



P.O.Box 29156, Windhoek, Namibia
Contact Chairman: Fax: +264-61-255 012
Cell: +264-81 247 3282
frametique@afol.com.na
www.nbaanamibia.com

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NBAA DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2018:

1. 2018 in Hindsight

The 2018 season so far was marked as a season of initial recovery of our fisheries, after the drought stricken 2017 season we experience widely throughout Namibia.

The results of our season was testament to recovering fishing conditions after some of the lowest catch rates ever in the history of the NBAA in 2017.

The above had significant effects on successful development events, seeing that some of our events had to be cancelled due to poor fishing conditions experienced in 2017 which made planning for 2018 dependent on recovering fisheries.

In retrospect of 2017, the focus for 2018 / 2019 shifted to rather focus our efforts in assisting the Conservation Committee of the NBAA on management of our fisheries, which inevitably will address the development constraints mentioned above, all the while still hosting some development events, although limited, so as to ensure ongoing growth and development of our sport.

2. 2018 Development Events

The broader development goals have been discussed at length and have been grouped and summarized in no particular order:

2.1 Fisheries management

Our focus was to actively assist, partake and recruit members to do the same in the fisheries management events to be held at our major dams to restore our fisheries to their former glory for as far as humanly possible. Overall well attended events were hosted, and I believe we can all testify to the small differences caused in our fisheries through these management events.

These events not only assisted the conservation efforts of the NBAA, but also aided the previously disadvantaged by way of the NBAA donating the catches of *Clarius gariepinus* (sharp-tooth catfish), with tremendous nutritional value, during the sampling exercises.

Executive Council:

*Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
Hendrik Pretorius (Tournament Director) • Nic Kruger (Conservation Officer) • Johan Coetzee (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)*



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2.2 2018 Presidents Test

The NBAA received an invitation to the 2018 Presidents Test between Zimbabwe and South Africa, and Namibia was invited to attend by way of a 6 man invitational team during July 2018.

The NBAA managed for the first time in its history to select a team specifically focussed on up and coming Bass Fisherman which did not manage to attend the Region V event, soon after receiving the invitation. The selection criteria applied was the same as for the normal Region V team selection.

The event was a great success from a development point of view, and all round feedback from the team was the excellent comradery as well as exceptional experience they gained at the event, with the venue, Mteri in Zimbabwe, being a venue of legends.

The Namibian team managed well under unfamiliar circumstances, and represented the NBAA and their country with pride, although only on an invitation. There are currently talks that in future we will be awarded full participation in the event, which will be a great opportunity for all NBAA members.

The NBAA strives to ensure that a Namibian team is in attendance for years to come, and in the process developing the international opportunities available to its members.

2.3 Juniors

Special focus, as always, is placed on attracting and recruiting junior anglers, as juniors are the future of our sport. During 2018 we managed to establish an interest from The Namibian Scouts to collaborate with the NBAA in 2019 on organising junior development events. We have presented them with unofficial planned dates, to be considered as part of the 2019 calendar.

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3. Conclusion

Even though conditions forced a tough call to focus development efforts at assisting the Conservation Committee to first better are fisheries during 2018, some excellent ground work has been done for 2019 and beyond for development events, to name a few:

- a) Junior development events in collaboration the Namibian Scouts.
- b) Presidents test participation
- c) Corporate Bass Challenge ("CBC")
- d) Summer Bass Classic

We are adamant on promoting and developing the sport of bass fishing. The action items and goals set for 2019 and the events mentioned above should see us achieve this ultimate goal, all the while keeping conservation and sustainability in mind.

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