

Why is it necessary to set a limit of harvesting on marine resources?

This measure is important for the resources control and management, in order to promote responsible utilization of the resources.

JOINT VENTURE APPLICATION

What is a joint venture?

Joint venture is a form of business arrangement in which local and foreign partners join resources to conduct a business.

How do joint ventures operate?

Foreign investors seeking to participate in fishing ventures will be required to co-operate with Namibian business partners through joint ventures.

Are there separate criteria set for joint ventures arrangements?

No, the requirements that need to be considered at each stage of joint venture transaction are embedded into different sections of the text. However, the extent of Namibian ownership and control will be taken into account at all stages of assessment.

Are there any performance conditions for right holders?

Any rights granted are subjected to performance conditions in respect of matters including Namibianization, investment, and socio-economic contribution, national and regional integration.

EFFORT LIMITATION ON NON-QUOTA FISHERIES

What is effort limitation?

Fishing effort limitation is a measure used to regulate the number of vessels to be licensed, in fisheries such as the line

fish and tuna fisheries where there are no limited quota. Such measures are necessary to prevent over-exploitation.

- Rights may be terminated or downgraded if a venture no longer fulfils the criteria under which the right was granted.
- The aim of applying this system is to keep the capacity of the fishing fleets in Namibian waters in line with the availability of the resources for each fishery.

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MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

Q & A ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS



FOREWORD

Welcome to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Frequently asked Questions.

The purpose of this document is to keep the public up to date with the information about granting of the fishing rights, allocation of quota, conditions to the rights and accessing of aquaculture licensing and related issues.

The issues highlighted in the documents allow the public to understand policies and laws governing marine and aquatic resources.

The questions stated in this document geared to pre-empt questions that members of the public and those who would like to venture in the marine fishing industry and aquaculture might have.

QUOTA SYSTEM

What is a quota?

A quota is a portion of the total allowable catch (TAC), allocated to a right holder for harvesting, which is allocated under section 39 of the Marine Resources Act, No. 27 of 2000.

Are the quotas allocated to individual right holders or to groups?

Following the White Paper of 1991 (amended in 2004), quotas are allocated separately for each right holder in fisheries targeting crab, hake, horse mackerel, lobster, pilchard, monk, tuna, swordfish, seals and orange roughy.

ALLOCATION OF QUOTAS

What is the purpose of allocating quotas?

The purpose of the allocation of quotas is to ensure that economically viable levels of quota for vessels in the fleets are made to enable them to operate.

How are the levels of quotas determined?

The determinations of quotas are based on the levels of the total TAC made available and the number of right holders in species applied for.

What other considerations are also made?

Another important consideration when allocating quotas is to ensure equitable distribution of fishing opportunities among right holders, taking into consideration the extent of onshore investment. The Ministry also evaluates any proposal involving the concentration of quotas for any fishery in any one venture, against the need to maintain broad participation and competition within each area of the industry.

TRANSFERABILITY OF QUOTAS

Is a quota transferable?

Quotas are not transferable without the approval of the Minister. Such approval may only be granted if the quota, if any, or a portion thereof, connected with the right or exploratory right is also transferred to the same person.

NAMIBIANIZATION AND FOREIGN OWNERSHIP

What changes will the Namibianization Policy bring about?

The Namibianization Policy aims to bring Namibians involvement in the operations of the fishing industry. It will bring skills and technical know-how to many Namibians in the areas of fishing, processing, distribution channels and marketing of fish and fisheries products. However, this will only happen if Namibian right holders are committed to do so.

How will the Namibianization Policy accommodate foreign participation?

The Fisheries Policy “White Paper, 1991”, prescriptions integrates a framework for international cooperation and collaboration in fishery matters. Thus, foreign participation

in the Namibian fishing sector is accommodated therein. As the Government Policy encourages Joint Venture more foreigners will be accommodated through joint ventures.

What other benefits would the foreign participation offer?

This approach provides scope for foreign participation through joint ventures or wholly owned foreign owned ventures, especially in onshore processing. Notwithstanding this policy, rights may be granted to wholly foreign owned ventures in exceptional cases where this would be beneficial to Namibia in terms of employment, exchange of technology, skills development and investment.

OWNERSHIP OF VESSELS

Why is it required to show how investment in vessels will be made?

Oh, yes, this is important, because we need to see growth in the sector. Without vessels, the catches will not made and there will be no business in the fishing sector.

Who is responsible for the licensing of vessels?

The right holder will be required to forward an application for a license to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, upon which the Minister, when satisfied, will issue a license to the right holder.

Does the Ministry determine the number of vessels to be registered?

No, the right holders decide on the number of vessels they wish to register, based on the fishery for which they have acquired the right and the quota to catch. Also, depending on the level of the total allowable catch (TAC) and the size of quota allocation to individual right holders.

What are TAC's?

Total allowable catch (TAC) is a total amount of fish to be harvested in a prescribed period. The fisheries scientists on seasonal basis determine the TAC for various quota species.