

**FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN FLYFISHERS**  
**KWA ZULU NATAL CHAPTER**  
**CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2012**

It gives me pleasure to present the Chairman's report for 2012 for the KwaZulu Natal (KZN) Chapter of FOSAF.

The Committee continues to function with representation from the major clubs in KZN. From feedback received from clubs, it seems that we are getting younger members interested in the sport of flyfishing. That bodes well for the future. We as a committee continue to try to attract younger members onto the Committee, but not with great success. Succession in the future remains a problem.

Over the past year, a great deal has been required from the members of the Environmental Committee whose members also serve on the KZN Chapter committee. At a national level, the principle work of the Environmental Committee has been the resumption of action required on progress made by the Department of Environmental Affairs on the redrafting of the NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species regulations. In addition, the members commented on a Biodiversity Benefit and Risk Assessment conducted by Anchor Consultants on behalf of DAFF in various fish species (including trout) intended to be used for aquaculture.

Regarding the Umgano Project that FOSAF has been supporting, based on Jake Alletson's report, investigations are now underway to determine how best to introduce recreational fishing to these waters, in a manner that will be compatible with the needs of the community. The first field day to which anglers were invited to sample the fly-fishing available was held last year. It turned out to be a great success, not only because of the way it introduced anglers to the area, but also in that it revealed the considerable extent to which the rivers are already being used by anglers. Arrangements are now being made to hold another in the near future.

The committee is also called on to attend various functions such as the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FOSAF held at Gubu Dam in the Eastern Cape, which a number of us attended.

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. Although we attracted one such member, he has unfortunately moved away from our area.

The Yellow Fish Interest Group functioned quite well during 2012 in KZN. Regrettably and very sadly, Rob Karssing passed away recently. His contribution not only as the yellowfish interest group representative but also in the wider angling context on the committee is going to be sorely missed. It is indeed going to be very difficult to find someone with such passion for angling as Rob to replace him on the committee.

We have found it useful to have close liaison with Ezemvelo-Kwa Zulu Wildlife (EKZNW) through the Freshwater Fishing Liaison Committee meetings (FFLC) held previously. Regrettably, these have of late not taken place for quite a while and we recently made contact with them to revive these meetings.

The KZN Chapter continued with the raising of funds for the task team of Messrs Bainbridge, Alletson and Lax who are doing all the work on the NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations. We kept the donors informed on a regular basis on the progress made. One of the concerns identified is the ignorance of many fly fishers about the threat to our sport because of the proposed regulations. We are busy strategising to create more of an awareness with all fly fishers. Should we not make the progress as anticipated, it may well end up in litigation and this could indeed be a very expensive exercise. For this, we would need to do a further extensive fundraising campaign.

The committee is maintaining contact with schools to promote fly-fishing as a sport and to encourage children to take it up.

With the building of the Spring Grove Dam in the Rosetta area, we maintain contact on developments. The need for the building of the weir above the Inchbrachie falls was again a topic that came up during the year. Jake Alletson and Jan Korrubel maintain contact on developments to ensure that our interests are protected and to ensure that the bass is stopped from going up the river.

This year again two very successful trout festivals were organised; one in the Kamberg and another in the Boston area.

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 always seems to find time to devote to the financial affairs of FOSAF.

Membership of FOSAF remains a real problem. Discussions are under way with a company in PMB, Integrated Marketing Services, to assist us with the marketing of FOSAF, hopefully so that we can grow our membership base.

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

J P Read  
Chairman