

## NEWS RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACT:**  
**JOSEPH OPAGER**

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

o: 612.337.1989 c: 218.434.0748

e: [joseph.opager@flwfishing.com](mailto:joseph.opager@flwfishing.com)

twitter: @joeopager

[www.flwfishing.com](http://www.flwfishing.com)

### **ZIMBABWE, NAMIBIA ANNOUNCED AS LATEST COUNTRIES TO JOIN FLW INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONING**

#### **TEN COUNTRIES NOW SANCTIONING INTERNATIONAL FLW BASS FISHING TOURNAMENTS**

MINNEAPOLIS (April 2, 2019) – Fishing League Worldwide (FLW), the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, announced today that Zimbabwe and Namibia have become the latest countries to offer anglers the opportunity to compete in FLW sanctioned bass fishing tournaments in 2019.

Both Zimbabwe and Namibia will run a series of FLW tournaments that advance anglers, who are citizens of that country, to the International Division at the Costa FLW Series Championship beginning in 2019. One angler from each country will compete as a pro, with FLW providing a fully-rigged Ranger boat, and one angler from each country will compete as a co-angler.

In addition to its adult tournaments, Zimbabwe will be running a series of High School Fishing tournaments and will be sending at least one team to the United States to compete in the 2019 FLW/TBF High School Fishing World Finals.

Both countries will operate under the direction of FLW South Africa president Hannes Lindeque with local supervision provided by Clint Skinner in Zimbabwe and Neil Engelbrecht in Namibia.

"We are so excited to have this chance to showcase our anglers to the world," said Skinner. "Zimbabwe may be small and struggling in many ways, but our anglers can beat all comers. With the help of our sponsors, we look forward to sending both student and adult anglers to compete on the biggest stage in the bass fishing world through FLW Zimbabwe."

In 2017 FLW South Africa's Michael Matthee made history by winning the international division at the Costa FLW Series Championship on Kentucky Lake and becoming the first international angler to finish in the top 10. Matthee is competing on the FLW Tour this season and recently finished second on Grand Lake.

"Michael is living the dream at this moment and stands a great chance of being a professional angler for the rest of his life thanks to FLW," said Engelbrecht. "FLW's core values emulate our own, which makes launching FLW Namibia an easy decision."

The top pro award at the Costa FLW Series Championship is \$100,000, including a Ranger Z518L boat with a 200-horsepower outboard if the pro is Ranger Cup qualified, and the top co-angler award is a Ranger Z175 boat with a 115-horsepower outboard. The highest finishing pro from the International Division at the Costa FLW Series Championship advances to the following year's FLW Cup for the chance to compete on the sport's biggest stage.

FLW Canada's Erik Luzak was the highest finishing International pro at the 2018 Costa FLW Series Championship and will represent the FLW International Division at the 2019 FLW Cup on Lake Hamilton in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

"We are thrilled that anglers in Zimbabwe and Namibia will now have the opportunity to fish FLW events at home and qualify for the FLW Series Championship in the United States," said Fennel. "There are some fantastic bass fisheries in Zimbabwe and Namibia and some incredibly talented anglers. We have long touted our FLW anglers as the best in the world, and with the integration of the international division into the Costa FLW Series, we are truly seeing global competition."

Zimbabwe and Namibia are the ninth and tenth countries represented in FLW's international sanctioning program, joining Canada, China, Italy, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, Spain and South Korea.

Additional FLW qualifying tournaments in other countries will continue to be forthcoming. Watch [FLWFishing.com](http://FLWFishing.com) for details. For more information about FLW Zimbabwe visit [Facebook.com/FLWZimbabwe](https://Facebook.com/FLWZimbabwe). For more information about FLW Namibia visit [Facebook.com/FLWNamibia](https://Facebook.com/FLWNamibia).

**About FLW**

FLW is the world's largest tournament-fishing organization, providing anglers of all skill levels the opportunity to compete for millions in prize money in 2019 across five tournament circuits. Headquartered in Benton, Kentucky, with offices in Minneapolis, FLW and their partners conduct more than 290 bass-fishing tournaments annually around the world, including the United States, Canada, China, Italy, South Korea, Mexico, Portugal, South Africa and Spain. FLW tournament fishing can be seen on the Emmy-nominated "FLW" television show while FLW Bass Fishing magazine delivers cutting-edge tips from top pros. For more information visit [FLWFishing.com](http://FLWFishing.com) and follow FLW at [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).

# # #