

TFFC (Middelpunt) Fishery Report for the 2010/2011 Season

Summary

The 2010/11 season was the third season in a row with exceptionally good rain, relatively low temperatures and full dams. The external parasite, anchor worm, had some impact on the results from about late December through to early April but strangely enough our largest dam, No 3, appeared to be relatively clear of anchor worm. Both Dams 1 and 2 were drained, the grass carp removed, and then the dams were treated but we observed that several of the trout stocked post-treatment in Dam 1 had parasites so in future we will probably have to rely on removing all grass carp which harbour large parasite loads. This we believe will reduce the incidence amongst trout. It will also mean that mechanical and chemical treatment of the aquatic weed will have to be stepped up significantly.

A total of 2058 trout (rainbows & browns) were caught during the 2010/11 season of which 1248 (61%) were released which undoubtedly contributed to the excellent average size (955g) of rainbow trout killed and the good number fish trophy-size taken. During the netting of Dams 1 and 2 to remove the grass carp about 100 trout were killed but this figure has not been included in the calculations below.

Despite the poor condition of our access roads during the rainy season occupancy was up by about 10% compared to the previous season.

1. Rainbows stocked vs. captured: 1994 - 2011

Season	No. stocked	No. killed	No. C&R*	% killed	% killed+C&R.
1994/5	3206	1923	454	60,0	74,1
1995/6	2684	1730	373	64,5	78,3
1996/7	2523	1864	518	74,1	94,4
1997/8	2599	1784	454	64,3	93,8
1998/9	2518	1188	708	47,2	75,3
1999/00	3352	1394	715	41,6	62,9
2000/01	3035	1778	1360	58,6	103,4
2001/02	2746	1714	1477	62,4	116,2
2002/3	2455	1454	850	59,2	93,8
2003/4	2349	888	576	37,8	62,3
2004/5	2400	1236	1063	51,5	95,8
2005/6	2480	1019	1142	41,1	87,1
2006/7	1495	715	860	47,8	105,4
2007/8	1861	861	1159	46,3	108,5
2008/9	1498	767	992	51,2	117,4
2009/10	1926	705	1014	36,6	89,3
2010/11	1844	802	1209	43,5	109,1

*C&R = Catch & Release

2. Relationship between size of Rainbows stocked & recapture rate: 1994 – 2011

Season	Avg. size stocked - grams	% killed	% killed+C&R.
1994/5	530	60,0	74,1
1995/6	672	64,5	78,3
1996/7	718	74,1	94,4
1997/8	649	64,3	93,8
1998/9	596	47,2	75,3
1999/00	556	41,6	62,9
2000/01	759	58,6	103,4
2001/2	765	62,4	116,2
2002/3	734	59,2	93,8
2003/4	673	37,8	62,3
2004/5	721	51,5	95,8
2005/6	706	41,1	87,1
2006/7	755	47,8	105,4
2007/8	645	46,3	108,5
2008/9	768	51,2	117,4
2009/10	701	36,6	89,3
2010/11	813	43,5	109,1

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. In addition the impact of anchor worm had a negative effect from 2009 onwards.

3. All trout (rainbows + browns) stocked vs recapture rates: 1994 – 2010

Season	No stocked	No. killed	No. returned	No. killed + C&R
1994/5	3206	1923	454	2377
1995/6	2684	1730	373	2103
1996/7	2523	1864	518	2382
1997/8	2599	1784	454	2238
1998/9	2590	1188	708	1896
1999/00	3403	1417	766	2183
2000/01	3235	1807	1454	3261
2001/2	2891	1766	1622	3388
2002/3	2625	1516	940	2456
2003/4	2349	901	594	1495
2004/5	2521	1260	1131	2391
2005/6	2455	1050	1231	2281
2006/7	1645	732	941	1673
2007/8	2064	879	1178	2057
2008/9	1713	789	1072	1861
2009/10	2080	726	1047	1773
2010/11	1928	810	1248	2058

C&R= Catch & Release

4. **Avg. length, CF & mass plus total mass killed (Rainbows): 1996 – 2011.**

Season	Avg. length	Avg. CF	Avg. mass killed	Total mass killed
1996/7	41,5 cm	122	852g	1638 kg
1997/8	41,1 cm	117	824g	1426 kg
1998/9	41,5 cm	119	815g	968 kg
1999/00	39,7 cm	118	735g	1024 kg
2000/01	41,1 cm	122	841g	1495 kg
2001/2	41,8 cm	123	901g	1544 kg
2002/3	41,0 cm	120	837g	1216 kg
2003/4	40,2 cm	124	806g	706 kg
2004/5	40,5 cm	129	852g	1053 kg
2005/6	40,9 cm	126	860g	876 kg
2006/7	42,0 cm	126	936g	669 kg
2007/8	41,1 cm	119	818g	704 kg
2008/9	41,1 cm	121	836g	641 kg
2009/10	40,9 cm	123	842g	594 kg
2010/11	43,0 cm	119	955g	766 kg

5. **Six largest fish in 2010/11.**

Mass	Angler	Month	Dam	Species	CF	Length
3200	S.Andersen	Aug	3	Rainbow	128	63
2200	J.van Huysteen	Dec	3	Rainbow	107	59
2100	J.Ambert	Feb	3	Rainbow	141	63
2100	D.Strydom	May	3	Rainbow	141	53
2000	D.Keet	April	1	Rainbow	114	50
2000	B.Reilly	April	1	Rainbow	160	52

Because Dams 1 & 2 were drained browns were only stocked in May 2011 so this species did not feature in the largest 6 recorded. The draining of Dam 1 in September also limited the number of trophy fish produced by this dam.

6. **Breakdown of 2009/10 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	261	137	52,5	178	68,2	120,7
2	137	66	48,2	70	51,1	99,3
3	474	178	37,6	313	66,0	103,6
4	164	94	57,3	154	93,9	151,2
5	300	110	36,7	180	60,0	96,7
6	247	123	49,8	196	79,4	129,1
7	261	94	36,0	118	45,2	81,2
	1844	802	43,5	1209	65,6	109,1

***C&R= Catch & Release**

It should be noted that if Dams 1 and 2 had not been drained and netted with the resultant loss of trout killed in the nets the kill and C&R percentages of fish stocked would have been markedly higher in these two dams.

7. Breakdown of 2010/11 results by dam: Length, CF & Weight – Rainbows only.

Dam	Mean Length cm	Mean CF	Mean Weight grams
1	43,6	125	1032
2	43,7	115	958
3	45,3	121	1120
4	43,2	122	982
5	42,0	115	847
6	41,8	115	841
7	42,0	113	838
Middelpunt	43,2	119	955

8. Number of members compared with number visits

Year	1998/9	1999/00	2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
No. Members	90	91	91	95	95	95	100	100	100	110	110	110	110
No. Visits	500	542	617	623	603	439	479	476	388	453	432	394	446

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 5 - 6 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.

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