

FEDERATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN FLYFISHERS
KWAZULU NATAL REGION.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025-2026

The Fosaf KZN Region Committee held two meetings during this period.

The Natal Fly Fishers Club (NFFC), Fly Fishing Association (FFA) and Underberg Himeville Trout Fishing Club (UHTFC) remain active supporters of FOSAF. Representatives from the Durban Fly Tiers, NFFC and FFA continue to serve on the Committee meetings. Distance does not allow the UHTFC to attend meetings, but the club is kept fully informed through the minutes of meetings that are distributed widely.

All three flyfishing clubs, although losing limited numbers of members, have enjoyed stable membership numbers from new members joining. All the clubs are also involved in projects of river/bank cleaning. UHTFC work together with the canoe and mountain bike clubs to clear wattle, bramble and alien invasive along the river banks. In addition clubs are actively promoting fly fishing with the youth and this has undoubtedly created an interest with younger members joining clubs.

The Natal Fly Dressers Society in Pietermaritzburg, under the leadership of Jan Korrubel, continues to meet monthly. This is an active club promoting the sport of fly fishing through fly tying. Attendance at these meetings is great and great camaraderie has developed amongst the fly dressers. The Durban Fly Tiers also remain an active club.

One of the drawbacks experienced during the year was the dreaded foot and mouth disease that has affected getting access to waters. Whilst farmers were very supportive during this time, the risks were enormous and strict access controls were enforced. It has not affected the fishing negatively and the quality of fishing by club members in all three clubs was good. A concern expressed by NFFC is the increased levels of bass infestation on prime still waters. Stocking costs have escalated and clubs had to examine the feasibility of keeping waters that are not fished regularly. Stocking costs have also had the effect of the NFFC having to increase membership fees substantially.

The NFFC, that has previously negotiated fishing access to the Bushmen's River for members and non-members, organised an Under 15 soccer tournament at the Bushmen's River. Sponsorship for the players was obtained for soccer equipment and refreshments. This was done to further strengthen the relationships with the community.

The KZN membership of FOSAF remains a concern. Although we introduced a rebate on membership fees for people joining via their clubs, it has not materialised in increased membership. During 2025 we only had 43 members and 4 who joined via the NFFC. The administration of the FOSAF KZN Region is done from the finances generated by membership fees. In 2025/2026 we had to approach FOSAF National on 2 occasions for funding. It seems aspirant members continue to ask the question of the short term benefits of joining FOSAF. It is worth bearing in mind that the work FOSAF does, underpins and ensures everyone's right to flyfishing.

Springrove Dam remains closed for recreational fishing due to access limitations. We continue to keep a watchful eye on it but it is very unlikely that Riparian Owners will ever grant access on the dam.

The KZN Region continues to manage and control the finances for funding the NEMBA campaign. As part of this responsibility, we keep our donors and other interested and affected parties updated regularly about the progress being made with NEMBA and other national issues facing Flyfishing. A comprehensive update on the progress being made is also on the website and in the National Chairman's Report by Ian Lax circulated to all members.

We appreciate the ongoing support of those members who have remained members. We urge our members to encourage others to join FOSAF and hope that in time more people would join via their clubs.

The Annual Financial Statements 2025 for the FOSAF KZN Region have been prepared and are attached for your information.

Jim Read
CHAIRMAN
28 September 2026