BassPredict SA

User Manual and Algorithm Guide | v0.7.0 | October 2026

Purpose: A South African freshwater fishing companion for weather-informed bite-condition scoring, logging catches, recording fishing effort and testing models. Scores are relative heuristics, not measured bite probabilities.

1. Getting started

• Open the BassPredict SA website on your mobile or computer and choose Register.

• Provide first name, surname, email address, phone number and a strong password. Read the Privacy Notice before registering.

• Registration remains pending until an administrator approves the account. This pilot does not send automatic approval emails.

• Sign in after approval. Read and accept the latest Privacy Notice on first login. Users created by an administrator may first need to change a temporary password.

• Visit My Profile to update contact details and the FAQ for help.

2. Dashboard and predictions

• Choose the fish species and optionally select a saved dam, use location, or enter coordinates.

• Choose waterbody type, clarity and flow if known. Enter a measured water temperature where possible.

• Read the current score, weather metrics, predicted best bite window and hourly forecast strip.

• Use Why this score? to understand scored factors and read the suggested fishing plan.

• The best window is derived from higher consecutive hourly suitability scores, not a promise of a catch.

3. Dams, spots, catches and photographs

• Use Dams/Map to create or import a saved dam. Public dams can be added to your own list.

• Create personal fishing spots; their precise coordinates are private to your account unless a separate sharing feature makes information public.

• In Catches, record species, date and time, location, lure and water conditions. Add up to three catch images.

• Only deliberately shared catches are intended for display in the Community section. Check images and location before sharing.

• Edit your own records. Administrators have additional support and oversight tools.

4. Fishing sessions and analytics

• Record every completed fishing session, including zero-catch sessions, plus start/end time and target species.

• Connect catches to a session for fishing-effort analysis.

• Analytics summarise personal records and can compare catches per hour with score bands when matched historical predictions exist.

• A matching forecast must have been created before the session within 72 hours, for the same user, waterbody and species.

• Community analytics are based on public posts; administrators have separate higher-level reporting.

5. What is the prediction algorithm?

BassPredict scores environmental suitability using predefined, species-specific rules. It is not an artificial intelligence model trained to predict an exact probability of a catch. No forecast can represent all factors such as local baitfish presence, fishing pressure, skill or rapidly changing underwater conditions.

Original bass model components (maximum points): Water temperature 25; seasonal stage 15; pressure trend 15; light/daylight 15; wind 10; cloud/rain 8; recent temperature trend 5; approximate solunar timing 4; moon phase 3. The on-screen component breakdown is the authoritative explanation for each forecast.

Other freshwater species: Carp, catfish, yellowfish, tilapia/kurper and trout use distinct thermal preference ranges and weights for temperature, season, light, pressure, general weather, habitat and moon phase. These values are heuristic, not separately field-validated models.

Weather sources: Weather measurements and forecasts are retrieved using Open-Meteo, subject to availability. Dam water temperature is estimated from air temperature unless users supply a measured reading.

6. Model versions and ratings

legacy-051: Original baseline heuristic score and existing personal matching behaviour.

conservative-060: Reduces baseline scores by 4 for estimated water temperature, or by 2 if a measured temperature is supplied. Reduces the personal boost. Experimental and not validated as more accurate.

adaptive-060: Uses the user's own recorded fishing sessions and historical forecast bands. Requires a saved waterbody, at least 20 matched sessions and 20 matched fishing hours; individual bands need at least 4 sessions and 5 hours. Calibration adjusts by at most 6 points per eligible band and otherwise falls back to the baseline. Experimental.

Ratings: 0-34 Poor; 35-49 Slow; 50-64 Fair; 65-79 Good; 80-100 Excellent. These are relative labels, not percentages.

Version changes: Administrators choose the site-wide active model. New forecasts use that selection. Previously saved forecasts and catches are not rewritten; version selection history is retained.

7. Registration, privacy and feedback

• Accounts await manual administrator approval; an unapproved user cannot sign in.

• User contact details and recorded policy-acceptance version can be viewed in My Profile.

• Feedback lets you submit bugs, feature requests or general messages and read admin responses. Replies are in-app; there is no automatic email delivery in this pilot.

• Use Privacy & POPIA in the footer for the operator's privacy notice and requests concerning access, correction or deletion.

• An administrator must configure the legally responsible party, Information Officer and hosting details before enabling public registration.

8. Known limits and pilot recommendations

• Weather and maps require a working internet connection; cached assets do not equal full offline support.

• Use a measured water temperature when you can and submit both successful and unsuccessful trip logs.

• Take care with public catch sharing, particularly exact coordinates visible to other anglers.

• Always comply with fishing rules and safe boating/weather guidance.

• Pilot users should report error messages, page, browser, operating system, location context and reproduction steps without sharing passwords.

Support: Use the Feedback section in your BassPredict SA account. This manual describes version 0.7.0 and its installed baseline models.