

EASTERN CAPE REGIONAL CHAPTER REPORT FOR 2012 FOSAF EXECUTIVE MEETING

Fly fishing in the Eastern Cape is currently enjoying the bounties of resilient fish having survived the drought. The whole Province has enjoyed good rainfall and most waters are back to their desired levels. Just because waters over the latter part of last year are finally stockable, unfortunately, this means these fish will only be of desirable size later on in 2012. Despite critical water levels dams such as Thrift still produced over 30 trophy fish in excess of 10lbs, so our year ahead looks promising. With the rivers in the Rhodes enjoying erratic water flows, reports of catches are good.

ADMINISTRATION

Last year was very much a year of rebuilding, with buy in from all of our clubs the reshaped administration of the Chapter kicked in, not without teething problems. Our financial cycle is still in arrears, meaning that monies were collected after the 2011 AGM which reflects a very scrambled view of our financial situation. However, all the monies have been collected and the Chapter is in a secure position. 2012 will see the benefits of a functional static website, listed service providers, (our potentially greatest area for generating revenue), restructured clubs all committed to the FOSAF philosophy. With our Chairman visiting several events, attending and presenting FOSAF's case at club meetings there is definitely an increase in awareness. Now, we need to link this process to FOSAF National's administrative cycle to grow the Chapter's membership base.

CLUBS

Many of our clubs are under new management and are very active in the fly fishing community. Maclear and Rhodes University fly fishing club are actively looking to have the Eastern Cape back in the competitive angling fold as currently we do not even participate at the National trials. Queenstown, Maclear, The Eastern Province Fresh Water Conservancy and Bankberg all have a number of junior members and are trying to cultivate and nurture this interest. With the trend being experienced throughout the country of dwindling membership clubs such as Stutterheim Angling Club, Queenstown, Bankberg and EPFWC have invested serious money into restocking their waters in the hope that good fishing grows membership. Several of the clubs are hosting events through the course of the year, with conditions being good, fishing in our province should be very productive.

FISH STOCKING

Rhodes University Experimental fish Farm is the ONLY local source for providing stock of Trout for recreational angling, it is under tremendous pressure. Water quality and the restructuring of the Universities administration make the functioning of the hatchery difficult. It is our intention as the Chapter to source and develop other possibilities within the Province for the supply of Trout.

There are a few new waters offering great promise. Amatola wild trout fly fishing and new waters in the Cradock area offer great variety to our already diverse fly fishing opportunities. The inland fisheries do receive a lot of competition from our estuary and salt water fisheries, perhaps an area we need to explore as FOSAF.