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Fishing Report 2008

The fishing on Lake Nasser is not as good as it was in the early days but, early days were so good the circumstances were almost unbelievable. This report from Olivier Portrat in August 2004 illustrates my point.

"Even though we had a good number of big fish on my safari, we didn't catch anything in excess of 175 lbs. So we have no new fish for your record-list. We had 9 perch of 100 lbs + on Hatari and 9 on Sobek. The biggest fish weighed 140 lbs, 155 lbs and 175 lbs. I had six perch between 110 and 140 lbs in one day, plus an additional fish of 90 lbs the same evening. My biggest of the safari weighed 155 lbs."

As I write this in Sydney (December 2008), an email has just arrived in my computer from my partner Nabil, in Aswan, reporting on a group of anglers from Finland.

"Kindly note I met them after the end of their safari, and they had enjoyed very much. Also the Fishing trip has had great weights 141lb, 107lb, 71 lb, 59lb and 54lb. And they are planning to make a new booking very near."

Even considering Oliver's results 4 years ago, the Fin's did not do too badly? Sure, Oliver's and the Fin's results were both exceptional safaris, but many others are also still catching good fish.

Although there are fewer big fish being caught, there are still a lot of captures between 10lb and 75lb which is great sport in anyone's estimation. As John Wilson once remarked

"Another interesting experience is shore fishing..... Where else for instance can you work artificial lures from the shore anywhere in the world either in fresh or salt water and encounter fish in the 20 - 100lb plus category. Nasser is quite unique in this kind of experience believe me." John Wilson of TV "Gone Fishing"

Pressure from commercial fishing is one of the reasons for the fishing not being as good

as it used to be; sadly this applies to almost every wild fishery that does not have a sensible management policy. The commercial pressure on Lake Nasser is not yet as dramatic as it might be because of the basic fishing methods still use on the lake. The Egyptian government, mindful of the need to keep as many people employed as possible, only issue licenses to peasant fishermen. This has kept out 'fat cats' who would use modern methods and 'clean up' much more quickly only benefiting the already wealthy.

A second reason for the more difficult fishing is because of our strict 'catch & release' policy. Returned Nile perch have learnt their lesson and many have become a lot cleverer and instinctively know the danger of noisy boats or are quickly alerted to the, not so careful, bank fishing angler.

I hope we will soon have the pleasure of welcoming you on safari or back on another safari – almost 50% of our anglers have been with us before.

Regards



The African Angler



It's not just a boy's game



Fly caught double strike



John Wilson April 2008



The Largest Man Made Lake in Africa

Lake Nasser Statistics

Max. Length	550 km
Max. Width	35km
Surface area	5,250 km ²
Average depth	25.2 m
Max. Depth	130 m
Water volume	132 km ³
Shore length	7,844 km
Elevation	183m
Measurements	approx due to annual flooding

It's hard to grasp just how big Lake Nasser is, statistics can be quoted, but do people really get an accurate idea of just how huge the lake really is?

An example was brought to Tim's mind while sitting in an Egypt Air flight waiting to take off from Luxor to London Heathrow. It was announced on the aircrafts TV monitor that the distance between Luxor & London was 4,000kms and the flying time 5.5 hours. 4,000kms is about half the shore distance around the lake; *it would take a commercial airliner about ten hours to fly the distance of Lake Nasser's shoreline?*

Just goes to show, there must still be large areas which are relatively un-explored even after our 16 years experience on the lake.

Gap Filler Fishing Safaris Summer 2009 – Two Fish for the Price of ONE

These "gap filler safaris" are great value. The shorter safaris will combine nicely with a holiday itinerary visiting Egypt's antiquities, then a Nile perch fishing safari. Hook up with your fishing buddy and take advantage of this great offer.

With our sixteen years experience of Egypt we are in a very good position to help you plan a perfect holiday itinerary and also give you advice about how to book your flight to and from Cairo.



176 lb Nile perch giving a good account of itself

Cost – Based on a Nubian Safari

April 13 to April 16	4 day fishing – Includes Abu Simbel
April 17 to April 20	4 day fishing
April 27 to April 30	4 day fishing
£400 €546	per person
May 16 to May 21	6 day fishing – Includes Abu Simbel
£570 €786	per person
May 21 to May 25	5 days fishing
£375 €530	per person

Prices are subject to a minimum of two people traveling together

Includes

All meals on safari

Includes complementary fishing tackle, everything you will need.

Safari information: <http://www.african-angler.co.uk/dates.html>

To book a safari contact peter@african-angler.net

Training Safaris 2009

DATES & COST

02 to 09 March 2009

05 to 12 October 2009

2 sharing a boat – 6 day safari

£770.00 per person

£95.00 Single Supplement

€880.00 per person

€110.00 Single Supplement

Includes

Arrival & Departure package

All meals on safari



Each year we operate two training safaris, the first at the start of our summer season and the second before the winter season starts.

Fishing conditions are changing all the time and the Nile perch, especially the big ones, are starting to get a lot cleverer so we have to stay ahead of the game and teach our guides new fishing techniques. One of the best ways to do this is to get them together on one safari to exchange ideas. Also, we have a massive lake to cover and need to explore new areas.

We are keen to invite anglers to take part on these safaris because a lot of what our guides learn is as a result of input from experienced anglers who are on safari with us. Even if you are not, what you might consider to be, an experienced angler your contribution will be useful because anglers who join these safaris will be expected to help explore new fishing grounds avoiding known 'hot spots' which is fun and does not require a lot of angling skill.

This is a good opportunity to join in and get a safari bargain at the same time because these safaris are discounted for participating Anglers.

A training safari is operated in the same way as our regular Lake Nasser Safari for more details please visit our web site:- www.african-angler.co.uk

If you are interested in joining a safari contact: peter@african-angler.net



Early Fish Offer

Everyone knows about the **Early Bird** advance booking offers so, we thought we would set a new trend and introduce an **Early Fish** offer.

Book any type of safari with us for travel between 1st June and 31st October 2009 we are offering the following savings.

- 1) If you pay a deposit before 31st March 2009 we will give you a 7% discount on the total price of the safari booked.
- 2) If you pay for the safari in full before 31st March 2009 we will give you a 12% discount on the total price of the safari booked. For safaris paid in full you will also get a complementary tackle box containing some 48 up to date lures.

For Husbands, Another mode of recreation, destroyed!

Saturday morning I got up early, dressed quietly, made my lunch, grabbed the dog, slipped quietly into the garage to hook the boat up to the truck, and proceeded to back out into a torrential downpour. The wind was blowing 50 mph. I pulled back into the garage, turned on the radio, and discovered that the weather would be bad throughout the day.

I went back into the house, quietly undressed, and slipped back into bed. There I cuddled up to my wife's back, now with a different anticipation, and whispered, 'The weather out there is terrible.' My loving wife of 20 years replied, 'Can you believe my stupid husband is out fishing in that shit?'

I still don't know to this day if she was joking, but I've stopped fishing."

Crocodile Tears



Crocodiles have an ancient lineage, and have changed little since the time of the dinosaurs. They are believed to be 200 million years old whereas dinosaurs became extinct 65 million years ago; crocodiles have survived great extinction events yet, humans, if left to their own devices, will eventually succeed in making them extinct.

Crocodiles have a reputation which is similar to sharks, we don't understand them and as a result are afraid of them, once you understand them and know how to be on your guard there is little danger. Nasser's Crocodiles are reasonably safe because the lake is located in a dry desert with very little wild life on the shore line which is of any interest to this prehistoric predator. The Nasser croc's basic instincts are attuned to hunting fish rather than taking animals from the shore. This is illustrated by the picture of a half submerged camel browsing in the lake, this is common, hundreds of camels look for fodder wading in the lake but it is very rare that the Bedouin report camels been taken by crocks.

Most of the local fishermen, more or less, ignore the crocks and live alongside them quite peacefully; keeping out of each other's way. Only occasionally a crock is killed by getting tangled up in fishing nets.

The top picture of the two fishermen loading a crock on to their boat is rather sad. We knew this crock well; it must have been at least 40 years old and was a really impressive reptile in its natural environment. The poor creature got entangled in the fisherman's net and was killed as a result of its mistake. Normally crocodiles keep well clear of nets but sometimes a struggling fish is just too much of a temptation.

The worst damage to the crock population is caused by a small number of local fishermen who hunt crocks, while they are still very young, and try to sell them as pets. Unfortunately the Egyptian Government does not enforce laws that make it a crime to sell protected animals.

The pictures of a crock being operated on were shot by Olivier Portrat on one of his safaris. The unfortunate reptile had got itself caught in a trap consisting of a strong line attached to a large hook, baited with a Nile perch. The sad little croc had swallowed bait and the hook which was stuck deep in its throat. As chance would have it, there was a vet on the safari and the decision was made to remove the hook. It's not wise to reach down a croc's throat to remove a hook; so its jaws were firmly secured and the vet made an incision while his assistant made sure the patient kept still. We believe this crock is still alive and well.

Although the crocodiles on Lake Nasser are very shy due to some rifle hunting that takes place there are still good opportunities to find and photograph them.

Fly Fishing for Nile Perch

In May 2009 South African fly fishing guide Jonathan Boulton will be joining us for his third year in succession to host two one week fly-fishing safaris. Jonathan is a top fly fishing guide who has guided all over the world, including the USA, Seychelles, Europe and Russia.

We use two methods for targeting this huge predator with a fly rod, either drifting in light aluminum skiffs powered by 25HP engines or by walking along the shore line. Walking is an exhilarating and challenging method but the desert terrain is difficult when casting large flies with heavy rods and a limited back-cast. Much of the action is spotting cruising or hanging fish, some blind casting but almost all the strikes are seen visually which is mind-blowing. The sight of a 50 pound plus inhaling your fly from under a ledge at your feet with your leader in the rod guides will not leave you in a hurry.

The potential on Lake Nasser is definitely there; after all great fish are caught on baits and lures. You will have the chance to catch the largest freshwater fish of your life; our guides know where the fish are and will put you on to them, then it is up to your skill to hook and land them.

Dates & Cost

22 May to 30 May 2009

29 May to 06 June 2009

2 sharing a boat – 7 day safari

£1,225.00 per person

£110.00 Single Supplement

€1,400.00 per person

€125.00 Single Supplement

Includes

Arrival & Departure package

All meals on safari

Jonathan's website:

www.flyfishing.co.za/NilePerch.php

To book a safari contact:

peter@african-angler.net



Husband & Wife



Some years ago we introduced a very successful scheme called "Father and Son" which gave Dad the opportunity of taking his son (sons) on a fishing safari at a reduced cost.

As we have been upgrading the standard of comfort on our safari boats we have noticed that wives are becoming much more interested in joining their husbands. We are keen to make our safaris more affordable to family units so from 1st October 2009 we will be introducing a "Husband & Wife" package which will have the same discount level as our "Father and Son" scheme. The husband pays the full amount for the safari and the wife joins the fishing boat as the second person and gets a 25% discount from the safari cost.

The only problem seems to be that the wife usually catches the biggest fish!!

Do Fish See Color?

An honest reply would be I do not really know the answer. I don't think we yet fully understand if fish see colour or do they see shades of grey? I recently wrote a book called "Nile Perch", co-authored with Barrie Rickards and we devoted a chapter to this interesting question; opinions differ and I am not sure if there is any solid scientific evidence either way?

Nile perch, feed mainly on Tilapia which are camouflaged so why should they be interested in lure colours – there are no red headed Tilapia with white bodies? Prey is located through sight, sound (vibration) and in some cases smell. Fish are opportunists and need to find out if something new is edible which is why they go for all the strange lure colours which stimulate their more aggressive feeding instincts.

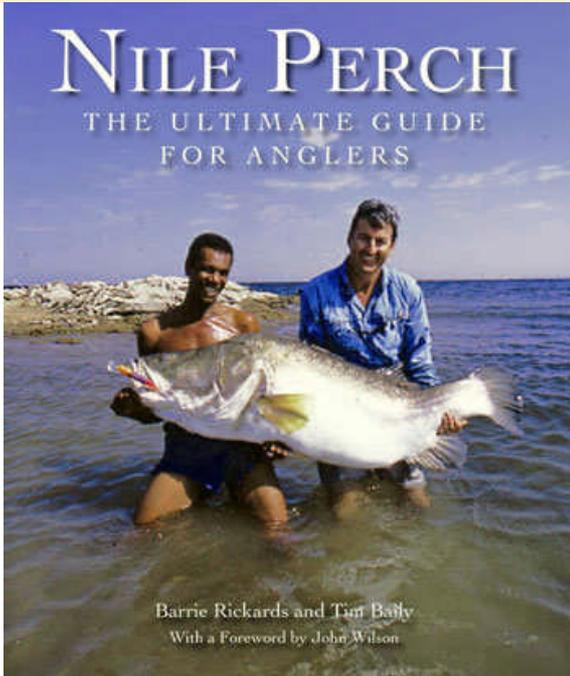
Where colours (or shades of grey) play a part is to stimulate an aggressive curiosity inspired response, 'is this strange thing (lure) edible?' This works until the predator starts to realise that lures can be dangerous.

Tim Baily

Nile Perch

The Ultimate Guide for Anglers

by Barrie Rickards & Tim Baily



Co-authored by Barrie Rickards an experienced pike angler and fishing journalist who was captivated by Nile perch and Lake Nasser and Tim Baily who pioneered Nile Perch safaris on the Nile and is a world authority on the subject of sport fishing for this huge predator.

It is only since the 1980s that ordinary anglers have been able to fish regularly for the legendary Nile perch, which is one of the biggest freshwater fish in the world. This book is a comprehensive study of how they can be caught and provides the reader with information about all aspects of the Nile Perch including their biology, ecology, distribution, and even how to cook them.

The book concentrates on Lake Nasser where most of the modern Nile Perch fishing techniques have been developed. However, the authors also consider other places in Africa where these enormous fish occur and can be captured. Brimming with information, the book explains everything there is to know on the subject and is also beautifully illustrated with over 150 colour photographs. Published by Crowood Press in April 2008 with a RRP £19.50

Tip: The best place to get a copy of this book is www.amazon.co.uk

What people are saying?

From: STEVEN HEGGENESS
Sent: 19 October 2008 12:42
To: Peter Baily
Subject: IGFA Junior record

Hi Peter,

Sorry I have not written sooner. We had a great time on our 3 day family safari, and my wife really liked the hotels and tours you had arranged for us. Those Amex guys were great. It was a wonderful trip with many memories.

On the last day, my youngest son Frank caught a 50 lb. perch. I submitted it to IGFA and it was accepted last week as a new IGFA Junior World Record (50lb 0oz).

Thought you might like to know.

Thanks again,

Steven Heggeness

Sent: 12 November 2008 10:37

To: tim@african-angler.net; peter@african-angler.net

Subject: My Fishing Experience

Dear Tim & Peter

Many thanks for the excellent service provided for my fishing experience in Egypt from the meet & Greet right through the overall Holiday to the day of departure. My special thanks to Shaban for being able to find the fish. I would have liked to have met with you Tim during my visit for what I would have been a fascinating conversation I hope this may occur in the near future.

I have enclosed three fish Photos for your Gallery a 64lb Fish & 76lb Fish caught on the 4th November 2008 & 116lb Fish caught 5th November (bonfire night) 2008.

Could you please let Shaban see the Photos.

Once again many thanks for the experience.

Best Regards

Paul Thursfield

From: Sam Mossman
Sent: 12 January 2009 02:33
To: Tim Baily; Peter Baily
Subject: IGFA Yearbook

Hi Guys,

I have Just received the 2009 IGFA yearbook with my article on fishing with you on Lake Nasser. The IGFA have done a wonderful job of it, and with your additions and extra photos, it stretches over 12 pages. I hope it scares up a bit of business for you in what everyone tells us are difficult times.

All the best for the New Year,

Sam Mossman

IGFA – International Game Fishing Association

U Tube

Connect for big Nile perch action

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYNtev1iHls>

Hi Peter - was a great trip, thanks for the patience in getting me there!

By all means - pass the www.fishntrips.net.au address onto clients. You are also welcome to put a link on your webpage if you like.

Was great chatting to Tim, a really interesting guy.

All the best,

Andy Warton

Did You Know?

Number of anglers in Europe - 25 million

Europe's expenditures on recreational angling - 25 billion (Euros)

Total anglers in the U K - 2 million (saltwater) 3.9 million (freshwater)

Value of UK's recreational fishing - 3 billion pounds (freshwater) - 1 billion pounds (saltwater)

America's most popular outdoor leisure activity - fishing

Source IGFA's magazine International Angler 2007



John Wilson's safari April 2008

Jason Mallalieu 125lb

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