

Report from EC Chapter of FOSAF

Chapter meeting held on 13th March at 13 Hare St, Grahamstown

Present: Brian Clarke, Alan Hobson, Martin Davies, and Reg Morgan (chair).

Apologies: Angus and Ed.

1. Trout Mapping. The following issues were raised and discussed.

- a. The mapping exercise was done on instruction from DEA and was financed by EC Fosaf.
- b. Accurate stocking records from 1894 to date are available.
- c. All stockings have been done with the appropriate permits.
- d. The area which has been mapped as trout areas in the EC is in excess of 100,000 square Kilometres.
- e. The agreed non –invasive trout areas have been agreed mutually by SANBI, SAIAB, DET, DIFS, and FOSAF.
- f. Challenge is to get the agreed maps released from DAFF.
- g. Martin has copies of the maps and will do some more work on them using local expertise.
- h. It was agreed that The Chapter would fund 5 copies of the updated maps.

2. Gill Nets.

Members were all agreed that there should be a total prohibition on the use of gill nets and that this should be spelt out in the new Inland Fishing legislation.

3. Trout Hatcheries.

- a. Martin was congratulated on the creation of the hatchery at his residence. All members had watched the development with keen interest.
- b. The continued provision of Martin's Thrift strain trout which he has bred and improved over the last 35 years is of paramount importance. Most waters in the extensive EC trout waters have been stocked with these fish. With the closure of the Sandile Hatchery at Stutterheim, the Ventnor and Hare Street Hatcheries are to be encouraged and supported.
- c. Hatching numbers. The tendency of clubs and private owners to only wake up to need stock at the end of the process is an ongoing challenge. We need to encourage all concerned to plan to order stock numbers by mid-year of and season.
- d. Financial challenges: Martin needs an income stream from the hatcheries as does Matthew Morgan at Ventnor. One way to improve this aspect is for deposits to be paid in advance which would be credited in fish in each case.
- e. The Weather: The drought cycles and changing weather patterns have a dramatic impact on the whole business of fly fishing. We are well aware of the challenges and the risks and have to work within those.

Meeting closed with thanks to Martin for hosting the members and for his warm hospitality.

Reg Morgan.