



Dave with the Leervis that did not get away!

So far February has proved to be the hottest month of the summer. With everyone sweltering in the heat and only too happy to get into the water, or to head down to the beach for a cooling swim

On the fishing front, it has still been happening on the river, with numerous fish being taken, although not quite as hectic as before. The variety of the fish caught has improved although the numbers of grunter are down, the numbers of Garrick has increased and so has the size, at the moment we are catching Garrick up to 8kg on live bait, and numbers of smaller fish on poppers.

Who was spotted at The Mudlark this month?



The kob are also around but we are catching small fish in the 5kg class, not the big 40kg numbers the river is renowned for, but never the less lots of fun. The smaller fish stumpnose, varkies, and some elf have made an appearance. They have been very scarce for most of the summer. The water is exceptionally warm, up to 23deg on certain days. The salt water is pushing about 30kms up the river, so I am sure those who live further up are also catching fish.



National Geographic, S>A> Shark Conservancy with, Marine and Coastal Management scientists have all been filming with helicopters. Which did not go down well with all the locals who were all out trying to catch fish. Why fly helicopters low over a estuary on a Sunday morning? You are definitely not going to win any popularity contests with those who use the river. Fortunately, or unfortunately, depending on your point of view, no sharks were caught. One of the previously tagged sharks has disappeared and probably gone back to the sea. No fish have been taken by sharks for the last 2 weeks. I would imagine the sharks have done their thing and returned to their normal habitat.



Rudolf our main gilly has probably caught more fish in the estuary than anyone else this season, something to brag about. He really has become an expert in estuary fishing, as most of his clients will attest to. Our new man Freddy is still learning the ropes, if enthusiasm is the main requirement to be a good angler he is surely on the right path.

Hilary has been up to her normal tricks in the veld, finding a white (albino) guinea fowl, the first one that we have seen. Also a Cape Rain Frog which is on the endangered list in our area. What a ugly looking frog he is. On one of her walks she found eland baboons, bontebok and blue cranes all in the same area. A pair of blue cranes behind us have produced a chick that we are watching with interest, hopefully it will mature and fly away with its parents. Another bird which has been occurring in the area is the Open Billed Stork, they normally only come down as far as East London, but with the climate change we never know what we are going to see.

The genet cat is still coming regularly to visit in the evenings and guests who have seen it on a couple of repeat visits reckon it will soon be joining us for sundowners on the deck. The fish eagles are still busy up river and seem less and less disturbed by the boats. We now sight them on almost every trip up the river.

Tim & Hilary



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