



**SOUTH AFRICAN  
UNDERWATER FISHING FEDERATION**

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## **Request for Sponsorship**

*Dear Potential Sponsor*

*The SAUFF are seeking sponsors to help us send our potential World Beating Team to Venezuela to compete in the 26<sup>th</sup> World Underwater Fishing Championships.*

*One air ticket, a wetsuit, a TV set, R1000.00 or even R100 will be appreciated and every donation will be put to good use! Consider it a tax deduction...consider it a good deed...consider it patriotism...consider it fully appreciated!*

*For those who are not familiar with Underwater Fishing, herewith some of the background.*

*A team of four divers was selected to represent South Africa in the EURO/AFRICA Zone Qualifier held in Spain in July 2007. In order for us to receive an invitation to the 2008 World Championships it was necessary for our team to come in the top 12 out of 20 European and African countries. Our team did us proud by coming 9<sup>th</sup> in the most extreme condition. On the second day visibility was reduced to one and a half metres, water was cold and fish were only to be found below 25 metres. It takes a very special athlete to spend 6 hours underwater fishing in these conditions.*

*Underwater Fishing is arguably one of the most extreme sport on our planet in that divers hunt selected fish in the sea without any form of breathing apparatus in caves at depths ranging from 3m to 40m in water temperatures ranging from 10 – 26 degrees C for up to six hours, contending with strong currents, poor visibility and rough seas. In addition the continuous risk of*

*“Shallow Water Blackout”, sharks, bluebottles, jellyfish and many other deadly marine creatures, merely add to the risk. Divers have been bitten by sharks, barracuda and giant eels, speared by marlin and sailfish and shocked by stingrays. In 2006 alone 8 deaths were recorded off the SA coast. In Spain which has over 200000 registered underwater fishermen, 36 died in 2005 alone.*

*To win a world competition a diver needs supreme physical fitness and stamina. In order to increase the chances of success, the team also needs to scout the area beforehand, diving from morning till evening in order to study the area, find the best reef, take landmarks and learn the nature and habitat of the fish in the area as well as study the sea and weather conditions, currents and thermo clines.*

*We consider that there are four major factors which need to be taken into account in order for us to win. Skill, Experience, Luck and Support. Our five best divers have been selected to go to Worlds and they will take the first two with them. As Gary Player often says, “the harder I train the luckier I get:” which will take care of the third. The thing that we the people of South Africa can influence is SUPPORT.*

*In June 2008 the World Underwater Fishing Championships will be held off the coast of Venezuela. Conditions at the sites chosen for this event are very similar to our own here off the coast of KwaZulu Natal. For the very first time this gives us the opportunity to WIN the World Championship. We need luck, but more than this we need your help.*

*To give our team the best possible chance of success, we held trials for a week off the KZN Coast in January 2008 and from these we picked the following to represent South Africa:*

*Gyula Plagiany (Captain) – (three previous World Championships)  
Jaco Blignaut (7 times SA Champion and previous Worlds))  
Alan (Moo) Fraser (1<sup>st</sup> SA Colours)  
Angelo Spada (Zone Qualifier 2007)  
Mark Jackson (Zone Qualifier 2007)*

*Along with the incredible honor and opportunity of being selected to represent South Africa comes a tremendous financial implication, as the five*

*divers need to come up with approximately R40 000 each to cover expenses such travel, accommodation, entry fees, and boat hire*

*We are appealing to you or your company to help make this trip a reality and assist us in realizing our goal of flying the South African flag and bringing home gold! The Coastal waters of Southern Africa are known to offer some of the most scenic and challenging conditions for this extreme sport, and we are confident that South Africa has produced some of the finest divers in the world! We would like the opportunity to prove this!*

*Our sport, underwater fishing is widely recognized as one of the most humane and environmentally friendly forms of fishing in the world. The ability to accurately select the prey makes underwater fishing the most selective form of fish harvesting. We would love the opportunity to promote our sport and attain what very few sportsmen in the country are able to do: the opportunity to represent our country in an international competition.*

*We are looking for sponsorship in the form air tickets, accommodation in Venezuela, equipment either to use or to offer as prizes in a raffle, or cash towards expenses. Any other forms of donations or sponsorship will also be gladly accepted. Our dive team as members of various fishing, diving and ski boat clubs will very definitely do all in their power to show their appreciation to their sponsors by wearing as often as possible any clothing displaying the companies logo and mentioning the company by name in any newsletters, conversations, interviews or discussions before, during and after the competition! We would also like to enter into discussions with a sponsor who would support the making of a video of our team's participation at Worlds 2008 to be flighted on MNet Supersport.*

*Our fundraising drive is urgent! We dive in Venezuela in the first week of October and would hope to spend at least four weeks scouting beforehand! Thank you for taking the time to read our appeal and any SUPPORT you may be able to provide us will be sincerely appreciated.*

*Brent Addison*

*President – SA Underwater Fishing Federation*