

## charnley-cymon-2018-04-25.mp4-Done

**Cymon Charnley** [00:00:10] Suppose it's part of growing up your father puts a fishing rod in your hand and says, come. Here so the rest was history.

**Jim** [00:00:19] Was that here in Uganda?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:00:21] That was done in Mozambique.

**Jim** [00:00:24] Mozambique?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:00:25] Liberia.

**Jim** [00:00:25] And was that saltwater fishing that you did down there?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:00:29] Saltwater.

**Jim** [00:00:29] Do you remember what kind of species you guys went after?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:00:32] No it just that this one had to be bigger.

[00:00:42] Yeah fishing it was opportunity for everything. There was surf fishing, rock fishing, saltwater fly, and of course trawling. Deep deep water trawling and even further out if you found the right place you could do some jigging.

[00:01:09] Inland there was a lake built by the Italians some time in the 70s. There was some good tiger fishing at the outlet of the just beyond below the dam wall. Certain times of the day you actually had some good tigers coming through. So that would have been the only freshwater we would do in that area that region.

[00:01:40] It's just so many of them it's they're actually quite quick and easy to catch that's where we found it certainly up at the corner on the Zimbabwean side. It's a very bony fish not good to eat just too bony. And never to be released if you were going to keep it because it would swell up they didn't like to be landed and then released. You would keep it and you actually would give it to your boat operator he was quite quite happy to have it. But us with a bit of a palate, we prefer to have something which was a little bit more meater a little bit less bonier.

**Cymon Charnley** [00:02:27] No, no not certainly not freshwater and for them as I say what was there was what you could catch.

**Jim** [00:02:34] Sure.

**Cymon Charnley** [00:02:34] It was your your Tiger. Yes you did have a yellow tail but there were few and far between and it was more of a patient fishing style where you cast he nods and you just sitting waiting, waiting, waiting for that right moment. I didn't have the patience for that. Similarly with, with saltwater beach casting I didn't have the patience. Rather do something that was a little bit more active. Such as the jigging, such as the flying, or such as the trawling.

[00:03:17] Just the experience. You know it's more of a real fishing where you're really active. I suppose in a saltwater environment you could relate too costly not to spin it but

here it's a little bit more it's got a bit more finesse to it. Just keeping that getting that fly to where you want to actually get it out too. And of course not tangling up I'm not going to profess I was anywhere near as good as any average beginner. But that's really where I was a beginner.

**Cymon Charnley** [00:03:59] I didn't do bone fishing myself it was in the area. We used it was quite popular with the US citizens who would actually come through because that's the favored fish that they're looking for. I believe it was quite a good fishing experience and they put up a good struggle and a good fight.

**Jim** [00:04:21] And then you had a lodge there for awhile is that correct? Can you tell me a little bit about that and?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:04:26] Dugong beach lodge it was on the VC W eight. It includes coastal wildlife sanctuary, which is the, it was then I'm sure this storm now the largest nautical sanctuary in the southern hemisphere. Well in Africa certainly, I don't know about Australia and New Zealand. Yeah, at the time the intention was back then, I left the property about 15 years ago, the intention was back then that they were going to rehabilitate the animal livestock. And of course, on the fisheries side it was natural it was untouched. A lot of seagrasses, as a result, we had Dugong coming through, which you would know as a manatee. We had a good few sightings of that right in front of the mulch because you had your deep water shadow water channels. We would have dolphin and porpoise coming through. We had a deck we had it still there. It was a DEC waterway JT that went out 40 odd meters, with a 4 and a half meter timetable tide movement. It had an abundance of sea life under that JT because it's only became an unnatural reef. And it wasn't uncommon to see Kingfish, Scorpion devil five fish, Tom Mooney's, Mackerel, and Queenfish actually. In abundance in near right there, but we weren't allowed to fish right there. Though we did have somebody to come in with a bow and arrow that tried his luck, soon stopped by the Authority before he caught anything. At a little bit further out away from the immediate area of the sanctuary, and understandably it was a sanctuary, it was some good fishing. Again you know deep water fly and off the beach surf, there was no rock there.

**Cymon Charnley** [00:06:40] I go back every year I've got property there so.

**Jim** [00:06:43] Have you noticed any have there been any changes since you were a kid, is the fishing in the waterways, is nature is good?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:06:50] I won't comment on that. I haven't seen, I haven't actually been going there to actually check on that. But what I can profess is that simply on the Mozambique side they have put patrols in on the prawn. Prawn seasons are being closed to actually try and rehabilitate the cycle you know and get the growth, and the breeding is actually up and running again. But as far as the fish are, can't comment on that one.

[00:07:23] We are right on the shore as you can see the camera right there, about 20 meters behind me. We've what we've done on the lakeshore to protect the property and protect erosion we've done a rock wall, which is about one and a half meters thick rising about three meters. You can imagine with every rock it's actually created a bit of a haven for smaller fish. So we've seen a good growth of Tilapia in the immediate area and that creates an interest with your, our guests. And those guests think they're going to go out and actually fish. What's out there immediately right here is just too small to be picked up on the hook. Fortunately, with our security, we are able to maintain the 100-meter fish line. So we disrupt any fishing of the fishermen coming through and dropping his nets. But the

interest is certainly there say that your leisure tourists coming through is actually got an agenda he knows where he's going into Safari or bird watching or whatever, but he doesn't have the time to go fishing. But you do get that fair amount of pop put a little bit of time then yes they will actually, the interest will be sparked. And I'll speak around we've got a couple of boat operators in Entebbe that will take them out to prime sights. Fishing then we're looking for the Nile perch. Which is the largest freshwater predator fishing in Africa, I don't know how that equates in the rest of the world. But everybody wants to catch a Nile perch. The fishing on that side is you know the lake over the past few years, well over a few last decades. Well, it's just pretty much been fished out, it's been quite dismal. We do fishing competitions our hotels sponsor a fishing competition once a year. And in years past boats have come in say 15 boats and about three of quarter fish. Oddly enough even a catfish has been actually caught on the Louisi with somebody's sinking, sinking and learned to on the acceleration picked up a catfish. Meaning that the perch have just not be there. But on a positive note the UPDF, which is the Ugandan People's Defense Force. Put enforcement last year the middle of last year they closed the fishing, to illegal fishing. Legal meaning non registered, using very fine seemed nets which are just raping the waters and bringing everything out, even undersized and putting aside. Last fishing competition was in November I'm happy to say out of eleven boats, all eleven brought in, which was a good turnaround. Our next fishing competition in June eighth and ninth of June we're looking positive towards it. One of the similar, similar. Three weeks ago local fishermen pulled in a hundred seventy-four kg perch. That's an absolute cracker. I was told it was auctioned off three million shillings. Which is a tune of about what about 781 dollars somewhere about there, best estimate. So it's looking positive here with our water. So of course with that positive begin our guests are now talking well, let's go out fishing.

[00:11:24] You know I haven't been in the country long enough to, to talk about long term. I've only been here for six years. But the I'm sure some of those others that you're gonna interview will probably give you a little bit more insight into it. But it's it can well be a combination between poor water management, you know with sewage actually going and killing what's actually is out there. Times we've go out fishing and you just hear a form of green algae, for miles. And what does that do? I wouldn't say it so much as depletes the fish count. But it does actually inhibit the hunger they desire to actually feed, which inhibits their growth. So it can be coming from even that angle. But certainly on the fishing side yeah there's been quite a few stories and documentaries of recent, talking about the islands. In the fishing islands which are very reliant solely reliant on fishing as their primary source of income. That just emptying out because they're all out of fish.

[00:12:45] I'm getting a little bit bored, bored with it now you know it's really for the children. My daughter my son they're the avid fisherman and fishing girl. My son has now moved on he's up in New York. But my daughter that's what she wants to do, if there's a fishing competition she wants out there. I don't know if it's the exposure that you want you know to hold up a trophy or hold up a fish. But a it's sort of a part of growing up it's what really they're after. I can't remember when I last caught a fish, I'm not allowed to you know if there's a strike on the rod she takes it.

**Cymon Charnley** [00:13:34] I never really thought of the question. Yeah it's just goes some maybe Maricious do some deep sea, try and bring in a big sailfish you know tag it and let it go. But a probably that yeah.

**Jim** [00:13:53] Excellent. Is that what you guys do here with most of your Nile perch is catch and release?

**Cymon Charnley** [00:13:58] Well on, from different areas if you're looking in the park it would be catch and release. Catch measure it or release it, that is the law. That's where we would have a fishing competition. Proceeds of the catch would actually go to an orphanage. An orphanage of the organizers choice. And which is very rewarding, because these kids, we'll have the administrator come in and say the children haven't tasted fish for over a year. That's what we would do with our catch.

[00:14:34] Enjoy yeah bring suntan lotion, sun sunblock and a good hat, but apart from that have fun.