



## East Cape Regional Chapter

c/o PO Box 437

Somerset East

5850

Tel: 042 243 3440

Fax: 0866 716 146

---

### Chairman's Report – East Cape Chapter FOSAF 2012-11-02

The Eastern Cape has experienced a bumper season of rain and snow, the result, prime conditions and nice cold quality water. Certainly in my neck of the woods, Somerset East, we have come out of the worst drought in living memory to one of the best rainy seasons, and snow in the actual town, which last occurred over 70 years ago. Our fish have flourished.

I challenge any other Province in terms of the diversity and quality of fly fishing, if they can boast venues that produce over 100 fish consistently, in a weekend. Furthermore, the success stories of waters producing fish over 5kg, such as Queenstown, Thrift and Maclear, with growth rates in excess of 180 grams a month. Venues like Sand River dam PE, and Mountain Dam in Somerset East, are all reporting good quality fish.

This success does not come without challenges in club administration, water management and fish to stock. I must commend all of those people in the various clubs for the thankless job they do in maintaining the quality of fishing in the Eastern Cape. It is the unrecognized efforts of a handful of people that benefit many anglers, well done to you all. However, for most clubs, none of this would be possible if it were not for the unselfish dedicated efforts of Martin Davies, who tirelessly sacrifices his personal life to ensure the finest genetics and fish stocks are secure for many clubs, thank you Martin!

The Chapter continually evolves, as new members become involved in various clubs to continue the perpetuity of our fly fishing opportunities.

Special mention must be made to all the FOSAF National dignitaries who have come to join us in celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of FOSAF that was conceptualized in the Eastern Cape. Thank you to them for their dedication and commitment in preserving the privilege to fly fish.

---

#### Report on Trout Hatcheries

A problem with the water quality in Grahamstown (mainly high Aluminium content) has resulted in a high mortality rate during 2012 in the Rhodes University hatchery run by Martin Davies. Not all waters could be properly stocked with Trout last year. There is no indication that the water quality will be improving in the immediate future and filtering and treating this water is proving difficult and costly. As a result of this, Martin Davies has set up a new small scale hatchery on Jonny Morgans farm Ventnor in the Winterberg. Due to staff inexperience, a large number of fry/fingerlings were lost last year, but things should improve for 2013.

There is also the possibility of a private hatchery being set up near Gubu dam, specifically to serve this large body of water. All of the permits have been approved, but no actual construction has started yet.

*Promoting, developing and marketing Fly-Fishing in the Eastern Cape as the destination of choice for local, National and International anglers.*