



SACRAA
SOUTH AFRICAN CONSOLIDATED
RECREATIONAL ANGLING ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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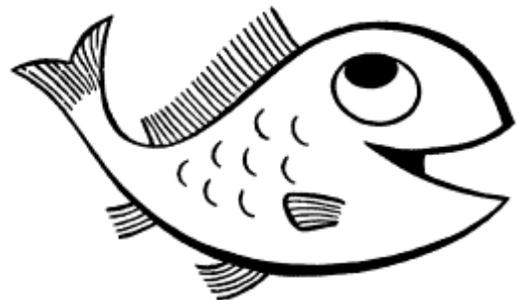
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The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you all updated on the SACRAA bosberaad and to give you a little information that has been fed back to us on the economic impact study that SACRAA together with Rhodes University have undertaken.

We also give you the latest update on what is happening with regard to the gillnetting at Vanderkloof Dam.



SACRAA Bosberaad



We have been delaying this meeting to give the Department of ichthyology at Rhodes University, time to present the economic impact study of recreational angling in South Africa that they have just completed, to the executives at DAFF.

The reason why they have delayed the publication thereof is that they did not want any second-hand information filtering through to DAFF, which will take away the impact of their presentation.

They would like DAFF to recognise SACRAA as a representative body for the recreational fishing sector in South Africa, embracing organised angling bodies, unaffiliated anglers, business, tertiary and research institutions and governing bodies who have a vested interest in our natural and or fishing resources. As such, we should be consulted on all matters relating to recreational angling.

We have also requested Rhodes University to present the economic impact study to all those attending the SACRAA bosberaad. We felt that it would be in our best interests to let Rhodes University make their presentation to DAFF prior to our meeting as they in turn, would be able to advise us on the discussions and assist us with planning SACRAA's path forward with their knowledge of what DAFF's views are on SACRAA.

We are well aware that you all have busy schedules. We will make quite sure that we give you ample notice of the final date of the bosberaad. At this moment of time, it would seem that the bosberaad would take place close to the end of March 2018. (Date to be confirmed.)

Immediately on confirmation from Rhodes University that their presentation has been made, we will firm up the date and advise you all, according.

Economic Impact Study



Appended hereunder is an extract from a letter recently received from Prof Warren Pott of the Department of ichthyology at Rhodes University.

As you may be aware, we have been conducting a great deal of recreational fisheries research over the last three years or so. Included in this is a national survey of marine shore based recreational fisheries compliance (Rhodes University), a marketing analysis and an estimate of the economic significance of recreational angling to South Africa (Rhodes University, University of the Northwest, ORI, SAIAB, ORI, UCT) which includes all sectors and environments, research on the health and survival of released fishes and a global review of recreational fisheries governance with the aim of identifying suitable model for developing countries (Rhodes University, CEFAS).

To give you an idea, our results have essentially shown the following:

1. Recreational fishing contributes massively to the SA economy and employment of South Africans.
2. The food/fun nexus is widening in our recreational fisheries. I.e. Increasingly, recreational fishers are becoming more reliant on the fish that they catch as part of their daily food requirements. Many poor people are participate in the recreational fishery or categorized as recreational fishermen.
3. Poor compliance in the marine recreational fisheries is threatening sustainability and inhibiting the development of subsistence and small-scale fisheries. There are some potentially cost effective methods that can be used to improve compliance.

4. Poor compliance to some regulations in freshwater fisheries is causing conservation concerns.
5. There are a range of alternative methods (other than enforcement) that have been shown to improve recreational fisheries compliance.
6. Many released (mandatory or voluntary) fishes do not survive catch and release (C&R) event, but it is possible to improve angler C&R behaviour through appropriate interventions.
7. Contemporary best practice for governance of recreational fisheries requires recognition of the economic benefits and contribution of recreational fisheries to societal well being; active co-management, with potential devolution of some authority to appropriate organisations; staff that have recreational fisheries-specific expertise or training; capacity – funding, manpower, technology, infrastructure; an effective MCS strategy, adoption of the EAF approach and a funding mechanism that promotes management and research.

Gill Netting at Vanderkloof Dam



Dr Aidan Wood attended the meeting held at Vanderkloof on the 18th January 2018. The purpose of the meeting was to get feedback on progress with regard to both dam and Kraal fisheries, and to enter into discussion on the issues arising therefrom.

The meeting was advised that the fisheries officer Ms Elethu Duna has resigned, making her the 3rd one to do so since the inception of this project. Subsequent advertising of this post did not provide any suitable candidates willing to take on responsibility.

A purpose – built boat is due for delivery by the end of February and a bakkie will be procured for the launching thereof. Rhodes also confirmed that they had applied to DEA for the permit, but they had not yet received any feedback.

Rhodes University has decided that two community members will be sent to Port Alfred for skippers training. Once qualified, they will help collect data, the analysis of which will be done in-house by Rhodes, but will be made available to the action group for scrutiny and discussion. They also advise that an administration officer will be appointed to run the Vanderkloof office and will assist in the admin matters as well as data collection in coordination with the vessel skippers. In our opinion, this is not a happy state of affairs as it could be very biased towards Rhodes.

There are 11 Kraals below the dam. The main one is inside the security area and catches the most fish. It was mentioned that the Kraals were not serviced on one occasion over the holiday season, and that there were an abundance of dead fish around the areas of the Kraals. Rhodes and Masifundise maintain that the dead fish come from other causes like water quality-low oxygen from released water, therefore the responsibility cannot be blamed on the Kraal's alone. The AG says they cannot do much at this stage except ensure that the kraals are serviced daily.

The battle rumbles on and we are very grateful to have Dr Aidan Wood representing our interests at these meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 12th July 2018.

Aidan will be attending the bossberaad and I'm sure he will be able to answer any questions that you might have on this issue at that time

Thank you all for your patience.

Yours sincerely,
John Pledger
SACRAA