

2nd SAUFF NEWS – December 2007

Firstly may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families on behalf of myself and the SAUFF Committee a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year. May the water be clean and the fish loose.

I am going to apologize up front for some duplications which you may already have read in the 1st SAUFF Newsletter, but I think these are important messages which need to be shared with the new members who have registered as well. Based on some of those messages, critical new info has come to light based on my meeting with John Pledger who is President of SA Federation of Sea and Sport Anglers (see below).

1. Registration

The SAUFF Registration System is now fully operational. 49 Individuals and 4 clubs have already completed their registrations and it is to these that SAUFF News will be sent directly via their e-mail. Please talk to your buddies and persuade them to register because as you will see below our sport is coming under increasing pressure and it is only by being representative of all those who participate that we will be able to bring any pressure to bear on the authorities to do anything about it.

Remember you will not be able to compete in next years Nationals unless both you and your club are registered with SAUFF. Also your name will be removed from the National Ranking List and any points you may have accrued will be nullified.

2. SA Trials

These are on track to be held on the KZN Coast in January 2008. Several of the divers invited to take part have pulled out, but those that remain will allow the selectors to choose a very strong team, probably the strongest we have ever fielded at a World Champs. SAUFF have already collected substantial entry fees from those taking part. Gyula has arranged sponsored boats for those from out of town and we have applied to the Durban City Council for substantial sponsorship to cover the costs of fuel and other costs.

3. Worlds 2008

LATEST BREAKING NEWS is that the date for Worlds has been postponed by CMAS to 23rd October 2008.

This will give the selectors even more opportunity to select the best team and will give us more time to raise the money we need to compete and WIN.

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. Competition for Registered Members

We are in the process of establishing an Internet Competition for all those divers who are registered with SAUFF. You will only be required to submit your catch returns via the Internet to qualify. The exact details are to be worked out at the next SAUFF committee meeting in January, but there will be prizes awarded to the best fish shot in the month as well as an annual prize.

5. Fund Raising via “PLEDGES:”

Free Divers have started an innovative fundraising drive whereby they have pledged R2000 to SAUFF and are calling on all commercial diving companies to match or better their magnificent gesture. Several diving stalwarts from the past have each pledged R100 and are calling on all of South African divers to match this gesture. All of these funds so raised will only be used to pay for the costs of sending our team to next years Worlds. All payments so 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”

6. New Vice President

In order to help us better represent the divers of the Western Cape we have asked Ed Hayman to become a Vice President of SAUFF and he has kindly agreed to accept. As you all know Ed is a past Springbok and past Chairman of SAFA and I sure we all agree that he is uniquely capable of supporting us in the coming battles to protect our sport.

7. Conservation Issues

The following headlines have appeared in our press in the last few weeks:

“Government institutes total ban on the taking of Abalone”

“Fishermen appalled at proposal to ban all fishing in harbors”

What has this to do with Underwater Fishing you might say? Stop and think for a minute, every time we turn around government is implementing further restrictions on the marine environment and make no mistake, we are in the firing line just as much as our other fishing colleagues.

In the government pipeline are:

- Many more MPA's
- Total restriction of Underwater Fishing in all MPA's. Remember that this would mean the whole Aliwal MPA from the Umkomaas River to Rocky Bay, not just the Crown area and the same for all those on the entire coast.
- More restrictions on East Coast and West Coast Rock Lobster
- Further restrictions on the taking of Tuna to 2 and Yellowtail species for recreational purposes.
- Increasing commercial quotas to 75 yellowtail per rod and increasing tuna quotas as well.
- Further reductions in daily quotas for recreational's, e.g Leervis to 1 per day and 5 per angler per day in total.

And there are more.

In order to stand up and be counted on these issues we need to be able to speak with one voice for all the Underwater Fishermen in South Africa. At present in effect we represent 50 registered members and while this is a start, it is not nearly enough. Luckily we have aligned ourselves with a much more powerful lobby, being The Federation of Sea and Shore Anglers, since our present affiliation to SAUSF (was SAUU) brings us little or no support in this arena and in fact many of them are opposed to our sport.

That said, what we are doing on your behalf is making direct representation to SAMLMA on a range of issues directly affecting us. If you have any issues or are aware of anything which may affect us please let us know so that we can have them on the agenda, particularly if they are specific to your area.

Petitions on some of these issues are being circulated which we urge you to support and your committee has sent letters directly to Minister Van Schalkwyk in this regard.

8. SA Records and Ranking System

As from 1st January 2008 only registered members will be able to apply for SA Records or have themselves listed on the SA Ranking System. Corrie Versluis has drawn up a new set of rules related to the claiming of SA records, which might at first seem rather onerous, but are designed to prevent any further occurrences where records are claimed and cannot be verified.

Mark Jackson has also made changes to the ranking system so that more emphasis is placed on recent performance and the system is now statistically validated.

9. New SAUFF Website

Shane Breedt (Alex) has developed a website for SAUFF which will be available shortly. Its URL will be www.SAUFF.co.za. This site is not intended to replace SA Spearfishing or Underwater Fishing. It will contain largely static information as follows:

- History of SAUFF
- List of Office Bearers
- Documentation
 - o Constitution of SAUFF
 - o Nationals Rules
 - o Membership Rules
 - o Record Claim Rules
 - o Fishing Regulations
 - o Boating Regulations
- Links to CMAS, Fed. of Sea and Sport Anglers, Other International Federations and local websites
- Events Calendar

10. Meeting with John Pledger

In December I flew to Joburg and met for 3½ hours with John Pledger who is President of SA Federation of Sea and Sport Anglers. We confirmed our discussions about us joining them and have now paid our registration fees of R1000 to become fully fledged members of their body. What follows is a summary of our discussions.

- SA Angling have many thousands of members and as such are a very strong lobbying force with Government bodies such as MCM.
- Locally they are directly affiliated to SASCO (SA Sports Commission and Olympic Committee), Dept. of Sport & Recreation and the SA Sports Commission and Internationally to AGFIS (Assoc. of General Federations of International Sport) to whom the IOC and CMAS reports and to FIPS and IGFA among others. Hyman Steyn who is on the SAFSSA executive is a Vice President of FIPSA. Within these bodies, a “World Games” on Fishing and related sports is being planned which will ultimately be the equivalent of the Summer and Winter Olympics.
- SASCO held a “Bosberaad” in December attended by the leaders of all National bodies and the key agreement was that any applications for funding by any sports bodies from the National Lotto would now be channeled through them after being approved by the relevant National Body. Lotto have approx. R800 million. Light Tackle Boat received R450,000 last year from

Lotto and John is to let me have a copy of their application. The good news is that applications can now be made to:-

- o Fund National Teams to International Competitions
- o Fund International Teams to attend competitions here
- o Training programs for new as well as existing competitors at a Club, Provincial and National Level

The amount of funding is likely to be in proportion to the membership (participation) in that sport.

John has urged us to submit applications through him as soon as possible.

- We discussed boating issues and we are assured that our membership of SAFSSA enables us to appoint our own properly qualified boating officers and thus the funds so raised for registration of boats will then accrue to us. More details will follow from our next meeting in January.
- On conservation issues we had detailed discussions. They attend all MCM and SAMLMA meetings on any issue which affects angling and will throw their weight behind any proposal which might affect us (see above).
- We have been invited to attend the next SAFSSA meeting on the 9th February.

In conclusion I wish to thank you for leading the way by being among the first to register as a member of SAUFF. We, your committee would like to assure you that we will be doing everything in our power to make sure that you get “value for money” and hope that you will try and persuade your buddies that it is worthwhile too.

Brent Addison
President
SAUFF