

FEDERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN FLYFISHERS
KWA ZULU NATAL CHAPTER
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2014

It gives me pleasure to present the Chairman's report for 2014 for the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Chapter of FOSAF.

The KZN Chapter committee met infrequently during the year. Many members of the KZN Chapter Committee have been very actively involved in the ongoing issue of the NEM:BA Alien and Invasive Species (AIS) Lists and Regulations and this has taken up a great deal of time of these committee members. Dr Bill Bainbridge, Mr Ian Lax, Mr Jake Alletson and more recently Mr Ian Cox have spent many hours on this work and as members may know their latest submission comprised 68 pages of representations and objections to the DEA proposals. This was followed by a sizable supplementary submission. We owe a great deal of thanks to these gentlemen who perform this task with commitment and dedication. I am very aware of the time they are spending on this and it is actually quite embarrassing in terms of what they have been remunerated in the past.

The Committee continues to function with representation from the major clubs in KZN. As reported previously we still have not been successful in attracting people of colour. Also, although we see younger people getting involved in flyfishing, it seems young people are so busy that they do not find time to joining and becoming involved in organisations such as FOSAF.

The Community-based Adventure Tourism Initiative of the Umgano Project's which has received support for FOSAF in developing the fly-fishing based tourism aspect in the past, is progressing reasonably well. A number of fly anglers have "tested the waters" on the Ndawana and Ngwangwane Rivers and it would appear that this venture has real potential to offer good fly-fishing, although this will be of a seasonal nature.

A camp site and log cabins will be developed and further news will be made public soon. FOSAF remains committed to assisting with this kind of community development project. Nevertheless, this initiative faces ~~holds~~ a number of significant problems and challenges, such as the fact that the left bank of the river is in the territory controlled by another traditional authority, i.e. other than the Mabandla Traditional Authority which is implementing the Umgano Project. Attempts to find ways of overcoming these difficulties are underway.

With the sad passing of Rob Karssing we have still not found a suitable candidate in the KZN area to come on board. This has been raised at the FOSAF EXCO and we are awaiting a response from the Yellow Fish Working group as to whether there is

someone in the KZN area that can be nominated to act as a liaison person role on our Committee.

Although we tried to get Ezemvelo KwaZulu Wildlife (EKZNW) to reinstitute the Freshwater Fishing Liaison Committee meetings (FFLC) we have not been successful. It seems that they are also, to some extent, playing a wait and see attitude with getting the DEA to finalise the NEM:BA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations before engaging further with stakeholders.

As noted above, the bulk of the work of the Environmental Committee has been spent engaging with the DEA around the various versions of the NEM:BA AIS Lists & Regulations. The KZN Chapter Committee continued to manage the funds collected for the task team working on NEM:BA AIS Lists and Regulations. We continue in an ongoing way to keep the donors informed on the progress made. More recently the newly formed commodity group TROUT SA which is intended to represent the entire sector or trout-based value chain, has also taken up this matter. FOSAF has decided to become a part of TROUT SA. It seems that given the recalcitrant attitude displayed by the DEA, it is more than likely that we will end up in court to fight this issue. Many of the businesses involved in trout breeding and fishing have come on board and are also raising funding for TROUT SA. With TROUT SA now also taking this matter up on conjunction with FOSAF it is interesting how many fly fishers have suddenly become aware of the threat to our sport the NEM:BA AIS Lists & Regulations will have on it, something we in FOSAF has been trying to do for at least 8 years.

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

With the completion of the Spring Grove Dam in the Rosetta area, two members of our committee, Jake Alletson and Jan Korrubel, maintain contact on developments to ensure that our interests are protected and considered.

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. Further discussions are being held with a company in Pietermaritzburg 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