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FEIKE NEWS

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COSATU and what it did not say to the Competitions Commission

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) recently established a fishing desk. This should be welcomed. COSATU subsequently asked the South Africa Competition Commission to intervene on the basis of alleged "Anti-competitive behaviour in the South African fishing industry". COSATU's submission is dated April 2008 and what is under the spotlight is the hake industry, with some glances at

other fishery sectors. Nothing wrong with testing these waters, especially in the aftermath of evidence of bread-price fixing and the rigging of medical supply tenders by big industry.

So what has the COSATU fishing desk uncovered with reference to the hake industry? The 20 page submission, is peppered with data, inference and argument, but sadly it has to be said, lacks all coherence and logic. It is as though the writers could not fight their way through the maze of information, ideological diatribe and fascination with the notion of '*forward to the past*'.

Redistribution of fishing quotas! This call rang true after 1994 and for COSATU remains an unfulfilled demand despite Government's substantive and dare we say successful efforts in 2001 and again in 2005. The paper either ignores but more likely does not like the share ownership Black investors have acquired over the years in the large companies like I&J, Sea Harvest and Oceana. If COSATU seeks to question BBBEE as legislated for by Government, as a faulty way to achieve real transformation, the paper should confine itself to this and thus deal with Government. Instead however, the paper emotively suggests that there is an



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Court Upholds Hake Trawl Allocations

The Cape High Court upheld Minister Marthinus Van Schalkwyk's allocation of the long-term fishing rights to the 52 fishing companies in the hake trawl sector.

In 2006 four fishing companies challenged the Environmental Affairs and Tourism minister's allocation of these rights to a number of deep-sea hake trawling companies including I&J and Sea Harvest. The grounds for the review ranged from irregular appeal procedures to alleged incorrect scoring and consequent allocation of quotas.

Although the High Court dismissed these challenges, it is understood that the Minister agreed to settle the case lodged by Ziyabuya Fishing (Eastern Cape) (Pty) Ltd and allocated Ziyabuya an additional tonnage of approximately 700 tons.

Apartheid-era agenda that perpetuates the old order. Although one can argue about the extent to which the rules of the game (Codesa agreements, Government policy, the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa) have prevented a socialist redistribution from taking place, the paper only hints at these issues without actually saying it. In order to then prove its overall thesis the paper is not shy in asserting that all White people (always) conspire to remain in charge.

COSATU reveals in all of this a singular lack of understanding of the hake industry and of the mode of production in this fishing sector as opposed to various other fishing sectors. This failure is multiple: Hake is not caught by a group of small boat owners who once owned the means of production, but depends on large and expensive deep-sea trawlers that today cost up to R100 million a vessel. Hake is landed at SA ports and then processed in factories that employ thousands of workers, something the paper is silent about. The production method requires the coagulation of large volumes of the resource and the bringing together of vast financial resources to make this exploitation possible. And in a world that is not blind to refrigeration, export by air and foreign markets it would be fool-hardy to suggest that we should resort to the comforting notions of placid fishing communities committed to sharing their catch and selling any surplus. The authors have not woken up to the fact that the fishing communities of yesterday are no more – sad as that may be. Collective community conduct was destroyed by apartheid, as much as by industrialisation, which changed the single resource nature that used to prevail.

The paper then fails to recognise that the end of apartheid has brought with it that fact Black Africans (rightfully) demanded to an equitable share of the resource that previously was the domain (mainly) of coloured and white communities. And women have rights now and equally applied for quotas now. The paper sounds pro-worker, but trots out hobbyhorse arguments that are a far cry from reality. The reality is that traditional fishermen in small wooden vessels and skiboats cannot and never have harvested hake using deep-sea trawl nets. They simply cannot go to sea and harvest lobster at water depths of more than 40m using traps. It is for that reason that South African fisheries policy has exclusively allocated high value, lower risk fishing rights to traditional fishermen and women (to the exclusion of traditional and established fishing companies) in inshore sectors such as west coast rock lobster (which includes an unlimited snoek allocation), traditional line fish, oysters and hake handline.



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Here are some issues COSATU should grapple with: Do they believe that the 60% Black share ownership of the hake industry has substantially transformed the industry and empowered black owned and managed companies? How does COSATU propose to deal with the export market opportunities in the face of local and international food security challenges? Does COSATU support market intervention that says part of the catch has to be sold locally, even if it is at a lower price and what will COSATU do to save the more than direct 9000 jobs sustained by the industry? Why is COSATU not arguing that a cheaper commodity such as Horse Mackerel not be exported in its virtual entirety with substantial value adding on South African soil? Does COSATU not know that the biggest threat the industry faces is that it has been the smaller, often BEE fishing entities that have been especially vulnerable to foreign (Spanish) buy-outs? It is the larger entities that have a chance of remaining in South African hands and thus further national interests. COSATU would do well to show a degree of patriotism and support these companies in their bid to remain South African controlled!

The paper argues that Namibia has a policy that is pro job creation. Obviously COSATU has not spent much time studying this noble intent. Namibian fisheries never attained any of their stated policy objectives pertaining to Namibianisation, job creation or contribution to GDP growth that were set in either of the two National Development Plans of 1990's. The reality is that despite strong political leadership in Namibia, decades of overfishing combined with a need to meet stated targets has meant that Namibia's most important fisheries – hake and pelagics – are in desperate trouble. The result has been significant job losses caused by factory closures in Walvis Bay and Luderitz. The more the Namibian fisheries implemented their version of empowerment – *Namibianisation* – the more Spanish controlled it became as the commercial and risk realities suddenly translated to unviable balance sheets as rapid empowerment meant that, *inter alia*, the loans taken to purchase the initial shares in fishing companies could not be adequately serviced.

One can only be incensed by the racist tone of the paper. It is insulting to the majority Black ownership, Black management, Black procurement, Black employment that can and has been proven with facts and figures. It might come as a surprise to COSATU that there are many Whites in the industry who are not motivated by racism and who believe that the future of the companies is best served if the company profile reflects the demographics of its consumers, and thus of South Africa.



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The debate instigated here is not one that aims to defend the status quo as it is in the fishing industry now. Government (MCM) is compelled by its own policy to conduct further reviews to ascertain if the very transformation that obtained in 2005 has been further entrenched. And if the reverse is true to use what sanction it has to remedy the situation. Transformation is a process and today's results are definitely not ideal nor what they should eventually be. There are huge problems associated with transformation and they need to be debated openly. Fishing companies should not be able to dodge the Labour Laws as they have done, using the loophole of seasonality in fishing to employ seasonal labour and thus perpetuate cheap and discriminatory employment practices. Most companies, due to pressure applied by Government, also created worker trusts, giving the work force a 10% or 15% shareholding in the business. It would be sensible for COSATU to investigate how well these instruments function, because they are open to abuse in many cases.

VACANCY: Legal Officer

A vacancy has arisen for a Legal Officer at the Environmental Law Centre in Bonn, Germany. The deadline for applications is 15 July 2008. For more information contact ssunday@feike.co.za

One can go on taking this paper apart. There is, for instance, lots of drivel about the lobster industry, which is also guilty of exporting its product! Indeed, the person catching the lobster could reasonably argue for a far greater share of the price the product attains when it is served on a plate in Johannesburg or in Spain. We believe that this exploitation has far more to do with the failure of its affiliate, the Food and Allied Workers' Union (FAWU) to fight for its members' rights on the factory floors than with quota allocations.

In the end, the reader cannot make head or tail from the mishmash of issues, which are seemingly all the product of intellectual laziness. Like elsewhere in our body politic, it is a display of excited invective without telling us what it is they want. Do they want a command economy, as once operated in Eastern Europe? Do they want a Zimbabwe style take-over of fish stocks like the war vets did with land, simply because they did not want to follow a legal or constitutional route? Maybe COSATU is confused. The advice it got from FAWU is probably still premised on the notion "to hell with workers rights, we want our own quota".

Oh, and we do expect to get attacked for this piece as being liberal-capitalists, counter revolutionary, racists, etc. Shame really when the workers representatives are not willing to engage in real debate premised on a thorough understanding of the global and South African fisheries economy and instead rely on dangerous and populist rhetoric that cannot be implemented without contempt for the rule of law.

A copy of the COSATU submission to the Competition Commission is available on request from ssunday@feike.co.za.



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1. AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PUSHES FOR FUTURE OF WHALING COMMISSION

Twenty-six years after the International Whaling Commission (IWC) voted to adopt a global moratorium on commercial whaling, commercial whaling still continues. Japan alone has killed some 10 000 whales in the Antarctic and North Pacific under a provision in the IWC Convention which allows for scientific whaling. Although Japan insists it is conducting legitimate scientific research that addresses issues of importance to the management of the whale population, (why manage a population if not being commercially utilized or in a fenced in park?) independent researchers have frequently criticized the quality of the science. At an IWC Workshop held in Tokyo in December 2006, reviewed the first decade of Japan's "research whaling" programme and delivered a damning indictment. It found, for example, that the programmes attempts to estimate natural mortality rates of minke whales were so imprecise that they could not rule out the possibility of mortality rates being zero—could not, in other words, discount the notion of minkes being immortal.

A document titled "*Whale Conservation and Management: A Future for the IWC*" released by Australia at an IWC Meeting in March states that "The conduct of scientific whaling has created significant tension at the Commission" and that the "unilateral killing of whales" by countries using either the research whaling loophole or conducting openly commercial whaling under objection to the moratorium "remains the greatest impediment to moving the Commission forward in the future." That the Commission does indeed need to move forward is highlighted, says the report, by the changes that have taken place since the IWC Convention was written in 1946. New threats to whales have arisen, including overfishing, toxic and noise pollution, ship strikes and climate change. The public attitude towards whales has changed to one that is highly supportive of their conservation.

The document notes that the Commission is the authority on conservation and management of whale populations, however, the management is restricted to setting catch limits for directed hunts of the great whale species. It currently has no mechanism in place to, for example, reduce by-catch or regulate whale-watching operations. The Australian government proposes that the IWC address these shortcomings by developing conservation management plans. This would link the IWC with other international fora such as the

Insects a Possible Alternative to Wild Fish in Feed

Neptune Industries reported that preliminary results of feeding trials with Ento-Protein™, "extremely positive." Ento-Protein™ is a high quality sustainable protein derived from insects, which is intended to be a replacement for the rapidly depleting fishmeal made from wild caught feedstock species, for which there is currently a \$7 billion worldwide market. The trials are being run at Mississippi State University's Wildlife and Fisheries Department under the direction of Dr. Lou D'Abramo, to assess the growth and digestibility of several Ento-Protein(TM) based diets.

So far, the fish in the trials are growing at about 80 to 85 percent of the growth rate of fish fed conventional feed containing fishmeal. Their goal is to create a formula that will result in at least 90 percent of the growth rate of fish on conventional feeds.

The research began in 2007 with the selection of candidate insect species and then proceeded to a taste-test to ensure that fish fed the insect protein didn't have a strange taste. Many of the panellists in the trials actually preferred the taste of the fish raised on insect protein.



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Convention on Highly Migratory Species and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The document argues that perhaps the most significant and immediate step the Commission must take is a "reformed approach to science." It points out that the IWC has adopted more than 30 resolutions calling for an end to "scientific whaling" and for all further research to be conducted using nonlethal techniques. However, under the rules established in 1946, any Member State that wishes to kill whales for science can do so without seeking the Commission's approval. That, say the Australians, has to change.

The document recommends that all scientific research under IWC auspices be brought directly under the control of the Commission, and that the IWC should agree a set of criteria to which all such research should conform. Such criteria might include quantifiable measures of success, use and availability of nonlethal methods, and a transparent and open process. In addition, all governments should commit not to issue scientific whaling permits except with the approval of the Commission.

Neptune's next steps would be to experiment with adding various natural sources that they believe will drive growth rates into the 90-95 percentile of fishmeal-based diets, and justify scale up and mass marketing of Ento-Protein(TM) as a direct competitor with fishmeal. At the same time, should these results be confirmed, Neptune would expect to bring to market the current formulations for use in specialty markets for pets, zoos, and for tropical fish beginning in the first quarter of 2009

2. RUSSIA PROPOSES TO BAN STURGEON FISHING IN THE CASPIAN SEA

Conservationists hailed a Russian proposal to ban sturgeon fishing in the Caspian Sea for five years as a vital step towards preventing the fish from being hunted to extinction by caviar traders. The announcement could help reverse an almost irretrievable collapse in the world's population of sturgeon, 90 per cent of which live in the Caspian Sea.

Russia, which exercises tremendous influence in the Caspian basin, said it would urge Azerbaijan, Iran and Kazakhstan, the other three countries that border the inland sea, to agree to the moratorium.

The move comes after international efforts ease the sturgeon's plight stalled. In 2006, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) imposed a ban on the caviar trade but reintroduced quotas the following year after coming under pressure from Caspian nations.

The world's sturgeon population has shrunk by 90 per cent in the past two decades as a result of pollution, over-fishing and growing demand for luxury products. A trawl survey in the Russia's Caspian waters showed that sturgeon stocks had dwindled by 45 per cent between 2004 and 2005 alone.



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Russia's calls to ban fishing for research purposes - a loophole that has been exploited for commercial purposes - was particularly encouraging, conservationists said.

African Climate Change Conference

A climate change conference is scheduled to be held at the University of Cape Town from 12 - 16 January 2009. The aim of this interdisciplinary and international European Geosciences Unit (EGU) Humboldt Conference is to bring together earth system researchers from diverse specializations, largely involving scientists from African countries. Hosting an EGU Conference in Cape Town will strengthen the discourse amongst African scientists and their international colleagues.

The students/young scientists' workshop preceding and/or following the conference aims at providing an introduction to Earth Systems and modelling applications. Strong participation by students from Africa is expected and will be catered for.

While Russia has maintained a ban on the international export of black caviar, the roe produced by the female sturgeon, since 2005, marine biologists warned that the country needed to do more to stamp out poaching - which is often conducted in cahoots with government agencies - in the region.

"Poachers take more than legal fishermen," said Phaedra Doukakis, a specialist on the sturgeon trade at the Pew Institute for Ocean Science. "The challenge for Russia is the vastness of the Volga River Delta. It won't just take this moratorium, it will also take a pretty good crackdown on illegal fishing."

Even a five-year ban, however, is unlikely to allow sturgeon populations to recover. One of the world's most long-lived fish, the sturgeon does not begin to lay its eggs until it is 15 years old, and scientists estimate that a ban on fishing would need to last four decades to be effective.

3. NETWORK OF MARINE RESERVES PLANNED FOR UK COASTLINE

According to the BBC news website a network of new marine nature reserves that will protect endangered species and habitats along Britain's coastline are among plans included in the government's long-awaited draft marine bill. The network of marine conservation zones will have clear goals to ensure that some types of fishing, dredging or other forms of development do not damage protected habitats and species of national importance.

The government has said it wants to see the zones in place by 2012, with varying levels of protection for individual sites. The draft bill proposes a new nationwide marine planning system to help manage Britain's seas and make it simpler to license offshore developments such as wind farms.

The measures will be supervised by the Marine Management Organisation, which will be created to regulate development and activity at sea and enforce environmental protection laws.

Jonathan Shaw, the marine and fisheries minister, added: "The draft marine bill is a major step forward in marine protection and planning. It will benefit all who make a living from the sea by helping to get the most we can from it in a sustainable way while protecting precious resources."



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Contributions from all fields of geosciences are welcome and the conference will focus mainly on:

1. Climate Change and Coupled Systems
2. Fluctuation in African Climate Systems
3. Changing topography of Africa: Coupled Earth Systems from Core to Space
4. Palaeo-climate Analysis in Africa and its Surrounding Oceans
5. Economics and Social Issues of Climate Change

The organisers expect to have contributions, among others, on: ocean currents around Africa, African atmospheric circulation and weather patterns, solar radiation variability, magnetic field changes, African biosphere, African river basins and geomorphology, palaeo-ecodynamics, palaeoclimates, CO2 sequestration, geothermal energy, ecological economics, natural resources, risk management, social engagement through outreach and capacity building.

But concerns have been raised by environmental groups that the bill will not go far enough in protecting marine species and ecosystems. WWF said that while the bill included "encouraging measures", its effectiveness would be limited unless it was implemented throughout the UK. The Marine Conservation Society (MCS) said it appeared to be a rehash of existing laws, and did not put "ocean recovery" at its heart.

Currently just 2% of the UK's seas are protected, with less than 0.002% afforded full protection according to the MCS. Legislation to protect Britain's coastline has been a long drawn-out affair, with two previous consultations on the marine bill.

Proposals for a marine bill were first put forward in Labour's 2005 manifesto after lobbying from conservation groups. It announced a draft marine bill in the 2005 Queen's speech, but nothing came of it and a full bill and act did not follow.

In March 2006, the government published the first consultation document on its proposals for the scope and content of the bill, and invited feedback.

In March 2007 it published a white paper, A Sea Change, which proposed eight offshore "national parks" within three years and as many as 80 highly protected sea areas. Consultation on the white paper was completed in June.

Figures released last October by Defra showed that 82% of the responses to the consultation supported plans for a bill. The bill is anticipated to be published in draft later this year.

4. INTENSIVE FISH FARMING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY¹

One of the fundamental purposes of cultivating and farming any organisms is to effectively and efficiently utilize resources for the production of food for human consumption. Only a small portion of global food derives from the hunting of animals on land whereas food derived from the fishing the oceans is substantial. Aquaculture has huge potential for expansion. In order for aquaculture to play an important role in the future supply of food it should be able to utilize (or convert) primary input resources more efficiently than agriculture.

¹ This article is a summary of a paper written by Ms. Jorunn Sanden and Mr. Svein Munkejord (Advisers to DEAT/MCM funded by the bilateral Norwegian-South African Cooperation Programme on Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture). Some statistical figures were updated by Feike based on the latest FAO information.



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Scallop Cultivation in South Africa?

The following is based on an article originally published in Fishing Industry News, April 2008. Scallops may be commercially cultivated in South Africa if research by the Mariculture Unit of MCM continues to be successful. In three years the scallop research team has been able to describe the reproductive cycle, successfully spawned and produced small numbers of spat of the local Cape scallop (*Pecten sulcicostatus*).

Globally, scallops have a high economic value and have been harvested and farmed for decades. However, in South Africa scallops are not yet farmed or harvested commercially. An interest in establishing a local scallop industry in South Africa was raised with government by the developing aquaculture industry. It was only a matter of time before scallop culture technology research was undertaken. It is a part of the South African Norwegian Development Programme.

Terrestrial plants annually produce some 132 billion tons of organic dry matter whilst aquatic plants produce 92 billion tons. Approximately 0.8 billion tons of terrestrial plants are used for direct human consumption. About 2.2 billion tons are fed to cattle, sheep, pigs and other farm animals that convert and reduce this volume to 0.2 billion tons of organic dry matter for human consumption. This implies that less than 1% of terrestrial primary production of organic dry matter becomes utilized for human consumption.

From the aquatic side 0.02 billion tons of organic dry matter representing 0.02% of total aquatic primary production, is harvested for direct human consumption, provided that wild caught fish is considered on average to be a secondary consumer in the food-chain.

People and farm animals are important direct consumers of terrestrial organic dry matter. Organic dry matter from the sea is less efficiently utilized, the main reason being the different degree of cultivation or farming that takes place in the two spheres. Aquaculture, therefore, may have a much larger potential as a food source in future than what is currently the situation.

Looking at species of terrestrial animals that are used in both intensive and extensive systems of farming, the farming of carnivorous fish seemingly does not make a lot of sense. For the production of food in agriculture one cultivates plants to raise herbivorous animals.

Both extensive and intensive agriculture are at a stage of development where its impact on the global environment is considerable. Cattle and other ruminants like goats and sheep are grazing 50% of the land area of our planet. Producing the amount of feed that is globally consumed by ruminants, pigs and chickens require the use of 25% of all cultivated land.

In the aquatic environment the situation is quite different. About 66% of all harvested fish, shellfish and crustaceans (globally 141.6 million tons) are caught in the wild and about 36% are cultivated. In marine waters 82% of the harvest (globally 103.1 million tons) is caught in the wild and 18% cultivated, whereas in fresh water (global harvest 38.5 million tons) the cultivation is much more prominent namely 75% of the total production.

A comparison of the efficiency in agricultural meat production and that of intensive marine aquaculture is very interesting. The utilization of protein and energy from the feed is roughly doubled in the farming of Atlantic salmon compared to the production of pigs and chicken.



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Retention of protein/energy (%) from feed to final product			
	Atlantic salmon	Chicken	Pig
Energy	27	12	16
Protein	30	18	13

In parallel with the development of farming terrestrial animals, aquaculture has evolved from extensive to very intensive cultivation systems. In an extensive aquaculture natural/indigenous environment species may be kept in a nearly unchanged environment and here the balance between the various species is regulated and controlled. The next step up the ladder of intensification is to introduce fertilizer or feed. Such semi-intensive or intensive aquaculture systems are comparable to fertilized fields and the keeping of cattle or other farm animals in agriculture.

Comparisons of efficiency in the production of species such as carps, mullet, shrimps, rainbow trout and salmon demonstrate that the top efficiency is achieved in the most intensive cultivation systems for rainbow trout and salmon. The lowest efficiency occurs in semi-intensive or extensive cultivation of shrimps and carps.

In 1972 the Norwegian salmon industry needed 1.9 kilos of animal (fish) protein to produce 1 kilo of salmon containing 0.18 kilo of protein, representing a rate of retention of 9%. By 2008, the protein retention rate improved to an approximate Norwegian industry average of 55%. The composition of commercial fish-feed has been altered to a considerable degree over the last decade to include a much smaller proportion of fish-meal than before. A range of commercial fish-feed brands now contains only about 20% of fish-meal. The Norwegian Atlantic salmon farming industry has evolved from a net consumer of fish protein to a net producer. Consequently efficient fish farming reduces the pressure on food resources utilized to feed animals and more resources then becomes available for direct human consumption.

In conclusion;

- Agriculture and aquaculture always were and will always remain important sectors in terms of their fundamental role in the production of enough food for the global ever increasing population, continuously becoming more dependent on an effective and reliable supply of healthy food.
- The demand for farmed fish and other aquaculture products is steadily increasing, leaving these products with an increasingly important role in terms of future supply of freshwater- and seafood products.

The Cape scallop occurs on the southwest and southern coast from False Bay to East London and the flesh is white in colour. Although there are other scallop species found in South Africa, the Cape scallop has been described as the prime potential aquaculture species.

Market size is assumed to be 90mm shell diameter. The first grow-out attempt showed that the scallops can reach around 50mm over a 12 month period under standard commercial grow-out conditions for mussels and oysters. Duration from fertilized ovum to market size is still being investigated.



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- Several of the most important raw materials used for the production of meat can be significantly more efficiently utilized if diverted into fish farming.
- Even if fish farming is the most efficient method of utilizing feed resources continued efforts to further optimize fish farming methods and systems are still very important.
- Waste from fish-farms may potentially result in pollution of the environment, but advanced effectiveness and efficiency of production enables us to farm fish with very little risk of such pollution to occur.
- Nutrients released from fish-farms into the environment can also be regarded as a necessary replacement of nutrients taken out by fishing etc.
- Improved efficiency of aquaculture production results in cheaper fish products. The Atlantic salmon is a good example of this mechanism.
- It is the feed ingredients and their combination of nutrients that results in rapid animal growth and the production of quality products in intensive systems of fish farming. The more accurately the feed is balanced against the dietary requirements of the fish the more fish can be produced from a given amount of feed and the less undigested food and excretion are released back into the aquatic environment.
- With on-going progress in respect of feed development and in respect of systematic breeding programmes, management and fish-farming technology, aquaculture has every potential to feature as sustainable and environmentally friendly.
- Learning lessons from previous mistakes made domestically or in other fish-farming countries in order not to repeat them, must remain a high priority for aquaculture management.

5. 'SHIP OF SHAME'

China announced at the beginning of May that it had recalled its ship *An Yue Jiang*, after pressure from civil society in the SADC region. This followed on action from the public interest law firm, the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) in Namibia, refusal by dock workers in Durban's harbour to offload cargo and refusal of permission to dock in Mozambique's port of Beira.



The ship was carrying three million rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 1500 rocket-propelled hand grenades and more than 300 mortar rounds and mortar tubes. The so-called 'ship of shame' is being shunned by civil society in a number of countries in the



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region, as it is supplying these lethal arms to Zimbabwe. Lawyers from East Africa and SADC are seeking legal action against the Chinese Government for arm supplies to Zimbabwe. SADC's law society and lawyers from East Africa maintain that they were finalizing preparations to institute legal action at the International Criminal Court (ICC), if the arms were off-loaded in Angola,



which was rumoured at the time. However, the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) stated that trade unionists in Angola reported that the ship left Luanda, after offloading a cargo of cement and construction material only. Trade unionists, including from the port worker's union, maintained this watch, with police present.

According to the Director of the Legal Assistance Centre (LAC) in Namibia, Norman Tjombe, Namibia and its Institutions, including the ports authority (NAMPORT), have national and international law obligations to foster international peace and the peaceful resolution of disputes, together with the responsibility and accountability in the control and regulation of trade in conventional arms.

Namibia's Constitution puts the State under a legal obligation to promote international security, peace and co-operation, and to foster respect for international law and treaty requirements. Namibia is also signatory to several other international treaties, such as the SADC Firearms Protocol, the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security, the UN Programme of Action on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, which would be violated if the arms cargo was allowed to enter Zimbabwe.

The International Action Network on Small Arms has also thrown its voice behind an appeal to SADC governments, reminding them of their ratification of the 2004 SADC Firearms Protocol. This Protocol explicitly requires states to harmonise their arms control laws, in order to prevent conflict in the region and the destabilising accumulation of arms.

Picture Sources: Map – www.republikein.com.na ; Vessel – www.marxist.com



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6. THE MRAG REPORT

INTERNATIONAL MARINE CONSERVATION CONGRESS (20- 24 May 2009) CALL FOR PAPERS

The Marine Section of the Society for Conservation Biology will be hosting its first stand-alone meeting, the International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC), from 20-24 May 2009 at George Mason University near Washington D.C. This will be an interdisciplinary meeting that will engage natural and social scientists, managers, policy-makers, and the public. The goal of the IMCC is to put conservation science into practice through public and media outreach and the development concrete products (e.g., policy briefs) that will be used to drive policy change and implementation. This meeting will encompass the 2nd International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC). The IMPAC component will consist of an organized cross cutting issue within the IMCC addressing MPAs through the full range of posters, papers, workshops and symposia.

IMCC encourages authors to submit papers that apply to the major themes and tracks below, describing original work, including methods, techniques, applications, tools, issues, reporting research results and/or indicating future directions.

Major themes that will be addressed include:

- Global Climate Change,
- the Land-Sea Interface,
- Ecosystem-based Management, and
- Poverty and Globalization

For paper submission procedures visit: www.conbio.org/IMCC

For more information e-mail:

IMCCprogram@conbio.org

Feike was recently presented with a report by the Marine Resources Assessment Group (MRAG), a UK based consulting firm dealing with the sustainable utilization of natural resources, titled *Review of Impacts of Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing on Developing Countries*. Due to the fact that the report is rather substantial and is particularly relevant to developing countries, we considered it necessary to provide a brief analysis of the report. Unfortunately, while the report is rather substantial in size the fundamental assumptions upon which the report is based are fatally flawed.

Firstly, the report fails to consider under-reporting and unregulated fishing, which is at the heart of IUU fishing. Poaching by comparison by pirate fishers represents a smaller percentage of the global IUU problem. Within the African context, of the 22 African countries that responded to a questionnaire by the FAO, the report states that only one country reported poaching as a significant contribution to IUU, although to a certain extent licence violations can also be seen as poaching. The report further states that by far the most important aspect for African countries was fishing with illegal gear. Although the report acknowledges that fishing with illegal gear falls within the "wider definition of IUU fishing" it is not an issue which is considered in the report.

Second, the report assumes as a rule that across all sub-Saharan fisheries 19% of fish is harvested illegally. The assumption that 19% of legal quotas are poached is naïve and simply indicates a need to produce a report. For example, in South Africa's abalone fishery some 2000 tons of abalone was poached in 2007 when the TAC was 123 tons. The 19% rule simply cannot apply across fisheries. The report strangely concludes that there is zero IUU fishing in Namibia, South Africa and Mauritius. These percentages are estimated using IUU fishing as a percentage of estimated total catch (i.e. estimated IUU + FAO reported catch) and states IUU as a proportion of estimated total catch in the countries.

Thirdly, the report makes a unique and unsubstantiated assumption that once there is a European Union agreement in place with a developing country there is little or no IUU fishing. The assumption that an EU fishing agreement reduces IUU fishing is perhaps the report's greatest flaw. The examples of massive levels of IUU fishing caused during the currency of EU fishing agreements are numerous from Mauritania to Mozambique to Mauritius and the Seychelles. In Mozambique for example, the EU fleet last reported data by VMS in April 2005! The report further states that it is not interested, at this time, in



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the potential misreporting by EU fleets engaged in fishing in developing country waters.

The MRAG Report could not present a greater distortion of the massive impacts of IUU fishing in developing countries. In South Africa alone, Feike has estimated IUU fishing to be worth approximately R5 billion or US\$625 million annually. This equates to the total landed value of the legal South African commercial fishery in 2007. The impacts of IUU fishing, especially underreporting and unregulated fishing by large subsidised trawl, long line and purse-seine fleets, have decimated fisheries from Mauritania to Namibia.

7. EU FISHING AND AFRICA

Callum Roberts, professor of marine conservation at York University, predicts that by 2050 we will only be able to meet the fish protein needs of half the world's population. Ninety years of industrial-scale exploitation of fish has led to 'ecological meltdown'. Whole biological food chains have been destroyed.

One of the first international attempts to conserve fish stocks, especially for the more easily exploited nations, also became part of the disaster. The United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea, signed in 1979, extended national rights over fisheries to 200 miles from a country's coasts. However, it included a provision that, if fish stocks in that zone were surplus to national needs, the country could sell its rights to outsiders.

This allowed cash-strapped and sometimes corrupt countries in West Africa to raise funds by letting foreign industrial trawler fleets fish into their waters. Since 1979 the EU has negotiated deals on fishing rights with a number of impoverished African countries. Despite the EU's own studies indicating massive and quite possibly irreversible damage to fish stocks off West Africa, these deals continue to be struck.

In 2002 an EU report revealed that the Senegalese fish biomass had declined 75% in 15 years, Brussels bought rights for four years' fishing of tuna and bottom-dwelling fish on the Senegal coasts, for just \$4m a year. In 2006, access for 43 giant EU factory fishing vessels to Mauritania's long coastline was bought for £24.3m a year.

It's estimated that these deals have put some 400,000 West African fishermen out of work; some of them now work only as ferrymen for desperate would-be migrants to the Canary Islands and Europe. Among the millions of Africans



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who depend on fish as their main source of protein, consumption has declined from 9kg per year to 7kg.

Callum Roberts, believes the answer to global overfishing is to set up a network of marine reserves, "protecting up to 40 percent of the world's oceans in permanent refuges". This, he maintains, would enable the recovery of fish stocks and help replenish surrounding fisheries.

However, the real need is to encourage African and other third world countries to reject cash deals with predators like the EU and to develop their own fisheries, with effective policing of their waters.

9. APPENDIX: INTERIM RELIEF REPORT PHASE 2 ISSUED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN UNITED FISHING FRONT

This report was issued by the South African United Fishing Front (SAUFF) in May 2008. Our purpose is to inform readers what has taken place in the fishing communities during the second phase of the Interim Relief Process.

Stilbaai and Melkhoutfontein: Melkhoutfontein and Vermaaklikheid were excluded from the interim relief process during the first phase and it was only after SAUFF intervened that 12 permits were secured for Melkhoutfontein. To date SAUFF has been unable to activate the interim relief permits which were issued to fishermen in Melkhoutfontein. It would appear that after three vessels were approved in the Stilbaai area, the vessels owners were pressured into not accommodating the interim relief fishermen. The fishermen of this area are concerned mainly with the line-fish segment of the interim relief.

Arniston: The exclusion of persons who were registered on the crew-list with MCM created huge problems within the interim relief process. The crew-list was created mainly as a pool of registered fishers from where boat owners could source fishermen if and when they were experiencing problems with their own crew. Being registered on the crew-list does not necessarily mean that the individual is employed in any particular sector. Arniston fell prey to this misconception and it was only after SAUFF had met with Sandile Sibiya from MCM that they managed to place approximately 25 Arniston fishers back on the interim list.

Struisbaai: Struisbaai, with the exception of one person, did not receive a single interim permit. The on-going saga with the VMS in this particular area has flared up once again and comments on this issue can be found in the April edition of Feike Newsletter



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Buffelsjagsbaai: Although the permit conditions for the interim relief states that catches must be landed in the "area of operation", it does not define where these areas are. Given the amount of permits (15 operating with SAUFF) issued in this area compared to the amount of vessels capable of harvesting these permits it is impossible to expect all permit holders to operate in one area. Even if Gansbaai had enough vessels to accommodate Buffelsjagsbaai permit holders, Pearly Beach, Gansbaai, and Stanford would still be left. It is a known fact that many of the permit holders in this area are harvesting as far as Kleinmond due to a shortage of vessels and the costs involved in harvesting in Gansbaai.

Pearly Beach: As with Buffelsjagsbaai, the permit holders (12 operating with SAUFF) in this area are experiencing the same problems of vessel shortages and are being discouraged from catching in other areas due to the interpretation of the permit conditions.

Gansbaai, Blompark and Masakhane: One of the reasons why boat owners are hesitant to accommodate interim permit holders is due to the high costs of harvesting in the Gansbaai area. Boats must travel huge distances to the fishing grounds and the amount of crayfish which they are permitted to catch per trip barely covers their running costs. This in turn forces the boat to increase their catching rate to the point where permit holders are not prepared to negotiate. One vessel with 9 permit holders was approved in this area and reports from the boat owner clearly indicate that the permit conditions coupled to sea-going days does not make it a viable option for boat owners and permit holders alike.

Stanford, Zwelihle, Hermanus, Hawston and Fisherhaven: Permits for 12 fishers were issued in Mount Pleasant and 55 in Hawston. This took place at the last minute when it was noted by SAUFF that these areas were not included in the provisional lists. Their catches have been consistent and the boat owners had managed to fill quotas on a weekly basis. These catches were sold to Walker Bay Sea Products in Hermanus and created a sustainable income for the permit holders over a number of weeks. Most catches were landed in Kleinmond.

Kleinmond: Kleinmond which received 12 interim relief permits has been one of the main hubs of activity for the interim relief catches. Catches have been consistent since the start of the interim relief process and it has also been host to many other areas who were experience problems with regard to the shortages of vessels and high catching fees. It would appear that the resource



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is in abundance in this area and perhaps warrants further investigation by the MCM research department with regard to the current TAC.

Strand and Gordans Bay: SAUFF has very little information on this area, however, it was with some shock that SAUFF received word from ski-boat owners that they were being offered R10/kg for crayfish landed under the interim relief permit system for this area.

Kalk Bay: One of the country's oldest fishing communities did not receive a single interim relief permit (reminiscent of the long term allocation when the majority of Kalk Bay fishers were excluded on the grounds that they were New Entrants).

Hout Bay: Many permits in this area could not be activated, due to a shortage of vessels. Also the incredible distances these vessels must travel to reach crayfish grounds makes it difficult for boat owners to assist the interim permit holders.

Atlantis and Mamre: These areas had a particular difficult time getting activating their permits. There are 19 interim relief permit holders operating with SAUFF in this area. A shortage of vessels and very poor catches at Dassen Island forced them to seek help from the Department. They originally used the services of a boat owner based in Yzerfontein. This vessel was given permission to catch in Elandsbay. After two weeks (this was already late into the interim period) they left the vessel due to money problems with the boat owner. They then approached SAUFF to assist them with the catching of crayfish. SAUFF slotted them onto vessels operating in Elandsbay and they have been catching their crayfish.

Elandsbay: There are 61 interim relief permit holders operating with SAUFF in this area. This area has some of the most accurate records, such as when each permit holders' catch had been landed, what vessel did the catching and total quantity and kilos for each specific vessel. The fishers in this area were extremely dissatisfied with the prices they were receiving due to the fact that the factory owners in this area had monopoly on the industry. The permit holders need to use the factory for virtually every aspect of fishing, from factory boats, bait, use the factory crane to launch his/her vessels etc. All of this is then converted to monetary value which is then deducted from the permit holders' final pay-out. The income is reduced by almost 50% of the value the catch. In order to remedy this situation, boat owners were identified and a process started to empower the locals to harvest their own rock lobster.



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This has since made a large difference their income and could also be carried over to other permit holders who operated from their vessels.

Dornbaai and Ebenhauser: There are 60 - 70 interim relief permit holders operating with SAUFF in this area. Although they had received approval for their vessels, there was a huge shortage of fishing and safety equipment, which has subsequently been remedied. Many of the fishers in these areas had become despondent due to the absence of a stable market and had at times sold their catches to local restaurants and daily passersby. It is understandable that they would not secure the prices as that offered to them by processing and marketing companies. It must also be noted that many of the original buyers in the area are partly to blame for the unstable market which was created. Many buyers would collect the first catches of the week and would simply not return the next day leaving the fishermen no choice but to sell their crayfish to any available buyer at ridiculously low prices. It is very disturbing to note that the old Oceana factory in Doornbaai remains a white elephant. Had at least 6-8 tanks been operational and available for the interim fishers, a stable market and a sustainable income would have been created for the fishers.

The interim relief permits seems to have made a large difference to the fishing communities by resulting in a sustainable income, brought hope to people and renewed their confidence in those who are responsible for bringing about the changes. To remove the permits is recipe for disaster within these fragile and poverty stricken communities. It will undoubtedly lead to resentment and fishers will once again be forced to "poach" for a living. In certain areas along the west coast there are no alternatives and fishers are compelled to break the law in order to provide for themselves and their families. The implementation date of a new subsistence and small scales fisheries policy of January 2009 means that the majority of permit holders will be left destitute for the next 10 months. The extension of the line-fish segment of the interim relief process is of little consequence to the fishing communities along the west coast. With limited species, market restrictions and the fact that boat owners will not change crew on a daily basis at 80-90% of the current permit holders could be knocked out of the system. There is already a huge shortage of vessels. The other problem is the fact that many of the permit holders are equipped for line-fish and their presence on fishing vessels could endanger them and rest of the fishing crew, specifically those who do not have the necessary sea time but who were part of the fishing industry in one form or another.



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SAUFF recommends that the policy be given urgent attention but that practical time frames must be set. Should a situation arise in which a speedy transition from interim relief to implementation of the subsistence and small scale fisheries policy, encouraging a back-pay system which could carry the interim holders for at least another two months be implemented so that adequate arrangements can be made for such a period.



In May 2008, Damen Shipyards officially announced its purchase of a controlling stake in Far Ocean Marine, the Cape Town based shipbuilder that was commissioned to construct South Africa's three inshore patrol vessels. Far Ocean Marine will now be known as Damen Cape Town. The Board of Directors will be chaired by Mr Sam Montsi whose empowerment company, Montsi Investments will retain a 30% stake in the restructured entity.