

RECREATIONAL FISHING

Issued 31st January 2017

(Extracted from *Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2017*)²

Fishing is an ancient practice that dates back at least 40 000 years to the Paleolithic period. At that time, most people used to live a hunter-gatherer lifestyle and were, of necessity, constantly on the move. Where there are early examples of permanent settlements, people are almost always associated with fishing as a major source of food. Even around Zimbabwe, bushman paintings can be found depicting fish species and fishing activities. Some excellent examples of this Art are found at Lake Manyame and Lake Chivero Recreational Parks.

Izaak Walton's "The Complete Angler", first published in 1653 (and is still in print), is recognised as the first publication dedicated to the pursuit of fish from a purely recreational point of view. Presently, recreational fishing or angling is the fastest growing sport in the world, and has generated a multi-billion dollar industry. The demand for recreational fishing drives enterprises such as the development and manufacture of fishing tackle and apparel, fishing books and magazines, the design and building of recreational fishing boats, and the provision of decent accommodation for the anglers, fishing boats for charter and guided fishing adventures.

It is quite pleasing for one to note that Zimbabwe offers some of the finest freshwater angling and aquatic sporting activities in Africa, as well as one of the world's best climates. Several locations in Zimbabwe have excellent angling for native Tiger Fish, most dams with Largemouth Bass and the Niloticus bream, as well as the introduced Rainbow and Brown Trout in the Eastern Highlands. Added to the fishing recreational activity, depending on location, the angling experience is often enhanced with close-up views of elephant, buffalo, zebra, crocodiles, colourful birds and other fascinating wildlife.



40c: Tiger Fish

Undoubtedly, the Tiger Fish (*Hydrocynus vittatus*) is the ultimate quarry for most visiting anglers. The national all tackle record currently stands at 34 pounds, 4 ounces (15.507 kg). This specimen was taken from Lake Kariba in 1962.

The Tiger Fish is extremely streamlined, it is predominantly silver in colour, with black lateral lines on the body. The fins are a mixture of blending reds and oranges, and the teeth are razor sharp, pointed and interlocking, similar to the South American Piranha. Although a vicious predator, it does not attack humans. The Tiger Fish will readily strike at a variety of spoons, spinners, flies and plugs, as well as at live bait or fresh fish fillets, including kapenta. However, from a sporting perspective, Tiger Fish are most commonly associated with the Zambezi River, its tributaries and Lake Kariba.



75c: Largemouth Bass

The introduction of the Largemouth Bass was made in the early 1930s. Largemouth Bass and their cousin species are classified as warm water fish, meaning that they are most active in water of moderate to warm temperature. These species are cold blooded, so their bodies have the same temperature as the water. The activities of these species are controlled by the water temperature. The colder the water, the less oxygen and food they need, and the less they move. In fact, everything about them slows down. A big following for this species exists among organized fishing clubs, where catch-and-release is ardently encouraged so as to preserve this rare species. As a precaution to the injury of fish, quick rusting hooks are used.



85c: Lake Mutirikwi

Lake Mutirikwi (formerly Lake Kyle) was constructed in 1960. The main purpose for constructing the dam was to provide the region with enough water for irrigation and other agricultural activities all year round.

Lake Mutirikwi is one of the biggest inland water bodies in the country covering about 9 300 hectares. The dam has a variety of aquatic species which include fish of different types. The most popular types of fish found in the lake include Largemouth Bass, Greenland bream, Mozambican bream, red-breamed fish, and spotted catlet among others. Fishing is the major recreational activity done at Lake Mutirikwi. Besides fishing activities in the lake, anglers and visitors can also enjoy other activities in the Mutirikwi Recreational Park which is located in the same vicinity with the lake.

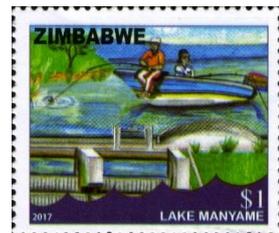
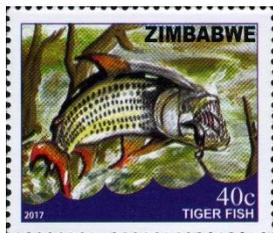


10\$1: Lake Manyame

Lake Manyame is one of the best angling environments in the world. Challenge the staggering bass fishing record of 18.4 pounds, experience stunning and breath-taking, views of the lake from the dam wall and picnic sites. Try out a variety of water sports or enjoy bird watching in this peaceful and tranquil environment.

The major fish species within the lake are: Largemouth Bass, Tiger Fish, Blue bream, Hunyani salmon, mud sucker, barbel, parrot fish, bulldog, sport tail, minor bass and African mottled eel. Fishing is the main attraction and bass fishing attracts thousands of enthusiasts annually. Fishing tournaments are held frequently with the most distinguished and world renowned being the "Bass Masters Tournament". The record catch on 25 July 2004 was a Largemouth Bass weighing 18.4 pounds.

The Stamps



(Reduced to 50% of actual size)

Catalogue Listings

SG	ZSC ¹	Value	Description
1429	827	40c	Tiger Fish
1430	828	75c	Largemouth Bass
1431	829	85c	Lake Mutirikwi
1432	830	\$1	Lake Manyame
MS1433	MS37		Imperforate miniature sheet set in se-tenant block of 4

Technical details

Stamp size:	Sheet stamps: 35 x 30 mm Miniature sheet 105 x 108 mm
Sheet Size:	50 stamps (10 rows of 5 stamps), two panes per printed sheet
Artist:	Fredy Tembo
Paper:	ZSC paper type J: paper described by Zimpost as “Chancellor Litho PVA Gummed Postage Stamp Paper”. This paper is produced by Tullis Russell Coaters of Glenrothes, Fife, Scotland. Under UV there is no fluorescence either front or back, the stamp appears to be very dark
Print colours:	Cyan, magenta, yellow & black
Perforations:	Sheet stamps only, SG 14½ x 14; ZSC 14¼ x 14 Top margin: Perforated through Other margins: Imperforate
Printer:	NatPrint, Harare, Zimbabwe
Origination:	Terrie Lue Graphics
Printer’s Imprint:	Sheet stamps only, bottom margin, below Row 10 Column 3. Imprint printed in black
Cylinder numbers:	Sheet stamps only, top margin above R1/1. Colours from left – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Colour register:	Sheet stamps only, type TL 4– round boxed – left margin opposite R1/1. Colours reading down – cyan, magenta, yellow, black
Sheet Value:	Sheet stamps only, top Margin, above R1/5, printed in black

Sheet Number: Sheet stamps only - Type SN 7 with printed 'ZIMPOST' prefix, right margin opposite R1/5 reading down

Bar codes: Opposite R10/5, printed in black, numbers:
40c 2 009113 000578
75c 2 009113 000585
85c 2 009113 000592
\$1 2 009113 000608

Print numbers:
40c 3,000 75c 3,000
85c 3,000 \$1 3,000
Miniature sheet 1,000

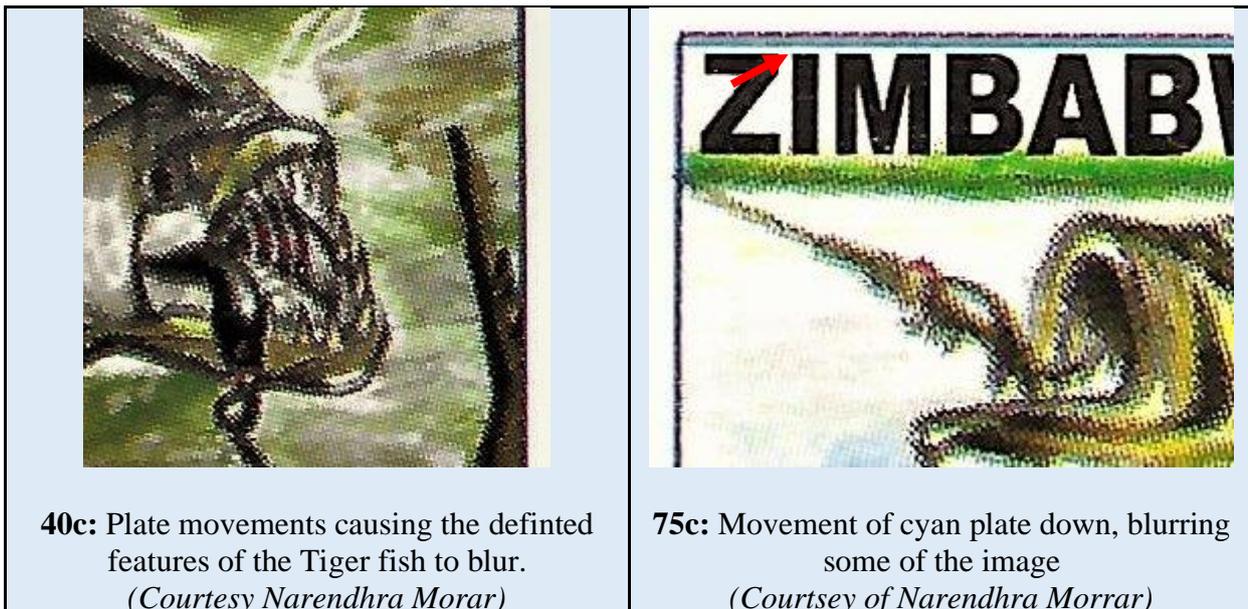
Issue date: 31st January, 2017

Listed varieties

No listed varieties have been reported.

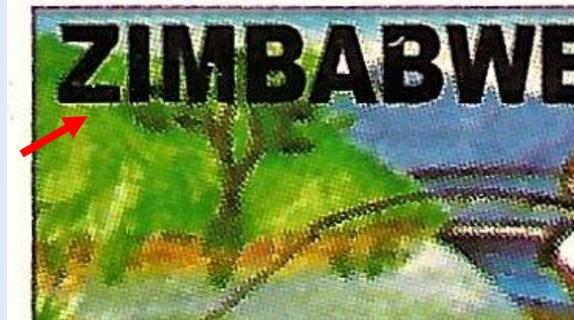
Unlisted Varieties

There are numerous small dots and specks in the printing of these stamps, particularly in the backgrounds which are more noticeable with the solid colours.

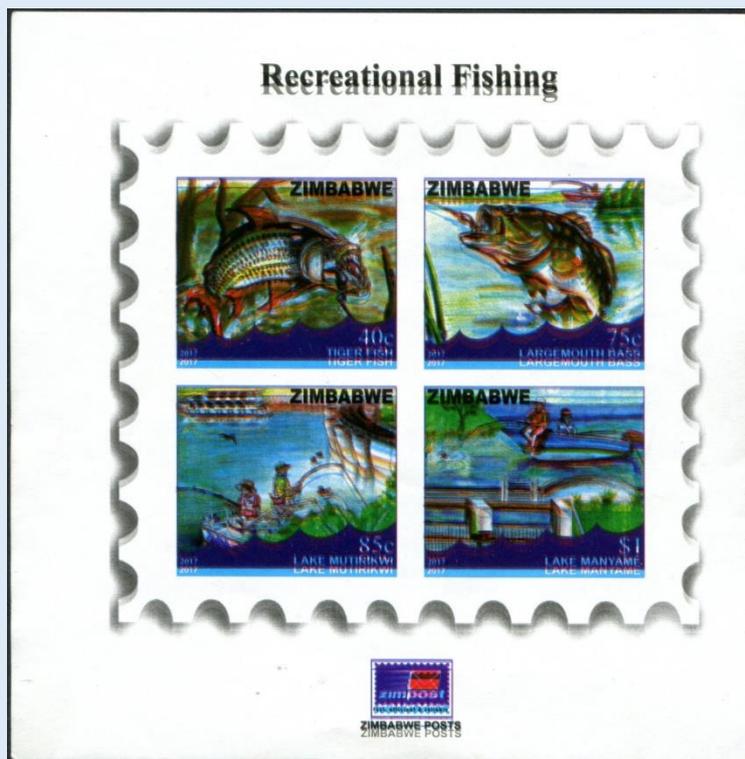




85c: Plate movement giving the anglers a double outline
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)



\$1: Movement of black plate upwards.
 Providing a white shadow to “Zimbabwe”
(Courtesy of Narendhra Morar)

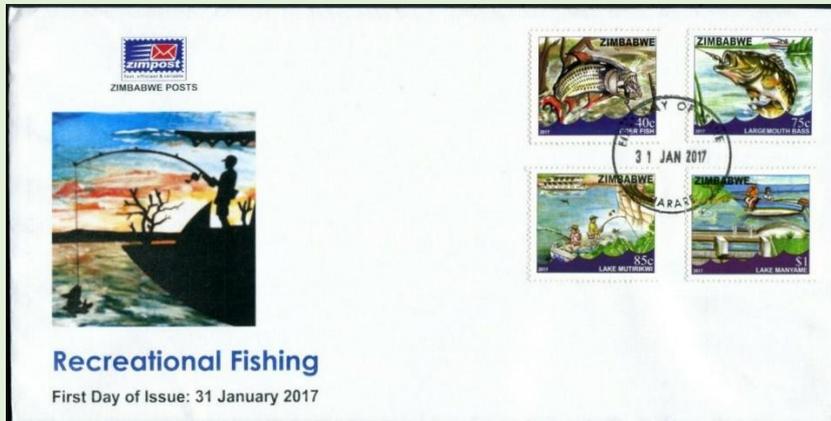


Miniature sheet: Sheetlet consists of various plate movements and double printing of the black
(Courtesy of Jefferson Ritson)

First Day Cover

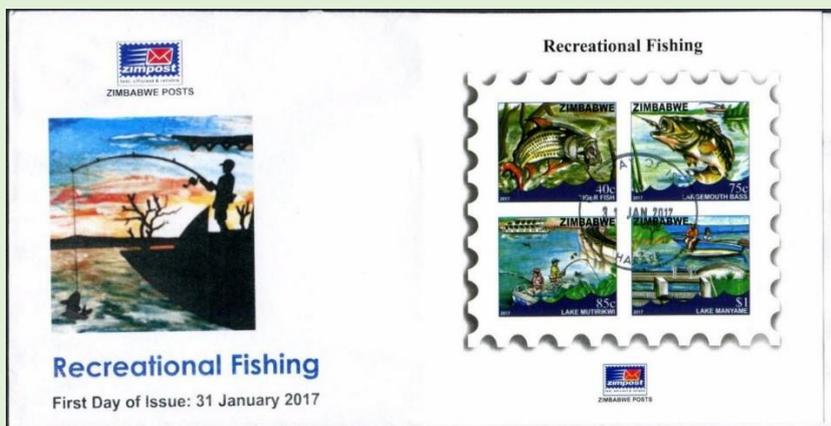
ZimPost produced a First Day Cover, which was postmarked by the Philatelic Bureau with a postmark reading “First Day of Issue/Harare”.

ZW167 (ZimPost)



220 x 110 mm

ZW167MS (ZimPost)



220 x 110 mm

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, and is now published on the Rhodesian Study Circle website.
2. Zimbabwe Post, Philatelic Bureau Bulletin No 1 of 2017