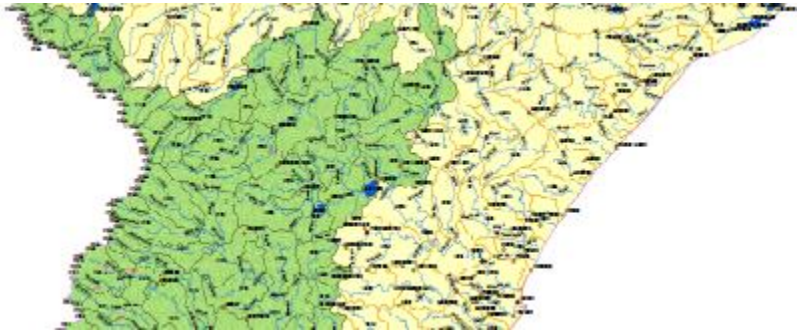


Where Trout Are

By Ian Cox



Trout South Africa working closely with FOSAF have mapped where trout are in South Africa. This has been a massive task. These maps which include data provided from government and in some cases are the result of close collaboration between Trout SA FOSAF and environmental authorities has now been submitted to the Department of Environmental affairs for comment.

They are available online in pdf format at

<http://filegooli.co.za/get2/ea0ae535f7df2e027dab90e7b86d2a52/WhereTroutAreTroutSA4March2015.zip>

They make interesting viewing.

These maps were produced as part of a process that will see the trout value being encouraged in areas where they already exist. Thus trout will not be listed as invasive in these areas unless the area has been declared as a state owned nature reserve. Though there is considerable disagreement over whether trout are in fact invasive, by way of compromise trout will be declared as invasive in those nature reserves and where they do not exist in category 2. The DEA does not intend eradicating category 2 invasive species. According to the DEA category 2 invasive species must be managed by permit.

Trout will not require a permit in areas where they are not listed as invasive. However the translocation of live trout will be monitored through a process of self-regulation in order to militate against the risk of trout being unlawfully introduced into waters where trout are declared invasive.

Trout SA and FOSAF are presently working with government in order to iron out the detail of this agreement. The devil as they say lies in the detail so don't expect smooth sailing. There are still significant constituencies inside our environmental authorities who want to see trout eradicated despite government policy and the agreement referred to above.

The production of these maps and the work that is being done to save trout has only been possible because of the massive support Trout SA and FOSAF have received from trout fisherman. This support is much appreciated.

Our work is not over. Much of the future stability of the trout fishery lies in how aquaculture trout aquaculture is to be managed under the proposed aquaculture bill. Trout SA and through it FOSAF

are also working closely with government to see that the promise of an environment that enables the trout value chain and thus trout fishing enabling environment is translated into law.
