



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

21 November 2018

Dear NBAA Members,
Dear NBAA Executive Committee,
Dear NFFA President,

2018 Chairman's Report,

2018 can only be described as the year of the revival of the NBAA after 2 absolutely dismal years of angling caused by the crippling drought which we hope we have seen the tail end of now. Our dams received considerable inflow in 2017 and it took a full year before the eco-systems settled and started to show signs of real recovery. The actions of the NBAA, the conservation committee of the NBAA and members that assisted with fisheries management week-ends tremendously sped up the recovery of both our fisheries and I can safely report with a happy heart that our fisheries have shown a tremendous improvement throughout the year and our catch statistics for the year proves this without a shadow of a doubt. Our weigh master and tournament director had a busy year handling 506 bass thus far weighing in at almost 390kg. The average weight per fish for the year stands at a staggering 733 grams, where most keepers at other venues only weigh 300 – 400 grams. An indication that our bass are extremely well fed and very healthy. Nothing made me happier than seeing the buzz at the tournaments this year with lots of fish being weighed in and lots of stories about the one that got away. The vibe was intense and the pre-tournament banter was what it should be. The nature of fishing for bass coupled with the amazing camaraderie and friendship is what this sport is all about and we should never forget this.

Unfortunately it seems as if the drought is not entirely over yet and predictions of 'El Nino' are once again surfacing all over the tabloids. The complete recovery of our fisheries will hinge on the upcoming wet season. The Swakop basin (Swakoppoort & Von Bach) is not looking good at all and if these impoundments do not receive inflow we might be heading back to square one. I am positive that the rains will come and that bass angling in Namibia will grow exponentially in the next few years.

The Executive Council and the NBAA have had an extremely eventful and busy year. The year was also an unusual one following the outcome of the special general meeting held in February of 2018.

Herewith a summary of tournaments hosted / international tournaments attended / events hosted in 2018:

National Tournaments:

The NBAA held 3 national tournaments with 1 still to come in 2018 (total of 4). The national tournaments have been spread out on both S. Von Bach as well as Oanob. The fishing has been good at all of the tournament with many anglers catching limits. The big fish has been rather elusive with only 1 or 2 coming to the scales per tournament. The tournaments have been very well attended by members and we have even had some old members return to compete.

The biggest concern with our national tournament is we had no juniors and no ladies at any of the tournaments for the second year running. The executive council of 2019 will have to take steps to change this for the future.

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)



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

Other Tournaments / Events Hosted / Events Attended:

In addition to the National Tournament hosted in 2018 the NBAA also hosted / attended the following events:

- i. The annual NBAA Windhoek Golf Day with a twist was held on the 8th of June 2018. This year it was not only a golf day but a lawn bowls day too. The event was organized by in large by Mr. Alec Williams under the umbrella of the NBAA for the benefit of the 2018 Region V team due to decisions made the 2017 AGM. The event was meant to be put by the Region V team for the Region V team but only a few team members ended up making a contribution. Never the less the event turned out to be a resounding success and the bar has been raised once again for future years.
- iii. National Championships / National Trials was held at S. Von Bach from the 12th to the 14th of October 2018. There was an unbelievable sense of hype in the air with everybody pushing hard to be crowned National Champion of 2018. 23 Anglers attended and 145 largemouth bass made it to the scales over 1 and a half days.

Congratulations to Johan Coetzee, National Champion for 2018 with Andre van Vuuren and Thinus Williams hot on his heels. Johan also caught the duma of nationals, a beauty weighing in at 3.66kg which also turns out to be the duma for the year, unless a bigger one is caught at the upcoming tournament.

- iv. The 2018 Old Mutual Corporate Bass Challenge was meant to be held on the 20th to the 21st of October at Lake Oanob Resort. This one is unfortunately a very sore point for me personally. The event was cancelled in spite of the huge financial loss incurred as well as the reputational damage for the NBAA due to zero participation from members. The event has always been dependent on support from members and this year we received none. The entire event was meticulously planned and the few teams that had entered as well as Old Mutual had to be refunded. Planning such an event is not easy and the executive council sacrificed an incredible amount of time and money all for nothing. Fortunately Lake Oanob have offered us a credit for future use which essentially means that the 2018 CBC made a net loss of N\$ 4 722. If the NBAA cannot pull off an amazing CBC in 2019 we will lose Old Mutual as a sponsor forever and the only way we will be able to do this is with your support. I would like to quote an extract from the chairman's report of 2017:

"The Executive Council of 2018 will have to be careful when planning the event for 2018. A repeat of the 2017 event could lead to the loss of the Old Mutual sponsorship."

- v. The 2018 B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier was held at Lake Oanob from the 18th to the 20th of May. The turnout was phenomenal with 26 anglers lining up at the gates on day 1. The fishing turned out to be tougher than expected but some anglers still managed to figure out a pattern and 79 fish made it to the scales over 1 and a half days of angling.

Congratulations to Max Pieper for taking the gold medal. Hot on Max's heels was James van Rooyen with Thinus Williams just behind James.

Cancelled Events / Events Changed to Fisheries Management Week-ends:

As per the decision made at the 2017 AGM the following events were cancelled and changed to fisheries management week ends:

Executive Council:

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
James van Rooyen (Tournament Director) • Hendrik Pretorius (Conservation Officer) • Anton de Wit (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)



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

1. National Tournament 1 scheduled for 17 February 2018.
2. National Tournament 2 scheduled for 17 March 2018.
3. The annual Winter Classic scheduled for 30 June 2018.
4. The Summer Bass Classic scheduled for 26-28 October 2018.
5. The Christmas Cup scheduled for the 1 December 2018.

Successful fisheries management week ends / events took place on the above mentioned dates. I would like to thank the conservation committee for all the hard work and dedication. The events were essential in 2018 and we already have tangible results from all the hard work put in. I would like to single out Johan Coetzee and Max Pieper and thank them for the exceptionally hard work that they put in to ensure that the events run flawlessly amongst all the challenges faced.

International Events:

- I. The Namibia National Region V Bass Angling Team travelled to Lake Chicamba, Manica Province in Mozambique to compete in the annual Region V Bass Angling Championships from the 23rd - 27th of July 2018. I was fortunate enough to be part of the team. Namibia ended in 5th place for the tournament which was a real disappointment for me personally. Team Namibia travelled without a reserve and without a manager which is really not ideal, but we had no other choice in the matter. I got the impression once again from some team members that they were there for a 'lekker' fishing trip with the boys and not to bring back the trophy. This saddens me tremendously. It is as if team Namibia's mindset before even reaching the venue is that we can't beat South Africa and Zimbabwe, or Zambia anyway so why should we even try. Region V teams of the future must be disciplined in their approach to the event. Anglers that qualify must be prepared to give their all for the team and must be prepared to practice as much as they can locally before travelling to compete. Anglers need to work on their skillsets as this is vital to be able to compete. Team members must be able to fish any lure with confidence and must have the required skill to do so. Anglers must be able to cast accurately and consistently and must be able to pitch/flip as well as skip lures. These skills must be practiced over and over and over until they have mastered. A proposal will be made this year to include 'practical trials' into the selection criteria for all teams of the future.

The team of 2018 was captained for the 3rd time consecutively by Alec Williams who did a fantastic job considering the circumstances.

- II. The Namibia National World Championships Bass Angling Team also travelled to the Lake El Cuchillo, Chiapas Province, Mexico to compete at the FIPSED / CIPS Black Bass World Championships from the 29th of October to the 4th of November 2018. This was Namibia's second world championships and the team ended in 9th place out of 14 countries. Unfortunately, I have not received the report from the captain as yet and thus cannot elaborate any further.
- III. The NBAA once again sent 2 anglers to the 2018 B.A.S.S. Nation Championships held at Pickwick Lake, Alabama in the USA from the 06th to the 10th of November 2018. Alec Williams represented Namibia as the 'boater' and Thinus Williams represented Namibia as 'non boater'.

Executive Council:

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
James van Rooyen (Tournament Director) • Hendrik Pretorius (Conservation Officer) • Anton de Wit (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)



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

This was Alec's third time competing at the championships and Thinus's second time.

Executive Council of 2018:

Vice Chairman, Alec Williams, has, as mentioned above, resigned from the executive council after 8 year of loyal service.

Secretary, Collette Carstens, managed once again to keep all the loose pieces of string together and in between it all gave birth to a beautiful baby girl. Congratulations Collette and Lourens. I honestly don't know how I would manage without Collette. She did consider resigning from EXCO to be able to spend more time with her family but fortunately for us all she has committed to at least one more year.

Treasurer, Neels van Tonder, has once again been the financial level head of the executive council throughout the course of the year. Neels is very analytical which is most certainly a very valuable asset to have in any Executive Council. Thank you Neels for all the time and effort you put in. Neels has also been on the executive council for many years, serving you, the members, to make the cogs of the NBAA turn without expecting anything in return but to see the sport of bass angling in Namibia thrive. Thank you Neels, you are indeed a special person.

Development Officer, Johan Coetzee, joined the executive council after Anton de Wit's sudden resignation early in 2018. Johan was introduced to bass fishing through the junior divisions in the Western Cape and is a firm believer in the fact that juniors are the future of our sport. Johan also served on the conservation committee and has put in a lot of time and effort into the running of the fisheries management events. Thank you, Johan, for making your time available to improve the sport of bass angling in Namibia.

Conservation Officer, Nic Kruger, has unfortunately realized that he has bitten off more than he can chew and is unable commit for 2019 due to a family with young children as well as a booming business which is just growing from strength to strength. Nic did make a concerted effort through the course of the year and I would like to thank him for all the effort and time he did put in. The conservation portfolio's importance has been elevated rather drastically in the last year or so needs to be driven by a team that can afford the time and effort to push conservation forward on an annual basis.

Public relations officer, Andrew Hall, has been in the position for 2½ years and is absolutely excelling in everything he does. The NBAA's Facebook page is exceptionally active drawing audiences from all corners of the globe. Andrew has also been active once again in written press. Andrew is also instrumental in obtaining sponsorships for the NBAA and also keeping our sponsors happy behind the scenes with written reports after each event. I want to thank Andrew for his time, effort and commitment to the sport of bass angling in Namibia. Fortunately Andrew has accepted his nomination for 2019 and his amazing work will continue. Andrew has however advised that he has taken on new and huge responsibilities at work and that his work will take priority.

Tournament Director, Hendrik Pretorius, completed a 3 year term as conservation and took over the portfolio at the begin of 2018. Hendriks inputs throughout the course of the year have been tremendous. Hendrik is the one who makes sure that our tournaments run as smooth as they do, making sure the weigh station is there and clean and ready for action. Hendrik's efficiency when it comes to calculating scores as well as sorting out tournament related issues in also commendable. Hendrik has proven himself to be a valuable asset to the NBAA. Thank you Hendrik.

Executive Council:

*Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
James van Rooyen (Tournament Director) • Hendrik Pretorius (Conservation Officer) • Anton de Wit (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)*



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

A personal and very special highlight for me in 2018 was the import of live bass from South Africa for the 1st time in 18 years. Unfortunately the drought did not only affect us both also our neighbors and as a result we could not get as many and as large bass to stock our dams with. None the less we managed to safely import 730 northern strain largemouth bass from the Cape and released 350 odd in Oanob and 350 odd in S. Von Bach. Dr Neil Deacon was very excited to hear that the imports were northern strain purely because of the introduction of fresh genes into the Namibian bass population gene pool. The fresh genes pave the way for even better bass angling in the near future as well as the possibility of Namibia being able to boast about its own trophy bass venue in the very near future.

The hatchery in the Cape received really good rains early in 2018 and they have been almost solely focusing on the breeding of bass and have allocated almost all their resources to this. The NBAA has already committed to purchasing a rather large quantity. The distribution will depend on a few factors such as permits from the Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources as well as the current state of our existing fisheries. The conservation committee in consultation with experts will have to make that call when the time is right.

2019 Perspective:

The executive council of 2019 will once again face all the challenges of an organization that has grown tremendously over the past 2 years and is set to grow even more in years to come. We now have 3 official teams which can compete at international events annually as well as 2 individual anglers that compete on one of the biggest stages in bass angling in the world. We cannot afford to drop the ball now and must push on to get our beloved sport to new levels in years to come.

Fisheries management was very new to all of us and seemed like an impossible mountain to climb. We went into it head first and full steam because of our shocking fishing since 2015 and I must admit that the NBAA expected a lot from its members in 2018 with a staggering 10 fisheries management days for the year. We needed to do what we needed to do and I would like to thank each and every member that worked really hard to get our fisheries to what they are now. We learnt some things the hard way, like the planting of 1000's of reeds and plants only to see them being ripped out by baboons or being shriveled by the sun. Through all the trial and error I believe that we can work out successful fisheries management policies based on experience in our own waters. I would also like to thank everybody that made financial contributions as well as everybody that sponsored the events. Fisheries management in 2019 will be as important.

I also believe that 2019 must be a year where the executive council focusses intensely into the stocking of a third Namibian venue.

I wish the executive council of 2019 as well as the sub committees a year of 2019 and success in all endeavors entered into.

Yours truly,

Richard Grant (Chairman – NBAA)

Executive Council:

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Alec Williams (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer)
James van Rooyen (Tournament Director) • Hendrik Pretorius (Conservation Officer) • Anton de Wit (Development Officer)
• Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)