



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SOCIETY OF AQUATIC SCIENTISTS

NEWSLETTER – August 2005

1. Journal and membership

Mike Coke has advised that the Journal is available online. However, Hendrik Jerling and I are compiling the list to send to Nisc and I will advise when we have access – hopefully in the next week. Mike Coke comments:

“Please forward this to all "SASaQs mail" people to inform them that Afr. J. Aquat. Sci. Vol 30 (1) is now available online. If anybody has hassles, or does not soon receive their hard copy if they paid for it FIRST contact "sandra@nisc.co.za" to ask why. If NISC say they weren't told to make it available to the enquirer ONLY THEN contact the SASaQs treasurer hjerling@pan.uzulu.ac.za to determine their subscriptions status.”

Please note that members with more than two years subs outstanding will not have their names submitted to Nisc for online access. Hendrik is sending out statements next week. These statements will also reflect the cost of a printed copy for those that have requested one.

Hendrik has noted the following payments into the SASaQs account but has absolutely no knowledge of who they are from. The amounts suggest payment for a number of people, but don't add up. If you recognise any of these payments, please contact Hendrik asap.

24Jan 2005 Rhodes University R350.00
4 Feb 2005 Cashfocus SASOL TECHNOLOGY R1,170.00
28 Feb 2005 BASDWT NAT: WATER000051067 R1,170.00
19 Apr 2005 BASDWA NA: WATE000074396 R1,170.00

If you transfert money directly into our account, please use the reference as supplied on your statement and preferably e-mail a copy of the transaction to Hendrik so he knows who paid how much for what.

Does anyone have the current e-mail address for Gonasagren Naidoo from Botany at UKZN (ex UDW)? His gnaidoo@pixie.udw.c.za address returns as undeliverable and my attempts to trace him on the UKZN website have failed.

2. SASaQs AGM and Grahamstown Conference

Thanks to Lil Haigh for getting the AGM and SASaQs dinner organised, and to Wynand Vlok for representing the Exco. In the meeting it was agreed that we may combine with Zoosoc again as it worked very well and would most likely be at Potch.

SASaQs put up a prize of R400 for the best water poster. Congratulations to Mathew Ross for his winning poster on breeding fish. I have included Lil's comments on the posters as they are very pertinent. From Lil:

“I had organised a table for about 20 people at the restaurant 137 High Street. All the places were taken and people from all the Universities who were present came. We had two tables of academics and one table of students. And we just had fun! It was wine, women and NO song. The staff eventually asked us to go home NOW. I attended the papers on Friday which were mainly on biomonitoring toxicology and they were interesting on the whole. The posters

were quite a mixed lot. Some were good and others not very. People lose sight of the aim of a poster, easy to read, (short sentences and bullets), easy to see, (big font and sharp contrast with background) and the result should be big! No need to put your greatest discovery on a poster. The best poster was a unanimous choice by the 4 judges. It was a standout for visual clarity.

3. River information

From Mike Silberbauer:

Resource Quality Services in the Department of Water Affairs & Forestry has released an update of the South African and adjacent basins river coverage at 1:500,000 scale. The coverage is available for download at :

http://www.dwaf.gov.za/iwqs/gis_data/river/rivs500k.html

It is available as a single coverage, or as separate shape files for each primary drainage region. Lungile Gaulana, while working as an intern at RQS, painstakingly worked through the river coverage during the first part of 2005, mainly checking names (named rivers are up from 6206 to 7568 of about 10000 arcs: 97.8% of a random sample of 1% of all SA arcs had correct naming). We at RQS have also used the Shuttle Radar Topography Mission 90-metre-cell digital elevation model to try to improve river alignment in Lesotho, where no 1:50,000 rivers are available for comparison. Spatial accuracy has improved, especially in remote parts. Only 1.1% of arcs do not match the 1:50,000 coverage while a further 4.3% of arcs are in areas with no 1:50,000 arcs for reference. The greatest error is in the classification of rivers as perennial and non-perennial: only 83.9% have the same designation as the 1:50,000 rivers.

Thank you to all those who have sent in comments on errors and omissions, and please keep the information coming.

4. Vacancy @ EKZNW – with corrected salary scale!

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS ECOLOGIST BIODIVERSITY: HEAD OFFICE

**Total Remuneration Package : R 149 879.10 per annum
(Grade D2)**

Purpose of the job:

As a member of the Head Office-based Biodiversity Conservation Planning team, the incumbent will be required to manage the freshwater aquatic ecosystem conservation planning process, manage and report on the wetland inventory in KwaZulu-Natal, contribute to the ongoing provincial wetland status assessment, manage and report on Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife's river health monitoring programme, co-ordinate and collate surveys of freshwater-associated biota, manage the capture and analysis of freshwater data in the biodiversity database, liaise with a number of government agencies, academic institutions and non-government associations, and provide advice on conservation management of all aspects of freshwater aquatic ecosystems.

Qualifications:

The minimum tertiary qualification is an MSc, with specialist emphasis on freshwater ecology and limnology. The ideal candidate will have 3 –5 years practical experience in the field of aquatic conservation.

Competencies:

- Freshwater ecology

- Limnology
- Hydrology
- Geomorphology
- Aquatic conservation planning
- Multivariate analysis
- Relational database and GIS management

Key Performance Areas:

- Data management and analysis
- Development of an aquatic conservation plan and strategy for KwaZulu-Natal
- Scientific reporting, written and oral presentations
- Interaction and good communication with a wide range of stakeholders
- Development and execution of long-term monitoring programmes
- Practical application of knowledge

Housing: Housing is not provided but a Housing Allowance is payable

Please forward your applications to Miss Logie Naidoo on e-mail logie@kznwildlife.com or fax to 033 8451949. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Selection will be made in terms of the Organization's Employment Equity Plan

Closing Date: 15 August 2005

5. CMA Leadership: Mark Dent

Submitted by Victor Wepener

CMA Leadership Letter 35: Who are the customers for Integrated Information Management & Modelling Systems (IIMMS) for CMAs and what will they need ?

The CMAs will initially and annually thereafter spend large sums of money on Integrated Information Management & Modelling Systems (IIMMS). This spending will undoubtedly generate business competition from a range of major players.

A key question for potential market players is, "WHO are the customers ? One answer to this question is "the ones who pay". The DWAF policies are quite clear that the beneficiaries of water allocation in the catchment will pay the CMA levy. These will generally be forestry, mining, local government, industry and agricultural interest groupings. A major change from the current customer for IIMMS which is the DWAF.

What will these customers need in the way of IIMMS ?

Some potential suppliers to this IIMMS market are sitting back and saying, "well the stakeholders have not yet articulated their needs and until they do, we cannot start developing systems to meet those needs."

Other potential suppliers to the IIMS market are anticipating the key issues that will face CMA stakeholders and are preparing their product, services and marketing approach accordingly. This group of potential suppliers understands the concept of latent needs -- in other words, needs which are genuine, but which customers are not yet able to express, so they won't be picked up in a survey. However, once people are made aware of the capabilities of the product then they jump at it. Eg. cell phones.

Key generic latent needs for IIMMS are evident and are shaping the search for future IIMMS market winners. These are :-

Functionality - in addressing the technical needs. For this the IIMMS must have been developed in a business environment in which such needs are being addressed on a daily basis. We do not yet have such an environment in South Africa.

Affordability – in terms of initial cost, installation cost and maintenance cost. A key element of these costs is market share and economies of scale. The best IIMMS will probably end up being used in all 19 CMAs.

Availability – customers will not be prepared to wait years for development.

Sustainability – after-sales service and a flow of future enhancements is vital. This requires solid institutional and market backing for such products on a scale hitherto not achieved in South Africa.

Universal applicability – which will enable South African exponents of the IIMMS to use it to consult back into first world markets based on the favourable exchange rate. Consulting firms who have a presence in many first world countries, particularly the USA, will find this aspect most attractive.

Readers interested in putting practical products and developments to what I have been saying, should do a “Google” search for BASINS4 and the ARCGIS Hydro data model. Follow up such a search with one for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) programme in the USA and think of the business implications of this programme. The TMDL has certainly caught the attention of ESRI, Dr David Maidment and a host of organisations and individuals in the USA and elsewhere. The TMDL programme should also be of great interest to resource directed measures (RDM) proponents and CMA developers in South Africa.

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