



Port Elizabeth Deep Sea Angling Club

The Conservation Minded Club

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Newsletter – October 2014

Pedsac Committee 2014/15

The Pedsac committee would like to welcome Dawid Joubert into the portfolio of projects and planning taking over from Michel Zoonekynd and Neal Murison as our new competitions officer taking over from Pieter Didloff.

Eugene Van Tonder has resigned due to out of town work commitments and the committee also welcomes Tom Swartz on board who has now taken over the entertainment portfolio. We trust that he will continue with the same vigour and enthusiasm to help get the members involved with our various planned functions and events.

We would like to thank the outgoing committee members for all their hard work and commitment to the club and the committee over the years they served.

The present committee is dedicated to serve the club and its members to the best of their ability and we welcome any suggestions or feedback on matters that may be of interest or concern. Suggestions or feedback must be done in writing and placed in the suggestion box at Pedsac. Any other correspondence can be sent to the club and all will be discussed and addressed at our monthly meetings.

Our committee is striving towards making our club more accessible catering for both the serious fisherman as well as the family orientated recreational angler. We urge all members to make better use of our fine facilities offered. We therefore hope to see our club grow from strength to strength under the leadership of our current dedicated committee.

Wash Bay and Parameter fencing.

The wash bay should be completed very shortly. We could not install the pressure cleaner until the last work on the parameter fencing and new gates has been completed. The last work is now in progress with just minor finishing off of a few small items remaining.

We would also like to remind all members that the wash bay is not a parking area and can be classified as a stop and go area for boats to be washed down and then removed immediately. Any cars found parked and blocking access to the wash bay can, and will be towed away at the expense of the owner.

Parking.

The NSRI building alterations and temporary NSRI container buildings have severely affected the available parking's in close proximity at Pedsac.

We have therefore requested that boat owners who park and leave their boats on the grounds across the road from the club house, to park their boats one care length deep from the road to allow patrons and visitors reasonable and convenient parking space. This land belongs to Transnet and is not a demarcated boat storage or permanent parking area.

All unused or scrapped boats must be removed from Transnet property as they will hold Pedsac liable for costs in the event that they should impound or remove the boats from their property.

All vehicles launching boats are requested to park their vehicles and trailers on the open grounds opposite the moorings or on the strip of land directly adjacent to the wash bay where we usually erect the Tuna Classic tent.



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Christmas Classic

It is almost that time of the year again and the preparations in the organising of this year's Christmas Classic is about to get into full swing.

The organising committee will host a bigger and better event this year and we hope to up the stakes by increasing the species prize money by a substantial margin.

This species competition consists of 10 nominated edible species to be targeted over the duration of the competition.

We will also be encouraging visitors to enter as long as their boats are seaworthy with valid COF papers. Visitors will be requested to enter in advance in order to arrange temporary port clearance for the duration of the competition.

We will organise daily entertainment lasting well into the evenings on each day of the competition.

Details on the competition and format will be posted on the club website and Facebook pages shortly.

BLG Logistics Tuna Classic.

The Tuna Classic committee for the 2015 event has been selected and preparations for next year's event will get under way shortly. The competition format will change slightly and other game fish species such as Bonnito, Marlin and Dorado will now form official part of the competition. The Yellowfin Tuna will remain the main and overriding prized fish. This change will add more spice to the mix and attract more anglers as well as making the competition more accessible for the fisherman with smaller boats. Dorado, Bonnito, Marlin and even young Tuna can be caught within 15 miles from shore due south if the conditions are favourable and with schools of baitfish present.

As usual, the committee appeal to all members and business owners for any assistance with sponsorship towards prizes and the cost of organising this event. Please contact Richard Donaldson on 0722150038 or via email at richard@lmcservices.co.za should any further information on the competition be required.

Residential security spring clean

Spring has sprung and the countdown to summer and the year-end holidays has begun.

Ensuring that your home security system works properly is an important part of home maintenance. With the warmer weather on the cards people are likely to leave their homes unattended more frequently to spend time outdoors. It is vital that your property and belongings are protected while they are away.

Your alarm system and other hardware – such as panic buttons and infra-red detectors – must be tested regularly. If the system is not functioning properly it may mean the alarm activation signal may not reach us; we will not know that there is an emergency and that assistance is needed. We can assist you to test your alarm via SMS or landline. If anything out of the ordinary is noted, a technician can be dispatched to address the problem.

Over time home security needs can change. Now is also a good time to re-assess your overall security needs.

This can be done during a walk around the property. Questions to ask include:

Is there a need for additional- or motion-sensing lights?



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How easily can intruders access the property and should outdoor beams be considered?

Your security service provider can offer advice if there is any uncertainty on how to identify security needs.

Remember it is also critical that we have your most up-to-date details of your primary and secondary key-holders. This means we can contact them immediately in the event of an incident or alarm activation.

If something or someone seems out of place, contact the local SAPS or your security service provider immediately.

Proposed Algoa Bay Fish Farming.

The national Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries along with the Department of Environmental Affairs have approved the creation and operation of the Algoa Bay Sea Based Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ), more commonly referred to as the PE fish farms.

What is it?

Here's a summary:

- The ADZ at Algoa 1 is 665 hectares of ocean space just 2km off the shore of Hobie Beach, Port Elizabeth from about Shark Rock Pier to Beacon Point.
- The fish farm built there will be large floating fish nets of about 20 – 30 meters in diameter and 15 – 20 meters deep (thought the final design and dimensions of the nets will be open to the operator of the fish farm).
- Year one (2015) will have 11 farms built with a surface footprint of 2.5 hectares and sea floor footprint of 25 – 30 hectares (that's 30 0000 square meters of fish nets).
- The nets will hold about 80 – 90 tons of fish per net and produce 1000 tons of fish a year.
- By 2019, there will be 9 commercially viable fin fish farms along our beachfront (27 000 tons of fish, 315 cages, a surface footprint of 22.5 hectares, and a sea floor footprint of 665 hectares).

Why YOU as a resident or visitor to PE should care?

Quite simply because it will change the way you see, experience and use our beaches in Port Elizabeth!

Here's what the fish farm will do to PE (as per concerns listed in the official Environmental Impact Assessment):

- Negative impact on specialist tourism and recreational activities (high negative impact/significance) – [swimmers, fisherman, surfers, cancellation of events like IRONMAN and Surf Series, less tourists visiting PE, beachfront tourism industry collapse –Admin].
- Attraction of large sharks to our main swimming beaches (high negative impact/significance).



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- Pollution of water due to the large quantities of fish excrement, leftover food, chemicals and anti-foulants (high negative impact/significance) – [this is likely to wash up onto the beaches and cause a very bad smell –Admin].
- Disease and parasites being passed to wild fish stock (very high negative impact/significance).
- Cross breeding and genetic contamination between wild fish stock and escaped fish from fish farms (high negative impact/significance).
- Destruction of reefs which impacts on recreational SCUBA divers (high negative impact/significance).
- Unsightly fish farm nets spoiling the view of our coast line (high negative impact/significance).
- Drop in real estate values (high negative impact/significance).
- Accidental entanglement of dolphins and whales in fish farm nets (medium negative impact/significance).
- Negative financial impact on existing commercial squid and longline shark fisheries (high negative impact/significance).
- Negative impact on local fish industry (high negative impact/significance).
- Vessel navigation routes will have to go around fish farms (high negative impact/significance).
- Provision of goods and service by local business (high negative impact/significance).

If this convinces you to stand together and stop the creation of the fish farm then join the movement and sign the petition on <http://www.stoppefishfarm.co.za/petition> Fish Farming can relieve pressure of our natural resources, but great care should be taken in selecting an area to set up such an operation that will not have any impact on tourism, recreational fishing and water sports, natural reefs and the fauna and flora we find on these reefs. The current proposal is not ideal at all as described in this post. It's only we as a community that we can protect our Bay!

Follow-up on previous article on fish conservation and management.

My previous article regarding fisheries conservation and the subsequent pressure our recreational species are under was met with huge support and I received positive responses from many quarters.

Al Spaeth replied with an in-depth reply shedding a lot of light on matters not usually discussed and mentioned by the fishing industry, researchers and marine biologists. A copy of his article is currently available from the Pedsac website.

Another interesting fact regarding our vulnerable Kob species points in the direction of the current state of health of our estuaries and rivers. Young Kob fingerlings enter our estuaries which act as nurseries for them to grow to a certain age and size when they leave these river systems again to continue growing out to sexual maturity at sea and may enter and leave river systems on many occasions during its life cycle from that point on.

Many of our rivers have silted up due to the building of dams in the catchment areas preventing positive flow out to sea while bridges built in or near river mouths block the natural tidal flow resulting in further silting up.

The subsequent silting up and closing of river mouths denies young Kob the chance to enter these systems and this makes them much more vulnerable to predation out at sea.



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The amount of pollution and over fishing happening in our remaining open rivers have a huge negative impact on numbers of fish reaching sexual maturity as well. Many people support the banning of night fishing on our major estuaries as a result and this drive has become a contentious issue in recent times.

Reckless trawling for Kob with lures on rivers such as Gamtoos and Sundays rivers have had a huge negative impact as well as there is no proper policing taking place on these rivers and large numbers of breeding Kob are being caught for financial gain by many recreational anglers. Trawling with lures on Breede River has been banned in recent years for the exact same reason and this ban should be extended to other vulnerable rivers as well.

Many people do not understand that many of our sea fish is dependent on our rivers and estuaries during the early stages of their life and that everything must be done to sustain the natural health of our estuarine eco systems to ensure the future health of our oceanic fish species.

Boating tip for the month

First Aid Afloat deals with some of the medical problems you may face on the water, including bites and stings, bleeding, burns, hypothermia, seasickness and sun exposure. Every vessel should carry a well stocked first aid kit, which can be bought from your local pharmacy or boating outlet. The kit should contain adequate wound and burn dressings, and a booklet explaining basic first aid procedures.

Chemists stock simple kits that can be supplemented with sunscreen lotion, seasickness tablets, a felt-tip pen (for recording injuries and treatment, to inform medical staff if necessary) and a pair of side-cutting pliers for removing fishhooks. Clearly mark the kit as first aid and keep it in a sturdy, watertight container where anyone on board can reach it.

Bites and stings

Bites or stings from sea snakes and some jellyfish can cause breathing and circulation problems. It's vital in all of these instances to keep the patient calm, assured and rested, monitor their airway, breathing and circulation (ABC) and get medical help urgently. If necessary in the most serious cases, you may also need to begin resuscitation immediately and continue until medical help arrives.

The following steps are also recommended for particular bites and stings:

Jellyfish

- Prevent patient from rubbing the area
- Pour vinegar over the affected area to deactivate the stinging capsules and prevent further venom release
- Apply icepacks to relieve pain

Sea Snakes

- Apply a pressure immobilization bandage to the affected limb.

Stingrays and other venomous spines

- Immerse area in water as hot as the patient can tolerate, to help relieve the pain.
- Don't use pressure bandages (i.e. tourniquets).

Bleeding

Small cuts can be treated easily by washing with a disinfectant solution and closing with a suitable dressing. The most effective way to stop bleeding is to apply pressure directly to the wound. Elevating the limb also will help control bleeding.

If a patient has massive bleeding—from a propeller strike for example—you may have to apply a constrictive bandage as a last resort, but more standard bandaging—if it will stop the bleeding—is preferable.



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- Use a broad (5-7.5 cm wide) soft rolled bandage, strip of material or wide belt
- Apply the bandage to the upper part of the limb to completely cover the arterial pulse, but keep clear of limb joints
- Encircle the limb several times
- If bleeding appears to increase, slowly release the bandage—this reduces the risk of a surge of blood increasing bleeding further—and reapply immediately
- Once correctly applied, record the time on the patient's forehead.
- The bandage must not be covered up by clothing.
- Transport the patient to hospital as soon as possible.

Burns

Immediately and gently cool the burned skin with plenty of cold water (sea water is excellent). Never burst blisters or cut away clothing unless it's a chemical burn, which might continue to eat into the clothing and skin beneath.

Cover the area lightly with a clean, dry, sterile burns dressing or clean cloth, and keep the patient calm and assured. Seek medical assistance as soon as possible.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a serious medical condition resulting from heat loss due to prolonged immersion in water or insufficient protection in cold, wet or windy conditions, so it's particularly relevant to boat users.

The loss of core body temperature in vital organs such as the heart, lungs and kidneys can cause death quickly. The risk is increased if the person is anxious, hungry, exhausted or mentally low.

Hypothermia is not always easy to recognize. The person may no longer even feel cold, which can disguise the real risk.

Early signs of hypothermia may include:

- Lethargy and difficulty in reasoning
- poor sense of touch and clumsiness
- slurred speech
- developing muscle rigidity
- swollen lips, hands and feet.

As the condition develops, more critical symptoms include:

- rigid muscles
- very slow, weak pulse and breathing
- uneven heartbeat
- unconsciousness
- cold and bluish-grey skin
- dilated and unresponsive pupils
- death-like appearance

To reduce the risk of hypothermia on board:

- keep warm and dry
- avoid fatigue—rest if tired
- eat and drink normally, to prevent dehydration
- avoid alcohol—it increases pulse rate and body heat loss
- avoid seasickness
- be aware of special medical needs

To slow the development of hypothermia in the water:

- put on extra clothing before entering the water— but be careful to choose clothing that won't

absorb water and weigh you down too much

- protect the head, neck, hands, feet, chest and groin from heat loss
- minimize swimming and strenuous activity



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- adopt the heat escape lessening posture

Careful treatment of a person with severe hypo-thermia is crucial and involves the following steps:

- Do not massage their skin
- Shelter them in a warm environment, away from wind and cold.
- Replace wet clothes with dry
- Keep them horizontal, in the 'shock' position (on their back, with legs bent and raised), and minimize their movement
- Restore core temperature gradually—the body's shock at too-rapid warming can kill
- Share body warmth with them
- Breathe across their mouth and nose
- Apply gentle warmth to head, neck, chest and groin
- Give warm sweet drinks (not alcohol), if conscious
- Administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) if necessary
- Seek medical advice
- Keep them under continuous observation

Seasickness

Seasickness can be avoided in many cases if you sleep aboard the vessel the night before (subject to what type of vessel you have), to let your body get used to the motion. Of course, this is not always possible.

Otherwise, you can take seasickness tablets as advised by a doctor or chemist, but be aware that some may make you drowsy. Experienced sailors keep their diet free of rich, fatty foods and alcohol both before going to sea and while aboard.

If you feel seasick, keep busy and stay in the fresh air, away from enclosed areas where fuel fumes and food odours may collect. Avoid the 'head down' position, as this aggravates illness. Nibble on a dry biscuit, or chew barley sugar or dried fruit. Ginger is also considered a good remedy.

Sun exposure

Boat users are particularly susceptible to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, because of the additional radiation reflecting off the water. UV radiation is present during daylight all year, but is strongest between 11 am and 3 pm during daylight savings time (10 am to 2 pm other times).

Clothing offers the best sun protection: wear a long-sleeved shirt and a hat that covers the face, ears and neck (a dark colour under the brim will help reduce glare off the water). Also apply to exposed skin a water-resistant, broad-spectrum sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15+ and a lip sunscreen.

Apply the sunscreen 20 minutes before going out and reapply it every two hours.

To treat serious sunburn, apply a cool, moist compress to the affected area but do not break any blisters. Give plenty of fluids and seek medical attention quickly.

In closing.

Any member who wishes to submit a contribution to future newsletters can do so by mailing your content to richard@lmcservices.co.za.

Yours in Angling,

Richard Donaldson.
Cell: 0722150038.