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21 November 2019

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

### 2019 Chairman's Report,

2019 was a year with ups and downs for the NBAA. The biggest down of the year is without doubt that our bass angling impoundments received very little to no inflow and the effects of the devastating drought throughout Southern Africa continues to devastate the natural world as well as the farming world and in turn the economic world. The current economic recession and rampant corruption in our country have had negative effects on all sectors and even the NBAA is feeling the pinch. Despite all of this we have had a busy year with some tough yet rewarding fishing on both our venues. Membership has declined slightly in terms of senior and lady members which was fortunately made up for with the addition of no less than 8 junior members added following the tremendous success of our junior days held. For the first time in some years we had juniors competing on the circuit. The executive council have been in discussions with the Region V junior conveners of South Africa and Zimbabwe and received an open invitation to attend the Region V Junior Test which is due to be held on Albert Falls in Natal in a few weeks' time. Unfortunately, we had to decline for 2019 but did make a commitment to do everything in our power to send a junior team (most likely an invitational team) to the 2020 test to be held in Zimbabwe at the end of 2020. Such progressions for the NBAA have been identified by the executive council at vitally important for the longevity of the association and therefore we have committed maximum efforts and resourced towards taking junior bass angling in Namibia to new levels in the future. I myself have had a junior on my boat all year and just seeing the progressions, commitment and excitement makes it all worth it.

The tournament year turned out to be much tougher than 2018 with 290 scoreable bass being weighed in at all tournaments throughout the year compared to over 550 last year. Less than half showing that the receding water levels is once again taking its toll. Most fish caught through the season were really good quality largemouth bass averaging 1,298kg compared to 700g in 2018. The heaviest bass, a beautiful specimen weighing 2,814kg was caught this past weekend at trials by Alec Williams and the heaviest bag was incidentally also caught at trials by Jürgen Geiger weighing 8,142kg.

The mixed forecasts of either good rain or above average rainfall in the coming season always manage to put doubt in one's mind. One however needs to stay positive and believe that the end of this calamite's drought is on the horizon. I believe that with all the effort and resources we have put into making our bass impoundments the best that they can be will be well rewarded with once the dams are full. The management of our resource is partially in our hands and this must continue into the future with emphasis on improvement and expansion.

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#### **Executive Council:**

Richard Grant (Chairman) • Johan Coetzee (Vice Chairman) • Collette Carstens (Executive Secretary) • Neels van Tonder (Treasurer) • Neil Engelbrecht (Tournament Director) • Pierre Fourie (Conservation Officer) • James van Rooyen (Development Officer) • Andrew Hall (Public Relations Officer)



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The Executive Council and the NBAA have had an extremely eventful and busy year.

Herewith a summary of tournaments hosted / international tournaments attended / events hosted in 2019:

#### National Tournaments:

The NBAA hosted 5 national tournaments though the course of 2019 with one tournament still scheduled to take place in 2020. The changes were forced upon us and all avenues were explored. The solution of hosting the last tournament in 2020 was the only plausible one. The tournaments were well attended by members as well as junior anglers.

#### Other Tournaments / Events Hosted / Events Attended:

In addition to the National Tournaments hosted in 2019 the NBAA also hosted / attended the following events:

- i. The annual NBAA Windhoek Golf Day & Bowls day scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> of June had to be cancelled due to lack of team entries to host a viable event. This resulted in an embarrassment for us when we had to refund the teams that had entered and explain the situation. Fortunately, the financial loss was minimal due to good contacts and some groveling. The viability of future golf days must be addressed, without member support EXCO is just wasting.
- iii. National Championships / National Trials was held at S. Von Bach from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 2019. Only 13 anglers, compared to 23 from last year competed for a berth in a national team as well as the title of national champion. This unfortunately means that we will only be able to field a World Championships team as well as a Region V team (possibly not full) and no president's team in 2020. Congratulations to our 2019 champion, Jürgen Geiger. Hot on his heels was Jacques Marais and Thinus Williams. Well done to all that competed.
- iv. The 2019 Old Mutual Corporate Bass Challenge was also cancelled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row. Unfortunately, Old Mutual could not commit to sponsoring the event due to the ailing economy. EXCO deliberated and decided it would be best to cancel again. Old Mutual has ensured us that the sponsorship withdrawal is temporary and that they will be including the 2020 CBC in their budgets for approval.
- v. The 2018 B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier was held at Lake Oanob from the 27<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. The attendance was poor with only 11 boats at the event compared to 26 last year. The fishing was challenging to say the least, but some anglers still managed to find a few to bring to the scales.

Congratulations to Duan Kotze for taking the gold medal and to Thinus Williams and Jürgen Geiger for finishing second and third respectively.

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#### International Events:

- I. For the 1<sup>st</sup> time since the inception of Region V Namibia could not field a team for the 2019 Region V Bass Angling Championships due to the fact that not enough anglers had accrued sufficient points to be nominated. This left Namibia with half a team and as a result could not compete. The void left behind as result is hard to explain and really hard to digest.
- II. The Namibia National World Championships Bass Angling Team travelled to the Vaal River, to compete at the FIPSeD / CIPS Black Bass World Championships from the 9<sup>th</sup> of February to the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2019. The event was coupled with the World Games of Angling and was a really prestigious affair. I was fortunate enough to have been part of this team. Unfortunately, the result was very disappointing for me. Congratulations to the team for representing Namibia with pride at all times.
- III. Our B.A.S.S. Nation contenders for 2019 were Thinus Williams and Jürgen Geiger who travelled to the fables Lake Hartwell in the USA. Thinus ended 56<sup>th</sup> place as boater and Jürgen ended a very respectable 19<sup>th</sup> as non-boater. Congratulations guys, you made us very proud.
- IV. Team Namibia also competed as an invitational team at the 2019 Region V Presidents test held at De Hoop Dam in South Africa from the 28<sup>th</sup> of July till the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August. The team consisted of Thinus Williams (Captain), Alec Williams, Duan Kotze, Andrew Hall and Nic Kruger. This was without doubt the proudest moment of the year for the NBAA. Our team did exceptionally well and won the mini test between the 3 countries. The boat pairing of Andrew Hall and Duan Kotze was also the best boat of the entire event. Congratulations to the entire team, you made us really proud.

#### Development Events:

Undoubtably, the highlight of the year for me were the massively successful junior events we hosted in collaboration in the Scouts of Namibia. Seeing the expression on the youngsters faces made all the effort worth it. I am a firm believer that the youth of today need tackle boxes and not x-boxes. Every child must be exposed to the great outdoors in order to live life to the fullest and to become the conservationists of tomorrow. Events such as these would not be possible without the commitment of EXCO and in particular the development officer as well as sponsors and most importantly members availing their time, money and equipment for the cause. A special word of thanks must be extended to Johan Coetzee for convening the event. I want to encourage all members to take note of the junior dates for next year and avail themselves for this worthy cause.

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#### Conservation Events:

A sore point for the EXCO of 2019 as we had to cancel 2 conservation events in 2019 due to poor member support. Fisheries management was discussed in detail at the 2018 AGM and members present ensured the executive council that forcing members to take part was not the way to go and that members would support knowing that we can control the destiny of our fisheries. Unfortunately, the commitment did not last long and EXCO found itself struggling to put together successful fisheries management days. We did manage to rally almost all EXCO members for the structure building day held at Lake Oanob in June and ended up with a great outcome after a day's hard work. Only one member not on EXCO joined us for the day, thank you Wilbur Slabber. A special word of thanks must also be extended to James van Rooyen for sponsoring the pallets used as well as arranging the truck that delivered them.

On the international scene the NBAA is considered to be the pioneers of fisheries management in Africa, with all the other African countries seeing our results and to attempt to emulate our success. The NBAA is proud of this achievement and is currently working with SABAA Western Cape. They too have been granted permission to sample catfish and are well underway with the project.

#### Other Events:

The annual NBAA prize giving day was held at Benguela Angling's club house early in 2019. Unfortunately, the event was poorly attended by members but despite this was a roaring success. Our sponsors attended too and here handed a small token of appreciation from us for making our sport possible. The event is intended to be a social event for the entire family with activities for the kids. I appeal to all members to insert the date for the 2020 prize giving into your calendars now and join us in recognizing achievement coupled with a fun filled day.

#### Executive Council of 2019:

It was a tough year for the executive council starting the year off and managing for almost half a year with no less than 3 vacancies. EXCO members doubled up on their portfolios and did an exceptional job of keeping everything together. Thank you to my team for putting in the extra hours to keep this association running smoothly. We were persistent and kept on advertising the vacancies and eventually some members agreed to fill the void. After a small re-shuffle the executive council was at full strength again ready to tackle the rest of 2019.

Vice Chairman, Johan Coetzee, took over the portfolio during the middle of 2019. Johan has proven that he can lead this association confidentially and successfully into the future. Johan is committed and always willing to solve any issues that cross our paths. Thank you for your enthusiasm, effort and commitment Johan.

Secretary, Collette Carstens, was once again the behind the scenes rock of the NBAA. Collette's impeccable organization and level head has been key to our success over the past 8 years. Family and work commitments have unfortunately led to Collette's decision to resign from the executive council. Thank you, Collette, for everything you have done over the last 8 years, your service has meant the world to me in my administration and to the NBAA.

Treasurer, Neels van Tonder, has once again been the financial level head of the executive council throughout the course of the year. Neels also doubled up as Vice Chairman for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the year. Thank you for your service Neels, it is essential for the NBAA.

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Development Officer, James van Rooyen, joined the executive council in the middle of year after Johan Coetzee had doubled up in the portfolio for the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2019. James, who was previously an EXCO member, understands the importance of development for the longevity of the association and is focused on the task at hand, particularly the junior development.

Conservation Officer, Pierre Fourie, also joined EXCO in the middle of the year and was thrown in the deep end from the start. The portfolio has become huge, from a few years ago when the conservation's officer only recorded stats, to what it is now with the implementation of fisheries management. Pierre's job was not easy, and his biggest struggle was rallying members to assist. Unfortunately, Pierre has chosen not to continue to serve on EXCO in 2020 due to personal reasons. I would like to thank Pierre for his objectiveness, effort and enthusiasm. He is a man with integrity and always has a smile on his face ready to tackle any task.

Public relations officer, Andrew Hall, has been in the position for 3½ years already and is the driving force behind all the publicity. Andrew also does a tremendous job keeping our Facebook page running which is by far our most effective communication tool we have. Thank you, Andrew, we are most certainly privileged to have you serve on EXCO.

Tournament Director, Neil Engelbrecht, also joined the EXCO during the middle of the year after Hendrik Pretorius's sudden resignation. As a past chairman Neil knew what he was letting himself in for and yet unselfishly volunteered to assist. Your devotion is commendable, thank you Neil.

#### 2020 Perspective:

The executive council of 2020 will once again face all the challenges of an organization that has grown tremendously over the past 5 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. In addition to this FLW Namibia offers new opportunities for more anglers for more anglers to get one step closer to living the dream in the USA.

There are some urgent matters than need to be attended to in 2020 which include fisheries management and fund raising and most importantly the stocking of a third venue for bass angling.

I wish the executive council of 2020 as well as the sub committees a year of success in all endeavors entered into.

Yours truly,

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Richard Grant (Chairman – NBAA)

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