

FISH OF ZIMBABWE

Series 2

Issued 20th January 1994

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1994*)²

Zimbabwe is rich in fish fauna with over 122 indigenous species recorded. In addition to these, a number of species have been introduced from other parts of the world which have adapted well to local conditions raising the number of species to over 132.

In this, the second in the series featuring Fish of Zimbabwe, a further six fish are depicted including one non-indigenous but world renowned game fish, the Rainbow Trout which has now been resident in the waters of the Eastern Highlands since 1921, and another non-indigenous fish, the Mirror Carp which has flourished since its introduction to Zimbabwe in 1925. Due to the large variety of species and excellent climatic conditions, fishing in Zimbabwe is a very popular pastime. Competitions are held regularly; the most well-known being the International Tiger Fishing Tournament which is held at Lake Kariba during the latter half of each year.

35c - Hunyani Salmon

Labeo altivelis

Also known as the Manyame Labeo, the Hunyani Salmon are distributed in the Zambezi River below the Victoria Falls and in rivers and dams throughout Zimbabwe. During the rainy season they are often seen moving upstream with just the tips of their dorsal fins above the water level. They can attain a weight of over 3kg and feed mainly on algae and other aquatic life. The fish are not a popular angling fish but bottom fishing with a small hook is employed using algae, worms or mealie meal as bait.



\$1,00 - Barbel

Clarias gariepinus

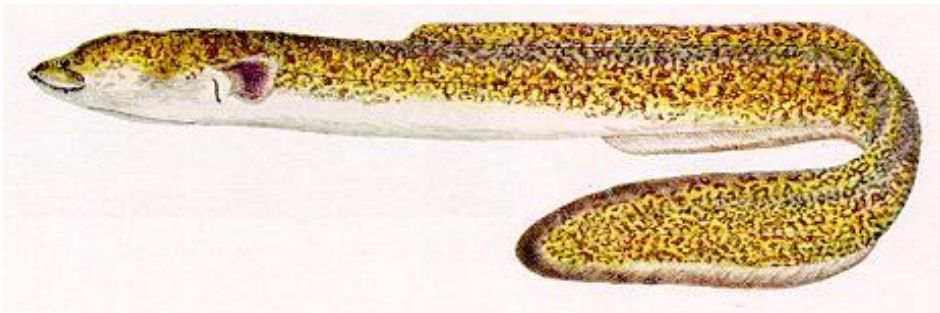
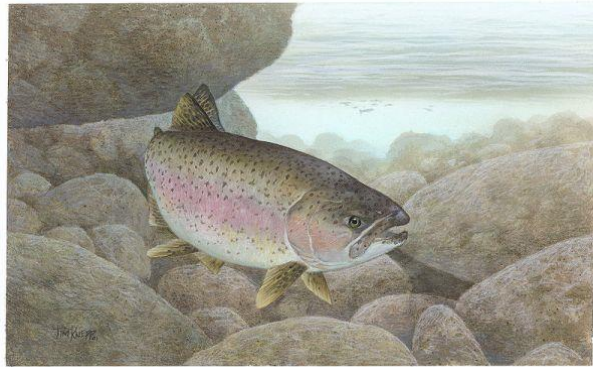


The Barbel or Cat-fish are widely distributed throughout Zimbabwe and Southern Africa. They are very hardy fish, well known for the time that they can live out of water. They will feed on just about anything that moves provided it is small enough. Snakes, frogs, small crocodiles, fish, snails, shrimps, larvae and insects. Generally scorned as sluggish fighters by the angler they can however provide good sport and can attain weights of up to 23 kilograms.

\$1,30 - Rainbow Trout

Parasalmo mykiss

Rainbow trout are indigenous to North America and have been translocated around the world. The Rainbow Trout were first introduced into Zimbabwe near Harare in 1910 but none survived. In 1921, they were re-introduced into the waters of the Eastern Highlands but did not survive in any numbers until a hatchery was established in the 1940s. Trout feed on small fish, insects and other aquatic fauna. All methods except by fly fishing are prohibited.



\$1,50 - African Mottled Eel

Anguilla bengalensis labiata

The African Mottled Eel are distributed in Zimbabwe mainly in the Upper Zambezi including Lake Kariba. Elvers climb the Pungwe Falls on their way from the Indian Ocean where they are spawned off the coast of Madagascar. Elvers have also been recorded climbing nearly 100 metres up the side of the Kariba dam wall but have never been seen crossing the road at the top. Eels can be caught on a variety of baits such as small fish, crabs, earthworms, or any piece of meat. Weights of over 21 kg have been recorded in Zimbabwe.



\$1,65 - Mirror Carp

Cyprinus carpio

Mirror Carp are indigenous to Asia and were first introduced into Zimbabwe from South Africa in 1925. A relative of the common goldfish, they have flourished in most dams and rivers in Zimbabwe. A 25kg Carp was recently netted at Mazowe Dam near Harare. Mirror Carp can be caught on a variety of baits such as bread soaked in beer, boiled potatoes, or maize meal mixed with curry powder.

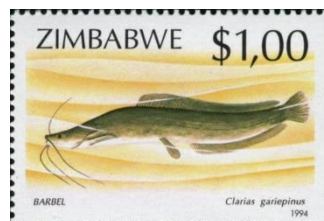
\$1,95 - Robustus Bream.

Serranochromis robustus jallae

The "Robustus" is distributed mainly in the Upper Zambezi, but has been stocked into many dams throughout Zimbabwe. A predator, it feeds on fish, aquatic and terrestrial insects, crabs or molluscs. The Robustus lurks close to underwater structures and is similar in habits to the Black Bass. It is a popular fish with the majority of anglers and can be caught on a variety of baits from earth worms to artificial lures and spinners. The current record size is well over 3.5 kilograms.



The Stamps



Catalogue listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
864	291	35c	Hunyani Salmon
865	292	\$1.00	Barbel
866	293	\$1.30	Rainbow Trout
867	294	\$1.50	African Mottled Eel
868	295	\$1.65	Mirror Carp
869	296	\$1.95	Robustus Bream

Technical details

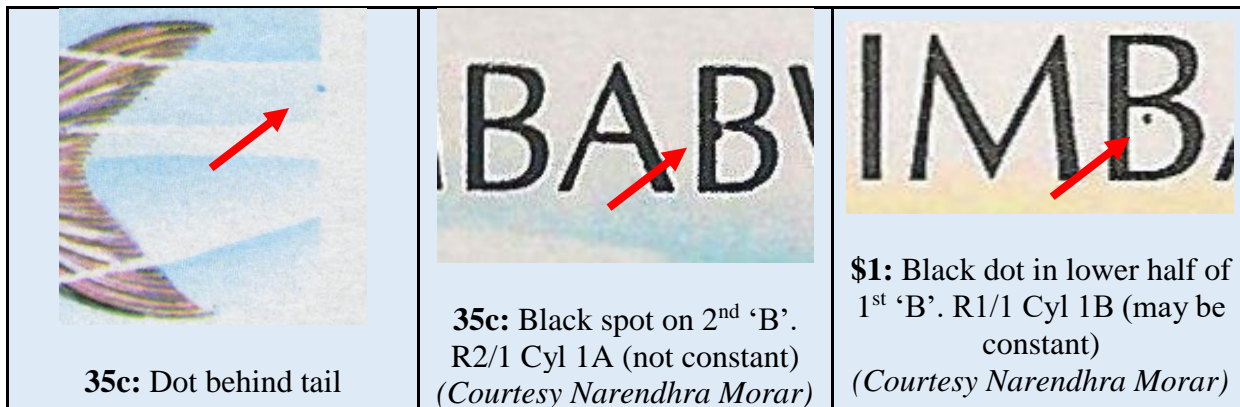
Stamp size:	All values	42 x 28 mm		
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet			
Artist:	Darren Herbert			
Paper:	ZSC paper type D – HS8, fluorescent front and back, with cream PVA gum.			
Print colours:	Black, magenta, cyan & yellow			
Perforations:	SG 14½, ZSC 14¼ Top margin: Perforated through. Other margins: Imperforate			
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe			
Printer's Imprint:	Bottom Margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black			
Cylinder numbers:	Top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black			
Colour register:	Type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black			
Sheet Value:	Top margin, below R1/10, printed in black.			
Sheet Number:	Type SN 4a with 'PTC' prefix, right margin opposite R1/10, reading down			
Print numbers:	35c	1,000,000	\$1.00	200,000
	\$1.30	200,000	\$1.50	200,000
	\$1.65	200,000	\$1.95	200,000
Issue date:	20 th January 1994			
Withdrawal from sale:				
Demonetisation:	23 rd October 1997			

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been noted

Unlisted Varieties

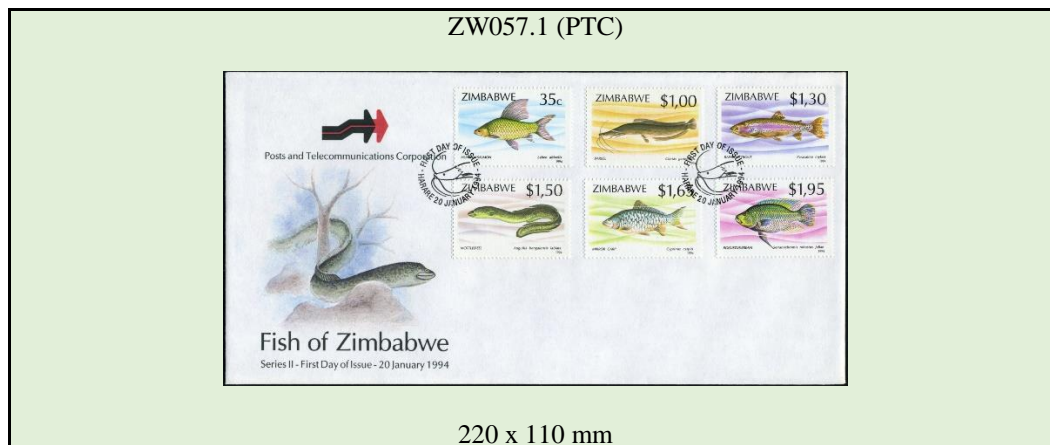
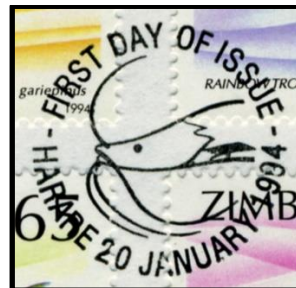
There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds. Some dots and specks shown below are a bit more distinctive, some may be constant.



First Day Cover

The cover numbering comes from the catalogue produced by Geoff Brakspear.

A pictorial first day of issue canceller was produced for this issued and was used by the Philatelic Bureau. Other first day cover cancellers continued to be used at main post offices.



Bibliography:

1. "The Zimbabwean Concise Postage Stamp Catalogue", published by Harare Stamp Company, edited by Ken Allanson, Mike Amos and Geoff Brakspear. The catalogue continues to be updated and expanded by Geoff Brakspear
2. PTC Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 1994.