

AGRICULTURE - FISHING

1987

JAN - ~~NOVEMBER~~ DECEMBER

# PE pioneers sea farming in SA <sup>(3)</sup> fishing



By JENNY CULLUM  
**PORT ELIZABETH** is pioneering open sea farming, a vast untapped source of protein-rich food for SA.

And this could bring boom times to Algoa Bay in a "return to the sea" operation.

In Port Elizabeth this week Mr G Fick, chairman of the Fisheries Development Corporation, said he was very favourably impressed with what had been achieved so far. He saw marine farming as a flourishing new industry for SA.

Mussels and oysters are already being harvested commercially from a raft moored at sea off the PE harbour. This is the first stage of an R80-million scheme over the next decade for PE and Saldanha Bay.

The shellfish are moved to the 60-ton raft from a pilot scheme operating at Bird Island.

Mr Fick flew from Cape Town to inspect the raft and discuss the scheme with Mr David Allen, managing director of Atlas Sea Farms, the company which launched the project.

He said the success of this first stage would promote overall development of marine farming.

This would lead to progress for PE and give the

## Tapping vast resources of rich foods from the ocean depths

city a big boost.

Having seen the project, Mr Fick was confident it was a viable proposition, which would mean a great deal to PE by creating new job opportunities.

Because the concept started in PE and the first raft was built here, subsidiary work would be generated in PE when the scheme was expanded.

The harvesting of mussels and oysters was the first step in promoting different kinds of fish farming.

A favourable offshoot of the rafts was that they also acted as a reef, encouraging fish life.

Mr Allen envisaged fish farming in Algoa Bay on a large scale in the future. He believed other companies would take part in it.

"Algoa Bay, with its sheltered bay, unpolluted waters and existing infrastructure, could become a massive centre for open sea farming.

"There is a huge stretch of water which is not used and does not interfere with shipping lanes," he said.

By mid-year, the raft will be in full production, with eight tons of mussels and oysters being harvested monthly. An area of 44 hectares has been leased in Algoa Bay by the company and further rafts will be moored.

In March the first raft in Saldanha Bay will be launched. During the next 10 years, 500 rafts are planned for a 1 550-hectare area in Saldanha.

A staff of 25 is currently employed in PE, including two marine biologists. During the next five years employees should number 300, growing to 1 000 in 10 years.

During 1986 fresh oysters and mussels from the pilot projects were already being sold in PE and the Reef, and since the mooring of the raft, mussels and oysters are being harvested there.

Mr Allen pointed out that farming in SA was limited by the lack of fresh water. The fishing industry was limited by reaching maximum tonnage. An alternative way to get protein was by farming the sea.

"PE was a sea port

with a big fishing industry. It needs a change of direction and I think its possible salvation lies in turning back to the sea," he said.

There was obviously a big market for fish in SA.

Although oysters were a luxury food, mussels were a fine and cheap source of protein, Mr Allen said.

In Spain they were called the "potatoes of the sea".

In the past, R12 million worth of mussels had been imported into South Africa and he hoped that local mussels would take over this market.

He said three mussels were the nutritional equivalent of a lamb chop.

PE is the first centre to start open sea farming, although there are eight companies in other centres in SA and SWA/Namibia growing shellfish in estuaries or lagoons.

"The open sea is rich in plankton, on which mussels and oysters feed. They are very hardy," he said.

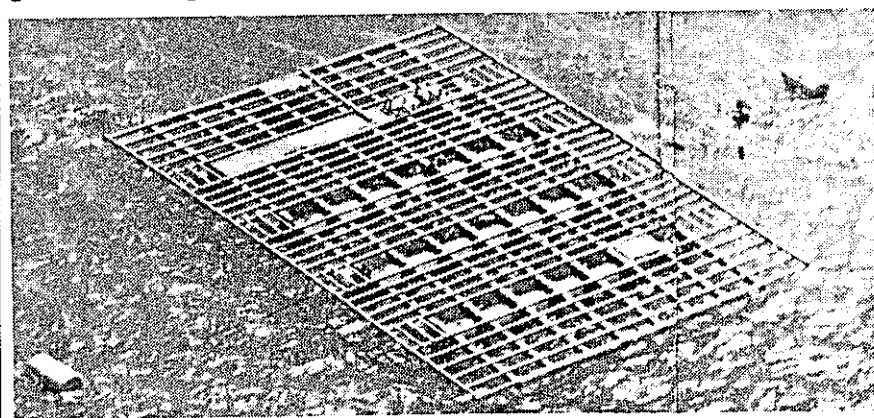
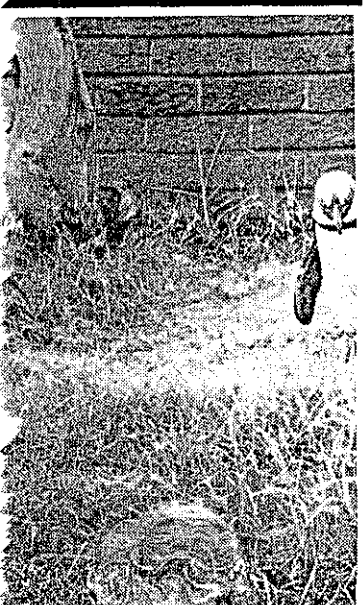
Fish farming, however, needs a feeding system.

The raft on which the mussels are grown measures 20 by 25 metres and cost R160 000. It is made of flotation pontoons with a wooden latticed deck. The mussel seeds are attached to 10-metre ropes. There was no damage during a recent 50-knot gale.

The oyster seeds are imported. Normally they are sold when they are about 90mm long, but some of the oysters have grown up to 170mm, showing that they are thriving in Algoa Bay conditions.

us as one lamb chop. The CK, (right) chairman of the Mr DAVID ALLEN, managed a multi-million rand oysters at sea.

## Sanctuary



This aerial photograph shows the 60-ton raft on which black mussels are being grown commercially in Algoa Bay in South Africa's first open sea marine farming project.

Commission may benefit fishing

# Planned quota board welcomed

*Comp Times 16/11/87*

*3 Fishing*

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

THE FISHING industry will benefit considerably if the government follows the recommendations of the Diemont Commission on the allocation of quotas, Oceana Fishing Group chairman Cedric Walton said yesterday.

He told shareholders at the annual meeting that the allocation of quotas was "one of the most contentious areas in the whole of the fishing industry".

The group considered they had "not always been allocated on the fairest basis" and welcomed the suggested setting up of an independent quota board.

## 'Uncertainties'

It also welcomed proposals that pelagic quotas should be allocated for 10-year periods, seven years for south-coast rock lobster and five years for west-coast rock lobster.

Walton said the Diemont Commission had recognized that annual allocations, and possible unexpected reductions, discouraged long-term investment in an industry "already subject to the uncertainties of nature".

The pelagic fishing season in the Republic started yesterday with the

industry quota lower for anchovies at 275 000 (302 000) tons but higher for pilchards at 36 000 tons (25 235).

Oceana group companies have been allocated 91 610 (105 514) tons of anchovies but last year's cut in their pilchard quota has been restored with 5 999 (1 143) tons.

In Namibia, Sea Products SWA (Seaswa) has so far been allocated only 1 800 (3 280) tons of pilchards this year and additional allocations have been made to Namibian interests with no SA connection.

## 'Satisfactory'

"At this early stage of the current financial year, it is difficult to make an accurate forecast of the year's earnings as there are several uncertainties still to be clarified in connection with the group's quotas — both in the Republic and in SWA/Namibia — which could materially affect profitability," he told shareholders.

"However, it is anticipated that, provided the fish is available, earnings for the year should still be at a satisfactory level although 1986's record earnings might not be repeated."

In the year to September, the group lifted attributable income by 17% to R13,3m (R11,4m) and the dividend to 80c (70c).

# Bloom on Ovenstone's future

**WILL Premier stave off the bankers' demands that their loans to the Ovenstone group be repaid?**

**Bloom:** All the banks owed money by Ovenstone have been visited. While everybody is concerned, there has been a sigh of relief that Premier has taken over management.

They are much happier with the position now that we are involved and say that with a few minor exceptions, there will be no difficulty in financing facilities.

**What are prospects for profitability?**

At a trading level the Chilean operation should make a profit even after interest payments next year. Where SA companies are concerned, Southern Seas has always been a cash generator and will continue to be one.

**What then is the problem?**

The problem comes in the interest costs. The company is rolling in debt. All profits generated by the underlying trading operations will have to be used to service the debt.

What we need in Chile is five years of reasonable fishing, enabling us to trade our way out. That is why I said shareholders need to have patience. People concentrate on the fact that there are \$30m in liabilities in Chile coming onto the balance sheet, but there are also nearly \$30m worth of assets.

**What are your options for placing the company on a sound footing?**

A rights offer to degear the company externally is out of the question because the money is in the wrong place.

It is in SA. But a rights issue, or some other form of finance, is going to be necessary to finance the Southern Seas acquisition. But I do not want to be accused of putting the company into a nose-dive in an attempt to buy out the minority shareholders cheaply.

**When did Premier directors on the Oven-**



After a stormy Ovenstone shareholders meeting in Cape Town last week, Tony Bloom, the new chairman, gives his views in an interview with Economics Editor GERALD PROSALENDIS on the prospects for the Cape-based fishing company.

25/2/85 / Day ③ Fishing

**stone board begin to question the financial position?**

I started asking questions a long time ago. Premier directors have consistently raised the excessive level of borrowings. But nothing was done about the situation. For example, I agreed to spending \$5m to build the shore-based factory in Chile on the understanding that sufficient assets would be sold off in SA to finance the deal.

While the factory was built, management never got around to selling off the assets. That is how the borrowings compounded exponentially. In the last twelve months we got stuck into a deep investigation.

**Did the Ovenstone group attempt to hide the true position of the Chilean operation for strategic reasons, such as sanctions? I understand you can get exemption from the Registrar of Companies not to consolidate offshore activities into group accounts, though you would have to get legal opinion on that, but that was not the case with Ovenstone.**

Rather, the rationale of security — because the company traded in sensitive places and did not want to disclose details — was used excessively as a mechanism to sit on facts which should have surfaced. On several occasions, share-

holders were told it was not strategic to disclose the facts.

**Could anybody be held liable in court? We are investigating everything and any actions that warrant it will be prosecuted. But my contention is that the auditors were not culpable because the Chilean operation was not consolidated.**

They were not given all the information, which if they had been, would have caused them to insist on consolidation. There are two areas of investigation that could be usefully pursued.

One is in relation to whether the company or shareholders have any action against management. There is virtually no SA case law on that subject. It is a very difficult action to bring, firstly because it has to be proved the management acted *male fide*, and secondly it is difficult to quantify the damages involved.

We are also investigating whether action lies in relation to the inadequate provisions in Premier Wire. But frankly there is no action against poor management.

What we have to do at this stage is get our heads down and restore these companies to profitability and pay off the bad debts.

**Did you ever think of walking away from your investment?**

It is not our style. Many companies take the view that the first loss is the best loss and they cut and run. In our case that would have meant writing off about a R16m to R18m investment.

We were prepared to walk into a messy situation and sort it out. It was the Premier directors who uncovered the mess.

It was also us who insisted on disclosing it — that was the major battle.

**Is this going to affect Premier's results? Not at all. This is insignificant in the totality of Premier's business. We are trading extremely strongly and are looking forward to a record year.**



# SA seafood worth R21-m sent to US despite ban, paper claims

25/2/87  
Star  
Fishing

NEW YORK — As much as \$10 million (about R21 million) worth of South African lobster tails has been shipped to the United States despite a ban on a wide range of South African goods enacted last year, the *Journal of Commerce* reported yesterday.

"There's no doubt that the spirit, if not the letter, of the law is not being complied with," said a US investigator, who spoke on condition of anonymity, according to the report.

Officials told the paper that one of the biggest problems, in the case of seafood, is that the country of origin is technically determined by the flag of the ship that catches or processes it rather than by the ownership of the cargo or the vessel.

South African seafood may be sold legally in the United States by other countries.

One shipment of 85 t of lobster tails — worth \$2.7 million (about R5.6 million) — was transferred from the *Southern Freedom*, a ship registered in the Cayman Islands, to a Panamanian-registered vessel in Montevideo, Uruguay, and then shipped to Gloucester, Massachusetts, in early January, the newspaper said.

A second shipment of 244 t worth up to \$7.8 million (about R16.2 million) was transferred from the *Southern Freedom* to the *Spitsbergen*, a Cyprus-registered vessel, in mid-February and was also believed to be bound for Gloucester, the paper said.

It quoted a Uruguayan shipping agent as saying that the *Southern Freedom* was owned by the South Atlantic Fishing Company, located in the Caymans.

The company appeared to be linked to a Cape Town firm, the paper said. — Sapa-Associated Press.

*M. G. 27/2/87* *3/2/87*

# US alert for ship carrying SA crayfish

GLOUCESTER (Massachusetts). — The United States Coast Guard said today it was watching out for a ship believed to be carrying millions of dollars worth of South African lobster tails whose import into the United States is banned.

A Coast Guard spokesman said that Customs would be alerted if the Spitsbergen, a vessel registered in Cyprus, arrived in Gloucester, a major seafood products centre.

He said it was suspected that the vessel was carrying lobster tails from South Africa.

The Journal of Commerce reported on Tuesday that the Spitsbergen had taken on 244 tons of lobster tails in Montevideo, Uruguay earlier this month and was headed for Gloucester.

The New York-based newspaper said the cargo was transferred from the South Freedom, a ship that apparently has links to a South African company.

Lobster tails and other South African food are banned under sanctions imposed by the US Congress last year.

## CIRCUMVENTING BAN

The Journal of Commerce said that South African exporters were circumventing the ban by transferring cargoes between ships in foreign ports and by re-registering their ships under other national flags.

It said that in December the South Freedom transferred 85 tons of South African lobster tails in Montevideo to the Frost Olympos, a ship registered in Panama.

The Frost Olympos docked in Gloucester on January 5 and was unloaded, the newspaper said.

A Customs spokesman said an investigation of that cargo was under way. The cargo was in cold storage but he refused to say whether it had originated in South Africa. — Sapa-Reuter.

Call for 10-year ban on whaling to be extended  
CAPT. TINKS 7/3/87  
(3 Filing)

# Call for 10-year ban on whaling to be extended

VICTORIA, Seychelles. — Experts agree that international regulations governing the hunting of whales should be tightened to ban whaling in the southern Antarctic, a spokesman said yesterday.

He said a seven-day scientific review by experts from the International Whaling Commission, delegates from Indian Ocean states and leading conservation bodies ended here late on Saturday.

The meeting recommended to the commission that the present 10-year ban to 1989 on commercial whaling to the 55th degree of latitude be extended to include the feeding grounds of the Antarctic in the sanctuary, the spokesman said.

The scientists also agreed to recommend that the hunting ban be extended beyond 1989 so as to give more time to study whale populations.

Both major recommendations will be put to the commission's scientific committee and a full meeting of the commission, both scheduled for June in Britain.

"We have been talking about extending the whale sanctuary to include the Antarctic. The whales breed in the tropics and feed in the Antarctic so we want to include their whole area of life," said Seychelles national whaling adviser Dr Sydney Holt.

Dr Holt, a Briton, said it was as yet impossible to assess whether the ban was having a major effect on whale-population growth.

"It is much more difficult to count whales and measure how fast they are increasing or depleting than we thought in 1979," he said.

He thought it might take up to 40 years to establish exactly how whale populations had been affected by the hunting ban. — UPI

(3) fishing DD7/3/87

# Molteno plans to be one of SA's top trout-fishing areas

Dispatch Reporter

QUEENSTOWN —

Plans are being hatched to turn Molteno into one of the top dam trout-fishing areas in South Africa.

And they could be in full flood by June this year, Mr Martin Davies, a researcher at Rhodes University in Grahamstown and the man behind the scheme to start a trout hatchery, said yesterday.

The town clerk, Mr Piet Moolman, added: "The council is going to sponsor the trout-hatching scheme, because this could turn into a very big tourist attraction for the area."

Private individuals and other local organisations have also pledged their support for a hatchery that should be able to accommodate up to 300 000 trout eggs.

Mr Davies, of the Rhodes Department of Ichthyology and Fishery Science, who recently spent a weekend in the area as a guest of the Molteno Angling Club, to assess the possibilities of the scheme, said:

"With its many dams, cool climate and high altitude, the district has tremendous potential for trout fishing. It could become one of the best areas for trout in dams in the Eastern Cape, if not

the whole of South Africa."

Molteno was in a sweetveld area, which meant trout should grow up to be healthy and of adequate size, said Mr Davies, who pointed out that the local angling club had already successfully started stocking the town dam.

He yesterday identified three problems that could affect the success of the a regional breeding scheme. These were:

- Fluctuating water levels in irrigation dams, which meant that arrangements had to be made to transfer fish from one dam to another.

- The presence in dams of carp, which, because of their feeding habits, tended to make water muddy — a situation disliked by trout. But because of the difficulty of catching them, there was little to be done about the carp.

- The biggest problem, however, said Mr Davies, was the large number of cormorants of various species in the area.

These birds, which have a wing-span of more than a metre, can eat more than their own weight in food — including fish — a day. They also consume other foods that would otherwise be fed on by trout.

"Unfortunately, and of course with the permission of the relevant nature authorities, we are going to have to shoot a few of them," said Mr Davies.

"But once they see that people with guns mean business, they tend to disappear to a safer area. This was certainly the experience in the Barkly East area, another fine trout area, not long ago.

"I have never seen so many of these birds inland in my life as I did at Molteno. Shooting them is not really a matter of conservation: if man hadn't built the dams at Molteno in the first place, the birds wouldn't be there.

"I would hate to see them all shot, but we are talking about several hundreds of birds here. Anyway, we are going to have to shoot some, because otherwise all the trout will end up in their tummies."

Mr Davies added: "It is my personal ambition to promote aquaculture and the sport of fishing so that we attract anglers to this area and thus get people up into the mountains.

"Molteno has tremendous potential, and I have every confidence that the committee of the local angling club will manage their fishing resources effectively."

# Reckless poachers

W/E Argus  
7/3/87  
3 Fishing

By DENNIS CRUYWAGEN  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**RECKLESS** poachers, driven by the poor economy, unemployment and the increasing demand for seafood, are entering the lucrative black market in droves.

The number of arrests and the fines paid by poachers have soared, according to a report from the Department of Environment Affairs.

The department said that seafood such as perlemoen and crayfish were the chief targets of the poachers because of the high prices they fetched on the black market.

The increasing popularity of these delicacies and their continued exploitation have heightened the pressure on resources.

"A greater recklessness is detectable in the collecting of these seafoods," the department said.

It said that 84 people, who paid a total of R17 790 in fines, were prosecuted for contravening crayfish regulations last year.

In the same period 34 people, who paid a total of R11 940 in fines, were prosecuted for violating perlemoen regulations.

According to the department 444 people, 306 of whom were prosecuted, were charged between October and December last year.

Fines totalling R44 061 were imposed.

Last year 1 610 people — an increase of 367 on the previous year — were prosecuted for contravening the Sea Fisheries Act.

Kommetjie, where the highest number of people were arrested, appeared to be a favourite spot for poachers in the Peninsula.

About 35 people were prosecuted on 49 charges here, and fines amounting to R6 355 were collected.

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Soap opera cliff hanger as <sup>Capl6 Times 9/3/87</sup> . . .

# Starke gets Ovgroup/Oil, Walsh an offer deadline

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

A SHAREHOLDERS meeting in a city hotel yesterday left everyone still waiting for the final chapter of the Ovenstone group (Ovgroup) story, which has taken on some of the characteristics of a soap opera.

The end will be known in seven working days. Minority shareholders led by Jack Walsh, chairman of sea diamond company Mervest and a former Ovgroup skipper, have until then to put together a R125m package which will include paying R28m in cash for the Ovgroup fishing companies.

They will have to release the Premier group from all liabilities in respect of the fishing companies by convincing creditor banks overseas that they can guarantee multi-million dollar debts which might have to be paid in financial rands.

And they will have to repay a loan of R34m which Premier has made to the fishing companies.

Meanwhile, the meeting agreed to an offer which has given civil engineering firm Basil Starke control of Ovgroup and Ovenstone Investments (Oil) from April 1 for a consideration of R17,8m.

The names of the companies will be changed to Basil Starke group and Basil Starke Investments and shareholders can

either retain their shares, sell them or accept Premier shares — or choose a combination of all three.

If Premier, which has bought the fishing companies back from Basil Starke for R21,5m, sells them to Walsh and his associates the difference in price — about 10c a share — will be distributed to all shareholders including itself.

This compromise was reached after a lively and lengthy meeting in which Walsh pointed out that Premier was in "a dual-hatted position" in asking shareholders to dispose of Ovgroup's main assets to itself at a price described by its financial director, Gordon Utian, as "hypothetical".

Premier chairman Tony Bloom warned that it was not easy to deal with overseas banks who regarded Chilean debts guaranteed by an SA company as "the worst possible combination".

Bloom said Ovgroup's Chilean operation owed \$15,5m in short-term loans from different banks in Chile who were "extremely nervous about it and particularly about guarantees from SA in view of the debt standstill" and could "pull the rug out at any minute."

He and Premier financial director Gordon Utian had found negotiations with these banks "difficult and torrid".

In addition to this, Ovgroup owed \$9,5m to other overseas

creditors.

Bloom said he thought it unlikely that the Chilean operation would catch the 160 000 tons of fish budgeted for this season, and any profits made would have to be used to pay off creditors.

Walsh said he considered the Chilean operation "the joker in the pack".

Fish meal prices had risen and he thought that if 150 000 tons of fish were caught it would finance the interest burden and allow certain debts to be paid.

In answer to questions from Walsh, Bloom said a decision to replace the factory ship in Chile with a land-based factory had been taken before the introduction of a two-tier financial system making overseas debts payable in financial rands. And the factory had cost \$8,5m more than expected.

In addition to this, a further \$1,5m or \$2m would have to be spent on making the factory more efficient.

He said some of the fish meal produced at the factory was sold to Premier.

Early in the meeting, Walsh said his offer was subject to the consent of Mercabank — mentioned in a Supreme Court hearing as providing bridging finance.

But after an adjournment he said he was "confident" that a firm offer could be made within seven working days.

# Pelagic fishing industry has best season for years

Environment Reporter

ARGUS 11/3/87

over a period of 12 months.

THE West Coast pelagic fishing industry appears to be enjoying its best season in many years and there is speculation in the industry that increased anchovy quotas will be announced soon by Minister of Environment Affairs Mr John Wiley.

There are also indications that pilchard stocks, which crashed dramatically in the 1960s after over-fishing off the West Coast and South West Africa/Namibia, are recovering well.

According to Dr J Serfontein, chief director of the marine development branch of the Department of Environment Affairs, some pelagic fish quota-holders are likely to complete their quotas for 1987 soon because of excellent catches.

And a spokesman for the fishing industry said their biggest problem was finding storage space for fish meal which would normally be sent to feed mixers

Catch statistics show there has been a steady increase in anchovy hauls since 1984.

The season for pelagic fish opened on January 15 and the total permissible anchovy catch, the main commercial pelagic species, was set at 300 000 tons subject to revision in February and May.

## SURVEYS

But boats operating on the West Coast have found large shoals of anchovy close to the shore and by the end of last month they had already caught 173 000 tons.

According to the Department's Sea Fisheries Research Institute, which conducts regular surveys in the research ship RS Africana, one reason for the increase in anchovy has been abnormally warm water along the West Coast which brought the shoals close to shore where they are more easily netted.

3 Fishing

# Big anchovy quota boost for W Coast fishing firms

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## Environment Reporter

THE West Coast fishing industry has been given a substantial boost this year by an increase in the total anchovy quota from 300 000 to 450 000 tons.

Announcing the increase yesterday, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr John Wiley, said scientists of his department's Sea Fisheries Research Institute had found the anchovy stock twice as high as the 1984-85 levels.

However, he said the situation would be reassessed after the end of April and he warned the industry to guard against over-optimism.

Catch patterns and fish distribution remained unpredictable and there could be "urgent revision" if drastic changes occurred.

## Dynamic system

"It should also be stressed that because we are dealing with a dynamic biological system, my decisions are applicable for only the current year and will not necessarily extend to subsequent years.

"Planning by the industry cannot be based on this year's situation as a guaranteed base for expansion," said Mr Wiley.

"I would like to express my thanks to the fishing industry in general for the way in

which, with its co-operation and consultation, pelagic fish stock estimates were undertaken."

Dr Doug Butterworth, an applied mathematician at the University of Cape Town who has been a consultant to several international fisheries commissions, described Mr Wiley's decision to adjust the quota substantially as "enlightened".

He added: "However, in the light of the statement that the anchovy has doubled in size, one must ask whether a quota increase of only 50 percent is not unnecessarily conservative."

Dr Butterworth said major credit was due to scientists at the Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

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**False**

*Cape Town 17/4/02*  
**Bay**

**kreef** *3 fishing*  
**quota**

**Staff Reporter**

KALK BAY fishermen are legally catching crayfish for the first time in six years within the boundaries of False Bay, a spokesman from the Department of Environment Affairs confirmed yesterday.

A 30-metric-ton quota for crayfish was allocated to Kalk Bay fishermen, who were not already in possession of a quota or catching right, by the late Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr John Wiley, in November last year.

The department estimates that this quota represents a safe and conservative level of exploitation.

According to the spokesman, it is the first time since 1982 that commercial exploitation of any marine resources within the bay, other than linefishing and treknetting, has been allowed.

**Two boats only**

The Department of Environment is amending regulations prohibiting the use of traps in False Bay.

Officials of the Chief Directorate of Marine Development in consultation with fishermen have decided that only two of the existing fishing boats in Kalk Bay are suitable for catching kreef.

Hout Bay harbour will process the crayfish — a quarter of which will be sold on the local market.

The crayfish boats are not permitted to operate in the marine reserves at Miller's Point and between the mouth of the Buffels River at Pringle Bay and Cape Hangklip.

# Business Report

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1987

## Moves to restore profitability

# Basil Starke to control Oil

*CME Tuis 27/4/87*

### Financial Staff

OVENSTONE GROUP (Ovgroup) is selling its fishing interests to Premier Group and acquiring the construction and engineering interests of the Cape Town-based civil engineering firm, Basil Starke, in a major move to restore the troubled group to profitability.

Premier's Tony Bloom has already taken concerted action to satisfy Oil and Ovenstone Group (Ovgroup) shareholders.

Faced with debt in excess of R100m — reduced to about R70m after the sale of Ovdeco's property and construction interest to a consortium of former Ovenstone directors — the burden was too heavy for a group that size.

Interest on the reduced debt will amount to R10m alone and the group is operating at heavy losses and will continue to do so.

Today's announcement says Bloom's solution is for Premier to buy Ovgroup's fishing interests as Premier has the size, financial strength and diversity of operations to provide the necessary time needed to restructure the fishing interests, reduce the debt and restore them to profitability, without having to take short-term pressures into consideration.

Ovgroup will acquire the construc-

tion and general engineering interests from Basil Starke, which will acquire Premier's shareholding in Oil. Control of Oil will therefore pass to Basil Starke.

Oil and Ovgroup shareholders have a choice of three alternatives, with Rand Merchant Bank being retained to act as advisers on the fairness and reasonableness of the entire transaction.

Ordinary shareholders can either remain invested in Oil and/or Ovgroup, which are proposed to change their names to Basil Starke Investments and Basil Starke Group to reflect the new activities; exchange all or any of their shares for shares in Premier or accept a cash offer for all or any of their shares.

Oil preference shareholders will receive a cash offer for their shares.

The notice reminds shareholders that the board of directors of Oil and Ovgroup had advised that there would be significant losses for the year ended March 31, 1987, results of which are to be published on or about May 22, and this should influence shareholders on the course of action to be followed.

Oil shares, suspended at 30c, and of Ovgroup, suspended at 38c, will be reinstated in the industrial holding sector today.

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(Basil Starke)

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# Fishermen angry over 30-ton quota of crayfish

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A ROW has erupted over a 30-ton crayfish quota worth about R350 000 promised to the fishermen of Kalk Bay by the late Mr John Wiley, Minister of Environmental Affairs.

There is uncertainty about who qualifies for a share, there have been threats of Supreme Court action and the issue has been tainted by racial overtones.

Because of the controversy, two boats which had contracted to catch the crayfish have withdrawn and there are fears that the quota may not be filled before the season ends on June 30.

The False Bay quota was granted last year by Mr Wiley who said all professional fishermen in the community would benefit apart from those few who already held quotas.

The marine development branch of Mr Wiley's department called an urgent meeting on March 25 at which 15 professional "coloured" boat-owners were represented and a Kalk Bay quota action committee was formed.

The committee awarded a contract for catching the quota to two Kalk Bay boats at R3,30 a kilogram.

## "NOT INVITED"

But several Kalk Bay boat-owners say they were not invited to the March 25 meeting and claim the action committee is unrepresentative.

Mr Francois de Villiers of Lakeside, who threatened Supreme Court action, said he, his crew and other boat-owners thought developments were "very unfair".

## "AT SEA"

"The majority of us were at sea when the meeting was called," he said. "I asked why only some boat-owners had been notified of the meeting and they said they couldn't get hold of me and the others."

He was also unhappy about the decision to award the quota to only two boats. They already held crayfish quotas and any further benefits would directly contradict Mr Wiley's intentions.

"Everyone who is entitled to a certain amount of the quota should be given their share.

"My boat plus four others are also equipped with derricks and winches to catch this crayfish quota, but we weren't approached."

## CHALLENGED

But his version of the issue is challenged by action committee chairman Mr Dawood Adams of Ocean View, who said the committee had been formed "to get this thing off the ground".

The meeting had been called at short notice by the marine development directorate, and many people could not be contacted, he said.

"The root of the problem is that the people who will benefit from the quota have not been identified.

"Phase one was to get the fish caught, packed and some money in. The second phase is a committee on which we hope to have fishermen serving, as well as the directorate, to see who is eligible."

**Diversification beats sanctions**

*CME Times 6/5/87*  
**Oceana lifts net income, turnover**

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**  
Financial Editor

OCEANA fishing group (Ocfish) has overcome the effect of sanctions and the strengthening rand on its export earnings to lift net income in the first half of its financial year to R9,4m (R9,2m).

Turnover in the six months to March 31, rose by 16% to R83,3m (R71,9m) and earnings a share to 82,7c (81,1c).

The interim dividend is unchanged at 27,5c.

CE Walter Lewis forecasts improved earnings of about 165c (147,1c) a share for the whole year if group performance is in line with budgeted projections.

He said yesterday this could be achieved in spite of the fact that Sea Products SWA (Seaswa), in which the group has a 54,5% stake, has forecast lower earnings for the year.

**Forward planning**

Lewis explained yesterday that forward planning and market diversification had helped the group to overcome the effects of sanctions.

"We have also improved handling and processing technology which has resulted in better yields.

"Other contributing factors were the return of the traditional industry percentage of the pilchard quota to the group, following the recommendations of the Diemont Commission." Catches of pelagic fish had been

good, with higher oil yields at the beginning of the season.

The fact that catches had been near the factories resulted in cost savings.

"Pelagic landings to date are well up on last year and the group has virtually caught its share of the increased quota although the season closes only on September 30."

□ Seaswa has also maintained its interim dividend, at 50c a share, and lifted turnover for the six months to March 31 by 17% to R12,5m (R10,6m).

**Earnings forecast**

Net pre-tax income rose to R5,7m (R5m). The tax bill for the six months was R2,2m of which R2,1m will accrue directly to SWA/Namibia.

But Lewis, who is also CE of Seaswa, forecasts a drop in earnings for the full year to 135c (207,5c) a share.

He said negotiations with the SWA/Namibian authorities on the proposal that 30% of the group's interest in its rock lobster concession should be made available to residents of SWA/Namibia were still in progress.

Seaswa's rock lobster quota in SWA/Namibia was reduced from 34,6% to 30,3% and its pilchard quota from 8% to 5,2%.

Lewis said landings of rock lobster at Lüderitz were lower than at this time last year, mainly due to bad weather conditions.

But sanctions have not harmed sales. Lewis said demand for frozen whole cooked lobster remained firm and "the total production has been sold at favourable prices."

# SA helps prevent the 'robbery' of Namibian fish

3 FISH STAR  
25/5/87

The Star's Africa News Service

WINDHOEK — If it were not for the international influence of South Africa, the "robbery" of Namibian fish resources off its coast would be even greater, says Windhoek's director of Sea Fisheries, Dr Jan Jurgens.

Addressing a meeting of the Wildlife Society in Windhoek on Wednesday night, Dr Jurgens said that member countries of the International Conference on South-East Atlantic Fisheries (ICSEAF) were cur-

rently pulling out 1,3 million tons of Namibian fish a year. And these figures were false ("lieg syfers"), Dr Jurgens said.

At any one time, there were between 150 and 200 foreign vessels catching fish within a 200-nautical-mile "economic zone" off the coast of Namibia.

However, these countries — including the USSR, Spain, Japan, West Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, Rumania, South Korea, Portugal, France and East Germany and South Africa — refused to recognise this economic zone off the Namibian coast, although it was common practice throughout the rest of the world.

Dr Jurgens said that without South Africa's input, this year's catch quota would have been 100 000 t higher than it actually was.

The estimated value of the fish caught in Namibia's "economic zone" was almost R900 million a year, said Dr Jurgens.

He said the Sea Fisheries Department in Windhoek operated two patrol boats and last year carried out 390 inspections of foreign vessels to ensure that correct fishing procedures were being followed.

cases in respect of serious crime were reported. For the corresponding period during 1987, 1 327 cases in respect of serious crime were reported, which represents a decrease of 33,6%.

#### Langa High School: books

\*15. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

Whether any Standard 10 pupils at the Langa High School were not in possession of their own copies of the (a) mathematics text-book and (b) English setwork books at any stage during the current school year; if so, (i) at what stage, (ii) why, (iii) what percentage of these pupils was involved and (iv) what action has been taken in this regard?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (a) Yes.  
 (b) Yes.  
 (i) From date of enrolment.  
 (ii) Unforeseen increase in the number of pupils.  
 (iii) Mathematics 13,7%, English 13,7%.  
 (iv) This matter is being investigated by a departmental committee and relates also to the exposition given in the reply to Question No 13.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask him just to confirm what he said, viz that he is suggesting that 87% of the matric pupils at Langa High School had mathematics and English setwork books—that 87% had them.

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Yes, Sir, that was what I said. That is the information at my disposal at the moment.

#### Seal Island

\*16. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether his Department initiated the

experiment whereby Cape fur seals were shooed away from Seal Island during October-November 1986; if so, why; if not, on what authority was the experiment approved and conducted;

- (2) whether his Department monitored the effects of this experiment; if not, why not; if so, what were the effects;  
 (3) whether his Department has carried out any research into the scientific merits of this experiment; if so, what was the nature of the scientific evidence in support of this experiment;  
 (4) whether his Department keeps statistics on the size of the Cape fur seal colony on Seal Island; if not, why not; if so, what was the size of this colony in 1971 and 1986, respectively?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. My predecessor initiated the experiment in consultation with members of the fishing industry. The experiment was done as part of the late Minister's stated policy to reduce seal numbers.  
 (2) Yes. The experiment was monitored by means of questionnaire forms completed by industry personnel on the island and by six aerial surveys conducted by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute from 17 December 1986 to 11 February 1987.

The effects were that the number of pups born on the island was about 5 000 compared to the usual 10 000-12 000. Also large sections of the island were cleared of seals. While some dead pups are washed ashore each year as a normal occurrence, some 4 500 dead pups were washed ashore during the experiment. There is no scientific evidence to determine how many pups were washed ashore as a direct result of the experiment.

- (3) No. The monitoring programme was however designed to reveal the merits or otherwise of the experiment.

- (4) Yes. Statistics on the size of the colony are kept. Total population in 1971 was about 58 000 seals, and in 1986 about 20 000 seals.

#### Crude oil

\*17. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) What was the average rand cost per barrel of crude oil imported into the Republic in 1986;  
 (2) what was the rand cost per barrel of such oil imported into the Republic as at the latest specified date for which figures are available?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

- (1) R33,41 landed cost (weighted average).  
 (2) R35,85 landed cost for cargo in May 1987.

\*18. Mr R M BURROWS—National Education. [Reply standing over.]

Winnie Mandela

\*19. Dr F HARTZENBERG asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:†

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, is in arrears with the house rent, service and other charges owing by her to institutions under his control; if so, (a) what total amount is so owing by her, (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished and (c) what is the name of the person concerned;  
 (2) whether any steps are being taken or are contemplated to collect the amounts in arrears; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION (for the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning):

- (1) Yes.

- (a) R773,09.  
 (b) 30 April 1987.  
 (c) Winnie Mandela.

- (2) Yes. A notice to pay within 7 days has been issued on 12 May 1987. Electricity supply has been discontinued on 22 May 1987.

Klaas de Jonge

\*20. Mr T LANGLEY asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 36 on 17 February 1987, the negotiations between his Department and the Dutch Government about Mr Klaas de Jonge has been concluded; if not, (a) why not and (b) what is the present position; if so, with what result;  
 (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.  
 (a) and (b) Discussions between the two Governments are continuing. This matter involves the scrutiny of complicated principles of international law and delicate political implications which inevitably take time.  
 (2) Not at this stage.

†Mr F J LE ROUX: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I want to ask him the following question: I understand that according to Press reports, he said that the detention of Mr De Jonge does not cost the South African Government anything. Is it correct that he made such a statement, and if so, does he stand by what he said?

†The MINISTER: No, Mr Speaker, I did not make such a statement. What I did say, was that, practically speaking, the Dutch Government is paying for the building, the medical costs and for his food. That is what I said.

# Wiley's friend was given permit

Mr Wiley 17/6/87

2/8/87

## Political Staff

### HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

— A permit for the experimental cultivation, transport and sale of mussels and oysters in the Port Elizabeth and Saldanha harbours was granted to the late Mr David Allen without tenders first being asked for.

This was disclosed yesterday by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze.

Replying to a question from the MP for Constantia, Mr Roger Hulley, the minister said the first permit granted to a firm represented by Mr Allen was granted on August 5, 1985, and was valid till the end of last year.

He said it was subsequently renewed and was still valid.

Tender procedures, he added, were "not applicable".

Commenting on the reply, Mr Hulley said the new Minister of Environment Affairs had confirmed that Mr Allen was the beneficiary of certain valuable marine concessions which were granted without tender procedures being observed during the tenure of the late minister Mr John Wiley.

"In view of the fact that it has been widely speculated that the late minister and the late Mr Allen were good personal friends, I believe it is unfortunate that the valuable concessions were granted without tender procedures having been followed.

"To clear the matter up and to allay any public misgivings in this regard, I believe it is necessary for the new minister to review and reopen these concessions to tender procedures."

*Cape Times*  
**Issy** *7/17/82*  
**Goldberg**  
**on** *3 Friday*  
**Ovgroup**  
**buy** *SC*

**Financial Editor**

ANY new offer for the Ovenstone Group (Ovgroup) fishing interests would have to be substantially above that made by the Premier group, the chairman of the Shareholders' Association, Issy Goldberg, says.

He pointed out that any new buyer would also have to be acceptable to creditors, to whom the fishing interests owe millions of rands. City businessman Jack Walsh told the Cape Times on Friday that he and associates, whose names he did not disclose, might make an offer for the fishing interests if they could obtain more information about debts and assets.

They have applied to the Supreme Court for an injunction to prevent a meeting from being held tomorrow at which the Premier group will advise minority shareholders to accept an offer from civil engineers Basil Starke.

Premier intends to buy back the fishing interests on which it has placed a value of R21m, which its financial director, Gordon Utian, says is "hypothetical".



CAP 7/13/87

# Bid to halt Ovenstone sale

Supreme Court Reporter

THE Supreme Court will rule this morning on whether shareholders' meetings called today to approve a Premier Group offer of a possible R153 million for the Ovenstone Group fishing interests may go ahead.

An urgent application for an order adjourning meetings called for shareholders of Ovenstone Investments (OIL) and Ovenstone Group (Ovgroup) was brought yesterday by minority shareholders in both companies.

The applicants also seek an order interdicting the Premier Group, OIL and Ovgroup from voting on resolutions approving the deal — which includes the acquisition by Basil Starke Holdings of Premier's shareholding in OIL (for purposes of entry to a stock exchange listing) and the acquisition by Premier of Basil Starke's construction and general engineering assets.

An order is also sought declaring invalid and insufficient a circular about the deal sent to shareholders, and compelling Ovgroup to supply to the applicants full details about their fishing interests within a week.

The applicants — Mr Jack Walsh and Mr Pieter van Rhyn of Somerset West, and Rabbel Investments Closed Corporation — argue that, as counsel put it, "there is

skulduggery" in Premier's reluctance to disclose what motivates it to expose itself to an enormous level of debt and at the same time pay R17,5-million in cash for something with a negative value of R5,8-million on the latest available figures.

They argue that a mooted offer that bests the Premier offer by R5-million can't be made firm because Premier won't supply the necessary information. This is "highly suspicious", the applicants say, and the inference is that Premier is not offering a fair price.

## Still solvent

In a nutshell, they say, minority shareholders will be asked today to approve a price for the Ovgroup fishing interests without any idea of how the price was determined.

Premier, OIL and Ovgroup argue on the other hand that OIL and Ovgroup are still solvent only because Premier mounted a rescue operation of which the sale of the Ovgroup fishing interests is an essential element.

They say hesitation and reservation has and continues to surround the "better

offer" mooted by a company "whose creditworthiness and capitalization are a matter of total obscurity".

The applicants' mooted offer was "brought in a cloud of dust at the last moment" and backed only by an undertaking for bridging finance up to R40-million conditionally given by "a flirtatiously-minded merchant bank".

They argue that the circular sent to shareholders, particularly when read with "a complex set of reports" also sent to shareholders, is sufficient to enable shareholders to exercise their votes on an informed basis.

They cite "a formidable array of men of the first repute" — including the executive president of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and the general manager of Hill Samuel merchant bank — as sharing this view.

The issue has been posed by counsel for the applicants during argument as "Is Premier stealing a bargain?" and by the presiding judge, Mr Justice R Marais, as "How far must a company go in indicating to shareholders what it sees in the crystal ball?"

Mr G D van Schalkwyk SC, with Mr L S Kuschke and instructed by Sonnenberg Hoffmann and Galombik, appeared for the applicants. Mr M D Kuper SC, with Mr J J Gauntlett and Mr B Doctor and instructed by Routledge-MacCallums, appeared for the respondents.

GNE Trunks  
9/7/87

3 Fishing

# Ovgroup: Bid to stall meeting fails

Supreme Court Reporter

AN ATTEMPT by minority shareholders to delay shareholders' meetings called to approve a Premier Group offer of a possible R153 million for the Ovenstone Group's fishing interests failed in the Supreme Court yesterday.

Mr Justice R Marais ruled that Mr Jack Walsh and Mr Gert van Ryn of Somerset West and Rabbel Investments Closed Corporation had failed to make out a case of either minority oppression or failure to furnish necessary information.

The judge said he could not agree with the applicant's suggestion that they were entitled to information sufficient to enable them to make a counter-offer for the Ovgroup fishing interests.

"Applicants have rights as shareholders. They have no rights as potential purchasers," he said, adding that the information supplied to shareholders about the position and prospects

of the company concerned was "extensive".

Mr Justice Marais also said there was no real evidence to suggest that the Premier offer was inadequate or unfair.

One was dealing not with tangible assets but with expectations and "the refusal of the parties concerned to say precisely how they foresaw the future and quantified it in terms of profitability does not seem to me to be sinister", the judge said.

Nor did there seem to be anything sinister in the lack of enthusiasm shown towards Mr Walsh's somewhat tentative overtures.

"Lest what I have said be misunderstood, I should add this," Mr Justice Marais said. "I have not found that Premier's offer for the fishing interests is indeed a fair offer. What I have found is that it has not been shown to be unfair.

"I should also perhaps add what may be obvious. The fact that Premier has given comfort to these troubled companies and their creditors in the past does

not, of course, give Premier any pre-emptive right to acquire the Ovgroup fishing interests for a consideration which is less than fair.

"I'm sure that Premier and the companies concerned appreciate this. But because of Premier's dominant position in the companies concerned it would be wise to deal with questions in a way which will enable possibly cynical and suspicious shareholders to see that they are being treated fairly."

Mr Justice Marais ordered Mr Walsh and his fellow applicants to pay the costs of the suit, but said it was not a case that warranted three counsel. Although it was conducted in circumstances of urgency the "factual ambit of the case was not extensive and neither was the documentation".

Premier, Ovgroup and OIL will thus have to foot the bill for one of their three counsel.

Mr G D van Schalkwyk SC, with Mr L S Kuschke and instructed by Sonnenberg Hoffmann and Galombik, appeared for the applicants. Mr M D Kuper SC, with Mr J J Gauntlett and Mr B Doctor and instructed by Routledge-MacCallums, appeared for the respondents.

ARGUS 9/7/87 (3 February)

# The man 'fishing' for R124-million

By TOM HOOD, Business Editor  
FORMER trawler skipper Jack Walsh sets off today in search of his biggest catch — R124-million by next Thursday to take over the Ovenstone fishing empire.

"So far so good," he said last night, when the company's shareholders agreed to allow him seven working days in which to make his takeover bid.

"I asked for seven days to put my money where my mouth is, seven days to realise my commitments."

Mr Walsh, who is also a shareholder and a former Ovenstone skipper, is chairman of Mervest, a West Coast diamond recovery company.

He declined to disclose his backers but hinted that a merchant bank would put up R40-million provided he was able to find the balance.

Mr Walsh must organise R28-million in cash immediately and find about R34-million to repay cash pumped into the Ovenstone business by the Premier Group, the controlling shareholder.

## FLY TO CHILE

And, hardest assignment of all, he expects to fly to Chile to persuade foreign bankers to roll over their multi-million-dollar loans to the Ovenstone fishing business and the fish-processing factory there — the vital key to the company's success.

"I've been there before and know people," he said. "I think I can manage it."

About R31-million is owed to eight Chilean banks who are "extremely nervous about accepting debt guarantees from South Africa because of the debt moratorium", according to Mr Tony Bloom, chairman of Ovenstone and the Premier Group.

"If you're South African, you're not exactly irresistible to foreign bankers."

Mr Bloom said he had to go to London last week to stave off an attempt by Citibank to call in a R7-million loan to the Chilean company.

He described his role as Ovenstone chairman (since December) as "an unwilling custodian of this position".



Mr Jack Walsh

And he said of Mr Walsh's bid: "I would be overjoyed to take my money back instead of locking it up in a non-performing asset."

Mr Walsh estimates that his offer is worth about 40c a share, better than the Premier offer, and the deal would give the holders of the 37-million shares an extra payment of 10c a share.

However, Mr Bloom believes the chances of success are "less than three percent."

The fishing group posted losses of R46-million in its last financial year and, according to Mr Bloom, was on the brink of insolvency.

But Mr Walsh says he believes that with fish-meal prices increasing on world markets and the prospect of better catches, the 86-year-old Ovenstone business could again become one of the great names in fishing.

He estimates that if the company's catch in Chile exceeds 100 000 tons, the factory will be profitable — a figure disputed by Mr Bloom, who puts the profit-line at 160 000 tons and says catches are running at well below that figure.

Yesterday a Supreme Court judge rejected Mr Walsh's plea to delay a midday Ovenstone shareholders' meeting so that he could organise his takeover bid — an application that landed him with heavy court costs.

If Mr Walsh fails to come up with an acceptable bid the Ovenstone fishing empire will fall to Premier Group, which received the all-clear from shareholders for its takeover deal.

Cape Times 9/7/87

# Mystery party may aid Ovgroup deal

3 Fish  
226  
223

Financial Editor

A MYSTERY backer — believed to be a major Afrikaans institution — may provide the finance for minority shareholders in the Ovenstone group (Ovgroup) to buy back the fishing interests from Premier group, which has acquired them for R21,5 million.

In a unique agreement, city businessman Mr Jack Walsh has been given seven working days to put together a financial package totalling R125 million.

He told a shareholders' meeting at the Cape Sun yesterday that he was confident he and his associates could not only pay R28 million for the fishing companies in South Africa and Chile and repay a R34-million loan to them from Premier, but also provide guarantees which would satisfy creditor banks overseas.

Premier group chairman Mr Tony Bloom, who is also chairman of Ovgroup and of Ovenstone Investments

(Oil), gave an assurance that if Mr Walsh and his associates could do this within seven working days, Premier would accept his offer and distribute the extra R6,5 million paid for the fishing interests between all shareholders, including itself.

Meanwhile, the shareholders have agreed to accept an offer which will give civil engineers Basil Starke control of the company.

Under the offer, Basil Starke, which wants Ovgroup only as a vehicle for a listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and for its subsidiary Premier Wire, will sell the fishing companies to Premier for R21,5 million.

The meeting at the Cape Sun was held immediately after a dramatic 11th-hour application to the Supreme Court by Mr Walsh and his associates to have it postponed had been dismissed with costs.

- Starke gets Ovgroup/Oil — Page 5
- Bid, to stall meeting fails — Page 9

# Inshore fishing quotas

## increased

By DEREK TOMMEY,  
Finance Editor

THE Cape's inshore fishing industry is heading for a record year following a surprise increase in pelagic fishing quotas this week.

Quotas have been increased by 150 000 tons for the second time this season boosting this year's quota to 600 000 tons — double last year's figure and the highest figure for a great many years, said Mr Walter Lewis, managing director of the Ocean group.

At the same time the industry is also benefiting from the inflation-linked 16,8 percent price increase for fish meal from R700 a ton last year to R825 a ton this year, from the high quality of this year's fish meal and the temporary above average fish oil yield.

The increase in the pelagic fish quota will greatly help the fishing industry, said Mr Lewis. The greater the volume of fish handled the higher were the industry's returns.

### EARN MORE

It meant that workers in the industry would earn more money this year.

Mr Lewis has already forecast in the company's interim report, issued in May, that Oceana would probably earn about 165c a share this year against 147c a share last year. But this week he said this figure might now be exceeded.

The inshore fishing this year had been extremely good. A feature had been the high quality of the anchovy.

"For a while we were catching anchovy double the size of anything seen before. Nobody knew where they had come from."

The fish oil content of those anchovy was eight percent, which was also double the nor-

mal oil content. But the catch was back to normal now.

Mr Lewis said that after the past three poor years the better times were most welcome.

As a result of the improvement in the fish resource he saw the industry remaining busy for a number of years to come.

"Perhaps it is the start to seven good years!"

### LOBSTER MARKETS

A further factor helping the fishing industry has been its success in finding alternative markets for lobster after the United States put a ban on sales to that country.

"We are doing as well with rock lobster today as we did when we sold them to the United States," he said.

The fishing industry has been in the news this week as a result of the unsuccessful attempt by Mr Jack Walsh, a Cape Town businessman and former Ovenstone trawler skipper, to stop special meetings of the two Ovenstone companies, OIL and the Ovenstone Group, on Wednesday at which shareholders approved the sale of the group's fishing interests to the Premier group.

Mr Walsh wanted the meeting stopped because he was contemplating making a takeover bid himself for these fishing assets.

The Ovenstone group has extensive fishing interests in the Cape and also some in South West Africa.

But unfortunately it also has a major investment in a Chilean fishing company which is heavily in debt.

Shareholders also approved the acquisition by the Ovenstone companies of the Basil Starke group, a civil engineering contractor and manufac-

ture of metal goods.

OIL shareholders not wanting to stay with Basil Starke have been given the choice of receiving from Premier 31c for each share, or one Premier share for every 120 OIL shares.

Ovenstone group shareholders have been offered 32c a share in cash or one Premier share for every 116 Ovgroup shares.

However, Mr Tony Bloom, chairman of the Premier Group, told Mr Walsh at the meeting that if he could submit his offer for the fishing interests by 5 pm on next Friday, July 17, he consider it.

The offer would have to provide include:

- The payment of R28-million in cash to Premier for the Ovenstone fishing assets.

- The release of Premier from all Oil and Ovgroup's actual and contingent liabilities, both in South Africa and abroad.

- The repayment in cash to Premier of all amounts owing to it by Oil and Ovgroup, estimated at R34-million, and

- Evidence that all necessary Governmental and other consents needed have been obtained.

Mr Bloom warned Mr Walsh that he could have difficulty getting the Chilean banks to roll over the \$15,5-million short-term loans they had advanced the Ovenstone group.

An interesting point to emerge from Ovenstone's annual report is that the Chilean loans can be repaid only with financial rand.

This means that it would cost whoever controlled Ovenstones R51,7-million, to repay these loans, against R31,6-million if they could have been repaid at the commercial rand rate.

w/Lewis 11/7/87 (315xmg)

**Financial Editor**

ALL the signs are that city businessman Mr Jack Walsh and his associates will succeed, against the apparent odds, in buying the Ovenstone fishing companies from the giant Premier group.

But it is too early for his friends to pop champagne corks and celebrate. Mr Walsh had seven working days, which expired at 5pm yesterday, to put together a R125-million financial package and present it to Premier.

Premier still has to consider the details of his offer and meetings are due to go on this weekend.

A spokesman for Premier said an announcement would be made on Monday or Tuesday, and those close to Mr Walsh said it was not certain when he would return from Johannesburg.

His battle to buy the companies from Premier — said to want them to ensure an adequate supply of fish meal at favourable prices — has caught the imagination of the public.

Premier bought back the fishing companies for R21,5 million when control of the Ovenstone group and Ovenstone Investments was sold to Cape Town civil engineers Basil Starke.

Mr Walsh told a shareholders' meeting that he thought the fishing companies were under-valued and made an offer of R28 million.

But he must also repay



Mr Jack Walsh

# Walsh bid for *Cape Times 18/7/82* Ovenstones *3 Feb 1982* may succeed

R34 million pumped into the companies by Premier. And he and his associates must satisfy overseas creditors that he can guarantee the companies' multi-million-dollar debts.

Mr Walsh, a former

trawler skipper for Ovenstones and now the managing director of a sea-diamond company, has not disclosed who is backing him. But he is believed to have the support of a major Afrikaans institution.

CAT Trip 20/7/87

# Ovenstones: Walsh gets <sup>3 Feb</sup> R125 m, but talks go on

Financial Editor

AGAINST all the apparent odds, city businessman Mr Jack Walsh succeeded in putting together a R125 million financial package to buy the Ovenstone fishing companies from the Premier group, slightly before the deadline of 5pm on Friday.

Now negotiations are continuing and an exhausted Mr Walsh — who said he had averaged four hours' sleep a night "for what seems like a year" — hopes that agreement can be reached in a few days.

Premier chairman Mr Tony Bloom confirmed last night that Mr Walsh had made "substantial progress" and, although he had not been able totally to fulfil the conditions set by Premier, "we are continuing negotiations".

"We are endeavouring to cobble together something that will be in the interests of everyone."

Mr Walsh was set a deadline of seven working days to come up with an offer, which included releasing Premier of all liabilities to the fishing companies' overseas creditors.

He said last night: "We were able to put the R125 million financial package together slightly before the 5pm deadline last Friday."

But some of the conditions set by Premier had proved impossible. Without owning the business, there was no way that he and his associates could have secured Premier's release from guarantees given to foreign banks.

## 'Fair attitude'

There was also no way definite approval could be obtained from the foreign exchange control authorities for transactions for "a company which does not even exist yet".

But Mr Bloom, "like the gentleman he is, has adopted a very fair and reasonable attitude", said Mr Walsh.

"If he had been unfair and ruthless we would not have got anywhere. But he opened his books and made his staff available to us."

Mr Walsh said that if the deal were successful, it would include buying Southern Seas, the company which had recently been acquired and "moulded together into one with the Ovenstone companies".

If he and his associates succeeded in buying it, they would seek a listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange.

Asked about the viability of the Chilean venture, which incurred most of the Ovenstone debts, Mr Walsh said he would be "quite comfortable with it".

Premier had taken steps to put it on a sounder footing and improve productivity.

Emphasizing that he was not merely "fronting" for a big institution, Mr Walsh said he had received financial support "basically from Senbank, but the First National Bank has been very helpful as well".

Asked why he and his associates had made such an effort to buy the Ovenstone companies, Mr Walsh said: "It seemed an incredible opportunity.

"I am a fisherman and I know an awful lot about the South African fishing industry."

# 'Unending' good wishes for Walsh

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
CITY businessman Mr Jack Walsh, whose bid to buy the Ovenstone fishing companies back from Premier Group now looks likely to succeed, has been receiving "good luck" calls and messages from members of the public all week.

"There has been an unending flow of good wishes," said the former trawler skipper whose battle to put together a R125-million financial package in seven working days and fulfil other conditions set by Premier has captured the public imagination.

"It was very encouraging when things were really difficult.

"And people phoned out of the blue yesterday to say they were so glad to know things seemed to be going well."

Negotiations are still continuing. Mr Walsh worked till late in the evening in his Green Point office yesterday and said he was prepared to go to Chile if necessary, "but I am keeping my fingers crossed that I won't have

to. 3 Fik. 7  
He confirmed that if he succeeds in buying the companies and they are listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, former shareholders in the Ovenstone group (Ovgroup) and Ovenstone Investments (Oil) will have preference in the allocation of shares.

The conditions set by Premier for the sale include releasing the conglomerate from any liabilities in connection with millions of dollars' worth of debt owed by the fishing companies to overseas creditors.

Mr Walsh and his associates have found it difficult to arrange this, and to obtain definite Exchange Control approval, when they do not yet own the fishing companies.

Former Ovgroup and Oil shareholders have a particular reason for hoping he succeeds.

Premier chairman Mr Tony Bloom has promised that, if it accepts Mr Walsh's offer of R28 million for the fishing companies, the difference between that and the

R21,5 million paid by Premier will be shared out between the former shareholders.

Premier itself, which had a 43% stake, will take a large part. But the higher price would mean about 10c a share extra for each shareholder.



'Horrendous losses ahead' . . .

# Chilean fishing venture now breaking even

*copy from 22/1/87 3 F-18 Lij*

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**  
Financial Editor

THE Chilean fishing venture formerly owned by the Ovenstone group (Ov-group) is now in a break-even situation, Premier group's financial director, Gordon Utian, said yesterday.

But, he added, it may be facing "horrendous losses" in the next two months because of a temporary ban on fishing in Chilean waters.

"The Chilean authorities have imposed what they call a 'vida', a total ban on fishing to preserve the resource, in August and part of September.

"The interruption in throughput will mean horrendous losses, which will probably put us back to where we were before we broke even."

In spite of that, and of recent bad weather which has restricted catches, Utian hopes the operation will be at break-even point by the end of the year, helped by substantially higher fish meal prices.

He said the operation was "essentially looking better" but Premier had put a lot of work into it.

Utian himself has been to Chile twice and Premier chairman Tony Bloom once.

"It has taken up an inordinate amount of Premier management time."

Referring to the possible sale of the operation to city businessman Jack Walsh and his associates, Utian said:

"Personally, I would not be sorry to lose it."

Utian pointed out that there was "a tremendous overhang of debt" which would eat up any profits made.

He said debts of the Ovenstone fishing interests totalled R90m of which \$15m was owed in Chile. In addition to this the Chilean operation owed between \$5m and \$6m to other overseas creditors.

Robert Silverman, chairman of South West Africa Fishing Industries (Swafil), which was formerly involved with other companies in a joint venture in Chile, said that with fish meal at its present price of more than \$400 a ton Premier should be able to make money there.

"The world price of fish meal seems firm at the moment because there is a scarcity of supplies from Peru."

But profits would seriously be affected if fishing were interrupted by a vida.

Silverman said he and his partners in Chile had found it difficult to run an operation at such long range, with the added complication of another language.

Discussing the SA fishing industry, Silverman said the industry was having "a reasonable year."

The pilchard quota had been caught and the anchovy quota had been increased by 150 000 tons, of which about 180 000 had still to be caught.

But, although the resource had improved, Silverman pointed out that expenses had also risen.

Argus 2/1/82

# Premier 'sceptical' on bid for Ovenstone

3 Feb 82  
By MAGGIE ROWLEY  
Financial Staff

PREMIER Group, which controls the troubled Ovenstone fishing companies, remains "highly sceptical" that former trawler skipper Mr Jack Walsh will succeed in his takeover bid by tomorrow's 5pm deadline.

Premier's financial director, Mr Gordon Utian, said today he thought it highly unlikely Mr Walsh's consortium would be able to convince Chilean banks to roll over their multi-million dollar loans to Ovenstone and the Premier Group for the fishing business and fish-processing factory there.

Mr Walsh has told The Argus that if his bid fails, it will be because he has not succeeded in Chile.

Mr Tony Bloom, chairman of Premier Group, originally estimated Mr Walsh's chances at three percent.

## COMPLICATED

Mr Utian said: "And I don't think the odds are much higher than that. It is an unconditional offer. Premier has to be released from all obligations. If there is a stumbling block for Mr Walsh it is that.

"I don't think Mr Walsh realised just how complicated it all was when he first expressed interest. I have sat across the table from those Chilean bankers and I know they are not easy to deal with.

"When Premier took over the fishing interests, we had to do a lot of persuading. The bankers were hesitant to grant Premier credit, so I doubt they will be rushing to the aid of Mr Walsh and his consortium.

"In addition, Premier is getting a little concerned that too much tampering will interfere with the present lines of credit. The Chilean bankers are nervous enough."

AR675 24/7/87

NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL

# Walsh fishing takeover bid 'sunk' by Bloom

3 fishy ~~fish~~

By TOM HOOD, Business Editor

ATTEMPTS by former skipper Mr Jack Walsh to take over the Ovenstone fishing empire have been sunk. "We didn't throw in the towel — the rug was pulled from under us," he said today.

Negotiations were terminated by Premier Group, controlling shareholder of the two listed Ovenstone companies, last night.

Mr Walsh said his bid was sunk because he was not able to get written releases for verbal guarantees given by Premier to Chilean banks for about R12-million.

He asked Premier to accept an unconditional bankers indemnity against such guarantees to cover Premier in full, giving the consortium time to get written releases.

Mr Walsh disclosed that he and Mr Bloom signed a "heads of agreement" this week whereby Premier would sell 60 percent of Ovenstone's assets and keep 40 percent.

## Rejected

However, negotiations were broken off by Premier over the question of the Chilean releases and "alternative proposals were rejected by them".

Had the negotiations succeeded in the 60 percent context, shareholders would have benefited by at least 5c a share and if the Walsh group had bought 100 percent, they would have received a beary 10c a share.

Despite gloomy reports about the Chilean fishing business, Mr Walsh said he had found the Chilean management confidently expected a profit of more than R2-million and enjoyed a positive cash flow.

Mr Tony Bloom, Premier's chairman, said the Walsh consortium had been unable to procure Premier's release from guarantees given to foreign banks by substituting for Premier.

In an attempt to be doubly reasonable and in spite of his statement at the Cape Town meeting that no extension of time would be granted, he had nevertheless extended the deadline for a further week.

This was done to give Mr Walsh every opportunity to meet the condition which was fundamental to agreement.

The further extension of time had proved inadequate from the Walsh consortium's point of view and the negotiations were accordingly terminated," said Mr Bloom.

'No written releases obtained'  
**Weary Walsh fails  
to net his catch**

CAL-71-45 24/7/87 (3 fishing)

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

CITY businessman Jack Walsh, whose attempts to buy the former Ovenstone fishing interests from the Premier group caught the public imagination, said yesterday he had failed.

Premier chairman Tony Bloom issued a statement last night that, although the Walsh consortium had been given an extension of the original deadline of seven working days to release his group from all liabilities relating to the fishing companies' debts, it had failed to do so.

Accordingly, he said, "the negotiations have been terminated".

Walsh, returning disappointed from talks in Johannesburg yesterday, said it was true he and his associates had not been able to obtain written releases for Premier from overseas bankers.

But Premier's guarantees to the bankers had been verbal. He had been assured by the chairman of the Chilean fishing company that there would be no problem in obtaining written releases for Premier once he owned the assets. And his bankers in SA had been willing to provide Premier

with an indemnity against any claims Chilean banks might make: "That would have got Premier off the hook completely."

News that the negotiations have broken down will surprise Cape Town fishing and business circles where it had been thought that agreement had been reached apart from a few minor details.

Walsh said last night that he and his associates had thought the same thing.

Their doubts had begun when, after reaching heads of agreement in Johannesburg that would have given Premier a 40% stake in the fishing company Walsh and his associates proposed to form, they received a draft that differed markedly from this.

Admitting that he was disappointed — "it is 30 years since a fishing quota in this country has changed hands and I suppose it is never likely to happen in my lifetime now that this has fallen through" — Walsh said Premier had been entitled to withdraw.

Although he was confident that he could have obtained written releases for Premier from the banks once he had bought the

fishing companies and become known in Chile, it had been impossible in the time available.

"We worked incredibly hard," said Walsh, "but we did not succeed."

During the negotiations Bloom said he admired Walsh's courage in trying to buy the companies and succeeding in putting together a R125m financial package within seven working days.

He gave Walsh and his associates a further week, which expires today, to meet the other condition for the sale.

At a shareholders' meeting in Cape Town, Bloom said in answer to questions by the chairman of the Shareholders Association, Issy Goldberg, that he would not have bought a stake in Ovgroup had he known the extent of the fishing companies' debts and that he was "the unwilling custodian" of the companies.

But Walsh said yesterday that he had discovered the companies' debts totalled under R80m, less than thought earlier, and the chairman of the Chilean company expected to make profits in excess of \$1m this year.

30/7/87 BUDap

# SBDC takes over the financing of fisheries

3/2/87

**THE** Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) has taken over the financing of the Fisheries Development Corporation of SA.

Provincial authorities will handle technical aspects, such as the development of harbour facilities, while policy matters rest in the hands of the environment affairs minister.

The disbanding of the fisheries corporation was part of government's rationalisation plan and the SBDC was better equipped to handle loan applications and the form of financing generally involved in promoting the establishment of small fishing concerns, SBDC Cape GM Mike Pentz said yesterday.

The board has been reduced to two directors and a chairman. It will be disbanded when the corporation is final-

**NORMAN SHEPHERD**

ly abolished in a few months.

Funds ceded to the SBDC include a sum of R7m, but it remains to be seen whether property holdings of corporation subsidiary Seafare will go to the SBDC or to a government department.

Tax owed by the fisheries corporation since October 1985 was written off in a Government Gazette published this month.

Pentz said the SBDC had taken over the corporation's assets but none of its liabilities, which were minimal.

Under the Fishing Industry Development Act 86 of 1978, the corporation's liabilities could not exceed half of its shares and assets without ministerial permission.

PORT ELIZABETH — Some 14 200 white mussels were returned to the beach at

Blue Horizon Bay yesterday by Department of Sea Fisheries officers, after they were confiscated from a house in Swartkops.

The mussels were, it is alleged, dug up illegally and taken to the house prior to being transported live to Johannesburg.

Department officials said yesterday they had been aware for some

# Department mussels in <sup>12/18/10</sup> <sup>B. Day</sup> <sup>(3)</sup> <sup>fishery</sup>

time of a mussel-smuggling operation and believed they had "cracked quite a racket" when the shellfish were confiscated on Monday night.

A spokesman said the mussels were transported to Johannesburg in a trailer and served at a restaurant as "something really exotic" and at high prices.

He said: "We were aware of the racket for some time, but officers

closed in carefully and followed this particular haul of mussels back to the house in Swartkops."

Seven men were employed to dig up Monday's haul. The spokesman said: "They dug in broad daylight. The officers monitored them until the time was right to close in."

The mussels were alive when they were returned to the beach and officials expected them to survive.

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10th consecutive year of growth

# I & J nets record profits

*3 Fishing*  
*CALL TOM'S 2/8/87*

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

IRVIN & JOHNSON, the Cape Town-based frozen food and fishing company in the Anglovaal group, has achieved record profits for the tenth consecutive year.

This well-managed company appeared to shrug off the recession and the 70% rise in attributable profit for the year to June 30 was not from a low base, as many of the spectacular improvements reported recently.

But MD J J Williams admitted in the worst of the downturn profit margins were squeezed.

Now the directors say that growing demand has made "a partial recovery in margins possible", and this is shown by a rise in net operating profit to R58,4m (R37,2m).

Consolidated earnings have soared



J J Williams

to R34,2m (R20,2m), equivalent to 122c (72c) a share and the dividend is 46% higher at 38c (26c) a share.

Turnover rose by 20% to R736,9m (R612,1m) and pre-tax profit to R55,2m (R34,3m).

The interest bill was higher at R4,6m (R3,6m), and tax rose to R21m (R14,1m). But I & J's share of associated companies' earnings rose by R10 000 to R67 000.

The dividend cover has risen to 3,1 times (2,8 times). The directors explain that this is to ensure that I & J can meet the high cost of future asset replacement.

This, they say, is "a source of concern for, with the current high level of inflation, such costs are expected to be substantial".

Capital expenditure in the year fell to R10,9m (R43,2m). Commitments at the year-end for future capital expenditure totalled R5,2.

Net current assets on June 30 had risen to R72,8m (R56,5m), and net asset value to 460c (387c) a share.

The directors say that the continuing improvement in the economy will benefit the group and, "providing the current relatively stable business, political and exchange rate conditions are maintained, further profit growth is expected in the current financial year."

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*Cape Times 26/8/7*  
**Fishers get the magic million**

Staff Reporter *3 Times 10/7*

MORE THAN a million tons of pelagic fish have been caught off the South African and Namibian coasts this season, the first time in 12 years.

Yesterday the Director of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, Mr George Stander, said it was due to the quota increase after acoustic surveys and egg-production assessment techniques showed that larger stocks were available.

Altogether 609 946 tons had been landed from the South African fishing grounds and almost 403 679 tons from the Namibian grounds.

The magical millionth ton was caught this week, a few days before the pelagic season closed on August 31 in Namibia and six weeks before the end of the South African season on September 30.

More than 238 000 tons of fishmeal has been produced — a 50% increase over last year. This had saved \$35m in foreign currency and made South Africa self-sufficient for the first time in 10 years.

(C) ANALYSIS PER CATEGORY



†An HON MEMBER: Who has to bear the brunt now?

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! It is the Chair's responsibility to maintain order in the House. It is not necessary for the hon member to draw the Chair's attention to such a silly thing in that manner. I put . . .

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I still wanted to . . .

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! The hon member did not put a question and the matter is closed; I put . . .

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: I was in the process of starting to say this when the hon Chief Whip interrupted me.

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! The hon member was not in the process of putting a question; the hon member was in the process of telling the Chair what to do. I have given a ruling on this. The reply to question No 26 has been finalised.

†Mr F J LE ROUX: Mr Speaker, on a point of order: The hon member for Overvaal stood up to put a supplementary question to the hon the Deputy Minister. You then asked him to take his seat and then you put the next question. I ask you to give him the opportunity to put his question.

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! I should like to point out to the Chief Whip that there was no problem about allowing the hon member for Overvaal to speak. He was putting questions to the hon the Deputy Minister, which was in order. The hon the Deputy Minister had completed his reply to the hon member. Then the hon member moved to a completely different subject and raised a point of order because a specific hon member on the Government side allegedly addressed him in some or other way. On that I ruled and the matter was closed. Therefore I put the next question. The hon member was no longer in the process of asking further questions to the hon the Deputy Minister of Defence.

†Mr F J LE ROUX: Mr Speaker, on a further point of order: The hon member for Overvaal was in the process of asking a further supplementary question when he was distracted by the hon Chief Whip of Parlia-

ment. I therefore request you merely to give the hon member the opportunity to put his question.

†Mr SPEAKER: Order! I accept the hon Chief Whip's submission in this connection. If it is a matter of concern to him, I now give the hon member for Overvaal the opportunity to put further supplementary questions.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Further arising from the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, can he inform the House beyond all doubt whether it is true that Mr Derby-Lewis was the commander of a regiment for five years and held the rank of commandant? [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I think that from the way in which I replied to the question, it is very clear that the hon member Mr Derby-Lewis for a time was the commanding officer, with the temporary rank of commandant. After that, however, he was informed that he would hold the substantive rank of major. [Interjections.]

#### Universities: conditions imposed

\*27. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of National Education:

- (1) Whether he has appointed a task group to assess and comment on submissions made by universities on certain draft conditions proposed to be imposed on universities; if so, (a) when was the task group appointed, (b) what persons were appointed to this group and (c) when is it anticipated that the task group will submit its report; if not,
- (2) whether such a task group has been appointed; if so, (a) by whom and (b) when;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes, in co-operation with the departments of State responsible for education.

- (a) The task group was appointed on 87-09-09.
  - (b) Officers of the Department of National Education and the departments of State responsible for education.
  - (c) The task group has already completed its first report.
- (2) Falls away.
  - (3) Yes. It is expected that final decisions with respect to the relevant conditions will be taken by 9 October 1987 at the latest.

#### Mr D Allan/Atlas Sea Farms

\*28. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to the reply of the Minister of Environment Affairs to Question No 28, standing over, on 16 June 1987, he or the South African Transport Services granted any permits, licences, concessions, quotas or other benefits to (a) a certain person from Port Elizabeth, whose name has been furnished to the Transport Services for the purpose of the Minister's reply, and/or (b) any firm represented by this person; if so, (i) what was the nature thereof, (ii) when were they granted in each case, (iii) what was the duration thereof, (iv) what is the present status of the said permits, licences, concessions, quotas or benefits and (v) what is the name of the person concerned;
- (2) whether these permits, licences, concessions, quotas or benefits were subject to tender procedures; if not, why not; if so, from whom were tenders received?

†The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) No.
- (b) Yes.
  - (i) The lease of an area of the sea within the boundaries of

Port Elizabeth Harbour for the cultivation of mussels.

- (ii) 14 July 1986.
- (iii) Ten years.
- (iv) The agreement is valid since the date of commencement, ie 1 October 1986 until 30 September 1996.
- (v) The agreement was concluded between Atlas Sea Farms (Pty) Ltd and Transport Services. The name furnished for the purpose of the reply ie Mr D Allen appears on the company's letter head as Managing Director.

- (2) Yes, from Atlas Sea Farms (Pty) Ltd.

#### Culemborg: catering section

\*29. Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the administrative staff of the catering section for train services at Culemborg, Cape Town, is to be reduced; if so, (a) by how many posts and (b) why;
- (2) whether the staff members concerned are to be transferred; if so, what action is contemplated in respect of staff members who because of circumstances cannot accept transfers?

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. 15/9/87 Howard
  - (a) Nine posts.
  - (b) As a result of rationalisation.
- (2) Yes. Staff members who, due to circumstances cannot accept transfers, will be retained in a redundant capacity with retention of salary and benefits until such time as they can be suitably placed.

\*30. Mr C B SCHOEMAN—Transport Affairs [Withdrawn.]

Guarantees/sureties by Government

601. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Venda in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987, respectively; if so,
- (2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) No.
- (b) Yes, guarantees for the repayment in respect of overdraft facilities.
- (c) No.
  - (i) Yes.
  - (ii) No.
  - (iii) No.
  - (iv) No.
- (2) (a) *Overdraft Facilities*

1986/87 .....	R62 500 000
1987/88 .....	R61 500 000.
- (b) To date an amount of R62,5 million in respect of the guaranteed overdraft facilities for the 1986/87 financial year has been

taken up and will be repaid by the Venda Government within the framework of the multi-year stabilization programme. No amount of the R61.5 million for the current financial year has thus far been taken up.

- (3) No.
  - (a) Falls away.
  - (b) Falls away.
  - (c) Falls away.

The information furnished above is only in respect of the activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore does not include any possible assistance by other RSA Departments or agencies.

Guarantees/sureties by Government

602. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether any guarantees or sureties were given directly or indirectly by the Government or any Department or agency of the Government to any person or organization for (a) loans granted, (b) lines of credit granted and (c) other specified financial services rendered to (i) the Government of, (ii) any Government Department of, (iii) a development corporation in and (iv) any other specified person or organization in Bophuthatswana in 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1987, respectively; if so,
- (2) (a) what amounts were involved in each case and (b) what was the total amount outstanding in terms of such guarantees or sureties as at the latest specified date for which information is available;
- (3) whether foreign currencies are involved in any of these guarantees or sureties; if so, (a) what currencies, (b) how much is involved and (c) who is responsible for bearing the potential cost of exchange rate fluctuations?

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) No.

*[Handwritten signature]*

*Andrew*

- (b) Yes, guarantees for the repayment of overdraft facilities.
- (c) No.
  - (i) Yes.
  - (ii) No.
  - (iii) No.
  - (iv) No.

(2) (a) *Overdraft Facilities*

1986/87 .....	R272 000 000
1987/88 .....	R179 000 000.

(b) To date an amount of R180 million in respect of the guaranteed overdraft facilities for the 1986/87 financial year has been taken up and will be repaid by the Bophuthatswana Government within the framework of the multi-year stabilization programme. No amount of the R179 million for the current financial year has thus far been taken up.

- (3) No.
  - (a) Falls away.
  - (b) Falls away.
  - (c) Falls away.

The information furnished above is only in respect of the activities of the Department of Foreign Affairs and therefore does not include any possible assistance by other RSA Departments or agencies.

Establishment of Black township

605. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether his Department is considering the establishment of a Black township or suburb on land situated south of Lansdowne Road in the vicinity of Nyanga/Crossroads; if so, (a) what is the area of the land concerned, (b) what is the nature of the development proposed and (c) when is it intended that such development be (i) commenced and (ii) completed;

*[Handwritten signature]*

- (2) whether (a) core-houses, (b) other specified housing, (c) serviced sites and (d) unserviced sites for residential purposes are to be provided; if not, why not; if so, (i) how many in each case and (ii) what estimated total number of persons are to be accommodated in this new area;
- (3) who or what categories of persons are to be (a) allowed and (b) given preference to live in this new area;
- (4) whether any persons or groups are being consulted in respect of the proposed development; if not, why not; if so, (a) what persons or groups, (b) when and (c) what have been their responses;
- (5) what total amount is it estimated will be spent by the State on this development;
- (6) whether the State owns the land concerned; if not, (a) who is the owner, (b) when was an agreement of sale between this owner and the State entered into and (c) how much is to be paid for the land; if so, (i) since when, (ii) how much was paid for the land and (iii) from whom was it bought?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

Consideration is at present being given to a request from the Administrator of the Cape to designate an area, approximately 218 ha in extent, south of Lansdowne Road in the vicinity of Nyanga/Crossroads as a development area.

Rest of question falls away.

Crayfish season: additional quota

606. Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) Whether he or his Department introduced an additional quota for the 1986-87 crayfish season in order to assist, among others, Kalk Bay fishermen to supplement their income; if so, (a) (i) when, (ii) why, (iii) what was the size of the quota, (iv) for

③ fishing

- what period was it introduced and (v) what was its total value, (b) (i) what catching fee was determined in this connection and (ii) by whom, (c) (i) to what persons and/or companies was this quota for the catching of crayfish granted and (ii) (aa) on what conditions, (bb) at what amount and (cc) by whom was it granted and (d) (i) what percentage of this quota was specifically allocated to the fishermen of Kalk Bay and (ii) in what manner are these fishermen identified;
- (2) whether a meeting was called in respect of this additional quota to establish an action committee; if not, why not; if so, (a) on what date, (b) in what manner was notice thereof given, (c) what is the composition of the action committee, (d) who are the office-bearers of the committee, (e) how many fishermen were present at this meeting and (f) (i) who was elected to arrange the business of this committee, (ii) what duties were assigned to him and (iii) what remuneration does he receive for his services;
- (3) whether a similar quota has been or will be introduced for the 1987-88 crayfish season; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details thereof as far as the fishermen of Kalk Bay are concerned;
- (4) whether, with reference to certain information which has been furnished to his Department for the purposes of his reply, he will make a statement on certain statements allegedly made by his predecessor in this connection?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) (i) 9 March 1987.  
(ii) To help the professional Kalk Bay linefishermen to supplement their income.  
(iii) 30 tonnes (whole mass).  
(iv) The 1986-87 rock lobster season.
- (2) Yes.
- (a) 25 March 1987.  
(b) Kalk Bay boatowners who are in possession of A-licences were notified telephonically of the meeting. The harbour office in Kalk Bay was also notified.  
(c) Eight members were elected by the boatowners that were present.

- (v) The wholesale sales value is approximately R450 000.
- (b) (i) R3,30 per kilogram (whole mass).  
(ii) Department of Environment Affairs on recommendation by the action committee.
- (c) (i) Messrs J Poggenpoel and S Achmat.  
(ii) (aa) The rock lobster is caught in terms of a receipt and processing permit. All the rock lobster caught in terms of this permit must be delivered to Live Rock Lobster Corporation (Cape) (Pty) Ltd in Hout Bay for processing.  
(bb) R3,30 per kilogram.  
(cc) Department of Environment Affairs.
- (d) (i) 100%.  
(ii) An Identification Committee of 10 (7 members were elected by the fishermen themselves and 3 members were appointed by the Minister of Environment Affairs) was appointed to assist the Department in identifying those fishermen who would share in the proceeds of the quota.

- (d) Chairman—Mr D Adams.  
Vice-Chairman—Mr J A Poggenpoel.
- (e) 14.
- (f) (i) The Action Committee appointed Mr D Adams as manager and this was confirmed by the Department of Environment Affairs.  
(ii) The Action Committee had to organise and negotiate the catching and processing of the 30 tonnes rock lobster in respect of the 1986-87 season and had to report to the Department within a reasonable time.  
(iii) R1 800 per month (and a travel allowance of R200 per month) from 1 April 1987 to 31 October 1987.
- (3) Yes. All the details are not yet finalised. The catching and processing of the quota will most probably go to the best tender.
- (4) No.

**Business practices: complaints**

607. Mr H H SCHWARZ asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) Whether he has received any information, complaints and/or representations in regard to certain business practices, particulars of which have been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, what (a) are these practices and (b) is his attitude thereto; if not,
- (2) whether he will (a) acquaint himself with these practices and (b) express his attitude thereto; if so, what are the relevant particulars;
- (3) whether he will comment on the merits of these practices in so far as they relate to the economy in general and the consumer in particular; if so, what are his comments;
- (4) whether he will cause an investigation to be instituted into these practices

by the Trade Practices Advisory Committee or any other body; if not, why not; if so, (a) when and (b) by what body?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

- (1) Yes. Initial complaints were received as far back as 1977 by the then Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.
- (a) Confidential overrides, target discounts, performance rebates, location of products payments and similar practices.
- (b) The matter was dealt with by the Competition Board in its Report No 4: Investigation into discrimination in respect of prices or conditions of sale, dated 17 June 1981 which was tabled on 28 September 1981. The Board concluded that the demands for action were largely unfounded and that means proposed for dealing with possible abuses would do more harm than good.

(2) and (3) Fall away.

- (4) (a) and (b) Pursuant to press reports on the relevant practices the Competition Board has already taken the initiative to investigate the matter on an informal basis in order to be able to advise me whether a further formal investigation is warranted at this stage.

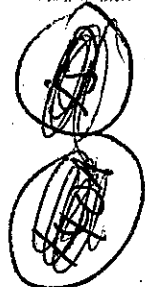
**Marienfluss: recreation centre**

608. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether the South African Defence Force or any other body falling under his jurisdiction is involved in the erection of a recreation centre or any other buildings at Marienfluss in the Kaokoveld; if so, (a) (i) what body is involved in these building operations and (ii) what is the extent of its involvement, (b) for what purpose is this centre or are the other buildings being erected and (c) who will make use of this facility?

# Sea Harvest strike settlement on cards

③ February



South  
8-74/10/87

A SETTLEMENT between striking workers and management of Sea Harvest in Saldanha, the largest fishing factory in the Southern Hemisphere, is on the cards.

Renewed negotiations are underway between the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) and Sea Harvest management in an attempt to resolve an issue

which had wide-ranging effects in Saldanha Bay.

More than 500 workers have entered their fourth striking week in protest against what they called "management's self-imposed wage increase".

Initially more than 200 workers were fired after they downed tools last month. A further 300 workers downed tools in

solidarity.

Workers demanded that all the strikers should be reinstated.

A Fawu spokesperson confirmed new negotiations were underway after the management of Sea Harvest submitted proposals for a settlement of the dispute.

He said workers were considering the proposals.

# Trout fishing a barometer of civilisation — MP

3 FISA W &  
DD 15/10/87

Daily Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — Trout fishing is a barometer of a country's civilisation.

This is the view of the Minister of Health, Dr Willie van Niekerk, as expressed to the chairman of the Federation of Southern Africa Flyfishers (Fosaf), Dr Tom Sutcliffe.

Dr Sutcliffe revealed this at the Fosaf annual meeting here where he also disclosed that Dr Van Niekerk — himself a trout angler — had agreed to become a patron of the federation.

Expressing his disappointment at the absence of some regional representatives and the lack of a report from the Western Cape region, Dr Sutcliffe said although the future of Fosaf

would be bumpy, it was nevertheless secure.

"The newly introduced journal of Fosaf, Flyfishing, had already shown it would be the kingpin of the federation", Dr Sutcliffe said.

As a result of the research being carried out on trout at Rhodes University, the federation has decided to recruit one of the leaders of the team, Mr Martin Davies, as a technical adviser. Dr Sutcliffe was re-elected chairman with Mr Jim Read and Mr Hugh Huntley, both of Natal, as secretary and treasurer respectively. The rest of the executive is made up of chairmen of the regional bodies.

A number of changes were made to the executive at the annual meeting of the Stutter-

heim Angling Club. The retiring chairman, Mr Fred Cronney, has been succeeded by Mr Rodney Webb, who has been succeeded as vice-chairman by Mr Henry Christie.

Other members of the committee are: C. McMaster, N. Branfield, D. Schwulst, H. Stewart, M. Davies and K. Krull. Mrs Coleen Vermuelen was re-elected secretary.

The meeting determined priorities for the year as: (1) obtaining more fish to stock the Gubu Dam and (2) renovations to the clubhouse.

Consideration will also be given to obtaining permission to keep rearing cages in the dam and the establishment of a trout hatchery below the dam wall.



The winners of the trout angling championships, Herman Kant (centre left) and Peter Immelman (right) show off their catches. With them are the chairman of the Stutterheim Angling Club, Mr Rodney Webb (far left) and the King William's Town branch manager of the competition sponsor, Mr Keith Edwards.

Daily Dispatch Reporter

EAST LONDON — Two nature conservation officials came out tops in the East Cape trout angling championships in the Gubu Dam near Stutterheim.

Herman Kant became the 1987-88 champion with a bag of three cockfish totalling 3,45 kg, and Peter Immelman took the prize for heaviest fish with a

## Fly of own tying wins cup for Kant

rainbow hen of 1,825 kg. Both anglers are attached to the Cape provincial fish station at Amalinda in East London.

Herman, a newcomer to the sport, took all his fish on a fly of his own tying to win the Cape

Cladding floating trophy and the R250 prize donated by the sponsors, the Eastern Province Building Society,

The second heaviest bag was recorded by D. Payne with two fish for 3,14 kg; the second heaviest fish (1,75 kg) by C. Webb; and L. Hall re-

ceived the Stutterheim Angling Club prize for being the only angler other than Kant and Payne to land more than one fish.

Although conditions were generally ideal, the 32 competitors landed only 17 fish, but none under 1 kg.

Prizes were presented by Mr Keith Edwards, manager of the King William's Town branch of the sponsors.

CRK TIMES 26/10/87 (3/87)

# Govt cuts kreef quotas

Staff Reporter

STRINGENT new measures to prevent the depletion of crayfish resources off the west coast are reflected in the crayfish quotas announced by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, at the weekend.

The new measures will apply to both commercial and private fishermen. Private divers have been restricted to four instead of five crayfish per person, with a maximum of 16 crayfish allowed to be transported per vehicle.

Private crayfish divers will also be allowed to have only 16 crayfish in their homes at one time.

The commercial quota has been brought down by 131 tons to 3 860 tons for the 1987-88 season.

In addition, the crayfish season has been shortened by a month to April 16 while the "pot system", a take-home portion for members of the crayfish industry and control officials, has been cancelled.

Mr Kotze said yesterday that research had indicated that the resources along the west coast showed a visible decline in the growth tempo of the crayfish and it was suspected that this change was related to change in environmental conditions.

To assure that west coast crayfish would be available on a constant basis, he had decided to cut down by 131 tons.

Because protection of the crayfish resources was not only the responsibility of the commercial sector, Mr Kotze had decided to involve the public who took crayfish for their personal use.

The commercial crayfish season opens on November 1 and the private season on November 15.

● Private divers will not need to have permits to take perlemoen from the sea this year. The perlemoen season opens on November 1.

Private divers were angered by the new restrictions.

A regular diver, Mr Robin Solomon of Hout Bay, described the measures as "draconian".

"It's a joke really because there is no comparison between the thousands of tons of crays harvested by the fishing industry and the private diver whose catch is like a drop in a bucket," he said.

"If there is such pressure on crayfish why don't they impose heavy cuts on the crayfish industry?"

Mr Solomon said he had heard the government was concerned about private poaching when the real poachers were the "industry".

*3 Fishing*

# Rock lobster limits reduced for season

## Environment Reporter

BOTH the commercial catch and individual bag limits for rock lobster have been reduced for the coming season, which opens next month.

Announcing a 131-ton cut in the commercial quota and a lowering of the individual bag limit from five to four a person a day, Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé said the reductions were because of a "decline in the growth rate", probably due to a change in environmental conditions.

The season for the sought-after delicacy has also been shortened by a month and will end on April 16 next year. It opens on November 15.

The commercial rock lobster catch for 1987/88 has been set at 3 860 tons.

The onus of protecting the rock lobster resource against over-exploitation lay not only with commercial fishermen, Mr Kotzé said. The public would also have to contribute.

"Therefore, I have decided that from the commencement of the season on November 15, the public will be allowed to catch only four rock lobster daily for their own use."

The maximum number of rock lobster that may be trans-

ported is now 16, provided that all the people who caught them are present at the time, and no person may have more than 16 rock lobsters at home at any one time.

Perlemoen was also being subjected to "excessive continued exploitation" by commercial and sport divers and this species was being continuously monitored by researchers in his department, Mr Kotzé added.

However, there would be no further restrictions "at this stage" and the commercial catch of 640 tons was the same as 1986/87.

His department had received numerous representations during the past year for the reinstatement of the permit system for public exploitation of rock lobster and perlemoen, Mr Kotzé said.

It was "unfortunately" not equipped to implement this system effectively this season and it would "hopefully" be reinstated next season.

The controversial "fry-system" whereby commercial fishermen were allowed a portion of the catch has been dropped because of an increase in irregularities and other problems, Mr Kotzé said.

(3 Fishing)

# Lobster quota extended to Hangklip

Staff Reporter

ROCK lobster fishing on the east coast has been officially extended from Cape Agulhas to Cape Hangklip and may soon be exclusively reserved for members of the public.

Announcing this yesterday, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr G J Kotze, said that because commercial rock lobster fishermen did not catch rock lobster east of Cape Hangklip, there was "continuous pressure from outsiders" who wanted rock lobster quotas in the area.

Mr Kotze said that because the exploitation of rock lobster in the area was no longer economically viable "and the area should be reserved for exploitation by the public exclusively", he had decided to move the eastern boundary to Cape Hangklip.

## Export markets

The adjustment would to an extent alleviate the administrative problems experienced at present, Mr Kotze said.

● Mr Kotze also said that because of the high prices paid for rock lobster on both the local and export markets, there was great interest in the trapping of Natal rock lobsters.

Because he had found it urgently necessary to protect the interests of the local fishing industry and to ensure that local boats obtained a fair deal, written permission would in future have to be obtained before Natal rock lobster might be trapped, Mr Kotze said.





# Private divers cheating, says export chief

Joyrid

Staff Reporter

THE chairman of the Cape Lobster Exporters' Association yesterday alleged that unscrupulous private fishermen were over-exploiting crayfish and said a survey conducted last year had shown that private divers removed more than 90 tons of crayfish from Kommetjie.

Mr Jeff Louw, of Lighthouse Fisheries, said commercial fishermen's catches were carefully monitored and weighed each day, while members of the public were much less closely monitored.

Last year each person was allowed five crayfish a day but he had seen people using teams of children to catch much more than 200 crayfish a day.

"The boat owner collects a few children on the beach and pays them a few bob, he then goes out and catches the quota for each person on the boat and he repeats this several times.

"If he is inspected by officials at any

time he will be found to be within the law," Mr Louw said.

Mr Louw said two people had monitored the public's catches at "The Kom" beach near Kommetjie for 28 days, from March 27 to April 27.

Members of the public caught 22 500 crayfish — about 11 tons.

Based on these figures they had calculated that members of the public would have removed 90 tons of crayfish from the area last season.

"We accept that the public have as much a right to catch crayfish, but we are catching within the parameters of law and our quotas are monitored.

"I've got a quota of 54 tons but the public are catching almost double this amount and are probably over-exploiting the area."

When asked yesterday whether the survey figure of 90 tons was accurate, the assistant director-general of Environment Affairs, Dr Chris Serfontein, said it "could very well be, although I have not heard of anything of that magnitude".

He admitted that unscrupulous fishermen could go to sea "several times a day".



Cape Times 29/10/87 3 Fishing

# Anger at crayfish changes

By ANDRE KOOPMAN

THE fishermen responsible for putting crayfish on the tables of the city's most elegant restaurants will probably never legally eat the fish again.

The government's recently announced amendments to crayfish regulations has meant the scrapping of the "pot system" which previously allowed fishermen to take five crayfish home per week for the pot.

Announcing the changes, the Department of Environment Affairs has claimed there were "irregularities" in the system.

In a Cape Times survey conducted yesterday, fishermen expressed disgust and anger at the new regulations.

A few fishermen who were not aware of the new amendments could hardly believe the "incredible" changes when first told the news.

They said they could not understand why the government could prohibit them from taking home a "fry" when they spent all day hauling out thousands of crayfish in all types of weather.

Their families looked forward to the crayfish on Fridays and kreef was a source of much-needed protein in impoverished fishermen's homes.

Skipper Mr Willy Adams said: "*Hulle gaan die mense skelm maak* (they are going to make the people dishonest).

"I can't understand why the government won't allow us to take even five kreef home. We work with the kreef and go out in all types of weather to get the kreef, yet the fishermen's wives and children will not even be able to taste it."

Mr Harold del Carme: "*Naai, daai system is bad* (No



Mr Willy Adams ... "wives and children will not taste it".



Mr Harold del Carme ... "the system is bad".



Mr John October ... "trying to make money out of fishermen".



Mr Freddie Arendse ... "many fishermen have died at sea".

that system is bad). What do they expect us to eat?"

Another skipper, Mr John October, said: "I think it's stupid. We catch the fish but our families will not even be able to taste it."

The previous "*doppie* (shell) system" — allowing fisherman to take home the cleaned-out shells of crayfish — had also been scrapped, he said.

"This means that fishermen's children will not even be able to see a crayfish.

"Also, I can't understand why the private diver — who has a job — is allowed to catch four kreef a day and we who live on the sea cannot taste a part of our catch," he added.

A fisherman, who declined to be identified, said people would now start stealing crayfish.

He also said the government was trying to make

money out of the poor fisherman who would be fined if caught with illegal crayfish.

The price of crayfish was about R12 a kilo — about two crayfish — effectively putting it out of the reach of the fisherman who would never be able to afford the price, he said.

Asked whether fishermen had in the past sold their "fry" he said: "Sure there were a few who sold one or two but most of us took them home to eat. Even if some fishermen did sell kreef, what difference does a few rand make to the bosses who make thousands of rands."

Mr Freddie Arendse said: "Many fishermen have died at sea and some have had legs and arms cut off because the work is often dangerous. How can they now tell us we can't even taste the crayfish we work so hard to catch."

## Anchovy catches 'abundant'

# Oceana nets 29% higher earnings

*CARL TONKS 6/11/87 3 FOLIO*

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**  
Financial Editor

GOOD anchovy catches helped Oceana Fishing group to lift earnings by 29% in the year to September to 189,1c (147,1c) a share. The final dividend rose to 77c (52,5c) a share, making a total for the year of 105c (80c).

The "abundant landings of anchovy" also boosted earnings by the group's SWA/Namibian investment holding company, Sea Products SWA (Seaswa), which were higher than forecast in spite of a drastic cut in its pilchard quota and bad weather which affected the lobster catch.

Seaswa maintained the final dividend at 100c a share making an unchanged total of 150c for the year.

Oceana lifted turnover by 18% to an impressive R173,8m (R147,3m). In spite of escalating costs, net income after tax was R21m (R16,2m) and attributable earnings R17,2m (R13,4m).

CE Walter Lewis says the group, which successfully developed new markets to replace the

loss of its export trade with the US last year, has continued taking steps to improve performance.

It started catching tuna more than three years ago. "This venture is being developed on an ongoing basis and for the first time this year contributed to group earnings."

It bought a modern cold store in Epping, able to contain 18 000 tons, for R9,9m. "We are also extending the cannery operation at St Helena Bay.

"In addition, an order worth R3,4m has been placed for the building of two specially designed pelagic timber vessels at the group's Luderitz boatyard."

Discussing future prospects, Lewis said: "It is always difficult to forecast results when the uncertainties of fishing are taken into consideration.

"However, with anticipated stable resources and markets, we hope to repeat this year's performance in 1988."

● Although earnings by Seaswa for the year to September were 19% lower at 167c (207,5c) a share, this was well above the 135c forecast in the interim report. The drop was expected because the SWA/Namibian authorities slashed the group's pilchard quota from 3 280 tons to

2 080 tons and its Luderitz lobster quota from 760 tons to 636 tons.

Turnover was R19,7m (R20,8m), pre-tax income R11,1m (R11,7m) and net income R7,1m (R8,7m).

The directors say results were better than expected because of higher anchovy catches, improved results from associated companies and higher investment income.

CE Walter Lewis says discussions with the SWA/Namibian authorities, which could result in a further 30% reduction in the rock lobster quota, are still in progress.

## Anchovy catches 'abundant'

# Oceana nets 29% higher earnings

CARE Times 6/11/87 3 Feb. 1987

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### Closing gold prices

(In \$ an ounce)

LONDON:

460/461

Fixing am: 459,70

Fixing pm: 457,55

ZURICH:

455,50/458,50

— Reuter

### Kruger rands

JSE Closing

	Buyers	Sellers	Sales
1 oz	1160	1170	1160
1/2 oz	—	590	590
1/4 oz	28500	—	28500
1/10 oz	12500	13000	12500

st 1987

# We'll S

# PE loses out on crayfish industry

3 Fish Mkt

Weekend Post Reporter

THE multimillion-rand crayfish industry is in full swing along the coast of the Eastern Cape and elsewhere in South Africa, but by all accounts Port Elizabeth is the step-child of this important industry.

There are four major fishing companies in South Africa sharing this season's quota, which allows them to catch up to 437 503 processed kilograms. Of these companies, only one is based in Port Elizabeth, bringing some revenue to the region and to some extent creating jobs.

The four companies who share the quota in Eastern Cape waters keep their share a close secret, apparently for business reasons.

A spokesman for the Sea Fisheries Research Institute said the institute had "an agreement" with the quota holders that each share would be treated as confidential.

"Each firm's share is a trade secret. We don't want our opposition to know," the managing director of the only PE-based company with a quota, Mr Carlos Simal, said.

The crayfish industry in the Eastern Cape started about 10 years ago.

The managing director of a Port Elizabeth-based fishing company which was involved at the start, Mr

Henry van Niekerk, said his firm was one of the PE firms that had lost out.

"We started the crayfish industry here more than 10 years ago. Then the Government stepped in and said we could not carry on catching unless we had proper factories.

"I had a factory built, but by the time it was ready the boys with the big money and modern factories were already there, asking for their share of the quota.

"That's just our bad luck. I've got no grouses. It's a matter of first come, first serve, and the big boys were there first," he said.

Speaking from Cape Town, a scientist at the Sea Fisheries Research Insti-

tute said the crayfish found in the waters of the Eastern Cape, the south coast crayfish, grew much more slowly than the crayfish caught along the west coast, where the water was much richer in the nutrients on which crayfish fed.

"It follows that the resource is not so vast in the East Cape region, nor is the industry so intense there as it is along the west coast. It's a low-key industry in the region of Port Elizabeth."

Scientists were constantly assessing the crayfish biomass in the waters off the Eastern Cape. Last year's quota was filled, but so far there was no indication of overfishing, he said.

ARGUS 11/11/87 (3 Fishing)

INDUSTRY

# Hermanus firm plans to farm fish

By MAGGIE ROWLEY

HERMANUS-based Sea Plant Producers, which is considering seeking a listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, is to conduct a feasibility study into fish farming in the Western Cape.

Chief executive officer, Dr Shlomo Peer, said today that the company intended expanding its activities to include aquaculture and mariculture (farming of different species of fish). Overseas experts would be brought out in the New Year to investigate climate and current conditions.

"It is a very expensive project requiring skills and expertise. However, with the natural fish resources drying up and with a rapidly increasing population to feed, fish farming is going to be essential in the not too distant future.

"The Japanese have farmed fish successfully and we hope to be able to learn from their experience," he said.

At the beginning of this month Sea Plant Producers launched a share purchase scheme for all its workers.

Under the scheme the company has made available five percent of its total share capital at a purchase

price of 60c a share to all permanent employees, irrespective of race, sex or the nature of their employment.

The dividend for the current financial year will be not less than 8c a share which represents a dividend yield of 13,3 percent. Employees would not be required to make payment for their shares as the company would, through the medium of a trust, make the necessary loan funds available, Dr Peer said.

"We believe that all those who make a meaningful contribution to the company's activities and who contribute towards its profitability should share in an equitable manner in the ownership of the company."

## RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE

He said that the best of his knowledge this was the first time that an entity engaged in the marine industry had made its shares available to all staff.

"It must be pointed out that the right to participate in the shareholding is not regarded by management as a substitute for the payment of proper and appropriate salaries or wages, which have been, and will continue to be negotiated in the normal way."

3 (Friday)

CAL- Techs

14/11/87

# Scope for fish farming

● From Page 15

ment in catering for the upper end of the market by producing delicacies such as rainbow trout and oysters. This is already being done on a comparatively small scale.

Van Niekerk estimates the SA market for trout is worth from R3,5m to R4m a year at present but there is scope for it to grow.

An experimental unit at Stellenbosch University is producing salmon. And Van Niekerk believes there are good prospects for the production of sea trout or "Cape salmon" by which, unlike the white fish served under that name in some restaurants, he means a trout introduced to sea water and allowed to grow to a fair size.

He says the giant pink prawns mostly imported

from Australia are also indigenous to the Transkei coast and could be bred in quantity there.

He also foresees the development of a local crab industry to replace imports.

"A group of SA businessmen who went to a sea food farm in Japan recently were very impressed. They were given an excellent sea food meal including crab which they enjoyed very much — but it was fortunate they had it before being shown round and not afterwards.

"When they were taken round they realized that the crabs are fed on effluent. This serves a double purpose because the crabs act as a filter for the effluent."

But it is the lower end of the market which Van Niekerk sees as offering the greatest opportunities for aquaculture.

Fish like trout need cool running water.

"But we are very lucky in SA to have such a variety of climatic conditions enabling us to breed a wide variety of fish.

"There are warm water fish, such as, catfish and tilapia, which can be bred very cheaply and fed

mostly on waste to be an economical substitute for red meat.

"The sky is the limit for this market and we could export to neighbouring countries as well as meet the needs of our own population."

Van Niekerk says one farmer breeding catfish near Hoedspruit is selling 80% of his production to buyers from Lebowa who net the fish and take it away by the bakkie-load.

"By the time they have reached their homeland they have often sold out and come straight back for more. There is no marketing problem at all."

To encourage the growth of aquaculture, Agserv subsidiary Aquacultural Marketing Services (AMS), headed by Tony McEwan, a highly qualified ichthyologist, is creating a fully comprehensive data base to provide information needed by anyone planning to start up.

Agserv, which produces animal feeds of all types, produces specialized food for different types of fish. This includes supplements to encourage the growth of fish fed mainly on waste.

Wednesday

Cape Times 16/4/87 2 Feb 87

# Big crayfish rush is on

THE crayfish season started badly for some yesterday with three small fishing boats capsizing in the Kommetjie area.

Though the boats' occupants received a dunking, no one was hurt in the incidents.

Of the about 60 small boats that took to the water to catch the first crayfish of the season, two overturned just off Kommetjie and another was swamped by breakers just off the crayfish factory.

In all, nine people had to swim or hitch a ride back to shore.

A senior fisheries control officer, Mr Johannes de Witt, said the capsizings were due to the lack of experience of many fisherman who brought their boats too close to the breakers.

Mr De Witt also expressed concern that many of the small boats did not have sufficient safety equipment on board.



**SALVAGED . . .** A diver and two local fishermen help pull a small fishing boat on to the rocks after the boat overturned during yesterday's kreef rush, dunking its four occupants into the sea. The unfortunate four were given a ride to shore in another boat.

Picture: PATRICK COLLINGS

## Speed the key in crayfish competition

By DIANE CASSERE

SPEED and enthusiasm were the keynotes of the Cape Times/Metropole Hotel "First Crayfish of the Season Competition" at Melkbos yesterday.

Fifty enthusiastic private crayfishermen — and a few stragglers too late to be in the running — turned up for registration just before the sun rose properly at a grey Melkbos beach at 5am yesterday.

But enthusiasm was running high, conditions were perfect and the atmosphere was festive as the Cape Times and the Metropole Hotel launched the start of the 1987/88 crayfish season in competitive style.

First prize for the first legal-sized crayfish out of the water after the starter's signal at 5.36am went to Mr Paul Jennings, 26, of Tableview. He was out of the water, brandishing his kreef, by 5.48am.

First prize for the largest crayfish caught and weighed in at the Metropole Hotel

finish line went to Mr Anton Laubscher, 17, of Melkbos. His kreef weighed in at 1,25kg and he made it to the hotel not long after 6am.

Second in both categories respectively were Mr Derek Naude and Mr Martin Godfrey.

Mr Jennings, a technical manager at a furniture factory, came to South Africa from England three years ago and has been diving since then.

Paul Laubscher is a matric pupil at Milnerton High School — and will be writing his maths exam this morning. He has been fishing most of his life, particularly for snoek, but has been diving and fishing seriously every weekend for the last five years.

Anton Laubscher is a matric pupil at Milnerton High School. Of his monster find in record time, he said: "You just have to know the spots well, and I was lucky. I found a big one right away!"

Both winners received a plaque commemorating the achievement, R250 and free meals for six (each) at the Metropole Hotel.

● The atmosphere at the starting line at the beach and the finish line at the hotel was jovial and enthusiastic from beginning to end.

As Anton was first in with a "monster", he had to wait till 9.30am to find out if anybody else's catch would overtake his. But according to the handicapping system, every gram of crayfish over 200gm was worth 30 seconds, and by about 8.30 it was clear that his was going to take the prize.

However, every new weigh-in was treated with interest with a heated debate breaking out when one diver matter-of-factly tossed the broken legs from his crayfish on to the scale.

"Only the legs he's still got on him! That's the rule" yelled one enthusiast.

Either way, he failed to take the prize.



# 90 charged in crayfish crackdown

By PETER DENNEHY

A CRACKDOWN on illegal kreef fishing in the two weeks up to Sunday has led to the recovery of some 1700 crayfish bodies or tails, and charges being laid against 90 people.

Mr Bob Breach, acting press officer for the Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation for the Cape Provincial Administration, said the most serious cases had been in the Paternoster/St Helena Bay area, where 1461 undersized tails were recovered, 30 of them in berry.

In addition, 181 undersized whole kreef had been seized, four of them in berry too. Sixty-three people would be prosecuted on 40 charges in 28 cases.

On Sunday, when the season had started, another nine people were apprehended in Paternoster (12 undersized kreef allegedly involved, three over quota), five people in the Saldanha area (13 undersized kreef), two

in Lamberts Bay (39 tails), two in Doring Bay and one in Cape Town.

Also on Sunday, nine people were apprehended in the Kommetjie area in six separate incidents, though only eight charges were laid, all relating to kreef which were either too small or in berry.

A spokesman for the department said he was "basically satisfied with the way things were going" on the first weekend of the private kreef diving season. The number of kreef an individual may take has been reduced from five to four this season.

Asked whether he was pleased with so many apprehensions and charges, the spokesman replied that last year's early-season contraventions had been even more numerous.

"This is relatively few, for so early in the season," he said.

He appealed to the public to adhere to the kreef regulations, and warned that inspectors would be patrolling the coastline watching for anyone illegally removing crayfish.

Cape Times 18/11/87

3/15/87



HILIP

**Turn to Page 6**

- Govt denies welcoming open areas
- Military burial for soldier
- Caravel leaves Madeira
- Picture

# 'Tough time' for seafood poachers

*3 Fishing*

*CAC- T...*  
*21/11/87*

Staff Reporter

SEAFOOD poachers can expect a tough time from the authorities, Mr James van Langelaar, chief of Fishery Control Services, said yesterday.

Mr Van Langelaar confirmed that members of his special undercover investigation unit had caught several poachers operating on the West Coast.

He said numerous illegal nets, set for both harders and galjoen, had been confiscated and the department had decided not to resell the nets as they could be bought for similar illegal purposes.

He said one man had been caught with 659 crayfish in his possession while a Mitchells Plain man had been caught with 1 347 crayfish and tails of which 1 068 were undersize.

He said investigations had shown that crayfish were being traded for drugs.

However, a Boland police spokesman yesterday said no one had been arrested for such dealings in the Boland area but police were aware of the possibility of such drug deals.

Mr Van Langelaar said that restaurants buying illegally-caught crayfish and perlemoen were just as guilty as the poachers and would be heavily fined if caught.

He said several large poaching networks had already been caught trying to smuggle large quantities of crayfish to overseas markets.

He pointed out that the individual was currently legally entitled to take out five perlemoen, four crayfish, 25 black mussels and 50 white mussels (in season).

Cape Town 15  
8/12/87 3/2/87

## Squid licence guidelines

Staff Reporter

A NEW set of guidelines for the allocation of squid licences has been drawn up by the Interim Quota Board for the 1988 season.

The guidelines come into effect in January.

Regulations include:

- Privately owned fishing boats registered in ports between Cape St Blaze and the Great Fish River which caught more than 500kg of squid between 1 September, 1986 and 31 August, 1987.

- Privately owned fishing boats registered outside this area which caught more than 1 500kg.

- Boats owned by larger companies which caught more than 5 000kg and boats of smaller companies which caught more than 15 000kg, irrespective of ports of registration.

FISHING -1988

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VAN  
SUID-AFRIKA



REPUBLIC  
OF  
SOUTH AFRICA

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No. 2408

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Vol. 282

PRETORIA, 2 DESEMBER 1988  
DECEMBER

No. 11602

## GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING

### DEPARTEMENT VAN VERVOER

No. R. 2408

2 Desember 1988

#### TORREMOLINOS INTERNASIONALE KONVENSIË OOR DIE VEILIGHEID VAN VISSERSVAARTUIE, 1977

DIE PARTYE BY DIE KONVENSIË het,

UIT 'N BEGEERTE om die veiligheid van skepe in die algemeen en die veiligheid van vissersvaartuie in die besonder te bevorder,

GEDAGTIG AAN die uitmuntende bydrae van die Internasionale Konvensies vir die Beveiliging van Menselewens ter See en ook die Internasionale Konvensies insake Laslyne ter bevordering van die veiligheid van skepe,

IN DIE BESEF dat vissersvaartuie vrygestel is van byna al die vereistes van daardie Internasionale Konvensies,

UIT 'N BEGEERTE, DERHALWE, om in algemene ooreenstemming eenvormige beginsels en reëls oor die konstruksie en toerusting van vissersvaartuie op te stel wat die veiligheid van sodanige vaartuie en hul bemannings ten doel het,

MENENDE dat hierdie doel die beste bereik kan word deur die sluiting van 'n Konvensie,

SOOS VOLG OOREENGEKOM:

#### ARTIKEL 1

##### *Algemene verpligtinge ingevolge die Konvensie*

Die Partye moet uitvoering gee aan die bepalings van die Konvensie en die Aanhangsel daarvan, wat 'n integreerende deel van die Konvensie uitmaak. Tensy uitdruklik anders bepaal, is elke verwysing na die Konvensie tegelykertyd 'n verwysing na die Aanhangsel.

#### ARTIKEL 2

##### *Woordomskrywings*

By die toepassing van die Konvensie, tensy uitdruklik anders bepaal, beteken—

- (a) "Party" 'n staat vir wie die Konvensie in werking getree het;

459—A

## GOVERNMENT NOTICE

### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

No. R. 2408

2 December 1988

#### TORREMOLINOS INTERNATIONAL CONVEN- TION FOR THE SAFETY OF FISHING VESSELS, 1977

THE PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION,

DESIRING to promote the safety of ships in general and the safety of fishing vessels in particular,

BEARING IN MIND the outstanding contribution of the International Conventions for the Safety of Life at Sea and also the International Conventions on Load Lines in promoting the safety of ships,

RECOGNISING that fishing vessels are exempt from almost all the requirements of those International Conventions.

DESIRING THEREFORE to establish in common agreement uniform principles and rules concerning the construction and equipment of fishing vessels directed to the safety of such vessels and their crews,

CONSIDERING that this end may best be achieved by the conclusion of a Convention,

HAVE AGREED as follows:

#### ARTICLE 1

##### *General obligations under the Convention*

The Parties shall give effect to the provisions of the Convention and the Annex thereto, which shall constitute an integral part of the Convention. Unless expressly provided otherwise, a reference to the Convention constitutes at the same time a reference to the Annex.

#### ARTICLE 2

##### *Definitions*

For the purpose of the Convention, unless expressly provided otherwise—

- (a) "Party" means a State for which the Convention has entered into force.

11602—1

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*Chase Times 7/12/88*  
*3 Fishing*

# Buoyant Ocfish 'entering new era'

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OCEANA Fishing Group — which achieved record results for the year to September 30 — is entering a new era for the industry, executive chairman Walter Lewis says in the annual report.

"In fishing operations quota limits and a high rate of inflation have given greater urgency to the need to maximize efficiencies and add value to achieve growth in earnings.

"This has already led to the intro-

duction of engineering and technological innovations in plant and vessels and further changes are foreshadowed."

At the same time, Lewis continued, a diversified product range enabled producers to tailor basic products including fish meal and oil to specific standards required by the most profitable markets.

Lewis forecasts earnings for the current year equal to those of last year.

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# Walker Bay trawling row

W/LEARS 24/12/88  
B Fishy

by GLYNIS VAN ROOYEN  
and VIVIEN HORLER  
Weekend Argus Reporters

FISHERMEN and conservationists are up in arms following a decision by Mr Gert Kotzé, Minister of Water Affairs, to allow trawlers back in Walker Bay, Hermanus.

Trawlers, which have been banned from the area for several years, could be casting their nets in as short a time as two weeks, a Sea Fisheries spokesman said.

Mr Kotzé is understood to have spoken privately of his decision to Mr Lampie Fick, MP for Caledon, at the Hermanus Sea Carnival last week.

Mr Fick, who said he had been unaware of any move to reopen part of the bay, said he was disturbed at the news.

He was sorry that "a matter like this, which holds particular scientific and political implications for the communities of Walker Bay, has been taken with so little consultation".

## "Not acceptable"

Mr Hans Moore, chairman of the Walker Bay Angling and Conservation Society, the body that lobbied for years to get the bay closed to trawling, said his society had not been consulted.

"We struggled for years to get the trawlers out and the late Minister, Mr John Wiley, did everything he could to preserve this area. We will not accept this."

He said angling had improved considerably over the past few years while the bay

had been closed. Geelbek and kabeljou had reappeared in the bay.

Even Dr Louis Botha, director of research (Sea Fisheries) was unaware of the minister's decision. "No decision has been taken to my knowledge," he said.

He confirmed that members of his department had consulted local bodies about a possible closure.

## New licences

Mr Kotzé is on holiday and could not be reached, but Mr Etienne van Rensburg, his spokesman, confirmed the decision.

And Mr Piet le Roux, chief director of Sea Fisheries, said his department was issuing new licences to trawlers at the moment and the first trawlers could be back in the bay within "a couple of weeks".

The bay is closed to trawling beyond a line marked by beacons at Mudge Point and the Gansbaai harbour.

The beacons will now move to the new harbour and Voorsteklip, decreasing the present closed area by more than two-thirds and keeping trawlers out of waters along the Hermanus coast and part of the Plaat only.

Mr le Roux said the bay was not being opened. "We're merely shifting the line slightly".

A policy of conservation did not necessarily mean the exclusion of everything else. "There's no danger that the anglers and the trawlers will impinge on each other," he said.

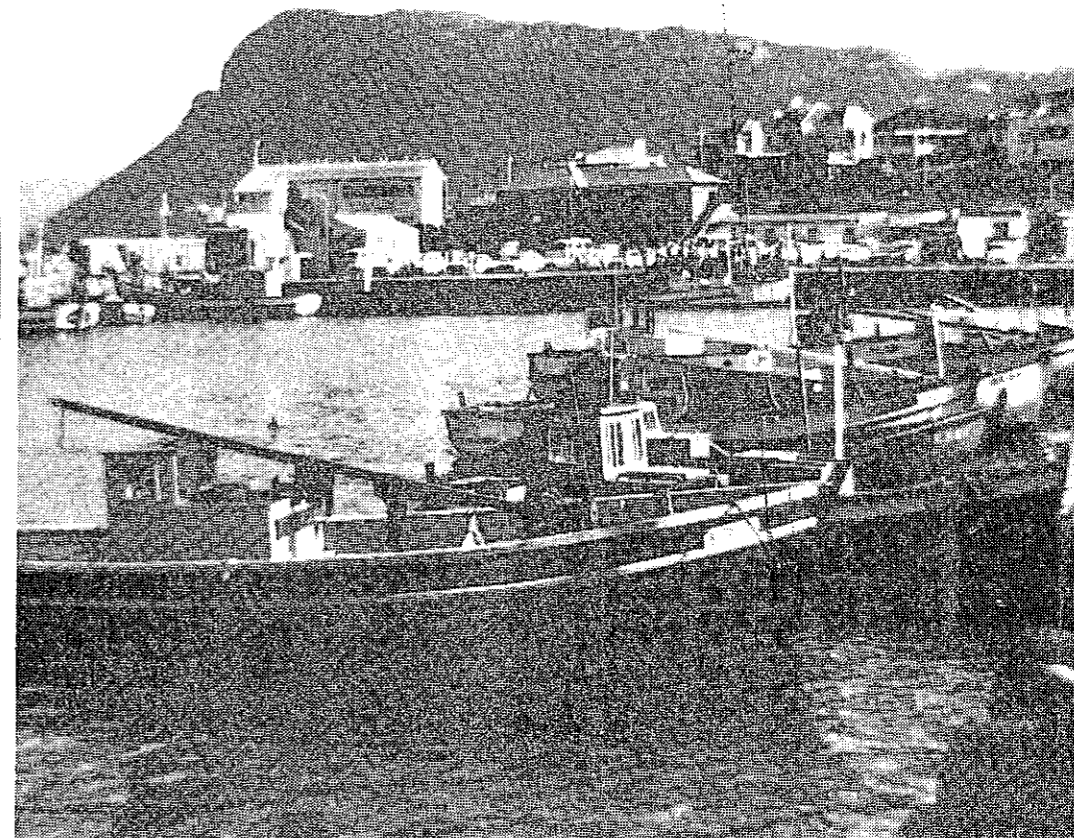


SPECIAL REPORT

# THE LAST OF A DYING BREED



FISHERMAN Vincent Cloete, at sea.



PICTURESQUE Kalk Bay harbour — home to many False Bay fishermen.

## Now False Bay fishermen find it hard to make things meet

by CAROLYN MCGIBBON, Weekend Argus Correspondent

Pictures: BILLY PADDOCK and OWEN COETZER

**V**INCENT Cloete is a fifth generation Kalk Bay fisherman and it shows: he pulls fish out of the water like other people pluck daisies.

With a hand line fed over the wooden hull of his boat, he can pull 60 fish an hour from the shimmering sea, his deft and skilled hands reading the species and size of his prize at first tug.

He is the last of a dying breed, no sons will step into the shoes of this fisherman, and many of his contemporaries have moved to more productive shores.

The reason? The declining fish numbers in False Bay mean that it is no longer viable for small time fishermen.

His is a story told up and down the coastline, the last generation of men who learnt the art from their fathers and grandfathers, and whose sons have forsaken a life on the waves for more lucrative ventures.

It's 4am and the dark forms of fisherfolk huddle on the wharf at Kalk Bay. There's a sharp breeze about, but they ward off the cold in thick hand knitted jerseys and bright oil-skin dungarees of orange and yellow that defy the darkness. Big wooden fishing boats list like drunks at the quayside, and when each of the crew has taken his allotted place the vessels head out, humping over the waves, seawards.

The boats nose into the dove grey dawn, leaving behind the

Around the perimeter of the bay there are lights, a friendly signal of human habitation, giving a sense of security to False Bay. The bay is surrounded by two pincers of land, at one end stands Hangklip, the other end is Cape Point, and this is where skipper Vincent Cloete directs his craft.

He drops anchor several hundred metres offshore, and the boat veers to starboard and port till it settles into a rhythmic roll. It is not yet sun up and the water has a cold metallic sheen.

Cloete and his crew do not use rods. They have little wooden spindles on which the line is wound. They throw a weighted lure from the boat, then feed out line to the required depth.

Cloete keeps his thumb on the pulse of the line. His thick, worker's hands take on a gracefulness, as he holds the line, palm facing the sky. At first bite he strikes and deftly brings in his catch. Every trade has its own slang and fishing is no exception. If, by chance, an angler picks up two fish at the same time, his crew shout out: "Milo!" to salute his luck.

Cloete can barely keep up. He can hardly fillet a sardine and bait up quickly enough for the hungry shoals in the water beneath. Today the Hottentot and steentjies are biting; they're small, but saleable, and the flapping piscine pile fills his basket.

never a good living, and two generations ago fishermen started sending their sons to school to get better jobs, because they thought they would only be poor from fishing.

"The sons don't come fishing any more, and that's a loss, because the vacancies on fishing boats are being filled by guys who are not born fishermen and never become as efficient as born fisherman."

**I**T is only when one learns the skill from one's father as a boy that one can be a really good fisherman, he says, and proves it by doubling the catch of any other member of his crew.

"It's like swimming, if you start to learn to swim at 18, even if you have the best coach in the world, you will never swim as well as someone who started at five. It's also instinct. You're either born with it or you're not. Fishing is in the blood.

"The good fishermen are really dying out. They don't fish in False Bay any more. They get on big boats on the east and west coast and only come back to False Bay when there's a good run."

Cloete blames the decline in fish numbers on the netters. "Poachers from the west coast" who moved into the bay 25

They won't remain in an area where they are being disturbed, so they moved off."

The large nets that trawled the sea floor picked up everything in their path, with a devastating effect on the ecology. Now only trek netters are allowed to operate, but they too are enemies of the line fishermen.

Said Cloete: "We catch fish only when they are ready, when they want to feed. The nets catch everything."

Hamish Fyfe, who used to fish commercially, and now heads the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, believes that the damage to the ecological chain by netters is incalculable and ought to be more strictly policed.

His organisation succeeded in getting trawlers banned from False Bay, and since then they have seen an improvement in a number of species such as geelbek and red steenbras.

Other species have taken longer to recover.

Chokka, a relative of the octopus, are sought after for calamari and bait and highly prized by fishermen. But their breeding grounds were upset by the netters, who disturbed the eggs laid on the sea bottom, thus robbing the ecology of a vital link in the food chain and decreasing the new population of chokka.

The main objection of fishermen to netters is that they catch indiscriminately and although there is legislation to stop abuse, it is often ineffective or ignored.

Says Mr Fyfe: "The trek netters can't see what they have caught until they bring the nets in. There may be thousands of undersized fish, which are not allowed to be caught and ought



w/le 12665  
5/11/88

# Wild Coast plunder: Urgent call for action

3 fishy

by JANE CONYNGHAM  
Weekend Argus Correspondent

UMTATA. — Top businessmen and conservationists have called for urgent action to stop the plundering of Transkei's coastline — following evidence of mass exploitation of the homeland's natural resources.

Large-scale depletion of perlemoen, oyster, crayfish and linefish in recent months has caused an outcry by conservationists who have described Transkei as an "exploiter's dream".

Representatives from the Transkei Coastwatchers Association this week said the Transkei government was issuing licences to outside operators who plundered the coast to the detriment of Transkei citizens.

They called for urgent implementation of the recommendations of Transkei's commission of inquiry into corruption, which included overhauling conservation strategy, the suspension of commercial fishing licences and the removal of many conservation officials.

### Managers arrested

Transkei's military ruler Major-General Bantu Holomisa is to implement the recommendations of the commission.

"We know a lot of people have been attempting to take Transkei for a ride," Major-General Holomisa said.

In an attempt to crack down on illegal exploitation earlier this month, Transkei police arrested managers from Umgazi and Hole in the Wall hotels for illegal possession between them of oysters and hundreds of undersized crayfish and crayfish in berry.

Transkei residents say crayfish have been so se-

verely exploited that some hotels have to import frozen crayfish from Cape Town for their tables.

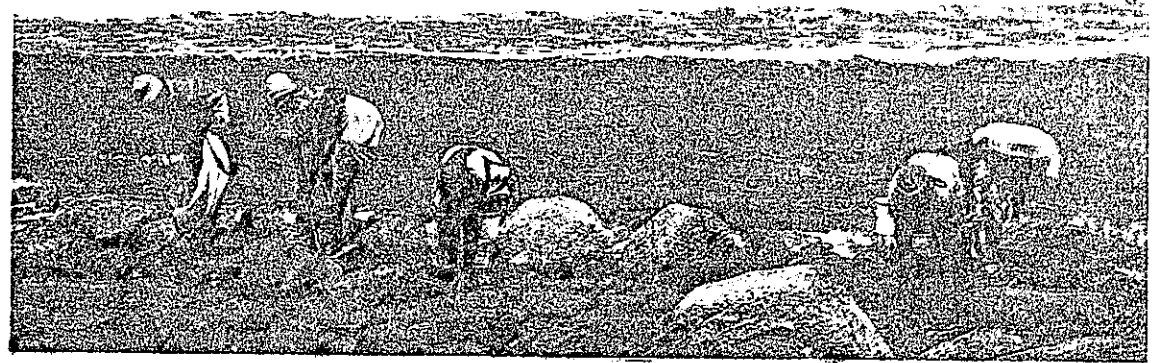
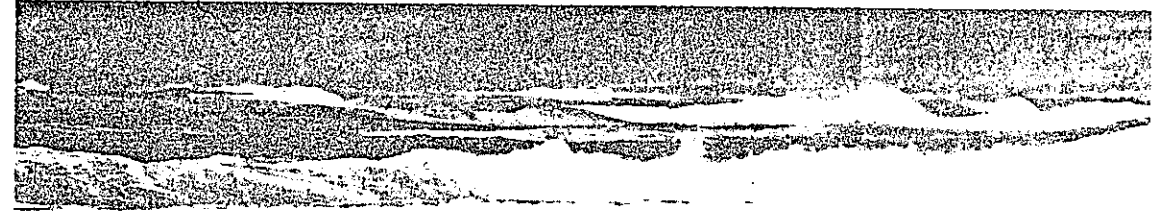
Licensed commercial activities which came under fire from conservationists were:

- The "rape" of perlemoen stocks along sections of the Southern Transkei coast.
- A one-man oyster and crayfish operation

which is allegedly plundering resources at Mpande near Port St Johns to sell in South Africa.

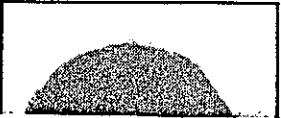
- Commercial fishing operations.

Experts have expressed fears that Transkei's red steenbras breeding population is the last on the South African coast and that continued exploitation could eradicate the fish from local shores.



Locals forage for food from the sea, but their livelihood is being threatened by commercial operators.

Earn up to 15% or more  
on your investment



# Longline fishing banned in Saldanha

Staff Reporter

CPW 6 Times 10/11/80  
3 Fishing

LONGLINE fishing — whereby hundreds of baited hooks are suspended from buoyed lines to catch the largest number of fish possible — was banned yesterday from taking place in Saldanha Bay by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and of Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze.

This method, used to catch hound sharks in the bay for some years, had resulted in the depletion of the shark resources in the bay.

Longlining in the bay not only placed severe pressure on the resources, but had a detrimental effect on recreational angling in the area, said Mr Kotze.

The ban was welcomed by Benguela Angling Club, of the West Coast, which found

that the longline method caused depletion.

Record officer Mr Hennie Fraser said that some years ago, catches of up to two tons of hound shark were made nightly for weeks on end and that complaints about the effect of such catches were made to the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Recent research showed that the sharks had established a breeding ground near the ore quay, which had originally caused much ecological damage when it was built.

Fishermen received R1 per kilogram for cleaned sharks, but when night catches dwindled from 600kg to 30kg and 20kg per boat, the fishermen stopped — only to reappear once angling competitions discovered fish at other spots.

"Sharks form a large part of our catches, and when we do well on the first day of a competition, we often find no fish the second day, once longliners work the spot during the night," said Mr Fraser.

The ban will not put anyone out of work as most longline fishermen are involved in other types of fishing, such as trekking, snoeking and crayfishing.

The ban was also welcomed by the chief of the West Coast National Park, Mr Dries Engelbrecht, who said he had received many complaints from anglers about the method, which invariably also caught cob and other fish species.

No longlining is allowed inside the Langebaan Lagoon.

# Costly crayfish creep on to city menus

By ANDREA WEISS  
Staff Reporter

CRAYFISH is back on city menus, but gourmets will have to pay dearly.

The chief gripe of restaurateurs is they cannot always get the right size.

A slow start to the season, as the south-easter and a late moulting season delayed catches, also made it difficult for them to meet demand.

With a single 500-gram crayfish retailing around R10, it is no surprise that the average restaurant dish costs R25. Restaurateurs say their mark-up is considerably lower than for other foods.

At the Fisherman's Cottage in Plumstead crayfish are served only when the proprietors can get them live and they are of a good size.

According to owner Mr Reinhart Kraue a portion to satisfy the "average" diner will sell for R28,50, although price also depends on the method of preparation.

## TRADITIONAL

Holiday Inns have a crayfish promotion and offer 650g portions for R29,50. If only small tails are available, they'll give you two, according to Cape Town food and beverages manager Mr Stuart Gordon.

At Riempies in the Cape Sun R18,95 will buy crayfish at lunchtime and R22,95 at dinnertime, prepared in the traditional ways.

One of the cheapest offers in town is the Metropole Hotel in Long Street, where a 500g portion costs R16,95.

La Brasserie at the new St George's Hotel has a lunch offer of R18,95 with a "wholesome portion" guaranteed.

Mr Peter Dennler, owner of the Lobster Pot in Bellville, says restaurants have to take what they can get. He prices his crayfish according to size from R24 for small to R25,75 for medium-sized.

Larger than that is hard to come by, he says.

The Harbour Café sells a medium portion for R24,95.

## ON REQUEST

The owner of Ticino in Sea Point, Mr Beat Reichmut, complained that all the big crayfish were exported and only small fry were left for local consumption. He charges R24,95 for a 500g portion.

Mr Alan Shuman of Laur'Als restaurant in Long Street charges R18,50 for small and R22,50 for medium crayfish (sauces extra).

Rosenfontein does not serve crayfish because "people don't want to pay the price" but will prepare it on request. No price was available.

Those who want to lay on a feast at home should go to Mariner's Wharf or Snoekies at Hout Bay harbour, where the going price is R18,25 a kilogram (two medium or three small crayfish).

Lusitania charges R18,90 a kilogram for live crayfish from 500 to 700 grams or R18,50 frozen. Cooked kreef costs R19,50.

Pick'n Pay sells crayfish for R19,99 a kilogram frozen and R23,99 cooked.

1988 3/10/88 (3 Fishing)

● Natal Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) has netted fine profits in the six months to June 30, 1988. At the interim stage, after-tax profits of R987 000 are substantially ahead of the R631 000 achieved for the entire 1987 financial year and the R373000 posted during the equivalent period last year.

Natrawl chairman Jack Walsh points out that the results to June are very much in line with projections.

"However, based on the third quarter's results to date, we are likely to exceed budget for the full year," he said.

"We have had good fishing since the beginning of July resulting in markedly improved landings. In addition, our largest vessel, which underwent a complete refit from February, was brought back into service in August."

In line with company policy, no dividend has been declared at the interim stage.

Turnover at the halfway stage climbed to R3,6-million from the R2,5-million of the equivalent period last year.

Tom Hood

# November fishing ban on southern Cape coast

Own Correspondent <sup>(3) Fishing</sup>  
**PORT ELIZABETH** — More than 3 000 fishermen could be out of work next month as a result of a ban on all line fishing from boats on the southern Cape coast in November and the closure of the chokka season.

The ban includes fishing from ski-boats for recreation, but excludes angling from rocks or spear-fishing from the shore.

Restaurants and fish shops are unlikely to be seriously affected because they get most of their supplies from trawlers.

Mr Don Christey, chairman of the Southern Cape Commercial Line Fishermen's Association, said a notice announcing the ban appeared in the Government Gazette of September 30.

The prohibition is for all line fishing from

boats between Cape St Blaize (Mossel Bay) and the Fish River.

This includes fish which have no bag limits like hake, snoek, kabeljou, geelbek and yellowtail.

He estimated that in November 3 000 people in the fishing industry would be out of work.

Confirming the ban today, Mr Albert van Rooyen, control officer at Knysna, said it meant fishing in the area would basically come to a standstill next month.

But he said there was very little line fishing being done at present. Most of the boats were fishing for chokka. Some had hoped to switch to line fishing in November when the chokka season closed.

"There are so few fish around here that

something had to be done. Boats are bringing in few fish. Perhaps this will give the area a chance to recover.

"I think what most line fishermen will do is to take their annual holiday next month instead of December."

A fisherman said he did not believe the ban would provide a solution to the dwindling stocks of fish. But he said something had to be done because the ecological damage due to overfishing by commercial fishermen was chronic.

He said it was particularly bad in the Jeffreys Bay, Oyster Bay, St Francis Bay and Cape St Makani waters.

Another said he felt fishermen were reaping their just desserts for exploiting the sea.



The headline below from The Star discloses a disturbing and dangerous situation. Perhaps a statue like the one above would be a useful warning to South Africans against their increasingly violent society. The wide-angled picture shows a bronze sculpture of a twisted revolver barrel created by Swedish artist Frederick Reutersward at the United Nations visitors' entrance promenade in New York. The metre high, 4 m long statue is entitled "Non-violence".

Political situation, living conditions among causes  
**One in every 2 white homes has a gun**  
By Deborah Smith, Cape Town

## Conservationists react to 'wiping out' of perlemoen

**EAST LONDON** — Conservationists are up in arms at what has been described as "the wiping out" of perlemoen reserves on the Wild Coast.

As many as 14 bakkies loaded with perlemoen weighing about a ton were driven out of Cebe in the past fortnight.

Residents at Cebe said divers came to the seaside resort from as far as Cape Town, Durban, and even Zimbabwe, to dive for perlemoen.

The reason behind the perlemoen rush is a scheme devised by a Butterworth businessman, Mr Jock Cameron, who offers R10/kg, including the shell, for perlemoen delivered to him.

A fully grown perlemoen weighs about 1 kg.

Mr Cameron of Wild Coast Abalone and Lobster Enterprises was granted a licence by Transkei's Department of Commerce, Industry and Tourism to fish for perlemoen.

Nature conservation officials in Umata are aware of the situation and

said moves were afoot to have Mr Cameron's licence withdrawn.

The assistant director of fisheries, Mr V Makani, said his department objected strongly to the licence being granted to Mr Cameron.

He said he could not comment further at this stage, but his superiors were investigating the situation with regard to taking action.

Mr Cameron could not be contacted at his Butterworth office for comment, but earlier this week he said he had a licence to fish for perlemoen.

He described previous reports of perlemoen exploitation as "rubbish".

A Cebe resident, Mr Barry Sahd, said the removal of perlemoen had "caused mayhem".

"The repercussions on the ecology are immense," Mr Sahd said.

Perlemoen has also been taken out of Wavecrest, Mazeppa Bay and Trenneries resulting in the Wild Coast Angling Association drawing up a petition against such action. — Sapa.

## Salmon population could be hit

<sup>STW 17/10/88 (3) Fishing</sup>  
**DURBAN** — Thousands of kilograms of salmon are being pulled out by ski boat fisherman along the Natal coast and sold illegally, according to the Association of Professional Ski Boat Fishermen.

A spokesman for the association, which represents the 77 licensed commercial boats in Natal, said the flood of fish on the market was pushing down the price.

Large salmon were in roe. There were not enough licensed boats to affect the salmon population adversely, but the number of ski boats would.

"There will be more legislation against commercial boats while private fisherman carry on with their poaching," he said.

A spokesman for the Natal Parks Board said it was gathering information from the association and could not comment further at this stage. — Sapa.

Thousands of homeless in Johannesburg - should have been addressed to

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# Oceana lands good haul

Star 5/15/88 By Ann Crotty

186  
2  
Barlow's Oceana Fishing group has reported a 54 percent increase in turnover to R127,8 million from R83,2 million for the six months to March.

Improved efficiency and the considerable carry-over stock of fish meal and oil, most of which was sold in the review period, helped boost the improvement at operating-income level by 123 percent to R23,9 million from R10,7 million.

Pre-tax income rose 98 percent to R25,9 million from R13 million, but a 182 percent increase in tax pared the improvement at the taxed level to 59 percent, equivalent to R14,3 million.

Attributable earnings were up 60 percent to R12,8 million from R8 million. The increase at the share level was also 60 percent, taking earnings per share to 141,1c from 88,3c. An interim dividend of 45c a share has been declared (previous interim 27,5c).

The directors say the interim has been raised in order to reduce the disparity between it and the final dividend.

Management says: "The group maintained and improved its past performance. Last year we changed out lobster product mix, found alternative markets and as a result of these steps and continuing demand from local and international markets, the group should be able to dispose of all of its output at favourable prices. Landings of pilchard and anchovy to date and yields of fish meal and oil are satisfactory. The group has already completed 89 percent of its total rock lobster quota and no difficulty is expected in completing the quota."

Sea Products (SWA) has reported a 22 percent increase in income to R4,8 million and earnings per share up from 94,4c to 114,7c, from which an interim dividend of 65c (50c) has been declared.

The improved results are attributed to the favourable lobster season at Luderitz and the effect of the carry-over of fish meal stocks from the previous year's unusually high anchovy landings.

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# Good year for fishing industry<sup>3</sup>

CAPE TOWN — The fishing industry has increased its income by 28 percent over last season, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said.

Speaking at the official opening of Fish and Marinex '88 in Table Bay harbour, Mr Kotze commended the industry for its positive attitude to marine conservation.

The fishing industry had done exceptionally well in the past year with trawling and long line fishing the biggest success stories.

In 1987, the land-based trawling industry had landed about 87 800 tons with a wholesale value of about R168 million, Mr Kotze said.

During that year, the pelagic industry experienced a record catch of about 675 000 tons.

## FISHING INDUSTRY

**Net profits**

The pelagic fishing industry remains in a quandary over how to generate the profits it needs to replace its ageing fleet and modernise its factories.

Even though demand for fish far outstrips supply, the industry says it is loath to take advantage and force up prices.

Japie van Heerden, chairman of Federal Marine, the industry's central selling organisation, says prices should have been increased years ago. He says there is nothing to stop the industry making up the backlog, "except a moral reason. The vast majority of tinned pilchards are consumed by less privileged sectors of the community. They rely on it (*Business* November 4).

"Prices will rise next year, but we will try to keep increases below the inflation rate. It would be wrong to simply bump up prices because our quotas are too small to satisfy market demand."

Prices prevent imports making up the difference. Van Heerden says the price of SA tinned pilchards more or less equals that of pilchards elsewhere in the world — "when the US dollar equals R2.

"At that rate of exchange, we can import at slightly better than break-even. But when the dollar buys about R2,50, our pilchards are cheap by world standards and pilchards from Chile, Peru, Japan and Korea are expensive to import."

Many of the world's markets have shortages of tinned pilchards. Locally, the 62 000 t produced last year — 40 000 t from Namibian waters — was insufficient for domestic needs.

A small quantity was exported by newly-formed Atlantic Canned Fish Sales (ACFS), but Van Heerden claims it was too small to influence the market. ACFS was formed to supply the Namibian market, develop an export market and sell the balance of the Namibian catch to Federal Marine.

Van Heerden rules out the idea of increased fishing to satisfy demand. "The situation would change dramatically if, overnight, we were allowed to take 100 000 t out of South African waters and another 100 000 t out of Namibian waters. Profits would surge and we would be able to satisfy the local market and export more — but only for a time.

"We don't know how big local demand really is, since we fell behind in 1980 and 1981 when all canning in Walvis Bay was stopped. While the local market would not absorb 200 000 t if it suddenly became available, I have no doubt this would be possible if we phased that quantity in over a few years."

The industry is well behind in technology. But, while machinery in its three Walvis Bay and seven South African factories is old, it is well-maintained and paid for, which helps keep costs low. The industry's 67 trawlers are between 20 and 25 years old and need replacing.



28% jump in earnings to almost R1bn

# Fishing sector riding the crest of the wave

CAPE TOWN — SA's fishing industry is again riding the crest of the wave, with the sector's 1988 earnings expected to jump 28% to approach the R1bn level for the first time.

Such buoyant growth can also be expected to translate into improved profit performances by companies.

All companies posted healthy half-yearly results early this year and most forecasted even better returns for the second half.

The industry has been benefiting from careful management of marine resources, reflected in much higher stock yields and the granting of bigger quotas.

Sardine stocks remain the single marine resource which have continued to show signs of deterioration during the past two years.

Details of the industry's performance in 1988 still have to be completed, but early indications are that the total landed catch will have earned the industry about R975m, some 28% more than the R751m recorded in 1987, Environment and Water Affairs Department's marine division figures show.

Opening a maritime and fishing exhibition in Cape Town yesterday, Environment and Water Affairs Min-

ister Gert Kotze indicated that virtually every segment of the country's fishery had enjoyed better earnings.

The biggest contributors to turnover came from the demersal longline and trawling sector, which last year landed 138 000t of fish with a wholesale value of R305m.

The greatest improvement in yields came from pelagic fish resources, particularly anchovy. Quotas were doubled last year to 600 000t. The total landed value of this resource last year was more than R291m, a figure expected to be greatly exceeded this year.

Some 87 800t of stock fish were landed in 1987 with a wholesale value of R168m — a figure which also improved in 1988.

The inshore fishing industry was responsible for landing some 12 000t of fish with a total value of R27m and inshore longline fishing yielded 7 000t with a landed value of R25m.

The lobster fishery enjoyed total earnings of R57m in 1987/8, a 10% improvement on the previous year, with the commercial quota having been raised to 3 800t. This is certain to be improved on in the current commercial season.

2/10/88  
B/day  
3/FISHING  
CHRIS CAIRNCROSS



LEFT: Fishermen offload the perlemoen harvested at Robben Island. RIGHT: The fishing boat Jessica with the season's first commercial perlemoen harvest.

*Cape Times 29/10/88*

# Divers enraged at perlemoen quota

*(3 Fishing)*

Staff Reporter

WEEKEND divers are enraged at the culling of almost 7 000 perlemoen from Robben Island waters as part of a 50-ton allocation to commercial quota holders.

Divers say the allocation in the restricted waters around the island is "highly unfair".

Non-concession holders may dive out only five perlemoen per person.

The quota is fished by a single vessel and the catch is divided proportionally among quota holders made up of commercial perlemoen-processing companies.

Divers maintain that, with the small allocation of perlemoen to non-quota holders, at least a portion of the 50 tons harvested around Robben Island should be allocated to the public.

"I don't see why the public should

not get a share," said the former managing director of Cape Diving, Mr James Bell.

"The perlemoen fishermen should at least offer some of their catch at a fair price to the public on the wharf."

Several divers were angered at the fact that, while they were not allowed into what they perceived as a marine reserve, the perlemoen-processing

companies were allowed to fish with impunity.

However, the waters around Robben Island were a crayfish reserve and not a perlemoen sanctuary, the Chief Fisheries Control Officer, Mr Willem Spence, said.

He said the reason no public perlemoen diving was allowed off Robben Island was that the waters were part of a security area.

③ Fisheries

**Better management**

A new Sea Fisheries Act, promulgated earlier this year and due to come into operation in 1989, is seen as a major change in the State's philosophy towards controlling fishing resources.

From the Sea Fisheries Act of 1940 onward, the central objective was State control of sea fisheries and related matters such as processing, marketing and exporting of fish.

Prior to the new Act, a number of perceived faults existed in the legislation. Control had become an end in itself, instead of being a means of achieving better resource management, while the law afforded the minister extensive and unfettered discretionary powers, beyond those required by the dynamic nature of fishing resources. This was exacerbated by a tendency towards non-disclosure of the facts relied on when ministerial decisions were taken — often without reasons being provided.

Other deficiencies were: the lack of industry participation in decision-making; the in-

23/9/88

One industry source says absolute tonnage quotas, referred to as output controls, are not the only method of controlling the resource. Many fishing activities are also subject to "effort" or input controls. These include regulations relating to size, the tonnage of boats and equipment used and the place and time of catches. All these regulatory methods fall outside the ambit of the QB.

But Derry Devine, UCT professor at the Institute of Marine Law, believes that such objections are misplaced. They relate to conservation issues, while the QB is primarily concerned with operators and their efficiency.

Meanwhile, formal recognition of industry bodies and interest groups should contribute to greater faith in the policy-making process. This will occur through the Sea Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC), which will advise, investigate and consult with the minister and the industry. The minister is also obliged to consult the SFAC on certain issues.

However, some industry sources doubt whether this represents progress. While all industry branches, academics and consumers are represented on the current Fisheries Advisory Council, the SFAC has a narrower base — mainly academics — presumably to avoid domination by vested interests. The possibility remains, however, that industry

herent unfairness of some decisions; and allegations of political interference in matters such as the allocation of quotas.

The new Act has a very different point of departure. Oceana group secretary Jeremy Cole says it represents "a new era of participative sea fisheries management."

This is summed up in the long title which notes that it is "to provide for the conservation of the marine ecology and orderly exploitation, utilisation and protection of certain marine resources" and, for that purpose, to exercise control over sea fishery. Apart from this new and encouraging shift in policy, the Act includes a number of other noteworthy improvements.

Perhaps most important is the recognition given to the concept of total allowable catch (TAC). Cole says this is "the key element in conservation efforts" since it is usually derived from the scientifically based maximum sustainable yield of the resource. The TAC represents the total amount of the resource which may be harvested and divided into the quotas.

In accordance with the Diemont committee's recommendations, quotas will in future be handled by an independent quota board rather than by executive decree. A register of quotas will be open to the public and guidelines for determination of quotas will allow input from the public. While this is an improvement on the previous system, which was subject to political misuse, some industry spokesmen believe the principle should have been widened. They feel the Quota Board (QB) should also deal with matters where there are no absolute tonnages, such as prawns and squid.

# Fresh fish in short supply in city and PE

MAGS  
7/9/88  
3 fishy

## Staff Reporters

FRESH fish are in such short supply in Cape Town that some varieties are not available or prohibitively expensive, and in Port Elizabeth many fish-and-chips shops have put up "chips only" signs.

A spokesman for a fish distributor who supplies hotels and restaurants described the supply situation as "shocking".

Large customers such as supermarkets were given preference and would not be short but smaller customers such as fish shops were having a "torrid time".

He had been unable to get any kingklip for three weeks and an order for fish placed last Thursday had not been delivered.

## WILL GET WORSE

"This is not a temporary situation. It is going to get worse because there are too many middlemen in the industry. If you don't want to pay their prices they simply export their stocks.

"Not so long ago the going price for kingklip was R5 a kilogram. Suddenly, because supply is short, the price has jumped to R6,20. Red roman is normally R3 to R4,50 a kilogram. It is now R22.

Mr Anwar Behardien of Kensington, who has been selling fish for 20 years, said: "Fish has never been so scarce as it is now.

"September and October are generally not good months for the industry and it also affects all fish dealers. On some bad days suppliers have to ration fish orders," he said.

## CHIPS ONLY

Fish shop owners in Port Elizabeth said they were catching flack from irate customers who would not accept that they were selling chips and no fish.

A supplier said there had been technical and other problems, including adverse conditions at sea, but predicted that things would be back to normal next week. Another said fishing had been difficult during the winter. They had frozen fish but no fresh hake.

Mr Yusuf Albertyn of Walmer Estate, whose family have been fish dealers for two generations, said city dealers bought their fish from two main wholesale suppliers.

"It is common knowledge that wholesale suppliers obtain better prices for their fish in Johannesburg and Natal," he said. "Some also have export licences and export to Taiwan and Japan.

"You can have all the fish you want if you are prepared to pay the price. There is no scarcity of hake but there is a general shortage of kingklip in Cape Town."

Hout Bay retailer Mr Ivan Lawrence said dealers should put their orders in well in advance to ensure they were met.

"Poor weather normally has an adverse effect on fresh fish supplies for about a fortnight afterwards," he said.

"Fish prices have gone up a lot," he said. "For example, the wholesale price of large hake was R1,95 a kilogram in December and is now R2,86.

"Kingklip cost R3,70 a kilogram in December and is now R6,20.

Mr Brian Daitsch, senior perishable goods buyer of Pick'n Pay, believes Cape Town has an adequate supply of fish.

There was enough hake all the year round but kingklip, a seasonal fish, was in short supply. Prices of fish, like anything else, increased with supply and demand, he said.

"But a softening of price on certain species of fish is possible soon."

A statement from Lusitania Sea Products said the firm was hoping to have its hake quota increased.

A spokesman for Irvin and Johnson described the supply of fish as "good". The firm would supplement supplies in Port Elizabeth if there was a shortage.

**The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:**

- Yes  
(a) and (b) Fall away.

**CSIR: funds received from private sector**

1282. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) Whether the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has been receiving funds from the private sector; if so, (a) since when and (b) what percentage of its budget was financed by the private sector over the latest specified period of 12 months for which information is available;
- (2) whether any conditions are attached by the private sector to funds so provided; if so, what conditions?

**The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:**

- (1) Yes
  - (a) At least since 1963
  - (b) 4.42%
- (2) Yes, normal conditions of contract, viz that the funds are used for specific research purposes.

**Cape College of Education: Fort Beaufort**

1285. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) (a) Who are the members of the council of the Cape College of Education in Fort Beaufort and (b) what are their (i) occupations and (ii) qualifications;
- (2) (a) how often does this council meet and (b) on what dates did it meet in 1988?

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

- (1) (a) Messrs W A Staude, S T Bantom, S Anderson, L C Koch, Mrs A N Tukulu, Mrs Maneli.
- (b) (i) and (ii) Mr W A Staude: Regional Director, Cape Region, Department of Education and Training; BA and Post-graduate Certificate of Education  
Mr S T Bantom: Inspector of Schools, Department of Education and Training; Higher Primary Teachers' Certificate.

Mr S Anderson:  
Managing Director, Maybaker, SA (Pty) Ltd; Not available.

Mr L C Koch:  
Chief Director, Community Development, Cape Provincial Administration; Not available.

Mrs A N Tukulu:  
Principal Education Adviser, Education Auxiliary Service, Department of Education and Training; BA (Hons) and Higher Primary Teachers' Certificate.

Mrs W Maneli:  
Principal, Department of Education and Training; BA (hons) and University Education Diploma.

Note: According to the relevant regulation the Governing Council shall consist of seven members. At the moment one position is vacant.

- (2) (a) Once a quarter in accordance with the relevant regulation.
- (b) 23 March 1988 and 23 May 1988.

**Marine products exported**

1286. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) (a) What quantity of (i) white fish, (ii) rock lobster and (iii) abalone was exported during the latest specified period of 12 months for which statistics are available and (b) what was the rand value or estimated rand value of these exports in each case;
- (2) what is the policy of his Department in regard to the quantities of marine products exported.

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

- (1) I do not deem it in the national interest to publicly divulge export statistics in respect of the relevant species. I am however, prepared to furnish the honourable member with the statistics privately.
- (2) The Departmental policy regarding the quantities of exports of marine products, is aimed at satisfying the domestic demand for sea fishes, having regard to the need to generate foreign currency.

**Western Transvaal Area Development Board: dissolution**

1287. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the Western Transvaal Area Development Board has been dissolved; if so, (a) on what date, (b) what was the value of this board's (i) assets and (ii) liabilities at the time of dissolution and (c) to whom were these (i) assets and (ii) liabilities transferred?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

The Western Transvaal Area Development Board, has been dissolved;

- (a) 1 July 1986;
- (b) (i) and (ii) — Details are not available.
- (c) (i) and (ii) — To the Administrator of the Transvaal in terms of Government Notice 2885 of 31 December 1987.

**Central Transvaal Area Development Board: dissolution**

1288. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the Central Transvaal Area Development Board has been dissolved; if so, (a) on what date, (b) what was the value of this board's (i) assets and (ii) liabilities at the time of dissolution and (c) to whom were these (i) assets and (ii) liabilities transferred?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

The Central Transvaal Area Development Board, has been dissolved;

- (a) 1 July 1986;
- (b) (i) and (ii) — Details are not available.
- (c) (i) and (ii) — To the Administrator of the Transvaal in terms of Government Notice 2885 of 31 December 1987.

**East Rand Area Development Board: dissolution**

1289. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the East Rand Area Development Board has been dissolved; if so, (a) on what date, (b) what was the value of this board's (i) assets and (ii) liabilities at the time of dissolution and (c) to whom were these (i) assets and (ii) liabilities transferred?

tion and (c) to whom were these (i) assets and (ii) liabilities transferred?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

The East Rand Area Development Board, has been dissolved;

- (a) 1 July 1986;
- (b) (i) and (ii) — Details are not available.
- (c) (i) and (ii) — To the Administrator of the Transvaal in terms of Government Notice 2885 of 31 December 1987.

**East Cape Area Development Board: dissolution**

1290. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the Eastern Cape Area Development Board has been dissolved; if so, (a) on what date, (b) what was the value of this board's (i) assets and (ii) liabilities at the time of dissolution and (c) to whom were these (i) assets and (ii) liabilities transferred?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

The Eastern Cape Area Development Board, has been dissolved;

- (a) 1 July 1986;
- (b) (i) and (ii) — Details are not available.
- (c) (i) and (ii) — To the Administrator of the Cape of Good Hope in terms of Government Notice 2885 of 31 December 1987.

**Eastern Transvaal Area Development Board: dissolution**

1291. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

Whether the Eastern Transvaal Area Development Board has been dissolved; if so, (a) on what date, (b) what was the value of this board's (i) assets and (ii) liabilities at the time of dissolution and (c) to whom were these (i) assets and (ii) liabilities transferred?

**The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:**

The Eastern Transvaal Area Development Board, has been dissolved;

- (a) 1 July 1986;
- (b) (i) and (ii) — Details are not available.



# PE's crayfish export venture a big success

ARGUS 15/7/88

3 Fishing

## Argus Bureau

**PORT ELIZABETH.** — A major facility for exporting live crayfish from the Eastern Cape to Europe and the Far East has been developed in Port Elizabeth harbour.

More than 5 000 crayfish are being contained in concrete holding-tanks with running seawater in a custom-built depot.

The R750 000 building is nearly complete. The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr J C Kotze, is to open the factory on July 25.

But this is only the start. Ultimately there will be facilities for cultivating "salmon trout" (trout that taste like salmon) and for mussel and oyster production.

Two weeks ago, 700kg of crayfish was flown to Hong

Kong and fetched twice the price possible in South Africa.

Mr Carlos Simal, managing director of the company, said: "It was a trial run to check the mortality rate, which was 10 percent.

"When we get our chilling facilities in the harbour up to scratch we can reduce the mortality to five percent."

The next consignment, of 500kg, will be flown to Hong Kong at the end of the month.

The crayfish are flown in boxes by SAA. They can survive 48 hours out of the water and were very much alive when the consignment reached Hong Kong's restaurants.

East Coast and West Coast varieties of crayfish are being stored, although generally in South Africa the West Coast variety is preferred.

"In the Far East," Mr Simal

said, "the East Coast crayfish is preferred for the large tail and volume of flesh.

"The report-back from Hong Kong is excellent. The restaurateurs are delighted with the flavour."

Also in the factory pipeline are projects for cultivating trout to taste like salmon and for mussel and oyster production.

"We will reserve six tanks to keep the trout in a mixture of freshwater mixed with 10 percent of seawater," Mr Simal said.

"We'll bring the seawater content up gradually to 100 percent when the trout flesh is pink and tastes like salmon."

Ten years ago, in a brief but successful pilot venture, West Coast crayfish were flown in water tanks from Cape Town to the United States.

extent influenced by the time the applicant takes to respond to the Department's enquiries. It is, therefore, not possible to calculate an average and maximum delay between the receipt of an application and the issuing of an identity document.

#### Immigrants Selection Board

990. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) (a) What are the names of the persons currently serving on the Immigrants Selection Board and (b) (i) for what period and (ii) by whom are they appointed;

Chairman:

Mr I S Volschenk

Members:

Messrs B C Human

J C Pretorius

J A Carrim

P E Pepper

Department of Manpower

P J M van Wyk

J H Dillman

P W Reich

Department of Home Affairs

M D Bester

W A van der Merwe

N C Claassen

T J M J van Vuuren

G E Kurch

In addition to the abovementioned members, a number of officials of the Department of Home Affairs attached to the SA Missions abroad, have also been appointed to the Immigrants Selection Board, for purposes of executing duties as assigned to them by the Board in terms of section 3(5)(a) of the Aliens Act, 1937 (Act 1 of 1937). At the moment there are 4 such members in London, 1 in Milan, 2 in Vienna, 1 in Brussels, 1 in Paris, 1 in Bonn, 2 in New York and 1 in Harare.

- (1) (b) (ii) Minister of Home Affairs.
- (2) The hon member is referred to my reply in this House to written question No 808 during March this year. As was indicated there, the Immigrants Selection Board is an autonomous body. The Board, therefore, exercises its powers independently in terms of section 4 of the Aliens Act, 1937 (Act 1 of 1937). In terms of section 4(3) of the aforementioned Act, however, the Board is prohibited to authorize the issue

- (2) whether this board has the discretion to admit persons with a criminal record to the Republic without having to refer the applications concerned to the Minister beforehand; if so, in terms of what statutory provisions; if not, (a) on how many occasions has the board referred such applications to him since 1 January 1980 and (b) in respect of whom were these applications so referred?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) and (b) (i)

87-07-01 - 88-11-30

87-07-01 - 88-11-30

88-03-01 - 88-11-30

87-07-01 - 88-11-30

87-07-01 - 88-11-30

87-07-01 - 88-11-30

87-07-01 - 88-11-30

88-01-11 - 88-11-30

88-03-23 - 88-11-30

88-03-01 - 88-11-30

86-12-04 - 88-12-03

86-12-04 - 88-12-03

86-12-04 - 88-12-03

of a permit for permanent residence unless the applicant for such a permit, *inter alia* —

- (a) is of good character; and
- (b) will within a reasonable period after his entry into the Republic assimilate with the inhabitants of the Republic and be a desirable inhabitant of the Republic.

The Immigrants Selection Board scrutinizes each application thoroughly in order to ensure that applicants fall within the ambit of the above requirements. However, where applicants fail to disclose essential information, such as previous convictions, I am empowered in terms of section 8 of the aforementioned Act to consider the cancellation of their permits for permanent residence whenever such information becomes known.

National service: graduates leaving South Africa

1000. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether South Africans are permitted upon graduation from university to leave South Africa before commencing their national service; if so, under what conditions?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

There is in terms of the legislation administered by my Department no measure in accordance with which the departure of students who still have to do their national service, can be controlled.

Pretoria Central Prison: executions/hangings

1016. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether more than one condemned prisoner can be executed at Pretoria Central Prison at a time; if so, (a) what is the maximum number of prisoners who can be executed at one time and (b) (i) how many such hangings were carried out, and (ii) what is the total number of prisoners hanged in this manner, in 1987;

- (2) whether there is an executioner for each condemned prisoner in cases of multiple hangings; if not, what procedure is followed?

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

- (1) (a) and (b) (i) and (ii) and (2)

The honourable member is referred to my replies to Question No 24 of 10 May 1988 as well as Question No 469 on 9 March 1988.

Fish: exploitation rights <sup>(3) Fishing</sup>

1025. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 822 on 23 March 1988, he will furnish details of the basis used for the selective allocation of exploitation rights in respect of the catching of fish; if not, why not; if so, what are these details?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Yes. A wide range of criteria are considered when allocating exploitation rights, but I must however, hasten to emphasize that the under-

mentioned criteria are not exhaustive, and may differ from sector to sector:

- (1) The historical participation and performance of applicants in a given sector, either before or after the implementation of state-imposed limited entry measures.
- (2) The degree of dependance of non-quota holder fish processors on existing quota holders for a stable and continuous supply of raw fish.
- (3) The existence of undertakings which may have been given by the Government to quota holders or non-quota holders on the allocation of exploitation rights in cases where there is a growth in the Total Allowable Catch.
- (4) The degree to which an applicant for exploitation rights disposes of fishing gear to effectively utilize the right applied for.
- (5) Whether an applicant for an exploitation right in a given sector is already the holder of a quota or exploitation right in another sector.
- (6) The date upon which the application was received. An earlier applicant would get precedence over later applicants, if other considerations are equal.
- (7) In the case of the coastal fisheries communities, the want of the applicant.
- (8) The achievement of the socio-economic objectives of the Government.
- (9) In the International context; whether the granting of an exploitation right would be to the general interest of the Republic.

Tenders: local content/technology transfer

1029. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

Whether, when tenders are submitted to his Department or any other statutory or parastatal bodies falling under his Department, any preference is given in respect of (a) local content and (b) technology transfer; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:

In order to furnish answers to this embracive question, it must be stated that tenders for the supply of goods and services to all State depart-

in the area in question in terms of the report of the Hey Committee, I suggest that further questions in this regard be directed to my colleague, the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning.

#### Detention of person in Mamelodi

\*15. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Law and Order:

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the South African Police for the purpose of the Minister's reply, has been detained by the police; if so, (a) when, (b) why, (c) in terms of what statutory provisions or regulations, (d) where and (e) what is the name of this person;
- (2) whether this person is to be charged with any offences; if so, (a) when and (b) with what offences?

The MINISTER OF LAW AND ORDER:

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) 25 March 1988.
  - (b) and (c) He was arrested on a charge of assault with the intent to do grievous bodily harm.
  - (d) Mamelodi.
  - (e) the name which was furnished by the hon member.
- (2) (a) and (b) The person has already appeared in court and was sentenced.

#### Advertisement concerning certain church in Sunday newspaper

\*16. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Information, Broadcasting Services and the Film Industry:

- (1) Whether, with reference to information furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, (a) his Department or (b) he, from any moneys under his control, has provided any funds towards placing in a Sunday newspaper dated 17 April 1988 an advertisement concerning a certain church; if so, (i) what was the (aa) purpose and (bb) purport of the advertisement, (ii) what was the amount involved and (iii) what is the name

of the (aa) newspaper and (bb) church in question; if not,

- (2) whether he or his Department gave any financial support to any persons or group of persons responsible for placing this advertisement; if so, (a) why, (b) what was the amount involved and (c) by whom was it placed?

†The MINISTER OF INFORMATION, BROADCASTING SERVICES AND THE FILM INDUSTRY:

- (1) No.
  - (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (2) No.
  - (a), (b) and (c) Fall away.

#### Botshabelo/Ekangala: representations from residents

\*17. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 17 on 12 April 1988, he has received any representations from the residents of (a) Botshabelo and (b) Ekangala; if so, how many in each case;
- (2) whether he will furnish any further information on these representations; if not, why not; if so, what was (a) the purport of and (b) his response to each of these representations?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

- (1) (a) The application in respect of the incorporation of Botshabelo into Qwaqwa is still *sub judice*.
- (b) No.
- (2) No.
  - (a) and (b) fall away.

#### Mrs Sally Joanna Hutchings: deportation

\*18. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, was deported from South Africa on or about 31 October 1987; if so, (a) why, (b) what were the circumstances surrounding this

incident, (c) what is her name and (d) what was the total cost to the South African Government of her flight ticket, the Police guard from the time of the incident involving this person to the time of her deportation, and the Police escort to Jan Smuts Airport;

- (2) whether the Government paid out any other amounts in connection with this incident; if so, (a) what total amount and (b) in respect of what items?

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) to (c) Mrs Sally Joanna Hutchings was removed from the Republic in accordance with an order for her removal, issued in terms of section 45 of the Admission of Persons to the Republic Regulation Act, 1972 (Act 59 of 1972). This action was taken due to an incident at a function where she hurled an object at the State President.
  - (d) R2 611,20.
- (2) Yes. Mrs Hutchings was accompanied by her 18 month old child whose air fare was R215.

#### Rock lobster quota: payments by First National Bank to two Kalk Bay contractors

\*19. Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) Whether, in the 1986-87 financial year, any payments were made to two Kalk Bay contractors in respect of the rock lobster quota for that financial year; if so,
- (2) whether his Department has any financial statements showing the income and expenditure in respect of rock lobster catches in that financial year; if so, (a) at which institutions were these moneys invested, (b)(i) what was the balance in the account concerned at the end of that financial year and (ii) what interest was earned on that balance and (c) when will these moneys be paid to the fishermen to whom they are due?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes.

- (a) First National Bank.
- (b) (i) R241 949,96 as at 31 March 1988.
  - (ii) R9 804,00.
- (c) As soon as I have received and approved the list of names submitted by the Identification Committee.

#### Kalk Bay fishermen: rock lobster quota

\*20. Mr C B SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the rock lobster quota granted to Kalk Bay fishermen during his predecessor's term of office, was intended only for fishermen coming from Kalk Bay; if so,
- (2) whether certain fishermen, whose names have been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, derived any benefit from the Kalk Bay quota while having their own quotas; if so, (a) why and (b) what are their names;
- (3) whether a certain person, who is not a Kalk Bay fisherman and whose name has also been furnished to his Department, currently qualifies to share in the benefits of the said quota; if so, (a) why and (b) what is his name;
- (4) whether five retired persons, particulars of whom have been furnished to his Department, are currently deriving any benefit from the yield of this quota; if so, (a) why and (b) what are the (i) names and (ii) particulars of these persons?

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2), (3) and (4) Fall away.

†I would just like to extend a friendly invitation to the hon member, that he is welcome to make representations on their behalf to the Identification Committee if he thinks that they should share in the quota.

#### Langa Comprehensive School: teachers who left the staff

\*21. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) Whether any teachers at Langa Comprehensive



# Oceana lands good haul

STW 5/15/88 By Ann Crotty

③ Fishman

Barlow's Oceana Fishing group has reported a 54 percent increase in turnover to R127,8 million from R83,2 million for the six months to March.

Improved efficiency and the considerable carry-over stock of fish meal and oil, most of which was sold in the review period, helped boost the improvement at operating-income level by 123 percent to R23,9 million from R10,7 million.

Pre-tax income rose 98 percent to R25,9 million from R13 million, but a 182 percent increase in tax pared the improvement at the taxed level to 59 percent, equivalent to R14,3 million.

Attributable earnings were up 60 percent to R12,8 million from R8 million. The increase at the share level was also 60 percent, taking earnings per share to 141,1c from 88,3c. An interim dividend of 45c a share has been declared (previous interim 27,5c).

The directors say the interim has been raised in order to reduce the disparity between it and the final dividend.

Management says: "The group maintained and improved its past performance. Last year we changed out lobster product mix, found alternative markets and as a result of these steps and continuing demand from local and international markets, the group should be able to dispose of all of its output at favourable prices. Landings of pilchard and anchovy to date and yields of fish meal and oil are satisfactory. The group has already completed 89 percent of its total rock lobster quota and no difficulty is expected in completing the quota."

Sea Products (SWA) has reported a 22 percent increase in income to R4,8 million and earnings per share up from 94,4c to 114,7c, from which an interim dividend of 65c (50c) has been declared.

The improved results are attributed to the favourable lobster season at Luderitz and the effect of the carry-over of fish meal stocks from the previous year's unusually high anchovy landings.

# Seaswa nets 22% higher profits

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

GOOD lobster catches and a promising start to the pelagic fishing season have helped Sea Products (SWA) (Seaswa) to lift net profit for the six months to March 31 by 22% to R4,8m (R3,9m). Earnings at share level are 114,7c (94,4c).

The interim dividend is 30% higher at 65c (50c) a share. This follows a special dividend of 2,50c a share declared in March and paid this week.

Operating profit rose to R5.6m (R4,6m) and income from investments was up by 83% to R853 000 (R467 000).

The directors, clearly anticipating a good second half to the year, forecast earnings of about 190c a share compared to the 167c achieved last year.

This will be below the 207,5c a share reported in 1986, but lower earnings were expected as a result of drastic reductions in the group's lobster and pelagic quotas by the Namibian authorities.

The group has in fact performed better than was expected when the cuts were announced.

Talks are still going on about a proposed 30% cut in the lobster quota, but a spokesman for the group said it had been allowed for in the results announced in Windhoek yesterday.

He pointed out that the company and SA shareholders pay substantial tax in Namibia.

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30/4/88

3 Feb 88

3 FISH NET  
19/4/88  
SMM

## Illegal fishing increasing in SA waters

CAPE TOWN — Illegal fishing is increasing along the Cape coast and fines now run at more than R300 000 annually.

Last year, the chief directorate of nature and environmental conservation in the Cape provincial administration caught 1 694 transgressors.

With its seven patrol boats and 11 ski-boats, all co-operating with land-based officers, the directorate has launched an all-out war against crayfish, perlemoen and bait poachers.

Not only are local fishermen and divers closely watched, but foreign vessels are also regularly boarded and inspected inside territorial fishing waters.

Some foreign vessels have permission to catch in South African waters, but Spanish and Russian vessels are not allowed.

Control officers allocated to the International Commission for the South-East Atlantic Fisheries regularly board vessels in South African and Namibian fishing waters to inspect the nets and the size of the catches.

The recent arrest of a Spanish trawler, Teucro, and the escape of two accompanying vessels was the first international incident. — Sapa.

For amounts above R4 000 up to and including R70 000—20 per cent.

For amounts above R70 000 no maximum is laid down.

For the period 23 January 1987 to 3 December 1987, the two rates applicable were 23 per cent and 19 per cent respectively. The ruling in respect of amounts above R70 000 was the same.

The adjustment of the prescribed maximum rates ensures that they also reflected conditions in the financial markets prior to 23 January 1987. The highest limit in force in recent years was during the period 7 August 1984 to 11 February 1986, when a maximum rate of 32 per cent applied to certain transactions. It is important to note that the prime overdraft rate, which is a broad indication of rates on credit transactions (although it applies only to prime clients), reached a maximum of 25 per cent during the period 4 August 1984 to 18 November 1987 and again from 8 January 1985 until 6 May 1985. It may be that contracts entered into at the high rates were still valid for a certain period thereafter.

(2) No.

#### Vito Roberto Palazzolo: luxury cars landed in RSA

671. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether a certain person, whose name has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, landed any luxury cars in South Africa; if so, (a) when, (b) where, (c) how many, (d) what is the name of this person and (e) what total amount was paid by or on behalf of this person in respect of the importation of these cars;

(2) whether the amount so paid differed from the amount normally payable in respect of the importation of such cars; if so, (a) why and (b) what was the difference?

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) Yes.

(a) On 28 February 1987.

(b) At East London.

(c) One.

(d) Vito Roberto Palazzolo.

(e) The duty was fully rebated in terms of item 407.04/87.00/01.00 of Schedule No. 4 to the Customs and Excise Act (Act 91 of 1964). This rebate is afforded in respect of motor vehicles imported by immigrants and according to information available at the time of importation, the importer complied in all respect with the conditions of the rebate item.

(2) No, the aforementioned rebate provision is applicable in cases where the motor car is imported by an immigrant who complies with all the conditions specified in such provision.

#### Human Sciences Research Council: percentage of budget paid

754. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of National Education:

(1) (a) What percentage of the total budget of the Human Sciences Research Council was paid by his Department in each of the latest specified five financial years for which information is available and (b) what was the amount so paid over in each of these financial years;

(2) (a) who appoints the members of this council, (b) for what period is each member appointed and (c) what is the annual remuneration received by each such member;

(3) whether he will furnish a list of the present members of this council; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are their names and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

#### The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

(1) (a) 1982/83—97,0%  
1983/84—96,9%  
1984/85—93,0%  
1985/86—93,8%  
1986/87—93,5%

(b) 1982/83—R17 895 610  
1983/84—R24 399 092  
1984/85—R35 206 043  
1985/86—R38 777 000  
1986/87—R48 088 092

(2) (a) The Minister of National Education.

(b) A member of the council is appointed for period not exceeding two years, with the exception of the president of the HSRC. The president's period of office as member of the council is the same as his time of service at the HSRC.

(c) Members of the Council are not remunerated on an annual basis. Each member of the council receives an amount of R193,82 per day for every meeting attended.

(3) Yes.

(a) The names of members of the council are as follows:

Dr J G Garbers (Chairman)  
Prof Francis J Bosman  
Mr D E Cooper  
Dr A B Fourie  
Dr D J Gouws  
Prof W L Nkuhlu  
Prof H W Rossouw  
Mr P Steyn  
Prof K Tober  
Prof T van der Walt  
Prof R E van der Ross

(b) 14 March 1988.

#### Persons with criminal records: permanent residence

808. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

(1) Whether any exceptions were made in the granting of permanent residence to persons with criminal records during the latest specified period of 10 years for which information is available; if so, how many;

(2) whether he will furnish particulars of the persons concerned; if not, why not; if so, what are their (a) names and (b) nationalities?

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) to (2) The hon member's attention is drawn to the fact that each application for permanent residence is submitted for consideration to the Immigrants Selection Board, which is an autonomous body established in terms of the Aliens Act, 1937

(Act 1 of 1937). The Board considers each application in accordance with the guidelines contained in section 4(3) of this Act. No separate statistics of applicants with criminal records are being kept.

#### Fishing industry: encouragement of competition

822. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether any measures are being applied and/or envisaged to encourage competition in the fishing industry at present; if so, what measures are being (a) applied and (b) envisaged in this regard?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Assuming that the question pertains to the catching of fish and not trading in fish, the reply is —

(a) Yes, the selective allocation of exploitation rights to interests outside the vested industry in cases where there is growth in the relevant resource.

(b) A continuation of the policy as set out in (a) above.

#### Printing contracts awarded to two companies

833. Mr D J DALLING asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) Whether his Department awarded any printing contracts in 1987 to two companies, the names of which have been furnished to the Commission for Administration for the purpose of the Minister's reply, or to their associated companies and printing operations; if so, (a) in respect of what publications or printed matter, (b) how many copies of each publication or item were ordered from each company and (c) what are the names of the companies concerned;

(2) whether these contracts were put out to tender; if not, (a) why not and (b) what was the total amount paid by his Department in respect of each of these contracts; if so, what was the (i) tender price originally accepted, and (ii) total amount paid out, in respect of each contract;

(3) whether his Department subsidizes any publications published by the above com-

Primary		Secondary	
Pupils	Teachers	Pupils	Teachers
1 491 337	37 792	377 882	11 994

(iv) To bring the pupil/teacher ratio in line with the above-mentioned ratio, means that the Department has a shortage of 4 817 primary and 602 secondary teachers.

#### Pollution of the sea by oil

370. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) How many cases of pollution of the sea by oil occurred in 1987;
- (2) (a) what was the cost of combating such pollution in that year and (b) what amount was recovered from the owners of the vessels concerned?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) 183 minor oil spills of less than 7 tons were reported.
- (2) (a) R2 358 529 which include the total annual running costs of the kuswag vessels and aircraft.
- (b) R31 480 is being recovered in respect of two specific incidents from the vessels' insurers, while R59 000 was collected in the form of fines resulting from prosecutions.

#### Veld types: present conservation status

425. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

What is the present conservation status of each specified veld type occurring in the Republic?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

	Veld type	Protected (ha)
1	Coastal Forest and Thornveld	45 019
2	Alexandria Forest	237
3	Pondoland Coastal Plateau Sourveld	3 260
4	Knysna Forest	13 343
5	'Ngongoni Veld	683
6	Zululand Thornveld	19 718
7	Eastern Province Thornveld	230

	Veld type	Protected (ha)
18	North-Eastern Mountain Sourveld	95 394
9	Lowveld Sour Bushveld	68 310
10	Lowveld	573 424
11	Arid Lowveld	605 172
12	Springbok Flats Turf Thornveld	1 176
13	Other Turf Thornveld	—
14	Arid Sweet Bushveld	7 529
15	Mopani Veld	887 706
16	Kalahari Thornveld	1 207 700
17	Kalahari Thornveld invaded by Karoo	700
18	Mixed Bushveld	92 358
19	Sourish Mixed Bushveld	26 695
20	Sour Bushveld	16 024
21	False Thornveld of Eastern Province	35
22	Invasion of Grassveld by Thorn	—
23	Valley Bushveld	38 238
24	Noorsveld	—
25	Succulent Mountain Scrub (Spekboomveld)	6 800
26	Karrooid Broken Veld	27 822
27	Central Upper Karoo	778
28	Western Mountain Karoo	1 836
29	Arid Karoo	760
30	Central Lower Karoo	—
31	Succulent Karoo	43 309
32	Orange River Broken Veld	33 429
33	Namaqualand Broken Veld	55 668
34	Strandveld	3 693
35	False Arid Karoo	2 055
36	False Upper Karoo	82 556
37	False Karrooid Broken Veld	12 920
38	False Central Lower Karoo	570
39	False Succulent Karoo	—
40	False Orange River Broken Veld	34 962
41	Pan-turf Veld invaded by Karoo	—
42	Karrooid <i>Merxmuellera</i> Mountain Veld replaced by Karoo	19 049
43	Mountain Rhenosterbosveld	8 431
44	Highland Sourveld and Dohne Sourveld	139 628
45	Natal Mist Belt 'Ngongoniveld	1 293
46	Coastal Rhenosterbosveld	8 454
47	Coastal Macchia	16 034
48	<i>Cymbopogon-Themeda</i> Veld	12 683
49	Transitional <i>Cymbopogon-Themeda</i> Veld	13 807

	Veld type	Protected (ha)
50	Dry <i>Cymbopogon-Themeda</i> Veld	30 489
51	Pan-turf Veld	—
52	<i>Themeda</i> Veld (Turf Highveld)	—
53	Patchy Highveld to <i>Cymbopogon-Themeda</i> Veld Transition	—
54	Turf Highveld to Highland Sourveld Transition	379
55	Bankenveld to Turf Highveld Transition	—
56	Highland sourveld to <i>Cymbopogon-Themeda</i> Veld Transition	4 342
57	North-Eastern Sandy Highveld	6 270
58	<i>Themeda-Festuca</i> Alpine Veld	42 230
59	Stormberg Plateau Sweetveld	—
60	Karrooid <i>Merxmuellera</i> Mountain Veld	1 249
61	Bankenveld	36 652
62	Bankenveld to Sour Sandveld Transition	1 248
63	Piet Retief Sourveld	32 122
64	Northern Tall Grassveld	438
65	Southern Tall Grassveld	6 107
66	Natal Sour Sandveld	3 989
67	Pietersburg Plateau False Grassveld	201
68	Eastern Province Grassveld	—
69	Macchia (Fynbos)	1 098 393
70	False Macchia (Fynbos)	35 382

#### Substandard A: Black children enrolled

510. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many Black children were enrolled in 1987 and 1988, respectively, in Substandard A in (a) each specified region and (b) the Republic?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(a) REGION	ENROLMENT: 1987
Northern-Transvaal	57 842
Highveld	51 402
Johannesburg	30 066
Orange-Vaal	44 742
Orange Free State	45 822
Natal	39 010
Cape	61 263
TOTAL	330 147

QwaQwa	11 906
Lebowa	101 960
Gazankulu	46 169
KwaZulu	231 094
KaNswana	30 008
KwaNdebele	22 055
TOTAL	443 192

(b)

773 339

Information as on 3 March 1987.

The 1988-enrolment is not yet available.

#### Quota system: species of fish protected

527. Mr C J DERBY-LEWIS asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) (a) What species of fish are protected under the quota system and (b)(i) who are the present holders of (aa) kingklip and (bb) crayfish quotas and (ii) on what basis were these quotas allocated;
- (2) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) (1) Hake
- (2) Sole
- (3) West Coast Rock Lobster
- (4) South Coast Rock Lobster
- (5) Abalone
- (6) Anchovy
- (7) Pilchard

(1) (b)(i)(aa) None.

(1) (b)(i)(bb)

- (1) Boventrek Beleggings (Pty) Ltd
- (2) Bridger & Angelico Fish. (Pty) Ltd
- (3) Buccaneer Fish. Products (Pty) Ltd
- (5) Cape Point Fishing CC
- (6) Cape Reef Products (Pty) Ltd
- (7) Chapmans Peak Fisheries (Pty) Ltd
- (8) Coast Trading Co.
- (9) Dassen Lobster Co. (Pty) Ltd
- (10) De Seeda Seeprodukte
- (11) Dromedaris Visserye (Pty) Ltd

*Handwritten: Howard*

*Handwritten: Fishing*

- (12) Elandia Visserye (Pty) Ltd
  - (13) Engelbrecht, W.J.
  - (14) Fish Drying Corp. (Pty) Ltd
  - (15) Friedman & Rabinowitz (Pty) Ltd
  - (16) Good Hope Fisheries (Pty) Ltd
  - (17) Gourmet Fish Products (Pty) Ltd
  - (18) Hicksons Canning Co. (Pty) Ltd
  - (19) John Ovenstone Ltd
  - (20) John Quality Ltd
  - (21) Konsortium Kreefbelange (Pty) Ltd
  - (22) Lamberts Bay Canning Co. Ltd
  - (23) Langklip Seeprodukte (Pty) Ltd
  - (24) Lighthouse Fisheries CC
  - (25) Live Rock Lobster Corp (Pty) Ltd
  - (26) Lusitania Sea Prod. (Pty) Ltd
  - (27) M.A.S. Smit
  - (28) Marine Products Ltd
  - (29) Namaqua Canning Co. Ltd
  - (30) North Bay Canning Co. Ltd
  - (31) North Blinder (Pty) Ltd
  - (32) Paternoster Visserye (Pty) Ltd
  - (33) Port Nolloth Visserye (Pty) Ltd
  - (34) Saldanha Bay Canning Co.
  - (35) S.A. Lobster Exporters (Pty) Ltd
  - (36) S.A. Sea Products Ltd
  - (37) Southern Sea Fishing Ent.
  - (38) Sparkor (Pty) Ltd
  - (39) Stephan Rock Lobster Packers (Pty) Ltd
  - (40) Stompneusbaai Kreef (Pty) Ltd
  - (41) Suid-Oranje Visserye Ltd
  - (42) Weskus Kreefprodukte (Pty) Ltd
  - (43) Kalk Bay Fishermen Quota
  - (44) Atlantic Fishing Co.
  - (45) Baratz Fishing Co.
  - (46) Hout Bay Fishing Co.
  - (47) Lusitania Fishing Co.
  - (48) Seafarer Distributors
- (1) (b) (ii) On the basis of historical partici-

pation in the industry and owing to socio-economical considerations.

(2) As at 22 February 1988.

**Schools: average expenditure**

538. Mr S S VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

What, in 1987, was the average expenditure, excluding expenditure of a capital nature, in respect of schools in each specified region falling under the control of his Department?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

In view of the diversity in size, nature and location of the schools in each of the Department's regions, the calculation of the figure asked for, would be without any real meaning or value. The bookkeeping system of the State (and therefore also the Department) does also not provide that particulars of this nature can be provided per academic year.

**Redecoration of Algoa Regional Services Council: amount paid**

540. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Constitutional Development and Planning:

With reference to his reply to Question No 5, standing over, on 6 October 1987, (a) how was the amount of R541 451 made up and (b) (i) to whom was each of these constituent amounts paid and (ii) in respect of what specified services were these amounts paid in each case?

The MINISTER OF CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING:

(a), (b) (i) and (ii). I refer the honourable member to my reply of written question number 641 of 7 October 1987.

**Welders/electricians/carpenters/motor mechanics/blasters: Blacks enrolled for courses**

546. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

How many Blacks were enrolled in 1987 for courses offering training as (a) welders, (b) electricians, (c) carpenters, (d) motor mechanics and (e) blasters?

*Handwritten: (A)*

*Handwritten: Howard*

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

Statistics for Department of Education and Training in connection with trade training are being collated as from 1985 according to course direction and not according to trade direction.

	Pre-service trade training	Block release courses
(a) Mechanical trades*	469	983
(b) Electric/Electronics	455	1 503
(c) Civil trades**	429	377
(d) Motor trades	344	403
(e) Soft trades***	33	—
(f) Watchmakers	27	—
(g) Printers	—	17
(h) Laboratory Assistants	—	26
(i) Blasting	—	—
(j) Water purificators	—	58

\* Comprises trades such as Welding and Metalwork, Fitting and Machining and Platers (Boilermakers).

\*\* Comprises trades such as Carpentry and Joinery, Bricklaying and Plastering and Plumbing.

\*\*\* Comprises trades such as Leatherwork and Tailoring.

NOTE: Statistics provided only in regard to institutions of the Department of Education and Training for the year 1987.

**Farm schools closed down**

623. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) Whether any farm schools for Black children were closed down in 1987; if so, how many (a) schools, (b) pupils and (c) teachers were involved;

(2) whether any farm schools for Black children were (a) opened and (b) extended in 1987; if so, how many (i) schools, (ii) pupils and (iii) teachers were involved in each case;

(3) (a) how many farm schools for Black children were there as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) how many (i) teachers and (ii) pupils were there at these schools at that date?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

(1) Yes (a) 59 (b) 2 598 (c) 88

(2) Yes

(a) (i)	151
(ii)	8 882
(iii)	232
(b) (i)	55
(ii)	3 264
(iii)	89
(3) (a)	5 576
(b) (i)	55
(ii)	3 264
(iii)	89
(b) (i)	12 073
(ii)	486 991

Figures (3) as on 3 March 1987.

**National Senior Certificate Examination**

626. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

(1) (a) How many Blacks (i) entered for and (ii) wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations in 1987 and (b) how many entrants (i) passed, (ii) failed and (iii) obtained matriculation exemption;

(2) what percentage of Blacks who wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations in 1987 (a) passed and (b) obtained matriculation exemption;

(3) (a) in respect of each specified region and (b) in total, (i) how many Blacks enrolled as full-time scholars at schools administered by his Department (aa) entered for and (bb) wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations in 1987 and (ii) how many of these entrants (aa) passed, (bb) failed and (cc) obtained matriculation exemption?

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:

Full-time Candidates

(1) (a) (i) 138 989 (ii) 137 602 (b) (i) 78 287 (ii) 59 315 (iii) 22 524

(2) (a) 56,89% (b) 16,37%

WEEKEND  
Argus  
PROBE

3 Fishing



# The trek fishermen saga

## SEASIDE SLAUGHTER!

SPECIAL REPORT

by MARK STANSFIELD  
Weekend Argus Reporter

### FACT OR FALLACY...?

### ... and who gets the money?

## FOR...

**T**REK fishing is not a job for the faint-hearted or those looking for a steady income.

In 1953, the boats which operated off Fish Hoek were up for auction one day because the owners were bankrupt — nets had been cast for weeks without catching enough fish for survival. But lady luck was there somewhere.

The morning before the auction the fishermen caught their first big catch for ages and were able to pay their debts. The auction was cancelled as a result.

Trek fishermen say the 20 000 yellowtail caught recently were a bonus for them — the huge catch made the difference between starvation and living barely above the breadline.

Weeks can go by without a substantial catch and sometimes the owners of trek fishing boats dig deep in their own pockets to pay their crews. Sometimes the entire day's catch is so meagre that the men cannot afford to sell — instead they deal out the fish proportionately among themselves and at least have full stomachs that night.

Mr Jeff Petty, chairman, and Mr Dawood Adams, secretary of the False Bay Trek Fishermen's Association, pointed out that trekfishing traditionally (and by law) takes place in the summer months in False Bay — a time when the beaches are crowded with anglers and holidaymakers.

"Our job is in the limelight... everything we catch we expose to public scrutiny on the beaches. People see the fish and they are surprised at the amount some days," said Mr Adams.

"But they don't remember the days we cast our nets and came back empty-handed because empty nets are not significant and there is nothing to shout about.

"We are not the only people who are 'slaughtering' the yellowtail," Mr Petty said.

● *Taking an average Yellowtail's mass at 3.5kg this means False Bay's trek fishermen landed 70 tons in two days. (20 000 fish at 3.5kg each)*

*Struisbaai's 50 tons would equal about 14 286 fish.*

*A recent scientific study of the impact trek seine netting had on the fish stocks of False Bay was conducted by Mr Andrew Penney of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute. He concluded that "beach-seine catches of yellowtail in False Bay appear to account for less than 10 percent of the total annual catch along the coast."*

**B**EFORE 1984, False Bay's trek fishermen had virtually unlimited scope — there were few regulations which affected them.

In 1984 they were forbidden to trek anything other than harders and St Joseph's sharks. Angling fish, such as yellowtail, were verboten.

Then, in March 1984, these regulations were relaxed slightly. Line restrictions and the ban on angling fish were relaxed.

"Our target fish is still harders but when the yellowtail are running we go for them — they may make the difference between starvation and managing to make ends meet in the lean seasons," Mr Adams said.

*When a man comes along and asks if he can crew for us, the first question we ask him is whether he can survive by eating sand because that's all he'll be getting some days — a quote often used by trek fishermen.*

*There was one time we trekked all day and caught nothing more than one kabeljou. We cooked it and gave it to the crew to eat. That*

**F**ALSE Bay trek fishermen recently netted about 20 000 yellowtail over two days.

The public, who saw this enormous marine treasure-trove beached, gasped at the size of it and wondered whether there were any yellowtail left in the ocean. Marine conservation-conscious residents accused the fishermen of wholesale and unnecessary slaughter — among other dirty deeds.

A call has been made to have trek fishing banned before netting depletes our False Bay marine fish reserves.

Are the trek fishermen really the bad-dies of the fishing industry? Are they heartless beasts depleting our fishing stocks in order to fill their palms with silver... ogres plundering Mother Ocean's fish cupboard without saving any for the future?

"NO!" claim the trek fishermen.

"YES!" claim those who have witnessed the "millions" of flopping fish caught in bulging nets on False Bay beaches.

■ Weekend Argus attempted to unravel the complicated web of truths, half-truths and stories which surround the activities of a profession which has survived for over 300 years in the Cape. Here are the pro's and the con's — now YOU be the judge:

## AGAINST...

**T**HERE are two vital factors which those against trek netting claim should influence those in authority to totally ban this method of catching fish:

● **MOST** marine fish found in False Bay during the "open season" (November 1 to April 30) are in roe and many claim that these fish enter the bay to spawn. By allowing trek netters to catch these fish in such large quantities future generations are being threatened.

From an ecological point of view, they claim, this is why fish catches have dwindled over the years.

● **LINE** fishermen have to rely on fish biting before a catch can be made and only one fish can be caught at a time. Trek fishing, on the other hand, nets whole shoals of fish in one fell swoop.

*Although not yet released to the public, the Sea Fisheries Research Institute recently finished an in-depth investigation into the breeding habits and other biological factors of fish in False Bay. The study concentrated on yellowtail. A close source within the industry said the study showed yellowtail do not enter False Bay to spawn — contrary to public speculation. The report will be released soon, the source said.*

**A** RETIRED trek fisherman, who closely studied the methods of net fishing for a period of five years, said trek fishermen in False Bay were not content with one catch a day.

*men spoken to — who participated in the 20 000 yellowtail bonanza recently — claim they were paid R600 each after the yellowtail catch. Conservative estimates reckon the trek fish licence holders made about R180 000 in this two day period.*

"The licence holders are making money... but their crews are no better off than they were 10 years ago," the retired fisherman said.

Those who have paid close scrutiny to catches landed on shore by trek fishermen claim many of the fish in the nets are under-size.

"The law states that these should be returned to the sea — what actually happens is that the young fish are too badly-damaged to be set free. The law should be changed in some way to stop this unnecessary killing of fish that are of no use to anyone," he said.

"The trek men cannot see what is in their nets until they are hauled to shore.

"Many of the fish caught in the nets are worthless, commercially, yet they die anyway.

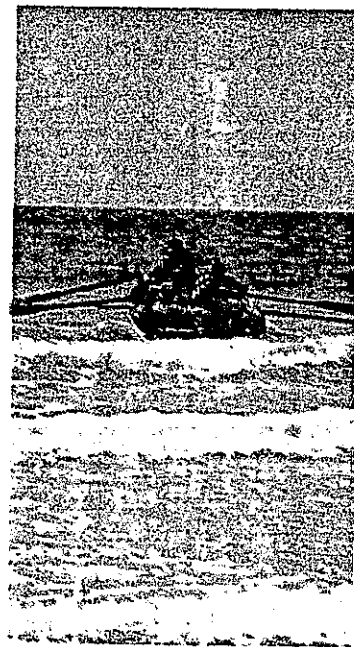
"Is this the way to conserve our marine heritage?" he asked.

Mr Danie Keet, a spokesman for the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, said there were only eight trek fishing permit holders left along the entire False Bay coast.

"Since 1983, when the validity of permits was assessed, 41 trek fishing permits have been cancelled.

"At Strand and between Strandfontein and Swartkops no person may trek fish.

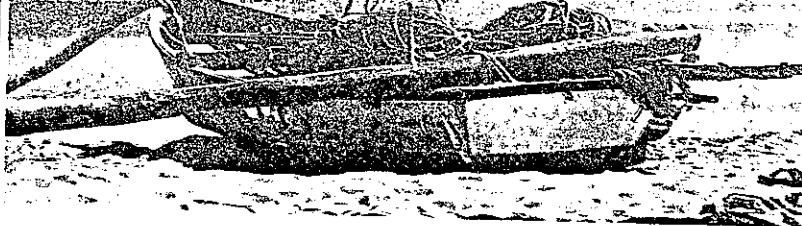
"Permits are assessed and renewed every year," he said.



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"Our job is in the limelight . . . everything we catch we expose to public scrutiny on the beaches. People see the fish and they are surprised at the amount some days," said Mr Adams.

"But they don't remember the days we cast our nets and came back empty-handed because empty nets are not significant and there is nothing to shout about.

"The money we made from the yellowtail catches this season must be saved because we may not have another catch like that for years," he said.

**F**ALSE Bay's trek fishermen caught about 20 000 yellowtail this season. The last significant catch of yellowtail was in 1982.

"Why don't those who shout about us depleting the fish reserves go and take a look in the fishing boats that arrive in harbours around False Bay," Mr Petty asked.

"We know that at Struisbaai, handline fishermen aboard trawlers caught 50 tons of yellowtail recently.

"At Kalk Bay, 15 tons of angling fish — including yellowtail — were landed in a two-day period with handlines," he said.

Commercial trawlermen and skiboaters also caught significant bags of yellowtail, it seems.

Mr Petty reported that at Fish Hoek in the same two-day period, commercial boatmen snagged about 6 000 yellowtail. Muizenberg's commercial fishermen also caught 6 000.

"We are not the only people who are 'slaughtering' the yellowtail," Mr Petty said.

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*There was one time we trekked all day and caught nothing more than one kabeljou. We cooked it and gave it to the crew to eat. That should give people an idea of how 'lucrative' our fishing is," said Mr Petty.*

"The very idea that we are not conservation-conscious is ludicrous," he added.

"To destroy the fish stocks by catching undersized fish or too many would be playing with dynamite because next year we would all be out of business."

**T**O highlight this point Mr Petty pointed out that the licensed trek fishermen had often policed their own people.

"We have already kicked a member out of our association because he was catching undersized fish and not obeying other regulations.

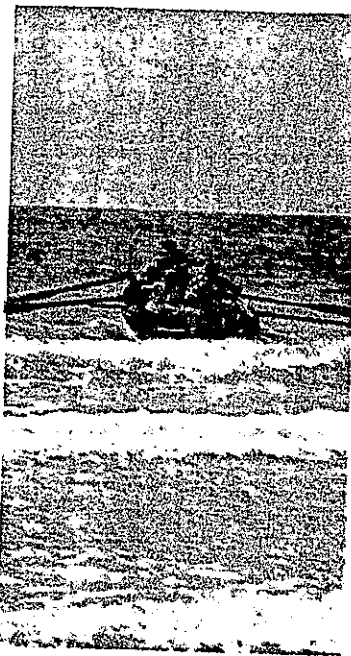
"We cannot afford that kind of attitude. The laws forbid it and we rely on those who make the laws for our livelihood. Tomorrow — if we didn't watch our own people and keep to the laws — we could lose our licenses," he said.

"Conservationists also accuse us of catching yellowtail when they are spawning.

"There has never been any scientific evidence to support the theory that False Bay's yellow-

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● *Trek fishermen themselves, under the watchful eye of Sea Fisheries inspectors, took a one-in-ten sample of the yellowtail recently caught. Vestigial Roe (under-developed fish eggs) were found in about 10 percent of those tested.*

By law, trek fishermen must throw back any angling fish caught in their nets. If the fish is damaged or dead then it must be delivered to the Sea Fisheries Inspector and forfeited to the State.

"We cannot afford to catch angling fish forbidden under the Sea Fisheries laws.

"We have at times stopped netting a shoal of harders because Elf or other angling fish are mixed up with them.

"Unfortunately, at times, there will be angling fish among our catch," Mr Petty said.

*The 1986 Sea Fisheries Research Institute report states that trek fishing accounted for less than 10 percent of yellowtail catches along the False Bay coast. The yellowtail line catch figures for 1982, 1983 and 1984 were 405 tons, 353 tons and 598 tons.*

Trek fishing is forbidden from sunset until sunrise and catches must be landed before sunset — making it impossible for the men to fish when it would be most lucrative for them (at night).

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**A** RETIRED trek fisherman, who closely studied the methods of net fishing for a period of five years, said trek fishermen in False Bay were not content with one catch a day.

"Many of these men trek fish up to five times in a single day — every day and all day.

"They consequently never give the sea bottom a rest and do not give sport anglers a chance to fish at their leisure along the coastline.

"Trek fishermen claim they need to make more than one sweep a day to survive — yet only 10 000 of the yellowtail caught this season alone were worth about R90 000. This is more than the average man makes in a year.

"Harders alone are worth R12 a 100.

"I have seen one man catch 84 000 harders within a week. This was worth over R10 000.

"They claim poverty, yet they make an enormous profit out of the sea without ever giving anything in return.

*Trek fishermen said this week that crew members received a percentage of the catch as payment for their services. They declined to say what percentage of the catch actually was given in payment. Crew*

"YES!" claim those who have witnessed the "millions" of flopping fish caught in bulging nets on False Bay beaches.

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"Since 1983, when the validity of permits was assessed, 41 trek fishing permits have been cancelled.

"At Strandj and between Strandfontein and Swartklip no person may trek fish.

"Permits are assessed and renewed every year," he said.

We may already be seeing the death-throes of this kind of fishing because the late Minister of the Environment, Mr John Wiley, said that when the holders of trekking permits died the permits would not be renewed.

This policy has not been changed.

Some fishermen want trekking banned outright. Others, sympathetic to the families of those traditionally involved in this enterprise, say beach-netting only needs more sensitive controls.

"Trek netters should be banned from trekking fish off bathing beaches," said one.

Other feel trekkers should, by law, be allowed to trek only once a day.

"This will ensure that certain areas are given a rest for a period and allowed to recover.

Trek fishermen are also prohibited from trekking about two kilometres from river mouths, yet, claim witnesses, fisheries inspectors turn a blind eye when trekkers net close to river mouths along the False Bay coast.

"If the trekkers are to stay, the laws which apply to them should be strictly applied," said a



# Fish quota will end imports, save millions

65/1-ARG 45 19/3/80 3 Fishery

by TOM HOOD  
Business Editor

ST HELENA BAY. — Millions of rands in foreign exchange will be saved and fish imports will be eliminated for the first time in 10 years thanks to a huge quota boost for the South African fishing industry.

The increase of the anchovy quota by 40 percent will mean an end to imports of fishmeal and canned fish imports.

The increase will also help to provide more jobs and keep West Coast factories busy. With the fishing season at its height, most plants are working long hours and at full capacity.

After a bumper catch last year — when more than a million tons of fish were landed — the anchovy quota is being raised by 200 000 tons to 500 000.

Mr Gert Kotzé, Minister of Environmental and Water Affairs, said this when he opened extensions costing R3,5-million to the fish cannery of the St Helena Bay Fishing Industries, one of the largest plants in the country.

Mr Walter Lewis, chairman of the Oceana Fishing Group, said: "The industry would have been over the moon with just a 100 000-ton increase.

"It means there will be no outflow of foreign currency. Users of fishmeal have imported for many years to make up the shortfall."

Research indicated that the fishing resource was at its best in about 10 years, he said.

Oceana processes 35 percent of the country's pelagic fish quota and has a large part of the lobster industry.

Canned output will be raised by 55 percent from the modernisation of the cannery, cold-storage rooms and ware-

house. The plant has facilities for another 50 percent hike in output.

The company is part of the Oceana Group which already processes 35 percent of the country's pelagic quota.

It can handle 300 tons of fish a day, process 150 tons of raw fish each 12-hour shift — processing 1 300 cans of fish a minute.

Production has been stepped up fourfold from the 88 000 car-

tons of canned fish in 1985. The canning of pilchards alone jumped from 40 000 to 300 000 cartons.

Mr Kotzé said the higher quota was made possible after research by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute indicated that the anchovy mother stock was still in a healthy state.

Last year's record catch of 600 000 tons of anchovy had "no negative influence" on anchovy resources.

CAPE TOWN 8/3/88  
3 (75L)

# Best catches in 27 years

By BRIAN GROBBLER

HUGE concentrations of summer fish, mostly Cape salmon (geelbek) and kob, gave Kalk Bay handline fishermen their best catches in the past quarter-century on Thursday night.

Fishermen estimated that at least 10 tons of these valuable table fish were landed at Kalk Bay yesterday. The small harbour was abuzz with excitement over the huge catches.

The average size of the fish was about 5kg, with some excellent specimens of 10kg and more.

One of the best catches was made by Mr Bunny Pendlebury, skipper of the "Ilse". He and his crew of nine arrived back in Kalk Bay harbour at day-break yesterday with the boat full to its gunnels.

Some of the fish were even hanging over the sides, and seals in the harbour jumped up to get at them.

Mr Pendlebury said that early in the morning, he had discovered the shoals of fish which "lit up the sea like fire". "I have fished False Bay for the past 27 years, and this is the catch of a lifetime for me." The 10 line fishermen had caught 2,3 tons of fish, worth about R7 000, between them.

Another excellent catch was made by 20-man crew of the "Marion Dawn", which also came in with the fish-boxes (laaitjies) brimming with fish.

More huge catches are expected this morning.

Seasoned fishermen feel that the conservation efforts of the late Mr John Wiley, who stopped all purse-seine netting for small pelagic fish such as anchovy, pilchards and mackerel, is now paying big dividends for handline fishermen.

Dr L Botha, director of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, agreed, and added: "The exceptional run was also due to favourable environmental conditions — the weather and the sea — as well as the availability of food."



**ONE NIGHT'S HAUL . . .** "Ilse" crew members hold up a few of their catches. The ones with the brush tail are kob and those with a forked tail are Cape salmon.

Picture: BRIAN GROBBLER.

# Cape fishing firms face new windfall

*9th Times 19/3/88 35 Feb 1988*

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

CAPE-BASED fishing companies seem certain of another good financial year as a result of a 200 000-ton increase in the anchovy quota, bringing the total allowable catch to 500 000 tons.

The increase was announced yesterday by the Minister of Environment Affairs and Water Affairs, Gert Kotze, at the formal opening of a R4,5m extension to the canning plant of St Helena Bay Fishing Industries, a totally-owned subsidiary of Oceana Fishing Group.

Last year anchovy resources proved so good that the quota was

raised twice, first to 450 000 tonnes and then to 600 000 tonnes, and fishing companies turned in excellent profits.

Kotze said the adjustment in this season's quota followed a report by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute that the anchovy mother stock was in a healthy state.

"Although the survey, which was completed in November last year, indicated a decline of 15% in the anchovy mother stock, the rate of survival was markedly better than the 1m tons set last year as a management strategy for the resource.

"Indications are that the record amount of 600 000 tons of anchovy which was landed last year had no negative influence on the resource."

But Kotze urged fishing companies to catch as much of the quota as possible in the early part of the season to avoid taking young fish hatched this year.

He praised the Oceana group, which processes about 35% of SA's pelagic fish quota and has a large share of the lobster industry, for reacting positively to the government's request to use these resources — particularly pilchards and redeye herring — more effectively.

He said experiments with the transporting of fish in frozen seawater, which enabled more to be landed in good condition, had led to the almost-total rebuilding of the cannery.

Fishing interests dumped, losses reversed

# BSG turns Ovenstone: Profit R1,4m, 5c div

*cap 7m's 18/3/88*

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

THE Stikland-based Basil Starke Group (BSG) — which acquired the loss-making Ovenstone group in a reverse take-over last year and disposed of the fishing interests — has succeeded in turning it around very decisively in the nine months to December.

Attributable profit by the re-named Basil Starke Investments (BSI), formerly Ovenstone Investments (Oil), is R1,4m and earnings at share level 24c. Turnover was R77,2m and net profit after an abnormal item of R168 000 was R2,7m.

An ordinary dividend of 5c a share has been declared, together with an 8,5% preference dividend of 4,25c and an 11% preference dividend of 5,5c a share for the six months to February.

Comparative figures are meaningless because of the change of ownership and restructuring, as a result of which the business has

changed from a fishing group with general engineering interests to a construction group with general engineering interests.

MD Colin Glen said last night the turnaround was due to "the disposal of the loss-making highly-g geared fishing companies and the acquisition of the profitable Basil Starke Construction and engineering interests".

## Review period

● The Basil Starke Group, formerly the Ovenstone Group, ended the nine months to December with an attributable profit of R2,2m and net profit of R2,7m on a turnover of R77,1m.

Earnings at share level were 25,1c and a final dividend of 3c has been declared.

Chairman Basil Starke and director Colin Glen say Premier Wire, which lost approximately R5m in the 12 months to March, lost only R0,4m in the review period. It is now part of the Basil Starke Autotube division.

"We are pleased with this per-

formance as this operation was a cause of grave concern at the time of the Basil Starke shareholders gaining control of the Ovenstone companies," they say, forecasting that Premier Wire will make a profit in the current year.

They say the structural organization of the group has been almost completed. "The management systems required to monitor operations are in place and the group looks forward to continued satisfactory results."

Glen said last night that the directors were "very happy" with the results. The group will continue to expand and may make a high-tech acquisition "but it will probably expand more by internal growth than by acquisition".

He said a move into property development last year "should show results" in the current year.

The group is building a residential township in Somerset West which, Glen said, was "practically sold out", and an office park in Bellville.

**Commuter traffic: subsidy to bus operators**

381. Mr D J N MALCOMES asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

What was the extent of the subsidy granted to bus operators in respect of commuter traffic in each of the four main metropolitan areas in the 1986-87 financial year?

**The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:**

Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vaal Triangle metropolitan area:	R135 642 823,08
Durban Pietermaritzburg metropolitan area:	R64 948 763,00
Cape Town metropolitan area:	R28 319 399,22
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropolitan area:	R10 210 608,91

**Pelagic fish landed**

424. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

How many tonnes of (a) anchovy and pilchard and (b) non-quota pelagic fish were landed during the 1987 fishing season or during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

During the 1987 fishing season:

- (a) 595 700 tonnes anchovy;  
37 200 tonnes pilchards.  
(b) 38 800 tonnes non-quota species.

**Black spots removed**

447. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) (a) How many Black spots had been removed in each (i) magisterial district and (ii) province since 1 January 1988 as at the latest specified date for which figures are available. (b) what was the (i) name and (ii) population of each such Black spot and (c) where were the inhabitants of each spot resettled;

- (2) what was the total (a) amount paid out in compensation for, and (b) cost of removing, each of these Black spots during the above period?

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

(1)(a)(i) and (ii) No Black spots were resettled since 1 January 1988 up to date but the Department of Development Aid was requested by the Black community of Cornfields, District Estcourt, to render assistance to them with their moving to the Trust farm Boshoeek in the District of Estcourt. Cornfields is a portion of the farm Hattingh, District Estcourt, which is an isolated schedule Black area which doesn't fall within the same category as a *de facto* Black spot, that is to say, which is neither a released area nor a schedule area. 32 families were resettled since 10 February 1988.

(1)(b)(i)(ii) and (c) Fall away.

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**Pilchard/anchovy catch: percentage immature juveniles**

452. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

What estimated percentage of the catch of (a) pilchards and (b) anchovies in 1987 were immature juveniles?

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

- (a) 19 per cent by mass;  
62 per cent by number.  
(b) 34 per cent by mass;  
37 per cent by number.

**Central Energy Fund: total amount collected**

454. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

What total amount was collected on behalf of the Central Energy Fund in the 1987-88 financial year?

**The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:**

The 1987-88 financial year of the Central Energy Fund ends on 31 March 1988. For the 10 months ending 31 January 1988 in respect of which information is available, the following amounts were collected on behalf of the Central Energy Fund.

**R—Million**

Levies received	487,8
Interest received	356,1
Dividends received	25,0
Total	868,9

**Crude oil: landed rand cost per barrel**

455. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Economic Affairs and Technology:

- (1) What was the average annual landed rand cost per barrel of crude oil in 1986;
- (2) what was the (a) average quarterly landed rand cost per barrel of such oil in 1987 and (b) landed rand cost per barrel of oil as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

**The MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND TECHNOLOGY:**

- (1) R33,41 landed cost
- (2) (a) 1st quarter R37,48 landed cost  
2nd quarter R36,26 landed cost  
3rd quarter R39,16 landed cost  
4th quarter R43,00 landed cost
- (b) R35,25 landed cost during January 1988.

**Middelburg by-pass road: progress**

500. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

With reference to his reply to Question No 464 on 23 February 1987, (a) what progress has been made in respect of the Middelburg by-pass road, (b) when is it anticipated that it will be completed and (c) what total amount had been spent in respect of this road as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

**The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:**

- (a) The Middelburg by-pass up to Wonderfontein is being constructed in three phases. The first section of the by-pass was completed and opened to traffic during 1986. The next two sections from the Rockdale interchange to the farm Elandsfontein and from Elandsfontein to Wonderfontein are in progress and reaching 65% completion.

- (b) The expected completion date of the latter two sections is the end of July 1988.

- (c) The expenditure on the completed section and two running contracts up to 19 February 1988 amounts to R44 211 791,14.

**Self-governing territories: shortage of housing**

505. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (1) What was the estimated shortage of housing for Blacks in each self-governing territory at the end of 1987;
- (2) how many houses were provided for Blacks in each self-governing territory by the South African Development Trust in 1987;
- (3) when is it expected that the shortage will be eliminated in each self-governing territory?

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

- (1) According to the most recent figures furnished by the self-governing territories the estimated shortage is:

Lebowa	: 12 000
KaNgwane	: 15 000
KwaZulu	: 100 000
Gazankulu	: 2 578
Qwaqwa	: 17 000
KwaNdebele	: 5 000

Total 151 578

- (2) None. The South African Government has implemented self-build schemes within all the self-governing territories and no longer builds family housing units. 24 234 serviced sites were, however, made available. Furthermore the functions regarding housing and development of towns have been transferred to the self-governing territories who now have decision-making powers.
- (3) Unknow. It is not possible to indicate when the shortage of houses will be eliminated. Elimination of the shortage will depend on the availability of funds.

**Applications for deregulation**

556. Mr J J WALSH asked the Minister in the State President's Office entrusted with Administration and Broadcasting Services:

**Commuter traffic: subsidy to bus operators**

381. Mr D J N MALCOMESS asked the Minister of Transport Affairs:

What was the extent of the subsidy granted to bus operators in respect of commuter traffic in each of the four main metropolitan areas in the 1986-87 financial year?

**The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT AFFAIRS:**

Pretoria, Witwatersrand and Vaal Triangle metropolitan area:	R135 642 823.08
Durban/Pietermaritzburg metropolitan area:	R64 948 763.00
Cape Town metropolitan area:	R28 319 399.22
Port Elizabeth/Uitenhage metropolitan area:	R10 210 608.91

**Pelagic fish landed**

424. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

How many tonnes of (a) anchovy and pilchard and (b) non-quota pelagic fish were landed during the 1987 fishing season or during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available?

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

- During the 1987 fishing season:
- 595 700 tonnes anchovy;
  - 37 200 tonnes pilchards.
- (b) 38 800 tonnes non-quota species.

**Black spots removed**

447. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Education and Development Aid:

- (a) How many Black spots had been removed in each (i) magisterial district and (ii) province since 1 January 1988 as at the latest specified date for which figures are available. (b) what was the (i) name and (ii) population of each such Black spot and (c) where were the inhabitants of each spot resettled;
- what was the total (a) amount paid out in compensation for, and (b) cost of removing, each of these Black spots during the above period?

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

**The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AID:**

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**Applications for deregulation**

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# Fishermen say they are their 'own police'

3715/11/88  
SM  
12/3/88

**JAMES CLARKE**

Trek fishermen in False Bay have denied claims in last week's Saturday Star which alleged they were permanently damaging False Bay's fish resource.

The Star's CARE campaign warned that a False Bay "killing frenzy" was endangering the lucrative yellowtail shoals which entered False Bay to breed.

The trekkers have now told a Cape Town newspaper that they police themselves and that a recent check revealed only 10 percent of the fish they were catching were in roe — the other 90 percent were not in breeding condition.

Ironically, this finding confirms the worst fears of fisheries scientists. The Sea Fisheries Research Institute found that 82 percent of the fish being netted in False Bay were sexually immature.

In other words the trekkers, who use huge seine nets

from the beach, are killing off pre-breeding stock.

The trek fishermen told the newspaper that scientists were about to produce a report revealing that yellowtail did not come into False Bay to breed — "contrary to public speculation".

However, the Sea Fisheries Research Institute claims there is no such report and that far from being "public speculation" it is scientific fact that yellowtail aggregate in the bay to breed.

Researcher Andrew Penny, in two scientific papers on yellowtail, states that yellowtail gather in the bay to spawn in January and February — the peak of the trekkers' season.

And in January this year I witnessed a killing frenzy of yellowtail which has seldom been equalled.

Some scientists are calling for a closed season during these two months.

This season's sudden upsurge in yellowtail shoals is ominously reminiscent of what happened off Namibia when, in the early 1970s, scientists warned that the sardine catch was about to crash. Catches rocketed to an all-time high of 1.5 million tons and the big commercial fisheries laughed.

Two seasons later the resource was extinguished.

False Bay's trek fishermen say that by policing themselves they ensure members do not fish after sunset. But I have in my possession a properly witnessed list of the dates (all this summer), as well as the times and boat registration numbers, of trekkers who fished at night. The authorities have a similar list.

## Unlimited

The trekkers have told the public there are only eight permits allowing beach seine-netting. This is true — but the number of boats for each permit is unlimited.

The trekkers, in attempting to show what a "healthy" state the yellowtail industry is in, reveal only catch figures for the mid-1980s. They avoid disclosing those for the same period in the 1970s when catches were 40 percent higher.

But the yellowtail industry need not go the way of the sardines.

False Bay's trekkers catch only 10 percent of the total catch along the South African coast — a fact confirmed by independent research work.

There is no doubt that the yellowtail species is becoming endangered. It was found in commercial quantities all the way round to Natal but is now rare east of Agulhas.

3 FISHING

SPM 15/3/88

# Major fishing groups expect good catches

By Tom Hood

CAPE TOWN — Another good fishing season is forecast for this year by two major companies.

Fishing for pilchards started on March 1 with quotas unchanged and the directors of South West Africa Fishing Industries (Swafish) say they are confident of landing their full entitlement.

Signs of the anchovy catch are also optimistic, says chairman Robert Silverman, although anchovy normally appears in quantity from May onwards off the Namibian coast.

But unless last year's exceptionally high landings of anchovy is repeated, he warns that group earnings could decline this year.

Increased lobster catches have continued in January and February and at this stage catches are well ahead of a year ago.

Swafish's full production has already been presold and at higher selling prices, but these gains will be largely offset by increased costs and the strengthening of the rand-dollar exchange rate, which is now less favourable than a year ago.

The company also expects "no problem" is selling all its pelagic fish products on the local market.

Larger tonnages of salt

are likely to be sold this year and should yield improved profits in spite of escalating production costs.

The company ended 1987 with a 20 percent dip in earnings to 231c (289c) a share and the final dividend has been to cut to 135c from the 175c paid a year. The total payout of 200c is 25 percent lower.

Turnover dropped by 24 percent to R35,8 million and net profit of R11,6 million was 28 percent lower.

Improved earnings for 1988 are forecast by Willem Barendsz, which expects higher dividend income from Swafish to offset any drop in profits.

Total dividends will be raised by 2c to 22c for 1987 after a 15c final payout announced yesterday.

Turnover dropped by R1,8 million to R4,2 million but the R1,5 million profit from the sale of investments in a subsidiary helped to raise net earnings by R800 000 to R4,9 million.

The company expects to sell all production on domestic markets and at slightly higher prices than last year.

"It is too early to determine any particular fishing patterns but the scientists appear to be guardedly optimistic over the anchovy prospects," says chairman Robert Silverman.



Toxic seafood blow for holiday makers

# Red tide hits W Cape shores

By HENRI du PLESSIS and CLIVE SAWYER,  
Staff Reporters

SEAFOOD lovers, swelled in numbers by thousands of holidaymakers, have been warned of a deadly red tide which could be making shellfish poisonous all the way from Sea Point to Lamberts Bay.

White and black mussels washed ashore north of Dwarskorsbos and in the St Helena area along the West Coast had been contaminated by the red tide and were toxic, said a spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs.

These species of shellfish were found to be highly toxic. Seafood lovers were advised not to take any mussels along the coast from Cape Point to Lamberts Bay.

The spokesman said the organism responsible for this was the marine dinoflagellate *Gonyaulax catenella*.

## Traces found

Researchers found traces of this organism in the surf zone at Dwarskorsbos on Wednesday and assumed that it could have spread to areas far north and south of the fishing village.

"The public are therefore warned to treat all mussels along the entire West Coast as being toxic and to refrain from picking or eating any between Cape Point and Lamberts Bay," he said.



ATTORNEY-GENERAL: Mr F W Kahn SC, has been promoted to Attorney-General of Cape Town by the Minister of Justice, it was announced today. Mr Kahn joined the Department of Justice in 1963 and was promoted to deputy Attorney-General in 1975. He is at present assigned to the Harms Commission of Inquiry.

## Gold price \$409,75

GOLD traded at \$409,75 an ounce in London today, up from \$408,25 at the close in New York last night. The rand traded at R2,3783 (\$0,4204) to the US dollar today, marginally down from yesterday's

Although mussels from east of Cape Point had not been tested, it was unlikely that they were contaminated if past experience was considered, the spokesman said.

Shellfish could therefore be collected in False Bay and Walker Bay, but the spokesman emphasised that it would be at the collector's own risk.

## New survey

Researchers had found that perlemoen, alikreukel, rock-lobster and fish were not affected.

"The West Coast will be surveyed again next week and we will make a further announcement as soon as the results of this survey are known," the spokesman said.

Red tide is a highly toxic variety of plankton which affects oysters and white and black mussels.

Although lobsters do not accumulate toxins as mussels and oysters do and therefore should be safe to eat, caution should be exercised because they can be affected by red tide.

## Oxygen absorbed

The algal plankton *Gonyaulax catenella* blooms, which causes red tide and absorbs much of the oxygen in the water, drive lobsters to the shore in their efforts to breathe.

Shellfish contaminated by red tide can be poisonous for up to six months.

The saxetoxin, which affects the nervous system, can be fatal if the victim is not put on a respirator within 30 min.

Symptoms include rapid numbness of the mouth, fingers and toes followed by loss of muscle control, including bowels and bladder, and difficulty in breathing.

## Not affected

Perlemoen and other fish are not affected by red tide.

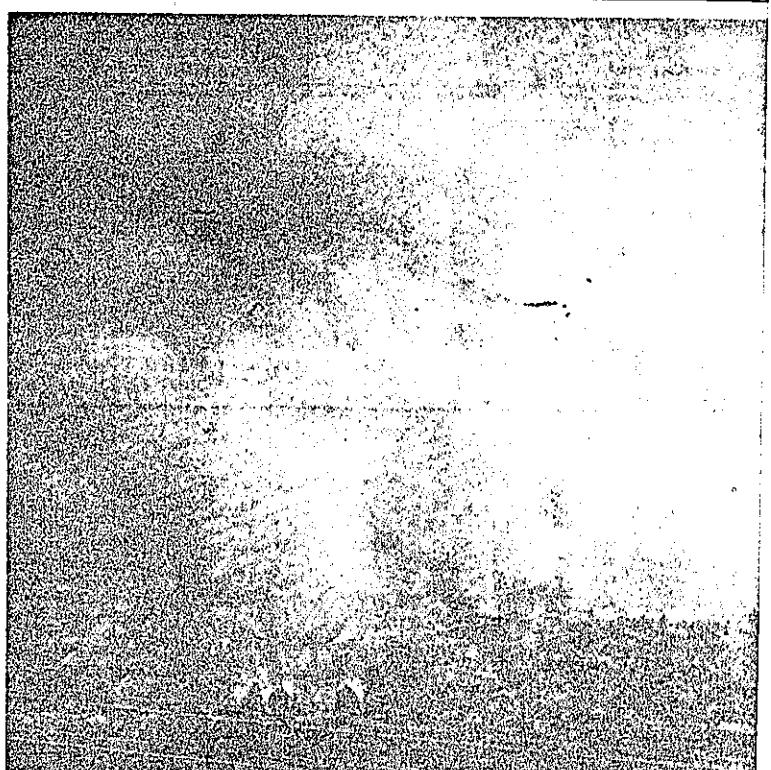
Mr Chris Heineken, manager of a mussel farm of Atlas Sea Farms in Saldanha Bay, said red tide did not normally affect his produce, because it bypassed the bay.

"We have to do compulsory tests twice a week, but in the past we have never been affected by red tide," he said.

"But this week we have not been able to test, because the laboratory which handles our tests have been closed and we are therefore not selling anything to the public or the industry."

Mr Heineken said three of his divers had eaten a large number of mussels the past couple of days and "they were still quite alive and well".

"One never knows though, so I'll wait until we can test before I sell anything."



ON ALL FRONTS: The Roodezandt mountains beyond Tulbagh burn on about five ft had slackened yesterday and fire-fighters were having some success in controlling the fire. **More pictures, page 5.**

## Sixth diving victim in less than a month

Staff Reporter

A BELHAR security guard has become the sixth person in less than a month to be paralysed in a diving accident in the Western and Southern Cape.

Mr Sam Titus, 28, is a tetraplegic — totally paralysed — after he dived into shallow water in the Berg River in Paarl yesterday.

He broke his neck when his head hit the bottom of the river.

Mr Titus is being treated at the spinal cord injury centre at Conradie Hospital.

Dr Dennis Newton, orthopaedic surgeon at the injury centre, expressed concern at the number of tragic accidents during reckless diving this month.

On November 29 Sipho Hoboshe, 19, was paralysed after he went swimming at a beach party in Camps Bay.

Ronald Wehr, 19, broke his neck when he tried to retrieve a ball at Sandvlei on December 4.

Andrew Marshall, 15, was paralysed when he hit his head against a sandbank after diving into the Hermanus lagoon on December 2.

Mother-of-four Mrs Donella Vigus is paralysed from the waist down after diving into the sea at the Strand and striking her chest against the seabed.

Pretoria student Mr Jaques Lloyd, 22, was paralysed from the chest down after diving off a

## Banning of bodies condemned

Staff Reporter

THE government's banning of four anti-apartheid organisations has been condemned by leading educationists and human rights organisations as a "cowardly and desperate" act.

The organisations, restricted by Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok in terms of the emergency regulations, were the Democratic Teachers' Union (DETU), the National Detainees Forum, the Western Cape Students' Congress (WECSCO) and the Western Cape Teachers' Union (WECTU).

They have been prohibited from carrying on or performing any activities or acts whatsoever in terms of Regulation 7 of the Security Emergency Regulations.

Mr Dullah Omar, president of the National Association of Democratic Lawyers, said the government's reasons for re-

an ANC-in-tem for So Mr Om would bel gationist: participat: tivities, ce this manu "It is a act to pri system." He said come the into power stopped th ation". 201 Former Mr Yusuf the banni act. Before er organi 2 000 me schools th sula. "I do n

No other activity seems to excite so much greed as marine fishing, writes JAMES CLARKE after witnessing the plundering of the Cape's coastal resources.

# The Killing Waters

Star 5/3/88

③ Fishing

Just as the fishing industry wiped out the world's biggest sardine resource off the Namibian coast — the catch dropped from 1.5 million tons a year to almost nil in two years — so it may now be destroying another valuable commercial species.

Last year in South Africa 17 marine fish were added to the list of threatened species. And now the handsome yellowtail, eaten by the ton by South Africans, may soon join the list.

I have just returned from witnessing what can only be described as a killing frenzy of yellowtail in False Bay in the Cape. It was like an ugly free-for-all as the fish came in to spawn in this 40 km-wide bay.

Since the beginning of January, trek fishermen have been hauling in tons upon tons of spawning yellowtail as if they could be the last people to ever need this resource.

On February 10 a small group of trek fishermen hauled in between 20 and 30 tons of yellowtail, worth more than R80 000, at Muizenberg. At Fish Hoek, that same day, trekkers pulled in 20 tons. The day before they pulled in six tons. Literally tens of thousands of these big predatory fish were wiped out while they massed to breed.

Just 10 days before he died, in March last year, John Wiley, the former Minister of Environment, announced that False Bay with its breeding schools of whales, dolphins and even flying fish, was to become South Africa's first marine national park.

Today, what is happening there is reminiscent of what is happening right around South Africa's 3 000 km shoreline: in so many areas valuable marine life is being frittered away as administering bodies try to do the impossible — to please their buddies in the fishing industry and, at the same time, avoid another Namibian sardine-type disaster.

"The fate of the yellowtail is an indicator of the greed involved," an honorary fisheries inspector told me when I was down there.

"These yellowtails have not had a chance to breed. But the profits are big and nobody cares about the bay's ecology or what is left for the future."

Illogically, the open season for yellowtail — from November 1 to April 30 — straddles their peak breeding season: January to March.

Many clubs around the coast hold competitions to see who can pull the most fish out of the sea, or chalk up the heaviest day's catch. In the Cape such competitions have done enormous damage.

A False Bay angler described to me a recent competition to see who could catch a crayfish tagged for the occasion. "Competitors frenziedly tore away untagged crays, ripping off their legs and even tearing crays in half in their haste to clear their nets and bait them up again."

Another angler of Fish Hoek, told me: "I

gave up competition angling in the 1960s because of the senseless destruction. You could earn Springbok colours for it then!

"Nowadays clubs hold competitions to see who can catch the most sharks — mainly because the edible fish have gone."

The angler, well known in the Cape, said he would not like to be named: "There are dangerous people involved in fishing. There's a long unsolved murder, in fact: a man was blown up on his boat."

He compared fishing in False Bay with "holding a competition in Kruger Park to

see who can shoot the most lions, leopards and cheetahs — and then hoping the ecology will remain healthy."

When it comes to the highly sought-after redfish species (red romans, rock cod, etc), anglers are confined to five each but commercial firms have no limits.

"Redfish are becoming rarer," says another angler at Glen Cairn in False Bay. He has a simple remedy: "Introduce a size limit so that anglers have to use big hooks — then they won't disturb the immature stock. Commercial fisherman would have

to use larger mesh nets — so sexually immature fish would escape to breed."

The angler told me: "I used to catch dassie and kaljoen with my father off Glen Cairn — we would even catch red and white stumpnose on the same line!

"Off the rocks at Rooikrans (on the False Bay side of the Cape of Good Hope Nature Reserve) I have seen 10 skindivers spearfishing at a time. Today, all round False Bay, the rocks are dead and there's a sick over-abundance of starfish and sea urchins."

CONTINUED...



**KILLING FRENZY:** since the beginning of January, trek fishermen in False Bay have been hauling in tons of spawning yellowtail — and the species could be next on the endangered list.

—'You could earn Springbok colours for this senseless destruction'

to four tons. By then the total South African catch was a mere 321 tons — a quarter of what it had been four years previously.

There was a lot of flagrant cheating as the Government tried to close the doors. For instance, tuna fishermen were told it was permissible for them to sell any yellowtail they accidentally caught. In 1974/5 tuna boats caught 394 tons of yellowtail and only 11 tons of tuna, and in 1975/6 542 tons of yellowtail and no tuna at all were caught.

The authorities then announced quotas and the commercial firms protested bitterly — even though this was just after the Namibian disaster. And the allocation was a third higher than scientists had recommended.

The quota stood at 450 tons for two years even though catches never came near that figure. Inexplicably the quota was put up to 455 tons — but the catch plunged further — to a mere 157 tons. Only then did the Government settle on lower quotas, but by then the fishing boats had quit looking for yellowtail — except in False Bay where the trek fishermen, working from the beach, continued to net yellowtail oblivious of the troubling signs.

This season, however, the yellowtail appears to be making a come-back. The beach seiners could well clock up 40 tons.

Apart from the obvious overkill aspects, a shocking truth revealed in Penney's papers is that 82 percent of the catch had never bred. They were immature. The story is much the same with white steenbras — they are caught when they

Illogically, the open season for yellowtail — from November 1 to April 30 — straddles their peak breeding season: January to March.

Comparing it with the Namibian sardine crash is irresistible: in the 1970s a killing frenzy netted 1.5 million tons in a year — and nil two years later. The resource has not recovered and today Namibia's eight fish factories are closed and its boats sold off to Chile. Thousands lost their livelihoods so that big commercial fisheries could make a fortune.

The law is palpably misdirected when it comes to fishing — fishing almost anything. New unrealistic regulations appear to be leading to the depletion of squid along the Cape south coast and to the wrecking of the highly sought-after redfish along the rockier parts of the coast. The shad (elf) population crashed off Natal until anglers were forced to adhere to a closed season. Crayfish too have been subjected to some bad overkills.

The lack of scientific data is astonishing. It seems that managing a marine fish resource is like trying to cull from above the clouds

petitors frenziedly tore away untagged crays, ripping off their legs and even tearing crays in half in their haste to clear their nets and bait them up again."

Another angler of Fish Hoek, told me: "I

— without being able to see where the animals are, or how many there are, and without knowing much about their ecology, blindly opening up with machine guns.

Only in recent years has the Sea Fisheries Research Institute confirmed that the yellowtail shoals found from Agulhas Bank to the Cape Peninsula represent one resource and that a fish tagged off Cape Agulhas may be found off Cape Point a week later.

A few years ago, yellowtail were found all the way along to Plettenberg Bay and around to Natal. They are now practically fished out east of Agulhas.

It is evident that the breeding shoals seek out False Bay's quieter waters in summer. So what happens in False Bay could decide the fate of the entire species.

Conservationists say the Gov-

ernment's attitude is sometimes hard to read.

John Wiley, when he was Minister of Environment, recognised a lack of refinement in the beach seine netting that was being conducted off False Bay. Sometimes whole shoals of non-commercial but ecologically vital species were, and still are, swept up.

Shad, essentially an angler's fish for they spoil quickly, are often accidentally netted in large numbers. When that happens all they are good for is fish meal.

The annihilation of a large shoals of shad is likely to have a chain reaction in False Bay's ecology, affecting all species.

Mr Wiley, who knew False Bay well, had promised that when the holders of trekking permits died the permits would not be renewed. But the opposite is now happening — there are more boats to each permit and permits are

being passed on to others. Some fisherman want trekking banned outright. Others, sympathetic to the families who are traditionally involved in the enterprise, say beach-netting simply needs more sensitive controls.

Part of the trouble is that too many authorities are involved in managing False Bay's fish resources. Fish Hoek's trekkers, for instance, fall under three control bodies: the Department of Environment, the province and the local council.

The local council has a certain amount of discretion over what time fishermen can operate — a decision which can have a decided ecological impact on the bay.

Fishermen out after sunset could haul in netfulls of endangered white steenbras which come inshore at night. But they are not allowed out after sunset and ostensibly it is not happening.

are dangerous people involved in fishing. There's a long unsolved murder, in fact: a man was blown up on his boat."

He compared fishing in False Bay with "holding a competition in Kruger Park to

other angler at Glen Cairn in False Bay. He has a simple remedy: "Introduce a size limit so that anglers have to use big hooks — then they won't disturb the immature stock. Commercial fisherman would have

(False Bay was the Cape of Storms Nature Reserve) I have seen 10 skindivers spearfishing at a time. Today, all round False Bay, the rocks are dead and there's a sick over-abundance of starfish and sea urchins."

CONTINUED...

All the same I have a list, plus the names of witnesses, revealing dates, precise times and boat registration numbers indicating that trekking takes place after dark.

The trekkers vehemently deny breaking the law, saying they had actually set out before sunset. They may not have broken the law but they have defeated its purpose.

It is clear that yellowtail were harvested without the slightest knowledge of its status or habits. Neither the authorities nor the big commercial fisheries spent any money on researching the species until well into the 1970s.

Andrew Penney of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute is the first to have published comprehensive papers on the yellowtail in False Bay. He says that up to 1970 yellowtail — essentially an inshore fish — was caught almost exclusively by fishermen using handlines.

But from 1970 trawling was allowed. Penney shows that in the first year of trawling, the trawlers caught only eight tons of the 1 093 tons of yellowtail caught. The following year the total catch dropped to 660 tons but the amount trawled rose to 121 tons. That year False Bay's trek fishermen, whose catches had not been measured until then, hauled in 48 tons.

Then the frenzy began. Fishermen pulled in bigger and bigger catches until in 1975/76 the total catch reached 1 265 tons, of which 542 had been caught in nets at sea and 74 by False Bay trekkers.

The catch then began to plunge. But in False Bay where the shoals aggregated to breed, the trek fishermen hardly noticed at first. In 1976 they caught an unprecedented 171 tons from the beaches. Then came the crunch — within four years their catch had plunged

aspects, a shocking truth revealed in Penney's papers is that 82 percent of the catch had never bred. They were immature. The story is much the same with white steenbras — they are caught when they mass to breed and their numbers are well down in recent years.

A former journalist, who lives near Simonstown and has been involved in fishing there for more than 20 years, says he has seen 50 000 Cape bonito trekked at Fish Hoek in one afternoon — a figure Mr U Adams of the Trekkers' Association says is nonsense. But anglers told me that the bonito is rare today.

In a local newspaper Mr Adams said beach seining was not affecting yellowtail and said that "an average annual catch of in excess of 450 tons does not indicate that this species is in danger of being fished out".

Significantly he used the catch figures from 1982-1984 as examples. In those three years the catches were 405, 353 and 598 tons. What he did not say was that 10 years earlier — from 1972-1974 — the catches were 40 percent higher (572, 366, 812) and that in 1975 they were 300 percent higher.

3 FISHING 15/3/88 B/day

# Wilbarz earnings grew, in spite of fishing restrictions

REDUCED pelagic quotas have made waves in the fishing industry, although this high-income earning sector continues to perform.

Willem Barendsz (Wilbarz) reported sound earnings growth for the year to December, in spite of the Namibian interim Cabinet's decision not to allow the fishing group a share of the lucrative pilchard quota.

Attributable income rose 23% to R4,4m, as successful fishing of non-quota stocks towards the end of the year and the R1,6m profit made on the dis-

KAY TURVEY

posal of an investment and its subsidiary provided relief.

Earnings after this extraordinary item rose to 47,14c a share from 38,23c.

An interim dividend of 15c has been declared, taking the total payment to 22c (20c). This puts Wilbarz on a dividend yield of 12,5% — ahead of the 11,3% sector average.

Turnover decreased 30% to R4,3m and pre-tax income before extraordi-

nary items fell 33% to R3,8m.

Directors do not envisage an increase in profits from fishing operations for the coming year, although improved earnings are expected for the current year.

Enhanced dividend income from Wilbarz's investment in South West Africa Fishing Industries (Swafish) is more than likely to offset any drop in fishing profits.

In January Swafish announced a special dividend payment of 450c and

it appears the market has reacted favourably to this news.

As a major stakeholder in Swafish, Wilbarz's shares have since climbed about 24% to a high of 180c on Friday, before falling back to 175c yesterday.

Swafish recently reported a 28% rise in attributable earnings despite lower quotas which knocked turnover.

However, financial controller Benjamin Ricketts says relief was provided from the high-performing salt division and exceptionally high landings of anchovy.



Cape Town 5/2/88  
3/6/88

# City kreet prices 'sky-high'

By PETER DENNEHY

**DEMAND** for rock lobster in local restaurants increased by about 40% over the November-to-January holiday season, compared with the previous season, forcing prices sky-high, industry sources said.

The surge in demand caught several restaurants short, and several establishments had to buy frozen lobsters earmarked for export.

Mr Gary Edmonds, distribution manager for South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers, said shortages of live lobsters in restaurants were to be expected because of the 40% increase in demand.

A supplier of live rock lobster who declined to be named confirmed that several of his client restaurants had bought frozen lobsters from him when he had

been unable to supply live ones.

"There was a tremendous shortage of live lobster. You hear all kinds of stories about fishing ceasing at certain times in the season — but huge quantities are exported.

"The local market gets only 20% of the rock lobsters, according to the quota, and the remainder is exported. I could have sold 50% more if I'd had the goods."

Another prominent hotelier, who also declined to be named, appealed for the quota of locally-sold lobster to be increased.

"It's our heritage, rock lobster are found off our coast," he said. "How can a tourist come here and not be able to buy fresh lobster? The weather has been perfect, so if the quota is sufficient why do we have these shortages?"

The price was being pushed

"sky-high", he said. It had risen 53% in 14 months.

Mr J Kroukamp, general manager of the Cape Rock Lobster Association, confirmed that the export price was 2½ to three times what was paid on the local market.

Yet the quota ensured that a certain percentage of the catch was sold locally. His commitment to the local market had been fulfilled, he said.

"I don't think there has been a shortage . . . maybe a day or so, but we cater not only for Cape Town, but the whole of South Africa.

"Lobsters have to be kept alive for 10 days before they come on the market. And sometimes the sea is rough and the boats can't go out."

Supplies had also been affected by an effective clampdown on lobster poachers, he said.

# Fish quota likely to be stable

R. J. Daw

18/1/88

Own Correspondent

② Fishing

OCEANA Fishing Co (Ocfish) was still waiting last week to hear what its pelagic fishing quota in SA waters would be in the 1988 season, which started on Friday.

Outgoing chairman Cedric Walton said at the annual meeting on Thursday that indications were that the Department of the Environment would set the total allowable catch of anchovy for the industry at 300 000 tons and of pilchards at 40 000 tons — as at the beginning of 1987.

On this basis he expected Oceana group companies to be allocated a quota of about 99 000 tons of anchovy and 5 999 tons of pilchards.

Walton pointed out that last year the initial anchovy quota was increased to 450 000 tons and later to 600 000 tons as the supply proved plentiful. Ocfish eventually had an anchovy quota of 182 000 tons.

Walton said the rock lobster season in SA had started on November 1 with a total allowable catch for the industry of 3 860 tons of which Ocfish's quota was 1 367 tons.

To date 54% of the quota had been caught and no difficulty was expected in completing it. The company already had commitments to sell most of the season's production and anticipated no difficulty in selling the rest.

Discussing Sea Products SWA (Seaswa) in which Ocfish is the major shareholder, Walton said it was difficult to make an accurate forecast of earnings at this stage because the proposed 30% shareholding by Namibian residents in Seaswa's lobster operation was still being finalised.

Almost all lobster production in Namibia was exported in whole cooked form to the Far East.

He anticipated earnings would be "at a satisfactory level" provided landings were "commensurate with quotas and fishing effort."

As previously reported, Ocfish achieved record earnings of 189,1c (147,1c) a share in the year to September. This was due partly to the higher anchovy quota.

## Warmer waters

Though Sea Products (SWA)'s (Seaswa) turnover dropped to R19,7m (R20,8m), the fall was not as much as was expected earlier. Although operating profit, at R10,3m (R11,0m), was also lower, the company did well in difficult circumstances. It benefited from the largest anchovy catch it had ever recorded, thanks to a warm water anomaly in the south-east Atlantic.

These non-quota fish tend to be abnormally large and have an exceptionally high oil yield. Says chairman Cedric Walton: "Financially, this fortuitously abundant catch compensated for the otherwise material effect the reduction of the company's pilchard quota would have had."

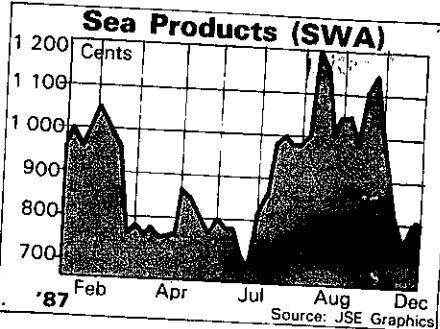
Indeed, had Seaswa's lobster catch been up to scratch, last year's earnings might have bettered the 1986 figure. Group fishing and production is carried out in equal partnership with the lobster interests of South West Africa Fishing Industries. Out of a joint available quota of 1 263,5 t, only 768,6 t (or

FINANCIAL MAIL JANUARY 15 1988

61%) were landed, principally because of persistent adverse weather conditions in the January-April main season.

Seaswa's September year-end follows the March-August pelagic fishing season, so there is probably an overhang to come from last year's large anchovy catch through its share of profits from United Fishing Enterprises which processes the catch.

On the negative side, Walton predicts that earnings for 1988 will be affected if the Namibian administration implements its



proposal to cut Seaswa's rock lobster interests by 30%. Seaswa's pelagic quotas for the 1988 season have not yet been announced; but there was a 37% cut in the pilchard quota last year and a 9% reduction in 1986.

Namibian attitudes towards long-established participants in the fishing industry are, as Walton puts it, "a disturbing pattern of events" which threatens to jeopardise Seaswa's long-term earnings potential. Taken with the vagaries in fishing and weather patterns, this explains why the share trades on a high dividend yield of 17,6% before non residents' tax (15%). Last year the dividend was maintained at 150c, but the 1,1 times cover gives little leeway should earnings fall again this year.

Over R10m remains on balance sheet in short-term loans (mainly redeemable preference shares) and cash, which could be distributed by means of a special dividend — as happened in 1983 and 1984. This adds a further speculative dimension to the share.

Dave Edwards

Season starts today

CAROL TOMKIS 15/1/88

# No change in fishing quotas

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

PELAGIC fishing quotas for the 1988 season in SA waters, which starts today, are unchanged from the beginning of the 1987 season at 300 000 tons of anchovies and 40 000 tons of pilchards.

This was announced by the chief directorate of marine development for the Department of Environmental Affairs last night and is as most people in the industry expected.

## Soaring profits

But last year anchovy resources proved so good that the quota was raised twice — first to 450 000 tonnes and later to 600 000 tonnes.

This was one of the main reasons for soaring profits by fishing companies and they are clearly hoping for the same good luck this year.

However, the directorate made the discouraging comment last night that although stocks were in a healthy state, the quotas could be changed in February and June should there be evidence of over-fishing.

Retiring Ocfish chairman Cedric Walton predicted at the company's annual meeting yesterday that industry quotas would be the same as at the beginning of the 1987 season.

On this basis he expected Oceana group companies to be allocated a quota of about 99 000 tonnes of anchovy and 5 999 tonnes of pilchards.

But Walton reminded shareholders that the anchovy quota had been in-

creased during the 1987 season and Ocfish eventually had an anchovy quota of 182 000 tonnes.

After the meeting, newly appointed executive chairman Walter Lewis agreed that the industry was hopeful. "The fish resources are seen to be soundly managed and in good condition now."

Walton said the rock lobster season in SA had started on November 1 with a total allowable catch for the industry of 3 860 tonnes, of which Ocfish's quota was 1 367 tonnes.

To date, 54% of the quota had been caught and no difficulty was expected in completing it. The company already had commitments to sell most of the season's production and anticipated no difficulty in selling the rest.

Discussing Sea Products SWA (Seaswa), in which Ocfish is the major shareholder, Walton said it was difficult to make an accurate forecast of earnings at this stage because the proposed 30% shareholding by Namibian residents in Seaswa's lobster operation was still being finalized.

## Anticipated earnings

Almost all lobster production in Namibia was exported in whole, cooked form to the Far East. "A contract for sale of the current season's production has been concluded at satisfactory prices."

He anticipated that earnings would be "at a satisfactory level" provided landings were "commensurate with quotas and fishing effort".



p the Roxana Bank are the largest trawlers operating out of a South African port. The ships were built in Poland.

*Cape Times 14/1/88 3 F&I 19*

## Large factory trawlers bought for Cape fishing

By PETER HUMPHRIES

THE large factory trawler Rosalind Bank is one of two such vessels recently acquired by the Isle of Man-based Neptune Trawling Company for operation out of Cape Town.

The Rosalind Bank and her sister, the Roxana Bank, are the largest trawlers operating out of a South African port.

Built by Stocznia Im Komuny Paryskiej at Gdynia, Poland, the two vessels are about 800 tons gross bigger than any other trawler operating here.

The Roxana Bank is 2 405 tons gross and the Rosalind Bank 2 404 tons.

They are 90m long and have four stroke six cylinder Sulzer diesel engines constructed by Zgoda Zaklady Urzadzen Technicznych in Poland.

The Roxana Bank was launched as the Lamna but was renamed Al Ahwar before going into service for the State

Fisheries Corporation of the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform.

On completion in 1979, the Rosalind Bank was commissioned as the Al Nahrawan for the same owners.

Each vessel will carry a crew of about 86 officers and men, thereby providing employment for about 180 local trawlermen.

The new owners have registered both vessels in Georgetown in the Cayman Islands.

A sistership to the Roxana Bank, the Sawa, built in 1977 and of the same gross tonnage, was recently sold to the China Yantai Marine Fisheries Corporation, of mainland China, and has been renamed Yan Yuan No 2.

A fourth vessel in the class, the Al Kahla, which was built in 1980, is at present in Las Palmas, apparently waiting for a buyer.

# Ocfish income surges by 123%

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

OCEANA FISHING GROUP (Ocfish) lifted net operating income for the six months to March by an impressive 123% to R23,9m (R10,7m) and earnings by 60% to 141,1c (88,3c) a share. The interim dividend is 64% higher at 45c (27,5c).

Turnover was 54% higher at R127,8m.

In spite of escalating costs, net income after tax, including income from associated companies rose by 53% to R15,2m (R9,9m) and attributable income to R12,8m (R8m).

The year has got off to a good start for Oceana and other fishing companies because of a 200 000 ton increase in the anchovy quota, bringing the total allowable catch in SA waters to 500 000 tons.

But Oceana chairman and CE Walter Lewis said yesterday that the increase in earnings in the first half of the financial year was due mainly to improved efficiency and to a considerable carry-over of fish meal and oil from the previous season — most of which was sold in the period under review.

"The group maintained and im-

proved its past performance," he said.

It is still able to export lobster products, the range of which has been extended, and has found new markets for these.

"As a result of these steps and continuing demand from local and international markets the group should be able to dispose readily of all its output at favourable prices," Lewis continued.

"Landings of pilchard and anchovy to date, and yields of fish meal and oil, are satisfactory. The group has already completed the catching of 89% of its total rock lobster quota. No difficulty is anticipated in completing the quota."

Lewis said he estimated group earnings for the year to September would be in the order of 240c, assuming that performance in the second half was in line with projections.

As previously reported, Sea Products (SWA), in which Oceana has a stake lifted net income by 22% to R4,8m (R4m).

The directors say the Blue Continent group "continued to perform satisfactorily with encouraging results from the trading and shipping divisions".

Fishing

1989

# Ocfish on acquisition trail

*UMF 702/5*  
*14/12/89*  
*3/1/84*

## Financial Editor

OCEANA FISHING GROUP (Ocfish) is negotiating further acquisitions which will fit under the Blue Continent umbrella, a spokesman said yesterday.

Executive chairman Walter Lewis pointed out in a statement issued with the annual report that the group's "diversity of earnings sources" was among factors which helped it to achieve a satisfactory increase in earnings in the year to September 30.

He said expansion and acquisitions, increased investment income and improved management efforts had all helped to cushion the group against "the adverse effects of lower pelagic landings and poorer returns from Namibia".

Lewis said: "The group's strategic focus will continue to be concentrated

on its core businesses of inshore fishing, trading, cold storage and the provision of marine-related services.

"Planning and capital expenditure in these areas are aimed at maximising productivity and efficiency, developing value added lines and structuring operations to allow for an even quicker response to changes in market forces.

"Acquisitions and capital expenditure in the past year broadened the group's infrastructure and market share in developing branches of the fishery — such as redeye herring, tuna and squid — and increased the capacity of its cold storage network.

"Capital expenditure, excluding acquisitions, in the year ahead is budgeted at R14,4m and will be financed from the group's own resources.

"Major items include additions to production premises and infrastructure, vessels, and plant and equipment such as further cannery and ice plant extensions."

In the report, Lewis says further growth in earnings from services has been projected.

In the year to September, Ocfish lifted attributable income to R24m (R22,8m), representing earnings of 260,7c (250,2c) a share.

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Your guide to oilts



Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

**CONTROVERSIAL CATCH:** Treknet fishermen gather the catch of yellowtail at Muizenberg. Conservationists claim many fish are being taken from a marine reserve.

## False Bay treknetting row flares again

By JOHN VILJOEN  
Staff Reporter

UNCERTAINTY continues to shroud the issue of treknetting in False Bay. Fishermen are making large catches and conservationists maintain that marine reserve regulations are being violated.

Fishermen employed by Mr Jeff Petty, who holds a licence, hauled a catch of yellowtail on to the beach in front of Muizenberg pavilion yesterday afternoon. Estimates of the size of

the catch varied between 1 000 and 2 000.

Mr Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Conservation Society, maintains that the area in front of the pavilion to 500 metres offshore is part of a marine reserve and that the catch was illegal — as were previous ones.

The reserve extends from the north wall of the tidal pool opposite St James railway station to Neptune's Corner, opposite Muizenberg station, and

into the sea for 500 metres in a line 90 degrees true from each of these points, according to Sea Fisheries Research Institute spokesman Mr Niel du Bois. He was uncertain whether or not yesterday's catch was made in this area.

Police watched as the fish were landed, as did officials of the city council's amenities law-enforcement unit.

The continuing treknetting has alarmed conservationists who feel breeding stocks in

ecologically sensitive False Bay are being depleted.

Mr Petty dismissed suggestions that the area was a fish-breeding ground and said he never found small yellowtail in his catches.

He denied that treknetting placed a strain on fish numbers in False Bay. "The total catch off our coast is 400 to 500 tons. Our annual catch here is only 12 to 15 tons.

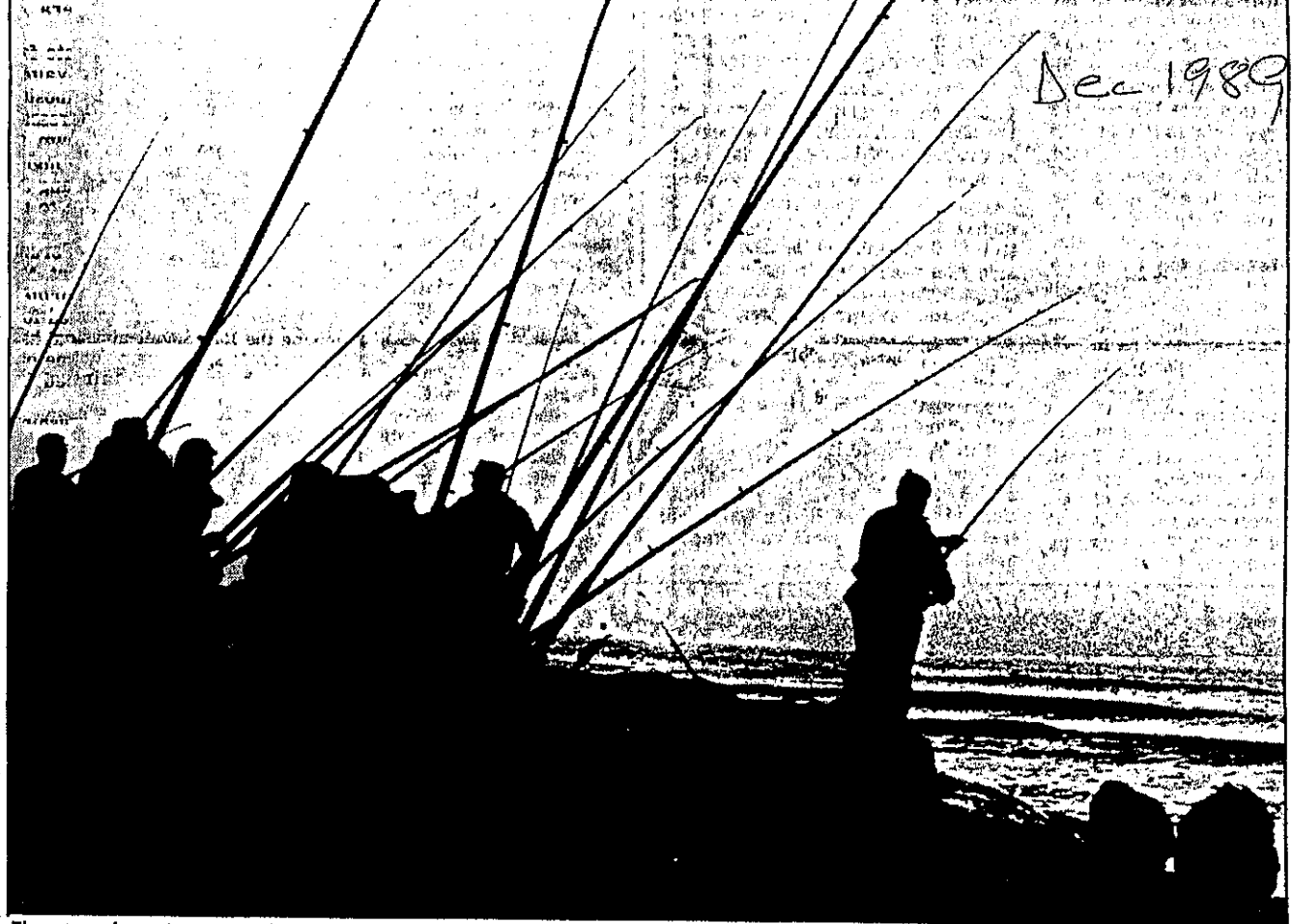
"Sometimes we don't catch anything. When we do every body makes a fuss.

"We have to make our living. There's a lot of fish here. We could feed a lot of people," he said.

Recommendations have been presented to Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotze in the hope that he will act to better organise treknet fishing in False Bay and resolve the differences surrounding this activity, according to a spokesman for Mr Piet le Roux, the chief of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

AKGUS 20/12/89 (3 Fishing)

Dec 1989



Threatened species . . . Sights like these may become a thing of the past if the Minister of the Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, takes steps to regulate surf and rock angling aimed at, he says, preventing the depletion of SA's coastline fishing reserves. The Minister warns that catches may be reduced to zero by the year 2010.

# SA's coastline heritage threatened with extinction

Up and down the South African coast the old men will tell you that the fish they catch nowadays are smaller than in the old days, and how some kinds have almost disappeared.

Their fears have been confirmed by a statement issued today to mark South Africa's National Marine Day. It says that angling — the country's biggest participant sport, even inland — is seriously threatened by over fishing.

It warns that unless fishermen co-operate, "the destruction of this national heritage is imminent".

The Minister of Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, predicts that in 20 years' time rock and surf angling "could disappear completely" unless current measures to protect the more popular species succeed.

The theme for National Marine Day is "Oceans of Food" and is meant to focus attention on the sea as an important self-renewing larder.

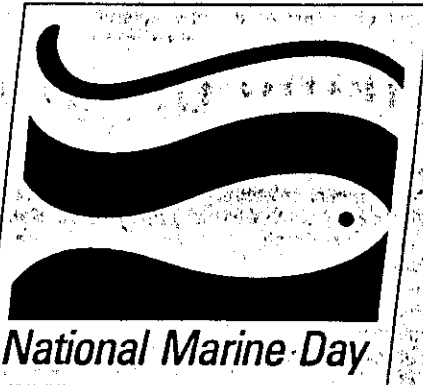
Angling provides food for many thousands of families.

The Minister's statement says that "catch tendencies over the past 50 years have indicated a definite decline in the average number of angling fish caught by rock and surf anglers".

Research for the department, by Bruce Bennett of the University of Cape Town, revealed that the variety of fish has declined progressively since World War 2.

The stumpnose (white and red), the roman and yellowtail, which all featured prominently in catches before 1960, have declined markedly "and could have been overfished". On the other hand, the state-

In a statement to mark Africa's National Marine day, the Minister of the Environment, Mr Gert Kotze, warns that because of over fishing, surf and rock fishing catches by the year 2010 may be zero. By JAMES CLARKE.



ment suggests that as the data come from fishing competition records, the decline in these species could be because competitions are now held in quite different spots and different habitats.

"(But) it is evident from the catch data that a decline in total catches was the most likely reason and that this declining trend, if not arrested, indicates that catches will approach zero by 2010."

Several precautions are being taken including minimum sizes, bag limits, marine

reserves and closed seasons. "Although some of these regulations have been unpopular with anglers, conclusive evidence now exists to prove the efficacy of these regulations.

"For example, it is estimated that if anglers observe the 35 cm size limit for galjoen their catches will be approximately three times greater in 10 years time."

The colourful galjoen, South Africa's national fish, has shown how effective marine reserves can be in fish conservation. In De Hoop Marine Reserve — now six years old — one used to be able to catch an average 20 galjoen in 100 hours of angling. Now you can catch 150.

Stumpnose, steenbras and other species have also recovered in the reserve.

The Minister says that all along the coast — and he singles out False Bay in particular — there are signs of "excessive exploitation pressure".

The tone of the lengthy statement indicates that anglers must expect more regulations and it calls for their understanding.

"Scientific information enables me to amend regulations according to the prevailing circumstances," says the Minister, who then gives an example of how, while he banned fishing for squid along the entire South African coastline during November, he revoked an existing ban on the catching of linefish in the area between the mouth of the Great Fish River and Cape St Blaize.

He said if anglers and fish resource managers do not join forces to protect the marine environment "the destruction of this national heritage is imminent".

Fishing 3

AR 608 14/12/89 3 Feb 89

# Oceana turnover up to R275 million

By DICK USHER,  
Business Staff

THE Oceana Fishing Group showed a 21 percent increase in turnover to R275 million for the year ending September 30.

But operating income was down 11 percent to R34,7 million. With income from dividends and interest adding R13,7 million, profit before tax was R48,4 million.

After-tax profit was about 2 percent up at R24 million.

Chairman Mr Walter Lewis said the modest increase in earnings could be regarded as extremely satisfactory in the light of the early closure of the pelagic fishing season and consequent lower landings.

He said the group's diversity of earnings sources, previous expansion in capital expenditure and acquisitions, increased investment income and improved management efforts had all helped cushion the adverse effects of lower pelagic landings and poorer returns from Namibia.

## TOTAL DOWN

According to the group's annual report, total industry landings of pelagic fish for the Republic were 40 percent down at 400 466 tons and for Namibia 46,5 percent down at 186 043 tons for the year.

Oceana processed 143 981 tons of pelagic fish, down from 259 751 tons the previous year, mostly into canned fish, fish meal and oil.

The season for pelagic fish, which normally closed at September 30, ended on July 31 this year.

Scientific surveys in June had indicated that anchovy recruitment from eggs laid the previous November had not been as favourable as projected, possibly owing to adverse climate at a critical stage before hatching.

Mr Lewis said the season had also seen an unusually high level of juvenile pilchard mixed in with the anchovy shoals, which exceeded the pilchard by-catch quotas.

This phenomenon continued throughout the season and served as a constraint to the fishing effort.

The rock lobster season was very successful and Oceana landed its full quota of 1 409 tons.

Oceana is part of the Namibian fishing industry through its subsidiary, Namsea.

Climate unfavourable for lobster fishing and mixed shoaling by pelagic species had a major impact on landings and financial results, which were lower than expected and did not match the good performances of the previous three years.

Namsea is in the rock lobster industry through a 35 percent shareholding in Seaflower Lobster Corporation, and total factory landings were down to 1 094 tons from 1 785 the previous year.

Mr Lewis said this material reduction in catches was attributed to the effect of unusually high sea temperatures over a long period, brought about by a reversal in the usual wind pattern.

He said the group's strategic focus would continue to be concentrated on its core businesses of inshore fishing, trading, cold storage and the provision of marine-related services.

"Planning and capital expenditure in these areas are aimed at maximising productivity and efficiency, developing value added lines and structuring operations to allow for an even quicker response to changes in market forces.

## MARKET SHARE

"Acquisitions and capital expenditure during the past year broadened the group's infrastructure and market share in developing branches of the fishery such as redeye herring, tuna and squid, and increased capacity of its cold storage network," said Mr Lewis.

"Capital expenditure, excluding acquisitions, in the year ahead is budgeted at R14,4 million and will be financed from the group's own resources.

"Major items include additions to production premises and infrastructure, and plant and equipment such as further cannery and ice-plant extensions."

3 Fishing

# Weather knocks Namsea profits 28,7 percent to R9,4 million

WEATHER unfavourable for lobster fishing and mixed shoaling by pelagic species resulted in Namibian Sea Products results declining considerably this year.

Turnover dropped 41 percent to R8 million, resulting in pre-tax income declining 48 percent to R10 million for the year ended September 30.

### Lower tax

Lower profits reduced tax payable to R617 000, leaving income after tax of R9,4 million, 28,7 percent down on the previous year.

After extraordinary items, bottom line profit was 32 percent down at R8,3 million.

Executive chairman Mr Walter Lewis said lobster catches in the 1989/90 season were lower than at the same time last year.

Strong winds and big swells in the Luderitz area had hampered fishing.

In the 1988/89 season, landings up to January were ahead of those for the same period in 1989, but declined principally owing to the effect of a reversal of the usual wind pattern.

Warm northerly winds persisted for longer periods, bringing substantial rains to the interior, and the absence of the prevailing south-west wind hindered the ocean's upwelling process.

As a result, the sea water in the lobsters' environment tended to stratify with a relatively low oxygen content and higher temperatures than usual.

As a consequence the lobsters had tended to congregate in surf-aerated water, high up in the reef areas, and were unable to feed normally.

Pelagic fishing was characterised by shoals of mixed-sized fish which resulted in temporary suspensions of fishing during the season.

The pilchard quota was completed, but anchovy landings

were well down on previous seasons.

Anchovy fishing was halted in mid-August because mixing of juvenile pilchards persisted.

● Macmed Health Care is of-

fering shareholders one bonus share or a dividend of 20c a share from the proceeds of the sale of Orthomed. Shareholders have until February 2 to decide.

DICK USHER

## Hake quota slashed

WINDHOEK. — There has been a substantial reduction in the fishing quota for foreign trawlers operating off the Namibian coast, according to the Director of Sea Fisheries in Namibia, Dr Jan Jurgens.

Dr Jurgens, on his return from a meeting in Spain of the International Commission for Southeast Atlantic Fisheries, said the hake quota had been reduced from this year's 497 000 tons to 410 000 tons next year.

The snoek quota remained at 36000 tons.

Dr Jurgens said it was disappointing that foreign fleets

would still be allowed to fish in Namibian waters.

He had hoped for a compromise as there was a lot of international goodwill toward the country, but it was hard to reconcile the willingness of the world to help Namibia with unabated depletion of its fish resources.

### Sunter promoted

CLEM Sunter's swift rise up the Anglo American corporate ladder continued yesterday, when he was appointed chairman and chief executive of the gold and uranium division. — Business Staff.



# Trawler fishing rights row brews

*APR 7-15*  
*16/11/89*  
*3 Fish*

Staff Reporter

**CONCERNED** Hermanus conservationists and anglers are still waiting to meet with the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, on the controversial re-opening of Walker Bay to trawlers.

Mr Kotzé's announcement last month that most of the bay would be re-opened to trawler fisherman caused an uproar in Hermanus.

Conservationists said the trawlers would disturb whales that visit the bay annually while anglers said fishing had improved considerably since the closure of the bay several years ago.

Walker Bay was previously closed to trawlers between Mudge Point and Gansbaai harbour. The new closed area is between the new harbour and Voorste-klip, an area four times smaller than the previous closed area.

Mr Hans Moore, chairman of the local angling society, said that a telegram was sent to President P W Botha in protest against the action. A meeting with Mr Kotzé has also been requested but so far no feedback had been received.

Mr Justice Diemont, a keen angler, said that the minister made the announcement without consulting local conservation bodies.

Mr Boetie Geldenhuys, manager of Gansbaai Co-operative Fisheries, denied that the trawlers would have an impact on the number of fish in the bay, saying that the trawlers work to a strict quota which is enforced by inspectors of the Department of Environment Affairs.

# Battle royal raging over Walker Bay and trawlers

3 Fishing  
Wt Argus 28/1/89

Hermanus residents are up in arms at the re-appearance of trawlers in Walker Bay waters. Residents blame the trawlers for the depletion of fish in the bay. In a bar, over a beer, the problem is debated by two caring Hermanus residents.

by REHANA ROSSOUW  
Weekend Argus Reporter

MR FRANK Bekker, retired farmer and former chairman of the Walker Bay Angling and Conservation Society, believes trawlers should be banned from Walker Bay.

He thinks the government should take an active interest in the threat to South African fishing waters.

"Over-fishing has almost depleted our resources of pelagic fish like sardines and pilchards," he said. "These fishes are a natural asset and should be protected."

In the 1970s, a fishing frenzy netted 1.5-million tons of sardines a year in Namibia. Two years later, hardly any were netted at all.

## Scatter fish

Mr Bekker believes this scenario could describe Walker Bay in a few years time.

"It has been scientifically proven that it takes between 13 and 15 years for the balance to be restored.

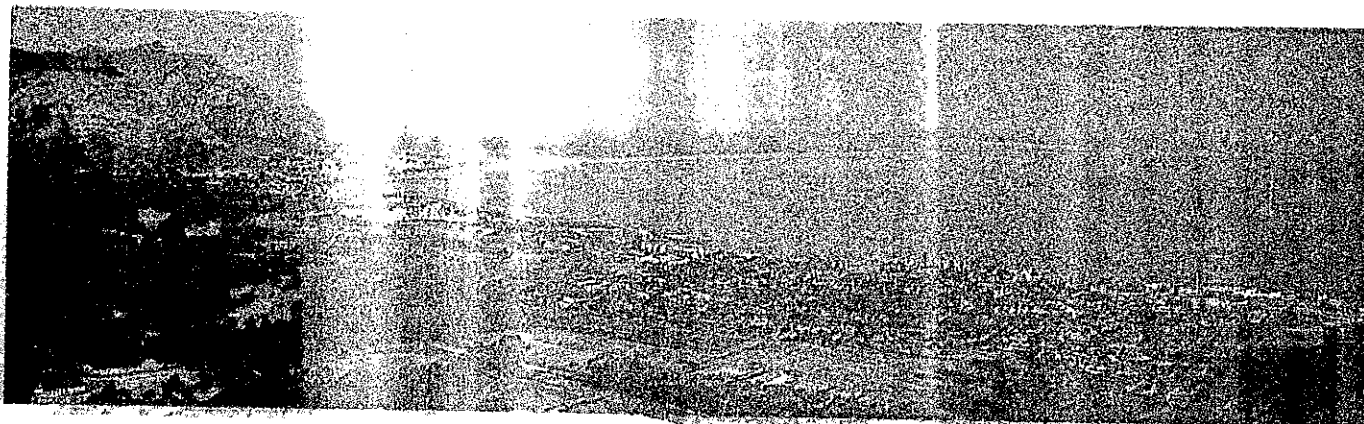
"It has been eight years since the trawlers were seen in Walker Bay and the sardines have returned. These fish need to shoal to survive. The trawlers disturb the shoals and scatter the fish."

He said the only way to restore the presence of large shoals of sardines in Walker Bay was to curtail the exploitation of the population. Last year, small shoals of sardines were spotted in the bay. Gradually, the shoals grew larger and larger.

"This makes one think the situation is improving, but it is not. We are playing with fire if we upset the shoals by allowing the trawlers to return."

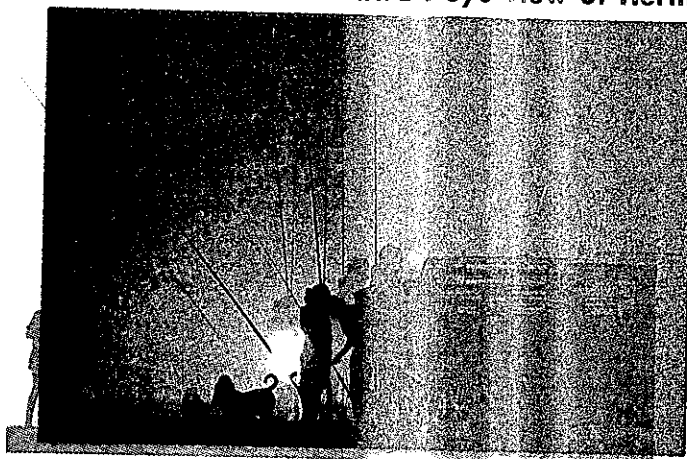
He sympathised with the Gansbaai community who were dependent on the income brought in by the trawlers.

"Declaring Walker Bay a reserve is as much in the interest of the Gansbaai community as anyone else," he said.



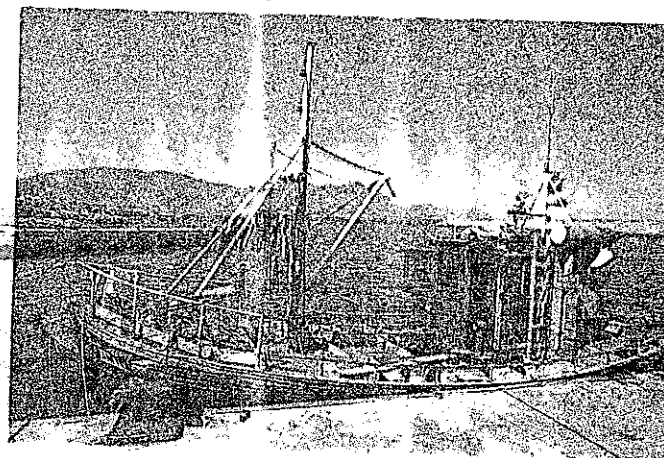
A bird's eye view of Hermanus and Walker Bay.

Picture: JIM McLAGAN, Weekend Argus



Fishermen are silhouetted by the setting sun at Walker Bay.

Picture: JIM McLAGAN, Weekend Argus



One of the controversial fishing boats moored at Hermanus harbour.

Picture: PETER STANFORD, Weekend Argus

Hermanus "man of the sea" Mr Sparks Esterhuysen, said he was neutral on the trawler threat. He was born in Hermanus "many years ago" and can remember catching makrel in a bushel basket in the old harbour.

He described himself as a "simple man with simple solutions".

"We musn't blame the trawlers for the lack of fish in Walker Bay. Thirty years ago, there was enough fish for everybody. We never had a problem.

"Our problems started when the hotels were built and people became civilised. Suddenly, we had sewerage pipes and detergents were piped into the sea."

He said there was no sea current along the coast between Cape Point and Cape Agulhas and the only factor which

changed the direction of the water was the wind. Once sewerage was piped into the sea it stayed there.

It was only 20 years later that the town council banned the pumping of sewerage into the sea.

Another problem was the destruction of the plankton in the sea — vital food for the fish.

"All our mountain streams bring algae into the sea, which is important for our plankton. That was blocked by man-made sand dunes with steep slopes. The tremendous backwash caused by the dunes sanded up most of our river mouths."

Mr Esterhuysen said the combination of chemicals in the sewerage and lack of algae from the rivers depleted the

sea of plankton and deprived the fish of food. "What must the fish come and do here? The waters out there are like a total desert."

He did not measure the fertility of the bay by the amount of sardines and pilchards present. "These fish are like nomads. Today they're here, tomorrow they're gone."

The fertility of the sea was measured by the amount of red fish — like kabeljou, geelbek, hottentot and elf. These had practically disappeared in Walker Bay waters.

"I used to take out perlemoen with a tyre lever along the coast and scoop 60 crayfish out of the kelp on a Sunday afternoon. Then the divers came in the days before the quotas and raided the

crayfish and the perlemoen.

"Don't blame the trawlers for the lack of fish. Blame man."

He believed the solution to the problem was to give the food chain a chance to recover. The sand dunes had to be flattened and sewerage control had to be tightened.

He likened the situation in Walker Bay to a person with a heart attack.

"There could be five factors which cause a heart attack. Treating the one and ignoring the others could be fatal. If you're going to tackle the problem of pollution at the same time as the trawlers, then I'll help keep the trawlers out."

Mr Bekker said the development of Hermanus was another contributing factor to the disappearance of the fish. Ten years ago kabeljou swam up the estuaries in search of food. Today they have all but disappeared.

"In one development alone on the Klein River, 82 houses are being constructed along the estuary. The sewerage is being converted into treated water — water pure enough for me to drink.

"However, the water is filled with phosphates and nitrates and once it gets into the lagoon the fish disappear.

"The Department of Nature Conservation should not allow this to happen."

Mr Esterhuysen agreed and added that a few more problems were caused by over-development.

He suggested that the river mouths be opened artificially to allow the algae to reach the sea.

## Beacon markers

The chief director of Sea Fisheries, Mr Piet le Roux confirmed that Walker Bay was opened to trawlers at the start of the pelagic fishing season on December 15.

"The decision was made on the basis of continuous research on the numbers of fish in the waters," he said. "It is nonsense to say that the resources are depleted in Walker Bay."

The bay is closed to trawling beyond a line marked by beacons at Mudge Point and the Gansbaai harbour. The beacons will now move to the new harbour and Voorsteklip, decreasing the closed area and keeping trawlers out of waters along the Hermanus coast.

Mr le Roux said a policy of conservation did not necessarily mean the exclusion of everything else.

# Walker Bay 'open' to fishing

CNE Times 8/2/89 (3 lines)

Environmental Reporter

WALKER BAY residents have agreed to go along with a government compromise move that will open part of the Walker Bay area to commercial trawling.

The agreement came after a meeting yesterday between the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, and members of the Walker Bay Angling and Conservation Society (WBACS).

At the meeting Mr Kotze announced that the inshore area be-

tween Mudge Point and Voorsteklip would remain permanently closed to pelagic trawling.

This is almost double the size of the area announced by Mr Kotze as a marine reserve last year.

However, Mr Kotze rejected a WBACS call that the entire inshore zone between Mudge Point and Gansbaai harbour be declared a reserve, and he opened the area between Mudge Point-Voorsteklip and Mudge Point-Gansbaai to pelagic trawlers for most of the year.

As a second compromise, the

minister announced that this area would be closed to trawling during the holiday season between December 1 and January 31.

The WBACS had been seeking the entire zone as a reserve, in terms of an agreement reached in 1983 with the former minister of sea fisheries, Mr John Wiley.

The agreement stipulated that pelagic fishing permits would be granted only to vessels affiliated to the Gansbaai pelagic fishing factory providing they undertook not to conduct their activities within the non-fishing zone.

SWA-10115 22/2/89  
**Swafish ups final div**

SOUTH West Africa Fishing Industries Ltd declared a higher final dividend for the year ended December 31, 1988. The final dividend was 175c (135c), making 240c against 200c a year ago. The company also declared a special dividend of 225c per ordinary share. Net profit for the year totalled R8,39m (R8,46m), equivalent to earnings of 266c (231c).



COMPANIES

*News 24/2/89 3Fish*

# Fishing shares on crest of the wave

FISHING companies are clearly on the crest of the wave, with sharply higher profits announced today by Irvin and Johnson and SWA Fishing Industries.

I & J reports a 31 percent increase in earnings at R26,2-million and the directors say this trend is expected to continue in the second half and that the full year's earnings should again reflect satisfactory growth.

The company has bought 3,5-million shares — an 18 percent stake — in Mr Jack Walsh's Natal Ocean Trawling and gains the right to distribute Natrawl's entire seafood production.

Consumer spending continued to rise, resulting turnover growing 22 percent at R517-million, a figure held back by inventory shortages of chickens and seafoods.

There was little change in margins and operating profit increased to R42,7-million from R34,4-million.

After adding income from investments and deducting interest paid, the pre-tax profit reflected a 31 percent gain as R43,8-million.

● Swafish is raising its final dividend by 30 percent to 175c (135c) for a total payout of 240c (200c).

The sale of its salt division and lobster interests brought in R8,8-million, the directors disclose today.

This boosted net profit to R17-million from R11-million for 1988, although profit rose only R1-million to R8,4-million before this extraordinary item.

# Higher profits for Natrawl

*CH. Times 3/13/89*  
*3 Feb 89*

JOHANNESBURG: — Natal Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) has reported an increase in turnover from R4,8m to R13m for the year to December 1988.

Attributable income has risen from R885 000 in 1987 to R2,9m last year.

Earnings per share were 12,53c (4,51c) and the dividend is 6c a share.

The number of share issued rose from 14m in 1987 to 19,5, last year.

Chairman Jack Walsh says the improved results are due to to increased catches arising from favourable weather conditions and an increase in fleet capacity.

"In addition to the four vessels we gained through the acquisition of the Quintas Group, we took one new vessel into service during the year and we completely rebuilt another," he said.

"The weather has also been more stable without a repeat of the large-scale flooding which struck Natal in September 1987 effectively curtailing our fishing activities for some six weeks that year".

He said prospects for the current year appeared favourable and the group was looking to a further increase in earnings. — Sapa



# Beware the killer red tide!

AGUS 20/3/89 3 Fishy.



By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A KILLER red tide appears to have devastated large perlemoen beds around Cape Hangklip and the public has been warned to avoid eating any shellfish until further notice.

Worst hit is the area within the marine nature reserve at Betty's Bay, where there were reports of hundreds of dead shellfish washed up over the weekend.

Scientists from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI) are conducting underwater surveys today to determine the extent of the loss, and they will analyse water samples.

However, most professional perlemoen divers have almost filled their quotas for the season and are unlikely to suffer any financial loss this year.

The red tide has also affected rock lobster on the West Coast, but swift action by marine officials and rock lobster fishermen has prevented any large-scale loss.

## Reduced oxygen

SFRI deputy director Mr Guillaume de Villiers said large numbers of rock lobster had been walking out of the water on the West Coast because the red tide reduced oxygen levels in the water.

Teams had been taking out the rock lobster from very shallow water and had been transplanting them to areas of higher oxygen content and "apparently there's been just about no mortality."

He said most perlemoen had been washed up in the Cape Hangklip area.

"We are in the process of doing an investigation between Pringle Bay and Betty's Bay, but as yet there's very little to report," he said early today.

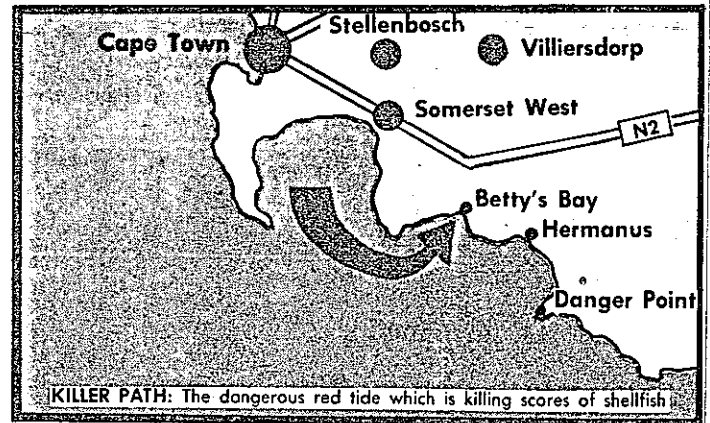
"Although it's very difficult to speculate, it sounds as if quite significant quantities of abalone (perlemoen) have been washed up.

## Perlemoen quotas

Mr de Villiers said he hoped to have results of the survey by tomorrow.

"And it will be wise for the public not to eat any shellfish from along the coast until such time as we have established that the organisms are not poisonous to humans," he added.

Hermanus professional perlemoen diver Mr



KILLER PATH: The dangerous red tide which is killing scores of shellfish

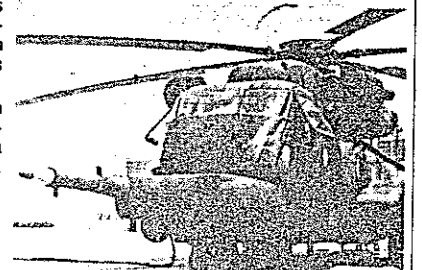
## 22 marines killed in 'war games' copter crash

SEOUL — A US Marine Corps helicopter crashed in an isolated mountain region of South Korea today killing 22 marines and injuring 15.

Some of the injured were in a critical condition. A spokesman for the US-South Korean Combined Forces Command said the CH-53D Sea Stallion was carrying 37 marines, including four crew members.

The men aboard the helicopter, which went down about 55 km south of the east coast port of Pohang, were taking part in "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres on the peninsula.

It was the second fatal crash of a Marine Corps helicopter in three days. On Friday, four American crewmen died when a CH46 Sea Knight went down in a rice field near Po-



A Sea Stallion helicopter like the one which crashed in South Korea today.

Wing, Futenma Air Station, at Okinawa, Japan.

Names of the dead and injured were being withheld until family were told.



Scientists from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI) are conducting underwater surveys today to determine the extent of the loss, and they will analyse water samples.

However, most professional perlemoen divers have almost filled their quotas for the season and are unlikely to suffer any financial loss this year.

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### Perlemoen quotas

Mr de Villiers said he hoped to have results of the survey by tomorrow.

"And it will be wise for the public not to eat any shellfish from along the coast until such time as we have established that the organisms are not poisonous to humans," he added.

Hermanus professional perlemoen diver Mr John Otto said most of the divers had filled more than 80 percent of their quotas for this year.

Quotas from areas around Hangklip and Betty's Bay were already complete and there were only small amounts left to be taken to fill quotas from areas on the West Coast, from Quoin Point to Uitenkraalsmond and between Hermanus and Hawston, Mr Otto said.

In the past few weeks dangerous red tides have invaded False Bay and the West Coast.

### Neuro-toxins

A species of red tide plankton which causes diarrhoea and coughing and which irritates the eyes, nose and throat has been releasing poisons into the False Bay wave zone, and bathers and surfers have been warned to avoid over-exposure.

The species appeared not to contain the deadly neuro-toxins which attack the central nervous system.

● Red tides are caused when favourable conditions allow the rapid growth of plankton.

There are several species of red tide plankton — some highly toxic and fatal to humans, others quite harmless.

Shellfish such as black and white mussels and oysters, which feed by filtering seawater, accumulate the toxins in their tissues and are most affected by red tides. Shellfish affected by red tide can be poisonous for up to six months.

Perlemoen and alikreukel are not normally affected.

Rock lobster are not directly affected by red tides and are safe to eat.

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# Perlemoen industry threatened by red tide

ARGUS  
21/3/89

3 fishy

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE multimillion rand perlemoen industry, threatened by a deadly red tide sweeping round the southern coast, is waiting for the results of water analyses from marine scientists.

Divers from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute yesterday took samples from a long section of the coast between Pringle Bay and Kleinmond.

Tens of thousands of shellfish — particularly perlemoen but also alikreukels, sea urchins, venus ears and limpets — have washed up in the area in the past few days.

Worst hit has been the marine reserve at Betty's Bay, which has been almost totally devastated. The municipality has buried tons of rotting shellfish.

"Unfortunately we have received no further information. We understand there is an investigation by scientists. We hope to learn more today or tomorrow.

"Bad weather has prevented commercial diving for four days, so we haven't been able to check the situation in the sea."

● Dr Botha said red tide was not responsible for the oxygen deficiency which has driven many rock lobster from the sea off the West Coast.

The "killer" red tide was also not related to the diarrhoea-inducing red tide which has appeared in black and white mussels on the West Coast and in False Bay.



**MARINE GRAVEYARD:** Tens of thousands of dead perlemoen and other shellfish have washed up at Betty's Bay marine reserve. Laura Peyper of Woodstock takes a look at the devastation.

Picture: LEON MÜLLER, The Argus.

CONTINUED...

### Next in line

Hermanus, centre of the perlemoen industry, could be next in line if the red tide continues its sweep.

Research Institute director Dr Louis Botha said he was waiting for reports from his teams. Samples had been taken from the sea around Pringle Bay, Cape Hangklip, Betty's Bay and Kleinmond, as well as from sites outside the affected areas for comparison.

The coast is divided into zones, each with its perlemoen quota.

The Betty's Bay/Hanglip area has already been fully fished this year but quotas for other sections of the coast — including the area between Hermanus and Hawston — are not yet filled.

### Millions of rands

If perlemoen deaths continue the industry stands to lose millions of rands.

Dr Shlomo Peer, executive chairman of the Hermanus perlemoen-processing firm Sea Plant Products, said he hoped to have clarity soon on the threat to the industry.

# Tons of stranded kreef rescued

CM- Timp  
22/3/89.

3 Friday

By CHRIS BATEMAN

UP to 15 tons of stranded, oxygen-starved rock lobster have been rescued at Elands Bay while about 30 000 perlemoen and countless mussels in Walker Bay have been wiped out by a rare toxic red tide.

The tide is one of two toxic planktons presently baffling researchers, who yesterday issued an immediate warning for people not to eat any black or white mussels along 500km of coastline from Elands Bay to Quoin Point.

A supplementary warning not to eat "anything except fish — and even then be cautious if the fish seem lethargic" was issued for the south coast from Cape Point to Quoin Point.

The first toxic plankton, identified yesterday as *Gymnodinium Nagasakiensis*, is responsible for killing 30 000 perlemoen along a 750m stretch at Stony Point in Betty's Bay at the weekend. It has also caused divers, swimmers and fishermen severe nasal, throat and eye irritations. The symptoms disappear within an hour of the victim leaving the water.

The toxin, first seen last year in Gordon's Bay when thousands of fish died, is believed to be released as the carrier plankton is broken up by wave action in the surf line.

The second strain, detected for the first time off the South African coast (in False Bay a fortnight ago), causes serious diarrhoea among those who eat black or white mussels. The bivalves concentrate the toxin in their

flesh.

Reports of mussel eaters suffering diarrhoea have come from such diverse spots as Elands Bay, Clovelly and Bloubergstrand.

Dr Louis Botha, Director of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, described reports that the perlemoen industry was endangered as "an over-reaction" and said damage had been "fairly localised".

He said perlemoen in deeper waters appeared to have escaped the effects.

A Nature Conservation official, factory owners and labourers in Elands Bay said they loaded some 15 tons of live kreef from a 2km stretch of rocks into bins and returned them to deep water off a local jetty at the weekend.

A small fleet of jeeps from two local kreef factories ferried the stranded kreef, 95% of which survived, they said.

Dr Botha said the kreef suffered a lack of oxygen caused by various marine conditions and not from any red tides.

Elands Bay factory owner Mr Ben van der Westhuizen described reports of a marine disaster as "nonsense" saying the phenomenon occurred every "two or three years up here — some people eat very well".

Dr Botha appealed to holiday-makers this Easter to exercise caution.

● A spokesman for the annual Hermanus "Festival of the Sea" which begins next Friday said none of their perlemoen came from the affected area. Samples would be tested by the Department of Sea Fisheries "to make doubly sure".

# Stay out of red tide, public warned

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

MR 645  
23/3/89

SCIENTISTS examining the deadly red tide which devastated sealife at Betty's Bay last week, and affected anglers in False Bay, have warned bathers, surfers, divers and fishermen to stay out of infected areas.

Perlemoen divers, in particular, have been warned not to remove shellfish which do not appear completely normal, while the public has been told not to eat any shellfish washed ashore "under any circumstances".

This warning remains until fur-

ther notice, and definitely includes the Easter weekend, Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI) director, Dr Louis Botha, said today.

While he was not suggesting that people should stay out of the sea completely, they should leave the water immediately if they experienced any of the symptoms associated with this red tide, such as burning eyes, nose or throat, Dr Botha said.

SFRI researchers found traces of the killer organism (*Gymnodinium nagasakiensis*) at more than ten sites between Pearly Beach and Miller's Point in False Bay on Monday, but Dr Botha said this did not

mean all these areas were affected.

"We can't conclude that the red tide has spread over a wider area — it depends on the concentration," he said.

"This is like any other red tide — they are always present, but it's only when there are favourable environmental conditions that they bloom and become a problem.

"So it's not necessarily of concern that we've found these positive traces, but we will be watching the situation very closely."

If the concentration did increase, it could again pose a threat to sea-

life and this could occur within hours under ideal circumstances. However, it could be broken up again just as quickly by wind and currents, Dr Botha pointed out.

Virtually no dead sea-life has washed up during the past two days, and it appears that the dire predictions of total devastation earlier this week have been exaggerated.

The institute has made an informal approach to medical researchers at Tygerberg Hospital to determine the potential danger of human consumption of contaminated perlemoen.

● See Page 2

# Toxic tide spreads beyond Gansbaai

Staff Reporter

HOLIDAY-MAKERS at resorts in the Franskraal area beyond Gansbaai yesterday complained of eye, nose and throat irritations as a toxic red tide spread eastwards in calm conditions.

It is the first time the tide has been reported as having spread east of Walker Bay.

Worst effected were swimmers, fishermen and divers at Uilskraalmond and Franskraal (east of Gansbaai) but isolated reports of the irritations came from some Walker's Bay resorts as well.

The mass deaths of perlemoen, which concentrated on a 750 metre area at Stony Point in Betty's Bay a week ago, seemed to have dropped from several tons to scores by yesterday. However, divers reported "dozens" of perlemoen in sluggish condition in about three metres of water.

The spread eastwards confirmed earlier fears of Sea Fisheries Research Institute, SFRI, scientists. They are now hoping for a radical change in the weather which would disperse the rare neurotoxic plankton.

The plankton becomes toxic when broken up in the wave zone and calm conditions over the weekend were ideal for further "blooming" of the tide.

Most of Walker Bay and False Bay appeared to be "clear" yesterday with no reports of irritations by swimmers. There were no further reports of a second type of red tide, never before encountered in South Africa, which causes severe diarrhoea. This tide first struck several fishermen at Macassar three weeks ago and has been reported as far afield as Clovelly and Bloubergstrand.

The eastward-spreading tide, identified as *Gymnodinium nagasakiensis*, has only been encountered once before in this country — last year in Gordon's Bay when hundreds of fish were found dead. Researchers have yet to identify many of its properties.

SFRI field workers are expected to set off for the newly-effected areas today to conduct further research.

## No fisherman's tale from Natrawl

NATAL Ocean Trawling (Natrawl), SA's largest prawn trawling organisation, has reported an exceptional 178% increase in earnings a share and a 170% increase in turnover for the year to December. *(3) fisherman*

Turnover rose sharply from R4,8m to R13m, while attributable profits rose from R885 000 to R2,9m. A dividend of 6c (3c) a share was declared. Earnings rose to 12,53c (4,51c) a share on an increased number of shares in issue.

The shares were issued to pay for the Raul Quintas group which was acquired last year. The Quintas group operated a fleet of five trawlers in the Mozambique Channel.

Natrawl chairman Jack Walsh said

*6/5/87 2113/89*  
**BRUCE ANDERSON**

the results were due to increased catches arising from favourable weather conditions and an increase in Natrawl's fleet capacity.

Walsh said that in addition to the vessels Natrawl gained through the acquisition of the Quintas group in October last year, his company had taken a new vessel into service and completely rebuilt another.

"The weather has also been more stable without a repeat of the large-scale flooding which struck Natal in September 1987 — effectively curtailing our fishing activities for some six weeks that year," said Walsh.

3 FISHING

FMML

21/4/89

March, our factory caught and processed 10 000 t of anchovies, compared with 20 000t in the same period in 1987 and 1988," he adds.

Because of the weak rand, it doesn't pay to import fishmeal, "unless it is done in very large quantities," says De Waal. "Sea freight, which also has to be paid for in dollars, kills it. The best a large importer can hope for is a 10% saving on the local price."

Fishmeal is an essential ingredient in nearly all balanced rations fed to cattle, sheep and poultry.

SA and Namibian fishmeal prices have behaved contra-cyclically to world prices. The international price peaked at US\$600/t last year, when the SA and Namibian contract prices were still R925/t. The world price has now dropped to \$370/t-\$380/t.

Steve Malherbe, MD of the SA Inshore Fishing Industries Association, says increases in canned pilchard prices, 11,8% in 1988 and 12% this year, were below the general food price increase for the last two years. More will have to be imported this year than last. Japan, Chile and Peru are the normal sources and provide more than 30% of total SA consumption.

He says SA will produce only 20 000 t of fish oil and will have to import 30 000 t to satisfy its needs. In October 1987 the world price was \$420/t and has now dropped to \$260/t. Its price in SA varies. In Johannesburg it's R800/t.

"There is a 20% duty on imported fish oil,

ment, has lost its two main markets, the US and Australia.

"Our South American competitors stepped in very quickly to fill the gap at competitive prices," says Kramer.

Total turnover for the entire Cape fishing industry is estimated at R1bn/year.

FISHING

3 FISHING

## Choppy waters

Fishmeal prices, which have risen by more than 30% since January — from R925/t to R1 306/t — will be pegged at this level until the end of the year, despite massive increases in fuel, the fishing industry's biggest single cost input.

Without taking last week's increase into account, fuel has risen by 40% since the end of 1988. Fishmeal producers, who would like to increase their prices in sympathy, cannot because they are locked into contracts.

Marine Products MD Jan de Waal says there is a fishmeal shortage and SA will have to import about 100 000 t this year to supply its needs.

"The fishing bonanza has ended and conditions for anchovy are back to normal. We were given a 350 000 t quota this year. Last year and in 1987, when fishing conditions were abnormal, we were given quotas of 600 000 t. Between January 15, when the catching season starts, and the end of



The sea's harvest ... last year there was more

but this is rebated if there is a shortage of product, as there is now."

There is no shortage of white fish, says Eckart Kramer, MD of Sea Harvest, arguably market leaders with Irvin & Johnson in the R500m/year white fish industry. Prices have risen, but because of the wide range of white fish products he finds it difficult to say by what percentage they rose on average.

The industry's quota for hake that may be caught in SA waters this year remains at 138 500 t, the same as in 1988. Less than 30% of it will be exported. The industry can export more but, because of anti-SA senti-



# Healthy quota for fishing industry

B/Dav 24/1/89

CAPE TOWN — Fishing companies have been officially informed that the 1989 anchovy quota has been revised upwards by a further 50 000t to top 350 000t.

This first revision is expected to be followed by at least two more upward adjustments, to approach a target total-catch limit of 500 000t as the season progresses.

The continued healthy state of the pelagic resource will make 1989 the third successive year in which fortune has favoured the fishing industry, with total wholesale earnings more than doubling in three years, from R585m in 1986 to well over R1bn.

The industry passed the magical R1bn level for the first time last year, with a total overall harvest of more than 900 000t — including hake trawled in the deep sea. Projections point to a repeat performance in 1989, even though officials chose to set conservative limits at the start of the season.

Recovery of the fish resource, still well below the levels attained in the 1960s before overfishing began to wipe out stocks, has mainly been concentrated on the inshore anchovy shoals.

Fishing companies have been supplementing these catches by turning their attention to other uncontrolled or non-quota pelagic resources, specifically mackerell and the round herring. More than 60 000t of the herring were landed

CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

during 1988 and expectations are that similar quantities will be caught this year.

Successes achieved thus far, and the widening of the pelagic resource base, have encouraged companies to consider investing in new trawlers and plant.

## ③ Fishing New boats

Oceana, for example, has embarked on a programme of chartering vessels as a preliminary step designed to access non-quota stocks. If these efforts are successful and prove to be economically viable, a decision could be made to order new boats carrying a price tag of about R6m.

The deep-sea trawling industry is perhaps not quite as buoyant as the inshore sector, in that the hake resource has still not materially recovered and remains far from levels recorded 20 years ago.

The quota has remained pegged at a little more than 135 000t. It has caused this sector of the industry to look at other resources and other waters.

Krill and tuna are other resources being given some attention, but it is still too early to decide on their economic viability.





# Illegal nets are decimating local stocks say fishermen

ARGUS  
2/15/89  
2 Fishing

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

GILL nets up to 32km long — dubbed “walls of death” — which have decimated fish stocks in the Pacific Ocean are now being used illegally in local waters off the east coast, South African fishermen allege.

Foreign fishing vessels carrying these vast nets have been docking in Table Bay harbour, and local fishermen claim they are being used to catch tuna in South Africa’s 200km “exclusive economic zone”.

The nets, which extend from the surface down to about 15m, not only catch huge stocks of fish — some of them migrating to spawning grounds — but also trap and drown large numbers of marine birds, turtles and marine mammals such as dolphins, porpoises, small whales and seals.

Local conservationists are adding their voices to the protest and have called for vessels carrying gill nets to be banned from South African ports.

According to a report in the local *Fishing Industry Review*, huge quantities of tuna caught with gill nets have been off-load-

ed from Far Eastern fishing vessels in Cape Town harbour recently.

The report said the fishing industry believed the use of the nets was decimating tuna stocks available to local boats, and that the vast quantities caught had caused prices to plummet from nearly R7 500 a ton a few months ago to just above R2 500.

“Although tuna is a migratory species and can be taken legally by any means anywhere, local tunamen, who operate exclusively in the south-east Atlantic, fear the gill netters are jeopardising their livelihood.”

Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the Fish Hoek-based Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG), also reported being approached by “concerned” local fishermen who alleged gill nets were used in South Africa’s exclusive economic zone.

“One person told me that with the albacore (tuna) they catch angel fish which they either dump or give to anyone who will take it,” she said.

“He was offered eight tons recently by a ‘Chinaman’ who had no use for it. He expressed concern to me about this relentless and destructive fishing and asked

how long it could continue without a marked decrease of stocks of tuna and other resources around our coast.”

The DAPG was not only concerned about the damage gill nets were doing to fish stocks, but also to other species caught incidentally, Mrs Rice added.

“The Indian Ocean is rich in marine fauna, and even if these people are fishing outside our exclusive economic zone, ecology doesn’t conform to man-made boundaries. No-one is monitoring incidental killing of marine mammals or sea birds in this most indiscriminate and destructive forms of fishing.”

Mrs Rice said no concessions had been granted for the use of gill nets by foreign vessels.

“Because of this ban no foreign vessels should be allowed entry into South African ports if they carry such netting,” she argued.

“Further, tuna caught by this method should not be handled in South Africa. Actions such as this would discourage the employment of gill nets and help marine conservation efforts. Great concern is being voiced internationally about the destruction these nets are causing and the concern is justified.”

IN BRIEF

## Seaswa interim earnings up 4,7%

SYLVIA DU PLESSIS *3 fishing*

~~page~~ FISHING group Sea Products (SWA) — Seaswa — has reported a 4,7% increase in earnings to 120,1c a share from 114,7c for the six months to March and declared an interim dividend of 65c and special dividend of 55c.

This was in spite of a drop in turnover to R3,5m (R9m) and in operating income to R806 000 (R3,6m).

However, income from investments improved 8% to R924 000 (R854 000), while tax fell from R1,75m to R433 000, representing a 25% (39%) tax rate.

Taxed income of R1,3m was bolstered by an improvement in the share of associated companies to R3,8m (R2,1m), which brought net income for the group to R5m (R4,8m). *6/10/87 2/15/87*

Directors predicted earnings for the year ending September 30 would be substantially lower than for 1988 because of appreciably lower income from lobster operations.

3 fish  
CPLC 11/25 4/5/89

# Poorer fishing, but Ocfish lifts profits

By BRUCE WILLAN

WITH A mere 12% increase in turnover to R140,3m, Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) has managed to increase net income by 26% to R19,1m and earnings per share by 28% to 181,2c for the six months ended March 31, 1989.

An interim dividend of 55c has been declared compared with last year's 45c.

The improved net income is partly attributable to investments and the group's share of income from associated companies says executive chairman Walter Lewis.

However the total pelagic landings to date in the Republic have been lower than in the corresponding period last year, but this has been largely offset by a higher product realization and higher canning volumes.

Also the group has

completed 79% of its lobster quota and is confident that there will be no difficulty in completing the quota.

But, Rock lobster landings by Sea Flower Investments's has been substantially lower at 718 tons compared with 1 160 tons last year

Lewis says that pilchard landings by Ocfish's subsidiary, Seaswa and its participation in United Fishing Enterprises in Namibia have been very much the same as last year although non-quota species have only been available in smaller quantities.

The lower tonnages have been attributed to the inclement weather which has been experienced over long periods, hampering the fishing effort says Lewis.

In contrast to the lower tonnages of fish brought in, the group's

cold storage and trading and shipping operations have turned in satisfactory turnover and profit levels.

Demand for cold storage has been strong and subsequently the group has embarked on an expansion programme in this division.

For the period under review capital expenditure was R14,8m compared with R2,6m for the same period last year.

Most of this was utilized for the expansion of the cold storage facilities at Durban and at Lamberts Bay.

Some of the capex was used to acquire new boats and to replace existing vessels.

Lewis says the group is confident that the second half of the year should show an improvement in earnings compared with those achieved during 1988.

# Fishermen say no to gill nets

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

notes 11/5/89  
3 Feb

FISHERMEN have come out in support of conservationists campaigning against the use of gill nets — dubbed “walls of death” — and have called on the government to ban the handling of fish caught in these nets in South African ports.

The fishermen say there has been a marked drop in their tuna catches recently and that the vast quantities being caught by foreign fishermen in these nets have caused prices to plummet.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, has given assurances that the controversial issue is receiving attention and

has promised to reply to correspondence “as soon as possible”.

Mr Sammy Loots, managing director of a Hout Bay fisheries company, said there was no doubt that South African tuna catches had been “variable and slender” this year.

“Tuna are what we call temperature fish — they live in pockets of water between 17 and 21 deg C. If you have a cut-off with gill nets, you can imagine how much harm is done to the recruitment of these fish,” Mr Loots said.

He pointed out that gill netting was now frowned on worldwide and had recently been banned by New Zealand.

Although these nets were used outside South African territorial waters the tuna caught were offloaded at Cape Town and kept in cold storage here for export, he said.

“One measure we think should be introduced soon is that they should not be allowed to store fish in South African harbours.”

Independent Hout Bay fisherman Mr Brian Clark said the commercial production of tuna had suddenly halved after 12 or 15 years of constant output.

Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said that unless urgent action was taken the ecological damage could have a backlash on South Africa and its fishing industry.

## Boats using banned nets told 'stay away'

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

FOREIGN trawlers carrying gill nets will in future not be allowed to offload their tuna catches at South African docks.

This decision, warmly welcomed by local fishermen and conservationists, was confirmed yesterday by Minister of Environment and Water Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé.

Gill nets — vast lengths of nets up to 32km long and hanging 15m deep — are highly destructive. Up to 50 percent of the tuna catch in these "walls of death" is lost and many marine mammals and reptiles like turtles become casualties.

Local fishermen have complained that tuna stocks are being decimated as foreign fishermen from Japan, South Korea and Taiwan use these nets in the southern Indian Ocean, and conservationists have expressed concern about their effect on the marine ecosystem.

Mr Kotzé emphasised in an interview that the use of gill nets was already illegal in South African waters.

"And secondly — and this is most important — we will not receive fish from a boat which has a gill-net on board," he said.

It would be assumed that trawlers carrying gill-nets would have used them, Mr Kotzé said.

"This is a fairly drastic measure, but I think it's a practice that must be discouraged. I feel very strongly about that."

Mr Sammy Loots, managing director of a Hout Bay fishing company, said it was "the best news I've heard in a long time", and would enhance South Africa's tuna fishing industry significantly.

"Although this season is virtually over, it will certainly help next season," he said.

Mr Loots pointed out that most marine resources in South Africa were subject to some form of quota, including rock lobster, pelagic fish and squid.

"But here you have a non-quota fish cut off by foreigners, and really if they can stop that we're on our way," he said.

"Delighted" Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, said: "This will encourage other countries to do the same — Mr Kotzé deserves to be congratulated."

# Natrawl to expand fishing in Mozambican waters

*CML Tracts 30/6/89 2 Fishery*

## Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Natal Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) would be looking at further expansion of its activities in Mozambican waters, chairman Jack Walsh said at the annual meeting yesterday.

He said that Mozambique was only too keen to increase its income from fishing which in the case of Natrawl was a levy paid in advance and based on the quota of crustaceans which it could catch.

The company had been in Mozambique waters, since the signing of

the Nkomati Accord, and its authority to fish had been renewed each year. They expected to sign a two-year agreement soon.

Expansion in the shape of a joint venture would be additional to this but he believed that the climate — politically and economically — was ripe to take a chance and see whether the opportunity was worth pursuing.

With SA supplying only 40% of its crustacean needs locally it would have to rely on imports, such as from Mozambique, for many

years to come Walsh said.

He told shareholders that fishing so far this year had been outstanding with 75% of the quota being caught up to the end of this month.

Discussing company finances, he said that the gearing ratio was high and as a symbolic gesture the directors fees would be held at the same level as in 1988.



# Oceana plumbs depths for

W/E ARGUS 14/1/89 3 Fishy

By Tom Hood  
Business Editor

THE giant Oceana Fishing group has chartered foreign boats to investigate new sources of fish whose catches would not be limited by the government.

"We are busy with a programme of chartering foreign vessels to try and access non-quota species such as anchovy and massbanker," says the chairman Mr Walter Lewis.

"If we are successful and the project is commercially viable we will need new boats costing about R6-million each."

## R40-million query

Mr Lewis disclosed this at the company's annual meeting in Cape Town this week after an item of R40-million in the balance sheet drew questions from the chairman of the Shareholders Association, Mr Issy Goldberg.

The R40-million consisted of short-term investments and cash and Mr Goldberg asked if it was necessary to have all this cash for the ongoing business of the company and acquisitions.

Mr Lewis pointed out capital expenditure for the current year is expected to be R17-million, up R10 on last year.

"But until until we can assess where our research programme is going and how much we will need to spend, we must keep substantial funds available."

Ocfish did not qualify for a government subsidy because its assets exceed the limit of R50-million, he added.

Asked how the company would be affected by independence for South West Africa, Mr Lewis said about 25 percent

of profits came from SWA operations

"We don't know what is going to happen there. The present pattern of business likely to continue to 1991 but what happens after that will depend on who is in power."

"We are operating out of Windhoek with independent staff like many companies but we are also extending into other fields."

Mr Lewis said the group hoped to be allowed to increase the local fishmeal pricer and achieve parity with import prices of R13,50 a ton.

About 100 000 tons is now imported at higher prices to meet increased demand from a market that has shown normal growth.

Mr Goldberg suggested: "There is no doubt the fishing industry is subsidising the farming industry with local fishmeal prices which are well below world price."

Mr Lewis said the company is also involved in a refurbishment programme for the fishing fleet.

It has negotiated to replace one large vessel but the cost was R5-million. The average cost of boats has risen from R200 000 ten years ago to R2-million a unit.

At this early stage of the current financial year, before the start of the 1989 pelagic season, it was difficult to make an accurate forecast of the year's earnings, said Mr Lewis.

However, he expected earnings should be of the order of last year's provided pelagic and lobster landings were commensurate with with quotas and fishing effort.

Ocfish achieved a record turnover of R227-million and

increased its net operating profit by 41 percent to R38-million in the past financial year.

The 1989 pelagic season in South Africa opens on January 15 and the industry total allowable catch of anchovy is 300 000 tons and 30 033 tons of pilchards, including bait, Mr Lewis told shareholders.

## More anchovies

The anchovy catch last year was set at 300 000 tons and later raised to 600 000 while the pilchard catch was set at 40 000

"I expect the catch for both species will be reviewed by the Minister in mid February when the results of the first months fishing are to hand," he said.

All other species were free of catch limitations.

In SWA the 1989 pilchard total allowable catch for the industry has been set at 50 000 tons, an increase of 10 000 on 1988's. No limit has been set for anchovy, as in previous years.

Seaswa's share of the pilchard TAC from SWA waters for 1989 is 2 574 tons compared with 1800 last year. Its share from South African waters is 760 tons compared with 280 tons last season.

Overall, the total pilchard quota allocated to Seaswa is 3 334 tons against 2 080 in 1988.

The season will run from February 1 for massbanker and from March 1 for all other species, closing on August 31.

The lobster season started on November 1 with the industry catch set at 4 000 tons, of which Oceana's quota is 1 409 tons — 42 tons more than last seasons.

"So far we have landed 441 tons against 676 in 1987/8 — 31 percent of the total. We should not have difficulty in completing our quota."

• Continued on Page 2

NEW WEALTH

P.T.O

40 its 1987 high, also looks set to speed up its recovery rate.

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**Ocfish plans**

W/T-AR 643 14/11/87  
3 Fish  
● Continued from Page 1

"Most of this season's production has already been committed and it is not envisaged that there will be any difficulty in selling the rest of the season's production."

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The season began on October 9 with an industry catch entitlement of 2 000 tons, unchanged from the previous season.

Of this amount, 100 tons had been allocated to private boat owners at Luderitz and 100 tons to Walvis Bay white fish boat owners.

This left 1 800 tons of which 280 tons was under the jurisdiction of South African authorities.

The balance of 1 520 tons had been allocated by the authorities as to one third to Lalandii and two thirds to Sunflower.

# Namibian waters fished out by 'chancer' aliens

Own Correspondent

WINDHOEK. — Spanish and Rumanian fishing trawlers and Soviet factory ships are slowly leaving the cold Atlantic waters off Namibia's inhospitable desert coast — but it's not out of respect for looming independence. There is not much hake left for them to catch.

They, and other fishing nations exploiting world refusal to acknowledge the territory's offshore rights, have taken it all.

“We are inheriting a depleted hake resource,” says Sea Fisheries director Dr Jan Jurgens.

Dr Jurgens, a third-generation Namibian native, is leading local efforts to declare a 200-mile offshore zone even before independence, to take control of an industry that syphons R2 500 million a year from the territory's natural resource.

“Of that R2 500 million, Namibia gets absolute zero, nothing,” Dr Jurgens said in an interview.

# State to curb destructive fishing method

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Staff Reporter

The government has confirmed measures to control the use of gill-netting which has seriously depleted tuna stocks in local waters.

It was considered prudent to introduce regulations to control the use of gill-nets in the fishing industry, said Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze.

He said gill-netting had reached alarming proportions. It was considered a destructive fishing method, not only in South Africa, but also elsewhere in the world.

## Permit

Under a new regulation, amendments of regulations 46 and the substitution of regulation 69 of the regulations promulgated under the Sea Fisheries Act Number 58 of 1973, no tuna may be landed in any harbour or fishing harbour of the country without the authority of a permit.

Neither may a gill-net or drift net be carried on board a vessel or used without a permit.

Mr Kotze said he believed the new measures would adequately protect South Africa's tuna fishing sector.

Inter-government negotiations concerning the confirmed use of gill-nets

by certain foreign vessels was continuing, Mr Kotze said.

The minister had to be commended for the new measures, said Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group who had been campaigning against gill-netting.

She was very pleased with the announcement. The country was adding to international pressure on Far East countries like Japan and the Republic of China to stop using this fishing method.

Apart from doing severe damage to tuna stocks, dolphins also fell victim to gill-nets, she said.

## Free zones

The South African steps had been acclaimed, especially by the international conservation organisation Greenpeace in Australia where control measures have been announced, she said.

"New Zealand has banned the use of these nets and island groups have been planning to make their waters gill-netting free zones because of the way in which Japanese and Taiwanese trawlers have been depleting their stocks," Mrs Rice said.

"South Korea has also promised to stop using them."

A boost for industry . . .

# Tracking fish by satellite

*CMT-Trip 3/8/89* *3 Fishy* *DA*

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**  
Financial Editor

NAVIGATION by satellite — using equipment already available in Cape Town — will increase the profits made by the SA deep sea fishing industry in about two or three years' time, Irvin & Johnson trawling fleet manager Ron Whitehead said yesterday.

It will enable skippers to navigate with a precision unknown before, in all weathers, and will lead to the discovery of new fishing grounds.

Meanwhile, the SA Navy hydrographic department has produced a set of comprehensive, large scale charts showing conditions on the sea bottom in fishing grounds far off the coast, and the exact whereabouts of obstructions such as wrecks.

These will help avoid the loss of trawling nets, costing about R40 000 each, and fishing time until lost gear is replaced.

The charts were on show to people in the industry at a function in the Royal Cape Yacht Club yesterday.

Whitehead said there could be no doubt that the new charts would have "an increasingly dramatic effect on the performance of the SA deep sea trawling fleet".

He explained that until now such charts had existed only for coastal waters. Trawler skippers had produced their own of the fishing grounds about 200 nautical miles from the coast, based on information painstakingly collected over the years and passed on from father to son.

Much of this information was re-

corded on the Decca electronic navigation system in use for the past 20 years, which was now out of date and would be switched off in about 10 years.

The information would then be lost unless it had been transferred to the new charts.

"The era of satellite navigation is with us already," said Whitehead.

"As we move into the 1990s the American GPS (ground positioning system) satellite navigation system will become fully available.

"This system will provide 24-hour-a-day, worldwide, all-weather coverage to an accuracy of a matter of metres."

The new charts would be "ideally suited for the change over to this new navigation form enabling SA's trawlers to take full advantage of this technology".

Whitehead said the satellite navigation system was a spin-off from the US defence programme. It was already available and the equipment to use it could be bought in Cape Town.

But it was not yet installed in his company's trawlers because it was not available all round the clock.

"We shall have it as soon as it is available 24 hours a day, in two or three years' time."

He said Irvin & Johnson had asked the Navy to produce detailed charts of the fishing grounds.

Although the information had been expensive to collect, the Navy would make the charts available to everyone, at a cost of about R5 each, as a public service.

# Cape west coast set for boom times

Star 14/8/89

3  
FISHING

By Tom Hood

CAPE TOWN —The Cape's west coast is heading for boom times as a result of unprecedented new developments in mining, fishing, tourism, diamonds and wine-making.

More than 600 workers are estimated to be employed by several companies searching for sea diamonds and this number could increase as a result of new prospecting.

Led by Dr John Gurney, professor of geochemistry at UCT and an international authority on diamond exploration techniques, a new company, Benguela Concessions, is to explore a large area off the Namaqualand coast.

Potential reserves of gemstone diamonds with a total value of R6 billion are believed to exist in the area, he said last week.

Commercial fishing is to be resumed after 20 years at Port Nolloth in Namaqualand by Jack Walsh, who heads the listed companies, Natal Trawling and Marine West.

He has obtained an experimental quota and licence and two boats should be leaving Durban in about a week to start fishing, he said.

In the early 1960s, one company had a fleet of 18 vessels operating from the port, catching crayfish and white fish. But when crayfish fishing collapsed, the price of white fish was low and fishing became uneconomic.

"Nobody has worked these grounds for 20 years and the shortage of fish in SA and the current price of white fish could make the fishing economic again," Mr Walsh said last week.

"We are not being restricted in the experimental period, but we need to catch about four tons

of sole a month and some kingklip."

Mervest, the marine diamonds company, had a good half-year.

Now it is to start working with De Beers on a permanent basis north of the Orange River.

Granite and marble quarries at Vredenburg that closed more than 20 years ago reopened recently and shipped the first export order of granite to Italy last week.

Work is to start soon on a factory that will provide many new jobs.

A director of the operating company, Neil Gillman of International Marble, said representatives of some of the biggest companies in Italy would visit the place soon.

"The quality of the marble is superb and whatever we take out of the ground is sold."

Anglo American has also stepped up its search for minerals near the Namaqualand coast and is studying the feasibility of producing titanium and zirconium — both high-tech specialist minerals.

The deposits are about 50 km north of the Olifants River and between one and 15 km inland, with few approach roads.

Most of the deposits are on farms owned by De Beers and the feasibility study will take about a year.

Annual production targets planned to start in 1982 are 100 000 tons of zircon, 25 000 tons of rutile and 1 000 tons of moza-lite.

Technical investigations for the local upgrading of titanium are under way.

A wet concentration pilot plant has been set up near the proposed mine site.

At Vredendal, the long-estab-

lished wine co-operative has completed a new building and claims to be SA's largest co-op under one roof, where 48 000 tons of grapes are pressed annually.

The cellar is so large that motorised tours are being arranged for visitors. Grapes are supplied by 168 farmers who get irrigation water from the Olifants River.

Tourism is also on the way up in the area. Two financial groups, Masterbond of Cape Town and Owen Wiggins Trust of Paarl, will spend more than R230 million on leisure developments.

About R50 million has already been spent at Masterleisure's Club Mykonos timesharing resort near Langebaan, including an R8 million deep-sea harbour and a R4.5 million convention and sports centre.

Total investment will exceed R170 million when the resort is completed.

A golf course, country club and housing development are also being built at Langebaan by Owen Wiggins Trust as part of its R60 million investment.

Its major project is the Port Owen marina farther north, with its yacht harbour at the Berg River mouth and time-sharing of yachts and cabanas.

Two of the main West Coast hotels — at Lamberts Bay and Citrusdal — have been taken over by the Protea group and refurbished.

Tourism is also expected to get a major boost from a 160 km extension of the new West Coast road — doubling its length — which will open up the area from Velddrif to Lamberts Bay and Doringbaai. The four-year project is due to start early next year and cost R90 million.

(3FISHING)

## All prawn

The attractions of Natrawl are that it controls all prawn trawling on SA's east coast and has potential for more development into

(3FISHING) 18/8/89

**Activities:** Trawls for crustaceans off the Natal coast and in the Mozambique channel.

**Control:** Directors hold 36%.

**Chairman:** J W Walsh.

**Capital structure:** 19,5m ords. Market capitalisation: R15,6m.

**Share market:** Price: 75c. Yields: 8% on dividend; 16,7% on earnings; PE ratio, 6,4; cover, 2,1. 12-month high, 95c; low, 63c. Trading volume last quarter, 229 000 shares.

**Financial:** Year to December 31.

	'88	'89
<b>Debt:</b>		
Short-term (Rm) .....	0,1	0,5
Long-term (Rm) .....	1,2	10,6
Debt:equity ratio .....	0,22	2,0
Shareholders' interest .....	0,37	0,25
Int & leasing cover .....	11,5	17,6
Debt cover .....	1,06	0,26

	'88	'89
<b>Performance:</b>		
Return on capital (%) .....	24,7	12,2
Turnover (Rm) .....	4,8	13,0
Pre-int profit (Rm) .....	1,4	2,7
Pre-int margin (%) .....	28,8	20,8
Taxed profit (Rm) .....	0,6	2,4
Earnings (c) .....	8,7*	12,5
Dividends (c) .....	3	6
Net worth (c) .....	15	28

\* Adjusted from 4,5c for change in basis of accounting for deferred tax.

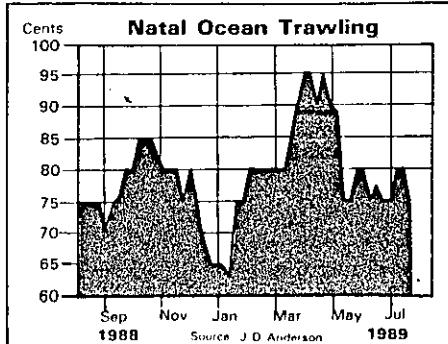
Mozambique. It is on the "ground floor" of any development in its industry.

Natrawl chairman Jack Walsh says he, like many others, felt the Natal fishing industry was worth little when he first negotiated with the original holders of some of the prawn trawling licences, Chinnek and Heinen, to buy a boat for his other listed operation, Mervest. He acquired all other licences, or control over them. Assets were injected into Natrawl and management is being restructured.

I&J has some licences, but it has agreed not to trawl in Natal waters. The two companies have a 50:50 partnership in trawling in Mozambique waters, I&J does all Natrawl's distribution and it has taken an 18%



Natrawl's Walsh ... warm water prospects



stake in Natrawl.

The R4,4m Natrawl received for the new shares sold to I&J allowed it to reduce debt. Gearing, two at year-end, fell to 0,69 at end-March, according to Walsh. The balance sheet includes R2,2m in deferred tax which he says will not be incurred. Since year-end, R2m in 15% debentures, repayable over four years, have been issued to I&J.

Quotas are not imposed on the Natal prawn catch. Natrawl limits itself; Walsh says the resource is being strictly preserved. In Mozambique waters, I&J and Natrawl hold the only licences issued to SA companies for prawn trawling in the Mozambique channel. They are negotiating with the Mozambique authorities for a joint inshore venture with government and have been asked to examine Mozambique's pelagic resource.

Natrawl's catch derives about 50:50 from SA and Mozambique. Walsh envisages that, within a year, two-thirds could come from Mozambique. Licence fees in Mozambique are much higher than in SA, which contributed to the decline in Natrawl's margins. But a joint venture would pay no fees. In another development, Natrawl has been granted experimental fishing licences to reassess the sole and white fish grounds off Port Nolloth.

Last year, EPS (based on inclusion of 5,5m new shares issued since year-end) rose 46% to 12,53c. Tax was minuscule, largely because of equipment refurbishment allowances. Walsh believes the tax holiday should continue for another two years. He expects Natrawl will maintain EPS this year.

Fishing shares are regarded as speculative and the first-listed Natal operation would probably be regarded as particularly so. But the close involvement of I&J, and Natrawl's apparent potential, indicate a possibly excellent investment long term.

Teigue Payne

Final 18/8/89. **FISHING**

**Activities:** Fishing interests in Namibia and investments.

**Control:** R Silverman controls 54%.

**Chairman:** R Silverman; managing director: B Peck.

**Capital structure:** 9,4m ords. Market capitalisation: R21,6m.

**Share market:** Price: 230c. Yields: 3,9% on dividend; 23% on earnings; PE ratio, 4,3; cover, 5,9. 12-month high, 270c; low, 175c. Trading volume last quarter, 196 000 shares.

**Financial:** Year to December 31.

	'85	'86	'87	'88
<b>Debt:</b>				
Short-term (Rm) ..	—	0,04	0,2	0,3
Long-term (Rm) ...	—	—	1,4	1,4
Shareholders' interest	0,62	0,71	0,8	0,86
Int & leasing cover .	6,8	12,2	73	229
Debt cover .....	—	82,5	1,72	2,96

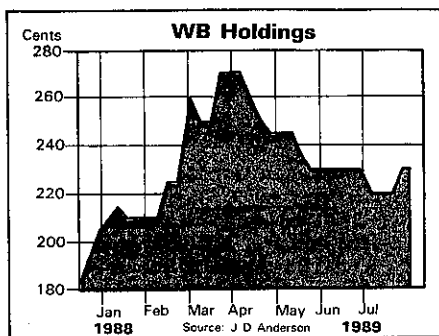
**Performance:**

	'86	'87	'88	'89
Return on cap (%) ..	32	31	20	29
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	3,5	6,1	4,3	6,9
Taxed profit (Rm) ....	3,4	3,6	2,9	5,0
Earnings (c) .....	36	38	30	53
Dividends (c) .....	15	20	22	9
Net worth (c) .....	104	134	182	222

further and should return to around the 1,38 cover of 1987. But if, for instance, WB Holdings earned 40c this year and a conservative total of about 30c was declared, that would place the share on a dividend yield of 13%.

Ricketts says the group is looking "very hard" for an operational investment. The quota system and overcapacity in the fishing industry means it will have to invest outside the fishing industry.

Management has not been a fast mover in the past — which appears to be confirmed by the lateness of the annual report, issued in July. Given its high dividend yield, the share is unlikely to decline, though uncertainty about Namibia may also prevent it rising much in the medium term. *Teigue Payne*



**WB HOLDINGS** **FISHING**

**High yield**

The recent policy of WB Holdings, formerly Willem Barendsz, seems to have been: "when in doubt, take no action". Its earnings have been good because of the share in the Walvis Bay fishing industry, but unlike other fishing companies, it has not declared special dividends.

By end-December, net cash and short-term investments totalled about R10m. Much of the accumulating cash has been invested in short-term prefs — dividends are not taxable to the company. That kind of investment has now been stopped and financial director Benjamin Ricketts says the money is earning (taxable) interest at about 18%.

The return on the cumulative prefs fell in every year since 1985 except 1988, because they were linked to prime rate. The SMB prefs, for instance, earned 14% in 1985

and 8,6% in 1988. Shareholders might justifiably feel (with hindsight) they could have done more with the money.

The fishing income of Willem Barendsz, now a 100% subsidiary of WB Holdings, last year was derived from the 16,5% stake in SWA Fishing Industries and from a 12,77% stake in United Fishing Enterprises (UFE) of Walvis Bay. This year the UFE participation has fallen to 10,24%.

However, the 1988 industry quota for pilchards was increased 25% to 50 000 t. And, though chairman Robert Silverman was pessimistic in his annual review about catching the full quota because of the presence of many small fish, the full amount has now been caught according to Ricketts. However, the same small fry are promoting UFE to consider halting fishing of non-quota mass-banker and anchovy, which form a substantial part of earnings. If this happens, WB Holdings earnings this year could be down to, perhaps, 40c a share.

Last year, despite 75% higher attributable income, the dividend was only 9c (22c in 1987). Ricketts says this was to avoid undistributed profits tax in the restructuring of the group. In July this year, a 16c dividend was declared and Ricketts says another will be declared in November. He says WB Holdings does not plan to build up the cash pile



AK6(u) 54/8/89 (3-fishing)

# SWA Fish sees profits plunge by 62,6 percent

By DICK USHER, Business Staff  
SOUTH West Africa Fishing Industries (SWA Fish) interim results for the half-year to end-June showed sharp drops in turnover, income and profit.

Turnover dropped about 75 percent to R4,7-million, group pre-tax income fell 62 percent to R2,7-million and bottom-line profits fell 62,6 percent to R3,1-million.

The interim dividend was unchanged at 65c a share.

Chairman Mr C L Walton said the decrease in earnings was mainly attributable to the sale of the group's Walvis Bay salt operations, unfavourable weather conditions which had adversely affected lobster catches and the appearance of small pilchards mixed with other species which restrained normal pelagic catching activities.

He said the 1989 pilchard quota was set at 50 000 tons, of which SWA Fish was allocated 3 334 tons. Catches of other species remained quota free. The company's participation in United Fishing Enterprises (UFE) increased to 20,33 percent and total quotas to those participating in UFE increased to 16 400 tons.

The UFE factory processed 44 636 tons during the review period compared with 71 357 tons for the same period last year.

In spite of unfavourable conditions the UFE pilchard quota was caught in full.

# No holds barred for I & J turnover

*Cape Times  
28/11/89  
3/5/89*

TURNOVER for Irvin and Johnson (I & J), Anglovaal's frozen food company, has broken the R1 000m barrier.

The dividend declared today was 27% higher than the previous year.

The consolidated earnings for the year ended June 30, 1989 rose by 29% to R65,6m (R50,7m). Earnings were equivalent to 232c (179c) a share and covered the improved annual dividend of 70c (55c) a share unchanged at 3,3 times. Consolidated turnover rose by 23% and, for the first time, passed the R1 000m mark at R1 094m (R889,6m) even though growth of the frozen food market slowed.

Interest paid rose to R7,6m (R5,2m), but was offset by increased investment income of R7,4m (R3,2m). This left a pre-tax profit of R102,8m (R80,3m).

The tax rate was little changed and R37,4m (R29,8m) was deducted for this charge.

After adding its share of associated companies' earnings of R0,2m (R0,1m), bottom-line earnings were 29% higher at R65,6m (R50,7m).

I & J has acquired the entire equity of the white fishmeal producer, Concentra Limited, and it has also entered into an agreement with Natal Ocean Trawling for the distribution of the latter's crustacea and other sea-foods.

Biday 28/9/89.

3 Fishing

# WB satisfied with catch at half-year mark

WB HOLDINGS, an investment holding group with fishing interests, has posted satisfactory results for the six months to June 1989 and has achieved earnings a share of 34c compared to 54c for the year to December 1988.

Last year's interim results are not available for comparative purposes.

Turnover came to R3,9m for the six months compared to R6,8m at December. Earnings attributable to shareholders

## EDWARD WEST

amounted to R3,2m compared to R5m at the year end. Income from investments came to R2,3m compared to R3,6m.

The directors said the total amount of fish allowed to be caught by the fishing industry increased from 40 000 tons in 1988 to 50 000 tons in 1989, of which 16 400 tons

were allocated to fishing quota holders in the United Fishing Enterprises (UFE) Rationalisation scheme.

WB Holdings holds 10,24% of UFE. In spite of difficult fishing conditions which were exacerbated by the incidence of underdeveloped sardines, the full quota of sardines allocated to UFE was finally caught.

Other species of fish caught were quota free, but much less were caught during the

1989 interim period than in the same period in 1988.

The directors said there was a steady demand for all sea products, although there was not enough to satisfy local demand. Large quantities of fish meal and canned fish would have to be imported to satisfy local demand.

The company expects to achieve earnings of 42c a share for the year, depending on expected stock movements.

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

**SUBSTANTIALLY** higher profits by the Blue Continent group boosted earnings by the Cape Town-based Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) for the year to September 30.

Fishing activities were less profitable than had been forecast at the half-way stage.

The Namibian interests did less well than had been expected. And the pelagic season in SA waters closed unexpectedly early, because of fears of over-fishing, before the group had completed the catching of its anchovy quota.

In spite of this, attributable profit rose to R24m (R22,8m) on a turnover of R275m (R226,8m). Earnings per share rose to 260,7c (250,2c).

The final dividend was unchanged at 105c which, with an interim of 55c, makes a total of 160c for the year.

Operating profit slipped to R34,7m (R38,5m) but income from investments rose to R13,7m (R12m) and net interest received to R4,4m (R2m).

The tax bill was lower at R18,4m (R20,7m). Net income after tax was R30m (R29,8m).

Executive chairman Walter Lewis said yesterday the increased level of activity within the Blue Continent group offset to some extent the effect of the lower pelagic landings and the quiet fishing season in Namibia.

"Capital expenditure of R17,7m was mainly on vessels and plant, and additions to the canning and ice plant capacities at St Helena Bay to accommodate steadily increasing volumes of redeye herring."

● **Namibian Sea Products (Namsea)** formerly Sea Products (SWA), reported earnings of 163,5c (229,9c) a share. The final dividend dropped to 90c

# Ocfish gains as Blue Continent posts higher profits

(135c) a share, making a total of 155c (200c) for the year. There was a special dividend of 55c (250c).

Turnover was R8m (R13,8m) and net operating income R2m (R5,3m).

Chairman Walter Lewis pointed out that turnover figures were not comparable because of the recent restructuring of the group's lobster interests.

He said the lower earnings were due to reduced landings of rock lobster because of bad weather. Catches of anchovies and maasbanker were also lower.

Pointing out that the group and its associates would pay taxes of about R7,9m to the Namibian authorities, he said: "The group and its associates remain financially and organisationally sound and are well placed to perform satisfactorily in 1990."

"It is likely that social and economic changes will be introduced by the country's new government. Namsea welcomes the opportunity to work with the government to further the wellbeing of the fishing industry, its workforce and the communities in which it operates."

CMT Tint  
3/11/89  
3 Fishy

Staff Reporter

**KALK BAY** fishermen claim they are being harassed by water police and say this, together with new licence requirements and a 500kg chokka limit, will see them put out of business.

One fisherman said police were now insisting they fish with their anchor lights on "when we're fishing right under a stream of lights under the pavilion — it's like daybreak.

"And besides, if we put the anchor light on we wouldn't be able to start our engines the next morning because our batteries would be flat," said skipper Mr Ronald "Bunny" Pendlebury who has worked in Kalk Bay for 28 years.

But a police spokesman replied yesterday

# Kalk Bay fishermen upset by tough new rules

that there was no question of fishermen being harassed and that they were simply enforcing existing sea regulations.

"It's not a new thing. Boats must always have their anchor lights burning when they are in the water, regardless of where they are or how bright other lights may be," Captain Hendrik Opperman said.

Mr Pendlebury said it was the first time he had

encountered such a situation: "Friday evening was the first time we could go out for two weeks. We have to make a living, and then we still have to deal with this.

"Why are they clamping down on the poor fishermen?"

Many fishermen, who knew their waters like the backs of their hands, had also failed tests for new licences they were now obliged to hold following new legislation, he said.

"And then on top of all that, they stop us from catching chokka (calamary).

We're told we can only catch 500kgs for the season when that's only enough for bait. We won't have anything to sell," Mr Pendlebury said.

MBUS 28/11/89

3 Fishing

## Fishing industry boom: R900-m netted

### Environment Reporter

THE fishing industry is prospering and last year netted more than R900-million — an increase of 144 percent since 1984, according to the Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé.

In a statement Mr Kotzé said larger catches, an increased demand for all fish products and the favourable export exchange rate had all contributed to the boom.

### REVERSED

The deterioration in most of the more important commercial fish stocks had not only been stopped but had been reversed in some cases.

"Since the exclusive fishing zone of 200 miles was instituted in November 1977 the important hake resource has recovered to such an extent that catches have increased from 120 000 tons to 135 000 tons.

"Rock lobster and perlemoen (abalone) have been stable for the last couple of years," he said.

However, exploitation of line fish had increased considerably

and the need for restrictions on popular line fish species was becoming "more necessary", he warned.

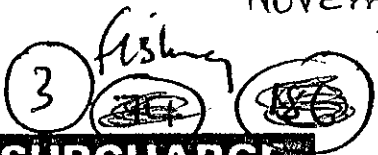
Mr Kotzé said more should be done to establish a mariculture industry by farming abalone, fish and rock lobster in controlled conditions.

"In Japan, New Zealand and Australia a large number of fish and other marine organisms are cultivated and marketed."

Because of increasing pressure on fishing resources, it was important to ensure that the sea could still be used as a vital source of nutrition. Mariculture would help to ease the pressure, Mr Kotzé said.

The State had to monitor the responsible use of fish stocks and the Sea Fisheries Research Institute continued to play a major role, Mr Kotzé added.

"The quality and extent of research compares favourably with the best in the world, and in other fields, such as research into the utilisation of pelagic fish resources, South Africa is playing a leading role," he said.



# SURCHARGE ON CERTAIN FISH LIFTED

KAY TURVEY

FROZEN pilchards and similiar species of fish will no longer be caught in the import surcharge net.

In a notice gazetted last Friday frozen pilchards are exempted from a 15% surcharge with retrospective effect to May 10 1989.

This brings them in line with frozen mackerel and hake, which were let off the surcharge hook in April this year, retrospectively from August 1988.

In a sea of confusion caused by the impost, the import surcharge on fresh and frozen prawns, shrimps, crab, scallops, calamari, oysters, mussels and snails was raised from 15% to 60% two months ago.

## Tuna

In the meantime the surcharge rate on staple fish such as canned sardines and pilchards has been exempted after having been brought down from 60% to 15%.

In August this year tinned tuna which was previously exempt became subject to a 15% surcharge. It was originally planned to attract a 60% surcharge in August last year when the scope of the surcharge was widened, and rates significantly increased, but exempted later.

Deloitte associate director Doug Joliffe said the trouble with the retrospective amendments was the end user seldom got the benefit of the price adjustment.

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## restrictions lifted

ings where state policy was being criticised, restricted to the Port Elizabeth magisterial district and restricted to his home between 9pm and 6am.

"The lifting of the restrictions on myself and other MDM leaders comes at a time when government is faced with the greatest challenge from a mass defiance by our people who are disenfranchised, oppressed, exploited, and who will not tire in the struggle until true liberation comes," he said. — Sapa.

position, walker said. regular basis. All too frequently these bills," he said.

# SA fish resources have improved — minister

CAPE TOWN — The deterioration of most of the more important fish resources of SA about a decade ago had been stopped, and some had shown signs of improvement, Environment and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said yesterday.

Addressing a media function here, Kotze said indications were that the ideal of optimal use of fish resources had been accomplished to a large

extent and, with continued efficient management and research, there was no reason why this satisfactory condition should not be maintained.

He said since the exclusive fishing zone of 200 miles was instituted in November 1977, hake resources recovered to such an extent that catches increased from 120 000 tons to 135 000 tons. Both the rock lobster and perlemoen resources had been

stable for the past couple of years. Kotze, however, warned that recent line fish activity had increased considerably and the need for restrictions on popular line fish species was becoming more necessary.

He said since 1984 the sales value of all fish products in the different industries increased by more than 20% a year. This represented an increase of 144,6% in the total sales value from 1984 to 1988. — Sapa

③ Fishing

ADP am 28/11/89



FISHING — 1990

3/1/89

~~3/1/89~~

# Spanish fishing captains arrested

WINDHOEK. — Namibian police have arrested the captains of five Spanish boats caught fishing illegally in territorial waters off the Namibian coast at the weekend, Luderitz police said yesterday.

The Isla da Tambo, Frio Lero, Friopesca Uno, Friopesca dos and Puenta Ellisar were seized by Namibian Fisheries officials. "The five men were arrested on Tuesday night and will be taken to Windhoek," police said.

The police investigation is continuing, he said.

Namibia's acting prosecutor-general, Mr Hans Heyman, said yesterday the state had attached the five vessels in Luderitz harbour and police are guarding them.

The men are due to appear in the Windhoek Magistrate's Court on a main charge of fishing illegally and possibly on other minor charges, Mr Heyman said.

Namibia stood to gain an estimated R150 million if it confiscated the vessels with their equipment and catches.

Earlier in the year President Sam Nujoma "cordially" requested all ships fishing in Namibian waters to leave by March 31.

Namibia has officially protested to Spain at the violation of its 320km exclusive zone. — Sapa

# Japanese ship halted — illegal fishing claim

By HENRI DU PLESSIS  
Staff Reporter

*2 FRL*  
*ARC 25/11/90*  
A JAPANESE fishing vessel, found allegedly fishing illegally in South African waters off the West Coast, has been escorted to Cape Town.

SA Navy vessels stopped and boarded the Toei Maru 8 and the master did not have a permit to fish in South African waters, the Navy and the Cape Provincial Administration Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation claimed in a joint statement last night.

The CPA's marine patrol vessel Custos reported illegal fishing off the West Coast and the Navy was alerted.

The strike craft Oswald Pirow and P1569, visiting Walvis Bay at the time, took aboard marine control officers of the directorate and investigated.

On Wednesday evening the Toei

Maru 8 was spotted about 140 miles southwest of the Orange River mouth.

Sailors and marine control officers boarded the vessel and the Toei Maru's master was ordered to head for Cape Town, escorted by P1569.

A Japanese mariner is expected to appear in court today.

● The minimum fine on conviction is R250 000 and the maximum R1 million according to the Minister of National Education and Environmental Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar. If an offence takes place within the 25km territorial zone, the vessel, its equipment and cargo can also be confiscated. In the 360km fishing zone, the equipment and cargo can be confiscated.



# War on fishing pirates

ARGUS 9/11/90

By DON HOLIDAY <sup>3 Fish</sup>  
and JOHN YELD  
Staff Reporters

FOREIGNERS fishing illegally in South African waters can now be fined R1-million and all fishing vessels could, in future, be forced to carry "black boxes" to enable a satellite to keep an eye on them from space.

The maximum penalty for illegal fishing has been increased 10-fold as part of drastic new measures to stop foreign vessels from poaching marine resources.

The Sea Fishery Amendment Act, promulgated on October 19, sets the maximum fine at R1-million, the minimum at R250 000 and permits vessels and cargoes to be confiscated. The previous maximum penalty for illegal fishing by a foreign vessel was R100 000.

Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze announced yesterday that the government was also investigating the possibility of a compulsory computerised satellite-monitoring system for fishing vessels operating in SA waters.

At a ceremony aboard SAS Windhoek in Saldanha Bay to launch the poster advertising this year's National Marine Day on December 7, he said such a system would make it

compulsory for vessels to carry "black boxes" which would allow their positions to be monitored constantly by a control centre via satellite.

"Such a system would greatly facilitate control. Although we have been in touch with other countries using such systems, the investigation is still in the initial stages. The disadvantage is that it is particularly expensive."

## Warning

Poaching by South Africans, and foreigners using "stealthy" methods to rob marine resources, had led the government to step up its protection efforts, Mr Kotze said.

In terms of the new law, SA vessels infringing fishing regulations face fines of R50 000 or six years' imprisonment, or both. The Act also provides for a further fine of three times the commercial value of the catch. The old penalty was a fine of R6 000 or five years' imprisonment, or both.

Mr Kotze told parliament in June that the penalties should "serve as a warning to other countries that we will no longer tolerate... the plundering of our fish resources."

● The new National Marine Day poster is part of an important awareness campaign, an environment department spokesman said.

● See Page 15

# City helicopter <sup>Agnes</sup> <sup>26/11/90</sup> in commando raid

By VIVIEN HORLER, Staff Reporter

THE five Spanish trawlers seized in connection with fishing in Namibian waters at the weekend were sailing today in convoy to Lüderitz to face formal charges.

The ships were boarded by Namibian commandos who were dropped by a Sikorsky helicopter based in Cape Town.

A Walvis Bay man who was on the Court helicopter during Saturday's operation has provided the first detailed account. He has connections with the fishing industry and has asked not to be identified.

The operation was launched after the Namibian government discovered that as many as 46 Spanish trawlers were fishing for hake in Namibian territorial waters.

## 'STEALING OUR FISH'

"There have been a number of accusations about these ships," said the man. "The Namibian government formally requested the Spanish government to ask the owners to stop stealing our fish.

"On Friday the Namibian government got a letter from the Spanish Ambassador stating categorically that there was no Spanish fleet fishing in Namibian waters.

"It was decided that it was time to prove them wrong."

He said the trawlers would be ready to leave fully loaded for Spain in about 10 days to be home for Christmas.

"It's a matter of economics. If you take 30 boats operating illegally, with an average of 300 tons of fish a boat, that makes 9 000 tons. Cost that out at about R4 a kilogram and we're talking about R36-million worth of fish."

The Sikorsky S16 flew to Walvis Bay on Friday, refuelling at Alexander Bay. A spotter aircraft was also chartered and early on Saturday both aircraft headed north up the Namibian coast to the holiday resort of Terrace Bay. Extra fuel and back-up troops were waiting farther north at Möwe Bay.

"We made contact with the first two

trawlers at the 19th degree latitude about 9.15am. Both had their nets out and couldn't get away. We first dropped an inspector and then two soldiers on one, the Frioleiro. We got the signature of the captain, who had been asleep in his cabin, confirming his position. We then picked up the inspector.

"Boarding the second, Isla de Tambo, was more difficult, because it was rolling a lot. We dropped the inspector. After two attempts, we got two soldiers aboard and picked up the inspector."

The aircraft flew to Möwe Bay to refuel and then headed south for Swakopmund. "On the way we made contact with the captain of a local trawler, speaking in Afrikaans, which the Spanish captains can't speak.

"Acting on his information we headed out to 24 degree latitude where we spotted 12 trawlers, eight of them illegal. We know which the illegal ones are, because we have a list of the concession trawlers.

"By this time it was about 6pm and we decided to go for the biggest, and therefore the easiest, trawlers. We first boarded two, both about 1 200 tons, without much difficulty, and then the third one, where we struggled a bit because it was getting dark.

## SEA VERY ROUGH

"The fourth trawler, the Antonio Nores, was the difficult one. He cut his nets loose and although we fired on him, he didn't stop.

"But by this time it was dark, the boat was small and the sea was very, very rough, and it was too dangerous to carry on. We backed off, so our total was five."

In terms of Namibian legislation the trawler owners face confiscation of their boats or fines of R1 million. They also stand to lose the catch and their fishing gear.

"It was a pretty neat operation. The Cape Town helicopter crew — Roger Watt, the captain, Ken Whittal, the pilot, and Malcolm Jones, the chief engineer, were fantastic," the man said.

Star 2/10/90 36 fishing  
Oceana hit

## by season of poor catches

The Oceana Fishing group lifted turnover to R309 million (R275 million) for the year to September.

However, group net income, after taking outside shareholders' interest into account, was lower at R14 million (R24 million).

Earnings a share reflected a corresponding drop to 146c (260c).

This was mainly due to reduced landings of anchovy and rock lobster, says executive chairman Walter Lewis.

Income from investments was substantially lower at R3,7 million (R13,8 million) as a result of the poor lobster season in Namibia and increased working capital requirements of the group as a whole.

The group disposed of its controlling interest in Namsea with effect from September 6 for R13,7 million. Acquisitions of R21 million were made during the year.

A final dividend of 60c (105c) was declared, which with the interim dividend of 30c, makes a total payout of 90c (160c).

— Sapa.

# It's adapt or die for fishing companies as problems set in

8/10/90 2/11/90  
LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — SA fishing companies, plagued by declining catches, a slowdown in demand for fish products and increasingly prohibitive demands by the Namibian authorities, have had to adapt or die.

Those, like Oceana Fishing, which have been too heavily exposed to the anchovy and rock lobster markets here and in Namibia, have been worst off, as year-end results have clearly illustrated.

Oceana chairman Walter Lewis yesterday attributed much of the decline in company earnings to reduced landings of the two species.

The contribution to net group income of fishing operations had fallen from 58% to 40%. This forced the group to expand other operations and find new income sources which, together, contributed as much as 52% to net income.

Profit margins on the reduced volumes also came under severe pressure as demand for animal fodder and fish products fell sharply.

3 Fisheries  
Quota 

With farmers and other major feeders, such as Rainbow Chickens, becoming more self-sufficient, and consumer demand slowing, profit margins are likely to stay tight.

Another major impact on earnings was the substantial decline in contributions by the group's Namibian interests. Over-fishing by foreign nations had depleted hake and pilchard resources off the Namibian coast, while lobster catches were affected by unusual weather conditions.

Also, Oceana's subsidiaries, Namsea and Namfish, were hit by the Namibian authorities' lobster and pilchard quota allocations.

The allocations were slashed and then reinstated after threats of legal action. But, attached to the expanded quota allocations was a price tag which read two months' salary as a bonus for Namibian employees.

It is not surprising then that in September, the group sold its controlling interest in Namsea to as part of a major diversification programme.

# Profits under pressure as Oceana takes a hammering

CAPE TOWN Oceana Fishing, the largest of the listed fishing companies, has reported a severe reduction in earnings as a result of declining catches, declining demand for fish products and a dismal performance by its Namibian operation.

The scene was set at the half-year stage when attributable earnings plunged to R7,18m from R19,13m.

By the September year-end, they amounted to R13,6m (R24m), a 42% decline which stripped 115c off last year's earnings

3 (copy)   
**LESLEY LAMBERT**

a share.

Turnover grew by 12,4% to R309m in spite of a reduction in anchovy and rock lobster catches.

But profits came under severe pressure from declining demand for fishmeal stock and canned fish products and increased working capital requirements, with the result that operating profit fell from R34,7m to R23,8m.

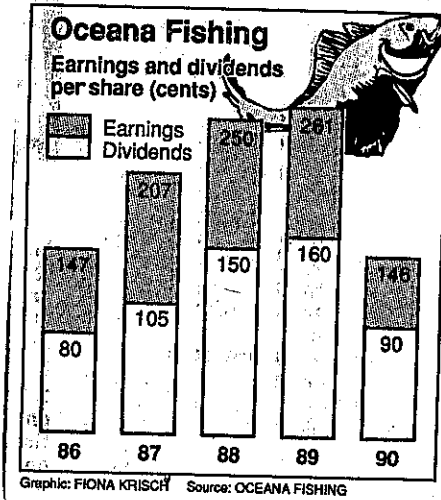
Net income from investments also declined drastically, to R3,8m from R13,8m as the Namibian subsidiary, Namibian Sea Fisheries (Namsea) reported equally grim results.

The group implemented a strict programme of rationalisation and diversification during the year, disposing of its controlling interest in Namsea in September and investing in new areas of operation.

Using retained earnings and the R13,7m proceeds from the sale of Namsea, the group invested R21m in new operations and the expansion of existing cold storage and clearing and forwarding facilities.

The new investments were in the abalone and tuna industries which offer better export opportunities than most other fish resources.

A final dividend of 60c (105c) was declared, bringing the total to 90c (160c).





# R300 000 <sup>Cape Times</sup> for illegal <sup>29/11/90</sup> catch in SA <sup>3 fishing</sup>

Court Reporter

A JAPANESE fisherman was yesterday fined R300 000 in the Cape Town Regional Court for illegal catches in South African waters.

Nitsuo Ebisuda, 46, of the 51-metre Toei Maru 8, was further ordered to forfeit the ship's 100-km-long-line — used to catch the fish — and to forfeit the 32-ton catch of tuna to the state.

Regional magistrate Mr J P Vermaak also imposed a two-year prison sentence on Ebisuda, which was suspended for five years.

The catch was valued at R126 461 and the net at R105 455.

Mr Norio Tsutsui, 46, captain of the vessel which was caught 140km from the Orange River mouth, pleaded not guilty and was acquitted. He paid Ebisuda's fine in full half-an-hour after sentence was passed.

Mr Hein de Lange, a contraventions officer with the Sea Fisheries Department, said yesterday it was the first conviction under newly-amended fishing laws and the first time a Japanese vessel had ever been caught contravening regulations.

Passing sentence, Mr Vermaak said he had taken into account the interests of society and the gravity of the offence committed, as well as the fact that Ebisuda had shown remorse in pleading guilty.

Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group told the Cape Times yesterday that the fine, which she said was "a mere R50 000 over the minimum under the new regulations", should act as a deterrent to others.

● Five Spanish boats were placed under arrest off the Namibian shore on Tuesday.



**FINED R300 000 . . .**  
Mitsuo Ebisuda

# Fishermen could pay R1m

Staff Reporters

*Cape Times 24/11/70*

TWO Japanese fishermen appeared briefly in Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with charges under the newly amended Sea Fisheries Act, which allows for a R1 million fine.

Mr Norio Tsutsui, 46, the captain, and Mr Mitsuo Ebisuda, 46, the fishing master of the 51-metre long-line vessel, the Toei Naru 8, were released on bail of R1 000 each after being referred to the Regional Court for plea on Wednesday.

The boat was impounded in Table

Bay following the arrest of the Japanese seamen by two South African navy warships 140km south-west of the Orange River mouth on Thursday night.

No charges were put to Mr Tsutsui or Mr Ebisuda, who were reported by SABC radio news to have had 56 tons of tuna on board the vessel.

Mr D J Oosthuysen was on the Bench and Mrs Louise Scholtz appeared for the state. Mr J Hare appeared for the men.

● The case is the first to be tried under the vastly increased new penalties and is expected to set

a precedent.

If found guilty, the men face a minimum fine of R250 000 and a maximum of R1 million, plus the compulsory confiscation of their fishing equipment and catch.

The new act applies to foreigners found guilty of fishing within South Africa's fishing zone, which extends 360km seawards. For those found guilty of fishing within South African territorial waters the fine parameters remain the same but compulsory confiscation extends to the boat and equipment.

3/75A

# Japanese ship seized off coast

CAPT TUNIS 23/11/90 3 fish

Staff Reporter

A JAPANESE long-line tuna trawler has been seized for fishing illegally in South African waters off the West Coast.

It is being escorted to Cape Town by a strike craft of the navy.

A statement by the Chief Directorate Nature and Environmental Conservation said last night that a patrol vessel, The Custos, had reported illegal fishing taking place in South African waters.

The directorate approached the navy who sent two strike craft, the SAS Oswald Pirow and the newly com-

missioned P-1569, to investigate from Walvis Bay.

On board was a fisheries inspector. The two warships were due to return to Cape Town on a routine patrol.

The Toei Maru 8 was located 140km south-west of the Orange River mouth early last night.

"On closing, it was established that the vessel's crew were recovering fishing lines," the statement said.

A boarding party found that the crew were fishing illegally without a permit. The captain was instructed to proceed to Table Bay under escort by the P-1569.

The two ships will arrive off Cape Town early today.

# Ships seized

CMT Troops

26/11/90

3 Feb

From DUNCAN GIJY

**WINDHOEK** — Namibian commandos were dropped from a helicopter at the weekend to seize five Spanish trawlers illegally fishing in the country's territorial waters.

The soldiers fired shots on to the decks of the trawlers before landing on the vessels, the Namibian Minister of Fisheries, Mr Gert Hanekom, said yesterday.

Five boats were captured but three others cut their nets and got away, he said.

The trawlers were fishing within Namibia's 320-kilometre exclusive economic zone.

The vessels are now anchored outside the harbour limits of Walvis Bay.

The seizure follows an accusation by Namibia that a flotilla of 30 Spanish vessels had entered Namibian waters to fish illegally in October.

Mr Hanekom confirmed that some of the vessels had even scratched out their names, which is illegal under international maritime law.

He said the government had chartered a private helicopter to carry the commandos to the ships.

The commandos were dropped from the helicopter to board the Isla de Tambo, Freio Lero, Frerio Pesca Uno, Freia Pesca Dos and Puento Ellisar. The vessels were then escorted to Walvis Bay.

They were carrying hake valued at R15 million, Mr Hanekom said.

He said a Namibian patrol intercepted the first two ships in a far northerly position some 40 sea miles from the coast.

The other three were later spotted and intercepted further south where a further three escaped.

Troops boarded the five captured boats which were ordered to sail to Walvis Bay.

Late yesterday port officials said a fifth boat had joined the first four which had anchored off Walvis Bay harbour limits in the morning.

The Spanish ships are due to sail on to the Namibian port of Luderitz where the relevant officials will appear in court for fishing illegally.

They face fines of up to R1 million a vessel and confiscation of ship, fish and nets.



Theo-Ben Gurirab

# Namibia threatens to sink ships

CHM TrifS

27/11/90

3 Feb

~~3 Feb~~

## Gurirab warns Spanish envoy

WINDHOEK. — Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab yesterday warned that Namibia had the capability to sink vessels fishing illegally.

The Namibian government viewed continued violations of its territorial waters by Spanish fishing vessels in "a very serious light".

Mr Gurirab warned that Namibian authorities had the capability to sink vessels fishing illegally, but had not done so on Saturday because it was growing dark and authorities had not been in a position to save lives.

Mr Gurirab summoned Spain's ambassador to Namibia, Mr Don Carlos Sanchez de Boada y de Valgoma, to his office yesterday to protest against the violations of Namibia's territorial waters

after authorities seized five Spanish ships at the weekend. A sixth ship managed to get away.

Mr Gurirab said he stressed that this was not the first time he had had to lodge a complaint with the Spanish government on this issue.

He called on Spain to take steps to make its nationals desist from fishing illegally inside Namibia's 320-kilometre exclusive economic zone "lest the situation result in pouring cold water on otherwise friendly and constructive relations between our two countries".

He said Namibian authorities had information that between 10 and 12 Spanish ships carrying "stolen fish" caught off Namibia were headed back towards Spain. Mr Gurirab had asked the Spanish government to seize the ves-

sels and return the catches or alternatively fine the companies, in consultation with Namibian authorities, and repay the government.

The ambassador had reassured him, Mr Gurirab said, that it was not Spanish government policy to violate Namibia's territorial waters. But the Spanish government was not entirely in a position to do anything about private institutions.

Mr Gurirab said he told Mr de Boada y de Valgoma that he was Spain's representative in Namibia and that Spanish nationals had been involved, adding that the Spanish government "should not be technical" on the issue.

The five seized vessels were due in port at Luderitz yesterday. Their captains and fishing officers are due to appear in court today. — Sapa

# Portnet is luring Taiwan fishermen with its facilities

fishing

3



B 10 am 11/10/90

ABOUT 45% of foreign registered fishing vessels calling at the port of Cape Town are from Taiwan, says Portnet chief marketing manager Neil Oosthuizen.

Portnet has contact with Taiwanese nationals through servicing of fishing vessels and handling cargo through its eight commercial ports.

"We see this as a very important link. Cape Town often has the image of not being busy, but when you are in the port and see the fishing vessels you realise what an impact the foreign fishing fleets have," he says.

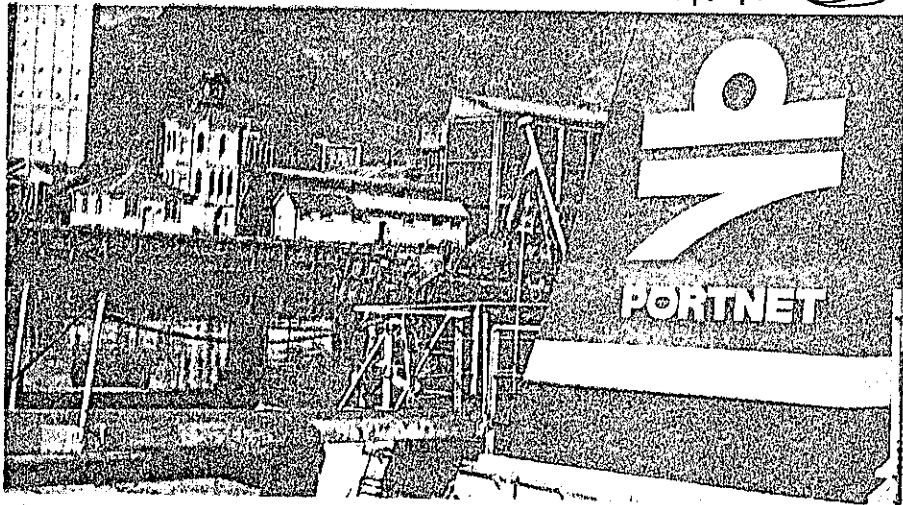
In 1989 there were 329 Taiwanese vessels stationed in Cape Town during the fishing season.

## Focusing

"We realise other ports would like to attract the Taiwanese fishing vessels so we are focusing on their needs.

"For example, recently Portnet, in conjunction with private enterprise and the ROC Embassy, opened a Chinese Club in the port of Cape Town.

"There the visiting Chinese seamen can relax, have traditional meals and baths and enjoy traditional



Numerous Taiwanese registered vessels utilise Portnet's facilities at the port of Cape Town.

entertainment," he says.

On the cargo front, the ROC also plays an important role. In 1989, 25% of all SA's imports came from the Far East, while 42% of SA exports went there. In 1989, Portnet handled 112-million tons of cargo.

"Portnet has built a reputation as a reliable supplier and operator. Following sanctions, when much of the trade shifted to Australia, Portnet has maintained its good reputation.

"To better service users, Portnet has embarked on a multi-million rand programme to upgrade facilities," Oosthuizen says.

In 1991, Portnet plans to spend R50m on replacing equipment and a further R20m on special cranes to handle containers in Durban.

"Also, a lot of Chinese businessmen are looking at trade and investment opportunities in SA.

## Equipped

"Portnet is there to facilitate trade. We are equipped for that.

"On the investment front, we are open to suggestions and would welcome joint ventures with the Chinese," he says.

Some joint ventures,

which will benefit Taiwanese fishing particularly, are already underway.

"We are planning to build a cold store in the port of Cape Town which will be capable of freezing fish at 60°C.

"This is the required temperature for shashimi (blue fin tuna), which is a delicacy in the Far East.


"The primary function of the store will be to receive fish from foreign vessels.

"Previously, in the case of shashimi, the fish could not be removed from the vessels because of insufficient freezer facilities in the port," he says.

# Namsea to diversify after poor season and results

8 Dec 26/10/90

*Blister*



NAMIBIAN Sea Products (Namsea), which was recently sold by Oceana Fishing to Windhoek-based Arun Holdings, is to diversify following a poor lobster season and a massive decline in earnings.

Commenting on the company's performance for the year to end-September in which earnings declined to 59,9c from 163,5c a share, the new directors said they had decided to make considerable investments in white fish trawling and tuna fishing sectors in Namibia.

They warned shareholders the 15c dividend declared would be the last for some time as the company would retain earnings for new investments.

Namsea is currently involved in pelagic — pilchard and anchovy — and rock lobster fishing through associated companies Seaflower Lobster Corporation and United Fishing Enterprises (UFE). The decline in earnings was ascribed largely to reduced lobster landings by Seaflower.

Although turnover increased by 21,6% to R9,8m and operating income by 21,9% to R2,5m, a virtual free fall from R8m to R1,5m in interest receipts and associated companies' dividend contributions reduced

LESLEY LAMBERT

untaxed earnings to R3,9m (R10m). Taxed earnings amounted to R2,2m.

Seaflower's poor lobster landings of 375 tons (717 tons) out of a quota allocation of 1 121 tons, were attributed to unusual physical characteristics in the ocean which affected the lobster's feeding habits and appetite for bait. Persistent swells and high winds had also impeded fishing operations, the directors said.

Pelagic UFE's landings of all pelagic species grew to 65 509 tons (53 755 tons).

Quota allocations for the 1990/91 season have not yet been announced.

Directors said results for the remainder of the financial period would depend on the level of lobster catches and the market for canned fish products.

Arun has offered Namsea minority shareholders a cash consideration of 565c a share for all or part of their shareholdings. The share, which hit a high of 850c in November last year and then tumbled to 400c in May, has recovered to 525c. The offer closes on November 30.

## COMPANIES

### Oceana selling off Namsea for R13,7m

OCEANA Fishing has moved to eliminate under-performing assets with the sale of its troubled subsidiary Namibian Sea Products (Namsea) to a UK-based investment company for R13,7m cash.

At per share level, the transaction involved the sale of 2,1-million non-cumulative preference shares at 37,5c each and 2,29-million ordinary shares at 565c each — 65c higher than yesterday's ruling price.

A similar offer will be made to Namsea minority shareholders.

The announcement follows an earlier cautionary announcement.

Namsea had not been performing well and it had been decided the best strategy was to dispose of it to UK-based Arun Holdings, executive chairman Walter Lewis said yesterday.

Namsea has suffered heavily from poor catches and reduced quotas over which it has had lengthy negotiations with the Namibian government.

Its results for the six months to end-March showed earnings plummeting from last year's 120,1c a share to 24,4c.

NEIL YORKE SMITH

Funds arising from the disposal would be invested in the SA fishing industry in the near future, Lewis added. *17 Dec 6/9/90*

"We are already studying potential acquisitions in some detail," he said.

Recent announcements suggest the acquisition of a company in the perlemoen industry is imminent, although no final details have been released yet.

Oceana is a subsidiary of Tiger Oats. *(3) Fishing*

*(2) Dividend*

Along with other fishing groups it has taken a hammering recently with interim earnings falling 61% to 70,9c.

The interim dividend of 30c was also much lower than last year's 55c.

Had the Namsea deal been effective from October and the funds invested in the money market, Oceana's interim earnings would have increased by 1,1c to 72c a share.

The shares have traded at about 1575c recently, well off the high of 2550c reached in August.



Cape Times 12/9/90

3 Fishy

Cape

# Cosatu fights gillnet fishing

By CHRIS BATEMAN

**TAIWANESE** gillnetting companies yesterday gained themselves a new and militant enemy — Cosatu — which is determined to use all legal means to put a stop to “gross” exploitation of local workers and the South African marine ecology.

At a press conference held to launch their campaign, local member union the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), said its members would refuse to handle any gillnetted tuna at local and West Coast factories.

Fawu's regional secretary, Ms Lucy Nyembe, said her union had members at all local cold storage factories which, she alleged, were openly storing the easily identified gillnetted tuna.

The campaign is a direct result of at least 38 South African trawlermen suffering frostbite-



**LEFT:** Mr Joseph Haddon, 33, of Bonteheuwel, shows his almost fingerless hands — the result of “forced” work in the freezer compartments of a Taiwanese gillnetting vessel. **RIGHT:** Mr Nodomezzi Loliwe, 35, of Guguletu, a former worker aboard a Taiwanese fishing trawler, who lost fingers through frostbite. **CENTRE:** At yesterday's antigillnetting press conference are, from left, Mr Nosey Pieterse, executive member of Fawu, Ms Lucy Nyembe, regional secretary of Cosatu, and trawler fishermen Mr Loliwe and Mr Haddon.

Pictures: STEWART COLMAN

related injuries, many of them losing all or some of their fingers from forced periods in the freezer compartments of foreign vessels.

Two of at least five local seamen present

yesterday showed the media their fingerless hands, the result of amputation due to frostbite.

Fawu national executive member Mr Nosey Pieterse said experts had predicted that with-

in three years gillnets would “exhaust all our resources”, turning coastal fishing villages into “ghost towns” with massive unemployment. There had already been 259 retrenchments

at seven Western Cape fish factories due to marine over-exploitation, he said.

He called for the immediate withdrawal of Taiwanese businesses from the country and

said the SA Department of Foreign Affairs had been approached to negotiate compensation for disabled sailors.

Ms Nyembe said previous attempts to negotiate with the Taiwanese

and/or their agents had been “fruitless”.

Mr Pieterse said an estimated 500 South African fishermen worked on Taiwanese and other foreign gillnetting vessels every season under

conditions far worse than those of the ships' own nationals.

“There's an element of racism — it's easier to exploit foreign workers than it is your own. They also know the history and track record of the South African government,” she said.

Recently two Taiwanese trawlers were successfully arrested by Cape Town lawyers as security for claims by frostbitten fishermen, one claiming R195 000 and the other R250 000.

Mr Joseph Haddon, 33, of Bonteheuwel, told reporters that for R500 a month he had been forced to work for up to 10 hours at a stretch in a trawler's freezer compartment. When he complained he was assaulted, he said.

The campaign will include picketing the Taiwanese embassy and local agents recruiting workers, marches in all fishing communities and a march in central Cape Town.

# Kotze knocks Cosatu briefing

CAT-71473 14/9/90 3 Feb 1990

By DANIEL SIMON

COSATU and the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) have been criticised by Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze for making "numerous" unfounded allegations and untrue statements over the "exploitation" of SA's marine resources by foreign fishing fleets.

Mr Kotze was referring to a press briefing called by Fawu and Cosatu on Tuesday, during which they outlined a strategy to protest against the over-exploitation of SA's marine reserves and

the abuse of SA seamen working on Taiwanese fishing trawlers.

Mr Kotze said the Fawu and Cosatu statements dealt with a wide range of topics — some of which had no simple answers.

"It is clear to me they are not fully informed on all the aspects. The Department of Environment Affairs and I follow an open-door policy and the Fawu and Cosatu are welcome to discuss matters of concern with us in detail."

He added that despite the impression that he and the SA government were perceived to be

"slack" over the use of gill nets, quite the opposite was the case.

Dolphin Action and Protection Group secretary Mrs Nan Rice said that until Regulation 69 (1) (:2) of the Sea Fisheries Act no 50, which permitted the use of gill nets was scrapped, nobody could take Mr Kotze's good intentions seriously.

Meanwhile, Fawu has expressed scepticism over the Taiwanese government's offer to compensate frostbitten sailors and wants to meet local representatives of the country.

# Cosatu, UDF join forces against the gillnet 'pirates' <sup>3 fishy</sup>

By DICK USHER and Sapa

COSATU and the United Democratic Front have linked arms with environmental pressure groups in a campaign against ecologically ruinous gill-netting and the "exploitation" of South African sailors by Taiwanese trawlers.

At a press conference this week, the Cosatu-affiliated Food and Allied Workers Union called for the immediate withdrawal of Taiwanese businesses from South Africa. Attempts to negotiate with the Taiwanese and their agents had proved fruitless, the union said.

The campaign will feature workplace demonstrations by fish processing workers, the "blacking" of fish caught in gillnets, picketing of the Taiwanese Embassy and agents recruiting for Taiwanese boats, public meetings, a conference of fishing workers later this month, marches and the mobilisation of the international community.

In recent months, Fawu said, 38 cases had come to light of workers who had lost fingers or the use of their hands through frostbite. It attributed this to inadequate protective clothing and medical care.

Racism was also a factor, the union complained. "Taiwanese workers on the vessels have better conditions, shorter shifts and superior medical facilities," a spokesman said.

He revealed the Department of Foreign Affairs had been approached to negotiate compensation for workers, who were not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act or health and safety laws.

Recently the Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town has taken up cudgels on their behalf, resulting in at least two instances of vessels being impounded.

Fawu's Nosi Pieterse said Taiwanese gillnet fishing, in which fine-mesh nets up to 100km long "sweep" the sea, was exhausting South Africa's marine resources. The spin-off was rising fish prices and job cuts as catches dropped.

At least 250 workers had lost jobs in local fish processing plants, while a further 170 fishermen lost jobs when their company closed down.

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# Taiwan clampdown on wall-of-death nets

By SHARKEY ISAACS  
Staff Reporter

STRICTER measures against the use of gill nets on Taiwanese trawlers in South African waters and plans to compensate the families of South African seamen maimed by frostbite have been announced.

Consul Mr Tom Chou made this announcement after a trade union Press conference highlighted the use of the nets and the maiming of 38 South African crewmen by frostbite-related injuries.

A joint call was made by the Congress of South African Trade Unions and its affiliate, the Food and Allied Workers' Union, urging Taiwanese businesses to withdraw from the country. It was also stressed that many of the injured would not be able to do manual work again.

## New regulations

Mr Chou said Taiwan's new regulations prohibited the use of gill nets on newly built fishing vessels.

"We forbid any gill-net fishing vessels to enter the Atlantic Ocean and any other country's economic zone.

"If anyone violates our regulations we will severely penalise them by suspending the vessel's licence for two years.

"We are encouraging our fishing vessels to use long-line methods. The government is offering a subsidy to those shipowners who have changed."

It intended to compensate the families of maimed crewmen. "Even after the government's assistance, the injured South African crew are still eligible to claim proper compensation from the shipowner."

of Bailey, vice-president of  
or High's Interact Club,  
partner Paul Kayman at  
school's matric dance.



# 'Wall of death' fishing controversy flares anew

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE controversy over gill-nets has flared anew, with several conservation organisations attacking Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé for his remarks about a trade union campaign against the wasteful fishing method.

Mr Kotzé said last week the campaign by the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) and the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) against Taiwanese gill-netters was based partly on misinformation and ignorance.

He also denied that he and the government were "slack" towards the use of gill-nets.

## FATAL FLAW

"Together with a few other countries, South Africa is at the spearhead of an international attempt to stop this unacceptable and destructive fishing method," he said.

But veteran marine conservationist Mrs Nan Rice has hit out at anti-gill-net legislation, saying the permit system which allowed gill-netters to dock in South African ports was a fatal flaw.

She has been supported by the Cape Town branch of Earthlife Africa which said it was "extremely discon-

certed" to note that — despite a claim by Mr Kotzé that no gill-netters would be allowed in South African ports after July 31 — permits had been issued to Taiwanese vessels with gill-nets to dock in Cape Town until the end of the year.

"The minister must take a firm stand on this matter — either he sticks by his word, or admits that he only acts when expedient and has no intention of upholding South Africa's so-called 'firm' stand against gill-netting", the statement said.

## MIGRATORY STOCKS

Both Mrs Rice and Earthlife have called for anti-gill-netting legislation similar to South Africa's anti-whaling laws of the 1970s which made it an offence for South African nationals to work aboard whalers or for any support to be given to such vessels.

In another statement, the Cape Town Ecology Group said it was "disappointed" by Mr Kotzé's reaction to the Fawu/Cosatu campaign.

"Gill-netting poses a definite threat, particularly to migratory stocks such as tuna.

"We believe that in such a situation the only suitable policy is extreme caution, which means *no* commercial fishing until any possible risk can be contained."

# Fawu campaign continues

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is proceeding with its fishing industry campaign despite an accusation by the Minister of Environment and Water Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, that the union was ill-informed. Last week Fawu called for

the withdrawal of Taiwanese businesses from South Africa and claimed that gill-netting vessels from the Far East were depleting South African fishing reserves.

In response, Kotze pointed to stringent legislation making it an offence for gill-netting vessels to enter SA ports without a permit and providing for heavy fines for

those who defied the law.

A joint statement issued by Fawu and Cosatu this week said that it was not true to say that gill-net fishing had been outlawed. More than 100 vessels had been given permits to enter SA ports this year, they claimed.

The statement said if the government was serious about ending gill-net fishing, then it should remove the permit system and make it illegal for South Africans to work on gill-netters.

While Kotze last week claimed the fishing industry was showing healthy growth, Fawu says the opposite was happening.

The union said about 25 trawlers were being auctioned off with about 170 fishermen losing their jobs, while more than 250 workers are to be retrenched from several companies.

The union claimed that pilchard and anchovy resources were nearly depleted and the same was likely to happen to tuna.

## Severe injuries

The union is to meet Taiwanese government representatives on Friday to discuss compensation for the more than 30 workers who have suffered severe injuries as a result of being forced to work for protracted periods without adequate protection in the freezer compartments of Taiwanese trawlers.

The union also intends to meet with Kotze.

Fawu is holding a fishing industry conference in Cape Town this week and is planning several marches later this month.

The union has said its members at local and West Coast factories will refuse

rsday, September 28, 1993

CAAL-7infj

3 Fishy

# Taiwan warns of R50m trade loss

CAPE TOWN could lose a staggering R50 million a year if Taiwanese trawler owners, plagued by bad publicity over gill-netting and dangerous shipboard conditions, stopped using South African ports, a Taiwanese consular official warned yesterday.

Mr Tom Chou, the Cape Town-based consul for fishing affairs, was responding to inquiries about the economic impact of the public outcry surrounding Taiwanese trawlers.

And, according to Mr Chou, an "embarrassing misunderstanding" seemed to have arisen regarding an earlier statement that the Taiwanese government would compensate the families of some 40 frostbitten sailors.

Claims for compensation would still have to be pursued via the South African civil courts, he said.

"However, on the basis of humanitarian grounds and the good

relations between the two countries, the Taiwanese government would like to offer them something as a token of goodwill."

He confirmed an invitation by the Food and Allied Workers Union to discuss the impact of gill-netting on local fish resources and jobs, and compensation for frostbitten sailors, but said he was still waiting for official permission to hold a meeting.

"I cannot say if the (Taiwanese) government will give the go-ahead."

He nonetheless sincerely wished to see a solution to the problems associated with gill-netters and their crews.

Public outrage at the persistent use of the "wall of death" gill-netting method by Taiwanese trawlers, and the plight of South African sailors disabled by frostbite while working on these boats, had already prompted some skippers to shun local ports, he said.

"Bad publicity has already

seen some vessels going to Mauritius, instead of Table Bay Harbour, which they actually wish to use."

Besides being equipped with superior harbour facilities, Cape Town was strategically placed between the Far Eastern Republic of China and the rich squid grounds off the Falkland Islands in the southern Atlantic.

Between November and March, fleets of up to 150 Taiwanese squid boats plied between Taiwan and the Falklands fishing grounds, docking in Cape Town for supply and bunkering purposes.

"Last year, 329 vessels passed through Table Bay harbour, taking on fuel, seeking repairs and being resupplied. Each boat had, on average, a crew of 25. For that year alone, the presence of these vessels was worth R50m for Cape Town.

"Given the economic impact of our vessels entering the harbour, both sides benefit," said Mr Chou. — Sapa



# Saldanha's bitter harvest

THE threatened boycott of a West Coast town festival has highlighted the rift between white and black residents in many coastal towns in the Cape. (3) Fishing (3)

A conference of fish industry workers organised by the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) last week decided to call for a boycott of the Saldanha "Harvest of the Sea" Festival this weekend on the grounds that the town's black community, largely employed by the fishing industry, has "no cause to celebrate".

"Workers in the fishing industry cannot see any reason to be festive," said Fawu spokesperson Mr Nosey Pieterse.

"They are experiencing the depletion of our country's marine resources, low wages, poor working conditions and re-trenchments".

### Popular

While Fawu gears up for a boycott, on the other side of town the festival committee, oblivious to the protest call, is steeling itself for an influx of more than 25 000 tourists.

The festival, the sixth of its kind in the normally sedate town, is popular with white farmers from inland.

According to a festival committee organiser, the two-day event is intended to publicise the town and give people the chance to have fun.

The disparity between Saldanha's black and white community is not unique to the town.

Delegates to Fawu's conference came from a range of Cape coastal towns, including luxury holiday resorts like Hermanus and elite residential areas like Hout Bay — itself the scene of a festival boycott last year — where squatter settlements are steadily intruding on the scenic valley's palatial homes.

Now Fawu intends mobilising workers in these towns.

A series of rallies as well as a march in central Cape Town is scheduled to take place next month from St Helena to Plettenberg Bay.



CHILDREN'S FEAST: The rights of children were highlighted at the colourful, fun-filled International Children's Day Festival in Maynardville last Saturday

Amnesty

South 27/9 - 3/10/90

FROM PAGE ONE

Support Group, was intended to coincide with De Klerk's visit in the US.

"In spite of the Pretoria Minute, security prisons are still full of people and political trials are still going on around the country," said Mr Jeremy Vearey, one of the Group's coordinators.

MONO BADELA reports from Johannesburg that the delay in the release of political prisoners is one of the hottest issues to be discussed at the launch of the ANC in the PWV region this weekend.

Several ANC branches in the area have submitted strong motions about the issue and ANC spokesperson Ms Barbara Hogan said the issue would almost certainly be included in a programme of action.

Hogan said there was "bitter anger" about the slow rate of releases as well as continued detentions.

Dr Max Coleman of the Human Rights Commission said the government was "dragging its feet".

## Mandela to address PE youth on negotiations

From XOLA SIGONYELA  
PORT ELIZABETH. — ANC deputy president Nelson Mandela is due to address a regional conference on negotiations organised by the South African Youth Congress (Sayco) in Port Elizabeth this weekend.

Sayco has invited a range of youth groups, including those opposed to negotiations, to the conference. ANC security chief, Mr Joe Nhlanhla, will also attend.

A Sayco spokesperson said preparations were being made to accommodate more than 1 000 delegates from all centres of the Eastern Cape.

He said invitations had been sent to all fraternal organisations, and positive feed-

back had been received. "What we want is the youth from other groupings to seek clarification from the ANC's leadership on negotiations."

Other issues to be discussed during the conference include the role of the youth during the negotiations process.

Areas expected to send delegates include the Albany zone, Great Karoo, Port Elizabeth and the Midlands district.

According to the spokesperson, invitations had been sent to the Azanian Students Movement (Azasim), Azanian National Youth Unity (Azanyu), Azanian Youth Organisation (Azayo), Pan Africanist Students Organisation (Paso) and the Democratic Party Youth. — PEN

# Landmark congress for Nactu

South 27/9 - 3/10/90

By CHIARA CARTER  
A CONGRESS likely to have far-reaching significance for the labour movement is taking place in

participation in the national Manpower Commission, redistribution of wealth and the merger of affiliates to form strong industrial unions — a move resisted by some unions who fear losing their inde-

## SA detests the use of gill nets, says Gert Kotze

W. Mail 31/8 - 2/9/90

DURBAN: The biggest environmental challenge facing South Africa was how to balance the ideals and expectations of the First World with the realities and needs of the Third World, said Environmental and Water Affairs Minister Gert Kotze.

"Every inhabitant of the Republic is entitled to live, work, and relax in a safe, productive, healthy and aesthetically and culturally acceptable environment," Kotze told the Natal National Party congress yesterday. He said the concept of sustainable development was linked to this goal.

"Development is only sustainable when it meets the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirs."

Kotze emphasised the importance of South Africa's marine resources, not only for their aesthetic and recreational value, but also as a fishing industry which was generating employment for 27 000 people and foreign exchange.

The pressure on South Africa's marine resources was intensified by 300 000 rock and beach anglers, some 170 000 boat anglers and about 58 000 private divers and fish hunters.

"The sea is generous and its harvest bountiful, but it is not unlimited."

Kotze said he took strong objection to the impression conveyed through the media that his ministry was "slack" about the use of gill nets.

"Quite the opposite is the case. South Africa is at the spearhead of an international attempt to stop this unacceptable and destructive fishing method.

"Vessels with gill nets, or gill netted fish on board, are not welcome in South African waters." — Sapa

# SPCA poised for seal war

BY JOCELYN MAKER  
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE SPCA will call in the "heavy artillery" if the government decides to go ahead with the Kleinsee seal harvesting.

Legal action is one of the options and they are prepared to face a head-on battle with Mr Gert Kotzé, Minister of the Department of Environment Affairs.

The day the temporary suspension on the clubbing project is lifted and permit-holder Mr Hsein-I-Hsu can begin his grisly operation, the Cape Town SPCA will use every means at its disposal to save the seals.

This dramatic move, supported by the SPCA's national body, could place Mr Kotzé in a difficult position.

## About-face

Under the Animal Protection Act the operation would result in unnecessary suffering to the seals and, according to the SPCA, on this alone the harvesting is illegal.

Animal Rights activists and environmentalists have welcomed the SPCA's stand but have criticised the organisation for its sudden about-face.

Last year Mr Hsu butchered more than 4 000 seals at Kleinsee for their testicles.

In a Weekend Argus investigation it was found that he was allowed to contravene his permit after the Department of Environment Affairs acted "leniently".

The permit stated that Mr Hsu had to use whole seal carcasses but in the presence of two Sea Fisheries law-enforcement officers and the SPCA's regional chief executive, Mr Keith Goudie, the seals were clubbed and dumped after their genitals were removed.

## "Mistake"

Mr Goudie's presence at the harvest caused much anger but he has come out in defence of the SPCA.

"We were not happy with the situation, and are not just a dog-and-cat society. We have studied the seal issue fully. At last year's harvesting with Mr Hsu we were given the assurance that he was working towards utilising the whole carcass. Unfortunately I made a mistake.

"We monitored the killing to ensure that the least inhumane method was used in terms of the Sea Bird and Seal Protection Act. I was also under impression that this Act overshadowed the Animal Protection Act. Now we have established that this is not so."

Mr Goudie said that in a letter to Mr Kotzé in May 1987 he warned that the harvesting or culling of the seals would result in public reaction and that the society was against the operation.

"There are many reasons why the harvesting should not be allowed to continue and we have made the minister aware of these as well."

There is no scientific evidence to support the view that the killing of 30 500 seals would restore any form of ecological balance.

The view that seals competed with the fishing industry for fish and similar resources was no

## Move could put Minister 'in difficulty'

justification for the harvesting.

"This opinion was propounded by the Diemont Commission where many of the views appear to be based on little more than fishermen's lore — which have been discredited in scientific circles and in recent Press statements by the Department of Environment Affairs."

As recently as 1983 the Alant Commission expressly warned: "Seals, sea-birds and other predators on commercially important pelagic shoal-fish should not be culled if the principal objective for doing so is to attempt to make more fish available to the industry.

## "Untenable"

"In any event, no culling of any kind should be allowed before adequate scientific studies had been completed."

Yet over the past few years the Port Nolloth Municipality, a Cape Town businessman and Mr Hsu have harvested seals at Kleinsee mainly for their genitals.

"We have made the strongest objections possible to the supposed economic benefit derived from the seal-killing. The department used the misleading euphemism that part of the seals would be used for "medicinal purposes", Mr Goudie said.

"This is untenable. The commercial exploitation of the genitalia for sexual stimulation — physiologically, by irritating the urinary tract — is unacceptable.

"It is also to be asked how consistent South Africa's stance is in this regard given its official opposition to the use of rhino horn for the same repugnant purpose in the aphrodisiac market."

# 166 gill-net trawlers with dock permits

By ANDREA WEISS  
Staff Reporter

16645  
8/18/90  
3786  
THE Taiwanese trawler from which a Macaque monkey was confiscated by the SPCA is one of a 166 gill-netting trawlers given permission to use Cape Town harbour until the end of the year.

The monkey, from the Far East, was taken off the Ruey Yih No 2 on Monday following a complaint about its living conditions.

## TIGHTER CONTROLS

Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said she noticed the Ruey Yih No 2 was on the list of ships with permits.

This was confirmed by Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

There are five categories of permits, some allowing vessels to keep their gill-nets on board while in harbour and to tranship gill-netted catches in port.

Mrs Rice said she had information which indicated that because of tighter controls in the South and North Pacific gill-netters were turning their attention to the Indian Ocean and South Atlantic.

She was strongly opposed to the permits because it effectively allowed ships to use South African ports until the end of the year while carrying on their gill-netting activities.

Dr Neethling said there was no evidence that gill-nets were being used in South African territorial waters. The ships were inspected regularly for penguins and seals and their permits checked every time they docked.

● The monkey, in quarantine at the SPCA in Grassy Park, will have to be tested for SIV (a virus similar to Aids found in monkeys), tuberculosis and the B-virus.

## PRECAUTIONS

To monkeys, the B-virus is a relatively harmless herpes-type virus but it is potentially fatal to human beings. It attacks the nervous system, causes paralysis and eventual death.

Staff at the SPCA have settled the monkey in a quarantine cage but are taking precautions by wearing surgical masks and gloves around the animal.

The monkey's blood will be tested to establish if it is carrying these diseases.

*Cape Town 9/8/60 (Friday)*  
**Gill nets: 3 in court**

THREE Korean men yesterday appeared in Cape Town Magistrate's Court charged with entering Cape Town harbour carrying gill nets without a permit, following their transfer from East London earlier in the day.

The captain of the Simon 51, alias Petrous No 1, Mr Yeo Hyo Jong, 41, appeared with Mr Dusik Meoeng Cheong, 43, of Golden Grove Road, Rondebosch, and Mr Cho Chang Won, 21, of High Level Road, Sea Point.

All three men pleaded guilty to having entered Table Bay without a permit from the Sea Fisheries Department between April and June this year.

The case was adjourned to August 29.

Mr Jong was released on bail of R1 000 and his co-accused on their own recognisances.

The magistrate was Mr D J Oosthuysen. Mr J Hobbs was the prosecutor. The men were not represented.

# Seal-slaughter: Startling claims

3 Fishy

W/E ARGUS 11/8/90

By JOCELYN MAKER  
Weekend Argus Reporter  
**STARTLING** allegations of years of gross government mismanagement and cruelty in the harvesting of Kleinsee seals have been disclosed.

And decisions taken by former Minister of Environmental Affairs Mr John Wiley and the present minister, Mr Gert Kotzé, on the slaughtering are being questioned.

Mr Kotzé is also being accused of allowing the harvesting to continue during his term of office even though he had information that the project had no foundation in terms of ecological management, or that it is economically viable.

## Barbaric

The Seal Action Group (SAG) has lashed out in the strongest possible terms after articles on the sealing industry appeared in the latest report of the Department of Environment Affairs, Chief Directorate Marine Development, dated 1986, but published in 1989.

This report was published only last year and covered the sealing industry up to 1986, during Mr Wiley's term. The next report becomes available next week.

The SAG is appalled at the barbaric, inhumane and unscientific methods used to reduce the seal population at Kleinsee during 1984 and 1986.

The group has also reacted strongly to what the report states as the probable reasons why there was a drastic decline in the number of seal pups at Kleinsee during this period.

- Human presence during the prolonged harvesting of bulls during the critical pupping season would have led to many pups being abandoned by their mothers and left to starve;

- Others would have been trampled to death in stampedes caused by the activities of the sealers;

- The removal of 6 890 cows immediately reduced the potential pup production;

- The removal of over 16 000

bulls in two years may have reduced mating efficiency, resulting in a reduction in pregnancy rate; and

- Harvesting during the birth season would have caused disturbance leading to some cows deserting the colony and not returning to mate.

"Never was the Kleinsee colony overpopulated and there was no scientific basis, then or now, for the brutal slaughter. This past history proves it," the SAG said.

The harvesting did not stop in 1983 when the world market for pup skins was banned by the European parliament. The American market had already been closed to South Africa since 1976.

In an effort to maintain commercial viability, said the report, there was a major increase in the number of bulls slaughtered for their testicles.

What has angered the SAG even more is that in 1986 a permit to harvest pups was given to a Port Nolloth businessman who was new to sealing.

However, the department's expected boost for local employment did not materialise as a seal harvest could not be carried out with inexperienced personnel. Experienced sealers from Elim were brought in.

The scientific recommended quota was 14 000 pups, but this was increased to 20 000 by the minister. The report gave no reason for this.

The report did say the quota was not filled because there were not enough pups to kill and no market for their skins had been found five months after the killings. The only marketable commodity produced was blubber oil, but its value was insufficient to cover the cost of the operation.

"Why was the quota increased to 20 000 and where does economic viability come into this? It appears that the pups were killed for nothing even when there was evidence that between 1983 and 1985 the drop in the pup numbers was over 48 percent and remained low in 1986," SAG said.

■ See page 13

## Kleinsee: Group claims delaying tactic

W/E ARGUS 11/8/90

3 Fishy

Weekend Argus Reporter  
**THE** Seal Action Group is concerned that the Department of Environmental Affairs has not taken steps to form the recently announced scientific committee to investigate the Kleinsee seal fiasco.

The lack of action is proof that the formation of the committee is a delaying tactic, the group claims.

"Surely information should have been available before a decision to harvest the seals

was made and not afterwards. The department certainly follows a strange decision-making process."

The group said it discussed the names of the scientists who are supposed to be on the committee with Dr Louis Botha, director of sea fisheries, on July 24 and was told a month would be allowed for examining scientific information.

"But 2½ weeks later no official notification has been

sent to the scientists although the Minister, Mr Gert Kotzé, set a deadline of September 30 for information from the committee.

"It is unreasonable to expect people with full schedules to take part in the in-depth study project with no notice. Also it defies logic to waste the time of some of our leading scientists for nothing."

The group expressed concern at the mountain of misinformation and "web of lies"

surrounding the Kleinsee issue.

"In spite of reports to the contrary from the Taiwanese Embassy, Mr Hsein-I-Hsu, who holds the seal-harvesting permit, has not withdrawn from his contract, his factory is being finished and the department is doing nothing to resolve the question."

Dr Jozua Serfontein, deputy director of Environmental Affairs, was not available for comment.

FIM 17890

NATRAWL

(3) fishing

## Lighter load

**Activities:** Trawling for crustaceans on the Natal and Mozambique coasts.

**Control:** Directors 57,3% (1988: 60,3%).

**Chairman:** J W Walsh.

**Capital structure:** 19,5m ords. Market capitalisation: R5,85m.

**Share market:** Price: 30c. Yields: 23,2% on earnings; p:e ratio, 4,3. 12-month high, 80c; low, 30c. Trading volume last quarter, 65 300 shares.

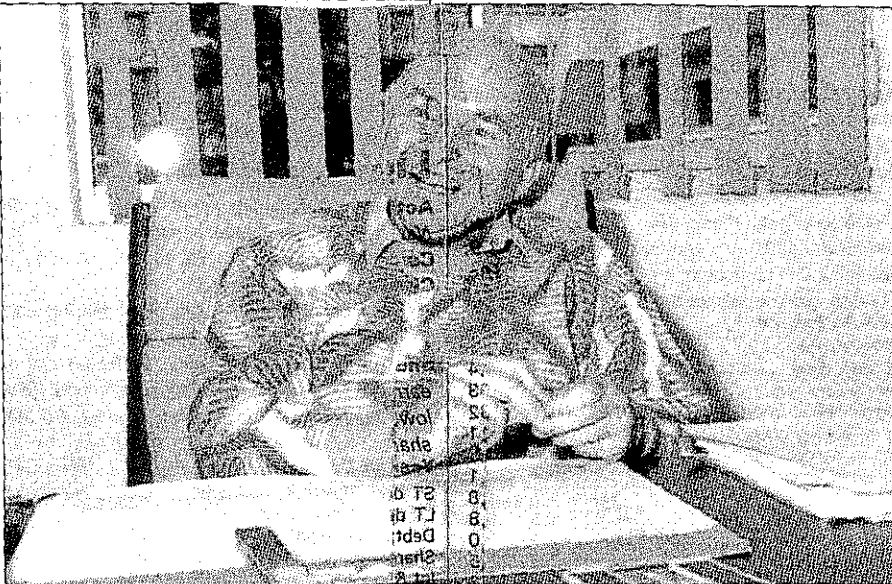
Year to Dec 31	'87	'88	'89
ST debt (Rm)	0,1	0,2	0,6
LT debt (Rm)	1,2	10,6	9,0
Debt:equity ratio	0,22	2,0	0,8
Shareholders' interest	0,37	0,25	0,43
Int & leasing cover	11,5	10,7	2,0
Return on cap (%)	24,7	12,7	7,4
Turnover (Rm)	4,8	13,0	15,0
Pre-int profit (Rm)	1,4	2,8	2,1
Pre-int margin (%)	28,8	21,7	13,7
Earnings (c)	8,7	†17,5	7,0
Dividends (c)	3	*6	—
Net worth (c)	15	39	61

\* Calculated on 19,5m ords, of which 5,5m were issued in Jan 1989.

† EPS based on 14m ords at year end.

With the benefit of hindsight, Natrawl chairman Jack Walsh is kicking himself for two major financial decisions that took effect in 1989. They adversely affected Natrawl's profit, its financial structure and its short-term outlook.

When the decisions were made, prospects for a rationalised fishing industry off the coasts of Natal and Mozambique looked rosy. And it was thought then that interest rates would not exceed 16%. Thus, the opportunity to acquire Quintas Trawling for R12m and buying from Irving & Johnson



Natrawl's Walsh ... fishing results disappointing (3) fishing

(I&J) (which holds 18% of Natrawl), two large trawlers that required costly refurbishing did not appear too daunting.

But financial risk goes with the high risk profile of the fishing industry. The hoped-for rationalisation has not occurred and current interest rates have meant an unexpectedly high interest bill.

Over the past two years Natrawl has spent R19m on acquisitions and capex. Since shareholders' funds were R8,5m at the 1988 year-end, this was evidently over-ambitious. The debt:equity ratio was eased by the issue of 5,5m ords in part payment for Quintas, but funds had to be borrowed to finance the balance of the purchase price and for the

date for the Randburg by-election.

*Cape Town 17/8/90*

*3 Feb*

## **Tuna haul: Two in court**

A KOREAN and a Spanish citizen made another brief appearance in Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the unloading of an undisclosed amount of tuna fish in Table Bay harbour last month. Mr Dusik Myeng Chyong, 42, a Spanish citizen of Golden Grove Road, Rondebosch, and Mr Cho Chang Won, 29, a Korean citizen of Highlevel Road, Sea Point, were arrested in Table Bay harbour on July 6. They have not been asked to plead. The hearing was postponed to August 29.



# Sealer turns down R5-m

By JOCELYN MAKER  
Weekend Argus Reporter

W/E ARGUS  
18/8/90

3/12/90  
THE Taiwanese businessman embroiled in the controversial seal-killing project at Kleinsee has flatly refused to sell his processing factory at Port Nolloth.

Mr Hsein-I-Hsu is adamant that he will continue harvesting seals and not even a R5-million offer has changed his mind, says Cape Town businessman Mr Mike Jones.

Pressure from the Republic of China, and local and international public outrage over the slaughter of the seals will not stand in his way.

He says no government has any jurisdiction over his private business ventures and he and his partner, who lives in Taipei, are the only two who can decide.

This week Mr Jones, director of Harvest for Life, who holds the world patent for a unique high-

protein food, came face-to-face with Mr Hsu.

"I want to buy Mr Hsu's factory to process fish to make my high-protein meal which has been recognised as a solution to feeding the world's starving masses.

"If the government's scientific study on the seal population at Kleinsee proves that harvesting should not go ahead, what is Mr Hsu going to do with his factory?"

"I asked him if his factory was for sale and he wanted to know why. I told him I wanted to buy it so I could process fish to make my product.

"I first made an offer of R1,5 million and then went up to R2 million, which included him as a partner. He was evasive and when I made an offer of R5 million he was still not interested. I think I could have offered him twice that amount and he still would not have budged."

A source close to Mr Hsu said the Port Nolloth processing and canning factory was only one of his businesses in Southern Africa.

"It's a sideline. He also owns a factory in Transkei as well as a number of other partnerships in other concerns. What these are I don't know."

After his meeting with Mr Hsu, Mr Jones met the deputy-director of environmental affairs, Dr Jozua Serfontein, chief director of Sea Fisheries Mr Piet le Roux and director of Sea Fisheries Dr Louis Botha to ask them for a 5 000-ton quota of fish to make his product.

"They were extremely helpful, but told me I had to meet the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé and the Minister of Health, Dr Rina Venter, which will take place in the next two weeks.

"They all agreed that Harvest for Life has the answer."

# New strikecraft a weapon against fishing pirates

ARbus 24/8/90

3 Fish

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Defence Reporter

THE Navy's Israeli-designed strikecraft may be replaced in the next 10 years by a new class of warship of about 2 000 tons — about four times the displacement of the current vessels, the Chief of the Navy, Vice-Admiral Lambert "Woody" Woodburne, has said.

He also gave details of the Navy's increasingly important role in controlling fish piracy in South African territorial waters.

Admiral Woodburne said in an interview South Africa's new warships would probably have an anti-submarine capability and they would be able to remain at sea for longer periods than the nine 430-ton Minister class vessels which now

comprise the backbone of South Africa's sea-going strike force.

Crew fatigue had been a problem on the current strikecraft and the crews on the new ships would be much more comfortable, Admiral Woodburne said.

## Maritime patrols

"They will be able to fulfill a maritime patrol role much better than the present strikecraft."

The Minister-class vessels will have to be replaced by the year 2000 because they have worked hard and their hulls have taken strain since the first was launched in the 1970s, the Navy chief said.

Asked about the use of the current strikecraft to round up foreign vessels fishing illegally in South African waters, Admiral Woodburne said they were

used only at the request of the Department of Environment Affairs.

He described a recent case when a strikecraft apprehended a foreign vessel.

"The Navy's command and control lines are very direct — Naval HQ can communicate directly with a ship at sea.

"It happened in the recent case involving a Korean vessel. The strikecraft was sent out to look for the vessel, but failed to find it. Heading back to Durban, the strikecraft saw the vessel in Transkei waters.

"The strikecraft continued on her course, but noticed that the Korean vessel was turning. Once back in South African waters, the strikecraft watched. By then we were probably out of the Korean vessel's radar range, because it returned to South African waters. Then the strikecraft pounced."



# Gillnet laws too slack, say experts

3 Fish

AKG 45  
28/8/90



By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

CONSERVATIONISTS and fishing industry representatives fear Asian vessels will find ways of circumventing South Africa's anti-gill netting legislation in the new season. They have asked for the regulations to be tightened.

But Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé replied that he was satisfied that present regulations — if strictly enforced — were effective in preventing the use of gill nets in South African waters and in "discouraging" their use on the high seas.

## Destructive

Mr Kotzé announced earlier this year that no gill netters would be allowed into South African ports after July 31.

But Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which has spearheaded the campaign against the use of the destructive nets, has queried why permits issued to some of these vessels are valid until December 31 — well after the start of the summer fishing season.

"By allowing known gill netting vessels to enter our harbour and ports, and giving them support systems such as fuel, repair facilities and bait — as has been the practice since January — South Africa is aiding and abetting the destruction of the marine ecosystem in both the southern Indian and Atlantic oceans," she said in a letter to Mr Kotzé.

Gill netting had escalated markedly in these areas in recent years, she pointed out.

From information from the United Kingdom, it appeared that in 1983/84 only one vessel had been using gill nets to fish for tuna in the Indian Ocean. By 1988/89 there were 139, and

this year at least registered 174 gill netters — "and I know there are many more not listed" — were operating around the South African coast, Mrs Rice said.

"South African fishing sources fear, because of loopholes in the Sea Fisheries legislation, that Asian vessels will find ways of again entering our ports en route to the Falklands at the end of the year. I have no reason to doubt such fears."

Mrs Rice called for the permit system for gill netters to be dropped, charging it rendered existing legislation "useless".

## "Walls of death"

"Those who claim to have the conservation of the marine ecosystem as a whole at heart should be gravely concerned about the escalation of gill netting activities in both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, not just South Africa's 320 mile exclusive fishing zone," she said.

"The repercussions on both our tuna fishing industry and marine animals and other fish species caught up in these 'walls of death' during their deployment could be disastrous, and everything possible should be done by governments able to do so, to support international efforts to get gill netting banned."

# Captain 'told crew to scuttle illegal nets'

CMT-71215 30/8/90

3 Fishy

Court Reporter

THE captain of a Korean fishing trawler ordered that illegal gill nets should be weighted and thrown overboard when police arrested the vessel in East London harbour, Cape Town Magistrate's Court heard yesterday.

But according to a South African crew member, the nets were thrown overboard unweighted and later scooped up by police.

This was according to the factory manager of the Simon 51, alias Petrous No 1, Mr Johan Plaatjies, who was giving evidence against three Korean citizens Mr Yeo Hyo Jong, 41, Mr Dusik Meong Cheong, 43, and Mr Cho Chang Won, 29, who face charges of carrying the illegal equipment without a Sea Fisheries Department permit in June.

He also said that a South African naval vessel tried to contact the Petrous by radio off the Transkei coast, but that the captain, Mr Jong, turned the radio off.

He said a message to dock in East London en route to Cape Town was later received.

Mr Plaatjies said the crew had carried out the order to throw the nets overboard because disobeying any orders meant 10% salary cuts or punishment by way of being deprived of food while at sea.

Mr Plaatjies said that on arrival at East London harbour the boat was met by policemen who placed the accused under police guard.

He said that when police left he was called to Mr Jong's cabin where he was told to throw the gill nets overboard before their return.

The trial was adjourned to September 6.

The magistrate was Mr O Schrenck. Miss L Scholtz prosecuted. The accused were not represented.

# Namibians propose quid pro quota deal

8/10am 30/8/90

CAPE TOWN — The Namibian government has agreed to increase pilchard fishing quotas to SA companies fishing off Walvis Bay on condition that they pay their seasonal employees two months' salary as a bonus.

The companies with Namibian fishing concessions have undertaken to pay the generous bonus to about 1 000 seasonal factory workers in the three processing factories they share in Walvis Bay.

It is estimated that this quid pro quo agreement will cost the industry R2m upfront, but that the higher fishing volumes

LESLEY LAMBERT

allowed by the increased quotas should make up for the loss.

The agreement follows negotiations over the annual pilchard quota, which was reduced by 20% from last season's 50 000 tons to the current season's 40 000 tons.

One of the concessionaires, the SA-based Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), threatened to take legal action against the Namibian Sea Fisheries Department after its subsidiaries' share of the quota was slashed by 51,6%.

Under the new agreement, Ocfish's fortunes have done a complete turnaround and the group has agreed to suspend legal action.

The allocations granted to its Namibian subsidiaries, Namfish and Namsea, have increased from the original 1 244 tons each, which represented a 51,6% decline on the previous year, to about 4 910 tons each, a 47,3% increase over the same period, said Ocfish director Sol Pick.

The overall annual quota, which originally declined by 20% to 40 000 tons, has now been increased by 25% to 62 500.

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## KOTZE BANS THE USE OF GILL NETS IN SA WATERS

LESLEY LAMBERT

(3) fishing

NO PERMITS to fish in SA waters would again be issued to vessels with gill nets or gill-netted fish aboard, Environmental Affairs Minister Gert Kotze said at the NP congress in Durban yesterday.

Kotze, who has been accused of taking too soft a line on gill-net fishing, said SA had spearheaded international initiatives to stop destructive fishing methods and would continue to do so.

"We will pursue strong measures, both nationally and internationally, in an attempt to abolish the use of this destructive fishing method. Fishing with gill nets is unacceptable and vessels with gill nets or gill-netted fish on board are not welcome in SA," he said.

In July last year, SA was one of the first countries to ban the possession of gill nets without a necessary permit. At the end of the year it decided to stop issuing the permits altogether, with the exception of a fleet of squid vessels which received temporary permits for the purpose of disembarking SA seamen and refuelling en route to China.

Since then, about 20 vessels have been apprehended, and some charged, for illegal possession of the nets.

Kotze also expressed concern at the extent to which local and international fishing vessels were poaching fish from SA waters.

The fish resource was of great value to the economy, he said. Its wholesale value amounted to R900m last year and foreign earnings totalled R350m. If this "theft" was not controlled, the resource could be seriously affected, he said.

Strict new measures were recently introduced. They included hefty fines up to a maximum of R1m and provided for the confiscation of poachers' vessels. In addition, the SA Navy had agreed to help patrol SA's coastal region and arrest poachers.

# 'Army-style' plan to save the seals

3 Fish  
CART TRIPS 2/7/90  
By DALE GRANGER

ENVIRONMENTAL organisations are planning "military style" demonstrations involving boats, aircraft, banners and non-toxic dye to prevent the clubbing and exporting of 30 000 seals from Kleinzee, near Port Nolloth.

And the Seal Action Group (SAG) has offered the government R6 000 in place of the money it stands to make from the Taiwanese businessman who secured a culling licence which will yield him R1,2-R1,4 million.

This was decided at a meeting in the Observatory community hall yesterday, attended by more than 100 animal lovers and environmentalists who also demanded the resignation of the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze. A peaceful protest will also be held at lunchtime on Greenmarket Square this Friday, and the SAG will circulate a petition protesting against the venture.

The organisations lobbying to prevent seal clubbing are SAG, Beauty Without Cruelty, the Dolphin Action and Protection Group and Greenpeace, which will co-ordinate action in the UK and the US. At the meeting SAG spokesman Mr Philip Stewart

To page 3

near Port Nolloth.

CART TRIPS 2/7/90

(3 Fish)

Picture: STEWART COLMAN



**A HELPING HAND ...** Senior SPCA inspector Mr Aloudien Toefy extends a helping hand to a weary seal rescued by the SPCA this weekend. The large seal, stranded at Fish Hoek, was given a vitamin B12 injection and cared for overnight before being released near Seal Island.

Picture: BENNY GOOL

From page 1

described seal clubbing as a "barbaric, horrific and disgusting" method of killing seals.

The SAG would pursue political channels to stop the killing and if this failed, people from all over South Africa would converge on Kleinzee on July 15 for non-violent action — and if necessary, remain for the four-month season.

"It will be like a military exercise, we will apply to De Beers for permission to enter their property and if need be we will use boats to land on the beaches," Mr Stewart said.

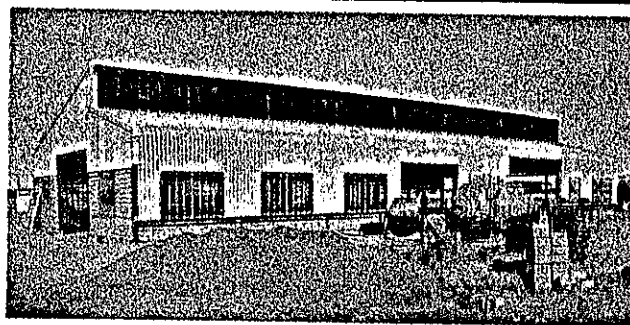
He said people would form human barriers protecting the seals and aircraft would carry banners. Ms Christine Berry of Beauty Without Cruelty said that since the seal-culling plan was made public, her telephone had not stopped ringing with calls from "outraged people".

Mr Stef Nel, legal co-ordinator of the SAG, said he was looking into the legal ramifications of entering De Beers-owned property without permission.

He said the Taiwanese seal factory was being built on the area and protests could involve passive methods of preventing workers from gaining access.

Department of Environmental Affairs spokesman Mr N du Bois said last night that "anyone who thinks the government is doing this for R6 000 is very naive; money is not the option".

He said seals were a high-protein natural resource which must be utilised and protected. "The government is investigating this and other resources to see how they can be utilised to the maximum benefit of mankind."



**GOING UP:** The processing and canning factory being built in Port Nolloth for the harvesting of 30 500 seals.

**FACTORY FOREMAN:** A Taiwanese national, left, identified only as Mr Chu, is in charge of building operations.



## SPCA: We'll prosecute for 'cruelty'

By ANDREA WEISS, Staff Reporter

**CRUELTY** will inevitably arise during the clubbing of seals in Kleinsee and the government should reconsider its decision, SPCA chief executive officer Mr Keith Goudie said as public controversy over the issue escalated.

In a statement yesterday, Mr Goudie repeated a warning that the SPCA would not hesitate to prosecute for cruelty.

Also, the SPCA had contacted Sea Fisheries and reminded the chief director of a letter sent to the Minister of the Environment in 1987, when the society had warned that it was undesirable to either "cull" or "harvest" seals, Mr Goudie said.

In the letter, then Environment Affairs Minister, the late Mr John Wiley, had been warned that because there was strong antipathy to sealing, the further killing of seals could lead to a boycott of the very valuable rock lobster industry.

### INSPECTORS PRESENT

Mr Goudie said the SPCA was of the opinion that cruelty would "inevitably arise" not only through the physical act of killing but also from related stress.

Inspectors and a veterinarian would be present from the start of the killing and any act of cruelty would result in prosecution, he said.

"The SPCA calls on the Chief Director of Sea Fisheries to reconsider the decision relating to the unnecessary slaughter of these animals."

The Democratic Party's Environmental Forum in the Western Cape last night said it was "strongly opposed" to the proposed "harvest" of the Cape fur seal.

"The Environmental Forum holds a method such as clubbing to be imprecise due to human fallibility and that the seals are not immobilised prior to clubbing.

"Further, the barbaric nature of the killing is degrading and brutalising to the people employed in this activity."

● In Durban, battlelines were being drawn between "animal caring" organisations and "human caring conservationists".

In a television programme on Good Morning South Africa, Mr Keith Cooper, conservation director of the Wildlife Society, supported the culling, providing the seal population was not "damaged".

But Mandy Crerar, a spokesman for Falcon (Front for Animal Liberation and Conservation of Nature) responded by accusing the society of being a human-based conservation organisation.

"Are they there for the people or the animals?" she asked.

AR 6/3 3/7/90  
**Jobless  
welcome  
seal  
factory**

### Staff Reporter

NOT everybody is opposed to the killing of seals at Kleinsee near Port Nolloth — particularly those who see it as an all-too-rare opportunity to earn a living.

One such person is Mr Gert Louw, 40, an unemployed carpenter who said: "I am a worker. I want work and I want to work here in Port Nolloth."

A processing and canning factory is being built in the West Coast fishing town in preparation for the controversial Taiwanese-backed operation to kill about 30 000 seals later this month.

### METAL BAR

Mr Louw has put his name down at the seal processing factory and would prefer to do something he is trained for. But, if he has to, he will take part in the clubbing.

He did it before with a metal bar when he was 16 years old for R35 a week.

"It's good work but it is difficult sometimes — they bite," Mr Louw said.

He said he would get into a group and lash out, aiming to hit them on the nose, and hit up to 10 in a short space of time.

### "NEED THE MONEY"

"I would prefer a carpenter's job but I need the money. I will do it for R70 or R80 a day."

Mr Louw said he did not know if the clubbers would be paid on a daily rate or for each seal.

"If I am paid for each seal I could kill 200, 300 or 400 seals a day," he said.

Mr Miller said Mr Simon Webb, general manager of the De Beers diamond mine, had indicated that the Press would be allowed access to the seal colony if the Department of Sea Fisheries approved.

### RESTRICTED AREA

The colony is in a restricted diamond area.

A Taiwanese businessman has been granted permission to conduct the operation from July 15 this year. His permit will be renewed on an annual basis, according to the Department of Environment Affairs.

The factory is still being built and it may not be ready by mid-July when the operation is due to begin.

● See page 15.

## What the people say

### 'Barbaric, unacceptable practice'

I AM not prepared to sit back while Dr David and his cronies from SA Sea Fisheries organise the slaughter of 30 000 seals for the benefit of Taiwanese aphrodisiacs.

I am incensed and disgusted that this practice is happening under our noses. Firstly, what right do they have to claim these seals as their property?

Secondly, how dare Dr David state on national radio that people must view this practice as a good business deal, rather than an emotional issue?

I call for a public outcry against what I view to be a barbaric and unacceptable practice.

It is time for action on an emotional level as well as an animals rights level. What other defence do these animals have?

The claim that seals are a threat to the fishing industry is not as serious as we are led to believe. Otherwise a cull would be their order of the day. Let the environmental scientists' work be their order of the day. Let the environmental scientists work on a seal repellent. There will be an alternative if we the public so demand.

Finally, let us not forget about the recent outcry against the Taiwanese practice of using gill nets. How then can they justify this practice of harvesting seals for monetary gain?

I call for action on behalf of seal rights.

(Miss) L JONES  
Somerset West

### Rationale for culling seals 'weak, thin'

THE rationalisation concerning the government approval of the culling of 30 000 seal cubs is weak and thinly disguised.

"They will be stunned with specially approved 2 m long clubs" translates in undisguised form to "they will be smashed on the heads with clubs".

The fact that the clubs have been "specially approved" by some biased person is little consolation to the cubs or to the people who care about the issue.

The justification of their deaths: "The whole carcass will be used... the genitals will be exported to the East as aphrodisiacs," does not soften the blow as it was clearly meant to. It makes it WORSE!

How on earth can the Department of Sea Fisheries condone the manufacture of aphrodisiacs when it's common knowledge that improved sexual performance is only a perceived benefit of aphrodisiac use and the real end result is merely an irritation of the urinary tract.

As long as unenlightened people continue to pander to the sexually insecure population in the East, rhinos will continue to perish for their horns and hibernating bears will continue to be slaughtered, in the most cowardly manner known to man, for their gall bladders.

Even if 50 good reasons existed for culling those animals, the use of their genitals as aphrodisiacs should be highly illegal and that ridiculous myth should be exposed for once and for all. It has literally cost millions of lives!

CAROLYN OUTHWAITE  
Johannesburg



# Seals: darlings or

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

**T**HEY'RE the darlings of conservationists, the scourge of fishermen — and the nightmare of South Africa's Department of Environment Affairs.

As in previous years, a major controversy is now raging over the killing of thousands of Cape fur seals (*Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus*).

These sleek creatures with eyes like "limpid pools", so appealing on television screens around the world, were hunted intensively and indiscriminately at the Cape by Dutch, French and British sealers from the early 17th century. By the time the first legal protection was introduced in 1893, more than 20 of their island breeding colonies had been totally destroyed.

## Decimated

These included Robben (hence the name), Dassen and Possession Islands — none of which has ever been re-colonised — and the decimated seal population was reduced to its lowest level at the turn of this century.

Seals now occupy 23 breeding colonies along about 3 000km of coastline between Algoa Bay in the east to just south of the Kunene River in the north. Six colonies — including the four largest, one at them at Kleinsee near Port Nolloth, where in 1984 the seal population was estimated at 400 000 — are on the mainland and 17 are on small rocky islands.

Since 1971 there have been regular aerial surveys and tag-recapture exercises to measure populations at the various breeding colonies and scientists have interpreted the present growth in the seal population, estimated now at about 1.3-million, as the recovery to historical levels.

Seals have always competed with humans for fish. Fish-



ermen the world over still curse (or worse) when their catches are taken. But there is no hard evidence that seals do these fishermen out of a livelihood.

While several commissions of inquiry in the past 20 years have recommended a reduction in seal numbers, the only investigation carried out by scientists, the Alant Commission of Inquiry in 1983, recommended that seals should not be culled if the main aim was to make more fish available for the industry.

This was accepted by the then Minister of Environment Affairs, the late Mr John Wiley. However, this did not stop Mr Wiley from sponsoring an ill-conceived scheme in 1986 to reduce the seal population on Seal Island in False Bay, ostensibly to help fishermen. This involved stationing two men on the island to frighten the seals off, and, in theory, inhibiting them from breeding. Dubbed "seal-shooting" by the Press, the scheme was immediately attacked by conservationists as cruel and inhuman, particularly as seal pups were separated from their mothers. An unusually large number of pups was washed up on the False Bay coast that season.

The SPCA convened a conference to discuss the issue in probably the most comprehensive look at the seal "problem" in South Africa's history. Chaired by eminent ecologist and Benguela ecosystem expert Professor W Roy Siegfried of the University of Cape Town, the conference included marine scientists, SPCA executives, a fishing industry economist, a



**SEAL COLONY:** An aerial view of part of a 300 000 strong sea Port Nolloth — 30 000 of which are doomed to

trawler skipper and a fishing industry executive.

The conference found that the overall increase in the seal population could be almost entirely attributable to increases at the three largest mainland colonies — Kleinsee and Wolf and Atlas Bays in Namibia. Other findings included:

- Seals' consumption of fish in purse seine nets did not appear to be a problem;

- The seals did not pose significant problems for the bottom-trawl industry, while disturbance to the West Coast rock lobster industry merited investigation;

- Seals did not appear to be a serious problem for West Coast line fishermen catching

mostly snoek, but a scientific assessment was needed of handline fishermen's losses on the south coast; and

- Seals did appear to interfere with long-line fishing and a proper study was needed.

The conference recommended a four-year moratorium on culling of seals, if the motivation for such culling was solely to reduce the population or growth rate. It recommended that if any culling was to be sanctioned, it should be restricted to Kleinsee.

The Department of Environment Affairs continued to set culling quotas, and in 1987 this was set at 30 000 for Kleinsee, with other small quotas for Seal Island (False

# Jan. 1ste. reg nie beskikbaar/Jan. 1st. reg not available

# the scourge?—



colony near the fishing village of become pet food.

Bay), Geyser Rock (near Agulhas) and Sinclair's Island and Long Island, both off the Namibian coast.

But South African entrepreneurs were reluctant to take these quotas up, particularly because of increasingly strident protests which had caused the seal fur trade to crash overseas and a slackening of the Eastern demand for seal genitalia which had caused the price to drop from \$300 per kilogram to \$120.

It is a matter of pride to many South Africans that their government subscribes to the World Conservation Strategy (WCS) of the United Nations' International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. This strategy calls for the ra-

tional utilisation of natural resources, including living resources such as marine mammals like seals.

And there lies the core of the sealing controversy — what does "rational" actually mean?

To its credit, the Department of Environment Affairs now appears reluctant to consider "rational" the killing of bull seals solely for their genitalia. But when a Taiwanese businessman offered to pay for a five year quota — 30 500 seals this year — and utilise all parts of the animals, the Department believed this fell squarely within its internationally accepted, WCS-based policy.

There was no doubt the thriving seal population could sustain an annual harvest. And — something Eurocentric-oriented conservationists often overlook — there was the bonus that the seal "harvesting" project would provide something like 50 jobs and a cash injection in the form of wages to a desperately impoverished community.

But those economic benefits were accruing to a handful of people, with the major profits going to a foreigner whose fellow nationals have an extremely poor conservation track record. Is this sufficient to warrant the deaths of 30 500 animals?

### Harvesting

The deputy director general of the Department of Environment Affairs, Dr Jozua Serfontein, was quoted in a radio news broadcast as being surprised at the public outcry. South Africa had been culling, killing or harvesting seals for years. Why now the fuss? he wanted to know.

Dr Serfontein's memory must have been playing tricks, for as the former head of what is now the Chief Directorate (Sea Fisheries), he

was in the thick of the sealing controversy in former years. More surprising, though, was his apparent lack of appreciation of the change in public consciousness over the past three or four years.

For there has been a huge increase in awareness of environmental issues. It is true that people are not always well informed and often react on a purely emotional level, and there is a strong need for proper environmental education. But at the end of the day the government and its agencies are supposed to serve the people.

That is already problematic in South Africa for different reasons. But it must be clear to the Department of Environment Affairs that killing wild animals for simple profit, with minimum demonstrable benefits to South Africans and in a manner seen as terribly cruel, is now simply unacceptable to a large number of the country's citizens. And the growing abhorrence of such killing is not restricted to this country; the intense and unprecedented international media interest in this year's proposed harvest is symptomatic of a much wider concern.

### Free spirits

Harvard socio-biologist Edward Wilson has this to say: "In the end it will all come down to ethics — how we value the natural world in which we have evolved and how, increasingly, we regard our status as individuals. We are fundamentally free spirits who reached this high level of rationality by the perpetual creation of new options."

In the absence of any other convincing arguments, the killing of thousands of Cape fur seals, or any other wild animals, for pure profit is either morally acceptable as an option or not.

The debate is as simple — and as complex — as that.

# Culling of seals to go on till 1994

By DANIEL SIMON

A TAIWANESE company — which will club and shoot 30 500 seals at Kleinsee this year — killed 3 670 seals from the same colony last year and is expected to kill tens of thousands more by 1994 — when its contract expires.

It also emerged that:

● The construction of South Africa's first seal-processing plant at Port Nolloth could soon lead to other "Taiwanese ventures" springing up to manufacture products from processed seals.

● The largest conservation group in the US — the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) — has pledged to throw in its weight behind SA conservation bodies who are trying to stop the culling.

## Quota unfulfilled

It was learnt yesterday that Jih Weh Industries, headed by Taiwanese national Mr H Hsu, was granted a five-year government permit on July 15 last year.

The company's quota last year was similar to this year's figure, but due to "problems" could not be fulfilled.

Since then, a factory has been erected to provide for the harvests, which will be determined on a yearly basis by a "cull curve" derived from scientific research.

Sea Fisheries spokesman Mr Arno Slater yesterday said the Taiwan-

To page 3

From page 1

## Seals



**IN DANGER** ... International conservationists will join SA environmental groups to fight government plans to cull over 30 000 seals off the West Coast. These seals were photographed on Seal Island yesterday.

Picture: ERIC MILLER

ese concern "had intentions to establish secondary phase factories" in the town.

Without elaborating further, Environmental Affairs deputy director-general Dr Jozua Serfontein alleged that the SPCA and the United Nations conservation body "were involved" in the decision to cull the Kleinsee seals.

He added that the SPCA would be allowed to monitor the cullings.

Meanwhile, the government has refused the money offered in exchange for the lives of the seals earmarked for clubbing, according to a Johannesburg section of Earthlife Africa.

Earthlife Africa and the Seal Action Group are planning several protests to prevent the clubbing of the seals.

Our Transvaal corre-

spondent reports that a local Johannesburg newspaper yesterday pledged to "buy" 2 000 seals. The paper said it would pay 50c per seal — 30c more than what is to be paid by the Taiwanese businessmen.

In Pretoria it is reported that a pharmacist and a homeopath have each offered R6 000 in an effort to counter the Taiwanese offer.

Dolphin Action and Protection Group spokesman Mrs Nan Rice last night said she was informed by a member of IFAW that it was to hold a meeting and organise mass protests.

● The SPCA in Cape Town yesterday requested the chief director of Sea Fisheries to reconsider what it termed "the unnecessary slaughter of seals".

uses burnt or their vigilantes.

PARIS. — Animal-loving actress Brigitte Bardot offered yesterday to pay South African authorities \$22 500 (R58 500) if they would cancel plans to allow the slaughter of 25 000 seal pups.

The former sex symbol, now a militant animal-rights advocate, released an open letter addressed to President F W de Klerk, urging him to block the killings.

South African authorities have given a Taiwanese business group permission to kill 25 000 seal pups and 5 000 adult male seals in a harvesting operation set to begin near Port Nolloth on July 15.

"25 000 baby seals are to be massacred on your territory in the coming days," the letter said. "Knowing that each baby seal represents a potential value of five francs (R2,34), I propose to finance the entire

<sup>over 7mcs</sup>  
**Brigitte Bardot**  
<sup>3 fishy</sup>  
**offers to buy seals**

budget of 125 000 francs (R58 500).

"At a time when your country seems to want to establish a new political ethic, I dare to believe that commercial considerations won't prevail over respect for life," Bardot wrote.

In an interview with Radio France International, Bardot urged a worldwide campaign to save the seals and said she might travel to South Africa before the killings started, to seek a meeting with Mr De Klerk. — Sapa-AP

● xref SEALSS — Page 3



Supplement 1

# Seals are a threat to fish resources — govt

CAPE TOWN — SA's 1,2-million seal population consumes as many fish a year as are caught by the SA and Namibian fishing industries and unless controlled could threaten the fish resources, says the Environment Affairs Department.

This and other scientifically researched arguments supporting the controlled culling of seals have been released by the department in an attempt to justify the imminent clubbing to death of 30 500 seals along the west coast.

The Environment Affairs Sea Fisheries Research Institute reports that the seal population has a significant impact on fishing resources and other marine creatures.

3 Fishing  
LESLEY LAMBERT

The institute has expressed concern that, at current levels, the population is threatening the survival of these species and that culling may have to be accepted as a future necessity.

The department argues that its management of the seal resource has complied with SPCA recommendations and it would never allow the population to drop to endangered levels.

In 1987 the SPCA recommended that culling be suspended for four years, during which time data would be collected on the effect of seals on the environment.

However, it also stated that this moratorium should not preclude harvesting and suggested that any culling and harvesting which did take place should be limited to Kleinsee — where culling of 30 500 seals by a Taiwanese company for fur, meat and genitalia will be permitted from July 15.

In defending its seal policy yesterday, the department avoided the most critical issue in the emotional resistance which has risen — the manner in which the animals are to be killed.

A department spokesman said this and other issues related to the culling would be addressed later this week.

● Comment: Page 8

5/Decy J 17/79

# Stay of execution for West Co

By JOHN YELD and  
HENRI du PLESSIS  
Staff Reporters

THE government's controversial decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to kill 30 500 Cape fur seals at Klein-zee on the West Coast has been suspended after a national and international outcry.

In an abrupt about-face that was cautiously welcomed by conservationists, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, said in an interview from Lisbon that he had decided to temporarily suspend the harvest as it was "only fair

to give proper consideration to public complaints".

Only hours earlier Mr Kotzé had emphasised that his department's decision stood. A department spokesman said in Cape Town early today he was unaware of any change.

Mr Kotzé said the culling programme had not been shelved and strongly denied his department had been forced to backtrack because of the public outcry. He told SABC radio news from Lisbon that the suspension would afford him more time to assess objections.

"The culling of wild animals

is always unpleasant but, unfortunately, cannot always be avoided. In the light of misgivings about the procedure, the culling will be temporarily suspended. I hope to be back in South Africa before the end of the month and then I will immediately give my attention to objections."

Mr Kotzé's announcement was greeted with caution by the recently formed Seal Action Group.

"It gives us a little more time to put a really cohesive, hard-hitting programme together," spokesman Ms Kim Clarkin said.

A temporary suspension was "a pretty old ploy", she added. "It's a delaying tactic in the hope that the public will lose interest."

In her reaction, veteran marine conservationist Mrs Nan Rice said she was grateful to Mr Kotzé for his decision. But she warned: "At the moment we are only in the eye of the cyclone, and campaigning to save the seals must go on."

Ms Christine Berry of Beauty Without Cruelty said the news was "superb".

At the weekend she had been interviewed by the three major

United States television networks and international radio stations.

"I think the government went into it far too quickly."

In Paris former film star and now militant animal-rights advocate Brigitte Bardot offered to pay South African authorities \$22 500 (R58 500) to cancel plans to slaughter the seals.

She said in an open letter to President De Klerk, urging him to block the killings: "At a time when your country seems to want to establish a new political ethic, I dare to believe that commercial considerations

## ast seals

won't prevail over respect for life."

The ANC also added its voice to protests over the culling plans. The Argus Correspondent reports from Johannesburg.

Mr Jafra Lekgetho, ANC spokesman on environment affairs, said there were many environmental and nature conservation bodies the government should have consulted before deciding to allow the seals to be killed.

● Yesterday the Department of Environment Affairs justified its decision to allow the

killing in a lengthy statement — the second in less than a week.

It said the Cape fur seal population had grown to proportions which could be too high in an ecosystem which was already heavily affected by man.

In 1988 about 280 000 seal pups had been born and the population presently stood at more than 1,2 million, the department's statement said.

According to the statement, the department tried to adhere to the definition of conservation of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

3 - Fishing

1/28/90 4/7/90

# Seals responsible for cormorant, penguin decline

Cape Times 4/7/90  
By BRONWYN DAVIDS

AN exploding seal population has had a direct effect on the decline of the near extinct jackass penguin and bank cormorant populations on the north western Cape coastline, the Department of Environment Affairs indicated yesterday.

The department has issued the first of a three statements which will justify their decision to grant permission to a Taiwanese company to club and shoot 30 500 seals at Kleinsee this year.

According to the department, "the South African fur seal is now the most abundant seal species" and the total population stands at more than 1,2 million.

Culling the seal population is therefore be a valid option to balance the marine ecosystem and to ensure the survival of "other equally valued members of the Southern African marine ecosystem".

"Seals also had a significant impact on the fishing industry, which employed about 25 700 people and in 1988 the total wholesale value of the South African catch exceeded R900 million. It thus has an important role in the socio-economics of the south and west coasts and the influence of seals in this field also has to be considered."

# Seals uproar: Govt, Taiwan 'embarrassed'

By DANIEL SIMON

THE Department of Environment Affairs is hoping that the major uproar caused by its decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to cull 30 500 seals at Kleinsee — which was temporarily deferred yesterday — will not harm South Africa's relationship with Taiwan.

Environment Affairs deputy director-general Dr Jozua Serfontein said both the government and Taiwan were "embarrassed" over the bad publicity the scheme has received, locally and abroad.

"We have a very good relationship with Taiwan and they are as embarrassed as we are over the affair. I hope this does not harm our relationship," he said.

Dr Serfontein added that it was his department which approached Taiwan to undertake the project when local entrepreneurs showed no interest in the venture.

In declaring a temporary halt to the commercial venture, which was to start on July 15, Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze said from Portugal yesterday that it was "with dismay" that he had taken note of public re-

action in South Africa and in other countries.

Mr Kotze said the decision to "reduce" the seal numbers at Kleinsee was taken after thorough consideration.

He added that a request was issued to Jieh Weh Industries not to begin the killing until he had returned to South Africa at the end of the month and reconsidered the matter.

In a response, the Seal Action Group (SAG) yesterday said it viewed Mr Kotze's announcement as a "victory" and that SAG would double its efforts in putting a "permanent halt" to the project.

"Mr Kotze has said the temporary halt will give him time to assess objections to the proposed culling. It will also give us time to rally our forces," SAG spokesman Mr Stef Snel said.

Mr Pierre Mukheibir, chairman of Earthlife Africa Cape Town, said the organisation welcomed the announcement.

"We see this as a direct result of sustained public protest. However, the minister's statement is another example of the ambivalence and indecisiveness he has shown throughout this past week.

"We demand that he withdraw the permit immediate-

ly, instead of inventing new justification for it," he said.

Meanwhile, residents of Port Nolloth — including a local policeman — yesterday said a commercial seal venture in the town was a "good idea".

However, although it would offer work to some 50 people, some residents said they were not too happy over the method with which the culling would be carried out.

A local policeman, who declined to identify himself, yesterday said seals were regarded by him as a "pest" which threatened the livelihood of numerous fishermen.

He added that the project, if it went ahead, would provide jobs and money for numerous people in the area.

"We have a squatter camp which houses about 2 500 unemployed people. The factory will help us as it will reduce crime," he said.

Port Nolloth Town Clerk Mr L Groenewald said 40% of males in the town were unemployed.

"It would help if the project went ahead. It would bring in about R18 400 in wages a month for the town. This is much-needed money."



**KALK BAY PROPOSAL:** A diagram of the Kalk Bay upgrading proposals, indicating the three main areas for re-development, or "activity anchors", the proposed walkway and arrowed areas where community facilities will be provided.

# Kalk Bay face-lift

R4,42 million plan to upgrade facilities

By MICHAEL DOMAN, False Bay Bureau

A COMMITTEE investigating the upgrading of Kalk Bay has proposed spending R4,42 million on new housing on a limited scale, improved traffic light access to the harbour and the extension of the coastal walkway.

These proposals, in draft form at this stage, are to be discussed this week in a series of workshops to give locals an opportunity to comment directly to committee members.

The framework document isolates three "activity anchors" — the harbour and adjacent open space known as The Point, the New Kings and Majestic hotels sites, and the Brass Bell and environs.

The Point has been suggested as a site for high income housing and tourist accommodation.

At least 30 high density low-rise units have been suggested, with a possible 40 to 60 more units over retail developments proposed for the harbour and the Main Road.

## More lively

Promotion of higher housing densities and bed-and-breakfast and tourist accommodation is also likely to be encouraged, providing existing views and the character of the area are respected.

The committee has said the present harbour buildings could be demolished to enable re-development. The harbour area could become more lively with restaurants, sightseeing boat trips and a locally-staffed and supplied shop or market.

Suggested ventures in the harbour precinct include a fisherman's tavern, an upmarket restaurant to capitalise on the views of the harbour and False Bay, and the upgrading or expansion of the Brass Bell.

The tidal pools on the seaward side of the Brass Bell should also be upgraded for "more friendly inter-relationship" between these two facilities.

The committee has recommended that the major private landholder — the owner of the New Kings and Majestic sites — be encouraged to relocate the present institutional use of the old hotels. Instead, they should create a major residential/tourist development in keeping with the general character of Kalk Bay.

Proposals include extending the coastal walkway from Muizenberg to St James to Kalk Bay along the landward side of the railway line. The route would continue through the harbour across a bridge and then along the rocks at The Point to link up once again with Main Road on the way to Fish Hoek.

This would be done in three stages, first heading southwards from the station towards Fish Hoek, before linking the station to Dalebrook Pool.

Linkages between the coastal walkway and the Silvermine Nature Reserve trails, along pedestrian walkways and steps in Kalk Bay, will be well signposted.

Main Road's colonnaded shopping strip is to be protected and expanded on the seaward side of the road if it does not interfere with views.

The committee had earlier recommended reviewing present major road-widening schemes and deleting a road-over-rail bridge from the Outspan to the harbour. They contend that these proposals would destroy the ambience and potential of Kalk Bay.

However, acknowledging the congestion and parking problems in the area, the committee has suggested gaining 98 additional parking bays for visitors at the Point development and the strip of land between the railway line and the Main Road.

The bottleneck at the entrance to the harbour would be avoided by a computer-controlled boom for safe access to the harbour. The boom would be linked to a set of traffic lights and turning lanes into and out of the harbour.

A further proposal is the upgrading of the exterior of the existing fishermen's flats at a cost of R205 000.

In addition, if loan finance can be arranged, 24 more units behind the flats are proposed. This would cost R1,75 million, or R72 900 for each 80 square metre unit. The amount is not included in the total R4,42 million upgrading price tag.

Community facilities which could be provided include a playing field and community centre at the Outspan, as well as a kickabout area, new equipment, a netball court, grassing and tree-planting at the Fishermen's Flats square.

City planner Mr Neville Riley emphasised in the framework document that none of the proposals had received any form of official approval and that final proposals would be drawn up only once comments had been received.

It was hoped to submit the final framework to the city council and its standing committees for approval by August, and then to key Kalk Bay public landholders such as Transnet and the Cape Provincial Administration in September.



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# Seal-cull: Kotzé sticks to his guns

w/le Arcus 7/7/90

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By FRANS ESTERHUYSE  
in Cape Town  
and CHRIS WHITFIELD  
in London  
Weekend Argus Reporters

THE Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, is facing a tough battle against accusations that he and his department bungled the West Coast seal-harvesting project which drew a worldwide outcry from conservationists.

The huge emotional reaction to the proposed killing of more than 30 000 seals has clearly come as a surprise to the Minister and officials of his department. As the storm mounted this week the minister announced from Portugal that the culling operation was to be suspended temporarily.

But in an interview with Weekend Argus Mr Kotzé made it clear yesterday that he was sticking to his guns in spite of the decision to suspend the culling.

## Inconsistencies

He said he had decided to assess "all the complaints from the public and conservationists" when he returned to South Africa, probably on July 22.

Meanwhile criticism is mounting in political and even government circles that the whole matter has been bungled, partly because of glaring inconsistencies between his statements and those from officials in his department.

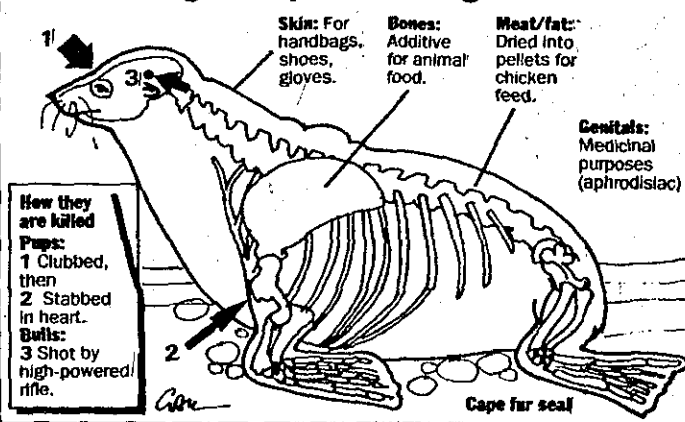
While the Minister claims the decision to approve the project was based on scientific evidence, he appears to have been contradicted by claims from his department about such evidence.

In yesterday's interview the Minister repeated arguments about the amount of fish consumed by seals, saying his figures were based on statistics from the Sea Fisheries Institute.

## Need to adjust

But a senior official of his department said: "We have no hard evidence about the effect of the seal population growth rate on other marine life, but we believe the present harvest quota will not wipe seals out completely. People have to adjust their attitudes and start thinking about seals as they would about sheep, cows and fish, which we manage without disaster."

## Harvesting and processing seals



Another official, Dr J Serfontein, deputy director-general of environment affairs, said: "Since we have been issuing concessions for seal harvesting for many years... we are surprised that such an outcry resulted, which has a damaging effect on the South African conservation image."

"With the wisdom of hindsight we would have done a much better job of informing and convincing people that what we are doing is right. It cannot be said that we are insensitive to the change in the consciousness of the nation regarding conservation."

● From London, Sue Leeman

reports that the international environmental protection agency Greenpeace, whose vessel Rainbow Warrior is renowned for its clashes with Japanese whaling ships, says it is looking into the proposed clubbing of 30 000 seals off the Cape.

Speaking from the Brussels headquarters of Greenpeace, a spokesman said the organisation would take action if what the South African government says is a justified cull turns out to be nothing more than a hunt for commercial gain.

The spokesman added that Greenpeace and other environ-

mental organisations remained strongly opposed to the clubbing of seals.

"We don't approve of this at all — clubbing is something that should have disappeared. We are talking to officials to see what can be done."

Among those Greenpeace may contact could be the Taiwanese authorities themselves, he said.

"We have contacted Taiwan before on the subject of drift net fishing."

## Conflicting

"But right now we're trying to find out as many details as possible. We have mixed reports about why, how long and where the seal parts are likely to go."

"We also have conflicting reports about the justification: whether it is just a hunt or whether there is fisheries justification for this."

Once the reasons for the cull had been established, he said, Greenpeace would decide what to do. One method was to lobby European officials to try and get them to put pressure on their South African counterparts.

The spokesman added that it was vital to find out where the pelts were going.

"These are fur seals and there has traditionally been little market for their pelts in the Far East."

■ See page 15.

# Longline fishing to be banned at end of year

By ANDREA WEISS  
Weekend Argus Reporter

LONGLINE fishing is to be banned from the end of the year and the kingklip quota more than halved, Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotzé has announced.

Mr Kotzé made the decision to "phase out" longline fishing on "scientific advice and recommendations of the Sea Fisheries advisory committee."

The fishing quota for kingklip is being cut from 2 500 tons to 1 000 tons for this year.

A closed season for kingklip in

an area on the Cape south coast has been extended by six weeks. It begins on July 15 and will end on October 31 — not on September 15 as before.

Mr Kotzé's office said the deep-sea trawling industry had been asked to stop catches by longline immediately.

The longline method, started in 1983, allowed kingklip to be caught in areas where trawling was not possible because of the rocky seabed. Since 1930 kingklip were caught "fairly extensively" by trawling.

"This has given rise to the weakening of the resource because these areas are presumably important spawning grounds for kingklip. In 1986 catches of kingklip both by trawling and longline started to decline."

As kingklip catches decreased, longline fishing was directed at hake.

"The policy adopted to protect the hake resource against over-exploitation is producing good results. Scientists are optimistic that adjustments to the 1990 quota could be announced in due course."

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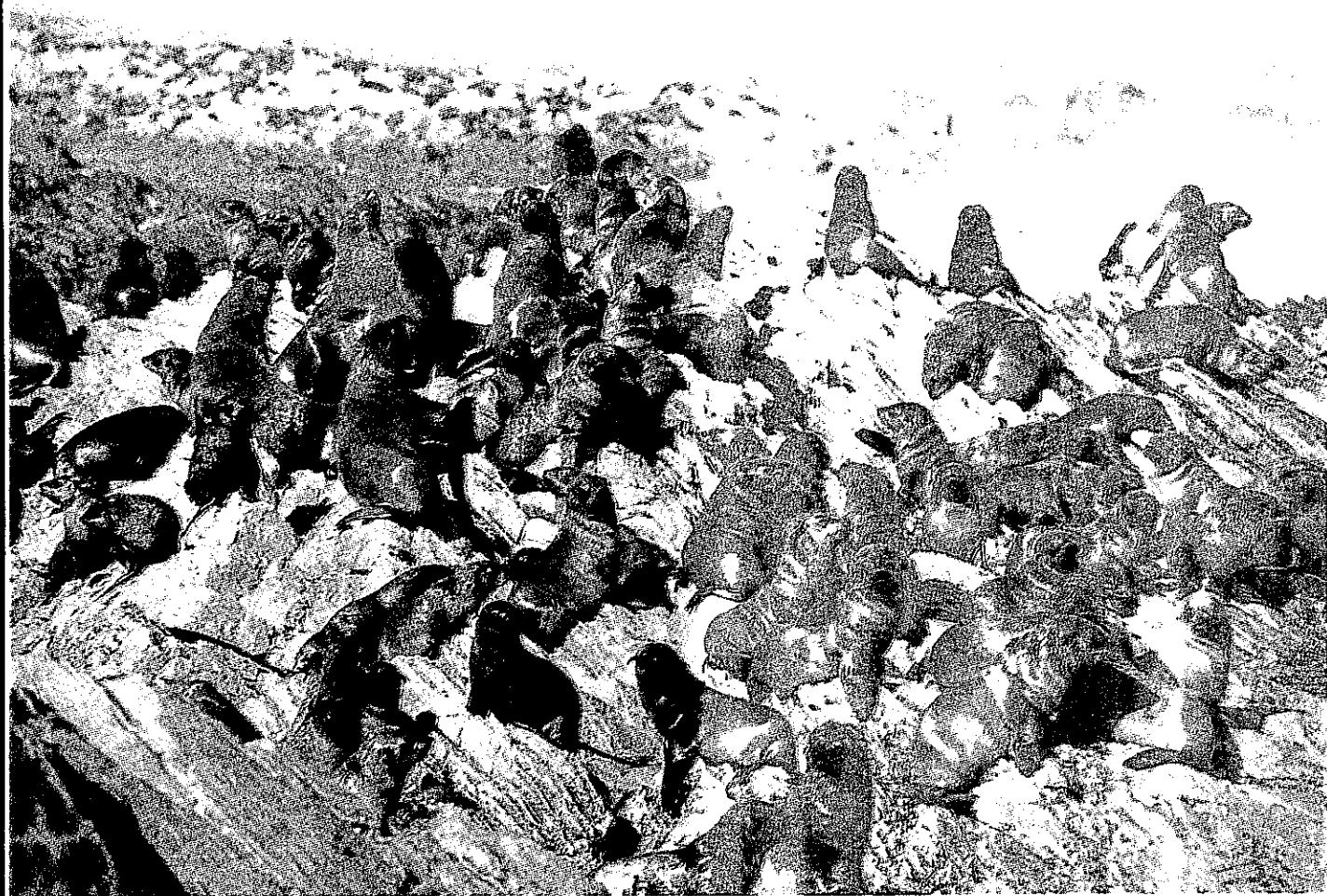
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WEEKEND ARGUS SPECIAL REPORT

Weekend FOCUS 3

# Doomed to die?

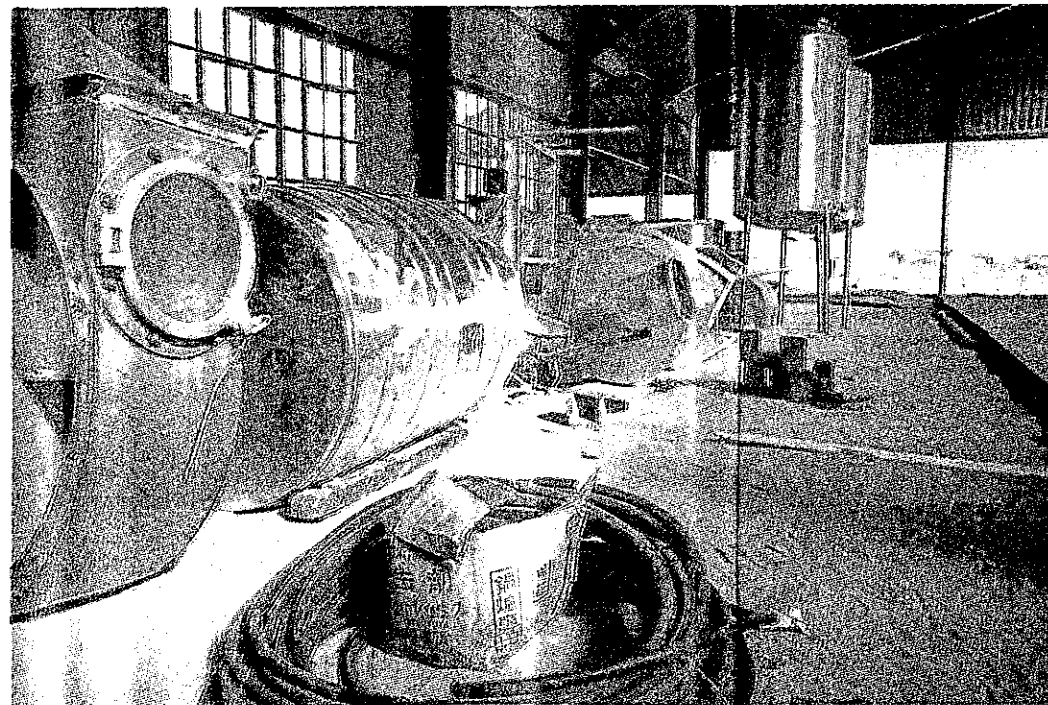


Last frolics in their playground? Part of the Kleinzee seal colony photographed this week.

## Confusion rife over seal killing

**S**INCE government approval of a commercial sealing operation in the northern Cape became known last week, Department of Environment Affairs officials have been falling over their feet trying to explain the project.

After defusing an emotional timebomb on the Kleinzee project, Environment Minister Gert Kotzé's next task is getting his department to decide why 30 500 seals will be killed. TYRONE SEALE reports.



**A**s objections to the proposed killing of more than 30 000 seals on the west coast continue, it has become clear that some blunders in Pretoria contributed to the storm around the government-approved seal-harvesting project involving Taiwanese business interests.

The issue has not only plunged Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé into a dilemma, but has added to problems in South Africa's hitherto cordial relations with the Republic of China.

The international outcry over the seals seemed to bring matters to a head this week, with the South African government officially conveying its displeasure and objections about certain matters to Taiwan.

Meanwhile events this week showed that some government decisions about the seal-harvesting project would not have been taken so readily if the extent of potential local and international reaction to the plan had been thoroughly assessed at an early stage.

**M**R Kotzé's sudden decision in Portugal this week to suspend the seal-killing operation was virtu-

**Weekend Argus Political Correspondent FRANS ESTERHUYSE looks at how the government blundered in granting a contract to a Taiwanese businessman to kill 30 000 seals and examines how this has strained SA-Taiwan relations.**

ally an admission that he had underestimated the strength of public opinion worldwide on a highly sensitive issue.

He admits — belatedly — that he has now taken into account public reaction and issued a request for the killing not to begin until he has reconsidered the matter after his return from Europe later this month.

There was criticism in government and political circles this week about the manner in which the whole issue has been handled.

The Department of Environment Affairs came under fire for approving such a controversial project in apparent secrecy, without informing the public or even MPs about it.

The plan to harvest the seals became publicly known only last week — nearly a year after the contract had been awarded to a Taiwanese consortium.

Senior officials at the embassy of the Republic of China were guarded this week in their comments on the seals issue and other controversial issues surrounding Taiwanese fishing operations in South African waters.

**A** RePUBLIC of China embassy spokesman in Pretoria, Mr YG Lin, confirmed that the ambassador, Mr Steven Wang, went to South Africa's foreign affairs department for talks on "matters of mutual concern".

Mr Lin said these discussions were being referred

back to his government for consideration.

"The ambassador and South African government officials discussed all the best solutions possible to resolve the recent incidents," Mr Lin said.

Meanwhile South African government sources were clear about how concerned they were about the "indifference" and "lack of concern" of the Taiwanese government on sensitive public and environmental issues.

The matter has reached a stage where the hitherto cordial relations between the two countries show signs of becoming strained.

Government sources said ambassador Wang had been called to the foreign affairs department for talks on certain issues causing concern in Pretoria. The matters worrying Pretoria were identified as "inhuman" conditions under which South African contract workers had been subjected to on Taiwanese fishing vessels, the controversial use of gill nets in South African waters, and the crisis around the seal-harvesting project involving Taiwanese interests.

**I**N effect, Pretoria's message to the Taiwanese government was: "Get your house in order. Take stronger steps against those from your country who tread on our toes."

A statement to Weekend Argus issued by the Chinese Consulate-General in Cape Town yesterday says: "The Republic of China joins

## WORLD OUTRAGE AT PLAN TO KILL SEALS

South Africa in expressing its deep concern about the recent environmental incidents involving the Chinese vessels and businessmen. The Republic is doing its utmost to resolve these problems."

On the issue of gill nets, the statement says that in view of the United Nations resolution to ban gill net fishing as from July 1 1992, the Republic of China is in the process of phasing it out. It has prohibited Chinese fishing vessels from using gill nets in the Atlantic Ocean and in South African waters. Owners of gill-net fishing vessels are being persuaded to stop using gill nets before July 1 next year.

On the issue of frostbite suffered by South African contract workers on board Chinese vessels, the Consulate-General says its government is "deeply concerned" about the incident, is investigating, and is asking ship owners to prevent such injuries recurring in future.

**R**EFERRING to Minister Kotzé's decision to suspend temporarily the permit to cull seals, the statement says: "The Republic of China has advised its businessmen to co-operate with the South African government in resolving this problem."

The Democratic Party's environment affairs spokesman, Mr Rupert Lorimer, has questioned the scientific basis of the government's decision to approve the seal-harvesting project, saying the public should have been put in the picture from the beginning.

The whole issue of culling seals was now being studied by his party's advisory committee on environment affairs, he said.

CONTINUED...



Caught in the cross-

fire between official advice and scientific as well as ill-informed, emotional challenges, Mr Kotzé has been persuaded to re-evaluate the project.

But while he does so the debate will continue, fuelled by unexplained official contradictions.

This week the department said in a statement that it viewed seals as competitors in the fishing industry and that there was concern about the threat the cuddly mammals posed to marine birds.

The department said seals had reached near-extinction at the end of the last century because of ruthless pelt-hunting, but that legislation launched in 1893 had effected a turnaround from near-extinction to the current 1.2-million around the South African coast.

In 1988 about 280 000 calves were born, helping to make the Cape fur seal the most abundant seal species in the world.

Islands along the South African coast were important breeding sites for marine birds and there were "strong indications" that seals had a direct effect on the decline of the jackass penguin and bank cormorant populations, the statement said.

In an interview on the same day the department's statement was published, Mr Piet le Roux, chief director of sea fisheries in the Department of Environment Affairs, disagreed with this version.

He said: "The Kleinzee project is purely a harvest, where seals will be used in the same way as we utilise other animals.

"We have no hard evidence about the effect of the seal population growth rate on other marine life, but we believe that the present quota will not wipe seals out completely."

**I**N another clash, Mr Etienne van Rensburg, a spokesman for Mr Kotzé, told an Afrikaans newspaper on Tuesday that the Kleinzee killing was cut and dried and the result of scientific investigations.

Mr Kotzé was satisfied that seals could be utilised like other marine resources.

Speaking from Lisbon, Mr Van Rensburg added: "Mr Kotzé himself had a seal for a pet when he was a child. He grew up on the West Coast and knows animals very well."



**Doomed — an unwitting seal pup, above, on a beach at Kleinzee this week.**

Pictures by ERIC MILLER

**Top: This the factory where seals will be turned into dog food, chicken feed and, for Taiwanese tastes, aphrodisiacs.**

Mr Kotzé would not stop the project unless regulations relating to clubbing and the disposal of carcasses were broken.

Hours later Mr Kotzé said in a statement from the Portuguese capital that the harvest had been suspended as "it is only fair to give proper consideration to public complaints"

Mr Le Roux said contradictions within the department were the results of the complexity of the issue.

# LIVING IN DEATH'S SHADOW

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**T**HE 25 220 endearing Kleinzee seal pups living in the shadow of death are just beginning to get to grips with independence.

They share the rocky Atlantic shoreline at Kleinzee with about 5 000 bulls that will be clubbed and stabbed to death if Environment Minister Gert Kotzé finally approves the proposed commercial sealing there.

Freelance photographer Eric Miller, who visited the town this week, described his impressions of the colony: "The overwhelming thing is the stench of their dung, the barking bulls and whimpering calves, and this mass of shiny black bodies going on for kilometres.

"There literally are seals as far as the eye can see."

In terms of calendar events in a seal colony, July is the time when the pups, aged between five and six months, start foraging, before they are weaned and left to survive on their own from August.

The breeding cycle starts in November when bulls first arrive to set up territories for breeding.

Breeding starts towards the end of November and tails off near the end of December.

**I**N January the bulls leave the colony and the cows continue feeding the pups and remain

at the colony about 50 percent of the time.

Around October all the pups are weaned and well on their way to independence.

Dr Patti Wickens, research officer with the Benguela Ecology Programme, says bulls are polygamous and arrive at the colonies to set up territories in mid-October.

They remain at the colony only for the duration of the pupping season.

"The term 'harem' was previously used to describe the group of females, all of whom mated with a particular male. This was abandoned since the cows congregate with each other and no evidence suggests that the females prefer specific males or are held to a territory by the male," she says.

## 'Sealing is a fact of life'

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**S**OUTH Africans will have to learn to live with commercial sealing, although there is no viable domestic market for seal products, says Mr Piet le Roux, chief director of sea fisheries in the Department of Environment Affairs.

People who criticise the use of seal genitalia for aphrodisiacs should also question the use of animals for muti in African communities.

South Africans' reluctance about dog food, chicken feed or leather made from seals does not mean they can deny other markets these commodities.

The clubbing and stabbing of seals is not more or less horrific than stunning and killing in abattoirs.

"You wouldn't take your grandchildren along for fun to either of these," Mr Le Roux said in an interview this week.

"The outcry over the Kleinzee project is unfortunate. I think people's emotions are running away with them, and they're losing sight of reality."

"The fact is that there is a market for these goods in the Far East, whether we like it or not, and South Africa could earn some income by letting someone set up an operation like the one at Kleinzee."

**M**R Le Roux said public outrage had been fanned by statements and speculation implying that the Kleinzee seals were being killed to reduce their numbers and, therefore, support the fishing industry.

"This is purely a harvest, where seals will be used in the same way as we utilise other animals.

"People have to adjust their attitudes and start thinking about seals as they would about sheep, cattle and fish, which we manage without disaster."

Mr Le Roux said there was no reason for concern about the method of clubbing and stabbing seals to death, as conservation inspectors would constantly monitor the operation.

"We know it isn't a nice job. It will always upset people, like abattoirs upset people, but it is a fact of life that there are markets for seal products."

# Seal firm 'may have to close'

*Mr. Hsu 7/7/80*

*3/28/80*

THE Taiwanese company granted a permit to harvest 30 000 seals at Kleinsee said yesterday the government's decision on July 4 to suspend the culling operation may force it to close down.

In a statement Jih Yeh Industries (Pty) Ltd said the move may also force the Taiwanese businessman concerned to return to Taiwan with his family, with no financial compensation for any loss.

The statement says company managing director Mr Hsu Hsien-I, a Taiwanese citizen, was granted a permit by the Department of Environment Affairs for the harvesting of seals on June 9 last year.

In anticipation of being able to use the permit, Mr Hsu had settled his family in South Africa and considered adopting SA citizenship.

The company had brought substantial funds into the country to finance the venture, but now stood to suffer huge losses and could be forced to close.

Meanwhile, the protest against planned seal culling continues. About 50 members of the Seal Action Group (SAG) staged a peaceful protest and information session at Greenmarket Square yesterday, drawing about 500 people. — Sapa

⊗ Demo picture — Page 2



**SEAL DEMO . . .** Protesters from the Seal Action Group (SAG) formed a circle on Greenmarket Square yesterday, displaying posters with slogans such as "Save our seals", "Leave the pups alone" and "Seal the door on trade with Taiwan". They circulated petitions, sang and chanted and handed out information pamphlets on the issue.

Picture: GLENN SHERRATT

Staff Reporter

**ELEVEN** more people were arrested on Greenmarket Square yesterday while protesting against trade unionist Ms Shirley Gunn's detention — within metres of a larger demonstration against the clubbing of seals.

None of the anti-seal-clubbing demonstrators was arrested as scores of them surged across the square and stood by in solidarity as the Gunn protesters were led or bundled into a van.

Permission for the seal protest had been asked for and granted, according to one of its organisers. This was not the case with the Gunn protest.

Meanwhile, further details emerged yesterday of the circumstances in which Ms Gunn was separated from her child Haroon while in detention under Section 29 of the Internal Security Act in

# 11 arrested at demonstration for Gunn

the Wynberg police cells.

The 16-month-old baby was with Ms Gunn when she was detained last Monday in the Karoo. Police have tried to link Ms Gunn, an ANC member, to blasts at Cosatu House and Khotso House in Johannesburg in 1987 and 1988.

Mrs Audrey Gunn, Shirley's mother, claimed at a press conference this week that she knew her daughter was out of the country at the time of the blasts. A police spokesman said the investigating officer

would be interested in her information.

Police claimed this week that Ms Gunn had come to some agreement about her child being taken away from her.

Yesterday Mr Willem van Wyk, chief director of welfare services with the Department of Health and Welfare in Pretoria, said it was true that Ms Gunn had not been happy about the separation.

However, she had been visited by senior officials who had "explained the situation" to her.

A court order had been obtained to have the child removed from her as police had felt it was undesirable to keep the child in a police cell.

The arrested people were: Ms Lynn Schneider, Ms Alethea Morton, Ms Dora Scott, Ms Sandra Braun, Mr Paul Ferrari, Ms Norma Beattie, Ms Iris Brown, Ms Deborah Williams, Ms Mavis Mthandi, Ms Shirley Chaplog and Sister Melamien Scott.

Sister Scott was released on R50 bail and is required to appear in court on Monday in connection with charges of obstructing a policeman in the course of his duty. The others were released on warning to appear in court on August 22 in connection with charges relating to participation in an unlawful demonstration, unless they pay a R50 admission-of-guilt fine.

*3/11/90*  
*Art Tuck*  
*7/7/90*

# Perlemoen catch for Fedfood

SI Times 8/7/90

By DON ROBERTSON

FEDFOOD, a Federale Volksbeleggings subsidiary, expects earnings to increase by about 7c a share in the current year because of the acquisition of 70% of Sea Plant Products (SPP).

SPP is a major harvester of abalone (perlemoen) and will be administered by Fedfood subsidiary Marine Products. The purchase price is R14,25m and includes the already harvested abalone quota for 1990.

Fedfood managing director Jan du Toit says the investment is excellent.

Although it will increase assets by only 0,9%, earnings should rise by 7c a share. In the year to March, earnings rose to 170c a share from 168,4c.

The purchase of SPP strengthens the company's interests in fishing which was

one of only two sectors which helped earnings to increase last year.

The deal comes at a time when Fedvolks is the subject of a buy-out by Sanlam subsidiary Sankorp.

The plan is to buy out the 27% interest not already held by Sankorp for R305m in cash or cash and shares in either SA Druggists, Fedfood or Teljoy.

At present, Marine Products is involved in

catching pelagic and white fish and rock lobster off the SA coast and elsewhere.

Demand for perlemoen has always exceeded supply and quotas were introduced in 1970.

They have been maintained since between 620 tons and 660 tons a year. SPP has 32% of the 625-ton quota for 1990.

About 90% of the catch is exported, mainly to the Far East.

# SA strike craft fires over trawler's bows

9/7/90  
3 Feb  
By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A SOUTH Korean skipper was arrested after a South African Navy strike craft fired warning shots across his trawler's bows after a tense confrontation off East London at the weekend.

The skipper of the 300-ton Sierra Leone-registered Petrous No 1, alias "Simon 51", will appear in court in East London today to face charges of offloading catches made with gill nets and using a gill net in South African waters.

Marine conservation officers of the Cape's Chief Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation are searching the ship's freezer compartment today for evidence of further contraventions. This was confirmed today by chief director Dr Johan Neethling, who said the operation had been initiated after information from one of the trawler's crew members who had signed off.

Dr Neethling in turn informed Southern Air Command and Naval headquarters in Pretoria.

On Saturday afternoon the strike craft Frans Erasmus spotted the Petrous No 1 north of East London. It was instructed to order the trawler to East London.

Initially the vessel's master refused to heed the order or respond by radio. It repeatedly turned towards the Frans Erasmus in an aggressive manner.

A navy spokesman said: "After the strike craft fired 20mm warning shots to seaward of the Petrous No 1 the vessel responded by radio and set course for East London."

Dr Neethling said the 18-man crew of the trawler — of whom 15 were South Africans — had been placed under ship's arrest. The captain had been held in jail.



# Navy craft fires at 'gill net' trawler

ON TIMES  
9/7/90

3 fish



By BRONWYN DAVIDS

A SOUTH KOREAN trawler — allegedly using gill nets illegally — and an SA navy strike craft were involved in a high-seas confrontation at the weekend in which the strike craft fired a volley of shots across the trawler's bow.

During the stand-off on Saturday the trawler also tried to ram the strike craft, which bristles with guns and is missile-armed, after refusing an order to halt.

The 300-ton Sierra Leone-registered trawler Petros One was escorted to East London, where the crew was arrested.

Besides facing a charge of using the "wall of death" nets illegally in South African waters, the master is also suspected of off-loading illegal gill-netted catches in South Africa.

According to Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Department of Nature Conservation, the trawler was intercepted by the strike craft SAS Frans Erasmus about 100 nautical miles north-east of East London.

He said officials had been given information about the Petros One by a South Korean citizen arrested in Cape Town last week.

In co-operation with Nature Conservation officials, the navy and air force began searching off the Southern Cape coast for the trawler on Thursday, Dr Neethling said.

The trawler was located by a SAAF reconnaissance craft, but it had disappeared by the time the strike craft got to the scene.

The search was aborted, but while on its way to Durban, the strike craft came across the trawler.

The crew of 18 — 15 of whom were South African citizens — were placed under ship arrest on Satur-

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To page 3

# Fishermen accuse govt of favouritism

*Comp Times 9/7/90 Staff Reporter Fish*

ANGRY fishermen, who have been put out of work overnight by a decision by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, to withdraw a select number of longline fishing licences, have accused the government of "favouring" a handful of independent companies.

Six independent companies have been given permission to continue longline fishing at sea until the end of the year. Eight longline fishing licences, enabling trawler operators to catch kingklip and hake, were withdrawn yesterday by Mr Kotze in a move to protect dwindling resources.

"I don't know what to do. I sit without a job now and I have a high-interest bond to pay off," said trawler skipper Mr William Pearce.

Mr Pearce has been a longline skipper for eight years. He says he stands to lose an income of R60 000 a year.

"A lot of our crew have no other fishing experience — they can do nothing else," said skipper Mr Deon Venter. More than 50 fishermen sat on board vessels yesterday, waiting to see if the government decision would be reversed.

Mr Tony Ornelas, a member of the Independent Longline Fishing Association, said he hoped that a solution would be found for the unemployed longline fishermen.

# Kalk Bay plans still in dispute

Sept 7/15 9/7/90

Municipal Reporter

AN intensive schedule of public meetings about proposals to upgrade Kalk Bay harbour was taking the edge off opposition to the scheme, according to local councillor Mrs Joye Gibbs.

She said the state was losing money on the harbour, so it had been made quite clear that the fishermen could not have the entire harbour to themselves, though nobody wanted them out.

Planners held well-attended meetings every evening last week and more are scheduled for this week.

Mr Tony White, proprietor of the Brass Bell Restaurant and a member of a committee set up to protect the interests of commercial fishermen, said the demand that the harbour be reserved exclusively for the fishing community would not be abandoned.

Proposals that as many as 65 yachts should be moored in Kalk Bay Harbour have been met with counter-proposals from the fishing community, which is not opposed to development but has its own ideas about how it should take place.

Kalk Bay Ratepayers' chairman Mrs A Soule stressed yesterday that no decisions had yet been made on any development in the Kalk Bay area.

"It is all in the negotiation and planning phase."



# Seal activists plan protest reconnaissance

ARGUES  
10/7/90

3 Feb



By JOHN YELD,  
Environment Reporter

ANTI-SEAL killing activists will travel to Port Nolloth this weekend on a reconnaissance mission in preparation for possible protests if the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, allows the culling of 30 500 Cape fur seals to go ahead.

Last week Mr Kotzé postponed the contract, awarded to the Taiwanese firm Jih Yeh Industries, and said he would re-evaluate the proposed harvest on his return from Portugal in a fortnight's time.

Activists from the Seal Action Group, who will be accompanied by the Press and scientists from the University of the Western Cape, will also meet members of the local fishing community to discuss the sealing issue and alternative employment prospects, spokeswoman Ms Kim Clarkin said.

## Chairman resigned

The group has closed ranks after former chairman Mr Phillip Stewart resigned unexpectedly last week, saying he could not identify "with people who use this situation as a ticket to discredit the South African government in order to enhance their own political status".

A group statement in response said: "Mr Stewart's reasons for leaving the group are his own concern and we do not wish to take the undignified position of engaging in a public

squabble. We were formed as a group to save seals and our energies will be directed to that end.

"Suffice to say that we have no political affiliations whatever, nor have we any intentions of discrediting the South African government."

In Pretoria, anti-seal culling activist Ms Lucille Smit, 21, local co-ordinator for the Front for Animal Liberation and Conservation of Nature (Falcon), held discussions with a counsellor from the embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan) on Saturday.

## Invited into embassy

Mr Chong Rong-jyo invited Ms Smit into the embassy after she and 20 other animal rights activists demonstrated outside against the seal harvesting project — the second protest in two days.

Ms Smit said afterwards the 30-minute meeting embassy had been "super" and Mr Chong had undertaken to convey Falcon's demands to his government.

Mr Chong said the Taiwanese government had no legal right to prevent the culling project.

"We can merely advise the group to take into consideration both sides of the story."

Jih Yeh Industries said in a statement that Mr Kotzé's decision to suspend the operation could force it to close down and managing director Mr Hsien-I Hsu to return to Taiwan with his family, with no financial compensation for loss.

**HOME FROM ROME:** Argentine soccer captain Diego Maradona, left, and President Carlos Menem wave to crowds from the balcony at Government House, Buenos Aires after the team's arrival from Rome, where they finished second in the World Cup competition.

## English soccer clubs may return to Europe

HOUSTON. — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has recommended the return of English soccer clubs to Europe, clearing the way for an end to their five-year exile.

Officials accompanying Mrs Thatcher to the Houston summit of industrialised democracies, said that the recommendation would be made at today's meeting in Geneva of Uefa, the governing body of European soccer.

Uefa has said it would be guided by the British government on whether to lift the ban, imposed after 39 soccer fans were killed during clashes at Heysel stadium in Brussels between supporters of Juventus and Liverpool in the 1985 European Cup final.

Sports Minister Colin Moynihan will present the government's position to the Geneva meeting, the officials said.

"The prime minister is behind the view that we should recommend a return subject to conditions such as discouraging the sale of tickets abroad, to provide video screening in England for matches that are played and to keep under review restrictions on the sale of alcohol," a senior Thatcher aide said. — Sapa-Reuter.

# Gill nets: Korean skipper in court

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter and Sapa

APC 10/9/90 (3/10/90)

THE skipper and two officers of the South Korean fishing trawler Petrous No 1, under police guard in East London harbour after a dramatic clash with a South African Navy strike craft at the weekend, have appeared briefly in the East London Magistrate's Court.

The skipper, Mr Yeo Hyd Jong, 44, and Mr Yong Hui Kwon, 28, and Mr Kab Kyun Kim, 53 — described by their attorney Mr W J Opperman as the ship's engineers — appeared yesterday in connection with allegations of using illegal gill nets in South African waters.

## IN POLICE CUSTODY

No charges were put to them and they were not asked to plead.

No evidence was led and the case was postponed to July 25 for further investigation and for a suitable interpreter to be found.

The three men, all South Korean citizens, are to remain in police custody aboard the Petrous No 1.

● Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Cape's Chief Directorate: Nature and Environmental Conservation, said contact would be made with the British Consulate in South Africa to send evidence of alleged contraventions "which may have occurred in waters around Tristan da Cunha" — a British possession — following the trawler's arrest.

"The Cape Provincial Administration views the illegal activities of foreign vessels in South African waters in a very serious light and my directorate will use all the means at its disposal, including calling on the Navy and Air Force to curtail it," Dr Neethling said yesterday.

"I want to thank the South African Defence Force for their willingness to assist the CPA with this task."

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3 Fishing



# Trawlers to be tracked

Staff Reporter

FORMAL talks were held between the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, and the Minister of Defence, General Magnus Malan, about involving the SADF in tracking foreign trawlers carrying illegal gill nets in South African waters.

Speaking for Mr Kotze, environmental affairs spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said yesterday the "navy and air force will help" to track and intercept gill net trawlers off the South African coast.

He also gave an assurance that South Africa "did not want gill nets in our waters nor in our harbours".

The assurance follows the high seas confrontation between a navy strike craft and the South Korean trawler Petros One — with illegal gill nets on board — near East London at the weekend.

Warning shots were fired at the trawler when it tried to ram the strike craft.

Mr Du Bois said special permits would never again be issued to foreign trawlers with gill nets on board and the permits granted to 100 Taiwan-

ese vessels was a "one-time concession" which would only be valid till the end of this month.

Part of the hard-hitting campaign to stop gill net trawlers entering South African waters will be the implementation of stringent laws which come into effect this month, said Mr Du Bois.

"We will do anything in our power to prosecute — any foreign vessel which does not abide by our Sea Fisheries regulations can be fined up to R1 million.

"All trawlers will be subject to compulsory procedures on all equipment on board — which means they may not carry gill nets or gill net catches."

Dr Johan Neethling, chief director of the Department of Nature Conservation, said that though there was little evidence, the authorities had to accept that illegal gill nets were being used in South African waters, which span 200 000 square nautical miles.

He said all the indications were there that gill nets were being used. These were:

- The trawlers do not request permits to carry gill nets.
- Trawlers come into local waters illegally to

drop illegal gill net catches.

● They speed off when intercepted by the authorities.

"We have a big area to patrol and we appreciate the services provided by the air force and navy," said Dr Neethling.

● The skipper and two officers of the Petros One, which has been under police guard in East London since Sunday, appeared briefly in the magistrate's court there yesterday in connection with allegations of using gill nets illegally in South African waters.

No charges were put to the skipper, Mr Yeo Hyd Jong, 41, Mr Yong Hui Kwon, 28, and Mr Kab Kyun Kim, 53, and they were not asked to plead.

No evidence was led and the case was postponed to July 25 for further investigation and, it is understood, to enable a suitable interpreter to be found.

The three men, all South Korean citizens, are to remain in police custody aboard the Petros One.

Their attorney, Mr W J Opperman, said it appeared that Mr Kwon and Mr Kim were the ship's engineers.



Mr Gert Kotze



General Magnus Malan

# Suspected illegal culling: Reports 'not proved'

CARL TINF'S Staff Reporter

12/1/90

3/5/89

AN investigation by the Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation into a suspected illegal seal culling operation last year was not able to prove that the animals washed up in False Bay died of unnatural causes.

City Council workers who found 300 to 400 seal pup carcasses on False Bay beaches in January 1989 said they appeared to have been clubbed to death.

The regional director of the department, Dr Johan Neethling, said subsequent investigation had shown that some of the animals had been dead for weeks and that the wounds were varied.

Meanwhile, anti-seal clubbing activists will travel to Port Nolloth this weekend to prepare for possible protests against the culling contract for 30 500 Cape fur seals, which has been postponed following an international outcry.

## World concern over gill nets

A SOUTH AFRICAN delegation to the recent annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission in the Netherlands has supported a resolution calling for more research into the use of gill nets worldwide.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said in Cape Town yesterday that there were more than 1 000 fishing boats in the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans using gill nets. — Sapa

# New bid to stop seal slaughter

Cape Times 14/7/90

3726

By CHRIS BATEMAN

**TAIWAN has told its diplomats in South Africa to try to stop one of its citizens killing 30 000 seals at Kleinsee.**

The Republic of China's government has instructed its consulate in Cape Town to dissuade Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsu Hsien-I from continuing the hunt.

As pressure mounts on both the South African and Taiwanese governments, a Republic of China consulate spokesman said yesterday Mr Hsu was "prepared to co-operate with both governments" — provided he was adequately compensated.

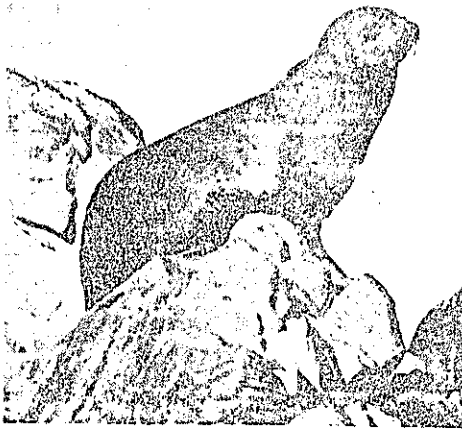
Mr Hsu had spent about R2 million building a seal-processing factory at Kleinsee after being granted a culling permit by the Department of Environmental Affairs, the spokesman said.

The government suspended Mr Hsu's operation at the height of the international outcry a fortnight ago and is now awaiting the return of Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze from a European tour on July 23.

Mr Tom Chou, Cape Town consul in charge of fishing affairs, said yesterday he had contacted Mr Hsu in Johannesburg where he has set up home with his family.

"He feels that he set up business based on a legal permit and has reasonable grounds for negotiation," he said.

Mr Chou said his government had come under international pressure from environmental lobby-



ists and had called press conferences to outline their position.

However, it was unable to legally interfere with a private businessman's affairs.

"Back home we have legislation to forbid maltreatment or killing of animals," he added.

With the seal issue and the growing outcry over Taiwanese gill-netting off the South African coast, his government was becoming increasingly concerned.

In a concerted attempt to make gill-netting unprofitable, the Republic of China had begun buying gill-netting boats and converting them to long-line vessels while offering tax concessions to private owners making the conversion.

Newly-built fishing boats could also no longer legally equip themselves with gill nets, he added.

Mr Chou said measures to prevent the Taiwanese canning of gill-netted tuna were in the "negotiation phase", adding his government had committed itself to "getting rid" of all gill nets a year ahead of a recent UN resolution to do so by June 1992.

While he did not know how large the Taiwanese gill-netting fleet was, it had been reduced by 40% over the past year, he claimed.

"Overall we are dealing with a minority of private businessmen and it is unfair to blame our government. We're doing all we can but we need South African support to stop it, not emotive and racial bumper stickers," he said.

A spokesman for Mr Kotze's office, Mr Niel du Bois, said his department knew nothing of Mr Hsu's "latest attitude".

"When Mr Kotze gets back all interested parties and groups will have the opportunity to present their cases. In this sensitive issue where emotions, science and rationale are intertwined, direct negotiations in an orderly fashion are preferable," he said.

Mr Hsu could not be reached for comment in Johannesburg yesterday.

Anti-seal killing activists will travel to Port Nolloth today on a reconnaissance mission in preparation for possible protests if Mr Kotze allows the culling to go ahead.



# Days numbered for pillage by foreign ships

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

**BUCCANEERS** bent on raping our marine resources had better watch their wake. South Africa is no longer prepared to tolerate the indiscretions of some of the friends it made as a pariah state.

Last weekend's high seas confrontation between a navy strike craft and a Sierra Leone-registered trawler, Petros One, dramatically eclipsed the slap-on-the-wrist fine of R500 imposed on a Taiwanese skipper earlier that week. His vessel, Yung Chien, was caught with "walls of death" gill nets on board in Cape Town harbour.

However, the shots fired across the bows of Petros One and the imminent increase in the fine for illegal fishing from R1 000 to R1 million in addition to the confiscation of the vessel, signals a new get-tough attitude.

The man charged with enforcing the laws that protect marine resources is Dr Johan Neethling, Chief Director of the Directorate of Nature and Environmental Conservation.

If the 20mm canon shells fired across the bows of Petros One, alias "Simon 51" are anything to go by, Dr Neethling — who took over the helm of the directorate this month — will not hesitate to summon the airforce and the navy to apprehend those who violate marine laws.

## Intercept

Dr Neethling also revealed that the navy interception of Petros One was made possible after negotiations three weeks ago between the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze and Minister of Defence General Magnus Malan.

"We now have established direct channels with the navy, something which was not possible while South Africa was in a war situation," he said.

He said that during the past two years his department had brought in 18 foreign trawlers. Some refused to be escorted to harbour and in one incident two belligerent Spanish trawlers threatened to ram the patrol boat.

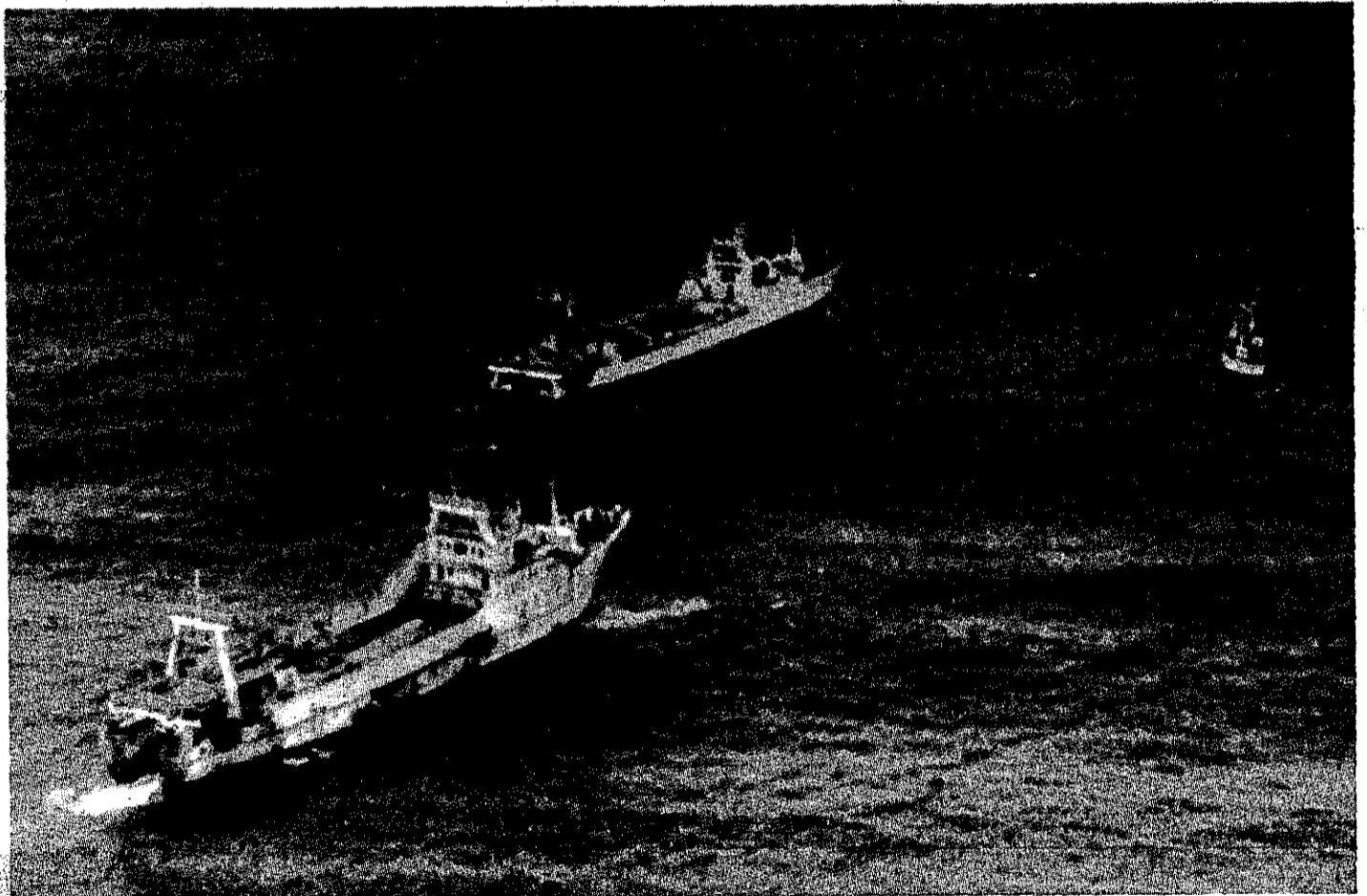
"We couldn't stop them because our boats are not armed," he explained.

Dr Neethling said he believed some sort of armament was necessary on marine patrol vessels.

"We don't want anything heavy but something which looks potent. I would hate our chaps to injure anybody, but if they could fire a shot across the bows it will persuade the vessel they mean business," he said.

In the long term, Dr Neethling said he would like to see co-ordination between various departments that own sea-going craft.

## GET-TOUGH APPROACH IS ONLY DETERRENT



Picture: D BRAND.

**Two Spanish trawlers, above, caught in South African waters threaten the approaching patrol boat Patella after they had cut away their nets. Both ships were escorted to Walvis Bay and their captains fined R25 000 each.**



**Seasoned South African trawler skipper Noel Les, top, eyes the bulging hake-filled cod-end on board his vessel the Yellow Fin.**

"But I'm not suggesting amalgamation because you then have operational problems."

Dr Neethling said he envisaged a situation where new fisheries patrol craft would be designed in such a way that in time of need they could also be used by the navy.

## Budgets

He voiced hope that new long-range surveillance aircraft will be introduced when sanctions are lifted.

He said economics was a major consideration. As budgets become tighter there will need to be more co-ordination between government departments.

In the case of his department, assistance from the navy and the airforce is vital. He noted there had been joint operations in the past, pointing to one 18 months ago when the navy exercised with ships and submarines in an area prone to poaching from Spanish vessels.

Dr Neethling said growing awareness among the public of global environmental problems, and a sometimes vociferous local conservation lobby, had helped to move conservation up the priority list.

"Public interest in issues like seal culling, kaolin and dune mining and whaling have given the government a clear indication of new priorities and this will be to my department's ad-

vantage," he said.

He said South Africans should appreciate the country's dependance on terrestrial, marine and agricultural resources.

"However, we have at last reached that stage where no politician will make a speech unless he has a so-called green plank in his platform. The private environmental lobby has become so strong that from a political point of view it would be unwise to ignore them."

Asked whether his department had the teeth to protect the environment against political expediency, Dr Neethling pointed out that it was the responsibility of the Minister of Environment Affairs, not his department, to make laws.

His department exists to enforce the law.

Dr Neethling also said the increase of the fine from R1 000 to R1 million plus confiscation of the vessel for illegal fishing was determined by the Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs.

"So it was actually a political decision that the fines should be so high," he said.

The moratorium on the culling of the Kleinsee seals and South Africa's vote for the extension of the moratorium on whaling, also heralded a new marine conservation awareness by government in response to the voting public, he added.

Picture: GRAHAM LIZAMORE, Weekend Argus.

ARCUS 16/7/98 (3 Fish)

## Seal group probes job creation in Port Nolloth

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A REPRESENTATIVE of the Seal Action Group has remained in Port Nolloth to co-ordinate possible work opportunities after the announcement that the Taiwanese businessman with a permit to "harvest" 30 500 Cape fur seals had withdrawn from the operation.

Several members of the group visited the West Coast town at the weekend to speak to locals about the controversial issue and to visit the seal colony at Kleinzee, about 40km to the south, to plan possible protest action if the killing went ahead as scheduled.

The news that the venture had been called off was made to loud applause during a public meeting attended by about 60 people at a church hall in the "coloured" suburb of Port Nolloth on Saturday evening.

### PETITIONS

Most present appeared to support the Seal Action Group, but one or two argued strongly in favour of seal culling.

An 80-signature petition from the squatter community of Tentedorp and Bloukamp and another of several hundred signatures, collected by the group's West Coast co-ordinator Ms Grazia de Beer, supporting the protest were handed to the Cape Town party.

Mr Linington Sonqishe, the headman of the squatter communities, told the meeting that Port Nolloth would have a "bad name" all over the world if the culling went ahead.

"So we are all to fight what is going on. The slaughtering of the seals is unacceptable."

Group member Ms Jenny McLeary has remained in Port Nolloth to discuss alternative work prospects for locals and the future use of the half-completed seal processing factory.

Spokesman Mr Stef Snel said the group had decided "from the outset" that they would become involved if anyone lost employment opportunities because of their activities.

### "NO FISHING"

About 44 people would have been employed for four months a year at the factory. But several locals alleged that workers had not been paid the promised bonus of 30c a seal for the 3 000 killed last year, and that their basic salary had been less than R200 instead of the promised R300 a month.

Diamond diver Mr Dan Harvey of Cape Town said after the meeting that he laughed when locals spoke about seals damaging their fish catches.

"There is no fishing here. The only fishing is deep sea trawling and that has nothing to do with Port Nolloth."

Staff Reporter

ANTI-SEAL clubbing activists are to remain on full alert for any activity at the Kleinsee colony until the commercial culling permit has been officially withdrawn.

The Taiwanese businessman who was awarded the contract to kill 30 000 seals, Mr Hsu Hsien-i, has told a diplomat from his country that he will negotiate the cancellation of the contract.

Both South Africa and the Republic of China have faced international condemnation over the proposed culling.

Fears that the South African taxpayer will have to foot the estimated R2 million bill claimed by Mr Hsu appear premature.

The deputy director-general of environmental affairs, Dr Jozua Serfontein, said it was unlikely that the government would compensate "if it was Mr Hsu's own decision" — though he

# Seal <sup>CALL TIME</sup> 16/7/70 activists to stay 'on full alert'

was not aware of any official communication from Mr Hsu to cancel the contract.

He said the department would delay any public announcement on the fate of the culling permit until the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, returns to South Africa later this week.

Meanwhile, Seal Action Group members who visited Port Nolloth at the weekend have reported a "very successful" meeting with some

50 local people who would have been employed to kill the seals and process the meat.

A spokesman for the group said they had discussed the possibility of starting a kelp industry and other job-creation ventures.

The chairman of Earth Life Africa in the city, Mr Pierre Mukheibir, said he was "delighted" that the seals had been temporarily reprieved and that the move was a direct result of public protest.

"If the government had not put the contract out to tender in the first place, Mr Hsu would not have had to pull out after investing so much money," he said.

"Mr Kotze has been indecisive throughout and we insist that he take a definite stand on the issue.

"Presumably the permit is still valid and we demand that the minister withdraw it forthwith."

# Seals: SA group has other plans

Staff Reporter

A GROUP of South African businessmen is keen to take over the controversial seal-processing factory at Port Nolloth — and use it for the mass production of low-cost meals for hunger and famine relief victims in Africa.

The group also indicated that it is also keen to get Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsu Hsien-i — who was granted a government permit to cull more 30 000 seals — as a 50-50 partner.

The proposal was put forward yesterday by Harvest for Life of SA, a city-based company holding a patented process of converting the remains of raw fish into a “high quality” protein meal for human

consumption.

According to managing director Mr Michael Jones, the opportunity was a solution to the “seal fiasco” caused by government’s decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to harvest more than 30 000 seals from this month.

The government has put a temporary freeze on the controversial scheme following a public outcry.

Mr Jones said that if the deal was clinched the company could process 5 000 tons of fish a year, obtained from the by-catches of the fishing industry.

“The monthly product would feed 890 000 people a month and could either be used for low-cost feeding schemes, ref-

ugee relief, food aid or in emergencies.”

He said orders had already been received from Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia.

Mr Jones said that from scratch the scheme might require R7,5m.

“But depending on the circumstances at Kleinsee, the figure could be as low as R1,5m.

“If Mr Hsu is to be compensated, the amount could be as high as R3m with no benefits involved to anyone — particularly the taxpayer.”

Mr Jones added that his company hoped to have discussions this week with both the South African and Taiwanese governments and Mr Hsu.

CHIT TINTS 17/7/90 (3 FOLY)

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**SEALS** equal controversy. This seemingly immutable equation is nowhere more apparent than in the isolated little town of Port Nolloth on the bleak West Coast.

It was made clear to a party of Seal Action Group representatives and journalists during a weekend visit to discuss the government's controversial decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to "harvest" some 30 500 Cape fur seals at nearby Kleinzee this season.

The businessman has now pulled out of the venture and a factory to process the products of the proposed harvest — alternative descriptions in the media have included "kill", "cull", "murder" and "massacre" — stands half completed.

#### Priority

About 44 people in the economically depressed town would have been employed there, and finding alternative jobs is now a major priority.

Local businessman Mr Dan Singh, owner of a cash store in the town for the past two years, told journalists he was "totally against" the proposed killing.

"If it was for some reason other than money it could have been acceptable, but not when it's going to be done for profit — definitely not," he said.

He suggested the 40-odd businesses in the town could employ one extra person each to make up for the loss of jobs.

"It would knock my profit but I'm prepared to do it," he said.

Mr Jeffrey Makhubalo of the squatter settlement Tentedorp was also opposed to project.

#### Mixed feelings

"I'm against any killing for whatever reason. Right now we're talking about the new South Africa — what is that going to look like if we destroy our environment?" he asked.

Mr Paul Clase, who arrived in Port Nolloth as a fisherman in 1959 but who now works at a factory in the harbour area, said he had no objection to the harvest.

"In truth, seals are no advantage for the fishermen and I'd be glad if there were more work opportunities being created in Port Nolloth."

A group of football players returning from a match at the field opposite the church hall where a mass meeting was held on Saturday evening to discuss the issue, had mixed feelings.



"It's a sin to kill the seals!" cried one.

He was quickly shouted down by some of his team mates — "No, no!" — but he was determined to finish his argument:

"The human population should be reduced. Do away with a few and then we'd live better. We are too many in South Africa."

A spectator at the match who has lived in the town for 30 years said seals were a major problem for the fishermen.

"You could almost say the seal is in a man's kitchen," he observed.

Mechanic Mr Samuel Rossouw agreed, saying he believed the seals were "a few too many".

"And they're a big concern for fishermen — they're actually wiping out the fish. We would like the seals to be reduced, but not cruelly," he said.

His wife, Mrs Jacoba Rossouw, nodded in agreement — "I also think so."

Mrs Mary Arendse, a housewife married to a painter, said she approved of culling seals — "It's work for the people".

The Rev Malcolm Damon told the 60-odd people at the meeting in his church hall that the issue was "a very important matter touching not only Port Nolloth but also South Africa and the world".

"This is an opportunity to show that we in Port Nolloth are against the culling of seals," he said.

Mr Lingington Sonqishe, the headman of Tentedorp and Bloukamp squatter communities, added that Port Nolloth would have a "bad name" internationally if the seal culling went ahead.

"God created them — they're just like human beings," he said to applause.

But Mr Jan Daniels, a former fisherman who now owns a cafe, took issue with him.

"It looks to me as if as soon as someone with initiative comes to blow life into Port Nolloth, then someone comes to stop it," he said.

A speaker from the floor complained there had been no protest action during last year's cull of 3 000 seals, when the skinned carcasses had been buried at the colony.

"What doesn't sound so good to me was that it was announced last year and nothing was done," he said.

But SAG representative Ms Jenny McLeary assured him: "If we'd known about it last year, we would definitely have done something."

Diamond diver Mr Dan Harvey of Cape Town said after the meeting there was no commercial fishing at Port Nolloth.

"The only fishing is deep sea trawling and that has nothing to do with Port Nolloth. There's probably not a registered boat that operates out of this harbour."

There were few rock lobster left in the area and fishermen abused this industry, he said.

"The crayfishermen are

prepared to swop 30 to 40 undersized tails for a loaf of bread. The real culprits in the fishing industry are the gill netters, not seals," he said.

His colleague, Mr Vince Baker, agreed — "We see no fish and no crayfish when we dive."

Later, there were heated arguments as the meeting first broke up into small groups and then continued elsewhere in the town.

"Club the seals — save the galjoen!" was one slogan which raised a cheer in the pub, and a diamond diver told journalists:

"Killing seals is Namaqualand's national sport."



**KILLING FIELDS?:** Cape fur seals (left) among an estimated 400 000 at the vast Kleinzee breeding colony south of Port Nolloth. Above: Help is at hand — for a young fur seal pup hopelessly entangled in a piece of fishing net — in the form of a sharp knife and the Seal Action Group members Mr Stef Snel, left, and Mr Zane Kleb who rescued the young seal.



**MASS MEETING:** Ms Jenny McLeary of the Seal Action Group talks to Port Nolloth residents after a meeting to discuss the sealing controversy.

The Argus, Tuesday July 17 1990 13

# over seals

# The controversy

Spectrum





# Gill nets: Hout Bay company is selling up

AK60  
17/7/90

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Shipping Reporter

A HOUT BAY fishing company is selling its property and vessels, lock, stock and barrel.

About 170 fishermen who crewed the boats of the company, Interfish, have been retrenched with severe economic consequences for the fishing community of Hout Bay.

The Spanish owner of Interfish, Mr F Rheude, is changing his line of business to farming.

"You have read in your paper about the gill nets — I have no interest in further explaining my reasons for closing down," said Mr Rheude yesterday.

The closing down had nothing to do with low quotas, he said.

The company is offering its 11 tuna boats for sale by public auction at Hout Bay tomorrow. An office building, storerooms and coldstores are also to be sold, but the company is not being liquidated.

Auctioneer Michael James said Mr Rheude had "had enough" of the fishing industry and wanted to concentrate on his farming interests in the Boland.

"International competition such as that provided by the Taiwanese and their gill nets may have had a bit to do with it, but I don't think that is the main reason at all," he said.

Shore engineer Mr Daniel van der Heyde believes the gill nets had "a lot to do with it".

"There is very little fishing out there," he said.

Mr Van der Heyde has been retained with assistant shore skipper Mr Gamat Samson to maintain the fishing boats until the sale tomorrow.

"I am lucky — I've been offered a job by another company. Work in the fishing industry is getting scarce. Things have been bad lately," he said.

"I think the only chance the fishermen had was to go to Port Elizabeth. Things are a bit better out there for work."



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

**FINAL MAINTENANCE:** Mr Daniel van der Heyde, right, and Mr Gammat Samson check a fuel pipe as part of their last job — looking after Interfish vessels before tomorrow's auction.

## Iraq releases British nurse jailed for spying

**The Argus Foreign Service**  
LONDON. — A British nurse sentenced to 15 years' jail on spying charges has been freed by Iraq.

Mrs Daphne Parish, 52, was yesterday flown from Baghdad to Lusaka, Zambia, in a private jet belonging to President Kenneth Kaunda, who had appealed for her release.

Mr Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian-born British journalist, was executed after being found guilty on charges similar to

those faced by Mrs Parish.

She was accused of driving Mr Bazoft to a secret Iraqi military installation last September to check reports of an explosion.

Mrs Parish was due to arrive in Lusaka last night. She was expected to be Mr Kaunda's guest before flying to Britain today.

Her sentence and Mr Bazoft's execution led to a breakdown in diplomatic links between Britain and Iraq.

3[Fish]

# Fish resources 'being hammered'

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THE government's recent announcement that long-line fishing for kingklip and hake is to be banned from the end of the year has led to renewed accusations that the country's fishing resources are being over-exploited.

But the charge — from the chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, Mr Vic Kabalin — has been vigorously denied by Dr Louis Botha, head of the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries of the Department of Environment Affairs.

## STOPPED IMMEDIATELY

Mr Kabalin said that if the hake resource was depleted, fishing should be stopped immediately and not allowed to continue until December. The total allowable catch for anchovies had also been slashed this year, he noted.

"Basically, our resources are still being hammered and nothing is being done about it. I think action should be taken right now," he said.

But Dr Botha disagreed strongly: "I don't think that's justified as a blanket statement, nor is it fair to say nothing is being done about it.

"There has never been long-lining for hake, although a small by-catch was permitted. Long-lining was stopped because the kingklip resource was being over-fished. The total hake

quota is stable and could even be increased."

Mr Kabalin also said his society was still extremely concerned about the status of reef fish, particularly the protected red species, which were being drastically reduced by bobbin trawling techniques.

Although they had lobbied the Department of Environment more than six weeks ago to take action, they had not had a reply.

Dr Botha confirmed that they had the society's proposals but said other interest groups had also been approached for comment, including the National Marine Linefish Management Association.

"At the moment we're waiting for their recommendations," he said.

"We are not ignoring them (Mr Kabalin's society), but they are not the only ones who have objected. It is a fairly controversial matter."

He did not see any problem in principle with outlawing bobbin trawling for reef species — "and we will probably do so, but we need to look at the wider consequences and we are doing that," he said.

It was necessary to phase out long-lining for practical reasons. "You can't suddenly tell 13 boats to pack up tomorrow morning."

The anchovy quota had been drastically reduced for "very good" reasons.



# Gill nets: Hout Bay company is selling up

AK60  
17/7/90

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Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

**FINAL MAINTENANCE:** Mr Daniel van der Heyde, right, and Mr Gammat Samson check a fuel pipe as part of their last job — looking after Interfish vessels before tomorrow's auction.

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CAF Traps 19/7/90

# Gill nets get blame for fishing crisis

3 Fish

Staff Reporter

THE tuna fishing industry is in a crisis — and local fishermen blame their fast-diminishing catches on illegal gill-netting in South African waters.

While 11 tuna boats belonging to Interfish, a Hout Bay company, were auctioned off yesterday, local fisherman complained that tuna catches had dropped from an average of 300 to 400 tons per season to as low as 60.

Gill-net operators worked in the path of the tuna, wiping out entire schools, they said.

At the auction there were virtually no takers for the tuna boats, which once fetched R1m on the market. Only three boats were sold at prices ranging from R275 000 to R360 000.

About 170 fishermen on the Interfish boats have been retrenched.

It is believed that 100 local tuna fishing boats are currently operating from the Cape, with 20 crew on board each boat.

The independence of Namibia could bring fresh troubles for the fishermen, who catch 50% of their haul in Namibian waters.

Fishermen claim to be unable to afford the anticipated licence fees of R100 000 per boat per season in the newly independent waters.

The fishermen have appealed to the government for help during the crisis.

"The government is not helping us at all. Farmers are assisted during a drought. What will they do about us?" asked a fisherman.

Dr Louis Botha, director of Sea Fisheries Administration, said he was aware that the local fishermen blamed their current crisis on illegal gill-netting.

Dr Botha said scientific evidence was being gathered in an attempt to prove whether the migratory nature of tuna or gill-netting was to blame for the slump.

He said that tuna fishermen could apply to the government for assistance.

w/k Abbas

21/7/90

3 Feb

# 'Seal harvesting strictly controlled'

## One of South Africa's oldest commercial marine industries

Weekend Argus Reporter

FUR-sealing is one of the oldest commercial marine industries in South Africa.

The first known sealers were Dutch and they killed about 45 000 seals near the Cape of Good Hope in 1610.

In the book *Oceans of Life*, co-authored by Dr Andrew Payne, Dr Jeremy David says most of the seals close to Cape Town were destroyed by the Dutch. French sealers were active on the island in and around Saldanha Bay before 1652. Ships of the English East India Company also engaged in sealing.

### No legal controls

Little sealing took place until the late 18th century and early in the 19th century, when British and American sealers were active on the West Coast.

In those days sealing was a free-for-all with no legal controls. Rookeries were invaded during breeding and seals of all ages were taken, including pregnant cows and black pups a few weeks old. By the end of the 19th century at least 23 island colonies had become extinct.

These included at least four near Saldanha, two near Cape Town, one in Plettenberg bay and many off Namibia, including a large one at Mercury Island.

After the removal of the seals, sea birds increased in number at most islands. The islands subsequently became guano sources.

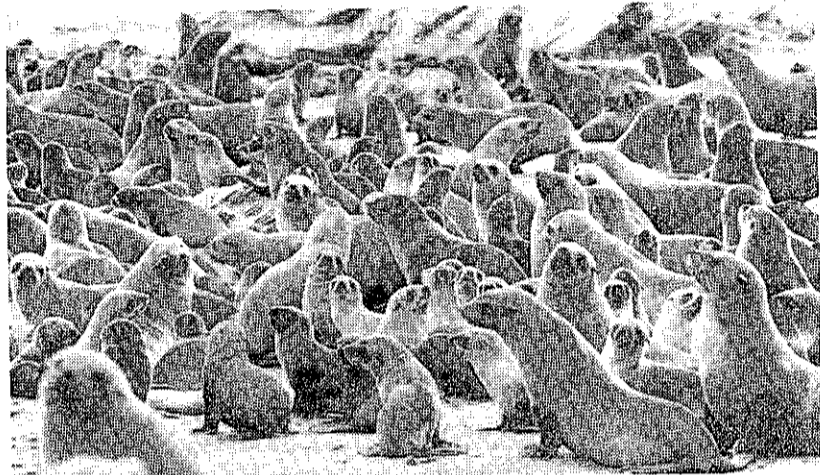
By GRAHAM LIZAMORE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

harvesting of seals in South Africa is strictly controlled and is free from the danger of over-exploitation, according to seal researcher Dr Jeremy David.

Dr David, a marine mammalogist at the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, is in charge of monitoring the seal colonies around the coast.

Only one species of seal breeds along the coasts of South Africa and Namibia, the South African (Cape) seal, *Arctocephalus pusillus pusillus*.

In his book *Oceans of Life* co-edited by Dr Andrew Payne, also of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, Dr David said that in Southern Africa seals breed at 24 colonies from Port Elizabeth to Cape Cross about 160 km north of Walvis Bay.



In Southern Africa seals breed at 24 colonies like this, from Port Elizabeth to Cape Cross, about 160 kilometres north of Walvis Bay.

### Land predators

Seals preferred breeding on offshore islands which were safe from land predators such as jackals and hyenas.

On mainland colonies do exist, but most of these became established after 1940 in restricted diamond areas. The largest, at Cape Cross, is in a nature reserve.

He said that the importance of these mainland colonies can be gauged from the fact that in the early 1980s about 75 percent of all seal pups were born on them.

"It is likely that the colonies at Kleinsee and Atlas Bay are the largest mainland colonies in the world," he said.

About 93 percent of the seal population lives on the West Coast. The reason for this is the richness of the fishing grounds supported by the Benguela current. It is estimated that there are about 1,2 million seals on the Southern African coastline.

Because of the distances involved aerial surveys have proved to be the most successful way of determining seal populations.

On their evidence young seals of three to seven weeks old cannot swim and do not move far. Due to their jet-black coats they can also be easily distinguished from older seals.

Dr David said the number of pups in a colony was multiplied by 4,5 to give the estimated number of adults.

In an interview Dr David said the department could harvest 32 percent of the pups at each colony.

This meant that at Kleinsee, with a total of about 360 000 (indicating about 80 000 pups a year), the sustainable yield was 25 000.

Kleinsee was chosen because it was land-based and therefore more economical to harvest.

Dr David said he believed seal populations would stop growing once some factor in the environment such as space or food became limiting.

At that point the so-called carrying capacity of the environment would have been reached.

Seals are carnivores and opportunistic feeders. About three-quarters of their diet is bony fish and at least 28 species have been identified as prey.

They also eat squid (20 percent of the diet) and in some areas on the West Coast rock lobsters, shrimps and prawns.

## Canada adds 'colour' to the killings

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

The huge controversy over the proposed harvesting of 30 500 Cape fur seals has not been without elements of humour.

The Seal Action Group (SAG), formed to oppose the killing, was awarded a "dart" by Canada's largest newspaper, the Toronto Star, for investing its energies saving seal pups when there are more important causes such as the elimination of apartheid to fight for.

The paper continued: "Would that the Africans showed similar concern for the lives of black human beings, not just white seal pups."

Not only do some SAG members work for anti-apartheid political parties, but — as every good conservationist knows — Cape fur seal pups are black or brown, unlike their white Canadian Harp seal counterparts.

And several black residents of Port Nolloth have expressed their strong opposition to the seal killing.

(The newspaper awarded a "laurel" to Queen Elizabeth II for rising above Canada's "current malaise" and urging the nation to remain together in "well-timed, warm-hearted" speeches.

A second laurel went to the "indomitable" soccer team of the Cameroons for "making defeat look like victory").

The company awarded the contract to kill the seals — Jih Yueh Industries (Pty) Ltd — was registered with the Registrar of Companies on July 25, 1988.

Jih Yueh, which means "big enterprise" in Chinese, was formed to produce and process farm produce, basic foodstuffs and animal feeds.

In the documentation handed in during its incorporation, the following was stated under the heading "Seal":

"The company shall not have a seal unless the directors so decide.

"If at any time it does have a seal, the seal shall only be used by the authorisation of the directors and every instrument to which the seal shall be affixed shall be signed by a director and countersigned by the secretary or secondary director, or by some other person appointed by the directors for such purpose."

## FISHERIES CHIEF GIVES DETAILS OF PERMIT

By GRAHAM LIZAMORE  
Weekend Argus Reporter

The permit issued to a Taiwanese businessman to cull seals at sea followed the submission of a proposal to use the whole seal and not just the genitals. In the past, Dr Louis Botha, director of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, said.

Botha said the 1986 Die-Commission of inquiry had recommended the principle of minimum use of the product.

Details of the permit were disclosed only after Weekend Argus assisted during an interview that was in the public interest to know the details.

The permit was subsequently issued by Dr Botha from the Deputy-Director of Foreign Affairs in Pretoria, Dr Jozua Serfontein.

The permit was issued to Jih Yueh Industries (Pty) Ltd to harvest a maximum of 24 000 seal pups and 5 500 adult bulls. This was subject to annual review for five years.

### Stipulated seasons

It was first issued in 1989 and was valid from July 15, 1989 to November 30, 1989. It was renewed this year.

Sealing can begin at any time after July 15 but can only be conducted during stipulated seasons.

The seal pup season runs from July 15 to September 30. The department's seal expert, Dr Jeremy David, said these dates were chosen because of the maturation

of the pups and the value of the skins.

"Originally we exported skins to America, which insisted that the animals were not of suckling age. The harvest thus had to be arranged so that it would be acceptable to them. By July 15 the animals are almost eight months old and by the end of September the animal is fully independent.

"The mothers then have until November to feed up before they give birth again," he explained.

Adult bulls may be culled during November.

Dr David said sealers could not cull in any other month because the bulls leave after the November one-month breeding season. The culling has to be as short as possible so as not to interfere with the short breeding season.

By JOCELYN MAKER  
and GRAHAM LIZAMORE  
Weekend Argus Reporters

THE Taiwanese businessman involved in the controversial Port Nolloth seal-harvesting fiasco was given government permission to contravene stringent regulations set out in his permit.

In a dramatic turn of events this week the head of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, admitted that Mr Hsu Hsien-I had not complied with the conditions set out in his 1989 harvesting permit when more than 4 000 seals were clubbed in the presence of two Fisheries control officers.

Instead of using the entire carcass — as laid down in the Sea Fisheries, Sea Bird and Seals Protection Act — Mr Hsu removed only the genitals for aphrodisiacs. He then dumped the carcasses.

Even though Mr Hsu did not meet the conditions of his permit the Department of Environment Affairs exercised leniency and renewed his permit for 1990 to harvest 24 000 pups and 5 500 bulls.

### "Strict" controls

This was done in the face of a policy by the directorate to ensure that permit-holders adhere "stringently and strictly" to the terms of their permits.

A Weekend Argus investigation revealed that even at the start of his harvesting operations Mr Hsu did not meet the requirements of his permit.

As early as 1988 when Mr Hsu became involved in a joint harvesting permit with a Cape Town businessman, he was given 3 500 adult bull carcasses free of charge to process.

But according to his partner, Mr Hsu reneged on the agreement and the carcasses were dumped after their testicles were removed.

Mr Hsu's partner, who asked not to be named, told Weekend Argus that by December 10 1988, when his permit expired, he had heard that Mr Hsu would apply for the 1989-1994 concession to harvest seals at Kleinsee.

"I applied, with other Cape Town businessmen. We were turned down because we could not fully utilise the carcasses.

"But neither could Mr Hsu ... yet for some reason he was granted the permit."

It has also emerged that Mr Hsu — in a bid to get rid of the carcasses — offered to sell them to two pet-food companies in Cape Town at 15c a kilogram, even though this would not have covered his costs in transporting them to the city. The companies refused to buy the meat.

### "Scam" denied

Another businessman, who also failed to get a permit, said what worried him was that Mr Hsu had registered his company, Juh Yueh Industries Pty Ltd, in July 1988 — six months before he was granted the permit.

Dr Jozua Serfontein, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environment Affairs, denied any "scam" was involved.

"The only reason I think Mr Hsu registered his company when he did was to give him time to get his equipment for his factory into the country," he said.

The chairman of the Seal Action Group (SAG), Mr Mark le Serve, lashed out at the Department of Sea Fisheries for allowing Mr Hsu to contravene the conditions of his permit.

"We abhor the fact that the

■ To Page 3.

*Wk Argus 21/7/90 3 Fishy*

**'No seal scam'**

■ From Page 1.

department condones the slaughter of seals solely for their genitals and for allowing the carcasses to be dumped.

"The construction of Mr Hsu's Port Nolloth factory has not stopped and we believe the killing of the seals will begin as soon as things have quietened down."

Dr Botha said that from a "strict legal point of view" Mr Hsu had contravened his permit during the 1989 harvest and if one looked at it coldly, he should not have been allowed to continue.

"But at that stage he was at the very beginning of his concession and was in the process of setting up his factory."

During the harvesting operation Fisheries control officers were present to ensure regulations were upheld.

The officers accepted Mr Hsu's explanation that the arrival of his equipment from Taiwan had been delayed.

The chief Fisheries control officer for the Department of Nature Conservation, Mr James van Langelaar, confirmed that two experienced control officers had been present throughout the harvesting. He added that he and Mr Keith Goudie, head of SPCA, had also visited the scene.

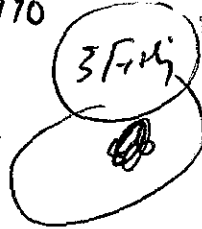
He said Mr Hsu's explanation that he did not have any factory facilities when harvesting began had been accepted and this was why he had been given special exemption.

■ See page 5.

# SEALS SLAUGHTERED IN NEW PERMIT SHOCK

# Seal group in warehouse stake-out

Copy 714 P 23/7/90



By PETER DENNEHY

SEAL Action Group members staked out a warehouse in Table Bay Harbour yesterday in the belief that 8 000 seal carcasses might be inside.

Mr Mark le Serve, chairman of the Seal Action Group, said they had been told by warehouse workers that skinned seal pup carcasses were brought to the warehouse on Thursday night, and were to be loaded on a east-bound ship this morning.

He added that a manager of the warehouse, who did not give his name, had denied that there were any seals inside. The Cape Times was unable to get comment last night from senior managers of the firm.

The Seal Action Group had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a search warrant. However, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries had agreed to conduct its own investigation into the matter.

A Sea Fisheries inspector said that last night's investigation would be the third one conducted in the past week in connection with rumours of 8 000 seal carcasses leaving the country.

● Yesterday Dr Louis Botha, head of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, denied that Taiwanese businessman, Mr Hsu Hsien-I, had been given government permission to contravene regu-

lations set out on his first seal-harvesting permit.

Mr Hsu was also granted a permit to cull over 30 000 seals this season and owns a partially-constructed seal processing plant at Port Nolloth.

It was reported during the weekend that when over 4 000 seals were clubbed in 1989 only the genitals had been used in contravention of the government permit.

The genitals were used for aphrodisiacs — used widely in the East — but the carcasses were dumped in contravention of the Sea Fisheries, Sea Bird and Seals Protection Act.

In spite of state policy that permit holders should stick to the terms of their permits, a permit to cull 24 000 pups and 5 500 bulls was granted to Mr Hsu at the beginning of this year.

It is alleged that in 1988 Mr Hsu was given more than 3 000 seal carcasses at no cost. Again only the testicles were removed and the carcasses dumped.

It was also reported that Mr Hsu was still able to capture the 1989 to 1994 concession to cull the Kleinzee seals, against stiff competition from local businessmen hoping to break into the booming aphrodisiac market in the Orient.

# Seal killing: Experts to meet today

3/4/84  
CAP TIPS 29/7/90

By DANIEL SIMON and KIN BENTLEY  
GOVERNMENT and independent scientists are today to thrash out the pros and cons of commercial seal harvesting — following Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze's return to South Africa yesterday to reassess his decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to harvest more than 30 000 seals at Kleinsee.

This is the first time the issue will be formally aired between government and interest groups since Mr Kotze placed a temporary freeze on the venture two weeks ago because of strong opposition.

Seal Action Group member Ms Kim Clarkin said yesterday that a debate would take place today between government scientists and experts called on by the SAG. A meeting between Mr Kotze and the SAG is scheduled for Friday morning in Pretoria.

At Jan Smuts Airport Mr Kotze said he would give the culling project his

"urgent attention" and would check on reports that Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsu Hsien-i had withdrawn from the project.

In London yesterday South Africa's embassy complained to Britain's Advertising Standards Authority about an advertisement placed in major newspapers by an animal-conservation group which launched another protest campaign against the proposed seal culling, reports Sapa.

A team of diplomats handled well over 100 telephone calls to South Africa House by animal lovers in response to the advertisement by the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

The ambassador, Mr Rae Killen, wrote to newspaper editors, saying that the IFAW advertisement's call for action totally ignored the South African government's recent decision to postpone indefinitely the culling operation.

The IFAW's executive director, Mr Richard Moore, said: "This is a hunt without pity ... simply for profit."

# Minister denies he 'summoned' seal savers

ARGUS 25/7/90 3 Feb 9

By JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

MINISTER of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé will meet conservationists in Pretoria on Friday to discuss their opposition to the "harvest" of 30 500 Cape fur seals this season.

But Mr Kotzé strongly denied a report in The Argus yesterday which quoted a Seal Action Group (SAG) spokesman as saying he had "summoned" their representatives to the meeting.

"This is definitely not true," Mr Kotzé said last night.

"I said I would meet with groups and would be available towards the end of the week, and that I would pay attention to all the complaints.

"But I absolutely, definitely did not summon anyone. That is not my style."

The confusion appeared to have arisen after a SAG representative in Johannesburg arranged Friday's meeting with Mr Kotzé through the deputy-director of his department, Dr Jozua Serfontein.

Representatives of Earthlife Africa and Save Our Seals are also to attend.

## "CONFUSION"

"SAG will contact Mr Kotzé's office today to clear up any confusion," said spokeswoman Ms Kim Clarkin.

● Mr Mike Jones, the chief executive of a company which produces a "protein-from-fish" product, which it claims could provide emergency nutritional relief, has asked for a meeting with Mr Kotzé.

Mr Jones said his company could offer a "practical solution to the seal debacle" at Port Nolloth by using the half-completed factory which was to have processed seal products.

"Harvest for Life is ready to start its first protein-from-fish factory," he said in an open letter to Mr Kotzé.

"This patented process converts most fish material, including bones, into a highly nutritive edible protein at an extremely low cost."

ARC 25/7/90

# Tuna takes a tumble

## Low catches blamed on gill nets; 5 000 jobs on the line

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Shipping Reporter

**DIMINISHING**  
catches, down about two-thirds in three years, are threatening the industry and an estimated 5 000 jobs.

Alarm bells for the industry rang loud last week with the closing down of tuna company Interfish. Its buildings and 11 boats were auctioned at what were described as bargain prices.

Many other tuna fishermen would be thinking seriously about their future before the tuna season began in November, a source in the industry said.



Blame for dwindling catches have been levelled against foreign fishermen using gill nets illegally in South African waters.

"Part of the problem this year was the bad weather in April. We had three weeks of winter then and catches were poor," said Mr Richard Ball, co-ordinator of the Tuna Resource Management Group.

"But I would definitely say gill net fishing has had a terrible effect. These nets stretch over hundreds of kilometres and are put in the migration paths of the fish.



"I would say the catch this year was about a third of what it was two or three years ago.

"The blocking of the migration routes with gill nets eventually force the fish take another route. They have a sort of group intelligence and they learn about dangers.

"Gill nets also ruin the fish. A large percentage of the fish caught in gill nets are too damaged to be used. Fish caught in gill nets sell for about \$1 300 (about R3 300) a ton free on board in Cape Town, while those caught by line fetch about \$2 000 (about R5 200) a ton.

"Initially the drop of the rand against other major currencies was an advantage but the rand has since increased in value. Tuna prices have also improved somewhat but a real inflation rate of nearly 25 percent has cancelled this out."

Mr Ball said there were about 50 full-time tuna boats and 50 others for which tuna was an important part of their catch. Each boat carried about 25 men.

If added to workers ashore, and those indirectly linked to the industry through services, the number making a living from tuna could be up to 5 000.

"Many tuna fishermen will be doing some serious soul-searching before November. If they are forced into other areas of the fishing industry such as linefish or snoek, those resources will be under pressure," Mr Ball said.

"We are pleased with the



government's actions against gill nets, but we'd like to see gill net boats prevented from entering any harbours in the southern Atlantic as well as Mauritius and Reunion.

"Even if gill nets were removed immediately, it will take about three to four years before we again catch fish bigger than juveniles.

"We should have a virtual holy war against gill net fishing."

Dr Louis Botha of the De-



partment of Sea Fisheries said the United Nations General Assembly had called for a moratorium on gill net fishing until the completion of studies to determine the damage they cause.

This moratorium could come into effect in 1992. Meanwhile, the International Whaling Commission and the South Atlantic Tuna Commission have, with South Africa playing a major role, issued resolutions against gill net fishing and called for studies on the subject.

Dr Botha said South Africa would contribute to the gathering of information as far as possible, but it had little to contribute because it had never used gill nets.

There was no scientific basis for saying whether gill nets had an influence on the tuna resource, he said.

# Scientists to meet on culling

*3 Feb*  
*25/1/90*  
*Capit Tenth*

Staff Reporter

ENVIRONMENT Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze is to appoint a group of scientists to help formulate government policy towards seal harvesting.

Ten scientists are to meet in the next month to examine the pros and cons of the issue, it was confirmed yesterday by the Department of Sea Fisheries and the Seal Action Group (SAG).

"The scientists will be asked to determine whether a sustainable yield of seals will impact negatively or positively on a colony if 30 000 are to be killed," an SAG spokesman said. The "ecological impact" of the killing will be examined.

The group will also determine whether government research is heading in the right direction.

"There is concern that as a high-profile predator, many seals get shot when they get close to fishermen's nets." The SAG wants an effective method in place to stop seals from going near the nets.

The SAG spokesman said ethics, morals and financial benefits would not form part of the study.

Meanwhile, the SPCA, in representations to the Minister of Environment Affairs, says it believes the killings are unnecessary and could be illegal under the Animals Protection Act of 1962.

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# Namibian to start harvesting of seals

By DANIEL SIMON

A NAMIBIAN businessman has a seven-year government contract to harvest thousands of seals from the Wolf Bay and Atlas Bay colonies till 1997 — and to process the remains at his recently completed factory at Luderitz.

This was disclosed yesterday by the businessman concerned, Mr J G le Roux, owner of Namibian Venison and Marine Products, who said his team of 12 workers would club "roughly" about 20 000 pups and shoot about 3 000 bulls from the first week of August till the end of November.

Mr Le Roux said the entire seal carcass would be processed. This would further include processing the bodies of numerous seal pups which have died from starvation in the area.

The Luderitz factory is about 300km north of Port Nolloth — the town where a Taiwanese businessman set

up a similar venture to process the remains of 30 500 seals from the Kleinsee colony. The businessman is still waiting for Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze's final decision.

Seals from Kleinsee and Wolf and Atlas Bays form part of the Cape west coast fur seal population, which is estimated to be about 600 000-strong.

Mr Le Roux said some seal products would be destined for Windhoek while other products, including skins, would be exported to South Africa. The genitalia are expected to be exported to the East as an aphrodisiac.

No official comment could be obtained from the Namibian Department of Sea Fisheries, as the entire top structure are holding a three-day meeting in Mariental — situated between Windhoek and Luderitz — to determine this season's cull quota, reliable sources said.

# Sardine squeeze for Gansbaai's fishermen

By HENRI du PLESSIS

Staff Reporter

FISHERMEN in Gansbaai are facing ruin.

The crisis has been brought about by a sardine quota so low that the fishermen's traditional wooden trawlers are no longer able to operate efficiently.

Many of them feel they have no alternative but to sell their boats and move out.

The reason is the low quotas set by the Sea Fisheries division of the Department of Environment Affairs, they claim.

None of the fishermen wanted to be identified. They all said they feared retribution, but would not name from whom they expected it.

Fishermen say that following a bleak season which allowed each boat to catch only 2 000 tons of sardines, they have been struck a hammer blow by the fact that next season they will not be allowed to take any anchovy, a catch which has traditionally helped them to supplement their meagre incomes.

However, the Department of Sea Fisheries, while admitting the fishermen had serious problems, denied that the anchovy quota for next year had already been set.

"I don't know where they heard they will not be able to catch anchovy next year. The anchovy survey will only be done in November," said Sea Fisheries director, Dr Louis Botha.

The owner-skipper of the town's nine boats are considering a proposal by their co-operative, Gansbaai Marine, to buy them out.

## Taken loans

Each boat carries 10 crew and a crewman gets paid R3.27 a ton — an income of only R6 400 a year.

Some of them have bought houses after obtaining loans from the Small Business Development Corporation, but half-yearly repayments of near R2 000 leave the owner of the house only about R2 000 on which to eke out a living for him and his family.

One of the skippers claims his running costs had been R105 000 for the season, while his income had dropped to R88 000.

Gansbaai Marine plans to sell the boats on the open market and buy much larger vessels, which local skippers are not qualified to sail.

The fishermen's problems will also become the town's problems, according to the skippers.

With 90 people from the town making a living out of fishing, a large bite would be taken out of the town's population if these people had to move out to find work elsewhere.

"There is more than enough fish. The sardine schools move very close

inshore, while the department's research ship does not come in to the shallower water," said one skipper.

"At the moment there are two men who are responsible for issuing a quota — we call for a commission of no less than eight to 10 people to do this job."

To find crew in a season of low quotas, skippers had to tell lies, one skipper said.

"Most of the boats have already filled their quotas and will now lie in harbour for six months, waiting for the next season to start.

## Only two men

"Meanwhile, we cannot even get a B-licence for our skiboats. I have a skiboat certified for five crew, but without the B-licence, I can take only two men with me.

"That means two of my crew have to stay ashore and cannot share in the further income provided by the skiboat. But the other day, a holiday-maker from the Transvaal arrived with his B-licence.

"Why can't the full-time members of the fishing industry be looked after first?"

"These men are not qualified to do anything else. Where must they now find work?"

"It is a fact that Gansbaai's fishermen had too low a quota — this has been a standing argument for years, but they are not the only ones" Dr Botha said.

"We face a problem in that we have to look after the resource and see to it that it is not over-exploited. At the same time, the national quota has to be shared by all the fishermen in the country. How do we solve this?"

"If we give more to Gansbaai, we either have to take away from the fishermen elsewhere, or we have to allow a larger quota, but we cannot do that.

"The new Sea Fisheries Act provides for the establishing of an independent quota board, so in this respect, they are going to get what they asked for.

"The quota board's first priority will be to find solutions to the problems we have with the pelagic quota and Gansbaai is at the top of the list."

## Scientific

"The anchovy quota has been cut to 150 000 tons this year and it is a significant reduction if one considers it had been 600 000 tons in the past.

"The quota for sardines has since been increased from 30 000 tons to 56 000 tons — it is scientifically determined, with the research ship Afrikaner sailing a predetermined grid pattern.

"I admit we don't sail into Walker Bay, but there is no separate resource there — the resource as a whole is investigated."

Low quotas bring prospect of ruin: We have to lie to get crew' — skipper

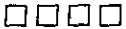


The Argus, Thursday July 26 1990

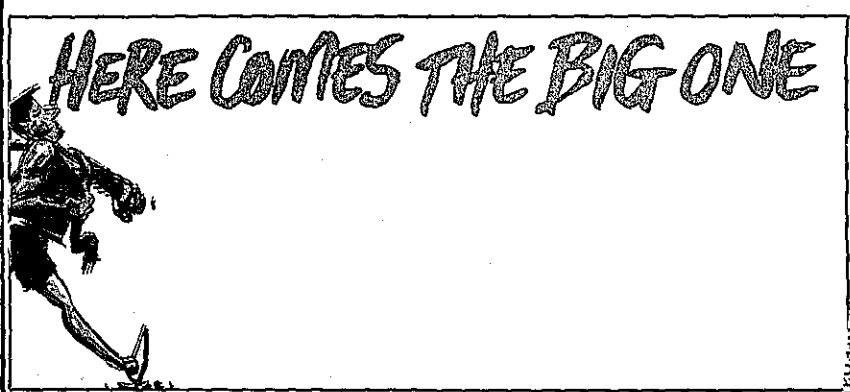


Pictures: WILLIE DE KLERK, The Argus

**TROUBLED WATERS:** Gansbaai harbour — low sardine quotas may force the town's fishermen to sell their boats and move out.



**DIRE STRAITS:** Two of Gansbaai's fishermen. They did not want to be identified for fear of retribution.



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CAPE

higher than 10% (working in dollars of constant value), we can then work backward to determine the implicitly-assumed hazard rate, and from it the implicitly-assumed survival probabilities  $q_1$ . This calculation is done in the appendix, and it turns out that the survival probability, for two years without

disaster, is  $q_2 = 0.74$ , only 74%. We are therefore be-  
  
entire probability of disaster in the first two years. If it is of much lower size, it implies an unreasonably low  $q_1$  and  $q_2$ . This finding has implications for the discussion concerning an appropriate value of the "cost of capital" future.

TH93

# Major legal blunder left marine life unprotected

Added  
27/7/80  
(3611)



**GOOEY:** Animal nurse Priscilla Smith of the Centre for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (Crow) shows the oil washed from Cape gannets affected by leaking oil from the ore carrier Petingo which ran aground off Zululand.

## Street collection

TOMORROW'S street collection is for the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals, fund-raising number 08 800335 000 9. — Staff Reporter.

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

A MAJOR legal blunder by the Department of Environment Affairs left South Africa's marine resources virtually unprotected for four weeks — and unscrupulous fishermen could have made a vast profit by catching rock lobster, perlemoen and fish species unhindered by inspectors.

The department's error — admitted by a spokesman — was to bring the new Sea Fishery Act into operation without gazetting any of the accompanying regulations.

This Act, which replaces the former Sea Fisheries Act of 1973, was adopted by parliament in 1979 to come into force on a date to be determined by the president. This was done on July 1.

## GILL NETS 'LEGAL'

The use of gill nets — supposedly banned — has been effectively legal since the beginning of the month, as has been diving for any number of rock lobster using aqualung, catching of undersized marine species, bait stripping and other normally prohibited acts.

At least one major "offender" escaped when the State declined to prosecute because of the blunder, which has been slated by conservationists.

Marine conservation inspectors have been powerless to act. However, a Government Gazette rectified the situation today.

Mr Jan Glazewski, senior researcher in the Institute of Marine Law at the University of Cape Town, said the department had made a major mistake.

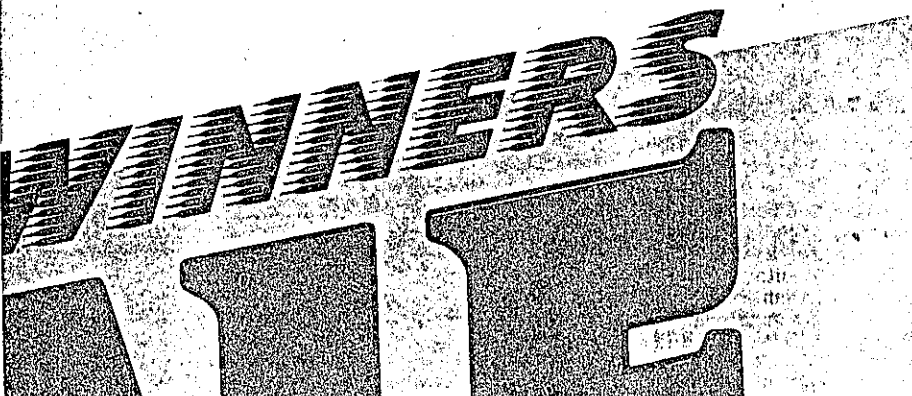
"If they could wait for almost two years (to bring the Act into force), why not wait another three weeks? There's been no law to prosecute anyone in this vacuum," he said.

## "DELAY WITH REGULATIONS"

The chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, Mr Vic Kabalin, said in a letter to Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotzé it was "incomprehensible" why the new Act had not been delayed slightly until the regulations were in place.

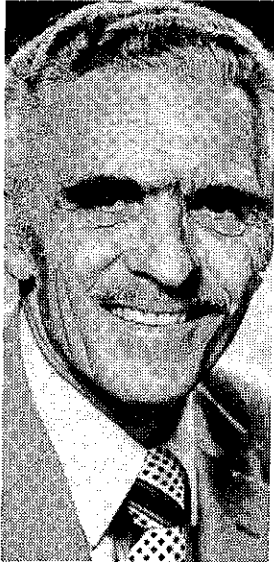
A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said: "There has been a technical-legal delay with the regulations — I admit that. A new Act as well as new regulations had to be in place which, quite frankly, is a major job. It's not a simple matter."

Ironically, the new Act provides for tough penalties for illegal fishing — including the confiscation of boats, a fine of up to R1 million — and a maximum fine of R50 000 for illegally catching perlemoen and rock lobster, as well as a fine of up to three times the commercial value of the catch.



CMT 7:45 28/7/90 (3 files) (1)

# Seal committee will be formed



Mr Gert Kotze

## Staff Reporter

AN independent advisory committee is to be appointed to investigate all aspects of seal life, culling and culling methods on the West Coast, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, announced yesterday.

The announcement came after the minister met various groups, including the Seal Action Group, Earthlife Africa, Save our Seals and the World Society for the Protection of Animals, in Pretoria yesterday.

The 30 500 seals at Kleinsee who are under threat of being slaughtered have been granted a reprieve until at least September 30.

The committee will advise the minister on all aspects regarding the harvesting of seals and will include scientists "acceptable to all the groups", Mr Kotze said in a statement.

He called on "interest groups" to put forward the names of experts who would be considered for the committee.

Meanwhile the Seal Action Group (SAG) vowed yesterday that it would intensify its lobbying actions against the "proposed and unnecessary slaughter of Kleinsee seals".

The SAG said it wanted answers to key questions, such as why the seal harvesting permit was issued initially.

"We feel it was an unsatisfactory and unproductive meeting as the minister was unable to answer our questions, especially why the seal harvesting concession was granted.

"Our impression was that despite the temporary suspension, the Department of Environment is trying to find a justification to continue the seal slaughter."

# Minister stumped by key questions — action group

BY JOCELYN MAKER  
and GRAHAM LIZAMORE  
Weekend Argus Reporters

THE Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, was unable to answer key questions put to him by the Seal Action Group (SAG) over the proposed slaughter of 30 500 seals at Kleinsee, the group claims.

Mr Kotzé advised the group in Pretoria yesterday that he saw their meeting with him as only one of a number to gather information.

But an SAG spokesman said they had found this confusing. Information from a number of sources saying that the seal harvest had no scientific or ecological basis had been given to Mr Kotzé's department before they met.

"We feel it was an unsatisfactory and unproductive meeting. The minister was unable to answer questions. He could not answer why the seal harvest concession had been granted," he said.

"Our impression is that despite the temporary suspension, the department is trying to find a justification to continue the seal killings."

## Intensified lobbying

"We also found it disturbing that Mr Kotzé was not aware that the conditions of the permit had been contravened last year when almost 4 000 seals were killed merely for their genitals. The carcasses were dumped."

The SAG plans to intensify its lobbying efforts against the proposed harvesting of the seals.

"Until the matter has been resolved, Mr Kotzé and his department must be held responsible."

Meanwhile a source at Port Nolloth has told the Weekend Argus that the seal processing and canning factory, owned by Taiwanese businessman Mr Hsein-I-Hsu, is almost complete.

"There is much activity there and talk in the area is that it will be completed within a month," the source said.

"The harvesting season for adult males seals begins in November and this is where the money is. Once the processing plant is finished there is nothing stopping Mr Kotzé from giving Mr Hsu the go-ahead to kill the seals."

# 'Turn protest into protein'

W/E ARGUS 28/7/90 3/454

By JOCELYN MAKER  
Weekend Argus Reporter

A SOLUTION to end the seal-culling debacle at Port Nolloth and turn it into a positive venture to feed millions of starving people has been offered to the government by a Cape Town businessman.

And if the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, accepts this proposal, the seals at Kleinsee will also be saved.

Mr Mike Jones, chief director of Harvest for Life, wants to buy the controversial seal-culling factory being constructed in the small town and use it to mass-produce meals for hunger and famine victims world-wide.

In a letter to Mr Kotzé, Mr Jones said his offer would address all the aspects which are creating dissension among the parties.

## Protein from fish

"We are giving them the opportunity to change the extremely negative worldwide protest campaign into a favourable and supportive project for everyone."

The company, Mr Jones said, is ready to launch its first food-from-fish factory and the Port Nolloth one would be ideal for this.

## New plan for seal factory

He holds the patent for converting the remains of raw fish into a high-quality protein meal for human consumption.

This meal-in-a-pouch, which has been approved by the South African Bureau of Standards and the CSIR, has been recognised in other countries as an answer to feeding starving people.

"We have a product which can play a major role in creating food and money to people who desperately need it. Our outlook is humanitarian in the first instance, but the financial rewards are still substantial.

"If we get the Port Nolloth factory, not only do we save the seals but we will be giving the town a much-needed boost. Employment will be provided and local fisherman can supply us with fish, which will give them an income.

"We will offer to buy the factory from the Taiwanese businessman, Mr Hsein-I-Hsu, or he can become actively involved with it. What we also want is for the government to assist us by

finding a local market for our product.

"There are pensioners in our country who are eating dog food while fishmeal is made in massive volumes for animal consumption. If we are going to make fishmeal to feed animals, why can't we use part of that raw material to feed people.

"Chronic malnutrition is rife in many black areas. In the homelands thousands are going hungry and with our product we will be able to feed them."

## Difficulties

Last week a representative from Harvest for Life met Dr Jozua Serfontein, deputy director-general of the Department of Environment Affairs, who pointed out that there were certain difficulties in the proposal.

But he said he believed the project had merit, Mr Jones reported.

"I have also been in contact with the Seal Action Group and proposed this solution on a purely business basis to them. I got a favourable reaction.

"Now all we have to do is wait for Mr Kotzé to grant us an interview," Mr Jones said.





# SEAL ANGER

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SEAL

## World outcry over SA culling

By ANDRE KOOPMAN  
**ANGRY** animal-lovers worldwide are rallying to block a Taiwanese businessman's scheme to turn 25 000 South African seal pups into dog food, chicken feed and aphrodisiacs.

Several international news agencies and conservation groups telephoned the Cape Times yesterday after it had broken the news this week that the government had licensed a Taiwanese company to club and slaughter more than 30 000 seals at Kleinsee, near Port Nolloth.

Major American television networks CBS and ABC as well as Canadian radio stations contacted the Cape Times, saying there was a swell of anger locally against moves to import tinned sealmeat into the United States. The international environment group Greenpeace is also gathering and co-ordinating information on the project.

Speaking from Seattle, Washington, in the US, a Greenpeace worker, Ms Denise Joines, said local environmentalist groups were "outraged" about the plans. She would not be drawn on any Greenpeace plans at this stage. Cape environmentalist Mrs Nan Rice said: "There is a massive protest pouring in from all over the country. "I haven't seen anything like it

### Gill net captain is fined R500

**Court Reporter**  
THE captain of a Taiwanese fishing vessel charged with carrying an illegal gill net without a permit was yesterday convicted and fined R500.

The net was found on board the vessel in Table Bay on Wednesday without the necessary permit to carry the banned nets.

A special application to have the illegal net — valued at R100 000 — returned after it had been seized by Sea Fisheries officials, was granted.

Advocate Mr W King, defending captain Lin Chu Hsiung, made the application on behalf of the fishing company which owns the vessel, Yung Chien.

The maximum fine for being in possession of the net is R1 000 at present.

● Longline fishing permits axed — Page 2

in 20 years of fighting for marine life."

Incensed local environmentalists have responded by pooling their resources to form a Seal Action Group.

In the Transvaal a campaign called Save our Seals has also been launched, and Pretoria animal protectionists, Coast, plan a picket protest outside the Depart-

ment of Environment Affairs head office today.

Taiwan embassy economics adviser Mr C H Fang said in a telephone interview that opposition to the killing was "stupid".

Referring to an irate telephone call from a woman who opposed the plan, he said: "I think she is just a stupid woman. I think she is just too fat and she has nothing better to do.

"She should protest against the countries that kill people like Russia and not against countries that kill seals. People should worry about people, not animals," Mr Fang said.

Environment Minister Mr Gert Kotze said yesterday that it was policy to use seals as any other living marine source, in accordance with the United Nations' controlled world conservation strategy.

Mr Kotze said that:

● The genitals will be used for medicinal purposes and the skin for handbags, shoes and gloves. The meat and fat will be dried into pellets, mainly for chicken feed.

● The quota to be harvested will be reviewed annually.

● The "harvesting operation" may be conducted only in the presence of a fisheries control officer. Any fisheries control officer can halt the process at any time.

● Any official from the Department of Sea Fisheries and representatives of the SPCA can also inspect the harvesting at all times.



UNDER SIEGE ... Students give a power salute after posting the slogans on the campus fence denouncing President Kenneth Kaunda.

### Zambian student shot dead

LUSAKA. — Zambian troops stormed Lusaka's university campus early yesterday, shooting one student dead and wounding many others.

Troops and para-military stormed the campus about 3am, breaking down doors when students tried to barricade themselves in, beating and dragging anyone who refused to get out. Eyewitness reports said troops opened fire, and many students fell, bleeding heavily.

At least 27 students, accused of inciting this week's unrest against the government's doubling of the price of maize meal, were arrested. Others were taken at gunpoint to bus stops and told to go home.

President Kenneth Kaunda's first public utterances after three days of unrest were hardline, but he did announce that a promised referendum on whether Zambia should return to a multi-party system would be held on October 17.

But the fact that middle-class Zambians sympathised with the rioters calling for Dr Kaunda to go, shows that opposition to the president crosses the boundaries of money and class.

Last February, Zambian students openly booed when the deputy president of the ANC, Mr Nelson Mandela, referred to Dr Kaunda as "a great son of Africa". — Daily Telegraph

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# Longline fishing permits axed

Staff Reporter

LONGLINE fishing permits, which enable trawler operators to catch kingklip, hake and tunny, have been withdrawn by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, to protect dwindling resources.

Permit holders were told by letter this week that all long line catches had to cease by July 2 — a week-long deadline on activities.

It is believed that this new measure will affect 13 permit holders, and fifty fisherman and their families.

The longline method uses a kilometre long line with hooks attached at metre intervals. Trawlers can trail as many as three lines.

According to Mr Rudi Laan, deputy director, Sea Fisheries administration, Mr Kotze and the department of Sea Fisheries would try to find ways to help fishermen who earn a living from the longline fishing method.

He said the normal catch of kingklip by deep sea trawlers was about 4 000 tons, but with the longline method it at one stage increased to a record 12 000 tons.



**Business Editor**

THE Premier Group has acquired the entire fishing operations of Cape Town-based Atlantic Fishing Enterprises, for an undisclosed sum, with effect from today.

Premier chairman and CE Peter Wrighton said, in a statement issued yesterday, that it had been bought as a going concern and would continue to be run by its "highly competent management".

Atlantic, which has modern premises in Cape Town Harbour, is involved in the catching, processing, storing and trading of fish and shellfish including deep sea lobster from the south coast.

Wrighton said the acquisition "presents Premier with a rare opportunity

# Premier acquires Atlantic Fishing

*Cape Times 31/7/90*

to complement and expand its fishing operations in a tightly held industry, particularly in the profitable south coast lobster market."

He said Atlantic also had "a well developed export marketing arm enabling Premier to increase its participation in this substantial market.

"The acquisition of Atlantic Fishing, which has been funded by the issue of shares in Premier, should

marginally improve the group's earnings in the current financial year."

Atlantic was owned by Caspar Wolff, who founded it in 1975 in partnership with Peter Cuttell and Sean Keegan, and bought complete control three years ago.

He said yesterday: "I have had 35 years in the fishing industry, and I think that is enough. I am retiring from it, at least for a while."

He will retain his interest in a harbour restaurant.

Wolff said that, although the coastal fishing industry is having a difficult year, his deep sea operations have done well. "The deep sea lobsters are a different species from the West Coast rock lobsters. We filled our quota in as good a time as any other year."

Confirming this, Premier deputy CE Gordon Utian said the West Coast lobsters had been of poor quality this year and in limited supply. But this had not applied to the deep sea variety.

The acquisition of Atlantic would widen the scope of Premier's fishing activities. "It will give us an entry into the white fish market."

## PANIES

### Oceana group moves to overcome problems

blom 4/1490  
LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — The Oceana Fishing Group is diversifying to offset disappointing fishing conditions, says executive chairman Walter Lewis in the annual report.

New moves, he says, will also provide a base for future growth and profitability.

During the year under review, reduced landings of anchovy in SA and rock lobster in Namibia and SA contributed substantially to a 42% decline in the group's attributable earnings.

A decision to hive off the Namibian interests, which had become a financial burden, and to diversify into other areas which were more profitable and, significantly, not quota-bound, has been implemented.

Oceana's interest in Namibian Sea Products was sold in September and the proceeds used to acquire the abalone business of Tuna Marine. This gives the group a 29% stake in the high-export abalone industry.

Shortly after this transaction, agreement was reached with Imperial Cold Storage to merge its commercial cold stores with those of Oceana, an arrangement which gives Oceana a 60% share in, and responsibility for the management of, the merged business.

R40m plans (3) Fishing

In another recent development, Oceana subsidiary SA Sea Products joined Masterbond subsidiary Masterprop in a consortium to redevelop Hout Bay harbour.

Rights for the redevelopment were granted by the Cape Provincial Administration. Development proposals involving an investment of up to R40m have been agreed in principle.

All of these developments were expected to impact positively on Oceana's future financial performance, Lewis said.

On the fishing side, he thought overall prospects were marginally better than last year.

While pilchard resources appeared stable, and possibly even expanding, there was still uncertainty about the state of anchovy resources. Lewis warned that if the total allowable anchovy catch did not exceed last year's, reduction plans would result in an operational loss.

Lobster and other fishing operations, on the other hand, were budgeted to show an improved operational and financial performance in the year ahead, he said.

# Poachers, seals 'ripping off our kreef'

CM + Tuis

5/12/70

3 fish

By CHRIS BATEMAN

THE debate over "declining" crayfish stocks heated up yesterday when the Fisheries Control Services was accused of allowing the seal population to burgeon and of failing to crack down effectively on illegal poaching.

Since 1979 the commercial crayfish quota had been decreased by 33% while the bag limit for non-commercial fishermen was more recently reduced from five to four, Dr Louis Botha, director of Sea Fisheries (administration), confirmed.

In spite of this, commercial crayfishermen on the West Coast are still complaining of reduced catches after many last year failed to meet quotas.

Dr Botha said last season saw a 10% shortfall.

Mr Vic Kabalin, chairman of

the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, and Mr Armando Fernandes, a Cape Town fishing company manager, said lowering limits for leisure crayfishermen was a misplaced measure.

This was an attempt to compensate for the lack of Sea Fisheries control of what they termed "massive" illegal abuse of the resource, they said.

Their comments come a day after Mr Walter Lewis, executive chairman of the Oceana Fishing Company, quoted overseas dealers as saying "tons" of illegal South African crayfish were freely available.

Mr Niel van Wyk, a director of Nature Conservation, said yesterday that a team of Cape inspectors was overseas investigating a major illegal crayfish deal. He declined to name the country or elaborate.

Mr Fernandes claimed that the seal population was "totally out of hand", citing 36 fresh crayfish found recently in the stomach of a seal killed at Kleinsee.

Mr Kabalin said Sea Fisheries had turned down a proposal to appoint honorary inspectors operating in scheduled areas at specific times.

In spite of seal culling being an "environmental hot potato", environmental management was essential.

Mr Van Wyk said the Minister, Mr Louis Pienaar, was considering the findings of an independent committee investigating the seal issue. A moratorium had been placed on appointing honorary inspectors until Mr Pienaar had studied proposals.

"We have 70 men to patrol a 2 000km coastline. Luckily we have full co-operation from the police and navy," he added.

# Guidelines proposed for use of gill nets

M/GW  
6/12/90  
3/10/93

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

ANY new or extended gill-net fishing should be subjected to rigorous environmental impact assessments — including an analysis of the effect on non-target species such as whales and dolphins (cetaceans).

Also, independent observers should be placed aboard Taiwanese and other "distant-water" gill-net fleets and proper data on these fleets' bycatches should be reported and evaluated.

These were among the recommendations of an international conference at La Jolla in California.

The conference also found that several stocks of cetaceans were unable to sustain current losses caused by nets and traps — including those of hump-backed and bottlenose dolphins along the east coast of South Africa — and recommended urgent action to reduce such killings.

The conference, entitled *Mortality of Cetaceans in Passive Fishing Nets and Traps*, was sponsored by the International Whaling Commission — South Africa is a founder member — the UN Environmental Programme, the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the US National Marine Fisheries Service, the US Marine Mammal Commission, the World Wildlife Fund in Sweden and New Zealand's Department of Conservation.

South African scientists Dr Vic Cockcroft, curator of marine mammals at Port Elizabeth Museum, and Mr Roger Krohn of the Foundation for Research Development, based at UCT, attended.

Fleets from Taiwan and other "distant-water" gill-net fleets continued to operate without documentation in the Atlantic, and without providing adequate data for operations in the Indian and Pacific oceans, the workshop found.



"This is a matter of grave concern, not only for nations adjacent to the fishing areas but also with respect to the status of marine mammals taken in these fisheries.

"It is recommended that, while such activities continue, data on all distant-water fleets must be collected by the flag nations and nations servicing these fleets, and independent observers placed aboard vessels.

"The bycatches must be reported and evaluated and appropriate management actions taken before further fishing is authorised."

Dr Cockcroft described the meeting as "very productive".

"But I think overall the feeling was one of depression. Few people have any real data on the extent and likely outcome of gill-net catches throughout the world, and there is just no monitoring."

The recognition which the meeting had given to South Africa for its research work on the effect of shark nets — Dr Cockcroft has been working on this for 12 years — was "very exciting", he added.

The effect of these nets on inshore dolphin populations needed more attention.

# Major perlemoen bust

CAPE TOWN 8/12/90

3 F 84

**EAST LONDON.** — Nature conservation officials lying in wait at the airport here have made a major perlemoen bust, arresting two men and seizing nearly 450kg of undersized perlemoen.

The swoop on the smugglers was carried out by two Sea Fisheries law enforcement officers, Mr Jan Ellis and Mr Hein de Lange, who flew to East London from Cape Town on Wednesday afternoon.

Officials said further arrests elsewhere in the country were imminent.

The perlemoen, valued at about R80 a kilogram on the open market, a total of about R36 000, had been shelled and packed in crayfish containers destined for a Hong Kong company called Dunford Provisions.

The consignment, which also included more than 90kg of oysters from Transkei, were in boxes labelled as coming from a Transkei company.

The arrests on Thursday night followed a tip-off to the Department of Nature Conservation and Environmental Affairs two weeks ago, a director of the department, Mr Niel van Wyk, said last night.

He said his department received "leads of this nature all the time".

"Our informants told us the consignment was scheduled to be shipped out of East London on November 30, and when this did not happen we were worried the suspects had been tipped off," he said.

Mr Ellis said he and Mr De Lange had waited until the perlemoen had been processed through customs

and then let the two men return to their car before arresting them.

Mr Van Wyk said it was ironic that the arrests should have been made on National Marine Day.

Later two men appeared in the magistrate's court here yesterday charged with illegally exporting 434kg of perlemoen.

Mr Vic van Niekerk, 28, of Coffee Bay, Transkei, and Mr Petrus Johannes Mattheus Strijdom, 48, of Constantiakloof, Roodepoort, were not asked to plead.

Bail was set at R2 000 each, and the case was postponed to January 25 for further investigation. — Own Correspondent and Staff Reporter

# Crayfish quota dispute rages

SITimes 9/12/90

By PHILIP GELDERBLUM

AMATEUR crayfish anglers took off their diving gloves this week to square up to the chairman of a commercial fishing company who wants the season for private divers cut from five months to one.

Said Walter Lewis, chairman of Oceana Fishing: "I am worried about the damage done to the crayfish population by

amateurs <sup>③</sup> fishing.

"The number of people fishing in the western Cape for crayfish is increasing — 35 000 last season up to 42 000 this season.

"If these people took out half their quota, it would mean a haul of 6 300 tons. The whole commercial

quota for this season is only 3 905 tons."

Mr Lewis said overfishing could be one of the reasons for the decline in the crayfish population.

"Last season the catch was 400 tonnes short, and it looks as if it will be just the same this season."

In retaliation, Cape Town diving instructor Steve Williams, a keen

crayfish diver, said commercial companies were "greedy".

He strongly disagreed with Mr Lewis's estimate of the private catch.

"Local divers can dive only on weekends, and often the weather is too bad for them to dive," he said.

"We can take out only four crayfish a day, for which we have to drive so far to get outside the reserve that it is often not worth our while.

"A good diver will be lucky to take out 20 crayfish in a season, but the average is probably less."

Scientists at the Department of Sea Fisheries bore out Mr Williams's argument. Researcher Dr David Pollock said it was impossible to determine how many crayfish were removed by private divers every year.

## Refuted

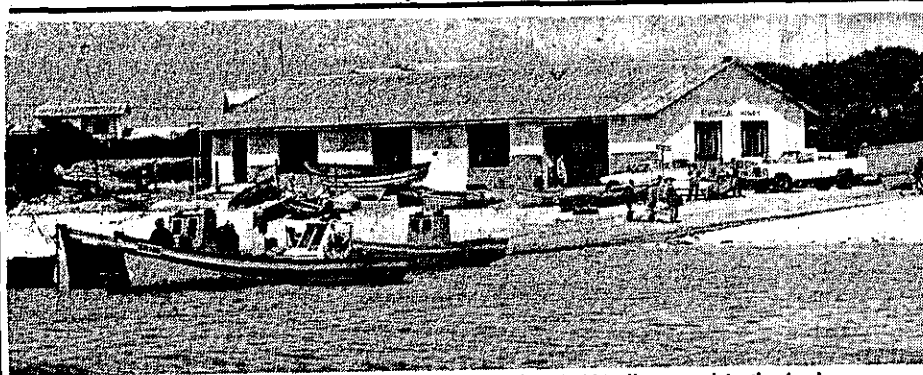
He said Mr Lewis's estimate of 6 300 tons was a "thumb-suck figure".

Mr Lewis's claims were also refuted by the Director of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, who said the commercial catch was not declining.

"Last year's catch was the first in 10 years not to live up to expectations," he said.

"That was due mainly to a change in the moulting cycle that caused the companies to begin their fishing later than normal."

Amateur crayfish diver Alfred Poole said: "If commercial companies are so worried about crayfish, why don't they catch less?"



TRANQUIL EXTERIOR: Struisbaai Fisheries, with "chukkies" moored in the harbour.

# Tempers high in the Bay of Strife

By VIVIEN HORLER, Staff Reporter

TEMPERS are running high in the pretty fishing village of Struis Bay, near Agulhas, and a fisherman has predicted that "someone's going to get killed this summer".

While fishermen are angry and frustrated because of the catches speared by divers, divers claim the fishermen are likely to run them down. And everyone is angry with "foreigners" who come to the village and haul out as much as two tons of fish a day in the season.

At the centre of the row is the Agulhas Bank, a reef about four miles from the village richly stocked with yellowtail, Cape salmon (geelbek) and kob. More than 100 Struis Bay residents depend on the seasonal catch from the reef for their livelihoods.

## Holidaymakers

The wealth of marine life on the bank also attracts hundreds of holidaymakers, who come with their skiboats to catch what they can. The visitors, say the residents, are frequently unfamiliar with conditions and conventions and are often not experienced as either fishermen or boathandlers.

Fishermen and divers, at odds with each other, are united in their dislike of the "foreigners".

"I don't like the foreign boats here," says fisherman Traill Withuhn. "These are rich farmers and lawyers who've all got some other income. We've only got the sea and our harvesting season is short."

But it's not just the "foreigners". There are bad feelings between fishermen and divers — some of whom are also licensed fishermen — over the use of the bank. Divers say they are entitled to dive where they choose, fishermen say they need to fish where the fish are, and cannot spend their time looking out for divers.

The entire issue is clouded by race, as most of the fishermen are "coloured", and all the divers are white.

## Meeting with minister

There was fury last month when, after months of trying, the fishermen secured a meeting with the then Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé. Divers, some of whom operate skiboats and have fishing licences, claim the fishermen tried to have them excluded from the meeting.

So resentment levels were high in the hall when Mr Kotzé was drawn into an exchange with the fishermen over the divers.

"What must we do about the divers?" asked a fisherman. "They swim among us and one of these days a diver is going to be run over. What must we do?"

At this point Mr Kotzé said something that was understood by some of those present to be, in effect, permission to run the divers down. The fishermen cheered, the divers were infuriated. Mr Kotzé's office has categorically denied he said anything of the sort. The divers remain unconvinced, and say the fishermen believe they have been given a licence to run divers down.

The fishermen deny this, but say the divers' actions endanger everyone.

Said Mr Withuhn: "Look, our fishing here is seasonal and we've had two difficult seasons. The coloured people are hungry. Now these pleasure boats

come among them, dropping divers, and this makes them uptight. It's understandable.

"They also get uptight with us, the divers. You see, from about 10am the fish stop biting, but they're still there. So we go overboard and spear them. This makes the fishermen frustrated because they're not getting the fish.

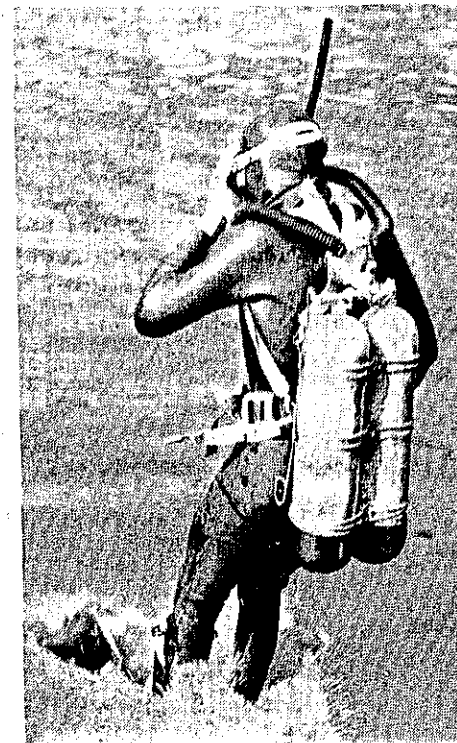
"The divers keep away from the boats and go to a different spot because obviously it's dangerous to dive among the fishing boats. But the visitors don't know the area, so they follow the boats out and dive among them.

"There's a lot of friction. I'm telling you, this summer someone's going to get killed on this bank."

## Head in water

The fishermen are angry. Mr Johannes Ahrendse is chairman of the Struis Bay Fishermen's Union. A couple of months ago, he said, he was on his brother's boat, a "chucky", when someone spotted a diver's head in the water directly in front of them.

"It was very dangerous. He was right in front. At that speed we had to throw the boat into reverse, and that's terrible for the engine. What would have happened if we'd run over him? We're busy with the fish, we can't look out for divers all the time."



BONE OF CONTENTION: A spearfisherman, like one of the many in the Struis Bay area, who is at odds with line fishermen over priority on the Agulhas Bank.

AGRICULTURE - <sup>FISHING</sup> ~~WINTER~~

JANUARY - JUNE

1990.



## Perlemoen flotation

Sea Plant Products (SPP), the Hermanus abalone — or perlemoen — processing and marketing company of former Anglo American Life deputy chairman and prominent NP supporter Shlomo Peer, is likely to list in March after a private placing.

SPP was begun by Peer's father-in-law, Julius Abraham, who pioneered the export of abalone to the Far East. SPP holds about 32% of the total abalone quota.

The size of the quota may be altered for conservation reasons but is unlikely to fall. Almost all production is exported — the Chinese regard the flesh as an aphrodisiac — so the share will be a virtually pure rand hedge. FM 12/1/90

FM 12/1/90 (3) fishing

It is likely to have a high dividend yield, little risk and could appeal to widows-and-orphans investors and those with a taste for the exotic.

The only threat to SA's abalone appears to be a species of red tide which last year caused some damage to the resource. Peer says this was the first known occurrence of the species in SA.

Scientists say it is unlikely to recur. SPP's only obvious major source of business expansion would be to buy the quotas of others in the sector.

*Teigue Payne*

# Ocfish to expand base operations

CAPT Tim IS 12/1/90 (3/18/91) (22A)

By AUDREY D'ANGELO  
Financial Editor

FOREIGN governments are offering financial help to the Namibian interim government — with strings attached, Walter Lewis, executive chairman of the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), told shareholders at the general meeting yesterday. And one of the industries in which they are interested is fishing.

Replying to questions from Solly Frank of the Shareholders Association of SA, Lewis said the Oceana group, too, was making approaches to the interim government.

He stressed that the group's Namibian interests provided only between 16% and 18% of bottom-line profits.

After the meeting Lewis said that the group was continuing its policy of expanding the base of its activities, making it less dependent on the fishing industry.

He pointed out that the Blue Continent cold storage network had been expanded in the past year. Expansion would continue in the current year.

But he said he was far from pessimistic about the outlook for the group's Namibian activities. So far foreign companies had only been looking at the Namibian white fishing industry, in which Ocfish was not involved, and not at pelagic fishing or rock lobsters.

White fishing in Namibian waters was mostly carried out by Soviet, Spanish, Bulgarian and Polish trawlers "and SA companies, in a small way".

Lewis told shareholders that a cut in the current year's total allowable catch (TAC) for the industry to 150 000 tons of anchovy in SA waters, com-

pared with 350 000 tons last year, was disappointing. "It is hoped that further scientific surveys and the results of fishing operations will allow for an increase later in the year."

But it was encouraging that the pilchard TAC in SA waters had been increased to 35 000 tons compared with 30 033 tons last year. Ocfish's quota is 5 249 tons compared with 3 936 tons last year.

Discussing the Blue Continent group, Lewis said that TRT Shipping Services was expanding its operations and services by establishing a base in the Transvaal to allow for growth in the PWV area.

Discussing Namibian operations, he said the 1989/90 lobster season had been disappointing so far. The season closed on April 30 and it was hoped that weather and sea conditions would become more favourable.

Lewis pointed out that the stronger rand might impact unfavourably on export earnings for lobsters.

"At this early stage of the current financial year, before the 1990 pelagic seasons have commenced, it is difficult to make an accurate forecast of the year's earnings.

"The recent strengthening of the rand could have an effect on lobster export realisations.

"However, it is anticipated that, provided pelagic and lobster landings are commensurate with expected quotas and fishing effort, earnings for the year could be of the order of those achieved in 1989."

In the past financial year, to September 30, Ocfish lifted earnings by 4% to 260,7c (250,2c) before extraordinary items, and dividends by 7% to 160c (150c) a share.

OCEANA

# Filleted profits

F/M 19/1/90

(3) Fishing

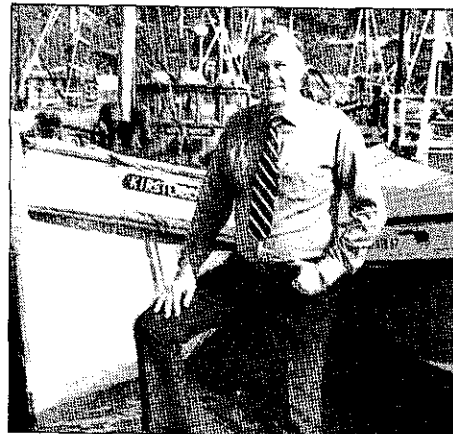
**Activities:** Fishing in SA and Namibia.  
**Control:** Tiger Oats 68,8%.  
**Chairman:** W A Lewis; MD: D F Behrens.  
**Capital structure:** 9,3m ords. Market capitalisation: R218m.

**Share market:** Price: 2 350c. Yields: 6,8% on dividend; 11,1% on earnings; PE ratio, 9; cover, 1,6. 12-month high, 3 000c; low, 1 700c.

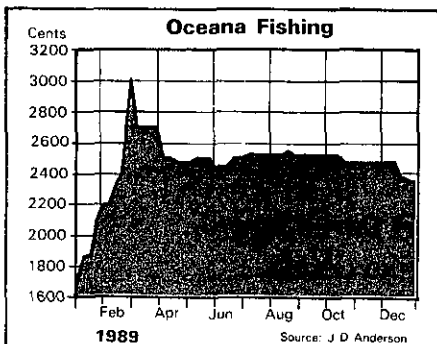
Trading volume last quarter, 53 000 shares.

Year to Sep 30	'87	'88	'89
ST debt (Rm)	6,6	12,1	7,4
LT debt (Rm)	0,8	0,7	0,6
Debt:equity ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shareholders' interest	.52	.52	.51
Int & leasing cover	n/a	n/a	n/a
Return on cap (%)	25,4	34	28
Turnover (Rm)	173,8	226,9	275,0
Pre-int profit (Rm)	32,3	48,5	44,0
Pre-int margin (%)	16,2	17,0	12,6
Earnings (c)	206,8	280,2	260,7
Dividends (c)	105	225*	160
Net worth (c)	654	730	809

\* Includes special dividend of 75c.



Oceana's Lewis ... catch as catch can



The shortened pelagic fishing season in SA and low catches off Namibia hurt Oceana last year. Not only was the pelagic season closed on July 31 instead of September 30, but Oceana's pilchard quota was 30% lower than in 1988 and the anchovy TAC (total allowable catch) was 41% less.

To some degree these reductions were offset by a successful lobster, tuna and squid season. Good catches of redeye herring, a non-quota species that requires specialised catching expertise, also helped to maintain profitability.

Blue Continent, the subsidiary which involves cold storage, trading and a wide range of shipping services, showed a substantial increase in turnover and income. However, subsidiary Namsea produced results worse than expected due to bad weather in Namibian waters.

Even though turnover rose by 21% to R275m the negative effect of the season's early closing cut margins and pre-interest profit. Nevertheless, taxed profits were virtually unchanged on 1988 thanks largely to the sharp drop in Namibian income tax. EPS before extraordinary items showed a slight

rise of 4,2% because of a 25% decline in net income attributable to outside shareholders.

The financial strength of the organisation is reflected in the balance sheet which shows no debt of consequence and a cash pile of R30m. Capex of R17,7m (R8,4m) will be spent this year with a view to broadening the group's infrastructure, developing branches of the fishery such as redeye herring, tuna and squid, and increasing capacity of the cold storage network.

Bearing in mind the risks inherent in fishing, the share appears to be fairly priced now. In a diversified portfolio it should make an excellent long-term investment.

Gerald Hirshon

## CONSTANTIABERG & FALSE BAY RE

# Gill nets 'the biggest threat to SA fishing'

*3 fishing CAPE TOWN 25/1/90*

GILL nets are the biggest threat the South African fishing industry has had to face, according to Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, based in Fish Hoek. Slap-on-the-wrist fines will not make them go away, she says.

"I don't think small fines are going to deter foreign vessels from using gill nets, as this represents a small fraction of their very considerable profits," Ms Rice commented on the recent fines levied on Taiwanese trawler skippers in Cape Town.

According to Ms Rice, she had to work her way through several layers of officialdom to bring about action on the gill nets, which by her count were being used by at least 23 Taiwanese fishing boats docked at Cape Town.

"We received numerous reports that trawlers had gill-nets aboard and were off-loading tuna which had been caught

in these nets. I approached several authorities about the problem who were reluctant to act, and eventually I had to call Mr Gert Kotze, the Minister for Environment Affairs, before action was taken."

Gill nets were outlawed last year by South Africa and cannot be used within 200 miles of the country's shore. It is

also illegal for boats to dock with these nets on board, or to unload fish snared in this manner.

The gill nets, which Ms Rice describes as "walls of death", can span up to 50km across tuna migration routes and entangle everything in their fine mesh, killing thousands of dolphins, whales, porpoise, turtles and sea birds.

## Seal survives tangle

A NASTY tangle with fishing line which cost a Cape fur seal his right eye and nearly his life had a happy ending when he was discovered and rescued at Cape Maclear a couple of weeks ago.

According to environmentalist Phillip Stewart, the fully grown male seal was badly cut by the nylon line and had a fishing hook embedded in his right eye.

"I released him, and, as he seemed to be all right, left him in his natural environment as this is always best when animals seem set to recover.

"I checked daily for any sign of the seal and finally spotted him five days later at Olifantsbos. He hadn't recovered and was extremely thin and weak, so I took him

home, got veterinary treatment and hand-fed him. He has picked up about 30 kilos and can be released in about two weeks, when he has gained more weight and we are sure there is no risk of secondary infection in his eye."

The seal is convalescing in Mr Stewart's backyard, where he is hosed down with sea-water and chomps his way through three square meals a day.

This amounts to a daily total of 15kg of fish, Mr Stewart says, "but luckily I & J and Snoekies sponsored the majority of the fish or it would have been a very expensive exercise".

Mr Stewart worries about his unusual patient's future.

"This seal has obviously had human contact

### The facts

IN the Constantiaberg Review of January 11, 1990, a timeshare resort in Noordhoek, the Monkey Valley Beach Nature Resort, was incorrectly called Milkwoods.

(b) Yes.

- (i) In terms of variety and quality.
- (ii) Some of the recreational facilities at Westlake have been established in existing buildings which were adapted and recreated for such a purpose while at Pollsmoor new facilities were established over a period of time in the process of the development of the Pollsmoor Complex. To the extent that sports facilities at the Westlake premises are inadequate, certain facilities at Pollsmoor are already being shared. The new residential area for Coloured personnel which is presently being planned makes provision for sufficient sports and recreational facilities.

(c) No. *Hansard 20/2/90*

(i) and (ii) falls away.

**Gill nets: permits**\*19. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *(3) Fishing*

- (1) Whether any permits to be in Cape Town Harbour were issued to fishing vessels equipped with gill nets; if so, (a) how many were issued and (b)(i) on what dates and (ii) on whose authority were they issued: *Hansard 20/2/90*
- (2) whether they were issued in terms of Government policy in relation to vessels equipped with gill nets; if not, why not;
- (3) whether any of these vessels were also given permission to offload all or part of their catches; if so, why?

B120E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) Yes.

(a) Fifty (50).

(b) (i) From 23 to 25 January 1990.

(ii) Fifteen (15) on the instruction of the Minister of Environment Affairs. Thirty five (35) by the Chief Director: Sea Fisheries in terms of the authority granted to him by Law.

- (2) No, fifteen (15) as a once only, special concession, and thirty five (35) as a result of a misinterpretation. *(3) Fishing Hansard 20/2/90*
- (3) Yes, permission was granted to tranship the cargo for further transport overseas, not for import. All vessels have to be in possession of permits before tuna may be landed. The transhipping of tuna from foreign vessels has been established practice for years in Table Bay Harbour.

**Development Bank: decentralisation policy**\*20. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs: *(3) Fishing*

- (1) Whether he has received a report from the Development Bank on decentralisation policy; if so, (a) when was the report completed, (b) what were the main findings of the report and (c) what action arose from these findings; if not, why not;
- (2) whether the report will be made public; if so, when; if not, why not?

*Hansard 20/2/90* B129E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) No.
- (2) Falls away.

**Brown's Farm, Philippi: drinking water**\*21. Mr J VAN ECK asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs: *(3) Fishing*

- (1) Whether the Cape Provincial Administration or any of its officials who are involved in the site-and-service development at Brown's Farm, Philippi, have since July 1989 received any requests that drinking water be provided in the interim before the developments there have been completed; if so, *Hansard 20/2/90*
- (2) whether these requests have been acceded to; if so, with what result; if not, why not;
- (3) whether the said Administration will reconsider its decision in this regard; if not, why not; if so, subject to what conditions;
- (4) what is the earliest date by which developments in the area are expected to reach the stage at which drinking water will be available?

B130E

The MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS: *(3) Fishing*

- (1) Yes. *Hansard 20/2/90*
- (2) No. Because the area was under development and the provision of water taps would have been in the way of development and would have caused unnecessary costs. The matter was previously discussed with the leaders of the squatters and they were aware of the state of affairs. Permission was, however, granted to allow Legal Resources and the squatters, at their own cost, to lay a pipeline for drinking water on condition that the pipeline should not be in the way of development.
- (3) No. But in the meantime Ikapa Town Council decided to supply drinking water to the squatters by means of tankers and this step is supported by the Cape Provincial Administration and the Western Cape Regional Services Council.
- (4) Drinking water should be available within the next fortnight.

For the information of the honourable member I would like to state that the Cape Provincial Administration is at present busy servicing 2 300 sites where the squatters of Brown's Farm will be relocated and which will be available during August 1990.

**Department of Education and Training: financial assistance to students**\*22. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education: *(3) Fishing*

Whether any students who qualified as teachers at the end of 1989 and had received financial assistance from the Department of Education and Training have not been appointed as teachers in that Department in 1990; if so, (a) how many, (b) why and (c)(i) how much financial assistance was granted to these students and (ii) on what conditions was it granted? *Hansard 20/2/90*

B131E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

Yes.

(a) 1 794 — as on 12 February 1990.

- (b) The appointment of teachers who completed their studies in 1989 has not yet been finalised. New appointments are still taking place. Details of teachers appointed in the Self-governing Territories reach the Department at a later stage.

There is, however, also the problem of an oversupply of teachers in the urban areas. Newly qualified teachers are often not prepared to accept posts in the rural areas. Teachers to whom posts are offered frequently do not turn up at the schools where they have been appointed. There are also teachers who are not acceptable to specific communities.

(c) (i) Students at Colleges for Education:

First year 1987	—	R 800	<i>Hansard</i>
Second year 1988	—	R1 100	<i>20/2/90</i>
Third year 1989	—	R1 100	
Total		R3 000	per student

— Bursaries of approximately R5 172 000 have been granted to students in this category who have not yet been appointed to posts.

Students at Universities:

First year 1987	—	R 2 100	<i>(3) Fishing</i>
Second year 1988	—	R 2 600	<i>(3) Fishing</i>
Third year 1988	—	R 3 250	
Fourth year 1989	—	R 3 250	

Total R11 200 per student

— Bursaries of approximately R784 000 have been granted to students in this category who have not yet been appointed to posts.

- (ii) The student enters into a contract with the Department in which he undertakes to join the teaching profession within a period of two months after having qualified and to serve the Department of Education and Training or an Education Department in the Self-Governing Territories continuously for at least the same number of years for which he received bursary moneys. Should the student not assume duty, he must refund the bursary moneys plus interest.

during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available;

- (2) whether this base is manned by (a) the Krugersdorp Commando and (b) other Defence Force units; if so, by which other units?

Hansard 20/2/90

B105E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

- (1) R136 049 for the period 1 February 1989 until 31 January 1990.

- (2) (a) and (b)

Particulars about the utilization and deployment of SA Defence Force units can, due to security implications, not be supplied.

Henry R Pike: prohibited publication

\*8. Mr J H VAN DER MERWE asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

Whether a certain book by the author Henry R Pike, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purposes of his reply, is a prohibited publication in the Republic of South Africa; if so, (a) for what reasons and (b) what is the name of this book?

Hansard 20/2/90

B106E

†The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: signing

\*9. Mr F J LE ROUX asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

- (1) Whether the Government intends to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; if so, why;

- (2) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

Hansard 20/2/90

B117E

†The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) The Government's position is broadly still the same as set out in a statement by the previous State President dated 21 September 1987 which reads as follows:

"Na aanleiding van persberigte oor Suid-Afrika se moontlike ondertekening van die Kernspervdrag het die Staatspresident

vandag in Kaapstad gesê dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Regering reeds jarelang met die IAEA asook met sekere individuele lande onderhandel oor voorwaardes vir waarborge op Suid-Afrikaanse installasies. Hansard 20/2/90

Suid-Afrika se standpunt hieromtrent is gedurende die afgelope week soos volg aan die Regerings van 'n aantal lande oorgedra:

"The Republic of South Africa is prepared to commence negotiations with each of the nuclear weapon states on the possibility of signing the non-proliferation treaty. At the same time the RSA will consider including in these negotiations safeguards on its installations subject to the NPT conditions. The nature of these negotiations will depend on the outcome of the 31st General Conference of the IAEA to be held in Vienna as from 22 September."

"South Africa hopes that it will soon be able to sign the NPT and has decided to open discussions with others to this end. Any safeguards agreement which might subsequently be negotiated with the IAEA would naturally be along the same lines as, and in conformity with, agreements with other NPT signatories."

- (2) No. not at this stage.

Fishing vessels with gill nets

\*10. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: Hansard 20/2/90

- (1) Whether he has had any discussions with the Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of China on the subject of fishing vessels equipped with gill nets; if so, when did these discussions take place;

- (2) whether the said Minister gave him any assurances in this regard; if so, what assurances? 3 Fishing

B119E

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes, on 22 January 1990.  
(2) Yes.

- (a) Assurance was given that the Government of the Republic of China will do everything in its power to prevent a repeat of the incident.

- (b) the Government of the Republic of China is presently busy revising their own regulations with regard to gill nets in order to phase out the use thereof.

Tunny landed

3 Fishing

\*11. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: Hansard 20/2/90

What was the quantity of tunny landed at South African ports by (a) South African and (b) foreign boats during the latest specified period of 12 months for which statistics are available?

B121E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

The figures for 1989 are as follows:

- (a) 4 000 tons landed.

- (b) Statistics of this nature are kept by the customs authorities and will only be available in a few months time.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, are tunny subject to quota controls as are other white fish in the Republic.

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, tunny are not subject to quota control.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, could I ask him whether or not he will give consideration to introducing control over the quantity of tunny landed off our coast?

The MINISTER: Mr Chairman, tunny is one of the species which, as far as I am aware, is not under quota control anywhere in the world because it is considered as a sort of international fish which moves from one ocean to another. It would be very difficult to introduce tunny control quotas into this country but I will consider the suggestion of the hon member and perhaps report back on it later.

Cycads: illegal export

\*12. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Planning and Provincial Affairs:

- (1) Whether the commission of inquiry into the possible illegal export of cycads has presented its report; if so, what were its

findings; if not, when is it anticipated that the report will be presented;

- (2) whether the report will be published; if not, why not; if so, when?

B122E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF PLANNING AND PROVINCIAL AFFAIRS:

- (1) and (2).

It is anticipated that the report will be ready for submission to the State President approximately April 1990. Government will then study the report and decide on further steps.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Chairman, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, when he talks about further steps, do these involve whether or not the report will be published?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Chairman, I suggest that the hon member has a bit of patience unless he wants to prescribe what must happen before the report is even dealt with. I think the Government will study the report and then steps will be considered. [Interjections.]

Eskom: second nuclear power station

\*13. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises: Hansard 20/2/90

Whether Eskom intends erecting a second nuclear power station in South Africa; if so, (a) where is it anticipated that this power station will be erected, (b) what is the anticipated life span of the station and (c) when is it anticipated that construction will begin?

B123E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

No decision has as yet been taken by the Government in connection with the erection of a second Nuclear Power Station.

- (a) Fall away.  
(b) Fall away.  
(c) Fall away.

SANA: conditions of service

\*14. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Administration and Privatisation: Hansard 20/2/90

## COMPANIES

# Lower lobster catches push down Swafil earnings

③ fishing B/day 26/2/90.

CAPE TOWN — The profits of Oceana subsidiary South West Africa Fishing Industries (Swafil) have plummeted, largely as a result of lower than expected lobster catches, with earnings a share slashed by 50% to 130c a share.

Turnover for the year to December 1989 was almost halved to R10,7m as adverse weather conditions reduced the lobster catches.

Operating income fell by 43% to R3m, while investment income also de-

LESLEY LAMBERT

clined, although less dramatically, from R2,8m to R2m. Equally sharp reductions in the tax and finance charges did little to boost the figures. Attributable earnings looked even worse, plummeting from R17,2m to R3,8m, largely because an extraordinary income of R8,8m during the previous year was not repeated last year.

Although directors were anticipating a fall in attributable earnings for the year under review, the performance was obviously worse than they expected when they forecast eps of 156c and declared a dividend of 65c at the release of their interim results.

A final dividend of 60c was declared, bringing the total for the year to a much reduced 125c (240c).

Prospects for the current year do not

appear to be good. Apart from the threat of nationalisation which hangs over the heads of SA fishing interests on the Namibian coastline, directors report that lobster catches during the current season have again been disappointing, while the annual pilchard quota for the industry has been reduced from 50 000 tons in 1989 to 40 000 tons.

The allocation of this quota between participating concessionaires has not yet been announced.

mental matters, the Government takes notice of petitions and that such petitions have to be evaluated.

Inevitably, it is not possible to respond to every signatory of the petitions but on several occasions and in press releases I have addressed this matter and have pointed out that I have no statutory authority to out of hand institute a prohibition regarding the proposed mining activities at St Lucia. I gave instructions that a comprehensive environmental impact study should be done which will be objectively evaluated and which will put me in a position to make meaningful recommendations regarding the environmental impact control measures.

- (4) I have done so repeatedly. As recently as 13 and 18 February 1990 I addressed media conferences in this regard. I would like to repeat that I shall do everything in my power to stop the mining activities should the studies, now been undertaken, prove that mining will have an irreparable effect on the environment.

#### White fish landed

63. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: **(3) Fishing**

How many tonnes of each species of white fish were landed during the 1989 fishing season? **B159E**

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Hake	136 604
Kingklip	1 650
Monk	4 955
Jacopever	1 034
John Dory	1 536
Angel Fish	1 150
Ribbon	8 945
Other	8 248

#### Cedarberg: State-owned areas

71. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: **Hansard 28/2/90**

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

- (1) Whether there are any State-owned wilderness, conservation or forestry areas in the Cedarberg; if so, (a) what areas and (b) what is the status of each such area;
- (2) whether permission was granted to any persons to graze stock in any of these areas during the past five years; if so, (a) (i) to which persons, and (ii) for what reasons, in each case, and (b) in terms of what statutory provisions was such permission granted?

**B176E**

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
- (a) (i) Wilderness Area  
(ii) Water Conservation Area  
(iii) Plantation Area
- (b) (i) Wilderness Area, set aside in terms of section 15(1)(a)(ii) of the Forest Act, 1984 (Act 122 of 1984).  
(ii) Water Conservation Area — section 1(xxxix) of said Act.  
(iii) Plantation Area — section 1(xxxix) of said Act.
- (2) Yes, only emergency grazing on water conservation area.

- (a) (i) To Brothers Nieuwoudt.  
(ii) As result of a fire caused by lightning on the State Forest which spread to property owned by the Bros Nieuwoudt and which destroyed their natural grazing, emergency grazing was allocated to Bros Nieuwoudt on humanitarian grounds and as a gesture of good neighbourliness and goodwill for a period commencing on 1 April 1989 until 30 April 1989 for not more than 420 head small stock on payment of the prescribed fee after they applied therefor.

- (b) Section 11(2)(a)(ii) of said Act.

#### Central Energy Fund: amount collected

66. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

What total amount was collected on behalf of the Central Energy Fund in the 1989-90 financial year?

**B194E**  
The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES: **Hansard 28/2/90**

No amount was collected from levies on behalf of the Central Energy Fund in the 1989-90 financial year.

Other income:	R'm
Interest	477,09
Dividends	191,80
	668,89

#### Lake St Lucia: mining activities

79. Mr R F HASWELL asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether he has received any representations regarding proposed mining activities at Lake St Lucia; if so, (a) how many, (b) from whom and (c) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation;
- (2) whether any of these representations was in the form of a petition; if so, (a) who drew up the petition and (b) how many signatures did it contain;
- (3) whether an environmental impact analysis is being undertaken in regard to the proposed mine; if so, by whom;
- (4) whether (a) Parliament and (b) the public will be given time to respond to this analysis; if so, how long; if not, why not?

**B168E**  
The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Yes.

- (a) Petition:

Two batches of petition documents were received by the Department of Environment Affairs. The verbal information received at the times of delivery was that the first batch contained 116 000 signa-

tures and the second batch 50 000 signatures.

A rough estimate carried out indicated that between 120 000 and 130 000 signatures were actually received.

"The Star" of 1 December 1989 claimed that 200 000 signatures were collected and in "The Star" of 5 December 1989, it was claimed that 278 148 signatures were collected. In The Star of 12 December 1989 it was reported that 217 000 signatures were collected. In the Pretoria News of 14 February 1990, 300 000 signatures were claimed to have been received. In the light of the above it appears that contradiction on the number of signatures exists.

Letters:

610 letters were received by the Department of Environment Affairs.

- (b) The Star's CARE Campaign which includes the reaction of the public and the following organisations:

- Endangered Wildlife Trust
- Kanguane Parks Corporation
- Zululand Society for the Protection and Care of the Environment (SPACE)
- Trador Cash & Carry
- Pick 'n Pay
- Rand Afrikaans University
- University of Natal
- University of the Witwatersrand
- UNISA
- Several schools
- Technikon Witwatersrand
- Birnam Business College Johannesburg
- St James Presbyterian Church
- Salvation Army Vereening
- Liberty Life Insurance
- First National Bank
- National Council of Women of SA



③ fishing (initials)

SWAFISH FIM 2/3/90

### Profits pincer

Preliminary results from Swafish for the year to end-December are so poor that the directors have had to go fishing in the retained income and reserves for part of the final dividend. It is little wonder, then, that the share yields more than 21%. The market was clearly anticipating results of this sort.

Adverse weather conditions had a severe impact on lobster catches. The environmentalists state that the problem stems from the side effects of higher than normal sea temperatures, brought about by a reversal in the usual wind pattern.

Turnover fell from R20,5m in 1988 to R10,8m and operating income sank by 57% to R3m. This fall was compounded by a negative swing of R9,1m in extraordinary items, which in 1988 amounted to R8,8m but this year is a negative R255 000m. Net attributable income has swung from R17,2m in 1988 to R3,8m.

Bear in mind that in May 1988 a special dividend of 450c was paid from accumulated reserves and cash balances. Then, from the sale of the salt interests of Swafish, at a profit of R6,8m in July that year, a further special dividend of 225c a share was paid in April 1989. In total, shareholders have received a payout of R21,26m in the last two financial years. Interest income has been

FIM 2/3/90

forgone as a result.

After stripping out the effects of assets sales, net attributable income before extraordinary items fell from R7,6m in 1988 to R4,1m in 1989. Of the R3,5m difference, R2,7m is accounted for by the reduction in earnings from lobster operations, while the R800 000 balance represents interest forgone owing to the special dividend.

Reliant on catches

The company is left with a shrunken earnings base and it is now totally reliant on lobster and pelagic catches. Lobster catches have remained poor simply because of bad weather. Industry sources say that if this

FIM 2/3/90

changes and the quota is filled, profitability will rise substantially. They also say it is too early to assess pelagic catches, but with the reduction in the total pilchard quota from 50 000 t to 40 000 t, it's expected profits from this source will be reduced. (initials)

Because Swapo policy concerning allocation of concessions and rights is still unknown, there is considerable insecurity surrounding the future of SA-owned fishing interests in Namibia. (initials)

This adds another speculative factor when calculating a realistic price for the share. Right now, it is almost as vague as the weather on which earnings prospects for this year depend so heavily. Gerald Hirshon

## The menace of drift netting

# The 'walls of death'

By JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

"WALLS of Death", "strip mining the sea" and "the rape of the ocean" — conservationists and fishermen use different phrases to describe the use of drift nets.

However, all agree that these vast webs of strong, monofilament nylon mesh, also called gill nets and strung by more than 1 500 vessels over an estimated 50 000km of the world's oceans each night, are both breathtakingly efficient and utterly indiscriminate.

Now a major row is threatening to erupt over attempts to circumvent South Africa's tough anti-drift net legislation — and over whether there is the necessary political will and inspectorate capacity to enforce these sound regulations.

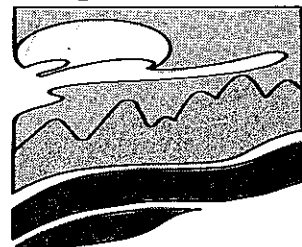
Drift nets, sometimes up to 65km long and 15m deep, are set in the evening — often across known migratory routes — and hauled in the following morning, having been tracked with radar and sonar. Target fish like tuna, sword fish and squid swim into them, get their heads stuck at the point of their gills and drown.

### 'Endless'

"In the seemingly endless expanse of clear blue, hundreds of fish hung strangely suspended in the water, like a wall of motion that had been suspended in time and space, the nets that held them all but invisible," an environmentalist who filmed the fishing process was quoted as saying.

Unfortunately, the nets also ensnare everything else in their path — including millions of non-target fish, marine mammals like porpoises, dolphins, small whales, sea lions and seals, turtles and scores of different seabird

The Argus



ENVIRONMENT  
WEEK

## Nets seen as the rape of the ocean

which happens to be in the area at the time," she says.

"In the North Pacific Fisheries, the Japanese government estimates that its vessels lose at least 16km of gillnets a night."

It's also a very wasteful form of fishing.

"For example, we have figures which show that in the North Pacific salmon fishing industry, one young salmon is lost for every one caught, and with larger salmon, one is lost to every three caught. It's estimated that as much as 50 percent of a catch can be lost using drift nets."

Concerned fishermen say drift net fishing is threatening local tuna stocks and that catches by South African fishing vessels have been dwindling as a result.

tering its ports or even transmitting their waters.

And in November, at a meeting co-sponsored by the New Zealand government and the United Nations Environmental Programme, South Pacific countries gathered in Wellington, New Zealand, to draft a convention to ban drift net fishing.

Delegates used strong words to describe the drift net technique — "indiscriminate", "destructive" and "irresponsible".

### Agreement

At the United Nations at the end of last year, after long and difficult negotiations that pitted the United States against Japan at the UN for the first time, an agreement was reached which provided for a moratorium on the use of drift nets on the high seas everywhere after June 1992. It also provided for an immediate reduction in drift net fishing in the South Pacific, leading to a halt there by July next year.

Like other UN General Assembly resolutions, the drift net fishing ban will not be legally binding — even on countries that vote for it — and the problem is compounded by the fact that Taiwan and South Korea are not members.

When the Pacific nations banned drift nets from their economic exclusion zones (EEZs), the Taiwanese fleet apparently arranged within weeks for mother ships to take off the catches and for tankers to provide refuelling, thus circumventing the ban, according to media reports.

### 'Same thing'

And there are allegations that the same thing is happening in Cape Town.



species. One observer aboard a Japanese boat reported that the vessel caught one dolphin for every nine tuna landed.

Three nations — Japan, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and South Korea — are responsible for most drift net fishing which has developed into a major sector of their thriving fishing industries.

Ironically, the technology behind drift nets was pioneered by a United Nations agency to help impoverished fishing communities of the Asian nations turn subsistence fishing into a profit.

"Gill-netting is considered to be one of the most destructive methods of fishing ever devised," says Mrs Nan Rice of the Fish Hoek-based Dolphin Action and Protection Group which has been actively lobbying against the use of these nets.

### 'Break away'

"Further, we know that it is not uncommon for extremely large pieces of these nets, sometimes kilometres in length, to break away during fishing operations and float in the sea for years, 'ghost fishing' any unfortunate creature

there is also grave concern that many of the tuna caught with drift nets are juvenile fish which have not reached sexual maturity. The yields are therefore not sustainable — the essence of most countries' conservation policies.

### Wastage

"Concern has been expressed that this kind of wastage cannot continue for much longer before serious ecological damage manifests itself," says Mrs Rice.

Scientists doing aerial surveys of marine mammals in Natal coastal waters have reported "with great concern" that drift nets have been employed in local coastal waters. Whether these were "ghost" nets lost at sea or were being deployed illegally by fishing vessels could not be determined.

International pressure against the use of drift nets has been building steadily, particularly in the Pacific Ocean. In the middle of last year, Australia and New Zealand declared a total ban on large drift nets in their 200-mile zone, including ships en-

In January, after a "mistake", permits were allocated to 50 Taiwanese vessels carrying drift nets to allow them to refuel and re-provision before continuing to the Falkland Islands fishing grounds, and fifteen skippers paid minor, R250 admission-of-guilt fines.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotzé, was quoted as saying that no more permits would be issued.

However, there were subsequent reports of a vessel offloading tuna in Cape Town harbour — and a second in port this week, apparently ready to offload — and local fishing sources were adamant their cargoes had been caught with drift nets.

Responding to questions in parliament by Democratic Party spokesman on environmental matters Mr Rupert Lorimer, Mr Kotzé said the matter would be investigated.

It should be fairly easy to prove whether the tuna were in fact caught with long lines or drift nets, which leave



Picture: BRENTON GEACH, The Argus

## A Taiwanese fisherman helps offload tuna, allegedly caught with drift nets, in Table Bay Harbour earlier this year, shortly before 15 skippers paid admission-of-guilt fines for contravening South Africa's tough drift net regulations.

characteristic marks. But so far there has been no indication of what South Africa's fishing inspectorate division — publicly refuted by lawyers for claiming that the anti-drift net regulations applied only to South African vessels — is doing about the matter.

### SA Navy

Conservationists also want to know why the government hasn't ordered the SA Navy to take a more active role in monitoring the movements of the foreign fishing fleet and policing South Africa's economic exclusive fishing zone.

After the January debacle, the Taiwanese Embassy in Cape Town announced that its

government's Council of Agriculture had issued a formal document, advising its fishing industry that the South African government now prohibited fishing vessels with drift nets on board from entering local harbours to off-load their catch and that they should "act accordingly".

"The council further advises in a public announcement that fishing vessels of the Republic of China should not use gill nets in the Atlantic Ocean, or they shall be dealt with in a most serious manner," the embassy added.

But this has not impressed Mrs Rice and other conservationists.

Firstly, they point out, it is in the Indian Ocean and not

the Atlantic where most of the tuna is being caught. Secondly, they want to see whether Taiwan is prepared to legislate against the use of drift nets, as opposed to public warnings.

"I take that statement with a pinch of salt — I want to see it in black-and-white as legislation," says Mrs Rice firmly.

### Essential

Despite claims by visiting Taiwanese that their government has made a commitment to end drift net fishing in 1992 in accordance with the UN resolution, it is essential for the government to consolidate this commitment, Mrs Rice argues.

"And that means passing the necessary legislation that from July 1992 the nets will be banned in that country and their use banned on the high seas or in any other countries' economic fisheries or exclusion zones.

In answer to the argument that drift nets represent a major economic investment by shipping fleet owners, and that fishermen's livelihoods could be at stake with any immediate ban, Mrs Rice replies:

"I realise time has to be allowed for the change-over and adjustment, and if the warning is given in advance, the fishing industry can begin to make those changes and adjustments now."

## Record catch for SA fishing industry

CAPE TOWN — Total catches in the fishing industry increased by 1% to a record 929 200 tons, worth about R900m, during 1988, according to the Environment Affairs Department annual report for 1988/89 tabled in Parliament this week. *810m 713 190*

Pelagic catches made up 672 426 tons, of which the anchovy resource was 570 000 tons, according to the department's Sea Fisheries division.

Non-quota roundherring catches increased by 87% to 61 251 tons. Research on roundherring caught by midwater trawling indicated that the stock was underutilised and had the potential of yielding about 200 000 tons annually.

In the demersal, or *3 fishery* white fish and midwater trawl categories, the national hake quota was 138 500 tons

LESLEY LAMBERT

which showed a decrease of 2 500 tons on the previous year, with the deep-sea fishery allocated 117 435 tons, the inshore fishery 9 835 tons and foreign concerns 7 000 tons.

Hake contributed more than half the total catch landed by the inshore fishery, while maasbanker, sole and panga also made substantial contributions. The Agulhas sole quota remained unchanged at 868 tons.

Substantial reductions in catches of sought-after species such as angel-fish (46%), cob (22%) and kingklip (13%) were compensated for by significant increases in red fish, which improved by 133%, red squid (91%) and white squid (44%).

on March 1, but it's unlikely it will start until after March 21, when the country becomes independent. Jan Jurgens, director of the Namibian Department of Sea Fisheries, says: "The quota will not be split until we are sure the new government and its minister responsible for the fishing industry know what we are doing and that we're doing things our way to ensure Namibia, not foreign powers, reap the benefit from its fishing grounds."

With Walvis Bay still part of SA, the canneries and their fleet of 46 boats still largely in SA ownership, the issue poses some complicated questions for the new government.

Jurgens is not enamoured with the way SA ran Namibia's Department of Sea Fisheries from 1969 to 1978, when the South West African authorities took it over.

"Our waters were overfished. We inherited a bankrupt pilchard resource. They had largely been replaced by anchovy and maasbanker. We want to restore the balance between anchovy, maasbanker and pilchards, so we are limiting the quantities of pilchards that may be caught this year to 40 000 t and not placing any restriction on the amount of anchovy and maasbanker that may be caught in our waters. By tackling the problem that way we will create a better environment for pilchards to re-establish themselves."

With independence, Namibia will also be able to claim a 200-mile limit for its territorial waters and prevent the depletion of its hake resource by foreign trawlers.

Jurgens says if the new government confirms his appointment, he'll recommend that it prohibit any hake fishing in its waters for three to five years to allow the fish to recover. And after that, he says, it should be very strict about who it allows to fish for hake and how much is taken.

There is little worry over SA's hake resource. Last year's quota was 138 500 t; this year's 135 000 t quota is down by only 2%.

There is concern, however, "that foreigners who are fishing for hake in Namibian waters, where there is very little left, are transgressing into Cape waters," says Eckart Kramer, chairman of the Deepsea Trawling Association. "Any additional catch must have an impact on the local industry. In other words, the size of our catch will be reduced." ■

#### FISHING INDUSTRY FIM 9/13/90

### Fewer nibbles (3) fishing

Warmer-than-normal currents flowing through SA's fishing grounds have reduced the quantity of pelagic fish so drastically that this year's quota for anchovies has been cut to 150 000 t, half of last year's 300 000 t and just a quarter of 1988's 600 000 t quota.

Most of the anchovy and maasbanker catch is used to make fishmeal, an essential ingredient in animal feed. Very little is consumed by humans.

To cover the shortfall of SA's fishmeal, imports of roughly 160 000 t will be necessary this year, says Japie van Heerden, chairman of Federal Marine, the central selling organisation for canned fish.

In addition, he says it's possible SA may have to import more than last year's 2m cases of canned pilchards — even though the quota of pilchards for canning has been increased by 25% this year, to 20 000 t. Canned pilchards are probably the cheapest form of protein available. They are widely consumed by people at the lower end of the economic spectrum.

Van Heerden says it's too early to estimate this year's demand, so the shortfall cannot be accurately determined at this stage. Namibia is adding to the confusion by delaying the start of its fishing season. The authorities have not yet announced how they will split this year's 40 000 t quota — 10 000 t less than last year's — among the three canneries in Walvis Bay.

The Namibian season should have started



COMPANIES

ARBUS 23/3/90

S. Fishing

# Namibia fishing companies to fight 'unfair' quota cuts

By DICK USHER,  
Business Staff

In line with new mess...

TWO leading fishing companies are to take legal action against Namibian authorities over the "disproportionate" cut in their pilchard quotas for the 1990 season.

Namibian Sea Products (Namsea) and its subsidiary South West Africa Fishing Industries (Swafish) announced their decision today and said the net effect of the cuts could reduce earnings for the current year, by R450 000 for Swafish and by R570 000 for Namsea.

According to the companies, while Namibian authorities had reduced the total allowable catch of pilchard by 20 percent to 40 000 tons, their allocations had been reduced by 51,6 percent.

They said that this reduction was considerably in excess of those made to the quotas of other concessionaires which ranged from 8,5 percent to 25,8 percent.

The boards of directors thought that the "disproportionate reduction in the company's pilchard quota is totally unjustified and inequitable, specially in view of the already low quota allocation."

# Plans to feed starving and make a bundle set for launch

S/Times 28/3/70

(3) Fishing

By Charmain Naidoo

A HUMANITARIAN moneyspinner — that's what Mike Owen-Jones's "feed the starving, make a bundle" plan is all about.

Mr Owen-Jones, managing director of Harvest For Life SA, spent two years perfecting a long shelf-life protein food product that could be the answer to malnutrition and starvation.

Now that the fish-based formula has passed stringent health department tests, as well as taste tests, the product is ready to be marketed.

Southern Sea Fishing, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Premier Group, was approached this week to finance the marketing of the venture.

Says SSF managing director Chris Venn: "It's too soon to comment. We are looking at the marketability of the product and could be interested in it. It certainly sounds like a good idea."

Harvest For Life financial director Allister Langford says that about R5-million is needed to set up a plant for the large-scale production of this food formula.

"One plant can produce 15 000 tons of the food a year. That's a drop in the ocean — Mozambique, for example, needs 800 000 tons of fresh products per annum. The market is a hungry one, one that will not dry up," Mr Langford says.

He puts projected turnover figures at R40-million a year.

## Secret

"I arrived at that figure by taking 15 000 tons based on actual production time, sold at \$1 a kilogram.

"Conservatively, that will mean a minimum of R6-million in net pre-tax profit.

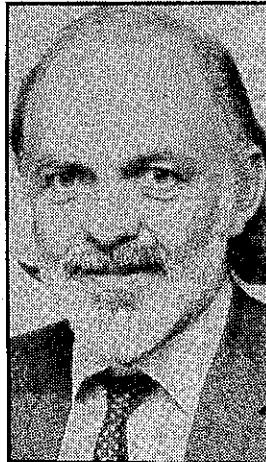
"The secret of success of this product is that whoever gets involved in it will get political as well as humanitarian mileage out of this feeding scheme," Mr Langford says.

Mr Owen-Jones — who claims he's spent more than R350 000 of his own cash on

the project so far — says he's been "at sea" his whole life — he joined the merchant navy as well as working as a fisherman.

"We have an abundance of raw material (fish) combined with a large wastage factor. That started me thinking. An emergency food supply is essential both in famine hit countries as well as for emergency relief aid.

"At \$1 (R2,57) per kilogram pack of my product, an entire family can be fed. That is



CHRIS VENN

very cheap. My ready to eat product has a shelf life of between five to seven years and does not require refrigeration."

The product can be flavoured in any flavour so that it in no way resembles the original base. It can have chicken, chilli, tomato bredie or whatever flavour added to suit the tastes to the people it is to feed.

"It is packed in a flexible foil package that can be torn open so no mechanical openers are necessary," Mr Owen-Jones says.

At the distribution point, each bag (they are colour coded according to taste) has to be returned before a new one can be bought — "to prevent littering and pollution."

He adds that they have tested the product on the black market and had a favourable response.



## Vanishing anchovies

With the anchovy catch plummeting from a record 596 000 t three years ago to a poverty-inducing 150 000 t quota this year, the fishing industry is debating whether there's a better way to manage the pelagic fish resource.

The bumper catches of 1987 and 1988 prompted speculation that the resource had shifted permanently to a higher base. That proved to be wishful thinking; last year's harvest was a dismal 294 000 t and this year the outlook is far worse. Even though the quota is half of last year's, the resource may still be dangerously depleted. A good year for spawning would improve the picture dramatically but hard information on spawning won't be available until next month, according to Louis Botha, director of Cape Town's Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

### Psychological impact (3) Fishing

The way the pelagic resource — anchovies and pilchards — is now managed is that the minister of environment affairs sets a quota for each species at the point where there is no more than a 20% risk of the resource dropping below 50% of its natural, or unfished, biomass. The quota is normally set in October and amended in March and June or July as more information about the stock and spawning becomes available.

The advantage is that it considerably diminishes the risk of overfishing by taking into account a species' biomass. The disadvantage, as the last few years have shown, is that it leads to enormous variations in the quota, which play havoc with the livelihoods of fishermen. Walter Lewis, chairman of Oceana, which holds the largest quota, speaks of the "serious psychological impact" of this year's small anchovy quota.

Aside from damage to the bottom line,

J-D

FIM 6/4/90

(3) Fishing

a-1

unpredictable quotas make investment decisions difficult. Steve Malherbe, MD of the SA Inshore Fishing Association, points out fishing companies will be reluctant to spend money if they don't know whether they'll have a product to sell. Marketing is also complicated because it becomes difficult to make promises to customers. Moreover, the industry's erratic import pattern means that it's in a poor position to negotiate prices.

What complicates anchovy fishing is that anchovies live for only two or three years. This compares with anything from five to 10 years in the case of hake. The outcome, Botha says, is that about 70% of the take in any one year is from the fish spawned that year. This means there is little point in not exploiting the resource to the maximum in good years because the unfished portion will not be around in the lean years.

Although operators naturally dislike the peaks and troughs of the system, the consensus seems to be that the research institute is doing a good job, given its resources. Part of the problem is that scientists are still a long way short of a thorough understanding of the

environmental forces that affect a species' biomass. "Scientists can determine the biomass but they can't predict environmental changes nor the effect on these on biomass," Malherbe says.

In line with this, it's believed that last year's poor spawning season was caused by warmer currents, but that's far from certain. What is known, Botha says, is that it has little to do with overfishing, which established operators have a vested interest in avoiding because their businesses depend on the survival of the resource. Samples from beneath the seabed show there were large fluctuations in the resource long before commercial fishing began, he says.

"What we're trying to do is to see when the conditions occur and then to adjust the fishing accordingly," Botha says. "It is an ongoing debate — do you measure the stock as accurately as possible and then say fish at this level, or do you set a rough average figure and risk fishing between the peaks and the troughs?"

The latter method was used for a time. All pelagic species were grouped together under

one quota, but this led to the virtual destruction of pilchards in the Seventies. So the Department of Environment Affairs began setting separate quotas for each type of pelagic fish to rebuild the pilchard resource.

Since then pilchards have recovered remarkably. Malherbe says a year ago he would have said they were still five or six years away from surviving without special protection. Now he believes this point could be reached very soon. Under the industry's informal exchange system, two tons of anchovy is worth a ton of pilchards. Some suggest this rate could be closer to 3:1, which makes the pilchard recovery all the more welcome.

But hard times on the anchovy front mean that some companies are forced to look for other sources of revenue. Lewis points out that companies that have canning operations will benefit from an increase in the pilchard quota this year. Last year Oceana canned 1 700 t of pilchard and this year it is hoping to can much more. In addition, Oceana, for one, is working to catch more red-eyed hering, which are not restricted by quotas. ■



## Namibian fishing rights safe 'for now'

30/10/90 LESLEY LAMBERT

CAPE TOWN — The rights of Namibian-based fishing companies, including those with SA parents, to fish in Namibian waters will be guaranteed up to their expiry date as long as they apply conditions beneficial to the Namibian economy.

This conditional undertaking, given in an interview by Namibia's Sea Fisheries director-general Jan Jurgens, applies largely to the seven companies with concessions to catch pelagic fish — pilchard and anchovy — and rock lobster until 1993 when the concessions expire.

Almost all the concessionaires have SA parents. 31/01/90

Most claim to get less than 25% of total annual income from the Namibian fishing activities.

The conditions applied by the Namibian authorities include the payment of tax to Namibia, the reinvestment of profits, the employment of Namibians, provision of medical aid and training schemes and the expansion of Namibian shareholdings in the companies.

Since the 1987 change in the quota policy based on the application of these conditions, Namibian Sea Fisheries (Namsea) and Swafil have received messages by way of quota reductions that the authorities are less than happy with their contribution.

Their parent company, Oceana Fishing, has threatened the government with legal action over reduced pilchard quotas.

Directors of Suiderland, parent of Gendev, feel the Namibian authorities are un-

□ To Page 2

## Fishing rights fishing 3 fishing zone From Page 1

likely to jeopardise concessionaires' economic contribution. But, like all the concessionaires approached by Business Day, they accept the certainty of new policies ensuring an increasing stake for Namibians. 31/01/90

Only when their concessions come up for renewal in 1993, will the companies know their longer term position.

Apart from the 10% set aside for Namibians in this year's pilchard quota, Jurgens confirms that in future Namibians will be the first to benefit from any improvement in the fish resources.

On overfishing, Jurgens says: "Our first priority is to proclaim a 200-mile exclusive

fishing zone and then to restore depleted resources and manage them prudently."

He says in future Namibians and Namibian-registered fishing companies will have the first opportunity to fish the resources. Local companies which establish joint ventures will also have preference. Other applications will be considered if there is still an excess.

"We will also determine levies which we would like to see based on gross tonnage per vessel. This will give us more control of the activities," Jurgens says.

Draft legislation to enable implementation of the 200-mile zone has been submitted to the legal advisers.

5/Times 15/4/90

fishy  
3

# Prawn ponds promise profit and tiger taste

**RELIEF** is at hand for cash-strapped prawn lovers.

Construction has started on a R10-million seawater prawn farm.

Ernst & Young management services director Jeff Howard says: "Mtunzini Prawn Farm Project promises investors an annual 29% return for the first three years, increasing as expansion plans come to fruition."

Managing director Alan Chettle says: "The company hopes to export to the European Economic Community before 1992 and will initiate a trial run next year. A listing on the JSE is also planned."

## Listing

The project was set up with R6,2-million shareholders' funds, a loan of R3,5-million from the Industrial Development Corporation and Ernst & Young raised R3,5-million from private placing of shares.

The capital cost, including land, development of infrastructure, ponds and nurseries on the Natal North Coast is R10,6-million.

The company has three directors — Bill Collett, Alan Chettle and H D Earle-Smith.

By Dirk Tlemann

Their consortium owns 25% of the company, rest being held by 45 shareholders.

Mr Howard says: "Ernst & Young's involvement began with viability studies and forecasting exercises. Research, based on technology developed by the Fisheries Development Corporation in the 1970s, was undertaken for many years and the company was registered a year ago."

Mr Chettle says the prawn culture is one of the world's fastest-growing consumer industries because natural stocks are being depleted. The project will save foreign currency because 80% of the 2 500 tons of prawns consumed in SA are imported from Mozambique, the Far East, Australia and Argentina.

"Tiger Prawns will be bred because they grow fast, are big, hardy and resistant to temperature changes."

Tiger prawns are landed in SA at between R32 and R40 a kilogram depending on the quality and size. Import variety costs R40/kg excluding the 40% surcharge.

Only 7% of world prawn consumption is met by aquaculture. But with an annual

shortfall estimated at 200 000 tons this year, natural prawn stocks declining and trawling costs rising, aquaculture is the solution, says Mr Chettle. World demand for prawns has increased by 60% in the past 10 years.

Mr Howard says construction of the first phase is under way at the 46,2 hectare site and is due for completion in June. Annual production, starting in 1991, is expected to be 175 tons of king tiger prawn. The prawns will be sold directly to hotels and restaurants and through wholesalers and retailers.

## Suitable

"The female prawns are spawning and the harvest will come after nine months. The harvest takes several months because each pool is the size of a rugby field."

Mr Chettle says the Mtunzini area is suitable for prawn aquaculture, the climate is ideal and the water unpolluted. Most of the pools have been constructed above recorded flood levels of the Umlalazi River including cyclone Demoina.

Mr Howard says: "Production will be a drop in the ocean in the SA market and the entire crop will probably be sold in Natal."

Cape Times 26/4/90



3 Fishing

Cape Times, Thursday

# 'Wall of death' boats let into harbour

By BARRY STREEK

THE government yesterday decided to allow about a hundred Chinese squid boats to enter Cape Town harbour with "wall of death" gill nets on board — despite an earlier ban on boats with such nets.

The Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said the boats would be allowed into Cape Town harbour as a one-time concession "under strict conditions to replenish essential supplies between May and July of this year".

He added: "It is especially necessary that the boats call at Cape Town harbour to disembark approximately 500 South

African seamen who are serving on the boats at present.

"Most of them are from Cape Town and surroundings."

But Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer said he believed Mr Kotze should have been much tougher.

"I believe that South Africa has to show its total disapproval of any operation which involves gill nets.

"We are assured that these gill nets have not been used since South African ban was imposed.

"The minister assures me that this is the last time he will accept any kind of excuse on possession of these walls of death nets.

"I hope this is true. I myself would have liked much firmer action," Mr Lorimer said.

In his statement, Mr Kotze said the concession followed an urgent appeal by the Taiwan Squid Fishery Association through the consul-general of the Republic of China in South Africa, Mr Louis Chou, that as an emergency measure the boats be allowed to call at Cape Town on their way back to Taiwan.

"The boats are at present catching squid in the region of the Falkland Islands."

Some had caught tunny with gill nets on their way from Taiwan to South Africa at the end of last year before they called at Cape Town earlier this year.

This tunny was caught outside South Africa's economic fishing zone.

However, when they arrived in Cape Town, Mr Kotze ordered that the masters of those boats not in possession of the necessary permits be prosecuted.

He also decided that no boats with gill net equipment, or tunny caught with gill nets, would be allowed into any South African port.

The Taiwan Squid Fishery Association had given an assurance that no further Taiwanese vessels with gill net equipment on board would call at any South African port, the boats had not made use of their gill nets and had only caught squid since they left Cape Town and all

vessels would remain in port no longer than necessary to disembark the South African seamen and to replenish bunkers, stores and fresh water.

"A few boats will off-load small quantities of squid in Cape Town harbour," Mr Kotze said.

"With our strict action earlier this year, South Africa demonstrated its disapproval of this unacceptable method of fishing.

"With this, South Africa took the lead in exercising pressure on countries whose fishing fleets employ this fishing method.

"We achieved what we wanted to achieve. I granted the request as a one-time concession in the spirit of good international co-operation.

# Canned fish for export

W/E 1964  
S/S/70

3 Fish

Business Editor

FOR the first time since 1976 South African fishing companies will be able to export highly lucrative canned pilchard soon.

Pilchards have not been exported because each year's catch was barely enough to meet home requirements.

However, catches and output of canned fish have increased substantially this year and this is likely to result in a surplus that can be exported, says Mr Walter Lewis, chief executive of the giant Oceana Group.

About one million cases may be exported and at higher prices than fetched on the local market.

However, this is still far below the 6 million cases exported in 1976.

Exports are badly needed by Oceana to recover from a slump in earnings for the six months to March 31 — down by R10 million to R6,6 million.

Landings of pelagic fish dropped, drastically to 34 000 tons of all species from 77 700 tons a year ago. Hardest hit was the anchovy catch of only 14 500 tons, down from 51 700 tons for the first six month of last financial year.

However, the group has broadened its base with new investments of R8 million in the Blue Continent cold storage business. This includes two stores at Epping and at Durban.

Negotiations are also continuing for a Cape Town Docks site, Mr Lewis added.

## Renewed pressure on fishing shares

21/10/1990 ACHMED KARIEM (3 Fishing)

FISHING shares came under renewed pressure on Diagonal Street yesterday as the sector continued to lose favour.

The JSE fishing sector index peaked in January at 1 351 and fell yesterday to 1 060 — a plunge of 21,5%.

Analyst Patrick Ho of Max Pollak and Freemantle said the share losses were due to the political uncertainty in Namibia and poor catches this year.

Namsea has fallen 68% from a high of 1 250c a year ago to 400c this week. SWA Fish peaked in November at 1 275c and fell 61% to a low of 500c this week while Natrawl declined 65% from a high of 85c a year ago to 30c.

Ocfish fell 19,7% from a high of 2 550c in August.

# Dam anglers carping at commercial fishermen <sup>(3) fishing</sup>

IT'S enough to break an angler's heart — commercial fishermen will haul tons of carp out of Midmar Dam in a Natal Parks Board bid to cut its fish population.

Conservation scientist Tom Pike said the board wanted to reduce the number of small carp in the Midlands dam to allow the remaining carp to grow bigger.

"There is now severe overpopulation, which means we have loads of stunted fish due to stiff competition for the limited food supply," he said.

By DAVE LOURENS

The board denied suggestions that the overpopulation had come about as a result of a drop in the number of anglers due to higher entry tariffs.

The Natal Freshwater Angling Union opposed the board's plans from the start, said Mr John Barthorpe, secretary of the union.

"We might be wrong. If everything is done properly it might be beneficial. But the

commercial fishermen are going to have to net a lot of fish to make it financially viable, while anglers will sit all day and catch nothing.

"The Parks Board says it will monitor the netting closely, but there are rumours circulating that illegal netting is taking place anyway.

"Bakkie-loads of carp are being sold in Maritzburg. We have reported this to the police and to Parks Board officials, but they have had no luck catching those responsible."

5/ Times 6/11/80

SWAFISH F/M 11/5/90

## Against the wind

**Activities:** Pelagic and rock lobster fishing and processing in Namibia.

**Chairman:** C.L. Walton

**Capital structure:** 3.15m. ords. Market capitalisation: R18,9m. (3) fishing

**Share market:** Price: 600c. Yields: 17,9% on dividend; 21,7% on earnings; PE ratio, 4,6; cover, 1,2. 12-month high, 1 350c; low, 600c.

Trading volume last quarter, 22 855 shares.

Year to Dec 31	'86	'87	'88	'89
ST debt (Rm) .....	—	3,6	—	—
LT debt (Rm) .....	0,2	1,6	0,6	0,5
Debt:equity ratio .....	0,1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shareholders' interest .....	0,53	0,60	0,36	0,63
Int & leasing cover .....	222	n/a	n/a	n/a
Return on cap (%) .....	53	38	29	23
Turnover (Rm) .....	47,0	35,9	20,5	10,8
Pre-int profit (Rm) .....	17,6	13,6	7,0	3,0
Pre-int margin (%) .....	36,1	38,0	34,1	28,2
Earnings (c) .....	289	231	266	130
Dividends (c) .....	250	200	915*	125
Net worth (c) .....	506	633	273	259

\* Including special dividend 675c.

F/M 11/5/90

(SWA)

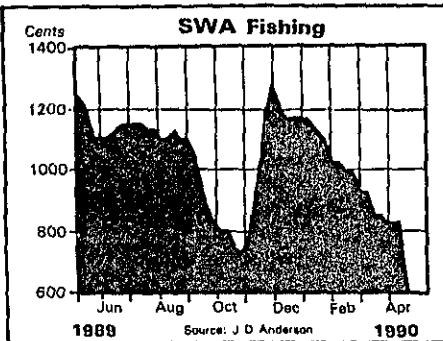
(3) fishing

If you are a farmer who has just had a bad season you know, at least, there is the possibility that you can make up for it next season. Not so if you are a pilchard fisherman in Namibia.

Firstly, the quota for 1990 has been reduced by 10 000 t to 40 000 t. Secondly, and more importantly for Swafish investors, the company's quota has been cut by 44% to 1 854 t. So the chances of realising for this year the same prospects that were on offer in 1989 are forgone.

Last year's catches, not only of pilchards but also of non-quota species and of rock lobsters, were so poor that Swafish had to delve into retained income and reserves for part of the final dividend (Fox March 2). Seaflower Lobster Corp, held 35% by Swafish, caught only 533 t (1988: 1 157 t) of its allocated quota of 1 163 t of rock lobster. While the quality of the catch enabled most to be processed, its smaller size meant a substantially reduced earnings contribution.

Swafish's other major income source is its 16,1% (1988: 20,33%) holding in United



Fishing Enterprises (UFE), which processes pelagic catches. Catches were severely hampered by bad weather and by an abundance of small pilchards mixed with non-quota species.

Nevertheless, UFE landed its full quota of pilchards but the catch of non-quota species fell by 56% compared to the 82 799 t for the previous year.

Even so, notes chairman Cedric Walton, by adjusting 1988 profits for UFE to include

the effect of stock carry-overs from 1987, the 1989 earnings were maintained at the previous year's level.

Landings of lobster continue to be disappointing and Walton says that, should the pattern continue, earnings from this source will be badly affected.

The reduction of the Swafish portion of the reduced pilchard quota is also expected to dampen profits.

There remains considerable uncertainty about the attitude the Swapo government will adopt when allocating fishing concessions. Until this and other policies affecting the Namibian operations of SA-controlled fishing enterprises are made clear, the considerable risk which normally attaches to investment in the fishing industry is simply expanded.

Walton warns that 1990 earnings will be "materially lower." Whether the market has fully discounted this prospect is speculative. With the risks inherent in fishing compounded by uncertainties and a bear market, the outlook is anything but rosy. Gerald Hirshon

Political Staff  
DRASTICALLY increased fines of up to R1 million are to be imposed on the skippers of foreign boats who fish in South African waters without the proper authorisation.

The tough measures are proposed in the Sea Fishery Amendment Bill, tabled in Parliament yesterday.

In the past, offenders could be fined up to R100 000 or sent to jail for up to seven years.

In future the mini-

# Illegal <sup>CAL</sup> <sup>Tmt</sup> <sup>12/5/70</sup> <sup>3 Feb</sup> fishing fines up to R1m?

imum fine will be R250 000 and the maximum R1 million, but the provision of jail sentences is to be scrapped.

Any person who unlawfully transfers fish illegally caught in South African waters

to any other vessel will be liable to a minimum fine of R250 000 and a maximum fine of R500 000.

The stricter penalties follow increasing concern that foreign boats are illegally exploiting South Africa's fish reserves and that the existing laws are not a sufficient deterrent.

The Bill would also enable the government to make regulations with regard to prohibiting the export of fish and the catching of fish.



	N/A	-7	4,3	-69	3,3	-86	-	-
Reunert .....	651,4	+21	41,3	+16	80,1	+31	22,0	+22
* - 15 months								
N/A - not applicable/								

# Prawn farm bosses asked about library

13/5/90 5/Times ③ Bishu

THE directors of a four-year-old prawn farming venture which has yet to produce a crustacean are being questioned about the alleged take-over of research and development documents without payment.

Managing director Alan Chettle and director Hugh Earl-Smith, of Mtunzini Prawn Farms Holding on the Natal North Coast, face questions in Maritzburg about "a library" of research documents and information they allegedly kept and used after they changed the name of their prawn concern.

## Fanfare

The inquiry is being presided over by the assistant master of the Supreme Court in Maritzburg, L Basson.

The liquidation manager of Coopers & Lybrand Trust, Eileen Fey, called the inquiry on behalf of the shareholders of Umdambi Farms Investment Holdings, the prawn company that was set up

By Ryan Cresswell

with much fanfare.

The company's name was changed to Mtunzini Prawn Farms and then it became known as Mtunzini Prawn Farms Holding.

Shareholders of Umdambi Farms believe their intellectual property was transferred at the time of the first name change, leaving them and creditors with nothing to show for their input.

The shareholders spent about R500 000 on research into prawn farming and development.

The directors repeatedly denied the allegations during the first days of the hearing.

It also appeared from evidence led that a company was formed to get rid of shareholder and director T Gallogher and creditors. Mr Chettle and Mr Gallogher could not get on with each other, it is claimed.

Another director of the prawn concern, a Mr Collett, was also questioned. Marine biologist Mark Coulton, and accountant Rodney Whitley

gave evidence.

The hearing continues.

After four years the prawn venture, touted as a South African first, is still in its "second stage" of development and it could be months or even years before the first prawn is sold.

## Village

A BITTER struggle for control of Helderberg retirement village in Boland was resolved this week as the holding company was placed in judicial management.

The ruling followed an urgent meeting by 207 villagers on May 2 at which all but one voted in favour of judicial management.

Many people feared they could lose their savings after investing in the market retirement village, set in picturesque surrounds near Somerset West.

Financially stricken and in danger of being shut by creditors, the village came a verbal and legal battleground in the past few months.

But this week's courtroom skirmish has given the villagers new hope.

Mr Justice H L Berman made an order on the return date of a provision

# Fish poachers face heavy fines

CAPE TOWN — The introduction of severe penalties against foreign poachers of SA fish will help authorities police an industry which loses millions of rand worth of its resource annually. *By Day 14/5/90*

The penalties — proposed in the Sea Fisheries Amendment Bill tabled in Parliament on Friday — include an increase in fines from a maximum R100 000 to a maximum R1m for contravention of SA fishing laws and provide for the confiscation of foreign boats.

The Bill also proposes a maximum R500 000 fine for foreign vessels found transferring fish from one boat to another outside a harbour and states that where it can be proved that an offence has been committed, it will be assumed the offence applies to all fish on board. *(3) fishing*

LESLEY LAMBERT

The amendments are in line with requests by the Environment Affairs Sea Fisheries Department directorate and the Cape Provincial Administration's Nature Conservation Division, which govern fishing activities along the Cape coast.

But, an Environment Affairs spokesman said, a joint standing committee may try to push the maximum fine above R1m to reflect more accurately the value of fish being stolen from SA's unilaterally declared 200 nautical mile fishing zone which yields R1bn a year to the local industry.

The value of stolen fish is not easily quantified. Of recorded cases, only two have been international trespassers, each

To Page 2

## Fish poachers

found with about R1m worth of fish on board. *By Day 14/5/90*

Until now they have been in a catch-22 situation. By their own admission, they have had neither the resources nor the funds to monitor effectively an area of 200 000 square nautical miles which is larger than SA. But, even if they had the resources, the punishment for contravention of fishing laws under current legislation is

*(3) fishing*  From Page 1

so mild that the risk of repeated contravention is probably well worthwhile.

For example, the current Sea Fisheries Act of 1958 says the state has to prove the fish were caught in SA waters and can only bring charges for fish in the net when the boat was captured.

If the amendments are passed, the authorities will be better equipped to deal with the problem.

mentioned persons. Namibia became an independent State on 21 March 1990. Since then the South African laws were no longer applicable in Namibia. Consequently, South Africa took the initiative in normalising the administration of justice with Namibia. Prior to the independence of Namibia the matter of an extradition treaty, together with other matters regarding the administration of justice was discussed by a South African delegation to Windhoek on 8 March 1990 with the Minister of Justice designate and his deputy. On this occasion the Namibians preferred not to finalise the matters in issue and nothing further was heard from then until 22 April 1990 when the extradition of certain persons was sought. *Hansard 15/5/90*

However, in the absence of an extradition treaty the State President is empowered in terms of section 3(2) of the Extradition Act, 1962, to activate a process for the extradition of a person. The State President's initial activation is in lieu of an extradition agreement but the subsequent extradition procedure to be followed is the same as if an extradition agreement had existed. The Namibian authorities were immediately informed upon the receipt of their request of the exact requirements for extradition. On 4 May 1990 the Namibian authorities responded but again did not comply with the requirements put to them. The shortcomings were on the same day conveyed to Namibia. No further response was received.

I would again like to emphasise that the South African authorities have throughout been prepared to consider any extradition request from Namibia, and they still are, provided that the minimum statutory requirements for extradition applicable between the Republic and all other states are met.

#### SADF: assistance to Comores

\*10. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Defence: *Hansard 15/5/90*

Whether the South African Defence Force gave any assistance to the Government of the Comores in respect of its Presidential Guard prior to 30 November 1989; if so, (a) what form did such assistance take and (b) how much did it cost? *[Handwritten mark]*

B978E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

Yes. (a) All assistance rendered to the Comores was at the request of the late

*[Handwritten mark]* President Abdullah, was of a restricted nature and has been properly accounted for. *Hansard 15/5/90*

(b) I do not consider it in the interest of the sensitive relations between the RSA and the Comores and the internal situation on the island itself to divulge more information at present in this regard. Should the hon member require more information regarding the assistance, I am prepared to supply this to him in person.

#### Pit-bulls

\*11. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Trade and Industry and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any permits were granted by his Department for the importation of any dog breeds known as pit-bulls during the latest specified three-year period for which information is available; if so, (a) how many such permits were granted and (b) on what grounds;
- (2) whether he will impose a ban on the further importation of pit-bulls into South Africa; if not, why not;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B979E

†The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND TOURISM:

- (1) No.

*Note:* Import permits are not required for live animals, only the necessary health authorisation, including inoculation and quarantine requirements, controlled by the Department of Agriculture.

- (a) and (b) Fall away.
- (2) In my view the importation of so-called pit-bulls is a dangerous and undesirable practice and should not be allowed. I have indicated this view to my colleague who hon the Minister of Agriculture who concurs and we will seek ways and means of achieving this ban, if practicable.
- (3) I will inform the hon member as soon as we have made progress in investigating this matter. I thank the hon member for his concern, which I share.

#### Teachers: lowest salary

\*12. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Education: *Hansard 15/5/90*

(a) (i) What is the lowest salary currently being paid to any full-time teacher in the Department of Education and Training and (ii) how many teachers are at that salary level and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? *[Handwritten mark]*

B981E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (a) (i) R6 873 plus a non-pensionable allowance of R690 per annum.
- (ii) 3 271
- (b) 9 May 1990.

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.*

#### Broadbill swordfish: restrictions

\*13. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Hansard 15/5/90*

- (1) Whether there are any restrictions on the catching of broadbill swordfish by commercial fishermen; if not,
- (2) whether the introduction of such restrictions is being considered; if not, why not?

B982E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) No. *(3) fishing*
- (2) No, the sale of swordfish is already prohibited by regulation, except in the case of swordfish caught as bycatch with longlines or in trawlnets.

#### Berlin: formaldehyde factory

\*14. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Water Affairs: *Hansard 15/5/90*

- (1) Whether the Government has received any complaints regarding a formaldehyde factory in Berlin, Eastern Cape; if so, (a) from whom and (b) what steps have been taken as a result; *[Handwritten mark]*
- (2) whether his Department monitors the factory and surrounding area to establish whether any formaldehyde pollution is occurring; if not, why not; if so, on what basis is such monitoring done;

(3) whether any maximum permissible levels of formaldehyde in water and air have been laid down; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are these levels and (b) what is the measured level of formaldehyde in the area surrounding the factory in question?

B983E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes. *Hansard 15/5/90*
  - (a) Mr V J M Houzet, who wrote directly to me.
  - (b) The factory in question was inspected by senior officials of the Department of Water Affairs' Eastern Cape regional office, accompanied by the City Chemist of East London.
- (2) Yes. The area is monitored by officials of the Department of Water Affairs by means of routine visits, on site inspections and the taking of water samples.

(3) No standard is specified for formaldehyde discharges into watercourses. This is because it is impractical to specify standards for all possible components of industrial or domestic discharges. Instead, a blanket variable is used to control the organic or inorganic concentrations discharged. If, however, there is the possibility of a specific substance being discharged which may be deleterious to the environment, specific limits can be imposed on that discharge, or it can be prohibited completely. The undertaking in question, however, does not discharge effluent of any nature into a watercourse — all effluents, domestic and industrial, are discharged into an effluent disposal sewer system of the municipality concerned. The Department then in turn monitors the quality of the municipal effluent to ascertain compliance with the standard applicable to the Municipality's effluent. No formaldehyde discharges into the water environment have been detected at the factory in Berlin. *[Handwritten mark]*

Air pollution control falls within the ambit of the Department of National Health and Population Development and I suggest that the honourable member directs enquiries in this regard to that Department.

# Shock penguin find in trawler

CML 10/11 25/5/90 3 Fick



**SLAUGHTER . . .** Caledon MP Mr Lampie Fick with a plastic package containing one of the gill-netted penguins.

## BRONWYN DAVIDS

MORE than 40 endangered jackass penguins wrapped in plastic bags — all victims of "wall of death" gill net fishing — were found yesterday in the refrigeration tank of the stranded Taiwanese trawler An-Hung 1.

The trawler, with about 60 tons of marine diesel oil on board, ran aground in Hol Bay near Gans Bay on Tuesday. The wreck is about 500 metres from Dyer Island, an important breeding ground for jackass penguins.

The shock discovery was made by salvaging contractors and Mr Lampie Fick, MP for Caledon, chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Environmental Affairs.

Mr Fick said they came across the penguins, neatly packaged in plastic bags, while making a salvage inspection of the trawler yesterday.

The penguins, as well as seals, about 120 tons of tunny and other marine species — which were found in the tanks — had been caught up in the illegal 40km-long gill nets found on the trawler.

Mr Fick said the Sea Fisheries Department had been notified that there were penguins in the tanks, as it was illegal to catch the birds.

## Destructive

The attorney-general is already investigating charges against the trawler's skipper and owners for having gill nets and gill-netted tunny on board.

Salvaging contractors will start removing the netted fish, about 50 to 70 tons of gas and marine oil and the gill nets from the trawler today, said Mr Fick.

Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, said gill netting was considered one of the most destructive fishing methods ever devised, as they sweep up all marine life in their path.

"These fishermen must abide by the new fishing laws," she said.

Mrs Althea Westphal, of the SA National Council for the Conservation of Coastal Birds, said: "Taking penguins is totally illegal." Jackass penguins were eaten as a delicacy and some fishermen used them as bait for crayfish.

"Our big worry is that penguins fishing in that area will get oiled," she said. Oil slicks had been reported near Dyer Island.

# Maasbanker to be canned in Port Elizabeth

The Argus Bureau

APR 2/2/90  
PORT ELIZABETH. — A R1,5-million fish canning factory is being established at the harbour to process maasbanker.

"This is the beginning of an industry which has immense scope for the Eastern Cape," the general manager of Oosterlig Fisheries, Mr **Barnie Rose**, said.

Eighty people, mainly women, had been employed. Machinery was being installed and production was expected to start in a fortnight.

It is the first fish-canning factory in Port Elizabeth. The quality of local maasbanker was first class and the end product would be well up to the standards required by the SA Bureau of Standards.

The factory would get 80 to 100 tons of maasbanker on average every three days. "We will take in the equivalent of 50 to 60 tons of raw material every day, can the fish in 350g tins and market them all over South Africa," Mr **Rose** said.

Oosterlig Fisheries' parent company, *Suiderland Development Corporation*, stems from the long-established company, *Kaap Kunene*, which generated almost the whole of the fishing and canning industries in Namibia and on the west coast of South Africa.

ironically and that they had not originated in the SA Defence Force. No positive confirmation could be attained regarding to the origin of the messages, but indications point in the direction of Untag.

(ii) No steps were taken.

- (3) No. SA Defence Force procedures determined that all intercepted messages had to be recorded on tape and transcribed and verified within 24 hours. The tapes were thereafter cleared for re-use.

Mr C W EGLIN: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, was it in fact an official in his department who gave the information to the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs as a *bona fide* interception and does he accept responsibility for the information which he gave to the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I do not think that question is quite relevant. Those messages were going backwards and forwards for a long time and were received by the SA Defence Force on the frequencies used by Untag. The hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs was informed about this on an ongoing basis. However, it is obvious that when this final message came through it was transmitted by the SA Defence Force to the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, in view of the seriousness of this particular incident, is it not possible that the procedure could have been varied and that the tapes could have been kept for the inquiry to make use of?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we cannot keep all the tapes and transcriptions of what is going on at all times. [Interjections.] This is history! I am sorry but I cannot reply any further to that question.

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's replies, was any effort made to verify the authenticity of the tapes with the United Nations Commission and Mr Martti Ahtisaari before the matter was acted upon in the way that it was raised publicly?

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, we have done everything in our power to trace the origins of these tapes but, as I have pointed out,

we could not get any more information than that which I have given to the House this afternoon.

†Mr J H VAN DER MERWE: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, I should like to ask if a person can therefore accept that the hon the Minister of Foreign Affairs acted completely in good faith and within the restrictions of decency and correctness? [Interjections.]

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the answer is yes. [Interjections.]

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply could I put my question again, namely: Was any attempt made to verify the authenticity of these tapes by contacts with Mr Martti Ahtisaari or his senior staff before they were put forward to the Cabinet as being authentic? [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, all this happened in very pressing times and I am sure we have tried our very best to verify the information. I am afraid I cannot give the hon member any more information on this. [Interjections.]

#### Mr Vulindela Mbotoli: extradition

\*4. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Justice:

Whether the South African Government has received any request for the extradition of Mr Vulindela Mbotoli; if so, (a) what form did the request take, (b) when was it received, (c) what documentation was included with the request and (d) what was the South African Government's response to the request?

Handard 13/2/90

B4E

The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

Yes.

- (a) A request as contemplated in article 11 of the Agreement on Extradition between the Republic of Transkei and the Republic of South Africa;
- (b) 1 February 1990;
- (c) the documents required in terms of article 11 of the said agreement; and
- (d) the request will in due course be considered in terms of the Extradition Act, 1962.

#### Air pollution: tests

\*5. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of National Health and Population Development:

Whether her Department or any other body under her control undertakes regular testing for air pollution; if so, (a) what specified tests for each type of pollution, (b) where does such testing take place and (c) what were the results of such tests in 1989?

B5E

†The MINISTER OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT:

Yes,

- (a) a wide range of tests for air pollution levels are carried out by the Department of National Health and Population Development, various local authorities, the CSIR and other research institutes, on a continuous as well as an *ad-hoc* basis.

The types of pollutants measured are mainly:

— Gaseous:

Sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides, hydrocarbons and ozone.

— Particulates:

Various types of pollution dust, trace elements, sulphates and nitrates.

Different methods are used to measure the presence of the different pollutants and may vary from fairly simple to very sophisticated and expensive instrumentation for measurement as well as analysis,

- (b) — smoke and sulphur dioxide:

These pollutants are measured by 41 local authorities and regional service councils. Smoke is measured at 158 sites and sulphur dioxide at 123 sites.

— Motor vehicle emissions:

Monitoring for these pollutants are done in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

— Trace elements:

Samples from 46 sites are analyzed for 13 different elements.

The aforementioned monitoring pro-

grammes are ongoing to determine trends and some stations have been in operation for as long as 30 years.

More recent investigations have been undertaken at Phalaborwa, Nelspruit, Richards Bay and Vereeniging.

The Department also has access to monitoring results from institutions such as Eskom, Sasol and other private companies.

- (c) as the statistical presentation of results are done on an annual basis, most of the 1989 results are now being processed.

The results of the 1988 monitoring programmes showed that all levels of pollution are in general well within internationally accepted levels.

If specific information is required, it can be provided.

(Rest of reply laid upon the Table with leave of House)

Kingklip: shortage Handard 13/2/90

\*6. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether a shortage of kingklip has been experienced recently; if so, (a) why and (b) during what period;
- (2) whether any action has been and/or is to be taken to rectify the situation; if so, what action, if not, why not?

(3) fishing

B6E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Environment Affairs):

- (1) Yes.
- (a) Local production cannot meet the market demand.
- (b) Throughout the year.
- (2) Yes. Import permits are granted freely at present.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask whether he could, in the absence of the hon the Minister of Environment Affairs, approach him and ask him whether he would consider stopping

the export of kingklip so that at least the local market can be supplied?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, seeing that environment affairs are not my responsibility, I would like to suggest that the hon member for Bryanston submit a new question.

**Noordhoek area: kaolin mine**

\*7. Mr J H MOMBORG asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether he has received any representations regarding a proposed kaolin mine in the Noordhoek area; if so, (a) from whom, in each case, and (b) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation?

B7E

†The DEPUTY MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND LAND AFFAIRS (for the Minister of Environment Affairs):

Yes.

(a) From approximately thirty organisations and individuals, the names of whom will be furnished on request to the hon member on a personal basis.

(b) (i) Objections were raised against the development for aesthetical reasons, increased traffic flow, decline as tourist asset, and the short term financial gain from it.

(ii) The contents of the answers in each case had the following purport:

In 1975 the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs undertook an investigation into kaolin deposits in the Republic of South Africa which indicated that the best kaolin deposit is situated in the Noordhoek vicinity.

In 1980 Serina (Pty) Ltd, who had acquired the rights of the Chaplin's Estate, applied to establish a kaolin mine. Due to public reaction a consulting firm (Farrel and Van Riet, Landscape Architects) was appointed to investigate the environmental impact of the proposed project. They found that mining could be allowed subject to certain conditions.

On 7 October 1983 specific areas

were reserved for the mining of kaolin in terms of section 4(1)(a) of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 (Act 88 of 1967).

The present situation was spelt out in a press release by the Bureau for Information on behalf of my colleague Dr D J de Villiers, MP, Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises earlier this month.

Mr K M ANDREW: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Deputy Minister's reply, may I ask whether it is not so that kaolin of equally high quality is available in the Stellenbosch area and also in the vicinity of Saldanha Bay on the West Coast?

†The DEPUTY MINISTER: Mr Speaker, I once again mention that environment affairs are not my responsibility. I think the hon member for Cape Town Gardens should rather submit a new question.

*Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 180C (3) of the Standing Rules of Parliament.*

**Noordhoek area: kaolin mine**

\*8. Mr J H MOMBORG asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether he has received any representations regarding a proposed kaolin mine in the Noordhoek area; if so, (a) from whom, in each case, and (b) what was (i) the purport of and (ii) his response to each such representation;

(2) whether it is his intention to grant a licence to mine kaolin in this area to a certain company, the name of which has been furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, (a) why and (b) when; if not, why not?

B8E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) Yes.

(a) Save Chapman's Peak Action Group.

(b) (i) The purport of the representations is that —  
the mining of the kaolin should not be permitted;

the reservation in terms of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 (Act 88 of 1967), whereby a portion of Chaplin's Estate, Noordhoek, has been reserved for the mining of kaolin, be rescinded and that the area be included in the adjacent area which has been reserved as a nature reserve in terms of the said Act; and

an interview in connection with the matter be granted and that the Save Chapman's Peak Action Group be involved in any further discussions which may take place in connection with the matter.

(ii) The concern making representations has been —

referred to my recent press statement in which my standpoint concerning the exploitation of the kaolin is set out, namely that a final decision on the matter will only be taken after the comprehensive impact study which is presently being undertaken, has been completed and duly evaluated by the authorities concerned; and  
informed that in my opinion it will serve no useful purpose to have a discussion at this stage.

(2) (a) My predecessor in January 1988 already decided that kaolin may be mined on the reserved area. Considerations which were taken into account by my predecessor are that the rights to the kaolin in respect of the relevant area had been purchased in 1979 by the applicant company and that the land was specially reserved in 1983, in terms of the Physical Planning Act, for mining of kaolin.

(b) The necessary permit in terms of the Physical Planning Act, 1967 (Act 88

of 1967), to use the relevant land for the purpose of a kaolin quarry will be issued as soon as the impact study which is presently being undertaken, has been evaluated and the conditions in terms of which mining will be permitted and which will be incorporated in the permit, have been formulated.

**G H de Wet Committee: report**

\*9. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

(1) Whether he and/or his predecessor has received the report of the G H de Wet Committee into the influence of increases in the price of oil-based fuel on the South African economy; if so, (a) when was the (i) preliminary and (ii) final report completed, (b) what were the main findings of the report and (c) what actions arose from the report; if not, why not;

(2) whether the report will be made public; if so, when; if not, why not?

B9E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) YES.

(a) (i) November 1988.  
(ii) 11 February 1989.

(b) The report by prof G L de Wet covers matters in connection with the fuel price structure, the influence of fuel price increases on the economy, spending patterns, comparative overseas prices, production costs and expenditure, the balance of payments and the inflation rate. The recommendations in the report has not yet been considered by Cabinet and can, therefore, not be announced.

(c) The report served before the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs which decided that line functional departments and the Economic Advisory Council should render written comments for consideration by Cabinet. The economic Advisory Coun-

# Downturn hits I & J profits

3 FISC  
9/2/90  
Financial Editor

CAPE TOWN-based fishing and frozen food company Irvin & Johnson lifted turnover by 17,5% in the six months to December. But operating profit rose by only 3,6% and earnings by 2,5%, lagging far behind inflation.

The directors explain that profits were squeezed by the economic downturn, which caused "difficult trading conditions".

This meant that cost increases could not be passed on. Prices of major products remained at the previous year's levels, or in some cases below them.

The strengthening rand hit the company's exports, making them less competitive overseas.

Income from investments fell by 13,8%, to R3,6m (R4,2m), while the interest bill rose by 19% to R3,7m (R3,1m).

Turnover for the half year was R607,6m (R516,9m) and operating profit R44,2m (R42,6m).

Profit before interest and tax was R47,9m (R46,9m) and pre-tax profit R44,1m (R43,7m).

The tax bill was 2,1% lower at R17,2m (R17,6m), leaving net profit of R26,9m (R26,1m).

Earnings at share level were 94,9c (92,6c).

In accordance with company policy of one annual pay-out, no interim dividend will be paid.

Long-term borrowings were at the same level as on June 30 but short-term borrowings were reduced. This resulted in a reduction in the debt:equity ratio to 18,6% compared with 24,6% a year earlier.

The net asset value per share has increased to 852c from 690c.



## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

## QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

## Fish landed

424. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

How many tonnes of (a) (i) anchovy and (ii) pilchard and (b) non-quota pelagic fish were landed during the 1989 fishing season?

*Handwritten: 7/6/90*

B1009E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(a) (i) 294 015 t

(ii) 33 656 t

(b) 77 203 t

## Immature juvenile fish caught

425. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

What estimated percentage of the catch of (a) pilchards and (b) anchovies in 1989 were immature juveniles?

B1010E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(a) 43% by mass, 87% by numbers

(b) 34% by mass, 44% by numbers.

## Rock lobster/abalone: permits

426. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Handwritten: 7/6/90*

(a) How many permits to catch (i) rock lobster and (ii) abalone have been issued to private individuals during the current season and (b) in respect of what date is this information furnished? *(3) fishing*

B1011E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(a) (i) 41 189

(ii) 20 352

(b) 30 April 1990.

## Koedoespoort: extensive repairs to electrical locomotives

427. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:†

(1) How many electric locomotives (a) underwent extensive repairs at the railway workshops at Koedoespoort in the 1985-86 financial year and (b) is it estimated will undergo such repairs at the said workshops in the 1990-91 financial year;

(2) what maximum number of electric locomotives is it anticipated can undergo (a) extensive repairs, including complete re-wiring, and (b) normal planned extensive repairs with the present number of electricians in the 1990-91 financial year?

B1138E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

(1) (a) 122

(b) 51

(2) (a) 51

(b) Nil.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## QUESTIONS

† Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

General Affairs:

## PE area: ecology of sand dunes

24. Mr W J DIETRICH asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) Whether he has received any reports with regard to the deterioration of the ecology of the sand dunes in the Port Elizabeth area; if so, (a) where in this area are these dunes situated and (b) what is the extent of the deterioration;

(2) whether any steps (a) were taken in the

past and (b) are being taken to prevent the deterioration of these dunes; if not, why not; if so, what steps in each case;

(3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

C68E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) No.

(a) and (b) Fall away.

(2) (a) In the past the Department of Environment Affairs undertook the reclamation of dunes in the Alexandria dune field.

(b) Management of the Alexandria dune field has since been devolved to the Cape Provincial Administration.

(3) No.

## A catch of juveniles

Political Staff

EIGHTY-SEVEN per cent of the pilchards landed last year and 44% of the anchovies were immature juveniles, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, said in the House of Assembly yesterday.

He said that the pilchards represented 33 656 tons of the total pilchard catch.

He added that 77 203 tons of non-quota pelagic fish were caught, and 41 189 rock lobster permits and 20 352 perlemoen permits were issued to private individuals.

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8/6/90  
3 Fish

3 Frshy



# Gill net rules being flouted?

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

A CALL has been made for the more efficient monitoring of South Africa's tough anti-gill net fishing regulations, amid fears that these rules are being circumvented by ships transferring cargoes at sea.

The call comes from the Dolphin Action and Protection Group (DAPG) which has been monitoring the movement of ships as part of its investigation into the import and export of tunny.

Some of the tunny is caught with "wall of death" gill nets, while other portions of the catch are taken with the assistance of dolphins which are trapped and drowned in the operation.



One of the vessels under suspicion is the Taiwanese-owned "fisheries vessel" Chang Lung, which the DAPG believes could be a refrigerated transport carrier.

In July last year the ship was photographed in Kaohsiung harbour in Taiwan, loading huge quantities of gill nets.

"The investigating officer was appalled by the size and number of gill nets which were entering the harbour by the 'lorry load'," a DAPG report stated.

The ship put into Cape Town harbour at the beginning of March, about one month after action against Taiwanese trawlers carrying illegal gill nets.

It was inspected by South African authorities while in port but was not found to be carrying any nets. However, its cargo was not inspected as it had not requested permission to offload.

There were rumours in fishing circles that the Chang Lung was waiting for the arrival of a reefer to transfer its cargo, but it departed without offloading after about 10 days in harbour, bound for an "unknown destination".

The DAPG questioned a senior officer of the Department of Environment's Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries about the possibility of the ship having taken aboard a cargo of gill-netted tunny at sea.

"This was hotly denied, the reason apparently being that it was 'too dangerous'," the DAPG report said.


However, it was "not convinced", and alleged it was "more than possible" that the Chang Lung had been both supplying fishing vessels with gill nets at sea and bringing back tunny from these vessels into South African ports, in violation of South Africa's anti-gill net legislation of last year.

"Trans-shipping at sea by Asian vessels is fairly common, especially in the North Pacific gill-netting industry and there is no reason at all why this should not be the case in the Indian and even South Atlantic oceans," the report continued.

"In fact, DAPG is convinced that because Taiwanese gill netting vessels cannot enter South African ports, more tunny will be transferred to carrier and/or reefers at sea which, in turn, will visit South African ports for fuel and supplies and also cold storage facilities.

"To prevent this from happening, not only the agents of the fishing vessels but also law enforcement authorities should establish a more efficient monitoring system.

"If this is not done, legislation will be circumvented and — in effect — will be completely useless," the report concluded.

3 Fishing 

WIMail 8/6-14/190

# Shares soften as anchovies elude net

SHARE prices for companies quoted on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange normally reflect economic cycles. Few are determined by nature — but the fishing industry rises and falls with the tides.

The South African fishing industry has been hit by poor anchovy and lobster catches this season, which is reflected in the softness of fishing shares on the JSE. Steve Malherbe, managing director of the SA Inshore Fishing Industry Association, says the low anchovy quota of 150 000 tons could still be cut to 100 000 tons if catches don't improve.

Added to this the Namibian government plans to adopt more conservative fishing quotas than previously operated in their territorial waters. This could affect South African fishing companies adversely in the short

## The elusiveness of anchovies and a tardiness in harvesting lobsters has led to a softening of fishing shares. ALAN HIRSCH reports

run, though their Namibian subsidiaries should benefit in the longer run.

The South African fishing industry is divided into three main categories: pelagic (pilchards and anchovies), lobster, and deep-sea (mainly hake). In 1987 and 1988 the pelagic sector was boosted to unprecedented levels when the anchovy quota — the amount the state allows the industry to harvest — rose to 600 000 tons, double the average of 300 000 tons.

This year, as a result of two years of "poor recruiting", according to Dr Louis Botha, director of the Department of Sea Fisheries, anchovies are

hard to find, and the government was forced to reduce the anchovy quota to 150 000 tons. Malherbe ventures the department might have to cut it still further before the end of the season.

Good pilchard catches and a quota raised from 35 000 to 56 000 tons does compensate the fishing industry. But even though the pilchards are estimated to be worth about three times the value of anchovies by weight, the good pilchard harvest will not compensate for the absence of anchovies.

Moreover, this year it's taking longer than usual to bring in the lobster catch. Though Botha is not too concerned about lobster stocks, the lateness and poor quality of the harvest has incurred extraordinary costs that may not be fully recovered by the fishing companies, according to Mal-

herbe. Walter Lewis, chief executive of Oceana, a major fishing company, notes that lobster catches in the Luderitz area are poor this year.

The South African fishing industry has major interests in Namibia — Oceana, for example, owns 54 per cent of its Namibian subsidiary — and poor harvests in Namibian waters have also weakened the profitability of the South African firms. Yet the subsidiaries may soon be beneficiaries of Namibian attempts to restructure its inshore fishing industry.

In March Namibia's President Sam Nujoma asked foreign fishing trawlers to leave his country's waters. Namibia is extending its economic rights 200 nautical miles into the ocean, which will mean, like South Africa, it will have the right to control the mineral and fishing resources of a huge marine "Exclusive Economic Zone". This won't affect diamond concessions whose rights in terms of the old 12 nautical mile territorial waters zone will still apply.

Walvis Bay commercial interests are reported to be unhappy about the economic effects of the absence of foreign fishing fleets. The Japanese and Spanish crews, in particular, have been big spenders. In the longer run, though, the Namibian economy should benefit from the application of nationalistic economic measures. The power of South African interests in the Namibian fishing industry could emerge as a contentious issue.

According to Carl Schlettwein, permanent secretary of the Namibian Department of Fisheries and Water, Namibia plans to set low fishing quotas to allow "grossly overfished resources to recover". Before independence fishing rights were determined by a consortium of countries fishing in Namibian waters called ICHSEAF, "a sort of international club of fishing", says Schlettwein.

"Namibian waters were overexploited," says Schlettwein, "because everyone could fish for free." Nevertheless, Namibian fishing quotas which are due out shortly are not expected by the South African industry to be sharply cut.

NO. 1 MODEL APA STYLE PRACTICAL REPORT

PRACTICAL PROGRAMME 1982

UCT DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY PSY I

June onwards

13/4/82

# Illegal fishing penalties now even tougher

Cam TMS 8/6/90

3 For 4

## Political Staff

THE new tough penalties on illegal fishing in South African waters have been drastically increased by the Joint Committee on Environment Affairs.

The new measure, to go through Parliament this session, will increase the maximum fine for illegally catching crayfish and perlemoen to R50 000 as well a fine of up to three times the commercial value of the catch.

It will also provide for the compulsory confiscation of foreign vessels fishing illegally in South African waters, plus a fine of R250 000 minimum to R1 million maximum.

The committee's chairman, Mr Lampie Fick, MP for Caledon, said yesterday the increased penalties, above those originally proposed by the Department of Environment Affairs, demonstrated the government's seriousness in preserving our fishing resources.

"The main message is that our marine resources are a precious national

resource which must be protected and exploited with respect."

However, he expressed concern about the ability of the authorities to police offenders. "We have a shortage of people controlling this."

At present, the maximum fine for illegally catching crayfish and perlemoen is R6 000 and imprisonment for up to five years.

The Sea Fisheries Act also provides for the confiscation of all equipment and vehicles used in catching these products. This provision will remain in the amended law.

The original bill proposed a maximum penalty of R24 000 and six years in jail. It also proposed a minimum fine of R250 000 and a maximum of R1m for foreign vessels fishing in SA waters and courts could order confiscation of the boat, its gear, fish and fish products.

The committee has amended this to make compulsory the confiscation of foreign boats caught fishing illegally.

The Bill also makes it an offence for any vessels to have the "wall of death" gill nets on board.

Chok Tans

9/6/90



3/5/90

# R1000 fine for gill nets

## Court Reporter

THE Taiwanese shipmaster and fishing master of the stranded An Hung 1 fishing trawler were yesterday found guilty in the Cape Town Regional Court of possessing a gill net without a permit.

They were sentenced to a fine of R1 000 or three months imprisonment each. The gill net was confiscated.

Magistrate Mr J M Lemmer said that their offence was seen in a very serious light.

Wu Shiow Wen, 49, and Wang Chine Tan, 54, both pleaded guilty. In a statement handed to the magistrate they said they were aware that gill nets were illegal in South Africa and that a

permit from the Sea Fisheries Department was necessary to authorise their carrying the equipment in South African waters.

Mr A Schippers, for the Taiwanese citizens, said despite the nature and extent of the offence, any fines set by the court would have to be paid by Wu and Wang personally, and that they respectively earned about R2 663 per month as shipmaster and R1 331 per month as fishing master.

He added that between them the men had six children to support.

The men had been in custody since their arrest on May 25th — two days after the ill-fated trawler stranded off Hol Bay, near Gans Bay.

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## Poor catches affect Namsea

EDWIN UNDERWOOD (3) fishing

NAMIBIAN Sea Fisheries (Namsea), the Oceana Fishing subsidiary embroiled in negotiations with the Namibian government over reduced fishing quotas, is determined to keep its infrastructure intact, Namsea executive chairman Walter Lewis said. *Blum 14/6/90*

At last week's launch of Oceana's new fishing vessel Oceana Pegasus in Luderitz, Lewis said last year's catches were well below expectations. The result was a dive in interim earnings from 120,1c a share to 24,4c in April this year, and a virtual freefall in dividends from associated companies as a result of poor lobster catches.

Directors attributed the poor catches to unusual physical characteristics in the ocean.

However, Namsea spokesman Sue Jones said the Namibian authorities had withdrawn foreign fishing boats and extended Namibia's operating zone to 200km. Both actions were expected to have a favourable effect on the deep sea industry.

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## Rock lobster season

\*10. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) What is the present season for the catching of rock lobster in South African waters;
- (2) whether this season has been strictly adhered to during the past two years; if not, why not?

③ fishing

B1295E

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS: *Hansard 19/6/90*

- (1) North of Yzerfontein: 1 November/30 June  
South of Yzerfontein: 15 November/30 June
- (2) Yes, except
  - (a) in a portion of area 8 (at Cape Point) where the season was extended on request till 1 August, because the rock lobster caught there is of a better commercial quality later in the season and because catches at the time in the specific area would, based on scientific information, not be detrimental to the rock lobster stock and
  - (b) in Zone A (Port Nolloth) where the season opened on request on 15 October, because rock lobster moult and harden earlier in that area than in the south and because the weather in that area deteriorates earlier than in the south.

Mr R J LORIMER: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, when the season was extended in the Southern Cape area, can he tell us whether this extension was granted to individual licence-holders as well, or was it merely granted to the big companies?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the information that I have just given is in relation to the commercial industry. [Interjections.]

## Sea Point: black mussels

\*11. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

③ fishing

- (1) Whether black mussels were recently washed up in large numbers on the Sea

Point beaches; if so, approximately how many;

- (2) whether this phenomenon is considered to be out of the ordinary;
- (3) whether the matter was investigated by any person under his authority; if so,
- (4) whether any causes were established; if so, what were they;
- (5) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

*Hansard 19/6/90*

B1296E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes; exact quantities are not known, but a spokesman for the Cape Town Municipality Beach Cleaning Department estimates that his Department has removed about 50 tons from local beaches to date.
- (2) No, but the quantity washed up on Peninsula beaches this year is apparently higher than usual.
- (3) No. ③ fishing
- (4) Exact causes were not established. It is, however, the view of marine biologists that mussels grow rapidly and compete for space to attach. When the first big north-westerly swells come about in late autumn, mussels that are not properly secured become dislodged and are washed out alive onto the beaches where they die. Marine biologists believe that this was the case at the time of the recent wash-out of mussels on Sea Point beaches.
- (5) No.

Mr R R HULLEY: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, is it possible that the breakage in the sewage pipe and the extra flow of sewage into the sea in that particular area may have had a bearing on the washing up of those mussels?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, that is a question which I think the hon member should place on the Questions Paper, after which I shall have the matter investigated so as to give him a proper answer.

## Taiwanese fishing vessels: permits

\*12. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: ③ fishing

- (1) Whether any permits were granted recently to Taiwanese fishing vessels to enter Cape Town harbour; if so, (a) what are the names of these vessels and (b) how many South African crew members did they have on board; ③ fishing
- (2) whether these vessels were inspected to ascertain whether they (a) had gill nets on board and (b) carried a cargo of fish or other forms of marine life caught with gill nets; if not, why not; if so, with what result;
- (3) whether any further action has been taken in this matter; if not, why not; if so, what action?

B1298E

†The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1)(a) of reply laid upon the Table with leave of House)

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) See attached list.
  - (b) Approximately 420.
- (2) (a) Yes.
  - (b) Yes.

Since permits have been issued no Taiwanese vessel offloading has had gill nets on board. Boats offloading tuna all used the longline and/or pole fishing method.

- (3) No further action with respect to fisheries legislation is envisaged, except that no further permits will be issued after the end of the current fishing season.

Manlien 221	Hsiang Man Chiung
Mann Tu 11	Msieh Yu 62
Yung Kai	Yung Hsiu
Shinn T.T	Ming Ghig
Chieh Man 1	Chin Chia Ching
Chieh Hsiang 661	Shyung Chuen 1
Chia Meug 2	Hsiang Lai Fu
Jui Yiug 1	Chia Meng 1
Yeou Dar 101	Jin Jiun
Fu Yuan 1	Chia Chia Chin
Shin Long 1	Jui Ying 6
Hsin Ying 1	Jaiwon 11
Kienchang 33	Hsin Ying 6
Tai Ying 1	Win Heng
Yung Mann 11	Doug H 5

Her Hung 1	Yung Chun 17
Shin Ho Chun 201	Hou Chun 102
Hou Chun 101	Bae Shunn 1
Bae Fu 1	Dahmaan 1
Win Heng	Chin Yuan Hsing
Yung Yuan	Yung Chun
Pao Hsiang 1	Shun Ying 3
Han Chen No 2	Chien Lung 7
Yih Lien Shen	Jie Fwu 1
Han Chen 7	Hung Fa 7
Den Yang	Horng Maan 1
Yih Lien 3	Kwang Mao
Yung Chin Fa 101	Kuang Ying
Jui Chi Wen 62	

## Transvaal court proceedings: contract for transcription

\*13. Mr R V CARLISLE asked the Minister of Justice:

- (1) Whether any contract has been awarded for the transcription of court proceedings in the Transvaal Provincial Division of the Supreme Court of South Africa and magistrates' courts in Pretoria during the last 24 months; if so, (a) to what body or persons and (b) on what terms;
- (2) whether he will furnish further particulars in regard to the above body or persons; if not, why not; if so, what are the names of the shareholders and directors in the case of a company or the names of the members in the case of a close corporation or partnership?

B1303E

†The MINISTER OF JUSTICE:

(Reply laid upon the Table with leave of House):

- (1) Yes, in pursuance of a policy of decentralisation of functions and after inviting tenders and the conclusion thereof by the Chief Director: Procurement Administration.

## (a) Supreme Court:

(i) C N L Transcriptions. (Transvaal Provincial Division: Pretoria).

(ii) Data Vyf (Pty) Ltd (Witwatersrand Local Division).

Magistrates' Courts, Pretoria and Pretoria North:

Rent-A-Roof (Pty) Ltd.



# Trawler sails to escape Cape lawsuit

3/18/90  
Cape Times  
19/6/90

Staff Reporter

THE Taiwanese trawler attached by lawyers acting for two of her former crewman has sailed in contempt of a Cape Supreme Court holding order and yesterday a South African Air Force reconnaissance aircraft failed to spot it.

Colonel Tiny Hallowes, Senior Staff Officer (Operations) at Southern Air Command, yesterday confirmed that an Albatross aircraft on a routine flight to Port Elizabeth had been asked to "keep a look out" for the Chin Chai Ching.

He said the Cape Town-based aircraft had acted under instructions from Naval Command headquarters in Pretoria.

A spokesman for Naval Air Command, Captain Piet Potgieter, said his department was awaiting further or-

ders from "a state department" before dispatching a vessel to locate the craft.

A spokesman for the Legal Resources Centre, which is acting for former crew members Mr Joseph Haddon of Bonteheuvel and Mr Suleiman Davids of Mitchells Plain in a R510 000 damages claim, said the matter was being handled at "diplomatic level now".

The two men each lost parts of several fingers after suffering frostbite while working in the refrigeration compartment of the vessel earlier this year.

The legal attachment was made by two deputy sheriffs who became involved in a brief scuffle with crew members on Sunday night.

The vessel sailed southwards within hours of the visit to her anchorage in Table Bay.

# Taiwanese 'still use wall-of-death nets'

A RGUS 21/6/90 (3/15/90)

By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

TAIWANESE fishing vessels are using highly destructive gill nets in the South Atlantic, flouting a directive from their own government, it has been claimed.

And hundreds — possibly thousands — of dolphins and other marine mammals such as whales, as well as seabirds like penguins, are drowning in the nets.

This was confirmed by a South African national who served aboard one of the Taiwanese vessels this year.

## Nets broke off

The man, whose identity has not been publicly revealed, was interviewed by Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, which has spearheaded an intensive campaign against the use of gill nets, dubbed "walls of death".

The man, who was "fairly knowledgeable" about catching and freezing fish, also reported that tuna caught in the South Atlantic appeared immature, and

that pieces of gill nets broke off and drifted free during fishing operations.

He also confirmed that tuna catches and gill nets were transhipped at sea — a charge previously denied by South Africa's fishing inspectorate.

"This confirms everything we have been saying and which they have refused to acknowledge," an angry Mrs Rice said yesterday.

After the debacle in January when, after a "mistake", permits were issued to 50 Taiwanese vessels to allow them to refuel and reprovision in Cape Town before heading for the Falkland Islands, the Taiwanese embassy announced that its government's Council of Agriculture had issued a formal document.

The document advised that country's fishing industry that the South African government now prohibited fishing vessels with drift nets aboard from entering South African harbours to off-load and that they should "act accordingly".

"The council further advises in a public announcement that fishing vessels of the Republic of China should not use gill nets in the Atlantic Ocean, or they shall be dealt with in a most serious manner," the embassy added.

## Tristan da Cunha

However, the South African workman told Mrs Rice the fishing vessel which he had boarded in Cape Town in January had headed in a south-westerly direction into the Atlantic Ocean for about a week before starting to catch tuna with gill nets.

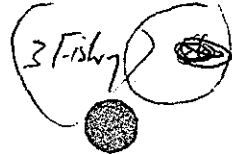
"He mentioned seeing a mountain, and we have worked out that the vessel was probably off Tristan da Cunha," Mrs Rice said.

The man reported that the gill nets had been lowered at 3 pm and that hauling in had started about midnight.

The non-target catch had included sunfish, "lots" of sharks, between 15 and 20 dolphins, three or four small whales and many penguins.

# Navy hunt for gill-net pirates

Capt T. M. S.  
22/6/90



**By DALE GRANGER and SYBRAND MOSTERT**  
**THE navy and air force this week hunted down a fleet of foreign trawlers using gill nets in South African territorial waters.**

In a combined two-day operation, which was carried out under cover of dark on Wednesday night and last night, an SAAF Dakota was first used to find the fleet — about 140 miles west of Saldanha — before two navy strike craft raced to the scene in a bid to seize the fleet.

But at dawn yesterday, the fishing trawlers had seemed to have scattered.

A spokesman for the Department of Sea Fisheries said last night that they had probably been tipped off by radio and fled.

However, last night the search was continuing as the Custos, the Cape Provincial Administration deep-sea patrol vessel, was still scouring the ocean for the vessels, along with a second SAAF Dakota.

The vessels' nationality has not yet been established, but in the past a number of Taiwanese trawlers are believed to have used gill nets, dubbed "walls of death" because of their indiscriminate killing, in SA waters.

The operation was revealed late yesterday by the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, who said the operation was "a clear warning to other countries that we will not stand for our fishing resources being plundered by foreign fleets".

Stiffer penalties for illegal fishing in SA waters — which provide for a fine of R1 million and the seizure of boats and equipment — would also be made law soon, he said.

At present the fine is R100 000 or a prison sentence of seven years.

He said this was the first combined operation of this sort between the Department of Environment, the SADF and the CPA after his announcement in Parliament recently that measures against illegal foreign fishing in SA waters would be sharpened.

According to a statement released by the department, an SA tuna trawler radioed authorities early on Wednesday morning that a foreign fleet "of over ten trawlers" was using gill nets in SA waters.

Mr Kotze had then met Defence Minister General Magnus Malan and at sunset an SAAF Dakota, equipped with radar and other detection instruments, had taken off from D F Malan Airport.

Flying without navigation lights, the aircraft found the trawlers about 8pm. The aircraft kept about 10km

away from the fleet and plotted 11 trawlers on radar. Their position was radioed back.

Two navy strike craft, which had just arrived from Durban, were then sent with Sea Fisheries officials on board just after 8pm.

The vessels, which were joined by the Custos, arrived at the position at 4am. The fleet, according to a Sea Fisheries spokesman, had already scattered.

"They could have picked up the search from radio," he said. "If they were closer to shore we would have got them."

At first light the strike craft were joined by two Dakotas, which scoured the area for the fleet, but the search was abandoned late yesterday morning.

Last night a shocked Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the

To page 2

P.T.O.

# SA declares war on 'wall of death' fishing by gill net

*3 Fish*  
*w/ ARGUS 23/6/90*

By TYRONE SEALE  
Weekend Argus Reporter  
SOUTH AFRICAN authorities have taken to dramatic, strong-arm action on the high seas in a declaration of war against ruthless fishing practices by foreigners.

Lawyers acting for city seamen who were frostbitten aboard Taiwanese trawlers are compiling a dossier for the Department of Foreign Affairs.

## Claims filed

The lawyers have started to file damages claims on behalf of eight workers who have or are about to have fingers amputated after working in the freezer holds of Taiwanese boats for months.

Miss Sandra Liebenberg, one of the legal representatives, said the Department of Foreign Affairs would discuss issues raised in the dossier with Taiwanese government representatives in South Africa.

The dossier will be submitted to the departments of Foreign Affairs and Manpower early next week.

Like their American coast-guard counterparts, the South African Navy and conservation authorities can confiscate vessels and impose huge fines to beat illegal and environmentally damaging practices.

They have the backing of Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotzé.

Last week he asked parliament to approve the Sea Fisheries Amendment Bill to fine foreign vessels from a minimum of R250 000 to a maximum of R1 million for fishing illegally in South African waters.

Mr Kotzé also called for increased penalties for contraventions of sea fisheries regulations. He wants the maximum penalty increased from R6 000 and/or five years to R50 000 and/or six years.

Outside parliament, authorities have been equally severe on high-seas robbery.

In a pre-dawn operation on Wednesday a South African Dakota aircraft, two navy strike vessels and a patrol boat raced to commercial fishing fields about 140 miles west of Sal-

danha to trap a fleet of foreign vessels believed to be using gill nets.

Authorities had been tipped off by a South African tunny trawler about the foreigners who were fishing in an area reserved for local exploitation only.

Equipped with radar and other tracking equipment, the Dakota identified 11 boats in the reported area. Under cover of darkness and with its navigation lights switched off, the Dakota patrolled.

## Tipped off

Meanwhile the two strike craft and the Provincial Administration patrol boat Custos were closing in, but by the time they reached the area the fleet had scattered.

On Thursday a second reconnaissance flight failed to find the fleet.

The navy believes the errant fishermen might have been tipped off by other boats or might have been alerted by the aircraft crew reporting their position on radio.

The covert exercise was un-

dertaken jointly by the Department of Environment Affairs, the Defence Force and the CPA fisheries inspection section.

One of the government's main headaches is the use of gill nets, especially by Taiwanese commercial fishermen. Around the world Taiwanese fleets have a reputation for using gill nets.

These "walls of death", used mainly to catch big fish like tunny, vary from six to 120 km in length with a depth of between 15m and 25 m.

The gill net consists of a fine nylon mesh kept floating on the surface by floats attached to a rope along the net's upper edge. A rope along the lower edge is weighted to keep the net stretched.

The tunny swim into the net, but unintended victims such as whales, porpoises, sea birds and seals — attracted by the struggling tunny — cannot escape either. The destruction of marine species not intended for dinner tables or other forms of human consumption is the great gill net tragedy, say environmentalists.

# Taiwanese trawlers: 23 amputee victims

Cape Town  
26/6/90

3 Fish

Q

By DANIEL SIMON

AT LEAST 23 South African seamen, who worked in the refrigeration holds of about 10 Taiwanese fishing trawlers are to lose, or have lost fingers, due to frost-bite.

In the latest incident, a fish packer working leaving the trawler Chieh Hsiang No 3, last Friday, was handed a cheque for R4 000 — or R800 per finger — by the owner's SA agent as compensation for five fingers which are to be amputated shortly.

## Dossiers

The casualty rate is reaching such proportions that two legal firms are voluntarily compiling dossiers to be forwarded to the Department of Foreign Affairs for diplomatic action.

A medical report submitted to one of the firms indicates that in the last 16 months 20 local seamen — many suffering multiple amputations — are reported to have undergone frostbite treatment.

In the latest incident, Mr Manjingo Bishop, 39, yesterday told how he started suffering from frostbite soon after getting a R500-a-month job as a fish packer on the Chieh Hsiang No 3 in February.

Mr Bishop said that soon after working cold storage section, he started developing frostbite symptoms. The ship's captain gave him two weeks off, together with pain-killers and hand-ointment.

"After two weeks I was back at work again in the cold storage, sometimes for 18 hours at a time when there was a lot of fish to pack."

Mr Bishop said his fingers got worse and when he was dropped off in Cape

Town Harbour last Friday, he was made to sign a document indemnifying the ship's captain or the owner from further claims resulting from the loss of five fingers. He was given his salary of R2 060 and a R4 000 cheque as compensation from the SA agent Ellerman and Bucknall.

● Meanwhile, it was reliably learnt yesterday that the squid trawler Chin Chia Ching, which defied a Supreme Court attachment order by sailing out of Cape Town on June 17, is now in international waters.

The ship's captain was ordered to return and post bonds totalling R510 000 last Wednesday after being pressured by Taiwan's diplomatic corps in SA. The amount has been demanded by two former crew members who suffered multiple cases of frost-bite as a result of working in the ship's refrigeration section.

The Taiwanese embassy's press spokesman Mr K K Lee said the matter had been taken up by the Taipei government which was doing all in its power to resolve the issue through the ship's owner, Jin Hwei Ocean Enterprise Company.

## Prosecution

"These people will not evade prosecution. There are rules and regulations governing such offences," Mr Lee said.

Foreign Affairs spokesman Mrs Elsa Dry yesterday said she could not understand how the incidents had been kept quiet for so long.

"The matter is now enjoying serious attention at a very high level between South Africa and Taiwan. We cannot let this sort of thing go on," the spokesman said.

# 30 000 seals to be killed

Capl-Times  
27/6/90

3 Fish  
By DANIEL SIMON

THE government has given the go-ahead for more than 30 000 seals to be culled off Port Nolloth. The remains will be processed at a newly built factory in the town and exported.

The killing — in which 25 000 seal cubs will die — will be carried out with specially approved two-metre-long clubs. After the cubs have been stunned their main arteries will be cut with a stick-knife.

According to officials of the Department of Sea Fisheries, the whole seal carcass will be used and the genitalia exported to the East as an aphrodisiac.

The clubbing of seals raised an international outcry which led to the banning of sealskin sales in 1983. The government has also come under fire from conservationists in recent years for culling seal populations in False Bay and on the West Coast.

Yesterday Fisheries Administration deputy director, Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries, Mr Rudy Laan said the seal trade was still enjoying "interest" from eastern countries.

He said that before the international ban order, up to 80 000 seals were culled in a single season. Since then "a couple of thousand bulls a year" had been killed just to obtain the genitalia.

The department was not happy about the past wastage of seal carcasses which were "just buried", and this year's quota to cull, process and export the

To page 3

From page 1

## Seal culling

Capl-Times  
27/6/90 (3 Fish)

seals had been granted to a Taiwanese national

Last night, animal conservationist Mrs Nan Rice said she had never approved of the killing of seals — and criticised the export of genitalia as an aphrodisiac.

"It is shocking to encourage other countries to use the genitalia as it encourages superstition that animal parts can lead to virility."

This had led to the sad state of the black rhino, she said.

The culling season, which officially starts on July 15, will see about 25 000 pups and 5 500 bulls go under the club during the next five months.

The seals form part of the Kleinsee colony, which is estimated to be about 400 000-strong and located south of Port Nolloth.

Taiwanese national Mr H Hsu will head the venture at the first seal-processing plant established in South Africa.

Sea Fisheries Research Institute scientist Dr Jeremy David said harvests would be monitored by a Sea Fisheries Department official.

Sea Fisheries Resource Control Centre assistant director Mr Arno Slater said the new "unique" venture had to be looked at in a positive way, in the light of socio-economic benefits and the utilisation of "raw materials".

"South Africa will benefit from the foreign exchange earnings," Mr Slater said.

## Gill nets: Trawler skipper for court

CPA Times 28/6/90 Staff Reporter 3/15/90

A TAIWANESE fishing trawler captain has been arrested and will appear in court today charged with carrying a gill net without a permit.

Yesterday the 70km-long net, worth about R100 000, was removed from the vessel in an hours-long operation and seized by Sea Fisheries officials. The captain was arrested on Tuesday and warned by police to appear today. As the trawler was due to sail today, the ship's papers were seized.

The government recently granted about 100 permits to fishing trawlers to enter South African harbours with gill nets on board.

The use of the massive nets is banned in many countries as they kill marine life indiscriminately.

# Culled seals to be turned into dog food

CAVE 7145 28/6/90  
3/2/90  
Staff Reporter

MEAT from the more than 30 000 seals to be culled this season off Port Nolloth will be used for dog food in the US and Japan.

The seals — 25 000 cubs and 5 500 bulls — are to be culled from July 15, using specially approved two-metre-long clubs before their main arteries are cut with a stick-knife.

The seals are part of the 400 000-strong Kleinsee colony, south of Port Nolloth.

The government has given a Taiwanese national permission to process the carcasses for export at a newly built R1,7m factory in Port Nolloth.

Taiwanese embassy economics adviser Mr CH Fang said the company was expected to make a turnover of R1,25m through the export of the meat, bones, skin and genitalia this year alone.

He added that in principal, the venture was viewed as a good business deal and, as a beneficiary, the South African government would collect from taxes while providing job opportunities.

Meanwhile, Earthlife Africa yesterday issued a statement calling on the government to answer various questions about decisions on seal culling, commercial and ecological interests and culling methods.



# Seal slaughter plan draws angry reaction

14665 28/6/90

3/1/84  
By JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

THERE has been angry reaction to the announcement that bull seals at Kleinsee on the West Coast are to be slaughtered for their genitalia and the government is likely to face major protests from the public, conservationists predict.

The government has also been challenged by the conservation organisation Earthlife Africa to answer questions on its decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to cull, process and export 30 000 seals this season.

Of this total, about 5 000 are mature bull seals, which will be killed so that their genitalia can be exported to the Far East for use as aphrodisiacs.

## 25 000 cubs

The remaining 25 000 will be cubs, which will be stunned with clubs and their main arteries cut with stick-knives.

Mrs Nan Rice, secretary of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, said she had been inundated with calls from angry people yesterday.

"This has really set the public off. I've never known a day like it," she said last night.

"As far as genitalia are concerned, I don't agree with perpetuating old customs and superstitions which should be dead and buried. It's the same type of superstition which undermined the black rhino.

"What do we want to encourage this kind of thing for? We call ourselves a civilised country, so South Africa should set the pace."

Referring to the old argument that seals endangered fish resources, Mrs Rice said there was no scientific evidence to back this up.

"In fact it's usually the other way around."

She said gill netting by foreign vessels in South African waters posed a much bigger threat to the industry than seals.

In a statement, Earthlife Africa said it recognised that culling was a complex and controversial matter which raised many questions.

"We feel that such questions have not been sufficiently addressed in this case and we call on the government to respond."

Questions they wanted answered included:

- In whose interest was the culling being done?
- Were seals a threat to the ecological balance of the area or were commercial interests the basis for the decision to cull?
- Who made such a decision and how often was the "quota" revised?
- Who was consulted before such a decision was made?
- Who approved the killing method and what was the deciding factor for such approval — "humanity, efficiency or the contractor"? and
- What studies had been done to ensure that killing seals would not threaten the ecological balance of the area?



# Minister puts case in seal killing rumpus

By JOHN YELD *3/1/87*  
Environment Reporter

GENITALIA from harvested bull seals will be used for "medicinal purposes" while seal skins will be used for handbags, shoes and gloves, says Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Gert Kotzé.

He was reacting yesterday to the row that has developed over his decision to allow a Taiwanese businessman to harvest 5 500 adult bull seals and 25 000 seal pups at Kleinsee near Port Nolloth this season.

Mr Kotzé said it was his department's policy to use seals in the same way as any other living marine resource, in accordance with the World Conservation Strategy of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources of the United Nations.

"The union recommends that renewable resources be used rationally, in a humanitarian manner and with due regard to scientific advice.

## Employment

"Seals are a resource and it is my policy to establish a sustainable industry which will offer employment to local communities."

The total investment envisaged by the concession holders, Jih Wueh Industries, was about R2-million and all produce would be exported.

The meat and fat would be dried into pellets which would in turn be used mainly for chicken feed.

Seal bones would be used as additives for animal food. Other uses for by-products were being investigated.

"The project will probably employ 56 people, mainly from the Port Nol-

loth area. The estimated turnover is R1,25-million a year."

Mr Kotzé the South African seal population had increased dramatically since early this century.

Between 1971 and 1983 there had been an annual average increase of about 3,5 percent, and since 1983 a slower increase of about 1,2 percent per year.

"In 1988 over 280 000 seal pups were born, which converts to a total population of over 1,2-million seals. This is one of the most abundant seal species in the world and proof of effective conservation."

Some of the conditions attached to the concession were that:

- The harvest quota would be reviewed annually on the basis of scientific advice.

- The permit holder would have to use the entire carcass of each harvested seal.

- Pups and seals must be harvested strictly in accordance with sealing regulations and in the presence of a fisheries control officer.

- South African officials and SPCA representatives had the right to inspect the harvesting operation at any time and any fisheries control officer had the right to stop the operation immediately if he was not satisfied.

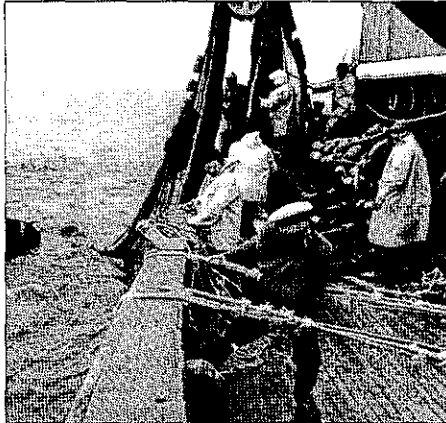
## Dolphin killing

New pressure is to be put on the International Whaling Commission to introduce worldwide controls on the killing of dolphins, after a warning that the animals could be extinct by 2000, The Argus Foreign Service reports from London.

The Environmental Investigation Agency, which first alerted the world to the plight of endangered elephants, was due to publish a report today based on a six-month investigation into the unregulated killing of dolphins in parts of South America, Japan and Europe.

Up to 500 000 dolphins are being slaughtered every year, the agency claims. Most are trapped in 3km wide "wall of death" tuna nets or are harpooned by commercial fishermen.

factories have virtually filled their canning quotas and are rapidly filling anchovy quotas. The only significant amount still to be caught is 1 200 t of anchovies for a factory at



**Fishing . . . hoping  
to fill quotas**

stocks are in good condition because our resources have been well-managed."

But there are too many trawlers because Namibia has not yet opened its grounds to SA companies. All their hake quotas were allocated to Namibian companies.

"We do the same in SA. I have no problem with a policy that ensures that locals reap the maximum benefit from their resources," Kramer says. ■

Gansbaai.

Sea Fisheries director of administration Louis Botha says pilchard resources are showing promising signs of recovery. This is the first year in the past eight that there have been enough to increase the quota.

He blames the shortage of anchovies on two successive years of unfavourable natural conditions. "There has been a long-term macro change in the whole south-east Atlantic. Warmer water, unfavourable wind and currents have probably affected the survival rate of eggs and larvae of small, short-lived species such as anchovies," says Botha.

"It hasn't had any noticeable effect in the survival rate of hake, which is a larger, more stable species. We reduced the total allowable hake catch by only 3 500 t this year — from 138 500 t last year — but we may increase that amount later."

SA allows five countries (Israel, Spain, Portugal, Taiwan and Japan) to fish in its waters. This year they will be allowed to catch 4 600 t of hake and 11 500 t of horse mackerel (maasbanker). In 1980, they were allowed 12 200 t of hake and 26 000 t of horse mackerel. But it is not clear what tonnages other countries poach. Botha says it is impossible for SA's five patrol vessels to ensure foreigners do not poach in territorial waters running 200 nautical miles out to sea.

He welcomes the navy's decision to patrol fishing grounds with aircraft and vessels. Last week a naval force sped to fishing grounds on the west coast when a Dakota spotted foreign boats using illegal gill nets. By the time the force arrived the fleet had scattered.

"We'll get them next time," warns Botha. He welcomes Environment Affairs Minister Gert Kotzé's Sea Fisheries Amendment Bill, which increases the maximum fine for foreign vessels caught fishing illegally in SA waters to R1m.

Deepsea Trawling Association vice-chairman Eckart Kramer says: "Hake catches, our main target, have been satisfactory and

## FISHING INDUSTRY FIM 29/6/90

### Mixed catch ③ fishing

Fortunes are mixed for the fishing industry this year. Inshore operators going after pelagic fish — such as anchovies and pilchards — are facing one of their worst seasons in years. Those trawling in deep water for bigger species, such as hake, have little if anything to complain about.

Marine Products MD Jan de Waal, whose company processes pelagic fish, says results will be worse this year than last and considerably worse than 1988.

The anchovy quota (600 000 t in 1988 and 350 000 t in 1989) has been further reduced to 150 000 t this year. The season, which started on January 15, will now end on July 15 instead of the end of September as it normally does.

Fishing operators will probably just break even this year but only because the pilchard quota has been increased from last year's 30 000 t to 56 000 t, and the canning quota from 22 500 t to 35 000 t. All pilchards and other species caught but not canned (the bycatch), and virtually all the anchovies, will be turned into fishmeal.

De Waal says Marine and some other



REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Staatskoerant Government Gazette

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Vol. 300

PRETORIA, 29 JUNIE 1990  
JUNE

No. 12604

## PROKLAMASIE

van die

*Staatspresident van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika*

No. 114, 1990

WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988  
(WET No. 12 VAN 1988)

Kragtens artikel 56 (1) van die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988), bepaal ek hierby 1 Julie 1990 as die datum waarop genoemde Wet, met die uitsondering van die artikels wat by Proklamasie No. 155, 1989 in werking gestel is, in werking tree.

Gegee onder my Hand en die Seël van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te Pretoria, op hede die Agt-en-twintigste dag van Junie Eenduisend Negehonderd-en-negentig.

F. W. DE KLERK,  
Staatspresident.

Op las van die Staatspresident-in-Kabinet:

G. J. KOTZÉ,  
Minister van die Kabinet.

12—A

## PROCLAMATION

by the

③ Fishing

*State President of the Republic of South Africa*

No. 114, 1990

SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988  
(ACT No. 12 OF 1988)

Under section 56 (1) of the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988), I hereby determine 1 July 1990 as the date on which the said Act, with the exception of the sections which came into operation by virtue of Proclamation No. 155, 1989, shall come into operation.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Pretoria this Twenty-eighth day of June, One thousand Nine hundred and Ninety.

F. W. DE KLERK,  
State President.

By Order of the State President-in-Cabinet:

G. J. KOTZÉ,  
Minister of the Cabinet.

12604—1

# Accused captain pleads ignorance on gill nets

CAP. TRIPS 29/6/90

Court Reporter 31.2.90

THE captain of a Taiwanese fishing vessel who was arrested in Table Bay for carrying an illegal, 70-km long gill net without a permit appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Captain Lin Chu Hsiung, 49, of the Yung Chien, pleaded not guilty. He was arrested soon after the vessel entered port on Tuesday.

He admitted, however, to having carried a gill net without a permit, saying he was unaware of the fact that authorisation was necessary.

The vessel was due to leave Cape Town yesterday, but Sea Fisheries officials seized its registration papers, which will be held until the trial closes.

A senior fisheries control officer of the Department of Nature Conservation, Mr Petrus Uys, who trapped the crew with the illegal net aboard, said he had presented one of the chief officers with a standard form on the arrival of the trawler in the harbour, as the captain was not aboard.

He said that the form, written in English and Chinese, asked whether there were gill nets or irregular catches such as penguins, turtles or dolphins on board the vessel. He said the form also warned that vessels would be inspected by authorities.

Mr Uys said he had noticed power blocks — mostly used for gill-netting — on the vessel, and pointed perti-



**GILL NETS ...**  
Captain Lin Chu Hsiung.

nently at the question regarding gill nets.

He said the chief officer indicated in the negative, but that he became suspicious once he saw canvas drawn over a large pile on the deck.

On drawing away the canvas and opening the bags, he found the gill net, which was immediately seized.

The trial continues today.

Mr D J Oosthuysen was on the bench. Mr S Schrock prosecuted. Mr W King, instructed by Mr D Sims, appeared for the accused.

# SKIPPER FINED AND GILL NET RETURNED

By SHARON SOROUR  
Weekend Argus Reporter

A TAIWANESE trawler skipper has been fined R500 for entering Table Bay harbour with a gill net aboard and his confiscated net, worth R100 000, is to be returned to its owners.

Magistrate Mr D J Oosthuysen ruled yesterday that Mr Lin Chu-hsuing, 49, was careless in not ensuring that his vessel, the Yung Chien, had been granted a permit for a net before entering the harbour.

"Mr Lin should have ascertained from the agents of the ship that a permit had been obtained and it is clear to me he should have foreseen the possibility of a permit not having been granted," said Mr Oosthuysen.

The gill net should be returned to its owners with the proviso that it be loaded on a vessel permitted to carry it and taken back to Taiwan.

Prosecutor Mr Selwyn Schrock had argued that the net should be forfeited to the State as it was ludicrous that it be returned to Mr Lin "to continue with his illegal possession".

## Departmental error

Mr Nicholaas de Klerk, marine services manager of the ship's agency, TRT Shipping Services, said it had not applied for a permit for the Yung Chien owing to a departmental error.

"Either the agent or the operations manager applies for a permit from the Directorate of Sea Fisheries and in this case each party thought the other had applied when, in fact, neither had," said Mr De Klerk.

He said it would have been impossible for Mr Lin to know his vessel did not have a permit. Communication between the ship and the agent was complicated because Taiwanese vessels did not have radio operators who spoke English.

Mr De Klerk said that as far as he knew Taiwan was one of the few countries still fishing with gill nets, which had been banned worldwide.

# Protesters plan to stop seal killing

W/E ARGUS 30/6/90

3 fish

By CAROLYN McGIBBON  
Weekend Argus Reporter

PLANS are being made to stop the clubbing to death of 30 000 seals at Kleinsee on the West Coast as unprecedented opposition to the killing gathers momentum.

Demonstrations and petitions have already been started against the decision by the Department of Environmental Affairs to allow a Taiwanese businessman to turn 30 000 seals into aphrodisiacs, dog food, chicken feed and handbags.

Mr Stef Snel of Earthlife Africa said: "Direct action against the clubbing of seals has not been ruled out."

## Film the killings

Demonstrators plan to get permits to go to Kleinsee, a restricted diamond area. If this fails they will go to the site in inflatable boats and film the killings.

"We want to take video footage to expose the atrocity," said Mr Philip Stewart, co-ordinator of the Seal Action Group.

He said he has been inundated with thousands of calls from people across the country who want to stop the killings. Meetings held today and tomorrow will lead to plans of action.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Gert Kotze, has defended the culling on economic grounds, arguing that seals should be utilised in the same way as other marine resources.

However, Mr Snel argues that the revenue South Africa will receive — 20c a seal — is an insult, and the 56 jobs the culling will create for locals will last for only four months of the year for five years.

"It is exploitation of the environment and of labour," he said.

"As the decision is not based on ecological criteria or for the economic benefit of the country or the local inhabitants, we question the motive for the decision."

He also argued that the Taiwanese had a bad track record on environmental and human rights issues — local fishermen had lost fingers due to frostbite on Taiwanese trawlers; the An Hung 1 trawler had presented a serious pollution threat at Gansbaai; Taiwanese trawlers used internationally condemned "wall of death" gill nets and a Taiwanese national was brought to court for the latest rhino horn racket.

The argument that the clubbing of seals will benefit the fishing industry has been rejected by the Seal Action Group.

Mr Stewart said there was no evidence to back this up.

Seals lived largely off chokka, not the "target" fish of the fishing industry.

## Expose cruelty factor

They had a bad reputation amongst fishermen for "stealing" fish, but that was just because they had been attracted by the distress signals of fish in the net. They were generally too slow to catch fish.

The cruelty factor also needed to be exposed, he said.

"Clubbing an animal is a cruel and inhumane way of killing. It is a painful exercise, and when 30 000 seals are being clubbed in a hurry, many will suffer before they die."

■ Letters of protest and petitions may be sent to the Seal Action Group, P O Box 15877, Vlaeberg, 8018.

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"Either the agent or the operations manager applies for a permit from the Directorate of Sea Fisheries and in this case each party thought the other had applied when, in fact, neither had," said Mr De Klerk.

He said it would have been impossible for Mr Lin to know his vessel did not have a permit. Communication between the ship and the agent was complicated because Taiwanese vessels did not have radio operators who spoke English.

Mr De Klerk said that as far as he knew Taiwan was one of the few countries still fishing with gill nets, which had been banned worldwide.

Bank robbery left



AGRICULTURE — FISHING

1991

③ Fishing FM 4/11/91

the rules deny they are to blame. They say they've already had their season cut by a month, and their allowable daily catch trimmed from five to four, while commercial fishermen have had their season extended and are now allowed into previously restricted areas to help them reach their quotas. Last year commercial fishermen managed to catch only 90% of their quota.

Lewis believes some of the blame can be pinned on poachers who are apparently well organised enough to be airfreighting live lobsters to Europe, where illegal shipments from SA are readily available.

James Croucamp, chairman of the West Coast Sea Management Association, which helps to regulate the industry, says lobster is particularly scarce close to the shore, which could indicate overfishing by non-commercial fishermen or poaching, though there's no firm evidence either way. He claims that staff shortages in the law enforcement division of the Cape provincial nature and environmental conservation department make it difficult to crack down on poaching.

The division's Willem Spence declines to comment on whether the division is underfunded but says poaching will always be a problem. However, he adds that he doesn't believe there are large-scale overseas shipments of illegally caught lobster.

The burgeoning seal population — effectively a protected species since the outcry this year over plans to cull them on the north-west Cape coast — also threatens the lobster population. A seal killed near Kleinsee on the Namaqualand coast recently was reported to have had 36 lobster tails in its stomach.

Jeffrey Louw, chairman of the Live Lobster Board, another industry regulatory group, says there are an estimated 2m seals along the Cape west coast and the Namibian coast. The seals shadow the lobster boats and catch the undersize fish that are thrown back, he says.

Lewis says lobsters are an extremely fragile resource that needs to be carefully managed. A male takes seven years to mature and a female about 14 years.

So far there's been little reaction to Lewis's call for a month-long moratorium. Croucamp says there's been no formal move for a moratorium and he's not sure whether it would help.

The fish haven't stopped biting for all companies. Stanley Dorman, MD of Mariner's Wharf, which holds a 120 t quota, says he had no problem filling last year's quota and believes the same was true for other companies that paced themselves throughout the season instead of waiting until the end in the hope of catching better-quality lobster. This season's catches have been difficult but this was due more to the long winter than a shortage of lobster, he says.

Louw says it's too early to estimate the export value of this season's catch. The quality of the catch determines whether lobsters are exported live, cooked or frozen, and that has a greater impact on export earnings than the quantity of the catch. ■

## LOBSTER INDUSTRY ③ fishing DISAPPEARING ACT

**Lobsters**, the red gold that generate about US\$50m a year in export earnings, are disappearing from SA waters. Accusations are now flying over who or what is responsible for this. FM 4/11/91

Oceana Fishing executive chairman Walter Lewis kicked off the controversy last month at the company's annual meeting when he expressed alarm over the industry's plight. Oceana holds 38% of the 3 905 t annual commercial quota for lobster.

Lewis proposed a month-long moratorium on lobster fishing to give the industry and authorities a chance to evaluate the situation. He says he would like to see an investigation of all aspects of the industry, including the implications of the growing number of non-commercial lobster fishing licences issued each season. A total of 35 000 are now issued and that figure could reach 100 000 in five years.

Non-commercial fishermen who play by

FM 18/1/91 (3) fishing

OCEANA (3) fishing  
**CATCHES SHRINK** FM 18/1/91

**Activities:** Processes pelagic and rock lobster. Produces canned and frozen fish, fish meal, fish oil and abalone. Provides commercial cold storage facilities and trades in fish products.  
**Control:** Tiger Oats 70,4%; ultimate holding company is Barlow Rand.  
**Chairman:** W A Lewis; MD: D F Behrens.  
**Capital structure:** 9,3m ords. Market capitalisation: R105m.  
**Share market:** Price: 1 125c. Yields: 8% on dividend; 13% on earnings; p:e ratio, 7,7; cover, 1,6. 12-month high, 2 350c; low, 925c.  
 Trading volume last quarter, 29 480 shares.

Year to Sep 30	'87	'88	'89	'90
ST debt (Rm) .....	6,6	12,1	0,8	0,1
LT debt (Rm) .....	0,8	0,7	0,6	0,5
Debt:equity ratio .....	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shareholders' interest	0,52	0,52	0,51	0,53
Int & leasing cover ..	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Return on cap (%) ..	25	36	28	18
Turnover (Rm) .....	174	227	275	308
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	32,3	48,5	44,0	25,2
Pre-int margin (%) ..	16,2	17,0	12,6	7,7
Earnings (c) .....	207	250	261	146
Dividends (c) .....	105	150*	160	90
Net worth (c) .....	654	730	809	813

\* Excludes special dividend of 75c.

**Investment** in fishing companies is not for the faint-hearted, nor for pensioners who depend on a steady income flow. Oceana is a good example of why this is so.

In March 1989 the share price stood at R30. It is now down by nearly two-thirds and will have to appreciate by 166% to get back to the high. Investors clearly dumped the shares because of expectations of a large fall in EPS during the 1990 financial year. Earnings certainly did fall, as did the size of the overall catch.

Essentially, earnings were materially lower than the previous year's because of reduced landings of anchovy in SA and a poor rock lobster season in Namibia. While the industry's landings of pelagic fish were a third down on the previous year, Oceana landed its full quota of pilchards and produced a 200% increase in the number of cartons, to record the highest level of output ever. That enabled the industry to re-enter the export market.

But the authorities reduced the anchovy total allowable catch to an all-time low of 150 000 t and, though Oceana processed its full quota, the processing plants failed to work at breakeven levels, and operating losses resulted.

On the non-quota side, Oceana accounted

for 39% of total redeye landings, but this was not enough to produce reasonable profit. Even catches of tuna were 34% less than the previous season, while landings of squid declined by 56%.

Oceana chairman Walter Lewis says Blue Continent group, a wholly owned subsidiary of Oceana involved in cold storage, shipping and international trading and marketing of fish products, "recorded satisfactory operational and financial performance in challenging economic circumstances."

Lewis refers in the annual report to the disposal of the group's Namibian interests for R13,7m cash and the acquisition of abalone business Tuna Marine for a similar amount. What he does not say is that the sale of the Namibian interests was almost forced because of the unpredictable and disproportionate quota cuts by local authorities, as well as the compulsory sale two years ago of part of the company's lobster business.

Though turnover rose by 11%, net operating income plunged from R34,7m in 1989 to R23,8m. To make matters worse, dividend income from associated companies declined from R9,3m to R1,4m (largely because of the poor lobster catches) and net interest income also dived. So pretax profit dropped by 43% and taxed profit was halved.

The balance sheet shows no material debt and a cash balance of R10,4m. Lewis says that "lobster and other fishing operations are budgeted to show improved operational and financial performance in the year ahead," and adds that EPS is likely to exceed those of 1990.

From a financial standpoint the group is well placed to show a useful increase in EPS if fishing improves. Whether it will is anyone's guess but commercial director Saul Pick says there is no reason to change Lewis's forecast.

The share is best left to speculators.

Gerald Hirschon

## Oceana's abalone investment a winner

CAPE TOWN — The Oceana Fishing Group's new investment in exportable abalone is paying off and should offset losses from the Namibian interests which were sold last year, executive chairman Walter Lewis said at the annual meeting yesterday.

The Hermanus-based abalone operation — acquired from Tuna Marine with the proceeds of the sale of the Namibian interests — had already caught 52% of its quota, Lewis said. The season ends in June.

But, while he stood by the forecast he made last year that overall fishing prospects would be marginally better this year, it was likely that poor conditions would continue to dog the industry for another year.

Last year, reduced landings of anchovy in SA and rock lobster in Namibia and SA contributed substantially to a 42% decline in the group's attributable earnings.

LESLEY LAMBERT

While the pilchard resource appeared to be stable, possibly even growing, Oceana remained concerned about the state of anchovy, the quota of which had not risen. A poor catch would affect performance.

He said the lobster resource appeared to be staying in the deeper waters and the company had developed special deep-water catching techniques as a result.

Oceana underwent dramatic diversification last year to offset disappointing fishing conditions and provide a base for future growth and profitability.

Apart from hiving off the Namibian operations and buying into the abalone industry, the group invested in other more profitable operations, including commercial cold storage and property development.

18 10 am 25/1/71

② Johnson



# Fish factory cuts quota — and workforce

*Southern 28/2 - 6/3/91*  
EIGHTY-THREE workers have been retrenched at a Lamberts Bay canning factory.

The workers were cut after the factory's anchovy quota was reduced by 50 000 tons.

The workers were retrenched despite

assurances by the management last week that no worker would be laid off, said West Coast Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) spokesperson, Mr Gert Koenana.

He said other fishing towns on the West Coast had also been affected.

In Elandsbaai, about 400 workers from three factories in the area are on short time. *(3 fish)*

In St Helena Bay, eight workers are on short time, Koenana said

The companies involved could not be reached for comment.

plots accorded to each family were small. "This will create a possibility of a hazard," said Mathews. A public meeting is being planned

part of the Cradock Youth Assn-  
Ismail 28/2 - 6/3/91  
We, a teacher, was a UDF leader  
various clashes with the

Bokag recently met with the Council  
which is expected to respond to the

# Natrawl in deal with Mozambique

Star (1/2/91)  
By Michelle Maliepaard

While Natal waters continue to be decimated by commercial and recreational fishermen, a Durban company has secured extensive fishing rights in Mozambique.

Jack Walsh, chairman of Natal Ocean Trawling (Natrawl), says his company has been granted rights to bottom trawl for crustaceans (prawns, crabs and crayfish) on the Mozambican coast.

"Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in the world and its wealth lies in the ocean, while we have the expertise and equipment to harvest the

wealth," he says.

The agreement stipulates that the catch has to be landed in Mozambique and then exported to SA and elsewhere.

The SA market for prawns and crabs is about 4 000 tons, of which only ten percent comes from Natal waters. The rest is imported. SA has an abundance of crayfish, large quantities of which are exported.

Natrawl, bought by Mr Walsh in 1985, and listed on the JSE two years later, has managed to gain control of all the licences in Natal.

"The Cape crayfish has been exploited to the point where they are in serious danger.

③ fishing!  
"In my opinion, the authorities will have to reduce quotas to ensure the future of the industry," says Mr Walsh.

The company has contracted an Australian prawn expert to advise on upgrading fishing techniques and to help in the joint venture with Mozambique.

He says Natal waters are not rich in sea life like Cape waters.

The abundance of recreational and sports fishermen is eroding the supply faster than the life cycle of the fish.

"Regulations have come too late and the lack of control in the fishing industry in the 60s and 70s has caused damage to

the line fishing numbers from which it will never recover."

Natrawl has had disappointing results over the past two years and Mr Walsh says the December year-end results are poor.

"However, the rights in Mozambique should turn the company around and 1991 is expected to be an excellent year."

Reasons for the poor performance were cited as high gearing after the takeover of Quintas in 1988. Certain prospects did not materialise.

Also to blame, he says, were poor management decisions, over-expansion and high interest rates.

# Seal <sup>ARGUS</sup> culling <sup>4/2/91</sup> to be <sup>3 fishy</sup> stopped <sup>(initials)</sup> — for now

By ESANN VAN RENSBURG  
Environment Reporter

THE government has decided to temporarily suspend all commercial seal harvesting on the South African coast, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said today.

"No further decisions on either harvesting or culling will be taken by the government until additional scientific research has been done and evaluated."

Mr Pienaar said the studies would include research into more acceptable methods of harvesting or culling and said the public would be kept fully informed of progress.

## TRAINING

The report of the independent scientific committee, chaired by South African Nature Foundation executive director Dr John Hanks, was made available today.

Among the most important findings of the committee were:

- There was no scientific reason for halting the proposed harvest of seal pups or bulls, provided scientifically recommended harvest levels were applied.

The committee strongly recommended that there should be no further harvesting until a system of licensing and training sealers was in place to ensure the highest possible standards of humaneness.

## 2-MILLION

- The committee noted that the seal population along the South African and Namibian coasts has grown from less than 100 000 at the beginning of the century to approximately 2-million, despite the fact that some 2 700 000 seals were harvested.

Despite the findings of the scientific committee that there was no scientific reason for halting the proposed harvest, the government had decided to suspend all such harvesting until after a further scientific report.

This report is expected within two years.

"Judging from the scientific report, a number of seals will probably have to be controlled in future. We do see seals as a resource for human utilisation," said Mr Pienaar.

# Govt won't pay out for seal venture

GMT  
Tos J  
5/2/81  
3 Feb

By DANIEL SIMON

THE government has no intention of reimbursing a Taiwanese businessman with the R2 million he invested to harvest and process 30 500 Cape fur seals intended for dog food and aphrodisiac products.

This was said yesterday when the government announced it would "temporarily suspend" commercial seal harvesting in SA for at least two years.

No further decisions on harvesting or culling will be taken by the government until additional scientific research has been done and duly evaluated.

Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar said Mr Hsien Hsu took "a risk" when he decided to take part in the proposed venture.

Mr Hsien invested about R2m for permits to harvest the seals at Kleinsee and process the remains at a factory in Port Nolloth.

Following a huge outcry, former Environment Affairs Minister Mr Gert Kotze suspended the venture until an in-depth scientific study was completed.

Commenting on whether Mr Hsien stood a chance of receiving financial compensation, Mr Pienaar said: "The condition of the permit did not give him the absolute right to harvest the seals. The condition of the permit was subject to government's wishes."

He said future studies would include research into more acceptable methods of harvesting or culling.

Conservationists have welcomed the news as a "major victory".



## Seal harvesting put on hold

CAPE TOWN: The cabinet has decided to temporarily suspend all commercial seal "harvesting" on the South African coast. (15/2-21/2/91)

This follows months of heated debate between the government, a Taiwanese businessman and animal protection groups regarding the plausibility of culling 30 000 seals at Kleinsee on the West Coast. (3) [unclear]

The minister of national education and environment affairs, Louis Pienaar, announced the cabinet's decision. "No further decisions on either harvesting, or culling, will be taken by the government until such time as additional scientific research has been done and duly evaluated."

This research could take up to two years, said Pienaar, and such studies would include research into more acceptable methods of culling other than the current practice of clubbing and stabbing the seal to death.

The decision was taken by the cabinet after studying a report by a subcommittee of the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee, which was appointed last year at the request of the then Environment Minister Gert Kotze.

Pienaar said an important finding of the committee was that there was no scientific reason for halting the proposed culling of seal pups or bulls, provided scientifically recommended harvest levels applied.

"The committee, however, strongly recommends that there should be no further harvesting until a system of licensing and training sealers is in place to ensure the highest possible standards of humaneness."

The committee also concluded it was premature to determine the justification, or otherwise, for culling to alleviate the negative consequences of operational or biological seal-fishery interactions. — Sapa

# 1000s lose jobs in fishing industry

By Waghied Misbach

THE crisis in the fishing industry is likely to continue this year with about 7 000 workers being affected.

Last year more than 2 000 people were retrenched, while an equal number was placed on short time.

At present, about 2 000 workers are employed directly in the industry and about 5 000 in related industries, according to Mr Richard Ball, chairperson of the Tuna Association.

Ball said the fishing industry was in a "dreadful state" due to, among other reasons, poor fishing conditions and gillnet fishing still taking place outside territorial waters.

"All fish industries are being affected, including lobster, traditionally the mainstay of the industry," he said.

He said the tuna industry was in a particularly poor state. Gillnet fishing, environmental factors and the inaccessibility of the tuna-rich areas in Namibia after independence, are contributing factors to the poor state of fishing in this country.

At St Helena Bay Fisheries on the West Coast, the fishing quota has been cut by 50 000 tons, says Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) spokesperson, Mr Gert Koenana.

A company spokesperson, Mr Jan Olivier, confirmed the quota has been cut, but said no workers were in danger of being retrenched.

Investigations in collaboration with Fawu to provide workers with short time work was continuing.

Olivier could not elaborate on the reasons for the cutback.

Koenana said the company retrenched 60 workers last year.

Meanwhile a working committee, with representatives of Fawu, environmentalist groups, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu) and the government's Department of Environ-

ment Affairs, has been formed to investigate tightening legislation around gillnetting practices.

A meeting of the working committee will take place on Monday.

The Minister for Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said at a meeting with the unions and environmentalists this week that he was "looking into" means to make legislation stricter around the use of the gillnets.

The minister said it had been brought to his attention by environmentalist Ms Nan Rice that some trawlers drop their gillnets in the ocean before entering South African harbours and then pick them up again when they leave. He said he would be looking into the possibility of having those ships prohibited from the country's harbours.

Rice, spokesperson for the Dolphin Action Protection Group, said gillnetting could not be blamed as the sole factor in the deterioration of the fishing industry.

However, gillnet fishing is responsible for upsetting the marine ecosystem by literally "strip mining" the ocean.

South 21/2 - 27/2/91

3  
Fishing  


# Huge SA perlemoen racket smashed

CAPE TIMES  
2/3/91

3 Feb

Staff Reporters

**TWO MEN** — one of them a Higgovale medical doctor — were arrested yesterday after local Sea Fisheries officials smashed the biggest perlemoen smuggling and poaching network in South Africa, involving more than R3 million of the delicacy.

The network was smashed after a nine-month investigation. All permits to catch perlemoen have been stopped since the beginning of the year.

Twenty cartons containing 2 349 perlemoen were seized at an industrial site at Stikland. Labels on the boxes indicated that the perlemoen had been packed at Butterworth in Transkei.

But washing machines for cleaning perlemoen and deep freezers were found and seized at the factory. It is thought that about 42 tons of perlemoen are involved in the network.

## Smuggling network

The network linked up a base in Sea Point to Paarden Eiland Industria and several warehouses in the Peninsula.

Dr Bert Kirsten, a director of a Transkei company, and an alleged accomplice, Mr Jean Pierre Botha, appeared in Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the smuggling network.

Dr Kirsten was granted bail of R30 000, Mr Botha R1 000.

The products, destined for the Far East where Chinese pay high prices for the delicacy, would have fetched up to R6 million.

Perlemoen poaching has depleted the coast of at least 1,25 million perlemoen.

The chief of the investigation, Mr Daantjie Brand, described the network as "the biggest to be smashed in South Africa's fishing industry".

# Chemical spill poisons

## Venda river

Northern  
Transvaal Bureau

3/13/91  
THOHOYANDOU —  
Several hundreds of  
thousands of fish —  
some sticking their  
heads out of the water  
in a desperate bid for  
oxygen — have died in  
Venda as a result of  
chemical pollution of  
the Levuba river.

Nature conservation  
officials are monitoring  
the serious implications  
of the problem.

"We are now fairly  
certain the fish have  
been poisoned by a  
chemical substance and  
have collected speci-  
mens for laboratory  
analysis in order to  
identify the substance,"  
Venda's director of na-  
ture conservation, Tuba  
van der Walt, told The  
Star yesterday.

Mr van der Walt was  
optimistic that the poi-  
son would rapidly be-  
come too diluted to pose  
a threat to wildlife  
downstream in the  
Kruger National Park.

A thorough investiga-  
tion has been launched  
by a senior Transvaal  
Nature Conservation of-  
ficial.

# No joy for fishing companies

Bjorn 13/71

MARCIA KLEIN

REDUCED catches and increased finance costs took their toll on associated fishing companies Namibian Sea Products (Namsea) and Namibian Fishing Industries (Namfish).

Both companies fell under the control of a Norwegian consortium in October 1990, at which time the board of directors was reconstituted.

Neither declared dividends and were not expected to in the near future in terms of a new conservative dividend policy aimed at providing capital for diversification.

Namsea, which was sold by Tiger Oats subsidiary Oceana Fishing to the consortium for R13,7m, showed a 77,8% decrease in attributable earnings to R2,3m (R10,3m) for the 15 months to end-December.

Lower earnings were mainly due to reduced landings of rock lobster at Luderitz and a slower movement of canned pilchards and increased finance costs at Walvis Bay, directors said.

Turnover increased by 111,7% to R17,1m (R8,1m) and operating income was 74,5%

higher at R3,5m (R2m).

However, income from investments declined from R8m to R1,7m, mainly due to a reduction in dividends. <sup>(3) fishing</sup>

While net income before tax was almost halved to R5,2m (R10,0m), tax increased from 337 000 to R2m due to a change in accounting policy.

The company's net income decreased from R6,6m to R2,8m, and earnings were 57,7% down at 67c (158,3c) a share before extraordinary items.

Namfish also decreased its attributable income from R3,8m to R1,7m for the year to end-December 1990.

Turnover grew by 9,9% to R11,7m (R10,7m), but operating income fell by 16,6% to R2,5m (R3,0m).

Earnings were 44,8% down at 72c (130c) a share before extraordinary items, while no final dividend (60c a share) was declared.

**Mossgas project: cost estimate**

\*13. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises: *Hansard 19/3/91*

- (1) (a) What was the originally budgeted cost estimate for the Mossgas project and (b)(i) what is the latest estimate for the final total cost of the project and (ii) in respect of what date is this estimate furnished;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on the viability of the project?

B499E

**The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:**

- (1) (a) The budgeted fixed capital cost for the FA gas field development phase and the onshore facility was R6 895 million in escalated terms.
- (b) (i) During October 1990 it was indicated to the press that the estimate for the fixed capital cost of the FA-development was R8,8 milliard at that stage and that the final cost would be reported at the completion in 1992.
- (ii) July 1990.

- (2) A full statement was issued on 13 February 1990 and until the date of commencement of production, when more information regarding capital and operating costs and future world oil prices would be available, there is nothing to add to that statement.

**Private satellite dishes**

\*14. Mr R R HULLEY asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs and Public Enterprises:

- (1) Whether any applications and/or representations have been received by the Post Office for the licensing of private satellite dishes; if so, how many;
- (2) whether any permits for such dishes have been refused; if so, why;
- (3) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

B503E

**The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:**

- (1) Yes, 29;
- (2) no;
- (3) 6 March 1991.

\*15. Lt-Gen R H D Rogers — Defence. [Withdrawn.]

\*16. Lt-Gen R H D Rogers — Defence. [Withdrawn.]

**Radiographers: emigrations**

\*17. Mr B B GOODALL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

- (a) How many radiographers emigrated from South Africa during the latest specified 2-year period for which figures are available and (b) to which countries did they emigrate?

B516E

**The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:**

- |                    |      |
|--------------------|------|
| (a) 1989           | 1990 |
| 13                 | 13   |
| (b) Not available. |      |

\*18. Mr L F Stofberg — Finance.† [Question standing over.]

**Ussalep: objects**

\*19. Mr L F STOFBERG asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:† *Hansard 19/3/91*

- (1) Whether he is conversant with the objects of Ussalep (the United States-South Africa Leadership Exchange Programme) in granting scholarships; if so, what are these objects;
- (2) whether his Department has any statistics on the number of public servants with the rank of director and higher who have obtained university degrees in the United States of America with the aid of Ussalep; if so, what is the relevant figure?

B544E

**The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:**

- (1) The United States-South Africa leadership Exchange Programme (Ussalep) is a private organization and I cannot speak

on behalf of the organization. Ussalep does not, to my knowledge, grant scholarships. *Hansard 19/3/91*

- (2) My Department does not handle such statistics.

**Japan fishing vessels: restrictions**

\*20. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Hansard 19/3/91*

- (1) Whether fishing vessels registered in Japan will be permitted to fish in South African waters in 1991; if so, how many;
- (2) whether any restrictions are imposed on such vessels in regard to the (a)(i) species and (ii) quantity of each species that may be caught and (b) method of capturing that may be employed; if not, why not;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

B574E

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

- (1) Yes. Two trawlers and 90 tuna longliners.
- (2) (a) (i) Yes.
- (ii) Yes in respect of trawlers; no in respect of tuna.
- (b) Yes.

- (3) Yes. A formal Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between Japan and South Africa has been in existence for the last 10 years. A limited number of Japanese vessels are, subject to strict and specific conditions in accordance with the Agreement, permitted to catch certain fish species in South African waters. Permit conditions are strictly enforced. The quotas allocated to Japan have been substantially reduced year after year.

Before 1991 there were no restrictions on the number of tuna-vessels. The number of Japanese tuna-vessels permitted to fish in RSA waters, have been limited to 90 in 1991. Those vessels do not fish in RSA waters on a full-time basis and they do not compete directly with the local tuna industry. There are no resource reasons why further limitations should be introduced.

Japan has already been informed that its fishing in RSA waters stands to be phased

*Hansard 19/3/91*  
out because South Africans can catch available resources themselves.

**Tunny catches**

\*21. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *Hansard 19/3/91*

- (1) What was the quantity of tunny caught by South African vessels in South African waters in 1989 and 1990, respectively;
- (2) whether he will make a statement on tunny catches in South African waters by local and foreign vessels?

B579E

**The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:**

- (1) 1989: 6 452 tons tuna  
1990: 2 290 tons tuna
- (2) Yes. The catch of tuna in South African waters was very poor in the last year compared to previous years. The exact reason for low catches is unknown, but was probably due to unfavourable environmental conditions in the sea. According to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, of which South Africa is a member country, those stocks of tuna which occur in South African waters are not overfished and there is consequently no reason to introduce catch limits. Tuna are highly-migratory species which occur seasonally in South African waters and the difference in catch success from one year to the next is not sufficient to determine catch limits.

Foreign vessels, specifically from Japan and the Republic of China, fish for tuna sporadically in South African waters under strict permit conditions. Japanese and Chinese vessels authorized to fish in RSA waters are now for the first time limited to a maximum of 90 and 30 vessels respectively.

**Dukuduku Forest: Black squatters**

\*22. Mr J CHIOLÉ asked the Minister of Planning, Provincial Affairs and National Housing:† *Hansard 19/3/91*

- (1) Whether there are any Black squatters living in the Dukuduku Forest near St Lucia; if so, (a) how many as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) since when;

# 'Ban foreign trawlers'

©M-Times 20/3/97  
Political Correspondent

THE Democratic Party has called for foreign fishing boats to be banned temporarily from South African waters to allow severely depleted fish stocks to recover.

The DP's environment spokesman, Mr Rupert Lorimer, was responding to a government announcement that SA tuna catches had dropped from 6 452 tons in 1989 to 2 290 tons last year.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said 90 Japanese and 30 Chinese boats were allowed to take unlimited catches.

He said the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas believed the tuna stocks were not overfished, so there "no reason to introduce catch limits".

However, Mr Lorimer said the resources were shrinking to such an extent it would be "totally wrong" to allow foreign boats to fish. South African fishermen were suffering because of the shortage of fish.

# SA helps as Namibians intercept Spanish ships

AGUB 25/3/91 (3/12/91)

From DALE LAUTENBACH  
Argus Africa News Service

WINDHOEK. — South African coastal authorities came to Namibia's aid in the arrest of three Spanish trawlers allegedly fishing illegally in Namibia's 200-mile exclusive economic zone.

Mr Calle Schlettwein, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, told Namibian television last night that the help from the South Africans had been crucial in forcing the three boats to turn and head for Luderitz.

The boats were apprehended by members of the Namibian Defence Force (NDF) using hired helicopters on Thursday, the anniversary of Namibia's independence.

The captains had, however, refused to co-operate and change course for Luderitz as instructed. Instead they headed

south to the border with South Africa and anchored there about 100 nautical miles from the coast.

Mr Schlettwein said they had been persuaded at the weekend to sail for Luderitz when it became obvious that there was no escape.

## R1 MILLION FINE

He gave no further details of the help South Africa afforded and was unavailable for further comment as he was en route for Luderitz late yesterday with a delegation from his department for on-the-spot investigation when the vessels reach the port.

It was not clear from the television report when the boats were to arrive in the port. However, on arrival they will be seized and the captains arrested and taken to Windhoek to face charges.

Mr Schlettwein said last

night that it was a matter of priority that Namibia establish permanent coastal surveillance as the country had to rely on "piecemeal" operations involving the hire of equipment from private companies.

In November the NDF swooped on five Spanish vessels using a helicopter hired in Cape Town. Last week's operation was described as similar to the November one.

The penalty clause for illegal fishing provides for a R1 million fine and the confiscation of the boat and its catch.



Month	Male	Female
May	102 160	45 538
June	100 576	44 417
July*	209 077	
August*	229 723	
September	160 844	66 354
October	157 557	64 858
November	159 125	60 278
December	164 238	61 844

\*Detail not available.

#### Whites/Coloureds/Indians unemployed

190. Mr P H P GASTROW asked the Minister of Manpower:

How many Whites, Coloureds and Indians, respectively, were registered as unemployed in each inspectorate area as at 31 December 1990? *Hansard 25/3/91* B519E

The MINISTER OF MANPOWER:

Registered unemployed as at 31 December 1990:

Region	White	Coloured	Indian
Central Areas	4 262	2 860	15
Eastern Cape	3 183	4 881	102
Natal	6 483	1 858	8 072

University	Medicine & Surgery	Dentistry	Nursing	Veterinary Science	Pharmacy	Other
Cape Town	39		2			10
Durban-Westville		3		4	7	15
Medunsa	650	166	162	53		164
Natal	242		32		1	19
North OFS			73		126	17
UPE			1			
PU for CHE			19		2	
Pretoria			10			
RAU				4	2	1
Rhodes					27	
UNISA			3 093			
West-Cape		28	2		36	11
Wits	134	15	35		17	82
Zululand			164			
	1 065	212	3 597	57	218	319

Region	White	Coloured	Indian
PWV-Central	5 091	4 708	1 201
PWV-North and North-Eastern	5 389	586	151
Transvaal			
PWV-South	4 829	907	225
Western-Cape	5 723	24 771	30

#### Medical schools: Black students

205. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of National Education:

How many Black students were studying in each medical discipline at each medical school in South Africa as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

*Hansard 25/3/91* B552E

The MINISTER OF NATIONAL EDUCATION:

The table below shows a headcount of Black students enrolled at the various medical schools of the universities in South Africa in 1988.

#### Crayfish

230. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) What quantity of crayfish was caught by (a) commercial fishing companies and (b) private holders of fishing licences in 1989 and 1990, respectively;
- (2) whether any changes are envisaged in quotas granted to commercial fishing companies; if so, (a) what changes and (b) when will they be introduced;
- (3) what are the dates of the 1991 season for the catching of crayfish in South African waters;
- (4) whether this season will be adhered to by his Department; if not, (a) why not and (b) what deviations are envisaged?

B609E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) (a) 1988/89:  
West Coast Rock lobster: 4 000 t whole mass  
South Coast Rock lobster: 450 t tail mass  
1989/90:  
West Coast Rock lobster: 3 493 t whole mass  
South Coast Rock lobster: 450 t tail mass  
(b) 1989: Unknown 1990: Unknown
- (2) Yes  
(a) Quotas are adjusted upwards or downwards each year in accordance with scientific advice.  
(b) Before the start of each fishing season.
- (3) North of the mouth of the Olifantsriver: 15 October 1990—30 June 1991  
Between the mouth of the Olifantsriver and Yzerfontein: 1 November 1990—30 June 1991  
South of Yzerfontein: 15 November 1990—30 June 1991
- (4) Normally yes  
(a) Not applicable

(b) no deviations are envisaged but an extension to 31 July 1991 may be considered upon request only in the southern area 8 (Cape Point), because the rock-lobster there come into berry later than in other areas.

Own Affairs:

#### Schools: enrolments

34. Mr A GERBER asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

(a) How many pupils were enrolled in schools under the control of his Department as at the latest specified date for which figures are available and (b) what amount was appropriated for his Department for the year in respect of which the above-mentioned figure is furnished?

*Hansard 25/3/91*

B511E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

- (a) \*R90 042 for 1990,
  - (b) R3 092 106 000 for the 1990-91 financial year.
- \*Grade 1 to Standard 10 (special schools included).

#### Technical colleges: admissions

35. Mr R M BURROWS asked the Minister of Education and Culture:

- (1) What number of persons of each population group was admitted to technical colleges under the control of his Department with effect from 1 January 1991 or the latest specified date for which this information is available?
- (2) what policy is currently applicable regarding the admission of students of population groups other than White to technical colleges and hostels of such colleges?

B531E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE:

(1)

White	Coloured	Indian	Black
48 704	239	88	415

Another key area for gover

# Drastic drop in stocks of lobster and mussels

10/10/91  
26/3/91 - LESLEY LAMBERT (3) fishing

CAPE TOWN — SA's rock lobster and mussel stocks have declined drastically this year as a result of unfavourable environmental conditions and will become even scarcer next year if the conditions persist.

A shortage of ribbed mussels, the main food source of the lobster industry's most prolific species, the West Coast rock lobster, has stunted its growth.

The West Coast lobsters grow about 6mm a year with the result that many reach 89mm, the minimum size at which they can be caught, each year. But, research has shown they have grown by only 1mm in the past year.

While the stock below the legal size limit is healthy, very few lobsters above the legal size are available. As a result, only about 45% of the 3 790-ton quota announced at the beginning of the season in November has been caught to date and only 70% of the total permissible is expected to be caught by the end of the season, a Sea Fisheries department spokesman said yesterday.

They warned that if the unfavourable environmental conditions persisted, there would be a further reduction in next year's quotas and catches.

Lobster quotas were fully used up until last year when the total catch fell 10,5% short of a 3 900-ton quota because of a decision by the industry to delay catches for better quality lobster.

Sea Fisheries spokesmen are not optimistic about future prospects. The reasons for the decline in ribbed mussels are not yet known although they are thought to be environmentally induced.

The Sea Fisheries Research Institute is investigating the source and nature of the environmental problems.

## Namibia: Spanish govt responsible

WINDHOEK. — The Namibian government holds the Spanish government directly responsible for the actions of three Spanish trawlers, apprehended for fishing illegally in Namibia's territorial waters last week, according to Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr Theo-Ben Gurirab.

Mr Gurirab has summoned the Spanish ambassador, Mr Carlos Sanchez de Boada, to his office here over repeated violations of Namibia's territorial waters by Spanish nationals.

Meanwhile, Namibia's prosecutor-general Mr Hans Heyman said here yesterday that Namibian police had arrested 11 senior officers of the three trawlers.

They were due to have appeared in the Keetmanshoop Magistrate's Court. No charges have yet been formulated.

Mr Gurirab said the Namibian government's authority was being challenged by the repeated violations by Spanish fishing boats.

If actions like those of the three trawlers were not stopped, they were likely to "spoil relations" between Namibia and the European Community (EC), he warned. — Sapa

Cape Times 3/4/91 3/4/91

# Most kreef, perlemoen eaten abroad

By ANTHONY JOHNSON

**MOST** of South Africa's sea food delights — crayfish and perlemoen — are finding their way on to foreign plates, and into foreign tummies.

In recent years, up to 90% and more of these marine delicacies caught in South African waters have been earmarked for the export market, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar disclosed yesterday.

Replying to a question for written reply from the Democratic Party's environmental spokesman, Mr Rupert Lorimer, the minister said that in 1988/89 95,3% of the South Coast rock lobster catch had been exported. In 1989/90 the figure dropped to 91,4%.

In 1988/89 75,2% of the West Coast rock lobster catch was exported. The following year this figure climbed to 76,8%.

In the case of perlemoen, or abalone, 84,7% was exported in 1988/89, and 90,9% the following year.

Mr Pienaar said that 6 933,7 tons of rock lobster (tail and whole) was exported from 1988 to 1990. A total of 1 119,3 tons of abalone was exported during this period.

The Department of Environmental Affairs did not keep export statistics for other types of fish, he said.

● Kreef crisis brings boats to False Bay — Page 5

# Storm blows up over crayfishing

9R64S 4/1/91  
3/1/91  
The Argus Correspondent

HERMANUS. — A fleet of West Coast fishing vessels which is netting crayfish in the Vermont/Onrus River area has caused a public outcry.

This has prompted a visit by Mr Lampie Fick, MP for Caledon and chairman of the parliamentary standing committee for conservation.

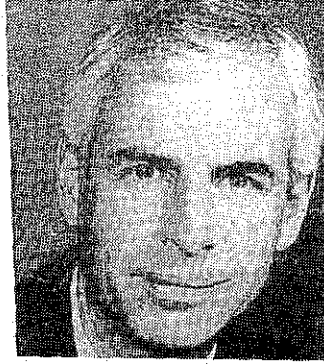
The 20 trawlers have permission to fish between Cape Hangklip and Cape Agulhas for a month, with daily monitoring by the Department of Sea Fisheries. The concession was made after poor catches on the West Coast.

## TURNED TO FURY

The initial concern of residents over the operation of the trawlers turned to fury when they were told the vessels were there legally. A group of holiday-home owners said the action of the fleet "made a mockery" of the crayfish regulations and they believed the fishing would deplete the stocks.

Residents were so concerned and incensed by the "relentless fishing from early morning until late night, with net after net being pulled up, emptied and dropped back in again", that they called on Mr Fick to investigate.

After visiting the area Mr Fick said it would appear to the ordinary observer as if the resources were being over-exploited. However, he had been assured several times within the last few weeks by Dr Louis Botha, chief director of the Department of Sea Fisheries, that



Mr Lampie Fick

the resource was not in danger and the operation would be stopped within 24 hours if there was any detrimental effect as a result of the fishing.

He said he was not convinced by the scientists' data that the resources of either crayfish or abalone were not being depleted because the source of data and the method of monitoring were not completely reliable. He would ask Dr Botha for information on the catches as soon as it was available.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs said the netting of crayfish in the reserve between Betty's Bay and Pringle Bay was taking place under strict control of the Sea Fisheries branch. The public should not be alarmed, he said.

"The area has always been available to crayfishermen, but they have never really made use of it.

"Sea Fisheries is monitoring the catches carefully to make sure the resource is being utilised responsibly."

~~FM 5/4/91~~ FM 5/4/91

FOX

WB HOLDINGS ~~FM 5/4/91~~  
**BEARING FRUIT** FM 5/4/91  
~~3 Fishing~~

**Frost damage** to the European fruit crop created a strong demand for Cape fruit last year. This fitted well with the transformation of W B Holdings (WBH) from fishing to fruit farming.

Not only were export prices for deciduous fruit particularly high, but production from the company's farms met expectations. Also, industry selling initiatives helped to create additional opportunities for exporters.

The result was that in the year to end-December turnover rose by just over half, to R11,8m, and operating income — which in 1990 came purely from farming for the first time — was 43% higher, at R3,5m. Tax was minimal, due to write-offs permitted on development expenditure and because of export allowances. A 63% fall in income from investments hit earnings though the 45c EPS was still a creditable 25% increase.

The reduction in investment income related to WBH's previous holdings in the Namibian fishing industry. These holdings were sold for R8,75m from October 1, and profits and dividends were substantially down in the

fishing industry last year, so income from this source fell. ~~3 Fishing~~

Since year-end, proceeds from the sale of the fishing interests have been committed to buy the Boskloof farming properties, adjacent to the group's farms in Villiersdorp, for R8,5m. From a short-term aspect, this is good news. The current crop on the original farms has suffered some hail damage but produce off the Boskloof lands should more than compensate.

In the longer term, the latest acquisition also bodes well. Though the local deciduous fruit industry has been battling against sanctions, it has still managed to prosper. When sanctions are lifted, farming income should benefit.

But there is a caveat. Farming remains a risky business, even with scientific methods. Perhaps chairman Robert Silverman could think in terms of diversifying to minimise the risk of weather effects.

The group is attractive because it has no long-term debt. Now it needs a successful track record that will enable it to use its paper to make acquisitions without gearing up. Net worth exceeds 300c, compared with the 280c share price.

WBH is the only one of its kind listed on the JSE, so there are no benchmarks against which to measure it. But at a dividend yield of 7,5% and a p/e of 6,2 it seems to present good value in this market. This may even become excellent value with the lifting of sanctions and some good weather.

Gerald Hirshon

*Cape Town*  
*5/4/81 (3/18)*

## 1 300 illegal kreef taken, court hears

### Court Reporter

A DUTCH citizen alleged to have caught 1 310 crayfish — 710 of which were undersized — in Cape waters without a permit, appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Mr Huig Ouwehand, 48, of Klaassenbosch Road, Constantia, earlier pleaded not guilty to nine charges under the Sea Fisheries Act.

According to the charge sheet he caught, transported and traded in 1 310 crayfish tails which were frozen at sea on his boat, the *Privatier*, between March and April last year.

A Senior Fisheries Control Officer, Mr Peter Uys, testified yesterday that he had found the crayfish in 45 containers marked "*Privatier*" in a Paarden Island warehouse during a routine inspection of the premises in July last year.

He said if the crayfish had been up to standard it would have fetched R10 929 on the traders' market.

The trial continues.

The magistrate is Mr H L Muller. Mr W G Cooks was the prosecutor. Mr R MacDougal appeared for Mr Ouwehand.

# Man denies telling crew to keep kreef haul secret

*Cape Times 6/4/91 3 Fish*  
**Court Reporter**

A DUTCH citizen alleged to have caught 1 310 crayfish — 710 of which were undersized — without a permit in Cape waters, yesterday denied in evidence in Cape Town Magistrate's Court that he ordered workers on his boat to keep their hauls secret.

Mr. Huig Ouwehand, 48, of Klaassenbosch Road, Constantia, has pleaded not guilty to nine charges under the Sea Fisheries Act.

He yesterday denied having told workers on his boat, *Privatier*, to keep their crayfish hauls a secret, and a further allegation by the state that he personally packed crayfish tails into cartons marked "*Privatier*".

Mr Ouwehand said he

## Test crayfishing area not to be commercial fishing zone

**Staff Reporter**

A TEST crayfishing area east of Cape Hangklip will not be included in the commercial fishing zone, the Department of Sea Fisheries announced yesterday.

Cape crayfisherman face a bleak season, with a projected 30% quota loss due to the smaller size of crustacean caught this season.

According to Dr Louis Botha, Sea Fisheries Chief Director, controlled test fishing by a maximum of 20 trawlers took place at the site for the past two weeks.

Catches per boat per day were about twice that in the Peninsula area, and the size was typical of a sanctuary. But it was found the stock was limited, and high levels of catch cannot be sustained.

● See report — page 17

"did not have time to pack fish", as he was the skipper on his boat.

According to the charge sheet Mr Ouwehand caught, transported and traded in 1 310 crayfish tails, which

were frozen at sea on board the *Privatier* between March and April last year.

The trial continues on Monday.

Mr H L Muller was the magistrate. The prosecutor was Mr W G Cooke and Mr R McDougal appeared for Mr Ouwehand.



# R1,3-m paid to frostbite victims

The embassy of the Republic of China has agreed to settle the claims of 32 South African seamen who suffered frostbite while working on board Taiwanese fishing vessels in 1989 and 1990.

The embassy said today that a total amount of R1 327 942 would be paid jointly by the boat owners and the Taiwanese government.

The amount to be received by each seaman varied according to the degree of injury and the number of fingers amputated. The two sailors with the most severe frostbite would receive R100 000 each.

Amounts of R2 000, paid in advance to each of 26 seamen

star 94191  
before Christmas last year by the Taiwanese government, would be subtracted from the individual final settlements.

The pay-out follows an agreement reached between the government, the Legal Resources Centre and legal representatives of the 32 seamen.

Taiwanese ambassador I-cheng Loh, presented a cheque for R1 063 942 to the Legal Resources Centre in Cape Town today. Of this amount, R5 000 will go towards reimbursing the centre for expenses relating to the vessel, Chin Chia Ching. The remainder is to be paid directly to the frostbite victims.

Forty-three seaman registered with the centre or legal

representatives after suffering frostbite while working on squid fishing vessels in the vicinity of the Falkland Islands.

Of these, five chose to pursue their cases independently in the courts, and were therefore excluded from the settlement, the embassy said.

Three seamen, who worked on the vessel, Kwang Mao, settled out of court on March 7, while two others employed by the Hsin Ho Chun 201 were still waiting for court dates.

The embassy said the Legal Resources Centre had been unable to contact six other seamen, most of whom had received some kind of payment from the boat owners. — Sapa.

With regard to sentenced juvenile prisoners I would like to refer the honourable member to section 21 of the Prisons Act, 1959 (Act No 8 of 1959) which states, inter alia, that any prison or any part of a prison may be used for the detention, treatment and training of juveniles. Existing prisons or parts thereof are therefore set apart where required for this purpose and sentenced juvenile prisoners are transferred to these prisons on a regional basis for detention, treatment and training.

In regions which do not yet have separate prisons for sentenced juvenile prisoners or where centralised detention has not yet been implemented, they are accommodated in prisons in separate sections or cells as far as possible, and depending on their needs, the available programmes are also offered to them if feasible.

Furthermore, it can be mentioned that the centralised detention of sentenced juveniles in certain regions is a direct consequence of the successes obtained with the youth centres at Leeuwkop (since 1986) and Pollsmoor (since 1987).

Generally the intention with these programmes is to equip the juvenile with the life skills which could contribute to his successful reintegration into the community after release.

The following basic guide-lines are followed:

- The achievement of a certain level of education in order to facilitate adaptation into the community. In other words— acceptable norms and values must be acquired.
- Education and training as the basis of the programme. Depending on the present level of education, intellectual capabilities of prisoners and the term of sentence it is endeavoured to achieve a specific level of education. The aim is to achieve at least a Std 4 qualification.
- Meaningful utilisation of time which is aimed at positive orientation after release.
- Maintenance of present social structures to counteract institutionalisation and so doing prevent recidivism, eg maintenance and strengthening of family ties.
- The fulfilment of religious needs.

— Healthy physical development through physical training and care.

Should the need arise, the further centralised detention of sentenced juvenile prisoners will be considered at certain centres which are deemed suitable for this purpose.

#### Fishing: heavy bobbin gear

96. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: ~~(3) fishing~~

- (1) Whether the use of heavy bobbin gear for fishing is permitted in South African waters; if so, (a) by whom and (b) why;
- (2) whether any scientific research has been conducted into the amount of damage, particularly on in-shore bank areas, resulting from this fishing method; if so, (a) by whom and (b) what were the findings;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter? *Hansard 8/4/91*

B575E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) Department of Environment Affairs.
  - (b) To enable two Japanese trawlers to catch their panga quota in RSA waters in 1991.
- (2) No, not in South African waters.
  - (a) Not applicable.
  - (b) Not applicable.
- (3) Yes.
 

The use of heavy bobbin gear is not prohibited by law. The South African trawling industry does not use heavy bobbin gear. The local inshore trawling industry is limited to the use of bobbins with a maximum diameter of 375 mm by means of a permit condition.

In terms of the existing Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the RSA and Japan, Japan has a quota of amongst others 1 000 tons panga in 1991. Panga occurs mainly on a rocky seabed and heavy bobbins are necessary to protect the trawnet, which is dragged over the bottom, from damage. Japan was informed last year that the use

of heavy bobbin gear is undesirable and that the use of such gear will be phased out within two years. It must be stressed that this concession applies to only two Japanese vessels.

#### Fish/marine products: statistics

197. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

Whether he will furnish export statistics in respect of fish and other marine products; if

not, why not; if so, (a) what was the quantity of the Republic's exports of each specified type of fish or other marine product in 1989 and 1990, respectively, and (b) what percentage of the total catch in each case does this represent?

B576E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Yes.

(a) West Coast	: 1988/89	: 3 009 tons whole mass exported
Rock Lobster	: 1989/90	: 2 684 tons whole mass exported
South Coast	: 1988/89	: 429 tons tail mass exported
Rock Lobster	: 1989/90	: 411,7 tons tail mass exported
Abalone	: 1988/89	: 551 tons whole mass exported
	: 1989/90	: 568,3 tons whole mass exported
		(figure subject to final confirmation)
Other Fish		The Department does not keep export statistics for other fish.
(b) West Coast Rock Lobster	: 1988/89	: 75,2%
	: 1989/90	: 76,8%
South Coast Rock Lobster	: 1988/89	: 95,3%
	: 1989/90	: 91,4%
Abalone	: 1988/89	: 84,7%
	: 1989/90	: 90,9%
Other Fish		Not applicable

#### White fish: landed

198. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

How many tons of each species of white fish were landed during the 1990 fishing season?

B577E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

Final figures are being processed and will be available by May 1991.

#### Walmer Estate: ministerial houses

209. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Public Works and Land Affairs: ~~(3) fishing~~

- (1) Whether, with reference to his statement on 11 May 1990 (see Debates of Parliament (Hansard), cols 8929 and 8930), any progress has been made with regard to the (a) letting or (b) selling of the seven

ministerial houses in Walmer Estate, Cape Town, originally intended for occupation by members of the Ministers' Council of the House of Representatives; if not, why not; if so, what progress in each case; ~~(3) fishing~~

- (2) what was the original (a) (i) estimated and (ii) actual cost and (b) estimated market value of the complex;
- (3) whether these houses have been completed; if so, what was the cost of the (a) furniture and (b) curtaining for each house;
- (4) whether any of these houses have been occupied to date; if so, (a) by whom, (b) for what periods and (c) why;
- (5) whether this complex is guarded; if so, (a) by whom and (b) at what cost?

B557E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LAND AFFAIRS

(1) (a) and (b)

*Hansard 8/4/91*  
The Department of Public Works and Land Affairs has investigated the possibility of letting the residences. However, as the present group area status of Walmer Estate and evident political considerations within the Coloured community inhibit the occupation, letting or selling of the residences at this stage, it is considered expedient to keep the matter in abeyance until the Group Areas Act has been repealed. In the interim, the best method of sale will also be investigated in the event of the residences not being required in future.

(2) (a) (i) The preliminary estimate, early in 1986 at the start of the project, was R2 560 000, excluding the access road.

(ii) The final cost in 1989, including escalation, was R4 945 244.

(b) The market value of the complex has not been established.

(3) Yes.

(a) New furniture, R24 392 per house on average.

(b) New curtains and re-upholstering of existing furniture, R29 393 per house on average. Some of the items of furniture have since been removed and used elsewhere.

(4) No.

(5) Yes.

(a) Guards appointed by the Department of Public Works and Land Affairs.

(b) R2 413 per month.

*Hansard 8/4/91*  
Foreign vessels: tunny

220. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs: *(3) Fishing*

(1) What quantity of tunny was landed at South African ports by foreign vessels in 1989 and 1990, respectively;

(2) whether the fish so landed consisted entirely of tunny caught in South African

waters; if not, what estimated quantity was caught in South African waters;

(3) how many vessels from each specified foreign country had permission to fish for tunny in South African waters in each of the above years?

*Hansard 8/4/91* B573E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) Not available at present. Final figures are being compiled.

(2) Not available at present. Final figures are being compiled.

(3) 1989: Japan—89 vessels  
Republic of China—38 vessels

1990: Japan—90 vessels  
Republic of China—30 vessels

*(3) Fishings*  
Pelagic fish landed

221. Mr R J LORIMER asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

(1) How many tons of (a) (i) anchovy and (ii) pilchard and (b) non-quota pelagic fish were landed during the 1990 fishing season;

(2) what estimated percentage of the catch of (a) anchovies and (b) pilchards in 1990 were immature juveniles?

B578E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) (i) 150 100 t anchovies

(ii) 56 740 t pilchards

(b) 52 503 t

(2) (a) 90,5%

(b) 22,8%

Foreign media representatives: visas

240. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs: *Hansard 8/4/91*

(1) How many applications for (a) new, and (b) the renewal of, visas were received from foreign media representatives in 1990; *(3)*

(2) how many such applications (a) had been (i) granted and (ii) refused and (b) were pending as at 31 December 1990;

(3) what was the average time taken before such applications were decided upon?

B625E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) 1 941 of which 149 applications were withdrawn.

(b) 303 of which two were withdrawn.

(2) Statistics on the basis required are unfortunately not available. The applications not finalised during 1989 and therefore carried over to 1990 are included in the following figures which are given for the purpose of the reply:

	Carried over from 1989		(a)(i)	(a)(ii)	(b)
New applications	123	1 766	92	57	
Renewal applications	8	300	1	8	

(3) It took on average 15 working days in respect of new applications and eight working days in the case of renewal applications to finalise the respective applications.

SABC: annual report

275. Mr P G SOAL asked the Minister of Home Affairs:

Whether any delay is being experienced in connection with the tabling of the latest annual report of the South African Broadcasting Corporation; if so, what are the causes of the delay; if not, what is the position in this regard?

*Hansard 8/4/91* B731E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

No. The honourable member is referred to the provisions of section 27 of the Broadcasting Act, 1976 (Act No 73 of 1976), in terms of which the South African Broadcasting Corporation's annual report has to be furnished to the Minister yearly on or before 30 April. The tabling of the report shall be done within the seven-day period referred to in section 27(2) of that Act.

**New rise in**  
**crayfish cost**  
**'unjustified'**  
**Consumer Reporter**

Another increase in the price of crayfish — the second in five months — has been slammed by the Federated Hotel, Liquor and Catering Association (Fedhasa) as "totally unjustified".

During the "traditional" November increase, the crayfish price charged to restaurants rose from R24 to R27/kg. This was followed by another increase last month, bringing the price to R29,50/kg.

Fedhasa executive director Peter Hearfield said South African restaurant patrons and the local tourism industry were being sacrificed to line the export coffers of the crayfish industry.

### Quota

"It's the same old story. South Africans watch all their best goods being exported to far-off countries where better-off consumers can afford to pay exorbitant prices.

"The home market is apparently seen to be of secondary importance and there is a distinctly monopolistic flavour to the latest increase in the local crayfish prices," Mr Hearfield said.

Fedhasa said the cost of crayfish had increased by up to 30 percent since 1989 and the latest rise meant restaurant patrons would have to pay anything upwards of about R45 for crayfish thermidor.

Fedhasa Restaurant Guild chairman Robert Mauvis said the time had come for a definite quota of the catch to be allocated to the South African market and for prices to be allowed to find their own levels.

# The chips are down for kingk

Ten years ago South Africa's sardine shoals — then the world's largest — were wiped out. Now crayfish, kingklip and, possibly, other commercial fish are threatened as a free-for-all on our coastal resources continues.

**C**rayfish has long been a luxury food — affordable only to the wealthy — in South Africa. Now kingklip is about to follow as South Africa heads for its second sea fishing disaster in 10 years.

Ten years ago our sardine shoals — then the world's largest — were wiped out. Now crayfish, kingklip and possibly other commercial fish are threatened. Much of the kingklip now on sale is imported.

The free-for-all off our coast is beginning to anger even the non-fishing public. So furious were the people of Hermanus last week when crayfish boats entered Walker Bay that many telephoned Sea Fisheries. The fishing boats were then pulled out.

The boats were allowed in because, having wiped out the crayfish along the west coast,

the crayfishers had had a disappointing season. Walker Bay is normally protected.

Eighty percent of South Africa's crayfish is now exported as "rock lobster".

Shellfish such as abalone (perlemeon) have been so over-exploited around South Africa that big time crooks have moved in to clean up what is left. They export them at R100 each — in tins bearing false labels.

Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, told me: "We should do to crayfish and abalone what California has done — they have banned the export of abalone. If you want to eat Californian abalone you have to go there!

"Ninety percent of our abalone is exported. South Africans cannot afford the stuff.

"Last season commercial

fishermen from the north-west coast — now denuded of crayfish — were allowed to make up their shortfall by fishing around the Cape Peninsula."

Even then, said Mr Kabalin, they failed to catch their quota. They were then allowed to carry on fishing for another three months.

"Now they want the closed season scrapped altogether — as well as the minimum size limit. Yet recreational fishermen have had their bag limits cut from five to four a day and their season reduced by a month — in the interests of conservation."

He said recreational fishermen spend R150 million a year and the sport plays a role in tourism, South Africa's second biggest industry.

False Bay is a favourite area for recreational fishing

3 Fishing

Star 10/4/91.



Catch as catch can . . . a single crayfish now costs about R48 in a Johannesburg restaurant.

but is now being picked clean by commerce.

"John Wiley, when he was Minister, allowed Kalk Bay fishermen who had had a bad

season, to net 30 tons of crayfish in False Bay — which is normally protected from commercial crayfishing.

"The fishermen promptly

- Electrical Industry in Natal. This applies only to an electrician (construction), artisan and an electrical installation operative;
- Mining Industry, O'kiep Copper Company.

*AFFILIATIONS*

**Local:**

- Confederation of Metal and Building Unions;
- Council of Mining Unions;
- Federation of Mining Unions.

*UNION COMMENTS*

**Appropriate Collective Bargaining Levels:**

The union prefers bargaining at a national level.

# Arr HE lip and crayfish

STI sold their rights to four boats which now annually trap the crays.

PO "What makes no sense at all is that despite the fishing industry's problems and the fact they are having to sell off vessels and lay off thousands of workers, South Africa still allows five nations to exploit the coastline.

TF "Our track record for arresting and prosecuting those who abuse our fish stocks is very poor. We just do not have the means to patrol our 3 500 km coastline. We also have nine Government departments all doing their own thing along the coast. I believe we need a coastguard service."

G. In January I visited the new fishmarket in Cape Town's new Victorian and Alfred Waterfront project and found most of the crayfish under-

Easc

sized. At a party thrown by the outgoing Minister of Environment, Gert Kotze, again most crayfish were undersized.

An official there said: "Commercial firms are allowed to catch undersized crays."

Meanwhile kingklip — the most popular business lunch choice on the Rand — is now being imported at a cost of R15 million a year.

In a mere five years the annual kingklip catch has dropped from 13 000 tons to 3 000. Last week Trevor Walker of the SA Commercial Fisherman commented: "(The demolition) took only five years — not bad, even by Taiwanese standards."

He put the situation down to "lack of scientific knowledge, blatant disregard of obvious potential, overfishing

and greed".

Commercial firms are daunted. Such downturns are cyclical, said Roger Hill, Southern Sea Fishing, who believes the industry is well controlled. He said crays should recover before the seas over.

In the 1970s commercial firms in Namibia said the same about the declining dine catch. But by the late 80s all eight of Namibia's dine canning plants were dismantled and shipped overseas.

Thousands lost their jobs even in the Eastern Cape where the tomato canning industry aimed at the tinny salad market, crashed.

Mr Kabalin's group called on the Government to re-evaluate the situation gently.

JAMES CLARKE

*MEMBERSHIP*

YEAR	PAID	SIGNED	TOTAL
1982	-	-	600
1984	-	-	3200
1985	-	-	3200
1990	-	-	3000

# Taiwanese payout helps seamen avoid exploitation

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town <sup>12/4 - 18/4/91</sup>  
THIS week's payout of more than R1-million by Taiwan to 32 South African seamen maimed while working on Taiwanese fishing trawlers has sent a strong message to foreign trawler owners: you can't exploit South African workers with impunity.

Seamen employed by foreign trawlers fall outside the Labour Relations Act.

"Like farm and domestic workers they're at the bottom of the pile," said attorney Angela Andrews of the Legal Resources Centre. Seamen worldwide were bound by contracts and faced imprisonment if they jumped ship because of working conditions.

However, a combination of militant union pressure and the one redress offered by maritime law — the impounding of boats — has been highly effective in the current dispute.

The Cape seamen sought legal advice after suffering frostbite injuries while packing fish in on-board ice-chambers without adequate protective clothing. Some lost fingers.

Subsequent legal action, in which Taiwanese trawlers were attached, severely embarrassed Taiwan.

One vessel, whose licence has since been withdrawn, sailed out of Table Harbour in defiance both of a court order and injunctions from the Taiwanese government.

A Food and Allied Workers' Union campaign highlighted the seamen's plight and linked it to public outrage over Taiwanese gill-netting. Protest action included placard demonstrations, a refusal to handle fish caught in gill nets, pickets at the Taiwanese embassy, public meetings and marches.

Andrews said she believed the settlement would "change the perception of fishermen as people who can be exploited and abused with



**You can't exploit me ... The Cape frostbite case has sent a message to foreign trawler operators impunity".**

The highest individual sum received in the pay-out was R100 000, awarded to two workers, while Fawu is trying to trace a further six who will share R159 750.

Handing over a cheque for R1 063 942 this week, Taiwan's ambassador to South Africa, I-cheng Loh, said most of the money came from the government, with a portion paid by the fishing companies involved.

# Namibia threat to white fish export success

*CAF - 11/15 18/4/91*  
*221 3 Fishy*

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**  
Business Editor

SA's trawling companies must be export orientated, with Southern Europe their main market but rich opportunities are becoming available in Australia, Charles Atkins, group GM of Irvin & Johnson, said yesterday.

But they are handicapped by an ageing fleet, most of which will soon have to be replaced at horrific cost.

And Namibia, with larger hake resources and favoured access to Europe through the Lome Convention, "must constitute a significant threat to our export success".

Atkins was speaking at the National Maritime Conference at the Cape Sun.

He said that Namibia's badly depleted hake resource "could be twice as productive and considerably more robust than ours, and its latent possibilities could be realised within six to eight years.

"Having no domestic market to speak of, it can be expected that Namibia will vigorously attack our existing export and domestic markets."

The only meaningful way to counter this would be "to manufacture a wider range of value added sea frozen products, more innovation of final products (niche markets), premium quality and sophisticated promotional campaigns."

Atkins said that given the limited demand capacity of the local market — which preferred red meat and chicken to fish — "the trawling indus-

try must remain a dedicated international player.

"In the light of the expected rate of landings and anticipated population and income growth, it is projected that by the year 2 000 the trawling arm of the white fish industry will have an exportable surplus of between 35% and 40% of output."

There were only two viable responses to increased international competition. One was to match and surpass ever higher quality standards. The other was to increase customer convenience.

This would be achieved mainly by introducing more complex and sophisticated inboard processing, freezing and handling systems.

"To be fully successful a substantial fleet upgrading will be necessary. If fleet replacement continues at the present negligible rate, the day may come when we will no longer be able to export profitably no matter how badly we may need foreign markets to offset the large surpluses anticipated on the domestic front," Atkins warned.

He blamed "a misguided and punitive ship building protection policy" followed by the government in recent years for the fact that the white fish industry's fleet was "simply over-aged".

"The greater proportion of our ships are doomed by technical factors such as steeply rising operation and maintenance costs and the unavailability of spares."



**'Use navy  
as Coast**

**Guard'**

Staff Reporter

THE navy should be designated as a type of Coast Guard, to enforce and co-ordinate the law in South African coastal waters, speakers told the 1991 National Maritime Conference in the city yesterday.

Former navy chief Vice-Admiral Glen Syndercombe and Professor D J Devine of the law department of the University of Cape Town both advocated the use of the navy as the controlling law enforcement agency.

Prof Devine said South Africa needed an umbrella agency to handle a wide range of maritime law enforcement.

"The umbrella agency would, in effect, act like a kind of Coast Guard."

Admiral Syndercombe said an autonomous Coast Guard was not a viable financial proposition, but rather that "some sort of hybrid organisation" under a single authority was more desirable.

(3 fishery) (5/20)  
CAF thinks 20/4/91

# Customs duty on trawlers scrapped

CUSTOMS duty on trawlers was scrapped yesterday and delighted fishing company executives immediately predicted that the move would make them more competitive on the international market.

Announcing the abolition of the duty, the Deputy Minister of Finance, Mr Japie van Wyk, said customs duty on trawlers had been reviewed after representations from the fishing industry.

"After considering the costs of replacing, as well as the costs of upgrading old trawlers, it has been decided to withdraw the customs duty on trawlers with effect from 19 April 1991.

"This step will enable the fishing industry to obtain suitable trawlers at competitive prices and also give it the benefit of cost-effective competition," Mr Van Wyk said.

Mr Louis Penzhorn, general manager of the Sea Harvest Corporation, said the move would cut 20% of the cost of buying new or second-hand trawlers.

"Fleet replacement had virtually ground to a halt," he added.

Previously fishing companies could buy trawlers overseas and pay 46% of the cost in customs, surcharge and GST, or build locally, which was "just not competitive", Mr Penzhorn added.

# SA rushes to halt gill-net raiders

Capt. Truitt 26/4/91

3 Fish

## Political Correspondent

A SOUTH AFRICAN ship has been sent to intercept Panamanian-registered trawlers that have placed 20km of gill nets off the Transkei coast.

The "wall-of-death" nets, stretching from the Umgazi River mouth towards the south past Umgazana, were first seen by fishermen a week ago.

The nets could damage marine life severely for "many, many years to come" in the popular fishing area, the Democratic Party's spokesman on the environment, Mr Rupert Lorimer, said yesterday.

He said he had been assured by Dr Johan Neethling of the Department of Nature Conservation in the Cape that two officials

would hold talks with Transkeian authorities today on the matter.

Meanwhile, a South African vessel is on its way to help.

Mr Lorimer said the Department of Nature Conservation in Transkei lacked the resources to deal with the problem, but it was "very keen" to get help from the South African authorities.

"However, the cost implication evidently means delays in terms of getting Treasury permission from (the department's) government."

Mr Lorimer emphasised that swift action was of the essence. Arguments about who could police the operation must take second place, he said.

"These Panamanian-registered trawlers must be arrested —

whether by the South African or the Transkeian authorities," he said.

"I am sure the value of any fish or nets confiscated would more than pay the cost for a vessel from the navy or fisheries protection."

Fishermen in ski boats had been out to inspect the nets, but could not do anything. The Transkeian authorities had contemplated sending a helicopter to the scene, but the trawlers apparently returned only at night to inspect the nets.

Mr Lorimer said the use of the gill nets, banned internationally, was "disgusting".

"This sort of fishing is indiscriminate in what it catches. It wipes out all sea life of any size."

# Bid to arrest gill-net trawlers

By ESANN VAN RESNBURG  
and STEFAANS BRUMMER  
Staff Reporters

CAPE nature conservation officials are on standby to arrest two Panamanian-registered trawlers which are gill-netting off the Transkei coast.

The Transkei government was expected to send a helicopter to try to arrest the vessels today, but if this failed, the Cape Department of Nature Conservation would send a patrol vessel from Port Elizabeth, said chief director Dr Johan Neethling.

He could not confirm the exact position of the trawlers, but said reports from ski-boat fishermen indicated the nets were

near the Umgazi River near Port St Johns and spanned about 20km.

"We are liaising with the Transkei Department of Foreign Affairs. We do not want to send our patrol boat on a wild-goose chase and are therefore waiting to see if the helicopter manages to arrest the trawlers," he said.

## OPERATE AT NIGHT

The trawlers operated at night and at daybreak disappeared over the horizon.

But another trawler carrying gill nets made the mistake of entering East London harbour this week to off-load and the crew were arrested, he said.

Arb 43 26/4/91 3156  
● The Argus East London correspondent reports that the Spanish trawler Capitan Jorge II was boarded and raided on Tuesday.

The captain and crew were arrested on charges of illegal gill-netting.

They are expected to appear in court today.

# Ocfish earnings slide

<sup>3 fishing</sup>  
<sup>Star</sup>  
<sup>2/5/91</sup> <sup>106</sup>  
The Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) reported a 38 percent drop in earnings and a lower dividend for the six months to end-March, in spite of an improvement in turnover.

Net operating income decreased to R5,2 million (R8,5 million) although sales increased to R144,2 million (R130,2 million).

The decrease in operating income was mainly as a result of the reduced carry-over fish-meal stock from 1990, non-recurring restructuring expenses and lower margins in the trading activities, the directors say.

Attributable income, after taking outside shareholders' interests into account, accordingly decreased to R4,1 million from R6,6 million, equivalent to a decrease in earnings per share from 70,9c to 43,9c. The interim dividend was dropped from 30c to 25c.

The directors say that it is unlikely that the group will catch its full rock lobster quota during the 1991 season and the forecast made in the 1990 annual report of improved earnings in the current year are not expected to be achieved.

However, they expect that subject to any unforeseen circumstances, the second six months will show better results than those reported for the half-year. — Sapa.

OCEANA Fishing Group has disclosed a 38% fall in attributable profits to R4,1m, mainly due to a loss in its fishing division for the six months ended March.

While earnings fell to 43,9c from 70,9c a share in the previous period, Oceana has now declared a 25c (30c) a share dividend, down 16%. This has reduced the dividend cover to 1,7 from 2,3 times.

The poorer earnings performance was partly a result of lower trading margins, group restructuring expenses and a lower carry-over of fishmeal stock from the 1990 financial year, chairman Walter

# Fishing division loss hurts Oceana

Lewis said yesterday.

Despite a 10,7% rise in turnover of R144,1m (R130,2m), the group's operating income fell 39% to R5,1m (R8,4m) after lower trading margins almost halved the operating margin to 3,5%.

However, the restructuring expenses, which saw Oceana acquiring the abalone operation of Tuna Marine through the sale of its Namibian interests and also diversifying into cold storage last year, was a once-off cost distorting the

operating margin, Lewis noted.

He added that unusual environmental conditions also reduced Oceana's landed catch of pelagic fish and rock lobster which fell to 705 tons from 1 598 tons in the previous period.

Despite increased fishing efforts, the group only managed to land 51% of its total quota of 1 362 tons of rock lobster.

Pelagic fish and rock lobster accounted for almost 14% (R1,6m) of Oceana's

total pre-tax income (R11,6m) in the first six months of the 1990 trading year, whereas this year the group's fishing division suffered a R705 000 loss from its pre-tax profit of R7,4m.

Oceana also reflected lower income generated from its fish products and cold storage activities.

On a positive note, the recently acquired abalone business performed well, and Oceana's merger of its commercial cold stores with the Imperial Cold Storage and Supply group

was also completed successfully, Lewis said.

He added that both export and local trading business performed satisfactorily. Oceana has initiated export markets to Russia and African countries like Mauritius and Zaire.

Lewis said the big problem with exports was the shortage of pelagic fish and rock lobster, of which about 80% of the latter's quota was exported. Furthermore, the offshore price of rock lobster had climbed by more than 30% last year

SEAN VAN ZYL

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③ fishing

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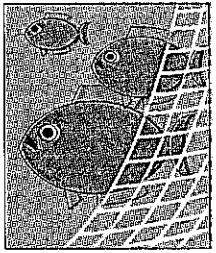
10

FISHING INDUSTRY

③ Fishing FM 10/5/91

# COME BACK, LITTLE PILCHARD

## RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION MUST GO HAND IN HAND



**Ask managers** in the fishing industry about business and almost to a man they will reply "not good." It is difficult to make a profit out of fishing and there is little buoyancy among fishing company executives.

There is optimism, however, in their views of the future. There has to be. The industry is the provider — directly and indirectly, through fish meal — of the most basic protein food for SA's burgeoning population. Ways and means to do this profitably are what fisheries management is all about.

Controlling the size of the fish stock — the resource, or biomass, as it is now known — to ensure that it perpetuates itself at the best level is the main problem. Stocks have been run down because of ignorance about how sea creatures are affected by their environment. Human greed needs to be curbed to protect the resource and the environment for man's long-term benefit.

Flowing from these objectives is the more mundane but urgent necessity to replace the almost obsolete fishing fleet.

The fundamental investment decision to buy new ships has been long delayed because of government interference with the natural mechanisms of free enterprise.

Now fleet replacement involves such great expense that it is questionable whether it can be justified. One estimate puts this expenditure at about R116m a year on a sustained basis — roughly 20% of current gross annual turnover of R540m.

Pulling the equation together is the role that science has to play. Fishery science has led to the development of better vessels, more effective gear and improved storage techniques. By making it easier to locate prey, it has helped to increase the amount of fish that can be caught. Now it is providing guidelines for the industry so that the most important species — hake, pilchards, anchovies, rock lobster and kingklip — can recover from their much depleted state.

Poor catches in some fisheries are thought to be mainly attributable to unfavourable con-

ditions in the sea. It is true that the massive factory ships of the Sixties and early Seventies played a significant part in depleting some resources. Unlike the foreigners still poaching in Namibian waters, those floating factories did not know how much damage they were wreaking.

But even then it was recognised that certain traditional fishing beds were being fished out.

Fishery commissions were established all over the globe to control the industry. But such were the vested interests of the larger, well-developed players that often their rights were entrenched at the expense of those countries whose fishing industries were not well developed and who had no defence against depletion of their waters.

Only in 1982 was the principle of a 200 nautical mile coastal boundary firmly established at the UN convention on The Law of the Sea. International acceptance of the principle in effect handed total authority for control over living marine resources within the 200-mile limit to each country.

SA declared its 200-mile boundary in 1977. As a member of the UN and a signatory to the convention, in which most coastal states participated, its right to protect and

police its waters from foreign fishing intruders was immediately respected. Not so Namibia. Until independence last year it was not a member of the UN, and the international community paid scant respect to SA's authority.

Quotas for fishing in Namibian waters were granted to the international fishing community under the authority of the International Commission for the South-east Atlantic Fisheries. All quota recipients had to be a member of the commission. Namibia was not. Administered by SA, it had to rely on the quota SA received.

Before independence, says Director of Fisheries in Namibia Jan Jurgens, the valuable hake resource was not even included in these quotas, which were basically pelagic (pilchards and anchovy) based. Pleadings to the commission, that quotas were arbitrary and too large, and the resource was being fished out, fell on deaf ears.

With a frustration still evident today, Jurgens says that at the end of 1989 there was a daily average of 250 foreign boats off the Namibian coast. Most were poachers. Spanish trawlers especially were catching more than their allocation but little could be done.

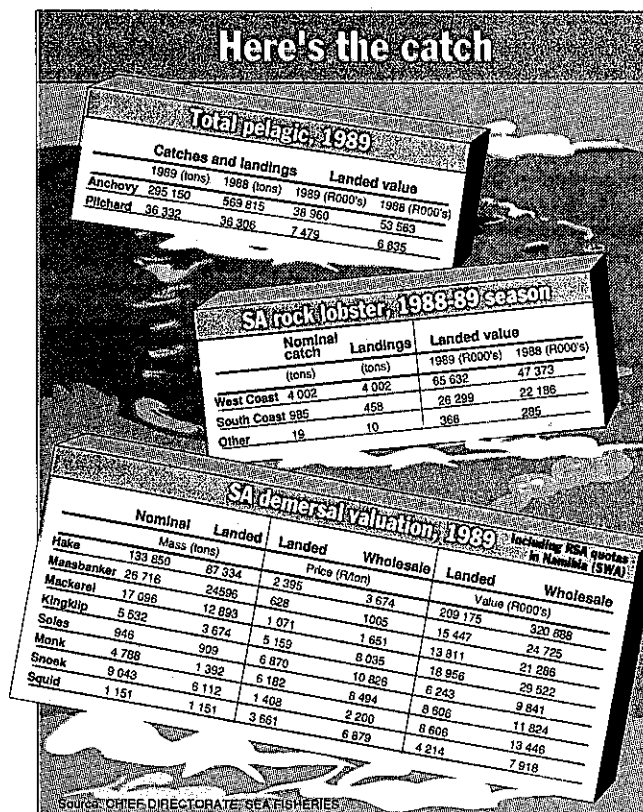
In 1989, Jurgens went to the commission's annual meeting in Spain but was not allowed in even as an observer. The commission has since been disbanded. But it was then, he says, a case of vested interests and pure exploitation without any regard to the long-term effects on the biomass.

The fishing industry in Namibia today is severely depleted, not only of demersal species (hake, kingklip) but of pelagic species and rock lobster.

Only after independence could Namibia impose and police a 200-mile coastal boundary. Since Namibia has no developed infrastructure to police its seas, co-operation with the SA Navy recently led to the arrest of a number of Spanish vessels caught poaching.

Quite as important as the protection of its sea jurisdiction is that Namibia now controls its own quota allocation. This is unashamedly placed with the vested interests of Namibia firmly up front.

No allocations are given to any organisation that is not registered in Namibia. And there is a rider: any allocation has attached to it the condition that





TOWNSHIP VIOLENCE

274

FM 10/5/91

# TIPPING THE BALANCE

As the hour of the ANC's ill-advised ultimatum approaches — and with it the prospect of increased mayhem in the Reef townships — it has become a virtual impossibility to take a detached view of the violence that is so afflicting this country. In the circumstances it would be foolhardy even to attempt to apportion blame.

Both the ANC and Inkatha, the principal antagonists, cite incidents of deliberate provocation. There is no means of telling where the truth lies and to what extent emotion has given rise to hyperbole. Certainly in Johannesburg the predominant feeling is that Inkatha (or those posing as its members) are the greater transgressors. The perspective could be very different elsewhere.

An Inkatha spokesman on Radio 702 last Friday made some telling points in its favour. For instance, that unlike the ANC, it has not been involved in the terrorist war waged against SA until last year. It does not have a warlord touring abroad saying that unrest is in its interest. It has been against sanctions, supported a Bill of Rights and the individual freedoms implicit in a free-enterprise society.

That is all in sharp contrast to the ANC, which even now threatens a return to terrorism whenever it feels insecure, and remains very close to the SA Communist Party and the

disinformation that is part of Marxism's traditional means of masking its attempts to impose dictatorship.

Taken at face value, there were reasons for suspecting that Inkatha has become the victim of its warrior Zulu heritage and the clever manipulation of news and facts by its adversary. That is, until the threat by Inkatha spokesman Musa Myeni that it is about to unleash 100 000 or more of its fighters on Soweto.

This appeared at first to be repudiated by KwaZulu Chief Minister and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, but later newspaper reports say he had merely been briefed late by the Transvaal leadership. We are not sure that is true. However, if in his earlier statement he did repudiate Myeni, what he said certainly lacked the rebuke that would be expected from the organisation described above.

Buthelezi has said before that violence has now reached the proportions of civil war. We think that an exaggeration; but unless Inkatha rethinks its position and swiftly repudiates its threat, Buthelezi may now tip the balance. We are sure that won't be a matter of satisfaction to him or his supporters. Of course, to plead for restraint after so much bloodshed is supremely difficult. But it is the right and civilised thing to do. ■

INDUSTRIAL SHARE PRICES

232

FM 10/5/91

# CAVEAT EMPTOR

It has often been pointed out that there is no necessary short-term correlation between the performance of share prices and underlying intrinsic economic conditions. The recent succession of new highs set by the JSE industrial share index serves only to underline this.

Consider: we are into the third year of the longest recession since 1945, with no significant relief in prospect until next year; company profits are being squeezed between rising costs (especially of debt financing and labour) and competitive market conditions which prevent prices being adjusted to compensate; and large parts of the townships are, literally, in flames.

Of course, in a closed market the normal relationships do not prevail. The institutions through which the bulk of individuals now channel their savings have some option in terms of timing, but in the long run have nowhere else to deploy much of their massive cash flow except the JSE.

This flow of funds has not been matched by a corresponding increase in the supply of scrip. There are few new listings (which is not entirely a bad thing, if you recall what has happened to so many of the companies that came to market in 1987-1988) and, with fixed investment at a low ebb, there

is not the same flow of rights issues by already listed companies as is found in (say) London or New York.

The fact that tax uncertainties lock so many big investors into their existing portfolios in effect limits the supply of scrip even further.

In an inflationary society there is always a case for investment media that give some hedge against inflation. Equities have certainly provided that for many decades.

But given the uncertainties, can one really justify a dividend yield of barely 3% on the industrial index? And remember that a new world of positive real interest rates may create new forms of protection against inflation.

Bulls would argue that the market — as so often — is already discounting the next economic upturn, and claim that the narrowing financial rand discount shows growing confidence in SA among foreign investors.

That may be, but we wouldn't mind betting that if the financial rand market were thrown open to residents as well, that discount would balloon again.

None of this is to suggest that investors should switch all their industrial shares into cash; but in considering new investments, they should look for real intrinsic value. ■

factories in Walvis Bay have to process the fish on behalf of the quota-holder.

This imposition aims to keep as many Namibians as possible employed in the industry. Moreover, organisations that are seen to be enhancing the quality of workers' lives by, say, providing housing, are almost certain to be rewarded with additional quotas.

These quota conditions started being enforced in 1987. Revenue generated by the State has increased to R20m in 1990 from the first year's R2m. Particularly for SA-registered companies the quota conditions and actual allocations, some of which appeared to be arbitrarily reduced, created uncertainty and insecurity. This led to confrontation with some SA-registered companies and is the reason for some, notably Namfish, Namsea, Oceana and Willem Barendsz, selling up and taking their investment out of Namibia.

There is a good dose of scepticism — particularly among fishermen — about whether the blame for the depletion of fish stocks off Namibian and SA coasts can be laid at the door of the fishing industry. Argument rages back and forth between fishermen and scientists on whether stocks are depleted because they have been fished out or whether the resource has been influenced by some environmental factor that the scientists have not been able to identify.

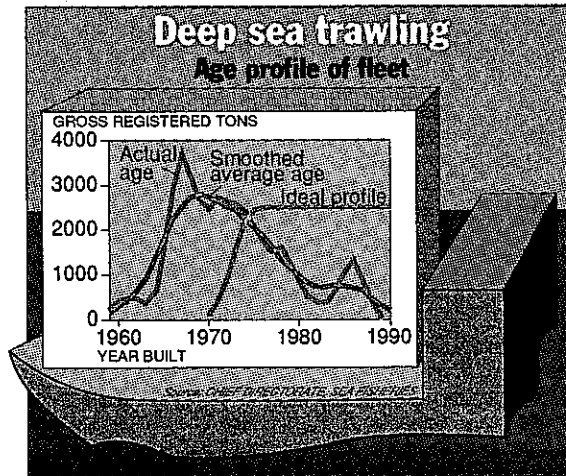
At the moment, reality seems to point to both causes, with the scales tipped against overfishing as the main factor.

Anchovy resource is a case in point. SA Sea Fisheries director Louis Botha explains that the quota for anchovies is determined by the results of regular biomass estimates from the research vessel *Africana*. For the past few years, the objective has been to leave about 1 Mt anchovy in the sea at the end of each fishing season to ensure adequate spawning.

In 1987 and 1988, says Botha, after catching 600 000 t each year, the strategy seemed to work well. But in 1989 and 1990, even though the scientists established that at least 1 Mt had been left in the sea, spawning failed, the biomass declined and quotas, much to fishermen's dismay, were drastically cut.

The reason for the spawning failure remains unknown. This emphasises the need for adequate research, the first goal being to maintain the biomass at optimum levels. Natal Trawling chairman Jack Walsh maintains there are too many bodies doing research: various universities, the Natal Parks Board, the Oceanographic Institute and Sea Fisheries. The problem is, he reckons, that there is not much co-operation between them, with the result that there is a good deal of overlapping.

The Sea Fisheries Research Institute of the Department of Environment Affairs has an annual budget of about R15m funded by



central government and a R6m contribution from levies on commercial fishing enterprises. If funding continues at this level, Botha says the institute will find it difficult to meet the increasing demands in terms of resource management.

For this reason, every effort should be made to ensure that maritime research is coordinated at top level to avoid overlapping. Furthermore, government and the industry must ensure that sufficient funds are provided for the industry to function efficiently. No doubt government will argue that the industry should contribute more and vice versa, but the fact is that there are both altruistic reasons and extremely practical ones that make research a necessity for both.

How to fund the ageing and almost obsolete fleet has become a monumental problem. The fact that the fleet has become so old because the cost of new vessels has been too high to produce a return above the cost of capital. The average age of deep-sea trawlers is about 19 years — it should be about nine — and for inshore trawlers, almost 26 years. Almost no investment in new fleet took place during the Eighties.

The most important reason for not buying new vessels stems from government attempts to protect and grow the local shipbuilding industry. To achieve this, an import duty of 20% and a surcharge of 10% have been in place. If GST is added, the penalty for importing vessels amounts to 43%. What makes matters worse is that the cost of building locally is even higher than importing, duty included. Irvin & Johnson MD Jim Williams explains that local productivity is the problem. The man-hour cost is, he believes, nearly double that of Spain.

For years, industry representatives pleaded to no avail with government to eliminate the duty and surcharge. Now, however, with the authorities freeing so many of the previous protections of the private sector, the industry has greeted with relief the recent elimination of the 20% import duty. The 10% surcharge is still in place but when VAT is introduced in October, the cost of acquiring new vessels will be allowed as "input." The surcharge will then disappear. This relief

could not be more propitious.

Because of troubles in the international fishing industry, large three- to five-year-old ships — new, in our terms — can be obtained abroad at about 20% or 30% of the new cost. To this add 10%-15% for modifications to local conditions.

As I&J senior GM Charles Atkins puts it: "The shape of international fishing is changing; the world is experiencing the final fall-out of global implementation of the 200-mile national economic zones." He sees this as a wide open "window of opportunity" to replace vessels at truly low prices. It is, he says, a once-off chance that will never be repeated.

Up to now, all sorts of expedients have been resorted to to maintain the fleet's sailing condition. Even then, "efficient" is relative. The second-hand vessels that have been bought and old ships that have been rebuilt are seldom as efficient as new vessels.

As the badly depleted Namibian hake resource recovers over the next six to eight years, it is expected to be able to produce twice as much as can optimally be caught in SA waters. Atkins makes the point that, since it has a relatively small domestic market, "it can be expected that Namibia will vigorously attack our existing export and domestic markets."

Using the projection that the SA industry will have an exportable surplus of between 35% and 40% of output, it is a *sine qua non* that SA must remain "a dedicated international player."

Concludes Atkins: "If fleet replacement continues at the present negligible rate, the day may come when we will no longer be able to export profitably, no matter how badly we need foreign markets to offset large surpluses expected on the domestic front. Fleet replacement is therefore urgent."

Abolition of import duty on new and second-hand ships could mark the turning point for the fishing industry from second rate to a viable, efficient operation from which all will benefit. It will certainly be of great assistance in the financing of fleet replacement.

But the authorities' role by no means ends there. The private sector is not capable of policing coastal fishing waters. It needs the full co-operation of the navy if the biomass is to survive the historic depredations of foreign poachers.

Just as important is the need for continuous research. Adequate financial support for this is vital if the resource is to meet long-term protein needs. Without it any efficiencies in place now will simply disappear over the long term.

The fishing industry is at a critical juncture. Only if the biomass is adequately protected can catching efficiencies improve. Only with efficient fishing can enough profit be realised to make reinvestment in the industry's future economic.

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Own Affairs:

\*1. Mr T R George—Education and Culture.  
[Question standing over.]

\*2. Mr T R George—Education and Culture.  
[Question standing over.]

\*3. Mr W J Dietrich—Education and Culture.  
[Question standing over.]

For written reply:

General Affairs:

White mussels: applications for commercial harvesting

19. Mr W J DIETRICH asked the Minister of Environment Affairs:

- (1) Whether, with reference to certain information furnished to the Minister's Department for the purpose of his reply, he recently received applications for the harvesting of white mussels for commercial purposes; if so, (a) how many applications and (b) from whom was each received;
- (2) whether any of these applications were granted; if so, (a) why, (b) subject to what conditions and (c) for what areas;
- (3) whether his Department has called for evidence in regard to (a) the result of unlimited harvesting of white mussels and (b) the effect of such harvesting on the ecology or marine life; if not, why not; if so, what are the findings?

C88E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes.
  - (a) Two applications have been received since 1 January 1991.
  - (b) A J F Eigelaar and Sons (Pty) Ltd Team Seafarms (Pty) Ltd

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(2) Yes. The application of Mr Eigelaar has been granted.

(a) Mr Eigelaar's permit for 1991 is a renewal of the permit which had been granted to him with the approval of the Minister of Environment Affairs, for 1990. Continued monitoring of the white mussel population has shown that the allocation of a permit to Mr Eigelaar will not damage the resource.

(b) 1. White mussels may only be sold in quantities up to 50 per person to anglers for bait purposes and not to any business for the purpose of resale.

2. The permit is not transferable or negotiable.

3. The permit holder must supply all information as required in the catch return form to the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, Department of Environment Affairs on or before the 10th day of each month.

4. This permit does not give a right of access to public or private property and the holder must at all times comply with the regulation of local authorities.

5. If it is decided not to proceed with the sale of white mussels, the Chief Director must be informed and the permit must be returned to the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, Department of Environment Affairs.

6. The permit holder undertakes to comply with any further control measures which may be considered necessary and which may be prescribed from time to time.

7. This permit is subject to immediate cancellation if any conditions stipulated herein are not strictly complied with.

8. The permit holder may not collect, transport, sell or have in his possession more than 2 000 white mussels per month.

(c) The area between the Berg River mouth and the southern border of the Rocher Pan marine reserve.

(3) The Department of Environment Affairs does not consider applications for the unlimited harvesting of white mussels.

Own Affairs:

Pupils: routine medical inspection

22. Mr T R GEORGE asked the Minister of Health Services and Welfare:

(1) Whether any schools under his control are visited by medical inspectors for the routine medical inspection of pupils; if not, why not; if so, in respect of each province in 1990, (a) how many schools were so visited, (b) what total number of pupils was examined and (c) what was the percentage of pupils examined in comparison with the total pupil population;

(2) whether any pupils requiring medical treatment were referred for such treatment; if not, why not; if so, in respect of each province in 1990, (a) what was the total number of pupils so referred and (b) what number of pupils was referred for nutritional and related reasons?

C94E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH SERVICES AND WELFARE:

(1) No. Medical inspectors of schools were phased out in 1975 by the Department of National Health. From 1975 School Health Services are rendered by Senior Professional Nurses, who are trained to

carry out the physical examination of pupils. The School Health Services were transferred to this Administration on 1 September 1984 with a post structure as determined by the Commission for Administration and did not include medical inspectors.

(a) Falls away.

(b) Falls away.

(c) Falls away.

(2) Yes, they were referred for medical treatment after being examined by our school nurses.

(a)

Province	No of Pupils Referred
Cape	109 898
Transvaal	10 823
Natal	2 100
Orange Free State	1 467
RSA	124 288

(b)

Province	Nutrition problems	Over-weight	Under-weight
Cape	13 373	4 956	8 417
Transvaal	460	286	174
Natal	448	364	84
Orange Free State	122	—	122
RSA	14 403	5 606	8 797

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

# SA ban on foreign fishermen

S Times 19/5/91

EVELYN HOLTZHAUSEN

FOREIGN commercial fishermen are to be prohibited from fishing inside South Africa's 200-nautical-mile coastal zone, the Minister of Environment Affairs, Louis Pienaar, said last night.

Speaking at the opening of a new deep-sea marina at Hout Bay near Cape Town, Mr Pienaar said the SA Navy would enforce the ban.

He added that quotas and fishing concessions to the only five countries which retained permission to fish in South African waters would be phased

out in the next two years.

"Since the imposition of the 200-nautical-mile protected zone in 1977, South Africa has been able to arrest the plundering of its marine resources.

"Since then, only Japan, Israel, Spain, Portugal and Taiwan have been granted strictly enforced quotas. Even these will be phased out within the next two years," he said.

Mr Pienaar said the government had taken the step even though there was no

proof that marine resources were being "plundered" by foreign fishermen. <sup>3</sup> fishing

He said quotas granted to foreign fishermen amounted to only three percent of those granted to local commercial fishermen.

Mr Pienaar pointed out that the maximum fine for illegal fishing had increased to R1-million. Vessels and equipment of fishermen caught fishing illegally could be confiscated.

Countries in the Indian Ocean with which South

Africa has ties will be approached to outlaw the gill nets in the entire region.

Mr Pienaar's hard-hitting speech came in the wake of a "policy statement" earlier this week protecting coastal waters from exploitation by local commercial fishermen.

Marine environmentalists said they were "delighted" by Mr Pienaar's commitment to protecting sea life.

Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, said: "The minister has taken the first positive steps to preserve our marine resources for the benefit of future generations and a better South Africa."

He said the society had been urging Mr Pienaar to halt the "wanton exploitation" of the coastal marine environment by some unscrupulous commercial fishing companies and individuals.

# Foreign fishing in SA waters to be outlawed

By James Clarke

The price of crayfish — already R30 for a small tail in Johannesburg restaurants — is set to soar even higher.

And foreign fishing fleets are to be barred from any kind of fishing in South African waters, Minister of Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar announced when opening a marina in Hout Bay recently.

In his speech — without naming The Star — he referred to criticisms the newspaper had made of the fishing industry.

He said South Africa, since the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone was ratified in 1977 — had been “in a position to arrest the so-called plundering of its marine resources”.

“Since then only five countries have been permitted to fish under strictly enforced quota and permit conditions.

“Despite the relatively low impact these countries had and are having, it has been decided to phase out foreign fishing in South African waters for the benefit of our own industry.”

The countries — Spain, Israel, Taiwan, Portugal and Japan — have been told that the ban will be phased over two years.

Foreign fleets, said the Minister, took only 3 percent of South Africa's fish quotas. It would be naive to believe that illegal foreign fishing did not take place, “but the widely held view that South Africa's marine reserves are being plundered by foreign vessels is not substantiated”.

All the same, he announced that his department was getting together with the navy to step up control in South African waters.

Replying to allegations highlighted in The Star that crayfish were now priced beyond the South African pocket, Mr Pienaar said the prices were set to rise even higher.

He said a former Minister, John Wiley, had ruled that 10 percent of the crayfish catch must be offered to South Africans — even if it meant the industry losing out on the high export prices.

“It must be accepted that rock lobster and abalone are luxury commodities.”

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③ fishing

Star 20/5/77

in the year, well above the average nominal 1990 price. to 18 to 24 months' time.

## WB Holdings' sale 'timeous'

*B1 Day 28/5/91*  
WB HOLDINGS' sale of its Namibian fishing interests in October 1990 proved to be timeous, says chairman Robert Silverman in his annual review.

The group is now thriving on Cape fruit.

Silverman says the uncertainty of an annual allocation of a viable pelagic fishing quota by Namibian authorities had long been a concern to the company. It therefore sold its entire in-

*(3) fishing*  
**LIZ ROUSE**

vestment in National Fisheries of Namibia (Natfish), a wholly owned subsidiary. In selling its interest in Natfish the group disposed of its pelagic fishing interests, including its investment in Namibian Fishing Industries (formerly SWA Fishing Industries) and all its assets in Namibia.

The fruit farms thrived during the past year. De-

mand for Cape fruit was strong — thanks to frost damage to European crops — and particularly high prices were realised in export markets.

The easing of sanctions and efficient participation in world markets by the industry's selling organisation also contributed positively towards the handsome returns received for WB's product, says Silverman.

High export prices offset increasing costs for all machinery, materials and labour, resulting in WB's earnings increasing to 45,26c a share in the year to December 1990 from 1989's 36,38c. The dividend total is 21c.

The group has acquired Boskloof Farms with its apple crop for the current season. Boskloof will increase production by 40% and help offset a marginal drop in crops of the other farms.

Silverman says it is too early to assess final export prices for 1991, but doubts that the record realisations achieved in 1990 will be maintained. However, he expects WB will again enjoy good financial results this year.

### Changes in scrap process

**BRENT VON MELVILLE**

MIDDELBURG Steel & Alloys (MS & A) Stainless has appointed Tillmor as its receiving depot, quality auditor and melting batch preparer for stainless steel scrap.

In tandem with its overseas counterparts, MS & A Stainless is making use of a specialist stainless scrap processor, to process the scrap into usable raw material for melting in its electric arc furnace.

Tillmor MD Paul King said in a statement yesterday that in order to provide the service required by MS & A, Tillmor had invested in additional plant and equipment and was now able to process in excess of 1 000 tons per month, representing 75% of Tillmor's total production.

With the use of modern Spectrographic equipment, Tillmor is able to produce "blends" of otherwise non-usable scrap in the production of stainless steel, enabling MS & A Stainless to use almost all grades of nickel bearing alloys as a raw material.

## Germany's door ajar for Eskom

ESKOM is on the verge of signing a formal management agreement with Germany's...

**BRENT VON MELVILLE**

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COMPANIES

F M 31/5/91

③ fishing

**NATAL OCEAN TRAWLING  
ALONG THE BOTTOM**

**Activities:** Crustacean trawling off Natal and Mozambique coasts.

**Control:** Directors 44,8% (1989, 57,3%).

**Chairman:** J W Walsh.

**Capital structure:** 19,5m ords. Market capitalisation: R6,2m.

**Share market:** Price: 32c. 12-month high, 50c; low, 15c. Trading volume last quarter, 84 450 shares.

Year to Dec 31	'87	'88	'89	'90
ST debt (Rm) .....	0,1	0,2	0,6	1,3
LT debt (Rm) .....	1,2	10,6	9,0	7,8
Debt:equity ratio .....	0,22	2,0	0,8	1,0
Shareholders' interest	0,37	0,25	0,43	0,42
Int & leasing cover ..	11,5	10,7	2,0	0
Return on cap (%) ..	24,7	12,7	7,4	nil
Turnover (Rm) .....	4,8	13,0	15,0	12,4
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	1,4	2,8	2,1	0,2
Pre-int margin (%) ..	28,8	21,7	13,7	n/a
Earnings (c) .....	8,7*	17,5†	7,0	(8,38)
Dividends (c) .....	3	6‡	—	—
Net worth (c) .....	15	39	61	47,1

\* Adjusted for change of basis of accounting.

† EPS based on 14m ords at year end.

‡ Calculated on 19,5m ords of which 5,5m were issued in January 1989.

Only the crustacea could have been happy with Natrawl's catches in 1990. Turnover, well down on the previous year, barely exceeded the 1988 level. But there were many reasons for the operating loss.

The intended rationalisation between South African fishing interests off the Natal and Mozambican coasts on which Natrawl's chairman, Jack Walsh, had placed so much

store, did not materialise. The contract negotiated with purchasers of two large trawlers, which were renovated in anticipation of the sale, fell through. Against management's expectations, interest rates remained high. Catches in the first half of the year were not good. Two newly refurbished vessels had to be re-engineered, and there was a "lack of work opportunity" during the year. No doubt these were only a few of the problems that led to the 23% fall in tangible net worth.

But not everything is bad. Walsh reports that, because of the application of resource management in the past few years, there has been a substantial increase in the company's catch per unit of effort. And a small white fish quota in South African waters has been granted to Natrawl, in conjunction with Viking Fishing Corp of Cape Town. While a gross vessel operating profit of just R707 000 was realised in the first half of the year, the figure doubled in the second half.

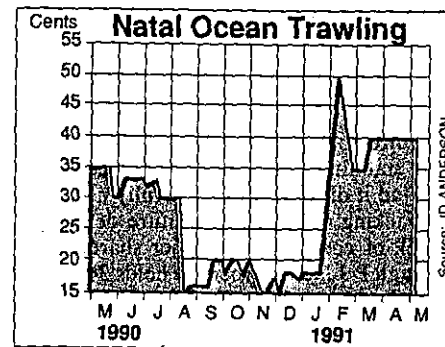
Walsh is optimistic that this trend means he is able "to anticipate a return to meaningful profitability this year."

Hopefully, this will be the case because the past two years' performance is a poor reflection on management's ability to assess prospects and adapt strategy and action accordingly. Walsh, an expert fisherman, is well aware of the risks associated with plucking *fruits de mer* — the results are never consistently good. He also knows that when the trend turns, it can be a very rewarding exercise.

The R5m rights issue announced recently makes a profit recovery a necessity for Na-

trawl shareholders. With 19,5m ords currently issued, the additional 19,8m shares to be issued at 25c per share means an effective doubling of the number of issued shares. Shareholders who take up their rights will therefore be looking for at least a doubling of attributable earnings (when there are some) if they are to be better off than they are now.

It is worth recalling that Irvin & Johnson (I&J) paid 80c per share when it bought 18% of Natrawl in January 1989. I&J then felt it had every reason to be optimistic about Natrawl's prospects. But in the fishing game, if you are not an optimist you have no



good reason to be in it.

The rights issue will eliminate much of the expensive debt which the company is carrying and this will help bolster the bottom line. EPS could thus improve in the current year. Even so, investors would probably do better to look elsewhere for a good return on investment in the short term.

Gerald Hirschon

# 'Fishy' aristocracy on its way to SA's west coast?

Star Foreign Service

(3) Fishing star 25/6/91

LONDON — Europe's aristocrat of fish — turbot — may soon be a familiar crop along South Africa's west coast as prices for its prized white flesh spiral in London and Paris restaurants.

Five South African companies have joined Chilean and Spanish counterparts in asking a British firm how to farm turbot — which is not native to South Africa — in cold-water tanks along the Atlantic coast.

They have the edge on foreign competitors as temperatures down south are perfect — cool, but just warm enough to encourage fast growth.

A fully-grown turbot of 2 kg, about two years old, fetches R64 in France.

It is, says one gourmet writer, "the fillet steak of fish".

World attention has focused on two Australian marine biologists, Richard Slaski and Paul West.

Together they run Mannin Sea Farms on the Isle of Man.

Their business now exports up to 500 000 young turbot "chicks" a year, no bigger than a thumbnail but worth R7 each,

around the world.

Mr Slaski and Mr West caught their breeding stock four years ago when they hired a boat and netted 150 adult fish which were swiftly released into tanks and flown back to the Isle of Man. All but one survived.

Today the turbot have been separated into five breeding pens. By subjecting them to artificial light, replicating European summer daylight, the biologists have tricked them into producing eggs all year round.

Mr West said he had several South African customers interested in buying juvenile stock.

"South Africa had a brief but unhappy stab at fish farming when they tried to rear salmon. South Africans, like Australians, seem only to switch from meat to fish when the price is attractive — and salmon were just too costly to produce.

"However, turbot is highly prized on the export market. Changes in your country mean the market is opening, and areas like Saldanha Bay would be just perfect.

"You could be on to a winner."



Weekend Argus Reporter

HAKE, kingklip and pilchards are in danger of becoming as pricey and rare as crayfish as a result of disastrous fishing "experiments" and the plundering of breeding stock in local waters.

A six-year experimental granting of licences for long-line kingklip fishing has depleted the breeding stock to the extent that we now have to import it.

More than R10 million worth of kingklip was imported over the last year from Chile and Argentina.

Kingklip will soon be as rare and as expensive as crayfish — for which a 30 percent cut in next season's allowable catch was foreseen this week by officials.

To add to consumers' problems, hake now costs 30 percent more than it did 18 months ago — and it is claimed that we are having to pay export prices for it.

The other staple, pilchards, has been so over-fished in South African waters that almost 50 percent of the fish used locally is imported from Namibia. A couple of years ago, when catches were down to less than 40 000 tons, we were importing the fish from Chile and Peru — yet in the 1960s catches were as high as 410 000 tons.

Kingklip is becoming a luxury, but hake and pilchards are staples and an important protein food. Price increases contribute to food price inflation, now running at 17,5 percent, because they are used in many processed foods as well as in fishmeal — used for stock feeds.

Kingklip is a gourmet fish which is now as expensive as steak. A Cape Town supermarket was charging R25,69 a kilo for kingklip fillets this week — more than rump steak at R18,58.

It has never been an abundant fish and was always trawled as a by-catch of hake, said Dr Awie Badenhorst of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI). The catch fluctuated during the 1970s, between 2 690 tons in 1977, and 5 800 in 1973.

"In 1983, when Mr John Wiley was Minister of Environment Affairs, an experiment was started which allowed the use of long-lines for kingklip," said Dr Badenhorst.

The fishing companies found that the biggest catches were over the spawning grounds in the spawning season and congregated there.

The table on this page shows how catches of kingklip rose dramatically, then fell again, between 1983 and 1991.

From this it is apparent that huge quantities were caught on

Kingklip catches: Tons

Year	Trawl	Long line	Total
1970	2 900		
1975	3 382		
1980	5 293		
1983	3 415	1 042	4 457
1984	3 592	3 040	6 632
1985	3 400	6 970	10 370
1986	2 686	8 684	11 379
1987	2 475	6 452	8 927
1988	1 927	5 340	7 267
1989	1 639	3 816	8 455
1990	1 282	1 265	2 547

Source: SFRI

the long-lines in the early years of the experiment: more than 8 600 tons in 1986, making a total catch of more than 11 000 tons that year — five times more than in 1990. 1989 catches reflected the first adverse effects, with only 1 639 tons trawled. "We stopped the experiment in that year," said Dr Badenhorst.

There is a good deal of bitterness in the industry about the kingklip "experiment".

"We went for the kingklip in a big way," said a senior fishing company executive who refused to be named. "We treated the hake as the by-catch. Now many people are landed with enormously expensive equipment. A lot of us were making a great deal of money. We were exporting, too: two 16-ton containers a month."

Mr Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, commented: "We were aware that breeding stock was being depleted. We raised the matter with the authorities during the 1990 season and were told that the long-line fishing would be stopped at the end of the season, which had four months to run. It should have been stopped at once."

As for hake, Dr Badenhorst said that hake resources were in a good position conservative management policy. Hake is being exported, and foreign fishing will be stopped in two years' time.

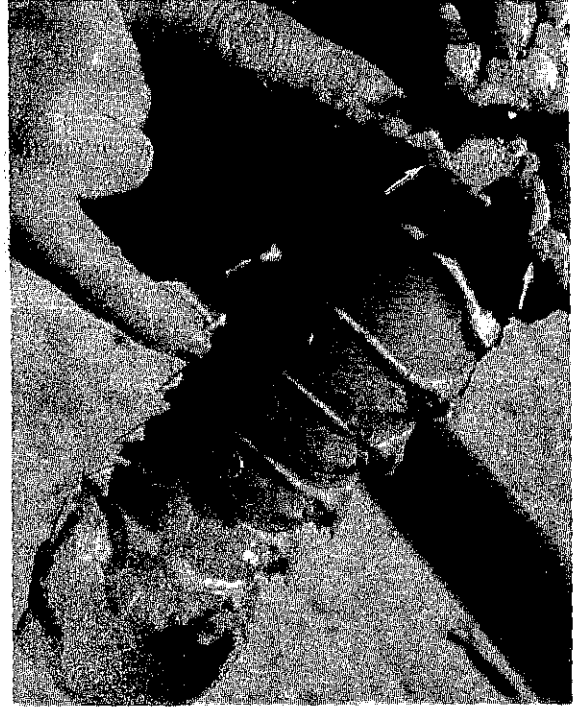
But there has been a steep price increase; hake now costs close on R7 a kilo in fish shops, up from under R5 in 1989.

It is claimed that apart from normal inflation, hake has gone up 30 percent during the last 18 months because we are being made to pay export prices — as we are for crayfish.

But said Mr Eckhardt Kramer, chairman of Sea Harvest — one of the biggest hake fishing and processing companies: "Hake is the predominant whitefish and there are so many hake products on the market that we would be fools to price ourselves out of the market."

A spokesman for Irvin and Johnson said: "I doubt it that export prices are being paid. It is a very competitive market."

# Hake, pilchards going way of crayfish — alas



**GENDER BAN . . .** A female West Coast rock lobster (left) has noticeably larger flaps on its tail. Genital openings are at the base of the third pair of walking legs (arrow). A male lobster (right) has much smaller flaps on its tail, and genital openings at the base of the fifth pair of walking legs (arrow).

# Govt bans catching of female <sup>③ fishing</sup> crayfish

CT 13/7/91

Staff Reporter

**THE** capture of female crayfish has been banned by government as a new measure to save dwindling Cape crayfish resources.

The new move was announced by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, yesterday. The ban will be in force from next season, which starts in October.

This follows declining catches over the past two seasons. In the 1989/90 season catches were 10% under quota and this season was extended to allow fisherman to make up a 30% quota shortage.

Mr Pienaar said in a statement yesterday that only about 70% of the total allowable catch was likely to be caught this season due to a "serious crisis" that dramatically retarded the growth rate

## Huge Hout Bay snoek catch

Staff Reporter

**SNOEK** fishermen in Hout Bay landed a bumper catch yesterday when a large run was intercepted just off the Knoll, close to the Hangberg.

A crowd of curious bystanders and eager hawkers gathered on the quay as up to 40 boats — loaded to the gunwales — came in and hurried to off-load before heading for a second catch.

Commercial ski-boat skipper Mr Godfrey Werth said the more successful boats were recording catches of up to 50 snoek a man, the "best run in months". He said his small boat had brought in snoek worth about R1 400 yesterday morning. The fish were selling at between R6 and R8 each.

of rock lobster.

"It was determined that the ribbed mussel population, the most important food source for rock lobster, is substantially smaller than in previous years.

"This was clearly caused by unfavourable conditions in the sea, the precise nature of which

is still being investigated," he said.

The minister's action was supported yesterday by Mr James Kroukamp, chairman of the West Coast Rock Lobster Sea Management Association, which represents the industry.

He said Mr Pienaar had consulted the organisa-

tion and been advised that although females represented only about 2% of the 3 790-ton seasonal quota, returning them to the sea would contribute to the breeding stock.

The skipper of a crayfish boat in Hout Bay harbour, Mr Jacobus Pieters, said up to 25% of a catch was female up until about three years ago.

He couldn't explain the drop in catching figures for females, but slated the government move, saying that the caught females would die of oxygen deprivation after being returned to the sea anyway.

Mr Pienaar said the ban on females was an interim conservation measure while scientific advice on the new total allowable catch and other resource protection measures was awaited.

# Taiwan boats 'not quitting Cape Town'

③ - FISHING  
Staff Reporter CT 22/8/91

TAIWAN'S fishing industry is not planning to abandon its base in Cape Town for one in Madagascar, the Port Captain, Captain Bill Shewell, said yesterday.

He said remarks attributed to him in Saturday's Cape Times had not come from him, but apparently from a marine controller in his office.

He said it would make no sense for the Taiwanese to stop using Cape Town. "Tunny are migratory fish which run from South America to Australia, and the tunny boats operate from Las Palmas, Montevideo, Cape Town and Port Louis.

"The boats that come in to Cape Town fish in the Southern Atlantic (down towards Antarctica) and those operating out of Port Louis in Mauritius fish in the Indian Ocean. Port Louis has been crowded and an additional Indian Ocean port has been sought for that side of the operation.

"If fishing vessels operating in the Indian Ocean were to come to South Africa at all, it would make more sense for them to stop in Durban or Port Elizabeth rather than Cape Town."

A spokesman at the Taiwanese embassy said nothing was known of any supposed withdrawal from Cape Town.

# Natrawl hauls in a decisive comeback

*B/day 3/9/91*      *(3) fishing*

NATAL Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) staged a decisive comeback in the six months to June with attributable profits of R1,10m, a turnaround of R3,79m since the December year-end.

At the interim stage last year Natrawl reported an attributable loss of 3,29c a share.

At the year-end the loss had widened to 8,38c a share (over R1,63m).

The position has been reversed into positive earnings of 5,56c a share for the six months to June.

Turnover was down marginally from R5,48m to R5,37m, but gross income from fishing more than doubled from R708 000 to R1,81m.

The joint crustacean trawling enterprise with the Mozambican fishery contributed R192 000 to earnings since starting operations in March this year.

Natrawl chairman Jack Walsh said that the R5m rights issue held in June this year would considerably reduce the cost of borrowings in the second half of the year.

The company's interest bill dropped from R1,37m in the first half of 1990 to R366 000 in the past six months.

However, directors warn in the interim report that the additional 19,795-million shares resulting from the rights issue would dilute earnings for the full year. Natrawl last paid a dividend in 1988.

Walsh did not comment on restoration of

LIZ ROUSE

a dividend.

However, he said he saw no reason why the interim level of earnings should not be maintained for the full year.

Walsh said the catch in Natal had stabilised at a satisfactory level, through applying resource management techniques.

Walsh said that Natrawl had contracted an Australian fishing consultant to reassess its technological approach to the inshore prawn banks of Natal.

## Capital

In addition to upgrading fishing equipment and nets, the consultant would advise the company on its expanding activities in Mozambique.

Although this meant that the company would be spending additional capital on its vessels, he said this had already been more than justified by the results achieved to date.

He was confident that the full benefits of the consultant's recommendations would be seen in terms of increased landings next season.

He said the Mozambican company's fishing quotes were increasing steadily.

Natrawl shares are currently trading at 25c, down from a year's high of 50c in February this year.



BUSINESS

# Environmental factors knock crayfish trade

Bl Day 6/9/91

LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Oil prospectors and geologists have long known the significance of fossil and sub-fossil species of the Crustacean family.

Many a major mining decision has been taken and many an oil strike made on the basis of analysing the remains of the lowly crab, lobster, shrimp, prawn or crayfish.

Although generally regarded as scavengers of the rivers and sea, man's jaded appetite has catapulted many of the species into the gastronomic limelight.

The crayfish, one of the mainstays of the Cape fishing economy is, however, now in short supply.

While the gourmet may be suffering, seals — those doe-eyed darlings of the conservationists — indiscriminately chomp the delicacy, shell and all, unrestricted by any artificial legal restraints.

Conservative estimates put annual seal consumption of rock lobster at 34 000 tons. That is more than eight times the total quota allocated to crayfish catchers in SA during the past season and about 34 times the quantity of crayfish sold on the domestic market.

## Markup

What the estimated 2-million seals along SA's coastline consume could be a source of great profit for some restaurant owners, who happily add 300% to the purchase price of a crayfish, now a delicacy few can afford.

SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) GM Steve Malherbe says the wholesale price of a kilogram of crayfish is about R25, which works out to about R12-R15 a crayfish after taking into account distribution costs. It is not uncommon for restaurants to charge close to R50 a crayfish.

"It is well known that some restaurants take a 300% markup," Malherbe says.

Even visitors to the crayfish catching centres of Hout Bay and West Coast fishing villages are not spared. Comparatively speaking, quota holders' earnings are modest. Last year the West Coast crayfish industry's sales grossed about R100m.

Nevertheless, Malherbe says, the local price is well below the \$22 charged for the much sought after SA

crayfish on the export market.

On top of spectacular markups in restaurants, consumers have suffered from the relative shortage of supply, while fishing companies have been hit by diminished revenues.

About 25% of this year's 3 790-ton quota — about 3-million crayfish — was thrown back into the sea because it was undersized.

Unless the minimum size is reduced from its current 89mm length, this year's total quota — based on research into existing stock — could be 25% to 30% lower, says Sea Fisheries acting chief director Dr Louis Botha. He says scientists are investigating the effect a reduction of the minimum legal harvesting size would have on the reservoir of crayfish, and will submit their recommendation within the next month.

"A reduction of this size in the quota will have drastic repercussions for the rock lobster industry along the West Coast. Factories will have to close, people be laid off and export markets will be lost," Botha says.

Also suffering is the small but burgeoning lobster bisque market.

Lovers and manufacturers of the tantalising soup are bemoaning the loss of the crayfish shell — vital to the delicacy.

Normally crayfish grow about 5mm to 6mm a season after they have moulted.

They have done so for years and thus the total quota has remained roughly stable for the last decade. But because of environmental factors affecting their main source of food, the ribbed mussel, they are only growing 1mm a season, which considerably lengthens the time it takes before they reach the minimum permissible length for harvesting.

Botha says there is a vast reservoir of crayfish beneath this level, but adds that attempts to feed them artificially have not been particularly successful.

About 75% of SA's crayfish are exported, mainly to Japan, where they are in great demand as a delicacy offered to guests at wedding ceremonies.

Malherbe says the lifting of sanc-

tions will not see a major change in trading patterns towards the other major markets, the US and France. This is because the Japanese buy the whole product, which generates a higher yield than just the frozen tails much valued by US consumers.

Exporting to Europe, which gets most of its imports from the preferentially treated Cuba, is hampered by a 20% duty on whole cooked lobster and 25% on the live variety.

One could argue that the local price would fall were less crayfish exported, but Malherbe says it is difficult enough to sell the 25% allocated, especially in the current economic climate and with the tourist trade depressed.

The local industry is tightly controlled by government, which says it needs to protect the resource.

Quotas are granted to fishing companies, the largest (about 35% of the total quota) going to the Oceana Fishing Group. And the Sea Fishery Act requires that all marketing be conducted by the two privately run organisations, Safroc and the Cape Lobster Exporters' Association.

## Quality

Safroc represents about 44 quota holders and deals with the whole cooked lobster and frozen raw tails and the Cape Lobster Exporters' Association deals exclusively with live and whole raw lobsters.

Malherbe explains that the quality of the whole cooked variety is much better, as freezing crayfish and then cooking it normally entails weight loss and a deterioration in quality.

Apart from the quotas and the minimum harvesting size, other government controls include a limited fishing season which lasts from mid-October to end-June, limited legal landing points where inspectors check and book the catch, and specified harvesting areas.

Despite the controls, poachers and commercial fishermen frequently contravene legislation designed to protect crayfish. However, commercial fishers are barely deterred by the recent increase of the maximum fine to R50 000 from R15 000.

All of which is of no concern to the slippery seal, which catches his prey fresh, raw and kicking.

③ fishing

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## 20 tuna seamen missing

*Star 20/9/91 (3) fishing*  
CAPE TOWN — Twenty seamen are feared drowned after a tuna trawler sank about 400 km from Reunion in the Indian Ocean on Wednesday night, an SABC report said.

A spokesman at the Air Force Rescue Co-ordination Centre at Simon's Bay in the Cape said a French warship stationed at Reunion was on its way to the area.

One of the 21-man crew was rescued by a passing ship.

The name and nationality of the trawler is not known yet. — Sapa.

## Lower quotas knock Oceana

B/D ay 30/10/91  
B/D ay 30/10/91 LINDA ENSOR (3) fishms

CAPE TOWN — A low anchovy quota, a 25% cut in the lobster quota and the recession saw Oceana Fishing Group suffer a real decline in earnings in the year to end-September.

Earnings were maintained at 142,8c (142,9c) after accounting adjustments to consumable stores made in the 1990 figures. This was achieved on a 5,5% rise in turnover to R325,9m (R309m).

A final dividend of 65c (60c) was declared, bringing the total to 90c — the same as last year.

Domestic market conditions were tough with Oceana fighting for market share against chicken and red meat producers. In the battle to maintain market share margins declined to 6,5% (7,4%) resulting in a 6,9% drop in operating income to R21m (R22,7m).

Investment income also dropped slightly, but the bottom line performance was retrieved by the lower tax rate.

Executive chairman Walter Lewis said the performance was "most satisfactory" given the circumstances. He said returns from exports had helped cushion the effect of the economy on earnings.

About 50% of the total production was exported. Lewis said the international market was quite bouyant, especially for lobster.

# 'More fish monitoring required in SA waters'

JOHN YELD  
Environment Reporter

③ Fishing  
Aug 24/10/91

IMPROVED surveillance of foreign fishing vessels in South African waters by the navy and better law enforcement to check fish poaching have been recommended by the President's Council.

Responsibility for monitoring effective law enforcement should be vested in the Department of Environment Affairs and the Sea Fisheries Act should be thoroughly revised, updated and strengthened to address certain weaknesses, said the council's report on a new environmental management system tabled this week.

There should also be effective monitoring of the annual catch of all species to ensure their potential reproductive potential was not exceeded.

The report said a thorough survey of the coastline was needed to designate sensitive ecological areas.

A development plan for the entire coast, based on these surveys, had to be completed "as a matter of urgency".

This would help to ensure orderly development in harmony with the environment and causing the least impact on the natural environment and scenic features.

A working group should examine the need for additional marine reserves.



ment inside the building, and cleaning themselves  
in special showers.  
It was not possible to bring out the meat

# Snoek run 'best in eight years'<sup>③ Fishing</sup>

By CHRIS BATEMAN

HOUT BAY fishermen are having their best snoek run in at least eight years, with boats returning to harbour with 200 to 300 fish each yesterday and on Monday.

Crew members are delighted with the catches they made off Slangkop lighthouse and Sandy Bay, and some reported seeing huge shoals passing under their boats.

Yesterday about 30 boats — half as many as on Monday — put to sea, and returned laden with fish.

Explanations for the huge run vary from tighter trawling-limit controls being imposed off Namibia to warmer currents coming closer to shore this year.

But it was generally agreed that huge shoals of sardines have been trawled close to Cape Point in recent weeks, and that the snoek invariably follow them.

At Kalk Bay catches dropped from 150 snoek a boat on Monday to 80 a boat yesterday, with the fish reported to be "long and thin".

Kalk Bay harbour officials said the catches were fairly unremarkable for this time of the year, but that the season had begun earlier than usual.

A senior Hout Bay Sea Fisheries official said catches since the weekend had been "by far the largest I have seen in my eight years here".

The snoek sold for between R3 and R6 each.

The weekend's catches off Slangkop and Sandy Bay averaged over 350 snoek a boat, with fish selling for as little as R2,50 each.



**SILVER BOUNTY ...** Crew members unload snoek caught off Slangkop on to the quay at Hout Bay yesterday.  
Picture: ALAN TAYLOR

# After 49 years, Hester Basson is told to pack up and leave

5 Times 13/10/91 (3) fishing  
BY ZUBEIDA JAFFER

THERE are dark days ahead for fish worker Hester Basson. After serving the industry for 49 years, she will be one of many who will lose their jobs at the end of this year.

She was 13 years old when she entered the Saldanha Bay Canning Company — a barefooted young girl with her overalls hanging down to her ankles.

As the crisis in South Africa's fishing industry reaches critical proportions, "her company" — one of the oldest in the West Coast town of Saldanha Bay — will be closing down most of its operations, leaving her and nearly 300 others — mainly women — unemployed.

Life has been hard for this mother of seven but never as hard as it has been in the past few months when she sometimes worked for only four hours a week — some weeks earning a paltry R15.

## Quotas

She does not recall a time when fish was as scarce.

Up to two thousand workers in the fishing villages along the West Coast are expected to be jobless by the end of the year as the government drastically reduces fishing quotas.

The remaining 5 000 employees in the industry face short-time and lowered earnings.

For Hester Basson, things have never been as hard.

"Fish used to be in abundance. We got fish to eat but now we cannot carry a fish-bone out of the factory," she said.

"We helped to build this factory. When we were youngsters we carried buckets of water on our heads from the tanks into the factory.

She does not expect to be paid out much when retrenched.

"We are nothing in their eyes. I am just a small zero.

"If one thinks deeply, there is something that is not right," she said.

## House

There was a time when she lived in a house provided by the factory. She paid no rent.

Then the area was declared a white area, the factory houses demolished and the workers moved into council houses where they had to pay rent.

Being the oldest worker in the factory, she has established herself over many years. The rent which she pays to the council qualifies her to eventually own her house. She is one of the few in the fishing village who



HESTER BASSON  
'We built factory'

has had electricity installed in her home. This is not provided by the local authority.

An old-age pension will help her survive once her eight weeks' retrenchment pay has been used up.

Her co-workers are younger and less established. Some are taking their children out of school in the hope that they could find some work to supple-



JOBLESS ... some of the West Coast fishermen who have been retrenched  
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

ment the family income. Others spend the little money they have on drink.

When times were better, they worked a full week and earned between R167 and R180.

As the crisis in the industry deepens, these women fear "their Saldanha Bay" will become a "ghost town".

For those few families who have their own little boats, there is still some way out. They sell their catch among the community and earn a few cents.

But for the vast majority, there are virtually no other work possibilities.

Agitated workers wondered whether they should blame the sea, human greed or government mismanagement.

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) was less uncertain about the causes.

Contributory factors include the lack of adequate legislation against gill-net fishing, little control over foreign vessels fishing in South African waters and mismanagement of the fish quota system over the years, resulting in over-fishing, the union said.

Taiwanese trawlers, said trade unionist Gertrude Myburgh, hauled in fish in their gill-nets and then tossed that which they did not require back into the sea. By then, the unwanted fish had already died, she said.

The government had also not put a stop to the catching of juvenile crayfish, resulting in a depletion of the crayfish resource. The country stood to lose millions of rands in export trade.

## Cause

The Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar has denied that the crisis in the industry had been caused by over-fishing.

He said the cause was probably unfavourable environmental conditions.

Foreign vessels, particularly from Japan and Taiwan, he said, fished tuna sporadically in South African waters, but from this year, only 90 Japanese and 30 Taiwanese trawlers would be allowed into South African waters.

He said Japan had been told its fishing in South African waters was being phased out.

# DARK DAYS FOR FISHING FOLK AS 2 000 FACE RETRENCHMENT

THE rapid deterioration of the fishing industry will leave up to 2 000 workers jobless by the end of this year — and there are no short-term solutions.

The country will lose millions of rands on the export market as crayfish catches decrease and entire West Coast villages — dependent on the sea for their economic livelihood — could be reduced to "ghost towns".

Last year a large number of workers were retrenched at Lamberts Bay and several smaller factories, such as Sandy Point at St Helena Bay, closed down completely.

But the panic began in March when the Saldanha Bay Canning Company, one of the oldest factories in the town, announced retrenchments.

The factory will close down most of its operations by the end of the year, leaving close to 300 workers jobless.

The Food and Allied Workers Union said the government had mismanaged fish resources.

Fawu organiser, Ms Shihaam Appolles, said over-fishing, fishing of juvenile crayfish and inadequate limits had been set on foreign trawlers entering South African waters.

She said the legislation regarding drift-net fishing had not been enforced and agents on the docks were helping foreign vessels to refuel.

In a memorandum to the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, Fawu demanded that South African shipping or other agents who supply drift-net vessels should be subject to the same penalties as the vessel owners themselves.

Environmental groups supporting Fawu's campaign on marine resources said drift-net fishing could not be blamed as the sole factor in the deterioration of the fishing industry. However, such

fishing was responsible for upsetting the marine ecosystem by literally "strip-mining" the ocean.

At a meeting with unions and environmentalists, Mr Pienaar said he was looking into means to make legislation stricter around the use of drift-nets.

Recent findings of the Research Institute of the Department of Fisheries suggest that fish and crayfish shortages were due to a gap in the sea's food chain.

Plankton on which anchovies feed, have seriously declined. Banks of mussels which crayfish feed on have been stripped bare. The result was that crayfish were growing slowly this year.

The response of the various interest groups to the crisis indicate that there were clearly no short-term solutions.

The government has agreed to avail an official of the Environmental Affairs Department to be part of

a working group to be set up by the unionists to monitor the enforcement of anti-drift net legislation as well as other relevant matters.

It has further committed itself to arrange through the Department of Foreign Affairs, a convention for the South Atlantic to discuss, among other things, the drift-net issue.

The union has called on the state to tax fish companies' profits to create an insurance fund for the thousands of workers who face retrenchments or drastically reduced earnings.

These demands were reinforced at Fawu's National Fish Conference in April where workers from fishing villages as far afield as Namaqualand met to adopt a ten-point plan of action. Present too were workers from the fish factories of Port Elizabeth and the Transvaal.

They decided to call a joint meeting with employers across the industry to discuss their future.

# Cape's best snoek run in 20 years

**PETER GOOSEN**

**(3) FISHING**  
AR 2/10/91

THE Cape is experiencing its best snoek season in more than 20 years.

Snoek in their thousands are biting everywhere from Robben Island around Cape Point to Simon's Town.

The biggest congregations of the fish are at Buffels Bay near Cape Point, off Sea Point in Table Bay and off Slangkop lighthouse at Kommetjie.

But as a result of the glut on the market the price has dropped to an average of R2,50.

The premier offshore angling competition in the country, the Berg and Bols Club Invitational hosted by Cape Boat and Skiboat Club will take place from the club at Rumbly Bay from October 8 to 12.

Running in conjunction with the club contest this year will be the ladies national championships featuring the top three women anglers from each province.

Western Province will be represented by Joelle Row, Hilary Smith and Maureen Colyn.

The Berg and Bols has been running for about 20 years and attracts the top club anglers from around the country.

The first day of the contest, Tuesday, October 8, will be an optional fishing day on which all the fish caught will be tagged and released. This gives an indication of where the fish are for the official days of the contest — Wednesday to Saturday — and helps to establish data for the proper management of the tuna resource.

The official opening and boat draw for both competitions takes place at the club at 1700h on Tuesday, October 8.

Two more teams have been chosen to represent Province at national competitions. For the Billfish Nationals at Sodwana Bay the team is: Joelle Row, captain, Hilary Smith and Rob Naysmith. For the bottom

fishing interprovincials at Mossel Bay the team is Malcolm Felgate, captain, Marina Stemmet and Wayne Harris.

At the recent Western Province Deep Sea Angling Association prize-giving the following trophies were presented:

First Tunny of the Season: Barry Rose, Atlantic Boat club; CBSC Trophy, top angler offshore: Nic de Kock, ABC; Rodger Bosman Trophy, top boat offshore, Lady Ace, ABC;

Purglass Trophy, most meritorius catch: Maureen Colyn, 25,25kg yellowfin on 6kg tackle, ABC; Scarborough Radio Trophy, best performance by a junior, offshore, R Davis, FBYC; IMP Trophy, best performance by a lady, offshore, Maureen Colyn, ABC;

Tank Anziska Memorial Trophy, heaviest game fish lady, Maureen Colyn; Charles Day Trophy, heaviest game fish: Maureen Colyn, ABC; Atlantic Boat Club Trophy, winner of the interclub offshore, ABC;

Cape Boat and Skiboat Club Trophy, top angler inshore, Dave Dawson, HBYC;

False Bay Yacht Club Trophy, top boat inshore, Stormfinch, Andre Schweizer, CBSC; Transcape Trophy, top lady inshore, Marina Stemmet, GBBAC; Hout Bay Yacht Club Trophy, best performance by a junior inshore, Simon Fraser, CBSC; GBBAC Trophy, heaviest bony fish inshore, Hilary Smith, 11,40kg steenbras, ABC;

African Fishing Safaris Trophy, heaviest shark inshore, Quinton Botha, vaalhaai, 22kg, GBBAC; Atlantic Boat Club Trophy, top club inshore, Cape Boat and Skiboat Club; Penguin Trophy for sportsmanship, Clive Rice; The Tackle Box Trophy, heaviest fish junior inshore, Quinton Botha, vaalhaai, 22,4kg, GBBAC; Sedgwicks Trophy, most meritorius catch inshore, Dave Dawson, 10,25k steenbras on 2kg tackle; The Chairman's Trophy, Harry Lirini, GBBAC.

③ Fishing  
8/11/91  
Cape

### Fishing rights pact

PORTNET had entered into an agreement with 14 Cape Town fishing companies to protect their fishing rights for at least 35 years, the company said yesterday.

It said the move was necessitated by a stalemate between the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront Development Company and the fishing companies in Cape Town's harbour over land availability.

## Legislation on hake soon?

PROTECTIVE legislation curtailing long-line hake fishing — which was responsible for “thousands of tons” of catches of this over-utilised species — should be introduced “within weeks”.

This was revealed yesterday by Dr Louis Botha, regional Sea Fisheries chief, who said his information was that long-liners were targeting the threatened hake resource in spawning areas, taking thousands of tons of the fish. ~~FISHING~~

This was in addition to the total allowable catch of 140 000 tons for bottom and mid-water trawlers and was partly responsible for rapidly depleting the resource and sending market prices sky-rocketing.

(3) Fishing  
**SA fish harvest  
causes concern**

8/Day 21/11/91  
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Major fluctuations in the numbers of fish harvested off SA and the collapse of key stocks such as pilchards and anchovy are causing great concern, says a Foundation for Research and Development (FRD) report.

It stresses the Benguela region off the west coast of southern Africa — one of the world's richest fishing grounds — supported a fishing industry valued at more than R1bn a year.

"Work by the FRD Benguela ecology programme was able to show that the catch quota of anchovy increased by 300 000 tons in 1987," an FRD spokesman said.

The programme's objective was to provide the scientific information required to manage this valuable resource in a responsible and renewable manner.

The FRD, the Sea Fisheries Research Institute and UCT contributed to the cost of the programme, estimated at R20m.

About 130 scientists from different research institutes and universities were involved.

International evaluators said the programme had been successful in linking academics, management and the fishing industry and the remarkable scientific output had brought great credit to SA science. Over the past 10 years it had produced more than 50 doctoral and masters degrees.

# Department probes pollution of river

Biday 21/11/91

THE Water Affairs and Forestry Department is still investigating whether to prosecute the Atomic Energy Corporation for a huge spill of caustic soda from the AEC near Hartbeespoort Dam a week ago which killed fish and frogs in the Moganwe Spruit.

But the department is "very satisfied" with measures taken by the AEC to prevent pollution after 80 000 to 100 000 litres of caustic soda in solution reportedly spilled from a burst pipe last week.

Much of the spill had collected in pools along a donga leading into the Moganwe, which in turn leads into a dam a few kilometres away, the AEC said.

A month ago the AEC spilled fluoride into the same spruit.

Commenting on the latest spill, the department said: "It did endanger aquatic life to the extent that certain dead fish and frogs were discovered. This problem, however, no longer exists".

Rehabilitation measures by the AEC had been undertaken immediately.

Not only were land owners in the area informed without delay, "but three tankers were immediately brought in to start pumping the effluent out of the pools until the normal pH-level had been restored. This process was aided by heavy rains.

"From an investigation by the AEC it is clear that extensive measures to prevent pollution had been taken by them."

Meanwhile the South African Rivers' As-

sociation (Sara) has welcomed as "long overdue" the department's threat to prosecute the Maritzburg City Council for polluting the Umsindusi River with sewage.

"They have had nearly a year since the outcry which followed the Dusi canoe race during which 68% of the paddlers were treated — and some hospitalised — for waterborne infections," Sara Natal chapter chairman Graeme Addison said.

Sara represents professional river tour operators and guides.

Addison said it was not satisfied enough had been done to clean up the river, which feeds into the Umgeni to reach the sea at Durban.

"After this year's Dusi canoe race the Umgeni Water Board said R200m would be spent on an immediate programme to clean up the Umsindusi."

But Maritzburg City Council technical services director John Robbins said R600 000 had been earmarked for the year to June 1992 to combat pollution.

"The figure of R200m has nothing to do with the council and we are moving ahead with a priority programme of our own."

A major source of pollution — squatter camps near the river — would have to be addressed by the landowners involved.

Addison said although Umsindusi pollution was widely recognised, the Bushmans, Mooi, Umkomaas and Umzimkulu Rivers were also affected. — Sapa.

● Comment: Page 12

## SA fish harvest causes concern

(3) Fishing  
Biday 21/11/91  
GERALD REILLY

PRETORIA — Major fluctuations in the numbers of fish harvested off SA and the collapse of key stocks such as pilchards and anchovy are causing great concern, says a Foundation for Research and Development (FRD) report.

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# Oceana chairman expects group results to improve

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group expects an improvement in earnings in the year to end-September 1992, provided budget expectations are met, says chairman Walter Lewis in the latest annual report.

Last year Oceana's earnings stagnated at 142,8c (142,9c) a share on a 5% increase in turnover to R325,9m (R309m). The group was plagued by a low anchovy quota, reduced lobster catches and the economic recession, though export earnings helped to offset the lower domestic earnings.

Divisionally, the contributions to pre-tax income (including income from associated companies) were: fishing 43% (42%) or R10,6m; cold storage division 18% (18%) or R4,4m; trading and shipping 25% (24%) or R6,2m; and investment income 14% (16%) or R3,6m.

Lewis said the industry's rock lobster quota for the 1991/92 season had been cut by 28,6% — about equal to the previous season's landings. He expected this quota to be landed in full and that the division's earnings would not be materially lower than in 1991.

BID 10 12/91 (186) (3) fishing  
LINDA ENSOR

The quota is to be reviewed at the end of February 1992.

"The export markets for lobster products remain buoyant and the lifting of sanctions in the US offers further opportunities for the marketing of frozen lobster tails."

He added that an increase in the anchovy quota was expected, while the pilchard quota could remain the same as last season.

"Earnings from Cold Storage are also expected to improve following operational rationalisations but could be affected by the initial start-up costs and depreciation of the new Cape Town harbour facility. A conservative view has been taken of the trading division's performance, where business should improve with an upturn in the economy."

The 10 000-ton cold store facility in Cape Town is a R20m project being developed in partnership with Portnet and due for commissioning in 1992. Following a merger of Oceana's and ICB's commercial cold storage operations in October 1990, a total

capacity of 80 000 tons of cold storage space became available.

Lewis said the group had made considerable progress in restructuring and rationalising its operational activities to enhance profitability, once fishing and economic activity improved.

He believed the major challenge facing the inshore pelagic fishing industry was to operate successfully in an environment of steadily rising costs and variable total allowable catches and landings.

To counter this Oceana had "embarked on a programme in 1990 aimed at reducing operating costs and adjusting to the fluctuating fortunes of the industry. Substantial progress was achieved in 1991, through fleet and plant rationalisation, the implementation of procedures to improve yields and efficiencies and adjustments to staffing levels."

Regarding lobster, Lewis believed that government and the industry would have to confront the effect of poaching and abuse of the resource and suggested the need for a re-evaluation of the management of the marine environment.

## ANC urges govt on geelbek law

Staff Reporter

**THE ANC** has urged the government to place a moratorium on the implementation of a law which regulates the size of geelbek fish.

Speaking for impoverished Struisbaai fishermen, ANC general-secretary in the Western Cape Mr Tony Yengeni said nearly the entire community was dependent on the fishing industry which was being eroded in terms of the government regulation.

The latest government move to in-

crease the minimum catch size of the geelbek from 40cm to 80cm was the last straw, Mr Yengeni said.

"The last good fishing season was in 1988. Since then, the government's one-sided actions have contributed largely to the impoverishment of the community.

"We find it ironic that sports fishermen, who contribute nothing to the development of the area, are allowed to fish at Struisbaai at the expense of the commercial fishermen," he said.

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# Govt's geelbek law defended

THE Director of Sea Fisheries yesterday defended the government's recent law to regulate the size of geelbek fish caught off Struisbaai, saying the resource was an "over-exploited" stock, according to Rhodes University scientists.

Dr Louis Botha also criticised ANC general-secretary in the Western Cape Mr Tony Yengeni for stating the government had acted in a "one-sided manner" when it promulgated the law.

③ FISHING CA 19/12/91  
He said Mr Yengeni had inaccurately stated the latest increase in the minimum catch size of geelbek was from 40cm to 80cm. It had in fact been increased to 60cm.

"I can hardly see the government action as one-sided as the recommendation originated from Rhodes University scientists who were contracted to conduct line-fish research by the Department of Environment Affairs," he said.

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# Treasures from the deep

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**N**OT only do fish products form a major source of cheap protein for the country's poorest citizens, but they also provide valuable foreign currency through exports.

So how can this industry best be sustained?

And just how many fish are available for harvesting each year without putting the entire ecological balance of the marine system at risk?

These vexing questions have taxed the country's marine scientists and natural resource managers for years, and particularly over the past four decades which saw major fluctuations in the quantities of fish harvested and the collapse of key stocks such as the pilchard.

But are answers possible, given the complexity of the situation?

At the heart of the South African fishing industry lies the Benguela upwelling region off the west coast — so-called because cold, nutrient-rich water is periodically brought to the surface layers (upwelled) through various physical factors such as wind.

This in turn forms the basis of a complex food web which sustains vast quantities of marine organisms of all shapes and sizes, many of them commercially valuable.

By the early 1980s, there was a growing awareness that the management of the renewable natural resources in this system could not be dealt with piecemeal but had to be considered holistically.

As a result, the Benguela Ecology Programme was established in 1982 as a co-operative scientific research programme. The main sponsors were the Foundation for Research Development (FRD), the University of Cape Town and the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI).

The programme's overall objective was "... to provide scientific information on the structure and functioning of the constituent ecosystems, to complement the knowledge which is required for the management of the renewable natural resources of the Benguela Current region".

Since its inception, the BEP has harnessed the skills of some 130 scientists from a number of different institutions to help mould an understanding of the complexities of the Benguela system, so as to contribute to its effective management.

These researchers have included fisheries scientists, marine zoologists and botanists, physi-

**Fish are both food and a potentially lucrative source of income. With some of the best fishing grounds in the world, South Africa has a fishing industry worth more than R1 billion a year. A new report looks at how this vital resource can be sustained, writes JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter.**

cal oceanographers, statisticians, applied mathematicians, engineers, marine geologists and chemists from the universities of Cape Town and Port Elizabeth, the SFRI, South African Museum and Port Elizabeth Museum.

A number of foreign scientists also became involved.

Although difficult to quantify in exact monetary terms, funding probably exceeded R20 million during the past 10 years, if ships' time and the provision of the necessary infrastructure is included.

After a critical review of the programme's first five years, a key objective was set for a second five-year phase which started in 1987: to study the dynamic processes which controlled both the distribution and abundance of stocks of key species in the system, and in particular anchovy.

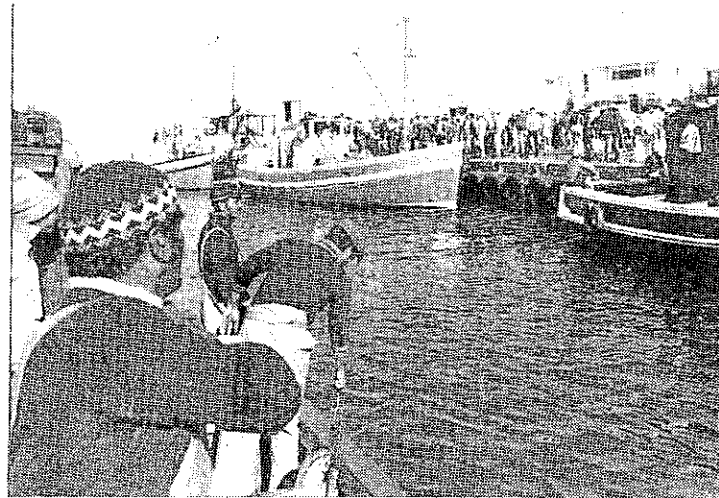
The anchovy, fished by purse-seiners, is a small and short-lived pelagic species used mainly for the production of fish meal and oil.

Scientists discovered that these fish spawn in the summer months in the vicinity of the Agulhas Bank to the south of the country, and most of the eggs and larvae are transported by currents up the west coast.

Recruitment (restocking) of the young anchovy takes place off the west coast and these juvenile fish work their way down again to the Agulhas Bank, keeping close to the coast, to spawn at the end of the year (anchovy mature at an age of one year).

Most of the fishing takes place on these juvenile stocks during their southward migration.

The industry caught about 300 000 tons of anchovy each year until 1987 and 1988, when sci-



entists recommended doubling the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of this species to 600 000 tons.

In 1987/88 the landed price of anchovy was between R81 and R86 a ton, making the increased TAC worth an extra R25 million or so each year — far in excess of the purchase price of the modern Sea Fisheries research ship *Africana* and the total FRD grant to the BEP programme since its inception.

The flip side of this coin of advanced knowledge, however, was that the scientists also discovered a huge decline in anchovy stocks as a result of environmental factors in 1990 and again in 1991, and the anchovy TAC was slashed to just 150 000 tons a year — much to the distress of many in the industry.

Ten years down the line, at the completion of the two phases, have the results and achievements of the Benguela Ecology Programme justified the overall expense and effort?

"Absolutely", say those involved.

They believe the programme has become a world leader in its field, acknowledged by the international scientific community and by the

South African fishing industry as extremely successful.

Advanced knowledge by BEP scientists now includes an understanding of the physics involved in an upwelling system, its controlling effect on nutrients and the resulting blooms of phyto- and zooplankton which in turn form the food source of the fish resources harvested by humans.

Their highly positive assessment of the BEP was recently corroborated by two eminent American marine scientists, who were asked to make a formal evaluation of the programme.

Professor B J Rothschild of the University of Maryland and Professor W S Wooster, who recently retired from the University of Seattle in Washington State, are both acknowledged world experts in fishery research and marine science.

Interactions among the many components of the Benguela system are "exquisitely complex", say the two professors in their evaluation report. But despite this, research has been of the highest order.

"The level of ecosystem understanding of the system is as good as anywhere in the world."

They noted that during the BEP's first 10 years, it produced 27 PhD and 24 MSc theses and more than 1 400 internationally recognised scientific papers.

The BEP had also had "remarkable success" in improving the interaction between scientists, disciplines and agencies, the evaluators added — in particular between departments at UCT and the SFRI.

"There are few examples elsewhere in the world where such a high level of co-operative effort on fishery-related problems have been achieved."

A third, more focused, BEP phase has now been approved and funds committed, although at a lower level than previously because of South Africa's precarious fiscal situation.

No one involved in the programme would be so arrogant as to assume that all the secrets of the Benguela ecosystem will be unlocked or that the management of its resources will ever be foolproof.

One scientist involved remarked: "Fisheries management is an exercise in gambling. The ultimate joint responsibility of scientists and managers is to ensure that this gambling is carried out intelligently."

Punters looking for good odds could do much worse than to back phase three of this ambitious and highly acclaimed programme.