



Port Elizabeth Deep Sea Angling Club

The Conservation Minded Club

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Newsletter – August 2014.

Super 6 Club League.

Our Super Six Leagues are about to kick off again, with the first league to be held around the end of September. A pre-league meeting will be held at Pedsac on the 2nd September 2014 starting at 6pm. We invite all interested club members, skippers and anglers to attend this meeting as this meeting is used to implement any viable or necessary rule changes and changes to proposed dates for the duration of the 2014/15 league. The PEDSAC committee encourages all new members and active anglers to participate in this league as it is open for all to enjoy. Non-members are welcome to enter and crew on PEDSAC registered boats as well. Entry will always be at PEDSAC on the Friday evening before the Super Six league, which includes a free meal provided by our sponsors and competitions officer. PEDSAC will also once again provide some magnificent prizes for each super 6 league making it so much more exciting and worthwhile for anglers and skippers to participate.

Annual General Meeting.

The PEDSAC annual general meeting will be held on the 17th September 2014. Notice for the AGM will be circulated by the 18th August 2014 and all correspondence for matters to be placed on the AGM agenda must reach our honourable secretary in writing, by no later than the 27th August 2014. Nominations for office bearers must be submitted to our Electoral Officer, Curt Van Der Merwe, at least seven days before the AGM so that the names can be displayed on the electoral board at our club house for comments. Nomination forms for office bearers can be obtained from our barman at PEDSAC after the notice for the AGM has been sent out.

PEDSAC Wash Bay

The wash bay was constructed in April, but not fully completed due to the demolition of the old wall and the purchase of the pressure cleaner.

Christo (Cupcake) from Industrial Highway Carriers stepped in and sponsored a new high quality pressure cleaner for this purpose. PEDSAC purchased the hoses and nozzle and this will be installed in a stainless steel enclosure as soon as the new vibracrete wall and gates has been completed.

I would also like to ask all members not to park their vehicles in front of the new wash bay as your vehicle will be moved or towed away if found to be blocking access to the wash bay.

We will also request all boat owners not to occupy the wash bay longer than what is necessary to clean your boat and remove it as soon as possible to allow other anglers the opportunity to use this facility.

Christmas Classic.

The PEDSAC committee has elected Eugene Van Tonder to organise this year's Christmas Classic along with our competitions officer. This has always been a popular, but low key competition, but will now be planned and promoted well in advance in order to grow it into a bigger and better well advertised competition that will hopefully see an exponential increase in interest and entries.

Details will be posted on the PEDSAC website and notice boards shortly.

General Boating Safety – Spear fisherman and Divers.

We ask all anglers and boaters to keep a keen eye open for spear fisherman and recreational divers diving in and around the bay. These divers life's are put at risk when boats speed past the diving boat as divers tend to spread out a bit and can pop up anywhere near the location of the diving boat. These divers have complained about some PEDSAC boats racing past them in close proximity.

Spear fisherman are particularly vulnerable as they dive without the aid of oxygen bottles and have to surface regularly and not always near their dive boat as they do not have the luxury of oxygen bottles to enable them to swim safely towards their dive boat while being underwater.



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Mass Boat Inspection.

Our safety officer will conduct this year's mass boat safety inspection on the 8th November 2014. PEDSAC request that all boat owners ensure that all paperwork is correctly filled in and that all equipment is up to date and valid. Please ensure that flotation certificates are up to date and valid, all fuel lines are fitted with an approved emergency shut-off valves, that emergency steering brackets are fitted and all fire extinguishers are serviced as these items always seem to be problematic issues during the surveys. We will post the boat safety requirements for all the various categories on the PEDSAC website for your perusal. Please remember that subs and boat fees are due for payment on 8th November 2014, for those members who are attending the mass boat inspection.

Mooring Space Tender.

As most of you already know, Transnet issued a tender for the water space our moorings are situated on. Previously, our waters pace was part of the Algoa Bay Small Craft Marina Association and PEDSAC has lobbied for years to have our water space and moorings separated. The PEDSAC committee elected an action committee to complete and submit this tender by the 7th August 2014. We trust that all will go well and that our moorings will officially be separated and placed under the formal management of PEDSAC in due course.

Conservation.

It is extremely worrying to see a rapid decline in most popular fish species being caught by all our recreational anglers fishing in and around PE. We once again had a dismal Geelbek season with only sporadic catches being reported around Algoa Bay. Other fish species are also being caught in smaller sizes and quantities. Our prized Dusky Kob, once abundant and plentiful, is on the brink of a total collapse with only 2% of the estimated pristine breeding stock left in our waters. If nothing is done to protect the species, it will possibly lead to a total irrecoverable collapse within the next 3 - 5 years. Of all the Cob species, it is only the Dusky Kob that is thought to spawn inside our estuaries. This is however widely opinionated between Marine Biologists as spawning has been found to happen inside of, as well as outside in close proximity of our estuaries.

Our Silver Kob is less threatened, but still subjected to immense fishing pressure. Unfortunately, most anglers will not be able to distinguish between young Silver and Dusky Kob (2 – 15kg) and we would like to encourage our anglers to read up on these two sub-species.

Since the total closure of the Red Steenbras for recreational and commercial fishing, more fishing pressure has been placed on the Poenskop along our entire coast and it will only be a matter of time before this species will be closed for fishing as well. Border Deep Sea Angling Association is currently fighting the closure of Red Steenbras as they believe that the stock are still in relatively good health along their coast and that controlled recreational angling will not pose any further impact on the species. Please visit the Border website for more information in this matter.

Many anglers believe that DAF should have placed the Copper Steenbras and Poenskop on a rotational yearly closure to give them sufficient time to recover while affording the recreational angler the opportunity to fish for them on a bi-annual basis.

Many people have valid arguments and ideas, but sadly there is no positive public participation from all anglers in sufficient numbers leaving just a hand full of people fighting for our cause as far as conservation is concerned. I firmly believe that we only have to look at the conservation methods used by our American and Australian counterparts as their implemented system seem to be extremely effective and well managed.

For the first time in years, DAF had to intervene with the chokka Industry, and with the cooperation of the major role players in the industry, decided to close the chokka season for 3 months mid-year. This helped to give the squid an un-interrupted breeding cycle, but is not enough to allow a multiplication of the generation spawned during this time.

2014 saw no Sardine run reaching Natal in great numbers as experienced in previous years, mainly due to the continuous fishing pressure being placed on Sardines in the Southern and Eastern Cape which has now possible reached a pivot point in sustainability, similar to what happened to the Dardine Industry on the West Coast in the late 1980's.

Over the last 20 years, there has been a drastic decline in African Jackass Penguins nesting on the Algoa Bay Island Complex (St. Croix, Jaheel, Brenton and Bird Island) with numbers between 2011 and 2013 dwindling from 55,000 breeding pairs down to just 21,000 at the end of 2013 and with numbers still continuing to decline. This is directly attributed to a collapse in their food source which mainly consists of Sardines, Anchovies and



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Squid. It is estimated that at current declining levels, the species could be extinct in and around our waters by 2030.

We at Pedsac, want to become more pro-active with conservation and request that all anglers only take what they can eat and preferably return excess or prime breeding fish back into the wild. Our fish stocks are tethering on the brink of a dramatic collapse and we must do what we can to preserve our magnificent variety of fish for our children to enjoy in the years to come.

Border Deep Sea Angling, along with all their clubs and in conjunction with DAFF, have followed the route of establishing self-imposed Marine Protected Areas a few years ago, and they are reaping the rewards today as abundant excess fish are starting to spill over into their open areas dramatically improving their catches. Our local ocean geography in and around Algoa Bay does not allow for the same magnitude of self-imposed MPA's, but I believe that a workable solution can, and must be found to ensure future viability.

After doing some intensive research, many countries such as the USA, Australia and the Pacific rim Island nations create artificial reefs with concrete structures (old large diameter concrete pipes, culverts, etc.) on previously dead flat grounds to encourage fish congregation and breeding and thereby boosting the abundance of fish. This could be a workable solution for us to create the ideal environment for fish to be protected and breed without closing our traditional fishing grounds close to home.

Environmental.

Pedsac is continuously experiencing problems with raw sewerage and petroleum spilling into the harbour near our small craft marina. The municipality assured us that they are currently fixing the problem with faulty pumps and pipe work at the Roeland Street pump station. We can gladly confirm that work is in progress and nearing completion.

Since GPI lost their contract with Transnet, the fuel spill booms were removed allowing more surface pollutants to access the marina area. This problem originates from leaking tanks at the Oil and fuel farm which is scheduled to relocate to the Port of Ngura around 2017. This problem will only be resolved once the tanks have been removed and the entire area, including the manganese ore dump rehabilitated.

The Pedsac Algoa Bay Small Craft Mooring Committee also encourage all mooring owners to become more pro-active with environmental issues when conducting maintenance and cleaning of boats while on the moorings to prevent toxic, fuel and debris spill into the marina.

Kiddies Christmas Party

PEDSAC will be hosting the annual kiddie's party in conjunction with the NSRI and the Yacht Club this year. We urge all parents in advance to attend this wonderful occasion and watch Santa Claus arrive at PEDSAC on the Spirit of Toft (NSRI Rescue Craft) to hand the kiddies their presents.

The invites will be sent out in advance and I would like to remind parents to keep an eye out for the invite later this year and attend this event to help make it special for all our kiddies.

NSRI

The renovations at the NSRI station are well underway and should be completed by December. PEDSAC has been fortunate that we had no severe disruptions with the ongoing construction work and would like to extend a warm thank you to the NSRI team and the construction crew with their well organised project.

Evinrude E-Tec agency

As most of our members will know by now, Craig Tunstead has immigrated to Australia leaving the Evinrude owners somewhat worried due to the viability and future of Tunstead Marine.

We have now been informed that Nauti-Tec Suzuki has entered into an agreement with CMH (Evinrude / Johnson and Bombardier importers for S.A.) and received the agency to service, repair and sell all Evinrude and Johnson products. Suzuki will still remain their flagship agency.

We encourage our members to support Nauti-Tec Suzuki with the services and repairs to all Evinrude and Johnson products.



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Sponsors

PEDSAC has been blessed with having a group of loyal sponsors such as Amfi-Craft, G.V. Donald, BLG Logistics, R&M Plumbers, EC Gold, Ford, Ambiton and many more that has been supporting our club for many years. All of us at PEDSAC are eternally grateful for your loyal contributions throughout the year.

Heymans Master Fence has joined this group of sponsors this year, and sponsored the beautiful Clear Vu fence that has been erected on the waterfront side of our club premises. They subsequently also sponsored the new Vibracrete wall on the Southern Side of the premises. All of us at PEDSAC are grateful for this generous contribution.

Other new sponsors that came on board and supported us well this year are Nauti-Tec Suzuki, Pro Services, CB Agencies, Supreme Truck and Trailer and Joubert Construction.

Any persons, or company, who wish to become involved with sponsorship in our various competitions, no matter how big or small the contribution may be, are welcome to contact the committee.

Any support and help towards hosting competitions and events will hugely be appreciated.

General

Marlin's Head Bar – Glen Beresford has joined our team on a permanent basis as of August 2014. Glen assisted George Moore before his retirement, and has proven himself to be invaluable to our Club. Welcome Glen!

Those members making use of 'bar tabs' please make sure that they are settled on the day; it makes the administration and control of the bar and stock so much simpler if settled immediately. Those members not settling their bar tabs timeously may be refused to run a tab in the future.

Please note that those PEDSAC members who wish to purchase fuel and pay with a credit/debit card, will be levied an additional 5% on top of the purchase, to cover the card machine costs. Fuel purchases may be made during office hours, and fuel is loaded on a pre-paid basis. Payments can be made in advance by either EFT or Cash. A proof of payment can be sent to denise@pedsac.co.za to pre-load the credit.

Closing.

We are in the home straight with Christmas fast approaching. It is scary to think that there are only 18 Fridays left in this year.

We will publish two more news letter before the end of the year and wish all our readers all the best until next time. Please feel free to mail any photo's of any significant or good catches to denise@pedsac.co.za or richard@lmcservices.co.za and we will post them on our website and Facebook pages for all to see.

All members are welcome to send us contributions for the next news letter and this can be mailed to the same email addresses provided.

Tight Lines

Richard Donaldson.