

TFFC (Middelpunt) Fishery Report for the 2018/2019 Season

Summary

Although the season started in June 2018 with full dams the rains fell mainly from January onwards. Periods of very hot weather with temperatures reaching record highs for Dullstroom had an adverse effect on the fish and fishing. Fortunately, the rains fell well into April with the result that we start the 2019/20 season with full dams. 1634 rainbows and 219 browns were stocked. In recent years we have tended to stock fewer but larger fish. Due to the decrease in membership and occupancy the stocking of rainbows was reduced this season.

Number of fish killed (359) was down on season while the number of fish released (946) showed an increase. As noted last year the percentage of fish caught compared with number stocked was disappointing. This, despite the fact that the average size of rainbows stocked was over 850g to try and reduce predator loss.

There is no doubt that predation due to both white breasted cormorants and spotted neck otters has had a significant impact on the fish population in the last 4 years.

1. Rainbows stocked vs. captured: 1994 - 2019

Season	No. stocked	No. killed	No. C&R*	% killed	% killed+C&R.
1994/5	3206	1923	454	60,0	74,1
1995/6	2684	1730	373	64,5	78,3
1996/7	2523	1864	518	74,1	94,4
1997/8	2599	1784	454	64,3	93,8
1998/9	2518	1188	708	47,2	75,3
1999/00	3352	1394	715	41,6	62,9
2000/01	3035	1778	1360	58,6	103,4
2001/02	2746	1714	1477	62,4	116,2
2002/3	2455	1454	850	59,2	93,8
2003/4	2349	888	576	37,8	62,3
2004/5	2400	1236	1063	51,5	95,8
2005/6	2480	1019	1142	41,1	87,1
2006/7	1495	715	860	47,8	105,4
2007/8	1861	861	1159	46,3	108,5
2008/9	1498	767	992	51,2	117,4
2009/10	1926	705	1014	36,6	89,3
2010/11	1844	802	1209	43,5	109,1
2011/12	2066	709	1374	34,3	100,8
2012/13	2064	677	1362	32,8	98,8
2013/14	2000	657	1282	32,9	97,0
2014/15	2200	780	1375	35,5	98,0
2015/16	2520	496	893	19,7	55,1
2016/17	2308	435	847	18,8	55,5
2017/18	1964	432	891	22,0	67,4
2018/19	1634	357	946	21,8	79,7

*C&R = Catch & Release

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2. All trout (rainbows + browns) stocked vs recapture rates: 1994 – 2019

Season	No stocked	No. killed	No. returned	No. killed + C&R
1994/5	3206	1923	454	2377
1995/6	2684	1730	373	2103
1996/7	2523	1864	518	2382
1997/8	2599	1784	454	2238
1998/9	2590	1188	708	1896
1999/00	3403	1417	766	2183
2000/01	3235	1807	1454	3261
2001/2	2891	1766	1622	3388
2002/3	2625	1516	940	2456
2003/4	2349	901	594	1495
2004/5	2521	1260	1131	2391
2005/6	2455	1050	1231	2281
2006/7	1645	732	941	1673
2007/8	2064	879	1178	2057
2008/9	1713	789	1072	1861
2009/10	2080	726	1047	1773
2010/11	1928	810	1248	2058
2011/12	2122	716	1414	2130
2012/13	2104	685	1378	2063
2013/14	2000	657	1286	1933
2014/15	2200	780	1375	2155
2015/16	2520	496	893	1389
2016/17	2308	435	847	1299
2017/18	1964	436	938	1374
2018/19	1853	358	979	1377

C&R= Catch & Release

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3. Avg. length, CF & mass plus total mass killed (Rainbows): 1996 – 2019.

Season	Avg. length	Avg. CF	Avg. mass killed	Total mass killed
1996/7	41,5 cm	122	852g	1638 kg
1997/8	41,1 cm	117	824g	1426 kg
1998/9	41,5 cm	119	815g	968 kg
1999/00	39,7 cm	118	735g	1024 kg
2000/01	41,1 cm	122	841g	1495 kg
2001/2	41,8 cm	123	901g	1544 kg
2002/3	41,0 cm	120	837g	1216 kg
2003/4	40,2 cm	124	806g	706 kg
2004/5	40,5 cm	129	852g	1053 kg
2005/6	40,9 cm	126	860g	876 kg
2006/7	42,0 cm	126	936g	669 kg
2007/8	41,1 cm	119	818g	704 kg
2008/9	41,1 cm	121	836g	641 kg
2009/10	40,9 cm	123	842g	594 kg
2010/11	43,0 cm	119	955g	766 kg
2011/12	41,0 cm	127	879g	623 kg
2012/13	40,0 cm	130	832g	563 kg
2013/14	41,4 cm	126	899g	591 kg
2014/15	41,5 cm	126	898g	700 kg
2015/16	42,0cm	122	896g	444 kg
2016/17	40,6cm	122	850g	370 kg
2017/18	41,3 cm	126	890g	384 kg
2018/19	41,2 cm	122	850g	303 kg

4 Four largest fish in 2018/19

Mass	Angler	Month	Dam	Species	CF	Length
2500g	V. Song	June	5	Rainbow	142	56 cm
2100g	C. Arrandale	Dec	5	Rainbow	141	53 cm
2000g	J. Dickenson	Oct	5	Rainbow	127	54 cm
1950g	V.Song	August	5	Rainbow	147	51 cm

A number of similar sized fish were either not weighed or were released. A probable reason for most of the larger fish being caught in Dam 5 is that these had supplementary feed from pellets falling out of the grass carp cages.

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5. Breakdown of 2018/19 results by dam: No. Stocked vs. Killed & C & R* (Rainbows)

Dam	Stocked	No. Killed	Killed as % Stocked	No. C&R	C&R as % Stocked	C&R + Kill as % Stocked.
1	58	2	3,4	51	87,9	91,4
2	172	60	34,9	144	83,7	118,6
3	431	75	17,4	195	45,2	62,6
4	125	44	35,2	87	69,6	104,8
5	370	84	22,7	179	48,4	71,1
6	123	10	8,1	53	43,1	51,2
7	355	82	23,1	237	66,8	89,9
Totals	1634	357	21,8	946	57,9	79,7

*C&R= Catch & Release. Note that Dam 1 has become a catch and release dam.

6. Number of members compared with number visits (a visit = a record form completed)

Year	1998/9	1999/00	2000/1	2001/2	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9
No. Members	90	91	91	95	95	95	100	100	100	110	110
No. Visits	500	542	617	623	603	439	479	476	388	453	432
Year	2009/10	2010/11	2011/2	2012/3	2013/4	2014/15	2015/6	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	
No. Members	110	110	110	110	110	110	108	109	108	98	
No. Visits	394	446	424	405	435	416	340	347	361	314	

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