

Ulwandle

KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG)
Coastal Management Newsletter

Autumn 2001
Issue 8

HOOK, LINE AND GRUNTER

By Dr Lynnath Beckley
ORI



The coastal waters of South Africa are well known for large waves and strong winds and, particularly on the east coast, there are few sheltered embayments. In contrast, the 250 estuaries found along our coastline do provide sheltered waters and, consequently, as many are also easily accessible, they are favoured sites for angling and subsistence fishing. Despite this, the multi-institutional national survey of hook and line fishing that was undertaken along the South African coast from 1994-96 did not include estuarine fishing, chiefly because of the logistics involved.

Over the years, the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) has been steadily entering catch and effort data obtained from catch cards, completed by anglers fishing in some KwaZulu-Natal estuaries, into the National Marine Linefish System. These long term data sets are chiefly derived from the large Kosi and St Lucia estuarine lake systems and recently these data sets have been analysed, with manuscripts on recreational angling in these systems submitted for publication.

The analyses have shown that catches at Kosi are dominated by spotted grunter, stumponose, perch, river snapper and various kingfishes. In contrast, at the more turbid St Lucia system, catches are dominated by dusky kob although many grunter, perch, stumponose and mini-kob are also caught. In the Kosi system, the catch-per-unit-effort for two estuarine-dependent species, perch and river snapper, is showing a disturbing downward trend.

Similarly, in St Lucia, where dusky kob and grunter are heavily targeted by anglers, there is also a declining trend in catch-per-unit-effort.

Although providing useful information, catch card data suffer from many biases not least of which is the propensity for fishermen to exaggerate (known by scientists as prestige bias!). Good information is also dependent on the enthusiasm of anglers to complete the cards and management agencies to collect the cards. Several other survey methods exist to monitor estuarine fisheries and these include surveying anglers at access points, roving creel surveys and the statistically superior "bus-route" survey method.

In January 2000, ORI commenced a detailed investigation of the hook and line fishery in Durban harbour and the Umgeni estuary using roving creel surveys conducted on both week days and weekends. During the 12 months of the study we have counted and checked the catches of thousands of anglers and conducted detailed socio-economic interviews with over 500 people fishing in the harbour and Umgeni estuary. Data analysis is underway and provisional results indicate the considerable importance of the harbour as a recreational angling locality for the people of Durban.

... Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

- ❖ HOOK, LINE AND GRUNTER
- ❖ SOUTH AFRICA'S WATER REVOLUTION
- ❖ LEGENDS OF THE SEA

The Water Law Review

South Africa's Water Revolution

South Africa's historically skewed water legislation inherited in 1994 prompted an urgent and critical review of the 1956 Water Act. The Water Services Act (No 108 of 1997) was enacted to put in place the necessary mechanisms to address the delivery of water services to millions of South Africans not having access to potable water.

The National Water Act (No 36 of 1998) was later enacted to address the management of water resources in South Africa.

The National Water Act (36 of 1998)

The National Water Act recognises that water is a scarce and unevenly distributed national resource that belongs to all South Africans. Accordingly, Government has overall responsibility for and authority over the nation's water resources.

Equity, Efficiency and Sustainability form the central guiding principles of the National Water Act. Its focal points are the **protection, utilisation, development, conservation, management and control** of water resources. **Public participation is a cornerstone of the Act.**

To address the aspirations of South African society, a two-tiered approach to the management of water resources is prescribed. At the National level, the Minister of Water Affairs & Forestry has the

responsibility to develop a **National Water Resources Strategy**. This provides a framework for managing the water resources of the country. At a regional/catchment level, a **Catchment Management Agency** must develop a **Catchment Management Strategy** as the management framework for water resources in defined **Water Management Areas**.

The Water Services Act (108 of 1997)

Everybody needs water and sanitation. Water to drink, to wash and cook with, to keep our houses clean with and sanitation services to accommodate our waste and keep our homes healthy. Providing water services to residents and consumers is a basic and very important activity of local government.

What people think about local government is very closely tied up with how effective local government is in providing water services. Water Services is a general term used in this Act to mean water supply, sanitation, sewerage and wastewater removal services. The Water Services Act complements the National Water Act. The objective of the Act is to assist local government in their functions of water services provision, and to look after the interests of consumers. It is also to clarify the role of other water institutions, especially water boards.

Managing our water in KZN

With the enactment of the National Water Act, the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry's approach to implementing catchment management in KZN was focused on establishing grassroots structures - the Catchment Management Forums. Its intention was to encourage public participation at a local/catchment level. However, this approach has yielded limited success because of the considerable time and resources requirements for establishing and managing such forums.

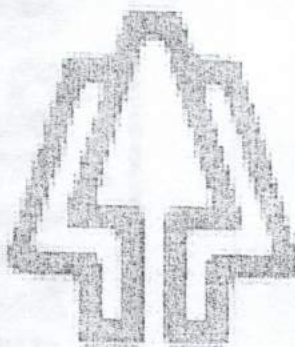
Current efforts are being focused on establishing the institutional structures (Catchment Management Agencies) to drive the process in a more coherent and concerted manner within the water management areas. However, the Department and other institutions will continue to manage and service the existing forums until the Catchment Management Agencies can support them.

How YOU can get involved!

The purpose of this poster is two-fold: firstly, to inform the public of our water situation, and secondly to invite constituency and sectoral representatives to join us in developing proposals to establish the Catchment Management Agencies.

Work sessions will then be held, initially at several venues in each Water Management Area, which will result in the development of the proposals to establish Catchment Management Agencies in the three Water Management Areas in KZN. These sessions will also identify options and opportunities for the establishment of Catchment Management Forums where the public will have a platform to raise issues and voice their opinions and concerns about the management of water resources within their catchments.

If you are an elected or nominated representative of a constituency, you are requested to participate by representing your constituency at the appropriate workshop for your area.



DEPARTMENT OF WATER AFFAIRS & FORESTRY

... Following on from this work, ORI is expanding the project northwards to investigate the fisheries in the port of Richards Bay. Relatively little is known about extractive use of estuarine and marine resources at this rapidly expanding development node. In addition to information on catches, data will also be gathered on the socio-economics of resource use in the area.

LEGENDS OF THE SEA

Each culture has its own legends and many of them are about the sea. Exchanging legends is a good way to know more about other cultures. Here is a legend about a giant fish, by Dany Jangawangga (Australia). It is an Aboriginal legend known as "a story from the time of dreams",

A long time ago in the Arnhem bush there lived an Aborigine family. They lived at the bottom of a hill which overlooked a eucalyptus forest.

This story takes place during the period of cyclones and great rains. At that time, storms would break out in the sky with thousands of thunderbolts. Each year floods would force the family to move their camp site up the hill to keep dry.

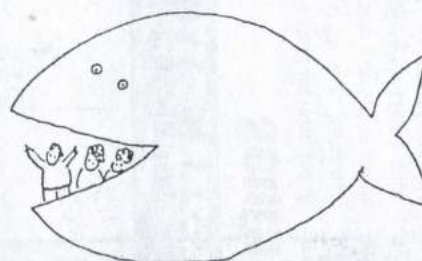
But the rain continued pouring down in greater and greater torrents such that the water came closer and closer to the top of the hill: What could they do? Where could they go? They thought they might drown before finding an answer. But then, a fish as big as a whale swam up to the hill, opened its mouth and swallowed the entire family. Then, it swam around and around the hill until it stopped raining.

When it stopped raining the water diminished little by little and the giant fish continued to swim around the hill until the water receded to the sea. He stayed above the surface just one last moment and then swam away, taking the floodwater with him.

At the edge of the sea the giant fish opened its mouth and the family got out of the big creature, safe and sound, as if they were getting out of a boat. The enormous fish had

saved their lives so they decided to camp close to the sea.

The path that the great fish had made to get to the sea turned into a river. Ever since that day, the floodwaters flow into the riverbed when the rainy season comes so that no family need to be afraid of floods anymore.



DID YOU KNOW...

❖ A development at Brenton-on-Sea, near Knysna, was halted because it threatened the survival of a species of butterfly! The Brenton Blue butterfly is known only from this site - another colony recorded at Nature's Valley disappeared during the 1980s. It is one of only three South African butterflies listed as endangered in the IUCN's Red Data Book. In 1997 the then-Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Pallo Jordan, halted the development of 13 residential stands at Brenton Extension 1. The land was later purchased by the State and the Green Trust, and declared a nature reserve - saving the Brenton Blue from extinction.

❖ Many household items and foodstuffs, such as toothpaste, salad dressing and pizza toppings, contain extracts of seaweed! Washed-up kelp is collected from the beach and shipped overseas, where the alginates are extracted and marketed as a gelling agent. Kelp is also processed into an agricultural growth stimulant, and as food for cultured abalone.

"Ulwandle", which means "sea" in Zulu, is the Coastal Management Newsletter produced by the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG).

Please send all correspondence to:

The Editor, Ulwandle, c/o Department of Traditional and Local Government Affairs, Private Bag X9078, Pietermaritzburg, 3200

Tel: 033-3953073 Fax: 033-3428825

E-mail: parako@tlqa.kzntl.gov.za