

# Sharks are in the Kruger Park

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THERE'S concern about endangered migratory fish species despite efforts to protect waterways.

This emerged as the country commemorated World Fish Migration Day on May 21. The University of KwaZulu-Natal marked the day by hosting a field day in the Umgeni River at Fountain Hill Estate and at Shaka Marine World.

“People in many parts of southern and South Africa are dependent on these migrations for food, particularly during the lean crop production periods when there is consistent rainfall,” the university’s Sejal Desai said.

Many countries within the region including South Africa and Zimbabwe have been hit by the drought being caused by El Niño. Desai said that pollution and dams were having a negative impact on migrant routes.

“During periods of drought these threats are heightened and the stress of many migratory fish populations reaches unsustainable levels,” she said.

Fish populations are being lost from rivers. “Sharks have been found in the Kruger National Park and mullet in Zimbabwe, eels have crossed from the Limpopo catchment into the Vaal catchment and yellowfish have migrated up the Thukela River in such great numbers that the river has appeared to be running gold in colour,” she said.

Members of the public can assist by cleaning dams, rivers, beaches and protecting wetlands. – 701233