
Tiger Fishing Tackle | Fly Fishing

Rod: The best rod for upper Zambezi tiger fishing is 8 or 9 weight with a fast action. Recommend 4-piece rods for ease of travelling.

Reel: Match the rod with a high quality large arbor reel. Reliable disc drag system. Holding 200m of Dacron backing.

Line: Line should match the rod weight. Type 3 & 6 fast sinking lines (250 – 375 grain for 8 & 9 weight rods). Intermediate lines for the many back shallow waters are a must. Integrated shooting head lines are best. A spare line in at least one of the line categories is recommended.

Note: Presentation is not all that important with tigerfish. This means that the integrated shooting head lines are preferred over full length sinking or intermediate lines as they are quick loading and great distance casting lines. Most offer an intermediate running line with a WF quick taper head for distance and quick casting. The running line section of these lines also behave better than the full sinking lines

Leader and tippet: Leader - 20 to 25lb monofilament or 20 to 30lb fluorocarbon. Tippet - preferably 20 to 30 lb knottable wire.

Leader set-up: Tigerfish are not leader shy, but we recommend the following leader set-up:

Make sure your fly line has been fitted with a braided loop or has a well- made fused loop. Tie a loop into a 6-8ft length of 25lb Maxima Ultra Green and connect to the fly line with a loop to loop connection. Many flies are purchased pre-wired with a small Japanese high quality swivel to which you can tie directly to and you are good to go. This is the easiest way to put your terminal gear together. If you do not like to use swivels you will need to perfect the Albright knot to attach the leader to the piano wire. When using this knot to attach wire and mono make sure you seat the knot 100% or you will break off. A great web site offering step by step on all the knots you will need is www.animatedknots.com.

Flies: There is much debate on flies for Tiger. We recommend you carry a selection of Tiger Brush & Tiger Polar Minnow (mainly), Tiger Clouser and Tiger Whistler flies on hook sizes 1/0 - 3/0. The B10S hook is the standard. The Owner model 5180 is also a good hook to use – very high hook-up rate because it works like a circle hook. Flies do not necessarily have to be big – small flies also work well. Colour combinations that are consistently productive in Tiger Brush, Tiger Polar Fibre Minnow, Tiger Clouser and Tiger Whistler baitfish patterns include: Olive, Black, Purple and Grey (early season – March to May); Black, Black and Purple, Black and Grey, Black and Red, Olive and Grey, Black and Olive, and Fire Tiger (rest of season – June to January). Tiger are opportunistic so do not be afraid to experiment. Our guides over the years have their favourites so the first thing you want to do is show them your fly box and they will have suggestions and recommendations.

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