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NBAA DEVELOPMENT REPORT AND GOALS – 2019 / 2020:

1. 2019 in Hindsight

The 2018 season was mired by the continued severe drought conditions experience widely throughout Namibia. Although some needed rains were indeed received at the beginning of the season, the ecosystems on our major fisheries had yet to recover from these conditions.

Although some better results were experienced than in 2018, the season the fishing conditions still proved tough for most anglers and fishing events hosted by the NBAA, which demotivates new entrants into the sport rather than recruiting new members and developing the sport itself.

This contributed, whether in some cases only partially, to the cancellation of the Corporate Bass Challenge and the Summer Bass Classic which were scheduled for the 2019 season.

Irrespective of the above, the NBAA managed to host 3 development events:

1.1 The Junior Development event – 16 March 2019

The NBAA collaborated with the Scouts of Namibia to host junior development events as scheduled in the 2019 NBAA calendar, focussing on developing juniors in the sport of bass fishing and fishing in general, but also aid the Scouts of Namibia in affording their members the opportunity to obtain their fishing “badge” and thereby aiding the Scouts of Namibia in achieving their goals as well.

The aim of the events was to host a tournament format fishing event for the juniors, whereby NBAA members would avail their time, their skills, their boats and tackle required for juniors to catch a bass.

Ultimately, 26 juniors registered for the event, of which 17 were scouts, and 9 were juniors from the NBAA’s side, where NBAA members sparked the interest amongst their friends and families.

10 NBAA members attended as skippers for the day, which was a somewhat disappointing quantum considering the commitments made by NBAA members at the previous year AGM, but overall still considered an excellent turnout. In total, 18 fish were brought to the scales, with 15 juniors weighing in.

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The results were widely publicized through social and other media. Subsequently, two juniors who attended the event have joined the NBAA ranks, and will be fishing the next upcoming tournament on the 30th of March 2019. Multiple enquiries were also received on the next junior development day. It's clear that the response by the community is beyond belief, speaking to the success of the day and the need for such events from the fishing- and general community.

The full report is attached for perusal.

1.2 The Junior Development event – 12 October 2019

The NBAA continued the junior development initiative in collaboration with the Scouts of Namibia by hosting the second event as scheduled. Partnering with NALAA this time around, it cemented future initiatives with the Scouts of Namibia, the NBAA and NALAA.

Ultimately, 31 juniors registered for the event, of which 15 were scouts, and 16 were juniors from the NBAA and NALAA's side, where NBAA and NALAA members sparked the interest amongst their friends and families.

8 NBAA and 4 NALAA members attended as skippers, which, even though somewhat disappointing considering the commitments made by NBAA members at the previous year's AGM, was still considered a good turnout. This is testament to the intent and commitment of some members in developing not only bass fishing, but fishing in general, as a sport in Namibia.

In total, a whopping 2,470cm of fish were brought to the scales, with 24 juniors weighing in. Once again, the results were widely publicized through social and other media.

The day was without a doubt a massive success. Collaboration with NALAA proved invaluable as it not only extended the number of available skippers, but also the number of weighable species which made it much more interesting for the juniors.

The full report is attached for perusal.

1.3 The Winter Classic - 29 June 2019

The NBAA and NALAA collaborated to host the 2019 Winter Classic. The tournament format was based on the standard NALAA rules, which allowed anglers to target all available species in the dam, and measuring their catches on the weigh mats on the boat, and a video is made of the entire process including the release of the fish. This system proved to work excellently, especially from a conservation point of view, as the fish are released immediately in the area they are caught.

In total, 16 anglers attended the event, 9 senior men, 2 senior women and 5 juniors, which is considered an excellent turnout given the cold and windy conditions.

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In total, 7 fish were caught, consisting of 4 bass, 1 carp and 2 barbel.

The event was considered a success, seeing that 5 juniors attended, speaking to the development of freshwater fishing in Namibia, and also having anglers fish in winter conditions, which is not something typically done in Namibia.

The full report is attached for perusal.

2. 2019 / 2020 Development Goals:

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

2.1 Junior Development

Special focus is placed on attracting and recruiting junior anglers, as juniors are the future of our sport. Due to the interest sparked in the fishing community for such events, and the enormous support from sponsors, the NBAA will aim to rebirth the junior fishing league in Namibia.

The NBAA will be hosting 2 junior events as scheduled in the NBAA calendar, continuing the collaboration with the Scouts of Namibia and NALAA, in which we will invite juniors to experience the sport of fishing in its purist form. These events will also serve as the national tournaments for the juniors. Finally, there is a motion for junior trials scheduled as well on the NBAA calendar, where a Namibian Junior team will be selected to join the Region V Junior International hosted in December each year.

This promises to be an excellent initiative, which will cement the future of our beloved sport for futures to come. The NBAA appeals to all its members to avail themselves for this cause as skippers will be required for this initiative, and to invest in the future of the sport.

This goes without saying that the fishing conditions drastically needs to improve to make a success of these initiatives.

2.2 Ladies League

We are focussing on getting our pre-existing ladies league up and running again, as this is also a facet of the sport which has deteriorated significantly during the drought and poor fishing conditions. We will be looking at attracting female members to participate again with performance prizes for competitions as well reiterating the ladies trophy for every season.

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2.3 Corporate Bass Challenge (“CBC”)

Once again, we will host the annual CBC this year. Although the 2018 and 2019 CBC had to be cancelled due to somewhat disappointing and poor fishing conditions, as well as lack of interest and attendance from NBAA members, we are looking forward at hosting this event once again in 2020 to promote our sport amongst some of the industry leaders in this great country with what is promising to be improved fishing conditions. Details on this event will be communicated in future.

2.4 Winter Classic

Once again, we will host the annual Winter Classic this year in collaboration with NALAA. We are looking forward at hosting this event once again in 2020 to promote our sport, and appeal to all members to make the effort to come enjoy a different format of fishing in testing conditions to separate the proverbial “men from the mice”. Details on this event will be communicated in future.

2.5 International Development

One of the best attended international events on our calendar, being the annual Clan William Winter Bass Classic at Clan William dam in the Western Cape will once again be one of our supported development events, and hopefully be well presented by Namibian demographic.

Another international event is the 2020 Presidents Team invitation that the NBAA received. This is an annual Presidents Competition between Zimbabwe and South Africa, and Namibia was invited to attend, either by way of a full field or invitational team. More on this to follow in the future.

3. Conclusion

Even though we are faced with some significant challenges during these tough fishing times, and economic times, we are adamant on promoting and developing the sport of bass fishing, and fresh water fishing in Namibia as a whole. The action items and goals set out above should see us achieve this ultimate goal, all the while keeping conservation and sustainability in mind.

Johan Coetzee
Development Officer
NBAA

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