



OFFICIAL QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

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FOCUS ON FISHERIES AND DEVELOPMENT

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FISHERIES OBSERVER AGENCY (FOA)

IMPORTANCE OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FOA

The FOA has been operational for just over two years. It is staffed by dedicated, professional men and women. The FOA is an effective arm of Government.

The FOA serves as the eyes and ears of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources. The Ministry relies upon it to observe the harvesting of Namibia's marine resources. The FOA provides an essential complement to the monitoring, control, surveillance and scientific activities. It provides impartial and accurate information on a timely basis. The functions of the FOA are set out under section 9 of the Marine Resources Act. These are to: (a) provide fisheries observers to perform the tasks enumerated in section 7(1) of the Act, (b) provide appropriate expertise and facilities to train fisheries observers, and (c) provide observers pursuant to an agreement managing marine resources outside Namibian waters, and which Namibia is a party. Regular dialogue between the Ministry and the FOA is achieved through the FOA Liaison Group, which serves as the principal

mechanism for consultation on any area of mutual interest. The Group is already showing its worth in improving communications.

WHY ON-BOARD OBSERVER CARRIAGE?

The carriage of an on-board observer is a legal requirement under section 7(2) of the Marine Resources Act, unless an exemption is granted. The law demands that fishing vessels must, to the fullest extent possible, have observers on board, to observe compliance with management and conservation measures.

COMPLIANCE ENFORCEMENT

The FOA observers are expected to monitor compliance by fishing vessels with fisheries laws, regulations and licence conditions. Reporting violations is a core function of the observers. Our compliance record varies widely between fleets, and between individual fishing companies. Our management measures are considered to be a model that has been highly praised internationally. These measures are there to protect the resource and, therefore, the viable future of the industry that it sustains. Our laws and regulations are not to be avoided or ignored. They are to be adhered to.

NAMIBIANISATION OF THE MID-WATER TRAWL INDUSTRY

In 2001, the Minister announced that, the quota fees for the mid-water trawl fishery would be changed in order to accelerate Namibianisation of the crew. According to a strategy that was agreed with the fishing industry, Namibianisation was to proceed in three phases. The target was to achieve 35% Namibian crew on board mid-water trawlers by 2002, rising to 45% by 2003 and 55% by 2004. Today, only 1 of the 20 mid-water trawlers licensed has exceeded 55% Namibian crew!

It is obvious that there is a certain degree of resistance to increasing Namibian crew number by some mid-water trawlers. The Minister has called upon those

members of the Mid-Water Trawl industry who habitually utilise vessels that are entirely crewed by non-Namibians to embrace the policy of Namibianisation.

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry continues to train staff members at all levels and in various fields and throughout the years to improve the level of academic qualifications on undergraduate and postgraduate level. The Ministry trains its staff members in short courses for skills development.

QUALIFYING TRAINING

At the end of September 2004, the Ministry had 57 staff members studying full time and part-time.

One staff member reported for duty in August 2004 after successfully completing a certificate in Statistics in Tanzania. Two staff members were awarded financial assistance to pursue their Diploma in business administration through MANCOSA, while another staff member is doing an MSCE computer course that is administered by the University of Namibia (UNAM), on a part-time basis. Meanwhile one staff member left for Iceland to pursue a six months Fellowship Training Program in Fisheries Management.

Five Staff member were enrolled at Cape Technikon in RSA in July 2004 to continue their studies towards class II Marine Engineering certificate after completed the first part of the training at Wingfield Technical/Maritime College.

In Memory our Colleague and Brother
The Ministry was hard-hit when Engineers were involved in a tragic car accident. Sadly, Mr Johannes Kandjengo lost his life after having been involved in a car accidents and leaving two other students in hospital with injuries.

Meanwhile two staff members left for studies to the United Kingdom in

September 2004, one to do a masters degree in Fisheries Economics and the other a masters in Marine Science, sponsored by MCS and the British Schivening Scholarship. In September 2004, one staff member left for Egypt for a three months skill development course in Aquaculture warm water fish production, sponsored by the Egyptian Fund For Technical Cooperation with Africa.

As a yearly tradition, the Ministry invites staff members to apply for financial assistance, every September, so as to be able to further their studies in qualifying training as from January 2005.

SHORT COURSES

One staff member attended a three weeks long workshop in wetland management in Dar Es Salaam University, Tanzania, funded by IUCN under their Regional office for Southern Africa in Harare, Zimbabwe. Two staff members attended a weeklong minute taking course, offered by the Office of the Prime Minister, Directorate Human Resources Development, while one staff member attended a three-day training of trainers and presentation skill course offered by the Insight Total Corporate Solution in Windhoek. [Source: training Division]

THE NEW INTEGRATED FINANCIAL SYSTEM: MARINE RESOURCE FUND

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources has embarked on computerizing the recording of financial transactions under the Marine Resources Fund. An integrated financial software package, called Pastel, has been procured. The main aim is to produce financial statements at any given point as well as to query all transactions by item. Staff members were sent for training in the use as well the set up of the Pastel Accounting Software through the assistance of the Ministry of Finance.

Comment: Define this acronym

The software as well as the Chart of Accounts was set-up by the staff members in the Finance Subdivision of the Ministry. All financial data that was previously recorded manually are now being entered on Pastel. The Ministry has also managed to produce its first set of computerized financial statements on the Fund for the financial year 1997/98. Income on levies can now be viewed by target species as well as whether or not it is by-catch. All other income is also differentiated by type. Expenditure is also broken down by different line items. Assets purchased under the Fund can now be depreciated with ease. The next step will be to computerize the procurement function of the Fund as well as looking at the option of decentralizing the system to Swakopmund regional office. [Source: Finance Division]

MARINE FISHERIES SECTOR

FISHERIES RESEARCH NEWS

The Ministry has acquired a 22m research vessel, the *Anchab*, which will assist the scientists in research, on stock status and the state of the environment. This multi-purpose vessel was constructed in South Africa between October 2003 and June 2004. The vessel was commissioned on 17th September 2004, by Hon. Abraham Iyambo Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources at Luderitz harbour.



New Fisheries Research Vessel: Anchab

INLAND FISHERIES INSPECTORATE

On the 20 of July 2004, the Deputy Director of Monitoring, Control

Surveillance (MCS) and a team consisting of Fisheries Inspectors and the Ministry's Liaison Officer undertook a field familiarization trip to Kavango and Caprivi Regions.

The purpose of the trip was to determine the issues and constraints that will face the various areas in which Inland Fisheries Inspectors will be operating in these regions. The trip has helped to prioritise inland fisheries activities in the two Regions as well as to properly control the use of Ministry vehicles.



A team consists of Deputy Director of MCS, Fisheries Inspectors, a member of Nampol, and two fishermen during the Inland fisheries field trip.

In June 2004 the Ministry acquired two new Nissan bakkies one for Kavango Region and one for Caprivi Region. With the acquisition of the two vehicles the Division of monitoring control and Surveillance (MCS) felt it was necessary to undertake a familiarisation trip to the two regions.



Vehicles acquired to Monitor Inland Fisheries activities in Caprivi and Kavango Regions.

Comment: this does not make sense

Comment: check name – is spelling correct?

AQUACULTURE SECTOR

NAMIBIA'S AQUACULTURE STRATEGIC PLAN

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has identified aquaculture (fish farming) as a priority development. Both Vision 2030 and NDP2 documents summon our urgency to develop aquaculture. Although Namibia's aquaculture industry is in its infancy, the Ministry's Directorate of Aquaculture is working hard to create an enabling environment for the development of (marine and inland) aquaculture. The Ministry has set in place an aquaculture policy, developed an Aquaculture Act and regulations, and completed an Aquaculture Strategic Plan, which sets forth developmental priorities in the short-term. A institutional "one stop shop" arrangement has also been established, comprising all key line ministries with an interest in aquaculture, to ensure smooth processing of aquaculture licence applications.

On the 28th October 2004 five of the fish farms run by co-operatives will be officially inaugurated by Rt Hon Prime Minister Theo-Ben Gurriab at Karovo Fish Farm, Kavango Region.



Inland Aquaculture Fish Farm: Kavango Region

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NEWS



OFFICIAL OPENING OF INFONSA / INFOPECHE OFFICE IN WINDHOEK

In October 2001 a joint cooperation agreement was signed between the Government and the Republic of Namibia and INFOPECHE, which has led to the establishment of the regional office in Namibia.



From Left: Hon. Minister, Dr A. Iyambo, Erik Hempel, Team Leader of INFONSA, Mr Svein Ludvigsen Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs Norway and Dr Amadou Tall, Director of INFOPECHE.

INFOPECHE is well known throughout the world for its excellence in fish trade, marketing, processing and new innovations.

INFOPECHE and the Government of Norway are the major financial contributors for the establishment of the office in Windhoek. The INFONSA office is under the leadership of Mr Erik Hempel. Minister Ludvigsen added that, information is the fuel that drives our commerce, trade, education etc. INFOFISH, serving Asia and the Pacific, was financed by the Government of Norway, followed by INFOPESCA and

then African follower INFOPECHE was established in Abidjan, again with funding from the Government of Norway.

NORWEGIAN FISHERIES MINISTER VISITS NAMIBIA

On the 13th of September 2004, Hon. Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources Dr Abraham Iyambo met with his counter part, Minister of Fisheries and Coastal affairs of Norway Mr, Svein Ludvigsen to discuss further areas of financial and technical assistance rendered by the Government of Norway to Namibia since independence and to strengthen their ties in areas of development.

Dr Iyambo said the following day: "without the technical assistance from Norway, the strategic objectives of stock rebuilding, Namibianisation and empowerment would have remained illusive, and the concomitant net economic benefits from the sector would have remained at arm's length".



MCS-SADC PROGRAMME

INSTANT SUCCESS FOR NAMIBIAN PATROL VESSEL

Namibia's new fisheries patrol ship, *Anna Kakurukaze*, arrested six vessels in Angolan waters on her first patrol.

The Spanish built fisheries patrol vessel, which is named after a Namibian heroine, was deployed by the Monitoring, Control and Surveillance Programme (MCS), a project that is supported and funded by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the European Union.

Over a two-week period, 17 vessels were inspected in Angolan waters. Six were arrested for serious infringements of fisheries legislation. One of the arrested vessels, registered in Togo, was fishing without a license. The remaining five vessels were owned by Chinese or Angolan companies and were arrested for fishing in prohibited areas, using unlicensed fishing gear, fishing with small mesh sizes, not displaying call signs and not carrying licenses.

The arrests come only a month after 18 vessels were fined in \$600 000 each for fishing illegally in Angola. The vessels were spotted by fisheries inspectors who were conducting aerial surveillance off the coast of Angola.



Mr Carlos Palin: MSC-SADC Programme Manager

According to Carlos Palin, Programme Manager of the EU-SADC MCS Programme, this was the first mission of its kind and a "shining example of bilateral cooperation."

"This was the first time we have had this sort of bilateral cooperation on this side of the (African) continent and the first collaboration of its kind between Angola and Namibia," said Mr Palin.

According to Mr Palin, all six vessels have been charged and are likely to be impounded or fined, depending on the seriousness of their infringements.

On board the *Anna Kakurukaze* were a Namibian crew, two Namibian Fisheries Inspectors, six Angolan Fisheries

Inspectors and two representatives of the SADC-EU MCS Programme. More patrols are planned for Angolan waters.

The Fisheries Newsletter is produced by the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources each quarter. We welcome news items or articles on any matter relating to

marine and freshwater fisheries and aquaculture. Please send any comments or contributions to: The Permanent Secretary, Fisheries Newsletter, Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Private Bag 13355, Windhoek, Namibia. E-mail: nmbako@mfmr.gov.na. Telephone: 061-2059911 Facsimile: 061-22456

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