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Dr. Leonard Flemming
Wemmershoek Diagnostic Laboratory
Jan Van Riebeeck Road
Paarl
7670

To whom it may concern:

FOSAF Western Cape Chapter Report

Dear Sir,

The Western Cape chapter of FOSAF consists of a single committee member at the moment, viz. myself (Leonard Flemming), with Tom Sutcliffe at hand for advice. Although there is no committee appointed to fulfil various tasks, I have managed to cope fairly well on my own and initiated the following very important projects:

1. Translocation of rainbow trout from the Kromrivier (Cederberg) to the Molapong hatchery facility in Du Toit's Kloof to establish a broodstock population. The aim is to strip the female individuals from the Kromrivier population in April/May 2014 and fertilize the eggs with male Kromrivier fish; the fertilized eggs will then be used to stock the Jan Du Toit's (JDT's) River. Furthermore, genetic tests will be performed on the existing JDT's population and also the Kromrivier trout to determine their ancestral lineage and also to see whether genetic inbreeding has led to the mutations observed in JDT's fish.
2. The Witte River water abstraction issue is an on-going problem and I will be sending the Limietberg Nature Reserve representative of the Department of Water Affairs, Wilna Kloppers, a follow-up document on where it was left last with an insincere reply from DWAF. It will be mentioned in this new document that I will consider informing the Public Protector if I receive yet another insincere response from the Cape Government authorities responsible for managing the waterways in the Limietberg reserve.
3. One last project would be to catch Dorps River brown trout and determine the ancestral lineage of these fish. If indeed Laugh Leven browns, another translocation project from the Dorpsruit to the Witte River in the Western Cape will be sent to CapeNature for approval.
4. I have also managed to establish a new connection between a very willing CapeNature and the fly fishing fraternity, which will entail monthly meetings where complicated matters will be discussed and hopefully resolved. The minutes of the 1st meeting was sent to Ilan Lax at the beginning of March.

After meeting with Tom Sutcliffe yesterday evening, I have the following to report to FOSAF National (these are minutes noted as Tom was speaking):

- Tom is very pleased about Trout SA, since he believes that FOSAF lost its support in the market as a “product” – product image; Tom reckons the product image of FOSAF has gone down the tubes – there is a history of individuals contesting each other (PJ Jacobs, Tony Biggs, Tom Sutcliffe), which has brought great harm to FOSAF’s image. FOSAF needs to stand firm for trout – all chapter chairs need to support FOSAF National’s stance against the NEM:BA and in general.
- FOSAF’s core was to fight for the existence of recreational trout waters; the agenda has grown too large – saltwater, yellowfish, etc. The focus should return to trout and the survival of our trout fisheries throughout the country.
- Tom suggested that FOSAF needs to reengineer itself, even at the loss of certain EXCO members. Tom reckons if FOSAF regains its mandate as trout-specific, the membership will grow “10 fold” – Trout Unlimited in the States as an example.
- It has been noticed by me and Tom that confidential matters in the FOSAF EXCO meetings are discussed outside the EXCO, which does damage to chapter relationships with government authorities and son on.
- Tom suggested that we (FOSAF) need to get more key supporters on board, such as syndicate holders (Doug Starling in Mpumalanga and Mike Fitzsimons in KZN – pro trout), trout businesses and retailers, trout farmers, trout fisherman, and SAFFA etc – the scope is too broad at the moment.
- Tell Trout SA should be a part of FOSAF and not the other way around (TSA (Trout SA, in that order) – formally known as FOSAF). The Yellowfish Working Group, for instance, can become a subset, but shouldn’t muddy the mandate of FOSAF. The same accounts for saltwater fly fishing etc.

Lastly, I would like to thank FOSAF National for providing financial support to initiate projects with invaluable potential related to the future of trout in the Western Cape. I, as the Western Cape chapter chair and only committee member support and endorse FOSAF National’s stance and vision for trout in the NEM:BA.

Yours sincerely,

Leonard Flemming