

# Chairmans Report

## FOSAF East Cape Chapter – 2 November 2013

As mentioned in last year's report by Alan Hobson, 2012 was a year of good rains after a prolonged period of drought. Dams filled up and rivers flowed and the fishing was good in most areas. Some dams such as Thrift and Sand Rver flooded rather badly and a lot of Trout were lost over their walls. This has been followed by another dry period and some of the NE Cape streams and stillwaters are dangerously low. As I write this, the rain is falling steadily in the Port Elizabeth area, so hopefully the drought stricken areas will receive some relief as well.

It has been an eventful year for FOSAF, with a lot happening at National, as well as at East Cape Chapter levels. The NEM:BA Act has raised its' head again and FOSAF has been at the forefront of opposing legislation that is intended to eliminate Trout from the waters of South Africa. The East Cape Chapter has been involved in this as well, and our main contribution was in convincing senior academics from Rhodes University DIFFS dept. to get actively involved in opposing the follies of the NEM:BA act at academic and socio economic levels. This was seen as complimentary to the work being done by National. We will receive a full report later on from National Chairman Ilan Lax as to where we are at the moment with the legislation.

Some of the highlights of the East Cape Chapter year, were the following :-

- 1) The Rhodes University hierarchy have been aware for some time now that the Rhodes hatchery, although essential for student training purposes, is a lot bigger than what it needs to be for a pure teaching facility. To their credit, they have also recognized their social responsibility of maintaining a hatchery to guarantee Fly Fishing Clubs and Service Providers in the Eastern Cape an ongoing supply of Trout for stocking purposes. The RU hatchery has fulfilled this role for 30 years now. During August, a Memorandum of Understanding was drawn up and signed between Rhodes University and FOSAF East Cape Chapter, formalizing this arrangement. This will be reviewed every 3 years by Rhodes, and its' continuation will be dependent on "FOSAF EC undertaking to have Rhodes University as the preferred partner to provide Trout on an annual basis" (par.1.1)
- 2) Jonny Morgan's Ventnor hatchery mentioned in Alan Hobson's report of last year, has come on stream and has fish available for stocking as a back- up for the RU hatchery in the event of further water supply problems there.

In addition, a private satellite hatchery has been established at Sandiles Rest near Stutterheim for the express purpose of supplying live Trout for stocking into Gubu and Maden dams. How these new hatcheries will impact on the MOU with the Rhodes University hatchery in the longer term, remains to be seen. If Rhodes University decide to close down their facility due to lack of support and if the new hatcheries do not make the grade, we will be in serious trouble in the Eastern Cape for the supply of Trout for stocking purposes. We shall have to see how this all pans out.

- 3) The famous old STAC and FAS clubs have been struggling with declining membership levels for some time now, making effective stocking levels difficult to achieve, especially in Gubu dam. At the initiative of new Chairman Edward Truter, these 2 Clubs have now been amalgamated under the name “Amatola Fly Fishers” and one membership fee now entitles you to fish both waters. Membership is already rising. It is pleasing to note that the original Club names have been maintained under the Amatola heading. The FAS is the oldest fly fishing Club in Africa, having been established in 1894. We wish the new Club well.
- 4) We also welcome 2 additional Clubs to the FOSAF East Cape family, one old Club making a long overdue return, plus a new one. Barkley East Fly Fishers have not been part of the East Cape Chapter for a number of years now, but have a newly elected Committee and are keen to return to the fold. We welcome them back. A new Club has been formed in the Graaf Reinet area with the name “The Sneeuberg Aquatic Conservancy”. They have also applied for and have been accepted as East Cape Chapter members. Tiffendale Ski Resort has also come on board as a Service Provider.

In closing, I would first like to once again thank Amatola for the use of this great facility for our AGM. This is the unofficial headquarters of FOSAF East Cape Chapter and it is always a pleasure to be here. A sincere thank you to everyone for attending and a special thank you to National Chairman Ilan Lax for travelling all of this way to be with us. There is a lot left to discuss at this meeting, but if we all keep it brief and to the point, we can finish early and still get in some quality fishing time.

Brian Clark  
Chairman  
2 November 2013