



M : +27 82 213 5931

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E : ghostfishing@strandloperproject.org

W : www.strandloperproject.org

Dear Mr Scott Thomson,

On behalf of the Strandloper Project, I would like to thank yourself and the Great Brak River Conservancy for hosting the Strandloper Project team and myself for dinner at Seeplaas during our 11 day coastal expedition.

While our focus for the expedition was to document fishing debris along the shoreline, it was impossible to ignore the inevitable plastic pollution that accompanied it.

Sadly, the majority of Garden Route residents have become immune to the presence of plastic pollution, its presence having distilled into white noise in the landscape of their daily perceptions. Meeting yourself and your fellow GBRC members, it was refreshing to connect with so many people enthusiastic about caring for the coastal ecology. Most noticeable was that your fight to protect the environment is carried out in deed and not merely through dialogue.

The data we collected has been impressive and we have identified areas along the route that definitely require future in depth study and no doubt will be drawing on your local knowledge and support for additional phases of the Strandloper Project. In terms of your GBRC area, while we haven't completed analysis of our data, the overview is that west of the Great Brak River had less incidental recordings than east of the river mouth. Between 600m and 2km east of the mouth we recorded 10 incidents of monofilament, 2 dead Kelp Gulls (one of which was killed from ingesting a hook), 1 dead Sooty Shearwater and 1 dead Southern Giant Petrel.

While there is plenty to discuss with you with regards to taking the Strandloper Project forward, for now I appreciate the manner in which the GBRC contributed to the success of our recent expedition and look forward to working in conjunction with you in the future..

My sincerest thanks to yourself and your members of the GBRC for their support and hospitality,

Warmest Regards,

Mark Dixon | Strandloper Project

Project Leader

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