

FOSAF

KWA ZULU NATAL CHAPTER

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2014-2015

It gives me pleasure to present the Chairman's Report for 2014 -2015 for the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Chapter of FOSAF.

The KZN Chapter committee met infrequently during the year. Many members of the KZN Chapter Committee continue to be actively involved in the ongoing issue of the NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations and this has taken up a great deal of time of committee members.

The Committee continues to function with representation from the major clubs in KZN. We are indeed grateful for the Underberg Himeville Club whose representative Mr Alan Payn travels a long way at night to attend our meetings.

Whilst further attempts are being made with getting more involvement from people of colour I am afraid we are not making progress in this regard. However we will continue to make serious attempts in this regard.

The Community-based Adventure Tourism Initiative of the Umgano Project which has received support for FOSAF in developing the fly-fishing based tourism aspect in the past, continues to develop. Fly fishing is one of the forms of adventure tourism being planned. Last year, a number of fly anglers fished the Ngwangwane River. Their suggestions were that they felt that anglers would like to take advantage to fish these largely unknown waters, which were known to a very small number of anglers, but that they would prefer to have certain basic facilities such as bush toilets and lock-up facilities made available. There were also safety concerns. Accordingly, a log cabin is being constructed where anglers can lock up belongings, and Field Rangers will camp next to anglers. Easter is normally the best fishing in this part of the country, but the rivers are presently very high due to the recent heavy rains. Another weekend is being planned for anglers to again fish in this area, and to make use of these new facilities. The dates will be announced shortly.

Regrettably, as may have been seen in the press Ezemvelo KwaZulu- Natal Wildlife (EKZNW) has experienced serious management problems. Investigations are currently under way and once decisions have been made to improve the management of EKZNW further attempts will be made to get them

to resurrect the Freshwater Fishing Liaison Committee meetings (FFLC). It is our view that it is unlikely that this will happen until they have resolved their own internal management problems and the NEM: BA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations have been finalised. It seems in the past that they are also, to some extent, playing a wait and see attitude with getting the DEA to finalise the NEMBA Alien and Invasive Species Regulations before engaging further with stakeholders.

The task team of Mr Ian Lax, Dr Bill Bainbridge, Mr Jake Alletson and Mr Ian Cox have spent many hours engaging with the DEA around the various versions of the NEM: BA AIS Lists & Regulations. In essence the work being done by this task team is going to save our sport. Although more work needs to be done in this regard it seems that some progress has been made. Looking back we have even engaged in trying to resolve these issues with the DEA and others for about 9 years.

The KZN Chapter Committee still manage the funds collected for the task team. A further attempt has been made during this year to raise more donations from interested and affected parties to pay these gentlemen for the work being done. We also continue in an ongoing way to keep the donors informed on the progress made.

The Spring Grove Dam in Rosetta is filling up. Two members of our committee, Jake Alletson and Jan Korrubel, maintain contact on developments to ensure that our interests are protected and considered. There appears to be no decision at this stage as to whether this dam is likely to be used for recreational purposes and at present entrance to the dam can only be gained via property owners around the dam.

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 in Pietermaritzburg has been rejuvenated and a lot of interest is shown in it by new and existing members. They meet monthly. The Durban Fly Dressers are also very active and organises great functions and fly tying evenings.

An action plan for the marketing of FOSAF was drawn up arising from the proposals submitted by Ms Karin Hodgkins and this action plan will be further discussed at the next Exco meeting.

At present there is not any Yellow Fish Working Group representation on the KZN Chapter committee and this will be discussed further at the next Exco meeting.

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