

FOSAF CHAIRMAN'S 2015/16 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

It is an honour to again report to FOSAF's executive, membership and other external stakeholders on our activities, challenges and achievements during the past year. As in past years we will use the strategic framework for this purpose.

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

State:

Our interaction with government departments around the contested regulation of trout has continued. These endeavours have focussed on realising the important win-win achieved through cooperative governance at the Phakisa Ocean labs Conference in Durban in July 2014. This was followed by a meeting at Kirstenbosch (dealing with implementation) which in turn was followed by a mapping meeting held at Fern Hill (KZN) in October 2014. At this meeting the places where trout occur were largely agreed and some additional areas still needed to be added. FOSAF and TroutSA jointly submitted maps for comment by the provincial agencies and DEA in March 2015. Very little was heard back during 2015 and two scheduled mapping meetings could not take place due to a lack of consensus and readiness on the part of the state bodies. In July 2015 we received the good news from the KZN MEC that the environmental MINMEC had endorsed the Phakisa win-win. However, our efforts to have sight of the record of this have thus far proved unsuccessful. During September 2015 a new version of the regulation of trout framework and some maps were made available by DEA. These differed substantially from what had previously been agreed. Given the lack of progress and the lack of cooperation being experienced in some provinces we thus wrote to the Directors' General of both DEA and DAFF ("the DGs") raising our concerns at the failure to progress and implement the Phakisa win-win.

In early February 2016, FOSAF, TroutSA and the DGs (and their support teams) met to discuss our concerns. The meeting confirmed that the Phakisa win-win forms the basis of the way forward and that the MINMEC endorsed this approach. Provinces have thus been consulted and need to come on board. The next steps are to finalise the mapping process as soon as possible and at the same time to harmonise the legislation (national and provincial) to facilitate the agreed enabling environment for the trout value chain.

FOSAF welcomes the support the DG's have shown for the Phakisa win-win and believes these indications of good faith are important for re-building trust between the roles players. We are grateful for this support and commit ourselves to working with the departments to implement the reasonable and practical way forward to create an enabling environment.

It is important to note that FOSAF has been successful (particularly in my view) because we have stuck to our fundamental principles and policies. This is borne out by the fact that government takes us seriously. As with all policy and legislation the devil is in the detail. We will remain vigilant but positive and will continue to keep you all posted on future developments.

Public:

FOSAF's website was renovated last year and while the new branding received positive feedback there is a need to improve our presence on social media of various kinds. Certain aspects must be fine-tuned and our message made consistent. This is something we will discuss in tomorrow's EXCO and thereafter at Chapter Committee meetings.

That we need to broaden our support both in terms of youth, gender and race is self-evident, the difficult question is how to achieve this. Members' participation is crucial. All suggestions would be welcomed and some exciting proposals have been made in this regard that will receive consideration.

FOSAF is an active member of Trout SA. In my view this must continue. TSA is working in all the regions to align the goals and needs of the value chain in a symbiotic relationship with DAFF.

Anglers:

As noted in previous reports, the Tippet remains a respected mouthpiece. Also Flyfishing magazine is thanked for their coverage and ongoing support. Our thanks also go to Stuart and Liz Tough who put in all the hard work to get the Tippet published and circulated.

INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

EXCO

As in past years the EXCO has not met since the previous meeting. We have however had regular email connection and I am in regular contact with all members, sounding them out on relevant and pressing matters where required. This remains a cost effective modus operandi. The EXCO will need to debate some new suggestions on staying in touch and skype offers a very easy and efficient solution for this. We are also grateful to Stuart and Liz for the endeavours to keep us all in touch. Peter Arderne has done sterling work with the Website and the Facebook page which have (despite some criticisms) kept FOSAF's profile in the public domain. We will once again be reviewing objectives, activities and approaches and the capacity and resource needs and requirements as well as the annual budget to effectively achieve these.

Chapters

Full chapter reports will be forthcoming at the EXCO and I will not dwell on these given time and space constraints. Suffice it to for me to thank the Chapter Committees under the able leadership of Brian Clark, Jim Read, Leonard Flemming and Chris Williams respectively.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Dr Bill Bainbridge continues to lead this committee. Much of the focus has been on the NEMBA process which is reported on above.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Peter Arderne somehow despite all the challenges continues to be an outstanding ambassador and resource for FOSAF and flyfishing. What he manages, without much support is truly remarkable. He does the work of several people and has demonstrated a tenacity to prize fishing reports and other information from some uncooperative or tardy reporters. On behalf of FOSAF we thank him and Vicky for their endeavours.

CONCLUSION

Once again thanks are due to Stuart and Liz Tough for their efficient commitment in managing FOSAF, the AGM and the EXCO and our travel arrangements and logistics. Their efforts are appreciated.

Thanks are also due to:

- Our Auditors for AFS. Prof Swanepoel of A.P. Swanepoel and Co must be thanked for efficiently doing the necessary in a very short space of time.
- our President Andrew Levy and vice-presidents Tom Sutcliffe and Bill Mincher for their wise counsel when it is needed;
- the rest of the EXCO for their on-going support and commitment.

FOSAF remains an extremely effective organisation. We manage to achieve a great deal despite being relatively small on numbers. When I had a brief look at our strategic objectives and our policy and principles documents (which were prepared and adopted in

2003) I was struck by how relevant they remain to what we have been doing. We will again review them at this EXCO.

I remain concerned that despite how much we do and the publicity we have received our membership has continued to drop. While new people are joining and many others have supported our NEMBA work both financially and by spreading the word all of which is heartening, there are still those who feel we do not do enough or who feel FOSAF is not worthy of support. How we build our brand and find support is the critical challenge for us in the year ahead. Social media and the internet appear to be the place where many younger anglers and other people engage. Going forward our presence on these platforms is vital. Finding people who can assist with this task on a regular basis is a must for us in the year ahead.

In the build up to this EXCO I asked of our leadership that they reflect on some key questions about where they think FOSAF could be in the years ahead and what kind of contribution they feel they can make. The creative replies have been remarkable and creative. I look forward to discussing our way ahead in this innovative spirit.

FOSAF Chairperson
13 March 2015