



The last hurrah of the season is over! A multitude of public holidays around Easter made sure that we ended the season with a bang. At present all is quiet at the Mudlark, the winter blues have settled on the river.

As I write it is perfect day, sun shining, the river glassy flat, the odd grunter tailing in the shallows, and not a boat to be seen, which is typical of this time of year. The fish are still biting, but no-one to catch them. Most people think that once Easter is over winter is here., and with it rain, storms and unpleasant weather. This is not normally the case, we have warm sunny days and little wind, sure it is a little chilly in the evenings, but a roaring fire solves that problem.

The first southern Right Whales have been spotted in the bay, which indicates the start of a hopefully bumper crop of whales. It is normally a good sign when they start to arrive earlier than normal. The fishing has been weird, with some very good catches, then nothing for a few days, then back to normal. The water has been chilly, then warming up again, it has also on occasions been the clearest we have ever seen. It does not happen often that you can see the fish swimming below the boat, a wonderful sight filling one with hope of a whopper, but not to be. I am sure that the fish see the line, the boat, and the bait and ignore it, leading to disappointment for the angler. As they say "That's Fishing".

The shark conservancy have been around looking for Zambezi's. They caught an tagged one in March. I am sure that lots of you saw it on 50/50. I think that it was very stressed, it had been tagged before. Indicating that there are probably not too many sharks in the river. It was tracked for a day or two then disappeared off the radar, hopefully it returned to the sea. There has been great controversy due to all the TV films which have been flighted this year. No one seems to know much about these animals in the estuary. My worry is that a shark will be

seriously injured and after being released cannot hunt effectively. It will then surely attack the easiest prey available, US. All this drama does lead to interesting conversations amongst our guests and visiting scientists who pop in to visit. Our guests do seem to have a intelligent opinion on these beasts.

As an aside, on a quick trip to Cape Town we went great white shark viewing in False Bay, the home of the Flying Shark. What a great outing with our Sharky Friends, Chris, Monique, and Poenas. They really love these monsters.

The Channel to the sea from the river has changed, this is causing boats to literally beach themselves as they travel into the river at high speed. The mind picture that one has is quite hilarious, but it must be quite terrifying for those involved as literally the sea opens up and you are travelling on sand. A couple of engines have been damaged and the NSRI have put out warnings.

Now the quiet time for business starts, very few guests, so during this time all our staff take their leave and we will also be going away for a welcome break and to recuperate, and also see how others run their lodges. Have a super winter, we will give you all the news again in August.

Tim & Hilary



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Contact Hilary or Tim on 028 542 1161
www.mudlark.co.za | info@mudlark.co.za