

patel-yunus-2018-05-03.mp4

Yunus Patel [00:00:09] It was something my uncle used to do, My late uncle. We used to have a farm on the confluence of the Zambezi and Kafre river and we used to farm bananas, and my uncle was very keen tiger fisherman, and that's how my interest started.

Yunus Patel [00:00:34] Not really. Well, I've got quite a few tigers but I don't remember the first one. There's quite a few tigers that I landed.

Yunus Patel [00:00:47] It's the adrenaline, adrenaline rush that they give you. It's the, it's the, the initial, the initial pull, the tug. And the screaming, your drag screaming and, it's quite amazing, the power. You know, that the tiger fish has.

Jim Thull [00:01:03] So it's quite a strong fish?

Yunus Patel [00:01:05] It's quite a strong fish, yeah.

Yunus Patel [00:01:12] There's a number of ways to catch a tiger. You can fish them using fillets, fish fillets, drift baiting, or you can use lures. Basically, lots of ways to catch them, on fly. You can catch them on fly also.

Jim Thull [00:01:27] Have you fly fished for them?

Yunus Patel [00:01:28] No, I've never fly fished. I've only drift baited or used lures. Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:01:33] Do you have a preferred method?

Yunus Patel [00:01:36] Basically whatever is working in the area. The guides normally tell us that you know, here try lures, you know lures work generally, but mostly we drift bait, yeah.

Yunus Patel [00:01:54] It depends where we are. If it's an area where it's catch and release, then we have to release them. If it's a small tiger, we usually put them back. The bigger tigers, maybe I'll keep a few. But generally, we put them back.

Jim Thull [00:02:08] Are they good to eat?

Yunus Patel [00:02:08] They're bony. The smaller ones are bony and the larger ones are not so bony. It can make nice fish cakes, the tiger.

Yunus Patel [00:02:23] I've caught pike, silver bubble, bream, lots of species of bream. We have the largemouth bream. We have a smallmouth bream, lots of catfish species. We've got the vundu, which we, which is quite a large catfish and the normal catfish that we find in the rivers. There are quite a few species that are available.

Yunus Patel [00:02:57] Tackle and Pet Haven was established in 1995. And we are a pet store and an angling store. So it works quite well because the clients that come in to buy the fishing tackle, they also have pets at home, so it's, it's, it's a strange combination, but it's, it's worked well for me.

Yunus Patel [00:03:21] We have lots of lures like artificial lures or you call them crank baits. Rapalla is one of our good, better selling ones, and lots of spinners and spinner baits

and we sell also a little bit of rubber worms. Generally what works for bass in America will also work for our bream especially the largemouth bream. So basically, mostly bass fishing, bass fishing lures that we, that we sell here in the shop. [00:04:01][0.0s]

Jim Thull [00:04:02] And I noticed you had a pretty good selection of spinning rods.

Yunus Patel [00:04:06] Yes spinning, and we sell more spinning than we do baitcast but we have both, both varieties.

Jim Thull [00:04:11] Is that Shakespeare, or who, whose, whose rods do you sell?

Yunus Patel [00:04:15] All brands we sell Abu Garcia, we sell Shimano. We also sell Rapala, Blue Fox, Shakespeare, a little bit of Penn, Penn fishing equipment. Most of the major brands we stock.

Yunus Patel [00:04:41] Well basically, we, we sort of know what, what the market here requires. So we, it's easy to narrow it down. So basically, we just stick to what we know, basically. And we order catalog as well. We order from Bass Pro, Bass Pro Shops, and most of our stuff we get from South Africa.

Yunus Patel [00:05:07] It's, it's everyone. It's everyone that fishes. The Zambians, the foreigners, and everyone. It's a it's, it's a, it's a very popular pastime, put it that way.

Yunus Patel [00:05:25] Not really, no, but we, we point people in the right direction. We like, we show them the, the good fishing spots. For example, Lower Zambezi National Park. There's lots of lodges there, and most of the lodges have professional guides that take people out. So we, what we do is we just, we just advise the customer in a way they can get good fishing.

Yunus Patel [00:05:56] No, the fishing is, around Lusaka, there's not many places to go. If you want to have like, decent fishing. You've got to go to a national park because outside the national park there's lots of netting and populations of fish are not what they used to be. So if you want to have a, like a decent fishing trip, you got to go like, got to drive at least two to three hours to a like a national park or an area where you can catch good fish.

Yunus Patel [00:06:36] The government, the fisheries department they, they institute a fishing ban which, which is normally during the spawning period, like three months of the year. So generally, it's first December to, to the end of March. So the fishing will open, like first April. So that, they are trying but they have limited resources. It's difficult for them to police all the areas. But they are trying with whatever little resources they have, to try and preserve what, what resources we have.

Yunus Patel [00:07:14] It is an excellent destination for anglers. So a lot of clients go to Lower Zambezi National Park, and excellent fishing there, and the success rate is very high because everything whatever, whatever is caught is all put back so the populations are good and no netting allowed in the National Park.

Yunus Patel [00:07:40] For the lodgers definitely, they, they are, they are very careful about what lures they use also. They're very careful about not gut hooking the fish. And so, the lodgers, they get together and they formulate policy for the, for the National Park. So, so that they can always have good fishing grounds, so to preserve for their own clientele to always have fish to catch.

Yunus Patel [00:08:13] You've got to be very careful, you don't get bitten by the tiger fish. It'll bite your finger right off.

Jim Thull [00:08:18] Oh my gosh.

Yunus Patel [00:08:20] So you've got to have a bogey grip on hand and a good pair of pliers, basically.

Jim Thull [00:08:28] And then you just try to get it back in the water?

Yunus Patel [00:08:30] And just try and get it back in the water.

Yunus Patel [00:08:36] Lots of encounters with wildlife. We need, we need lots of time to tell all the stories.

Jim Thull [00:08:43] Do you have a favorite quick one that you'd like to share with us?

Yunus Patel [00:08:48] We were on a hunting trip with my dad. I was just 10 years old. And we were looking for, we were looking for buffalo, and, we left camp very early in the morning. It was before sunrise and we, I, they spotted a herd of buffalo, and they, and they left the vehicle. I stayed in the vehicle and my dad and the trucker they went off to try and to follow the herd. And then we heard some shots rang out and then later, the guy that stayed in the vehicle with me, He said he could hear lions, but I couldn't hear anything, and soon after that, we heard some more shots ring out. And soon, a few about half an hour later, my dad and everyone came to the vehicle to get the vehicle to go and get the buffalo they had shot. But on the way back, and the driver was coming to get the vehicle, they found a lion that was snared. So that was the second shots that we heard ring out. So the same time, the lion was also following the herd and got snared just at that time and basically was caught in the snare. So, so they also had to shoot the lion. So we had lots of hunting stories. There's too many to, to tell.

Yunus Patel [00:10:19] That's illegal. That's illegal. And lot of snaring going on in the park, in the national parks, and the game management areas.

Yunus Patel [00:10:31] It's a big problem, big problem. Poaching is a massive problem, but, the parks department, they are trying to, you know, do aerial patrols and they do their best to try and control the poaching.

Yunus Patel [00:10:53] Well, that's, that's what, that's what we worry about because it's not what it used to be. So we have to tell people that, you know, catch your limit. You know, don't, don't, don't fill up a deep freezer, just take what is enough, you know, a few fish, not the whole fishing basket. Yeah, there's a, there's a tendency to overfish, even by anglers, the tendency to take out as much as they can, so, so people are realizing that they need to put back to preserve for the future generations.

Yunus Patel [00:11:36] You know the thing about fishing is when you go fishing you forget about everything. You just, there it's so serene and so peaceful. You just relaxing, come back refreshed. So that's the, that's the thing I love most about the fishing and the scenery is beautiful. The fishing here in Zambia is out of this world. You know, you'll be sitting on the boat and you'll, you'll see a herd of buffaloes coming known to drink. You'll see elephant. You see hippo. You'll see crocodiles. You know, it's, it's an amazing experience.

Jim Thull [00:12:09] Yeah. That's great.

Yunus Patel [00:12:09] To fish in Africa, in Zambia.

Yunus Patel [00:12:18] I'd love to go to the Amazon, to the Amazon River.

Jim Thull [00:12:24] And fish for like peacock bass or piranha?

Yunus Patel [00:12:25] Yes, peacock, peacock bass.

Jim Thull [00:12:25] Yeah.

Yunus Patel [00:12:27] And you know there's, I hear there's lots of species of fish there in the Amazon.

Yunus Patel [00:12:35] Yeah, today I was talking to someone. Today, I was talking to one very, very crazy fisherman. Yeah.

Jim Thull [00:12:43] Is that one of the things you like about the job?

Yunus Patel [00:12:44] Yeah, I love, I love to share my experience with my clients. I love to tell them, you know, how to catch and what to catch and what to use.

Jim Thull [00:12:54] And I guess you've built up people who have been coming in for years to see and shop with you?

Yunus Patel [00:12:59] Yes, I have my clients who like me, who like to come back.