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Gordon Brown [00:00:11] Pretty much discovered it myself. My parents didn't fish. And, um, I had some friends when I was a young boy who had been into fish. And they probably introduced me through, as my first fishing experiences. And I was hooked from a very young age. Why or what. I don't know but I've been a fisherman ever since. There's no doubt that for me, the fishing has deteriorated over time in some places but in some places actually improved where management has come in. But they are micromanagement management systems. If we're talking about wild fishing in untouched rivers that aren't managed it, it's certainly got worse. And for me. That that as well as the problem of. A global perspective is it is a population thing. We've got too many people. That's a lot of money. You, you talk about global warming you talk about all those things they all boil down to one thing: too many people. All our problems as far as I'm concerned boil down to too many people. I obviously for something to be sustainable it has to. In the modern. Way of economics and so on it has to pay for itself. It has to wash its own face. So yes. Tourist dollars make a difference. But it's not necessary just tourist dollars. It's working out how. Communities can benefit. From healthy fisheries. And that isn't necessarily just tourism. So. It's it's a tricky one. But. I think. Management is okay. On. On on a small scale but in an on a national scale. You know people rely on these systems and maybe the only way to improve the fishing. Is to show communities that benefit of a healthy system. For their most communities. That they can benefit by managing that system themselves. I don't think external management of systems is going to help. I think you need. Communities that rely on those resources to understand them better and to be able to. Manage them to the long term benefit. Not a short term benefit where eventually the resource is gone.

Gordon Brown [00:03:03] It's the same as the same theory as campfire campfire runs along the same. Principles that the community of whatever it is. Whatever resource it is that that someone is using for commercial purposes, the same principle, they've got to benefit from from any private enterprise that's going on there. Or where there's not an economic commercial exercise that can be done where they share non-profit, they need to be educated. So maybe education is the tool, educated to the fact that if you keep a sustainable system with some kind of quota because there are too many people now, then maybe it can last longer than if we just all go rape it and pillage it and taking everything. Yes it definitely has. There's definitely been a strong move towards catch and release. There is still there are still. People who. Take more than they need. When they when they go in the angling and they're catching fish and they don't need to take as much as they do. But there's no doubt whatsoever that. The. Principles of catch and release and the understanding of that whole system has made huge strides. Amongst the sport fishermen certainly in this country. There's no doubt about it.

James Thull [00:04:33] That's wonderful.

Gordon Brown [00:04:33] Which is good news is good news for us. You know we're part of organizations like Fly Fishing Zimbabwe and the Ugandans Fly Fishing Club. "We catch and release" is spreading from the into into into other sports. Well when I say spreading from there the other, the other disciplines, which aren't necessarily just fly fishing. Just normal normal tackle fishing. That there is a big move amongst that community as well towards catch and release and only keeping what you need. So it's good news.

Gordon Brown [00:05:12] So fly fishing Zimbabwe is is the more recent organization that started the younger dance Fly Fishing Club is the other organization that club is the oldest camp fire operation in the country. And that works with community. On the Garezi River.

Where they manage that river in conjunction with the community. The community sees it it's got a limited membership of 700 anglers that. That benefit from the river and the fishing in that river which is outstanding. And the community look after that river. And the fish within that river. And and they they see a reward from that. In in terms of return in agricultural inputs and things like that that the club passes back to them from their subs that they raise. So it's it's a community project. That involves. Both the community and the District Council and they, it works. It works well it works very well. Fly fishing Zimbabwe is is another organization. That. I myself am involved in and so is Derek. That. Is working with national parks in the Eastern Highlands national park called Yanga which has got some amazing water for, for trout. There are brown trout, there are rainbow trout there and they're all managed. And the idea of that is to is to keep the standard of fly fishing there up. Whilst national parks can only operate within the resources that they're provided. Our membership the fly, fly fishing Zimbabwe is there to assist with ensuring that those dams are fully stocked and. Managed correctly so they're both fantastic initiatives that as I said the Yanga Downs fishing club started in the 50s and 60s and now it's the oldest. Campfire project in the country. Fly fishing Zimbabwe is very young it's I mean it's only a year old. But I think it's got a great future not only in, in, in trout and. But also within sport fishing in the country like tiger fish and bream, it will spread its wings into that. So they they're both they're both very good organizations that I think are going to contribute positively to resource management and sustainability of those resources.

Gordon Brown [00:07:49] I've been asked that question many times before. Not just by you. There's this one particular Scotsman that says to me why the hell would you want to sit out there all day. Catch fish put them back in the water. He just can't see the. He just can't see the reason why anyone would do that. How many books have been written on trying to explain. Why we fish. When you're a fisherman and you you. Talk with another fisherman. You can straight away feel that connect. And it can be a complete stranger. But you can feel the connect and you can say to yourself. He's also got the bug. So how do you answer that question what. Well why do you fish. It's it's as you. As you mentioned earlier it might be a primeval thing, you know, why do people hunt?

Gordon Brown [00:08:44] I'm not a hunter I'm a fisherman. I don't disagree with hunting. But I but I'm not a hunter.

Gordon Brown [00:08:52] Why did people, and I think that will go back to the same thing. It's a primeval. Urge. It's also maybe that. Ability to have. Time on your own. And. Escape everything else. Maybe it's that. What if whatever it does I ought to put a finger on it.

James Thull [00:09:10] There is a writer named Haig-Brown. And he said maybe for me fishing was just an excuse to be in near rivers and if so I'm glad I thought of it.

Gordon Brown [00:09:19] 100 percent. And that's what it's about. And. For different for, for different people it's different things. And it's not necessarily putting a fish on the boat. Or putting a fish back into the water. It can just be being there. And sometimes you don't even need to pick up a rod. You can spend the whole day just being there. But yeah. I have. To answer that question in one sentence. I'd have to have a day to think about this.

Gordon Brown [00:09:55] I've got so many fishing stories many of which I probably shouldn't mention that that they have taken me to amazing places. My. Fishing story is not a it's not a fishing story as in one catching of one fish. But when I was a young man I drove around Southern Africa. In a Land Rover with my. Rubber duck on the top of my roof with a very good friend of mine. And we spent. Four months five months. Traveling around. And

just looking at a piece of water and saying let's take a bite off, jump in. Caught a fish we caught all the different Bream fish and we fished waters that. We thought maybe people hadn't fished for a long time and which was probably correct. That whole trip is probably my best fishing story because. I had I was fancy free I had no responsibilities I could stop where I wanted fish for as long as I wanted and go home when I wanted. And for me to be able to fish. It's like the saying guilt free leisure time to be able to go and fish and not worry about what time you got to get home and not worry about how long you going to be there. That is blissful fishing. Where. Should I be here for one day or 10 days I'll choose. Should I go home for this afternoon because I'm tired or shall I get on fishing til ten tonight. Those were my own decisions and that's probably my. My best fishing story is that I was able to do what I wanted when I wanted.

Gordon Brown [00:11:34] As a fisherman but I because I'm a fisherman. I love all kinds of fishing. fly fishing on a river, on a still water conventional fishing on the same. I love it all. But I would really like to get to Jurassic Lake. And catch some of those 20 and 25 pound rainbow trout and eat all that shrimp. I would love to do that and I will one day squish in the time. But certainly I'd like to go and do that.