

SAFE SWIMMING WATER AT MIDMAR

A recent social media post circulating within the swimming community advised that Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife had stopped all swimming at Midmar Dam due to poor water conditions.

Water quality is a major concern for water sports in KwaZulu-Natal and with the support of the team at Dusi Umgeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) tests were conducted with four samples taken on the evening of Tuesday 1 October 2019 at Midmar Dam. The first sample was taken approximately 50 metres from the main slipway, while the other three were taken progressively further out, with the last one about 300 metres from the shoreline.

The average of the four results recorded less than 2 E. coli per 100 ml. To put this into perspective, the accepted international standard for open water swimming is 130 E. coli per 100 ml.

“I personally would drink water with those low readings,” said Race Director of the annual Greendale SUPERSPAR Capital K Swim to be held on 1 December. “The event includes the KwaZulu-Natal Aquatics Open Water Championships and so clean water is essential.”

It appears that the story originated from a restriction on water sports, including swimming and fishing, in Thurlow Bay, a small bay on the extreme South of the dam close to Mpophomeni. Thurlow Bay is in excess of 5km from the start of the Midmar Mile and 6.5km from the start of the Capital K.

“We are happy to notice the concern and increased awareness of water quality, which has always been a priority for the aQuelle Midmar Mile.” said Race Director, Wayne Riddin “and we will continue to monitor water quality to ensure the health for all swimmers of the world’s largest open water swim.”

DUCT play an integral part of the water quality management and are one of the major charities supported by the 16 Mile Club, a group of swimmers who compete in all 8 aQuelle Midmar Mile events, and an addition swim from the finish to the start of each event, a total of 16 mile’s during the aQuelle Midmar Mile weekend.

For more information on supporting DUCT fund raising initiatives to keep our water clean at the aQuelle Midmar Mile 16 Milers check out - <https://kydrin.co.za/event/23>

For more information and to enter the Greendale SUPERSPAR Capital K check out www.capital-k.co.za.

For more information and to enter the aQuelle Midmar Mile check out www.midmarmile.co.za

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