

**FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN FLYFISHERS**  
**KWA ZULU NATAL CHAPTER**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2011**

It gives me pleasure to present the Chairman's report for 2011 for the Kwa Zulu Natal (KZN) Chapter of FOSAF.

During this year we continued to have representation on the Committee from the major flyfishing clubs in Natal. Most clubs have gone through a tough time with membership dropping but feedback of late is that there seems to be growing interest in the sport and that clubs are attracting new and younger members. We as committee continue to try and attract younger members onto the Committee with reasonable success. Succession in the future remains a problem.

The survey of the streams and rivers of the Umgano Project (previously known as the iNtiskeni project) has been completed and the report has been submitted by the KwaZulu-Natal Environmental Working Group. The findings confirmed that there are fair to good stocks of trout and Natal Yellowfish (Scaly) in the Ngwangwane and Gungununu Rivers as has been observed in the past. However, the scarcity or absence of minnows and eels downgraded the (fish-related) Environmental Category to Class C which reflects a substantial amount of degradation. The primary reasons for such change are probably flow reduction, as a result of upstream irrigation and afforestation, and sediment loading from over grazing of catchment areas. Two small tributaries, the Mangeni and Nonqinqa scored D and B/C respectively. The former, although not subject to water abstraction, is very vulnerable to sediment loading due to a poorly constructed road as well as the other catchment issues. It is also extensively used as a vehicle and laundry washing site and so will be exposed to some hydrocarbon and detergent pollution. Despite this it holds fair numbers of trout and it is possible that the environmental score might be improved if sampling were to be done in the warmer months when the indigenous fish species, including Scaly, probably will migrate in from the Gungununu River. The Nonqinqa River produced both trout and Scaly.

The SASS (river health) scores for the Ngwangwane and Gungununu Rivers are good and suggest that the invertebrate diversity is good. However, it was noted that the biomass of the animals is not as high as might be expected. The two small rivers both had low SASS scores which will reflect catchment and pollution impacts. However, the Nonqinqa River has a fairly high biomass of invertebrates. A situation which has a high invertebrate biomass together with a low score is often indicative of pollution. In this case there is a village upstream and so some pollution may be expected.

The report suggests means to improve the state of the riverine ecosystems and also provides guidelines for the management of the fishery. Important issues in regard to the latter are avoiding friction between recreational and subsistence fishers, and the protection of fish stocks.

The Committee continues to discuss and debate methods to use for attracting people from all race groups to become involved in our sport and the activities of FOSAF. This year we managed to get one person of colour onto the committee.

The Yellow Fish Interest Group continues to function in KZN. Rob Karssing from Ezemvelo-Kwa Zulu Wildlife (EKZNW) is a member of our Committee and continues to do good work in this regard and to keep us informed about developments.

We continue to liaise with Ezemvelo-Kwa Zulu Wildlife (EKZNW). Although there were very few Ezemvelo-Kwa Zulu Wildlife (EKZNW) Freshwater Fishing Liaison Committee meetings (FFLC) we attended these regularly to make representations to them. It is very evident that they greatly respect the judgement, advice and expertise offered by members of our Environmental Committee. A further strengthening of our relationships with EKZNW is through Rob Karssing from EKZNW being a member of our Committee.

The KZN Chapter continued to manage the raising of money for the task team of Messrs Bainbridge, Alletson and Lax who has done all the work on the NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations. The donors have been kept informed on a regular basis of the progress made.

The Environmental Committee continued to provide technical and professional advice to FOSAF at both national and chapter levels.

We were recently requested by Ezemvelo-Kwa Zulu Wildlife (EKZNW) to draft a proposal for the Management of Trout in the Ukhamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage site which is to be used for the revision of the Integrated Management Plan, which is presently nearing completion. This draft policy was also prepared by the Environmental Committee and has been submitted to EKZNW for their consideration.

Although very much in the initial stages of it, the committee is mounting a campaign to promote flyfishing at the schools on KZN.

With the building of the Spring Grove Dam in the Rosetta area, fly fishers were generally very concerned that this dam is going to go beyond the Inchbrachie falls, the normal barrier to stop bass going up the river, and this could negatively affect the trout fishing in the Kamberg area. Two members of our committee attend the meetings at which various issues pertaining the building of the dam are discussed. It seems that there is now agreement that a suitable weir will be built above the Inchbrachie Falls to stop bass from going up the river.

This year again a very successful trout festival was organised in the Kamberg area. In addition a new venture this year was that the farmers in the Boston area are keen to promote it as a flyfishing area. They put on a very successful festival that attracted many interested fly fishers. This is also likely to become an annual event.

My thanks go to those who have attended the few Committee meetings and made a significant contribution to the activities of the KZN Chapter. Also to Maxi Holder for looking after the Secretarial work and Kevin Culverwell who is our Treasurer. Kevin, who is a very busy person, always seems to find time to devote to the financial affairs of FOSAF.

Membership of FOSAF remains a real problem. This is an issue that needs to be addressed seriously. Although we have tried to promote this through our clubs it has not really resulted in many fly fishers joining.

My best wishes to the incoming committee for the next year.

Jim Read  
Chairman