
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive summary	
Acknowledgements	
Table of contents	
List of appendices	
List of tables	
List of figures	
List of plates	
CHAPTER 1	BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION..... 1
1.1	MOTIVATION..... 1
1.2	OVERVIEW OF RESEARCH ON THE LARGE-BODIED CYPRINIDS OF THE OLIFANTS-DORING RIVERS 1
1.3	CONTEXT AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CURRENT STUDY 6
1.4	LAYOUT OF REPORT 7
CHAPTER 2	SHIFTING PARADIGMS: SCALE, PATTERN AND PROCESS IN THE ECOLOGY OF RIVER FISH 9
2.1	INTRODUCTION..... 9
2.2	THE RIVERSCAPE PERSPECTIVE: A FRAMEWORK FOR EXAMINING THE SPATIAL DYNAMICS OF FRESHWATER FISH POPULATIONS 9
	2.2.1 <i>Conclusion</i> 13
2.3	QUANTIFYING AND DESCRIBING HYDRAULIC FISH HABITAT AT LOCAL (MICROHABITAT) SCALES..... 13
	2.3.1 <i>Instream habitat studies in South African rivers</i> 13
	2.3.2 <i>Habitat Suitability Criteria (HSC)</i> 16
	2.3.3 <i>Limitations of Habitat Suitability Criteria</i> 17
	2.3.4 <i>Testing transferability of HSC</i> 19
	2.3.5 <i>Habitat-abundance/biomass relationships</i> 20
	2.3.6 <i>Conclusion</i> 22
2.4	THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FISH LIFE HISTORIES AND THE FLOW REGIME 23
	2.4.1 <i>Life history studies and the flow regime: the South African context</i> ... 26
	2.4.2 <i>Conclusion</i> 27
2.5	IN SUMMARY 27
CHAPTER 3	THE OLIFANTS-DORING RIVERS BASIN AND STUDY AREA..... 29
3.1	LOCATION AND PHYSIOGRAPHY OF THE OLIFANTS/DORING RIVER BASIN..... 29
	3.1.1 <i>The Olifants River</i> 29
	3.1.2 <i>The Doring River</i> 29
3.2	HYDROLOGY OF THE OLIFANTS AND DORING RIVERS..... 31

	3.3	WATER QUALITY	32
	3.4	SITE SELECTION	33
	3.5	DRIEHOEKS-MATJIES RIVERS STUDY AREA	35
CHAPTER 4		SPATIAL AND SEASONAL VARIATIONS IN THE DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF LARVAL, JUVENILE AND ADULT SAWFIN IN THE DRIEHOEKS RIVER	39
	4.1	INTRODUCTION	39
	4.2	METHODS	40
		4.2.1 <i>Study area and sampling regime</i>	40
		4.2.2 <i>Physical habitat description of reaches</i>	41
		4.2.3 <i>Underwater census</i>	42
		4.2.4 <i>Fish tagging</i>	42
		4.2.5 <i>Analysis</i>	42
	4.3	RESULTS	43
		4.3.1 <i>Reach characteristics</i>	43
		4.3.2 <i>Seasonal distribution patterns of sawfin</i>	44
		4.3.3 <i>Fish tagging</i>	50
		4.3.4 <i>Seasonal habitat selection of adult sawfin</i>	51
	4.4	DISCUSSION	52
		4.4.1 <i>Conclusions</i>	55
CHAPTER 5		BEHAVIOUR, DIEL AND LIFE STAGE-SPECIFIC HABITAT SHIFTS BY CLANWILLIAM YELLOWFISH AND SAWFIN AND IN THE DRIEHOEKS RIVER	57
	5.1	INTRODUCTION	57
	5.2	METHODS	59
		5.2.1 <i>Study area</i>	59
		5.2.2 <i>Fish Sampling</i>	59
		5.2.3 <i>Analyses</i>	60
	5.3	RESULTS	61
		5.3.1 <i>Sawfin</i>	61
		5.3.2 <i>Clanwilliam yellowfish</i>	62
		5.3.3 <i>Comparison between species</i>	65
		5.3.4 <i>Diel shifts in habitat use by 0⁺ juvenile</i>	65
	5.4	DISCUSSION	66
		5.4.1 <i>Conclusions</i>	69
CHAPTER 6		USING A TWO-DIMENSIONAL HYDRAULIC MODEL (RIVER2D) TO SIMULATE CLANWILLIAM YELLOWFISH AND SAWFIN HABITAT IN THE DRIEHOEKS RIVER: MODEL VALIDATION BASED ON FISH SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION	71
	6.1	INTRODUCTION	71
	6.2	METHODS	73

	6.2.1	<i>Study sites and species</i>	73
	6.2.2	<i>Data collection</i>	74
	6.2.3	<i>Habitat simulation</i>	75
	6.2.4	<i>Model performance</i>	76
6.3		RESULTS.....	77
	6.3.1	<i>Surveyed fish positions</i>	77
	6.3.2	<i>Habitat simulation</i>	78
	6.3.3	<i>Correlation between predicted CSIs and surveyed fish positions</i>	81
	6.3.4	<i>Weighted Usable Area (WUA)</i>	82
6.4		DISCUSSION.....	84
	6.4.1	<i>Conclusions and recommendations</i>	88
CHAPTER 7		EARLY DEVELOPMENT, AGE ESTIMATION AND VALIDATION OF OTOLITH INCREMENT DEPOSITION RATE IN LARVAL AND JUVENILE SAWFIN IN THE DRIEHOEKS RIVER.....	91
	7.1	INTRODUCTION.....	91
	7.2	LARVAL DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF INCREMENT DEPOSITION RATE IN LABORATORY-REARED FISH.....	93
		7.2.1 <i>Objectives</i>	93
		7.2.2 <i>Methods</i>	94
		7.2.3 <i>Results</i>	95
	7.3	AGE-LENGTH RELATIONSHIPS OF LABORATORY-REARED AND WILD-CAUGHT LARVAE.....	102
		7.3.1 <i>Objectives</i>	102
		7.3.2 <i>Methods</i>	102
		7.3.3 <i>Results</i>	103
	7.4	DISCUSSION.....	104
		7.4.1 <i>Summary and conclusion</i>	106
CHAPTER 8		THE EFFECTS OF FLOW AND TEMPERATURE ON SPAWNING AND RECRUITMENT OF SAWFIN IN THE DRIEHOEKS RIVER.....	109
	8.1	INTRODUCTION.....	109
	8.2	METHODS.....	111
		8.2.1 <i>Collection of larval and juvenile sawfin</i>	111
		8.2.2 <i>Environmental variables</i>	112
		8.2.3 <i>Age estimation and back-calculation of spawning times</i>	112
	8.3	RESULTS.....	113
		8.3.1 <i>Temperature and flow</i>	113
		8.3.2 <i>Length frequency distributions</i>	115
		8.3.3 <i>Recruitment distributions</i>	116
	8.4	DISCUSSION.....	119
		8.4.1 <i>Summary and Conclusion</i>	122
		8.4.2 <i>Note on sawfin spawning</i>	123
		8.4.3 <i>Note on spawning by Clavwilliam yellowfish</i>	123

CHAPTER 9	CONCLUSION: AN APPRAISAL OF THE KEY FINDINGS AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL FLOW STUDIES IN SOUTH AFRICA	125
9.1	A LIFE CYCLE MODEL FOR THE SAWFIN	125
9.2	DEFINING FISH HABITATS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL WATER REQUIREMENTS STUDIES IN SOUTH AFRICA	128
9.3	RIVER FRAGMENTATION BY DAMS AND WEIRS	133
CHAPTER 10	WATER RESOURCES AND INDIGENOUS FISH IN THE OLIFANTS AND DORING RIVERS BASIN: MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES.....	135
10.1	UPPER OLIFANTS.....	136
10.2	LOWER OLIFANTS.....	140
10.3	KOUEBOKKEVELD.....	141
10.4	DORING RIVER.....	142
10.5	CONCLUDING REMARKS.....	143
10.6	THE FLOW-RELATED ECOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS OF CLANWILLIAM YELLOWFISH AND SAWFIN.....	146
REFERENCES	149