

## EO Report

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### Highlights of new scientific paper:

**Understanding the economic activity generated by recreational fishing in South Africa provides insights on the role of recreational fisheries for social development.** Accepted: 23 September 2021

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Recreational fishing participation estimates totalled **1,327,633**, which contributed ZAR **32.6 billion** per year to economic activity and sustained **94,070** full-time jobs.

South African recreational fishers fished on average for 48 days per year and resulted in a total estimate of 63.9 million fishing days per annum.

**There is currently no policy driving the management objectives for freshwater recreational fisheries and the national management agency responsible for recreational fisheries**, which falls under the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) and **has no existing mandate for their management.**

Overall, **failure to manage South Africa's recreational fisheries adequately will result in stock collapses**, and participation in recreational fisheries will likely decline. Therefore, for South Africa to maintain and even enhance its recreational fishery participation, the status of its governance must improve.

Finally, this research suggests that **traditional management strategies that focus only on the management of the ecological dimension of recreational fisheries would not maintain sustainable socio-ecological systems**, primarily because the economic expenditure by recreational anglers does not provide sufficient benefit to local communities who would increasingly compete for fish resources. To better utilise the economic potential of recreational fisheries, the management of this sector needs to expand beyond the traditional approach, which predominantly considers that ecological dimension. **The socio-economic components of the recreational fisheries system must be incorporated into management frameworks.** The socio-ecological systems approach has gained traction (Arlinghaus et al., 2017) and provides a suitable framework for incorporating the human dimension into the management of recreational fisheries.

### SADSAA

EO, Mark Beyl informs me that following his interaction with DFFE on 9 February 2021 where hopes we raised concerning better cooperation and communication by introducing regular 3 monthly meetings. Specifically regarding:

1. Follow-up meetings
2. Attending any line-fish scientific working group meetings
3. Supplying stats on the different tuna species caught by SADSAA members
4. Developing a system to report illegal fishing activities
5. Creating a better recreational fishing permit system

“But in short I have not received any replies to DAFF, be it from Mr Fredericks or the line fish working group leader. Thus our regular three months meetings have come to a stop. I believe there is an investigation into corruption at DAFF, which I was informed is the reason for them not responding”.

## **Seismic research off the West Coast**

WPDSAA sent a letter of support to WeAreSothAfricans who, along with others, successfully won a court interdict to stop the Searcher Seismic to cease operations.

## **WPDSAA Catch Data**

We are still in a process of accumulating the catch data of all the leagues going back to 2020. Colin Attwood has submitted data we originally gave him however this data set is actually not in the original format submitted. Once we receive the data from the WPDSAA scoring system we will be in a position to collate this and determine what data still needs to be supplemented (mainly from the Inshore Leagues ever since the scoring was not conducted from the WPDSAA scoring system) so these can be incorporated in one huge database. Only then can we start to think about how we can share this back to the anglers who have supported the leagues over all these years.

Malcolm Grant

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