hands or fish-friendly tools when handling your catch.



Approach

Pay attention to how bass respond to different lures and adjust your approach based on their behaviour.

Wind

- On windy days, bass often move closer to the bank or remain shallow, seeking sheltered areas.



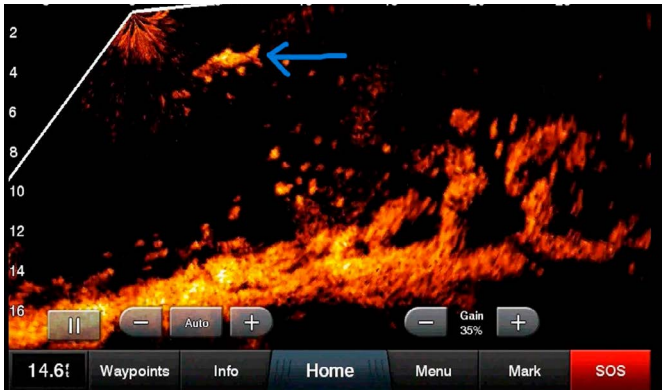
Sight

Bass will be relying 98% on their sense of sight in clear water conditions.

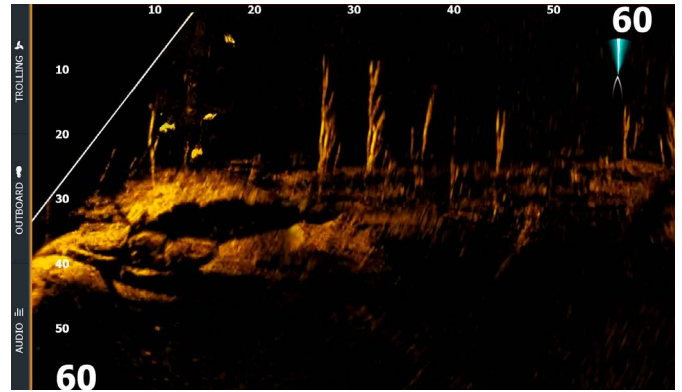
Forward-Facing Sonar

Die impak daarvan op kompeterende baarshengel

>> Philip Kemp*



Garmin Live Scope - let op hoe duidelik die vis uitgebeeld word



Lowrance Active Target in aksie

In die afgelope dekade het tegnologie die wêreld van sporthengel dramaties verander. Een van die mees baanbrekende en kontroversiële ontwikkelings is die gebruik van forward-facing sonar (FFS), ook bekend as “live sonar”.

Hierdie gevorderde tegnologie het die manier waarop hengelaars vis opspoor, teiken en vang, radikaal getransformeer, en het spesifiek in die wêreld van kompeterende baarshengel internasionaal groot debat ontlok.

Van professionele hengelreekse in die VSA en Europa tot plaaslike toernooie in Suid-Afrika, FFS verander die spel, maar nie sonder uitdagings of kritiek nie. Hierdie artikel ondersoek die voordele, nadele en die verreikende impak van hierdie tegnologie op die sport.

Wat is Forward-Facing Sonar?

FFS is ’n sonarstelsel wat regstreekse beelde van wat voor die boot afspeel op ’n skerm vertoon. Anders as tradisionele “down-“ of “side-imaging”, gee FFS vir die hengelaar die vermoë om alles in regte tyd te sien:

- Waar visse swem.
- Hoe hulle op kunsas reageer.
- En hoe vêr hulle van die aas of struktuur af is.

Die mees bekendste stelsels sluit in Garmin LiveScope, Lowrance Active Target en Humminbird MEGA Live. Hierdie toestelle gee baie duidelike, bewegende beelde van visse en ander onderwater-aktiwiteite, dikwels tot op ’n afstand van 20 tot 40 meter van die boot af.

VOORDELE

1. Verhoogde akkuraatheid en vangkoers

Een van die mees onmiddellike voordele van FFS is die vermoë om presies te sien waar visse is en of hulle aktief is. Hengelaars hoef nie meer blindelings strukture te gooi en te hoop vir ’n byt nie. Hulle kan nou letterlik sien of daar visse is, en of hul kunsas werk.

Tydens hengelkompetisies waar elke vis tel, is hierdie voordeel van onskatbare waarde. Professionele hengelaars rapporteer dikwels hoër vangkoerse en meer doeltreffende gebruik van hul tyd op die water, danksy FFS.

2. Intydse leer en aanpassing

Met FFS kan hengelaars sien hoe visse op verskillende tipes aas en hul aanbiedings reageer. Hierdie visuele terugvoer laat hulle toe om hul strategie aan te pas sonder om ure te mors op dooie patrone.

Dit bring ’n nuwe vlak van taktiese intelligensie na toernooie, iets wat voorheen net deur jare se ervaring verkry is.

3. Ontdek nuwe hengel-areas en -dieptes

Voor FFS was diepwaterhengel of “suspended fish” dikwels ’n raaiskoot. Met live sonar het hengelaars toegang tot vis wat voorheen byna onmoontlik was om doelgerig te vang, soos baars wat 5 tot 10 meter onder die oppervlak hang, weg van enige struktuur.

Hierdie nuwe gebiede gee kompeterende hengelaars ’n voorsprong in moeilike seisoene of wanneer visse nie op hul gewone plekke gevind kan word nie.

4. Verbeterde kyk-ervaring en vermaakwaarde

In professionele toernooie soos Major League Fishing (MLF) en Bassmaster Elite Series word FFS nou gebruik om kykers 'n kykie "onder die oppervlak" te gee. Kommentators gebruik dit om aanhangers te wys presies wat die hengelaar sien en wat die vis doen, iets wat die sport meer toeganklik en boeiend maak vir 'n breër gehoor.

NADELE

1. Erosie van sportwaarde en vaardigheid

Kritici meen dat FFS 'n mate van "kunsmatige voordeel" bied wat die vaardigheidselement van hengel verminder. In plaas van intuïsie, ervaring en kennis van die water, kan tegnologie nou die verskil maak tussen wen en verloor.

Sommige hengelaars meen dat FFS amper soos "cheating" voel, veral as tradisionele taktieke in die skadu staan van tegnologiese voordeel.

2. Druk op vispopulasies

Omdat FFS dit makliker maak om selfs die skugterste of diepste visse te vind en vang, kan dit lei tot verhoogde druk op spesifieke visbevolkings en veral in kleiner of geslote damme.

As elke boot in 'n toernooi met FFS toegerus is, kan die vangdruk eksponensieel styg, wat oor tyd visbestande en habitatbeheer onder druk kan plaas.

3. Finansiële ongelikheid in kompetisie

Nie elke hengelaar kan bekostig om 'n boot met R100 000+ se sonarstelsels uit te rus nie. FFS stel dus 'n finansiële grens wat mededinging ongelyk kan maak.

Amateur- of jong hengelaars voel dikwels uitgesluit of benadeel, omdat tegnologie nou 'n groter rol speel as talent of ervaring alleen.

4. Etiese vrae en toekoms van die sport

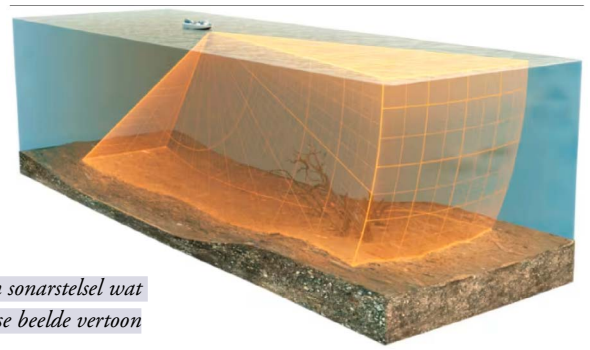
FFS bring die vraag na vore: Wat maak van hengel 'n sport? Gaan dit oor die kuns van lok, geduld en interpretasie, of word dit nou net 'n speletjie van tegnologiese vaardigheid?

Sommige toernooi-organiseerders en hengelverenigings het reeds begin debat voer oor of FFS verbied, beperk of in spesifieke kategorieë toegelaat moet word om die sport se integriteit te beskerm.

Internasionale reaksies en beleidsveranderinge

In die VSA het sommige plaaslike toernooie begin met FFS-bepenkings. 'n Sekere reeks hou afsonderlike "FFS-vrye" kompetisies, waarin net tradisionele tegnieke toegelaat word om 'n gelyke speelveld te verseker.

In Europa is daar soortgelyke bewegings met lande soos Frankryk en Swede wat bespreek of regulasies nodig is om



FFS is 'n sonarstelsel wat regstreekse beelde vertoon

visetiek en natuurbehoud te balanseer teen tegnologiese voordeel.

Suid-Afrika is nog in die vroeë stadiums van hierdie debat, maar met die groei van groot toernooie en verhoogde tegnologiegebruik, is dit net 'n kwessie van tyd voordat plaaslike liggame en klubs ook hierdie kwessies sal moet aanspreek.

Die Toekoms van Baarshengel met FFS

Die gebruik van "forward-facing" sonar is ongetwyfeld deel van die toekoms van sporthengel. Soos met ander sporte wat tegnologie inkorporeer (soos VAR in sokker of Hawkeye in tennis), sal hengel ook 'n balans moet vind tussen innovasie en tradisie.

Die belangrikste is dat die sport sy siel behou: respek vir die vis, die omgewing en die vaardigheid wat hengel 'n lewenslange passie maak.

Slotgedagtes

"Forward-facing" sonar is 'n kragtige hulpmiddel wat reeds 'n rewolusie ontketen het in die kompeterende baarshengelwêreld. Dit het onteenseglik voordele gebring, van verhoogde vangsukses tot opwindende televisie-ervaring, maar dit bring ook nuwe uitdagings rondom etiek, toegang en ekologiese impak.

Of jy nou 'n voorstander of teenstander is, een ding is seker: FFS het die sport verander, en dit is aan die hengelgemeenskap om te besluit hoe hierdie verandering bestuur moet word. Tegnologie sal aanhou vorder, maar dit is aan ons om te bepaal hoe dit gebruik word, met wysheid, balans en respek vir die water. 🐟

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaarshengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



LOSKOPDAM, A FOREVER RESORT

WHERE BASS FISHING MEETS THE PERFECT GETAWAY



>> *Hannes Lindeque*

South Africa has no shortage of fishing destinations, but few manage to strike the balance between serious angling action and a complete holiday escape quite like Loskopdam, A Forever Resort. Situated in the heart of Mpumalanga, just a short drive from Gauteng, Loskop Dam is a place where bass anglers can chase the fish of a lifetime while their families enjoy a holiday packed with adventure, comfort, and natural beauty.

From competitive tournaments to relaxed weekends away, Loskop Dam has earned its reputation as one of the country's premier bass fishing venues. Yet what makes it truly special is how it combines world-class fishing with the atmosphere of a full resort experience, making it the ideal choice for both die-hard anglers and families looking for a memorable getaway.

A playground for bass anglers

The beating heart of Loskop Dam is, of course, its vast expanse of water. The dam stretches over 2,350 hectares, with an incredible variety of structure that makes it a dream for bass anglers. Submerged timber, rocky outcrops, reed beds, steep drop-offs, and hidden bays all provide perfect habitats for largemouth bass. Every section of the dam feels like it holds promise, and anglers quickly learn that each day on Loskop is different.

For the competitive angler, this variety is a real test of skill. Tournaments, like the recent MLF Africa Cup Challenge, held here are known for their excitement, with weigh-ins often producing impressive bags of fish. Angling clubs and national circuits frequently include Loskop Dam in their calendars, and for good reason - it's a water that rewards both patience and precision. Anglers can finesse

their way through tough conditions or power fish when the bite is aggressive. It's a venue that sharpens skills and keeps the competitive spirit alive.

Yet Loskop isn't only for the pros. Weekend anglers and beginners also find it inviting, as the dam's abundance of bass means that everyone has a fair shot at success. There's nothing quite like the thrill of a first catch on Loskop waters, and it's this accessibility that keeps anglers of all levels coming back. Many a "personal best" largemouth has been pulled from these waters, and the possibility of a record-setting strike always lingers with every cast.

A resort for the whole family

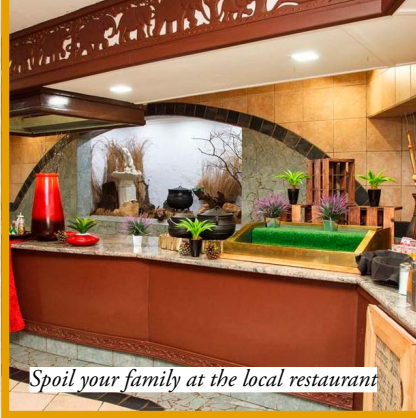
While the fishing is exceptional, Loskopdam, A Forever Resort sets itself apart by being more than just a fishing destination. The resort is designed to cater to families, groups of friends, and holidaymakers who may not even pick up a rod during their stay. This balance makes it a unique venue, where anglers can focus on the water without worrying about whether the rest of the family is entertained.

Accommodation options are varied, ranging from modern, well-equipped chalets to shaded camping sites for those who prefer a closer-to-nature experience. The resort's facilities are extensive: swimming pools with slides keep the children busy for hours, while hiking trails and biking paths offer ways to explore the outdoors. There are playgrounds, picnic spots, and even boat cruises available, ensuring that there's never a dull moment.

For families, the resort's layout creates a safe, welcoming environment. Parents can relax knowing the kids are occupied, while couples enjoy quiet walks along the water's edge or sundowners with stunning dam views. In



One of the many swimming pools



Spoil your family at the local restaurant



The lounge area inside a chalet

the evenings, the atmosphere comes alive around the braai stands and fire pits, with the scent of grilling meat mixing with the laughter of families sharing their day's adventures.

Nature at its best

Adding to the appeal is Loskop Dam's setting within the Loskop Dam Nature Reserve. The reserve is home to a wide variety of wildlife, from antelope grazing along the shoreline to troops of monkeys that chatter in the trees. Birdlife is prolific, with African fish eagles often spotted swooping over the water, their iconic calls echoing across the dam. For nature lovers, this creates an added layer of enjoyment - it's not just about fishing, but about being immersed in a thriving natural environment.

Day visitors to the reserve can embark on game drives or guided tours, while those staying at the resort can simply soak up the sights from the comfort of their chalet or boat. It's a place where every corner holds a chance encounter with wildlife, reminding visitors that Loskop Dam isn't just a dam; it's part of a greater natural treasure.

A hub for community and competition

The fishing community around Loskop Dam is one of its strongest assets. Anglers who come here often talk about the welcoming spirit that exists both on and off the water. At tournaments, the atmosphere is electric, but it's also friendly - tips are exchanged, and stories are shared at the slipway. Even casual visitors find themselves drawn into conversations with fellow anglers, forming bonds over shared experiences and mutual respect for the sport.

For many, Loskop Dam is more than just a venue; it's part of their angling journey. Club members, competitive anglers, and weekend warriors alike often return season after season, building a sense of tradition that keeps the venue's reputation strong. The fact that the resort continues to host successful competitions is a testament to both the quality of the dam and the community it supports.

The perfect blend of passion and leisure

What truly sets Loskopdam, A Forever Resort apart is how it balances two worlds: the serious, focused pursuit of bass fishing and the relaxing, carefree atmosphere of a holiday destination. Anglers can spend the day chasing trophy bass, experimenting with techniques, and soaking in the challenge of the dam's waters. Meanwhile, their families can enjoy a holiday that feels just as rewarding, with plenty of activities to fill their days.

At night, the two worlds come together. Fishermen return from the water with tales of the day's catches,

children show off their adventures from the pool or nature walks, and everyone gathers to enjoy the warm hospitality that defines South African outdoor life. It's this blend that ensures Loskop Dam is not just another fishing spot but a destination worth returning to time and again.

A destination that has it all

Loskopdam, A Forever Resort is a rare gem: a place where serious anglers can find challenging, rewarding waters, while families, and holidaymakers enjoy all the comforts and activities of a full resort. With its sprawling dam, thriving bass population, family-friendly facilities, and stunning natural surroundings, it offers something for everyone.

Whether you're attending a business conference, entering a tournament, chasing that elusive personal best, or simply planning a weekend away with your loved ones, Loskopdam, A Forever Resort delivers on every level. It's not just about fishing; it's about creating memories, enjoying nature, and discovering why this resort remains a favourite destination year after year.

For bass anglers, Loskop Dam is paradise. For families, it's a getaway to treasure. For everyone, it's an invitation to experience the best of both worlds.

Visit www.foreverloskopdam.co.za: or send an email to loskopres@foreversa.co.za or call (013)-262-3075 | (087)-106-6763 for more information or make a reservation. 🐟



Every angler's dream

ATKV Buffelspoort: A Magaliesberg Oasis

Situated less than an hour from Pretoria and Johannesburg, and just a stone's throw away from Sun City, ATKV Buffelspoort boasts a peaceful bushveld setting next to the Magaliesberg mountain range.

This picturesque resort is ideal for those seeking both proximity and tranquillity with mandatory quiet hours between 22:00 to 07:00.

Accommodation

The resort offers a wide range of self catering options including rondavels, villas, tent houses, flats, and camping sites - all suited for couples, families or groups. Many of the accommodation units include kitchens, bathrooms, IMAX-style living areas with daily housekeeping services.

For those who prefer camping; there are enough shade, clean ablutions, power points, and braai facilities.

Facilities

The resort fosters both adventure and relaxation which is suitable for vibrant families and restful vacations alike. Recreational offerings include an indoor heated pool, outdoor pools, jacuzzis, waterslides, trampolines, putt-putt golf, tennis, volleyball, squash, snooker tables, laundry, and more.

The on-site licensed restaurant with take-away, sport bar, shop and ATM ensure convenience to all visitors. The resort itself supports water sports and boating, and fishing excursions can be readily arranged.

Why it's ideal for anglers

The nearby Buffelspoort Dam,

stocked with huge size black bass and other species, is just 3.7km from ATKV Buffelspoort Resort. It is possible to fish from the shore, but it is advisable to rather fish from boats, but take note of the no-go area for power boats.

Why it is ideal for elderly and vulnerable guests

ATKV Buffelspoort's general layout supports easy movement for those with reduced mobility between accommodation, pools, restaurants and recreational sites. Some camp blocks include showers, baths, and paraplegic-accessible facilities.

In conclusion; ATKV Buffelspoort masterfully balances natural charm,



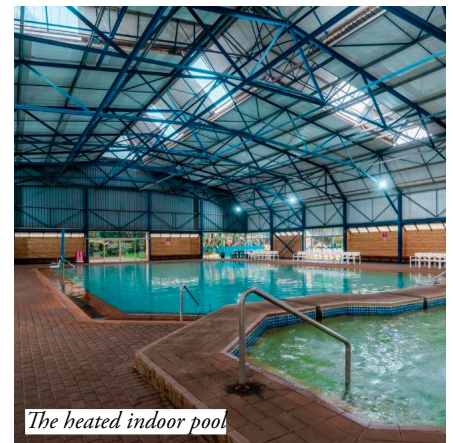
Johan Joubert with his Buffelspoort Dam trophy size bass



Shaded camping areas



An overview of Buffelspoort Dam



The heated indoor pool

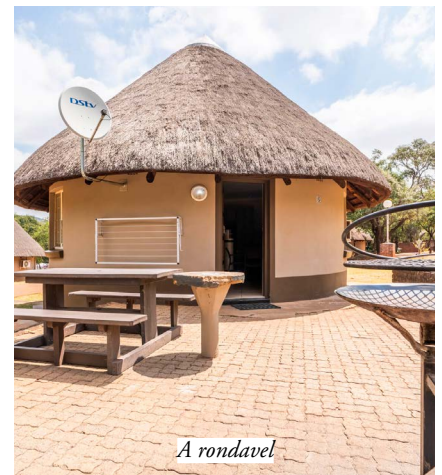


The beds are very comfortable

accessibility and comfort for everyone in a peaceful bush setting within easy reach from major cities.

So, whether you are casting from the shore at dawn, or enjoying a peaceful braai in the evening, ATKV Buffelspoort offers the perfect blend of activities within a safe environment for both spirited anglers and rest seeking seniors. 🐟

For enquiries and bookings call 014.572.1000, or send an email to buffelspoort@atkv.org.za or visit their website www.buffelspoort.co.za



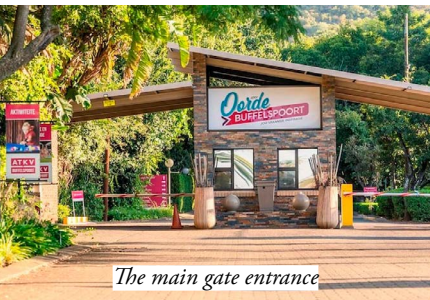
A rondavel



The inside of the restaurant



Laundry facilities



The main gate entrance



Some outdoor pools and a huge water slide



Putt-putt is nice family activity

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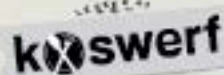
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Crown River Safari Private Game Reserve

A Superior Eastern Cape Adventure



A vantage point sight of the Kariega River and the Palmiet River

>> **Jay Röhm-Williams**

Nestled in the rolling foothills of the Eastern Capes frontier countryside two pristine, freshwater rivers meet inspiring the creation of the Settlers Dam. A body of water so unique and vastly untouched that it forms the very heart of a thriving, self-sustaining eco-system that leaves one speechless upon first sight. This is the home of the Crown River and African Safari Lodge Private Game reserve, an exquisite venue of South African charm, memorable hospitality and of course world class bass fishing. Situated only a short distance from the historical and iconic Grahamstown, an easy drive from Port Elizabeth's sunshine coast and a mild hop away from the wild coast of East London, Crown River and African Safari Private Game reserve is definitely a must-see destination.

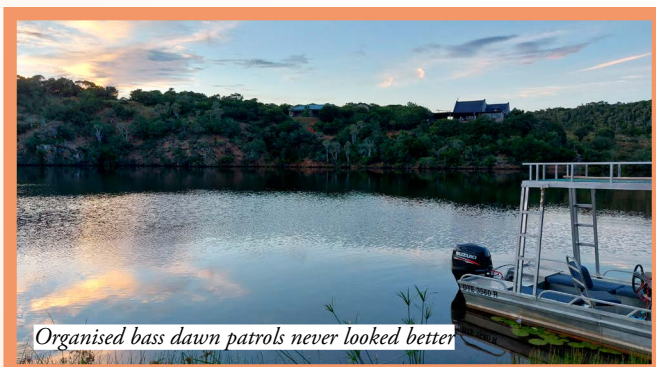
Whether it's a family holiday, a romantic getaway or just a weekend away with friends there is something for everyone to enjoy especially if you love bass fishing. The magic this venue's waters hold is literally an unforgettable Eastern Cape bass fishing experience that will leave you sad to leave but equally eager to return. Unpressured water, trophy sized bass and natural surroundings that rival the best South Africa has to offer makes for an unbelievable bass fishing adventure.

Bass population

The amount of bass the Settlers Dam holds is truly



Great catches to be had all day



Organised bass dawn patrols never looked better

remarkable and with the abundance of baitfish such as the multitudes of tilapia present it's no surprise this could well be the new Eastern Capes home waters of giants. The evidence of a thriving, healthy bass population is present at every turn of the river system whether you have boat access or just enjoy banking along the shoreline. Whether its early mornings or late afternoons these waters are constantly exploding with bass activity making it hard to decide when to go home. It is so well stocked in fact that one might feel overwhelmed as to where to fish first but with exceptional guidance and advice from host and ranger Mike Foster any anxious nerves can be soon settled.

A diversity of angling conditions and options

When it comes to diverse bass angling conditions these waters have it all. There is no shortage of structure and cover along the winding network of bends and bays that offer bass angler's unlimited opportunities to get stuck into some prized sized fish. Whether its bluff cliff faces or aquatic vegetation filled shallow banks, deep water channels and secluded back water bays, the waters at Crown River Safari are a bass angler's dream come true. Whether you have your own boat or not it matters little when it comes to accessibility with private launch sites, boats for hire and quick banking spots within easy reach. The vast amount of water on offer to cover is limitless and so filled with abundant activity that any day out bassing can hold the promise of trophy worthy fish to be caught. If catching bass is what you are after then this is definitely the place to be no matter the season. Guided fishing trips can be organised as well from a greatly equipped boat that has tackle and lure provisions available on offer if needed. In conclusion if it's a solo or group bass fishing session you seek then this is the place to be without a doubt.

A worthy safari adventure

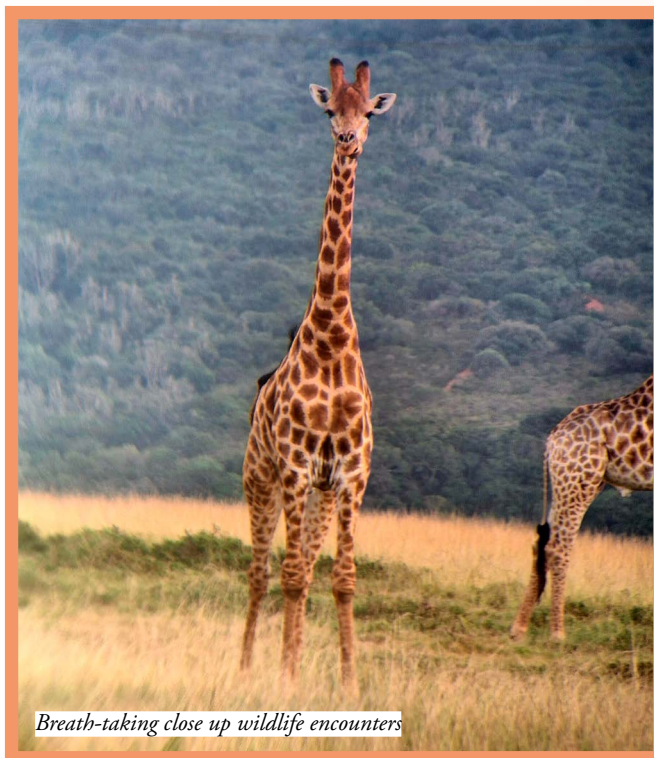
There is such a wide range of outdoor activities beyond bass angling that one could hardly ask for more. Anything from game drives through the rugged, protected African bush with views of the wildlife from close proximity to canoe rides down the tranquil, clear waters in complete peace. Bird lovers and nature walk enthusiasts will find themselves in Eden when it comes to the unspoilt surroundings available to enjoy too. Crown River Safari also offers hunting adventures, 4x4 trails and boat cruises as well so there is literally something for the whole family to enjoy. If relaxation in luxury is what you seek then ladies the experience of comforting massages or sunset cocktails are all on offer too with campfires and delightful dining options available from viewpoints that will take your breath away.

Private and exclusive accommodation selections

Whether you need space and privacy or prefer spoiling one's self in the lap of luxury there is a selection of accommodation options to choose from. The Ranch House is a beautiful, self-catering, three on-suite bedroomed house built to host the whole family or a group



Bass angling paradise



Breathtaking close up wildlife encounters



Classic African styled lounge with indoor fireplace



One of the three beautifully laid out bedrooms with ensuite bathroom



From bluffs to back water bays the bass are everywhere



Sunset fireside views from the outdoor patio



Fully equipped gourmet kitchen



Spacious dining room



*Quality sized big bass like this are plentiful -
The author Jay Rohm-Williams*



The stunning Raunch House

of friends ready for adventure in comfort and style. This highly recommended accommodation site definitely has everything covered. From a gourmet equipped, spacious kitchen to a spacious dining room and a large lounge which boasts a beautiful indoor fireplace at the heart of it all. The extensive patio and outdoor braai area not only offers exquisite views over the reserve itself but wildlife sightings literally right on your doorstep. If top-tier amenities are more to your taste then Crown River Safari also offers the options of three luxurious suites with unforgettable views over the river and another three on-suite roomed lodge on the cliff side overlooking the water's edge. Here on the lodge side one can experience self-catering, or catered for options depending on your preference, or room selection with private braai areas, a bar facility, a dining hall and outside veranda seating all with a fish eagle's view of the expansive river itself.

An overall take

Ladies and gents, boys and girls, I kid you not when I say if you are looking for an exclusive bass fishing experience that is worth writing home about then Crown River Safari Game Reserve will not leave you disappointed. Your hosts Mike and Fay are more than accommodating and really will go the extra mile for anyone just because their passion for their work and the establishment at which they reside is un-measurable. A friendlier couple is hard to come by and the memories that this hidden gem of a venue will leave imprinted on your soul will be more than its weight in bass green and gold.

Rods out and safe fishing everyone! 🦉

For more information visit their website at <https://crownriversafari.co.za>, or send an email to info@crownriversafari.co.za. Alternatively you can contact Fay – 071 603 05 07 or Mike – 082 536 56 70 directly.

Mike Foster is not only an avid bass angler but professional tour guide with a heart of gold



SOLID STATE LITHIUM BATTERIES

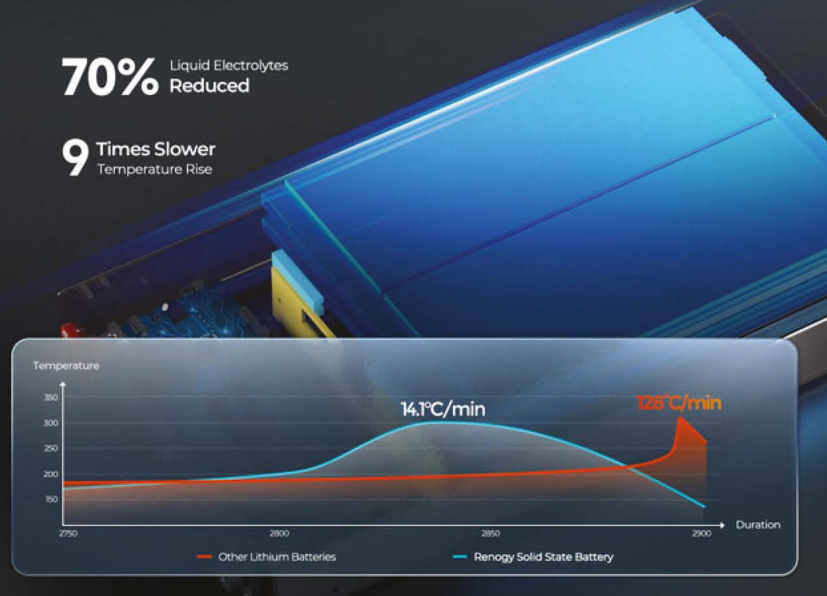


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Die Heldesaal HOMER CIRCLE (1914-2012)

In die geskiedenis van moderne sporthengel is daar min name wat soveel respek en bewondering afdwing as Homer Circle, bekend as "Uncle Homer" deur aanhangers wêreldwyd. Hierdie hengellegende het 'n onuitwisbare nalatenskap gelaat as skrywer, televisiepersoonlikheid, leermeester en baanbreker in die wêreld van baarsengel.



Altyd opgewonde oor elke baars wat hy kon vang



Homer het tot op 'n gevorderde ouderdom steeds gehengel

>> *Philip Kemp**

Sy bydrae tot die bevordering van hengel as sport, wetenskap en ontspanning het hom 'n plek besorg in verskeie sportvisserye se Haldesale, en met goeie rede.

Vroeë lewe en ontstaan van 'n passie

Homer Circle is op 11 Junie 1914 gebore in die VSA. Reeds van kleins af het hy 'n natuurlike belangstelling in die natuur en waterlewe getoon. Wat begin het as kinderlike nuuskierigheid, het uiteindelik gegroei tot 'n lewenslange roeping. In sy jong volwassenheid het Circle nie net gehengel nie, hy het die sport begin bestudeer en verstaan op 'n manier wat min ander tydgenote gedoen het.

Anders as baie van sy generasie, het hy nie net gefokus op die vang van vis nie, maar op hoekom

visse op sekere maniere optree, hoe aas hulle beïnvloed en waar hulle gevind kan word onder verskillende omstandighede. Hierdie analitiese benadering sou hom later 'n gesogte plek gee as een van die eerste wetenskaplik-gegronde hengelkennerse in die media.

Skryfwerk en mediabydraes

Homer Circle was vir dekades een van die mees invloedryke stemme in sporthengel. Hy was die hengelredakteur vir *Sports Afied*, een van Amerika se oudste en mees gerespekteerde buitelewe-tydskrifte. Daarna het hy vir baie jare geskryf vir *Bassmaster Magazine*, die invloedryke publikasie van B.A.S.S. (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society).

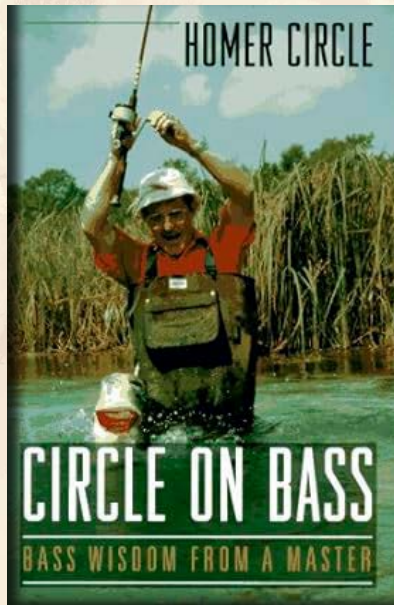
Sy gewildste rubriek, "Ask Uncle Homer", het honderde duisende lesers regoor die wêreld geïnspireer en

ingelig. Hierin het hy nie net tegniese vrae beantwoord nie, maar ook advies gegee oor etiek, visbestuur, hengeltoerusting en filosofie rondom die sport. Sy skryfstyl was toeganklik, warm en deurdrenk met praktiese wysheid – 'n rede waarom soveel hengelaars, oud en jonk, hom as mentor gesien het, selfs sonder om hom ooit persoonlik te ontmoet.

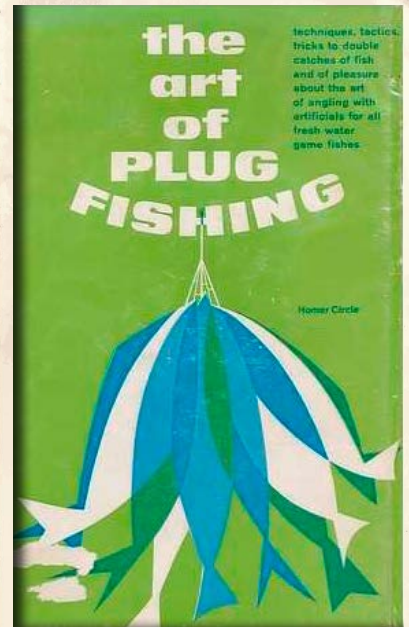
Maar Homer se invloed was nie beperk tot drukwerk nie. Hy was ook die gasheer van die gewilde televisieprogram "The Fisherman", wat in die 1960s en 70s 'n hele generasie bekendgestel het aan die kuns van baarsengel. In 'n tyd toe hengel nog nie algemeen op televisie vertoon is nie, het Homer se geduldige en insiggewende aanbiedings 'n nuwe standaard gestel vir opvoedkundige hengelmedia.



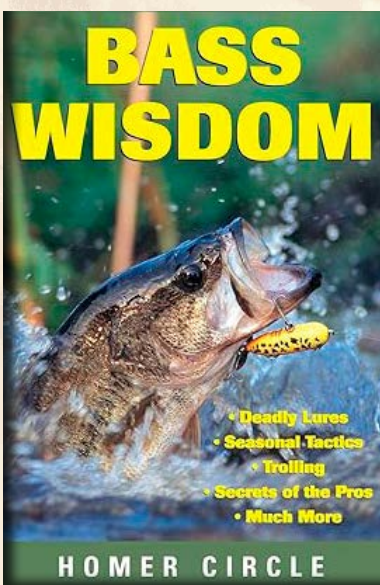
Homer se passie vir kunsaaishengel het hom wêreldbekend gemaak



Homer was ook 'n skrywer van verskeie baarsboeke



Plug Fishing



Homer was ook 'n befaamde skrywer

Tegniese bydraes en innovasie

Een van Homer Circle se grootste sterkpunte was sy vermoë om komplekse hengelbegrippe op 'n eenvoudige manier te verduidelik. Hy was een van die eerste openbare figure wat gepraat het oor faktore soos waterkwaliteit, temperatuur, suurstofvlakke en hul invloed op baarsgedrag. Sy insigte het daartoe gelei dat hengelaars beter begin dink het oor waarom hulle hengel en nie net hoe nie.

Hy was ook 'n pionier in die ontwikkeling en gebruik van kunsaa's, spesifiek spinnerbaits en plastiekwurms. Sy aanbevelings aan maatskappye en vervaardigers het gelei tot nuwe vorme van aas wat vandag steeds wêreldwyd gebruik word. In baie opsigte was hy die brug tussen wetenskaplike visbiologie en praktiese sporthengel.

Bewaring en respek vir die vis

Wat Homer Circle werklik van sy tydgenote onderskei het, was sy vroeë pleidooi vir vang-en-los as etiese hengelpraktyk. In 'n era waar sportvisvang dikwels beteken het dat die vis doodgemaak en gehou is, het Homer gepleit vir die behoud van trofeevisse, die beskerming van broeigebiede, en die belangrikheid van volhoubare visserye.

Hy het gereeld geskryf oor die belang van respek teenoor die vis, die ekosisteem en ander hengelaars. Sy benadering het duisende geïnspireer om hengel nie net as 'n kompetisie of voedselbron te sien nie, maar as 'n geleentheid vir persoonlike groei, natuurbewaring en gesonde ontspanning.

Erkenning en nalatenskap

Homer Circle is opgeneem in die *Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame*, die *Bass Fishing Hall of Fame*, en het talle ander toekennings ontvang vir sy lewenslange bydrae tot die sport. Tot op hoë ouderdom het hy steeds geskryf, onderrig en ander geïnspireer, altyd met dieselfde nederigheid en passie waarvoor hy bekend geword het.

Hy is oorlede op 22 Junie 2012, net na sy 98ste verjaardag. Sy dood is internasionaal betreur, nie net deur sporthengelaars nie, maar ook deur

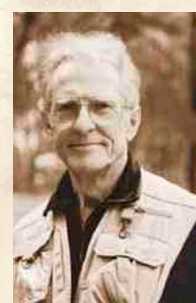
lesers, kykers en studente van die hengelsport.

Slotgedagtes

Homer Circle was meer as net 'n hengelaar, hy was 'n leermeester, 'n pionier, 'n bewaarder van die natuur, en 'n stem van wysheid in 'n sport wat dikwels tegniek bo betekenis geplaas het. Sy lewe is 'n getuigenis van hoe 'n eenvoudige stok en lyn, in die regte hande, nie net vis kan vang nie, maar ook harte.

Vir enigenen wat met 'n liefde vir baarsengel grootword, bly die naam Homer Circle sinoniem met integriteit, kundigheid en 'n diep respek vir die water. Sy nalatenskap leef voort in elke hengelaar wat kies om met begrip, etiek en passie te hengel. 🐟

**Philip Kemp is 'n gesoute swartbaars-hengelaar en assistent-redakteur van SA BASS.*



"Uncle Homer"
(1915 - 2012)

The Fisherman's Prayer

By Homer Circle

God grant that I may fish
until my dying day;

And when at last I come to rest,
I'll then most humbly pray;

When in His landing net
I lie in final sleep;

That in His mercy I'll be judged
as good enough to keep!

Amen

Die Homer Circle Gebed

Humminbird EXPLORE

Outshining the competition in one of ICAST’s most innovative categories, Humminbird’s XPLORE Series claimed the 2025 Best in Category award for Marine Electronics. This prestigious win further solidifies Humminbird’s position at the forefront of innovation in fishing marine technology.

Selected by respected media and industry retailers, the Best in Category award highlights standout products that deliver ground breaking innovation, performance, and value to anglers. The XPLORE series of fish finders rose to the top in a field packed with cutting-edge entries, reinforcing Humminbird’s reputation of pushing boundaries in marine electronics.

“This award is a testament to our relentless drive to innovate and support anglers with smarter, more integrated technology for fishing,” said Braeden Harris, Brand Manager at Humminbird. “ICAST is where the industry’s best meet, and earning this recognition speaks volumes about the strength and future of the XPLORE Series and we couldn’t be more proud of this product and the benefits it provides to anglers.”

XPLORE eliminates the complexity traditionally associated with advanced electronics, delivering a sleek touchscreen interface backed by customizable shortcut keys

and a lightning-fast quad-core processor. More than just fast, it’s responsive—adapting in real time so anglers spend less time navigating menus and more time fishing. Integration with Minn Kota means anglers can easily connect their XPLORE with the best trolling motors and shallow water anchors, offering seamless integration and an enhanced experience.

With this win, Humminbird continues its legacy of industry leadership – proving once again that when it comes to innovation on the water, there’s always more to XPLORE.

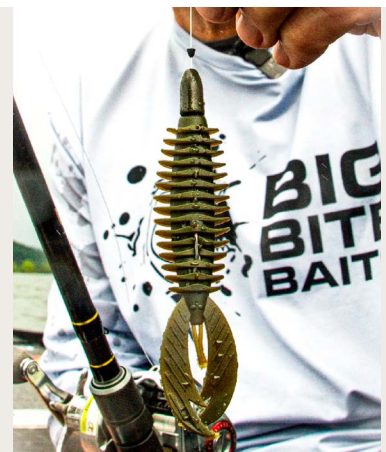


Big Bite Baits

Sometimes experimentation leads to innovation. Such is the case for the all-new Fighting Craw from Big Bite Baits. By introducing the proven counter-flapping claws found on the Fighting Frog, the Fighting Craw delivers a subtle kicking action that produces bite after bite.

“The Fighting Craw possesses the signature claws made fish-famous by the legendary Fighting Frog,” says Crispin Powley, GSM Fishing Senior VP. “There’s something about the counter-flapping action that drives bass crazy. The Fighting Frog also features reverse-facing ribs that provide a great secondary quivering action, as well as the perfect place to hide your hook point. It’s killer as a trailer or on its own.”

Coming 8 per pack, the Fighting Craw is available in 10 winning Big Bite colors. Get yours today at Baits.com or your favourite fishing retailer.



PowerPro

Shimano line brand PowerPro introduced the Max-8 at ICAST, a new high-performance braided fishing line engineered for offshore anglers who demand smooth casting, superior control and rugged durability in demanding saltwater environments.

Built with an eight-carrier Spectra HT fibre, the Max-8 is said to slice effortlessly through water for ultra-precise vertical jigging, trolling and casting applications. At 25% thinner than comparable lines, Max-8 delivers increased line capacity without sacrificing the trusted strength for which PowerPro is known.

“Max-8 is a true performance upgrade for offshore anglers, especially those jigging in deep water,” said Tom Woldruff, PowerPro Business Development Manager. “The smoothness and control it delivers are next-level, and the thinner diameter means you can spool more line. It’s a line built for control, castability and confidence.”

Engineered with Enhanced Body Technology (EBT), it is infused with resin throughout every fibre to create a rounder, smoother profile. The result: enhanced castability, improved line management and excellent abrasion resistance, which are essential features for anglers pushing gear to its limits.



13 Fishing

Reigning Redcrest champion Dustin Connell, who has earned that title three times and twice in a row, has added 13 Fishing as a rod sponsor. The company is under the same umbrella as his partners Rapala, CrushCity and VMC Hooks, and he looks forward to the same collaborative process he's enjoyed with those brands as a means of improving his on-the-water effectiveness.

"I've had a chance to fish with all kinds of rods for a while now and I am fired up to officially have 13 Fishing as my rod sponsor. I've been using 13 rods for the better part of this season, and they've definitely contributed to my success," Connell said. "This is the perfect atmosphere for a professional angler, working with these iconic brands. I'm on the phone with the engineers every week figuring out what new products we can introduce and how we can make little tweaks to make everything just that much better."

Indeed, Connell's already-established career took on a boost of rocket fuel with the development of the dominant CrushCity products. Along with his close friend Jacob Wheeler, he's inadvertently exposed them to the wider public before the official release date through tournament victories."

Now he'll get to work with the team to develop rods that fit his exacting standards. Indeed, all of the 13 Fishing, Rapala, VMC and CrushCity gear is purposely designed to help top echelon anglers win championships, and to give weekend warriors the tools to maximize their precious time on the water. Combined, they form a well-integrated machine that works seamlessly together.

"When you're competing at the highest level, you need to have the confidence that you can get every fish in the boat," he explained. "That means the actions of the rods have to be just perfect. I care about the guides, the reel seats, even the



aesthetics. Even little things, like using a 7-foot rod versus one that's 7'2", can be the difference between winning and just getting a check. I'm pumped up to see the future of what we're able to produce."

For the team at 13 Fishing, this was likewise the natural evolution of a longstanding and complementary relationship.

"In a relatively short time DC has worked his tail off to become one of the biggest names in fishing," said Field Promotions and R&D Director Dan Quinn. "But both anglers and tackle manufacturers need to keep on getting better as the competition continually improves. This partnership is a proven winner. I work with a lot of pro anglers and they all bring great things to the table, but with DC, he's the full meal deal. From hoisting trophies and catching bass to filming content and bringing positivity to fishing, DC is a guy that 13 Fishing is proud to work with and his name will be etched in the history books."

Keep an eye out for a number of new rods from 13 Fishing this week during ICAST, to include a series of "Shaker" rods in the Myth and Oath families that are dialed in for "shaking" a minnow like the Freeloader and Mooch Minnows. There's no doubt they will help DC add to his stash of trophies and accolades in the near future.

Rick Clunn

Livingston Lures announced a new partnership with legendary bass angler Rick Clunn, an iconic figure in the sport with over five decades of tournament success and influence.

Erick Arnoldson, Vice President of Sales and Operations for Livingston Lures, shared his enthusiasm about the collaboration:

"At Livingston, we are dedicated to pushing the boundaries of fishing lure design and innovation. Partnering with Rick Clunn, a true pioneer known for his relentless pursuit of knowledge and excellence - perfectly aligns with our mission. His unmatched experience and passion make this an ideal partnership."

Rick Clunn, a household name in bass fishing, brings a lifetime of insight and dedication to the collaboration.

"Bass fishing is a journey of constant discovery," said Clunn. "I'm excited to join forces with Livingston Lures to explore their cutting-edge work in lure technology, particularly how it taps into the sensory instincts of fish. I look forward to contributing new ideas, insights, and advancements while

helping share Livingston's innovative designs with anglers everywhere."

Livingston Lures has officially introduced Rick Clunn as a brand representative during a press conference at ICAST in Orlando.



GEAR UP

THE LATEST FISHING ADDITIONS

The latest fishing additions on the market.



1. SHIMANO POISON ADRENA B SERIES RODS

>> New from Shimano

Born to pursue ultimate lightness and exceed the expectations of even the most technical bass anglers, the fully redesigned Poison Adrena B series of casting and spinning rods combine a blend of premium Shimano rod technologies with application-specific actions. Shimano's proprietary Spiral X Core technology powers Poison Adrena B, enhancing Shimano's traditional Spiral X carbon tape construction by utilizing Toray Nanoalloy® technology to provide up to 10% more torsional rigidity and up to 15% more compressional rigidity than rods built with standard Spiral X technology. Combined with a redesigned full monocoque handle and proprietary CI4+ reel seat, the Poison Adrena series provides unparalleled lightness and durability while delivering heightened sensitivity with increased transmission of lure action and bites.

2. SHIMANO TRANX 300B BAITCASTER

>> New from Shimano

Shimano's redesign of a low-profile baitcasting reel renowned for its smooth, powerful performance and unmatched durability, the Tranx 300 B builds on the series' "workhorse"

reputation with premium technology enhancements designed to tackle both fresh and saltwater environments. Crafted with precise intention, the Tranx 300 B features Shimano's CoreSolid and HAGANE Body technologies, which integrate the B-side plate, level guard, and reel frame into a single, ultra-rigid aluminum piece. Matched with Outlier swimbait rods employing Spiral X and Hi Power X blanks, this setup is tailored for heavy baits.

3. SHIMANO METANIUM DC-A

>> New from Shimano

Specifically engineered to be the lightest Shimano DC reel to date, the Metanium DC70A is shrouded in a one-piece CoreSolid magnesium frame, providing unparalleled durability and fatigue-free performance. An upgraded I-DCS braking system allows anglers to fine-tune reel function based on line and lure combinations and fishing conditions.

4. ZOOM WINGED FLUKE

>> New from Zoom

The addition of the Winged Fluke is a fresh take on the classic Super Fluke lure for today's bass fishing challenges. It is available in 4", 5", 6.5" and 7.5" sizes and features a small wing on each side of its head. This simple addition make it an excellent choice for modern fishing techniques.

Designed to be on a jig head or as a hover strolling bait, you can fish it in the middle of the water column, and with the flat sides it rocks back and forth when you shake it, but the wings keep it from rising. It works really well with forward facing sonar.

5. ZOOM SHIMMER SHAD

>> New from Zoom

Measuring 4.25", the Shimmer Shad is designed to enhance the action of any chatterbait without overpowering it.

The Shimmer Shad has the classic slim baitfish design, ribbed skeleton rear section and forked tail that quiver at any speed. Their uses are only limited by your imagination. The primary usage to date has been as a trailer for a bladed jig, spinnerbait or buzzbait, but they excel when fished alone and the smallest size is deadly on a drop-shot or a small jig head in coordination with forward-facing sonar.

6. DUO REALIS VERSA PINTAIL (4" & 5")

>> New from Duo Realis

A new finesse bait from Duo Japan, the Duo Realis Versa Pintail Soft Jerkbait is built using two different weighted materials that create a low centre of gravity for increased stability and enhanced rolling action. While fished on a jig head, use a slack line and subtly shake your rod tip to create natural swim action, as

6



8



7



9



10



the flat sides produce a heavy body roll that creates a unique flashing effect to grab the attention of nearby bass.

7. BERKLEY POWERBAIT MAXSCENT STANK-BUG

>> New from Berkley

Behold, the Berkley® MaxScent Stank-Bug. Nostril gripping stench emitting from proprietary scent distribution technology attracts fish, proven season after season in MaxScent shapes. At 3.5" of crawfish imitating authority, the Stank-Bug crosses the realm of smallmouth, largemouth and spotted bass debauchery making it a must have in your arsenal year 'round. When nothing else will buy a bite, get a grip and let the Stank-Bug rip.

8. RAPALA CRUSHCITY MOOCH MINNOW

>> New from Rapala

The Mooch Minnow combines the best features of both a minnow-style bait and swimbait and seamlessly transitions from a jig head to a drop shot rig. Whether shaken, reeled, or dragged, this versatile lure consistently attracts bites and is proven to win tournaments.

9. ABU GARCIA REVO X BFS REEL

>> New from Abu Garcia

Built for anglers who know the importance of downsizing when the bite gets tough, the Abu Garcia Revo-X BFS casting reels are built with a super lightweight BFS concept spool, perfect for casting light baits long distances. The asymmetrical body design and C6 carbon frame are extremely comfortable for fishing hours on end, hyper-tuned for ultra light BFS techniques with Abu Garcia's innovative MagTrax braking system.

10. JOHNNY MORRIS CARBONLITE COMBO

>> New from Bass Pro Shops

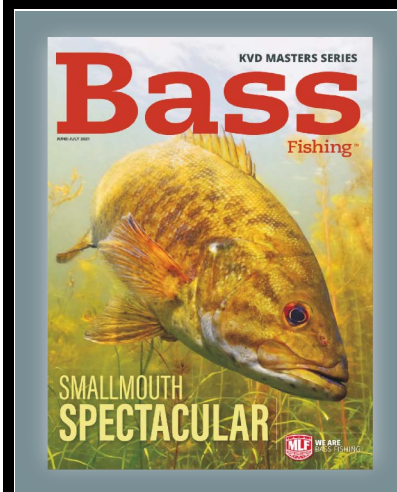
Strong, smooth, nimble and quick, our Johnny Morris CarbonLite baitcast reel features loads of carbon fibre in all the right places. The list of pro-level features includes a rigid 1-piece aluminium frame, carbon fibre side covers, machined-aluminium spool, aluminium crankshaft, brass main gear, premium 10-bearing system with double-shielded stainless steel ball bearings and Powerlock™ instant anti-reverse, our acclaimed Dual Braking System™, powerful 6-disc carbon fibre drag, and carbon fibre recurve handle with PVC grips.

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South Africa

Dam Levels



Here is a list of the latest water levels of some of South Africa's biggest water reservoirs.

Eastern Cape	72.2%	↑↓
Beervlei Dam	0.0%	0.0%
Bridle Drift Dam	99.0%	-3.0%
Darlington Dam	39.7%	0.6%
Impofu Dam	50.1%	-0.5%
Wriggleswade Dam	100.0%	-0.1%

Gauteng	101.1%	↑↓
Bronkhorstspuit	101.8%	0.4%
Roodeplaat Dam	100.4%	0.0%

Kwa-Zulu Natal	97.5%	↑↓
Albert Falls Dam	98.8%	-1.3%
Bivane Dam	100.6%	0.5%
Goedertrouw Dam	97.8%	-1.2%
Inanda Dam	101.0%	-0.3%
Midmar Dam	97.5%	-0.3%
Ntshingwayo Dam	94.3%	0.4%
Pongolapoort Dam	95.3%	-0.6%
Spioenkop Dam	99.3%	1.9%
Spring Grove Dam	89.6%	-6.8%
Wagendrift Dam	98.9%	-0.6%
Woodstock Dam	96.7%	-0.6%
Zaaihoek Dam	100.5%	3.2%

Limpopo	86.1%	↑↓
Albasini Dam	97.8%	-0.4%
De Hoop Dam	100.3%	0.1%
Ebenezer Dam	100.0%	-0.2%
Flag Boshielo / Arabie	101.5%	-0.3%
Doorndraai Dam	100.4%	0.0%
Mokolo Dam	28.4%	-3.4%
Nandoni Dam	94.3%	-1.9%
Rust de Winter Dam	101.1%	0.2%
Tzaneen Dam	50.7%	-2.7%

Mpumalanga	98.3%	↑↓
Da Gama Dam	95.5%	-1.9%
Driekoppies Dam	91.7%	-1.4%
Grootdraai Dam	98.6%	-1.3%
Heyshope Dam	100.2%	-0.1%
Injaka Dam	96.8%	-1.4%
Jericho Dam	95.2%	-3.0%
Kwena Dam	99.3%	-0.9%
Loskop Dam	101.1%	0.6%
Middelburg Dam	94.6%	-2.9%
Morgenstond Dam	100.1%	-0.1%
Nooitgedacht Dam	100.3%	0.5%
Rhenosterkop Dam	100.9%	0.7%
Vygeboom Dam	100.4%	0.3%
Witbank Dam	101.5%	0.6%

North West	103.5%	↑↓
Boskop Dam	102.7%	0.2%
Buffelspoort Dam	100.5%	0.0%
Hartebeespoort Dam	100.4%	0.6%
Klerkskraal Dam	107.8%	-0.4%
Kosterrivier Dam	100.6%	0.4%
Molatedi Dam	107.7%	-0.7%
Roodekopjes Dam	104.8%	0.3%

O.F.S.	101.1%	↑↓
Allemanskraal Dam	99.1%	2.2%
Bloemhof Dam	108.4%	0.8%
Gariiep Dam	98.9%	-0.5%
Kalkfontein Dam	100.4%	-0.4%
Knellpoort Dam	99.9%	0.4%
Koppies Dam	101.0%	-0.3%
Sterkfontein Dam	99.1%	-0.3%
Vaal Dam	107.3%	0.4%
Vaalrivier Barrage	97.3%	0.3%
Vanderkloof Dam	99.3%	-0.3%

Western Cape	83.2%	↑↓
Berg River Dam	101.6%	1.1%
Brandvlei Dam	73.2%	10.2%
Clanwilliam Dam	77.2%	-19.8%
Kwaggaskloof Dam	71.7%	10.4%
Theewaterskloof Dam	84.3%	6.7%
Voëlvlei Dam	91.3%	11.8%

Levels on: 11-Aug 15-Jul
Average: 93.6% 93.7%



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Big cash prizes + trophies to be won;
Lucky draw prizes

**New season starts
September 2025**



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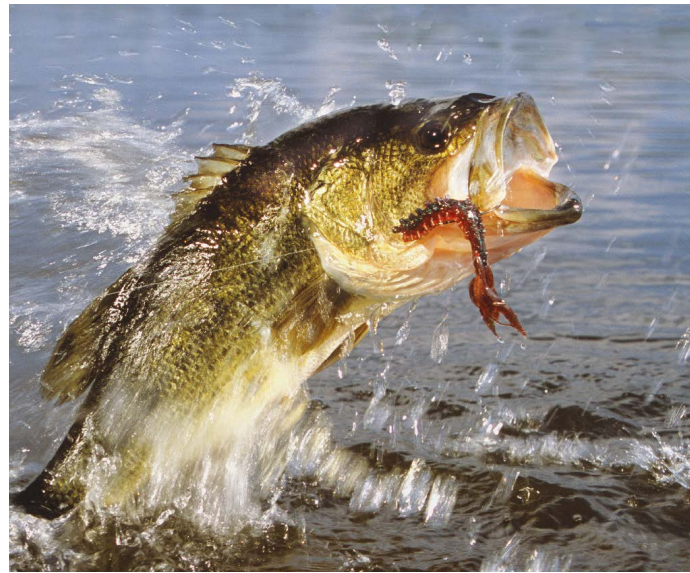


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