

Vanderkloof FMP meeting 2: Record of decisions

Venue: Department of Water and Sanitation, Vanderkloof

Date: 26 March 2015

1. ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Present

Name	Organization	Email	Tel/cell number
Mr. Qurban Rouhani	Rhodes University	Q.rouhani@ru.ac.za	0824455700
Mr. Frikkie van der Vyver	Rhodes University	Frikkie5er@gmail.com	0766615741
Ms. Michelle Govender	DWS: HO (NWIR)	govenderm@dws.gov.za	0826528410
Mr. Steven Nhlabathi	DWS: HO (NWIR)	nhlabathi@dws.gov.za	0836091434
Ms. Ntombi Mokgalagadi	DALRRD	nyende@ncpg.gov.za	0825597289
Ms. Michelle Joshua	Masifundise/CL-SA	michellejoshua@masifundise.org.za	0793819692
Mr. Raphael Benadie	Small-scale fishers	benadie74@gmail.com	0745799336
Prof. Warwick Sauer	Rhodes University	w.sauer@ru.ac.za	0827741337
Mr. Hannes Roux	DALRRD	h.roux@ncpg.gov.za	0718607550
Ms. Caroline Badenhorst	Recreational Anglers	badenhorstd@yahoo.com	0845053667
Dr. Aiden Wood	SASACC	tagfish@telkom.sa.net	0828694939
Ms. Roberta Burgess	DALRRD	rburgess@ncpg.gov.za	0834497561
Mr. N.G. Veli	Renosterberg LM	veligoodman@yahoo.com	0832375505
Mr. Sandile Dick	Renosterberg LM	Sandile.dick@yahoo.com	0718597311

Apologies

Mr. Thinus Jonker, Northern Cape Department of Agriculture

Mr. Lindokuhle Hlatswayo, STAC National Treasury

Mr. Naseegh Jaffer, Masifundise

Dr. Andy Cockcroft, DAFF National

2. INTRODUCTIONS

All present were requested to introduce themselves and who they represent.

3. WELCOME AND OPENING

Ms. Roberta Burgess (DALRRD)

- Opened the meeting and welcomed all present.
- The government wishes to develop inland fisheries.
- The main purpose is to address food security and poverty.

- DALRRD contracted Rhodes University to assess the feasibility of an experimental fishery on Vanderkloof Dam.
- This will be the first structured inland experimental fishery and will set a protocol for further inland fisheries development.

Mr. Qurban Rouhani (Rhodes University)

- Welcomed all present.
- The purpose of this FMP meeting is to present and discuss the experimental fishery operational protocol, and to make suggestions/recommendations on the preliminary draft management plan.

4. OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL PRESENTATION

Prof. Warwick Sauer (Rhodes University)

- Presented the proposed operational protocol for the establishment of new inland fisheries.
- Presented the proposed operational protocol for the establishment of a small-scale experimental fishery on Vanderkloof Dam.

5. SUMMARY OF CONCERNS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

Public communication

- Public communication through popular media was raised as a very important aspect lacking in the experimental fishery project.
- A committee member mentioned that very few local farmers were aware of the experimental fishery project.
- The RFP suggested that it is the committee's responsibility to inform all relevant organizations/stakeholders about the planned experimental fishery and its progress.
- A public communication strategy needs to be developed and added to the FMP.
- DALRRD will initiate public communication via "Volksblad" and other media. There will also be a communications representative present at the next meeting.
- Recreational anglers have many websites and magazines at their disposal.
- RFP is in the process of developing a website (www.vanderklooffisheries.co.za) to act as a communication portal for small-scale fishers. The website will include their views and opinions, as well as information on the development and progress of the experimental fishery.
- It was suggested to distribute/advertise the Final FMP upon completion.

Gill nets

- SASACC do not support the use of gill nets for experimentation at Vanderkloof as it is an illegal activity, will catch listed vulnerable species

(largemouth yellowfish), has already been experimented with in other dams and may have negative impact on the growing tourism industry.

- RFP and DALRRD mentioned that legal issues are not dealt with in the experimental fishery phase (and that experimental permits receive exemption from such legalities as gear types), but only comes in at the commercial fishery phase. It is not the purpose of the experimental fishery management plan to explore the legal issues, but to test the biological sustainability and economic feasibility of a range of gear types (legal and illegal).
- SASACC suggested the committee should rethink the use of gill nets.
- DALRRD suggested results from experimentation with gill nets at Vanderkloof Dam could provide site specific information on this method's suitability/sustainability.
- RFP suggested experimentation with at least some gill net mesh sizes (only those sizes proven least damaging to large largemouth yellowfish) as they may fish differently at Vanderkloof. As soon as suggested catch limits (still to determine) of smallmouth and largemouth yellowfish are reached with any specific mesh size, further experimentation with those mesh sizes can be ceased.
- RFP stated that some largemouth yellowfish will certainly form a small part of the gill net catch composition, but suggested that experimentation cannot cease as soon as a single largemouth yellowfish is caught. The experiment would need to run over a few seasons and at different areas in order to test for spatial and temporal differences in catch rates and species composition. BUT, there would have to be cut-off points (catch limits) set for largemouth yellowfish bycatch in order to ensure that the species is not negatively impacted on during the experimental phase.
- RFP suggested SASACC writes a motivation document (consisting of additional available data on specific gill net mesh size catch compositions) against the use of gill nets for experimentation at Vanderkloof. The committee can then use this additional information to make an informed joint decision at the next meeting on whether to exclude the use of gill nets for experimentation.
- It was mentioned that the use of gill nets may have some positive impact regarding the harvesting of alien fish species such as bass and carp.
- SASACC needs specific indicator criteria for gear catch limits in order to give constructive input/recommendations for the use/ban of gill nets at the next FMP meeting.
- DALRRD mentioned the Department of Environmental Affairs are also part of the process regarding biodiversity issues in the proposed experimental fishery. Experimental permits will be issued taking gear issues into account.

Tonnage

- SASACC needs specific monthly tonnage planned for the experimental fishery in order to give constructive input/recommendations at the next FMP meeting.
- RFP suggested the need to provide enough tonnage in order to ensure fishers earn above the minimum wage. Also still to decide on the minimum tonnage needed to test the economic feasibility of the experimental fishery.

- It was mentioned that more economic information regarding planned tonnage is needed in the next FMP draft.

Tourism industry

- Masifundise questioned SASACC as to the benefits rural communities currently receive through local tourism vs. those they may receive through a commercial fishery.
- RFP mentioned there is no data on the direct economic value of the Vanderkloof recreational fishery and that this is something that needs to be investigated.

Line fishing

- RFP suggested the use of hand lines as another method to increase catches and participants in the experimental fishery.
- SASACC suggested the use of rod & line to increase catch efficiency.
- SASACC is willing to provide rod & line training courses and workshops for experimental fishers.
- RFP suggested that if the rod & line method produces enough volume and proves economically feasible then the project could possibly do away with expensive gears and equipment such as boats and motors.

Access for shore fishing methods

- It was mentioned that practical areas for the use of shore fishing methods such as rod & line, seine and feike nets are limited and could be problematic in the experimental fishery. Shallow banks, sandy beaches and access to different areas of the dam are needed for the use of some of these fishing gears.
- It was suggested that DWS investigate the possibility of opening up the “Freestate side” near the dam wall for experimental fishing purposes.

Infrastructure development

- Local tenders for the building of infrastructure.
- Committee members may apply.

Project finances

- The committee oversee project finances.

or

- If Rhodes University receives the implementation budget then the university will oversee finances. Committee members will have access to financial reports.

Addition of new committee members

- Steps to follow if other organisations/unions want to add representatives on the FMP committee:

Submit an application/motivation letter to the committee and the Department of Agriculture for consideration.

Committee decisions

- Any FMP suggestions/recommendations/concerns must be submitted to the committee for review. No one person can make a decision on the way forward. The RFP cannot make any decisions alone. The RFP only provides suggestions and facilitates development of the experimental fishery management plan. It is the committee's responsibility to discuss issues and make joint decisions on the way forward.

Budgets

- An updated more relevant budget must be provided with added contingency.
- 2 separate budgets (one for the experimental fishery cost and another for Rhodes University).

Participation process

- It was suggested that the small-scale fishers need to form an entity.
- Masifundise will assist in a skills audit to identify the type of skills needed and potential participants with the capacity for development.
- The committee will assess and recommend participants to the Department of Agriculture.
- Fishers and other participants will be on 2 year experimental fishing contracts.
- Smaller jobs may make use of casual workers.

Safety

- SASACC mentioned that safety is a very important aspect and that the experimental fishery has to be compliant. There are combination courses available (skippers/fire fighting/first aid)

6. DECISIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE

- DALRRD will initiate public communication via "Volksblad" and other media. There will also be a communications representative present at the next meeting.
- RFP will develop a website, www.vanderklooffisheries.co.za, to act as a communication portal for small-scale fishers. The website will include their views and opinions as well as information on the development and progress of the experimental fishery.
- Upon completion the Final FMP it will be distributed and advertised in public media in order to inform all interested and affected parties of the experimental fishery plan.

- SASACC will write a detailed motivation document (consisting of additional available data on specific mesh size catch compositions) against the use of gill nets for experimentation at Vanderkloof. The committee will then review the additional information at the next FMP meeting in order to make an informed joint decision on whether to exclude the use of gill nets for experimentation.
- RFP to come up with specific indicator criteria for gear catch limits (small and largemouth yellowfish limits) so that the committee can give constructive input/recommendations for the use/ban of gill nets at the next FMP meeting.
- RFP to come up with specific monthly tonnage required for the experimental fishery so that the committee can give constructive input/recommendations at the next FMP meeting.
- RFP must provide an updated more relevant budget (initial start-up cost) with added contingency.
- Masifundise will assist in a skills audit to identify the type of skills needed and potential participants with the capacity for development.

7. THE WAY FORWARD

Further FMP development

- RFP to incorporate recommendations from this meeting into the next version of the draft FMP.

Committee input

- Committee members to review the preliminary draft FMP and come up with recommendations to be discussed in the next FMP meeting.

8. DEADLINE FOR COMMITTEE INPUT

Suggestions and recommendations should be emailed to frikkie5er@gmail.com by 7 May 2015. These will then be incorporated into the draft FMP and distributed in advance for review at the next FMP meeting.

9. DATE OF NEXT FMP MEETING

21 May 2015.

10. PURPOSE OF NEXT FMP MEETING

To discuss the next draft FMP and make decisions.

Minutes Prepared by

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