

FOSAF CHAIRMAN'S 2016/17 ANNUAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

It is an honour to again report to FOSAF's executive, membership and other external stakeholders on our activities, challenges and achievements during the past year. As in past years we will use the prior strategic framework for this purpose.

EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

State:

FOSAF continues to engage with government departments to have the win-win achieved through cooperative governance at the Phakisa Ocean labs Conference in Durban in July 2014 implemented. These efforts were cemented and confirmed at various meetings with the DGs of DAFF and DEA and our main focus has been on finalising the mapping of "where trout occur".

The support of numerous individuals and Trout SA has been critical in ensuring that the relevant information detailing where trout occur is collected, collated, captured, and recorded on a GIS mapping system. The foresight of investing in our own data capture has provided a secure platform for recording credible data. This has also allowed us to challenge the maps and layers circulated as the record produced by other agencies (but based on the proposed regulations rather than the agreed principles). Without this independent reference data we would not be in a position to ensure the validity of the mapping process.

Last year I reported that "The next steps are to finalise the mapping process as soon as possible and at the same time to harmonise the legislation (national and provincial) to facilitate the agreed enabling environment for the trout value chain." Although the mapping process of where trout occur is now completed we have not yet agreed all the other important aspects upon which the legal framework will be based. In reality therefore, very little real progress has been made since last year.

I have continued to engage with DEA and other stakeholders with a view to pushing the process to a conclusion. Thank you to all those people and organisations who continue to support this campaign. We will continue to keep you apprised of any progress.

Public:

FOSAF's presence on the internet and social media of various kinds is well catered for. Peter Arderne's herculean efforts deserve special mention. Peter, thank you for all your work in chasing down reports, keeping snippets going online, liaising with Flyfishing and flying the FOSAF flag in a myriad of quite unseen ways. This is an enormous task that you have selflessly carried out on FOSAF's behalf and we all owe you a debt of gratitude for the many different things you attend to on our collective behalf.

As I said last year FOSAF must find a way to foster youth, race and gender and to involve communities, especially in the rural areas where flyfishing is often an important potential contributor to livelihoods. While this may sound like a sop to political correctness, the fact remains that the future of flyfishing resides in these groups of people and some of our best flyfishing waters are well stewarded by these communities. If we fail to find a way to work with them and be part of the solution we will end up being seen as part of the problem. The difficult conundrum is how to ensure this happens? The solution lies in developing the youth and river health project that has been picked up

by Chris Williams and to roll out a similar model with relevant stakeholders in the regions.

I am happy to say that our membership whose participation is crucial is slowly growing. As always, we welcome any and all suggestions.

FOSAF remains an active member of Trout SA nationally. Our involvement in the regions could be strengthened by better structures and a wider involvement. The benefit for FOSAF in being part of a wider interest group is self-evident. As DAFF develops policy around access to and the use of SA's freshwater fisheries FOSAF must continue to play a role in helping shape an equitable and sustainable dispensation for these ecosystems we all value and utilise. Our participation in these issues does make a difference in and must continue.

Anglers:

As noted in previous year's reports, we continue to receive remarkable exposure in Flyfishing magazine. We are indebted to Erwin Bursik and Sheena Carnie for their coverage and ongoing support. Once again our thanks goes to Stuart and Liz Tough who publish and distribute the Tippet which continues to remain a positive and respected mouthpiece for FOSAF.

I also wish to thank the many fly anglers who regularly raise issues and participate in the large number of forums and chat pages that deal with matters of flyfishing interest. We have a rich seam of debate and matters piscatorial to whet almost every appetite and pique one's interest on almost every area related to flyfishing.

We also continue to have contact with many other flyfishing organisations including the competitive fly anglers SAFFA. I believe there is a positive spirit that had grown among most angling organisations and I for one would like this continue.

INTERNAL ENVIRONMENT:

EXCO

We have had a number of skype conference calls this year. This has proved to be a challenging but useful and inexpensive way of communicating. Thus as in past years, while the EXCO has not met on a face to face basis, we have remained in touch and have kept communication going. I also regularly stay in touch with chapter Chairperson's and other EXCO members telephonically.

I think this has facilitated communication and emails have also played a role in this regard. Our thanks go to Stuart and Liz as the Secretariat for acting as the nodal point and keeping us all in touch. In addition to these duties they also follow up membership renewals, magazine prizes and the finances.

I also wish to than our President Andrew Levy and Vice-presidents Tom Sutcliffe and Bill Mincher for their wise counsel and willingness to be consulted as and when required.

CHAPTERS

Chapter Chairperson's will provide reports and any key matters arising will be discussed at the EXCO. Accordingly, I will not dwell on these given time and space constraints. It remains for me to thank the Chapter Committees under the able leadership of Martin von Holdt (and Brian Clark), Jim Read, Leonard Flemming (to assisted in future by Herman Potgieter) and Chris Williams respectively.

It important to note that our Chapters remain reasonably healthy and hopefully this will continue in the year ahead.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Dr Bill Bainbridge continues to lead this committee. While much of the focus has been on the NEMBA process which is reported on above, Bill and I are slowly working through the review of FOSAF's policies and guidelines document.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

I reported above on Peter Arderne's efforts and that would also be germane in this regard. This is a vital area of spreading our message and attracting support. We will need to consider how we expand these endeavours going forward.

CONCLUSION

This year's AGM and EXCO signals the fruition of a long held belief and desire that FOSAF as a national body must situate its activities nationally. It is hoped that we will in future be able to hold our AGM's at a different location each year. This will bring FOSAF to our members and allow for better interaction with regions. Hopefully we will also get some much needed fishing done this way!

Our sincere and heartfelt thanks must go to Brian Clark and his Eastern Cape Chapter team. Despite his initial reticence Brian decided to run with this ball and make it a success. Also to Stuart and Liz Tough who despite their absence have made sure some of the logistics were arranged. To Martin von Holdt as Chair it is evident that your teamwork and efforts have ensured the success of this meeting and we are grateful for your Chapters generosity and hospitality.

Special thanks are also due to Annabelle and Alan Hobson for hosting us and dealing with the vagaries of the regularly changing arrangements.

Our thanks also go to Bankberg Trout Angling Club. When I spoke with Alan the other day he was out at mountain dam clearing the bush so people like me could manage a cast and put a fly on the water without getting tangled up every second cast. All your exceptional efforts are appreciated.

Thanks are also due to:

- Our Auditors Prof Swanepoel of A.P. Swanepoel and Co must be thanked for efficiently doing the necessary in a very short space of time and producing readable AFS; ; and
- the rest of the EXCO for their on-going support and commitment.

Flyfishing in South Africa has been going through something of a renaissance: The emergence of the Fly Fishing Film Tour SA, the fly-tying and -fishing Expo and the many festivals all auger well for a resurgence of the multifaceted sport we all love.

Long may it continue and grow!

Ilan Lax
FOSAF Chairperson
April 2017