



## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

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### Industry Review

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#### **WELCOME BY MS. NANGULA MBAKO: PERMANENT SECRETARY**

Namibia's fishing industry is known for its world-class capability in handling, distributing and marketing of fish and fish products. Therefore the introduction of the Newsletter of the Ministry is to welcome, the fishing industry at large and all stakeholders to enable them to share news, information and other newsworthy developments in and around the Namibian fisheries, and also to keep you informed about the regional and international fisheries matters. The newsletter will serve as a medium of communication and dissemination of information to all stakeholders. In this brief note, the Ministry shares what the Government of Namibia has been able to achieve to create an enabling environment to prospective investors and fisheries players alike in the Marine, Inland and Aquaculture business, whether your interest lies in the culture of fresh water or marine species. We are keen to welcome short articles from the industry on your activities and other events of interests that you may wish to share with

us. This issue of the Newsletter covers events from January to June 2004. It is the Ministry's intention to publish the further editions of the Newsletter every quarter onwards.

#### **NEWS FROM THE MINISTRY**



The Hon. Minister, Dr. A. Iyambo, of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

#### **Minister Gives Annual Address**

In the face of hardship the fisheries sector is experiencing, the preliminary indications for the sector has at least contributed over N\$3 billion to export revenue, said the Minister for Fisheries and Marine Resources, Dr. Abraham Iyambo, in his annual speech when he addressed the fishing industry, trade unions and the media at the end of January. He said that 2003 was a difficult year for commercial fishing sector, attributing these hardships to the strength of the Namibia dollar, flat market prices and high operational costs resulting in reduced margins in real times.

The industry together with the Ministry should harness those hard times and turn it into its own advantage, he commented. The

industry, when times are hard should look at its structure and function; identify problems and possible strategic actions. He queried how exactly have the exchange rate fluctuation affected the industry; what could be the possible impact on employment; what options are there to reduce operational and fleet maintenance cost and might some companies still do more to add value to their products to maximise margins. Minister Iyambo urged the industry, therefore to take a hard look and support their actions with tangible and verifiable facts and figures.

The financial institutions also came under spotlight when the Minister called upon the lending institutions also to take a long-term view of the sector, adding that spontaneous reactions in times of trouble do not lay foundation for a sustained future. He appealed that all, including industry and the lending institutions must work towards holistic and long-term view, as understanding of one another's needs and building stability in the sector is the key to the success.

#### **Update on 1991 Policy Paper**

The revision process of the Namibia's marine fisheries policy white paper "Towards Responsible Fisheries" of 1991 has been completed through wider stakeholder consultation process including the fishing industry. Next the Policy will now be subject to Government's approval process and would be made public thereafter.

The purpose of the revision was to align the policy paper with the recent developments in the marine fisheries sector. These include international framework, such as Namibia's involvement in international and regional fisheries management organisations.

The revision was particularly necessary to harmonise policy with the issues addressed in the current Marine Resources Act (2000). Developed one year after the policy, the Act had been revised and came into effect in August 2002. It now encompasses wide range of management plans for various species, including the cape fur seals and shark management plans in line with the FAO guideline and management plans for protection of seabirds breeding colonies as

well as measures to limit the by-catch of seabirds.

Further to that the revision of the policy paper was necessary to reflect Namibia's increasing role as a developing coastal state in national policy for the marine resources sector.

#### **Revised Strategic Plan for the Ministry**

A new five –year (2004-2008) Strategic Plan has been put in place to guide the Ministry' work and set standards of performance expected by the Ministry's stakeholders and clients. The revision of the Plan was necessitated by new developments that are unfolding in the Ministry's strategic environment that affects the way the MFMR pursues its mission and the Plan make provisions for incorporating these changes. It is with this intend that the Ministry, at the end of 2003 held a workshop to review the Ministry's Strategic Plan that covered the period 1999-2003. The revised Plan contains the mechanism to ensure it proper review and evaluation of the performance of the objectives and strategies will guide the MFMR staff on how to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the services they provide.

- In the meanwhile, the stakeholders, clients and the community at large are guided by the Customer Charter, which sets out the standards of services they can expect from our staff members and the central element against which the stakeholders it serves can measure the work of the Ministry.

#### **Human Resources Development**

Fifty-four staff members are currently undergoing skills and career development at various levels through full-time, part-time and/or distance studies. Twenty-eight of the said staff members are studying full time at various Universities, Technikons and other educational Institutions locally and abroad.

The remaining twenty-six staff members are pursuing their under- and postgraduate studies on distance mode at various Universities, Technikons and other educational Institutions.

To date Ministry has trained 201 inspectors and observers through Fisheries Inspectors

and Observer Course (FIOC) program since its inception.

The 9 months programme conducted at Namibian Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI) is aimed at upgrading skills and knowledge of the inspectors and observers. A current intake of 25 inspectors and observers would graduate at the end of June 2004.

The Cadets training also at NAMFI are conducted for different categories. Group 7 caters for 34 deck officers (Deck officer and Engineering class 6), Group 8 recently concluded induction program on safety and survival at sea of 24 trainees. While Group 9, the current intake of 30 Deck Officers is at sea to acquire sea time. at NAMFI Which another six Deck officers enrolled for class 1 / 2 management level, set by the International Convention on Standards on Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (1995STCW'95).

The Ministry recently embarked on a preliminary Training Needs Assessment, which would direct and enhance its future training activities. Induction training to equip the new staff members to Government rules and procedures is also currently underway. These induction courses are conducted from time to time as new staff members join the Ministry.

We continued to train staff members at all levels and in various fields throughout 2003. Training included short courses, workshops, symposiums and in-service training. Bursaries were also granted to staff members to improve their level of academic qualifications on under-graduate and postgraduate level.

## **MARINE FISHERIES SECTOR**

### **Fisheries Research News**

The preliminary TAC for pilchard of 20 000 tonnes has been declared for 2004 fishing season. This decision was based on the scientific research conducted during the past 12 months, which indicated that most stocks are generally in robust condition. The Hon. Minister, Dr. Iyambo announced that the survey set for March/April 2004 would determine whether it is possible or not to increase pilchard TAC further



*Fisheries Research vessel: used for collecting Biological and Scientific data*

On the hake stocks, the Minister said that high levels of juvenile catches continued to be experienced in the catch. This is a great concern, even though all hake trawlers should have completed installation of selectivity devices in their nets by December last year. Hon. Minister also noted that some trawlers have already installed selectivity devices on board, but do not use them.

He appealed to the hake sector not to dodge compliance in the use of the selectivity devices, noting that the hake right holders will eventually see the value of devices in terms of health of the stocks.

### **Evaluation of Fishing rights**

Many joint venture arrangements between the new and established fishing companies continue to work well, this was revealed when consideration of motivations for the extension of rights were reviewed during the course of 2003.

The aim of the evaluation was also to determine the degree to which commitments made in original right-holders' applications have been met, and to assess the degree to which these companies have utilised their rights and quotas. The review exercise has further assisted the Ministry to assess how well the current empowerment and Namibianisation policies are being realised.

Rights were evaluated for hake, monk, rock lobster, large pelagic, linefish, seals and orange roughy.

Rights were extended in most cases to 7, 10, or 15 years and rights for small pelagic, hake, monk and deep-sea fisheries rights were also extended. These extensions will put to rest

the question often ask by public when the next applicants would be invited as no rights will be called for before 2007.

### **Minister Consults With The Rock Lobster Industry**

Sequel to the meetings held last December 2003, Hon Minister Iyambo met again with the Rock Lobster Industry in February 27<sup>th</sup>. The main outcome of this meeting was that due to the poor catches to date, no changes to the geographical distribution of the TAC is necessary. The Minister also agreed however to extend the season up to May 15<sup>th</sup> 2004.

The purpose of the consultation was to outline the difficulties currently faced by the Rock Lobster Industry, in particular the effect of the strong Namibian Dollar and over-supply of rock lobster in South East Asian markets.

A number of measures to mitigate these problems were identified and agreed upon. In the short-term, depending on the success of industry being able to land its present quota allocations successfully, the Minister will consider allowing present area quota allocations to be reviewed in order to reduce costs of production.

In the longer term, industry shall internally analyse operational methods, marketing arrangements and identify structural adjustments necessary to secure the long-term viability of the industry.

### **Minister Meets With Hake Industry**

The Hake Industry should internally consult with all stakeholders and prepare an industry-wide position paper, containing options for longer-term strategic actions to ensure the viability of the industry. This was the conclusion of a meeting when Hon Minister Iyambo met with members of the Hake Association at Walvis Bay in December last year to bring forth the issues facing the industry. Association Chairman, Mr Silvanus Kathindi, stated that although hake resource recruitment levels are currently 'fair' and there has been an improvement in catch rates, catches are erratic and the mix unfavourable.

It was stressed that the hake industry is currently the largest industry in the fisheries and marine resources sector in terms of job

creation, foreign currency earnings and investment. However the current effects of the strong Namibian Dollar, recent catch levels, operational costs and market prices, and the possible longer-term direction for the industry, should be evaluated.

It is therefore hoped that position paper should be the focus of a high level seminar to examine the socio-economic factors affecting the Fisheries and Marine Resources Sector, to be held in 2004.

The meeting also noted that some of the problems currently being faced are common to all export-orientated sectors within the Namibian economy.

### **Data Available On Total Landings In 2003**

Fish landings series for 1999 – 2003 has grown steadily despite adverse environmental conditions between 1999 and 2001. Since 1999, growth in most fish stocks, except pilchard, has continued and catches have steadily increased. As such, the total yield from all marine fisheries rose from 577,838 tones in 1999 to 631,119 tones in 2003.

The value of fish and fish products serves as an indicator of the performance of the fishing industry. The landed value of fish has been increasing every year from N\$1.68 billion in 1999 to N\$2.56 billion in 2002, even when the quantity of fish landed declined. In 2002 however, this value declined mainly due to the depreciation of the Namibian dollar against the US dollar and the Euro.

Final value is the value of the product in its final form valued at export prices. For fish processed at sea, final value is the same as the landed value and for fish processed on shore; the final value is higher than the landed value. During the past five years final value has been increasing except in 1999, due to a decline in pilchard and orange roughy catches.

The total landing for main commercial species at Luderitz Port is 54,587.8, while total landing at Walvis Bay Port is 576,531.4. The total for both Luderitz and Walvis Bay ports in 2003 is 631,119.2.

### **Fisheries Data Collection Improved**

A project to further enhance the effectiveness of the Ministry's Fisheries Information

Management System (FIMS) has been completed. Technical expertise was provided through the Food and Agriculture Organisation.

In addition, a Fisheries Economic Database (Eco data) developed by the Ministry over the past two years, has also been consolidated and up-graded through the Technical assistance provided by the Icelandic International Development Agency. The data collected is of value to both the Ministry and the fishing industry, and the improvements on the system allows better monitoring of how the data on fish catches emanating from industry is process.



*Verification of data is crucial. Statistical Clerks making the final touch in Windhoek From left, Fina Indongo, Alex Tjipetekera, Helao Pendukeni, Johanna Newaya and canter on Front Ingo Chris*

## **INLAND FISHERIES SECTOR**

### **New Inland Fisheries Resources Act and regulations**

A new Inland Fisheries Resources Act (no.18 of 2003) came into force on 6 June 2003. The Act was finalised after extensive regional consultations were held.

The Act was developed in mind that more than 100 000 people in Namibia are estimated to be directly or indirectly dependent on fresh water fish resources for their livelihood. Inland fish resources, therefore, play an important socio-economic role in many parts of Namibia. The intent of inland resource legislation is to non-commercialise the exploitation of living fresh water resources.

The new Act aims to safeguard the sustainable and optimal utilization of fresh water fish resources for the rural communities, and the responsibilities for the management of communal resources are

vested at local authorities rather than with central Government under the Act. Therefore the central feature of this Act is to ensure long-term food security for riparian communities.

The associated Inland Fisheries Regulations have also been finalized. These spell out the details for the registration of nets, prohibition of fishing methods, conservation, protection and enforcement measures, angling activities, and offences and penalties and so forth.

## **AQUACULTURE SECTOR**

### **Omahenene Fingerling Production Takes off**

The inauguration of the first Government funded aquaculture production project at Omahenene Aquaculture and Inland Centre is the realization of the Government's long-term vision to develop aquaculture industry in Namibia. Speaking at the occasion of opening of the Centre, President Nujoma said that aquaculture should be promoted widely to contribute towards the goals of food security, food self-sufficiency and to promote fish consumption as means to enhancing the diets of our people with the necessary protein.

The Centre will produce fingerlings of tilapia and catfish, which the local communities can buy for rearing in their home ponds. It in this light that the President Sam Nujoma appealed to Namibians, especially in the local communities to "seize this opportunity to start aquaculture projects in their localities." In this way, the President said, the country can empower our people to produce their freshwater fish for consumption, offer surplus for sale and thereby generate extra income.

When implemented effectively aquaculture activities can provide robust opportunities and boost the economy for the entire nation, the President underlined. Our plan, he continued, "is to promote inland aquaculture as an important tool to enhance the improvement of the living standards of all our people."

President Nujoma further appealed to financial institutions, including the Development Bank of Namibia to be receptive by providing start up capitals and to demonstrate practical support to the upcoming aquaculture farmers.

The Omahenene Centre was built with the assistance of Regional Government of Galicia, in Spain.

The Centre will produce in excess of 100 000 tonnes of fingerlings per year to sell to the fish farmers in Cuvelai system.

### **Aquaculture Promotion Activities**

The new Regulations for Licensing Aquaculture operations in Namibia were gazetted in December 2003. Other regulations concerning import and export controls are at an advanced stage to be finalised soon.

This follows the promulgation of the new Aquaculture Bill (no. 18 of 2002) that came into force on 30 December 2002. The main aim of the Act is to provide and secure legal rights for persons to conduct aquaculture on a sustainable basis at sea, in fresh and brackish waters; have control over the import and export of aquatic organisms, and the marketing of aquaculture products.

In the meanwhile, the Ministry has also established a new Directorate of Aquaculture to oversee the implementation of the new aquaculture legislation, administration and planning for the aquaculture sector. The Directorate is also responsible for creating an enabling environment for aquaculture development in Namibia.

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2003 Mr. Ekkehard Klingelhoef was appointed Director of Aquaculture. The recruitment of staff for the newly established Directorate is currently a priority and adverts for numerous positions have been announced through the media.



*Photo: Dr Sam Nujoma President of the Republic of Namibia: addressing numerous fisheries activities*



*Inland aquaculture species: Fingerlings*

### **Freshwater Fish Farming Likely To Succeed**

Considerable export potential exists for freshwater culture production, as is already being achieved by our tilapia farmers. Expansion of tilapia sales to regional and international markets, as well as catfish, offers real potential for speedy returns to entrepreneurs and investors alike.

It is with this in mind that the Government actively promotes freshwater aquaculture development primarily as a community based, co-operative activity, producing products destined for domestic consumption using extensive and labour intensive culture methods.

The Ministry is currently involved in developing community-based (co-operatives) intensive freshwater aquaculture in the Caprivi and Okavango regions. The long-term strategy of this activity is to apply the lessons learned to other regions. Local species already adaptive to culture requirements shall be the first priority (e.g. catfish and tilapia).

Tilapia and catfish are currently produced commercially at Hardap. Two small-scale hatcheries currently raise fingerlings for small-scale farmers e.g. at Ongediva Rural Development Centre and in Omusati Region, an Inland Aquaculture Center at Omahenene has been developed. The objective of this centre is to produce fingerlings for distribution to fish farmer entrepreneurs, research and to carry out extension work in the Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions. The production of fingerlings has already commenced.

Marine culture (or mariculture) activities, on the other hand, offer huge potential for the intensive culture of high value species for export as well as supplying Namibia's rapidly growing internal market for high value species through restaurants, hotels and the domestic fish consumer. Marine aquaculture is

dominated by oyster production in Walvis Bay, Swakopmund and Lüderitz. Mainly Pacific oysters and some European oysters.

## **MONITORING, CONTROL, AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES**

### **New Patrol Vessel Named after Namibian Heroine**

Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda, a Namibia heroine who fought and was killed in 1959 Windhoek uprising against then the colonial South African regime, name was chosen for the new fisheries Patrol Vessel. The naming of the multi-purpose Patrol Vessel after a Namibian Heroine signifies the recognition and appreciation of the active participation of women in the liberation struggle and that we pay homage and tribute their heroism, said President Sam Nujoma when commissioning the new Patrol Vessel.

The Vessel, which arrived at the port of Walvis Bay on 29 February 2004, was built in Spain at the cost of more than N\$70 million by the Freira Construction Company over the course of eight months.

Anna Kakurukaze Muungunda with the estimated life span of 30 years, has joined the Nathanael Maxwili and Tabias Hainyeko Fisheries Patrol Vessels. It is fitted with some of the world's modern surveillance equipment and will enable the Government to protect and enhance the sustainable exploitation of our marine resource in line with fisheries legislation.

President Nujoma underlined that the need to expand our fisheries fleet with sufficient capacity became essential and urgent with coming into force of The South East Atlantic Organisation (SEAFO) Convention, as SEAFO Area is adjacent to our EEZ. And thus the Government deemed it necessary to acquire modern and effective Vessel for fisheries surveillance, he maintained.

- The Namibian policy on monitoring, control and surveillance, is based on the monitoring of all landings, the placement of observers on most major vessels and two fisheries patrol vessels, a fixed wing aircraft and a helicopter.

After independence, foreign vessels fishing illegally in Namibian waters were deterred by effective surveillance operations, which resulted in a number of arrests and severe

penalties. The Ministry have further established a satellite surveillance system (VMS) to stem the illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities and also to ensure compliance with applicable laws by licensed vessels.



*NEW FISHERIES PATROL VESSEL: ANNA KAKURUKAZE MUNGUNDA*

The new regulation was drafted through a consultative process involving members of the fishing industry. The regulation is being finalised by the Ministry of Justice and will soon be gazetted.



*Photo: Mr Paulus Kanyangela, Acting Captain on Patrol Vessel Tobias Hainyeko on the move, and other Crew members during the inauguration of PV Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda*

### **SADC Regional Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) on Fishing Activities.**



In April Angola and Namibia made a remarkable history on the first joint MCS maritime surveillance operation in both country's EEZ, with support of Namibian patrol vessel Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda. In June the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia and the Ministry of Fisheries of Angola performed the first joint aerial surveillance operation, lasted in six days. This have increased the cost effectiveness of MCS operations and directly resulted in the consolidation of cooperation between two Ministries

## REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### Activities of BCLME Programme

BCLME is a multi-sectoral initiative by Angola, Namibia and South Africa to facilitate the integrated management, sustainable development and protection of the ecosystem. Funded by the Global Environment facility (GEF), through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and also supported with financial and in-kind contributions by the three member countries.

Main activities now focus on developments of projects through a number of consultative and specialists advisory group meetings and workshops. These included projects on early warning systems for environmental variability, the monitoring and management of shared stocks, oil pollution and water quality, harmful algal blooms, marine biodiversity and impacts of diamond mining on the ecosystem.

BCLME funds projects related to management of the resource through a process of tendering and direct contracting to entities with expertise in a specific field. The BCLME programme has allocated more than US\$4 1000 000.00 in support of 52 projects to date. Each project addresses transboundary environmental problems and contribute to integrated and sustainable management of

the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem.

For the purpose of sustainable research and management the programme is currently investigating active involvement in marine science capacity building and training through the establishment of a training advisory group. A follow-up meeting is to be held in Johannesburg on 7-8th July 2004 to pave the way forward for such a group.



*Namibian Cape fur Seals at Atlas Bay*

## INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES RELATIONS

The Ministry's officials attended a number of international meetings during 2003/4:

**ICCAT:** The International of the Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). ICCAT is an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent seas.

At its 18th meeting in October 2003 the Commission recognized some recommendations and resolutions on the following were made: 1) authorization of temporary catch limit adjustment in the following south Atlantic swordfish, shark, and sea turtles; 2) trade measures; and 3) data collection and quality assurance improvements.

For 2003, Namibia, South Africa, Brazil and Chinese Taipei were allocated a joint limit of 27 000 tons southern albacore tuna. Unfortunately no sharing arrangement was reached. Annual catches of this species in Namibia is nearing the 4000 tonnes mark. In 2002, Namibia was allocated a swordfish TAC of 890 tonnes by ICCAT for the South Atlantic. The fishery could not catch the full quota for 2003.

**CCAMLR:** The Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine and Living

Resources, at its 22nd meeting held in October 2003, approved application for toothfish by four Namibian companies in the CCAMLR Area during 2003/4 fishing season.

**IUU:** Besides the International Plan of Action (IPOA) for seabirds, the overcapacity and the illegal, unreported unregulated (IUU) of sharks have also been a concern. The IPOA as a voluntary instrument was developed within the framework of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and in response to a call from the Twenty-third Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. A draft text for an IPOA-IUU was elaborated at an Expert Consultation in Sydney, Australia, in May 2000. This document formed the basis for negotiations at Technical Consultations that were held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, in October 2000 and February 2001. The IPOA-IUU was adopted by consensus at the twenty-fourth Session the FAO Committee on Fisheries on 2 March 2001 and endorsed by the Hundred and Twentieth Session of the FAO Council on 23 June 2001.

Namibia's approach to eliminate IUU fishing has been to enshrine the obligations under the UN Compliance Agreement and Fish Stocks Agreement into national laws. Last year, Hon. Minister Iyambo attended a Round Table Conference in Vigo, Spain on Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in support of FAO International Plan of Action to tackle IUU fishing. To this effect, the Namibian Government is currently preparing a National Plan of Action to deter and eliminate the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities in and outside its EEZ. In the interim, Namibia continues to maintain measures that ensure that Namibian ports are not used by IUU vessels and likewise continues to execute proper Flag State responsibilities for its vessels when fishing in international waters.

**SEAFO:** The Contracting Parties and Signatories of the Southern East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO), including the Angola, European Community, Namibia, South Africa, and United States of America convened the First SEAFO Commission Meeting of SEAFO from 9-13 March 2004 in Swakopmund, Namibia. FAO also participated as an observer.

Dr. Iyambo, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources Republic of Namibia opened the Meeting, and underlined the need for international cooperation towards the effective conservation and management of fishery resources in the region. The Commission reaffirmed the requirement derived from the international Law of the Sea for all those with fishing interests in the region to fully cooperate with SEAFO towards the conservation and sustainable management of the resource by abiding by the provisions of the SEAFO Convention.

## **NEWS FROM THE INDUSTRY**

### **A view from the Mid-water trawling Industry Association**

The challenge facing the Midwater Trawl Industry during the year 2004 is most notably whether industry would continue to withstand the effects of the persistent strong performance of the local currency against the majority currencies in the world. This view was expressed by MTA's current Chairman, Mr. Callie Jacobs.

The majority of the horse mackerel produced by the MTA is exported for foreign currency and therefore the effect of the strong Namibian currency makes a substantial impact on the performance of this industry.

One of the major challenges, on the home front, remains the issue of Namibianisation of the industry. Currently the ownership of fishing vessels and the crew on-board the vessels now accounts a mere 11% of the entire Midwater Trawl Industry. However, notable results have been achieved over the past years, increments in both the Namibian ownership of the vessels and employment has been recorded.

MTA has 12 right holders and meet at least once a month. Additional meetings are scheduled if so required by circumstances. Chairpersons rotate every 12 months. As a mouthpiece of the mid-water trawl, acts in unison where issues of common interest can be raised, discussed and addressed. In the recent past the MTA dealt with matters relating to NAMPORT; research assistance; promotion of fish consumption issues; participation of trade missions and exhibitions; effects of new legislation on the

industry; training and occupational health and safety issues are concerned.

The MTA adopted a philosophy that all members are equal, irrespective of their quota or business size and matters are as far as possible resolved by consensus. This principle works very well since all the members are well adapted to the principle and decisions are generally accepted as reached.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources publishes the Fisheries Newsletter. We welcome news items and articles from all our stakeholders on matters relating to fisheries topical issues, legislative or policy implementation topics. Please send your contributions or comments to: The Permanent Secretary, Fisheries Newsletter, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, Windhoek, Namibia Telephone: 061-2059911 Facsimile: 061-22456,

or Contact the Liaison Officer, Albert Mbanga at Tel: 061-2053084, E-mail to [ambanga@mfmr.gov.na](mailto:ambanga@mfmr.gov.na)