

## **FOSAF - WESTERN CAPE UPDATE**

### **CAPE PISCATORIAL SOCIETY**

#### **Membership:**

The club is in good health.

- We have approximately 1500 members at present, including full members, country members, overseas members, seniors and juniors.
- A lot of them have recently renewed their membership so financially, we are also in a good space with total assets of R484 000 in January.
- The Piscator journal was turned into the Piscator newsletter, but the editor has struggled to get contributions so we are reconsidering the frequency and length of the newsletter and may re-package it.

#### **Waters:**

- the Elandspad and the Smalblaar/Molenaars are fishing every well and the size of the fish has been impressive.
- New welded metal beat markers have been put in place on the Elandspad.
- The JDts has been fishing well and members have been enjoying their lottery weeks. A huge boulder came down and narrowly missed a couple of our members. We believe that might have been cause by movement of the soil after the massive fires in the area last year.
- the Holsloot is coming back on line again and while the catch rates are not as high as the Elandspad and the Smalblaar/Molenaars, members are on average managing to catch a few fish, which is progress after the floods altered the course of the river a few years back. It is however still heavily bushed in on certain beats.
- there's a report of a proposed weir on the Holsloot that we just heard about so CPS Committee members are investigating.
- We are renewing our lease on the Bushwack Beat of the Smalblaar (above Beat 6), the newest addition to our waters. We lease this from Molapong.
- On the subject of Molapong, there is less evidence of pollution from the fish farms this year and fewer complaints from members. Pools on parts of the river from the Hotel beat downwards are heavily silted, but it does last for much longer than a few hundred metres and the fish are still there. To our surprise water testing by Liz Day found that they were not doing anything illegal on the pollution front.

- Our chairman, Herman Potgieter is in talks with farmer Albe Nel to acquire Rocklands Dam and a few others in the area for the CPS. There is talk of stocking it with Clanwilliam Yellows and Sawfin, instead of trout, a move that Cape Nature would support. There's growing interest from members in this.
- Lakenvlei is one of our biggest headaches. Depending on who you talk to it's either fishing brilliantly or the worst it has ever been. We have a bass problem, which we have tried to mitigate through stocking bigger trout. We have also made it a catch and release fishery, something some of the older members choose to ignore so we have had a few run ins. We are looking at a bunch of other options from having a bass bash to stocking some big browns. Stocking however puts a financial strain on the club and from what I understand there is not a lot of stock around.
- Leonard Flemming was recently approached by Deon Rossouw from Cape Nature to renew the CPS agreement to manage the rivers in the Limietberg Nature Reserve. NB - the CPS needs to discuss this asap and set up a meeting.

## **EVENTS**

- Clubroom events like the Vice Squad (fly tying) and Slide Nights continue to be well attended with the last one the Bokong river in Lesotho attended by approximately 50 people.
- We held a successful river clean up on the Smalblaar in February. Perhaps FOSAF would like to get involved in the next one?
- With Gordon van der Spuy's Expo on a break this year we are holding the CPS Conclave Workshop day again in July. If FOSAF would like to get involved either by presenting a talk or having a stand for membership sign-ups, we would encourage it.
- Our AGM is in August.
- Our River Festival is in October. With the Holsloot fishing well we can expand or guest numbers.
- Our End of Year function is in December.

## **CAPE FLY FISHERS**

I spoke to Kyle Keefer of the Cape Fly Fishers. He says all of their dams bar one went dry last season. They have partially filled up but the farmers say they should not get their hopes high. One or two of the dams were stocked with a nominal token stocking, more to keep a presence on the farm than anything else.

In short, they lost pretty much all of their fish, both in Ceres and upcountry.

### **HERMANUS FLY FISHING CLUB**

Richard Tate Chairman HFFC writes, "The HFFC was formed in 1976, then founder members, with only one large dam - De Bos – today this large water is part of the water system for Hermanus town.

The HFFC has four Dams in the picturesque Hemel-en-Aarde Valley, home to many wine and apple farms. Two of the dams are relatively small, but having the benefit of "all round the dam" fishing that assists the fishermen coping with Western Cape high winds and rain, coming from all directions! The other two dams are large, situated in the beautiful surrounds of the Valley. All dams are within a 20 minute drive from Hermanus town.

Members understand that these dams were constructed by farmers for the irrigation of their crops, so not unusual that, prior to the Western Cape rains in April, dam levels were low. The HFFC has been fortunate, during these last few years of national drought, to have had full dams going into summer season.

Restocking of dams usually takes place in August. Some years back, fingerlings were purchased, but due to the presence of white breasted cormorants (having a feast) stocking was changed to fish of 950 grms to 1.2 kg's.

Membership is wide - from Pretoria to Namibia - and currently some 140 members make up HFFC. Sadly we have had to turn down non-members fishing in our waters, but members may take a guest for the day.

The HFFC Secretarial function is run by one of our members wives, regarding new members, payment of fees etc and the booking system, plus fishing returns controlled from another source. A data base is kept on all fishermen visits for the four dams plus catch returns. A newsletter is sent out to all members, an update etc, every quarter.

The HFFC has two social days annually - the first is a 'hands-on' course in fly fishing, aimed at ladies and beginners. The second is an 'Open Day' in April with fishing from 08h00 till midday, followed by a braai and prize giving - with the main prize being a Club Floating Trophy – non members welcome and at no cost - just a fun day!

Fly fishermen will know the name Cheryl Heyns, the former captain of the Ladies Protea Fly Fishing team, who is a member of our club and graciously gives of her time to assist teaching and sharing her skills with fishermen on these days.”