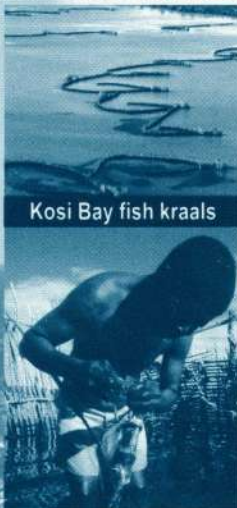


A Place You should Visit!

To the far north of KZN and in the iSimangaliso Wetland Park, lies the Coastal Forest Reserve, a coastal wilderness that supports a diversity of life and a rich cultural history. Central to this is the Kosi Bay lakes system comprising four lakes linked by a network of channels that ultimately drain via a sandy estuary into the ocean. The system supports over 130 species of fish many of which migrate between the estuary and the sea, offering great snorkelling and angling opportunities.



Kosi Bay fish kraals

The Kosi Bay system also supports a rich heritage of traditional trap-fishing practiced by the Tembe-Thonga people, dating back over 700 years and passed through generations. These traps, often called fish kraals, comprise a series of stakes forming a fence that guides fish, as they migrate between sea and estuary, into a circular enclosure where they are trapped and harvested. Significantly, the design allows for the smaller juvenile fish to escape. On a visit to Kosi Bay you will see many of these fish kraals scattered throughout the system, each owned and managed by a different household. You may even be lucky enough to witness the catch being taken!

For the guys...

The bikini as we know it has been around for 64 years. The first two-piece swimwear was made in 1913 - a short sleeve top and shorts. In the 1930s the sleeves disappeared, necklines plunged and it started hugging the body.

The modern bikini was designed separately by Louis Réard, a car engineer, and fashion designer Jacques Heim in 1946. Heim named his invention the "Atome" (french for atom) and advertised it as the world's "smallest bathing suit". Réard named the "bikini" after the Bikini Atoll, one of the islands in the South Pacific where testing on the new atomic bomb took place and advertised it as "smaller than the smallest swimsuit".

Although Heim's design was the first worn on the beach, the name given by Réard, the bikini, has stuck.



Ever wondered?

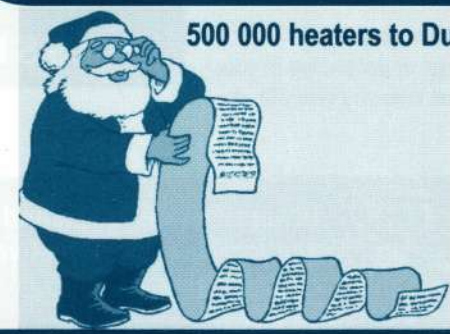
Summer is here! Many of you will be heading off to the beach so don't forget your sunscreen. But have you ever wondered how sunscreen actually works?

Ultraviolet or UV radiation is responsible for sunburn - it causes a chemical reaction in the skin which results in increased production of pigments that darken the skin. UV radiation is blocked in two ways, by absorption or reflection, which is achieved by either physical or chemical blockers. Physical blockers include zinc oxide and titanium dioxide, which block UV radiation by scattering rays, while chemical blockers work by absorbing UV light. Overall, sunscreens that contain physical blockers tend to have a broader spectrum of UV protection but require more frequent application and often leave that white-tinted look.

SPF in sunscreen is a relative measure of the amount of sunburn protection it provides. As the SPF value increases so does the protection it offers. Remember that the SPF is related to amount of exposure and not time in the sun, as exposure is not only the result of time but also the time of day and the fairness of your skin. SPF is a relative measure and allows you to compare the level of protection offered by sunscreens.

Also remember to wear a hat or cover up in the heat of the day to prevent sunburn.

The light side of climate change...



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Ulwandle, meaning "sea" in Zulu, is produced by the KwaZulu-Natal DAEA&RD in association with ORI

What's Next for KZN?

The Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Act was signed into enforcement on 1 December 2009 and many have been wondering what changes are occurring as a result?

The KZN Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs and Rural Development (DAEA&RD) has had a busy year trying to establish the needs for, and meet the requirements of, the ICM Act while at the same time addressing ongoing coastal management issues.

The DAEA&RD has completed a relative coastal vulnerability assessment of the province which allows it to determine which areas of coast are potentially at the highest risk to erosion and extreme events. It is anticipated that this information will be incorporated into an interactive viewer to assist local municipalities with coastal management, planning and environmental assessment applications. This tool will be available in 2011. The Department has also been busy with the compilation of a user-friendly guide called "Understanding our Coast". This guide provides a simple overview of the KZN coast, the regulations and legislation that govern it and the generally accepted practice for activities in the coastal zone. The guide will be available in early 2011 from your local municipality and should prove most useful to those who visit and use the coast!

There has also been a substantial amount of planning during the year to ensure the DAEA&RD meets its requirements in terms of the Act. Resultantly, 2011 is going to be jam-packed! Not only will you see the establishment of the new Provincial Coastal Committee (PCC), the Department has a number of other projects planned, including the determination of a coastal set-back line and the coastal protection zone respectively, and the development of a KZN Coastal Management Programme.

EKZN Wildlife Tightens its Grip

In an effort to curb the unsustainable and illegal exploitation of geelbek salmon this season, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has been instrumental in the facilitation and coordination of a multi-organisational task team comprising the South African Police Sea Borderline Unit, South African Air Force Maritime Unit, South African Police Air Force Wing, Port of Entry Scanner Unit and the South African Maritime Safety Authority.

This highly specialized and very mobile task team has been monitoring all popular ski-boat launch sites. It has also been conducting offshore patrols and inspections of all boats fishing on well-known geelbek fishing grounds since the start of the annual geelbek season in August.

One of the innovative methods employed by this team to detect the illegal hauls of geelbek hidden on boats is through the use of a *Vehicle Mounted X-ray Scanner*. This fool-proof method is put into good use at launch sites, where boats are towed past the machine to scan their contents. This machine can scan at a rate of one boat every two minutes and the advanced technology employed can detect even the smallest amount of concealed fish. The use of this technology is invaluable in the monitoring and enforcement of the recreational angling bag and size limits, and the portability of this machine allows staff to utilise it at all recognised launch sites along the coast.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife officials will be very active inspecting catches and will not hesitate to apply the law, and a zero tolerance policy will be applied this season.

If you are a keen fisher be sure you are familiar with the *Marine Living Resources Act* and the associated bag limits, size limits and closed seasons of the different marine species. Details can be found at www.daff.gov.za. These regulations are in place to manage our dwindling resources and ensure there is fish for our future.

If you notice any transgressions you can report them to the 24 hour anti-poaching hotline number 083 380 6298.

~ Wayne Munger (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)



Are you fish-friendly?

Given that many resources are depleted, several initiatives have been introduced that provide certification of their conservation status. Globally there is the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) which certifies fisheries that have been comprehensively assessed and audited, including their stock status, the environmental effects of fishing and the management measures in place to protect such species. **Look out for their logo when next you purchase fish.**

Locally there is the Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (SASSI), which aims to inform and educate people about their choice of seafood by grouping species into categories of vulnerability. The SASSI list has recently undergone some updating so that it assesses both farmed and wild-caught species of fish. There are essentially three important factors which the new assessment methodology takes into account: the biological characteristics of the species under assessment, the ecological effects of the fishing activity and the effectiveness of the management regime. Each one of these areas is scored separately to develop an overall score for the species.

The three categories identified by SASSI are: **Green** (Best Choice) - the most sustainable choice; **Orange** (Think Twice) - these species may have sustainability concerns; and **Red** (Don't Buy) - avoid because they are from unsustainable populations, have extreme environmental concerns or are illegal to sell.

To find out which category a fish is in just SMS the name of the fish to 079 499 8795 and information will be sent back to you.

For more information visit www.wwf.org.za/sassi or get a copy of your pocket guide the next time you visit uShaka.



Ulwandle wishes you and your family a happy festive season.

Please remember to look after our beaches and coastal environment.

International Coastal Cleanup

Saturday the 18th September dawned with no wind and overcast skies, making for ideal beach cleanup weather. Indeed, 2010 saw the 25th anniversary of the *International Coastal Cleanup*. More than half-a-million people in 100 participating countries took to their beaches to remove litter and rubbish.



Participants at the 2010 coastal cleanup

Through the dedicated efforts of EKZNW Staff and Honorary Officers, KwaZulu-Natal saw 8 120 enthusiastic volunteers participating in the event this year. Together they covered 420 km's of coastline (Port Edward to Kosi Bay), 367 km's of estuaries and rivers (uMkhomazi, Mzimkhulu and Thukela) and several km's of underwater cleaning (Sodwana, Aliwal Shoal and Vetch's Pier). In total 49 512 kg's of litter was removed from our beaches, reefs, estuaries, rivers and catchments.

Well done to all those that participated in the event.

~ Wayne Munger (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife)

Superb South Coast

In late October, South Africa's Minister of Tourism Marthinus van Schalkwyk announced that six KZN south coast beaches had been awarded Blue Flag status for the 2010/11 season, up from only four beaches which held the coveted status last year.

Margate, Ramsgate, Trafalgar and Marina beaches all maintained their 2009/10 status while Umzumbe and Lucien beaches were new entries into the esteemed group.



Raising the Blue Flag

27 beaches across South Africa have Blue Flag status in this, the 10th year of the programme.

