

Water Report

Lower Vaal (Bloemhof to Douglas)

November 2008

Northern Cape News

The proof of the pudding:



Smallmouths from the middle Orange below Hopetown seem to be in prime condition like the one being shown off by Noel Wewege of the Three Provinces Fly Fishing Club.

Threats:

Another international alluvial mining operation is under investigation due to a bridge that has been constructed across the Orange River between Douglas and Prieska to enable heavy vehicle access between the two mines on opposite sides of the bank. Access to the area is extremely restricted to the public, but we will find a way and give feedback in the near future.

Club News:

The Three Provinces Fly Fishing Club will elect a new committee at our AGM to be held in January. Events, club competitions and venues for the year will also be discussed in detail.

An in depth article on the October Bell's event will be published in the February issue of Fly Fishing Magazine.

Tight lines and screaming reels until next month!

Carl Nel.

Secretary & Webmaster, NCYWG

<http://ncywg.co.za>

Area Reports:

Bloemhof – Warrenton

During the first two weeks of November, the outflow from Bloemhof dam was fairly high to compensate for the low rainfall in the area downstream. These high (50-70m³) outflows resulted in a good "washing" of the Vaal, essentially clearing it from the dreaded "rock snot". Since the 19th November flows have been restricted to a low 11-12m³, making the Christiana area a prime fly fishing venue.

Warrenton – Schmidtsdrift

Water from the Vaalharts weir at Warrenton have been redirected to the irrigation canal system for the first two weeks of November to assist farmers in the Vaalharts area with some very needed water. This resulted in very low flows around Barkly West, bringing that part of the Vaal close to a halt. For the two weeks following, water was again released to the river with flows of up to 12m³ helping to wash the algae and hyacinth away that was hindering water access for anglers. The flows are still over 8m³ around Barkly West, making wading a fairly difficult experience.

Schmidtsdrift – Douglas

Some fair sized smallmouth have been taken around the Schmidtsdrift area, but not in huge numbers as it used to be a few years ago. This is mainly due to the river being netted by the local community. With that area of the Vaal being tribal grounds, these practises cannot really be controlled, as access to the water is extremely difficult for non tribe members...

The Douglas area still produces constant prize smallmouths for the guys that know where to look!