

Lower Zambezi

Catch & Release Initiative

GUIDELINES

LZCRI Logbooks

Thank you for helping to conserve the fish resources of the Zambezi. By logging your releases and submitting the data to the LZCRI you will contribute towards important baseline data that can be used to develop evidence based fisheries management plans and monitoring of fishing pressure.

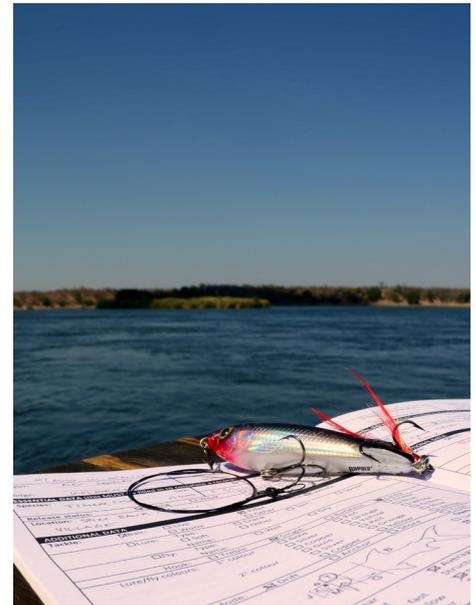
Why keep records?

Keeping catch records can be useful at a number of levels from individual guides, to lodge managers, to conservation managers and researchers.

- **For guides:** as a personal record, each individual can keep track of the number of fish caught on their boat. This allows guides to track their success rate through a season, and in the long term their success and progress across seasons. More detailed information can also give guides insights into what angling techniques work best for them and even where and when these techniques are most successful.
- **For lodges:** catch records allow you to be better informed about how where and when your fishing guides and guests have the most success. You'll be able to give sound advice to guests, before and during their stay, make management and marketing decisions (e.g. when to promote fishing vs other activities) and inform and train new staff. Like all natural systems, the Zambezi River is subject to change and keeping long term, up-to-date records is vital to ensure that you have the best knowledge of current trends.
- **For conservation and research:** compiled data from all lodges can establish trends in fish populations, fishing pressure and the behaviour of recreational anglers. These data can be fed into evidence based management plans, informed by sound scientific analysis. This will help ensure the sustainability of recreational fishing in the area for years to come

How to use the logbooks

The logbooks included in this pack are designed to integrate data collection into your fishing guides' daily activities, making the recording of information as quick and simple as possible. There are two types of logbook. The basic "Fishing Logbook" and the more advanced "Detailed Release Logbook". These logbooks are used to record important information about the fish caught and released during fishing trips from your lodge. The two types of logbook can be used independently or in conjunction with each other, and are each designed to collect a specific set of data.



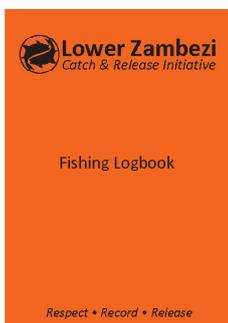
Keeping catch records:

Allows you to keep track of how well you have done this season

Helps improve your fishing skills and knowledge, enhancing the fishing experience

Provides insights that allow you to fish better in the future

Contributes to the management, conservation and sustainability of recreational fisheries



The **basic Fishing Logbook** has a simple layout which can be used to record a summary of each fishing trip, including only basic data on how and where you were fishing, what you caught and whether or not you released the fish. In this logbook, each page represents a single fishing trip, with each line representing a new catch record. The Fishing Logbook is suited to guides fishing with guests, and it requires very little time to complete each record. In this book, all catches and species should be recorded (even those not released or kept for bait) to provide a complete record of fish caught and released on that trip.

Respect • Record • Release

For more information on how you can participate in fish conservation on the Lower Zambezi visit www.wildtracks-zambia.com/index.php/LZCRI

RELATED MATERIAL

FACTSHEET - About LZCRI
GUIDELINES - Catch & Release



The **Detailed Release Logbook** is designed to capture a more comprehensive set of data about how each fish was caught and released. In this book a single page represents a single record (i.e. one fish). The Detailed Release Logbook can be used by itself or in conjunction with the basic Fishing Logbook. In this book, only record data on game-fish targeted for catch and release (e.g. tigerfish, vundu, nkupe, cornish jack, etc.) Each record will take a little longer to complete, but if guests are informed and engaged about the importance of catch and release, their participation can form part of their Zambezi fishing experience.

Successful record keeping

Although the logbooks are designed to make data collection as simple as possible, diligence and good record keeping are essential.

The following guidelines will help ensure that good, accurate records are kept:

- **Make record keeping part of the routine:** Guides should keep the logbooks as part of their essential tackle that they take on the boat. Recording data should become part of what every guide does on every fishing trip.
- **Inform your guests:** Include catch-and-release and record keeping as part of the pre-trip briefing. Tell the guests about the importance of catch-and-release and record-keeping. Engage them in the process as part of the fishing experience
- **Be prepared:** Make sure that everything you need to record catches (logbook, measuring tape, pens/pencils etc) is easily accessible to streamline data recording. Before using the logbook for the first time, familiarise yourself with the data collection procedure and terminology by reading the explanatory notes in the front of the book.
- **Keep it tidy:** Be concise where descriptions are required, accurate in measurements, and as complete as possible for each record. Write neatly as this will make data-capture easier when the records are compiled.
- **Back it up:** Make a copy of your records, in case your original logbook is lost or destroyed. The easiest way to do this is to enter your records into a spreadsheet. Regularly updating the spreadsheet, will be less tedious than waiting for many records to build up before entering the data. A spreadsheet template is available on request.
- **Submit your records:** If you keep an electronic (spreadsheet) copy of your data it can easily be submitted by email to sven@wildtracks-zambia.com. Filled logbooks can also be returned to the LZCRI for data entry.
- **Plan ahead:** New logbooks can be requested from the LZCRI using the contact details provided in the book. Order new logbooks before the old ones are finished to ensure continuous data collection.
- **Give feedback:** User feedback is important. If there is something that you don't understand, is difficult to use or you feel you could be improved, let us know so that these suggestions can be incorporated into future versions of the logbook to make them even easier to use.



Record keeping tips:

Make record keeping part of your fishing routine.

Engage with your guests and make catch records part of the Zambezi fishing experience.

Be prepared and have all your equipment and information at hand.

Keep your records tidy, concise and accurate.

Keep backup copies of your records in case you lose a logbook.

Plan ahead: order new logbooks before your current one runs out.

Give feedback. Let us know how the logbooks work and how we might improve them to make recording your releases easier

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FACTSHEET - About LZCRI
GUIDELINES - Catch-and-Release