

## Save South African Trout

“They’re aliens and should be exterminated!”

Sounds like the stereotypical hysterical reaction from the Oval office, right out of a science fiction movie. It’s enough to get any fundamentalist strapping on the C4!

Like any attention seeking politician would, it seems “Kortbroek” and his clan of propeller caps are intent on championing *the righteous cause* at the expense of the tax paying public.

To argue the responsibility of stocking any exotic fish into an indigenous system is as rhetorical as it is dull. Pampering to the pastimes of the colonial elite without consideration of the environmental impact...obviously it was fool hardy! But it’s history and short of turning back the wheel it’s pretty pointless standing on your soapbox and wagging your finger Martinus.

Trout, as a food source and the associated fly fishing tourism is an industry that employs thousands of South Africans and contributes millions to our economy. In fact old boy you might go as far as to say that it pays your salary, as after all, Minister of **Tourism** and Environmental Affairs is your title is it not?

Like our esteemed ex-president, who exercised immense restraint in taking the long road, as opposed to inciting the masses for immediate action, you might want to consider mediating with your constituents.

What is indigenous anyway, do Afrikaners’ belong in Africa or half of the tribes who’ve historically fled South over time for that matter. Is a lion that crosses the trans frontier boundary into South Africa alien? How about a bird that migrates from North Africa...you know of course that trout are endemic to North Africa. Where are the boundaries? How far do you want to go back? The world was a single land mass at one point in time after all.... so indigenous is very relative!

A lot will be said over the forthcoming months about the right of trout to exist in our waters, much of it biased and most of it will be based on *educated* opinions rather than data, and quite frankly it will bore most of us to death, so without droning on our campaign is:-

**To support any initiative to conserve Indigenous Aquatic Biodiversity whilst ensuring that a policy framework is implemented to protect the trout industry as we believe there is a need for controlled production and utilization of trout in our Country.**

**As it stands, the errors in the NEMBA (National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act 2004) means that your trout fishing days are numbered.**

**Our aim is raise awareness on the plight of the valuable trout resource and provide the powers that be with a petition to ensure that the right policy frame work is in place on which correct legislation can be enforced.**

**Email [savetrout@wildfly.co.za](mailto:savetrout@wildfly.co.za) and help us to conserve our fisheries and sport for future generations.**