

FOSAF CHAIRMAN'S 2011/12 ANNUAL REPORT

Ilan Lax Chairman of FOSAF

INTRODUCTION

It is once again my pleasure to report to the FOSAF membership and other interested parties on our activities during the past year.

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

State:

We continue to await the further outcome of the NEM:BA regulations process. What we have heard recently is of extreme concern: The Department of Environmental Affairs appears to be determined to press ahead with implementation of a framework that is entirely different to that we worked so hard on in the past. While we have yet to see the actual framework, or understand how it might work and be resourced, the intimations from the officials we have had contact with do not appear to make sense and what is clear is that the agreed framework of demarcated areas will not be implemented before the Act is amended. While FOSAF remains committed to working with the relevant authorities to achieve a win-win solution in the interests of anglers and the environment, we will not agree to changes and a framework that has not been consulted upon in an open and public manner as required by both the Constitution and NEMA. We will be writing to the Department in this regard and will keep you all posted on developments.

Public:

While FOSAF has made an effort to improve its outreach and reaffirmed its connection to Flyfishing magazine we remain relatively unheralded and not well known among fly- and other anglers. There is still a huge amount we have to do to get our message across to all anglers.

Anglers:

The FOSAF Guide to Fly-Fishing Destinations in SA has been well received as an excellent publication. Added to this was the launch of the new Favoured Flies card collection has also been received with acclaim. The cards provide a handy, quick guide that integrates with the detailed information in the book series. The publications team, lead by Bill Mincher, deserve high praise for this outstanding publication.

INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

EXCO

The EXCO has not met on a face to face basis since last year's AGM and EXCO but regular emails and telephonic discussions on an individual basis have sufficed to ensure reasonable contact.

Chapters

Full chapter reports will be forthcoming at the EXCO however I will briefly note some observations:

Eastern Cape: Alan Hobson continued to lead a committed team. He made regular visits to the clubs in the region and reports that most clubs are doing well. I was again privileged to attend the EC AGM and confirm that the chapter is doing well. I again thank them and Brian Clark in particular for their exceptional hospitality during my visit. It is now clear that positive outcome in the Ugie and Maclear area has been built upon and the club now enjoys a positive relationship with the landowner.

Northvaal: Peter Mills continues to provide able leadership with the support of a good team. Peter Arderne continues to provide a stable foundation and has expanded the Chapter's environmental activism in a number of important project based activities aimed at securing the rivers in the chapter's area of influence. The Yellowfish Working Group remain a focus area under Peter Mills' leadership and we look forward to outcome of their annual deliberations to be held at Jonkershoek in April.

The Western Cape: Gerald Penkler reports that the chapter have been active in a range of activities that provide support to aquatic biodiversity conservation efforts. Many volunteers are keen to assist with these activities. The committee continues to find a balance between the interests of indigenous species and trout and have planned further activities for the year ahead.

KZN: Jim Read continues lead an active and committed chapter. The chapter continues its good relationship with EKZNW and other stakeholders and continues to participate in the province's freshwater fishing liaison committee. The clubs in the region remain active. Increasing interest from anglers indicates a shift for the better and I believe that there are useful lessons that could be shared with other regions.

Free State: Dirk Human reports that he has again had a difficult year. It appears difficult to achieve buy-in from the various flyfishers in the province. The state of the rivers and the fish in them is most alarming. This will put pressure on those more pristine areas and anglers will need to take extra care as a result. FOSAF will have to find different way to achieve its goal of uniting flyfishers in the region and we remain grateful for Dirk's persistent efforts.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Dr Bill Bainbridge continues to ably guide the environmental team's efforts with regard to NEMBA and other matters. The committee provided input on the policy approach to trout in the Integrated Management Plan for the Ukhahlamba Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site.

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

Peter Arderne also convened the Marketing sub-committee. He and Alan Hobson have made a positive contribution in this regard. The ideas they have offered will help us to better promote FOSAF's image and vision. Our website and facebook page have been updated from time to time and Peter Arderne must be thanked for his continuing efforts to ensure FOSAF broadcasts its message and achievements widely.

CONCLUSION

FOSAF continues to achieve an enormous amount and add to its notable legacy despite being a voluntary organisation.

As always special thanks are due to the secretariat of Stuart and Liz Tough for the dedicated and efficient manner in which they manage FOSAF, the AGM and EXCO and for handling the travel arrangements, logistics. My thanks are also again due to all those members that do make an input. This includes John Webber for the preparation of our AFS; our President Andrew Levy and vice presidents Tom Sutcliffe and Bill Mincher for their consistent wise counsel, Bill Bainbridge for chairing the Environmental Committee and my colleagues on the EXCO for their support and commitment to FOSAF's objectives and values. Last but not least, to the wives and partners of EXCO members, thank you for sharing your significant others with us and holding the fort in their absence on FOSAF business.

I look forward to again sharing FOSAF's vision and tackling the issues and opportunities that face us in the year ahead. It is my hope that others outside of our organisation will better see and appreciate the value FOSAF continues to bring to our engagement with the sport and the aquatic environment.

Ilan Lax
FOSAF Chairperson
17 February 2012