

# Water Report

Lower Vaal (Bloemhof to Douglas)

October 2008

## Northern Cape News

The annual Bell's Three Provinces Fly Fishing Festival at Protea Hotel, Christiana (16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October) proved to be even better than the 2007 event, with 41 anglers landing over 470 fish during the weekend! Water conditions were near ideal for this part of the Vaal, one of the NCYWG's three established conservancies. Our yellowfish tagging programme was also continued, with more tagged specimens being added to the database which now stands at just over 40 fish in this conservancy alone. New tagging and conservancy sign boards have been erected here and more will be put up at Lilydale Lodge, our conservancy on the Riet River.



**GEELVIS BEWAREA - YELLOWFISH CONSERVANCY**  
**VISMERK PROGRAM TAGGING PROGRAMME**

**IDENTIFIKASIE & METING:**  
GRODFISSE SOOS 'N REKLENDER  
GEELVIS WORS MET 'N BLOEMHOEF  
NOMMER AFSER DIE DOOS GEMERK  
SOOS HIER AANGEWYS.  
WELKE WORS BYDREK AS 'N  
GEWIKTE VIS WERK GEVANG EN  
DIE NODIGE INLICHTING AAN ONS.  
GERAPPOORTEER WORS.  
HEERLIK, HOOPD NAGTE KAN BY  
ONTVANG AFZEHAL WORS.

**IDENTIFICATION & MEASURE:**  
LARGEMOUTH AND SMALLMOUTH  
YELLOWFISH ARE BEING MARKED  
WITH A VISIBLE NUMBER IMPLANT  
BEHIND THE EYE AS INDICATED.  
INFORMATION IS UPDATED WHEN A  
TAGGED SPECIMEN IS REPORTED  
TO US TOGETHER WITH THE  
REQUIRED DETAILS.  
CATCH CARDS MAY BE COLLECTED  
FROM THE RECEPTION DEBK.

**HELP AANBEELIEF:**  
SOU U 'N GEMIKTE VIS WERK, RAAPPOORTEER ASSEBLIEF:  
DATUM, PLEK (BART), WERK NOMMER EN INDIEN MOONTLIK  
GEMIK EN VURKLENGTE SOOS BY AANGEWYS.  
NAGTEER ALTYD JOU VANGS MET NET WAGDE  
NOMMER GEELVIS IN 'N HOUSNET PLEK DIE  
PLAAS DIE VIS ONMIDDELIK LEWEND TERUG IN DIE RYWER.

**PLEASE ASSIST:**  
SHOULD YOU LAND A TAGGED FISH, PLEASE REPORT:  
DATE, PLACE (BART), TAG NUMBER AND IF POSSIBLE,  
WEIGHT AND FISH LENGTH AS INDICATED ABOVE.  
ALWAYS HANDLE YOUR CATCH WITH NET HANDED  
DO NOT PLACE YELLOWFISH IN A NETNET  
IMMEDIATELY RETURN YOUR CATCH TO THE WATER ALIVE.

083 233 7730 072 552 7267 082 808 1683

### Threats:

No serious threats in the form of pollution, mining or illegal fishing practices have been reported for this month and the aim of the NCYWG is to keep it that way by tackling the culprits head-on!

### Club News:

A few guys around Bloemfontein have started a Freestate chapter of the Three Provinces Fly Fishing Club and we wish them all of the best and are looking forward to some inter-club events and competitions. The contact person for the Freestate chapter is John Gavin, 083 543 7744.

We urge all fly anglers to join a club, as this is the best way to gain knowledge of local waters, get involved in conservation efforts and most of all for the sharing of valuable knowledge between members.

Tight lines and screaming reels until next month!

*Carl Nel.*

Secretary & Webmaster, NCYWG

<http://ncywg.co.za>

### Area Reports:

#### *Bloemhof – Warrenton*

In the absence of much needed rain in this corner of the world, the outflows from Bloemhof Dam (C9H021EC) have been kept at an average of 43m<sup>3</sup>/s with the dam capacity dropping from almost 87% to just over 78% during October.

With the recent Bell's Three Provinces festival that was held at Protea Hotel (formerly Nkolo Spa) Christiana, the flows was controlled to a very fishable 13m<sup>3</sup>/s, providing quite the memorable experience to all that attended!

Water clarity between Bloemhof and Warrenton is about 40cm, which makes for some good fishing without spooking the quarry too much and average water temperatures remain around 22°C.

The first yellowfish spawning activity was reported during the first week of October.

#### *Warrenton – Schmidtsdrift*

The Vaal downstream from Warrenton seems to clear up considerably with visibility of up to 2m in certain spots, providing some excellent sight fishing opportunities for the seasoned fly fisher! It is always wise to keep an eye on DWAF measuring point C9H009 when planning a trip around the Barkly West area. Best fishing in the rapids are with the flows between 5m<sup>3</sup>/s & 7m<sup>3</sup>/s.

#### *Schmidtsdrift – Douglas*

No reliable report backs were received for the Schmidtsdrift area, but the guys around Douglas have been carrying on with Largemouth hunts deep into the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Water clarity is also not as good as around Barkly, but this could be due to the mining activities at Schmidtsdrift still polluting the river with their slimes wash-offs.