

Mpumalanga 2015/16 Trout Association AGM

By Ian Cox



I attended the annual general meeting of the Mpumalanga Trout Forum on 21 January. C

Three important things emerged namely:

1. The massive role trout fishing plays in the economy of the area. Over 20% of Dullstroom is employed directly as a result of trout fishing. Trout fishing accounts for most of the employment in the adjacent _____ township.
2. The support the value chain enjoys in the national and provincial department of fisheries. They also have a problem with Environmental officials who are riding roughshod over their efforts to do their jobs. They need our support to intervene with the politicians to stop this bullying.
3. That despite all the meetings and the reams that have been written about the issue many profess a great deal of ignorance about what is going on. Hence the need for an idiots guide.

The meeting was well attended but not as well as the meeting that took place in Mpumalanga in July last year. The difference between the two meetings is that the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Authority were prosecuting trout farm owners last year.

This year they have got a lot subtler choosing instead to employ tactics of divide and rule. This has lulled a lot of the farmers into a false sense of security, the attitude being I have my permit so what is the problem.
