

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FLYFISHERS
KWAZULU NATAL REGION.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024

The Natal Fly Fishers Club (NFFC), Fly Fishing Association (FFA) and Underberg Himeville Trout Fishing Club (UHTFC) remain active supporters of FOSAF. Representatives from the Durban Fly Tyers, NFFC and FFA serve on the Committee and attended meetings held during 2024. Distance does not allow the UHTFC to attend meetings, but the club is kept fully informed through the minutes of meetings that are distributed widely.

Underberg Himeville Club has been active during the year by hosting the Senior Nationals trials and hosted a successful river clinic. The club is managed well and is still in a good position in terms of finances and membership. . The Natal Fly fishers Club (NFFC) reported that their membership remains static with new members coming in to replace members that have either emigrated or stopped fishing due to age. The NFFC have not lost any waters although there have been a number of changes of ownership. The NFFC had secured the use of Mondi waters but were unable to obtain permits from Ezemvelo for the stocking of these Mondi dams. After some help from FOSAF, these permits were obtained and the NFFC has managed to again stock and secure waters for future fishing. NFFC also organised a very successful ladies festival. Fishing and membership of the NFFC has been negatively affected by the upgrading of the road between Durban and Nottingham road. The Bushmans River project managed by the NFFC has grown from strength to strength. Hulamin, the local aluminium company, came on board to sponsor some of the expenses incurred by the NFFC who again organised a successful litter clean-up day on the river with youth and others from the community. The NFFC again hosted a youth clinic that attracted younger members to our sport and indications are that this youth clinic will become an annual event. Bass infiltrating NFFC trout waters remains a concern and it has necessitated stocking with 9" trout while further measures such as bass screens are planned. Bass infiltrating trout waters appears to have increased due to the heavy rains that caused overflowing dams in the upper reaches of some catchments.

The Fly Fishers Association in Durban reports that membership remains static. The club has retained all their waters. The number of outings to their waters

has dropped by 20%. This could be attributed to the upgrade of the road between Durban and Pietermaritzburg.

In Pietermaritzburg, the Natal Fly Dressers Society (NFDS) continues to meet monthly ably facilitated by Jan Korrubel. Attendance at these meetings is good and an atmosphere of great camaraderie has developed amongst the fly dressers. The Durban Fly Tyers also remains an active club.

Springrove Dam remains closed for public recreational fishing. We keep a watchful eye on developments but it is very unlikely that the Management or the Riparian Owners will grant public access on the dam.

The KZN Region continues to manage and control the finances for funding the FOSAF NEMBA campaign. As part of this responsibility, we keep our donors and other interested and affected parties updated regularly about the progress being made with NEMBA. A comprehensive update on the progress being made is also available on the FOSAF website and in the National Chairman's Report by Ilan Lax circulated to all members.

A major concern is the reduced membership. Fosaf can only continue to be active and to operate financially because of the support of its members and the membership fees. During 2023, Fosaf as part of offering Clubs the opportunity to offer their members a discount and thus attract new members, introduced a new Club Membership Policy whereby membership fees are reduced if it is paid via the club. In some regions, clubs took good advantage of this and it was successful. However, there was not a good take up of this opportunity by clubs in KZN and this has made very little contribution to increasing our membership. Unfortunately, we ended the 2024 year with 43 members and 4 members who joined via the NFFC. Bearing in mind the numbers of flyfishers who belong to Clubs in KZN, it is obvious that there is much apathy for the important work performed by FOSAF. At a national level our membership for 2024 stood at 140 individual members and 177 who joined via a club giving a total 345. In earlier **years**, membership peaked at 1835. A question commonly asked by aspirant members is whether joining FOSAF will provide them with fishing waters. While the obvious answer is that FOSAF does not manage fishing waters as this is the function of the various clubs, if we fail in our endeavours to protect the interests of fly anglers and their rights, our sport and flyfishing could be very negatively

affected. Fosaf protects your fly-fishing interests while the clubs, the venues and others look after your access to fishing.

We appreciate the ongoing support of those people who have remained members or who have joined through their Clubs. We encourage you to encourage others to join and support what we do on your behalf.

The Annual Financial Statements 2024 for the FOSAF KZN Region have been prepared and are attached for your information.

Yours in Flyfishing and hope 2025 will be great fishing year.

Jim Read
CHAIRMAN
30 July 2025