

Chairman's report for Eastern Cape Region for 2023.

As most members will be aware, this AGM has moved around over the last 18 months as we have battled to find a meeting date which suits most people. Sincere apologies for the uncertainty created. If this time of the year works, we will need to amend our constitution accordingly. It certainly makes sense for the treasurer to be able to prepare the financial report closer to the financial year end.

This leads into an ongoing saga regarding our frozen FNB account. To date the bank has not been particularly helpful in rearranging the necessary change in signatures. As a consequence, the accounts are blocked. We await the bank's mandate which will allow new signatures as detailed in our resolution.

Stocking permits.

The offices of DEAT in Makhandla were thoroughly vandalized and burnt during last year with the resulting loss of all club data relating to stocking permits. Brian Clark conducted a long search for an alternate person in the department who could assist with the issuing of these permits. As you might expect he succeeded and we have a very helpful Tokoza Twalingca based in the East London office. She is building a new data base of all our club waters.

Though why the Eastern Cape is required to issue permits while KZN is not seems odd.

Hatchery woes

Sadly, after a very successful harvest of eggs from Ventnor and Thrift a couple of disasters with the new off the grid Ventnor system saw the loss of all the seasons fish at Ventnor. Fortunately, Jack Avni from Giant's Cup at Underberg was willing and able to provide stock for several members. His willingness to transport the fish to Dordrecht made stocking a fairly simple matter.

While on the subject of stocking Ed Truter was able to arrange a load of browns from KZN for those clubs interested. The fish were of excellent quality and seemed to settle in quickly. The route from KZN ran through Barkley East to Queenstown and on to Stutterheim.

Legal issues I will leave to the National Chair Ilan Lax to cover. Suffice it to say we are extremely grateful for the continued pressure applied to the Government Department concerned by the legal team representing FOSAF and the other fishing and sporting codes.

Climate changes

We are all aware that our world is moving relentlessly into hotter times. This means that our still waters are warming up for longer periods and the winter temperatures do not get cold enough to kill off excess weed. QFFC has for a number of years closed dams for 6 weeks from the middle of January to the end of February. This may need to be extended. Then weed control has become a challenge. Careful monitoring of recently introduced Grass Carp is also one way of attempting to ensure some dams do not become totally weed bound.

Thanks

To Ilan for making the time to be with us and for keeping the FOSAF team on track.

To Brian Clark for keeping your chair on the straight road.

To Angus who is keeping his brother entertained after a ten-year gap, for all the behind the scenes work as treasurer and secretary,

To Alan for sound advice and a very useful sounding board

To Martin for continuous enthusiasm in all aspects of trout rearing and management.

To Peter Arderne who religiously seeks club reports each month for the FOSAF web page.

Reg Morgan, chairman. April 2024.