

# FOSAF

## KWA ZULU NATAL CHAPTER

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015-2016

It gives me pleasure to present the Chairman's Report for 2015 -2016 for the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Chapter of FOSAF.

The KZN Chapter committee met 3 times during the year. The work being done by Ian Lax and Ian Cox on NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations continued this year and although some progress has been made, we are still not out of the woods. This is important work for the longer-term survival of our sport. Donors who have donated money for this work are continuously updated on progress made and further attempts have been made during this year to raise more donations from interested and affected parties. Whilst some more funding came in it was negligible in terms of remunerating Ian and Ian for the many hours they are spending on this work. The KZN Chapter still manages the funds for this project.

The problematic funding of the work being done by Ian and Ian was discussed in Committee and it was suggested that FOSAF should be registered as a non-profit entity, and it should be made known to potential donors as there would be an added tax incentive for them. This is a matter that should receive priority attention as if we need to raise more money it would be of great benefit.

The Committee continues to function with representation from the major clubs in KZN. Fruitful discussions are held about matters affecting our sport.

The one area where we are not making progress is to get more involvement and representation from people of colour. This is reviewed at every committee meeting, however, although potential candidates are identified there has been no success in attracting their involvement. However, we will continue to make serious attempts in this regard.

More attempts have been made at schools in the area to promote the sport of fly-fishing with the youth.

The Community-based Adventure Tourism Initiative of the Umgano Project, which has received support from FOSAF, continues to make progress in its

principal activities. Unfortunately, the recent drought has had a significant negative effect on the Ngwangwane River, exacerbated by water extraction by upstream farmers. It is not known what effects this will have had on the fish, but we will test the waters towards the end of the season. By that time we hope some rain might have fallen. Obviously, the river has been closed to all fishing.

The log cabin has been completed and is ready for use should we be lucky enough to receive some rain.

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife (EKZNW) seems to have turned the corner with the appointment of Dr David Mabunda as the new CEO. We are keen to get them to resurrect the Freshwater Fishing Liaison Committee Meetings (FFLC) and have written to Dr Mabunda who appears to be interested in doing so but we are awaiting the outcome of his deliberations with his Exco on it. This is indeed a useful platform for anglers to meet and discuss issues of concern and to plan for effective utilisation of our water resources and sustainable angling.

The Spring Grove Dam in Rosetta is just about full and this could be a great fly-fishing venue for both trout and bass. We understood recently that Msinsi Holdings has been mandated to manage this water resource and we have been in touch with them to find out whether the dam will be used for recreational activities as in the case with most of their other dams they manage. We are awaiting a reply in this regard.

This year again two very successful trout festivals were organised; one in the Kamberg and another in the Boston area. The Natal Fly Dressers Society and the Durban Fly Dressers are two very active clubs promoting fly dressing. Monthly meetings are held where fly dressers are given input from the more experienced fly dressers. In addition, workshops were held during the year by Gordon van der Spuy- one for beginners and one for more experienced fly dressers. A river clinic was organised by the Natal Fly Fishers club and done by Vagabond. This was indeed a great success and those who attended it felt it was a very worthwhile learning experience gained in fishing a river. Monthly evening get togethers are organised for fly-fishers in Pietermaritzburg to promote fly fishing and develop fly-fishing culture. This has been useful as it attracted quite a number of young fly fishers.

An approach has been made to Mr Wesley Evans, a student at UKZN, who is involved in fish studies throughout KZN for the River Health Programme. He will also be revising the wellbeing of the state of yellow fish in KZN. We are hoping

that he will be joining the Committee as a representative of the yellow fish-working group.

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.

My best wishes to the incoming committee for the next year.

J P Read  
Chairman