

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FLYFISHERS
KWAZULU NATAL REGION.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2021

During the 2021 year, we continued with no meaningful action and activities because of the continued COVID 19 virus pandemic state of disaster. Lockdowns and isolating no doubt had had an effect on Committee meetings.

Information received from Clubs seems to indicate that Clubs have not lost members due to the COVID 19 situation. Resignations appear to have been mainly because of normal attrition. After the initial lockdown was lifted, members of clubs were able to start fishing. Trout fishing waters are situated a fair distance from where most Club members live and it seems that the fishing may have been affected to a minor degree, by the increase in the fuel price.

One of the initiatives identified previously to promote fly-fishing was to contact schools to promote fly-fishing and fly tying with scholars. No further action has been taken in this regard, as schools have also been affected by the COVID 19 lockdowns. As previously advised, the schools that have been contacted have shown very little interest and claimed scholars are too busy to introduce another interest group to their already tight timetables. Therefore, this continues to be on hold and we will review it when things return to normality. Any useful creative ideas of how to take this forward would be welcome.

Springrove dam remains closed for recreational fishing. The managers of the dam have indicated that recreational uses will only be considered when the land around the dam has been expropriated. This is a very long-term issue and is not seen as a priority by the Department of Water Affairs.

Last year we reported that our research into the presence of the Maluti Minnow had not progressed significantly and the same applies this year. The University of Pretoria advised they had become aware of a parallel study being undertaken by Rhodes University on the same population as we sampled. From

what we understood, the Rhodes team had undertaken the same initial tests to determine if they were a different species.

What they had not done was to run the additional tests we are waiting for to determine the time elapsed in the separation of the two groupings. On the Prof's suggestion, we decided to offer the other research team an opportunity to combine the studies. This would give us a strategic advantage in that we could verify that the facts logical conclusions drawn from these facts would be properly stated.

Unfortunately, we still have not received a response nor have the other team taken up our offer. We have also not received any of the second batch of tests results from UP. The team is following up on this and further progress reports will follow.

The KZN Region was originally delegated the control of the finances for the NEMBA funding. As part of this responsibility, we keep our donors and other interested and affected parties updated regularly about the progress being made with NEMBA.

As reported previously, our Chairman Ilan Lax has continued to spend time on the respective negotiations, legal processes and court action with the Department of Environmental Affairs. Although we had a positive outcome with the initial court application objecting to the consultation process followed before publishing the NEMBA AIS regulations, the department is taking the judgement on appeal. The application for leave to appeal is likely to be heard in March 2022.

The Annual Financial Statements for the FOSAF KZN Region are being prepared by our auditor at present and these will be presented at the AGM. The bank balances as at the end of 2020 were as follows:

- General Fund: Balance of R432.20
- NEMBA fund : balance of R103 016.84

JIM READ

CHAIRMAN

31 January 2022