



SOUTH AFRICAN UNDERWATER FISHING FEDERATION

4th NEWSLETTER – February 2008

Again there is much to report on developments from the management of SAUFF. This includes my attendance at the SA Anglers Confederation Meeting held in Johannesburg two weeks ago and events that have flowed from that meeting.

1. Registration

Sadly, registration has slowed to a trickle in February with only 4 divers and one club joining. Unless we get a flood of new members in March, there are going to be many teams who will be trying to enter the Nationals with unregistered divers in their teams. Your National Committee is adamant that this will not be allowed, so please, please get your divers to register.

I am very pleased to report that Anton Bosman has informed me that Southern Cape have constituted a new Union/Club there and will be registering its members to enable them to send teams. Thanks Anton.

2. SA Trials

Last word on this was that a very successful dinner also organized by Gyula was held at the Blue Planet Restaurant in Durban where the team was announced.

3. Worlds 2008

Jaco and Moo have informed me that they plan to spend a few weeks in Venezuela at their own cost in June /July to scout the area of the compo. Gyula, and the rest of the team plan to be there nearly a month before the compo starts. With this kind of dedication I don't think it needs me to tell you that we are going there to WIN!

Again, if you are aware of anyone who may be approached as a potential sponsor of our team, Please, Please, Please contact one of the committee members and help to make our dream come true.

4. Nationals 2008

As you will all know by now these are scheduled for 18th to 23rd May at Sodwana Bay. Arrangements being made by the hosts Midlands Underwater Union, led by John Little and Danie van Huysteen are now well in hand. Documents are flowing from them on areas, accommodation, entrance fees, rules etc. Please make sure your club/union are on the e-mail list and are getting the right info. Also remember that registration with SAUFF is a pre-requisite to participating at Nationals.

5. Competition for Registered Members

The Internet Competition for all those divers who are registered with SAUFF will get underway in March 2008. You will only be required to submit your catch returns via the Internet to qualify. There will be prizes awarded to the best fish shot in the month as well as an annual prize.

6. Fund Raising via “PLEDGES:”

This has also slowed down with only one further anonymous pledge of R200 being received. Thank you anonymous. All payments pledged should be made to the SAUFF Bank Account as follows:

FNB
Margate Branch
Branch Code: 220128
Account Number: 62067501132

And be clearly marked in the reference field by the donors name and the word “PLEDGE”

7. Conservation Issues

There is much to report here:

- a. I met with Prof. Leybold and Dr. Colin van Zyl at Durban Ski Boat Club and was afforded an hour and a half of their time. I described the structure of our sport and explained that we had only just joined the anglers, hence our late introduction to their project. Sadly I could only tell them that we had 68 registered members, but added that my estimate was that there are about 1000 competitive underwater fishermen and probably about 10000 who buy licences to crayfish and spearfish on our coastline. They have already received inputs from most of the other facets of angling and are now awaiting ours to finalize their submission. I undertook to get a sample of our members to fill in their questionnaire as quickly as possible and would thus appeal to those of you who receive it to please respond. Thanks to John Girzda who was the first to send his back. The results will be delivered by a special delegation of anglers and businessmen to parliament in April and will be released to National Media at that time. This study has a budget of R5 million which is being sponsored by SA Angling and interested business.
- b. At the Joburg meeting I received from Hymie Steyn, who is the Conservation Officer of SA Angling and a member of the International body controlling angling FIPS-M, a 40 page document summarizing the state of non-commercial angling versus commercial angling in many countries around the world. To quote but one paragraph, “A recent study carried out by the French Government on sport (competition) and recreational fishing noted that the retained fish by amateur fishers is about 2.5% of the taking away carried out by the commercial fishing: 600,000 tons compared with 14,500 tons. In another study it found that non-commercial fishing contribute s 75% of the economic value to the country compared to 25% contributed by commercial fishing. Other studies conducted in Spain and England announced similar figures. Thus for the time being, the retained fish volumes of the amateur fishing might have limited influence on the resource.”
- c. Response to my input at SA Anglers Meeting on the Abalone issue was almost immediate. A week later I was contacted by Gareth Morgan, who is an MP in the Cape requesting more detailed input. He has already asked questions of Martinus van Schalkwyk on this issue in Parliament. Monty Guest has also written an article in the latest Divestyle and from Cary Steele-Boe with the following input. “I am the MD for a Section 21 company, called Recreational Fishing Services. We have been operating since 2003, and where instrumental in getting back 2 months of crayfish season after MCM had illegally shortened it. I have done research with regards the socio-economic effect Recreational crayfishing has on the Western Cape and environs, and the impact it has on businesses directly and indirectly, which ultimately has an effect on employment. I attend meetings regularly

with MCM. The latest being 2007/2008 Rock lobster season, Diving ban and Off-shore fishing. I have tons of information and research. I have a list of all the businesses involved. It is imperative that we get together.”

Cary Steele-Boe

MD. Recreational Fishing Services

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0836358321(ce10)

- d. Thanks to some of our members, commercial fishermen at Rocky Bay have been charged with catching three, 4 meter Tiger Sharks in the Aliwal MPA and trying to sell them.

8. SA Angling Confederation

Meeting was divided into two parts, the Confederation, which is all facets of angling in the morning and SA Fed. of Sport and Sea Anglers in the afternoon. We are part of the latter. John Pledger is President of both bodies.

It is interesting to note that despite what one sees on TV, competitive angling at World Championships point of view, is quite disorganized on a world wide basis and is only now getting underway. Attempts to find a country prepared to host a World Angling Games have so far failed. Even South Africa has declined to be the host. Diving has been holding World Championships since 1951.

I was asked why divers were shooting fish in the Sterkfontein Dam. I declined all knowledge of such and explained that diving in inland waters including estuaries has been banned for many years. Those present were surprised to hear this and that we still attracted inland teams to our Nationals.

I submitted our application for funds to send our team to Worlds from Lotto and these will be handed to Sam Reddy, who is Chairman of SASCOC by John Pledger personally. With his endorsement it will then be sent to the Lotto adjudication committee. We must all hold thumbs that it will be successful.

I also handed in our application to send a team to Worlds and applied for SA Colours for the team members.

I put forward the issue that many of our members are faced with when trying to launch on the north coast of KZN and John has asked us to put it to them in writing whereupon he has assured me that they will take the matter up with the clubs and authorities on our behalf.

I also put forward the issue of the closing by MCM of parts of the coastline to all forms of diving to try and curb Abalone poaching (see above).

9. New SAUFF Website

URL will be www.SAUFF.co.za. Many thanks to Alex/Shane for this and our new Logo, as above.

10. General

It has come to the notice of SAUFF that one of our most famous Springboks, Brian Clark, has passed away. The circumstances are not known, however all those divers who knew Brian, will join with me in offering our sincere condolences to his family and we know that he has gone to join the fishes in the sky.

Brent Addison
President
SAUFF