

Welcome to the May edition of **Feike News!**. In this month's edition we dedicate more space than usual to developments in the Namibian fisheries and environmental sectors. Namibia continues to show strong leadership and foresight in a number of environmental matters. Dr. Abraham Iyambo, Namibia's Fisheries Minister, continues to demonstrate courage, leadership and transparency in his actions. In **Feike's Breaking News** (www.feike.co.za), we published aspects of his wide-ranging annual review of fishing-related matters. Returning to South Africa, **Feike News** notes two extremely positive steps taken by the South African Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism. The first is the support given to bolster fin-fish farming in the Western Cape. The second is the positive intervention to reduce the food security hardships being experienced by traditional fishers along the South African west and south east coasts. Finally, we also consider the hearings on transformation in the South African fishing industry, which were held by the National Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism on 8 May 2007.

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Aquaculture & Fisheries Calendar



1. Namibia Invests in Wild Fisheries

The Namibian Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Dr. Abraham Iyambo, released details and design specifications for a tender to have a new marine research vessel built. A naval architect has been appointed and initial funding approved in the 2007/08 financial year.

Sources state that the *Welwitshia* has become too expensive to maintain and will eventually need to be replaced. Namibia has a further research vessel, the *!Anichab* which is stationed in Luderitz. Being a small vessel it is mainly utilized for rock lobster research. A third vessel, the *Dr. Friedtjof Nansen* owned by Norway, is also regularly deployed in Namibian waters for the purposes of research.

Dr Iyambo also announced that a second fisheries patrol aircraft is to be delivered to the Ministry shortly. The second aircraft will significantly enhance aerial fisheries surveillance and monitoring. These investments in research and compliance will no doubt bolster Namibia's fisheries management abilities. However, with declining fish stocks and catches, coupled with the consequential decline in income for the Namibian Government, the costs of effective deployment of these resources will no doubt be of concern.

Perhaps this is where the recently established Benguela Current Commission (BCC) can carve yet another role for itself. South Africa has substantial research and compliance vessel capacities but lacks the financial resources to deploy these effectively. South Africa does not have any dedicated aerial fisheries surveillance capacity. Sharing of skills and resources in these areas will be extremely beneficial to both countries over the long term.

Continuing the BCC theme, it is now well known that fish stocks in Namibia have been under severe pressure in recent years. This is consistent with similar adverse conditions experienced throughout the Benguela region. Hake, the major income earner of Namibia's fishing industry, remains under pressure and measures to rebuild the stock to sustainable levels have been adopted. It would seem obvious that Namibia and South Africa need to consider joint strategies to manage hake stocks.

Namibia's Cabinet met during the last week of April and set a number of management parameters for the hake season from 1 May 2007 to 30 April 2008. The hake TAC has been set at 130,000 tons for the coming fishing season. The Cabinet also instructed the Ministry and the Fisheries Advisory Council to work on measures to address demarcation and closure of some areas considered to be sanctuaries or nursery habitat for juvenile hake. The impact of long-liners on spawning hake is also to



be assessed anew. Trawler mesh sizes are to be increased from 110mm to 120 or 130mm – a move intended to allow greater numbers of juvenile fish to escape.

Namibia has a dedicated monkfish fishery and this species is considered as one of the more healthy stocks. The TAC for monk has been set at 9,500 tons. In South Africa monkfish is treated as a regulated by-catch of the hake industry with catch limits set on the maximum quantity that may be harvested by the hake trawl industry.

Concerns around orange roughy remain and a precautionary catch level of 900 tons has been set.

Similar to a phenomenon noticed in other parts of the world, jellyfish are appearing in greater abundance in Namibian waters. The impact of these in large numbers on the spawning of fish is raising increasing concern.

If the above TAC levels are fully caught by the fishing industry, the Namibian Government will attract an income from levies charged of N\$54.45 million.

2. Singaporeans in Namibia?

During a state visit to Namibia, President Pohamba of Namibia requested the Government of Singapore to assist with the establishment of a fish feed plant in Namibia. This signifies long term planning by the Namibian Government to build a viable aquaculture industry.

The objective is to beneficiate fishmeal so that its budding aquaculture industry has a local food source. The intentions of the Namibian Government make abundant sense, as Namibia has exported fishmeal produced from small pelagic fish, and more recently from horse mackerel catches, for decades. In recent times Namibia, in response to international demand, has taken active steps to develop aquaculture mainly for the export market. This industry relies on fish feed which is a product developed from fishmeal and various agrarian and other ingredients. It thus stands to reason that as the producer of the raw material for aquaculture, Namibia ought to further beneficiate its raw materials to serve its growing aquaculture industry.

3. Looking to Namibian Wind Power

On 24 April Namibia issued the first ever license to a private company that aims to produce power for commercial consumption from wind turbines. By 2008, the private investor intends to have installed 102 wind turbines along the Namibian coastline.



A Dutch-Namibian consortium, Aeolus Power Generation Namibia, was granted the licence by the Minister for Energy, Minister Nghimtina. This ends the state monopoly in power generation, which has vested in NamPower to date. The company intends to invest an initial N\$1.1 billion. This will be used to generate 92 MW of capacity. The turbines will be located on land in Luderitz Bay, Walvis Bay and Oranjemund and will contribute approximately 5% of Namibia's energy needs from 2008 onwards.

The head of the Dutch company Aeolus Associated, Leo van Gastel believes that Namibia could become an exporter of this form of renewable energy. At present, Namibia imports around 69% of its power needs from South Africa. The country also imports power from Zambia and was previously hoping to obtain supplies from Zimbabwe, but due to the economic situation in Zimbabwe this expectation has now been shelved. The energy problems in South Africa have resulted in it having become an unreliable supplier of energy to its neighbours. And Zambia has indicated that its power generation will increasingly be required domestically.

The Minister indicated that further licenses to commercial entities would be granted if applied for.

4. Support for South Africa's West Coast Fishers

Finally. On 3 May 2007, South Africa's Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism announced that up to 1000 additional small scale commercial or artisanal fishers who live and fish along South Africa's west and south-eastern Cape coast will be allowed to lawfully sell their recreationally caught catches.

Readers of Feike News will know that we have been pleading for such an intervention for a long time now. So the intervention must be welcomed as it will allow artisanal fishers along the coast who did not qualify for a commercial fishing right due to the limited catch and effort limits for lobsters and line fish along the west and south-east Cape Coasts, to lawfully sell their catches harvested in terms of their recreational permit.

The challenges are obvious and the intervention will either succeed or fail in its implementation. Firstly, the process that identifies the 1000 fishers must be completely isolated from undue influence, maladministration and opportunism. Secondly, local communities must be directly involved in ensuring that those persons initially identified are in fact local fishers. Thirdly, once identified, Marine and Coastal Management must ensure that the ubiquitous recreational lawyer, accountant and teacher does not cash in on the deal. In addition, MCM will also have to ensure that these artisanal fishers are in fact able to command better prices for their lobsters and line fish and not the

current R10 for a lobster which is then sold to us tourists in a local hotel or restaurant at many times that price.

5. Fin-Fish Farming in Gansbaai

Think South African aquaculture and you will no doubt think about abalone farming. You will no doubt be correct. Abalone farming remains South Africa's staple farmed fish product with more than 800 tons being exported annually, which is roughly 8 times the annual total allowable catch set for the wild fishery. However, the recent announcement by South Africa's Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism that a pilot fin-fish farming hatchery and grow-out programme funded and initiated by Irvin & Johnson Ltd has the full support of the South African government bodes extremely well for the future of fin-fish farming and aquaculture, in general, in South Africa.

The sustainability of fin-fish farming in this country has been threatened by the failure of a salmon farming project on the Cape south-east coast and rumours that the South African government was averse to allowing such farming due to concerns about the threats to wild stocks should farmed fin fish escape from grow out facilities. There are substantial opportunities for finfish farming in South Africa, particularly as wild stocks of cob and salmon are placed under increasing ecological pressure.

6. Transforming the South African Fishing Industry

On 9 May 2007, the South African Parliamentary Committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism held public hearings into the state of transformation in the fishing industry. Some of the highlights of the daylong hearings were the following:

Monde Mayekiso, the Deputy Director-General gave a presentation that included an overview of South Africa's fisheries legislative and policy framework and the effects of climate change and overfishing on fish stocks. Traditional line fishers and small-scale fishing associations made a number of presentations as they sought to convince Parliamentarians to allocate them fishing quotas. The NGO, Masifundise, provided a detailed analysis of a number of pertinent issues affecting the fishing industry, including identifying inappropriate policy mechanisms to promote transformation and black empowerment and transformation in the fishing industry in post apartheid South Africa.

The debate about transformation in the fishing industry is an inherently circular argument. No matter how commercial fishing quotas are allocated by the South African government, allegations of the failed transformation will surface simply because every applicant that applies for a quota will not be accommodated. The figures indicating the levels of black and women ownership and control of fishing entities do require interrogation and analysis. This was done after medium term rights





were allocated in 2001. It does need to be done again now. However, the South African fishing industry and those that oversee it should be careful to not get completely bogged down in trying to understand who was allocated rights and who was not and why. The fishing industry faces many more substantial transformational challenges. The most significant and concerning of course are, for example, how do we mitigate against the massive adverse ecological, social and economic impacts of stock migration from the west coast; to what extent will fish farming be able to allow the recovery of wild fish stocks; how can South African fish stocks, such as hake, oysters, abalone and lobsters increase their market values and secure cheaper access to foreign markets; or how can South Africa strategically gain a larger percentage of regionally allocated tuna quotas?

In other words, analysing the state of transformation in the South African fishing industry must focus increasingly on the broader regulatory, social and economic aspects currently stunting the expansion of the wild and farmed fishing industries.

7. Cause for Concern: The Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area

The recent proposals by Marine and Coastal Management to open up parts of the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area to fishing for socio-economic reasons elicited a series of articles and petitions condemning the proposal. Marine and Coastal attempted to rebut the criticisms citing the need to balance social demands and environmental conservation and that allowing fishing in the MPA would allow MCM to assess certain "social aspects". A further justification proffered was that in the Table Mountain National Park Marine Protected Area, certain parts are zoned restricted where no fishing may take place and others are zoned allowing for limited amounts of fishing.

The argument for allowing fishing in the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area is awfully weak and contradicted by a detailed socio-economic report on MPA's, which was commissioned by the World Wildlife Fund and the University of Cape Town in 2006. The report is unambiguous in its findings that increased protection as opposed to less protection will in fact result in greater social and economic benefits to the Tsitsikamma region. In addition, the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area is the oldest of South Africa's marine protected areas and unlike the Table Mountain MPA, is located in a relatively isolated region and has provided a relatively pristine habitat for long-lived reef-based line fish stocks. The value of these stocks to South Africa's marine ecology is extremely valuable and massively outweighs the economic benefits of fishing out these threatened long-lived species. And of course, we must remember that the fish stocks that will be fished if the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area is opened up to fishing are still managed in terms of section 16 of the Marine Living Resources Act as stocks in a state of environmental crisis.

So what is the solution? If the intention is to create economic opportunities for the unemployed and therefore address the food security concerns of residents in the region, the WWF / UCT report recommends increasing the protection status of the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area. Complementary eco-tourism based strategies such as whale watching and SCUBA diving should be supported and involve members of the local communities.

overheard and worth knowing about

Marine Pollution in South Africa

About 80 percent of marine pollution in South Africa comes from land-based sources, particularly from the discharge of untreated sewage into sensitive estuaries and into the sea, from coastal towns, mining, bad farming practices and contaminated storm water.

The department of environment affairs and tourism has now set up an inter-disciplinary body to identify the main sources of coastal pollution and other land-based activities that harm the marine environment.

A group of experts will guide the development of a national programme of action for protecting oceans and rivers from harmful land practices. This is part of the global programme of action launched by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) in 1995, which recommended the development of national plans to prevent coastal degradation from activities on land. South Africa adopted the programme in 2006. The group consists of representatives from government, non-governmental organisations, the business sector and technical experts.

(Source: Cape Times, 1 May 2007)

New West Coast Mining Endeavour

De Beers has expanded diamond exploration off-shore off the west coast of South Africa, beyond Namaqualand. The exploration is predicted to yield 24,000 carats annually. This development takes place at a time when De Beers is involved in the decommissioning of its shore-based diamond mines in the Namaqualand. A 176-meter vessel named *Peace in Africa* has been deployed to scour the bottom of the sea. The vessel comes at a cost of US\$142 million. It is equipped with an undersea tracking device referred to as a 'crawler'. This is not the first operation of its kind and is scheduled for a 30 year period.

List of IUU Vessels

On 27 April 2007, the Norwegian Government issued its 2007 updated list of IUU vessels. The list records all vessels that have fished for stocks regulated by Norway but outside of quota arrangements or that have fished in contravention of regional or sub-regional regulatory measures. The list may be viewed at http://www.fiskeridir.no/fiskeridir/english/norwegian_black_list

South African & Chilean Collaboration

The Chilean abalone farming industry is taking off with existing farms producing 250t but with a projected expansion to 850t over the next 5 years. As in South Africa, seaweed is in limited supply and most farms are looking to use an artificial feed to meet their food needs. Prof Pete Britz of Rhodes University has initiated collaboration with *Centro iMar of the Universidad de los Lagos* to test feed formulations on Chilean abalone farms. These feed formulations are based on the successful abalone feeds developed in South Africa. Chile has introduced the Californian red abalone and Japanese Ezo abalone for culture purposes. In South Africa, approximately half of all feed is in pellet form. This proportion is growing as kelp supplies are maximally utilised

and artificial feeds offer several benefits including faster growth rates and a higher meat yield.

A Poached MPA

The pictures below are of poachers diving for abalone at Bird Island Marine Protected Area. Research has shown that poaching activity in the MPA is increasingly becoming a regular occurrence.



F E I K E
natural resource management advisors





Aquaculture & Fisheries Calender:

- *3 – 5 June: 1st International Exhibition, Fising, Fish Farming and Seafood Technology, Egypt, www.starshost.org
 - *5 – 7 June: Seafood Russia, Moscow, www.seafood-russia.ru
 - *8 – 10 June: 6th International Exhibition & Conference on Fisheries and Aquaculture, Greece, www.europartners.gr
 - *12 – 14 June: Catfish 2007, Vietnam, www.vietfish.com
 - *22 – 24 June: Shanghai International Fisheries & Seafood Exposition 2007, China, www.sifse.com
 - *28 – 30 June: Egyfish 2007, Cairo, www.fishegypt.com
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