

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FLYFISHERS
KWAZULU NATAL REGION.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022

During the 2022 year, the Committee met once on a face to face basis. The Natal Fly fishers Club (NFFC), Fly Fishing Association (FFA) and Underberg Himeville Trout Fishing Club (UHTFC) remain active supporters of FOSAF. We also keep the Kokstad Club updated with correspondence and minutes.

Feedback from these clubs indicates that membership continues to stabilize and in some cases, some younger members have joined. In Pietermaritzburg, a very active fly dressing society meets monthly and tremendous camaraderie has been built up by keen fly dressers ably facilitated by Jan Korrubel. The Durban Fly Tyers also remain an active club.

Regrettably, we were not able to hold a fly-fishing event during the year to promote fly-fishing with the youth. We could not hold the event as the NFFC, who would have been actively involved in it, had a very busy year with various celebrations, functions and clinics. Previous attempts to arrange this kind of promotion directly via schools were not successful mainly because scholars already are very committed with sporting and other activities. A further attempt will be made to organise such an event during 2023.

Springgrove dam remains closed for recreational fishing. The management of the dam again indicated that recreational fishing will only be considered when the land around the dam has been expropriated. This is a very long-term issue and is not seen as a priority by the Department of Water Affairs. We will keep on following up to keep a watchful eye on it.

Last year we reported that our research into the presence of the Maluti Minnow had not progressed significantly. The same applies this year. Many factors influenced the lack of progress, including, full and dirty rivers and the incapacity of one of the team doing this research. The University of Pretoria advised that they had become aware of a parallel study being undertaken by Rhodes University on the same population that we had sampled. From what we understood, the Rhodes team had undertaken sampling to conduct the same

initial tests to determine if the samples were from different species but to date, no further evidence is available.

The KZN Region was originally delegated the management and control of the finances for funding the 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.

As reported last year, our National Chairman Ilan Lax continues to spend a great deal of time on the respective negotiations, legal processes and court action with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). Although we had a positive outcome with the initial court application objecting to the consultation process followed before publishing the NEMBA AIS regulations, the department had taken the judgement on appeal. The SCA ruled in our favour again refusing leave to Appeal. However, the DFFEE again applied to the Constitutional Court (Concourt) for leave to Appeal. We have recently heard that the Concourt has refused the appeal. This is indeed good news but a lot of work will still have to be done to move this process forward.

Membership of FOSAF remains an ongoing concern and membership has dwindled. It seems most fly fishers do not see the need to support FOSAF as we do not actually provide fishing but make efforts to protect our fishing in the longer term. In this regard, the FOSAF KZN Region committee has run into some financial difficulties this year as our funding is based on members from the regions. We are indeed grateful to the NFFC for a donation to our region that will certainly help with the administering of our KZN Region Committee.

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

Jim Read
CHAIRMAN
10 May 2023