



FROM THE CHAIR

Hi all,

It is early July, the winter solstice has just past and I swear that I can feel the winter dissipating and the days growing longer. Well, maybe not yet, but I know that if I keep those thoughts top of mind, it won't be long and the sun will be up before me.

I have not been to the farm in a while, and I am thus relying on feedback from the lucky many that have been up recently. The dams are nice and full for the this time of year, with one being able to put one's feet in the water sitting on the jetty on number 5. It seems such a pity that we have to go through feast and famine with regard to the level of water – but then who said that fishing in Africa was for sissies.

The house has been full over June and July is almost fully booked – we are obviously doing something right. All the



bed covers have been replaced and the chipped and cracked crockery and glasses are next. Shelia and Michelle will do a clean out the next time they are up, and replace whatever needs to be replaced with

Stewart Crystal glasses and a 36 place setting Noritake dinner service and matching canteen of cutlery.

Just a reminder that the farm is a shared facility, and as such, I appeal to you to show consideration for those with whom you share the farm on the

week-end and for those who will use it the week-end to come. Please remember to take



home your rubbish, pay the maid, fill in the maintenance book, complete the fishing return, adhere to the rules and above all – enjoy the weekend – you deserve it (and even if you don't – you do).

Cheers

Kevin

THE WEB

Hi everyone,

Firstly just to let you know that Sheila has reported that her landline is working again, so you're able to bug her for bookings etc. once again. And secondly, I have launched



the new simpler and more user-friendly website. The previous "new" site proved to be a little hi-tech for some.

I'd really like to keep the new site dynamic, i.e. constantly adding new content. Although I have added some initial content, I am asking for **YOU** guys (and gals) to provide input to the site. By this I mean:

- 1) Suggestions on new interesting things to go onto the site.
- 2) Stories (for those wanting to brag, photo evidence will be required).
- 3) Photographs (see some photo's I took recently of the farm, the fire pics given to us by the Rogoffs and pics from the past from Peter Arderne).
- 4) Perhaps a "For Sale/Wanted" section??
- 5) Current fishing conditions??

Editorial

I haven't had the pleasure of going to the farm lately, I have to admit the children's extra mural activities are starting to impact on our leisure time. Also, truth be told, the costs associated with a weekend at the farm have to make you think a little harder than you used to.

I am sure that I am no the only one feeling the pinch!

We have a huge report from Peter this time round and it makes for fascinating reading

*I have had reports from the farm that the maids are not being paid at the beginning of the weekend as is regulated. Please, payment of the Maids at the beginning of the weekend is **NOT NEGOTIABLE**, irrespective of whether this has been your tradition passed down from generations etc, or that you only want to pay them at the end or for any other reason you may use. It is a regulation of the farm that the Staff are paid at the beginning of the weekend, so like Nike **JUST DO IT.**" - Stephen Meyer.*

6) Anything else you think might be of interest or value to the Club.

Please email me with any of this and I will endeavour to get it onto the site ASAP.

I will include the latest waiting list once I get the updated info from Sheila.

The link as follows:

<http://www.tffc.co.za/>

Regards
Hugh aka Webmaster

TFFC (Middelpunt) Fishery Report for the 2007/2008 Season

Summary

At the start of the season from June through to November 2007 Dams 1 and 5 were low, but the very high rainfall from mid-summer to late autumn quickly filled these dams and kept all the other dams full and relatively cool for the rest of the season. Unfortunately Dams 3 and 4 became very weeded, so much so that this had an adverse effect on the carrying capacity of Dam 3 in particular where the CF dropped significantly compared with the last few years.

Dams 1 and 2 performed well. In addition water was dropped from 1 into 2 in the winter of 2007 to allow for the netting of grass carp in 1. This meant that Dam 2 was full throughout the season and being relatively accessible to anglers we were able to stock it at higher levels than normal.

2057 trout (both rainbows and browns) were caught during the season of which 57% (1178) were released. This C& R figure is probably understated as not all anglers record the fish they release.

Average weight of rainbows stocked was about 100g below the figure for last year and this is reflected in average weight of fish killed which was also down. What was disturbing was that Condition Factor was down on the previous 4 years which was the result of lower CF's for all dams except 1 and 2. This can be attributed to the weed problem of Dam 3 and the fact that trout populations were on the high side later in the year due to lower than usual mortality in the hot Jan/Feb period and the increase in the number of fish released. For this reason the May stocking of rainbows was cancelled.

The recapture rate of browns stocked was disappointing. The average weight of the November delivery was only 400g but the May consignment which averaged just below a kilo should produce better results. At the moment we limit brown stocking to Dams 1, 2 and 3.

1. Rainbows stocked vs. captured: 1994 - 2008

| Season | No. stocked | No. killed | No. returned | % killed | % killed+returned. |
|----------|-------------|------------|--------------|----------|--------------------|
| 398 4/5 | 3206 | 1923 | 454 | 600 | 741 |
| 332 1/2 | 2684 | 1730 | 373 | 645 | 783 |
| 285 1/7 | 2523 | 1864 | 518 | 741 | 944 |
| 249 5/8 | 2599 | 1784 | 454 | 643 | 938 |
| 222 | 2518 | 1188 | 708 | 472 | 753 |
| 1999/00 | 3352 | 1394 | 715 | 416 | 629 |
| 2000 | 3035 | 1778 | 1360 | 586 | 1034 |
| 1000 1/2 | 2746 | 1714 | 1477 | 624 | 1162 |
| 667 1/3 | 2455 | 1454 | 850 | 592 | 938 |
| 500 3/4 | 2349 | 888 | 576 | 378 | 623 |
| 400 4/5 | 2400 | 1236 | 1063 | 515 | 958 |
| 334 1/6 | 2480 | 1019 | 1142 | 411 | 871 |
| 286 4/7 | 1495 | 715 | 860 | 478 | 1054 |
| 250 7/8 | 1861 | 861 | 1159 | 463 | 1085 |



It should be noted that the very successful 2000 to 2002 period (refer also table 3) coincided with higher fishing pressure (table 8), above average size of fish stocked (table 2) a higher number of fish stocked (table 1) and very favourable weather conditions.



2. Relationship between size of Rainbows stocked & recapture rate: 1994 – 2008

| Season | Avg. size stocked - grams | % killed | % killed+returned. |
|----------|---------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 398 4/5 | 530 | 600 | 741 |
| 332 1/2 | 672 | 645 | 783 |
| 285 1/7 | 718 | 741 | 944 |
| 249 5/8 | 649 | 643 | 938 |
| 222 | 596 | 472 | 753 |
| 1999/00 | 556 | 416 | 629 |
| 2000 | 759 | 586 | 1034 |
| 1000 1/2 | 765 | 624 | 1162 |
| 667 1/3 | 734 | 592 | 938 |
| 500 3/4 | 673 | 378 | 623 |
| 400 4/5 | 721 | 515 | 958 |
| 334 1/6 | 706 | 411 | 871 |
| 286 4/7 | 755 | 478 | 1054 |
| 250 7/8 | 645 | 463 | 1085 |

Although there is a strong correlation between size of fish stocked and recapture rate dry cycles coupled with high temperatures tend to drive recapture rates down while cooler summers result in lower mortality and therefore improved angling.

3. All trout (rainbows + browns) stocked vs recapture rates: 1994 – 2008

| Season | No stocked | No. killed | No. returned | No. killed + returned |
|--------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|
|--------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------------------|

| | | | | |
|----------|------|------|------|------|
| 398 4/5 | 3206 | 1923 | 454 | 2377 |
| 332 1/2 | 2684 | 1730 | 373 | 2103 |
| 285 1/7 | 2523 | 1864 | 518 | 2382 |
| 249 5/8 | 2599 | 1784 | 454 | 2238 |
| 222 | 2590 | 1188 | 708 | 1896 |
| 1999/00 | 3403 | 1417 | 766 | 2183 |
| 2000 | 3235 | 1807 | 1454 | 3261 |
| 1000 1/2 | 2891 | 1766 | 1622 | 3388 |
| 667 1/3 | 2625 | 1516 | 940 | 2456 |
| 500 3/4 | 2349 | 901 | 594 | 1495 |
| 400 4/5 | 2521 | 1260 | 1131 | 2391 |
| 334 1/6 | 2455 | 1050 | 1231 | 2281 |
| 286 4/7 | 1645 | 732 | 941 | 1673 |
| 250 7/8 | 2064 | 879 | 1178 | 2057 |



4. Avg. length, CF & mass plus total mass killed (Rainbows): 1996 – 2008.

| Season | Avg. length | Avg. CF | Avg. mass killed | Total mass killed |
|----------|-------------|---------|------------------|-------------------|
| 285 1/7 | 41,5 cm | 122 | 852g | 1638 kg |
| 249 5/8 | 41,1 cm | 117 | 824g | 1426 kg |
| 222 | 41,5 cm | 119 | 815g | 968 kg |
| 1999/00 | 39,7 cm | 118 | 735g | 1024 kg |
| 2000 | 41,1 cm | 122 | 841g | 1495 kg |
| 1000 1/2 | 41,8 cm | 123 | 901g | 1544 kg |
| 667 1/3 | 41,0 cm | 120 | 837g | 1216 kg |
| 500 3/4 | 40,2 cm | 124 | 806g | 706 kg |
| 400 4/5 | 40,5 cm | 129 | 852g | 1053 kg |
| 334 1/6 | 40,9 cm | 126 | 860g | 876 kg |
| 286 4/7 | 42,0 cm | 126 | 936g | 669 kg |

| | | | | |
|---------|---------|-----|------|--------|
| 250 7/8 | 41,1 cm | 119 | 818g | 704 kg |
|---------|---------|-----|------|--------|

5. Six largest fish in 2007/8.

| Mass | Angler | Month | Dam | Species | CF | Length |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|-----|---------|-----|--------|
| 2,75 kg | Visitor (L v d Westhuizen) | Sept | 1 | Brown | 141 | 58 |
| 2,70 kg | Rob Blakeney | June | 7 | Rainbow | 171 | 54 |
| 2,40 kg | Visitor (Sven Andersen) | Aug | 1 | Rainbow | 171 | 52 |
| 2,30 kg | John Kenyon | July | 2 | Rainbow | 154 | 53 |
| 2,00 kg | Peter Beyeler | July | 3 | Rainbow | 160 | 50 |
| 2,00 kg | Tim Shepherd | Nov | 1 | Rainbow | 127 | 54 |

Once again it was noted that a number of fish in the > 50 cm category were recorded but not weighed and therefore could not be included in the above list.

6. Breakdown of 2007/8 results by dam: No. Stocked vs. Killed & C & R – Rainbows only.

| Dam | Stocked | Killed | Killed as % Stocked | C&R | C&R as % Stocked | C&R + Kill as % Stocked. |
|-----|-------------|------------|---------------------|------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | 219 | 107 | 489 | 150 | 685 | 1174 |
| 2 | 148 | 82 | 554 | 110 | 743 | 1297 |
| 3 | 448 | 172 | 384 | 264 | 589 | 973 |
| 4 | 146 | 67 | 459 | 78 | 534 | 993 |
| 5 | 44 | 47 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | 160 | 71 | 444 | 111 | 694 | 1138 |
| 7 | 330 | 169 | 512 | 101 | 306 | 818 |
| | 1495 | 715 | 478 | 860 | 575 | 1054 |

7. Breakdown of 2007/8 results by dam: Length, CF & Weight – Rainbows only.

| Dam | Mean Length cm | Mean CF | Mean Weight grams |
|-------------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1 | 429 | 125 | 981 |
| 2 | 398 | 128 | 805 |
| 3 | 416 | 118 | 848 |
| 4 | 389 | 123 | 720 |
| 5 | 447 | 108 | 966 |
| 6 | 418 | 102 | 747 |
| 7 | 393 | 111 | 671 |
| Middelpunt | 411 | 119 | 818 |

8. Number of members compared with number visits

| Year | 222 | 1999/00 | 2000 | 1000 1/2 | 667 1/3 | 500 3/4 | 400 4/5 | 334 1/6 | 286 4/7 | 250 7/8 |
|-------------|-----|---------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| No. Members | 90 | 91 | 91 | 95 | 95 | 95 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 110 |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. Visits | 500 | 542 | 617 | 623 | 603 | 439 | 479 | 476 | 388 | 453 |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

In order to keep fees at a reasonable level the membership has been increased over the last 6-7 years but after a peak during 2000 to 2003 fishing pressure has remained level or actually declined during the last 4 - 5 seasons. The number of visits in the 2006/7 season was also well down because the clubhouse was closed for renovations during the winter of 2006.

A 'visit' is based on a form which is completed by each angler recording fish caught and this represents approximately 1,5 days angling effort. In theory nil returns should also be recorded but this is not always done.

Dam Management

In the coming August and September we are planning to weed certain dams mechanically and then follow this up with spraying with Midstream

Peter Arderne, June 2008

mwardern@mweb.co.za

