

AGRICULTURE — FISHING

1997

Restructuring fishing 'may be necessary'

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — A restructuring of the inshore industrial fishing sector would be necessary if the recent low level of anchovy landings continued, Oceana Fishing Group chairman Don Ncube warned in the group's latest annual report.

"Production costs per ton of fish meal and fish oil have risen as a result of the low volumes and underutilised capacity in terms of vessels and reduction plants," he said in the report.

Last year the total allowable catch (TAC) of anchovy was reduced from an initial 200 000 tons to 70 000 tons as the season progressed. To conserve the species the industry observed a voluntary moratorium on anchovy fishing from mid-July last year.

Oceana's production volumes of fish meal dropped to 16 269 tons (30 666 tons) and fish oil to 1 331 tons (2 961 tons) last year but these declines were offset by firmer selling prices kept buoyant by international shortages.

Ncube also highlighted the increase in

abalone and lobster poaching.

He said the authorities had done little to control poaching, while they managed the country's fishing resources "extremely" conservatively. The lobster TAC had been cut drastically to 1 500 tons (2 000 tons) last season and more cuts were expected next season, bringing it down to 1 475 tons.

MD Dave Behrens said there was insufficient consultation by the authorities with the industry on the lobster TAC. He said that the reductions were "inconsistent with objective interpretation of data".

Ncube also complained that the Quota Board had not recognised the black empowerment initiative at Oceana which had resulted in a black consortium acquiring a major stake in the group two years ago.

He said he hoped an equitable fishing policy would be adopted which struck a balance "between accommodating the aspirations of legitimate and worthy new entrants and the preservation and promotion of a commercially viable fishing industry".

Ncube expected a satisfactory increase in the group's earnings in the new year. Im-

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port and export volumes of perishable products were expected to be reasonable; the rand's devaluation would be beneficial; and further real growth was expected in the trading and shipping division.

Capital expenditure of R58,9m had been approved for this financial year, principally in the cold storage and fishing divisions. Over the last five years the group has invested more than R100m in the cold store division in acquisitions and upgrading.

Despite the lower quotas and landings in certain fishing sectors in the 1995/96 year, group turnover rose 39% to R825,7m and headline earnings leapt 30% to 48,6c a share. Behrens said this was mainly due to the carryover of fishmeal stock and to "constant vigilance in containing costs, adding value and maximising efficiencies".

The contributions of various divisions to turnover changed last year with the fishing division's contribution falling to 28% (31,3%) and cold storage's down to 9,6% (13,6%), while that of the trading and fishing division rose to 62,4% (55%). Interest-bearing debt was cut to R8,6m (R12,6m).

- **ACTIVITIES:** Deep sea trawling. Processes frozen and chilled sea foods.
- **CONTROL:** ICS Holdings 62%.
- **CHAIRMAN:** H E Kramer. MD: L J Penzhorn.
- **CAPITAL STRUCTURE:** 101m ord. Market capitalisation: R531m.
- **SHARE MARKET:** Price: 525c. Yields: 5,0% on dividend; 10,9% on earnings; p:e ratio, 9,2; cover, 2,2. 12-month high, 625c; low, 485c. Trading volume last quarter, 3,6m shares.

Year to September 30	'93	'94	'95	'96
ST debt (Rm)	1,4	1,2	0,7	0,7
LT debt (Rm)	3,9	2,2	1,5	0,8
Shareholders' interest	0,60	0,64	0,48	0,66
Return on cap (%)	29,7	20,8	18,9	24,7
Turnover (Rm)	*318	329	361	419
Pre-int profit (Rm)	*66,8	58,2	75,4	84,3
Pre-int margin (%)	21,0	17,6	20,9	20,1
Earnings (c)	*44,8	40,2	49,1	57,1
Dividends (c)	26,0	19,0	23,0	26,0
Tangible NAV (c)	168,2	189,4	192,0	222,2

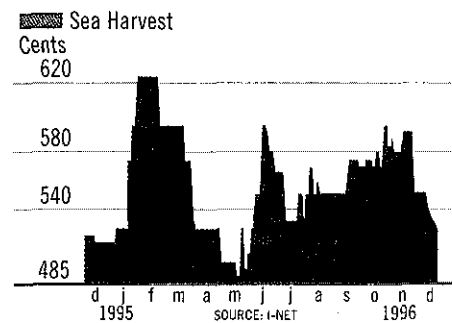
† 15 months. * Annualised.

Kramer, but increasing supplies of other white fish species softened the market and restrained price rises.

In SA, demand for fish weakened in the second half of the year as consumer spending withered. However, fish trading through the seafoods division buoyed results. A new range of nonfish products — brandnamed Copper Kettle — was well received in the market and new, added-value products were launched on the international market, particularly in Europe.

The problems that beset the Namibian fishing industry are reflected in the R5,6m loss incurred by Sea Harvest's Namibian subsidiary, of which R2,7m is shown in the company's accounts. Start-up costs of new plant was partly responsible. But Kramer says even though the total allowable catch for the industry was increased from 150 000 t to 170 000 t, Sea Harvest's hake catches there were not economical. The company's Namibian quota is now 10 600 t.

The balance sheet remains strong and



SEA HARVEST **(3)** FISHING

BEATING THE RISK

FM 3/1/97
Unusually poor summer catches and a successful winter season were features of the year to end-September. Yet, despite losses incurred by a Namibian subsidiary and dampened consumer demand for SA foods in general sales, earnings growth remained solid.

Favourable factors included a successful export programme, satisfactory local fish trading activities and new product launches.

International demand for southern African hake remained strong throughout the year, says chairman Eckardt

liquid but the cash balance has shrunk. After three fresh-fish ships were acquired for R18m, about R21m was spent on modernising processing facilities in Saldanha Bay and Hout Bay. Working capital grew and R30m was invested in short-maturity preference shares. Cash resources are adequate to finance planned capex of R37m this year.

Kramer expects the markets in which the group operates to remain firm. Provided catch rates in SA and Namibia are satisfactory and quotas are unchanged, there should again be real earnings growth this year. *Gerald Hirshon*

Oceana confident of good showing

LLEWELLYN JONES

③ FISHING

BUSINESS REPORTER

ARL 3/1/97
The Oceana Fishing Group's performance this year will depend on quotas and landings for the group's fishing division, according to chairman Don Ncube.

In the group's annual report, Mr Ncube said earnings from lobster and the cannery should be better in the current financial year, assuming the fishing division met its budgeted landings, while earnings from fishmeal and oil would, however, probably decline due to a lower carry over of stock and little improvement in the anchovy resource being apparent.

"Should the recent low level of anchovy landings continue, a restructuring of the inshore industrial fishing sector will

become necessary," Mr Ncube said.

"Production costs per ton of fish meal and fish oil have risen as a result of the low volumes and underutilised capacity in terms of vessels and reduction plants."

Poaching of the abalone and lobster resources also remains a problem for the industry and Mr Ncube criticised the authorities for not making any noticeable improvements in their bid to control the poaching.

"This lack of policing means that there is an ever widening extent of poaching which is having a negative on the distribution and development of the biomass, damaging the resource and doing a great disservice to the industry's legitimate employment opportunities, general economic development, foreign exchange earnings and contribution to the

fiscus," Mr Ncube said.

Performance at the group's cold storage division will depend on import and export volumes of perishable products. These are expected to be reasonable, but competition in the industry has heated up considerably over the past year with extra capacity coming on stream in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg.

Oceana is confident it can meet this competition head-on with capital expenditure of over R100-million in this division over the past five years, in acquisitions, upgrading and modernisation, allowing the company to maintain a pre-eminent position and its ability to offer competitive rates to its customers.

Further real growth in the trading and shipping division is anticipated, but at a lower rate than over the past two years.

Ocfish angles for higher catch limits and more consultation

CT 6/1/97 (BR) ③ FISHING

MARC HASENFUSS

Cape Town — Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), which is jointly controlled by Tiger Oats and an empowerment grouping, is hoping for a more positive direction from the government and the Quota Board in the near future.

In his annual review, Don Ncube, the chairman of Ocfish, said the Quota Board had so far accorded little recognition to the meaning and effect of the black empowerment initiative at the fishing, cold storage, and trading and shipping company.

Over two years ago a significant empowerment deal was brokered at Ocfish when the Acquisition Group, led by Real Africa Holdings, Cape-based Brimstone Investments and other investors, secured joint control of the company.

In addition, over 90 percent of Ocfish's 1 250 permanent employees have bought shares in the company.

"This partnership has been constructive. I believe it has had a positive impact within the

company and will lead to a more positive direction from the government and the Quota Board in the near future," he said.

Ncube stressed that Ocfish would continue with determination to secure greater participation in controlled species in the South African fishing industry.

He also argued that the management of South Africa's fishing resources remained extremely conservative in terms of commercial exploitation within total allowable catch limits.

This was reflected in an accompanying report by Dave Behrens, the managing director, who indicated that, contrary to expectations, next season's lobster catch had been reduced slightly.

Behrens said the lobster catch — which comprises a large proportion of Ocfish's export turnover — had been reduced to 1 475 tons from the previous season's 1 500 tons, despite a recommendation of 1 700 tons by the Fisheries Advisory Council.

"There is insufficient consultation on this important issue,

with the reduction of the past two seasons being inconsistent with the objective interpretation of available data."

Ncube, however, welcomed the appointments earlier this year of Pallo Jordan as minister of environmental affairs and Monde Mayekiso as chief director of sea fisheries.

"We are confident these appointments will provide decisive and clear leadership to the formulation and implementation of an equitable fishing policy, which should strike a balance between accommodating the aspirations of legitimate and worthy new entrants and the preservation and promotion of a commercially viable fishing industry," said Ncube.

Turning to the current year, he pencilled in a satisfactory increase in earnings for Ocfish in the year to end-September 1997. Through the exports of lobster, abalone, squid, tuna, hake and horse mackerel, the company would also benefit further from the recent devaluation of the rand, he said.

Soekor lands in deep water with fishermen

Edward West ^{(3) FISHING}

B08/11/97

SOEKOR has landed in deep water with commercial fishermen over the oil production and exploration parastatal's alleged failure to remove abandoned drill heads from the seabed off Mossel Bay, and a general lack of consideration for the well-being of the environment.

Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association secretary Roy Bross said yesterday that some fishing industry representatives were taking legal advice on the matter, but he did

not name them. Formal channels for such complaints did not exist, Bross said.

Soekor's first oil production facility — oil is scheduled to be produced in the first quarter of this year — is situated in the middle of the southeast coast's finest hake fishing grounds, known as The Blues.

According to SA Commercial Marine magazine, fishermen have already been forced to learn how to navigate around about 150 exploration drill heads abandoned by Soekor, and Bross said there had

been reports of fishing gear snagging on Soekor equipment.

"But the impact of production wells, connecting pipes and loading facilities for tankers could exclude the entire area to fishing operations," the publication noted.

Apart from the apparent lack of clean-up operations — in terms of the Mineral's Act Soekor must not interfere with navigation, fishing and the environment — the publication questioned why an environmental management plan had not been produced for the E-AR mining

area, which is specified in Soekor's mining lease area.

An environmental management plan had only been conducted on the E-BT field, a 5km² "no go" zone for fishermen where the first oil is scheduled to be produced. Soekor's mining lease in the mining titles office contained seven wells and covered 80km².

Bross said all offshore fishing areas were environmentally sensitive, and he believed oil production had affected fishing stocks in other parts of the world, such as those stocks in

the North Sea.

Soekor said it was unable to respond yesterday, but a statement could be released today.

After nearly 30 years of exploration, SA is scheduled to start its first oil production in March in a venture funded by Soekor and local oil company Engen.

Production from the E-BT field, which has a lifespan of three years, is estimated to be about 20 000 barrels a day, and could yield about 6% of SA's crude oil requirements over that period.

*before
hand cleanup,
also or their*

Mossel Bay oil field barely to affect fishing — report

Edward West

③ FISHING

209/1/97

A STUDY into the socioeconomic impact of SA's first oil production facility offshore of Mossel Bay found that fishermen should be excluded from an area of 5²km, which represented less than 0,2% of one of SA's best hake fishing areas, Soekor said yesterday.

The company was responding to reports yesterday expressing fishermen's concerns over the oil exploration and production parastatal's lack of clean-up of about 150 abandoned wellheads, and the fact that an environmental management study had been conducted on only one of two possible production areas.

Production of about 20 000 barrels a day of light crude by Soekor from the Oribi field, 140km southwest of Mossel Bay, was due to start next month.

Soekor said it had commissioned UK research group Fawley Aquatic Research Laboratories to undertake an independent study of the socioeconomic impact of the Oribi field on SA fisheries. The 5km² exclusion zone for fishing would apply for the duration of oil production, expected to last between three and six years.

The Fawley report also found that oil production would "not have any significant effect on the hake population in the Blues fishing ground", Soekor said.

About 144 wellheads remained on the offshore seabed from the Namibian to the Mozambican border, and were not concentrated in the Blues fishing area. Records of the co-ordinates of these were available to the fishing industry.

In the E-BT mining lease area, two of seven wellheads had been removed, but three would be used to develop the Oribi field. The other two might be used later in the development of the E-Ar field. If this field was considered for production, an environmental management study would be conducted, Soekor said.

Hout Bay fishermen attack police

CAPE TOWN — Police chasing four crayfish poachers fired teargas and rubber bullets when about 100 people attacked them at Hout Bay near Cape Town on Tuesday night, police said yesterday.

Police spokesman Sgt Vivienne Phillips said the police chased the four men up the slopes of the Hangberg in Hout Bay after they were spotted poaching crayfish.

Several gunshots were fired at them and the police called for reinforcements. Then police moved further up

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the slopes and continued the search.

Shortly before midnight they were confronted by about 100 people at Die Blokke, where most of Hout Bay's fishing community live. The group had barricaded the streets with burning tyres and other objects.

Phillips said shots were fired at the police and bricks and bottles rained down on them. Several police vehicles were damaged. The mob dispersed after policemen fired teargas and rubber bullets. No injuries were reported or arrests made, she said. —Sapa.

BD 911197

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(3) FISHING
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BD 9/1/97

Poachers, police in Hout Bay shootout

(3) (FISHING) CT 9/1/97



AN ATTEMPT to arrest four suspected crayfish poachers at Hout Bay yesterday erupted into a full-scale clash between residents and the police in which members of the Public Order Policing Unit allegedly hurled racial abuse and obscenities at residents. **LINDIZ VAN ZILLA** reports.

SIMMERING tensions between the coloured fishing community of Hout Bay and Sea Fisheries authorities over crayfish-poaching have erupted into violent clashes between residents and police.

Early yesterday morning Sea Fisheries officials spotted four suspected poachers on the slopes of the Hangberg. Shots were allegedly fired at the inspectors as they gave chase.

Reinforcements, including members of the Public Order Policing Unit, were called in, and a confrontation ensued, with residents barricading the only exit road with burning tyres.

Conflicting reports have emerged about what ignited the violence, but residents claim the police unit members acted "like wild animals", running and shooting indiscriminately. Several people were hit by rubber bullets. Others say they were beaten or pistol-whipped.

Residents also claim members of the unit shouted racial and other abuse at them.

Some of the coloured women were allegedly asked whether they wanted "to suck a white man's genitals".

The chairman of the Hout Bay Action Committee, Mr Patrick Presence, said that when he told some of the policemen this was not the attitude of President Nelson Mandela they directed their racial abuse at Mandela.

They shouted repeatedly: "Mandela is a kaffir" and "Mandela se moer" and "Who is Mandela to tell us kak?" and "F... Mandela".

The area was then turned into a battleground as police opened fire and residents hurled stones and bottles.

Ms Zulfa October was allegedly beaten, kicked and pistol-whipped and then shot in the face with a rubber bullet from close range.

She was trying to stop the police from dragging away her 14-year-old cousin, Ronald van Rooyen. Residents claim Van Rooyen was taken away by police, who claimed they were arresting him for public violence and taking him to Wynberg Magistrate's Court.

He was brought back only half an hour later, however, and claimed eight police had assaulted him in the back of the police vehicle.

He said they had told him to make jokes and sing for them and when he couldn't they had beaten him.

The police have opened several attempted murder dockets.

These latest incidents have again highlighted the continuing problems around the issue of poaching among communities previously disadvantaged and excluded from the benefits of the fishing industry.

Similar confrontations with authorities have taken place in Hawston and Arniston on the southern Cape coast in recent months.

The communities say they are forced to resort to poaching to survive. Hout Bay mayor Mr Dickie Meter said: "These people poach not to become rich, but to survive."

Poaching had started a long time ago because these people were not part of the industry, he said.

However, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dr Pallo Jordan has appealed to poachers to stop their illegal activities — or there will be no perlemoen or crayfish left in the next five to eight years.

Presence estimated that there were about 120 poachers in the coloured "flats" area, known among the locals as "the Harbour".

On nights when the weather was good they would make the 20-minute trek over the mountain behind their homes to Duikers Klip, a reserve, where they would dive for crayfish. Perlemoen were also frequently brought out, he said.

Poachers often made the return journey back over the mountain carrying bags containing as many as 200-300 crayfish. These they sold to restaurants for between R10 and R25 each.

However, Department of Sea Fisheries inspectors often lie in wait for the poachers to return home.

Fines of several thousand rands are sometimes handed down to these poachers when they are caught.

The situation between the authorities and the poachers has worsened to the extent that both parties have taken to carrying firearms.

Meter said some of the inspectors also wore camouflage uniforms in their attempts to catch the poachers.

Shooting skirmishes between poachers and inspectors occur frequently, with several poachers alleging that inspectors had taken to "firing at them upon sight".

Meter called for urgent measures to be taken,



AFTERMATH: Executive committee member of the Poachers' Association of Hout Bay, Mr Claude van Neel, and resident Mr John August with some of the empty police teargas canisters and rubber bullet cartridges that were fired early yesterday.

PICTURE: GARTH STEAD

The area was turned into a battleground as police opened fire and residents hurled stones and bottles.

following yesterday's violence. He said the number of poachers in Hout Bay had not yet reached the same level as those in Hawston, but that the continued exclusion of the community from the industry and rising unemployment would soon see an increase in numbers.

A recent influx of Namibians into Hout Bay has had disastrous effects for the fishing community. Whereas the local fishermen had previously been paid about R80 for every ton of tuna caught, the Namibians were willing to work for as little as R35 a ton, as well as being prepared to sleep on board the boats.

Hout Bay Poaching Association executive committee member Mr Claude van Neel said he had been poaching all his life. "I do what I do best, and that is to dive for crayfish. This is our livelihood."

On attempts by the authorities to stop poaching, Van Neel said he would quit not until his community was granted a quota.

He did have a crayfish quota, but it was only

valid for Kommetjie, which meant they "had to hire a car to drive there" and the smallness of the quota (16 trays) meant it was only enough to cover petrol costs.

This was in contrast to some of the fishing boats that came from Lamberts Bay on the West Coast to fish in the waters off Hout Bay, he said.

"We want a crayfish quota in our own area." A quota of between 10 and 20 tons would be enough to sustain the fishing community for the entire year, Van Neel said.

Contrary to many people's perceptions, poachers were not totally insensitive to the environment. He, in fact, saw himself as an "environmentalist", Van Neel said.

He recalled with anger the state of the ocean bed last year after the crayfish boats had fished the area. "The whole ocean bed was a mess. That really shook me, you should see what those crayfish traps do to the ocean floor."

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Poachers want to be legitimate part of industry

From Page 1

Van Neel said the poachers fished a spot for only a limited time before moving on. This allowed the crayfish to breed and grow again. He said the poachers would be prepared to look after the reserve if they were allowed to operate in it legally. This would help the state, which was too underfunded to patrol effectively.

Meter said attempts had to be made to accommodate poachers in the industry. "They don't want to poach, they just want a legitimate part of the industry."

Another major complaint of the community was the allegation that some Sea Fisheries inspectors were themselves involved in poaching and smuggling crayfish.

Presence claimed that when poachers were caught and their hauls confiscated, only half the actual number of crayfish sometimes ended up being mentioned and accounted for in court.

Hout Bay station commander Captain Sakkie Viviers said the

RACISM BY OFFICIALS ALLEGED

West Coast fishermen attack Quota Board

ET 13/1/99

③ FISHING

WEST COAST FISHERMEN formed an association at the weekend to tackle what they claimed were unjust practices of the Quota Board. **CYNTHIA VONGAI** reports.

WEST Coast fishermen accused the Quota Board this weekend of racism, nepotism and favouritism in granting certain individuals quotas with tonnage close to what was allocated to large fishing corporations.

About 150 fishermen met at Laaiplek on the West Coast at the weekend to find ways to address what they said were the unjust practices of the board.

The West Coast Informal Fishing Association was formed at what was at times a heated meeting.

The chairman of the association, Mr Lenny Davids, said that fishermen who had been disadvantaged in the past because of apartheid found themselves no better off in the new democracy.

"There must be a revision of the Quota Board and quotas must be allocated fairly," Davids said.

The association hopes to meet President Nelson Mandela and Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan to discuss the plight of the improv-

erished fishermen.

Davids stressed: "It is urgent we meet President Mandela and Dr Jordan because of the frustration that is building up among the fishermen. It worries me to think what may happen if there is no speedy solution."

Fishermen talked about the poverty in which they live.

Mr Charles Blaauw, of Velddrif, said it was hard to make ends meet with line fishing, and his home in a dilapidated caravan was proof of this. He has never had a quota, lives from hand to mouth, and feels this should change.

Blaauw said he was not asking the government or the board for handouts, but for a means to legitimise his work and so make a decent living from fishing crayfish and hake.

The fishermen claimed about 35 quota applications from 4 000 fishermen last year were rejected by the board and no valid reasons were given.

Mr Joseph Engelbrecht, of Lam-

bert's Bay, accused the board of being racist and looking after the interest of the already wealthy white fishing community.

"When I called the quota board I spoke to a Mr Du Plessis, who asked me if I was related to the Engelbrechts of Hout Bay. Unfortunately for me, I said no. I believe if I had said yes I would have received a quota because I soon realised that the Engelbrechts of Hout Bay had received several quotas over the years."

The board was also accused of deliberately ignoring the disadvantaged fishing communities.

Fishermen said they could back up their accusations with proof of the corruption in the board in the allocation of quotas.

The fishermen said they supported the recent action by the Hout Bay poachers against the police because "at least they are doing something to better their lives".

Some of the fishermen said they would have to resort to poaching if they were not given quotas because they had to feed their families.

No member of the board could be reached for comment yesterday.

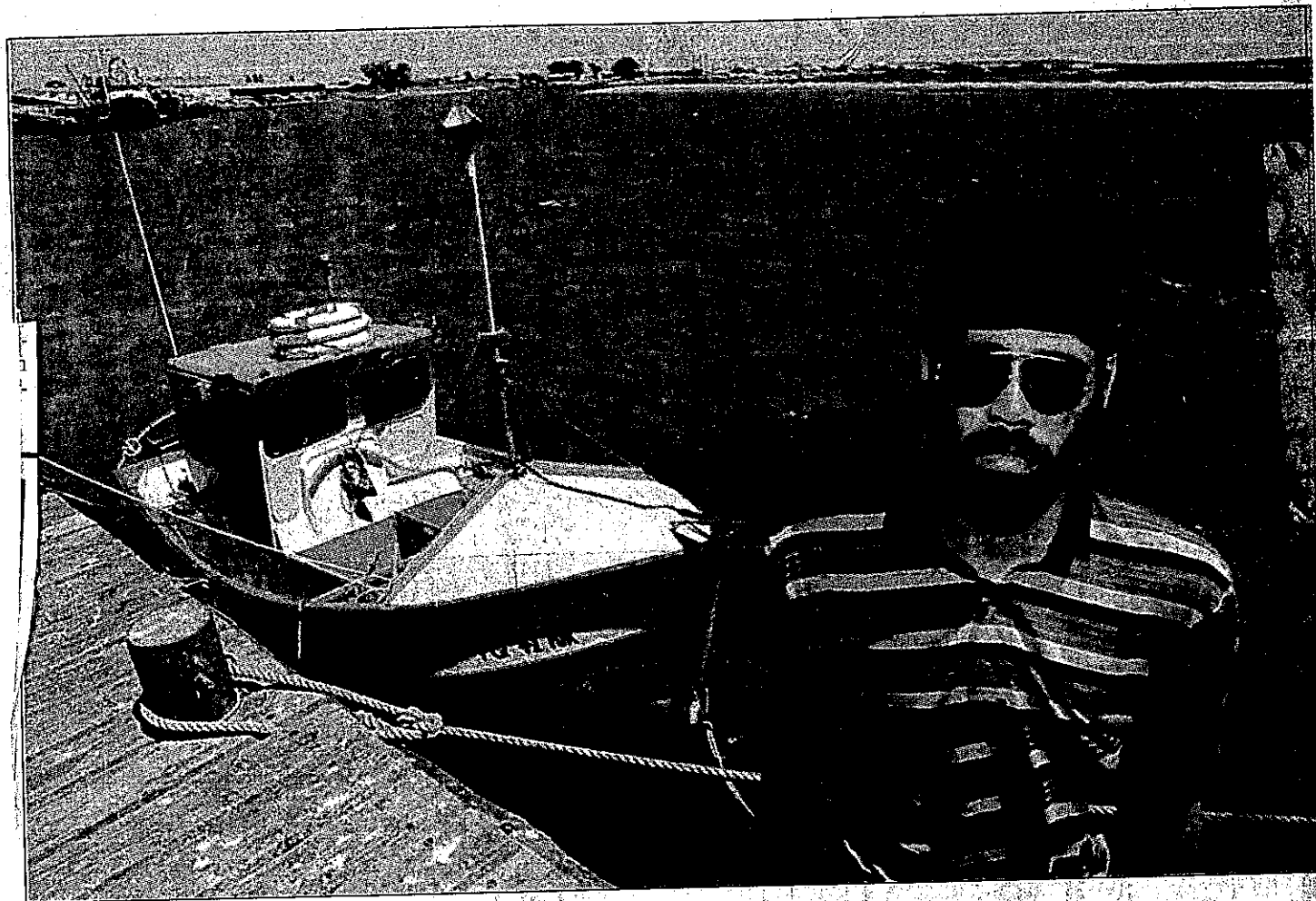


CONT. 20/2

POVERTY-STRICKEN: West Coast line fisherman Mr Charles Blaauw (above) shows the tools of his trade at his impoverished makeshift caravan home in Velddrif.

ROUGH LIFE: Another Velddrif line fisherman, Mr Johan Smith (right), demonstrates the risks that informal fishermen take when they go out on the rough seas in flimsy boats, like the one in the background.

PICTURES: GARTH STEAD



THURSDAY
JANUARY 16, 1997

'PRESERVE MARINE RESOURCES' APPEAL

Bid to resolve Hout Bay poaching conflict

CT 16/1/97
FISHING

A MEETING was held in Hout Bay yesterday to try to resolve the conflict between the fishing community there and law enforcement officials. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

RACISM in the Marine Conservation Inspectorate was hampering efforts for reconciliation between crayfish and perlemoen poachers and the authorities, Hout Bay mayor Mr Dicky Meter said yesterday.

After violent clashes between the police, poachers and members of the harbour community last week, a damage-control meeting was called yesterday by the head of the Informal Fishing Communities, Mr Andy Johnston.

Several people were injured in last week's clashes in which the residents erected barricades and threw stones, to which the police and inspectors responded by firing rubber bullets.

The police were accused of using extremely offensive, racist language.

Poaching has become almost a way of life in Hout Bay, with impoverished fishermen claiming

racist apartheid legislation had prevented them from access to catching and processing rights.

Meter said he would encourage residents to co-operate with the police and inspectorate, but said it would be difficult given their history of confrontation.

Resulting from yesterday's meeting, Meter is to chair a committee made up of fishermen, police and inspectors to try to resolve the impasse.

Members of the inspectorate at the meeting did not respond to the charges levelled against them.

Captain Sakkie Viviers of the Hout Bay police said residents had laid three attempted murder charges and two charges of assault after last week's violence. He assured the gathering all the charges would be investigated.

Hout Bay police station spokesman Sergeant Charlie Connor said local police had made

huge strides in transforming themselves into a new service, but that the law had to be obeyed. It was not acceptable for residents to hinder the police in their work.

Earlier, Mr Mandla Gxanyana — who chaired the Fisheries Policy Development Committee charged with formulating an equitable new fishing policy — delivered a message from Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan in which he appealed to residents and the inspectorate to work together to protect marine resources.

Gxanyana said Jordan wished to convey that he thought the police had acted harshly last week, but that unless resources were protected nobody would benefit under the new fishing dispensation.

Jordan would probably release the proposed new fishing policy in a white paper next month.

"The process has been a long one and I know that people have been suffering. But what the minister is saying is that it is better to secure the resources, because when the redistribution comes, there will still be resources," he said.

Unions want more say in fishing quota allocations

Pallo Jordan under pressure to act

③ FISHING 22/1/97

CLIVE SAWYER

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Environment Minister Pallo Jordan faces increasingly strident calls from trade unions in the fishing industry for a greater say in quota allocations.

The Cape fishing industry, already ebbing as each year brings increasing unemployment, faces industrial action unless the Quota Board is restructured, a major union has warned.

Big players in the industry continue to be at loggerheads with smaller fry over quota allocations.

The Quota Board reconvened this week. Major fishing companies, represented by the SA Deep Sea Trawling Association, said that the four percent of its share given to new, smaller, entrants, meant the big companies would have to lay off workers.

The new-entrant quota holders argued that the scale and economics of their operations meant they were more labour-intensive than the mechanised big companies.

The Association of Small Hake Quota Industries told yesterday's hearing at 120

Plein Street, next to Parliament, that redistribution of quotas was essential for its development and for the economy.

Among those before the board yesterday were some who had lost out on quotas.

FP Pretorius, whose Close Corporation owns only two boats, said he could not understand why his CC had not been given a quota in spite of applying for three years.

His application had complied with all the criteria laid down for the board's decision, including job creation and support for the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

At the hearing, representatives of the Food and Allied Workers Union urged proper consultation be used to restructure the industry, instead of the Quota Board acting unilaterally.

The union said it would urge Dr Jordan to speed up restructuring the industry. About 150 members of Fawu yesterday marched to hand over a memorandum to Dr Jordan protesting against the allocation of quotas to new entrants without "consultation and a democratic set of criteria". There was no one from the ministry to

accept the memorandum.

Mandla Gxanyana, the union's general secretary said that I&J and Sea Harvest had already indicated some workers would be retrenched as a result of the restructuring.

Norman Daniels of the Trawler and Line Fisheries Union said the board and the Sea Fisheries Act under which it operated dated from the apartheid era.

"There is a new constitution and everybody is equal. There is a new Labour (Relations) Act which gives labour standing but here we have no standing," Mr Daniels said. He challenged the Quota Board to say whether it was its job to create unemployment by cutting quotas. "Our people have had nothing more than sorrow and tears over the years...all that the Quota Board will be doing is adding to the crime rate and that is not your function," he added.

Quota Board chairman G Kotze said all submissions would be taken carefully into consideration. But at the end of his submission, this drew from Mr Daniels only the sceptical response: "I've heard that before".

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
By HEATHER FORMBY

Fishing giants indict quota board

③ FISHING ST (BT) 26/1/97

THE two big fishing companies which have dominated the deep-sea hake trawling industry for many years are coming under pressure.

The fishing quotas of I&J and Sea Harvest have been cut by the Quota Board, an independent body falling under the Sea Fisheries Act. The traditional competitors have now joined forces against the board's decision to reduce their annual quotas by 4% each.

Sea Harvest and I&J have applied for an interdict against the Quota Board's decision, stalling the implementation of

the cut. Each company receives a quota of 56 000 tons of hake a year, out of a total 153 000 tons. A reduction of 4% will mean 2 240 tons less and a loss of jobs and revenue.

Board secretary Fanie Fourie says quotas were allocated before the new fishing policy could be finalised "to accommodate new entrants, particularly those disadvantaged in the past and to increase the quotas of existing players to make them more commercially viable". He says the new fishing policy will not be fi-

nalised within the current hake season and some changes were needed now. Quota Board chairman Judge Gert Kotze was unavailable for comment.

For a change, unions are on the employers' side. On Tuesday, the Food and Allied Workers' Union marched to parliament in Cape Town to protest against the restructuring of the fishing industry. Food & Allied Workers Union regional secretary Willy Thomas thinks any restructuring should take place only once the new fishing policy has been finalised.

A White Paper on policy is being drafted, causing huge fights in the industry and a re-drafting after it was criticised for not being specific enough about redistribution.

Environment Minister Pallo Jordan, under whom the fishing industry falls, would also prefer quotas to be set only once fishing policy has been finalised. His spokesman says the minister cannot interfere with the Quota Board as it is an independent body. Jordan has met the board.

Sea Harvest MD Louis Penz-

horn says a 4% quota cut means one ship fewer and fewer people processing fish. He estimates a loss of 150 jobs.

Another issue is lower quality standards. Penzhorn isn't against allowing smaller fishing companies into the market, but says deep-sea trawling is a capital- and labour-intensive market and should be left to those which have the infrastructure and management to uphold world-class standards.

The controversy goes deeper with allegations that the Quota Board has given quotas to

smaller players in which members of the board have an interest. Food & Allied Workers Union's Thomas says he has names and is investigating. Though not admitted by Jordan's office, it is believed he is at odds with the Quota Board about its unilateral action.

In the meantime, Sea Harvest and I&J will find it difficult to persuade shareholders to agree to any capital expenditure as growth prospects are uncertain. Even if quotas are reinstated, it is unlikely they will be increased. Big companies are, however, already looking at other ways to grow, such as marketing pre-packaged products.

number of international participants.

last year between two of

MONDAY
JANUARY 27, 1997 ★

PROTEST AGAINST QUOTA BOARD

Fishermen threaten harbour blockade

(3) FISHING CT
27/1/97

WORKERS and fishermen have thrown down the gauntlet to the government over the Quota Board, which they claim still favours a few big companies. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

FISHERMEN and labour unions in the fishing industry have threatened to blockade Cape Town Harbour with their fishing boats and to disrupt the opening of Parliament unless the Quota Board is disbanded and the allocation of quotas suspended by next week.

In a joint statement released yesterday by the Food and Allied Workers Union, Informal Fishing Communities and smaller unions in the industry, the board was criticised as being intent on maintaining the status quo which was disadvantageous to the majority of fishermen.

"The quota board in a meeting on January 22, 1997, could not spell out the principles and guidelines used to allocate quotas.

"It will never be able to do so as it seems to operate as mere administrative officials with no concept, interest or loyalty to democratisa-

tion of the fishing industry or the draft fisheries policy.

"It will be negligent to the stakeholders to leave such a crucial process in their hands," the statement said.

The unions and fishermen called on Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Pallo Jordan to disband the quota board which lacked labour representation.

They also called on him to suspend the allocation of quotas, expedite the new fisheries policy, and uphold "the agreement of 1996" that the industry would not be restructured until the fisheries policy was finalised.

"The Quota Board is unable to appreciate our dissatisfaction. It appears that democracy is but a phrase in a dictionary to their functioning and thinking," they said.

The fishing industry was presently concentrated in the

hands of a few companies which owned not only harvesting rights, but also processing and marketing concerns.

Wages were generally low, with most of the 26 000 workers in the industry employed on a seasonal basis.

The allocation of fishing rights should involve "more than the slavish application of formulas and the apartheid drafted fisheries act", and should take place within the framework of the RDP, they said.

Chairman of the Informal Fishing Communities Mr Andy Johnston said yesterday he would be part of a labour delegation which would be meeting Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Mr Peter Mokaba in Pretoria tomorrow.

Whatever action was taken on February 7 — the day Parliament reconvenes — would be peaceful, he promised, condemning threats of violence from certain quarters in the industry.

Previous mass action by fishermen has sometimes not been peaceful.

Blow to fishing industry as anchovy catches banned after stocks dwindle

PETER GOOSEN
STAFF REPORTER

A ban on anchovy catches on the West Coast, described as disastrous for fishermen and factory workers, has been imposed by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan.

After reports of seriously depleted stocks, Dr Jordan announced that he had reduced the 1997 "total allowable catch" for anchovy to zero.

Anchovies form a large part of the West Coast fishing industry and are netted in an area roughly between Cape Point and Lamberts Bay. A spokesman for SA Sea Products at Hout Bay, Brian Higgs, said the ban would have a disastrous effect on the lives of fishermen and factory workers and on the industry as a whole.

A Sea Fisheries statement said stocks of anchovies in South African waters were at a very low level and only time would tell whether the situation would continue in the long term.

"Seeing that the November 1996 survey has shown that the number of spawning fish was down to 10 percent of the average for the past decade, and almost no eggs and larvae were found in areas where they were encountered in previous years, the minister decided, on advice from the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, to set an initial total allowable catch of zero."

No directed anchovy catches would be allowed before a clear recovery of the stock was seen. But Dr Jordan has allowed for a maximum incidental by-catch of 2 000 tons of anchovy.

He said the other main pelagic stock,

3 FISHING ARG 30/1/97
pilchards, had in the meantime recovered significantly from their low in the 1970s. He announced a directed pilchard catch of 58 000 tons, which would be made available for allocation subject to a condition that the Quota Board take into account the plight of the anchovy fishermen, who would suffer substantial losses.

Mr Higgs said Sea Fisheries had made a 70 000-ton quota available in the latter half of last year, but that the industry had decided collectively not to take it up.

The winter anchovy season would have started this month (winter anchovies are larger than the summer variety) but the negative results gathered by the research vessel Africana had led to the minister's decision. Mr Higgs said if results were more positive in another survey in March, a quota for later this year was a possibility.

Fishing organisation to appeal against quotas

③ FISHING
Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — The Fisheries Development Unit, would appeal against a Supreme Court interdict which set aside the Quota Board's allocations to the informal fishing sector, Unit chairman Harry Mentor said yesterday.

The interdict, obtained by fishing groups I&J, Sea Harvest and Atlantic Fishing, set aside a 4% allocation of the total allowable catch previously in the hands of the larger fishing groups, to the informal

BD30/1/97
fishing sector. Mentor said the unit and small entrepreneurs were not consulted.

"We believe even the 4% allocation by the Quota Board is not enough to meet the needs of the informal fishing sector.

"An allocation of 10% would be more appropriate to their needs."

He said the unit supported the attempts by the board and sea fisheries department to implement the principles of government's reconstruction and development programme.

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Cape group pays R53-m for pilchard marketer

Oceana in talks to increase fish supply

③ FISHING

ARG 31/1/97

LEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

Cape Town-based fishing group Oceana Fishing has taken over pilchard marketer Federal Marine for R53,5 million, says Temba Vundla, managing director of the fishing division of the Oceana Fishing Group.

The Oceana Fishing Group has interests in fishing, cold storage, trading and shipping.

Federal Marine, which markets tinned pilchards through the Lucky Star brand in Namibia and South Africa, was owned by Oceana, Premier Fishing, Suiderland and Namfish, the biggest producer of tinned pilchards in South Africa and Namibia.

The sale of the entire company to Oceana followed the application of Competition Board policy of breaking up the concentration of power in the pilchard industry by forcing each company

to market its own pilchards.

According to Mr Vundla, an auction was held among the four companies towards the end of last year, with Oceana Fishing walking away with the company and its well-known brand.

The current operating arrangement would continue until the end of the year, Mr Vundla said.

Under those arrangements, all the companies conform to a particular formula and set of standards, with Federal Marine then marketing the goods to the public.

From next year, however, control of Federal Marine will fall entirely within the hands of Oceana, and Oceana will have to find new sources of pilchards, either through new partnerships or by buying in pilchards, to match Federal Marine's capacity.

"At the moment Oceana's pilchard quotas would not cover Federal Marine's capacity, and we are in negotiations with several organisa-

tions to increase our access to pilchards," Mr Vundla said.

He would not say who Oceana was negotiating with, but it does raise some interesting possibilities for black empowerment deals and fishing quotas.

Yesterday, about 200 Cape West Coast fishermen marched on Parliament to demand that the Quota Board be disbanded and replaced with an organisation on which fishermen were represented.

They said if their demands were not heeded, fishermen would have no alternative but to join the ranks of poachers, thereby exacerbating the serious threat to diminishing fish resources.

The fishermen also rejected the board's decision to cut the quotas of the formal sector to four percent, saying it was not only a unilateral decision, but also a fatal blow to factory workers who now faced dismissal.

NEWS

Fishermen slam 'uncaring' system

Jordan pledge on interim quotas after demo in city

③ FISHING ARG 31/1/97

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

Fishermen on the West Coast say they are battling against an uncaring quota system which is cutting them off from their lifblood and only chance of escaping poverty - the sea.

Yesterday the conflict involving subsistence fishermen and the Fisheries Quota Board came full circle, when frustrated fishermen assembled at St George's Cathedral to express their dismay at legislation which they say confines them to abject poverty.

Meanwhile, members of the Informal Fishing Communities organisation handed over weapons to the police, in a deal brokered by members of the attorney-general's office. The weapons, which included hand-grenades, an AK-47 assault rifle, a shotgun and ammunition, were handed in after the IFC's plea for an end to violence in the informal industry.

Several fishermen at St George's Cathedral described the day as a victory in their fight to obtain the right to fish at their places of birth, with many saying that they gained deep satisfaction in approaching "the highest

authorities in the land to voice their demands".

Len Davids, chairman of the West Coast Informal Fishing Association, said that during the Christmas period families had to be divided up so that they could enjoy a festive meal in houses that had enough to eat.

Earlier in the day, a memorandum was handed to Minister of Environmental and Tourism Affairs Pallo Jordan. It said the quota board should be disbanded, and an interim board, which "has at heart the interests of the people", should take its place.

In response, Dr Jordan said a

White Paper on fisheries policy which would guide the restructuring of the fishing industry should be available soon.

All the stakeholders in the fishing industry were involved in the development of this policy, including representatives of the informal fishermen, and it therefore took into account the concerns raised by the different sectors, he said.

Commenting on the request for interim quotas, the minister said he would consult the Directorate of Sea Fisheries about viable interim measures.

Unjust quotas will force us to poach — angry fishermen

CYNTHIA VONGAI

CT 31/1/97

THREE HUNDRED West Coast fishermen marched to Parliament yesterday to hand a memorandum to Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan saying that if the quota system is not reformed they will be forced to poach.

At a press conference after the march, fishermen spoke of their difficulties.

One said he was finding it hard to feed his family from the four crayfish a day he was allowed to catch.

"I have to buy a permit for R25 and I am only allowed to catch four crayfish. Two of these I have to give to the boat-owner and I only have two left to feed my family.

"If I sell the two crayfish I only get about R20, and I can't live on that," he said.

Another fisherman said he was paid only R8,30 a kilogram for any crayfish he caught.

"Sometimes three of us go out to sea and if we don't get a good catch we have to share the R8,30 between us, but there are fishermen who are paid only R4,72.

"Who can live on that? If I want to come to Cape Town to see the quota board I have to pay R450, which I don't have, for transport."

The fishermen are calling for the present Quota Board to be disbanded and for an interim board "with a feeling for the poor and deprived" to be put in its place.

Chairman for the West Coast Informal Fishing Association, Mr Lenny Davids, said:

"We are giving the minister a week to respond."

None of the informal fishermen have ever received a quota from the Quota Board.

Davids said that in a new democratic South Africa the present Quota Board could not continue with its racist and corrupt practices.

"Clearly the Quota Board is still intransigent towards the plight of the poor," Davids said.

A statement received from Jordan's office yesterday said he was willing to meet the fishermen "as soon as possible" to discuss issues raised in their memorandum.

Jordan also said a white paper on fisheries was near completion and would "guide the necessary restructuring of the fishing industry".

Fishermen surrender firearms

③ FISHING

ET 3/1/97

ROGER FRIEDMAN

FOUR M26 hand-grenades, an AK-47 assault rifle, a shotgun and ammunition of various calibres were surrendered to the police on Witsand beach yesterday by members of the informal fishing sector.

The weapons were handed over by Informal Fishing Communities (IFC) executive members Mr Alan Wyngaard (Arniston) and Mr Mark Agulhas (Hout Bay) to police, including representatives of the water wing and firearm unit, and members of the intelligence community.

The deal was brokered by members of the attorney-general's office.

Few questions were asked. The fishermen said the weapons had been handed in anonymously by members of their community in response to the IFC's campaign for an end to violence in the industry before it is restructured.

The fishing industry has been volatile for several years, with sporadic clashes occurring between law-enforcement agencies and fishermen poaching crayfish and perlemoen.

The fishermen say they are forced to poach because the apartheid sea fisheries policy took away their rights.

The new South African fisheries policy is to be unveiled within weeks, but widespread dissatisfaction over the policies and make-up of the Quota Board remains.

An anti-Quota Board protest march to Parliament jointly organised by the IFC, the Food and Allied Workers' Union and other unions in the sector is planned for next Friday.

The fishermen are also upset because they believe that certain political players, who have no background in the industry, are trying to muscle in on what they say is their territory.

According to sources in the industry, fishermen who work in Mozambican waters are easily able to obtain arms, which they bring home with them without having to pass through any customs or border checks. The M26 grenades are of South African origin.

Apparently senior IFC officials collected arms and explosives in the past — including



WELL DISPOSED: Police bomb disposal unit head, Inspector Bernie Posthumus, counts the rounds in an AK-47 magazine after fishermen handed over arms to police yesterday. He is flanked by Informal Fishing Communities executive members Mr Alan Wyngaard (Arniston) and Mr Mark Agulhas (Hout Bay). **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

land-mines — which they have since dumped in the sea.

To show their good intentions, they decided to hand over these weapons to the police, but did not want to be held accountable for weapons they were surrendering in good faith.

Wyngaard said it had therefore been decided that the fishermen would ask the attorney-general's office for assistance.

The hand-over was finally arranged just before midday yesterday.

When they arrived, the police were shown to a dilapidated hut next to the beach where the arms were stored.

Inspector Bernie Posthumus, Cape Town bomb squad commander, thoroughly checked the

explosives before giving permission for them to be removed.

"This is a very good sign, a good start," said Sea Fisheries chief inspector Mr Johan De Witt as Sergeant Craig Finlay of the water wing emerged from the hut with the firearms.

Police at the scene said the AK-47 would be sent for ballistic testing to check if it had been used in any crimes. It was in good condition and came with a full magazine.

Should the weapon be tied to a specific crime, they would be compelled to ask further questions.

But IFC officials said they did not know who had given them the weapons.

The police asked the IFC to encourage its members to continue to hand in weapons, saying they would prefer the weapons to be surrendered, rather than thrown into the sea.

● See Page 5

OCEANA FISHING **③** FISHING

BEATING QUOTA SQUEEZE

FM 31/1/97

Leaps of 39% in turnover, 32% in operating profit and 33% in headline earnings mean everything was going full steam ahead at Oceana in financial 1996.

This financial year is not likely to be so buoyant but Oceana should again record strong real EPS growth.

The three divisions — fishing, cold storage, trading and shipping — have a number of complementary components.

When one is lagging, compensation often comes from the others. In financial 1996, buoyed by exports of lobster, abalone, squid, hake and horse mackerel, each performed strongly, though the landings of pelagic fish by Oceana and the inshore industry were down from the previous year.

■ **ACTIVITIES:** Fish catching, processing and canning; food canning, cold storage provision, trading, shipping, clearing and forwarding.

■ **CONTROL:** Tiger Oats 50%.

■ **CHAIRMAN:** D Ncube. MD: D Behrens.

■ **CAPITAL STRUCTURE:** 100,6m ords. Market capitalisation: R518m.

■ **SHARE MARKET:** Price: 515c. Yields: 4,4% on dividend; 9,4% on earnings; p:e ratio, 10,6; cover, 2,1. 12-month high, 575c; low, 470c. Trading volume last quarter, 2m shares.

Year to September 30	'93	'94	*'95	'96
ST debt (Rm)	—	—	8,3	6,5
LT debt (Rm)	4,5	6,7	6,1	2,1
Debt:equity ratio	—	—	0,12	8,6
Shareholders' interest	0,6	0,4	0,4	0,4
Int & leasing cover	—	—	31,8	17,0
Return on cap (%)	20,1	19,9	22,7	23,0
Turnover (Rm)	362	454	593	826
Pre-int profit (Rm)	43,1	49,6	68,0	81,0
Pre-int margin (%)	11,9	10,7	11,3	9,7
Earnings (c)	251,2	290,5	38,2	†48,6
Dividends (c)	156	171	19,7	22,7
Tangible NAV (c)	1 151	1 017	122	145

* Share split 10:1. † Headline EPS.

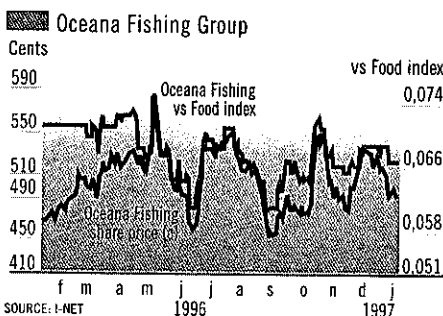
After a reduction in the anchovy total allowable catch (TAC) from 200 000 t to 70 000 t, the industry observed a voluntary moratorium on anchovy fishing from mid-July.

Smaller landings of industrial fish meant lower production of fishmeal and fish oil. But the pilchard resource was healthy and Oceana landed its full quota by the time the season closed in December. Oceana also landed its lobster quota in full. Almost a third of the landings were marketed in live form, which helped cash flow. Most of the balance was exported as whole, cooked product, to the Far East. The company intends to increase live exports.

Productivity improvements in the fish and food processing plants as well as an increased share of the canned fish market helped boost the fishing division's turnover by 28%.

The Blue Continent trading and shipping division grew turnover 58% to

gives the quota board a clear mandate, the restructured Oceana is vulnerable to possible quota reductions in favour of newcomers and the "traditionally disadvantaged." *Gerald Hirshon*



R515m and its contribution to headline earnings 81% to R21,5m. Group MD David Behrens says this followed increased activity in Namibia, larger exports and expanding new product lines. Its well established clearing, forwarding and ships' agency business bolstered growth.

With an overall capacity of 104 000 t, Oceana is the largest bulk commercial cold storage provider in Africa. Average occupancies were satisfactory, says Behrens, but dropped after June when imports slowed. This division was unable to maintain headline earnings.

Because the anchovy resource is so poor, no quota (TAC) has been granted for 1997, which suggests Oceana's earnings could be hit hard. However, Behrens, usually conservative, believes the other divisions will compensate.

EPS could rise by 20%, giving a prospective p:e of 8,8.

By historical standards, the share offers sound value but there is a caveat: until fishing policy (now being drafted)

Qibla, union to defy ban on Parliament march

SHARKEY ISAACS

STAFF REPORTER

③ FISHING

AKG 5/2/97

The militant Islamic movement Qibla and the South African Food and Allied Workers' Union have vowed to go ahead with marches and demonstrations when Parliament opens on Friday.

The Cape Town municipality refused

both groups permission to march and the police have asked their leaders to call off the demonstrations.

Fawu regional secretary William Thomas said the union would apply this afternoon or tomorrow morning for an urgent High Court interdict to overturn the ban.

The 12 000-member union had asked for permission to stage a march of about 3 000

members to deliver a petition to protest against the Government's reduction of fishing quotas. "We intend going ahead with the march irrespective of the outcome of the court application," Mr Thomas said.

Sources in Qibla have also said emphatically that their march to the Israeli embassy, in protest at Israel's occupation of Palestine and Jerusalem, will go ahead on Friday, last day of Ramadan.

Oceana shackled by low quota

MARC HASENFUSS

CT (BR) 7/2/97

③ FISHING

Cape Town — Oceana Fishing Group is faring well in choppy trading waters, according to Robbie Williams, the vice-chairman, as he reported overall results ahead of budget for the first quarter to December 31.

Addressing shareholders at an annual meeting yesterday, Williams noted that so far only 1 475 tons of the 1 700-ton total allowable catch for West Coast lobster was available to the quota board for allocation. Lobsters are a key foreign exchange earner for the company.

Although the fishing industry was pressing for the 225-ton balance to be made available, the total allowable catch had declined significantly from 4 000 tons in 1988/89, he said.

"The consequent surplus capacity in the industry, including our own facilities, and the substantial and widespread investment in Oceana by Real Africa and other new investors, make it imperative that restoration of our share of the (lobster) resource be implemented as the resource strengthens."

Williams said Oceana had landed 207 tons of lobster to date compared with 261 tons last year. Demand and prices were firm.

He also warned that the protracted non-availability of pelagic species (mainly anchovy) would necessitate rationalisation at the company despite attempts to minimise lower landings of industrial fish.

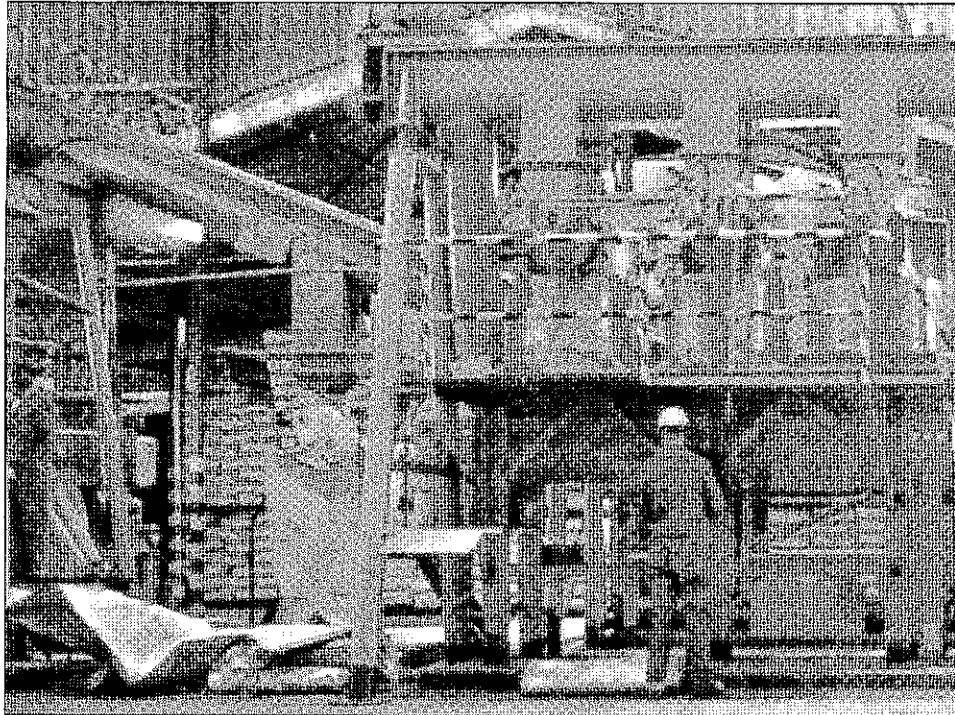
Scientific research recently showed a significant reduction in the anchovy biomass, which saw

the provisional total allowable catch set at zero.

"Oceana will make every effort to maximise catches of red-eye herring and other non-quota species, but it is unlikely that landings of these species will entirely compensate for the lack of anchovy."

Williams expected the pilchard catch would be adjusted upwards from the initial 58 000 tons. "We have been diligent in applying for and motivating our case for an improved quota share. Our vessels and cannery are able to handle substantially higher volumes of pilchard than are presently allocated."

Prospects for Oceana's trading and shipping activities look sound, with trading activity high and export turnover and profit well ahead of last year.



Fishmeal manufacturing: anchovy, which is used in the animal feed industry, is in short supply this season

Anchovy ban just a red-eye herring for Oceana's results

LLEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

ARG 7/2/97

③ FISHING

The ban on anchovy catches on the West Coast will have only a slight effect on the Oceana Fishing Group's profits this year, says managing director Dave Behrens.

The group's anchovy business had already been hit last year by a lack of fish, Mr Behrens said after Oceana's annual general meeting yesterday. Oceana had budgeted for a drastic cut in this season's total allowable catch, though the group had not expected last week's ban on anchovy catches by the Department of Environmental Affairs.

He hoped that an anchovy allocation could still be made this year after the department's research voyage in March.

Oceana vice-chairman Robbie Williams said Oceana's fleet had started catching red-eye herring, which is not subject to limitation, as soon as the season opened, to compensate for lack of anchovy. He warned that a protracted lack of anchovy would lead to rationalisation within Oceana "and in the whole industry".

Oceana's pilchard business, on the other hand, looks safe. Mr Williams said the pilchard resource appeared to be stable and anticipated that the total allowable catch would be adjusted upwards from the initial 58 000 tons later in the year.

Protesters march with complaints of the fishing

ARLT 8/2/97

JEAN LE MAY
STAFF REPORTER

There were some puzzled faces in the lunch-time crowd in Adderley Street yesterday when a smallish crowd of demonstrators, herded by policemen, marched towards Parliament.

It was none too clear exactly who was demonstrating, although several placards vilifying the fishing quota board established what was being demonstrated against.

At the head of the procession was the Informal Fishing Communities. Someone carried a banner of the Food and Allied Worker's Union (FAWU). Further back somebody carried the flag of the SA Com-

munist Party, then came a 4x4 towing a ski boat.

FAWU and the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union have supported the informal fishing sector's crusade against the quota board.

At the same time they have supported quota applications by the major fishing companies - because a loss of quota could mean a loss of jobs.

The informal sector's grudge against the quota board is based largely on the whittling-away of mostly inshore fishing rights enjoyed by the smaller fishermen.

The informal sector wants a fishing free-for-all, the quota board abolished and quotas done away with altogether.

The unions want the industry restruc-

tured. They object to the quota board going about it's business as usual without waiting for the restructuring which will, in time, follow the promised White Paper.

A source has claimed that a special government task force appointed to look into the question of access rights - around which the whole quota row resolves - has not yet met, although it was appointed months ago.

Meanwhile, a Sea Fisheries group headed by Sea Fisheries director Monde Mayekiso, with the help of Svein Munkejord of the Norwegian fisheries directorate, has put together

a draft White Paper based on a report of the Sea Fisheries Development Committee.

The Saturday Argus understands that most of the recommendations (excepting access rights) in the Sea Fisheries report have been accepted without substantial amendment.

One of the recommendations was that more people should be allowed to catch fish for profit.

But there are problems with the whittling-away of the historical rights of industrial fisheries.

One of the biggest companies, Irvin and Johnston (I and J), has lost four percent of

'The informal sector wants a fishing free-for-all with quotas abolished'

its quota to new entrants. The company has brought a High Court interdict which will come before the court next month.

The company's group managing director, Roy Gordon, takes the view that this whittling-away could have a far wider effect than the loss of jobs.

People have the impression that the major fishing companies, including I and J, made vast profits for years. This was very far from the truth, Mr Gordon said.

In 1979 five members of the deep sea industry were given quotas based on historical performance.

"The quota allocation was gained by blood, sweat and tears while others dropped out in the face of financial loss," he said.

After the declaration of the 200 nautical miles (370km) exclusive economic zone in 1977, the Government was able to control foreign fishing and resources began to recover. "As catch rates improved so did profitability and then, suddenly, everyone wanted to participate," said Mr Gordon.

In the past 10 years no fewer than 23 new quotas had been given, as well as about 32 community quotas.

The four percent - about 2400 tons - of I and J's quota now taken away from them meant that 220 people would have to be retrenched. According to Mr Gordon it made no sense that these workers should lose their jobs, bringing much hardship to their families, so that a score or so of private individuals could be enriched.

quotas that got away
(S) FISHING

Urgent call for clarity in SA's fishing policy

Sea Harvest challenges quota cuts

③ FISHING

ARCT 8/2/97

LLEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Government has to bring clarity to its policy on fisheries development urgently, says Eckart Kramer, the chairman of deep-sea fishing company Sea Harvest.

Sea Harvest employs 3 500 people and is one of the largest employers on the West Coast.

Speaking at the company's annual general meeting yesterday, Mr Kramer said Sea Harvest had had its quota for this year cut by four percent in line with the rest of the industry.

The decision to cut existing hake quota's has been challenged by both the industry and organised labour and is currently subject to reconsideration.

Mr Kramer said the Quota Board had

not adequately considered the implications of their decision in terms of its economic impact and social consequences as a result of job losses.

"The decision is also in conflict with the recommendations of the Fisheries Policy proposals which are the basis of the White Paper on Fisheries Policy currently being prepared by the Sea Fisheries Department," Mr Kramer said.

He said the company's operations, however, had got off to a good start with summer hake catches substantially better than last year's. Prospects of continued favourable catch rates looked good.

Coupled to this, the major investments in advanced processing facilities and technology and modernisation of the trawler fleet made in recent years were now showing dividends.

"Our strategy of servicing international

niche markets for high value-added products is also paying off and has played a leading part in establishing South African hake as a highly desired species throughout the world," Mr Kramer said.

"The conservative use of South Africa's hake resources within carefully managed catch limits has proved beneficial. Hake stocks are stable and likely to allow modest growth in future years."

The Namibian hake resource, however, had shown an unexpected decline to which the authorities had swiftly reacted by severely reducing catch limits.

But Mr Kramer said there was a broad consensus that prospects for recovery and future growth were good.

Despite the Namibian setback, Mr Kramer said he was confident that the company would achieve "satisfactory" earnings growth this year.

Sea Harvest fishes for profits

③ FISHING

CT (BR) 10/2/97

MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Sea Harvest should post satisfactory growth in the year to September 30, according to Eckart Kramer, the chairman of the company, who called last week for clarity on the government's future policy on fishing as an urgent industry requirement.

Speaking at Sea Harvest's general meeting, Kramer said operations had started well, with summer hake catches better than last year.

He said Sea Harvest's investments in advanced pro-

cessing facilities and technology and the modernisation of the trawler fleet were now reaping rewards.

"Our strategy of servicing international niche markets for high value-added products is also paying off, and has played a leading part in establishing South African hake as a highly desired species on world markets," Kramer said.

He said the conservative use of hake resources within carefully managed catch limits had been beneficial, and that hake stocks were stable and likely to allow modest growth in future years.

He pointed out that the company's hake quota for this year had been renewed at 96 percent of the previous year's level. The decision by the Quota Board to cut existing hake quotas by 4 percent had been challenged by the industry and organised labour.

Kramer argued that the board did not adequately consider the economic and social implications of its decision.

"The decision is also in conflict with the recommendations of the fisheries policy proposals which are the basis of the White Paper on fisheries policy," he said.

Unrealistic quotas threaten jobs, says fishing group

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Fishing group Sea Harvest was expected to post "satisfactory" earnings this year following substantially better summer hake catches compared with last year, chairman Eckart Kramer said at the weekend.

The strategy of servicing international niche markets with high value-added products was start-

ing to pay off, Kramer said at the group's annual general meeting.

However, he said an urgent clarification on government's policy on fisheries development was needed, with the group's hake quota for this year renewed at only 96% of last year's levels.

Kramer said the quota board had failed to consider the economic and social impact of the quota cuts, which would lead to job cuts.

③ FISHING ED 10/2/97
"The decision is also in conflict with the recommendations of the fisheries policy proposals, which are the basis of the white paper on fisheries policy being prepared by the sea fisheries department."

The establishment of hake as a highly desired species on world markets and the conservative use of SA's hake resources within carefully managed catch limits boded well for the group, he said.

Y NEWS

Natal Ocean to apply for lifting of JSE suspension

CF (MR) 11/2/97 ③ FISHING

STUART RUTHERFORD

Durban — Natal Ocean Trawling, the fishing and trawling company, planned to apply for a lifting of its JSE suspension within the next six months, Tony Barradas, the chairman of the Barradas Family Trust, said yesterday.

Barradas said the company was operating one fishing boat off the Mozambique coast, and its other two vessels were expected to be operational in two months.

He said the necessary quotas for netting prawns, crabs and langoustine had been obtained from the Mozambican authorities.

Natal Ocean, which is listed in the food sector of the JSE, was suspended and placed in provisional liquidation in December

1994 before being rescued by the Barradas Family Trust. At the time the company was the largest crustacean trawling operation in South Africa, netting about 600 tons yearly.

Analysts claimed the company had buckled under the strain of high interest rates and poor trading conditions, and that this was complicated by reduced harvests during KwaZulu Natal's devastating drought.

Barradas said he believed the company was potentially profitable and it was looking for an overseas investor to inject capital for three additional ships.

He would not give details of the company's present financial position or shareholding.

The share closed at 9c at the time of its suspension in 1994 after falling sharply from 20c during the previous six months.

Tough kreef-freezing rules ahead

ET 12/2/97

③ FISHING

POLITICAL WRITER

TOUGH new regulations on freezing crayfish, frozen lobster products and frozen fish products have been proposed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The specifications, which have been published in the Government Gazette, will require owners of fish and crayfish factories to maintain high standards of cleanliness.

Objections to the regulations, which could have significant financial implications for factory owners,

have to be lodged by the end of next month with the South African Bureau of Standards in Pretoria.

The regulations lay down that factory buildings must be kept "acceptably free from objectionable odours, smoke, dust and other contamination" to comply with the provisions of the Health Act.

"The factory buildings shall be of sound construction, in good repair, and large enough to prevent crowding of equipment and employees, and to permit adequate cleaning and the maintenance of

product quality and hygiene.

"The factory premises shall be well-drained and adequately fenced to keep out larger animals, such as cats and dogs.

"Outside working areas and roads and pathways on the premises shall have a permanent surface of concrete, brick, bitumen or other durable material."

Hand-washing facilities with hot and cold water must be provided at the entrance to factories with "an ample supply of unscented liquid soap" and disposable towels.

Call for crackdown on toothfish pirates

Boffins want harsh penalties

ARLT 15/2/97

③ FISHING (S)

JILYAN PIMAN
STAFF REPORTER

Scientists and conservationists here and in other countries are gnashing their teeth over the volume of illegal poaching of Patagonian toothfish, or black hake, being caught in the southern ocean and say governments should work more closely to stop the poaching.

Denzil Miller, specialist chief scientist for Sea Fisheries and chairman of the scientific committee of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), said unless the Government provided a naval vessel or an "enforceable presence" South Africa's toothfish resources would be fished out.

"Thirty-five thousand tons of illegal toothfish were removed from South African waters around Prince Edward Island in the past season. At \$5 000 a ton this represents R175-million worth of fish. Some people are getting rich at the expense of all South Africans," said Dr Miller.

He said bilateral negotiations were under way with several countries before the fishing season opened on March 1 to address the problem of poaching in South African waters.

"We need presidential sanction to stop the scale of poaching and if the government doesn't take note, one of our most valuable resources will vanishing."

Dr Miller added: "Poachers are grabbing the young 50-60cm toothfish - in the

most vulnerable size range. They are very slow-growing animals which can live until they are 50. Poachers are catching them at eight or nine years old, at the height of their reproductive cycle. The grey-headed albatross, in particular, is also threatened because of what is happening to the fish population."

Dr Miller said that on March 1 new permits would be issued by the government and each vessel would carry an international observer - from pools of observers in other countries - to monitor fishing activities, but a vessel was urgently needed for surveillance and back-up.

At last year's CCAMLR convention it was estimated that poaching could now be outstripping legal fishing by two-thirds.

Even some of the 21 countries which belonged to CCAMLR were accused of

day Argus from a crewman of a boat fishing for the toothfish said: "In our opinion the Sea Fisheries are made fools of openly . . . those vessels who are fishing on SA permits have more or less a majority of foreign fishermen aboard. . . all kinds of vessels are fishing inside SA territory."

The foreign fisherman went on to write that other fishermen bragged to each other over their radios about their excellent catches.

He said he was "not proud" of sending the letter but felt it was the right thing to do, "as all others seem to not care at all what is happening to fishing".

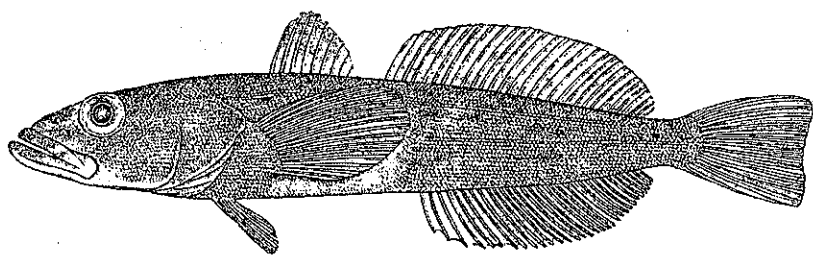
He said his crew was not happy with the situation as they were losing out to the competition.

Called the "Patagonian Toothfish Gol-drush" by Nan Rice of the Save Antarctica campaign, both scientists and conservationists say if this scale of poaching continues the fish will become "commercially extinct" and the Antarctic food chain might be disturbed.

"We urgently need more marine sanctuaries and reserves and there should be harsh penalties for those who do not conform to CCAMLR regulations or their own countries' legislation," Ms Rice said.

South Africa recently promulgated legislation preventing vessels from entering its ports and offloading toothfish without a permit, she said.

"But now if boats get uphill at South African ports they can easily go to Namibian or Mozambican ports or trans-ship their catches at sea."



Endangered: the Patagonian toothfish is the target of extensive poaching

turning to exploitation rather than "sustainable usage and conservation". Those who did not belong to CCAMLR - Namibia and Mozambique - also stood accused of accepting illegally poached fish.

Most captains of ships asked in a survey from June 1996 to January 8 this year whether their vessels fished in CCAMLR areas, said they had not.

However, a letter in possession of Satur-

New fisheries law on way as poaching poses threat

Jordan promises a fair share for all

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

A new Sea Fisheries Act to be passed this year will address many of the "burning issues" in the fishing industry and bring about greater equity, says Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan.

At a parliamentary briefing, Dr Jordan said illegal activities such as escalating poaching were depleting South Africa's marine resources at an alarming rate.

Some of this poaching was "morally justifiable" as people were deeply aggrieved about the historically inequitable access to marine resources, but although understandable, it was "extremely dangerous".

He cited the poaching of abalone (perlemoen) in the Hermanus-Hawston area, where this resource was in danger of being wiped out if poaching persisted.

Also, there was evidence of the involve-

ment of crime syndicates.

"They have no concern other than making money and just move on when the resource is depleted," said Dr Jordan.

His department and those in the perlemoen industry had engaged in "lateral thinking" in an attempt to find workable solutions to the problems, which included mariculture initiatives and hatcheries to help restock the sea.

"We're not sitting with our arms folded, but these initiatives are still in the early stages," he said.

While the inequalities of the past had to be addressed, it was also necessary to maintain the existing fishing industry, which employed large numbers of people, and to ensure that it remained internationally competitive, Dr Jordan said.

Referring to the consultative national environmental policy process to develop a new environmental policy for South Africa, Dr Jordan said a "very successful"

second conference had been held last month and a White Paper should be available by the end of March.

A Green Paper on biodiversity had been published in October and discussion on this was continuing. A consultative process to develop policy for integrated pollution control and waste management was "gathering momentum" and should be ready this year.

"When these policies are in place, we should have an overall environmental management framework in place for the first time ... whereas in the past there was fragmentation and mismanagement."

Dr Jordan said he had been "very pleased" to note that the business and industrial sector, which had expressed concern about the negotiation process at one point, was now fully committed to the new policies which had been negotiated and to improving the environmental performance of industry.

③ FISHING CT

ARG 17/2/97

Fisheries white paper seeks to strike a balance, Jordan says

Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — The white paper on a fisheries policy, due to be tabled in Parliament next month, had attempted to achieve a balance between redistribution and a recognition of the existence and role of the large fishing groups in the economy, Environment, Tourism and Fisheries Minister Pallo Jordan said at the weekend.

He hoped that the sea fisheries legislation, which addressed many of the "burning issues" of the industry, would be passed this year.

While stressing that the inequities of the past had to be addressed, Jordan said it would not be possible to dismantle the fishing industry callously without regard for the future of the country. The large fishing groups employed large numbers of people and had the capacity to make the industry internationally competitive.

"The inequalities of the past have to be weighed up against economic real-

ities," Jordan told a parliamentary news briefing.

The white paper was the product of broad consultation between all stakeholders which, among other things, addressed the question of to whom the marine resources belonged and how people could gain access to it.

Jordan said an accessible version of the document would be made available in six languages, for distribution to fishing communities.

He expressed concern over the alarming escalation in poaching, especially of perlemoen which would be completely wiped out within five years if poaching continued. It seemed crime syndicates were involved, especially in the Hermanus and Hawston areas.

"We see the need to engage in some lateral thinking to address some of the problems in the fishing industry. My ministry is investigating solutions like use of mariculture in certain secure areas, to give dwindling perlemoen resources a much needed boost," he said.

Pick 'n Pay in deregulation bid

Business Day Reporter

BD 17/2/97
RETAILER Pick 'n Pay submitted a memorandum concerning the deregulation of the oil industry and current price disparities to Minerals and Energy Minister Penuell Maduna on Friday, the group said at the weekend.

Pick 'n Pay has been advocating the relaxation of the current regulations governing the oil industry in a bid to bring down petrol prices at the retail level.

~~18/2/97~~

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CIC beats the blues in fishing industry

Nicola Jenvey

2013/3/97

DURBAN — Namibian Stock Exchange-listed packaging and food distribution company CIC Holdings lifted taxed profit 75% to R16,1m in the six months to December despite the adverse effects of the three-year drought and the collapse of the Namibian fishing industry from over-fishing, MD Fanie Smith said yesterday.

Earnings a share rose 27% to 23,1c after a one-third rise in the average weighted number of shares in issue to 133-million. New shares were issued in part payment of acquisitions made last year, with the balance of the payment debt funded.

Turnover rose 186,4% to R882,1m following the R16m acquisition of Tongaat Food Distributors in September and the earlier purchase of packaging company Tristar Plastics.

The two new acquisitions had exceeded expectations and were turning into "the jewels in the CIC crown". Tristar Plastics was SA's largest manufacturer of plastic pallet wrap and a range of goods for the building, cement, mining and food industries.

Tongaat was a national distributor of dry foods and Smith said there was still vast potential for the business to grow throughout southern Africa.

CIC's two SA-based packaging subsidiaries had underperformed and the debt burden had risen during the review period, Smith said. A significant proportion of the group's packaging turnover is earned from the Namibian fishing sector.

CIC's fish drying business in Atlantis was adversely affected by the cost and availability of local raw materials. This was remedied by a Peru-based joint venture to supply the factory with adequate quantities of raw materials at significantly lower costs.

Smith said two businesses had been sold and a third disposal was in negotiation. The sales would reduce debt and interest costs, and make it possible for CIC Holdings to continue its expansion programme.

Informal fishermen go

Former poacher heads deal with Hong



OBED ZILWA

JEAN LE MAY
STAFF REPORTER

A former crayfish poacher who has turned legitimate will fly to Hong Kong on Monday to negotiate a deal for the benefit of informal fishermen's co-operatives.

The move could shake up the established pattern of the R1,7-billion-a-year fishing industry.

Andy Johnston, who admits frankly that he once made a good living out of poaching, said that as representative of the co-ops' holding company, SA Commercial Fishermen's Corporation, he will negotiate for the export of fish and mollusc species which up to now have not been exploited in South African waters.

The buyer is likely to be leading Hong Kong restaurateur Michael Lam. He is prepared to buy jacobpewer, an ugly, reddish,

herring-sized linefish which local fishermen use mostly for bait. Mr Johnston would not name the mollusc for fear that other companies would hone in on it.

"People in the Far East will eat anything that comes out of the sea," he said.

"Both species are abundant, probably because they have never been commercially fished, and the harvesting of 10 tonnes a month of each will not drain the resource.

"The catching will be done by fisher-

into business
Kong restaurateur

ARLT 15/3/97

men who are members of the co-ops. We hope to negotiate that part of the purchase price will be paid in advance, so that the fishermen will be paid for their catches. As shareholders in the co-ops they will also benefit from profits made by the company.

"Processing will be done by a factory in the Strand and we intend writing into the contract that transport to Hong Kong by air will be at the buyers' cost."

Mr Johnston gave up a profitable, if per-

(3) FISHING

ilous, career in poaching to take a seat on the Fisheries Policy Development Committee as a very vocal spokesman for impoverished fishermen.

But although the committee produced a report last June, nothing has come of it.

Mr Johnston and the fishermen formed a pressure group, Informal Fishing Communities, and gave it clout by registering a holding company, South African Commercial Fishermen's Corporation (Pty).

Shake-up: former poacher Andy Johnston

Toothfish resource stripped bare

ST (Ccm) 16/3/97

③ FISHING

CHARL DE VILLIERS

ILLEGAL "strip-mining" by unlicensed fishing fleets has effectively gutted South Africa's valuable Patagonian toothfish resource around the Prince Edward Islands about 2 100 km south-east of Cape Town, industry and Sea Fisheries sources revealed this week.

Legal operators — who have devised stringent environmental controls as a licence condition — are also seething at poachers who get away with killing tens of thousands of seabirds which become ensnared on hooks set by illegal long-lining vessels.

"We need a naval presence down there. Controls will be far more effective if a couple of shots get fired across a poacher's bow, and the vessel arrested," a source, who represents a major fishing company, said.

Patagonian toothfish is one of the most lucrative species to have been fished in the Southern Ocean, fetching up to R30,80/kg for gutted fish and R48,40/kg for fillets.

But indiscriminate dumping of illegally caught fish has caused prices to plummet by about 45 percent on world markets — with much of the pirate catch being discharged in Malaysia and destined for the Japanese market, sources said.

Five local operators have each been awarded a 240-ton experimental allocation in the 200-mile zone around the Prince Edward Islands, but sources say rogue fishing by up to 70 boats at a time has severely depleted the resource.

Sources say the rogue operators have moved eastwards to the Crozet Islands after "strip-mining" the South African resource, and the Department of Sea Fisheries this week confirmed that local companies were landing illegal catches outside the country and using flags of convenience.

"Walvis Bay, Maputo, Mauritius and Beira (in Mozambique) are all being used as alternative

landing sites," Sea Fisheries spokeswoman Claire Ward said.

"There's definitely a decrease in the size of the resource, and the size of fish caught. Unofficially, it's been said that up to 45 000 tons of toothfish have been caught in the Southern Ocean since last June," a senior industry spokesman said.

UCT's Percy Fitzpatrick Institute of African Ornithology estimates that up to 250 000 seabirds — a quarter of them albatrosses — are being killed each year through long-lining.

Nearly 1 000 birds, especially white-chinned petrels, had been snared by licensed vessels since late October, said UCT expert Dr Peter Ryan.

HIGH-TECH WAY TO PROTECT SA SEA WEALTH

Tracking device could help curb illegal fishing

ET 17/3/97 ③ FISHING

A COMPUTERISED tracking device could enable South Africa to monitor the growing numbers of foreign vessels fishing in its waters. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



SOUTH African marine scientists are fighting an uphill battle to get satellite tracking devices fitted to vessels fishing in South African waters, in an attempt to curb the plunder of marine resources.

In the absence of naval patrol vessels, the sophisticated tracking devices could provide effective monitoring and controlling of the industry.

They would also enable Sea Fisheries Research Institute staff to see whether vessels were fishing illegally in the Southern Ocean in the waters protected by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

This includes the 200-nautical mile region around South Africa's Marion and Prince Edward Islands, where poaching of Patagonian toothfish has rocketed, as well as thousands of kilometres of ocean within the CCAMLR zone reaching down to the Antarctic coast, where CCAMLR has given South Africa permission to initiate a toothfish industry.

The tracking devices, which have been used successfully in the northern hemisphere for the past two years, and more recently by Australia, New Zealand and Argentina, are triumphs of computer technology.

At the flick of a switch one can pinpoint the position, speed and course of a vessel carrying a tracking device anywhere in the world.

Sea Fisheries scientist Mr David Japp, who initiated the system at Sea Fisheries, said there were only 14 South African vessels with the device on board. These include the five vessels which have permits to fish for Patagonian toothfish at Marion and Prince Edward Islands.

The system has a base station in the Sea Fisheries building in the city, with a satellite transmitter and receiver. The device on the vessel consists of a computer processor and a global positioning system in a sealed, tamper-proof unit.

Said Japp: "We preset the period we want it to report to us, say every four hours. We can ask it via the Inmarsat satellite link-up where the ship is, its course and the track it has followed.

"We can interrogate the system, and ask it to report every two minutes if we want. We can ask it if the system has been tampered with. It automatically notifies us if the power is off. The great thing about the system is we get real time records of the vessel's activity. What we see is what is actually happening at the time.

"As soon as a vessel crosses the line into the CCAMLR zone, it will immediately notify us that the vessel has transgressed into that zone."

CCAMLR aims to ensure that Antarctica's marine resources are not exploited beyond sustainable levels.

The device can also be linked up to trawl winches or shooting lines, so that it registers immediately these are activated, indicating that the vessel is fishing.

At Sea Fisheries, staff simply type the name of the vessel into the computer, and the position of the ship flashes onto the screen, along with its speed, course and direction.

A line of connecting dots shows exactly where the ship has sailed. The computer screen can show any section of the ocean one wants. The screen can show South Africa and the Antarctic with the more than 4 000km of

sea inbetween, or it can zoom into Table Bay harbour and show exactly where a ship with a tracking device is berthed. It has a maximum error of 100m.

For security reasons, only two staff members know the code to gain access to the system.

But there are problems. Ship's crew can put the system out of action simply by pulling the plug out of the device or putting a bucket over the aerial.

"One of the vessels which agreed to have a tracking device on board spent 80% of her time in the CCAMLR zone. When she came to offload the catch in Cape Town, she was refused permission because the fish were illegally caught, so she went to Mauritius to offload.

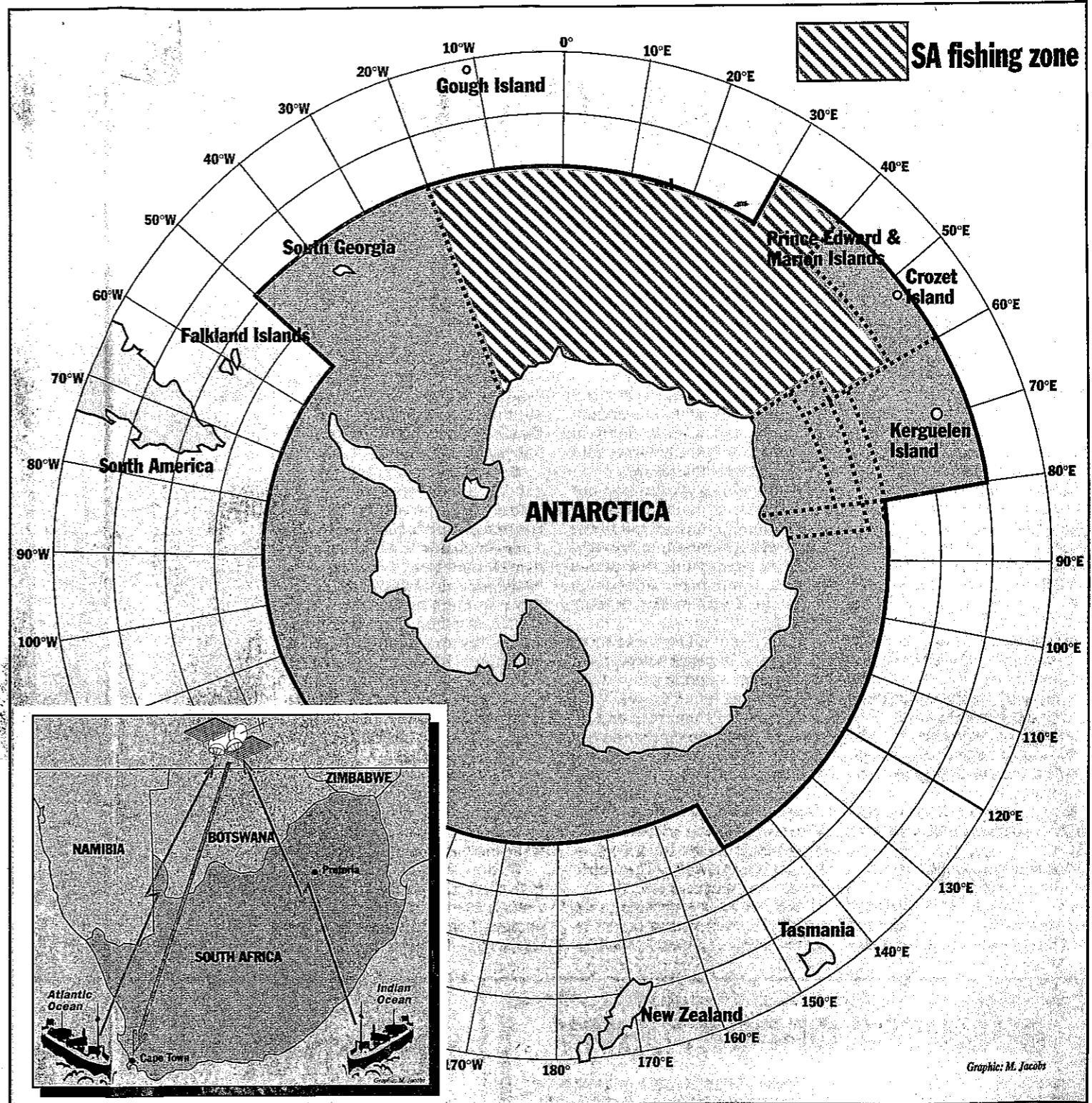
"The system will only work if all the states comply. If Namibia and Mozambique and Mauritius had similar controls, there wouldn't be anywhere for the illegal vessels to offload," said Japp.

The need is urgent. The Southern Ocean is vast and almost impossible to patrol. Sea Fisheries knows of about 60 000 tons of Patagonian toothfish caught illegally. There is also pressure from Europe and Japan for South Africa to allow their vessels to fish our waters.

Said Japp: "South Africa has relatively healthy deep-water resources and they want to make hay while the sun shines. A lot of countries, especially Spain, Taiwan and Japan, are putting pressure on South Africa to fish in our continental zone.

"We need government support of this tracking system, verbal and financial. We also need a commitment from the department that they will prosecute. The penalties need to be high enough.

"Government must acknowledge that we have a problem with monitoring and controlling our fishing industry. The tracking system has been extremely successful in the northern hemisphere. With government backing, it could happen here."



HIGH-TECH: Sea Fisheries scientists are pushing to have satellite tracking devices fitted to vessels fishing in our waters in an attempt to monitor and control the industry and clamp down on poaching.

PROTECTED ZONE: The green area shows the CCAMLR boundaries, where the commission controls what marine resources are harvested by which country. The red and green area shows the zone where CCAMLR has given South Africa permission to start a Patagonian toothfish industry.

Fishing industry vows to fight off Spain's bid ³ FISHING for access to SA waters

ARLT 22/3/97

BUSINESS REPORTER

The Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union has vowed to fight Spanish proposals that would give Spanish fishing vessels access to South African waters in return for preferential trade access to European markets.

Spain is demanding access to South African fishing grounds and has threatened to veto any bilateral trade agreements between South Africa and the European Union (EU) if it does not get its way.

"We will blockade the Cape Town harbour if we have to," said Norman Daniels, secretary of the 3000-strong Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union.

The fishing companies are equally opposed to the Spanish proposals.

A spokesman for I&J said the proposals were "totally unacceptable and amounted to nothing more than blackmail".

"There is no benefit to South Africa at face value," the spokesman said.

Both Mr Daniels and the I&J spokesman said the proposals would give the Spanish fishing vessels a "huge and unfair" advantage.

Foreign vessels would be exempted from having to pay tax on their fuel, a saving of over 40 percent on the price paid their domestic competitors.

"Being European Union-flagged, they would also not have to pay the 15 percent duty on fish sold in EU countries that South African companies would have to pay," the I&J spokesman said.

Mr Daniels said one Spanish vessel

operating in South African fishing grounds for one year would need a quota of around 6 000 tons, and this could lead to the direct loss of 400 local jobs.

He said that if freer access to Europe meant allowing the EU fleet into South African fishing grounds, it was not worth it. "Namibia refused to accede to Spanish demands, why should we?"

He said other African countries, including Angola, Mozambique, Senegal and Gabon, had little to show for EU involvement in their fishing industries.

"Furthermore, I understand that all the vessels arrested in Namibian waters for illegal fishing were sailing under the Spanish flag."

Mr Daniels said the people who would be hardest hit were those who had suffered under apartheid and who were now trying to improve themselves by

gaining access to the sea.

"Giving in to the Spanish would be a total betrayal of their aspirations," he said.

Official statements by the EU on bilateral trade agreements regarding fishing state that EU members are able to develop foreign fishing industries by investing capital, technology and experience.

"The irony of this is that the EU itself has recognised the world-class status of the local fishing industry," Mr Daniels said.

"We have some of the best technology, the capital has already been invested and we have extremely experienced fishermen.

"We have very strict quotas which are adhered to by the local industry and if the Spanish are allowed in, quotas would be taken away from local holders."

'We will blockade the Cape Town harbour if we have to'

HAWSTON COMMUNITY TO POLICE POACHING

New deal for perlemoen divers

CT 27/3/97

A FIVE-YEAR experimental project aimed at halting the over-exploitation of natural resources will break new ground in securing a long-term economic base for fishing communities. Senior Writer **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.



THE battle-weary fishing village of Hawston, with its ransacked perlemoen and crayfish stocks, is to be the testing-ground for a new approach to marine resource management based on joint-control by the fishing community and the relevant government departments.

A multi-million-rand "research and developmental project" funding proposal drawn up by Hawston residents, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries and the University of Cape Town's zoology department, institute of criminology and environmental advisory unit, was endorsed this week by the provincial secretariat for safety and security.

The proposal includes such elements as securing a community perlemoen quota and experimental community crayfish quota for Hawston.

It also seeks to explore the possibility of zoning an area around Hawston to facilitate local management through a perlemoen-reseeding experiment and of developing a community-based abalone nursery. The aim is also to resolve conflict between formal (permit-holders) and informal fishermen (poachers).

Local residents will participate directly in all aspects of the project.

The experiment offers Hawston residents access to marine resources in

Making money the triad way

THE police believe that a typical Chinese triad money-laundering operation proceeds along the following lines:

- Poached dried perlemoen is shipped by a South African company to a Hong Kong company, disguised as dried or canned fruit, or fish.
- The Hong Kong company sells the perlemoen and converts the cash into hard goods, such as television sets, cameras or other electronic goods.
- These are imported by the South African company, which sells them to the public.
- The owner of the South African company keeps a share of between six and eight percent of the profits.
- The remaining profits are ploughed back into local triad networks to buy more poached perlemoen.

exchange for the preservation of the resources by the community. It is designed to be mutually beneficial to both groups of fishermen.

The secretariat, a civilian agency involved in the implementation of the

(3) FISHING

multi-disciplinary National Crime Prevention Strategy, will shortly be approaching those in charge of RDP coffers and Business Against Crime to discuss funding the R4m-R6m project.

The secretariat's endorsement of the project followed a presentation by the provincial intelligence co-ordinating committee that analysed tensions between the competing groups of fishermen — and the deep involvement of Chinese organised crime syndicates (triads) in the local, illegal perlemoen industry.

The intelligence committee recommended that, in addition to policing, there was a need for constructive engagement between the government and poachers.

The possibility of an amnesty process could be investigated to allow those with criminal records for poaching to participate in a new deal.

Ultimately, the five-year project is aimed at halting the over-exploitation of natural resources and securing the long-term economic base of the Hawston community through developing a co-management model within the boundaries of the envisaged new fisheries policy.

Informal fishermen have claimed that they harvested about 500 tons of perlemoen from the Hawston area last year. The national total allowable catch for perlemoen, set by the government, was 400 tons last year.

Formal fishermen blame informal fishermen for the recent reduction of their perlemoen quota to 65 tons.

The informal fishermen blame the previous government's apartheid policies for depriving them of fishing rights — which

□ To Page 3

Triads exploiting fishermen's plight — report

07 27/3/97

③ FISHING

THE interests of local fishermen who poach abalone as a means of subsistence had become infused with the economic interests of syndicated criminal groups, most of them based in Hong Kong, the intelligence community told the provincial Safety and Security Secretariat this week.

Director of Policy Services Mr Deon Oosthuizen said yesterday that the civilian secretariat asked for a report from the Provincial Intelligence Co-

ordinating Committee (PICOC) after complaints from Hawston residents.

The report made it clear that besides local fishermen, outside gangs and Chinese triads also had a stake in poaching at Hawston, he said.

Poachers operating from Hawston apparently sold abalone for about R25/kg to a local middleman, who sold it for R35 to R70/kg to local networks (Guanxi) of either the Wo Shing Wo or 14K triads. They processed and dried

the product before sending it to Hong Kong where it fetched about R6 000/kg.

The demand for abalone in the Far East far outstripped South Africa's total allowable catch, and abalone poaching was becoming a rapid growth industry in which poachers could undercut local legal competitors, the report said.

While it was evident that most local fishermen who engaged in abalone poaching were not part of criminal networks, it was also evident that their

socio-economic plight was being exploited by the triads and middlemen.

PICOC has recommended that constructive engagement with poacher organisations such as the Informal Fishing Communities group could prevent their political cause from being hijacked by the middlemen and triads.

Also, visible policing by the Sea Fisheries Department had to be ensured and probes against syndicates had to focus on disrupting triad activities.

COMPANY NEWS

Good summer catches and strong exports yield substantial earnings increase

Sea Harvest pulls in salty interim profit

MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Sea Harvest Corporation, the Saldanha-based fishing company owned by CG Smith, shrugged off tougher trading conditions to report an 18 percent rise in attributable profit to R27,9 million in the half-year to March 31.

Earnings came in 21 percent higher at 26,4c a share, with the dividend up 11 percent to 10c.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, attributed the sound performance to good summer hake catches and a weaker rand in export markets, mainly in Europe, the United States and Australasia.

Turnover climbed 29 percent to R238 million while Sea Harvest's value-added efforts realised thicker margins and a consequent 34 percent jump in

operating profit to R41,8 million.

Interest and investment income of R8 million brought pretax profits to R50 million.

Penzhorn noted that investments in new vessels and in upgrading plant and facilities were bearing fruit. "We have held market share and increased exports by our ability to deliver quality frozen products to consumers."

He said the company was also actively pursuing new income streams. "We have recently purchased an abalone farm east of Port Elizabeth and have invested R12,5 million in new value-adding production facilities in Hout Bay."

Bottom line was, however, hit by a R2,5 million loss from Sea Harvest's Namibian associate fishing companies. Penzhorn said the loss stemmed from a reduction in the total allowable catch and poor fishing condi-

CT(BE) 2/5/97

tions in Namibian waters.

"Fishing conditions are improving in Namibia, and we are seeing an increased catch rate. Although the total allowable catch is unlikely to be revised in the next year, the increased catch rate bodes well for the future."

Looking ahead, Penzhorn predicted a satisfactory second-half showing but did not expect to match the growth in earnings for the full year. He cited the withdrawal of fuel tax subsidies for the fishing industry and the stronger rand's effect on export revenue as major drawbacks.

"We should, however, benefit from higher winter catch rates and will continue to expand our product range by introducing more value-added products in an ongoing effort to capture market share."

□ Business Watch

③ FISHING



HOOKED ON ADDING VALUE Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, announced a R12,5 million injection to the company's Hout Bay processing plant in a bid to add more value to production

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

Pessimism about Sea Harvest 'unwarranted'

Company stronger than ever – MD

③ FISHING

ARG 2/5/97

LLEWELYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

The pessimism shown towards Sea Harvest on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange was understandable but not justified, managing director Louis Penzhorn said at the release of the Cape fishing company's results yesterday.

Although Sea Harvest's share price tumbled to a low of 400c this week against 525c at the beginning of the year, Mr Penzhorn said the company's business was stronger than ever.

The company's results certainly reflect Mr Penzhorn's confidence with net profits rising 18 percent to R27,9 million in the six months to March.

Mr Penzhorn attributes investor pessimism to the uncertainty with regard to fishing quotas.

"Everybody was hoping that this year would produce some tangible results and would bring a degree of finality for the industry - instead the industry remains in

limbo," he said.

While the 1997 total allowable catch of hake was increased to 153 700 tons, the entire industry has been allocated provisional quotas which are four percent lower than last year.

Mr Penzhorn said he was hopeful that Sea Harvest's quota would be set at a similar level as last year's once the Quota Board reviewed the unallocated portion of this year's total allowable catch.

Mr Penzhorn remained confident for the company's long-term prospects.

"We have just gone through a huge asset renewal programme and continue to diversify our portfolio."

The company had just completed a R12,5-million upgrade at its processing plant in Hout Bay which was geared to producing seafood and other products based on non-quota fish.

The impact of the upgrade should start flowing through in the second half of the financial year, he said.

"We also made a very important investment in an abalone (perlemoen) farm 20km

east of Port Elizabeth."

He said it would take three to four years to show a return on the investment because "abalone take that long to grow".

They would be sold mainly on the export markets.

Mr Penzhorn said most of the investment in new vessels and in upgrading facilities was already bearing fruit.

"We have held market share and increased exports by our ability to deliver quality frozen products that consumers know that they can rely on."

In the shorter term, Mr Penzhorn did not expect the company to match first-half earnings growth in the second half of the year.

"Unfortunately the authorities have decided to further disadvantage the fishing industry by withdrawing fuel tax subsidies from March.

"This makes the fuel price paid by South African fishing companies among the highest in the world and, coupled with a stronger rand, this will hamper export opportunities in the months ahead."

Good catches lift Sea Harvest's profit

BD 25/97

5 FISHING

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Fishing group Sea Harvest lifted attributable profit 18% to R27,9m in the six months to March, buoyed by good summer hake catches and improved export earnings.

The strong growth was accompanied by a 21% rise in headline earnings to 26,4c a share. Stripped of the effects of sale on fixed assets, net profit a share was 12% higher at 26,5c.

The interim dividend was increased by 1c to 10c a share.

Sea Harvest MD Louis Penzhorn said the company had performed well in the first half year, however growth in headline earn-

ings a share for the full year was unlikely to match the first half.

"This is due to the strengthening of the rand against a number of imported currencies, higher fuel taxes payable from March this year and a much improved trading performance in the second half of last year compared with a weak first-half performance that year."

Turnover in the period under review grew 29% to R238,2m, albeit off a low base, due mainly to good summer hake catches and the impact of a weaker rand.

Local demand for branded products was also satisfactory. Together with good catches and despite a global softening in commodity hake profit, it helped lift

operating profit 34% to R41,8m.

A 4% increase in investment income to R8,1m was reflected in pretax profit of R49,8m — a 20% improvement on the same time last year — and was accompanied by an increase in the tax bill to R19,6m from R16,2m.

A reduced total allowable catch in Namibia and poor fishing conditions were reflected in an increased loss for Sea Harvest's associate to R2,5m from R1,7m.

Penzhorn said the introduction of an employee share purchase scheme in December last year had raised the total number of shares in issue to 107,7-million, which had increased the weighted number of shares in issue 5%.

'ELANDS BAY SHOULD BE DISASTER AREA'

Kreef fishermen face bleak season in wake of red tides

CT 9/10/97

ELANDS BAY kreef fishermen face a worrying future after a second red tide forced crayfish out of the sea last week — and the possibility of quota cuts to allow regeneration of stock. **PETER DENNEHY** reports.



THE question on the lips of every Elands Bay resident is fraught with worry: Are there any more kreef out there?

If not, then many people eking out a meagre living harvesting crayfish from the sea and potatoes from the land will be in dire straits at the end of this year, when the new crayfish season starts.

Early in April more than 1 000 tons of crayfish walked out on to the beach at Elands Bay to get away from a deadly red tide, which depleted oxygen in the water. Thousands of people converged on Elands Bay and made off with heaps of dead and dying crayfish.

Just as the season ended on Wednesday last week, a new wave of red tide washed into Elands Bay, leading to another walk-out.

This time, the Department of Sea Fisheries was geared for rescue. About 60 tons of live crayfish were recovered, taken to holding tanks at the Elandsbaai Company, and then transported to the deep, safe waters of St Helena Bay and released.

Mr Eugene Swart of Sea Fisheries estimated that another 60 to 100 tons of crayfish died on the beaches before the teams of workers could reach them. Most of the dead ones were taken to processing factories to be ground up into chicken feed.

Police in Elands Bay said there had been problems on Thursday evening with some "outsiders" who tried to take crayfish from the beach, but were persuaded to leave.

Most people were aware that the crayfish season had ended, so few had come in the hope of taking crayfish home.

But the question now for the 2 500 residents of Elands Bay is, are there any more

out there? Last week's walk-outs were a couple of kilometres from the previous ones in the "voorbaai". The later walk-outs were in a place known as Mosselbaai, around the mountain to the south of Elands Bay.

The red tide was all too apparent in the "voorbaai", but the sea was apparently clear before the most recent walk-out.

Mr Hendrik Brink, one of the casual workers searching for live crayfish amid piles of dead ones, said he had heard that Sea Fisheries divers had gone out the previous day to see if there were any more kreef.

"They say there are, but they are far out, where the water is 30m deep. They say the kreef are piled up three metres deep out there."

A Sea Fisheries official confirmed that divers had found live crayfish far out to sea, but he said the "piles three metres deep" was an exaggeration.

He said the quotas for next year had not been decided yet, but the four Elands Bay factories could get quotas to catch crayfish in other areas that had not been affected by red tide.

Mr Johannes Bezuidenhout, who works for the Elandsbaai Company during the crayfish season between November and the end of April, said that in that time he tried to earn enough money to see him through the other half of the year, when he was unemployed.

"There are other fish that we catch — Hotnotsvis and snoek — but the snoek are not running at the moment."

Bezuidenhout is married and has three children. His wife works in the crayfish factory in the season as well. He goes out in a

③ FISHING

company-owned rowing boat with one other person, collecting up to six crates of crayfish a day. He baits the nets, throws them in and then pulls them out almost immediately. The bigger boats use traps which they leave set and retrieve later.

"Every year, they cut the (company's) quota," he said.

"They say on the TV that the quota will be cut again."

He is worried that if the only remaining kreef in Elands Bay are in 30m of water, he and his fellow "bakkie manne" will not have the equipment to reach them.

It is different for the fishermen on bigger boats. Skipper Mr John Monk said his boat was big enough to go to Hout Bay or Dassen Island to catch crayfish.

Mr Booie Blankenberg, also a "bakkie man", said he was paid R6,72 for a kilogram of crayfish. Three crayfish make up a kilogram.

He said he and his partner brought in 70kg of crayfish a day in the two-month-long high season, but they went out to sea on only two days of the week.

He estimated that in the course of a year, he made about R4 000, "including my kreef money, my potato harvest money, and when the snoek are running thick, I get in R300 to R400 a week".

But the income is not steady. For three months last year, the sea was so rough that the boatmen were confined to shore, living on just bread and water.

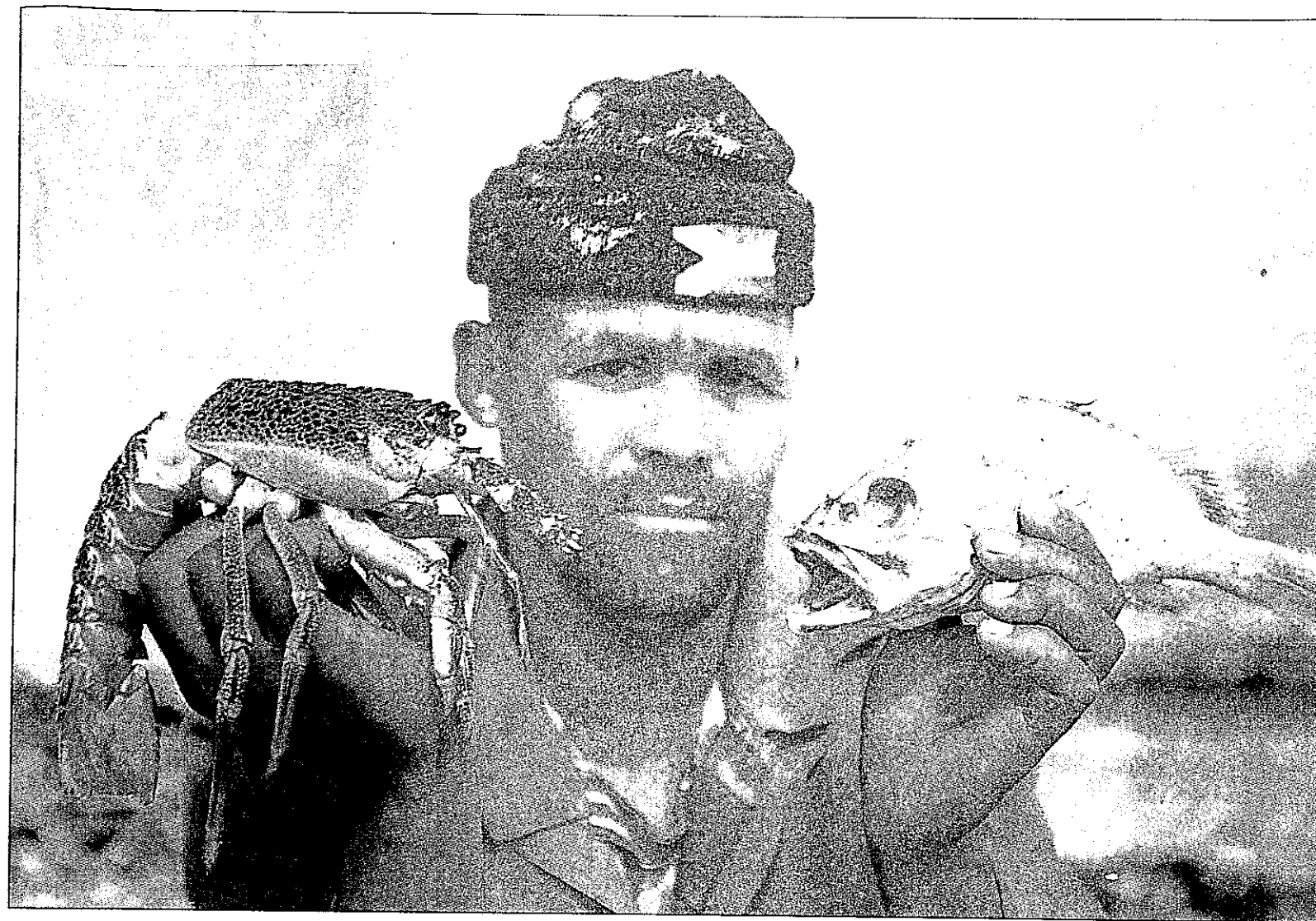
Mr John Links, a Piketberg/Elands Bay/Eendekuil council official who travelled up the coast with mayor Mr John Moore, said that if there were no crayfish by the opening of the new season in November this year, Elands Bay would be "a ghost town".

"We want to speak to the President, to declare this a disaster area," he said.

Moore said that this season was the first in which both coloured and black people had received crayfish quotas. Some of those who obtained them were office workers, with other jobs.

He felt strongly that the resident fishermen should be given preference.

Mr Sizakele Heetman, a 38-year-old Elands Bay fisherman and father of four, said he hoped to catch as many kreef in the



forthcoming season as he had in this past one, despite the red tide.

"Look how my shoes are looking. I have nothing," he said. He worked for one of the fish-processing factories because he had no boat of his own.

His neighbour, Mr Patrick Silera, had heard that some towns had received monetary compensation for the red tide. He was unsure where it had come from, but said he felt aggrieved that Elands Bay, which had been hardest hit, had received nothing yet.

Another resident, Ms Mavis Stemela, said: "We are exploited (gedruk) here in Elands Bay." She works in a crayfish-processing factory for R4,50 an hour, seven hours a day, for three months of the year.

For another six months of the year, she works as a potato-digger, earning R75 a week, working 11-hour days and sometimes longer. Silera said they ate mostly fish and potatoes.

But however hard their lives are at present, the future looks even bleaker unless the crayfish regenerate, or come back, by November.



CASUALTIES:

Johannes Bezuidenhout, (above) a seasonal crayfish fisherman, holds a dead crayfish and a Jakobpewer fish.

THREAT:

Fisherman Sizakele Heetman with his son Vuyiseka, earns R200 a week in the crayfish season, fishing for a factory. In the off-season he catches fish and harvests potatoes. The red tide has threatened his livelihood.

PICTURES:
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Sea Harvest in upgrade of Hout Bay operation

③ FISHING

AUDREY D'ANGELO

CT (BR) 6/5/97

Cape Town - Sea Harvest had nearly doubled the capacity of its Specialty Seafoods operation at Hout Bay through a R12,5 million upgrade, Louis Penzhorn, the company's managing director, said yesterday.

Penzhorn told Business Report that Sea Harvest had diversified out of fish products in the domestic market, helping to compensate for uncertainty about hake quotas in the future.

The upgrade and expansion had been necessary to meet demand for cooked and chilled ready-to-eat dishes, which had been growing at a rate of between 5 percent and 6 percent a year.

The Hout Bay factory had diversified from fish to include chicken, meat and vegetable dishes in its production lines. Woolworths was its main customer, and "our expansion is in line with their thinking", Penzhorn said.

The factory employed about 150 people but the number was likely to grow as new products were added to the range. Penzhorn stressed his was a labour-intensive industry.

The extension to the Hout Bay factory will be opened formally today by Simon Susman, the foods director of Woolworths.

Penzhorn said Sea Harvest's factory at Saldanha, which concentrated on hake and served the export market, also had state-of-the-art equipment and met the stringent requirements for exports to the European Community.

GE/10326

Foreign warships on patrol in bid to thwart illegal fishing

HENRI DU PLESSIS
SHIPPING REPORTER

The battle to save the Patagonian toothfish is hotting up as warships from European countries patrol southern ocean islands to thwart illegal fishing.

The French frigate Ventôse arrived in Table Bay Harbour yesterday for a break from patrolling French waters around Crozet and Kerguelen islands, after successfully capturing a "pirate" fishing vessel by sending marines on board.

The Patagonian toothfish

fetches high prices, especially in the Far East.

The lack of control in its distant southern ocean habitat has made the resource vulnerable and over-fishing has already driven it close to extinction in certain waters.

South African waters around Gough and Marion islands are also being targeted by fishing vessels from Europe, South America and the Far East.

Maritime sources said South African efforts to stem illegal fishing had so far come to nothing and attempts to enlist the help of foreign navies had yet to bear

results.

South African and French authorities are meeting on the Ventôse today to discuss the situation.

Fears have been expressed that the southern ocean has already been fished out to such an extent so as to have made fishing uneconomical.

South Africa's inability to patrol its own exclusive economic zones in the southern ocean and Antarctic region is a growing frustration, especially for environmentalists who fear devastation of the country's fishing resources.

③ FISHING

ARG 6/5/97

SA helpless over plunder

CT 7/6/97

FISHING

CAMPAIGNER Nan Rice says member countries of the Antarctic commission should club together to fight poachers. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Patagonian toothfish is in danger of being wiped out in a poaching frenzy in South African waters around Prince Edward and Marion Islands — while South Africa stands by and watches helplessly.

By contrast, France has five warships patrolling her Antarctic islands.

Sea Fisheries scientists say a massive 38 000 tons of Patagonian toothfish have been caught in South African waters around Marion and Prince Edward Islands since July — more than the amount reported caught in the entire area that abuts the Antarctic. The area is controlled by the Commission for

the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAM-LAR).

In Cape Town harbour yesterday, French representatives screened a video for the local authorities and media, showing how two vessels poaching toothfish in French waters around Crozet and Kerguelen Islands had been tracked down and boarded. One of the vessels was from Singapore and the other from Portugal.

On board the frigate Ventôse yesterday, French ambassador Mr Tristan d'Albis said: "There is real drama happening in this region because of the poaching. They are catching small toothfish of about

50cm. These can live to 50 years and grow to two metres, so the poachers are taking the fish before the age of production. There is real piracy. They paint over their names and ram boats."

Between them, the two poachers had 16 tons of illegal toothfish on board. They were taken to the French naval base at Reunion, where prosecution of the ships' owners were launched.

The CCAM-LAR zone includes Marion and Prince Edward Islands, around which South Africa has exclusive fishing rights for 200 nautical miles.

The commission's objective is to ensure that the Antarctic's marine resources are not exploited beyond sustainable levels. It determines the amount of toothfish that can be caught in the commission-controlled zone.

It has set the catch in waters off South Africa's islands at 9 800 tons a season. South Africa has issued five permits to vessels to fish for toothfish around these islands.

However, Dr Denzil Miller, Sea Fisheries scientist and chairman of the CCAM-LAR's scientific committee, said yesterday it was known that at least 38 vessels fished illegally around these islands.

"The 38 000 tons we know have come out illegally may be close to the last of the population," Miller said. "The sizes of toothfish caught have dropped and the population is close to crashing. At the rate it's going, the toothfish industry is not sustainable."

Asked what impact it would have on the marine ecosystem if the toothfish was wiped out, Miller said: "Five years ago we didn't even know the toothfish was in this area, so there's no way we could say what the effect would be."

The SA Navy says the SAS Outeniqua and SAS Drakensberg have the capability to patrol the islands, but it would cost a lot to use them in the Southern Ocean.

"The navy acts as a support to Sea Fisheries on request," said Captain Willem Smit, director of naval operations.

Save the Antarctic Campaign spokesman Ms Nan Rice does not believe this is the answer.

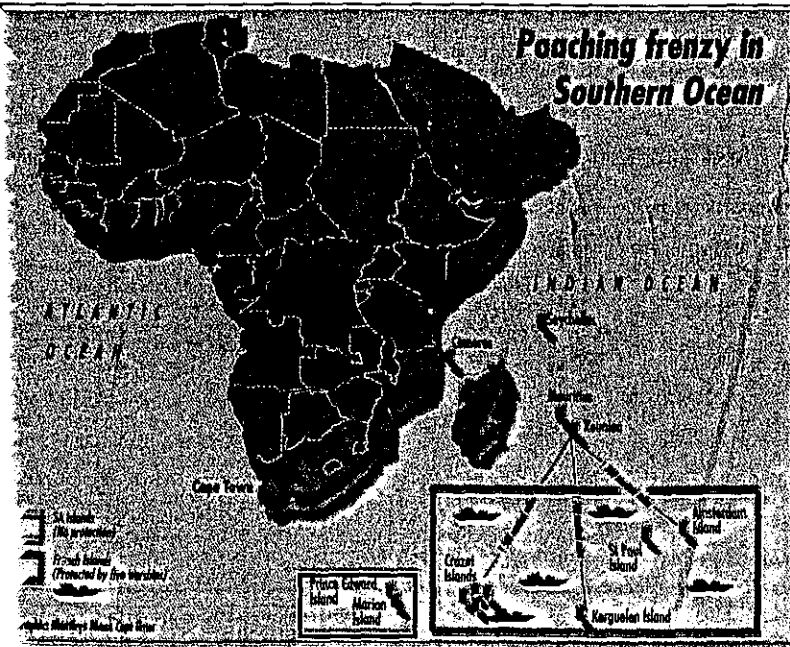
"They're huge ships. These poaching vessels can see them from miles away and will be gone in no time. It is not fair on the taxpayer to pay the huge amounts to keep these ships down there. I was told the toothfish resource might not last another 18 months."

"I think CCAM-LAR should make its 23 member countries club together and deal with the situation. They should make members have satellite tracking systems."

"Pressure must be brought on countries like Namibia, Mauritius and Mozambique to become members — otherwise, when SA refuses to let (poachers) land the toothfish, they simply go to ports in these other countries."

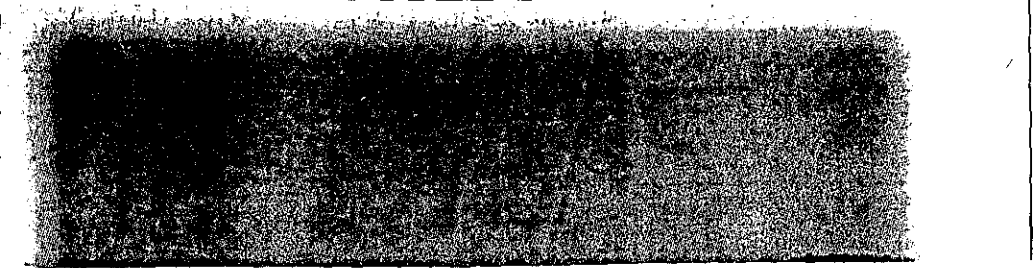


THREATENED: Patagonian toothfish, like this one examined by Sea Fisheries technician Jan Wissema, are close to being wiped out in South African waters around Prince Edward and Marion Islands — but SA does not have the resources to combat the poaching. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**



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French offer to help fight fish 'pirates'

③ FISHING

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

ARG 7/5/97

The French government has offered to co-operate with South Africa in an attempt to stamp out severe poaching of Patagonian toothfish in the Southern Ocean that is threatening to destroy this highly lucrative fishery.

The offer was made yesterday by French ambassador Tristan d'Albis at a news conference aboard the visiting French frigate *Ventôse* at the Waterfront.

The *Ventôse* arrested two fishing vessels allegedly operating in French waters around the island of Crozet in March and April, and a sister frigate, the *Floreal*, arrested a third off Kerguelen last month.

Both islands are deep in the Southern Ocean and within the area covered by the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), of which both France and South Africa are signatories.

All fishing in the CCAMLR area is controlled by the convention, which allocates certain tonnages of different species in demarcated areas.

Mr D'Albis said South Africa was directly involved because of its sovereignty of the Prince Edward Island group, also within the Southern Ocean and the CCAMLR region.

South African marine scientists estimate that more than 38 000 tons of Patagonian toothfish valued at about R600-million has been poached from fishing waters allocated to South Africa by CCAMLR since June last year.

Mr D'Albis said co-operation could include marine research, the sharing of information about poaching, and techniques for dealing with it.

"There is a real problem and danger for both our countries. Here is a real drama ... It's real piracy," he said. "These people (poachers) don't hesitate to ram boats that try to control them."

Foreigners target SA waters

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

③ FISHING

ARL 8/5/97

Foreign vessels have been making a determined effort to poach Patagonian toothfish from South African waters around the Prince Edward Islands, where an estimated 30 000 tons have been caught illegally in this and in adjoining conservation areas since last May.

This sought-after species sells for between US\$4 000 and \$6 000 a ton on the international market, making the illegal haul worth about \$150-million, or R660-million.

The foreign fishing vessels have been targeting South Africa's 200km exclusive economic zone around Prince Edward Islands since January, while local operators, who were last year granted permits to

catch here, have left the area in terms of the closed season specified in their permits.

South African fishing authorities are investigating the activities of a number of vessels in connection with illegal fishing at Prince Edward and/or which are in breach of their landing permit conditions. Most of the areas in the Southern Ocean where toothfish are being targeted are managed in terms of the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

South Africa and France are signatories to the convention but Namibia and Mozambique are not, so known poachers are choosing ports in these countries to unload the toothfish.

"We are looking into the matter with the Namibians," Sea Fisheries' Denzil Miller confirmed.

Warships may take on poachers

SA plans to halt toothfish plunder

③ FISHING

ST(CM) 18/5/97

CHARL DE VILLIERS

WARSHIPS and aircraft may be sent by South Africa to rescue Patagonian toothfish stocks from deep-sea poachers.

Sea Fisheries Research Institute spokesman Dr Denzil Miller told Cape Metro that South African authorities were "discussing" sending warships and aircraft to Marion and Prince Edward Islands, 2 100km south-east of Cape Town.

Poachers were accused of "raping" the toothfish resource by Irvin and Johnson general manager Tim Reddell, who said that catch rates for South African fishermen had collapsed from 15 to two tons a day.

Miller said of the call for inter-

vention: "Obviously we don't want to say too much at this stage, but suffice to say it will happen with high political backing."

South Africa's toothfish allocation was worth about R180-million, Sea Fisheries sources said this week.

Miller's statement follows warnings by the New Zealand government that a fishing war is looming in the Southern Ocean as countries with sub-Antarctic economic interests and international environmental commitments rally to clamp down on marauding fishing fleets.

Recently, SA Navy and airforce officers attended a briefing on a French frigate which had landed commandos on two ships caught fishing illegally in French territorial waters south of Reunion Island. A third ship had also been arrested.

French Ambassador Tristan d'Al-

bis said the idea "was to inflict superior damage to the risk that is taken (by poachers)".

A less drastic action for South Africa, however, would be to encourage neighbouring states such as Namibia to join the international Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), he added.

Five South African fishing groups have licences to catch altogether 1 200 tons of Patagonian toothfish off the Prince Edward Islands.

Reddell said of the poaching: "Catch rates have collapsed and all five licensed South African operators have lost money so far. Last year we were still catching up to 15 tons a day, and now it's down to two tons." Longline poachers were accused of catching at least 40 000 tons against South Africa's total allocation of 9 600 tons.

SA holds exploratory talks on fisheries accord

John Dlodlu

SA's negotiators yesterday held first exploratory talks on the fisheries accord with European Union (EU) counterparts in Brussels, SA embassy officials said.

Johan van der Merwe, a trade official at the SA multilateral mission in Brussels, said yesterday's technical talks had centred on the EU's briefing on its fisheries policy.

However, no position had been taken by the Pretoria side. "We explained the process of drafting a (fishing) white paper in SA, and the problems in restructuring the industry," Van der Merwe said.

The sluggish pace of the talks, especially the delays in moving into the trade, wines and fisheries aspects, has been a source of

concern to EU member states. In March, perceptions that SA was dragging its feet to proceed on fisheries and wines — of particular significance to Spain — prompted Madrid to threaten a veto on Pretoria's accession to the Lomé convention.

In addition to seeking access to SA's waters for its fishermen, Brussels is known to be keen to sell off some of its fishing fleet, sources close to the SA negotiators say.

Tomorrow, the teams resume talks on co-operation in the economy, including industry, investment promotion and protection, human resources development, information highway and the environment.

To date, the talks have resulted in a science and technology accord and SA's partial membership of Lomé, the long-standing ac-

cord that links the EU to its 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific partners.

Although negotiations on trade-related aspects — including competition policy, antidumping, intellectual property and state procurement — have been hailed as "helpful", results have yet to be achieved.

Although there are fears in Europe that the talks might drag on for months, sources close to the two teams have warned against pessimism. Besides, the issues are complex.

The talks will move on to tariff liberalisation schedules next month. Brussels has proposed a free-trade area, excluding 39% of SA's agricultural products, but Pretoria, which believes the EU proposal is unworkable, has suggested a "trade and development accord".

BD 21/5/97

(3) FISHING

SA backs new bid to halt toothfish plunder

③ FISHING ARG 22/5/97

Christchurch - France, South Africa, Norway, Australia and New Zealand have agreed to take joint action to halt the international plunder of valuable stocks of toothfish in Antarctic waters.

They held informal talks here in a bid to end the illegal pillaging of the lucrative Antarctic toothfish by an international fleet of up to 70 vessels.

New Zealand delegation head Stuart Prior said Norway had pledged to pass legislation to stop Norwegian boats illegally involved.

Ships from Norway, Argentina, Spain and the US are reported to be part of the illegal fleet. - Sapa-AP

We want to be the big fish - I&J

Media barred from portfolio committee meeting

AR 23/5/97

③ FISHING

LLEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

Fishing company Irvin & Johnson is angling for the Government to allow large industrial fishing companies to keep their dominant position in the deep sea fishing industry.

Speaking after a presentation yesterday to Parliament's portfolio committee on environmental affairs and tourism, Irvin & Johnson (I&J) director Charles Atkins said that the deep sea fishing industry was fundamentally different from the in-shore fishing industry and needed to be treated differently.

The media was excluded from the hearing by committee chairperson Gwen Mahlangu after a request by I&J managing

director Roy Gordon. No reasons were given.

There has been much controversy over South Africa's fisheries policy and access rights to the country's fish resources.

The major players in the deep sea fishing industry are I&J, Sea Harvest and Marine Products, but local fishing communities have demanded greater access to resources which have historically been dominated by the large companies.

Mr Atkins said the access rights to deep sea fish (hake) should be seen differently to the in-shore species, such as rock lobster and abalone.

"The hake industry is both capital and labour intensive," Mr Atkins said.

"To compete on a global scale in the hake industry, each company needs to be

assured of getting a certain minimum quota before it can justify the necessary investments."

Mr Atkins said I&J had recently bought a second fishing trawler for \$9 million.

"That's a R40-million investment for a second hand ship."

He said I&J had also made large investments in processing plants which "added value" to the fish.

This too, Mr Aitkins said, was vital for fishing companies to compete on a global scale.

"A new fish finger line costs R8 million today."

Mr Atkins said there could also be a net loss of jobs if the big fishing companies lost some of their quotas.

"A person who just trawls for fish can

sustain about 22 jobs for every one thousand tons of quota.

"With our on-shore processing plants we sustain about 60 jobs per one thousand tons of quota."

I & J has been invited to make another presentation to the portfolio committee's sub-committee on fishing.

The 1997 total allowable catch of hake was increased to 153 700 tons, but quotas allocated so far are four percent lower than last year - ostensibly to leave space for new players to enter the industry.

The large companies are still hoping that the final quotas for this year will be set at similar levels to last year's quota when the Quota Board reviews the unallocated portion of this year's total allowable catch.

Multi-pronged attack on perlemoen poachers

CHARL DE VILLIERS **3 FISHING**

ST(CM) 25/6/97

RESEARCHERS at the University of Cape Town have launched a major attack on rampant poaching of perlemoen.

Their strategy to combat poaching and restock the dangerously depleted perlemoen resource hinges on forensic tests to help police and lawyers, seeding selected areas of seabed with abalone spawn, and investigating the socio-economic causes of illegal harvesting at Hawston.

Their work could have international repercussions, particularly on west coast of the US and Australia, where poaching is also widespread.

One of the biggest problems facing law enforcers was the difficulty in proving that shellfish meat was, in fact, perlemoen once it had been removed from the shell, UCT marine zoologist Peter Cook said this week.

"Whether it's US red abalone, SA perlemoen or a limpet, the meat looks very similar. It just takes a clever lawyer to

argue that the meat is that of a siffie — a perlemoen-like shellfish — for a poacher to escape conviction. The other problem is being able to prove in a foreign court that smuggled perlemoen comes from South Africa," Cook said.

But thanks to laboratory research, UCT experts believe they have come up with answers to both problems.

Cook and post-graduate researcher Neville Sweijd — who will be attending an international conference in California to present their findings — have discovered that each species of perlemoen has a unique genetic profile.

"By identifying a specific type of DNA, we can identify perlemoen flesh, as well as proving that this it is specifically the South African species.

"This is pioneering in the sense that DNA testing has never been used for this purpose," said Cook.

The other breakthrough came from UCT medical school, where Prof Paul Potter and Andreas Lopata had been researching seafood allergies. Their test was now valuable in helping identify the perlemoen.

NAMSEA

Not one for the risk averse

3 FISHING

As last year showed, fishing profits can easily get away

RM 30/5/97

- **ACTIVITIES:** *Catching and processing pelagic fish.*
- **CONTROL:** *Kuttel family 35%.*
- **CHAIRMAN:** *P C Kuttel. MD: F P Kuttel.*
- **CAPITAL STRUCTURE:** *114m ords. Market capitalisation: R86m.*
- **SHARE MARKET:** *Price: 75c. Yields: 12-month high, 180c; low, 55c. Trading volume last quarter, 540 000 shares.*

Year to December 30	'93	'94	'95	'96
ST debt (Rm)	1,6	13,4	61,3	46,4
LT debt (Rm)	8,3	6,9	10,8	18,8
Debt:equity ratio	—	—	0,77	0,82
Shareholders' interest	0,54	0,25	0,43	0,56
Int & leasing cover	n/a	n/a	1,9	0,19
Return on cap (%)	12,3	12,8	7,3	1,9
Turnover (Rm)	101,0	134,4	161,5	92,9
Pre-int profit (Rm)	16,4	17,5	16,0	2,7
Pre-int margin (%)	15,6	11,7	8,7	2,7
Earnings (c)	138	15,3	18,2	(8,0)
Dividends (c)	150	12	15	—
Tangible NAV (c)	499	60,3	73,5	57,5

* Share split 10 for one.

Fishing in Namibian waters last year was a futile exercise. It produced almost no satisfaction for either pelagic or white fish participants and, though quotas for industrial catches were landed in full, it was a year of losses for all registered fishers of any size.

No pilchards were caught, not in Namibian or even in Angolan waters. Numerous trips to Angola, where Namsea has entered into joint ventures with Angolan licence holders to catch pilchards, were in vain.

Consequently, both vessels and plant were significantly under-used and production costs per ton escalated. The contribution from fish meal processing and fish oil operations was negated.

The demand for canned fish, fish oil and fish meal remained firm, and by year-end all stock on hand had been sold at satisfactory prices, mainly on the SA market.

Prospects for improved pelagic catches in financial 1997 are better.

The industry has already landed its initial permissible catch of 80 000 t of horse mackerel — subsequently increased to

year or more to do so.

It is a share that should be bought for recovery. But it would be naive to try to second-guess when the fish will return in a big way. In addition, the authorities control industry catch volumes to such an extent that no really large recovery can occur overnight. It would be prudent to look elsewhere for attractive investments with recovery potential.

Gerald Hirshon

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) No final decision has been made. The Department of Foreign Affairs is in the process of exchanging ideas with the Republic of China on framework for the future relations.
- (2) It is the intention of the South African Government to afford the Republic of China the highest representation permitted by resolutions adopted by international bodies, international law and state practice.

Prince Edward Islands:

illegal fishing

③ FISHING

*29. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

- (1) Whether there has been any illegal fishing by foreign fishing vessels in South Africa's territorial waters around the Prince Edward Islands; if so, what is the (a) estimated tonnage and (b) value on the international market of the fish caught illegally since 1 January 1997;
- (2) whether the Government is taking any steps to prevent such illegal fishing; if not, why not; if so, what steps? N1133E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

- (1) Yes, there has been illegal fishing in South African waters.

The first known illegal fishing for the Patagonian Toothfish within the South African exclusive economic zone (EEZ) around the Prince Edward Islands was reported in April/May 1996. Since then illegal fishing in the area has escalated.

- (a) To date in 1997 conservative estimates of Toothfish landings in South Africa and caught in the South Africa EEZ and adjacent CCAMLR (Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources) areas is 7 089 metric tonnes.
- (b) The value of the catch is \$22.15 million or R102 million.

- (2) Steps are/have been taken to prevent illegal fishing as follows:

- (a) Direct observation and reporting of illegal fishing in the vicinity of the islands by personnel manning the weather station on Marton Island;
- (b) Sea Fisheries and the SANDF are discussing surveillance from the air and the sea. At the moment sea surveillance is a limited option and is subject to vessel scheduling and other activities (remoteness and adverse weather are added difficulties);
- (c) All licensed vessels operating in South Africa's territorial waters around the islands carry Scientific Observers who report sightings of any illegal fishing in the area. There is no control over illegal vessels in this respect i.e. they do not carry observers or tracking units and are at this stage impossible to monitor.
- (d) Circulation of information to CCAMLR, France, Australia, the UK and New Zealand about illegal fishing activities and particulars of vessels known to have fished illegally;
- (e) SADC members have been asked to inform the South African authorities of any landings of Patagonian toothfish which might have been caught around the Prince Edwards Islands. There has been limited response from Namibia only. The Department of Foreign Affairs has requested coastal SADC countries to report illegal fishing and landing of toothfish in ports of countries adjacent to South Africa when they become aware of it.

SABC: loss of radio listeners

*30. Ms M SMUTS asked the Minister for Posts, Telecommunications and Broadcasting:

Whether the All Media Performance Survey (AMPS) for June to November 1996 indicates a loss of listenership to the SABC's 16 radio stations; if so, (a) what are the relevant figures in this regard for each station compared to the same period in 1995, (b) to

what is the loss ascribed and (c) how did such loss of listenership affect advertising revenue for each station during the period June to November 1996 as compared to the period June to November 1995? N1134E

The MINISTER FOR POSTS, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING:

Yes.
(a)

Radio Stations	March 1995		September 1995		June 1996		November 1996	
	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000	%	'000
Radio Sonder Grense	3.1	758	2.6	644	2.7	705	2.7	691
SAFm	1.3	330	1.0	250	1.2	305	1.0	259
5FM	3.5	867	3.0	755	2.7	704	2.8	719
Good Hope FM	2.7	672	2.5	627	2.0	533	2.2	572
Radio Lotus Stereo	1.3	314	1.1	286	1.2	310	1.1	282
Radio Metro	7.9	1939	7.9	2001	8.3	2124	7.3	1872
Radio 2000	0.9	216	0.7	184	0.6	147	0.5	119
Ukhozi FM (Zulu)	19.1	4682	19.2	4841	16.7	4306	14.4	3699
Umhlobo Wenene (Xhosa)	9.2	2268	9.2	2329	9.8	2528	8.3	2145
Lesedi (Sesotho)	7.4	1813	8.1	2056	8.4	2159	8.1	2096
Thobela (Lebowa)	7.2	1766	7.8	1962	7.6	1956	6.9	1775
Motsweding (Setswana)	5.6	1366	4.3	1084	5.4	1394	4.9	1269
Ikwewezi (Ndebele)	1.9	457	1.5	385	1.8	461	1.6	413
Ligwalawala (Swazi)	2.25	549	1.7	438	2.5	653	2.0	526
Munghana Lonene (Tsonga)	3.9	959	3.7	922	3.4	870	3.2	829
Phalaphala (Venda)	0.9	215	1.2	308	1.3	336	1.0	251

% refers to the number of 16 year and older people in the population who have been listening to a particular station.

'000 refers to the number of listeners in thousands to a particular radio station e.g. 758 means 758 000. The months which are reflected in the table refer to the months in which the respective surveys were conducted.

- (b) The loss in listenership is ascribed to:

- * the introduction of new programmes;
- * the change in radio station names; and
- * competition from community radio stations.

- (c) Please refer to Table 2.

ACCORD ENDS EIGHT-HOUR SIEGE

Fishermen hold Sea Fisheries chief hostage

FISHERMEN have demanded that Sea Fisheries chief Monde Mayekiso fire his directors and root out corruption. **CLAUDIA CAVANAGH** and **WILLEM STEENKAMP** report.

DISGRUNTLED fishermen held top Sea Fisheries officials hostage for almost eight hours in a department boardroom on the Foreshore yesterday.

Alleging that there was "deep-seated corruption" in the department, 25 members of the SA Fishermen's Action Committee (Safac) — formed a month ago to protect the interests of deprived fishermen — refused to budge or to remove tables they used to barricade doors.

They demanded to see Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan or Justice Minister Mr Dullah Omar.

After several telephone calls to Parliament, Dr Monde Mayekiso, chief director of Sea Fisheries — held hostage with director Mr Gideon de Villiers — said Jordan would not come under threat.

"He says his door is open. If you want to meet him, you should arrange to do so at his office," Mayekiso said, to jeers.

"We are not threatening the minister," said Mr Harry Mentoor, chairman of the group. "We just want him to know what is going on in the department."

The fishermen had arrived in Cape Town expecting to meet

Mayekiso and senior Sea Fisheries officials at 2pm. When, by 4pm, it had become clear most of Mayekiso's senior staff were not going to attend, the fishermen took Mayekiso and De Villiers hostage.

Mentoor claimed Mayekiso had no control over Sea Fisheries. "Sea Fisheries is not run by you, but by officials of the Broederbond."

The fishermen alleged there had been numerous instances of corruption.

Citing an example, they alleged three perlemoen diving permits had been issued in Hawston on Saturday afternoon — in spite of an apparent freeze on perlemoen diving pending the outcome of a High Court case between commercial divers and subsistence fishermen.

The fishermen drew up a memorandum of demands, which included that:

- The Hawston perlemoen quota granted on Saturday be frozen and investigated.

- De Villiers and other directors, Dr Andy Payne and Mr Rudi Haan, be fired immediately.

- An experimental hake longlining programme be taken away from a Sea Fisheries-related task team who, it was claimed, did

not represent deprived fishermen.

- A strategic planning group under Deputy Environment Affairs Minister Mr Peter Mokaba accept a Safac economist in its ranks.

- An advisory committee to Jordan, which they said included big industry players, be disbanded.

- Corruption in Sea Fisheries be eliminated.

Mayekiso said some of the demands had to be addressed by Jordan or Mokaba. He could not act on the others last night. In the case of the perlemoen permits, "if there is anything irregular, we will investigate".

He refused to fire the directors without following "due process".

Of allegations that his employees controlled him, he said: "That I don't know what is going on, of course, I will dispute. But then I must say that I can't know everything that is going on."

The fishermen bought Mayekiso and De Villiers chicken burgers and cold drinks for supper.

Police arrived about 8pm, but remained outside the building. About the same time, three members of the African National Congress's fishing desk arrived and talked, behind closed doors, to the fishermen and hostages.

The talks ended shortly before midnight. An agreement was drafted and the hostages released.

A statement is expected today.

CT4/6/97

(3) FISHING

Warning of violence if fish quota imbalances are not addressed

Informal sector seething and in turmoil

FISHING
ART 7/10/98

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

The informal fishing sector is in turmoil and violence could erupt if the operations of the newly established Sea Fisheries Transformation Council do not redress imbalances in the allocation of fishing quotas.

Chairman of the South African Informal Fishing Commercial Co-operative, Andy Johnston, said feelings were so high that his executive had been forced to expel some co-op members who had threatened to shoot members of the transformation council.

"Things have been volatile for a number of months now. We are afraid some of our people could be hijacked by militant groups who see an opportunity to redirect anger.

"This situation could lead to anarchy in the fishing sector. It's already showing with the plunder of marine resources," said Mr Johnston.

He accused the council, which replaced the old quota board this year, of being insensitive to the needs of disadvantaged communities.

"We need a hearing into the fishing industry. You can't transform without redressing the imbalances of the past. Apartheid deprived Africans on the coast of a livelihood and now they say 'transform the industry'.

"The big guys continue to get a big cut and we continue to suffer. No one is listening to us."

Mr Johnston has written to President Mandela requesting his intervention in the fishing industry.

In the letter he asked that Mr Mandela place a "moratorium on any reallocation of quotas. We believe this is the last opportunity to ensure the big cake is equally shared among everyone, including the previously disadvantaged communities."

The president's office has replied



LEON LESTRADE

High and dry: 'the situation could lead to anarchy in the fishing industry. It's already showing with the plunder of marine resources'

that the matter is receiving attention and he will receive a final reply soon.

Last week the International Labour Organisation was in Cape Town to look at updating South African maritime law and labour standards.

And Lulamile Kati-Kati, secretary of the Cape Town Harbour Fisherman's Association - a grouping of informal fishermen - has accused members of the South African Tuna Boat Association of failing to adhere to health and safety measures on their boats.

He said employers sent fishermen to sea without giving them enough time to prepare. He said employers refused to pay his members wages for loading the ice used for keeping the fish, which was an unfair labour practice.

"The cabins of some vessels leak, which affect fishermen's health."

Mr Kati-Kati added that members of the Tuna Association did not provide

protective clothing.

"They also deny crew members food as punishment for alleged offences on board, or use the threat of the denial of food as a disciplinary measure.

A number of fishermen had been assaulted at sea by a boat owner who also doubled as captain of the vessel.

An official of the Tuna Association said: "Ninety percent of the boats belong to our association because we fight for fishing quotas for them. Those workers should point out which boat owners are responsible for these acts.

Tuna Association committee member Gus Rafael said each individual boat should look after itself. The association did not involve itself in the business of individual boat owners.

South African maritime policies have also come under attack by the Sri Lankan United Federation of Labour.

"South Africa is seeking to satisfy

multinational and national corporations at the expense of artisanal and small scale fishermen without safeguarding the rights of fishing communities," charged the federation in a letter to Pallo Jordan, minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

"Countries like Sri Lanka look to South Africa for guidance, as in the case of Constitutional Law. In fisheries however, we respectfully suggest you reconsider policy objectives," wrote general secretary Saranapala Silva.

The ILO seminar, which ended last Friday, sought ways of looking after the welfare of seafarers in terms of safety regulations and pay.

Said Emillo de Sousa, a master mariner and ship surveyor who attended the seminar: "The necessity to improve the standards is there, and we cannot deny that. Only with proper training can this be achieved."

New force may soothe troubled waters of fishing industry

JEAN LE MAY
STAFF REPORTER

A new pressure group was called in to negotiate this week when Sea Fisheries chief director Monde Mayekiso and administrative director Guillaume de Villiers were held hostage by angry fishermen.

The emerging group – which has the backing of African National Congress parliamentarians, and the potential to become a decisive influence in fisheries matters – is an informal alliance between the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), the South African Informal Fishermen's Co-Operative (SAIFC) and the ANC fishing desk, in which MP Johnny Issel and ANC Western Cape secretary Marius Fransman have played an active role.

There is talk the new group could extend its membership into other provinces, and start playing an active role in the parliamentary committee on environmental affairs by urging action on the reshaping of a new

fisheries policy.

It is claimed that Western Cape ANC leader, Justice Minister Dullah Omar, may be invited to join the group.

Mr Omar could not be reached for comment.

The current Fisheries Policy Development Committee, established by then environmental affairs minister Dawie de Villiers in late 1994, took two years to produce a report and a white paper has yet to be published.

During this week's hostage incident, Mr Fransman and Andy Johnston of SAIFC were summoned to the Sea Fisheries foreshore offices after members of the SA Fishermen's Action Committee had locked themselves into Dr Mayekiso's office.

The action committee appeared to be under the impression that Sea Fisheries was responsible for issuing permits to perlemoen

'The group could play an active role in reshaping a new fisheries policy'

ARG 9/6/97
divers at Hawston, in spite of the freeze on diving permits pending the outcome of a court case between commercial divers and subsistence fishermen, Mr De Villiers told Saturday Argus.

Eventually Dr Mayekiso undertook to look into alleged irregularities, he said. Dr Mayekiso came in for some stick, with the action committee describing him as "a messenger boy" when he told them that many of the demands put to him should be addressed to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan.

Dr Mayekiso refused to fire officials named by the action committee, saying that "due process" process would be followed. Dr Mayekiso could not be reached by Saturday Argus for comment, but Mr De Villiers added he was "baffled" by the hostage-taking. He said it was a repeat performance, because he had been taken hostage,

③ FISHING

together with former chief director Louis Botha, two years ago.

"I thought those days were over," he said.

The SA Fishermen's Action Committee, headed by company director Harry Mentoor, was formed only a month ago, according to a source. Earlier, Mr Mentoor and other members of the committee were involved in the controversial Fisheries Development Unit (FDU), formed about two years ago by a group of businessmen with the object of helping disadvantaged fishermen through the formation of companies in which they would be given shares.

At one stage there was bad blood between the FDU and the rest of the informal fisheries sector, which played an active role in the Fisheries Policy Development Committee and on which the FDU was not represented.

Moreover, there is a view that the action committee was engaged in a publicity stunt in an attempt to gain ground among subsistence fishermen following the rapprochement between Fawu and the other informal groups.

Key fisheries charter out soon

CHARL DE VILLIERS

③ FISHING

ST(CM) 15/6/97

THE fisheries White Paper is expected to be released this week after nearly three years of consultation and controversy over future access to South Africa's R2,1-billion fishing, rock lobster and abalone industries.

Government spokesmen were tight-lipped about policy recommendations, which are expected to include a major overhaul of access rights to fishing resources and the scrapping of the Quota Board.

The White Paper could be tabled in Parliament by Wednesday and publicly released on Thursday, Environment and Tourism Ministry spokeswoman Cassandra Gabriel said on Friday.

A draft law — the Marine Living Resources Bill of 1997 — would go before the full Cabinet on Wednesday, she added.

Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Monde Mayekiso said this week that the national Fishing Policy Development Committee's recommendations had failed to address the crux of the entire policy — access rights for fishermen like perlemoen divers.

Perlemoen poaching could not be dealt with properly unless there was a policy which has been debated and approved by Parliament, he added.

"We need a national policy that everyone will respect."

One of the biggest challenges was juggling the interests of disadvantaged black fishermen and those of the big commercial operators while ensuring economic security and the long-term sustainability of the resource, said Mayekiso.

New deal for fishing as Quota Board goes

SHARKEY ISAACS
STAFF REPORTER

Dramatic changes to the country's fishing policy that will see the end of the controversial Quota Board and make quotas readily available to informal fishermen have been announced by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan.

The industry, which provides a livelihood for more than 100 000 people, mostly in the Western Cape, has been beset with controversy of late, mainly over quotas and the monopoly held by a few large fishing companies.

The basis of the new policy, outlined in a white paper by Chief Director of Sea Fisheries Monde Mayekiso yesterday, is the scrapping of the Quota Board and its replacement with quotas handed out by the minister in a recommended consultative process with his department. The new policy is based largely on the report of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee.

A commercial public company, with an independent board of directors and the State as the only shareholder, will be set up

to buy fishing quotas. It will rent, lease, or contract quotas to small and medium-sized operators who have boats and equipment. The fishermen will be able to negotiate a price for catching fish.

Rights would be limited by the season for fishing, the type and size of the boat, the size and amount of fish and by catch and the type of fishing gear or method.

"Meaningful development initiatives should be implemented harnessing other financial resources as well within the fish industry," he said.

Another major move will be the licensing of the country's 750 000 recreational fishermen. However, recreational anglers will not be allowed to sell their fish, something which skiboat fishermen have been advocating for years.

The paper stressed the need "in general" for marine fisheries to remain under national administration and control.

Dr Mayekiso said the new fisheries policy, expected to come into operation on January 1 next year, was based on key aims which included maintaining marine re-

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Jordan puts an end to fishing Quota Board

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sources in a way that brought the best long-term social and economic benefits to the nation and the promotion of sustainable utilisation and replenishment (restocking) of living marine resources.

"In other words, we must make sure that future generations of South Africans will be able to have at least the same levels of catch and a healthy marine environment."

The paper said it was imperative that a broadening process be employed to achieve goals like increasing employment opportunities, developing new markets, promoting tourism and dealing with historical inequalities.

In future, fees for utilising the resource would contribute a larger amount to administration, research and control, creating opportunities for formerly disadvantaged fishermen in terms of both small-scale fishing activity and as meaningful equity holders in larger enterprises.

The new policy would also ensure that national interests were served before foreign ones.

Joint venture will boost sales of I&J hake in Australia

BUSINESS REPORTER

Cape-based fishing and frozen foods company Irvin & Johnson is looking to market its hake products with renewed vigour in Australia following the establishment of a joint venture between its Australian subsidiary and the seafood, snack and meal division of Simplot Australia.

Simplot Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary of the JR Simplot Co. in the US, is one of the largest food production companies in the Pacific rim, with gross revenues of Aus\$700-million (R2,4-billion).

I&J managing director Roy Gordon said the joint entity would create an internationally competitive food business with a sales turnover of almost

Aus\$200-million (R688-million).

"The Australian market is highly competitive and it simply made sense for us to combine the complementary strengths of the two organisations to create a significant business with critical mass in the retail and food service markets, tapping in to the support structures of the Simplot Australia organisation."

③ FISHING ART 2016/197

Mr Gordon said the joint venture company would also provide "a much more secure base for I&J SA through which to market South African hake".

"We believe it is also significant that the strength of the I&J brand has been recognised as it is intended to make I&J the joint venture's exclusive brand used in the foodservice markets in Australia.

'HISTORICAL INJUSTICES' IN FISHING INDUSTRY

Marine pie to be sliced more equitably

PALLO JORDAN says it's important that the fishing industry sees change as a necessary process rather than a threat. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE country's fisheries policy released yesterday heralds a new era in which the South African marine resources pie will be carved up to give the have-nots a chance to get a bigger slice.

At the same time it recognises the role that big business plays in the fishing industry, particularly in the international market, and ensures that this industry will not be torpedoed.

Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan likened the new policy's key objective of broadening access to marine resources to people running in a race.

"Some competitors entered this race with bare feet while one had very fancy takkies on. He got far ahead while the other guys had their feet torn apart by the hard track.

"With this new policy we're not saying to the guy in front 'stop running so the other guys can catch up'; we're giving the other fellows a pair of takkies to help them catch up."

SA was a country in transition, he said, and it was important that the fishing industry, which had been characterised by profound historical injustices, embraced this change, seeing it as a necessary process rather than a threat.

As existing quotas cannot be taken away immediately without throwing the industry into chaos, the new policy will be implemented in two phases. In the first phase a commercial public company will be set up to buy fishing quotas from the state, which will then lease them to small and medium-sized operators for a negotiated price.

In the second phase, a new management resource system will be introduced where fishing rights will be sold by public tender through a bidding process.

The Quota Board, which used to allocate fishing rights, will be scrapped, and the Minister of Environment will allocate these resources in future.

The reasons for this move are:

- For the minister to be accountable, he must have the power to take all key decisions.

- An independent body like the

Quota Board will always face pressure to make political decisions.

- A Quota Board needs administrative support from Sea Fisheries, which drains already tight resources.

What it means for different groups:
BIG BUSINESS:

Quotas: The policy does not stipulate what percentage of quotas the big fishing companies will get, but says quotas will be distributed more evenly so that a few companies do not dominate certain fisheries.

In some instances they may get almost the entire quota for certain species, like hake, if they are the only group with the capacity to benefit the product and export it competitively.

Restructuring: Big business will be encouraged to restructure their companies to empower disadvantaged people to compete. This could be done by selling shares to employees or selling fishing rights and providing support services to smaller operators. Jordan said the government reserved the use of the stick in this regard.

Conditions: Companies will have to provide workers with fair employment conditions, including income, health, safety, job security and retirement benefits.

Long-term rights: Rights will be

sold by public tender. The decision on who gets the rights will be based on the company's efforts to restructure and to help build a sustainable industry. The company will pay an amount every year for the right. The right will return to the state after a fixed number of years, but the company can apply for a returned right. Rights can be divided, but there will be a minimum quota size. These rights can be transferred or sold, but only to South African citizens.

Fees: Companies will pay a fee — higher than at present — into a sea fishery fund to help Sea Fisheries to cover its costs of management, research, control and development.

THE SMALL GUYS:

Access: Those who have been left behind in the fishing industry through apartheid, will get a "leg-up" through a commercial public company. It will buy fishing quotas from the state and rent or lease them to small and medium-sized operators, who must have fishing boats and equipment. They will pay the company a negotiated price for catching the fish.

Share Trust: Established to allow disadvantaged people to buy shares in fishing companies by paying a deposit and the rest over several years.

Long-term rights: Small operators

can only be independent if rights are sold to them. Once they are established in the industry through the commercial public company, they will be able to buy long-term rights. These will be sold by public tender. These can be divided, but there will be a minimum quota size. These rights can be transferred or sold to South African citizens.

SUBSISTENCE FISHERMEN:

Licence: The policy recognises the right of people to fish for survival, but says that, like all users of marine resources, subsistence fishermen will have to be registered and licensed.

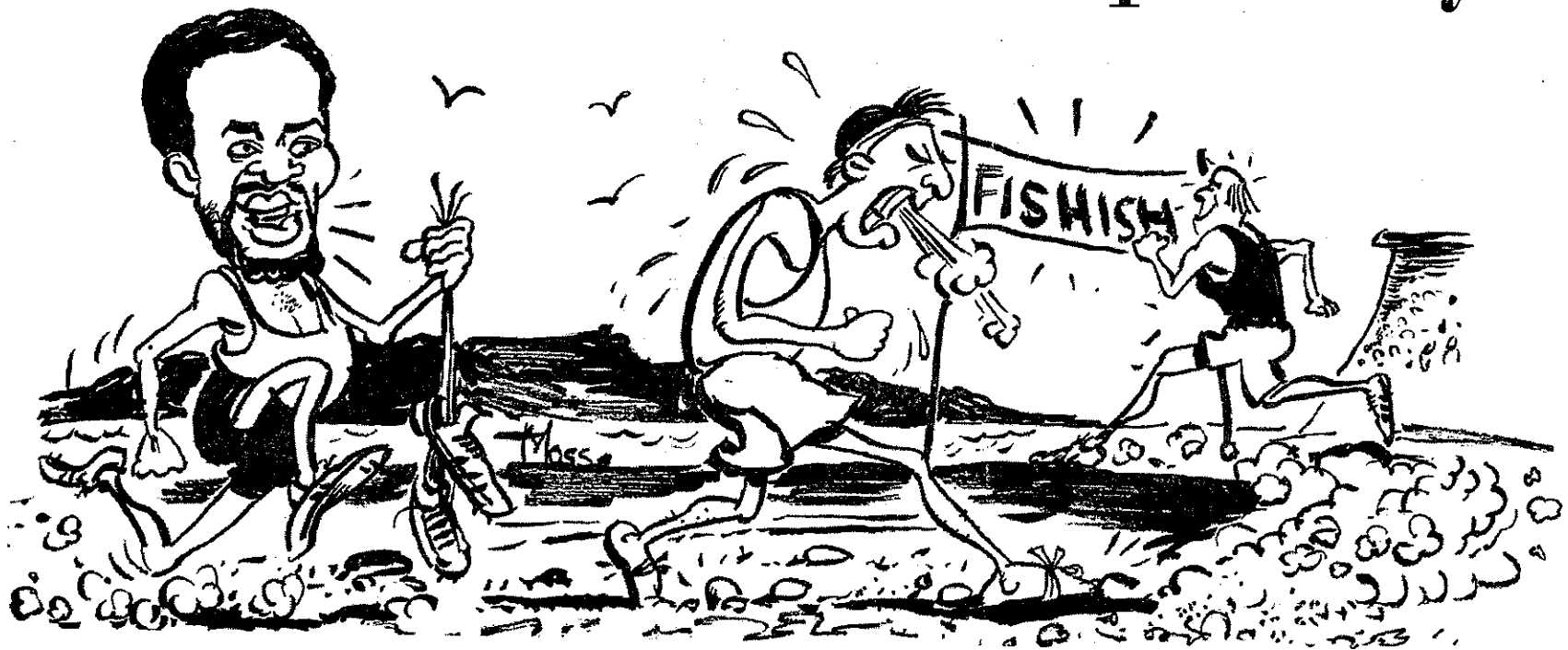
- They will be allowed to fish only in specified places.

- They can sell their surplus catch, but only locally.

RECREATIONAL FISHERMEN:

Licence: All sport fishermen — about 750 000 — must be registered and licensed.

- Sport fishermen will not be allowed to sell their catches because this could act as an incentive to increase the fishing in this sector, which entails risks of over-exploitation. Also, sport fishermen, who are not dependent on selling their catches for a living might undercut the commercial operators by selling at lower prices than commercially viable.



Put them on ... You'll catch up!

CT 20/6/97

③ FISHING

Key aspects of new SA fisheries policy

- The Quota Board will be scrapped and the Minister of Environment will allocate quotas.
- Access to marine resources will be broadened to include those disadvantaged by apartheid.
- A commercial public company will be set up temporarily to distribute quotas to small operators previously denied access to fishing rights.
- Long-term fishing rights will be sold by public tender.
- Everyone who uses marine resources will have to be registered and licensed, including sport and subsistence fishermen.
- Quotas will be able to be sold, divided, transferred and inherited.
- Sport fishermen won't be allowed to sell catches.
- Subsistence fishermen will be allowed to sell their surplus catch.
- Those who use marine resources will be charged a fee to help pay for management and research.
- South Africans will get quotas before foreigners.
- There will be a shift in focus to favour less sophisticated and affordable fishing methods.
- Fisheries will be controlled by the government.
- Vessels fishing far from the coast will have to be fitted with satellite-tracking devices.
- The policy will be underpinned by the principle of sustainable utilisation.

I&J ventures into Asian waters

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — Irvin & Johnson (I&J), the fishing and frozen food group, is preparing to move aggressively into the fast-growing southeast Asian market through a joint venture with Australian partner Simplot, Roy Gordon, the company's managing director, said yesterday.

I&J has formed a joint venture with the food group Simplot's seafood, snack and meal division to create an internationally competitive food business with a sales turnover of about A\$200 million (about R680 million).

Gordon said I&J had a 40 percent stake in the new venture and Simplot 60 percent. "The Australian market is highly competitive, and it

CT (BR) 20/6/97 (3) FISHING
simply made sense for us to combine the complementary strengths of the two organisations ...

"The joint-venture company will also provide a more secure base from which to market South African hake ... this gives us the opportunity to put down deep roots and expand into the Pacific Rim."

Gordon said the I&J brand, which was already familiar in Australia and southeast Asia, would continue to be used. It would be the sole seafood and snacks brand marketed by the joint venture in southeast Asia.

"Within Australia, Simplot Bird's Eye brand and the I&J brand will form the basis of the joint venture's retail thrust."

I&J will also have the sole marketing rights in Australia for the products of Hangana

Seafood, a new joint venture between Namibian fishing companies Kuiseb Fish Products and Consortium Fisheries. I&J holds 51 percent of Kuiseb.

Walter Bugno, the managing director of Simplot, said the move into southeast Asian markets was particularly important because growth in the Australian market had been static for some time.

A spokesman said I&J had no manufacturing operation in Australia. Simplot Australia, which was a wholly owned subsidiary of Simplot (USA), was the biggest frozen food company in Australia, with gross revenues of A\$700 million and 2 800 employees.

The seafood and snacks division, with which I&J was now linked, accounted for 14 percent of the total operation.

Govt proposal to restructure SA fishing

③ FISHING BD 20/6/97

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Government yesterday proposed a fundamental restructuring of SA's fishing industry which included scrapping the controversial Quota Board and awarding previously disadvantaged fishermen commercial quotas for the first time.

The major fishing corporations would have to restructure their ownership to meet "empowerment

criteria" to qualify under a new quota bidding process.

The sea fisheries white paper was presented to Parliament by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan.

Government hoped to enact the sea fisheries policy from January 1 next year, Jordan said.

The fishing industry has been dogged by problems, mainly over quotas and the dominance of a few large fishing companies. To

change this, the white paper proposes establishment of a commercial public company, with the state as the only shareholder and an independent board of directors, to purchase fishing rights.

The new company "will rent quotas to those previously denied access to fishing rights", he said. "The company's main purpose will be to allow small-scale fishing operators ... to catch fish on a commercial basis."

The white paper advocates a system whereby all fishermen and companies may bid for and obtain rights to catch quota species like hake, rock lobster and abalone.

"The new fisheries policy will favour small to medium-sized enterprises and, in some cases, less sophisticated or more affordable fishing methods," Jordan said.

About 27 000 people are directly employed in SA's fishing industry — mostly in the Western Cape.

The white paper suggests various ways for large fishing companies to achieve empowerment objectives, such as expanding equity ownership in companies, unbundling, mergers and the formation of co-operatives and other forms of formal co-operation.

Jordan said phase one of the programme would be implemented immediately, and entailed establishment of the commercial public company and an implemen-

tation committee. Phase two would embrace the bidding process for long-term rights.

The white paper proposes that marine fisheries remain under national control because, Jordan said, "these are resources belonging to the nation as a whole".

Jordan and senior sea fisheries management will be hosting public meetings and workshops in fishing communities to discuss the implications of the new policy.

industry

White paper on fishing 'leaves the poor in hot water'

③ FISHING

Creation of new elite feared

AKT 21/6/97

JEAN LE MAY
STAFF REPORTER

The Government white paper on sea fisheries has landed four-square on the fence. With a stated aim of cutting the capitalists down to size and scattering the pieces among the proletariat, it has ended up by doing neither.

Instead it could create a new fishing elite, in exactly the same way as the fishing industry was dominated in the apartheid years by friends of the Government. This is according to informal sector spokesmen, who claim the policy will benefit privileged "struggle" people who have already formed companies and have fishing quotas.

The white paper specifically excludes politicians and civil servants from getting involved in fishing interests, but the spokesmen retorted that "that did not help in the past - there are always front companies". And company spokesmen confirmed that tension had lifted in the boardrooms of the big fishing companies, with the realisation that Government had no intention of dismantling or seriously damaging the established industry.

In the white paper, released by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan this week, the most telling innovation was that people will have to pay the Government for the fish they catch, through a new public company. There is nothing to suggest how much these payments will be, but fish and shellfish are valuable resources and if the payments are market-related, then domestic consumer prices will rise.

Democratic Party fisheries spokesman Errol Moorcroft commented that careful provision must be made in the new Fisheries Act for funds accumulated by the public company.

Another innovation is that the Quota Board will be done away with, and the minister will allocate fishing quotas, advised by a committee.

The present Quota Board has been investigated for corruption and everybody is glad to see the last of it. But Mr Moorcroft has said that "a careful eye" will need to be kept on the new system.

The situation the white paper had to address was that a handful of big fishing companies made

a lot of money by enjoying a virtual monopoly of quotas, while subsistence fishermen did not make enough to live on. Somewhere in between there were small and medium-sized companies, working fishermen (some of whom own boats), workers on trawlers and in factories, sports fishermen, and thriving communities of poachers.

The white paper has put forward an ingenious scheme through which, it is hoped, the ground will be levelled. This is the plan:

- Scientists will decide, as they do now, on the total allowable catch for any species to which quotas apply (for some, there are no quotas);

- Phase one of a new two-phase plan will then come into operation. A commercial public company will be formed which will buy quotas from the state, and rent, lease or contract them to small and medium-sized businesses. Prices will be negotiated. The big companies will apply for quotas in the usual way, and they too will have to negotiate prices.

- Simultaneously, an implementation committee will work on where to go next.

- In Phase Two, everybody will be able to tender for real, long-term fishing rights to quota species, in a one-off bidding process.

But there will be conditions. The implementation committee will have monitored what the established companies have done in the way of unbundling and affirmative action. Only companies which have passed some sort of litmus test will be allowed to tender.

"The transformation will not result in black-managed companies, but will change them from white-managed to rainbow-managed companies," the white paper states.

New entrants will only be allowed to tender if they have coped adequately with the quotas obtained through the commercial public company.

Onerous conditions will apply once a bidder has obtained rights. There will be limitations on vessels and gear which may be used, on areas to be fished, seasonal and size limits, and on by-catch bag limits.

The rights will be sold for a long period - possibly as long as 50 years - and will revert to the state thereafter.

CHARL DE VILLIERS

Officials face grilling by fishermen

Government to explain fishing White Paper to people it most affects

③ FISHING ST(CM)22/6/97

GOVERNMENT officials can expect a grilling — and a few pats on the back — when they visit St Helena Bay to explain the fisheries White Paper to the West Coast town's weather-beaten fisherfolk.

Released this week by Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan, the White Paper spells out the government's vision for a robust, tightly-managed and sustainable fishing sector based on fair and equitable access to a R2,1-billion industry that generates an estimated 27 000 jobs.

The crux of the policy focuses on the controversial issue of access rights by means of "constructive redistribution" — a process that aims to resolve widespread resentment among the coloured and black fishermen who say they have been denied a fair slice of the fisheries pie because of a skewed quota system that favoured a handful of powerful, largely white-owned companies.

The key mechanisms to remedy current distortions and achieve greater equity in access are:

- Putting the Minister of Environment Affairs in charge of allocations and scrapping the Quota Board;
- Reserving quotas that will be rented to previously disadvantaged entrants by a public company with the state as its sole shareholder;
- Setting up a committee to implement the restructuring process; and,
- Selling off long-term fishing rights through a once-off bidding process.

The White Paper has been received

cautiously by senior industry executives, who said they needed time to study it more fully.

Sea Harvest chairman Eckart Kramer said assurances about long-term rights were a positive aspect of the policy, but more clarity was needed on issues such as the size of the "slice" set aside for small and medium-sized entrants to the industry.

"It's impossible for everyone who wants a quota to have one, and there will have to be limited entry to the industry. I don't expect a huge proliferation of new quota-holders," he added.

Deepsea Trawling Association vice-chairman Charles Atkins said it was not clear who qualified as informal, small or medium-sized fishing concerns — and any distribution of rights away from established companies would harm international competitiveness.

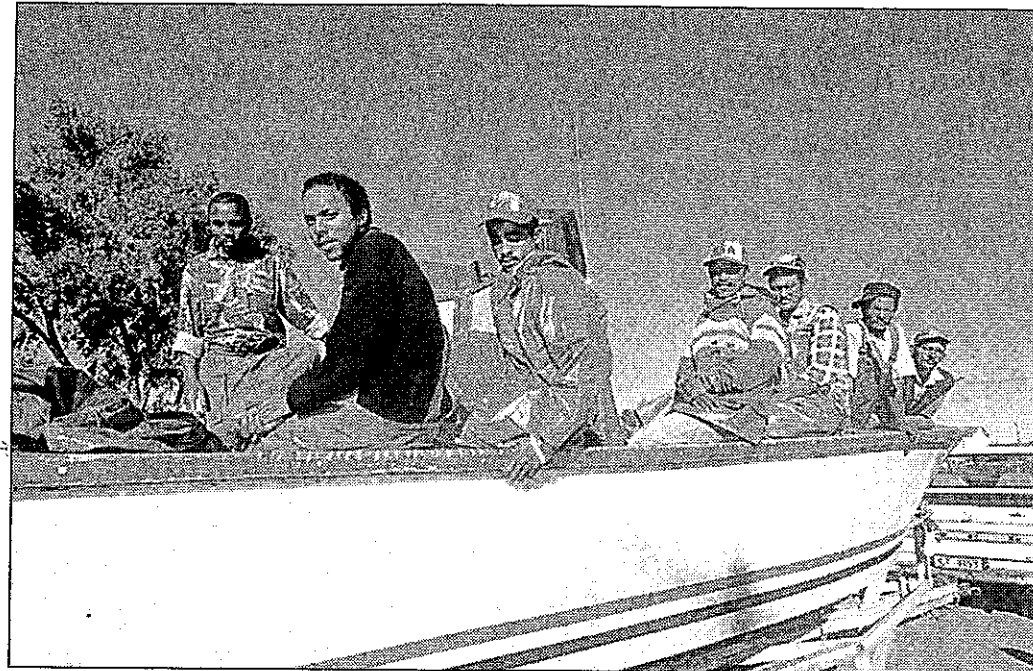
"World-wide, state fishing companies have an abysmal record.

"I'm also concerned that competitive auctioning of rights could escalate to such an extent that potential investors go and seek better returns elsewhere," Atkins added.

At St Helena Bay, the RDP forum spokesman Tim Afrika said 95 percent of the local men caught fish for a living

GOING FISHING: Fishermen like these want to get a fairer slice of the fisheries' pie

Picture: **AMBROSE PETERS**



but had to crew on boats they did not own.

While fishing was a question of day-to-day survival for most, the Dromedaris crayfish company had

given about 800 coloured fishermen access to a share of the factory's crayfish quota — and medical aid and housing benefits.

Other fishing companies were also

increasingly giving employees a share in the business, but the government would also have to address the working conditions and job security of trawlermen and the women who

worked in factories, Afrika added.

Three issues dominated talk among fishermen at Laingville, a coastal hamlet near the town of St Helena Bay — quotas, recreational fishing and the potential benefits of seaweed mariculture proposed for Stompneus Bay.

"The state must give us individual quotas. We were promised 51 tons of white fish last year, but still haven't been given a permit," Andrew Karelse, 41, said on Thursday.

Karelse said he represented the 400 members of the St Helena Bay Line and Net Fishermen's Association.

"There must be justice. We must form a big company that gives everyone a fair share," Richard Oosthuizen, 38, retorted.

"The state gives farmers drought aid. We need winter aid when there aren't fish. People need low-interest loans to buy or rent quotas, which they can pay off. And it's not right that non-fishing outsiders with regular salaries get quotas while our people starve when the fish aren't biting," Afrika added.

According to Karelse, it was "a dangerous idea" to set up a company that catered specifically for the rights of informal fishers.

"People are not going to pull together; one will go this way, and the other

will want something else. We need a big meeting to discuss these things."

Welcoming the proposal to disband the Quota Board, Afrika said: "The minister is more accountable. The people also believe that the Quota Board has absolute power. It's a mess — if the Quota Board likes your presentation, you're favoured. But how can a nervous, stammering fisherman stand up against a smart lawyer hired by a company?"

"The Quota Board is very impatient with our people. It would say 'hurry up; we're only at the Azanian Fishing C C and still have to get to Zolani on the list'," Afrika said.

The government's proposal to license an estimated 750 000 recreational fishers and forbid them from selling their catches was welcomed by Laingville fishermen.

Snoek — a non-quota species — formed the backbone of the settlement's winter economy.

Typically, local men would fish from ski-boats owned by non-residents. The day's catch would be sold to *langanas* (hawkers) from Cape Town and other centres.

Half of the day's takings would go to the owner of the ski-boat, and the crew — usually between six and eight men — would divide the rest among themselves.

When fish were running and catches were good — up to 700 fish per boat — the hawkers would pay about R1,50 a fish. Poor catches could push the price up to R4,50 a fish.

"The *langana* then drives his bakkie back to Mitchells Plain or wherever and sells the fish for anything from R15 to R30," Oosthuizen explained.

White paper will drown traditional fishing

ET 26/6/97

(3) FISHING

ANDY JOHNSTON

THE new fisheries policy set out in the government's white paper released last week is a betrayal of the impoverished people of this country.

It does not recognise the important contributions made by small-scale fisheries to employment, income and food security — or the right to secure a just livelihood. It is obvious that large industrial companies had a major influence on this document. And it is equally obvious that the *status quo* is to remain intact, dressed in new clothes.

The pressure on our fishing resources by non-traditional fishing technology and the complete lack of surveillance will require hard decisions to be made in the near future to ensure sustainability. The absence of air and sea patrols have left the way open for over-exploitation by large, modern fishing fleets. Equally, this proposed policy will not begin to address the in-shore poaching problem.

Years of close co-operation between the large industrial fishing companies, apartheid-era politicians, the various authorities and scientists has resulted in misinterpretation of the facts and questionable research. This has had a negative impact on the resource and has led to the impoverishment and economic oppression of our local fishermen.

The proposed policy will allow the industrial companies to continue using high-technology gear and machinery — and to expand those capacities — which translates into a direct threat against jobs in the industry.

The historic inequalities have been completely ignored and the discrimination of the past system has been glossed over. The proposal appears to promote only the monopolies and the niceties of their means of creating wealth for the country. It completely buries the evil way in which they got into their positions of economic power in the first place.

The figures given in the document of the yearly value of rock lobster and abalone resources over the past few years are false. In fact, they are worth twice the quoted values. One has to wonder whether the state is receiving correct information or whether it is being given figures that were promoted during the years of sanctions-busting.

Under the heading "Access Rights", the document contains what we, the Informal Fishermen Communities, view to be the most controversial sec-

tion of the proposed policy. It does not address the mechanism and method whereby we will be able to take our rightful place as workers in this country.

Protecting the industrial companies cannot be the role of legislation. Although we have to stabilise the industry, the right of a company to go bankrupt must exist. When the previous government removed the rights of the indigenous people of South Africa, we were forced to adapt. Surely, the industrials should also be able to adapt?

It was obvious from sitting on the Mandla Commission (on drafting a new fisheries policy) that stabilising the industry and ensuring that they be compensated for any losses were the sole areas of interest expressed by these rich companies. Today, we still oppose that point of view.

Under the heading "Quota Board", the white paper refers to the "perceived" arbitrary nature, and often unfair allocation, of quotas. This must be a joke, because we have tabled evidence of corruption to the Public Protector and Human Rights Commission — with very little response.

What the quota board did was to entrench the political *status quo* of the industry. It deliberately violated the rights of our people.

The policy seems to be obsessed with what it terms "subsistence fishermen", while ignoring what we refer to as "artisans" and "traditional" fishers.

"Subsistence" means only to catch fish for one's own consumption, and the policy makers have the audacity to say that such so-called subsistence fishermen can sell the few they have left over after a bag limit has been set. Instead, such impoverished fishermen should be given the opportunity to advance and earn a decent living.

On the subject of access to fishing resources, the white paper proposes that these be auctioned or put out to tender. The state must realise that the playing-fields are not level. The money lies in the hands of a privileged few. We must question how those in the industry who gained most from the blood and toil of our people, from apartheid and from the country's resources can now be allowed to use these very gains against us.

As for the proposed "methods of empowerment", the White Paper suggests that this be achieved through share schemes. It suggests that impoverished fishermen buy shares in large companies.

This is a scam and perpetuates an unfair system



TO THE SEA AGAIN: Andy Johnston, chairman of the Informal Fishermen Communities, argues that the government's white paper on the industry poses a threat to the Cape's traditional fishing communities.

that favours the major share holders of these companies alone. One must question whether the promotion of black empowerment groups can ever be the salvation of the poor people of South Africa, or will only lead to the enrichment of a few.

Furthermore, the white paper proposes that presently-held fishing rights cannot be taken away immediately. Presumably this means that those who suffered most must continue to wait for an improvement in their situation.

Access rights must be given back to the people

who themselves are fishermen and women. We doubt the constitutionality of the proposed policy, because it will continue to deny the rights of these very people to freedom of economic activity.

There cannot be co-option; but there must be restructuring and redistribution.

□ Andy Johnston is chairman of the Informal Fishermen Communities, which has a membership of about 2 500 fishermen who operate in Cape Town, the West Coast and the Southern Cape.

FISHING COMPANIES

③ FISHING
Setting the
policy direction

From 27/6/97
The White Paper should restore confidence in commercial fishers

Government has provided clarity on how it aims to manage the commercial fishing industry and the vexed apportionment of quotas. Its intentions, contained in the Marine Fisheries White Paper, help to resolve uncertainties that have weighed on listed fishing companies and their stock prices.

Shares in the two companies directly dependent on fishing and its related processing businesses, **Oceana** and **Sea Harvest**, have been trading near the bottom of their annual price ranges. So, too, has **Irvin & Johnson (I&J)**, which has large fishing interests but also derives earnings from other food activities.

Investors have been concerned that government's scrutiny and intended restructure of the industry could harm companies catching fish worth R2bn a year. Government, says the White Paper, wants to avoid damaging the industry, recognising it as an indirect employer of about 60 000 people.

"It's not an attack on big business, as some people expected," says Sea Harvest chairman Eckart Kramer. "The White Paper recognises the need for a stable industry and that certain fish sectors need big companies with large capital bases."

The most far-reaching change contemplated by the White Paper is to get fishermen to pay for access rights. Those rights, expressed as a percentage of the total allowable catch, will replace the free quotas allocated by the Quota Board.

The board, statutorily independent but seen to have favoured big commercial fishing operations in the past at the expense of smaller independents and communities, will be abolished. The Environment Affairs Minister will determine quotas.

Government will sell those rights in a tender and competitive bidding process to companies, new entrants and a State-owned firm. A Commercial Public Company has yet to be established to lease or rent rights to emerging, small-scale and community fishing operations.

Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan says the highest bidder will not necessarily win the rights. Prospective purchasers will also be determined by

"empowerment criteria." These centre on the inclusion of worker and previously disadvantaged communities in the equity of the fishing company and unbundled smaller companies in which the original owner could retain a minority interest.

"Government will look more favourably at you (when it comes to choosing the right purchasers) if you're in line with its policy thrusts," says Jordan.

All three listed companies have employee share participation schemes. Oceana has black empowerment equity holders in Real Africa Investments and Brimstone Investment Corp.

The White Paper envisages setting the rights for a long time, over which the purchase price will be paid. They can be traded, leased and sold freely (as well as mortgaged), giving them an economic and monetary value determined by the market.

"We hope the rights won't just become an additional way of taxing the industry," says I&J seafood director Charles Atkins. "It'll also depend on what they cost."

The White Paper is vague on these points. Jordan says an implementation committee, which will include Sea Fish-

eries, government officials and interest groups, will help to set the guidelines for quota allocation and maximum and minimum catches of each type of fish.

This process, and the passage of proposed legislation through parliament, will



Jordan... the highest bidder may not win rights

take time. Rights sales will take place towards the end of next year at the earliest. The listed companies' earnings prospects depend heavily on how much of the revamped quotas they garner.

"The White Paper has set the direction," says Kramer. "It should restore investor confidence in fishing companies."

The fishing companies' share prices barely budged on release of the White Paper. Investors need assurance that the policy environment will not be antagonistic towards commercial fishers. This will underpin the shares and holders could profit by betting which companies stand to gain more when rights are eventually sold. Based on the envisaged empowerment objectives, Oceana looks well placed. Sean Feely

REAL AFRICA HOLDINGS

Building
firepower

Liquidity is rising and more large purchases are expected

With R27m cash to spend, investment holding company Real Africa Holdings (RAH) is no longer restricted in its ability to make investments. Its share price has doubled in a year and stands at a premium to NAV, making paper an attractive option to finance further acquisitions.

The current share price is about R10, with

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IRVIN & JOHNSON

Australian bridge into Asia

The joint venture hopes to gain from Asia's new eating habits

I&J Food's Sydney-based joint venture with Simplot Australia's seafood, snack and meal division stands to gain from burgeoning demand for food, especially processed food, in southeast Asian markets.

In its initial years, the joint venture company is expected to have sales of almost

A\$200m, the partners estimate. I&J's Australian subsidiary has a 40% stake in the venture, with the remaining equity held by Simplot, one of the Pacific Rim's largest food production groups with gross revenue of A\$700m.

It benefits from the consolidation of both companies' distribution networks, as well as efficiencies created in the manufacturing and sourcing of food supplies. I&J SA has an assured vehicle through which to market local hake; Simplot enjoys security of supply for its frozen seafood processing operations.

"I&J Food's expertise in food service marketing and sales, access to key product and raw material sources, combined with Simplot's strong retail positions and food processing expertise together create a formidable partnership," says I&J SA MD Roy Gordon.

That alliance, and its critical size in terms of wholesale and retail outlets, is the key to profiting from exports to Asian countries. Penetrating these markets is important for Australian food companies.

The local market, though considerable with annual average per capita consumption of processed food at about A\$2 000, is largely static.

"There are shifts in consumption patterns but the domestic market is not going to provide the returns needed in the future," says Simplot Australia MD Walter Bugno.

Asian markets have also become attractive as their governments have moved away from long-held policies of food self-sufficiency.

Rising incomes as a result of the region's economic growth have profoundly changed people's eating habits — away from secondary staple food towards more fresh and processed fruit, vegetables, meat and fish.

That adds up to annual growth of more than 20% in demand for high value-added food imports, according to a report by the Australian Trade Commission. The report expects food imports to treble by the end of the decade as the population of southeast Asia explodes. The food market is projected at A\$77bn early next decade.

About half of Australia's food exports are destined for Asian countries, with a third of that processed. Bugno and Gordon hope to capitalise on this opportunity.

Meanwhile, a major benefit is that transactions such as this, which give I&J greater exposure to value-added activities and enhanced presence in international markets, will further reduce the company's sensitivity to the vagaries of deep sea fishing — and uncertainties relating to fishing quotas (see page 80).

Sean Feely

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of Finance, however, is conducting work with respect to medium and long term approaches to this matter.

Permissible catch of anchovy

***37. Mr N J J VAN R. KOORNHOF** asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (1) Whether the total permissible catch of anchovy is nil ton for 1997; if so, why;
- (2) whether he or his Department has done an impact assessment to determine what economic effect this will have on established fishermen in the industry; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will consider accommodating such fishermen in respect of allocations from the pelagic quota; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N1260E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Yes. The Minister has, on recommendation of the Sea Fishery Advisory Committee (SFAC), determined the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for anchovy for 1997 to be nil ton. The SAFC based their recommendation on that of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI) which abduicated that the latest research showed that further catches of anchovy would radically reduce beyond recovery.
- (2) No. Previous figures (1995) with regard to earnings from anchovy catches indicated that, at a level of 170 000 t an income of R18,3 million was derived by the anchovy fishery.
- (3) No. The Minister is not legally empowered to allocate quotas. The Minister did however indicate to the Quota Board (who fulfill the allocating function) that they can, when considering the allocation of pilchard quotas, take into account the fate of the fishers who suffered losses due to the nil anchovy TAC.

***38. Mr D K PADIACHEY** - Foreign Affairs.†
[Question standing over.]

***39. Dr B L GELDENHUYS** - Foreign Affairs.
[Withdrawn.]

For written reply:

Provinces: white-collar crime

486. Mr W L FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

How many cases of white-collar crime were reported in each of the provinces (a) in 1996 and (b) during the period 1 January 1997 up to the latest specified date for which information is available? N824E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) Province	Number of cases reported
Gauteng	22 894
KwaZulu-Natal	4 114
Mpumalanga	2 082
Northern Province	1 906
Northern Cape	1 205
North West Province	2 457
Eastern Cape	6 375
Free State	3 835
Western Cape	9 978
Total RSA	54 846

(b) No statistics are available at present for 1997.

SAPS members resign/leave the service

500. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(a) How many members of the South African Police Service resigned or left the service in each month in 1996 and (b) how many of these members resigned or left due to (i) ill health, (ii) reaching normal retirement age, (iii) having taken a retirement package and (iv) other reasons? N840E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Month	(a)	(b)(i)	(ii)	(iii)	(iv)
January	336	85	11	0	240
February	341	88	27	0	226
March	352	77	9	0	266
April	300	62	13	0	225

Month (a) (b)(i) (ii) (iii) (iv) The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

May	270	58	4	2	206
June	302	69	8	0	225
July	260	63	10	0	187
August	240	41	6	0	193
September	262	67	4	3	188
October	303	82	15	34	172
November	412	78	8	131	195
December	394	75	7	150	162

The latest specified date is April 1997.

(a) 1996 Total

January	336
February	341
March	352
April	300
May	270
June	302
July	260
August	240
September	262
October	303
November	412
December	394

Amounts paid to certain firm for services rendered

511. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Public Works:

Whether any amounts were paid in 1996 to a certain firm, the name of which has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, for services rendered to his Department; if so, in each case, (a) what was the nature of the services so rendered, (b) which employee, partner and/or consultant attached to the said firm was retained for this purpose, (c) over what period were the services rendered and (d) what amount was paid to the firm? N852E

1997 Total

January	546
February	345
March	418
April	448

- (b) Reaching retirement age.
Medical unfitness.
Resignation.
Death.
Discharge.
Severance package.

(c) Province Total

National Head Office	638
Gauteng	1 516
KwaZulu-Natal	943
Mpumalanga	269
Northern Cape	177
North West Province	290
Northern Province	231
Eastern Cape	506
Free State	417
Western Cape	542

Confiscation of narcotic/other prohibited substances at borders of SA

598. Mr J A MARAIS asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (1) Whether any (a) narcotic and/or (b) other prohibited substances were confiscated at the borders of South Africa (i) in 1994, 1995 and 1996, respectively, and (ii) during the period

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS:

No.

SAPS members leaving the service

583. Mr W L FOURIE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

(a) How many members of the South African Police Service had left the SAPS as at the end of each month during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) what were the reasons for such members leaving the SAPS and (c) what total number of members left the SAPS in each of the provinces during the above period? N969E

Uit die blou van onse hemel,
 Uit die diepte van ons see,
 Oor ons ewige gebergtes
 Waar die kranse antwoord gee,
 Sounds the call to come together,
 And united we shall stand,
 Let us live and strive for freedom
 In South Africa our Land.

- (ii) There are no regulations stipulating that the national anthem must be performed officially. There has, however, been a spontaneous outpouring of support for the national anthem. It has been printed on a wide variety of merchandise ranging from mugs to key rings. It is played at most State functions. It is performed at public events ranging from national sports matches to school assemblies. It is even sung regularly in the churches. This is an indication of the place it has so quickly found in the hearts of our citizens.

Reserve Bank: investigation of money-laundering

*34. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

Whether the Reserve Bank has taken any steps to establish a unit dedicated to the investigation of money-laundering; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details? N1359E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

In January 1997 it was agreed that the Department of Finance take responsibility for the implementation of the legal and administrative system to counter money laundering in South Africa. Since then, officials of the Department have held discussions with a number of parties on the draft legislation and the structures that need to be put in place.

There are ongoing discussions to finalise the legislation, including what institutional framework will be necessary to manage the administration and reporting mechanisms. Obviously, the infrastructure and experience of the Reserve Bank established through the management of exchange control regulations, will be taken into account when determining the administrative responsibilities and processes.

Signing Ottawa treaty on landmines

*35. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:

Whether the Government intends signing the Ottawa treaty which calls for the banning of the production, stockpiling and use of landmines; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? N1360E

The MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Yes, South Africa has every intention to be at the signing ceremony in Ottawa in December 1997.

South Africa is a member of the so-called 'core group' of supporters of the 'Ottawa process'. Other members of the core group are Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Mexico, Norway, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Philippines and Germany.

Since October 1996 South Africa has undertaken the following initiatives regarding anti-personnel landmines:

- voted in favour of and co-sponsored United Nations General Assembly resolution 51/45S *An International Agreement to Ban Anti-Personnel Landmines*;
- announced on 19 February 1997 its banning of anti-personnel landmines;
- participated actively in the drafting of a text for such a convention banning landmines as initiated by Austria in terms of the Ottawa process;
- participated in the NGO conference on landmines held in Maputo in February 1997;
- participated in the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Seminar on landmines for SADC states in Harare in April 1997, and
- provided the venue, donated funds and assisted the OAU in holding the first continental conference on anti-personnel landmines in Kempton Park from 19-21 May 1997.

South Africa also intends to participate in the Brussels senior officials meeting 24-27 June 1997 and will subscribe to a Brussels Declaration in which countries will indicate their intention to sign the convention in Ottawa by the end of the year.

A negotiating session planned for 1 - 12 September 1997 will be held in Oslo to finalise a formal legally binding international treaty banning anti-personnel landmines. Ambassador J S Selebi, South Africa's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and International organisations and Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, has been requested and accepted the Chairmanship for the formal diplomatic Oslo conference.

White paper on fishing

*36. Mr C W EGLIN asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether the Government has embarked upon the process of drafting a white paper on fishing in South Africa; if so, (a) what steps does this process entail, (b) what stage has the process reached and (c) when is it anticipated that the white paper will be published? N1361E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Yes.

- (a) Former Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers initiated the process by appointing Mr Mandla Gxanyana in October 1994 as Chairperson of a widely representative national Fishing Policy Development Committee (FPDC) that came into existence later during 1994. After extensive consultation with various role players including different fishery sectors, regional authorities, community fora and NGO's their report was tabled on 4 June 1996.

The FPDC-report was converted into a White Paper by the Department with the aid of an international expert from Norway. In order to clarify the vexing question of access rights, something not conclusively addressed in the FPDC-report, an Access Rights Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Yunus Mahomed was employed to assist in drafting the relevant chapter. In addition, in order to ensure rapid progress, a Legal Task Team under the chairmanship of Adv Marius Diemont assisted the Department in the drafting of a new Marine Living Resources

Bill 1997, to replace the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988).

- (b) The White Paper was discussed by Cabinet on 16 April 1997 and 14 May and was approved at the last Meeting. The Bill is on the agenda for discussion by the Cabinet Committee on 11 June 1997 and full Cabinet on 18 June 1997.
- (c) It is expected that the White Paper will be published in English before adjournment of Parliament on 21 June 1997 and it is hoped that the same will apply to the Afrikaans translation. It is planned to release both the full version and a simplified shorter version of the White Paper in four languages (for example English, Afrikaans, Xhosa and Zulu) during the next few weeks.

*37. Mr R R MBONGWE - Agriculture and Land Affairs. [Withdrawn]

Caltex refinery in Milnerton: pollution monitored

*38. Mr T S YENGENI asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether his Department is monitoring the levels of pollution emanating from the Caltex refinery in Milnerton; if not, why not; if so, (a) what are the levels of such pollution and (b) what effects does such pollution have on persons, particularly babies and children, living in the surrounding communities, particularly Table View and Milnerton? N1363E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Owing to a critical manpower shortage (the Directorate: Air Pollution Control has only one Air Pollution Control Officer for the entire area south of the Gariep River, covering close to 400 industries in the three southern Provinces), the Department is not in a position to operate its own air pollution air monitoring stations. Furthermore, the Department has only one technical post responsible for air pollution monitoring and research for the whole of the Republic of South Africa and even that post has now been vacant for eight months and may not be filled because the

Violence Against Women due to a shortage of funds and personnel.

However, this matter is on the national agenda of priorities. The South African Law Commission presented an extensive report on Domestic Violence and invited written comments from the public. This was further pursued by the Portfolio Committee on Justice which held public hearings on Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences and Offences against and by children on 6 June 1997.

Mangosuthu Technikon: dissatisfaction of students

*19. Mr R S SCHOEMAN asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has been informed of dissatisfaction expressed by students at the Mangosuthu Technikon on 16 April 1997; if so, what were the reasons for such dissatisfaction;
- (2) whether any damage was done; if so, (a) what was the extent of the damage and (b) who will be responsible for the cost related to any damage done to technikon property;
- (3) whether the matter has been resolved; if not, why not; if so, how;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1234E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes. Students expressed grievances against a Chemical Engineering lecturer for lack of student support and a high failure rate in his course.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. The lecturer concerned was suspended in the interests of his safety and management entered into negotiations with student leaders. After negotiations, the students withdrew their demand for his removal and the suspension was lifted.
- (4) No. The matter has been resolved internally.

Prison population: percentage having been in prison before

*30. Mr G C OOSTHUIZEN asked the Minister of Correctional Services:†

- (1) Whether 56% of the current South African prison population have been in prison before; if not, what is the correct figure; if so, what are the reasons for so many persons landing up in prison again;
- (2) whether any steps are being taken to reduce this percentage; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether this percentage is an indication that his Department's rehabilitation and integration programmes have not succeeded; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether he will make a statement on the matter? N1250E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (1) No, and the current figure is unknown. I have to say that I am amazed that a member of this House does not know why people go to prison. They commit crime. [Laughter.]
- (2) To reduce the percentage will require the injection of several billions of rands into the Correctional Services budget so that a full educational programme, skills training, psychological counselling and recreation, as well as pre- and post-release monitoring and programmes, can be put into place.
- (3) No.
- (4) No.

Relations between South Africa/Zimbabwe

*38. Mr D K PADIACHEY asked the Minister of Foreign Affairs:†

What is the state of relations between South Africa and Zimbabwe at present? N1262E

The MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS (for the Minister of Foreign Affairs):

- 1 Political relations between Zimbabwe and South Africa remain cordial and at a government-to-government level have been

Hansard.

significantly enhanced as illustrated by the continuation of visits between key political role-players of the two countries. A number of agreements were concluded, *inter alia* the Bilateral Road Transport Agreement and a Military Memorandum of Understanding. During October 1996 the inaugural meeting of the Joint Commission in Harare was attended by representatives of various Government Departments and the private sector in South Africa. President Mandela paid his first state visit to Zimbabwe from 19 to 20 May 1997.

2. Zimbabwe is South Africa's number one trading partner in Africa and number eight in the world. During the first 11 months of 1996, bilateral trade totalled R6,1 billion. At present, the trade balance is heavily in South Africa's favour (R3,9 billion). The major complaint is that the playing field is not level and that Zimbabwean products do not have fair access to the South African market. Accusations of dumping have also been made against South African companies, with complaints directed at South Africa's General Export Incentive Scheme (GEIS) and the Motor Industries Development Programme. The two countries have, however, subsequently made substantial progress in addressing the trade imbalance by way of negotiations within the framework of three working groups established at the Ministerial Meeting in June 1996, ie on textiles and clothing, on agricultural products, and on other products. On 2 August 1996, South Africa and Zimbabwe concluded a Memorandum of Understanding on Textiles and Clothing, which led to the reinstatement of the negotiated preferences with effect from 1 March 1997. The Minister of Trade and Industry, Mr Alec Erwin, has also suggested that South Africa and Zimbabwe sign a formal Economic Co-operation Agreement which should include a Trade, investment and Development Protocol.

3. Zimbabwe currently chairs the SADC Organ for Politics, Defence and Security and plays a key role in collective efforts to ensure peace in the Southern Africa subregion and on the continent. Zimbabwe and South Africa, through closer liaison in preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution measures, have made a

constructive contribution in securing peace and stability in the Southern Africa region and elsewhere on the continent. In this regard South Africa displayed its capacity in peacekeeping when, from 1 to 17 April 1997, it took part in the multinational exercise, "Blue Hungwe", where it was the second largest participant after Zimbabwe.

New questions

Illegal poaching on coastline: arrests

*1. Mr L M GREEN asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

Whether any arrests were made during the period 1 November 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available, in connection with illegal poaching on the South African coastline; if so, what are the relevant statistics? N1317E

Mr J H NASH: Madam Speaker, on a point of order: I would like the House to note that Mr Padiachey, who proposed Question 38, standing over from Wednesday, 4 June 1997, is not in the House. The opposition parties are complaining that the governing party is not playing the game. Mr Green, who put this new question, is also not in the House. I think we should note the fact that these people who asked questions are not really serious about hearing the answers.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I do not think that is really a point of order. However, as a matter of information for the purpose of record it can be noted.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Speaker, You will notice that when you called on me to answer this question I took time to rise. It was precisely out of that concern. However, the answer to the question is as follows:

Yes. From 1 November 1996 until 31 May 1997, 241 persons were arrested on the South African coastline.

Mr D H M GIBSON: Madam Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask him whether he would agree with the contention of the hon the Minister of Defence that policing of South Africa's coastline would become considerably easier if the Minister were given the corvettes

which he has requested. If so, will the hon the Minister of Safety and security support the request of the Minister of Defence; and if not, why not?

The MINISTER: Yes. [Applause.]

*2. Mr J H W MENTZ - Justice.

The MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Madam Speaker, I propose that the question stand over, because the Minister has not arrived.

[Question standing over.]

Road accidents: deaths

*3. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Transport:

- (1) (a) How many persons died in road accidents in the Republic in 1996 and (b) what was the estimated cost to the economy resulting from these accidents;
- (2) whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 6 on 21 February 1996, any progress has been made by the Joint Task Group in respect of the reorganisation of traffic policing; if not, what are the problems in this regard; if so, (a) what progress and (b) what action has been or is being taken in this regard? N1319E

The MINISTER OF TRANSPORT:

- (1) (a) A total of 10 219 people were killed in 7 801 fatal road accidents in the Republic during 1996.
- (b) The estimated cost of these fatal accidents amounted to R2,3 billion.
- (2) (a) As a result of the activities of the joint task group into the reorganisation of traffic policing, the traffic officers of the former TVBC states who were willing were transferred to provincial traffic authorities. Those who were not interested in transfer remained in the service of the SAPS.
- (b) The recommendation of the task that traffic policing be declared an emergency and essential service is being attended to by the Essential Services Committee.

Sarafina II: audit

*4. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister of Health:

Whether an audit is currently being conducted in respect of *Sarafina II* and/or a certain person, whose name has been furnished to her Department for the purpose of her reply; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) who is conducting the audit, (b) when did the audit begin and (c) when is it envisaged that the audit will be completed? N1320E

The MINISTER OF HEALTH:

Yes, an audit was conducted.

- (a) KPMG Forensic and Investigative Accounting Group conducted the audit.
- (b) The investigation began on 17 September 1996.
- (c) The investigation was completed on 28 February 1997.

Number of murder dockets remaining open as unsolved

*5. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

- (a) How many murder dockets remained open as unsolved as at the latest specified date for which information is available, (b) how many of these cases are still being actively investigated and (c) how far back do these unsolved cases go? N1321E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (a) According to available statistical information, the total number of unsolved murder cases is 31 748. This total is for the period up to 31 December 1996. Information pertaining to the above for 1997 is not yet available.
- (b) Murder dockets that are filed as unsolved are given a bring-forward date every year, and are reopened for further investigation upon that given date. If, after further investigation, no information is received, the docket is again filed and given a bring-forward date. A murder docket is never filed permanently after the initial investigation of the case is unsolved.

(c) To obtain the required information, facsimiles would have to be sent to all police stations countrywide, thereby placing an extra burden on our busy personnel and financial resources. Members would in such cases have to be withdrawn from other duties and specially allocated to peruse dockets and registers.

Mr D H M GIBSON: Madam Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, with regard to the information that there are over 31 000 unsolved murder cases still hanging in the air as it were, has it occurred to the hon the Minister to seek the support of the community and perhaps the support and co-operation of the SABC in dealing with some of these murder cases? Possibly we should take 200 or 500 of these cases and publish the names and the dates and other details relating to these murders. South Africa has changed enormously over the past few years, and one might well find people in the community who are prepared to be public-spirited enough or whose consciences prick them to come forward and assist the SA Police Service in resolving what is quite a ghastly problem and statistic.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Speaker, talking about conscience, I think it is indeed correct to expect members of the community at large to assist in solving this backlog of unsolved murder cases. One assumes that political parties also have something of a conscience to talk about, because many of these cases could possibly have been solved if people had come forward and co-operated with the TRC.

Mr J CHIOLÉ: Madam Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's original reply, I have taken note of the fact that he has mentioned that a murder docket is never closed, but to when does this system date back? In other words, over how many years have these 31 000 unsolved murders accumulated? Is it 31 May 1961, for instance? What is the date on which the system was started?

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY: Madam Speaker, it is clear that the hon member did not take note of my full answer, but only took note of part thereof. I said that in order to specifically obtain that information, we will have to send faxes to all police stations and withdraw many police officers, especially detectives, from what they are doing currently. This may actually be at

the expense of solving some of the cases that I think we are all keen to have solved.

*6. Mr A J LEON - Justice.

The MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION: Madam Speaker, could all the questions directed to the Minister of Justice please stand over until he comes back next week.

[Question standing over.]

Mr A J LEON: Madam Speaker, arising out of the nonreply to question 6, could we please get an explanation as to why the Deputy Minister does not reply in the absence of the Minister of Justice. We were given an assurance yesterday here in Parliament by the Executive Deputy President that the absence of Ministers during question time would receive attention. Could we please get an explanation why neither the Minister nor the Deputy Minister can be present during Question Time.

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, the Deputy Minister is unfortunately also not around. [Interjections.]

Letter written to President of Sarfu: response

*7. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 22 on 26 March 1997, he has received a response to the letter written to the President of the South African Rugby Football Union; if not, what action has he taken as a result; if so, (a) what was the response and (b) what subsequent action has he taken as a result of this response;
- (2) whether the task team has begun its work; if not, when is it anticipated that it will begin; if so, (a) when, (b) what progress has been made to date and (c) when is it anticipated that the task team will complete its work? N1323E

The MINISTER OF SPORT AND RECREATION:

(1) Yes.

- (a) The South African Rugby Football Union came to an agreement to co-operate with the investigation.

New quotas shake up fishing industry

③ FISHING

AR 28/6/97

Small operators benefit

Much confusion exists in the fishing industry following the publication of a White Paper last week which abolishes the old system of quota allocation and introduces a completely new format.

The White Paper, which prescribes a fundamental restructuring of the South African Fishing Industry, is based on recommendations of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee.

The controversial issue of access to South Africa's marine resources forms the crux of the document which sets out the main principles that the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism wants to implement.

Basically, fisherman and fishing companies will be invited to bid for long-term rights to catch quota species such as lobster, perlemoen and hake.

The Quota Board is to be phased out and replaced by the state-owned Commercial Public Company. As an interim measure, the company will rent quotas to those previously denied access to fishing rights. Its main purpose will be to allow small-scale fishing operators to catch fish on a commercial basis.

The company will not need a big staff, because it will be renting or selling fishing rights to others. The fisherman or companies who get the fishing rights will pay the

Commercial Public Company a negotiated price for catching the fish. There is fear in the industry that this could force up the local price of fish and seafood.

The new fisheries policy is intended to favour small to medium-sized enterprises, and in some cases, less sophisticated or more affordable fishing methods.

The new access scheme will also provide incentives to the major fishing companies to restructure their ownership. Already some of the larger fishing corporations have sold shares to staff who will now receive dividends.

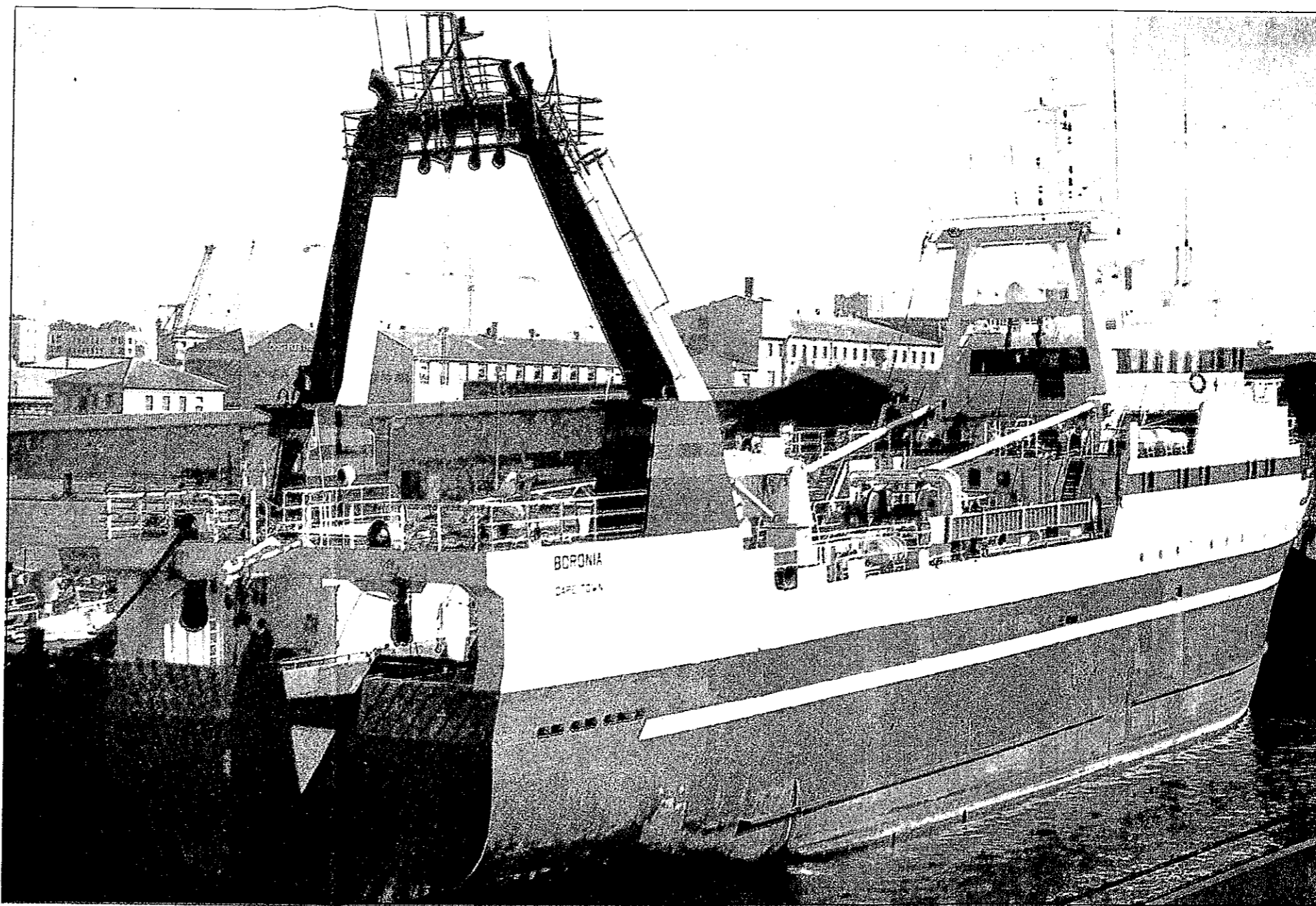
It is expected that restructuring will take place as soon as possible in order to reduce uncertainty and to enable the fishing industry to maintain its international competitiveness.

Phase one, the establishment of a Commercial Public Company, will be implemented immediately.

Phase two will embrace the bidding process for the long-term rights. Companies and fishermen will be invited to bid for the rights which will be sold by tender.

Marine fisheries will remain under national administration and control.

The status of the 750 000 recreational fishermen who are presently barred from selling their catches will not change. The policy does, however, allow subsistence



Latest acquisition: *Boronia* is the latest addition to Irvin and Johnson's trawler fleet. See story on page 14

fishermen to sell part of their catch, provided they live in a coastal community.

Senior Sea Fisheries management intends to host a series of public meetings and workshops in the various fishing communities to discuss the implications of the new policy. Minister Pallo Jordan will address a public meeting in Cape Town on July 5 with similar meetings to follow in other fishing centres.

However, although the paper recommends reducing the size of large fishing corporations, it is unlikely that this will happen. These companies employ a large section of the population in fishing communities and also provide facilities for them and their families in the smaller West

Coast fishing towns. They employ tens of thousands of workers on-shore and off-shore.

The government has no intention of seriously damaging an established fishing industry which, besides providing substantial employment, earns the country valued foreign exchange from its export products.

The large corporations have invested tens of millions of rands in fishing vessels and shore facilities and have earned a worldwide reputation as being professional in their approach to the sea and its resources.

The fishing industry has been in a dispute with the authorities over the four-per-

cent cut in the hake quota. Managing Director of Sea Harvest, Louis Penzhorn, says a four-percent quota cut will lead to lay-offs unless alternate work can be found. In addition, the company would require one less vessel and this would have an effect on the processing side.

Irvin and Johnson also says a four-percent cut could also lay up one of its trawlers and cost jobs in its plants.

Following the trends of the new South Africa, the large fishing companies have already taken many steps that are laid out in the White Paper, placing them in a favourable position to continue trading profitably for the benefit of their employees and South Africa.

SPECIAL REPORT



STORIES BY SHIPPING REPORTER IAN SHIFFMAN

I&J pours cash into upgrading fleet

South Africa's oldest fish firm, Cape Town-based Irvin and Johnson, continues to upgrade its fishing fleet, according to Tim Ridell, general manager of I & J's trawler division.

The company recently took delivery of the *Boronia* at a cost of \$10 million (R45 million). The vessel burns eight tons of fuel a day which makes it much more economical to run compared with Russian vessels acquired some while back which burn some 30 tons of fuel a day. About R40 million was spent buying and modernising four vessels owned by companies in the former Soviet Union which were used to fish for horse mackerel off Namibia and Mauretania.

Irvin and Johnson has finished stud-

ies on its optimum fleet size. It intends to start an extensive fleet replacement programme once it is certain about long-term tenure of its fishing quotas.

The company is planning to build two new wet fish trawlers and would have liked to have them built in South Africa.

The two vessels, which will cost between R25-R30 million rand each, would have brought substantial employment to the local work force, but, according to Mr Ridell, local yards were not interested in building the vessels.

The recent closure of Dorbyl Marine's shipbuilding operation in Durban is one of the reasons why local ship owners are having their vessels built abroad.

Irvin and Johnson is deciding now

who will build the two trawlers for delivery next year. They will replace 1970-built vessels.

Mr Ridell said he is very impressed with the professional approach of overseas builders who want the business and approach the opportunity of securing the order in a far keener manner than local companies.

The vessels will be about 45m in length and will have a fish hold capacity for 500cu m.

Besides crewing its local vessels, some 70 of Irvin and Johnson's staff are working on foreign fishing vessels. The company is actively marketing its crew abroad and has received favourable comment from foreign fishing boat owners

that South African crew are capable and understand fish and fishing. Working on foreign vessels gives them the opportunity to learn new skills on state-of-the-art fishing boats, while still being covered by the company for medical aids and provident funds.

Irvin and Johnson is now accredited as a ship repairer in Cape Town. Although most of the work is undertaken on the company's own vessels, it often helps out and assists on other vessels.

The company is facing problems as it tries to consolidate its area of operations in the Waterfront. It is finding it difficult to co-exist with the tourist industry and might have to move from the premises it occupies in the V & A area, as rents there

are in line with the tourist industry, according to Mr Ridell.

He points out that rents in Saldanha Bay are about 10 percent of the cost of the Waterfront and the company could possibly move out of the Waterfront and consolidate its operations at South Arm.

The company employs 1 300 people in its trawling division and catches some 60 000 tons of fish annually.

It has recently undertaken research on the Orange Roughy and Orié Dorie - fish that live at 1 000m below the surface. Both fish are regarded as delicacies in the United States and the company has had success fishing for the species off Namibia and exported them in skin fillet form.



Research: Irvin and Johnson's Resource Manager Barrie Rose with a deep-sea Orange Roughy

Premier Fishing employees catch a stake in the game

Premier Fishing has set the pace in the South African fishing industry by pioneering a share scheme in which all employees could become shareholders at a nominal cost.

Following discussions with the Food and Allied Union, the Trawler and Line Fisherman's Union, various advisers and politicians, the company agreed the best route would be to spread all possible profits and losses among all employees across the full Premier Fishing SA operation.

In effect, 20 percent of the company was sold to employees at a nominal one cent a share. With the share now standing at around R3,00, employees are already showing a handsome profit. Today some 37 percent of the company is owned by non-whites.

At the launch of the scheme, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan praised Premier Fishing for initiating a fundamental departure from the past. Employees are now reaping dividends gained from shares in their own company, while seasonal workers and their families, who in the past had no retirement coverage, are receiving generous pay-outs on retirement or death.

The company has grown from its modest start by father and son in 1900 to become a multi-faceted enterprise employing some 1 000 men and women.

The group's interests have spread to Namibia and Chile, while in South Africa it has employees, factories and vessels at seven locations in the Northern, Western and Southern Cape. It is involved in the pelagic, demersal, squid, inshore and deep water lobster fisheries and has developed farms where it cultivates oysters and abalone.

Premier Fishing operates a fleet of 35 fishing vessels, excluding small inshore fishing craft. It has cold storage holding capacity of 3 000 tons and about 45 tons of lobster holding capacity in temperature controlled tanks. A recent acquisition for Premier Fishing was the Tristan da Cunha lobster concession which was awarded against stiff competition.

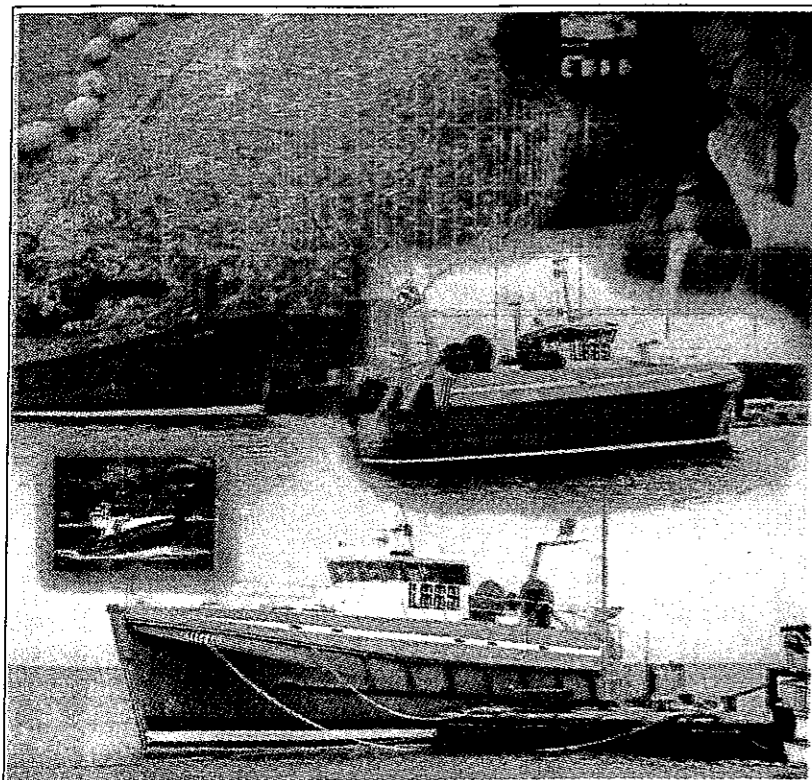
The company is making continual strides in the export market which make up some 40 percent of its turnover. It is finding increased demand for its South Coast rock lobster in Asian and European markets, and has become a market leader in the

USA. It also exports live abalone to the Far East.

Premier Fishing involves itself in the community life of its employees. In Port Nolloth in the Northern Cape, for example, virtually every other fishing company has withdrawn because of the depressed economic conditions. Here, unemployment is running at about 90 percent with Premier Fishing providing virtually the only work in the community. This is supplemented by a Premier Fishing feeding scheme and various aid grants within the community.

In these smaller fishing towns, community life is often inextricably linked to the company. This is because of special bonds forged over many years of working together, or just small town intimacy.

Rugby and netball, sponsored by Petpak/Tricolor, are long established sports on the West Coast. Soccer, sponsored by Foodcan, is a more recent sports initiative largely brought about through the efforts of a former shop steward and the factory manager. All these sports feature prominently in community life at Port Nolloth with some of the better players also involved in open leagues.



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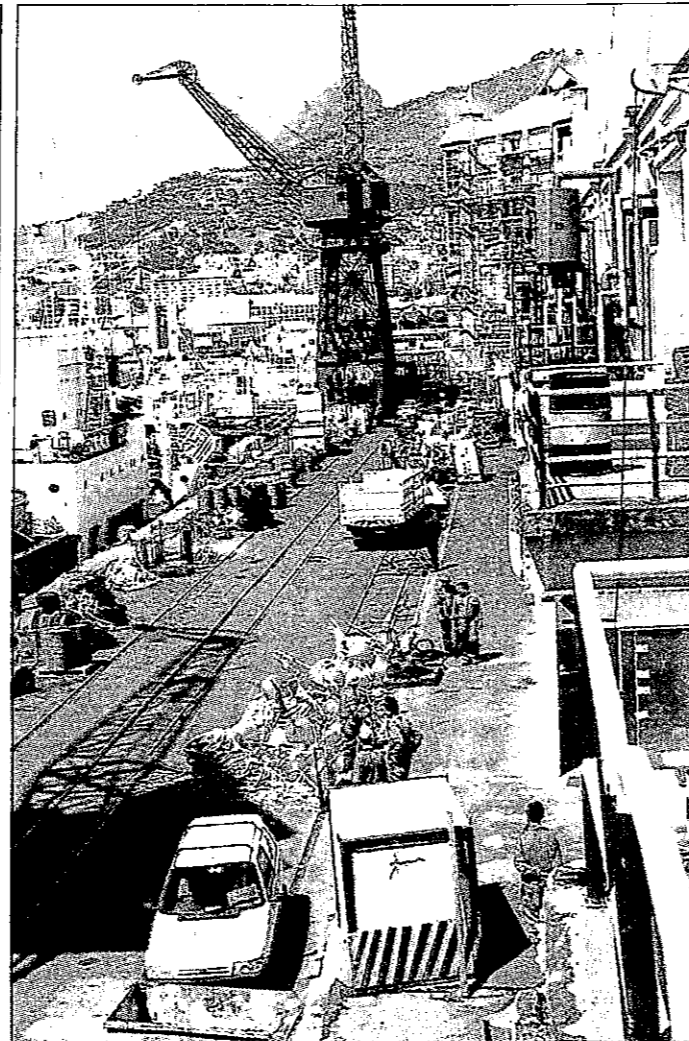
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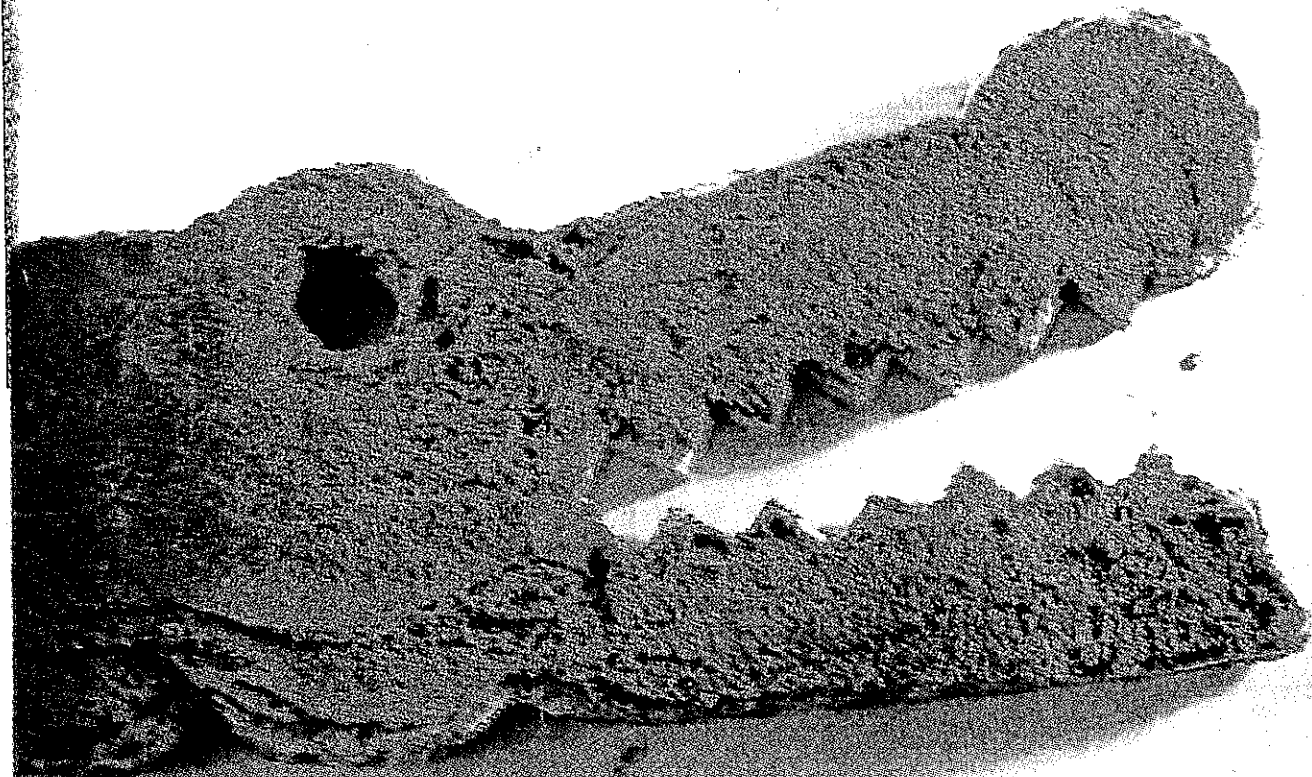
INGARFIELD'S



Busy berth: Premier Fishing's Cape Town operation is situated at No 7 Quay in the Victoria Basin where activity continues round the clock.

Empire marine

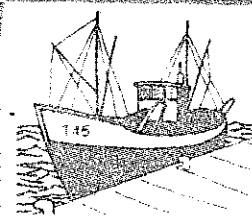
CONT...



**NIBBLE ON SOMETHING
WITH A LITTLE BITE**

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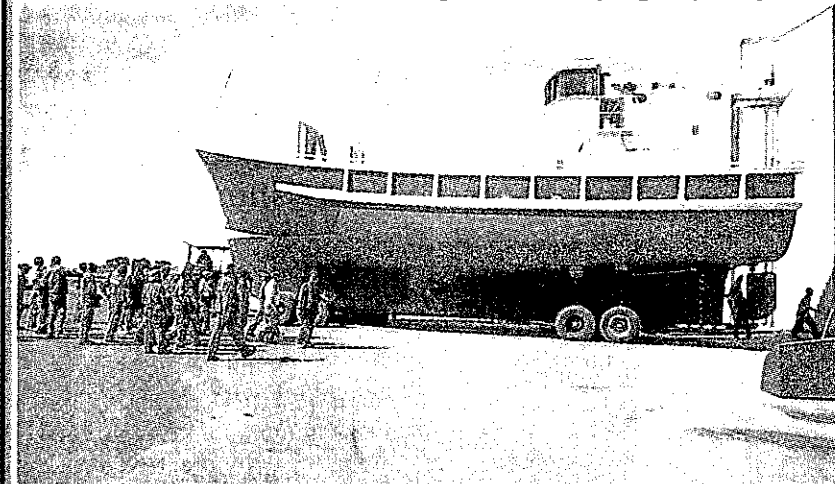
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**Empire marine
suppliers set up
new branch
in Cape Town**

Empire Management intends to expand its operations to become a one-stop supplier to the industry.

The Johannesburg-based company has found it more advantageous to supply the fishing industry directly from Cape Town so it recently established itself here and will move to new larger premises on July 1, according to Francoise Kruger.

The company specialises in supplying imported products to the worldwide fishing industry at competitive prices.

Empire Management also supplies products to the marine diamond and shipping industry, and is considering expanding its market to the oil exploration industry.

Its Cape Town operation is managed by Francoise Kruger, an ex SA Navy Master Mariner who has spent five years with Sea Harvest and six years with Lusitania.



FROM SALDANHA

THE FISHERMEN.

WE RECKON

WE'RE THE BEST

IN THE WEST.

THOUGH NOW

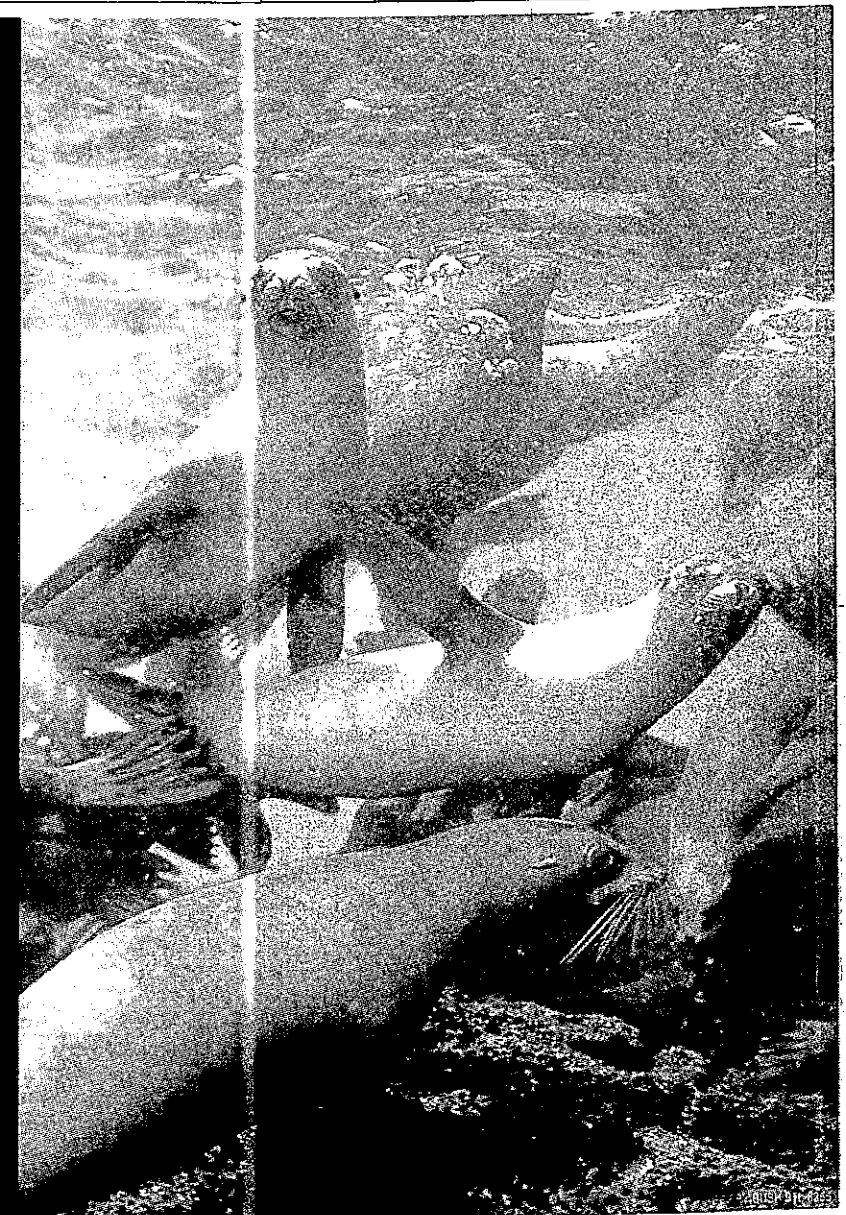
AND AGAIN

WE DO COME

UP AGAINST

SOME KEEN

COMPETITION.



FISHING COMMERCIAL FEATURE



Sea Harvest sets the pace in revitalising industry

A transformation initiated a few years ago in the Sea Harvest group bears remarkable similarities to the guidelines of the new Fisheries Policy.

"There is overwhelming proof that companies with a culture of participation and empowering structures will perform better into the future," says Managing Director Louis Penzhorn.

The company started by inviting all internal stakeholders to discuss where Sea Harvest should be by the turn of the century as a truly South African company. An outside facilitator came in to help and Sea Harvest's Vision 2000 was born.

Vision 2000 is founded on the principle of empowerment and participation in self-directed work teams. While it is easy to

ARG 28/6/97
 pay lip service to a principle, implementation requires action and there has been plenty of that at Sea Harvest.

All stakeholders agreed to build the Vision 2000 foundation around four key principles; namely leadership, involvement, understanding and sharing.

"As a unified company we have set out to capture and continually enhance the imagination, skills, knowledge and commitment of our people to produce with pride and responsibility products of maximum added value and the best quality at the least cost," says Mr Penzhorn.

To ensure full participation in policy development and decision making, all internal policies have been rewritten to reflect Vision 2000 and these have been approved by employees. Organised

labour participates fully in the group's planning sessions and is represented on the executive committee.

To promote ownership and sharing Sea Harvest implemented one of the most significant employee share purchase schemes yet to be put in place by a JSE listed company. Every employee was given the opportunity to buy shares in the group and, as a result, employees now own approximately eight percent of the equity worth R40 million at the current share price.

"Apart from promoting ownership, being significant shareholders in the company provides employees with the opportunity to fully participate in the performance of the company through the value of their shares and dividends received."

In line with the company's commitment to empowerment, Sea Harvest recently helped establish a black-owned fishing company, Vuna-Fishing. The shareholders are a number of fishermen and a group of black entrepreneurs. Sea Harvest provided a fishing vessel which will be paid for through future catches. It will also give technical and administrative assistance to the operation.

"We are hopeful that this initiative will provide a blueprint for the active involvement of previously disadvantaged people in the fishing industry," Mr Penzhorn added.

"We are convinced that the best way to bring newcomers into the industry is in partnership with existing capacity in ships, processing and people," he says.

③ FISHING

Shareholders: Louis Penzhorn, managing director of Sea Harvest, celebrates the launch of the company's employee scheme with fellow workers

CONT... D



Locally built: Talhada Fishing of Humansdorp's *Silver Dorado*, built by Tallie Marine, is ready to enter the fishing grounds.

Boat builders' latest designs create waves

The South African ship and boat building industry is generally in the doldrums with the exception of a few fishing boat builders situated in the Western Cape who continue to be successful in a niche market.

Tallie Marine continues to be busy with a healthy list of orders according to Managing Director Anton Tallie.

The St Helena Bay-based boat builder completed the *Angola* for a Namibian client who will use the vessel for line fishing.

Last month a multi-purpose 14-m vessel for Dyer Island Fishing of Gans Baai was launched, fitted out bottom for trawling, longlining and line fish. It has a hold capacity of 10 tons on ice.

Tallie Marine is currently building a 20-m vessel for Visko of St Helena Bay which will be fitted out with a eight-ton blast freezer with 70-ton holding room. This sophisticated vessel is fitted out for squid catching, line fishing and purse seining while all catches can be processed and frozen at sea by its 29-member crew.

The vessel can carry 20 tons of diesel and five tons of fresh water.

The latest GRP fishing vessel from Sachal and Stevens of Vredenburg is a new design 21,64-metre trawler named *Allegro*. The vessel is a mini-freezer with mid-superstructure and has three-quarter length shelterdeck.

She was built for Allegro Fishing of Walvis Bay and is already attracting much interest, not only in South Africa, but internationally, as she is achiev-

ing record catches, according to Sachal and Stevens' Mark Steven.

This is the first big trawler the company has built and the fifth stern trawler since Mr Steven took over the company in 1993.

The 99-gross-ton vessel has a fish hold capacity of 140cu m, a fresh water capacity of about 9 500 litres, fuel capacity of 35 000 litres and an endurance of 22 days.

A big advantage for Sachal and Stevens in the export market is the low price of its boats. Mr Steven says a fully-equipped boat, including refrigeration, costs about \$700 000. This compares favourably to a slightly smaller and unrefrigerated French-built boat recently launched here for \$1,4 million.

"Two years ago we did not know much about stern trawling. Now we are quite clued up and can design, build and supply the boat an owner wants," Mr Steven says.

"We are working with all the classification societies and all of our design scantlings will meet any one of the societies' requirements. We are also setting up the yard for audit by one of the classification societies so we will be able to build to class," he says.

Mr Steven believes the new 21,64-m trawler will meet a growing demand for efficient, high-performance vessels of this type.

The company is currently building one boat a month and has a full order book for the next 12 months.

'Now we are quite clued up and can design, build and supply the boat an owner wants'

Fawu rejects government paper on fisheries policy

Union to discuss plan of action

THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) has rejected the white paper on fisheries policy, saying it failed to address the aspirations of small and disadvantaged fishermen.

The rejection was made clear in a discussion paper tabled at the union's national congress.

Fawu secretary-general Mandla Gxanyana told a news conference yesterday that the recently published white paper was full of contradictions and had not taken into account the recommendations of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC).

The FPDC was established in 1994 under the leadership of Mr Gxanyana. It

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was given the responsibility of developing a fisheries policy to advise the Minister of Environmental Affairs when he formulated the white paper.

"It was understood that this report would form the basis of a white paper on sea fisheries policy," Mr Gxanyana said.

The white paper calls for the redistribution of fishing quotas and opportunities in favour of poor communities. It also proposes the selling of equity ownership in public companies through a share participation scheme to disadvantaged fishing communities.

It also looks at the privatisation of big fishing operations into smaller entities, to make it cheaper for communities to buy.

Mr Gxanyana said the white paper had diverted from the proposals developed by the stakeholders at the FPDC.

(3) FISHING

"It does not deal with the question of the development of people affected by past fishing policies and the issues of quotas being linked to job creation," he said.

Mr Gxanyana added that the committee's proposal for the issuing of an amnesty that would cover poachers had not been covered.

The congress will today discuss and decide its position regarding the white paper.

Mr Gxanyana said the union will also decide on a programme of action at the congress.

Action to be taken could include a meeting of fishermen to agree on a common vision, policy and way forward; developing a policy that reflects the union's position; or engaging the minister, Parliament and African National Congress.

Pallo takes flak over fishing policy

YVETTE VAN BREDA (3) FISHING

ST(CM)6/7/97

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan has taken more flak over his controversial new fishing policy.

Jordan yesterday embarked on the first of a series of workshops to clarify the proposed marine policy which is aimed at restructuring the fishing industry while at the same time granting fishermen from poor communities greater access to marine resources.

However, his Marine Fisheries policy discussion document was greeted with mixed feelings, and even outrage, by some of the 150 people attending yesterday's meeting.

Jordan expressed the hope that new legislation, expected to be in place by November, would bring a semblance of normality to the embattled industry.

The policy provides for the establishment of a Commercial Public Company, of which the state would be the sole shareholder. It would lease quotas to those previously denied access to fishing rights. The policy would favour smaller enterprises and in some cases less sophisticated fishing methods, Jordan said.

Large fishing corporations would be urged to restructure their ownership to help empower smaller fishermen and let them enter the bidding process on realistic terms.

Johnny Issel, a member of the provincial legislature who studied the fishing crisis, said the white paper had "serious flaws" but it was vital to find a quick solution for the sake of disadvantaged fishermen.

Andy Johnson, spokesman for the informal fishing communities, slated the white paper, saying it exploited fishing resources and promoted white business.

He appealed to President Mandela to intervene and said the "economic violence which big business had subjected poor fishermen to" should be addressed by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Fawu rejects White Paper on fisheries

AR 68/7/97

BUSINESS REPORTER

(3) FISHING

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) last week adopted a discussion document that rejects the White Paper on fisheries policy.

The document says the White Paper does not address the concerns of disadvantaged fishing communities. It also says that the paper does not promote the right methods for development and empowerment.

"It (the white paper) does not offer viable mechanisms for the achievement of bio-diversity and sustainable utilisation," the discussion document said.

At a four-day congress, it was also resolved that the document would form the basis of Fawu's submission to the Ministry of Environmental Affairs.

"Fawu also resolved to work with the Alliance (of fishermen) and international bodies, the International Trade Federation in particular, in developing a progressive policy that will address the principles of the Reconstruction and Development Programme," Fawu said in a statement.

The union added that it was finalising a programme of action on the White Paper.

Skiboat anglers to fight fish sale

Fishermen may ask Constitutional Court to uphold

③ FISHING
AR 11/7/97

ban
their rights

PETER GOOSEN
ANGLING CORRESPONDENT

Recreational skiboat anglers could go as far as the Constitutional Court to demand the right to sell their legally caught fish.

Many of them believe a clause in the new fisheries policy banning them from selling their catch is a violation of their constitutional rights.

They see legally caught fish as being "in the same boat" as fruit and vegetables sold by farmers or hawkers.

The boat anglers in the Western Cape have added their dissenting voice on Environment Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan's White Paper on fisheries policy.

Dr Jordan took heavy flak at the first workshop to look at the proposed policy, mainly from Andy Johnston, chairman of the 2 500-strong Informal Fishing Communities.

Mr Johnson believes the policy is a "betrayal to the impoverished people of this country".

What has upset the anglers is that the ban remains on the table in spite of their being represented on the Fisheries Policy Development Committee and making a strong case for their right to sell fish.

Angling hardliners say that if they don't get the changes they want, they will be prepared to go to the Constitutional Court, because they believe the ban violates their constitutional rights.

Rob Naysmith, attending the workshop in his capacity as chairman of the Cape Boat and Skiboat Club, one of the biggest in the Cape, said skiboat anglers were subject to strict bag limits for all the fish they caught.

Because of these limits and the fact that most fished only at weekends, they could not have a major impact on the market.

"All we want is a free choice," Mr Naysmith said.

"I want to be able to sell my catch if I want to or keep it for myself.

"This, according to the constitution, is the right of everybody in this country.

"We don't necessarily even want to sell fish to cover our costs, as has been

suggested. What we want is a free choice.

"However, with the soaring cost of fishing, if we are not able to sell our catch it could have a major impact on the hundreds of thousands of rands recreational anglers spend on everything from fuel to tackle to boats."

Spear fishermen, who are also banned from selling legally shot fish, share this view.

They are also subject to strict bag limits.

"We are bitterly disappointed with the White Paper," said WP Underwater Union spokesman Alex Papayanni, who also attended the workshop.

"Despite all our hard work, recreational anglers across the board have

been ignored. It's time we got together to get ourselves a fair deal," Mr Papayanni said.

Recreational anglers across the spectrum, including rock and surf anglers, are in favour of being licensed on condition that all anglers, commercial and recreational, are licensed and that funds raised from licences are ploughed back into the resource, including research and policing.

Although some rank-and-file rock and surf fishermen are also in favour of selling their catch, their official body, the WP Shore Angling Association, is against the practice.

Peter Goosen's angling column, page 13



SPOILT FOR CHOICE: American tourist Mr Charles Roux selects crayfish for a salad from the estimated 1 000 tons that left the sea at Elands Bay over the weekend. PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR

Kamikaze kreef deal a blow to Elands Bay

AS many as 1 000 tons of crayfish left the sea at the weekend in the second such phenomenon in as many weeks at Elands Bay on the West Coast.

The crayfish apparently walked out to escape toxic red tide, which depletes oxygen levels in the water — and fell prey to hundreds of people, some from as far afield as Somerset West, drawn to the beaches by the prospect of a free feast.

In the previous incident, about 60 tons of crayfish left the water.

"It is a big loss for us," local fisherman Mr Victor Latole said, adding that he had not seen anything like it in 35 years. "In a few years there will be nothing left."

"The fishing season starts in November, but as there are so many crayfish on the beach, there could be nothing left in the sea for us to catch."

About 100 tons of crayfish were placed in holding tanks. They were to be released into the sea on other parts of the coast. The dead cray-

fish are to be ground into powder at the Lamberts Bay Fish Factory.

Sea Fisheries spokesman Dr Andy Cockroft said Sea Fisheries scientists would travel to Elands Bay to determine if red tide had caused the crayfish to leave the sea.

Sea Fisheries staff patrolling Elands Bay were not taking action against anyone digging in the heaps of crayfish.

"If they do not take it, it will lie there rotting," said a staff member. "The only thing we can do is wait

for the situation to normalise and then enforce the law as usual."

The Department of Sea Fisheries warned the public two weeks ago not to collect shellfish, particularly black and white mussels, at Elands Bay as they could have been contaminated by the toxic red tide.

Contaminated shellfish can cause vomiting, headaches, impaired respiration and even death. Cooking does not lessen the toxicity. Crayfish are apparently not affected. — Staff Writer, Sapa

5 8/7/97 (3) FISHING

Health warning on 'poison' kreef

CT 11/4/97

③ FISHING

ANYONE found trying to export crayfish collected at this week's Elands Bay "walk-out" could expect the authorities to act decisively, the Cape attorney-general said yesterday after an emergency meeting. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** writes.



CAPE attorney-general Mr Frank Kahn has warned that South Africa's crayfish export industry could be destroyed — and that the public face a serious health risk if they eat crayfish from Elands Bay on the West Coast, where about 1 200 tons of the creatures have "walked out" and many have died after a prolonged red tide.

Thousands of people have converged on Elands Bay — including one in a light aircraft, which landed on the beach — and joined in the scramble for the crayfish, carrying off loads of them, despite authorities' efforts to prevent this.

After calling an emergency meeting of the relevant officials yesterday, Kahn said: "Business people have picked up thousands of dead crayfish. If they blast-freeze these, pack them and send them overseas, it could destroy our export market."

"The crayfish at Elands Bay are in various stages of decay... there is a real possibility that poisoned crayfish will find their way to overseas outlets and seriously harm the industry. The removal of crayfish from the area also creates a serious local public health hazard."

He also warned against people flouting the law on collecting crayfish, especially at Elands Bay. "People mustn't laugh at control," he said, adding that anyone found trying to export the crayfish could expect the authorities to act decisively.

Police, marine scientists and Sea Fisheries inspectors met the attorney-general yesterday to formulate plans on how to crack down on the illegal removal of crayfish from Elands Bay and to make contingency plans to deal with similar occurrences elsewhere.

Said Kahn: "We were told in the meeting that the weather conditions are very favourable for red tide to spread and for similar incidents of crayfish walk-outs to occur elsewhere."

"Our contingency plans will crack down heavily on the illegal removal of crayfish, in a co-ordinated effort

between Sea Fisheries, the police and my office. People aren't going to get away with it."

He said: "Once we allow uncontrolled possession, the legal system has a problem. Anyone can possess as much crayfish as they want and simply say it comes from Elands Bay."

"There is also a possibility of violence breaking out if there is a free-for-all, with thousands of rands of crayfish lying on the beaches and people competing to get them."

He said there was even a health risk if people had collected the crayfish live. Without controlled transport and packing, the creatures could die on the road to other areas and lie in the sun for hours or even days.

Once these dead crayfish had been blast-frozen, it would not be easy to tell if they had been dead for a long period before being frozen.

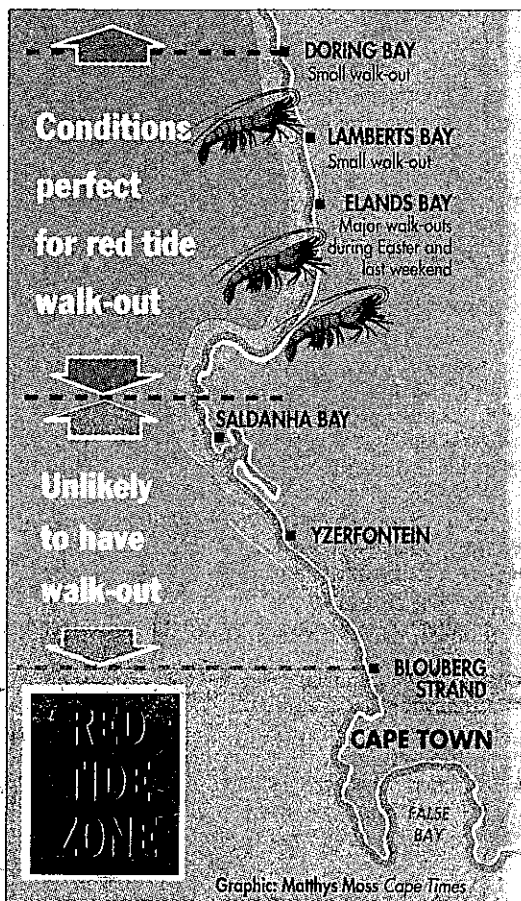
He said it was not the red tide that made the crayfish dangerous to eat but that they were in a various stages of decay, which could result in severe food poisoning.

"I'm well aware of the populist Robin Hood argument which asks why let food go to waste when hungry people can eat it. This is a simplistic argument. The obvious answer is that without control, poisoned crayfish can find their way onto the open market."

"Another important thing to remember is that the profile of the mob collecting crayfish at Elands Bay was not just the poor and the hungry from the local community. There were big businessmen there in trucks from other areas, who arrived in droves to exploit the situation and make a large profit. People were taking up to 3 000 at a time. There were traffic jams 20km long."

Also, people taking the dead and live crayfish seriously hampered the task of Sea Fisheries staff in rescuing the live animals and returning them to other areas along the coast, where the red tide was not so severe.

Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Monde Mayekiso said: "We have had an ecological disaster and we did not have a system in place to deal with it effectively. The chaotic conditions at Elands Bay meant that our staff had to deal with thousands of people trying to get at the crayfish, instead of concentrating on rescuing the live crayfish and



taking them to areas where the sea had not been depleted of oxygen by the red tide.

"The plan we have formulated now will involve co-ordinating activities between the scientists, our inspectors, the police and the attorney-general's office."

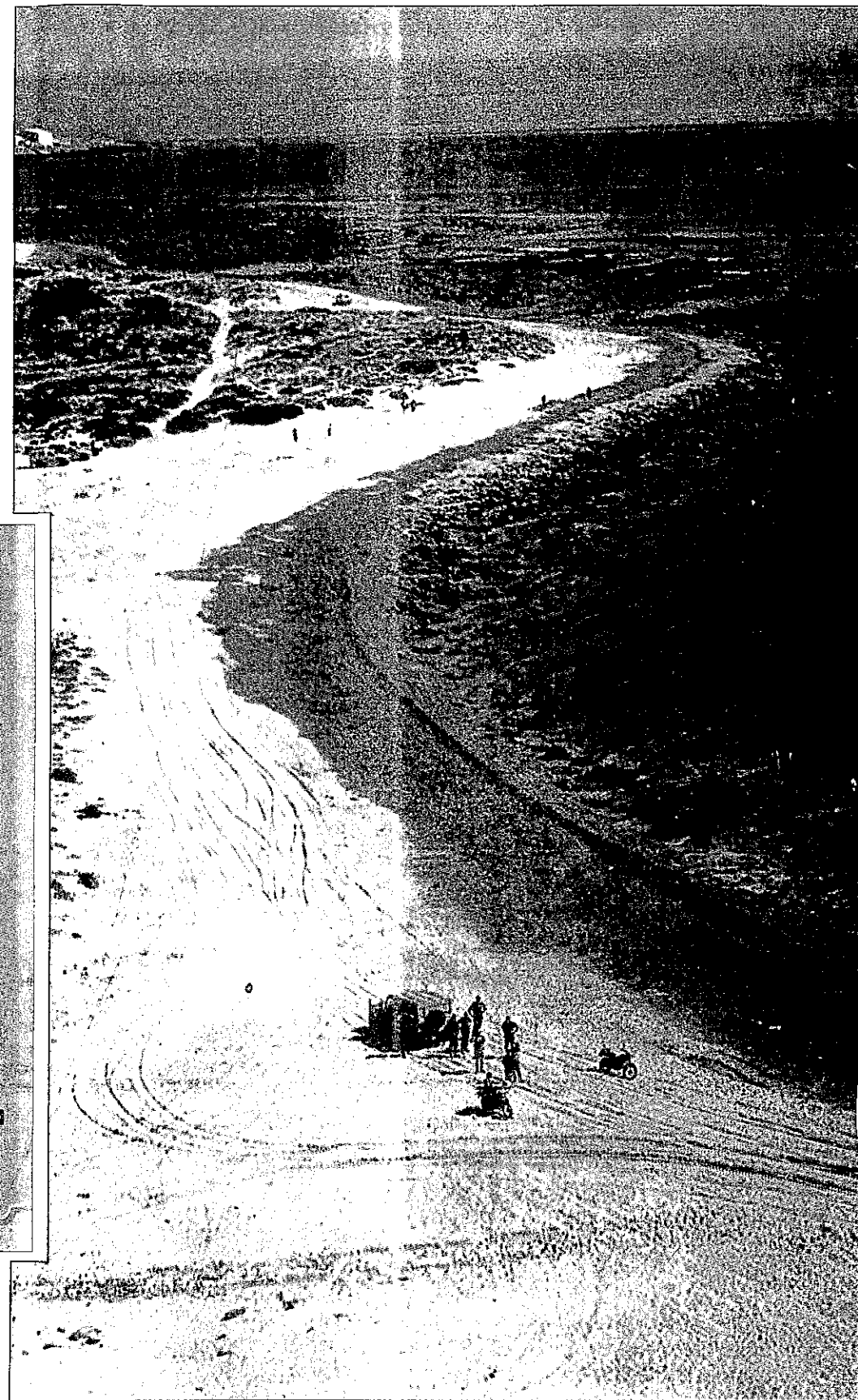
Crayfish specialist Dr Andy Cockroft said he had met representatives of the industry yesterday to discuss contingency plans for future walk-outs.

He described the situation at Elands Bay this week as "a complete circus".

"We did a random sample on the beach and found that about 90% of the crayfish were undersized, so about 90% of what the public took were undersized. As this is the season when females come inshore to moult and to mate, many of them were females, which exacerbates the problem," Cockroft said.

The head of Sea Fisheries in Saldanha Bay, Mr Johan Kotze, said he had already heard of some people in the region who had become sick.

He said the chances of further crayfish walk-



EET KREEF?: Thousands of crayfish lie dead and dying along the shore at Elands Bay on the West Coast, where they were forced out by water depleted of oxygen by the red tide.

PICTURE: CHARL PAUW

outs were highly probable, as conditions were "just right" for the red tide to increase.

● Not one of 10 top city restaurants contacted last night had had offers of cheap crayfish this week, ERIC NTABAZALILA reports. But in Pretoria, restaurateurs have been approached by entrepreneurs wishing to sell crayfish in bulk at very low prices.

"We usually buy crayfish at between R50 and R60 apiece, but I was offered 2 000 crayfish at R13 apiece," said the owner of an exclusive restaurant in Pretoria. But he didn't buy any. "You can't take chances like that," he said.

SA resists threat to its fishing resources

(3) FISHING

Pressure at Lomé Convention talks

ALIDE DASNOIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

South Africa's trade negotiators have done well so far to hold off European threats to the country's fishing resources, but the danger is still present, the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union has warned.

Union secretary Norman Daniels said though South Africa had managed to resist Spanish demands to link the country's access to the Lomé Convention to concessions on fishing, "the battle is not yet over".

South Africa's admission to the Lomé Convention is expected to be formally approved at the April 24-25 meeting of representatives of the European Union (EU) and the group of 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries who are signatories to the convention. Although South Africa is excluded from the trade clauses,

'The battle is not over yet. The Europeans will raise this question again and again'

signature of the convention brings other benefits, including the right for South African companies to tender for projects funded by the European Development Fund in ACP countries.

Only European firms and firms in ACP countries are allowed to tender for the contracts, worth about R38 billion a year.

Spanish negotiators had tried to link Spain's approval of South Africa's bid for access to the Lomé Convention to concessions on fishing, a move which set alarm

bells ringing among Western Cape fishermen who threatened to blockade the country's ports if Spanish fishermen were allowed in.

But South African negotiators have refused to link signature of the Lomé Convention to an agreement on access to South African waters.

However, Mr Daniels warned the question of foreign access to South Africa's fishing grounds was far from resolved.

"The sword is still hanging over our heads," he said. "The Europeans are going to raise this question again and again."

He called on Minister of Trade and Industry Alec Erwin to "give the union a firm commitment" that fishing quotas would not be allocated to foreign fishing vessels "under any circumstances".

The union also wanted the minister to promise that "all the role players" would be consulted before any concessions were made.

Weather holds key to further crayfish chaos

More red tide feared

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The crayfish disaster at Elands Bay could be repeated elsewhere on the West Coast if the weather pattern does not change and strong winds begin soon, experts warn.

High temperatures and calm days are ideal for further red tide blooms and these may cause more crayfish "walkouts".

But if this happens, Sea Fisheries officials and police, assisted by the commercial fishing industry, will immediately put a contingency plan into operation to stop plundering and people helping themselves will be prosecuted.

This is the further warning from Western Cape Attorney General Frank Kahn, who is unmoved by strong criticism of his statement earlier this week that crayfish regulations would be enforced.

"Those who have accused me of being unsporting, or spoiling the party and being a killjoy are missing the point," he said.

"My concern for the poor and hungry in the area is far greater than merely depriving them and other, more advantaged citizens of Cape Town of a crayfish festival for two weeks.

"If such a situation was allowed to go unchecked, we were, and still are, looking at massive unemployment on the West Coast to such a degree that government would have to step in and provide relief.

"I made my decision to apply the law strictly in the interests of preserving the industry, which, if uncontrolled, could present a health hazard to the public. People mustn't come crying to me when they eat poisoned kreef," he said.

Mr Kahn met Sea Fisheries chief direc-

tor Monde Mayekiso, director of control Johan van Zyl and Sea Fisheries Research Institute director Andy Payne yesterday to discuss the issue.

He said afterwards he had been told that 90 percent of the estimated 1 200 tons of crayfish that "walked out" were undersized and many could have been recovered and moved to other areas. But Sea Fisheries staff, who often had to compete with people on the beach to catch live crayfish, saved only about 100 tons.

"Another factor which also weighed in my decision was that unscrupulous businessmen, many of whom were seen there in their lorries, could freeze and offer for sale dead or poisonous kreef, or even export them, to the detriment of South Africa's image overseas," Mr Kahn said.

He had been told by scientists that most of the crayfish leaving the sea were in a soft-shell (moulting) condition, were stressed because of the lack of oxygen and hadn't eaten for days.

"So they're in a bad condition and even the live ones could die soon."

Even dead crayfish could be made to look good by being "blast-frozen", Mr Kahn warned.

"The public should be warned that an uncontrolled situation does create a potential health hazard."

Mr Kahn said Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Peter Mokaba's decision to allow only local residents to collect crayfish on the beach by hand for a few hours on Wednesday had been correct and had defused potential violence.

"It was an ugly situation. But I would like to emphasise that prevention is better than cure and that people should not have been allowed on to the beach."

ARG 11/4/97

(3) FISHING

Crayfish 'walk-out': plan ready to prevent repeat of mayhem

A-G slammed for 'legal egg dance'

ARCT 12/14/97

PIETER MALAN
STAFF REPORTER

Extensive contingency plans are in place to prevent a repetition of the chaos that erupted in Elands Bay this week when thousands of people flocked to the small town in search of a free meal of rock lobster.

Reports that more red tides - depending on weather conditions - could be expected on the West Coast over the next few days prompted Sea Fisheries to draw up the plans.

They include being ready to cordon off any beaches where a crayfish "walk-out" could occur and putting in place a rescue operation to return as many crayfish as possible to the sea.

Officials said the bottom line was trying to save the Western Cape crayfish industry from total collapse. During the past two weeks about 1 200 tons of crayfish - almost three quarters of the total permissible catch for the entire industry - died on Elands Bay's beaches.

"We don't know yet how this disaster will affect next year's quotas," Sea Fisheries crayfish expert Andy Cockcroft said.

The impact on the area's crayfish population was expected to be significant, as about 80 percent of the crayfish that crawled out of the sea comprised undersized females.

The lack of females in the area could affect the long-term harvest, which also depends on the amount of larvae brought into the area by currents, Dr Cockcroft

said, adding that it could take up to five years for the local crayfish population to restore itself.

He said the most disappointing aspect of the last few days was the public's response to the disaster.

"While we had excellent response from factories in the area to help us save as many animals as possible, the general public were only interested in short-term gain."

In private, officials agreed that the response from the Western Cape Attorney-General Frank Kahn and some politicians did not help much to stem the chaos.

Most remarkable, they said, was the egg dance performed by Mr Kahn. On Tuesday, he was reported as saying his interpretation of the law was that nobody could be prosecuted for picking up crayfish from the beach. But the next day he ordered that the law should be applied strictly and that only four crayfish per person - with a permit - was to be allowed.

He issued a strong statement saying that "those who have accused me of being unsporting, or spoiling the party, were missing the point" and that he would apply the law strictly in the interests of preserving the industry.

To complicate matters further Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba announced after visiting Elands Bay on Wednesday that people should be allowed to pick up crayfish for five hours before the ban would come into effect.

Sea Fisheries inspectors, on the other hand, were unfazed by criticism and calls

to "let people eat kreef", saying their biggest concern was rescuing a very valuable source of income for the province.

"The law very clearly stipulates that the catching of fish also includes removing it from the beach," said Johan van Zyl, director of Sea Fisheries Control.

He said the contingency plan made provision for the immediate mobilisation of the police and the navy to cordon off any beach where a walk-out occurred. The use district council trucks was also provided for, to move as many crayfish as possible to holding tanks. Here the crayfish would be revived before being released into the sea beyond the red tide.

"We have learned a lot from what happened this week and hope that these plans would stay in place for any similar occurrence in future," Dr Van Zyl said.

Saldanha fisheries inspector Johan Kotze said the remaining dead crayfish on the beaches would be removed with bulldozers.

"Those not full of sand and dried out will be minced into fish meal.

Dr Van Zyl said the money from the sale of the fish meal would go into state coffers, which is what usually happens with confiscated fish products.

"What happens to that money is not up to us. It is for Parliament to decide," he said.

The rest of the rotting crayfish would be buried or used as fertiliser on nearby farm lands, Mr Kotze said, adding that 1,8km of beach near Elands Bay was still covered by rotting crayfish.

Hawston fishermen forced to poach a living

Still no permits for 10-ton quota

JULIAN JACOBS
STAFF REPORTER

Subsistence fishermen in Hawston who signed an agreement not to poach perlemoen are continuing to do so even though they have been allocated a 10-ton quota from the Quota Board.

Philipus May, chairman of the Hawston Fishing Company, said they still had not received the required permits and documentation to dive for their perlemoen quota.

"What happened was that the commercial divers union instituted an interdict against us, preventing us from diving for our official 10-ton quota," he said.

Mr May said the reality was that subsistence fishermen and their families now had to continue poaching to survive.

He agreed, however, that the perlemoen resource should be protected and looked after.

Mr May said a special training programme for 22 informal fishermen to become professional perlemoen divers had been launched.

The 22 fishermen received certificates after completing the month-long course. They were trained to dive and shown how to check the legal size of perlemoen.

An office has now been set up in Hawston and two fishing boats and two 4x4 vehicles have been acquired for the diving operations.

"The aim of the Hawston Fishing Company is to employ and empower informal fishermen and to educate them in the perlemoen industry," Mr May said.

But he warned that the longer they had to wait for their permits the more disastrous it might become for the perlemoen industry as subsistence fishermen had to support their families.

The Directorate of Sea Fisheries is hard pressed to prevent poaching.

It has only 14 enforcement officers to patrol the entire Cape Hanglip to Danger Point area, which includes eight launch ramps for small fishing boats.

Sea Fisheries researcher Rob Tarr said the perlemoen resource was so fished out it had now become an expensive exercise just to have the resource divided among commercial and recreational divers.

"Already we have a huge poaching problem in the area between Cape Hanglip and Danger Point.

"If poaching continues at current levels, the resource could collapse in the next few



Poached perlemoen: Herman de Waal of Cape Nature Conservation with perlemoen seized by police

years," he said.

Mr May said the concept of the Hawston community protecting the perlemoen resource was a good one.

But the numbers of commercial and recreational divers in the industry was already putting the resource under great strain, he said.

The current quota for perlemoen as set out by the state's national Total Allowable Catch (TAC) is 550 tons for commercial divers and 450 tons for recreational divers.

Mr Tarr compared the poaching of perlemoen to mining; once a mine had been depleted, workers left.

He said the same situation would arise

in the perlemoen industry.

"We promote the idea of sustainable utilisation, thus we do not harm the production cycle," he said.

"Poachers know removing undersized perlemoen is illegal but yet continue to do so because of the huge market for the smaller perlemoen."

Mr Tarr also said that an increase in the number of crayfish, which feed on sea urchins, had left little shelter for juvenile perlemoen, leaving them exposed to predators.

In an effort to protect the dwindling resource, the Government has shortened the season for recreational divers.

FISHERMAN THREATEN STRIKE

Row over Elands Bay kreef at boiling point

CT 14/4/97

FISHING

IMPOVERISHED fisherman, for whom the exodus of kreef seemed an answer to prayer, say the ban on scavengers is robbing them of income and food. **JUDY DAMON** reports.

TONS of dead crayfish were buried at Elands Bay yesterday as controversy between local fishermen and authorities over the right to the crayfish reached boiling point.

Tons more kreef lie rotting on the West Coast beach and local fishermen are demanding that their quota be increased — failing which, they say, they will go on strike.

Elands Bay councillor Mr Willem Nero has called a meeting for Wednesday with residents and the fishermen, who were hit hardest when authorities stopped them collecting kreef from the beaches.

The quota is four crayfish for each person who has a permit.

Western Cape MEC for Health and Social Services Mr Ebrahim Rasool declared the Elands Bay crayfish a "health risk" and urged the public not to eat those that washed up. He said the authorities were dealing with dying crayfish that posed a "real risk" to the public. So far, no complaints of poisoning have been reported.

Residents living along the strip of the beach have complained to the municipal authorities and Department of Sea Fisheries about the stench of rotting crayfish. It will be at least another week before all the crayfish have been buried.

Department of Sea Fisheries

staff have dug a trench 500 metres long and 10m wide close to the piles of rotting kreef. The crayfish are buried more than a metre deep in the trench.

Sea Fisheries inspector Mr Eugene Swart said he saw "no ecological risk" in doing this. It was the only logical way to get rid of the dead crayfish, he said.

"They are in the natural process of rotting," Swart said. "It's like burying dead people — all part of nature."

Some of the dead crayfish are to be processed into "crayfish meal" for use as fertiliser or chicken feed.

While the authorities are trying to clean up the beaches, local fishermen are angry. They say they are taxed heavily, yet the authorities are preventing them from earning a living from their "blessings". They are especially aggrieved by the authorities' action as the past two crayfish seasons have been poor.

"We have been accused of stealing and smuggling the crayfish," said Nero. "How can we steal the fish when it walked on to the beach? We are suffering and in desperate need of food and money, but they prefer to kill good food by not allowing the hungry people to feed themselves."

Pastor Johannes Claasen, a fisherman for most his life, said that

the Sunday before the red tide occurred, the community held a service on the beach and prayed for a turn in their bad fortune.

"It was like a miracle when it came in abundance," he said. "But our hopes were dashed when the law allowed outsiders, who came from as far as Johannesburg, to take as much as they could, but we locals could only take a handful and not even to sell."

Some scavengers are selling the kreef at 30 cents each.

Swart said that initially the main object had been to rescue as many crayfish as possible. More than 80 tons were taken to Lambert's Bay by boat.

The fishermen had not helped with the rescue and had pocketed as many crayfish as possible, Swart said.

Ten people have been charged with collecting crayfish without permits and are to appear in court this week.

Inspector Mr Johannes du Preez of Elands Bay said the police had had their "hands full". There had been several confrontations with people who refused to return their loot.

Earlier this week, roadblocks were set up on routes from Elands Bay. During Rasool's visit, each car was searched. People who had more than four crayfish had to hand over the rest.

Some people were still digging among the crayfish heaps and arguing with authorities who tried to keep them away yesterday.



ENTRENCHED STENCH: Bulldozers and excavators bury mounds of dead crayfish on the Elands Bay beach in trenches. Local residents have complained about the stench of rotting kreef.

PICTURE: KARIN RETIEF

③ FISHING
KAMIKAZE KREEF

FM 18/7/97

Apart from making exciting TV footage, the crayfish "walkout" at the west coast village of Elands Bay cost the rock lobster industry about R75m. Estimates are that 1 500 t of crayfish were stranded on the beach — nearly the total allowable catch for the 1996-1997 season which closes at month-end.

Behind the crustacean catastrophe was the lethal red tide — a proliferation of seaborne algae that triggers deoxygenation of the water, causing the lobster to head for shallower waters.

Of the 1 500 t which came ashore, approximately 200 t were returned to the sea; 400 t are being processed into fishmeal and about 10 t have been cleaned and packed as tails.

This does not include the tonnage taken as the public descended upon the kreef while authorities sought to enforce rules limiting each person to four crayfish.

The crayfish harvest accounts for roughly 7% of the west coast fishing industry's turnover.

West Coast Rock Lobster Sea Management Association chairman James Croucamp says 80% of the commercial catch is exported. "It is only the devaluing rand that is keeping the industry alive," he says. Another factor is that — essentially to protect the resource — quotas have been slashed to present levels from 4 000 t eight years ago.

On the local market a whole lobster costs R60-R80/kg. Japan takes the bulk of exports (60%-70%), followed by France and Italy (20%). After airfreight costs, live crayfish fetch R90/kg.

Wilhelm van Zyl of Lamberts Bay Fishing says, "the impact on our zone will have to be determined before next season's catch can be apportioned."

The longer-term ecological impact has still to be assessed, says sea management association secretary Dan de Villiers. More than 80% of the stranded kreef were females — looking for oxygen while laying eggs.

Watch out for local price escalations and the possible disappearance of the delicacy as the year wears on.

Piet Badenhorst

Poachers use kids to help plunder sea

ST(CM) 17/8/97
CHARL DE VILLIERS

3 FISHING

POACHERS are using children — some as young as six — as accomplices in their relentless raping of Hawston's perlemoen resources for international criminal syndicates.

The youngsters are used as lookouts and couriers by unscrupulous operators who depend on the children's age to escape prosecution by hard-pressed law enforcement officers — who admitted that they were fast losing the battle to combat the plunder.

This week, Sea Fisheries inspectors and policemen warned of a "total onslaught" by poachers who would stop at nothing — including corrupting children, destroying precious marine resources and openly threatening officials — to poach perlemoen for the Far East market.

Rodney Gillian, chairman of the Overberg Professional Abalone Divers' Association, disclosed this week that even children from Sub A and B were being used by the poachers. And he suspected some teachers may also be involved.

Edmund Bucchianeri, principal of the Hawston Senior Secondary School, said it was a "known fact" that pupils were either helping poachers or even poaching themselves.

Fisheries inspectors this week sketched a "Wild West situation" that included car chases in Gansbaai, threats to themselves and their families by increasingly brazen poachers and "skollies" who joked that Sea Fisheries staff would earn far more than they did by carrying sacks of poached perlemoen.

At a top-level meeting this week senior detectives and crime syndicate specialists met defence force officers and officials from Sea Fisheries to work out a common strategy against the poaching.

Property war rages

TOM HOOD

DEVELOPERS FairCape expect to win the latest round in a bitter battle over a controversial three-storey block of up-market flats in Yeoville Road, Vredehoek.

The battle between developers and residents has involved four court cases, with a stop order on building work since October last year.

Independent experts appointed by the Cape Town City Council have now ruled that FairCape was entitled to put up one "building", which could be a block of flats and not just a "dwelling".

On Wednesday the city's urban planning committee will be urged to give the go-ahead for building.

AR

Union opposes government's marine policy

FISHING

Linda Ensor

ED 22/8/97

CAPE TOWN — Attempts by fishing companies to "blacken" themselves had just been cosmetic, Food and Allied Workers' Union general president Peter Malepe said yesterday at the launch of the union's campaign against government's marine fisheries policy.

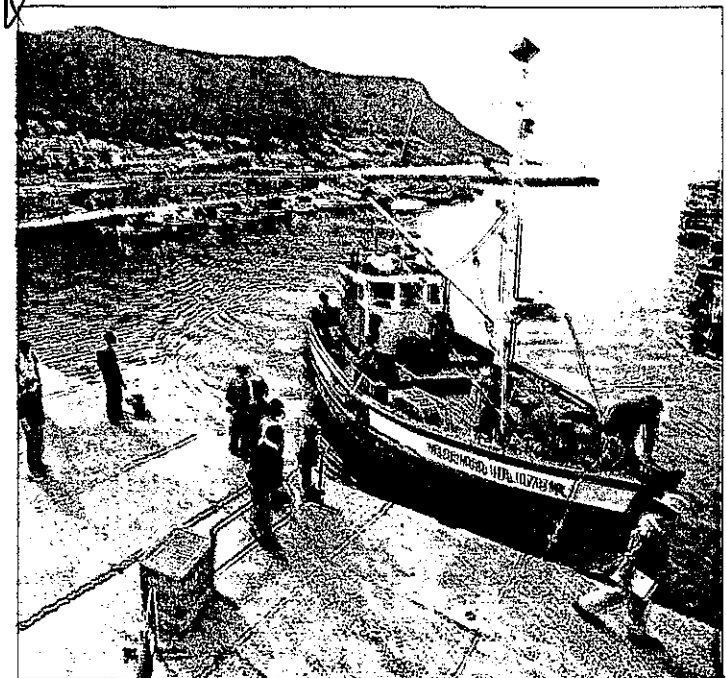
The campaign, which would culminate in a meeting on October 27, aimed to totally restructure the industry. The campaign would include meetings with government, mobilising stakeholders and protests.

The union said the white paper did not go far enough in addressing the monopolisation of the fishing resource by a few "white" companies, and failed to address the needs and aspirations of fishing communities and workers.

It did not specify what percentage of the total allowable catch would be reserved for the historically disadvantaged.

Malepe noted that since 1994 some white companies had attempted to "blacken their faces", but their aim was to avoid transformation of the industry.

He said the industry had sold minority shares to some black business consortiums and a few members of the black elite had been given quotas. But none of this amounted to restructuring. These actions had merely been attempts to confuse the issue and to frustrate any process that attempted to restructure the industry, Malepe said.



HANNES THART

Calm waters? Kalk Bay Harbour is in line for an R84-million upgrade by Japanese interests. Slipways

'Where do we fit in to plan?'

(3) FISHING
STAFF REPORTER

The Kalk Bay harbour community says it has nothing against the development of the area, but people are worried about where they fit in.

Edwin "Eddie" Roslind, owner of Kalky's Fish and Chips, said the Japanese proposal was "too vague" and the investors were not saying what they wanted out of the investment.

Mr Roslind, who supplies 80% of the bait to the small boats operating from Kalk Bay, was worried about the construction of a new building and wondered if there was room for Kalky's.

The proposal mentioned changing the size of the slipway, but "all we asked for was the repair of the rails of the slipway. Its location and size are perfect." Mr Roslind said the proposal omitted the siting and mooring of boats.

The Japanese took over by buying into fishing industries, said fourth-generation fisherman M E "Kapietie" Manuel.

He said South Africa was the last battlefield for fish.

"We know that the harbour is running at a loss but there is enough money in the country and we can sustain it ourselves."



'Too vague': Kalky's owner Eddie Roslind



History: fisherman 'Kapietie' Manuel

Japanese lifeline for fishermen

R84-m harbour plan promises Kalk Bay boom

PETER GOOSEN
City Desk

Cash-strapped Kalk Bay harbour has been offered a R84-million makeover by a Japanese consortium - which could double the harbour's size.

But the big question - will the Japanese want to use the harbour for their fleet of tunny catchers that operate off South Africa? - remains unanswered.

The Japanese offer has been made to the "owners" of the harbour, the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Announcing it, the chairman of the reconstituted Kalk Bay Development Steering Committee, Neville Riley, said the "no-strings" proposal, which had been exhaustively researched by the Japanese,

would be financed through the Japanese government as an aid project.

The Japanese saw the proposal as a prototype of a new type of fisheries development for the small business sector.

The key to the plan is combining a market with tourism, to use the limited fisheries resource more effectively, to create new jobs and develop a commercial outlet to take advantage of Kalk Bay's proximity to sightseeing spots.

The plan includes new and improved port and maintenance facilities and aims to attract customers for the sale of fish and fish products and help to build a self-reliant community.

The project, which will more than double the size of the harbour, will include moving the badly-positioned slipways,

making access for vehicles to repair larger vessels more practical.

The preliminary Japanese study says that because of the shortage of land and a lack of an entrepreneurial fishing factory, Kalk Bay has barely sufficient service facilities for local fishing activities.

Without ice-making plant or cold storage, fishermen are obliged to sell their catch directly off the boat to quayside buyers.

Making the announcement at a meeting of South Peninsula's urban planning committee, Mr Riley said there were still many unanswered questions.

But a meeting on Wednesday would include the Kalk Bay Steering Committee, Sea Fisheries and representatives of the Japanese trading house.

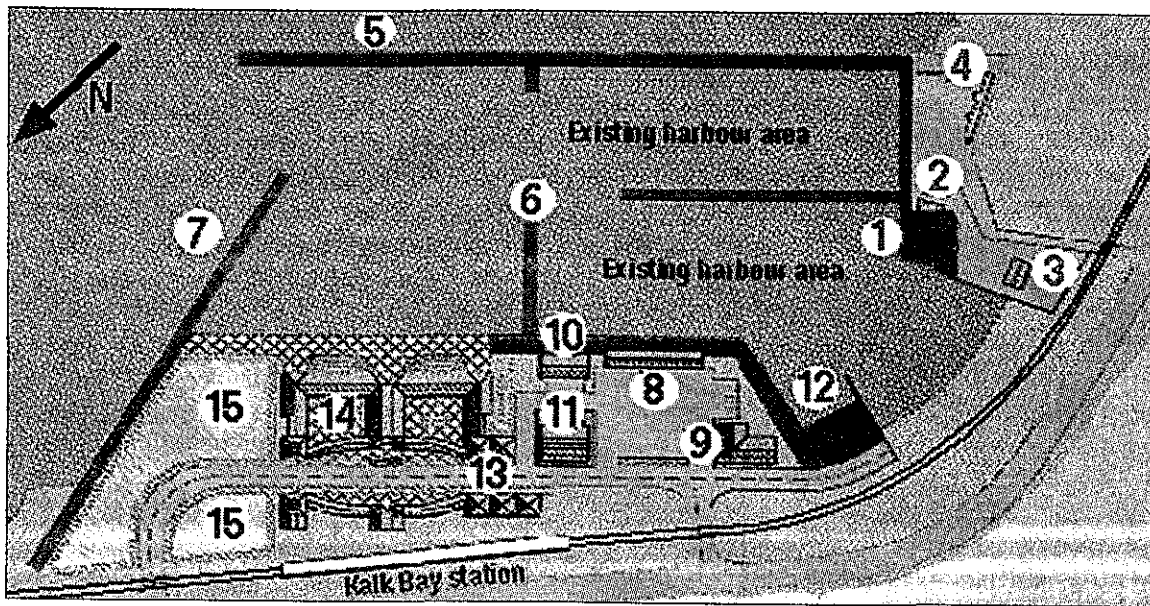
A big question over the scheme - and the first that locals will ask - is whether the Japanese will use Kalk Bay for their tunny catchers. The answer is not clear.

The plan, which Mr Riley said was only a working document and not finalised, shows an extension to the eastern breakwater, a shortened north breakwater and an extra north breakwater.

The slipways would be moved offshore and an access road to the slipways opened.

Port facilities would include an auction hall, ice plant, cold storage and boat ramp.

New community facilities would include a multi-purpose hall, meeting-rooms, a clinic, a training-room and a gym. Commercial facilities would include a fish market, restaurants, souvenir shops and a centre for False Bay cruises.



KEY

- 1 Slipways to be renewed and moved offshore
- 2 Access road to slipways opened
- 3 Maintenance shop to be installed
- 4 Restaurant to be relocated to Kalk Bay Fishery complex
- 5 Existing east breakwater to be extended
- 6 Existing north breakwater to be shortened and used as a preparation jetty.
- 7 New north breakwater to be installed
- 8 Auction hall
- 9 Administration office
- 10 Ice plant
- 11 Cold storage
- 12 Boat ramp
- 13 Community facilities (hall, meeting rooms, clinic, gym, etc)
- 14 Commercial facilities (restaurants, fish market, shops, etc)
- 15 Utilities and parking

Waterfront: the development plan for Kalk Bay harbour. 'The people of Kalk Bay can make any changes they want'

Japan won't use fleet in Kalk Bay

(3) FISHING

R86-million project outlined

ARC 22/8/97

PETER GOOSEN
CITY DESK

The Japanese have no plans to use an enlarged and upgraded Kalk Bay harbour for their own fishing fleet.

This assurance was given to a meeting of the Kalk Bay Development Steering Committee by a representative of Moritani Trading Company of Japan, Hiroaki Watanabe.

He was outlining a Moritani proposal to spend about R85-million on Kalk Bay harbour.

He told the meeting that the Japanese government had taken a decision to spend R140-million in foreign aid in South Africa in the field of education, hospital equipment and fisheries.

Following on the government's interest in promoting fishing, Moritani had done a study of South Africa's harbours and come up with Kalk Bay as the best place for development.

At this stage the Japanese gov-

ernment was not even aware of the proposal.

From a fishing point of view, the only interest Japan would have was in moving South Africa's sea fisheries research to Kalk Bay, including its research vessels.

It wanted to do this as a gesture because its fleet was licensed to fish in South African waters.

It was vital for the Kalk Bay community and all the interested parties to jointly provide a plan for the redevelopment of the harbour, which would go from Sea Fisheries to the South African Government and the Japanese government.

Once the Japanese had examined the proposal, which was in line with its foreign aid policy, and accepted it in principle, it would send its own experts to South Africa to do the detailed planning of the new harbour.

Only Japanese contractors could tender for the project, but they would make use of South

African expertise and labour as sub-contractors.

Mr Watanabe emphasised that the plan for the harbour drawn up by Moritani was only a working document, and the people of Kalk Bay could make any changes they wanted.

However, it was vital that a plan in principle was before the Japanese government by the end of December so that, if successful, the project could be placed on next year's budget.

The chairman of the steering committee, Neville Riley, said it was clear from the detailed proposal that the basis of the plan was the upliftment and empowerment of the formerly disadvantaged fishing community by providing employment opportunities and a much improved harbour, which would include facilities like cold storage, ice making and new slipway facilities accessible to heavy vehicles, a packaging plant and a range of community facilities.

One man's fish is Fawu's poison

Sowetan 22/8/97
THE Food and Allied Workers' Union yesterday launched a campaign against the Government's White Paper on marine fisheries policy.

The union has called for a total restructuring of the industry, which it claims is biased in favour of a few large and medium-sized companies.

Fawu president Mr Peter Malepe told the media in Cape Town the White Paper did not provide for a thorough restructuring of the industry in line with the principles of the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

It did not reflect the union's view of restructuring raised during the Fisheries Policy Development Committee process.

Also, it did not spell out the criteria for allocating quotas. - Sapa.

(3) FISHING

Union bid to protect fishing communities

FISHING
③

ARL 25/8/97

Protests planned against white paper

THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) is to launch a campaign aimed at pressuring the Government to take greater account of the needs of impoverished fishing communities in developing a fishing policy.

Briefing the media, Fawu said the campaign would involve meetings with government bodies and stakeholders in the fishing industry.

The union would also try to convince its mother body, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (Cosatu), to support planned protest actions against the Marine Fisheries white paper released in June by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan.

The white paper is an attempt to tackle the unequal distribution of fishing resources.

But, Fawu says it does not say how small fishing communities would gain a foothold in the highly lucrative fishing industry.

"We want to see a policy which clearly

*'We want to see a policy
outlining
how
dispossessed access
rights will be restored'*

outlines how dispossessed access rights will be restored to people from whom they were taken, through the violation of human rights, as outlined in the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)," Fawu national president Peter Malepe said.

He said the Government was succumbing to pressures from established companies in the fishing industry.

The big companies have been slow to react to the white paper, some expressing qualified approval.

Managing director of Oceana's Fishing Division Temba Vundla said his group was still preparing a response.

Oceana was most concerned about the

fact that the white paper was vague about what the future held for companies and how the Government would deal with them.

"There are elements of uncertainty about what's going to happen in the future," Mr Vundla said.

Irvin and Johnson (I&J) welcomed assurances by the Minister that the Government did not intend to harm to the "the well-established fishing businesses that are so important to employment and wealth creation in our country".

Fawu hopes to produce an alternative policy following a summit of stakeholders in the fishing industry, to be called by Fawu on October 27.

At its national congress in June the union decided to oppose the White Paper. Fawu opposed it for not being, as it deemed, in-line with the principles of the Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP).

"Specifically, it does not provide a solution to the problem that approximately 90% of the resource is still controlled by a few companies who benefited from the apartheid era," Mr Malepe said.



JACK LESTRADE

Hard times: left, children are fed by the Peninsula Feeding Scheme. Right, Jimmy Goniwe and his two-year-old granddaughter Danlsw. He lost his job in a fishing factory because of epileptic seizures

We face ruin, say fishermen

Big business destroying Elands Bay, they claim

ARG 25/8/97 ③ FISHING

BEAUREGARD TRUMP
STAFF REPORTER

The fishing community of Elands Bay on the West Coast says it is staring ruin in the face because of dwindling catches and the disastrous autumn red tide which killed off crayfish stocks.

The coming season is expected to produce poor catches, and the people of Elands Bay have called for the region to be declared a disaster area. They claim that big business has again ended up with all the quotas.

Nikolaas van Wyk said a fisherman could earn only enough to keep his family in food for a day at a time. "We can go out today on the 'baas' boat and earn about R15. Tomorrow the sea is too rough, then we have no income."

He said only the "baas" had the boats to get to the fish which were much further out than they could reach with their oar-pow-

ered "bakkies."

"This is Hotnot world this," he commented on what he believes is abuse of workers by factory and boat owners.

Elands Bay has never been a wealthy place but, residents say, they can remember when they could put food on the table and still put something away.

Children now get food and milk through the Peninsula School Feeding Scheme and at noon children as young as two or three are seen making their way to the soup kitchens, bowls in hand. These youngsters' parents cannot afford the R20 a month it costs to send them to the local kindergarten so the children spend their days playing in the dusty streets of the town.

Many men sit at home idly, reminiscing about their younger days. Their hands, worn by years at sea, struggle to hold up pieces of paper showing when they were born. In Elands Bay few people celebrate birthdays and, when asked why, they rub

together thumb and forefinger to indicate lack of money.

The main fish catches here are hottentot, snoek and galjoen. Snoek and hottentot can be caught only in the open sea and in-shore galjoen from October to February.

Residents blame the decline in in-shore catches on abuse of resources by big business over the years.

"Big business has all the quotas and now they also want to take the little the Government wants to give the little man to get on his feet," said a resident.

Workers say that because they live on company property, they are obliged to work for the company and accept the meagre wages of between R10 and R20 a day. Many people refused to give their names for fear of reprisals. "Elands Bay should be declared a disaster area," said a resident.

Not so, says Theo van Putten, financial manager of Elandria Fisheries, one of the largest companies in the area, emphatical-

ly denying the accusations.

He said workers lived in company houses and got water and electricity, all at no cost. They were provided with transport and boats to catch fish and if they were not satisfied with the company's prices they were allowed to take their catch elsewhere to sell, again at no cost to the worker.

But most people feel large companies are not doing enough for them. A member of the local women's league said the companies they had approached for financial aid had said they would like to "look before they leap (hou die kat uit die boom dop)".

National Minister of Environment and Tourism spokeswoman Cassandra Gabriel said the Government had just drafted a policy to make the fishing industry more representative of the fishing community. She warned that there were no short-term solutions to the problems of the past.

R84-m offer on harbour 'up to Kalk Bay people'

PETER GOOSEN
CITY DESK

(3) Fishing

ARC 12/9/97

The people of Kalk Bay have been told it is up to them whether to take up the R84-million Japanese offer to upgrade the harbour.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said at a meeting in Kalk Bay last night that he would go along with whatever the community decided.

In reply to a question by Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action Protection Group, he said everybody had to realise there was no such thing as a free lunch and it was possible - although they had not made it clear up to now - the Japanese could want a quid pro quo "and it's not impossible that their long-line tunny licences they get from us could have something to do with it".

But this should not prevent Kalk Bay taking a good look at the proposal and making any changes they felt would benefit the harbour, the fishing community and the people of the area, at no cost to themselves.

The chairman of the Kalk Bay Development Steering Committee, Neville Riley, told the meeting the committee was already representative of the community but any group which thought it was not represented was welcome to join.

The only dissenting voice was that of Mymoena Poggenpoel who, claiming to represent four organisations in Kalk Bay, said the offer should be turned down. "How will we ever be able to pay this money back?"

But circulating this week was a document called the Kalk Bay Integrated Fishery Infrastructure Development Project, which goes part of the way towards accepting the Japanese proposals in an altered form.

The document is signed by seven organisations.

Kalk Bay upgrade still 'pie in the sky'

③ FISHING

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

er 12/9/97

THE Kalk Bay community and local fishermen are embroiled in debate over a proposal to upgrade, and possibly double the size of the harbour with Japanese aid money — but the debate could end up being so much hot air.

Yesterday the Japanese government said it knew nothing about plans to enlarge and upgrade Kalk Bay harbour with Japanese aid money.

And the Japanese company which initiated the propos-

al said the plan was merely "pie in the sky" at this stage.

Reports of the R86 million development proposal for the harbour, which caused a furore in the small town and aroused suspicion among local fishermen and residents, have come as a surprise to Japan.

Mr Yoshiaki Ito, first secretary of the Japanese Embassy, told the Cape Times yesterday: "I read media reports about it, but the Japanese government has no plans to develop any port in South Africa. I'm very surprised to hear of it."

"We do have a grant aid scheme for fishing countries, but we have had no request from South Africa for aid, so

there are no plans to do so," he said.

Ito said if South Africa did put in a request, Japan would consider it, although he pointed out that there had been a major down-scaling of donor aid in most countries.

"We have a very tight budgetary plan for aid, and R86-m is big money," Ito added.

Moritani Trading Company, the Japanese company which initiated the proposal, said it was no more than an idea.

Moritani's marketing executive, Ms Candice van den Berg, said yesterday: "Look, it really is all pie in the sky at the moment. The Japanese government knows nothing about it yet and we told the people here not to make too much of the whole thing, but just to make a request for funds with some sort of proposal."

"There is no guarantee they will get the money, and even if they do, it may take four years to get approval," Van den Berg said.

The plan would more than double the size of the harbour, adding facilities which combine fishing and tourism, like cold storage, new boat ramps, restaurants, fish markets, shops and a gym.

Moritani is a Japanese trading house dealing in imports and exports.

Van den Berg said the company's financial interest in the Kalk Bay harbour development was that it stood to make a commission on presenting a tender for the development to the Japanese government. Only Japanese trading houses with offices in South Africa could do so.

She said her company was involved in Japanese grant aid all over Africa, and went to the authorities in various countries to tell them that aid was available and to suggest how they should apply for it.

"If no one asks, no one gets. And if no one gets, we don't make any commission. We're just giving information, there is no guarantee you will get the money. We also do this in education and health, and have just got aid money for medical equipment for South Africa."

"The Japanese government only allows Japanese trad-

What they say about the plan

THE Japanese government says:

● We know nothing about a proposal to upgrade Kalk Bay with our grant aid.

● If we do get a request from South Africa for fisheries aid, we will consider it.

● We will consider all requests, including one to upgrade several fishing harbours around your coast instead of Kalk Bay only.

● We will not consider a proposal that the local people do not want.

MORITANI Trading Company of Japan, who proposed the Kalk Bay

upgrading, says:

● The whole Kalk Bay upgrading plan is pie in the sky at the moment.

● We have not yet asked Japan for grant aid for the project.

● There is no guarantee you will get the money.

● Our interest is that we would make a commission on tendering to Japan for the project.

SEA FISHERIES says:

● We were asked by Moritani company what our fishery needs for grant aid were.

● We said R30m was urgently

needed to upgrade 12 fishing harbours around our coast.

● We were told by Moritani that we could not use the aid money for repair work.

KALK BAY community says the grant aid should not be used for the proposed development, but instead be used for:

● General repair of Kalk Bay's harbour infrastructure.

● Construction of facilities for fishermen.

● Construction of an education centre and a night shelter for the homeless.

ing houses with offices in South Africa to tender for the aid, which amounts to about five companies in this country. We know the format they like and we did the Kalk Bay proposal really just to awaken the thought process."

Sea Fisheries spokesman Dr Johan van Zyl, confirmed that Moritani had approached his department and told him they could get Japanese grant aid for harbour development, and had asked what was needed.

"We have a major backlog of maintenance and repair work that must be done on many of our fishing harbours where quays and slipways are crumbling, rails are rusted, cables frayed and they badly need to be dredged. We worked out that this would cost between R25 million and R30 million, and would include only proclaimed fishing harbours.

"We told the company of our needs, but they said the grant aid could not be used for maintenance and repair, but had to be for upgrading and development which would also help previously disadvantaged people.

Ito was asked whether the Japanese government would consider a proposal to upgrade the tiny fishing harbours

instead of the Kalk Bay plan.

He replied: "If South Africa is serious that they want that, we will consider such a request. I believe perhaps we need a discussion between the Japanese government and South Africa about this."

Many fishermen view the proposal with suspicion, seeing it as a way for the Japanese to bring their big tuna boats into the harbour and to squeeze out the locals.

And many residents said they didn't need a mini V&A Waterfront in Kalk Bay.

● Environment Minister Dr Pallo Jordan, who met Kalk Bay community leaders last night, said he wanted the residents to evaluate the harbour development proposal and decide if it suited them.

If they decided they did not want it, he would accept that.

If they decided they wanted to change the proposal, they should do so.

Asked if there would be strings attached, he said: "We should not fool ourselves that aid is altruism. Aid is an instrument of foreign policy."

A

Sea Harvest fishing strike to continue

15% increase in pay demanded

THABO MBASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

Fishermen who have been on strike for five days at Sea Harvest have decided at a mass meeting to continue with their industrial action, aimed at getting a wage increase.

Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union (TLFU) secretary general Norman Daniels said the meeting yesterday had resolved that the striking fishermen were prepared to compromise on their demands but wanted more wage guarantees.

The fishermen are demanding a 15% increase on the basic daily rate

and commission paid to them for the catches they make.

Mr Daniels said the fishermen

'The strike is still on. We are hoping to use innovative ways to try to resolve the problem'

were prepared to drop the demand for a 15% increase on the commission, but wanted the basic daily rate to be

increased by an extra R5, on top of the 15% increase on the basic daily rate.

"The strike is still on. We are hoping to use innovative ways to try to resolve the problem," Mr Daniels said.

The strike by the 400 fishermen at Sea Harvest follows a strike at the weekend at Irvin and Johnson.

The fishermen at I & J, who are also members of the TLFU, had similar demands to those of the Sea Harvest strikers. They stopped striking after management at I & J decided to increase their basic daily rate by 15%.

The fishermen also dropped their demand for an increase in their commission.

~~(3) FISHING~~
ARG 17/9/97

Deep sea fishermen on brink of strike as talks deadlock

Union rejects industry's wage increase offer

③ FISHING

ARLT 20/9/97

JEAN LE MAY

More than 2 500 deep sea fishermen of the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union are poised to embark on a first-ever industry wide strike after protracted negotiations with employers deadlocked.

Norman Daniels, general secretary of the union, told Saturday Argus that the employers, represented by the Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association, were given a deadline of 48 hours on Thursday morning. A bilateral meeting yesterday morning with the biggest company, Irvin and Johnson (I & J), failed to reach agreement, said Mr Daniels.

Employers had offered a 10% wage increase but the union was holding out for 15%, he said.

Several industry spokesmen claimed that there had been "widespread intimidation" of

trawlermen. They also claimed that union officials had told seamen that they would be paid during the strike, which was not true.

The strike set to start today was supported by about 90% of union members, including those employed by the three biggest companies - I & J, Sea Harvest and Lusitania, said Mr Daniels.

"This is the first time we have had negotiations on an industrywide basis," he went on.

"We started satisfactorily with talks on conditions of employment and job descriptions, but when we came to wage talks we deadlocked. The dispute was referred to the Council for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration on August 13, but could not be set-

led."

Most of the 60-odd deep sea trawlers owned by association members were at sea but employers had agreed that they would come

into port in Cape Town and Saldanha for the duration of the strike, said Mr Daniels. He understood that replacement crews had been organised, he added.

Nico Bacon, chairman of Viking Fishing Company, said that the Government had asked the indus-

try to undertake centralised bargaining this year for the first time, which they did in a centralised bargaining council.

"The union is now in dispute with the employers' association, but this is only over

The strike is supported by about 90% of union members'

wages ... plus a commission on the catch."

There seemed to be a diverse opinion within the union, with Viking employees willing to accept the 10% offered by employers, he said.

"It must also be borne in mind that this bargaining process is new and it was quite an achievement to form a bargaining council consisting of the long-established companies and new-entrant companies," said Mr Bacon.

Louis Penzhorn, managing director of Sea Harvest, said that the company would assess the situation regarding replacement crews "once the trawlers were tied up in Saldanha".

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the National Certificated Fishing Officers' Association told Saturday Argus that the association was also heading for a dispute with employers, who had offered a seven percent increase while trawler officers had asked for 12%.

Sea Harvest fishermen on strike

Union demands 15% increase on daily rate

③ FISHING

ARCT 23/9/97

THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

Close to 400 fishermen at Sea Harvest have been on strike for three days after wage talks between their union and the company broke down last week.

The secretary general of the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union (TLFU), Norman Daniels, said the union was demanding a 15% increase on the daily rate and the commission their members received on their catches.

"We would want the strike to end

as soon as possible, but at the same time our members must be paid what they deserve," Mr Daniels said.

The strike follows a one-day strike at Irvin and Johnson (I&J) by TLFU members on Saturday.

Fishermen at I&J went on strike after the company refused to grant a 15% increase on their daily rate and commission.

I&J finally relented after marathon negotiations on Saturday morning and agreed to pay TLFU members 15% more on their daily rate. TLFU dropped its demand for a 15% increase on the commission.

The I&J strike was the first industrial action by fishermen in the province.

I&J's problems, however, are not over. The National Certificated Fishing Officers' Association (NCFOA), which represents officers who work in fishing vessels, has threatened to strike if its wage demands are not met.

NCFOA organiser Envor Barros said the association was demanding a 12% wage increase.

I&J is offering 7%.

"The management at I&J has not shown a willingness to address the

problem with low wages," Mr Barros said.

"We have informed management that if they cannot improve their offer we will be in a deadlock.

"Dispute and industrial action may follow depending on management's approach at the talks."

Mr Daniels said the strike at Sea Harvest was supported by close to 90% of fishermen.

"Twenty ships are affected by the strike at Sea Harvest and at this stage well over 90% of fishermen are on strike," Mr Daniels said.

Fish stocks at Sea Harvest were

dwindling and could run out.

Managing director of Sea Harvest Louis Penzhorn said about 400 fishermen had joined the strike. He denied stocks were running low.

He said only nine fishing vessels were out at sea. The company owns 19 vessels.

"The effects of the strike will be felt in the long term and they are not immediate.

"It's difficult to say when we will begin to see stock levels going down," Mr Penzhorn said.

He added that Sea Harvest had offered TLFU a settlement of 10%.

Deal ends eight-day Sea Harvest stoppage

③ FISHING (42)

Fishermen back at work today

AAG 30/9/97

LLEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

An eight-day strike at Cape fish processor Sea Harvest came to an end yesterday after a hearing in the Cape Town Labour Court.

The company had filed an application with the court on Friday aimed at lifting protection against dismissal for fishermen on strike.

Sea Harvest managing director Louis Penzhorn said the company and the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union (TLFU) had yesterday reached an agreement - which was made an order of court - to send fishermen back to work.

He said the parties had also agreed to go to mediation on the wage dispute as laid down in industry and union guidelines.

"If mediation fails, we will then go to arbitration," Mr Penzhorn said.

Sea Harvest, said to be the biggest fish processor in the southern hemisphere, suffered damaging wage strikes by trawlermen and factory workers in 1995.

TLFU secretary-general Norman Daniels noted no finding was made regarding the original application filed by Sea Harvest, which would have declared the strike unlawful and allowed it to dismiss strikers.

The company and the union had agreed that no disciplinary action would be taken against employees.

Mr Daniels expected fishermen would be back at work today after union shop stewards had reported back to their members.

Mr Penzhorn hoped that the company would get at least eight of its ships back out to sea today with the remainder following tomorrow.

Mr Daniels said the union had agreed to meet with management on

Thursday to discuss details of the mediation procedures.

Workers at Sea Harvest went on strike just over a week ago after wage negotiations broke down.

Employees were demanding a 15% increase on the basic daily rate and commission paid to them by Sea Harvest for the catches they make.

Sea Harvest has offered them 10%.

The strike came as a blow to the fishing industry and may have left a two-year-old collective bargaining agreement in tatters, after other members of the Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association, the owners' organisation, broke ranks and buckled to union demands.

Workers at other fishing companies accepted a modified offer, but the Sea Harvest fishermen took a firm stance on their original demands, and eventually opted to take industrial action.

QUOTA BOARD TO GO

Bill aims to help poor share in fishing catch

FISH INDUSTRY (3) CT 7/10/97

THE DEMAND that those who wet their hands in the fishing industry take control from boardroom moguls is about to be realised, reports Political Writer **JOVIAL RANTAO**.

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan has tabled legislation aimed at restructuring the lucrative fishing industry to, among other things, abolish the Quota Board and provide access to fishermen from disadvantaged communities.

The Marine Living Resources Bill proposes that a commercial public company be formed to replace the Quota Board. The company would rent quotas to small-scale fishing operators to fish commercially.

Another key aim of the legislation is to control the allocation of resources on a national basis.

The bill also gives Jordan the power to decide what tonnage of fish may be caught in any year or season.

Ms Cassandra Gabriel, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said the state would be the sole shareholder in the public company, which would be governed by the provisions of the Companies Act.

She said the draft legislation

favoured small to medium-sized enterprises. The access scheme proposed in the bill would provide incentives to major fishing corporations to restructure their ownership and achieve empowerment objectives.

"The legislation advocates a system whereby fisheries will be invited to bid for and obtain real, long-term rights to catch so-called quota species like hake, rock lobster and abalone.

"These rights will be transferable and inheritable, and attempts will be made to extend such rights to species which are not managed by a quota system," Gabriel said.

She said that once Parliament approved the bill, restructuring would take place as soon as possible to reduce uncertainty and enable the fishing industry to maintain and strengthen its international competitiveness.

Phase one of the restructuring would be the establishment of the public company with phase two embracing the bidding process for long-term rights.

The bill also covers people and vessels fishing in South African waters, and aims to regulate the conduct of SA vessels beyond home waters.

It provides for a Consultative Advisory Forum for Marine Living Resources to be set up.

This would effectively manage the fishing industry, and advise Jordan on matters such as total allowable catch, resource management and legislation.

The status of an estimated 750 000 recreational fishermen, who are currently barred from selling their catches, would not change.

However, the bill makes allowances for subsistence users of marine resources, who traditionally made use of inshore resources as a source of food, to sell part of their catch.

It also places strong emphasis on protecting fauna and flora, facilitating fishery management and reducing conflicts that might arise from competing uses in an area.

The legislation gives wide powers to fishery control officers to act beyond SA waters, in accordance with international law.

The fishing control officers would have the right to seize vessels, vehicles and aircraft.

New fishing laws aim to aid the disadvantaged

Star 8/10/97

FISHING

By Jovial Rantao
Political Correspondent

Cape Town - Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan has tabled legislation aimed at restructuring the lucrative fishing industry to, among other things, abolish the Quota Board and allow fishermen from disadvantaged communities a greater stake in the industry.

The Marine Living Resources Bill proposes that a commercial public company should be formed to replace the Quota Board. The company would rent quotas to small-scale fishing operators, with some capacity, to catch fish on a commercial basis.

Another key aim of the legislation is that the allocation of resources should be done on a national basis. The bill also gives the minister the power to

decide what tonnage of fish may be caught in any year.

Cassandra Gabriel, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, said the state would be sole shareholder in the public company which would be governed by the provisions of the Companies Act.

The draft legislation would favour small to medium-sized enterprises. The access scheme proposed in the bill would provide incentives to major fishing corporations to restructure their ownership and achieve empowerment objectives.

"The legislation advocates a system whereby fisheries will be invited to bid for and obtain real, long-term rights to catch so-called quota species like hake, rock lobster and abalone. These rights will be transferable and inheritable, and attempts will be made to extend

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The bill also covers persons and vessels fishing within South African waters and aims to regulate the conduct of South African vessels beyond home waters.

It provides for the establishment of a consultative advisory forum for marine living resources, a body which would effectively manage the fishing industry, advising the minister

on matters such as total allowable catch, resource management and legislation.

The status of an estimated 750 000 recreational fishers, who are currently barred from selling their catches, would not change. The bills does, however, make allowances for subsistence users of marine resources who had traditionally made use of inshore resources as a source of food to sell part of their catch.

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Oceana reels in profit on sales

BD 30/10/97 (3) FISHING

Janet Parker

CAPE TOWN-based Oceana Fishing Group increased headline share earnings 29% to 62,5c in the year to December, benefiting from increased sales volumes, and lower working capital utilisation.

A final dividend of 19,1c (1996: 16,6c) was declared raising the total distribution for the year 15% to 26,1c a share.

Oceana chairman Don Ncube said the empowerment initiative involving Real Africa, Brimstone and other black groups concluded three years ago, had "positioned the company well in terms of the proposed new fisheries legislation" and the group expected good earnings growth in the next financial year.

The recent acquisition of distribution and marketing operation, Federal Marine, was expected to "contribute favourably" to results from January 1, he said. The group's turnover increased 22% to reach the R1bn milestone, helped by greater sales volumes in the trading division and the pilchard cannery.

Oceana maintained operating margins and together with the increased turnover, operating profit improved 22% to R109m.

Lower working capital and the realisation of surplus assets resulted in interest received of R805 000, compared to the R4,8m interest paid in the previous period, raising the pre-tax profit before abnormal items 28% to R109,8m.

The R11,3m (1996: R4,2m) abnormal income included profits on the disposal of the group's marine diamond concessions and certain surplus

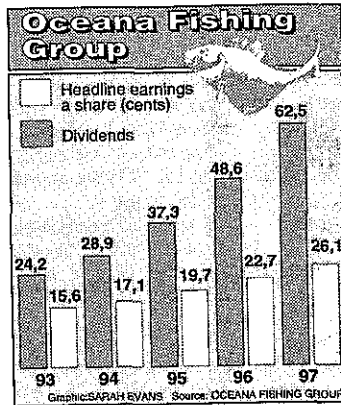
property, further helping profit. The group's tax bill rose to R43,8m from R35,6m.

Ncube said the fishing division had landed its full quotas of pilchards, anchovy and lobster, and the demand for lobster on the export markets had remained firm.

Good catches had been made of non-quota species, and landings of industrial fish had been satisfactory. Fish meal prices had remained high during the year, he said.

The trading and shipping division increased export and import values and healthier margins increased Blue Continent Products' turnover and operating profit "appreciably", Ncube said. Abalone landings for the season were almost complete, and TRT Shipping Services increased activity levels in all its operations.

Ncube said although the group's cold storage division recorded improved profitability occupancies were "generally lower than the previous year whilst handling levels increased". The plans to expand Duncan Dock Cold Storage had been scheduled for next year.



Norway has some answers for an industry

ARL

HENRI DU PLESSIS
SHIPPING REPORTER

Slashed quotas, struggling fishermen and dwindling resources. These are the troubles besetting the South African fishing industry and the scenario against which the Fish Africa Expo 97 was held in Cape Town last week.

A demonstration by unhappy fishermen at the expo opening last Thursday highlighted these problems.

While the expo itself was mainly a technological showcase of how the world is able to exploit marine resources more effectively, the socio-economic affairs of the industry were also highlighted, even if behind the scenes.

While the more practically involved people in the industry marvelled at the new technology, future-watchers and thinkers turned their attentions to the urgent issues of resource management.

Essentially however, the expo and

peripheral activities showed the two sides are inevitably linked.

This much was indicated by the Norwegian ambassador to South Africa, Per O Grinstad, as he explained the importance of the fishing industry as one of the elements in an initial five-year co-operation agreement between Norway and this country.

When it comes to slashed quotas, struggling fishermen and dwindling resources, Norway has been there already. Unhappy fishermen were a

common sight along Norway's serrated coastline about two decades ago when they too had to face the results of ineffective resource management years before.

In the early part of the 1970s, Mr Grinstad explained, some of the most important fish stocks in Norway had been fished to a point of near extinction and radical quota cuts had to be ordered. The slashed quotas had a severe impact on the fishing industry, one of Norway's most important employers and revenue earners.

"Not only did we have to see to it the stocks recovered, we also had to find ways to make better use of our resources," Mr Grinstad said.

"I remember as a child, my father and grandfather were fishermen. In those days, they would catch fish and just throw away what they did not want, whether it was too small, damaged, or the wrong species.

"There was a lot of waste. Since the disaster of the Seventies however, we have had to develop technology and systems which allowed us to

accurately target just the fish we wanted, keep the catch at the highest quality possible and ensure the best market prices possible. To survive on reduced quotas one has to do just that. We have also developed alternative industries, such as fish farming. This has since become a big success in the fjords around Norway."

Now, as part of their contribution to the agreement between the two governments, Norway hopes to help South Africa's fishing industry find a sound base from which to adjust to

the tougher operating and trading conditions.

"We have this agreement for government to government co-operation which spans the five years between 1995 and 2000," Mr Grinstad said.

"It obviously not only involves fishing but also other environmental issues such as working for water and the preservation of Robben Island.

"Our main aim is to help your country develop a good system of resource management through fisheries research and technology."

beset by problems
98/11/97
FISHING

Facts about a fishy business

ARG 28/10/97

③ FISHING

■ In the Antarctic Circle, a small shrimp called krill is a potential food source for man.

■ Once abundant Blue Whales used to eat more than 100 million tons of krill a year – more than man’s total catch of other marine species worldwide – but the population has dropped to 1 000.

■ The mathematicians who

work out quotas do so to ensure there will still be fish to catch in future years.

■ Poaching makes it very difficult for scientists to determine fishing quotas.

■ Poachers are continuing to deplete perlemoen and rock lobster stocks along the South African coast.

■ Long-term fishing quotas are to be sold to encourage fishermen to protect their “capital” and not catch everything at once.

■ Soon all fishermen will have to be registered and licensed – even recreational fishermen.

■ Fishing quotas are to be redistributed to give previously-disadvantaged fishermen a bigger share.

Increase in catch quotas expected

Ocfish earnings point to a big profit in the net

CT (RZ) 30/10/97

③ FISHING

MARC HASENFUSS

Cape Town — Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), the marine products company jointly owned by Real African Holdings and Tiger Oats, looks set to haul in even bigger profit after reporting a 31 percent hike in attributable earnings to R63,2 million in the year to September 30.

Earnings, diluted by slightly more shares in issue, came in 29 percent higher at 62,5c a share. The dividend was hiked 15 percent to 26,1c a share. Turnover jumped 22 percent to top R1 billion, while maintained margins of nearly 11 percent saw a proportional increase in operating profit to R109 million.

Bottom line profits were effectively 42 percent higher if abnormal profits were included.

Don Ncube, the chairman of Ocfish, said yesterday a good increase in earnings was expected for the new financial year.

"The empowerment initiative involving Real Africa, Brimstone Investments and other black groups concluded three years ago has positioned us well in terms of the new Fisheries Legislation."

He said Ocfish expected higher levels of total allowable catch for pilchard and anchovy, pointing out that the West Coast lobster catch had been increased from 1 700 tons to 1 920 tons.

Oceana Fishing Group

FOR THE YEAR ENDED SEPT 30 1997

	latest	previous	% change
Turnover (R)	1bn	826m	22
Operating profit (R)	109m	89,5m	22
Taxation (R)	43,8m	35,6m	23
Attributable income (R)	63,2m	48,3m	31
Headline eps	62,5c	48,6c	29
Dividend per share	26,1c	22,7c	15

Ocfish landed its full quota of pilchard and higher sales of canned fish contributed to the core fishing division's improved operating results. Demand for lobster on exports markets remained firm.

Ncube noted that the 1997/98 catch for the abalone industry had been reduced from 550 tons to 530 tons after concerns about poaching. Abalone landings for the 1997 season were almost complete, with higher demand and prices on export markets.

Reviewing the company's non-fishing activities, Ncube said TRT Shipping Services had performed well, with increased activity across all its operations.

He said the Cold Storage division recorded improved profitability as lower occupancy levels were offset by increased handling levels. He also expected the trading and shipping division to continue to perform well.

□ Business Watch

Red tape paralyses SA's crayfish fleet

③ FISH INCT

Bosses to sue the minister

ARG 11/10/97

JEAN LE MAY

Leaders of the crayfish industry will take Pallo Jordan, Minister of Environmental Affairs, the Quota Board and Sea Fisheries director Monde Mayekiso to court in an attempt to get the new fishing season under way.

The season opened on October 1 - but the entire fleet is still tied up because quotas have not yet been allocated.

Colin van Schalkwyk, director of Hout Bay Fishing Industries, said the delay entailed hardship for crayfish crews, who were seasonal workers and paid only when the trawlers were working.

Moreover, the canning and freezing plants were idle and there were fears that any further delay could damage the entire industry, which exported about R170-million worth of crayfish in 1995, he said.

The problem has arisen because the minister has decided to retain portions of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) for new entrants to the industry, in line with recommendations of the white paper on marine fisheries policy.

Up to now about 75% of crayfish has been caught by the top 20 fishing companies.

The TAC is decided every year, based on recommendations by fisheries scientists.

This year the TAC for west coast crayfish is 1 860 tons and for south coast crayfish 402 tons.

Mr Jordan announced recently that new entrants would get a third of the west coast TAC and a half of the south coast TAC.

But sources said the Quota Board was having huge problems in deciding on the allocations, especially in view of vociferous objections from all sectors of the industry.

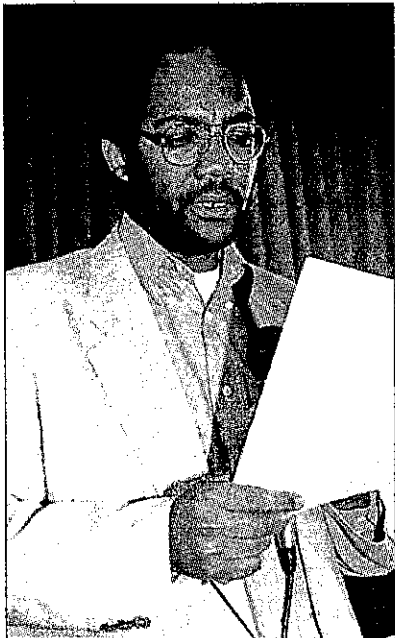
Lawyer John Zieff said two applications would be made to Cape Town High Court.

The first, to be heard on Tuesday, would ask for an urgent mandatory interdict directing the Quota Board to allocate quotas in respect of the portion of the TAC of crayfish which had been released for commercial quotas.

This was 1 240 tons of west coast crayfish and 201 tons of south coast crayfish.

A further application would be made on October 20 asking the minister and Mr Mayekiso to release the retained portion of the TAC.

Mr Zieff said that applicants included Atlantic Fishing, Baratz Fishing, Hout Bay Fishing, Lusitania Fishing, Seafarer Distributors, South African Sea Products, Marine Products, Saldanha Bay Canning and the West Coast Rock Lobster Association.



New deal: Chief Director of Sea Fisheries, Monde Mayekiso addresses fishermen

Fishermen wary of new quotas plan

③ FISHING
BEAUREGARD TROMP
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 14/10/97
Hout Bay fishermen say they have little faith in the Government's attempts to redistribute fishing quotas – and believe that big business will continue to benefit from the new system.

The fishing community expressed reservations at a meeting in Hout Bay yesterday when Director of Sea Fisheries Monde Mayekiso spelt out the aims of the white paper on marine fisheries policy.

Fishermen, some of whom have been going to sea for more than 40 years, said their names had been used in the past to secure quotas for large industry.



BRENTON GEACH

Man of the sea: a Hout Bay fisherman listens to debate on government fishing policy

"All these years we had to see how people who have never been to sea drive around in their BMWs and live in luxury. The board should come to Hout Bay to see how we live ... we have nothing," said Nicholas Guenton.

The white paper proposes doing away with the much-criticised quota board and leaving quota distribution to the Ministry of Fisheries. Ideally this would allow fishermen to secure

tenders on the basis of time spent working in the industry, black empowerment and ability to harvest the tender, Dr Mayekiso said.

Tenderers would not be obliged to pay upfront for quotas they tendered for, he said.

Fishermen questioned this, arguing that most boats belonged to big business and that the money from the quotas would still land up "in the wrong pockets".

Fishermen go to court in dispute over trek-netting

NORMAN JOSEPH
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 16/10/97

(3) ARBITING

Angry Macassar fishermen are taking legal action against Sea Fisheries officials, whom they accuse of racism for refusing to approve trek-netting permits.

Peter Jacobs, Danie Julies and Edmen Hanson are three of the men who recently applied for permits to catch fish along part of the Macassar coast.

They claim they complied with several conditions, such as securing the full backing of the False Bay Treknetting Association.

In the past few weeks, the fishermen have had several tense confrontations with Sea Fisheries officials in Cape Town. The protesters videotaped all the meetings and confrontations and have handed the tapes to their attorneys.

Department spokesman Rachel Zeelie said four applications from Macassar fishermen had been received.

In 1994, the department approved a policy on net-fishing, part of which said no new applications would be considered for areas 18 to 22, which included Macassar.

Ms Zeelie said only the minister of environmental affairs could change the policy.

Fawu assists Sea Harvest fishermen

Pule Molebeledi

BD 24/10/99

FISHING

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) has threatened to take the Sea Harvest company to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) if it does not reinstate 68 fishermen dismissed this month for embarking on an alleged illegal strike.

Fawu's acting branch secretary Barry Stemmet said the workers, who were previously with the Trawlers and Line Fishermen Union (Talfu), had since joined Fawu after Talfu allegedly failed to assist them in their dispute with Sea Harvest.

Sea Harvest and Talfu were not available for comment yesterday.

Stemmet expressed dismay at the manner in which Talfu had left its

workers in the lurch. "We will assist these people regardless of our legal affiliation with the workers," he said.

He said Fawu had been refused a meeting with Sea Harvest management which claimed it had a closed-shop agreement with Talfu.

One of the fishermen, Sidney Mathews, disputed management's claim that the workers had embarked on an illegal strike, saying they had already been at work for six days after their initial dispute led to a 10-day strike which ended on 30 September.

Mathews said the workers had asked for a meeting with Sea Harvest management on board ship to discuss wage negotiations. "Management refused. When they later came on board, we were all told we were fired."

Sea Harvest says workers acted illegally

③ FISHING
Business Day Reporter
BD 27/10/97

SIXTY-eight fishermen, dismissed from Sea Harvest this month, contravened a court order requiring them to return to work and their actions were "illegal and unprocedural", the company said at the weekend.

Sea Harvest was responding to the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu), which said last week it would take the company to the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration if it did not reinstate the fishermen.

Fawu said the workers had joined it after the union they belonged to — the Trawlers and Line Fishermen Union (Talfu) — allegedly failed to assist them in their dispute with Sea Harvest.

Sea Harvest MD Louis Penzhorn said that after a strike over wage negotiations last month, a court order had been granted to the company for the workers to return to work while there was arbitration in the dispute between Sea Harvest and Talfu. The arbitration had been concluded on Tuesday.

"Talfu and Sea Harvest are bound by the court order and subsequent arbitration. The dismissed workers have petitioned Fawu, but we fail to see how Fawu can gain anything through its threat to take the company to the CCMA," Penzhorn said.

He said the workers had returned to work, but "when we got out to the vessel, the fishermen refused to continue working and the vessel was forced to return to shore where the company had no choice but to dismiss the strikers and recrew the vessel".

Talfu could not be contacted for comment.

To fish or not to fish - count on a

But working out sustainable quotas is a risky business,

maths prof

CAROL CAMPBELL
STAFF REPORTER

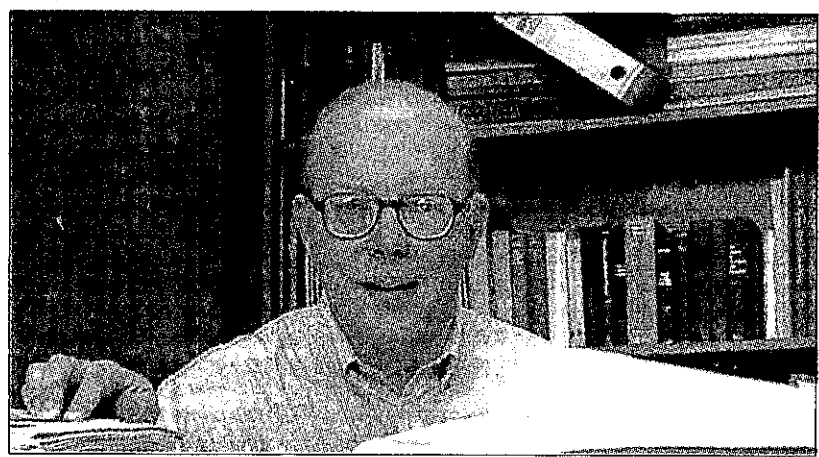
The saying "there are plenty more fish in the sea" may well be true for mankind - but not so for fish.

Unless fishermen heed the advice of scientists like University of Cape Town mathematics professor Doug Butterworth, whose job it is to count fish and help governments around the world work out quotas for their fishing industries, this major food source could be threatened.

So, Professor Butterworth is often asked, what has mathematics to do with fish?

"The proper question is: how many fish is it safe to catch?" he says. "The answer is, a number - which is where the mathematics comes in."

It is through mathematics that scientists like Professor Butterworth, his research staff and colleagues at the Government's Sea Fisheries



JACK LESTRADE

Facts at his fingertips: fish counting expert, mathematics professor Doug Butterworth

Research Institute, work out how many tons can be taken out of the oceans annually and still keep fishing activities sustainable.

He is a member of South Africa's

A-team of scientists and part of an elite group of international mathematicians who watch the world's marine resources to ensure they are not over-exploited.

"We are dealing with imprecise information, so working out quotas is a risky business. It's a gamble that can go wrong and it is our job to find formulae that keep the risk within acceptable levels."

The "risks" he is talking about include making allowance for the incessant poaching hammering South Africa's perlemoen stocks, and natural phenomena like the "walk-out" of about 2 000 tons of rock lobster at Elands Bay earlier this year.

It's impossible to count every fish in the sea so mathematicians use three main pointers:

■ The catch history of the fish species. "Basically this involves studying how many tons were caught in past years."

■ Catch rate. "If the same vessel a few years ago was bringing in five tons of a fish a day, but now can manage only two, then the resource is dwindling."

■ Surveys by research vessels: "This is the best way to ascertain trends, but surveys are very expensive. Research vessels can use hydro-acoustics to measure the abundance of some species, while trends in their catch rates over time show whether resources are increasing or declining."

The problem with poaching is that it may leave the perlemoen or lobster heavily depleted before the seriousness of the situation becomes apparent.

Setting sustainable fishing quotas was like living on the interest of money deposited in the bank, Professor Butterworth said.

"Once you start eating into your capital (over-exploiting) there will soon be nothing left."

Marine resources which replenish slowly and live a long time, like hake and rock lobster, were like low interest rate accounts and could not be

with much at stake
 (3) FISHING
 ARGT 28/10/97

fished too heavily or stocks would dwindle.

Anchovy and pilchards, on the other hand, which die within two to three years, gave greater interest rates and could be fished at much higher levels to avoid wasting the resource.

"But the problem is, these high interest rates also fluctuate wildly from year to year."

At the start of this year, there was no quota set for anchovy because there seemed to be hardly any left.

Virtually all the Sea Fisheries Research Institute's research survey could find were pilchards.

Fortunately, later surveys showed an unexpected increase in the number of young anchovies in the middle of the season, so quotas were handed out again.

In spite of the rock lobster walk-out at Elands Bay, the quota has been increased for the forthcoming season.

"The rock lobster stocks were increasing before the walk-out, suggesting an increase in quota."

"Scientific advice to the Minister of Environmental Affairs was that annual lobster quotas are set at only a few percent of overall abundance, because this resource grows slowly."

"This makes it possible to absorb the impact of the walk-out over a number of years, making for a more stable industry."

Professor Butterworth also investigates how to work out quotas for resources which have as yet hardly been exploited by man. "The worst example is the Antarctic Blue Whale. There used to be more than 200 000, of which only about 1 000 remain."

These whales used to eat more than 100 million tons of a shrimp called krill a year - more than man's total annual catch of other marine species worldwide. Some of this krill is now a potential food source for man.

Sea Harvest nets earnings rise

③ FISHING CT (PR) 31/10/97

MARC HASENFUSS

Cape Town — Sea Harvest, the fishing and food processing company, managed a 13 percent rise in attributable earnings to R62 million in the year to September 30 on the basis of tight control of operating expenses and working capital.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director, said the performance was

satisfactory in view of the weaker white fish market worldwide and substantially higher fuel costs.

"These factors, coupled to a firmer rand, particularly against the important southern European currencies, negatively affected margins in the second half," he said.

That was reflected in the 7 percent rise in operating profit to R90 million, off an 11 percent

increase in turnover to R467 million on marginally lower sales volumes.

Penzhorn said Sea Harvest of Namibia, an associate company, recorded a loss of N\$9 million after a 29 percent cut in the total allowable catch. Looking ahead, he expected satisfactory earnings growth in the new financial year.

□ Business Watch, Pg 2

Fishing bill debate put off as chaos threatens meeting

EDWARD WEST
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

The final Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism hearing on the controversial Fisheries Bill has been postponed until February 4 next year because yesterday's meeting was too crowded and threatened to degenerate into chaos.

Committee chairperson Gwen Mahlangu said yesterday she was "disappointed" in the leaders of the various fishing industry stakeholders for bringing large delegations with them.

A bigger venue for the meeting in Parliament could not be found in time.

Approximately 100 people were present at the meeting, from divers and lobster fishermen to representatives of the big fishing companies such as Sea Harvest and I & J and fishermen from both the east and west coasts.

"We (the committee) request that

ARG 6/11/97 (3) FISHING
you (stakeholders) start talking to one another. We do not intend to create a battlefield for you to express emotional views."

She added that it was not fair to blame the portfolio committee for problems in the draft Fisheries Bill.

"We (the committee) did not put a draft or a comma on this bill. We have our own problems with this bill," said Mrs Mahlangu.

The postponement means the bill will have to be tabled in the next parliamentary session which starts on February 2. The bill seeks to make access to the country's marine resources easier by restructuring the present quota system.

Its application has already been postponed for a year due to a lack of consensus in the industry.

"We must have passed the bill by whatever form by March 26 so your inputs must be in before then, preferably in February," said Mrs Mahlangu.



JOHN YELD

Stormy seas: hearings on the controversial Fisheries Bill have been postponed to next year

Large turnout surprises committee

Fishing policy hearing delayed

FISHING

MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR
ET (BE) 6/11/97

Cape Town — Submissions on the controversial white paper on fishing policy could not be heard in parliament yesterday because a jam-packed meeting threatened to become too chaotic.

The setback will delay the hearing of submissions by three months and exacerbate the uncertainty surrounding the white paper, which is expected to be passed on March 26.

It appeared some interested parties were accompanied by more than a handful of supporters, who — judging by the available seating — were not expected by the portfolio committee. An unsuccessful attempt was made to secure a larger room before the meeting was postponed.

Gwen Mahlangu, the portfolio committee chairman, scolded some fishing industry representatives for not indicating that additional supporters would

attend the meeting. She said it was unfortunate to have to postpone the meeting because it was the last chance this year for concerned parties to present their arguments to the committee ahead of the parliamentary recess.

Mahlangu said the revised date for the submissions would be February 4, when the policy and the bill would be debated.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, described yesterday's proceedings as disappointing. He was due to make a verbal submission.

"I don't think the chairman had much choice but to postpone the meeting, but the more constructive time we could have spent on this issue the better it would have been for everyone."

He believed the delay would place the portfolio committee under enormous pressure because the policy and bill would be debated on the same day.

□ Business Watch, Page 18

Japanese set to pay more for SA tuna

Huge Tokyo profits

JEAN LE MAY

Japanese fishing companies which make huge profits catching tuna in South African waters could soon have to pay a market-related price for their permits instead of a nominal fee.

Although blue-fin tuna sell for an average of R100 000 each on the Tokyo market, the 90 Japanese tuna boats in South African waters each pay only \$17 500 (about R84 000) for their permits, which allow them an open-ended catch.

But that could change with a new deal now being negotiated in Japan by Kobus Swardt and Robin Bodenham of the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Yoshioko Ito, first secretary at the Japanese embassy, said that "every year there is an argument about how much we should pay.

"The Japanese government offered to pay for two South African officials to visit Japan so they could study the fish market at first hand," he said.

They were accompanied by a third official, Jan Wissema, who is looking

into the supply of electronic Vessel Monitoring Units (VMUs).

It has been suggested in the white paper on marine policy that all foreign vessels operating in South African waters should be equipped with Vessel Monitoring Units and the tuna deal could be linked to the supply of VMUs.

An expert in the tuna industry said that long-lining was the most efficient way of catching tuna and that the Japanese were past masters at it.

"It is about time a market-related permit price was introduced," he said.

"The Japanese don't catch enormous quantities of tuna in South African waters, but prices at the Tokyo fish market for the most-prized blue-fin can go through the roof - as high as \$100 (R480) a kilogram.

"There have been occasions when a single fish has sold for as much as \$40 000 (R192 000).

"Other tuna species such as big-eye and yellowfin fetch relatively lower prices, while albacore and long-fin are suitable only for canning and fetch very much less."

③ RST/NTG

ARCT 8/11/97

Patrol boat gutted: Poachers blamed

CHARL DE VILLIERS

A HIGH-SPEED fisheries patrol boat has been destroyed in an apparent arson attack at the Sea Fisheries offices near Cape Town harbour.

Poachers have been blamed for the fire which gutted the R500 000 catamaran just hours before the start of National Marine Day celebrations on Friday.

Sea Point police are investigating a charge of malicious damage to property, Detective-Sergeant Nellson Carse confirmed.

Sea Fisheries marine inspector Hennie Geldenhuys said it was suspected that poachers were responsible for the late night attack.

"The *Coelecanth* was the fastest vessel its kind, and its destruction is a major loss," he added.

The 24-foot boat had been equipped with twin 115-horsepow-

er outboard motors, radar, satellite navigation gear, video echo sounders and radios.

A four-wheel drive vehicle next to the boat was also badly damaged

in the fire.

Carse said the suspected arsonists appeared to have cut through a fence at the Portswood Road premises to get to their target.



GUTTED: Chief marine conservation inspector with the new Sea Fisheries patrol boat and vehicle that were destroyed by fire Picture: TERRY SHEAN

③ FISHING ST (CM) 9/11/97

SA loses R90m to illegal fishing

ET (B2) 14/11/97

NCABA HLOPHE

③ FISHING

Johannesburg — South African was left more than R90 million out of pocket as a result of illegal fishing in its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the Prince Edward Islands, Awie Badenhorst, of the Cape Town-based Sea Fisheries Research Institute of South Africa, said this week.

He said vessels had been seen fishing off the Prince Edward Islands in the south Atlantic without authorisation from South Africa.

He said the volume of fish illegally removed was almost twice the legal limit of 2 400 tons allowed for five legitimate South African operators.

Badenhorst was speaking at a two-day conference on south-south trade organised by the South African Institute of International Affairs.

Other delegates also called for the intensification of co-operation among southern states to protect fish species.

Eduardo Hooft, from Argentina, said pressure was mounting from northern states scouting for new territories.

Factory trawlers are 'pushing communities towards starvation'

Trawlers with huge nets were robbing small fishermen of their livelihood all over the world, the head of an Indian fishermen's union said.

Thomas Kocherry, head of the National Fishworkers Forum, said his union and others from 32 countries will call for a ban on largescale fishing at a convention next week.

"Our fight is for banning industrial fishing, factory trawlers and industrial pollution that is plundering the fishing grounds and pushing traditional fishing communities into ... starvation," Mr Kocherry said.

The five-day world forum of fish harvesters and workers follows protests by fishermen against huge foreign "factory" ships working Indian waters that can pull up thousands of rands of fish in a few minutes.

Almost two-thirds of the world's 200 commercially important fish stocks are either overexploited or fished to nearly the limit, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation says. - Sapa-AP

Russian vessel pays up for illegal catch

Anchorage, Alaska - A Russian fishing trawler detained in the port of Kodiak here was free to leave this week after its owner agreed to pay \$190 000 (R910 000) to settle a complaint over illegal fishing in the Bering Sea.

The Russian vessel, the 60m Chernyayev, was seized by the US Coast Guard on August 15 after it was spotted 1 090m inside the US exclusive economic zone (EEZ), officials said. The trawler had nets and 910kg of fish on its deck when the coast guard spotted it.

The settlement, struck by the US Justice Department and the vessel's owner, was reached early this week, the National Marine Fisheries Service said. The shipowner also agreed its vessels will co-operate with any future coast guard actions, said a statement issued by NMFS and the Coast Guard. - Reuters

A killing for foreign fleets

Restrictions hamper local tuna fishermen

(3) FISHING 15/11/97

JEAN LE MAY

Foreign fishing fleets are making millions by catching tuna in South African waters while local fishing companies are gravely restricted, says SA Tuna Association secretary Peter Paul Kuttel.

He was reacting to a Saturday Argus report that Sea Fisheries officials had left recently for the Far East to discuss levies with Japan and Taiwan, which had been allowed to long-line for tuna and other species within South African waters for 20 years.

The South Africans want them to pay more for the permits, which this year cost them \$17 500 (about R84 000) for each vessel and allowed the capture of all billfish such as tuna, swordfish and sharks.

But foreign fleets should not be allowed to catch tuna at all in South African waters, said Mr Kuttel.

"One of the few points of agreement in discussions prior to the publication of a white paper on a new marine policy was that all foreigners should be excluded from fishing within the South African Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)," he said.

Minister of Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan had refused many requests for a meeting with the association, Mr Kuttel added.

Negotiations between Japan and South Africa begin on November 24, but the SA Tuna Association has, as in the past, been given only observer status although it is recognised in terms of the Sea Fisheries Act as the body charged with liaising between Government and the industry.

"Chief Director of Sea Fisheries Monde Mayekiso appears equally reluctant to relinquish this source of funding for his department, although it is at the expense of the local industry," said Mr Kuttel.

"In 1997 foreign tuna vessels oper-



Endangered species: conditions laid down by the Government do little to help local fishermen but generously help foreign fleets

ating in the South African EEZ paid \$1.4-million (R6,5-million) in levies. This was placed in the Fisheries Fund which finances, among other things, research.

"About 80% of this fund comes from the tuna industry but no tuna-related research has been done by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute.

"Moreover not one cent has been used to assist operators, crews and so on, yet the presence of subsidised vessels operating on a local resource has a dramatic effect on the catch rate, and thus the profitability, of the local industry."

All operators in the tuna industry

were private boat owners, said Mr Kuttel, and none of the large fishing companies had tuna boats. "It is interesting that there are no foreign permit holders in other sectors of the industry," he added.

Mr Kuttel said there was gross discrimination against local operators:

■ In 1996, 120 vessels owned by local tuna operators caught 4 000 tons of albacore in the EEZ, with an average catch of 33, 3 tons a vessel for the season.

But 30 Taiwanese vessels operating in the South Atlantic - mostly within the EEZ - caught 15 000 tons of albacore - an average of 500 tons a

vessel.

■ South African vessels employed 2 500 South African fishermen, while the Taiwanese employed none at all.

■ The Taiwanese and Japanese fleets were allowed to ship fuel at the international bunker price, about half the local price.

■ They were not liable for VAT and import duties, which applied to South African vessels.

■ Only 30 long-line permits were granted to South African operators in June, 1997, and these were inferior to the permits give to Taiwan because they allow only a 5% by-catch, which was open-ended for the Taiwanese.

■ Foreign vessels were not subject to South African labour laws. "The history of maltreatment of South African fishermen aboard Taiwanese vessels should be enough to persuade the South African Government to withdraw all Taiwanese permits," said Mr Kuttel.

Dr Mayekiso, asked to comment, said that it was incorrect that local companies were restricted. The foreign tuna fleets were restricted in several tuna species.

Long-lining was a new industry and the difference in conditions was being evaluated, he said.

In discussions prior to the publication of the white paper on fishing, it was agreed that foreign fleets would be allowed to fish when there was insufficient capacity in South African fleets, he said.

The SA Tuna Association was represented at a meeting on August 31 1996 at which there was consensus that foreign fleets should not be opposed, Dr Mayekiso added.

It was also incorrect that no money was spent on tuna research, he said. There had been a great deal of work on migratory tuna and on the southern albacore resource.

Moreover, the statement that the Taiwanese caught 15 000 tons of albacore was wrong - in fact, they were restricted to 2 200 tons in South African waters, he said.

The Japanese did not catch the same species as the South African fleets and tuna was a migratory species and was not the property of any particular country.

The biggest advantage of having foreign fleets in our waters was that they spent more than R350-million every year and generated 6 500 jobs in Cape Town, he added. In comparison, the turnover of the local tuna fleet was estimated at R13-million.

Sacked strikers lose bid for reinstatement

ARLT 20/11/97
THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA) has failed to resolve the dispute between 68 sacked people and their former employer, Sea Harvest.

Sea Harvest dismissed them for allegedly contravening a court order requiring them to return to work after a two-week strike in September.

The Food and Allied Workers Union, which represents those sacked, even though they are members of the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union (Talfu), has denied Sea Harvest's allegations.

Fawu took Sea Harvest to the CCMA this week in the hope that the dispute-resolution body would reinstate those sacked.

However the conciliation attempt by commissioner Johann Hamman was unsuccessful.

"I tried my best to reconcile the two parties, but unfortunately it was not possible," Mr Hamman said.

Fawu spokesman Barry Stemmet said those sacked would apply for arbitration to the CCMA within a few

days.

FISHING
The company was adamant that the workers had gone on strike illegally, and they weren't even prepared to discuss a settlement," Mr Stemmet said.

Sea Harvest Operations Manager Greg Anderson said his company was not wrong in dismissing the employees, as they had ignored ultimatums to return to work.

"They in fact dismissed themselves by not heeding the ultimatums. We feel confident that the steps we took were correct," he said.

"We are also confident that the arbitrator will understand us when we say they were in defiance of their union, which told them to go back to work, and a court order."

The September strike at Sea Harvest ended when a court ordered the strikers to return to work, while the Independent Mediation Services of South Africa sought a resolution of the dispute. Workers wanted a 15% wage increase and Sea Harvest was offering 10%.

Sea Harvest, said to be the biggest fish processor in the southern hemisphere, also suffered damaging wage strikes in 1995.

Poachers in Patagonian toothfish plunder

POACHERS have massacred half a billion rands' worth of Patagonian toothfish in South African territorial waters at the Prince Edward Islands this year — and the government says the navy is powerless to stop the plunder.

Highly-prized as a delicacy in the Far East, Patagonian toothfish can cost up to R78/kg for prime cuts.

Its value has ignited a Southern Ocean goldrush which the World Wide Fund for Nature says rivals the earlier "boom and bust" attacks on whales and seals in the sub-Antarctic.

Allegedly unable to send warships to Marion and nearby Prince Edward Islands, South Africa has taken the brunt of the onslaught in its only overseas possession.

WWF has also accused illegal

toothfish long-liners of ignoring environmental controls and killing at least 140 000 seabirds this year alone — and wants the fishing banned until effective controls are in place, says WWF-Australia conservation officer Margaret Moore.

"Modern-day piracy is alive and well, and unregulated fishing has reached dangerous levels," she said.

Dr Denzil Miller, Sea Fisheries scientist and a world expert on Patagonian toothfish, said illegal operators had caught at least 10 times the allocation awarded to five South African companies in the Prince Edward Islands economic exclusion zone (EEZ) this year.

Catch rates have collapsed by half since the fishing frenzy start-

ed early last year.

This week, Environment and Tourism Affairs Minister Dr Pallo Jordan admitted that the government had been able to do little but talk about the poaching, which scientists say is threatening the Patagonian toothfish with commercial — if not biological — extinction.

Three months ago the Cabinet announced "urgent steps" to curb illegal fishing, including joint navy and airforce operations.

Instead, Jordan, who has reputedly given up on help from the military, was exploring the acquisition of patrol boats to police South African waters, Environment Ministry spokeswoman Cassandra Gabriel said on Friday.

Miller said: "We probably lost more than 20 000 tons of toothfish to illegal fishing in the Prince Edward Islands EEZ. That's about R500-million."

The five licensed South African toothfish operators have enviously watched naval action by France and Australia against poachers elsewhere in the Southern Ocean this year — and waited in vain for the government to intervene. Now they have decided to police the Prince Edward Islands EEZ themselves. The French navy had seized three illegal ships and the Australians two.

"There seems to be a lack of political will to do anything about the poaching," said Miller, who is also chairman of the scientific committee of the interna-

③ FISHING

tional Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR), which held talks on the crisis last month.

Said Miller: "I am concerned that we are sending out a message that CCAMLR is ineffective in underpinning conservation, and that South Africa is being seen as ineffectual in defending its territorial waters around Marion and Prince Edward islands."

"Once Marion's fishery is gone, what is going to stop the same perception developing about our own economic exclusion zone? It's a case of Marion today, our own EEZ tomorrow."

Gabriel meanwhile confirmed that Jordan was talking to Defence Minister Joe Modise about enforcing the Prince Edward Is-

lands EEZ, but "a major obstacle is the severe resource constraints" faced by the Defence Force.

"That is why we're trying to get bigger and more powerful ships. At present we simply don't have the ability to patrol Prince Edward Islands EEZ," navy spokeswoman Commander Lilla du Preez added.

Gabriel said South Africa was also negotiating with certain European Union countries "to agree to respect South African territorial waters" and to submit to monitoring by the South African government.

France had also undertaken to assist South Africa in counter-acting illegal fishing, Gabriel said. Informed sources say it is highly unlikely, however, that

foreign navies will be allowed to take action in SA waters.

The Australian navy arrested two illegal toothfish long-liner ships near Heard Island last month and would only release them for a fee running into millions.

"The Australians have taken a very serious and hard-nosed approach and every poacher in Australian waters disappeared within 24 hours of those ships being shadowed, boarded and seized," said Irvin and Johnson general manager Tim Redell.

"It might be dramatic and gung-ho, but the only way to wake up the poachers is to hit their pockets."

In contrast, said Suidor Fishing spokesman Allan Rees, all the South African licence-holders

could do was "report sightings of unlicensed operators to the Department of Sea Fisheries" as they had no authority to stop illegal ships.

To combat the illegal fishing, Miller said South Africa had decided to depart from the normal CCAMLR season so it could exercise sovereignty in own waters.

"The reason for this is that we have been more than anyone else victims of illegal fishing," said Miller. "We also see this as a legitimate presence where we at least can monitor what is going on, tighten restrictions on daylight setting of lines and set up a no-fishing exclusion zone five miles from Marion and Prince Edward islands."

Sea Fisheries Research Institute scientist Martin Purves said South African, French and Australian authorities had this year reported 73 illegal long-liners in their sub-Antarctic territories.

I&J to buy Pillsbury Brands Africa's frozen vegetable unit

CT (B) 5/12/97 (S) (S) FISHING
MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Irvin & Johnson (I&J), the fishing and food company in the Anglovaal stable, intended acquiring the frozen vegetable business of Pillsbury Brands Africa for an undisclosed sum, Roy Gordon, the managing director, confirmed yesterday.

Gordon was reluctant to offer further details on the deal at this stage, advising that a due diligence examination would only be conducted next week.

Pillsbury Brands Africa is a joint venture between Foodcorp, the JSE-listed food company, and the US-based Pillsbury Company. Dave Kennealy, the chief executive of Foodcorp, recently described Pillsbury Brands Africa's vegetable division's performance in the year to August 31 as disappointing.

Gordon agreed that the Pillsbury deal would further diversify I&J's earnings base away from its

core fishing business.

Pillsbury Brands Africa includes household names like Table Top, Harvestime and Cater Craft with the collective brands' share of the frozen vegetable market estimated at about 60 percent.

Market watchers said that in light of lingering uncertainties over fishing industry policy, the Pillsbury deal made good business sense for I&J. "Other seafood-based companies have also been reducing their dependence on fishing revenue by acquiring small food manufacturers and investing in value-adding facilities."

They added that Pillsbury Brands Africa would complement and strongly extend the market share of I&J's existing frozen vegetable operations.

I&J closed unchanged at R2,40 with only 1 000 shares changing hands while Foodcorp edged up 55c to R26,35, also in small volumes.

Fishing quota delay 'harming industry'

CT (BR) 10/12/97 ⑤ FISHING

LYNDA LOXTON

Cape Town — The government's decision to hold back fishing quotas until its new fisheries policy was finalised was undermining the fishing industry's international credibility, said Eckhard Kramer, the chairman of Sea Harvest.

He said in the latest annual report that while the company accepted the need for a more equitable and sustainable use of the country's marine resources, he hoped the new policy would be speedily finalised "so that numerous uncertainties" surrounding the policy could be resolved.

"It is of serious concern that the minister (of environment and tourism) is to hold back a substantial portion of the total

allowable catch of all the quota-controlled fish species so that this can be allocated in terms of the new fisheries policy when it comes into effect (possibly early next year).

"This action has heightened uncertainty within the industry and is undermining the industry's international credibility."

Industry sources said the portion to be held back had not yet been quantified by government. The total allowable catch of hake, Sea Harvest's mainstay, in 1997 was initially set at 151 000 tons and was then temporarily increased to 153 700 tons as a result of a technical adjustment.

Kramer said the industry and the Sea Fisheries Research Institute were discussing how to

manage the hake resource in line with international practice. No change from the present total allowable catch was likely before this process was completed.

But while the South African hake resource continued to be stable with favourable long-term prospects, the Namibian resource had shown unexpected weakness with a severe decline in catch rates. As a result, that total allowable catch was cut from 170 000 tons to 120 000 tons.

Kramer said the world white fish market had weakened in the second half of its last financial year, with a knock-on effect on hake. The situation was aggravated by the stronger rand, but the company's emphasis on value-added retail products had provid-

ed a cushion against these trends. In the local market, margins were eroded by more competitive conditions. The mussel operation at Saldanha was particularly affected by imports from New Zealand.

Kramer said hake catch rates were expected to remain stable while investments in improving trawling and processing efficiencies and yields were bearing fruit. "As regard fisheries policy, it must be accepted that a degree of uncertainty exists over the precise quantum of the company's future hake quotas."

Provided 1998 quotas were retained at approximately present levels and fishing conditions did not deteriorate, satisfactory earnings could be expected in the current year, he said.

SEA HARVEST

③ FISHING

In murky waters

m 19/12/97

Uncertainties about policy and quotas have dragged the price down

Concerns about government regulation of fishing resources continue to weigh on the shares of these companies. A possible reduction in quotas under a proposed new fisheries policy would likely trim earnings for fishers like Sea Harvest, whose shares are trading at or near a four-year low.

The fisheries policy remains under discussion but will probably, when finalised at the earliest next April, require fishing companies to buy long-term quota rights from government.

The authorities will not necessarily sell the rights to the highest bidders, but will also select buyers according to so-called empowerment credentials.

This approach should suit Sea Harvest, which has set up an employee share scheme, with workers holding 7% of the company's equity. The ability to buy long-term fishing rights will also create a more stable environment compared with the current annual allocation of quotas.

■ **ACTIVITIES:** Deep-sea trawling, processing range of value-added seafoods and other perishable products.

■ **CONTROL:** ICS Holdings 69,7%.

■ **CHAIRMAN:** H E Kramer. MD: L J Penzhorn.

■ **CAPITAL STRUCTURE:** 107,65m ords. Market capitalisation: R366m.

■ **SHARE MARKET:** Price: 340c. Yields: 8,2% on dividend; 17,2% on earnings; p:e ratio, 5,8; cover, 2,1. 12-month high, 550c; low, 340c. Trading volume last quarter, 3,2m shares.

Year ended September	'94	'95	'96	'97
ST debt (Rm)	1,2	0,7	0,7	0,7
LT debt (Rm)	2,2	1,5	0,8	2,7
Debt:equity ratio	nil	nil	nil	nil
Shareholders' interest	0,64	0,48	0,66	0,68
Return on cap (%)	20,8	18,9	24,7	21,5
Turnover (Rm)	329	361	419	467
Pre-int profit (Rm)	58,2	75,4	84,3	89,5
Pre-int margin (%)	17,6	20,9	20,1	19,3
Earnings (c)	40,2	49,1	57,1	59,7
Dividends (c)	19	23	26	28
Tangible NAV (c)	189,4	192	222,2	264,5

Chairman Eckard Kramer, though, is worried about government's intention to hold back a "substantial portion" of next year's total allowable catch of quota-controlled fish species.

"This action has heightened uncertainty in the industry and is undermining its international credibility," he says. "It must be

accepted that a degree of uncertainty exists over the precise quantum of the company's future hake quotas in SA."

While this has depressed the share price, investors should be encouraged by Sea Harvest's efforts to diversify into related food-processing businesses. These activities should bolster margins, which have been hurt by a weak white fish market globally and the rand's strength against currencies of the southern Mediterranean, a key export market for the company.

The establishment at the beginning of last year of its Specialty Seafoods subsidiary, which process a variety of chilled and frozen foods, was a recognition of this market's annual growth of a likely 5%-6% as well as improved profitability from higher value-added.

In the current year, these activities, a weaker rand and a likely improvement in fishing conditions for its Namibian business, which suffered a R9m loss last year, should underpin a faster earnings increase compared with last year's 10%.

Earnings growth is also dependent on the maintenance of Sea Harvest's current quotas and satisfactory fishing conditions. The shares are attractive for the dividend yield alone of 8,2%. After falling more than 30% in the past year and on a p:e of 5,8, well below competitor Oceana Fishing's 9,4, Sea Harvest is an inexpensive recovery stock.

Sean Feely

ISSUES

COMPANY AND TERMS:	Last day to register	NIL PAID LETTERS				FULLY PAID LETTERS OF ALLOTMENT				PRICES OF LETTERS					
		Listing begins	Issued	Listing closes	Last day for splits	Date offer closes	Listing begins	Issued	Listing closes	Last day for splits	Shares listed	Shares issued	Take up price	Price Dec 8	Price Dec 12
CITY INVESTMENT HOLD — Proposed rights offer: 41 new Cityhold shares for every 100 held at 22c per share.	9.1.98														
DON GROUP — Proposed rights offer: Details to be advised.	19.12.97														
LASER TRANSPORT — Proposed rights offer: 44 new Laser ords for every 100 held at 480c per share.	31.12.97														
SPICER-MITCHELL HOLD — Proposed rights offer: 35 new Spicer-Mitchell shares for every 100 held at 19c per share.	9.1.98														

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

	Pre-tax profit Rm		% change	Earned cents per share		Paid		Sector	Dividends		
	1996	1997		1996	1997	1996	1997		Amount cents	Register by	Payable about
Adonis P	1,4	1,2	-13	26	21	9	6	Clothing	13,00	23.1.98	10.2.98
Anbeeco I	1,8	3,5	+94	7	15	2,5	3,5	Electronics	3,50	30.1.98	13.2.98
Cullinan P	(1,0)	98,9	—	18	305	#	#	Ind Hold	—	—	—
Kagiso Media I	0,8	3,4	+326	1	11	#	#	Media	—	—	—
Millennium Entertainment I	26,4	218,6	+729	6	60	—	—	Media	—	—	—
Monex I	0,71	15,0	+2013	0,03	16	#	#	Building	—	—	—
Omni Media I	77,0	272,6	+254	118	151	22	24	Media	24,00	31.12.97	23.1.98
Premier Group I	258,4	313,4	+21	18	11	5	6	Food	6,00	—	Recommended
Safifa I	\$14,4	\$20,1	+40	41	13	#	#	Insurance	—	—	—
Sentrachem P	\$249,0	\$235,0	—	132	119	39	—	Chemicals	—	—	—
Sterling D	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Clothing	—	9.1.98	12.1.98
Stocks Hotels I	2,5	6,1	+142	6	6	—	—	Beverages	—	—	—

P = Preliminary. I = Interim. † = Final. ♥ = Headline earnings per share. * = Interim dividend. † = 15 months. ● = Weighted earnings per share. ▼ = After exceptional items. # = Dividend passed. ▲ = Capitalisation award option. § = Net attributable profit. ♣ = Capitalisation issue: 1 'N' ord share for every 1 ord held.

ANALYSIS COMPANIES

SEA HARVEST

③
FISHING

In murky waters

FM 19/12/97

Uncertainties about policy and quotas have dragged the price down

Concerns about government regulation of fishing resources continue to weigh on the shares of these companies. A possible reduction in quotas under a proposed new fisheries policy would likely trim earnings for fishers like Sea Harvest, whose shares are trading at or near a four-year low.

The fisheries policy remains under discussion but will probably, when finalised at the earliest next April, require fishing companies to buy long-term quota rights from government.

The authorities will not necessarily sell the rights to the highest bidders, but will also select buyers according to so-called empowerment credentials.

This approach should suit Sea Harvest, which has set up an employee share scheme, with workers holding 7% of the company's equity. The ability to buy long-term fishing rights will also create a more stable environment compared with the current annual allocation of quotas.

■ **ACTIVITIES:** Deep-sea trawling, processing range of value-added seafoods and other perishable products.

■ **CONTROL:** ICS Holdings 69,7%.

■ **CHAIRMAN:** H E Kramer, MD: L J Penzhorn.

■ **CAPITAL STRUCTURE:** 107,65m ords. Market capitalisation: R366m.

■ **SHARE MARKET:** Price: 340c. Yields: 8,2% on dividend; 17,2% on earnings; p:e ratio, 5,8; cover, 2,1. 12-month high, 550c; low, 340c. Trading volume last quarter, 3,2m shares.

Year ended September	'94	'95	'96	'97
ST debt (Rm)	1,2	0,7	0,7	0,7
LT debt (Rm)	2,2	1,5	0,8	2,7
Debt:equity ratio	nil	nil	nil	nil
Shareholders' interest	0,64	0,48	0,66	0,68
Return on cap (%)	20,8	18,9	24,7	21,5
Turnover (Rm)	329	361	419	467
Pre-int profit (Rm)	58,2	75,4	84,3	89,5
Pre-int margin (%)	17,6	20,9	20,1	19,3
Earnings (c)	40,2	49,1	57,1	59,7
Dividends (c)	19	23	26	28
Tangible NAV (c)	189,4	192	222,2	264,5

Chairman Eckard Kramer, though, is worried about government's intention to hold back a "substantial portion" of next year's total allowable catch of quota-controlled fish species.

"This action has heightened uncertainty in the industry and is undermining its international credibility," he says. "It must be

accepted that a degree of uncertainty exists over the precise quantum of the company's future hake quotas in SA."

While this has depressed the share price, investors should be encouraged by Sea Harvest's efforts to diversify into related food-processing businesses. These activities should bolster margins, which have been hurt by a weak white fish market globally and the rand's strength against currencies of the southern Mediterranean, a key export market for the company.

The establishment at the beginning of last year of its Specialty Seafoods subsidiary, which process a variety of chilled and frozen foods, was a recognition of this market's annual growth of a likely 5%-6% as well as improved profitability from higher value-added.

In the current year, these activities, a weaker rand and a likely improvement in fishing conditions for its Namibian business, which suffered a R9m loss last year, should underpin a faster earnings increase compared with last year's 10%.

Earnings growth is also dependent on the maintenance of Sea Harvest's current quotas and satisfactory fishing conditions. The shares are attractive for the dividend yield alone of 8,2%. After falling more than 30% in the past year and on a p:e of 5,8, well below competitor Oceana Fishing's 9,4, Sea Harvest is an inexpensive recovery stock.

Sean Feely

ISSUES

COMPANY AND TERMS:	Last day to register	NIL PAID LETTERS				FULLY PAID LETTERS OF ALLOTMENT				PRICES OF LETTERS					
		Listing begins	Issued	Listing closes	Last day for splits	Date offer closes	Listing begins	Issued	Listing closes	Last day for splits	Shares listed	Shares issued	Take up price	Price Dec 8	Price Dec 12
CITY INVESTMENT HOLD — Proposed rights offer: 41 new Cityhold shares for every 100 held at 22c per share.	9.1.98														
DON GROUP — Proposed rights offer: Details to be advised.	19.12.97														
LASER TRANSPORT — Proposed rights offer: 44 new Laser ords for every 100 held at 480c per share.	31.12.97														
SPICER-MITCHELL HOLD — Proposed rights offer: 35 new Spicer-Mitchell shares for every 100 held at 19c per share.	9.1.98														

RESULTS AND DIVIDENDS

	Pre-tax profit		% change	Earned		Paid		Sector	Dividends		
	1996	1997		1996	1997	1996	1997		Amount cents	Register by	Payable about
Adonis	1,4	1,2	-13	26	21	9	6	Clothing	†3,00	23.1.98	10.2.98
Anbeeco	1,8	3,5	+94	▼7	▼15	2,5	3,5	Electronics	*3,50	30.1.98	13.2.98
Cullinan	(1,0)	†(98,9)	—	●▼(18)	●▼†(305)	#	#	Ind Hold	—	—	—
Kagiso Media	0,8	3,4	+326	●▼(1)	●▼11	#	#	Media	—	—	—
Millennium Entertainment	26,4	218,6	+729	●▼6	●▼60	—	—	Media	—	—	—
Monex	0,71	15,0	+2013	●▼0,03	●▼16	#	#	Building	—	—	—
Omni Media	77,0	272,6	+254	●▼118	●▼151	22	24	Media	*24,00	31.12.97	23.1.98
Premier Group	258,4	313,4	+21	●▼18	●▼11	5	5	Food	▲*6,00	—	Recommended
Saflife	\$14,4	\$20,1	+40	●▼41	●▼13	#	#	Insurance	—	—	—
Sentrachem	\$249,0	\$(235,0)	—	▼132	▼(119)	39	—	Chemicals	—	—	—
Sterling	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Clothing	—	9.1.98	12.1.98
Stocks Hotels	2,5	6,1	+142	●6	●6	—	—	Beverages	—	—	—

P = Preliminary. I = Interim. † = Final. ▼ = Headline earnings per share. * = Interim dividend. † = 15 months. ● = Weighted earnings per share. ▼ = After exceptional items. # = Dividend passed. ▲ = Capitalisation award option. § = Net attributable profit. ♣ = Capitalisation Issue: 1 'N' ord share for every 1 ord held.

Offshore fish poaching costs SA millions

JUDY MOSES

Johannesburg — Marine poaching in South African waters was costing the country millions and bringing at least one species to the brink of commercial extinction, experts said yesterday.

Government officials have acknowledged the poor state of affairs, claiming that they were hamstrung by a lack of resources.

Willem Spence, an inspector for government's Sea Fisheries department, said that although the government was "trying its best" they were short of staff and finance.

He said that where government was working in conjunction with the police, they had attained good results, with 12 people currently awaiting trial for abalone

poaching, and another three for poaching lobster.

But the government was seemingly unable to help protect South African resources of Patagonian toothfish, found near the Prince Edward Islands in the South Atlantic. Experts believe that up to \$100 million of the fish, prized in the Far East, has been illegally fished.

Denzil Miller, senior specialist scientist at the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI), said toothfish resources had been so severely depleted that if the poaching was not brought under control within a year, the stock would be unsustainable.

Miller said that figures compiled by the SFRI and another international organisation showed that 32 000 tons of Patagonian toothfish had been illegally

removed from South African waters from mid-1996 to October 1997. At \$5 000 a ton this comes to more than \$100 million.

Catch rates for the oily fish had dropped to a quarter of their totals in August last year, and the size of the fish caught had gone down by a third, said Miller.

This indication of how quickly the stock was being depleted was worrying, not only because it was negatively affecting the productivity of the legal fishing industry, but also because it showed how quickly the toothfish could be wiped out altogether.

However, because the toothfish is found in waters so far away from the South African coastline, the government is doing very little to reduce poaching in this area.

Commander Stan Slogrove, a

navy spokesman, said that they could not adequately patrol the area because the navy owned only three ships that could stay at sea for any length of time, and these three ships were "busy doing other things".

The government was being more successful in curbing poaching of coastal species such as abalone and lobster by reducing quotas.

Virginia Culp, in charge of I&J seafood exporting to the Far East, said that although this policy helped reduce the exploitation of our natural resources, it was harming the fishing industry because reduced quotas meant smaller sales, resulting in decreased profit.

However, she said for her the worrying thing about the poaching was the diminishing resources.

③ FISHING

CT(BR) 19/12/97

AGRICULTURE — 3 FISHING

1998

Divers' Kreef quotas could be halved

Jordan considers move aimed at boosting fishermen's lot

(3) FISHING

AKG 3/1/98

GLYNIS UNDERHILL

In a shock move, Minister of Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan has called a secret emergency meeting of the Sea Fisheries advisory committee, to investigate cutting by half the daily permitted catch of West Coast rock lobster and perlemoen for recreational divers.

If the controversial recommendation is passed at the emergency session on Monday, the minister will divert the allowance of crayfish and perlemoen to subsistence fishermen in a move to alleviate their suffering.

The proposal has been described as "disastrous" for recreational divers, who have not been consulted or asked to make representations.

Cleeve Robertson, chairman of Underwater Africa, the body representing recreational divers in the Western Cape, said: "The recommendation has come down from ministerial level with no consultation. It is terrible for us, especially now when everybody is away on holiday."

Over the years, recreational divers have had their daily permitted catch whittled down to four crayfish and four perlemoen a day.

The recreational diving season for crayfish and perlemoen also has been shortened and recreational divers and fishermen now face having their allowable recreational catch reduced by half.

If it goes through, the move is expected to have a dramatic impact on tourism in the crayfish and perlemoen season, they say.

The minister can decide within 48 hours to implement the policy after the recommendation is made to him.

Asked for comment, Sea Fisheries advisory committee member Joelle Row said the resource was already "horribly depleted" and poaching was out of control.

"This proposal sounds good, but how will it work in practice? It seems we are running headlong like a steam train out of control. We are looking



Something fishy: diver Carlos Gomes with crayfish. Minister of Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan has called for an investigation into cutting the permitted catch of West Coast rock lobster and perlemoen for recreational divers

for a solution, but we don't know how the funds will be distributed. Who are the subsistence fishermen?" she asked.

Another member of the committee, who asked not to be named, described the proposal as an "absolute joke".

"Who are these fishermen? We don't know numbers. It is a fiasco. No thought has gone into the process. It is not the role of Sea Fisheries to be a welfare department, but to manage the resources at sea."

Sea Fisheries acting chief director Andrew Payne confirmed the minister

had asked the committee to look urgently at the recommendation that the recreational catch be diverted to subsistence fishermen who "most urgently need it".

Mr Payne said he did not know how news of the emergency session had "got out", but the critical issue

would be to determine who benefited from the relief.

He conceded that there were no records of the subsistence fishermen who might be requiring this assistance and it was impossible to keep track of fishermen.

In 1996/97 recreational divers

tute, said: "I think the minister is caught between trying to satisfy the needs of tourism and the need for providing some basic conditions of life for these fishermen."

Mr Payne said the term of the Sea Fisheries advisory committee had expired on December 31, but they had been called in for the emergency session where a number of proposals would be tabled.

The implementation of the Marine Living Resources Bill had been delayed and it had been decided by the parliamentary portfolio committee dealing with the issue to try to provide disadvantaged and struggling fishermen with some more immediate relief, said Mr Payne.

Commercial quotas already had been granted and they could not be taken away, he said.

Recreational divers complain they are seen as a "soft target" because they are not organised to fight the proposals.

The crayfish season for recreational fishermen opened in mid-November and the perlemoen season on December 16. Mr Payne said records showed most of the recreational diving already had taken place by this time of year.

However, the policy affecting the recreational divers still would be in place next year.

"But who is going to spend money going to the Cape to take two crayfish out of the water. It will not even feed the family. Why bother to buy a licence?" asked a recreational diver, who did not want to be named.

There has been growing criticism about the way the crayfish resource is being managed, with big companies exporting the bulk of the resource.

Crayfish has become hugely expensive in local restaurants and although the "red gold" is punted as a major attraction for visitors, the proposal to cut the allowable catch for recreational fishermen will put crayfish even further out of reach of locals and visitors alike.

pulled out 400 tons of perlemoen and 400 tons of West Coast rock lobster. Half of that catch, worth millions of rands each year, now will go to subsistence fishermen if the policy is implemented.

Mr Payne, who is also the director of the Sea Fisheries Research Insti-

Outrage at new crayfish quotas

③ FISHING

ET 19/11/98

ROGER FRIEDMAN
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS WRITER

PRIESTS, diamond divers, fish-mongers, a school principal, a hardware store owner, a council worker and a welder were among the beneficiaries when the statutory Quota Board dished out a fresh batch of 38 five-ton crayfish quotas earlier this month.

Mr Andy Johnston, chairperson of the South African Commercial Fishing Co-Operative, an umbrella body for 2 000 to 3 000 informal sector fishers, lamented: "Just about the only people who seemed not to qualify were those who actually dip their hands into the sea."

An "incensed" Johnston yesterday accused the board of favouring "rent-a-black" or "rainbow-managed" companies of non-fisher-

men, thereby perpetuating the marginalisation of traditional fishing communities.

The 38 five-ton quotas were allocated in addition to existing quotas — some as large as 120 tons — most of which were issued to white-controlled companies by the apartheid-era Quota Board.

Chairperson of the Quota Board Mr Essa Moosa conceded that it was "possible" that the members of some of the 38 companies were "professional people without a direct interest in the fishing industry".

But he said the board was not obliged by law to award quotas to fishermen.

"In some cases applications for quotas are made by more educated people.

"They assist illiterate fishermen

with submitting their applications," Moosa said.

Johnston, who represented South Africa at the recent World Forum for Fish Harvesters and Fishworkers in India, said: "I stood to deliver my address and I was ashamed to be the only country representative still fighting for access rights for fishers, while all the other countries were fighting for the protection of their resources."

He has spent the past few weeks analysing the membership of the beneficiary companies, and released his research to the Cape Times last week.

His findings include:

● Two Kalk Bay registered companies include members who are already beneficiaries of Kalk Bay's 20-ton community crayfish quota.

● A St Helena Bay company includes a car salesman and a diamond concession holder on its list of members.

● The names of two Hout Bay brothers appear in the membership lists of six separate companies, which all hold quotas.

● Another Hout Bay company lists two priests and a church elder as members.

● Net-trekker fishermen dominate the membership list of a Simon's Town company.

● A Sir Lowry's Pass company comprises predominantly diamond divers.

● A Woodstock-registered company includes a former school principal on its list, who is also involved in a separate company which was awarded a five-ton

□ To Page 3

Anger over new crayfish quotas

□ From Page 1

abalone quota last year.

"Is that equitable distribution? Where are the traditional fishermen?" Johnston asked.

"Is that what the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations had in mind in its 1995 New York declaration which calls for the preferential treatment of traditional fishing communities?"

"The South African system is clearly out of line. The present

Individual Transferable Quota System entrenches monopolies, nepotism, corruption, and it promotes poverty and lawlessness.

"There has to be a complete restructuring," he said. "It is not good enough that they hand out quotas to formally disenfranchised people who have nothing to do with fishing, even if they are politically-connected," he said.

Moosa said the board did not consider the race of applicants,

although it did, in accordance with the white paper on Marine Fisheries, take into account whether the applicant was "disadvantaged in the past".

"The Quota Board rejects accusations of favouritism. We do, however, acknowledge that some applicants have interests in more than one company, and in this way they may theoretically receive more than one allocation of fish," he said.

ET 19/11/98

③ FISHING

Anglers bite back with bait of a different sort

PHYLICIA OPPELT

③ FISHING

ST 25/1/98

FISHERMEN have taken to carrying guns to protect themselves from killers who stalk Kwazulu Natal's beaches.

Three anglers have been murdered in the past six weeks. Agambaram "Moses" Naidoo, 27, became the latest victim when he was shot dead in front of his wife while fishing near Tinley Manor beach on the North Coast last weekend.

Aubrey Potgieter, 50, was stabbed in the heart while fishing alone on Battery beach three weeks ago.

And, less than three weeks before that, Logentheran Naidoo, 21, was shot dead while fishing at night near Durban's Point Yacht Club.

Other anglers have been assaulted and some have been robbed of equipment along the coast between the Snake Park and Blue Lagoon beaches.

Angry fishermen say they refuse to be "sitting ducks" and have vowed to take the law into their own hands.

Errol Darlerbe, who was friends with Potgieter, says he is armed and not afraid to shoot: "Our friends are being murdered for no apparent reason. If anyone attacks us now, we will shoot first."

"Fishing has become a dangerous sport. No one fishes alone at night anymore and there will always be two or more fishermen in our group who have guns."

Beach angler Pops Rajcoomar says he fishes with a gun tucked into his belt.

"The local beaches are not safe anymore. At High Rocks, near the Tongaat river mouth, cars are broken into and we have to park our cars where we can see them."

"We fish in groups now. Fishermen need to be able to concentrate on the sea and the fish — we can't watch our backs all the time."

Captain Charlie Pillay of the Maydon Wharf police station said three men had been arrested in connection with Logentheran Naidoo's death two months ago, but were later released.

"His injuries showed the intent was to silence him, not just to maim."

"The area is not safe anymore. We urge fishermen to stay in groups, particularly when angling at night."

But Pillay warned fishermen that if they killed someone "with their own guns, they will be charged and will have to explain why it was done in self-defence. We strongly advise them not to use guns."

Said Darlerbe: "We just want to be left in peace to continue with a hobby we take pleasure in."

"All we want to do is pack our fishing tackle and rods into our cars, drive down to the beach and find the perfect spot where the fish are biting."

Arniston fishermen blow their tops over missile test

Denel told to pay up for fishing ban

③ FISHING

ARG 27/1/98

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Scores of angry fishermen held a rowdy protest at Denel's Overberg test range near Arniston over the closure of fishing grounds for a missile test.

The protest yesterday came after Denel put up a notice announcing the closure.

Denel said the notice - posted at the slipway at the picturesque fishing village of Arniston (Waenhuiskrans) and warning that a large area between Skipskop and Ryspunt would be out of bounds for safety

reasons - was the normal way of communicating with the fishermen about missile tests.

The company said it was a method that had been used for years, and the fishermen were only warned that the declared area was unsafe. It said they were not prohibited from being there until the actual test was about to begin.

But the fishermen - who described their group as being "more than 200" while Denel estimated them at "about 100" - said they were strongly dissatisfied with the way tests were conducted at the range and they wanted to be compensated for their loss of

income during tests.

A delegation from the protesters, consisting of the executive of the Waenhuiskrantz Line Fishermen's Association and several other community leaders, met Denel's divisional chief manager, Jan Malan, yesterday to discuss the issue.

The fishermen presented Dr Malan with eight demands, saying they had "reached the end of the road". Demands included:

- Two hundred permanent jobs at the test range, "as originally promised (by Armscor)".

- R200 per fisherman per day as compensation for loss of income;

- Seven days' notice of tests, the dates of which are to be decided in consultation with the association;

- No tests during seasonal catches;

- No tests within a five-kilometre radius of known fishing grounds.

- Transfer of 30% of the profits of the test range to the community.

Dr Malan told the Cape Argus that he had "more or less" reached agreement with the fishermen about some of their demands, but that discussions were scheduled to resume tomorrow. "I understand their suffering, and if we can help on a fair basis we will, but we can't give hand-outs."

Recreational divers may have bag limits on crayfish halved to help poorest fishermen

By GLYNIS UNDERHILL

In what could be a significant blow to the Cape's tourism industry, Environment Minister Pallo Jordan has called a secret emergency meeting of the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee on Monday to investigate slashing the bag limits for crayfish and perlemoen for hundreds of visiting recreational divers.

If the controversial recommendation is passed, the minister will divert the allowance of crayfish and perlemoen to subsistence fisherman in a move to alleviate their suffering.

The proposal has been described as "disastrous" for the recreational divers, who have not been consulted nor asked to make representations to the committee.

"The recommendation has come down from ministerial level with no consultation.

"It is terrible for us, especially at this time of the year when everybody is away on holiday," said Cleeve Robertson, chair-

man of Underwater Africa, the body representing recreational divers in the Western Cape.

Over the years, recreational divers have had their daily permitted catch whittled down to four crayfish and four perlemoen a day.

The recreational diving season for both crayfish and perlemoen has also been shortened, and recreational divers and fishermen now must face having their allowable recreational catch reduced by half.

If the move goes through, it is expected to affect tourism in the crayfish and perlemoen season.

Joelle Row, a member of the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee, when asked for comment, said the resource was already "horribly depleted" and poach-

ing was out of control.

"This proposal sounds good, but how will it work in practice? We are looking for a solution but we don't know how the funds will be distributed. Who are the subsistence fishermen?" she asked.

Another member of the committee, who asked not to be named, has described the proposal as an "absolute joke".

"Just who are these fishermen? We don't know numbers. It is a fiasco. No thought has gone into the process. It really is not the role of

Sea Fisheries to be a sort of welfare department, but to manage the resources at sea."

The acting chief director of Sea Fisheries, Andrew Payne, confirmed that the minister had asked the committee to urgently look at the recommendation.

Payne said the critical issue would be to determine just who benefited from the relief. There are no records of the subsistence fishermen who might be requiring this assistance, and he conceded it was impossible to keep track of fishermen.

In 1996-7, recreational divers pulled out 400 tons of perlemoen and 400 tons of West Coast rock lobster. Half of that catch, worth several millions rands each year, will now go to subsistence fishermen if the policy is implemented.

Commercial quotas had been already granted and they could not be taken away, Payne said. Recreational divers complain they are seen as a "soft target" because they are not organised to fight the proposals.

The crayfish season for recreational fishermen opened in mid-November and the perlemoen season on December 16.

Payne added that records showed most of the recreational diving had already taken place by this time of year.

Proposal is an absolute joke, a fiasco ... no one has bothered to consult us

3 FISHING

Oceana makes 7% in bookover deal

3 FISHING
MARC HASENFUSS

CT(BR)8/1/98 CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Oceana Investment Corporation, Foschini's offshore associate with retail and restaurant interests, collected more than 7 percent in a sizeable book-over deal on the JSE yesterday.

In early trade, 870 000 Oceana shares changed hands 75c up at R11 in a deal worth almost R1 million. One dealer suggested that the Lewis family, the major shareholder in Oceana and Foschini, may have been the buyer.

Similar speculation was rife in June last year when 1,8 million shares were offloaded, also at R11 a share. The dealer speculated that better prospects for Oceana in 1998 might have spurred the sizeable trade in the share.

"Prospects look better all around after the restructuring of loss-making Etam, while the company's net asset value is considerably higher than current

market value."

Poor profit performances have seen Oceana, which comprises a minority stake in the enlarged Etam Developpement group, 98 percent of Australasia-based Handbags International and the Gioma Group (restaurants), dwindle on the JSE from a R33 high in 1995 to a low of R7 in July last year.

But in his interim report last month, Stanley Lewis, the chairman of Oceana, predicted that Oceana would trade profitably on an "annualised" basis after the merger of Etam with France-based Etam Developpement.

He also noted that Gioma, which has planned four new restaurants, and Handbags, which recently acquired competitor Bradmans to ensure a larger store base, were both trading profitably.

Neither Stanley nor Michael Lewis were available for comment yesterday.

Divers face shock weekday kreef ban

(3) FISHING
Quota may go to poor fishermen
ARG 3/11/98

GLYNIS UNDERHILL
SPECIAL WRITER

Sports divers may be banned from catching crayfish and perlemoen on weekdays.

This is a suggestion the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee has made to Minister of Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan after an emergency meeting on Monday, sources have disclosed.

Several recommendations were passed to Dr Jordan, who is looking at ways to alleviate poverty among subsistence fishermen.

Another recommendation is to reduce the limit for recreational divers from four to three crayfish and from four to two perlemoen a day. If Dr Jordan accepts the recommendations he can decide within 48

hours to implement the policy and the daily permitted catch for recreational divers will be diverted to subsistence fisherman.

Dr Jordan is on an official visit to Cuba and could not be reached for comment.

A Sea Fisheries spokesman said details of the committee's recommendations would not be revealed.

"The minister may not take up the advice of the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee," said Claire Ward, spokeswoman for Sea Fisheries.

Cleeve Robertson, chairman of Underwater Africa, the body representing recreational divers in the Western Cape, said the emergency meeting had caught them off-guard.

Hymie Steyn, conservation officer for the SA Federation of Sea Anglers, whose members are

involved in recreational diving, said it had not been made clear who qualified as subsistence fishermen.

"There is no clear definition or understanding of how many fishermen are out of work.

"It seems they are going to war without counting the soldiers," he said.

Sea Fisheries has conceded there are no records of the subsistence fishermen who might require this assistance.

According to Sea Fisheries research, in 1996-7 recreational divers took 400 tons of perlemoen and 400 tons of crayfish. Half of that catch, worth millions of rands, could now go to subsistence fishermen, but recreational divers strongly contest the research, which they say is based on telephone surveys.

Secret move could ruin jobs for hundreds, Sea Fisheries told

③ FISHING ARG 10/11/98

JEAN LE MAY

Diverting the bulk of the recreational catch of crayfish and perlemoen to subsistence fishermen could lead to rioting and unrest in the informal fishing sector, Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan has been warned.

Moreover, the recreational shellfishing sector, which spends many millions of rands a year on equipment and employs hundreds of people, could collapse if Jordan succeeds in a secret move to slash its allowable catch of crayfish and perlemoen.

Information leaked from the minister's Sea Fisheries advisory committee indicates that 85% or 239 tons of the crayfish catch and two-thirds or 340 tons of the perlemoen catch allowed to recreational fishermen could be diverted to subsistence fishermen.

Andy Johnston, chairman of the South African Commercial Co-Operative - the only organised group in the sector - has warned that Jordan could repeat the mistake of former minister Dawie de Villiers in establishing fishing community quotas for hake as a vote-catcher before the 1994 election.

This led to then chief director of Sea Fisheries Louis Botha and his staff being taken hostage more than once, riots, burning fishing boats in Cape Town docks and several High Court cases which have not been resolved.

This happened because there was no way of establishing who was entitled to a share of the quotas.

And the Department of Sea Fisheries has acknowledged that there is still no register, official or unofficial, of subsistence fishermen to whom the valuable crayfish and perlemoen could be allocated.

Several recreational fishermen and divers interviewed described the move as a "vote-catching exercise" undertaken with an eye on the 1999 election.



Red gold: a pawn in a vote-catching exercise?

Recreational fishermen may catch four of each shellfish a day. But this could be cut to three crayfish and two perlemoen a day in season - and that only at weekends.

So from a possible weekly catch of 28 crayfish and 28 perlemoen, recreational fishermen will be allowed only six crayfish and four perlemoen at weekends.

Saturday Argus has learnt that there was considerable dissension in the committee, which was unable to reach a unanimous decision.

Advisory committee chairman Graham Winch said he was unable to comment until Jordan made his announcement. However, the committee had considered several

options.

Jordan could not be reached for comment because he is visiting Cuba, but much depends on whether he is prepared to accept a recommendation on which there was no consensus.

An employee of Sea Fisheries bluntly acknowledged that "the whole affair is politically driven".

Sources say Jordan asked the advisory committee for a recommendation after a request from the African National Congress-dominated portfolio committee on environmental affairs.

A task team was set up by Sea Fisheries, which in turn advised the advisory committee.

The suggestion that access rights should be taken away from recreational fishermen and given to subsistence fishermen is not supported by Johnston's group or the South African Commercial Co-Operative, which claims a membership of nearly 3 000 in the Western Cape.

The minister had "taken the soft option of targeting recreational fishermen in a panic measure which will achieve nothing", said Johnston, who represented the informal sector on the fisheries policy development committee and is the South African representative of the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers.

His group had proposed that in the short term subsistence fishermen should be identified and registered and that special permits should be issued to them, he said.

But the only practicable way of dealing in the long term with the needs of subsistence fishermen was to ensure that inshore access be restricted to the informal sector, while the big fishing companies retained deepsea access.

"The draft bill allows the minister to declare zones or areas in which subsistence fishermen may fish, but the advisory committee is overloaded with representatives of the big companies, who are not prepared to give up

inshore fishing access," he said.

This could go a long way towards solving the enormous problem of poaching, he added.

A self-acknowledged former poacher himself, Johnston said that giving inshore access to informal-sector fishermen would help solve the poaching problem without a need to target recreational fishermen.

Poachers annually "took far more than recreational fishermen - at least 600 tons of shucked perlemoen and 350 tons of talled crayfish", he said.

Recreational fishermen have also questioned the accuracy of the telephone survey of recreational catches on which the advisory committee based its recommendations.

Andrew Cockcroft and Rob Tarr, scientists with Sea Fisheries, said the department had commissioned a telephone survey of catches from Decision Surveys International, which led to the conclusion that in 1995/96 recreational fishermen caught 379 tons of crayfish and about 400 tons of perlemoen.

"No fisherman is going to tell the truth in a telephone survey," said Cleeve Robertson of Underwater Africa, which represents recreational divers in the Western Cape.

"And if not a single shellfish was weighed or measured in the survey, how can they estimate tonnages caught?"

Robertson said that the advisory committee had had no input at all from recreational fishermen. Requests to give evidence to the portfolio committee were turned down, he said.

The portfolio committee on environmental affairs has held public hearings on the draft Marine Living Resources Bill after the publication of the white paper on a marine fisheries policy.

The white paper was based on a three-year study by the marine fisheries policy development committee.

And in targeting recreational fishermen the advisory committee has ignored the white paper's statement that "the importance of the recreational sector is indisputable".

Divers flip over proposed weekend limit on crayfish, perlemoen

PIETER MALAN

Recreational divers and ring-net fishermen have reacted with outrage to plans which might bar them from catching perlemoen or crayfish during the week.

According to reliable sources, this was one of the suggestions the Sea Fisheries advisory committee made to Environment Minister Pallo Jordan this week.

Several recommendations were made to Jordan, who is looking at ways to alleviate poverty among subsistence fishermen.

Another of the recommendations was to reduce the limit for recreational divers from

four to three crayfish and from four to two perlemoen a day.

If he accepts these recommendations he can decide within 48 hours to implement the policy and the daily permitted catch of recreational divers will then be diverted to subsistence fishermen.

"It's ridiculous. Instead of solving the problem of poaching, they will just force more people into poaching," said Alex Papayanni, a diver.

He said he had stopped buying permits because the whole quota system was "just a big joke and a farce".

"The diving community is not even represented on the advisory committee. So much for

the new Government's promises about openness.

"If Jordan treats us like renegades, we'll act like renegades."

Andrew Taylor of the False Bay Underwater Club said targeting recreational divers was shortsighted because a whole industry was dependent on them.

"What about all the guys making a living out of selling wetsuits, boats, ring nets and the rest?" he asked.

But these views were not shared by all.

Michael Wurbach of the Overberg Commercial Abalone Divers' Association said recreational divers should think the thing through before getting wildly excited.

He said limiting recreational fishermen to weekends was nothing new. It was an accepted practice all over the world - Australia being one example.

"People are ill-informed and spoiled. They see taking out kreef and perlemoen as their God-given right - not the privilege that it is."

The problem of poaching could be far better controlled if recreational fishermen were banned from the water during the week. All commercial operators had to have clearly identifiable boats and vehicles.

"Therefore, if a Sea Fisheries inspector sees a strange boat in the water during the week, he automatically knows the guy is poaching," the diver said.

Crayfish quotas causing 'major conflict and fraud'

Co-op members lose out to sharks' who sell rights

ARG 17/1/98

③ FISHING

JEAN LE MAY

A tense situation has arisen among Hout Bay fishermen over the allocation of crayfish quotas for 1997/98.

They object to a five-ton quota having been given again this year to the quota-holder of a fishing co-operative who fobbed off co-op members with R1 000 each – and kept more than R800 000 from the sale of 1996/97 fishing rights for himself.

Andy Johnston, chairman of the SA Commercial Fishing Co-Operative – the umbrella body for more than 3 000 informal-sector fishermen – commented that “this is happening all over the country where fishing co-ops were formed.

“They were created to distribute fishing rights to formerly disadvantaged fishermen. But people who get

fishing rights look on them as a means to instant wealth instead of socio-economic upliftment. The system has led to major conflicts and fraud.”

The Hout Bay fishermen are particularly unhappy about fishing co-operative BJ Engelbrecht Visserye cc, which was given five tons of crayfish by the quota board for the 1997-1998 season.

At roughly R100 a kilogram, this is worth about R500 000.

Mr Engelbrecht's associates are Abe Mosemola, a former superintendent with SA Sea Products of Hout Bay (a subsidiary of fishing giant Oceana) and Walter Brown, both of Hout Bay.

Mr Brown is in jail awaiting trial in a sensational child-abuse case in which he is charged with raping a six-year-old girl.

Mr Engelbrecht told the court that the co-operative consisted of 53 people who would be out of work if Mr Brown remained in custody because he was “indispensable” to the business.

Applications for 1996/97 quotas made by BJ Engelbrecht cc stated that 53 previously disadvantaged fishermen were members.

However, sources have told Saturday Argus that only 23 people were invited to join the co-operative, on payment of R100 each.

The quota board allocated 251 tons of hake and five tons of crayfish to BJ Engelbrecht Visserye cc.

The catching rights were reportedly sold for R900 000.

Co-op member S Warner of Hout Bay has described, in a document given to Saturday Argus, what happened next.

“On July 30 Mr Engelbrecht said he had decided that every man would get R1 000. I said he had spoken of 53 people in his quota but only 23 were at the meeting.”

“Mr Brown said the rest were in Stompneus Bay.

“I asked why fishermen from the West Coast were in the quota because it was intended for Hout Bay fishermen. Mr Engelbrecht said he could do what he liked with the quota because it was BJ Engelbrecht's quota.

“He said the R35 000 he had given Walter Brown to buy a bungalow and the R150 000 he had paid for his bakkie and the money he gave Abe Mosemola was not quota money,” said Mr Warner.

“Mr Engelbrecht went to the bank to fetch R53 000. The 23 men at the meeting each got R1 000 and had

to sign for it.

“He put the rest of the money in his case and adjourned the meeting.”

Mr Warner said Mr Engelbrecht later kicked him out of the co-operative because he had “gossiped”.

“He gave me back my R100 and said he didn't want me in the co-operative because I was too clever and talked too much,” he said in his affidavit.

Mr Engelbrecht could not be reached for comment this week.

Fishing co-ops were formed on the advice of the Department of Sea Fisheries in 1996 after the Cape Town High Court found that fishing community quotas established by former Minister of Environmental Affairs Dawie de Villiers were illegal.

Co-ops applying for fishing quotas must register all members with the department.

Oceana group takes Federal Marine aboard

⑤ FISHING
Samantha Sharpe 00 6/2/98

CAPE TOWN — The integration of Federal Marine into fishing group Oceana had progressed smoothly with the newly acquired organisation expected to make a healthy contribution to the group's growth and performance, Oceana chairman Don Ncube said yesterday.

Oceana bought Federal Marine for R43,9m in December, taking complete ownership and management control with effect from January.

Ncube told Oceana's annual general meeting Federal Marine now constituted the group's fourth and newest business division, handling the distribution and marketing of canned fish products under the Lucky Star label.

"The division has sound and experienced management and staff, and I am sure it will make a solid and synergistic contribution to Oceana's growth and performance," he said.

On the fishing division, Ncube said the recent economic conditions in the Association of southeast Asian Nations (Asean) had resulted in softer lobster prices. However, Oceana had a diverse product range for export which gave greater opportunity and flexibility in achieving best prices.

The group's pelagic fishing fleet and processing plants were able to start fishing only late in January following Quota Board and Sea Fisheries' administrative problems. However, the fleet landed 218-tons of pilchard for canning, two tons of anchovy and 2 478-tons of redeye.

On trading and shipping, he said turnover in the first quarter was ahead of the same period last year following a high level of activity in all major trading areas. "Comparative operating profit was well up ... TRT Shipping Services performed well in the first quarter, with bunkers and ships agency business buoyant," Ncube said.

Average occupancies of the group's cold storage division lifted slightly month on month the first quarter.

I&J's earnings take a 19% slide

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Irvin & Johnson, the fishing and food processing company, yesterday reported a 19 percent slide in half-year headline earnings to R39,08 million. Volumes and margins had come under pressure from lower consumer spending and the softer trend in the economy, said Roy Gordon, the managing director.

"In view of the extremely sluggish local economy the projected growth in the profit is unlikely to be realised. Earnings for the full year are not expected to match those of the previous year," he said.

But the company had reached an in-principle agreement — to be finalised by mid-February — to buy Pillsbury Brands Africa, the vegetable

business, which will give I&J ownership of well-known brands such as Table Top, Harvestime and Catercraft.

Half-year headline earnings slipped to 13,5c a share from 16,7c previously.

The earnings decline was limited to 8 percent mainly because of the upbeat contribution from the Australian joint venture between I&J and Simplot Australia and a slightly lower rate of taxation.

High capital expenditure served to inflate interest paid, which in turn reduced profit before tax by 15 percent.

Gordon said the Pillsbury business would help I&J spread the agricultural risk between inland and coastal growing areas. "The acquisition is expected to make a positive impact on the division's performance."

Lower catch rates and sales volumes in the seafoods division had put a squeeze on seafood margins during the six months, which was in part offset by factors such as favourable export prices, he said.

I&J's international arm had continued to perform strongly, with profits from the pelagic fishing ventures off Namibia and Mauritania contributing positively to earnings.

A blow this January was a fire at I&J's fish processing plant in Woodstock in Cape Town which was severely damaged.

"This event will disrupt production in respect of certain products for about six months," Gordon estimated.

I&J's share price closed 10c higher at R2,40 from a year high of R4,30 last month as 171 800 shares traded.

③ PASTING LT (M) 6/2/98

FISHING 1998 quotas should be higher, despite government delays

ET (M) 6/2/98

Oceana prepares for bumper year

(3) WSH INC

LYNDA LOXTON

Cape Town — Higher fishing quotas for pilchard and anchovy catches should offset government delays in announcing the quotas, weaker lobster prices in the Far East and a wage dispute with perlemoen divers, Oceana Fishing Group said yesterday.

Don Ncube, Oceana's chairman, and Dave Behrens, the group managing director, said at the group's annual general meeting yesterday that most operations were going smoothly, and newly acquired Federal Marine was expected to contribute to growth this year.

Ncube said pilchard and anchovy fishing, due to start on January 15, had been postponed for a week because of delays in the issuing of quotas by the quota board and the sea fisheries department, preventing Oceana's fleet from taking advantage of favourable ocean and weather conditions.

Ncube said the delays were frustrating, but appeared to be mainly due to bureaucratic inefficiency.

Despite the delay the fleet had already landed 218 tons of pilchards, 2 tons of anchovy and 2 478 tons of redeye herring for canning, the group reported.

The initial pilchard total allowable catch (TAC) has been set at 66 000 tons, compared with last year's final



GOING SWIMMINGLY From left, Don Ncube, the chairman of Oceana Fishing, Dave Behrens, the group managing director, and Temba Vundla, the fishing division managing director, expect a successful year

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

TAC of 88 000. But recent surveys of the resource had been encouraging, and Ncube said he expected the TAC for the year to be increased soon.

The initial anchovy TAC is expected to be set at 100 000 tons, compared with 60 000 tons last year, because of better anchovy stocks.

Redeye herring, mainly used for fishmeal, was not subject to a quota, but Oceana had a good track record in identifying and harvesting good catches, Ncube said.

"Demand for fish meal is steady and prices are high," he said.

The lobster TAC had been set at 1 920 tons compared with 1 680 tons the previous year, and catches so far had been good, he said. But Oceana's main market for whole-cooked and live lobsters is the Far East, where prices have weakened after recent economic upheavals.

Behrens said this development should be offset by stronger performances by Oceana's trading and shipping divisions, which had recently bought two deep-sea trawlers, and the increased pilchard and anchovy TACs.

The integration of Federal

Marine, bought last year for R43,9 million, had gone well, Ncube said. Federal Marine handles the distribution and marketing of Lucky Star canned fish products.

Perlemoen fishing, due to start on October 15, had also been delayed by problems with permits and a wage dispute, which Ncube said he hoped would be resolved quickly. The perlemoen TAC is 530 tons compared with 550 tons the previous year.

The cold storage division continued to operate within expectations in a highly competitive market, Ncube said.

Bid for fishing quota redistribution may leave company

SHIPPING REPORTER

Fishing company workers fear job losses as the Government prepares to take from the rich to give to the poor by redistributing fishing quotas.

Independent fishermen may win substantially larger quotas, especial-

ly from the hake catch, but the result could be unemployment among workers of big fishing companies like Irvin & Johnson and Sea Harvest.

Industry sources are also worried that a part of the quota will not be caught as some of the new quota holders may not have the capital and equipment to go into business.

"The new quota system has been designed to give members of previously disadvantaged communities the opportunity to enter the industry - but they forget that the people who will suffer are other members of those same communities," said Norman Daniels of the Trawl and Line Fishermen's Union.

"We are concerned about it. We do not wish to defend the big companies. They are big enough to look after themselves - but we believe that if the quota is taken away from the big companies, the fishermen and workers will suffer.

"The Marine Resources Quota white paper has been drawn up to

FISHING
cater for people who were previously marginalised and had no access to the industry. The only problem is that the people who will lose their jobs if this happens will also be previously marginalised people from the same community."

He said people would not be able to get rich selling their quotas to the

ARL 9/2/98
highest bidders. "To get a quota, they will have to prove they are able to do the work," he said. "As a union we cannot allow our members to lose their jobs and walk the streets."

Some sources said a company like Irvin & Johnson might have to put as many as three deep-sea trawlers in mothballs. Job losses would affect not

only the crews of these ships but also workers in processing and packaging. The speculation comes at a time when Irvin & Johnson is preparing to replace old vessels.

Irvin and Johnson Seafoods director Charles Atkins declined to comment, saying the process was still at a sensitive stage.

workers high and dry

Fury at crayfish diving curbs

② FISHING

PETER GOOSEN

ANGLING CORRESPONDENT

AAG 10/12/98

Recreational divers are banned from today from catching crayfish and perlemoen except over weekends and on public holidays.

This was one of tough new measures announced yesterday by Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan, who

will issue crayfish and perlemoen licences to subsistence fishermen to give them a share of the lucrative harvest.

But subsistence fishermen and recreational divers have attacked the interim relief programme as impractical, at times bordering on the ridiculous, and a body blow to "soft target" recreational diving.

What has caused a shock wave across the fishing spectrum is that

the subsistence fishermen are being helped at the expense of recreational divers instead of the non-fishing lobster quota holders who intend to sell their quotas to the big fishing companies anyway.

Andy Johnson, who represents 3 300 subsistence fishermen, said once again interim relief had been granted which was to a large extent impractical and not the result of proper research.

Sacred Heart

Specialist team uncovers gillnet fishing syndicates

Tons being taken across the border

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environmental Reporter

A specialist team targeting unlawful gillnet fishing in fresh water sources in South Africa has uncovered illegal fishing syndicates operating around the country and even spreading across borders to neighbouring countries.

Craig Viljoen and his team from the Eko-care Trust, a volunteer organisation dedicated to conserving South Africa's water ecosystems, have uncovered operators using illegal gillnets in such resources as the Hartbeespoort dam, the Vaal dam, Pongola dam and even the St Lucia estuary.

"There is not a dam in the country that does not have a problem with netting," Viljoen said.

The use of illegal gillnets has escalated with the development of an extensive market for fresh water fish - one of the cheapest and most nutritious food forms - in South Africa and neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Swaziland.

"Initially people were only fishing for their own needs, but they found that fishing for illegal operators was an excellent way to make money. In certain parts of the country operators are offering fishermen up to R15 per kilogram of fresh fish," Viljoen said.

"We know of one illegal operator in the North-West province who is selling 14 tons of fresh fish per week, another operator from Thohoyandou that enters Mozambique with up to three tons of fresh water fish, sometimes four times per week. We are investigating where the fish goes and who he bribes at the border controls," Viljoen said.

Illegal gillnet fishing has impacted negatively on indigenous fresh water fish species.

In the Hartbeespoort Dam alone, the blue kurper has been almost completely wiped out.

Apart from this, gillnets are also responsible for nylon pollution in water

resources. Hundreds of kilometres of gillnets are removed from rivers and dams annually, mostly littered with the bodies of fish and birds which become tangled in the nets.

Despite the threat to the environment, illegal operators only face maximum admission of guilt fines of R200, if the case does go to court, he said.

Neither the Gauteng SAPS nor its endangered species protection unit regard illegal gillnet fishing as a priority crime and say law enforcement with regards to this problem falls on the shoulders of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

But the department itself does not have the manpower to enforce the law and instead concentrate their efforts on such priority crimes as trade control for illegal wildlife and products.

Steve Fourie, head of conservation

for the Gauteng Department of Environmental Affairs, said the province - and Johannesburg especially - was the clearing house for illegal trade in endangered species and wildlife products including ivory, rhino horn and perlemoen.

With limited manpower the department concentrates its efforts

on trade control of these products.

According to Fourie, only 20% of law enforcement posts in his department have been filled, forcing the department to play only a reactive role in trying to stop environmental crime.

Additional law enforcement officers will be deployed in areas such as Johannesburg, Sebokeng and Vanderbijlpark over the next two months.

In the meantime, the onus falls on the public to be on the lookout for illegal activities, and report it to the department, he said.

Viljoen said: "With only three members who have to cover the entire country I sometimes feel we are fighting a losing battle."

But the unit has had some success in bringing perpetrators to book. Recently 19 illegal operators were arrested in the Witbank area. Their cases are still pending.

“
**Operators
willing to
pay up to
R15 a kilo**
”

Fishing industry shake-up aims at fair sharing of resources

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — A radical shake-up of the fishing industry that would see major changes in favour of formerly disadvantaged fishermen, was expected this year, it emerged in Parliament yesterday.

For the first time, the national environmental affairs and tourism minister will be held accountable for what goes on, including the handing out of quotas.

The environmental affairs and tourism committee wrapped up public hearings on the Marine

Living Resources Bill yesterday. The committee will meet next week to examine the submissions and make changes before a final public session prior to adoption.

"I think we are coming closer to a solution," chairman Gwen Mahlangu said. The challenge was to have a more equitable share of SA's limited fishing resources, without large-scale loss of jobs in big companies which would have to accept a smaller share of the country's "finite fishing resources".

"We need to bridge the gap between the very rich and the very

poor in the fishing industry," Mahlangu said. Access rights would be held by the minister, not the quota board. The minister would be accountable to Parliament.

The board is not accountable to the minister, but acts independently. A new committee will report to Environment and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan.

Mahlangu said it was admirable that certain players in big business had come forward and offered to help in the sharing of resources, and other companies should be encouraged to do the

same. However, there were still some companies causing "big problems" by trying to cling to their current share "of what is not theirs but everybody's natural resource".

The bill is expected to be changed on Monday to state unequivocally that Jordan must appoint a new committee to determine quotas. The bill in its present form gives the minister the option to appoint the committee, but most parties expressed support yesterday for the proposed change.

The minister will have the power to make regulations regarding:

③ FISHING

- The formula by which a right of access as a portion of the allowable commercial catch is determined;
- The circumstances under which a right of access may be cancelled, suspended or reduced;
- Criteria concerning the transfer of rights of access;
- The maximum or minimum portion of the allowable catch that may be allocated to any person;
- The establishment of sustainable conservation and management measures; and
- The monitoring and control of the use of rights of access.

activity and cost inflation. Interest received/paid and foreign exchange gains

minutes later, the car was missing.
He had not seen it since.
Badenhorst told the court last

housebreaking, a
sion of firearms a
More than 119

CT 10/2/98

Kreef divers restricted, relief for fishermen

INTERIM relief for impoverished fishermen would be provided by a limited allocation of subsistence permits, Environment Affairs Minister Dr Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

He also announced strict new controls for the subsistence and recreational fishing sectors.

Subsistence fishermen would be allocated 1 000 rock lobster (kreef) and 250 abalone permits.

These fishermen would be entitled to catch and sell either four rock lobster or four abalone a day.

Permits would also be issued to snoek and hottentot fishermen who wished to sell their daily bag of 10 fish each, Jordan said.

The recreational bag limit for rock lobster and abalone would not be reduced from four of each, but with immediate effect recreational fishermen, holding valid permits, would be restricted to fishing on weekends and public holidays only.

The new 8am to 4pm time limit for both recreational and subsistence fishermen was an attempt to restrict increasingly brazen poachers who were plundering abalone resources on the south coast, he said. — Sapa

③ FISHING

Fishermen seek a fair catch

Bid to put disadvantaged first in the queue

③ FISHING ART 12/2/98

CLIVE SAWYER

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

The African National Congress has urged Parliament's environmental affairs committee to put the interests of disadvantaged fishermen first in rewriting legislation on marine resources.

At the same time, a National Fishermen's Convention is to be held in the Western Cape at the end of the month to give a platform to disadvantaged fishermen who want a fairer share of the total allowable catch.

The ANC fishing desk, the Food

and Allied Workers Union and the SA Fishing Action Committee want far-reaching changes to the Living Marine Resources Bill.

These changes include:

■ Abandoning tendering for access to the total allowable catch in favour of easier mechanisms for disadvantaged fishing communities.

■ Speeding up the transformation of the Sea Fisheries Department, which the ANC and its allies claim still has many "old order" officials.

■ A statement in the bill of the state's status as indisputable owner of marine resources.

At a media conference after yester-

day's public hearings on the bill, Marius Fransman of the ANC fishing desk said the bill was a step in the right direction.

History and apartheid had put the industry's resources and capital in the hands of big business.

Mr Fransman said there were rumours that some big fishing companies were trying to "divide and rule" by telling workers to fight the restructuring of the industry, claiming that this would lead to job losses.

Mandla Gxanyana, Fawu general secretary, said that on the contrary, restructuring would "guarantee and create jobs".

Harry Mentoor of the SA Fishing Action Committee, which represents small and disadvantaged fishing industry groups, said: "We can give more jobs than big business."

Hake fishing by long-line created more work.

Mr Gxanyana said that converting more labour-intensive fishing would not mean higher consumer prices.

Mr Fransman said the ANC and its allies believed that a solution could be to share out the total allowable catch by giving a minority percentage of the deep-sea quota and most of the shore catch to the disadvantaged.

Union not hooked on fishing proposals

③ FISHING 20/12/12/98

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan's proposals to restructure the fishing industry were rejected as unworkable by the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) at a public hearing in Parliament yesterday.

The African National Congress (ANC) in the Western Cape said in turn it was particularly concerned that the marine fisheries white paper and the Marine Living Resources Bill did not adequately allocate access rights for previously disadvantaged fishing communities.

The public hearing was called by Parliament's environmental affairs and tourism portfolio committee. A second day of hear-

ings is scheduled for next Monday.

The white paper, released in June last year, proposes a fundamental restructuring of SA's fishing industry including scrapping the controversial Quota Board and awarding previously disadvantaged fishermen commercial quotas for the first time.

Fawu said in its submission that the white paper and the Bill "fail to outline a clear and workable policy for the restructuring of the fishing industry".

It said the two documents appeared not to be based on government's growth, employment and redistribution strategy, reconstruction and development programme or fisheries policy development process. "This is of serious concern," Fawu said.

The documents also failed to indicate

what percentage of the total allowable catch in a year would be allocated to previously disadvantaged fishermen.

Fawu, the ANC and the SA Fishermen's Action Committee (Safac), representing small fishermen, called jointly yesterday for a substantial proportion of the total allowable catch to be allocated to previously disadvantaged fishing communities. ANC Western Cape fishing desk co-ordinator Marius Fransman said the two documents were "a step in the right direction to address the restructuring of the fishing industry".

However, following extensive consultations with various stakeholders, the ANC believed "further recommendations" to address the access rights were necessary.

The tender process proposed for the al-

location of access rights for the previously disadvantaged fishing communities "remains fraught with problems", the ANC said in its submission.

Fransman said the ANC welcomed the recommendations by Fawu and Safac to ensure stronger access rights.

Fawu said the white paper and Bill also "fail to show how conservation of the marine eco-system, the long term sustainable utilisation of marine living resources and the protection of certain marine living resources will be achieved".

"In addition to failing to outline a clear agenda for the restructuring of the fishing industry, the white paper and the Bill do not outline mechanisms which will facilitate transformation," Fawu said.

FISHING INDUSTRY

② FISHING

Big business carps over new fishing Bill

FM 20/2/98

But Jordan insistent that inequalities be addressed

Fishing companies are worried that the new fishing Bill could destroy SA's dwindling deep-sea and inshore fishing resources. They also fear that Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan's new Marine Living Resources Bill could damage existing and future investments, jobs and growth.

Ironically, the Cosatu-affiliated Food & Allied Workers' Union broadly supports their position, as jobs will be at stake should quotas be cut to provide more opportunity for the poor and unemployed.

"The breaking up of existing quotas and giving these to the previously disadvantaged will put a lot of people out of work. The impact on the Western Cape economy will be negative," says Irvin & Johnson (I&J) MD Roy Gordon. The deep-sea hake trawling industry employs 8 000-9 000 people.

Following last year's 154 000 t hake quota, the ministry has reduced the 1998 total allowable catch to 151 000 t. But so far quotas for only 140 000 t of hake have been issued. "About 1 000 t has been allocated to Mozambique, while the Minister has retained 10 000 t," says Quota Board secretary Fanie Fourie. Industry sources say Jordan probably intends disbursing the 10 000 t to previously disadvantaged fishermen, as soon as the Bill becomes law.

The new Bill also suggests that quota-holders should hand back a portion of their fishing rights to government, probably for redistribution.

"Government also proposes a tender system to get access rights. This could push up the cost of quotas, thus reducing potential profit margins. On the other hand, government intimates that the highest bidder will not necessarily obtain the access rights. By diminishing the worth of these rights, investments in trawlers and factories could lose their value," says Gordon.

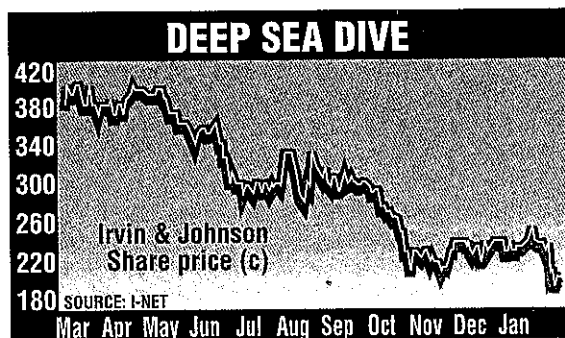
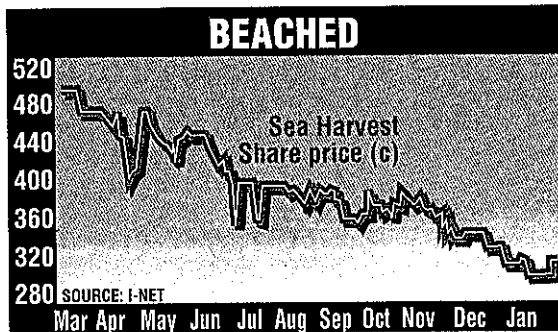
Over the past year I&J has invested about R172m in recapitalising its asset base.

Fishing companies also fear that the Bill will allow government to farm out fishing

licences to foreign operators.

But Jordan's spokesman Cassandra Gabriel says: "Apart from a few longline fishing licences issued to some Japanese and Taiwanese operators, the Minister is committed to the fact that South Africans must exploit their own fishing resources."

The Minister, she adds, does not plan any radical reduction of quotas, leading to layoffs but perceived inequalities and entrenched privileged positions need to be rectified. "The Minister must combine the need to restructure with the need to main-



tain stability."

The new Bill, as well as the White Paper on the fishing industry, is in the process of being discussed by the parliamentary portfolio committee on the fishing industry. "I am optimistic that the new Act will be passed by parliament before next recess," says Jordan. He is convinced that it will provide "a mandate to manage resources for the benefit of all South Africans, (so) that we can address the inequalities and work towards fundamental restructuring."

Uncertainty over the future of the industry has also spilled into Diagonal Street with Sea Harvest and I&J counters shedding nearly half their value over the past year.

But investment analysts say both I&J and Sea Harvest still provide excellent value for money — even if hake quotas were to be cut by 10%-20%.

"While Ocfish is rated higher by investors due to its bigger black economic empowerment profile — Real Africa Investments holds a substantial share — I value I&J, for example, at R4-R4,50 a share, compared with its current R2,05 levels," says Merrill Lynch Smith Borkum Hare fishing industry analyst George Cocolas.

Apart from its substantial hake quota, I&J has diversified into Europe and Australia, while its Namibian hake quota could also bring increased revenue.

Cocolas is also bullish on Sea Harvest, but adds that its 80% exposure to the fishing industry increases investors' risk. Both Namsea and Namfish, also JSE-listed, are Namibian controlled and are not subject to SA's quota system.

Sea Harvest MD Louis Penzhorn says quotas should be granted for a fixed period. "One of the guiding principles of the policy should be predictability and stability." Selling quotas by means of a tender process — not necessarily to the highest bidder — could also harm future investments. "There should be a price, fixed by the State in consultation with all interested parties," says Penzhorn.

GM of the Pelagic Fishing Industry Association Steve Malherbe says while the industry agrees with the need for restructuring, "a big problem is that the Bill leaves a lot of uncertainties." A major problem is that it could create "unrealistic expectations. In the pelagic industry alone, the replacement value of our nine fishmeal plants, six canning factories, 65 boats and equipment is about R750m."

Secretary of the Deep-sea Trawling Association Roy Bross says the more than R3bn/year industry makes an important contribution to the regional GNP. Deep-sea trawling constitutes just more than half of the industry, inshore pelagic fishing about 28%, rock lobster about 15% and the balance is made up of line fishing (including squid and tuna), abalone and mariculture. Formal industry employment is about 28 000. But, adds Quota Board's Fourie, with informal and weekend fishermen thrown in, "about 40 000 people make a direct living from the sea." With dependants, this adds up to about 200 000.

Arnold van Huyssteen

Ray of light for small fishermen

Proposal spreads access to seas

ARG 21/2/98

③ FISHING

JEAN LE MAY

Powerful ANC-backed fishing interests want to form a private, profit-making company with substantial access rights to inshore and deep-sea fishing.

The proposal has been mooted by the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) and the SA Fishing Action Committee (Safac), which is backed by the influential African National Congress fishing desk.

The proposal, likely to be seriously considered by the parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs, could reverse the stranglehold of big fishing groups on inshore fishing – which covers the valuable perlemoen and hoopnet crayfish fisheries – and reduce their dominance of deep-sea fishing.

The Fawu-Safac proposal, made in submissions by Johnny Issel and Marius Fransman, ANC members of the Western Cape legislature, to the portfolio committee, involves materi-

al changes to the Marine Living Resources Bill now before Parliament and scraps much of the white paper on the marine fisheries policy on which the bill was based.

However, informal fishing communities represented by Andy Johnston of the 3 000-strong SA Commercial Fishermen's Co-operative have objected strongly to the proposal.

Mr Johnston said at the portfolio committee this week: "Despite the watershed political developments in South Africa, many fishing communities live in poverty while a privileged few still oppress them. People and organisations are still rushing to obtain access rights with the aim of enriching themselves."

The Fawu-Safac proposal is that 30% of the deep-sea fishery, 50% of the "in-between" fishery and 75% of the inshore fishery should be retained for "previously-disadvantaged" fishermen and small to medium fish-related businesses.

These rights would be leased by

the state to an association of trade unions, artisanal fishermen and small and medium-size businesses. The association would have the right to decide how access rights should be allocated.

Fawu and Safac also proposed that the association would have the right to form a private company – with the option of listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange – in which 70% of the shares would be held by the association and 30% by the public.

Harry Mentoer, spokesman for Safac, said Safac was a national group with a large support base of informal and artisanal fishermen.

"We believe the time has come for the Government to start delivering on its promises. If it has the political will, it can deliver. There is too much nurturing of the big fishing companies. For every ton of fish caught, the big companies give work for a day. For every ton of fish caught by small fishermen, there is work for a week," Mr Mentoer said.

Kreefers boil over at another

They're forcing law-abiding citizens to break it, says

21/2/98

ARC

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Recreational divers and fishermen were dealt another blow this week when the Department of Sea Fisheries suspended the sale of crayfish and perlemoen permits to the public.

The suspension of permits follows the regulation prohibiting recreational fishermen from catching crayfish and perlemoen on weekdays.

Under that policy recreational divers and fishermen were allowed to catch perlemoen and crayfish only at

weekends. But now no new permits are being sold at all.

The suspension of the sale of permits to the public has caused a huge outcry among fishermen.

One disgruntled diver said: "This means they are effectively forcing people to take the law into their own hands.

"Law-abiding citizens are prepared to pay for their licences and comply with the quota specifications.

"But now they cannot legally take out crayfish or perlemoen because permits are not for sale any more."

A Sea Fisheries spokesman said the reason the sale of permits had been suspended was because nearly 30% more permits had been sold this season compared to the previous one.

"We are concerned about the impact of the increase in the number of recreational fishermen and divers on the resource and therefore decided to suspend the further sale of permits," said the spokesman.

But Cleeve Robertson, chairman of the Western Province Underwater Union and Underwater Africa, an organisation which represents recre-

ational fishermen and divers, said the latest move by the Department of Sea Fisheries could cause further unhappiness in the industry.

He said there was growing concern over the impact the cutback of daily quotas and the suspension of permit sales would have on the tourism industries at western and southern Cape coastal communities.

"At a meeting this week, attended by more than 100 divers and recreational fishermen from as far afield as the West Coast and the South Coast, serious concern was expressed

over the impact the suspension of permit sales as well as the 'weekends only' rule will have on tourism on coastal communities.

"One of the main tourist attractions on the West Coast is the abundance of crayfish. People visit this area to take out their quota of crayfish. Having no permits - and if you do have a permit - being allowed to take out crayfish only at weekends, may see a sharp drop in tourist numbers to the area.

"The same applies to the Cape South Coast, where visitors catch

furious diver

2/98 @ FISHING

both crayfish and perlemoen."

"Obviously we believe in consultation in trying to resolve the issue. But feelings are running high and there is always a danger that people will take the law into their own hands."

Dr Robertson said it seemed as if recreational fishermen who abide by the law and buy permits to fish legally had become a soft target, while poachers who had been stripping the resource, got away with it.

The Sea Fisheries spokesman admitted that the department had difficulty in policing both the perlemoen

and crayfish resource because of a lack of manpower and finances.

Dr Robertson said: "All we have asked for in negotiation is parity and equity with other user groups at an intensity and level of exploitation appropriate to the environment.

"The people of South Africa should be informed that their resources are being excessively exploited for the financial benefit of a few and that the appointed guardians of our resources are doing nothing to protect them for future sustainable enjoyment by all South Africans."

NEW LAW

HOOKS TAKE HEAVY SEABIRD TOLL

CT 25/2/98

New fishing method will save birds' lives

③ FISHING (B) (C)

ABOUT 10% of all wandering albatrosses, the largest of all flying birds, are killed on longline hooks annually. Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING reports.

MAJOR South African fishing companies have got together with a Norwegian company to use an innovative longline fishing method to try to save seabirds — thousands die on the lethal fish hooks every year, including the king of seabirds, the albatross.

An estimated 40 000 albatrosses die on longline tuna fishing hooks in the southern ocean every year, and about 10% of the world population of wandering albatross, the largest of all flying birds, are killed on longline hooks annually.

Millions of hooks are set in the southern ocean every year, where they are "shot" through the air from the stern of a vessel, land on the sea surface and slowly sink.

Seabirds, which naturally scavenge, see the bait as a tasty morsel. They are unable to tell there is a lethal hook under the bait, and once they're caught, they are dragged underwater with the weighted lines, and drown.

Up to 145 000 seabirds drown on these hooks every year. A fishing vessel shoots up to 30 000 baited hooks into the sea a day.

The new method, called the Mustad Autoline system, developed by a Norwegian company, shoots the longlines with their thousands of hooks from an under-

water pipe, so the hooks are set about two metres underwater. In this way the bait is not visible to the seabirds.

This week representatives of the South African fishing companies I&J and Bartostar Fishing, sailed offshore in the Norwegian vessel Elfisk to test the system.

The South Africa companies plan to buy the vessel, which will be refitted and will become the first South African vessel to use this bird-friendly fishing method.

Below decks, the 40 000 hooks and lines lie in rows, hooked over metal rods. When the machinery is started, up to 5 000 of these hooks start moving, are baited automatically with mackerel, and enter the sea through the underwater pipe.

When the Elfisk set the underwater lines about 19 miles off Cape Town this week, no seabirds appeared for some time. All that was visible was an oily wake on the surface of the sea from the oily bait.

This is a far-cry from the hundreds of birds that usually swirl and dive behind fishing vessels that set their longlines on the sea surface.

As the lines were being drawn back onto the vessel, some birds appeared, including Sabine gulls, white-chinned petrels, gannets and sooty petrels. Most of them seemed to be picking up fragments of bait,

but no birds were hooked.

I&J's marine research manager, Mr Barrie Rose, said I&J held a permit to fish for Patagonian toothfish off South Africa's Marlon and Prince Edward islands. A condition of the permit was that they fish at night only, when many of the seabirds don't feed. The aim was to reduce bird deaths.

"We will use this underwater line-setting system on the Elfisk when she goes down to the islands again, and if it works well, it means we will be able to fish 24 hours, instead of nights only," Rose said.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources said the rate at which seabirds were being killed on fish hooks was causing a noticeable decline in some species worldwide.

"Unless fishing practices are changed in a way that will prevent large numbers of seabirds being caught, the survival of some populations is doubtful," the commission said in a booklet aimed at getting fishing companies to become more bird-friendly.

UCT ornithologist Dr John Cooper, who was also on board the Elfisk this week, has been given funding from Bird Life International to do a global review on the effect of long-lining on seabirds.

"I'll be gathering information and coming up with recommendations on how to make the longline fishing industry more bird-friendly. This underwater setting system is one of the suggestions," he said.

Soft spot for hurt albatross

A YOUNG wandering albatross, which as an adult will have a wingspan of up to 3.5 metres, was found injured at Plettenberg Bay.

A family brought the bird in their air-conditioned caravan to Sanncoob, Cape Town, where it is being treated for two cuts on its leg.

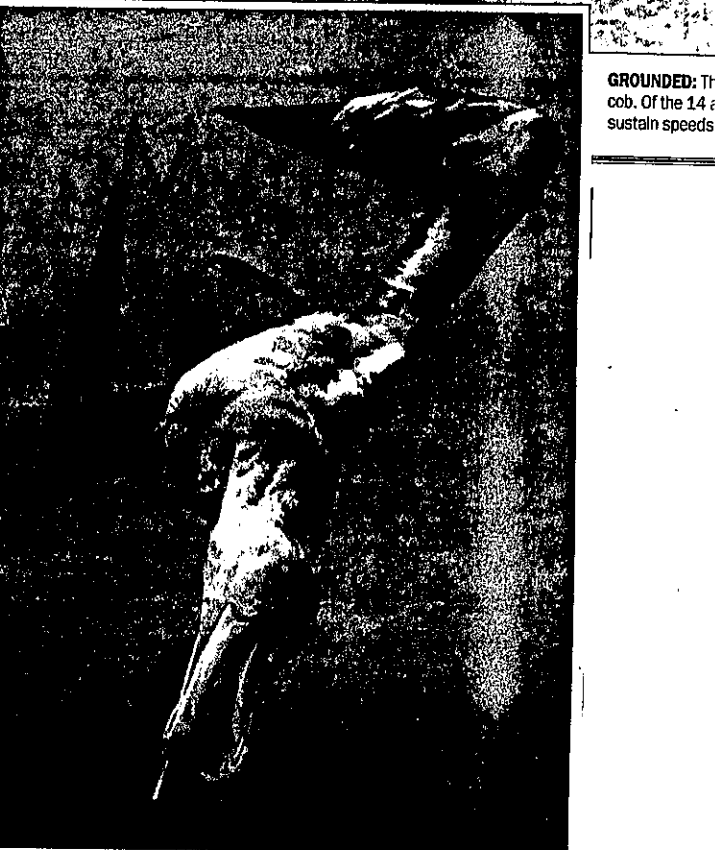
Sanncoob vet Mr Francois Lampen said he was unable to tell what had caused the injury.

"But it is clearly painful and the bird is not using that leg. It was found on the beach at Plett."

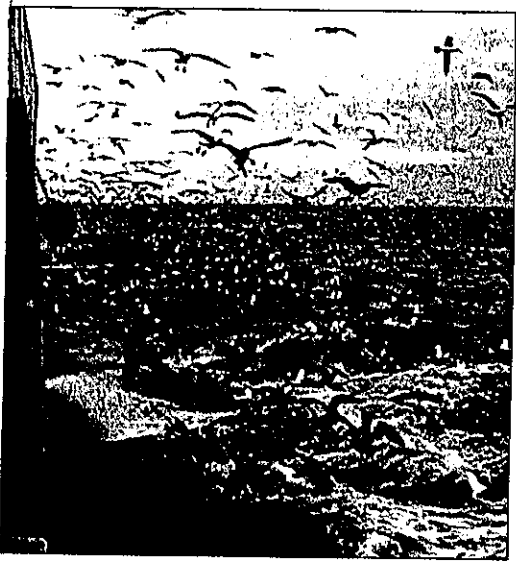
Albatross spent most of their lives in the air and if they lay on the hard ground for too long, it injured their breastbones, he said.

"To avoid this, we have made a sort of airbed for it, with black rubbish bags stuffed with crumpled newspaper. Over this we put towels, so that when it sits, it is soft," Lampen said.

Sanncoob is also treating a giant petrel which has a broken wing.



GROUNDING: The albatross was grounded. Of the 14 albatrosses that were grounded, 10 sustain speeds



SCAVENGERS: Seabirds swirl behind a longline fishing vessel, attracted by the bait on the hooks. PICTURES: COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES

DEATH HOOKS: This albatross was hooked on a longline fish hook. Around 40 000 albatrosses die in this way every year. Most birds are caught when they go for the bait before the weighted line sinks.



MAKING THE MOST OF IT: Fishermen (from left) Danie Visser, Abraham Daniels, Gadien Salie, Abduragman Abrahams, Tim Cloete and Cassiem Cronje, yesterday took advantage of a loophole allowing them to catch crayfish during the week for the last time. **PICTURE: THEMBINKOSI DWAYISA**

New system 'will hurt fishermen'

ET 27/2/98

③ FISHING

WILLEM STEENKAMP
STAFF WRITER

NEW crayfish and perlemoen regulations, as well as a new subsistence permit system, will only impoverish struggling subsistence fishermen even more — and violence could be in the offing.

This is the view of subsistence and recreational fishermen, who have severely criticised the new rules and warned that subsistence fishermen would be worse off and driven to break the law even more often than they do at present.

The Department of Sea Fisheries says they should bite the bullet while a more equitable fishing dispensation is worked out.

According to regulations gazetted two weeks ago, recreational permit-holders, who include a significant number of subsistence fishermen who illegally sell their catches, may catch four kreef and four perlemoen between 8am and 4pm on weekends or public holidays only.

Inadequate phasing in of the regulations meant that the old rules, that recreational fishermen could take out four kreef and four perlemoen throughout the week, have been maintained — but this loophole is likely to be plugged today.

Environment Affairs Minister Dr Palo Jordan has also authorised, as an "interim measure" until the Marine Living Resources Bill is passed by Parliament, that 1 000 kreef and 250 perlemoen subsistence permits for needy fishermen.

These will allow permit-holders to catch either four kreef or four perlemoen — not both, as recreational permits allow.

By Tuesday afternoon's dead-

line, about 1 500 applications for subsistence permits had been received, according to a Sea Fisheries source, who added that these will be processed and permits issued to "the most needy" first.

But recreational and subsistence fishermen are up in arms, saying that they are being disadvantaged in favour of big fishing companies and that poor people will be impoverished even more — and that the number of subsistence permits available is hopelessly inadequate.

Those subsistence fishermen who cannot get subsistence permits would have to rely on recreational permits, they say, forcing them to continue to break the law by selling their catches and by taking out more than their bag limit, and compelling them to risk their lives by diving on weekends regardless of prevailing conditions.

Mr Andy Johnston, national chairman of the Informal Fishing Communities, said the latest developments were "an absolute disgrace", and that not enough research had been done to justify penalising small fishermen.

"What it (the new regulations) has done is further impoverish the fishermen," he said.

Besides earning a meagre living, subsistence fishermen's activities supported a host of spin-off jobs, such as in boat maintenance, fishing-related shops and tourism.

Johnston warned that, even though they had technically been breaking the law already, subsistence fishermen would be driven to commit crime. "We are creating an environment for crime."

"As people become poorer and more desperate ... there will be violence. You can't oppress people and

expect them not to stand up for their rights," he said.

Subsistence fishermen at Kommetjie agreed yesterday with Johnstone's sentiments, saying the mood in poor communities such as Ocean View was "ugly".

All of them had applied for subsistence permits, they said, but "not one of us will get one ... we're going to riot. Three-quarters of the people's food is being taken away".

Another fisherman said those who obtained subsistence permits would, in any case, be caught in a catch-22 situation. They did not have boats to go out on and relied on recreational fishermen — who would not go to sea during the week "because there was no point".

Kommetjie recreational fisherman Mr Kevin Wilyman said he and his colleagues sympathised with subsistence fishermen, and added that the new regulations would encourage poaching, which

would force Sea Fisheries to employ more law enforcers.

At a meeting in Kommetjie last weekend, a petition was circulated in which it was stated that "the general public and sport/recreational fishermen were not ... consulted about this unjust decision".

The Sea Fisheries source acknowledged that fishermen's patience was "wearing thin".

The source also pointed to a catch-22 situation with the allocation of quotas, saying that if big business was penalised, jobs would be lost anyway.

Also, the recreational sector was "growing beyond that where it can sustain itself", and accounted for almost the same amount of kreef as fishing firms — the choice was to either lower the bag limit or restrict times when people could dive.

"Subsistence and recreational fishermen are being asked to make a sacrifice now for the benefit of the future," said the source.

'We are creating an environment for crime.' — Informal Fishing Communities chairman

Sea resources under threat

③ FISHING

Linda Ensor

BD 27/3/98

CAPE TOWN — Ineffective legislation and a lack of capacity and resources were standing in the way of the sustainable development of SA's marine resources, an auditor-general's report on the sea fisheries division of the department of environmental affairs and tourism says.

The report, compiled by former deputy auditor-general Bertie Loots, was tabled in Parliament yesterday.

It noted that because of inadequate law enforcement, there was no way to prevent the illegal exploitation of deep-sea fish, quotas being exceeded and the illegal dumping of hazardous substances.

Generally, there was a failure to integrate environmental concerns into economic planning and decision-making at all levels of society. Government policies, plans and programmes were not subject to strategic environmental assessment and there were no requirements for state institutions to implement environment management systems.

Kreef permits not benefiting the needy

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

(3) FISHERMAN

of 26/3/98

THE crayfish and perlemoen permits issued to about 1 000 subsistence fishermen as an attempt by Sea Fisheries to provide a lifeline to "the poorest of the poor" seems to have backfired, with reports of people getting permits who have been paid out R1 million in retirement packages.

The permits, which allow holders to catch and sell four crayfish or four perlemoen a day, are aimed at providing a small income to sole breadwinners whose current income is "very small".

Recipients must be South African citizens, have dependants and have been involved in fishing for at least five years.

A caller to the *Cape Times* said among the 70 "subsistence" fishermen who were allocated permits in Gordon's Bay were: A man whose wife owns two hairdressing salons; one who manages a local shop; a former Somchem staffer and a former SA Navy man who took early retirement packages of R1m; a former Sea Fisheries staffer who took an early retirement package, and a man who owns farms in Stellenbosch.

Sea Fisheries told the *Cape Times* they would investigate these claims.

A spokesperson said they had received 1 865 applications for subsistence permits from Port Nolloth to the Eastern Cape.

The applications were evaluated by Sea Fisheries in conjunction with local community leaders who were asked to help identify the "most needy fishers in their community".

Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Monde Mayekiso said by definition a subsistence fisherman was one who depended on the sea for survival.

"We intend these permits to provide a lifeline to the very poorest fishers in our country," he said.

Another subsistence permit holder owns a boat and a cellphone, but he told the *Cape Times* he knew of a man in Khayelitsha who did not get a permit.

And for those people who really are poor, the permits are not necessarily solving their problems. Most of the poor fishermen do not own boats, and have to depend on those who do to take them out to get their catch. This means they have to "pay" the skipper, often by giving him two of the four crayfish.

The permits mean the crayfish have to be taken out on a daily basis, and if bad weather means a permit holder can't go to sea for three days, he cannot then take out those 12 crayfish at a later date.

The permits are valid until the end of the open season, April 13 for perlemoen and April 30 for crayfish.

The chairperson of the South African Restaurant Association, Mr H von Zahn, has written to the Portfolio Committee on Environment Affairs to say while the motivation for the subsistence permit system was laudable, it was "totally unworkable".

He said if a restaurant's daily requirements were 20kg a crayfish a day, he would have to buy from 10 individual fishermen. This was an extremely inefficient way of buying, Zahn said. Quality control was difficult, as there were no formal channels of redress, and the onus for ensuring the catch was legitimate was put on the restaurateur.

Zahn has called for the subsistence fishermen to be allowed to catch several days' quota on one day, to increase the volume caught at one time and to make sales easier.

He has also called for the informal fishing co-operatives to be allowed to distribute the subsistence catches on behalf of the fishermen. In terms of their permit conditions, the fishermen must sell their catches to the end-user themselves.

③ FISHING

Proposed changes to act 'will harm fishing'

The South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (Sancor) warned yesterday the pending abolition of the Quota Board under the Marine Living Resources Act would not necessarily better the lot of ordinary fishermen. It said following changes made by the parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs, there was no longer any guarantee that once an access right had been granted, it would be secure.

"Security of rights is vital for the economics of the fishing business and job security for the labour force." The absence of secure rights would also make it easier for people to ignore the conservation ethic so important for sustainability.

Sancor suggested fishing rights should be allocated as a proportion of the total allowable catch (TAC), while the minister should have the power to alter the TAC. The proportion allocated to any particular rights holders should be guaranteed for the period of the lease. — Lynda Loxton, Cape Town

ET (BR) 25/3/98

Subsistence fishermen in landmark victory

Celebrations as Quota Board goes

CHARLES PHAHLANE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Up to 8 000 fisherman will have the right to benefit from fish they catch as the result of a Bill which will have the effect of reducing fishing quotas for established companies.

The Marine Living Resources Bill, unanimously passed by Parliament yesterday, paves the way for a restructuring of the fishing industry leading to the scrapping of the controversial Quota Board.

The Bill gives the Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister powers to set the total allowable catch, of which the large fishing companies currently harvest 97%, and to grant fishing permits.

The Quota Board, which is accountable to no one, issues quotas for one year. Under the Transformation Council envisaged by the Bill, rights will be leased to fisherman for up to 15 years.

"Let it be known that for the first time in his life the poorest subsistence fisherman will be registered, will be able to carry a

licence and will be able to sell his catch legally. He will no longer be forced to take peanuts because his catch was illegal," African National Congress MP Reg September said during debate on the Bill.

Fisherman in the public gallery were ecstatic about the passage of the Bill.

"For the first time we are getting access rights. That is the big thing with this Bill," said Christian Goliath, of Masakhane Fisheries in Veldrift. He said he would now be able to approach banks to borrow money on the basis that he has a fishing quota.

In the past, fishermen would have to supply the big three companies - Irving & Johnson, Marine Products and Sea Harvest.

Patrick Presence, secretary-general of the South African Fishermen's Action Committee, said they would like 75% of fishing in areas near to the shore to be given to local fisherman. This would include fish like sardine and crayfish. The remainder would be given to the big companies.

The minister will decide on quota allocations with advice from the Consultative Advisory Forum for Marine Living

Resources envisaged in the Bill.

The National Party supported the Bill but was concerned that the minister would not only appoint the forum but could ignore its advice. It said the Bill would allow foreigners to fish in South African waters without reciprocal rights.

The Democratic Party said it would not vote for the Bill but would scrutinise it carefully when it comes before the National Council of Provinces for its lack of reference to the stability of the fishing industry.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said the Government was keen to ensure that changes in the fishing industry would not lead to undue instability rendering the industry internationally uncompetitive.

Mr September said the Bill would allow government to control poaching. "The sea is in danger of losing its riches unless we all participate in protecting its resources.

"You cannot compare the big man who goes out in his trawler and poaches tons of fish with the poor man or woman who tries to eke out a living from the shore," he said.

(3) FISHING

ARLT 24/3/98

Fishing industry bill passed

③ FISHING CT 24/3/98

THE Marine Living Resources Bill, aimed at the most comprehensive restructuring of the fishing industry ever, was passed by the national assembly yesterday, with Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan saying that large fishing companies would still have an important role to play.

The bill, which paves the way for the

abolition of the controversial Quota Board — with the minister responsible for setting the total allowable catch (TAC) and for granting fishing permits — has been the subject of intense and sometimes heated debate for nearly four years.

The minister will be advised by a forum representing all stakeholders.

● See Business Report for full story



FISHING FOR COMPLIMENTS Pallo Jordan, the minister of environmental affairs and tourism, left, speaks in Afrikaans in front of parliament to a group of admiring fishermen from the west coast

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

Fishing bill to abolish hated Quota Board

③ FISHING CT(BR) 24/3/98

LYNDA LOXTON

PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

Cape Town — The Marine Living Resources Bill was passed by the national assembly yesterday, heralding a comprehensive restructuring of the fishing industry.

Pallo Jordan, the minister of environmental affairs and tourism, said the main aim of the bill was to end the domination of the industry by a few, white-owned companies, which had left many small black operators out in the cold.

But, he said, government was keen to ensure that any change would not lead to undue instability that would render

the fishing industry internationally uncompetitive.

The bill paves the way for the abolition of the controversial Quota Board, with the minister responsible for setting the total allowable catch and granting fishing permits. This has been the subject of intense and sometimes heated debate for nearly four years.

The minister will be advised by a forum representing all stakeholders.

"We are confident that the policy we now put into law will put right many of the injustices of the past as well as create new jobs," Jordan said.

He said government remained committed to long-term

solutions and would "avoid quick fixes that are attractive on the surface but may eventually lead to bigger problems".

But it would have been wrong to ignore that the fishing industry was characterised by huge disparities and inequalities.

He had received bitter complaints that the large fishing companies harvested 97 percent of the total allowable catch, but any attempts to change this through the Quota Board had only resulted in endless litigation. "The established big corporations will continue to play a major role, and we are confident they will find new opportunities for expansion," he said.

Wrapping up the debate on the bill, Peter Mokaba, the deputy minister, said he hoped the bill would help to end widespread poaching of marine resources, which had mainly resulted from the limited access of some fishing communities to quotas.

He said the bill was aimed at the deracialisation of the industry, but government did not want to see overcapitalisation of the industry through the establishment of many parallel black and white fishing companies.

The main concern of the department was conservation and development, and empowerment meant the involvement of the black community through stakes in existing companies.



LEFT HIGH AND DRY: Fishermen in Doringbaai, where people are hoping that South Africa's new fishing policy will help them put food on their tables
 Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

BOBBY JORDAN

Fishermen await their rescue by crayfish

③ FISHING

IT USED to be called the Bay of Plenty for hundreds of thriving West Coast fishing families. Now once-picturesque Doringbaai, near the Olifants River mouth, is an isolated seaside slum, home to poverty-stricken fishermen who feed their families with mussels collected along the beach and bury their dead in cardboard coffins.

Impoverished families live just metres from some of the richest crayfish grounds in South Africa, but they do not have boats to catch any. Even if they did, the law states they cannot market their stock.

Doringbaai is one of the luckier coastal communities — Oceana Fishing spent R350 000 on upgrading a fish processing plant there last year.

But Mzingisi Majiki, 55, a fisherman in the village, says: "We are starving here. We are just living off bread and coffee. Sometimes we don't even have that."

Majiki — like thousands of other fishermen — is now pinning his hopes on the government's Marine Resources Living Bill, expected to be tabled in Parliament tomorrow.

The Bill aims to redress past imbalances in the country's fishing industry, allowing fishermen like Majiki access to fishing quotas —

traditionally the preserve of white-owned corporations. The Bill replaces the Quota Board with a representative fishing council that will have to strike a balance between allowing new entrants in and conserving our marine resource.

Majiki blames Oceana Fishing for not looking after him. "I started here as an independent crayfish man before I joined Oceana. Things were better back then. Now I work for only three months of the year when the season is open."

Cost cutting by big business had also taken its toll, he said, adding that Doringbaai would be better served by a co-op involving as many fishermen as possible, with its own quota and processing facilities.

Said Earle Gildenhuys, secretary of the SA Commercial Fishermen's Company, representing about 2 500 "informal" fishermen: "We want a legal way of harvesting the (ma-

rine) resource and marketing it. It's time we got our share."

Access to marine resources was also hampered by division in fishing communities, he said.

Some "community" groups had received quotas as part of a tentative black-empowerment drive that kicked in after the 1994 elections and ended up enriching only a few individuals. But, spurred on by news of the new Bill, moves were under way to create 22 co-ops nationally, each representative of a community and affiliated to a holding company that could tender for quotas and market product overseas, he said.

However, large fishing companies, who have to stay globally competitive, are battling to create jobs. Hit by smaller catch returns and forced to streamline many operations, they warn lower quotas for them could lead to job losses.

Oceana Fishing has directed most of its crayfish quota on the West Coast for processing and packing at its Doringbaai factory, mainly to stimulate employment. The R350 000 it spent was aimed at extending the length of seasonal jobs. According to managing director Temba Vundla, that kind of investment would not be possible if the industry consisted of a number of small players without infrastructure. "By being a big employer we can offer people shelter."

SIT 22/3/98

(3 Fishing)

Jordan to appeal against ruling on kreef and perlemoen

③ FISHING ARG

ANDREA WEISS

Environment Minister Pallo Jordan says he will appeal against this week's Cape High Court decision allowing recreational fishermen and divers to resume collecting crayfish and perlemoen during the week.

Dr Jordan said yesterday he believed the court had looked at the letter of the law and had not addressed the issue of equity (for disadvantaged communities), which was an important constitutional principle.

He said, however, that the outcome of the appeal would be "academic" as the close of the crayfish season was imminent and his Marine

Living Resources Bill, which would change legislation by the next season, was due to be tabled on Monday.

Dr Jordan set the cat among the pigeons on March 6 this year when he banned weekday recreational fishing for shellfish in order to award quotas to previously disadvantaged fishermen.

The court ruling this week restored the right of about 75 000 permit holders countrywide to resume weekday fishing.

Dr Jordan said this after he opened a Kommetjie fish processing plant which would keep half its shares in trust for workers who had been there for more than two years.

He praised the Komicx Products Fishing Joint Venture, which has taken inspiration from farmers who have made similar arrangements with workers, for taking both a "wise and bold" move.

He also urged large fishing companies to emulate such efforts to diversify ownership in the industry.

Dr Jordan said restructuring the fishing industry entailed taking into account the "diverse and conflicting" viewpoints of a range of participants.

He said the need was to address the injustices of the past in a careful and considered, but not "blind and vengeful", way.

This entailed taking into account the rising expectations of the previously marginalised as well as the need to compete in a global market where free trade and deregulation were the principle forces.

He also warned that South Africa's marine resources were finite and any exploitation would have to be in a sustainable manner.

This was complicated by unpredictable quirks of nature, such as the red tide last year which resulted in crayfish walking on to West Coast beaches in vast numbers.

He said he was attracted by the guiding principles of the Komicx Products venture which were in line with the new fishing policy.



ANDREW INGRAM

Shake: Raynor Blankenberg of Komicx, right, and Environment Minister Pallo Jordan

Gangs in union subs scam R30 000 creamed off fishing workers

THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

Tens of thousands of rands in members' subscriptions to the Food and Allied Workers' Union have been creamed off into the bank account of an organisation linked to Cape Town gangsters.

An investigation by Fawu points to the disappearance of more than R30 000 in subscription fees from staff of fishing company Irvin and Johnson in Mossel Bay and the re-appearance of the money in the bank account of the Faith Welfare Organisation, known by the acronym Fawo.

Fawo is an organisation based in Belhar with strong links to the Community Outreach Forum (Core), a grouping of so-called reformed gangsters. It is headed by born-again Christian Albern Martyns.

According to the Fawu investigator, who wants to remain anonymous, someone contacted I&J pretending to be the trade union and told the fishing company to send the subscription fees to a different address.

Like many companies, I&J deducts subscriptions from pay packets on behalf of the union and sends the money to the union.

Fawo opened an account at the Parow branch of the Standard Bank in Fawu's name. The I&J cheques arrived at the Fawo office every month for more than a year, the investigator said.

The union has contacted the police about the case. The investigator said the scheme was part of a huge fraud in the Western Cape.

"We have a sworn affidavit from one of the gangsters in the province who confirms this," he said.

But Mr Martyns said his organisation never intended to defraud Fawu.



FISHING ARG 20/3/98

"Every month we send hundreds of letters to companies asking for donations. In early 1996, we received a cheque of more than R1 000. We reckoned the cheque was a donation to our organisation," he said.

"We saw the cheques as an opportunity to do good and as grace from God. I am a full-time pastor and I would not defraud anyone."

Standard Bank media relations manager Erik Larsen told the Cape Argus that the bank accepted it had been negligent and would refund Fawu as soon as possible.

"It's obvious the account was opened for fraudulent purposes," he said.

Standard Bank had also contacted the police. "We have also thoroughly investigated any complicity by the bank staff and the results have exonerated everyone," said Mr Larsen.

I&J refused to accept blame for channelling funds to Fawo. A statement by the company's corporate affairs manager, Sharon Mattinson, said it could not be held liable for the loss of the money.

"We cannot go into detail as the matter is sub-judice, but, regrettably, it would appear that on receipt of union subscriptions by Fawu they experienced administrative handling problems and monies have gone astray," she said.

The Fawu investigation is part of a wider probe into allegations of corruption within the union which have highlighted inadequate systems of control over the accounts.

The union recently said in a statement: "Since the latter part of last year we have begun to revise our managerial and financial systems to correct loopholes in our organisation.

"The majority of this work has been completed and Fawu is already in a better position to monitor its income on a daily basis."

Fishermen's court victory puts kreef back on the menu

Judge overrules Pallo Jordan

③ FISHING ARG 19/3/98

STAFF REPORTER

Crayfish and perlemoen are back on the menu seven days a week, at least until the end of the season on April 30.

This is the upshot of an order granted in the Cape High Court yesterday to a group of Kommetjie recreational and subsistence fishermen.

Carol Maree, Jeremy Hare, Louis Joseph Simonis, Herman Venter, Achmat Bedford and Jane Sanda, members of the Fishermen's Rights Action Committee, had challenged new regulations restricting them to catching crayfish and collecting per-

lemoen at weekends and on public holidays between 8am and 4pm.

The order will apply to all fishermen and divers who obtained crayfish and perlemoen permits before March 6, the day Environment Minister Pallo Jordan and the Department of Sea Fisheries banned weekday recreational fishing for the shellfish.

Mr Acting Justice Henry Viljoen made the order subject to any order Dr Jordan might make about the length of the season.

Before making the order, Judge Viljoen recommended to Sea Fisheries that the rights of the fishermen be reinstated because it would appear

negative to continue the ban so near to the end of the season.

During an adjournment, Department of Sea Fisheries managers met the judge and agreed to the recommendation, which was then made an order of the court. The environment ministry and the Department of Sea Fisheries were ordered to pay costs.

After the hearing, Mr Simonis said the ruling would affect about 75 000 permit holders countrywide.

Mike Cameron-Dow, counsel for the applicants, said his clients believed that the minister's attempt to take away their rights without consultation was unconstitutional.

Poachers terrorise Cape village

Gangs who are stripping coast near Hermanus of perlemoen put police to flight

Own Correspondent
Cape Town

Hawston is a picturesque little fishing community nestling against the holiday town of Hermanus. Policemen, however, fear this beautiful village.

For Hawston is the haven of perlemoen and crayfish poachers, gangsters so brazen that in broad daylight they gather in large groups and beat up policemen in Hermanus' main street.

Which is precisely what happened in Hermanus on Sunday afternoon.

Two policemen acting on a tip cornered a Toyota Camry, but the occupants refused to open the car's boot until they had called their attorney - but instead of legal counsel, 30 men arrived on the

scene and assaulted Sergeant Douglas Kalis.

He and his colleague were forced to beat a hasty retreat.

A Hermanus police spokesman said resignedly yesterday that the events of Sunday - the second incident that day involving poachers - were becoming an "everyday" occurrence.

Hermanus policemen, particularly uniformed members ("they are the ones who go out and catch them"), faced all manner of threats from the poachers, including death threats, physical and verbal abuse, being forced off the road and being told that it was known where they and their loved ones live.

The best the Hermanus police can muster against well-organised, cellphone-wielding thugs is seven members per shift, four of whom patrol a

45km-long stretch of coastline - and they must also deal with other crimes.

There were 13 burglaries in Hermanus last week alone, for instance.

"The intimidation against our men is very serious.

"Sunday could easily have had worse consequences," said the spokesman, who himself did not want to be named.

Hawston residents did not want to talk about the poachers, particularly to strangers, but a commercial fisherman at the village's deserted little harbour confirmed the police's contention that the poachers were gangsters - he called them "lice" - and that they cowed the community into acquiescence and actively went after the undermanned police.

"The police can't even come down here - they get stones and

abuse hurled at them," the fisherman said.

The fisherman said the poachers, who were nevertheless in the minority, were systematically stripping the coastline of perlemoen and crayfish.

This was borne out by the police spokesman, who said that so far this year 1 277 crayfish tails, 542 crayfish, 1 681 undersize crayfish, 55 uncleaned perlemoen, 60 unshucked, undersize perlemoen and 5 582 shucked perlemoen - which may not be transported - had been confiscated, with 25 suspects arrested.

He conceded, however, that this was "but a drop" compared with what was actually being stolen, but he was nevertheless upbeat about the statistics.

"It at least shows that we are doing something."

Star 18/3/98 (3) FISHING

'THUGS' HOLD SWAY

Police run scared of Hawston poachers

ET 17/3/98 *(9) FISHING*
THE ODDS are stacked against the Hermanus police in their fight against the gangs stripping the coast of crayfish and perlemoen. Security Writer **WILLEM STEENKAMP** reports.

HAWSTON is a picturesque little fishing community nestled close to the holiday town of Hermanus. But lurking under its beautiful façade is danger so omnipresent that even the police are afraid to enter.

For Hawston is the haven of perlemoen and crayfish poachers — gangsters so brazen that in broad daylight they gather in large groups and beat up policemen in Hermanus' main street.

Which is precisely what happened on Sunday afternoon. Two policemen acting on a tipoff cornered a Toyota Camry, but the occupants refused to open the boot until they had called their attorney. Instead of legal counsel, 30 men arrived on the scene and assaulted Sergeant Douglas Kalis.

A defeated Hermanus police

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The best the police can muster against well-organised, cellphone-wielding thugs is seven members a shift, four of whom patrol a 45km stretch of coastline — and they must also deal with other crimes.

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ers, particularly to strangers, but a commercial fisherman at the village's deserted little harbour confirmed the police's contention that the poachers were gangsters — he called them "lice" — and that they had cowed the community into acquiescence and actively went after the police.

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Guns blaze as crayfish war hots up

FISHING
YVEFFE VAN BREDA

ST(CM) 15/3/98

PANDEMONIUM reigned in the Hermanus area when crayfish poachers tried to run down police officers manning a road block.

A high speed car chase ensued as at least four police vehicles followed the poachers, who flung bags of crayfish from their bakkie.

When police tried to retrieve the bags of crayfish, they were driven from the scene by about 15 men who opened fire on them.

A 44-year-old Hawston man was arrested and more than 500 crayfish worth about R15 000, and a 4x4 bakkie were confiscated.

Boland police spokesman Captain Francois Rossouw said that after a tip-off on Thursday morning last week the police Coastal Patrol Unit set up road-blocks in Church Street in Hawston to prevent the poachers getting away with a lorry-load of crayfish landed at the harbour.

But the speeding bakkie tried to mow them down and the police had to dive out of harm's way, said Rossouw.

Police gave chase and fired a warning shot, but the bakkie sped through several fishing villages before the poachers dumped bags of crayfish onto the road.

Two of the police vehicles stopped to pick up the crayfish, while the other vehicles continued the chase. But the three policemen who stopped were quickly surrounded by a hostile gang who threatened to kill them. The policemen were forced to drive off as shots were fired at them.

Other police caught up with the poachers' bakkie, which they confiscated, along with the rest of the crayfish.

They arrested a suspect and expect more arrests to follow.

BOSCH
DAEW
EYF
DOX
WIL
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First round goes to the fishermen

ERIC NTABAZALILA

③ FISHING
ET 13/3/98

SIX subsistence fishermen have had a Court Order issued by the Cape High Court against the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Department of Sea Fisheries.

The court order, issued on Tuesday, suspends the new restrictions to permit-holders for crayfish and perlemoen to fish on weekends and public holidays.

The restrictions had been suspended until March 17, allowing permit-holders to fish for at least another week. Mr Herman Venter, Mr Achmat Bedford, Ms Carol Maree, Mr Jeremy Hare, Ms Jane Sanda and Mr Louis Simonis had the temporary court order against the minister and would apply for a permanent one next week.

The fishermen, members of Fishermen's Rights Action Group (FRAC), alleged they had won the order for about 750 000 permit holders.

"We are just a few individuals, but we have the support of thousands and we need more. We intend forming a permanent body to protect the rights of the public now and in future. Our view is that the attempt to try and take away our rights without consultation was unconstitutional and unfair and illogical. "We intend offering the minister help and support to prevent drug runners, poachers and criminals from stripping our seas of crayfish and perlemoen," they said.

Call for 'whistle-blowing' law

David Greybe

FISHING

CAPE TOWN — The African National Congress (ANC) and Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) want a "whistle-blowing" clause in new legislation aimed at restructuring the fishing industry.

They want fishermen, in view of the lack of resources to monitor SA's waters, to be obliged to inform the authorities of transgressions.

The proposed clause is aimed mainly at foreign fishing boats which transgress SA's fishing regulations.

State law adviser Piet Prinsloo told the parliamentary environmental affairs committee yesterday during a debate on the Marine Living Resources Bill that whistle-blowing was "frowned upon in human rights culture".

He cautioned the committee to tread carefully on what was a "very complex and contentious" issue.

Prinsloo said one of the reasons why the Open Democracy Bill, designed to

ND 10/3/98
"pioneer" whistle-blowing in SA, had not been published was that drafters were still struggling with this issue. For example, was a person who failed to report an offence considered guilty?

Committee chairman and ANC MP Gwen Mahlangu said SA was not in an ideal situation, and a lot of people in the fishing industry were withholding "very damaging information".

She instructed Prinsloo to study the new public service regulations which encouraged whistle-blowing, and to present the committee with proposals.

Public servants are obliged, in terms of the country's first code of conduct for public servants, to expose corrupt colleagues.

Public Services Minister Zola Skweyiya said at the launch last year that public servants should be encouraged to become whistle-blowers. He said the ANC had come to power on a "clean government ticket" and, however difficult, "we need to act on that".

SA abalone farming poised to take advantage of burgeoning demand

ES 9/3/98

(3) FISHING

GRAHAMSTOWN — Abalone farming is becoming big business in SA with the industry poised to take advantage of a burgeoning world market.

Peter Britz, senior lecturer at Rhodes University's department of ichthyology and fisheries science, said at the weekend that there had been a growing market for the large marine snail over the past decade.

He warns, however, that even though abalone farming is a growth industry, it is not for the faint-hearted and requires "a long-term commitment and financial resilience".

The 10-farm, R60m industry uses abalone farming techniques which are a hybrid of local innovation and technology transfers from countries with more developed industries, he said. One of the most important local innovations was pellet feed, developed by Britz and his team of researchers at Rhodes University.

This artificial feed, although more expensive than abalone's natural diet

of seaweed, enhances growth, particularly in the early juvenile phase.

Furthermore, it makes abalone farming possible in areas where it is not feasible to harvest the large quantities of seaweed required to supply an abalone farm. This was found in a collaborative research programme between Rhodes university and commercial abalone farmers.

The protection of investments in commercial abalone farming falls under the control of the Abalone Farmers' Association of SA, formed in 1991.

The association has been instrumental in formulating product standards to prevent unscrupulous operators selling substandard abalone and thereby giving the SA product a bad reputation.

The association has also funded research into anaesthesia of abalone which enables the live animals to be transported, the combating of parasitic worms and management of toxic red-tide events. — ECN.

DEATH FEAR OVER TOXIC SHELLFISH

Cape consumers get poison warning
ARG 7/3/98

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Lethal poison "as dangerous as cobra venom" is seeping from a toxic Peninsula vlei and threatening the lives of thousands of people who eat shellfish affected by the poison.

Following an emergency meeting yesterday the South Peninsula Municipality has warned people against eating perlemoen, crayfish and especially black mussels found near or in the Kommetjie mussel beds.

Hundreds of people regularly collect shellfish in the area and some of it is sold to the public and to restaurants.

Eating the poisoned seafood could result in death, experts have warned.

The municipality has also warned people not to come into contact with the highly toxic algae that has formed on the Wildevoëlvlei, which is the source of the scare.

Shellfish in the popular Kommetjie mussel beds have become so poisonous that anyone eating seafood collected there could die, experts have warned.

"Mussels found in the beds where the Wildevoëlvlei goes into the sea must not be collected or eaten as they are potentially lethal," said Professor Bryan Davies of the University of Cape Town's freshwater research unit.

He said toxic algae in the vlei affected all filter feeders in the vicinity of the estuary. He also advised people not to collect perlemoen and crayfish, which could also be affected even though their feeding methods were different.

The shellfish have become toxic as a result of contamination from water flowing from Wildevoëlvlei into the sea.

The rapid multiplication of blue-green algae, which belongs to a group of bacteria-producing toxins as lethal as cobra venom which can kill in minute quantities, caused the vlei to become toxic.

Professor Davies said it appeared that an unexplained event at the end of last year had killed the usual water plants. These plants had made way for the blue-green algae, which multiplied rapidly, making the vlei toxic.

He warned people to stay away from the water's edge and estuary mouth.

Professor Davies is in a team of experts drawing up a land-use management plan for the Noordhoek Valley.

A spokesman for the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group said signs had been put up in Ocean View and Kommetjie warning residents of the dangers of collecting mussels.

He said mussels formed a major part of

the diet of many local residents, but so far there had been no reports of poisoning.

Residents near the shores of the vlei fear for their health and for the safety of the animals.

Ian Kloppers, whose garden abuts the vlei, said he and his wife were extremely concerned because they were unsure whether the poison could be airborne.

He said the algae was known to kill animals if ingested and this put the pets at risk.

A further concern to residents was the dramatic decrease in birdlife over the past six months.

Mr Kloppers said that when birding enthusiasts visited the vlei six months ago they counted more than 400 grebes in morning. Now it was unusual to see 10.

"Fish have died and we no longer see the osprey or the clawless otters," he said.

Experts are hoping to rehabilitate the vlei. One of the methods under consideration is to reduce the level of the vlei, which would upset the growth pattern of the algae.

To do this, the outflow into the sea would be kept open, resulting in the mussel bed near the estuary remaining toxic. Warning signs would be kept in place until monitoring of the mussels showed they were no longer toxic.

③ FISHING.

EU, SA fisheries deal seen as link in wider trade accord

John Dlodlu

③ FISHING
20 2/4/98

TALKS on the contentious fisheries agreement between the European Union (EU) and SA resume next week, a move that is likely to increase support within the EU for a free trade deal with Pretoria.

No substantive talks have taken place on fisheries to date to allow SA time to formulate its fishing policy, despite the fact that some EU countries — notably Spain — have an interest in the conclusion of a fisheries accord with SA.

Abdoul Aziz M'Baye, the economic counsellor at the EU mission to SA, said the talks would take place next Tuesday ahead of another round of trade and wines and spirits negotiations later this month.

Progress on fisheries is crucial in getting countries like Spain to back a free trade deal with SA. Trade negotiations have now reached an advanced stage.

M'Baye said negotiators would have to find imaginative ways to handle the fisheries talks to allow for conclusion of the overall trade, development and co-operation agreement.

"Nobody can deny the linkage between trade and fisheries", he said, referring to a belief that no agreement could be reached in trade negotiations — including trade in fish-based items — without progress on fisheries talks.

The fisheries talks come after a "state of play" report by the commission, the EU's executive, seeking flexibility in talks with SA from EU ministers. "We have no sign to be pessimistic," M'Baye said of the report.

Regarding the impact of the EU-SA free trade area on SA's customs union partners, he said it was still early days to talk about compensation.

A study has put the revenue loss for these countries at about R345m — a figure widely seen as an underestimation.

Four nations join forces to save toothfish

BD 3/4/98

ES

3) FISHING

David Greybe

CAPE TOWN — Australia, France and New Zealand have joined SA to put diplomatic pressure on Mauritius and Namibia to stop their ports being used to process the R800m annual "plunder" of the Patagonian toothfish in the southern Indian Ocean.

Denzil Miller, a scientist at Sea Fisheries, said yesterday representatives of the four countries had met in Cape Town last week to co-ordinate efforts to save the prized deepwater fish.

Miller, also chairman of the scientific committee of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, said Namibia and Mauritius would be invited to partic-

ipate in the next meeting of the 23-nation commission.

There is evidence that permanent damage has already been done to the supply of toothfish due to overfishing in the vicinity of SA's Prince Edward Islands. It is estimated that 80% of the 100 000 tons of toothfish caught illegally in the world in the past 18 months have been taken in the southern Indian Ocean. Australia and France hold sovereignty over other islands in the area.

Miller said the toothfish fetched R15 000 a ton in the Far East. This meant the 100 000-ton illegal catch in the past 18 months was worth R1,5bn.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said this week at

least 90 vessels had reportedly operated in the vicinity of Prince Edward Islands over the past two years. There was evidence some of the vessels were operating with impunity from Namibia and Mauritius — despite diplomatic protests to their governments.

Miller said the Namibian authorities were "extremely helpful" in providing information on toothfish landings in its ports. Mauritius — where a large cold storage facility was built in Port Louis to handle toothfish — had not responded in the same way.

The Mauritian acting high commissioner in Pretoria undertook yesterday to solicit a response from his government. The Namibian high commissioner was unavailable.

City companies linked to toothfish piracy

(3) FISHING

CHARL DE VILLIERS

ST(CM) 5/4/98

AT LEAST two Cape Town fishing companies have been linked to illegal Patagonian toothfish trade operations being run from Mauritius, the "pirate capital" of a largely illicit R1,1-billion industry.

Australian investigators at the Hobart-based International Southern Oceans Longline Fisheries Information Clearing House (Isolfich) this week claimed that local firms Aluship and Hout Bay Fishing either operated vessels involved in the illegal fishery, or traded in illegally-caught Patagonian toothfish.

And another South African company, Premier Fishing, confirmed that a court in Reunion was demanding bail of R9,6-million to release a longliner which had been

caught in French waters at the Kergeulen Islands.

Released this week, the Isolfich report also coincided with disclosures that the South African government was trying to persuade both Mauritius and Namibia to join an international environmental system which is battling to stop the plunder of valuable toothfish stocks in the Southern Ocean.

South Africa last year lost at least R500-million to illegal fishing in its Prince Edward Islands economic exclusion zone.

Of the 32 so-called illegal vessels monitored by Isolfich in Mauritius over the past month, five were identified as either being South African-owned, chartered by South Africans for offshore companies, or used by local operators.

The vessels with South African links used harbour facilities at Port Louis in Mauritius, said to handle

up to half the world's trade in the toothfish.

Hout Bay Fishing spokesman Colin van Schalkwyk said it was "not impossible" that his company's longliners had fished illegally.

He confirmed that Hout Bay Fishing landed toothfish at Mauritius and Walvis Bay, with most catches destined for Japan, Taiwan or the US.

"We only fish in international waters outside the jurisdiction of CCAMLR, and as far as I know we've never caught Patagonian toothfish illegally. If we have, it's never been proved."

He said Hout Bay Fishing acted as agents for the Cape Flower, a Panamanian-registered vessel named in the Isolfich report.

Van Schalkwyk said Sea Fisheries had never produced any proof of illegal fishing by his vessels, and Sea Fisheries scientists had also never produced data to prove that the Patagonian toothfish was endangered.

"Instead of doing everything possible to keep us from fishing, Sea Fisheries should give us licences and let us patrol our own waters and give them the information they want about toothfish," he added.

Van Schalkwyk said the Mauritian authorities had little interest in curtailing toothfish operations.

"The government in Mauritius says why lose the golden egg when scientists cannot produce the data to say why they must stop."

Aluship has also denied owning a ship involved in illegal fishing.

Brian Flannagan, a spokesman for Premier Fishing, said his company had only acted as agents for the Explorer.

"We are not prepared to bail out the ship because she was not fishing illegally. She was only passing through French waters back to Mauritius," he added.

YVETTE VAN BREDA

The crayfish honeymoon's nearly over

THE honeymoon will soon be over for crayfish lovers who are having a brief taste of rock-bottom prices for the delicacy.

Cape Town restaurants' crayfish prices have been more than halved over the past three weeks since more than 1 000 fishermen were granted subsistence permits to catch and sell four lobster or abalone a day.

But the open season for catching crayfish ends on April 30 and restaurants will have to go back to buying from the big companies.

This week restaurant owners on the False Bay coast reported that they were now selling crayfish for R39 to R49 a kilogram. Just three weeks ago prices were from R95 to R115. The subsistence fishermen were selling crayfish to them for between R10 and R15 each.

"It's gone down since we've been buying from the local fishermen and not the big companies. Locals are really going to benefit from this because it's not fair that they pay export prices

for something available right here," said Jan Tuzee of Dixies in Glencairn.

Restaurants not buying from subsistence fishermen are still selling for about R100 a kilogram. Big companies, which exported about 80 percent of their catch and sold 20 percent locally (at export prices), were reported to be selling crayfish for R99 a kilogram and abalone for R300.

However, Sea Fisheries spokeswoman Claire Ward said the move was an interim measure until the new Fisheries Bill was passed.

"It was quite clear right from the start that the fishermen would only be able to do this to

the end of the lobster season in two weeks' time. When the new season starts in November the likelihood of it going on is slim.

"The Bill makes provision for people who have been excluded from the fishing process in the past and will give them greater access to things like lobster and abalone. The new measures should be in keeping with the new Bill," Ward said.

Sea Fisheries chief inspector Johan De Witt said crayfish prices were noticeably lower since the permits were granted, and the black market had also taken a considerable knock.

De Witt jokingly added that the drop in prices had nothing to do

with the recent spate of complaints about the "shockingly small size" of crayfish sold in Cape Town's top seafood restaurants.

In one incident, a diner was so outraged by the size of the crayfish that he wrapped it in a serviette and rushed to the police station to check that it was legal. He was told that it was.

De Witt said he even had a call from a restaurant one night asking him to bring his crayfish "ruler" to measure a "prawn-like" crayfish on a diner's plate. It had also been legal.

A spokesman for Lusitania said diners were often disappointed to learn that these "prawn-sized lobsters" were a legal size.

Another restaurant confirmed that they did serve small crayfish, but would make up by giving the customer two or three.

"It's all a legal size because we get it from the big companies, but sometimes they are quite small," said the manager.

De Witt said they often got complaints from people who thought they were eating under-sized crayfish, especially if they were from the east coast, which had a lower size limit.

③ FISHING
Rock bottom prices to shoot up soon

ST (UM) 12/4/98



LEON MULLER

Weighty words: Sampie Nobole of the Food and Allied Workers' Union hands a memo to Minister of Environmental Affairs Pallo Jordan

Fawu marchers want job security

ALIDE DASNOIS
BUSINESS EDITOR

ARG 17/4/98

Chanting Food and Allied Workers' Union members marched on Parliament yesterday demanding the Government take urgent steps to protect jobs in the wine, canning and fishing industries.

A memorandum handed to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan urged that in any fishing agreement with the European Union, all boats fishing in South African waters be obliged to fly the South African

~~WINE~~ ~~CANNING~~ ~~FISHING~~
FISHING

flag and employ South African crews. The marchers also handed in a memorandum at the offices of the European Union, urging European countries to open their markets to South African agricultural exports and stop unfair competition from cheap European imports here.

Fawu has criticised the EU for imposing tariffs of up to 21% on imports of South African canned fruit and vegetables, at the same time subsidising European farmers.

The flood of cheap European canned goods on South African markets is threatening jobs, says Fawu.

Langeberg Foods has already laid off 2 000 seasonal workers and 400 permanent workers and up to 4 800 other jobs are under threat, Fawu says.

Fawu has asked the government to keep some tariffs in place to protect the domestic canning industry and to slow the restructuring of the wine industry until measures to protect jobs have been discussed.

Fawu fears that jobs in the wine industry will be lost if the EU succeeds in its attempt to exclude 40% of South African agricultural products from the free trade deal that is under negotiation.

Poaching crayfish for poor folks' plates

③ FISHING

ARG 18/4/98

PAUL OLIVIER

Well-heeled diners who pay a fortune for crayfish would choke on their dinner to see poor township residents filling their plates with the Cape delicacy.

According to Andy Johnston, the head of the South African Informal Fishermen's Commercial Cooperative, crayfish has once again become the food of poor people in Western Cape townships.

Last week Sunday Argus reported a massive crayfish poaching operation on the Cape coast. But Mr Johnston said much of the poached crayfish was not exported or sold to restaurants; it was served up on dinner tables in local townships.

He said South African poachers had been squeezed out of markets in the Far East by Australian suppli-

ers. The Australians were able to supply cheaper crayfish because the industry was subsidised by the government, he said.

Local fisheries experts said that new legislation allowing informal fishermen to catch up to four crayfish and sell them to anyone would also result in crayfish being freely available. They also warned the new measure could promote poaching because the authorities would not be able to monitor the informal fishermen properly.

"Contrary to what people think, the biggest demand for crayfish no longer lies in the overseas markets, but with local communities," Mr Johnston said.

Easter, a popular time for traditional Malay crayfish curries, had brought with it a new wave of poaching, he added.

Last week Sunday Argus reported how unscrupulous poachers were



PEOPLE'S FOOD: thousands of crayfish carcasses, most of them undersized, lie rotting near Hangklip. Poor communities reportedly survive on a large proportion of poached crayfish
Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

plundering the dwindling resource and that police were too under-resourced to act efficiently.

Hundreds of thousands of crayfish carcasses, most of them undersized,

lie rotting in heaps along the coastline between Hangklip and Hermanus, and along the roadside outside Hawston.

Police say the carcasses are

dumped by members of a crayfish-smuggling network. The poachers are only interested in the tails.

The smuggling operation has been going on for more than four years

and involves gangsters, including members of Cape drug cartel the Firm.

Police said many subsistence fishermen had opted to become full members of the Firm. Fishermen and children used as crayfish runners were often paid with drugs.

However, Mr Johnston said that the bulk of poached crayfish was smuggled overseas.

He said the local demand for crayfish, especially tails, has always been market-related and is popular among the local communities during Easter. After Easter the demand usually drops significantly, bringing with it a decline in poaching.

"In the Far East there is virtually no market left for South African crayfish. That market now leans towards Australian crayfish, which is of a superior quality and sells for cheaper because of a high government subsidy," he said.

Senior marine conservation inspector Rupert Grundling said the Department of Sea Fisheries was growing "increasingly concerned" about the resource and said if poaching continued at the current rate, it could be destroyed "in a very short time".

An intelligence lieutenant from the South African National Defence Force and five accomplices appeared in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court last week for the illegal possession of 220kg of unshelled perlemoen. The case has been postponed to May 22.

The lieutenant, Werner Kruger, was arrested during a joint raid by the Department of Fisheries and members of the Military Police on a warehouse in Montague Gardens.

"We believe that through the arrests we have made an important breakthrough in our investigation into the perlemoen-smuggling syndicates," Mr Grundling said.

SA-EU talks on fisheries 'constructive'

(7) FISHING 00 20/4/98

John Dlodlu

SA AND the European Union have opened serious talks on a fisheries agreement to address growing frustration by certain EU states that not enough progress was being made on nontrade aspects of the trade, development and co-operation negotiations.

An EU source described the talks as "very constructive" pointing out that there was "now an understanding of what each of us is trying to achieve".

An official at the SA embassy to the EU in Brussels said at the weekend last week's round, also attended by EU member states, had shed more light on the complex negotiations.

"The (EU members) appreciated the direct access to information. They realised that we are different from other

African countries (with whom the EU has 'first generation' fishing agreements) which have excess quotas and no fleets," she said.

Last week's round of talks agreed to a future working programme. Two further meetings are planned for May and July.

Although central to the current free trade area talks, the fisheries agreement does not necessarily have to be concluded simultaneously with the free trade negotiations. The EU is seeking access to SA's fishing waters, but progress in talks has so far been hindered by the fact that SA is still writing its fisheries policy.

The EU source said the two sides agreed to search for imaginative ways of establishing EU-SA "partnerships" in the fishing sector without necessarily duplicating existing EU fisheries accords with third countries.

"We want a recipe that would work for SA," the SA official said.

The "first generation" fisheries accords with Brussels' African, Caribbean and Pacific partners, give EU fishermen access to their waters. In return, the EU — via its common fishing policy kitty — compensates the partners.

However SA, which is still trying to allocate its quotas for disadvantaged fishermen, has made it known there will be no "outright quotas".

"South Africans will be served first," the SA diplomat said.

A possibility of using a portion of the EU's aid package and the fishing budget to SA to support "joint (EU-SA) enterprises" was discussed. "This (use of both sources) would ensure coherence between the fishing and development policies," the EU source said.

The EU is also keen to have co-operation with SA on a range of fisheries issues, including marketing, monitoring, control and surveillance.

The fisheries talks are important to the present free trade area negotiations for a number of reasons.

One of these is that other EU countries, like Spain, would like to see some progress being made on fisheries before backing the mooted free trade area due to be concluded in June.

The other reason is that lack of progress on fisheries talks could delay agreement on fish-based items currently the subject of discussion under the free trade area. The understanding to search jointly for a "unique" EU-SA fisheries accord, with no guaranteed quotas for EU fishermen, suggests a softening of the EU stance.

SA-EU talks on fisheries 'constructive'

(SA) (7) FISHING

NO 20/4/98

John Diudlu

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SA firms traded in toothfish — report

Linda Ensor

BD 20/4/98

③ FISHING

CAPE TOWN — Three SA firms have been accused of involvement in the lucrative, but illegal, trade in Patagonian toothfish which have been so over-exploited in southern Indian Ocean waters that they could become extinct.

It has been estimated that as much as R800m is generated by the illegal trade in the deepwater fish, a much prized delicacy in Japan. While the total allowable catch is about 10 000 tons per annum, the illegal catch is estimated to be 80 000 tons.

The MDs of the Cape-based companies — Premier Fishing, Aluship and Hout Bay Fishing Company — denied the allegations made in a report by the

Australian research body, International Southern Oceans Longline Fisheries Information Clearing House (Isolfich).

They said their companies acted as agents for foreign-owned ships and had no control over their operations.

Aluship MD Peter Kuttel, whose family the report alleged was "particularly active" in the illegal trade — said none of the vessels handled by the company operated without a toothfish licence. Premier Fishing MD Chris Venn denied involvement, but said that as an agent, his company could not control how the vessels were used.

Colin van Schalkwyk, MD of Hout Bay Fishing which traded and processed toothfish until it lost its licence in December, conceded that the boats

could have been used for illegal fishing. However, the boat captains had to sign a statement that the toothfish landed were caught in international waters.

Isolfich established from port records that substantial volumes of illegal toothfish passed through SA ports. "The SA government needs to ensure that its legislative framework is adequate and its enforcement arrangements effective to deter involvement by its companies and agencies in the illegal trade in Patagonian toothfish," the report said.

Australia, France, New Zealand and SA recently joined forces to put diplomatic pressure on Mauritius and Namibia to stop their ports from being used to process toothfish.

Sea Harvest looks east for abalone expansion

CT (M) 29/11/98
VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Sea Harvest, the fishing operation based in Saldanha Bay, said yesterday that the first 3 000 abalone (perlemoen) farmed at its Port Elizabeth farm had reached market size, and part of the batch would be exported for a test run in the lucrative Far East market.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, said the company was exploring the popularity of abalone offshore.

"We are finding out whether abalone enjoys a limitless market in China or whether it remains a niche market aimed at Far East restaurants," Penzhorn said.

Either way, it was a "substantial market currently under-supplied", and Sea Harvest was confident of success.

The coming on stream of the abalone farm put the fishing group, whose main business includes deep sea trawling, at the

(3) existing
forefront of South African aquaculture, Penzhorn said.

The company had invested R20 million in its aquaculture operations, which included the Knysna Oyster Company, a Sea Harvest subsidiary, and a controlling stake in Marine Growers, a Sea Harvest associate company specialising in abalone farming.

"We expect to see regular sales of abalone towards the end of next year, by which time we will be producing 30 tons of market-size abalone a year," Penzhorn predicted.

On future prospects for the industry, he said South African abalone probably ranked third highest worldwide after Japanese-cultivated abalone and abalone of the Pacific west coast of the US.

"If we can dislodge either of the top two we will witness an exponential increase in demand. We have therefore designed our farm to produce an optimum 60 tons per year," said Penzhorn.

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cause their frequent plane
local farmers, who say th
selves think over weekends
Flying club members also
posed a safety hazard when

R17m research aquarium opens

CHARL DE VILLIERS

FISHING

(CM) ST 3/5/98

THE new, state-of-the-art Sea Fisheries research aquarium in Sea Point has major potential for developing a thriving mariculture industry in South Africa, marine scientists said this week.

Opening the R17-million aquarium, Environment Affairs Minister Dr Pallo Jordan stressed the importance of research into mariculture or sea farming, which was expected to provide about a quarter of the world's seafood by 2010.

While mariculture currently yielded about 15 percent of all seafood eaten globally, sea farming in South Africa accounted for less than one percent of seafood production.

Calling for a dynamic policy on mariculture, Rhodes University aquaculture specialist Dr Peter Britz said sea farming was a means of expanding resources and bringing about greater equity among disadvantaged fishing communities.

Namibian turnaround boosts Sea Harvest earnings by 8%

17/11 4/5/98
Madeleine van Niekerk
③ Making

A R3,2m turnaround at its Namibian operations helped Sea Harvest increase headline earnings 8% to R28,9m in the six months to March.

Growth in headline earnings a share were slightly lower at 5% to 27,8c following an increase in the weighted number

of shares in issue.

MD Louis Penzhorn said the Namibian hake and lobster catch rates were showing encouraging improvement and the hake total allowable catch had increased from 120 000 tons last year to 150 000 tons.

He said summer hake catches in SA had been erratic, resulting in landings being be-

hind last year. However, Sea Harvest succeeded in posting a turnover increase of 2% to R238m, despite lower sales volumes in a sluggish world white fish market. These factors had a negative impact on operating profit which declined 9%.

Penzhorn said the total allowable catch for hake in SA was set at 151 000 tons, com-

pared to last year's 153 700 tons. The trawling industry's allocation for this year was reduced in favour of new entrants to the fishery engaged in catching hake by line.

Sea Harvest expects that, once quotas have been finalised for this year, the company's allocation will be reduced by about 2 500 tons to 53 200 tons.

Sea Harvest earnings get a boost from Namibia

CT (PDR) 4/5/98 (3) FISHING

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Sea Harvest, the fishing operation based in Saldanha Bay, lifted interim attributable earnings 8 percent to R30,08 million, mainly because of a R3,2 million turnaround at its Namibian operation in Luderitz, Louis Penzhorn, the managing director, said at the weekend.

"The Namibian hake and lobster catches are showing encouraging improvement and the hake total allowable catch (TAC) for

1998 has increased from 120 000 tons in 1997 to 150 000," he said. But he said summer hake catches in South Africa had been erratic, causing landings to be behind the previous year.

Earnings growth a share notched up 5 percent to 27,8c and turnover ticked 2 percent higher to R239,2 million. The group's main business includes deep sea trawling, mainly for hake. But lower sales volumes in a sluggish world white fish market weighed on operating profit, which dipped

by 9 percent. The TAC for hake in South Africa had been set at 151 000 tons compared with 153 700 tons last year. A dampening factor was that the trawling industry's proportion of the TAC this year had been reduced in favour of new entrants to the fishing industry that caught hake by line.

"Once quotas have been finalised for (this year) we expect our allocation to be reduced by about 2 500 tons to 53 200 tons," Penzhorn said.

But positive factors for the period ahead were that world white fish prices were stabilising and that local retail market volumes had recovered after a poor start to the year.

"Provided traditionally good winter catch rates in South Africa materialise and the improved catch rates in Namibia are sustained, the increase in headline earnings per share for the full year is expected to be similar to that achieved for the first six months," Penzhorn said.

Acquisition helps lift Oceana's earnings

③ FISHING
Samantha Sharpe

MO 6/5/98

CAPE TOWN — Fishing group Oceana lifted headline earnings 33% to 39c a share in the six months to March, boosted by the acquisition of the business and trademarks of canning company Federal Marine.

The growth, which reflected attributable profit of R40,8m compared with R40,5m previously, was accompanied by a 15% rise in dividends to 8,1c a share.

Oceana chairman Don Ncube said group turnover, which rose 27% to R630m in the period under review, benefited from the inclusion of Federal Marine, which was acquired with effect from January. However, the sale of fishmeal stock from the late allocation of an anchovy total allowable catch late last year and the steadily rising pilchard total allowable catch had also benefited the company.

Operating profit rose 35% to R65,5m, with profit before tax and abnormal items 29% higher than the same time last year. Abnormal income of R1m, representing the profit on disposal of surplus property, was significantly lower than the previous year, which included the profit on disposal of the group's marine diamond mining concessions.

This brought pretax profit to R65,4m compared with R60,45m at the same time last year.

On the group's fishing business Ncube said the lobster catch had been good, with the group expecting to land its full quota, while landings of industrial fish were also positive.

"Pilchard landings to date and cannery production performance was satisfactory," he said.

The trading and shipping divisions performed well with further improved operating margins. The cold storage division achieved higher occupancy levels and improved profitability.

COMPANY NEWS

FISHING *Interims boosted by purchase of Federal Marine*

Ocfish nets a 33% earnings increase

CT (MR) 6/5/98
VERA VON LIERES

③ FISHING

Cape Town — Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), the marine products company jointly owned by Real Africa Holdings and Tiger Oats, netted another set of strong results yesterday when it reported a 33 percent increase in headline earnings to 39c a share for the six months to March 31.

Don Ncube, the Ocfish chairman, said group turnover had been boosted by the inclusion of Federal Marine, the fish products company, into the group from the start of the year, and by healthy lobster catches.

"One of the factors contributing to the results was the sale of fishmeal stock from the late allocation of an anchovy total allowable catch last year, which benefited the industry as a whole," said Ncube.

The steady rise in the total allowable catch for pilchards had also boosted the industry.

Turnover grew 27 percent to



NET PROFIT Don Ncube, left, the Ocfish chairman, and Dave Behrens, the managing director

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

R630,6 million while operating profit rose 35 percent to R65,5 million. Attributable earnings gained slightly to R40,77 million from R40,45 million.

Ocfish is expected to land its full lobster catch quota this year.

Referring to the soon-to-be

enacted new fisheries legislation in the form of the Marine Living Resources Bill, Ncube said Ocfish was well placed to comply with the requirements laid down.

The Ocfish share rose 8c yesterday to close at R7,95.

EXPOSED: 'WHITE GOLD' LINKED TO CITY COMPANIES

Fish pirates net R500m

CT 7/5/98



AN AUSTRALIAN report says Patagonian toothfish are being fished out in the Southern Ocean by fish pirates and local fishermen back its claim that South African firms are involved. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

FISHING
TWO city fishermen have lifted the lid on a slick and highly organised fishing piracy operation that earns millions of illegal rands for fishing companies operating trawlers in South African fishing grounds near Antarctica.

The pirate trawlers' target is the Patagonian toothfish, for which there is a market conservatively estimated to be well over R500 million a year.

The toothfish is known as "white gold" because a large trawler can rake in about R20m for a full catch of the fish.

Details of the operation were given by the two fishermen just as Isolfich (International Southern Oceans Longline Fisheries Information Clearing House), an Australian-based conservation trust, released a report on the illegal toothfish trade which implicated South African companies — specifically Cape Town-based companies.

It is estimated that the value of the illegal toothfish industry in South African waters around Marion and Prince Edward islands in the past 18 months is about \$100m (about R500m) — money that should have come to South Africa, but which ended up in poachers' pockets.

It is illegal to fish for toothfish without permits in the Southern Ocean area controlled by the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources, an international convention which aims to ensure that the marine resources of the Antarctic are not wiped out. South Africa is a signatory to this convention.

The Isolfich report says some of the ships involved in the illegal toothfish trade have strong South African connections, and the French authorities, who recently arrested two pirate fishing vessels, have asked the Department of Foreign Affairs to establish whether the vessels are connected to South African companies.

The two fishermen, Gary and Gert, were recruited by Cape Town company Aluship Pty Ltd and flown to Mauritius, where they joined the fishing vessels.

The Isolfich report describes Mauritius as the "pirate capital" of the illegal toothfish trade, and says the country is using the trade to help finance its new freeport zone

at Port Louis.

Gary first sailed on the *Antarctico*, which was later renamed the *Northern Pride*. "They change their names so that they can't get caught," he said. "Sometimes they sail as pirates and paint out the names."

Gert, who was also recruited by Aluship and flown to Mauritius, sailed on the *Garoya*, which, he says, caught toothfish illegally in South African waters around Marion Island.

Gert was also recruited by Aluship to sail on the *Praia do Rostello*. His pay slip shows that the *Praia* hauled in 79 tons of toothfish on the first trip and 86 tons on the second. Both catches were landed at Port Louis, in Mauritius.

Toothfish, which is a delicacy, particularly in Japan, sells for around \$45 (about R225) a kilogram.

Spokesman for the French embassy in Pretoria, Mr Jean-Philippe Guiltat, said: "We suspect the *Praia* is linked to a South African company, and have officially asked South Africa if they have knowledge of this, but so far we have had no response."

The Isolfich report claims to have identified three companies in Mauritius that are involved in the illegal toothfish trade.

The report states: "These are Food Allied Industries Ltd (Fail), including their association with the South African-based Kuttel

family, Ireland Blyth Ltd and Happy World Marine. Additionally, we have managed to identify a number of key individuals: The Kuttel family (South African) and Captain Betuel.

"Fail is also linked to the Kuttel family and their company Aluship, through the latter's ownership and operation of the *Praia do Rostello*. They are large traders in toothfish and generally known to be involved in the illegal trade."

The report said the Kuttels also bought toothfish from the *Cape Flower*, the *Arctic Fox*, the *Monte Confurco* and the *Explorer* (previously named *Krill*).

It said the *Praia do Rostello*, flying the Portuguese flag, was operated by the Kuttel brothers' Aluship company. The vessel had been seen landing toothfish at Walvis Bay and East London in 1997.

The report says the Panamanian flagged *Explorer* operated in association with Hout Bay Fishing Industries (Pty) Ltd, which also operated the *Cape Flower* and *Arctic Fox*.

The *Cape Flower* and *Monte Confurco* had offloaded toothfish in Mauritius this year.

Asked to comment on the report, Mr Francois Kuttel of Aluship denied that

the company owned the *Praia do Rostello*, and said it was owned by a Portuguese company.

"We are only agents. We have never bought toothfish from the *Cape Flower*, the *Arctic Fox* or the *Monte Confurco*."

"We were also only agents for the *Antarctico*, which is also owned by a Portuguese company," Kuttel said.

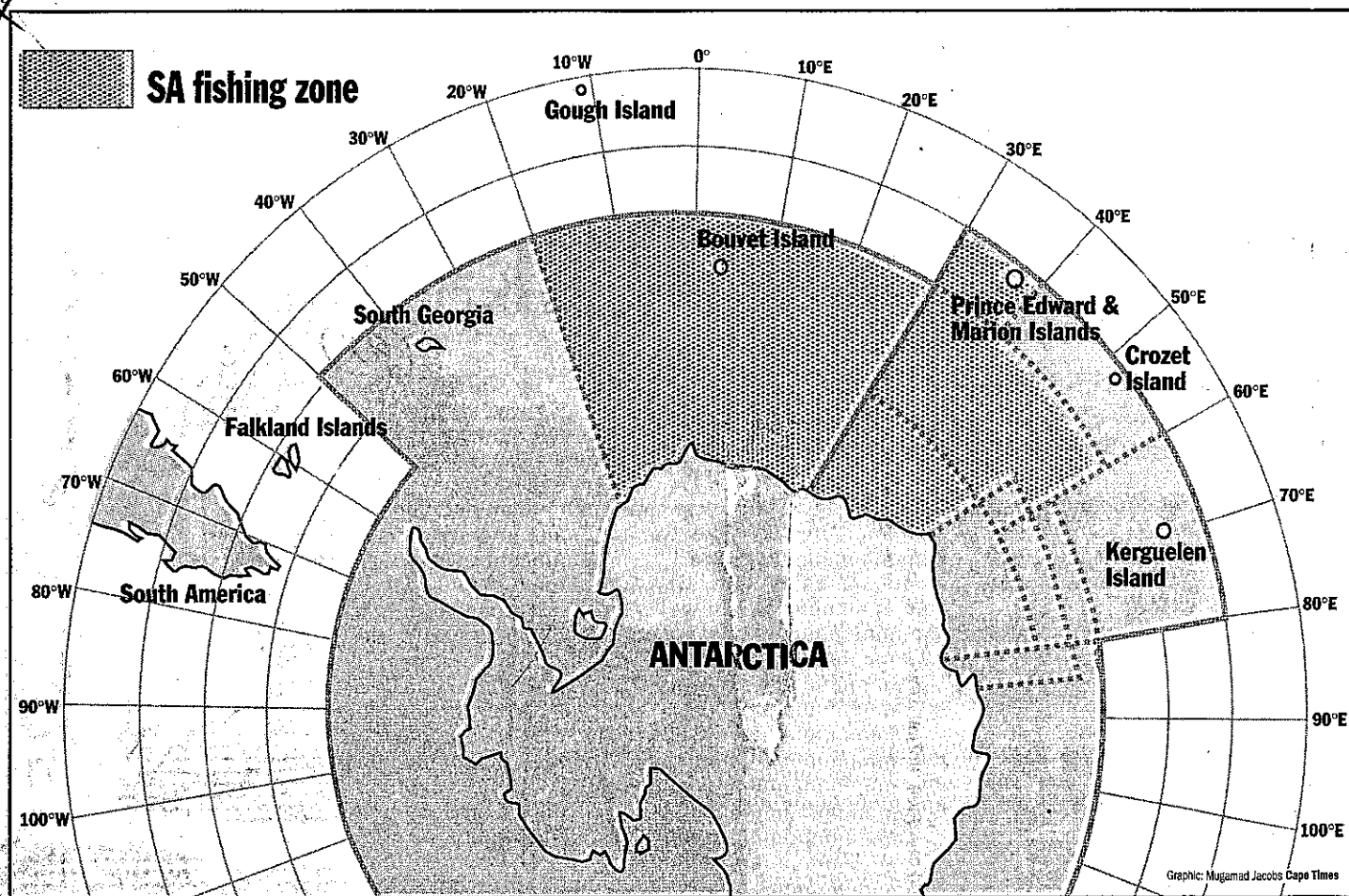
He said claims in the Isolfich report that Aluship was involved in illegal toothfish

Turn to Page 3

Illegal trade has strong South African connections — report



'WHITE GOLD': A city crew member with a Patagonian toothfish illegally caught on a "pirate" ship he worked on in the Southern Ocean this summer. The fish are called "white gold" because they fetch around R225 a kilogram.



Graphic: Mugamad Jacobs Cape Times

Only five permits issued to catch toothfish

③ FISHING

CT 7/5/98

(56)

□ From Page 1 trading were "unfortunate".

The *Cape Times* asked Hout Bay Fishing Industries to comment on the Isolfich report, and faxed them the sections relating to their company, but they did not respond.

Sea Fisheries marine scientist Dr Denzil Miller said only five permits had been issued to vessels to fish for toothfish in South African waters around Marion and Prince Edward Islands. Neither Aluship

nor Hout Bay Fishing Industries were toothfish permit holders.

The Patagonian toothfish was discovered as a commercially exploitable fish in 1996, which fitted the vacant market niche left by the Antarctic cod, which had virtually been fished to extinction in the 1960s and '70s.

Miller said: "Because of the high prices and the difficulty of controlling poaching on the vast Southern Ocean, the toothfish are being

overfished. If they are not fished sustainably, South Africa will lose a resource that could continue producing income for a long time.

"Biologically, we know almost nothing about the toothfish, but we can say that the catch rates are substantially lower than they were 18 months ago, both in size and quantity. If levels of illegal fishing are not contained, the toothfish will be depleted within three or four years."

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment said yesterday that the cabinet had approved a plan last year to send an SA naval vessel to Marion Island to patrol for poachers.

● Crew member Gert says he has an axe to grind with Aluship because, he claims, they owe him nearly R3 000 in leave and other pay. Aluship told the *Cape Times* they had a letter signed by Gert accepting the amount he was paid.

Jordan establishes task force to stop the pillage of toothfish

David Greybe

~~3~~ FISHING

CAPE TOWN—An interdepartmental task force had been created to act on the pillage of the valuable Patagonian toothfish in the southern Indian Ocean, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan said in Parliament on Friday.

During his budget vote, Jordan said poaching and unregulated fishing of the toothfish around SA's Prince Edward islands was causing "such a loss of earnings to local industry that cabinet has taken notice". A task force had therefore been created.

Up to R800m a year in earnings was lost to toothfish poaching in the southern Indian Ocean. It is estimated that 80% of the 100 000 tons of toothfish caught illegally in the world in the past 18 months have been taken in the southern Indian Ocean.

Jordan said SA had joined with other concerned nations, such as Australia, France, New Zealand and Norway, "in leading global efforts to reduce the pillage in the southern ocean". Australia and France hold sovereignty over other islands in the area.

There were now also reports of SA trawlers pirating toothfish, Jordan said. "These must be eliminated if we are to face the future of the fishing industry with any certainty," he said.

The department had committed

"both human and financial resources to addressing the problems that we face in the sphere of law enforcement and patrolling of our exclusive economic zone", Jordan said.

High level meetings between the department and SA Police Service (SAPS) had seen co-operation between sea fisheries officials and members of the SAPS reach new levels.

"We have taken tentative first steps towards putting an end to the blatant disregard for the law that is stripping our country's valuable abalone resources from waters of the Western and Eastern Cape," Jordan said.

Success was critical because, Jordan said, continued plundering of SA's natural resources jeopardised future development opportunities. The department was also engaged in an intensive planning process to address "the critical shortage of funds that keeps our patrol vessels within the walls of harbours around our coast".

The National Party's Wilhelm le Roux said the issue was of grave concern, and "obviously" the department needed extra resources.

Le Roux suggested the department appoint "honorary environmental officers" to assist in the task. "There are literally thousands of concerned citizens who would be willing to help if they are asked to assist and motivated to do so," Le Roux said.

BD 11/5/98

Cops on course to foil poachers

Desperate southern Cape police learn marine science in bid to get upper hand

BOBBY JORDAN

ST (CM) 17/5/98 (3) FISHING

SOUTHERN Cape police are being given a crash course in marine science in a desperate bid to combat rampant poaching in the Hermanus and Gansbaai areas.

The move follows an upsurge in skirmishes between poachers and law enforcers over the illegal removal of millions of rands worth of perlemoen and crayfish, said to be the main source of income for many fishing communities along the coast.

Police say they are completely outnumbered by heavily armed poachers who regularly chase them away from the most popular diving areas.

"These guys are laughing at us. We've been fighting a losing battle," head of the police marine investigation unit Captain Douglas Roman said this week.

The marine science crash course at the Paarl training college was the first step in a major crackdown against poaching syndicates, Roman said.

At the first workshop earlier this month, police members from five southern Cape stations received training from sea fisheries officials on how to recognise various species of marine life.

They also learnt new investigative skills aimed at getting more poachers convicted.

"The purpose of this whole thing is to enable cops on the ground to do a better job when apprehending poaching suspects," Roman said.

"At the moment there's no real deterrent. There aren't enough cops to investigate all the cases and even if a case does get to court, the poachers aren't given prison sentences — they just have to pay a fine, which is easy for them as most of them make a lot of money.

"Police in the southern Cape are completely outnumbered by poachers. It's often happened that patrols are literally chased away," Roman said.

On Thursday, sea fisheries officials were chased away from a diving spot in Gansbaai by a group of about 100 poachers, Roman said.

Police were also woefully under-equipped, he added, without cell-phones or proper vehicles.

"Poachers all have cell phones and some of them drive around in 4x4s which makes it really easy for them to get away."

Specialist team uncovers gillnet fishing syndicates

Tons being taken across the border

BY MELANIE-ANN FERIS
Environmental Reporter

A specialist team targeting unlawful gillnet fishing in fresh water sources in South Africa has uncovered illegal fishing syndicates operating around the country and even spreading across borders to neighbouring countries.

Craig Viljoen and his team from the Eko-care Trust, a volunteer organisation dedicated to conserving South Africa's water ecosystems, have uncovered operators using illegal gillnets in such resources as the Hartbeespoort dam, the Vaal dam, Pongola dam and even the St Lucia estuary.

"There is not a dam in the country that does not have a problem with netting," Viljoen said.

The use of illegal gillnets has escalated with the development of an extensive market for fresh water fish - one of the cheapest and most nutritious food forms - in South Africa and neighbouring countries such as Mozambique and Swaziland.

"Initially people were only fishing for their own needs, but they found that fishing for illegal operators was an excellent way to make money. In certain parts of the country operators are offering fishermen up to R15 per kilogram of fresh fish," Viljoen said.

"We know of one illegal operator in the North-West province who is selling 14 tons of fresh fish per week, another operator from Thohoyandou that enters Mozambique with up to three tons of fresh water fish, sometimes four times per week. We are investigating where the fish goes and who he bribes at the border controls," Viljoen said.

Illegal gillnet fishing has impacted negatively on indigenous fresh water fish species.

In the Hartbeespoort Dam alone, the blue kurper has been almost completely wiped out.

Apart from this, gillnets are also responsible for nylon pollution in water

resources. Hundreds of kilometres of gillnets are removed from rivers and dams annually, mostly littered with the bodies of fish and birds which become tangled in the nets.

Despite the threat to the environment, illegal operators only face maximum admission of guilt fines of R200, if the case does go to court, he said.

Neither the Gauteng SAPS nor its endangered species protection unit regard illegal gillnet fishing as a priority crime and say law enforcement with regards to this problem falls on the shoulders of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

But the department itself does not have the manpower to enforce the law and instead concentrate their efforts on such priority crimes as trade control for illegal wildlife and products.

Steve Fourie, head of conservation

for the Gauteng Department of Environmental Affairs, said the province - and Johannesburg especially - was the clearing house for illegal trade in endangered species and wildlife products including ivory, rhino horn and perlemoen.

With limited manpower the department concentrates its efforts

on trade control of these products.

According to Fourie, only 20% of law enforcement posts in his department have been filled, forcing the department to play only a reactive role in trying to stop environmental crime.

Additional law enforcement officers will be deployed in areas such as Johannesburg, Sebokeng and Vanderbijlpark over the next two months.

In the meantime, the onus falls on the public to be on the lookout for illegal activities, and report it to the department, he said.

Viljoen said: "With only three members who have to cover the entire country I sometimes feel we are fighting a losing battle."

But the unit has had some success in bringing perpetrators to book. Recently 19 illegal operators were arrested in the Witbank area. Their cases are still pending.

“
**Operators
willing to
pay up to
R15 a kilo**
”

Sekunjalo Investments to split its controlling share on a 70:30 basis

Workers land big share of Premier Fishing

CT (MOR) 28/5/98 (9) FISHING

MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Sekunjalo Investments, the Western Cape-based empowerment initiative, has acquired a 60 percent stake in Premier Fishing, a subsidiary of Premier Foods, in a R60 million deal, Iqbal Surve, the chief executive of Sekunjalo, said yesterday.

Surve said the acquisition was concluded in partnership with Premier's factory workers and fishermen, who would effectively own 70 percent of this investment in the fishing company.

He said the mechanism through which the workers would hold shares was in the process of being finalised and that Sekunjalo was firmly committed to split the investment on 70:30 basis between the workers and itself.

"We view this as a landmark empowerment deal as workers will effectively become the new owners of the company where they are employed," he said.

Sekunjalo has an option to acquire another 20 percent stake currently held by Premier within two years or on its listing on the JSE. Premier's Share Trust for management and employees will retain the remaining 20 percent stake in the company.

Surve said that the deal would have wide-ranging implications for the restructuring of the fishing industry and had the potential to improve the lives of



GREAT CATCH Iqbal Surve, the chief executive of Sekunjalo Investments, Gertruida Vraagom, a supervisor at Premier Fishing and Ian Heron, the managing director of Premier Foods, celebrate the empowerment deal

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

workers in places like Port Nolloth, Saldanha Bay, Humansdorp and Hout Bay.

"We hope that this deal will break new ground in the way in which black empowerment companies do business in South Africa," he said.

Surve said the deal included Premier's two aquaculture farms, trademarks like South Atlantic rock lobster and Pecks and Redro fish paste ranges as well as Premier Fishing's assets like vessels, factory plants and a cannery.

"Premier Fishing is a suc-

cessful company with a good track record of profitability. Sekunjalo and its partners believe they are very well placed to add value and to reposition the company to benefit from new legislation on Marine Living Resources," Surve said.

He said Sekunjalo's partners were committed to bringing about changes in the work culture in order to improve productivity and increase profitability.

Surve said that three institutions had been lined up to finance the deal.

yesterday's tumble.

Fishermen land own firm

③ FISHING

ARL 28/5/98

BUSINESS REPORTER

Cape empowerment company Sekunjalo, in partnership with Premier Fishing workers, has bought a controlling interest in Premier Fishing for R60-million.

The long-awaited deal announced by the companies yesterday includes Premier Fishing's two aquaculture farms, trademarks like South Atlantic rock lobster and the Peck's and Redro fishpaste brands and assets like fishing vessels, factory plant and a cannery.

Sekunjalo chief executive Iqbal Surve said the purchase was a land-

mark empowerment deal where workers effectively became the owners of the company where they were employed.

"It is undoubtedly a deal which will have wide-ranging implications for the restructuring of the fishing industry and has the potential of improving the lives of a significant number of factory workers and fishermen in places like Port Nolloth, Saldanha Bay, Humansdorp and Hout Bay," Dr Surve said.

Sekunjalo was committed to a 70-30 split between the fishing workers and itself, he said. Sekunjalo would have overall management responsibility.

FISHING 'Milestone' deal will see consortium in control

Sea Harvest charts empowerment deal

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Sea Harvest, the fishing operation, had entered into a "milestone" empowerment deal which would see the business jointly controlled by a consortium headed by Brimstone Investments, ICS Holdings and other empowerment groups, Louis Penzhorn, the managing director, said yesterday.

The in-principle agreement, which should be finalised by the end of the month, will rank among the top empowerment deals in the Western Cape.

"This signals a milestone in the history of our business," said Penzhorn. For the first time, the fishing group would be under the direct control of an empowerment consortium. Employees would own 8 percent directly in the business.

The deal was born in response to the new fisheries policy introduced by the government earlier this year. This stipulated that the industry needed to transform its ownership base. The Marine Living Resources Bill was passed by government in March, signalling the most comprehensive ever restructuring of the fishing industry.

One of the suggested routes of transformation was to change the shareholding profile of companies.

Penzhorn said control of Sea Harvest would pass from ICS Holdings, the industrial holding group with food interests, to a consortium consisting of Brimstone, one of the biggest empowerment groups in the Western Cape, ICS and other empowerment groups which had not yet been named.

Brimstone, which plans to



POWER TO THE PEOPLE Mustaq Brey (back), Brimstone's chairman, and CEO Fred Robertson

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

list on the JSE early in July, had taken the lead in setting up the consortium, Penzhorn said.

Mustaq Brey, the chairman of Brimstone, said the company would facilitate the transfer of real ownership of Sea Harvest shares to groups and people from historically disadvantaged communities and various fishing communities.

"In implementing the transaction, Brimstone has not made

use of any debt and contributes to the vision of spreading empowerment to a broader sector of South African society," Brey said.

Brimstone is worth more than R500 million and has more than R100 million in cash reserves.

The Sea Harvest share price was untraded on the JSE yesterday at its previous close of R4,50.

INQUIRY INTO QUOTA BOARD REQUESTED

Become legal now, Jordan urges poachers

A DIAGRAM BY poachers showed that nearly double the legal quota of perlemoen was poached from SA's waters. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

On the left sat Environment Minister Pallo Jordan, guardian of the country's natural resources. On the right sat Andy Johnson, the man who coordinates the country's perlemoen and crayfish poachers. It was a strange meeting, called by the poachers because they were worried about the dwindling marine resources, Johnson said. Jordan told them to become legal, to come on board now that the new Marine Resources Act was in place, which went a long way to rectifying the huge injustices of the

apartheid past where many were denied access to the sea's bounty. The poachers produced a diagram which revealed exactly how many tons of poached perlemoen and crayfish reached the black market, most of which went overseas. "We can have a direct influence on controlling poaching, which is escalating," Johnson said. But first the poachers wanted to know from the minister how they would be treated when quotas were allocated if they became legal. Said one man: "People have been forced to act illegally. What

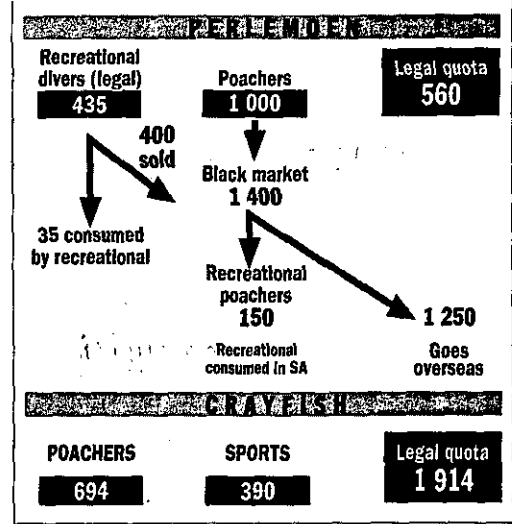
treatment will poachers get? Will the people who don't have this history in the industry get more favourable treatment than us?" Jordan replied: "Whether you acted legally or illegally or partially illegally, the new law wants to make space for all. We're saying do so now, formerly and legally. Go through the routes of permits and licences or registration. Legalise yourselves, and no one will refer to what you did yesterday." The diagram drawn by the poachers showed that a huge 1 000 tons of perlemoen was poached every year — almost double the legal quota of 560 tons a year. Another 150 tons were illegally taken out by what they described as "recreational poachers", who

they described as people who had jobs and poached for fun. Most of the catch they kept themselves. Another 435 tons of perlemoen were taken out by recreational divers, all of whom had legitimate recreational permits. But, they said, about 400 tons of this was sold on the black market. They estimated that only about 35 tons were consumed by the recreational divers. The legal quota for crayfish was 1 914 tons, sports divers took out 390 tons and the poachers 694 tons. The poachers called on the minister for a commission of inquiry into the quota board, which they said had acted corruptly for years. Jordan said the quota board would be scrapped before next sea-

son, and said he believed the huge amount of taxpayers' money a commission would cost could be far better spent on providing much needed infrastructure such as schools, clinics and roads. "I'm very reluctant to do so, but it is a citizen's right to demand a commission, and if people feel strongly enough about it, I will reconsider," Jordan said. After Jordan had left, poachers were worried that if they became legal, there were groups waiting on the sidelines to "fill the vacuum". But another poacher said if they became legal, the communities the poachers came from would feel a sense of ownership over the resource and would police it. "We've got to ensure we elimi-

nate the new entrants who've never got their hands wet. We don't want people from Gauteng jumping on the bandwagon and receiving preference over us. If that happens, poaching will continue," said a man. Said Johnson: "We must not forget the threat of black empowerment groups sitting on the sidelines. Do we agree that we must work together to form a lobby group — or we'll all be the losers." The upshot was: The poachers will now form a task team to investigate poaching, not just perlemoen and crayfish but hake and all the rest, after which they will present a report to the minister. They will also form a task-team to lobby for a commission of inquiry into the quota board.

CT 12/6/98 @FISHING



CATCH THE TRAIL: Poachers reveal the number of quotas per ton that went out of the country.

NEWS

(3 Fishing)

Hake permits 'will boost fish industry'

ETC(BE) 9/7/98

RAVIN MAHARAJ

Durban — The Eastern Cape fishing industry, which generates over R200 million a year, would be boosted by the government's recent decision to issue long-line hake permits to fishermen in the region, Bryan Knox, a director of the Port St Francis harbour project, said yesterday.

He said hake fishing would result in year-round employment for fishermen, who previously had only been able to work during the five-month squid season.

The R25 million privately built harbour would facilitate this growth, as the off-loading facilities would be able to cater for both hake and squid catches.

The Eastern Cape has a lucrative squid industry, which generates about R150 million a year.

Squid catches between Plettenberg Bay and Port Alfred account for more than 95 percent of

South Africa's squid catches. About 99 percent of locally fished squid is exported.

The industry provides jobs for about 8 000 people and consists of 159 small, independent enterprises, with no single participant owning more than 10 percent of the industry.

Knox said the harbour, which accommodates commercial vessels and recreational craft, formed part of the R300 million luxury resort development at Port St Francis, comprising residential villages clustered around a working and recreational harbour.

The harbour recently passed technical checks, which went ahead despite some of the worst sea storms along the coastline in recent times, Knox said.

At present the harbour was working at peak capacity during the busy squid season, which was often accompanied by treacherous fishing conditions.

Fish-hungry EU blackmails the Cape wine industry

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ARG 25/7/98

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Outrage is growing over the suspected "blackmail" tactics being used by Spain and Portugal to extort fishing rights from South Africa.

The Spanish and Portuguese are apparently using the unrelated issue of Cape wine exports as a bargaining tool to get their hands on the fish in South African waters.

The European Union, negotiating on behalf of Spain and Portugal, is demanding that South Africa stop using the names "port" and "sherry" for local fortified wines, even though Cape wines have borne these labels for two centuries and they have become household names here.

The Europeans reportedly say they would be prepared to let South Africa continue using the names "port" and "sherry" - if they were granted a "concession" giving them fishing rights in South African waters as a trade-off.

So far, the South Africans have told them to jump in the ocean.

~~WINE~~

The Spanish lay claim to the term "sherry", which is named after the Jerez region of Spain, while the Portuguese claim the right to "port" wine, named after the northern city of Oporto in Portugal.

South Africa's wine and fishing industries say the two issues are totally unrelated.

If the port and sherry labels are banned for use here, it could hit the Cape wine industry hard: these wines make up 8% of South Africa's wine exports.

The EU is negotiating a new trade deal with South Africa on behalf of all EU members, including Spain and Portugal, which have long been seeking to extend their fishing fleet in the South Atlantic, which has rich fish resources.

The KWV, representing the South African wine industry, says the EU appears to have picked on South Africa and ignored other wine-producing countries such as the United States and Australia.

Monde Mayekiso, chief director of Sea Fisheries, said: "The European Union is putting pressure on South Africa to get fishing rights

~~WINE~~ ~~FISHING~~

in South African waters."

Mr Mayekiso said agreements in the 1970s allowing these countries to fish in South African waters had fallen away.

A member of the EU delegation in South Africa said discussions were being held on an agreement on wine and spirits, which would include the ban on the use of the terms "port" and "sherry".

He confirmed the EU was also negotiating fishing rights on behalf of its members.

"In the context of these discussions, members of the union can give mandates for negotiating special agreements," he said.

A spokesman for the Food and Allied Workers' Union, Danny-Boy Masemola, said: "We reject the EU's view that we should not use the terms port and sherry, but to ban the terms locally would be to rub salt in the wound."

Mr Masemola said the Western Cape had produced sherry and port for the past 200 years.

He said banning the names would have a crippling effect on

To page 2

Blackmail scare over 'port'

From page 1

the local industry. Up to 4 000 jobs could be lost in rural areas and 2 000 in secondary industries, such as marketing and sales, he said.

Carel Nel, chairman of the South African Port Producers' Association, said the issue of the port and sherry labels should be treated as a separate issue from the fishing rights.

"The terms have been in use in South Africa for 200 years," he said. They had come to denote styles of wines.

Mr Nel said the terms were

~~WINE~~ ~~FISHING~~
allowed in other wine-producing countries, such as Australia, Canada and the United States.

A spokesman for the KWV cooperative said the local wine industry would put up a fight to retain the names, especially because they had been used for the past 200 years.

But Vaughan Johnson, a Waterfront wine retailer, has joined the fray.

He believes the names "port" and "sherry" should be dropped and the local products should develop their own identity "providing the wine-producing world is similarly restricted and treated equally".

ARG 25/7/98

Sowetan BUSINESS

Real power is economic

Group pays R148-m for joint stake in Sea Harvest

By Sowetan Business Reporter

EMPOWERMENT group Brimstone Investment Corporation is at the head of a consortium which has paid the current controlling shareholder of ICS Holdings R148 million for a joint stake in Sea Harvest Ltd.

The consortium, Brimco, comprises groups that represent rural fishing communities from the Western Cape, Eastern Cape and Northern Cape, trade unions and the National Empowerment Corporation.

In terms of the deal, ICS has disposed of 57 million Sea Harvest shares to newly formed Sea Harvest Holdings (SHH).

The purchase consideration of R256,5 million is to be settled by the

issue of 19 million ordinary shares and 38 million convertible preference shares in the share capital of SHH.

Brimco will pay R42,8 million in cash to ICS for 9,5 million ordinary shares in SHH, and will also acquire, in six equal tranches, 19 million preference shares in the issued share capital of SHH, representing a purchase consideration of R105 million.

Brimstone, which will hold between 51 percent and 66 percent in the newly formed Brimco, will effectively have joint control of Sea Harvest through SHH, which holds 52,9 percent of the listed Sea Harvest group.

Brimstone chairman Mustaq Brey, in announcing the initiative in Saldanha yesterday, described it as a milestone in terms of providing real

empowerment to previously disadvantaged communities.

Through the Brimco community shareholding scheme, previously disadvantaged investors will have access of up to 49 percent of Brimco stock and through it, an indirect holding in Sea Harvest.

"This agreement is a real undertaking to facilitate the transfer of ownership of Sea Harvest shares to groups and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and various fishing communities.

"We don't intend to change the focus of Sea Harvest, but to add value to these communities, by enhancing their livelihoods and making them more economically independent," said Brey.

③ FISHING Sowetan 7/8/98

I&J nets Italian markets

VERA VON LIERES

③ FISHING CT (PR) 18/8/98

Cape Town -- Irvin & Johnson (I&J), the frozen food fishing operation, had signed a multi-million rand export deal to supply Co-op Italia, Italy's largest single retail group, with a range of convenience seafood products, the company said yesterday.

The deal, worth R15 million a year, allows I&J to export a range of value added fish products under the Italian supermarket group's own brand labels.

Rodger Williams, I&J's general manager of seafoods marketing, said: "The agreement with Co-op Italia is the latest of many notable export contracts that I&J has entered into since sanctions

were lifted in 1994." Williams added that foreign markets for value added white fish products had opened up to those South African companies able to meet and maintain the stringent requirements demanded by offshore customers and consumers.

The deal brings I&J's annual seafood exports to about R500 million.

Williams said I&J already enjoyed European contracts to supply convenience seafood products. In Australia, I&J is a market leader in hake products for the food service sector.

The company's share price dipped 5c yesterday to R2,10 as 45 700 shares changed hands on the JSE.

I&J hooks export deal with Italian retailer

FISHING

Samantha Sharpe

18 18 198
FISHING group I&J had entered into a R15m-a-year export agreement with Italian retail group Co-op Italia, the retail arm of Italy's Association of Consumer Co-operatives, the group said yesterday.

The move, which would bring I&J's annual seafood exports to about R500m, would involve exports of a range of value-added fish products under the supermarket group's own brand label. Co-op Italia has 1 400 distribution outlets.

I&J seafood marketing GM Rodger Williams said the deal was the latest of many "notable" export contracts, which included Unilever's companies Frudesa in Spain, Sagit in Italy and Iglo in Portugal.

Other large European contracts included Pingo Doce, Portugal's biggest supermarket and hypermarket chain; Picard in France and Migros in Switzerland.

"Foreign markets for value-added white fish products have opened up to SA companies that are able to meet and maintain the stringent requirements demanded by overseas customers and their consumers," Williams said.

These flowed from rising world demand for convenience seafood products. Poor worldwide fish stocks and the decline of South American fisheries because of over-exploitation has resulted in foreign markets turning to alternative sources of supply.

"Only those countries with well-managed white fish resources, which SA has, and those fish processors with world-class value-added processing technology, will succeed in being considered by prestigious companies such as Unilever, Migros and Co-op Italia."

Commenting on one of Europe's new food trends, he said there had been a move away from traditional supermarket shopping towards home direct delivery.

"Virtual reality shopping by personal computer or direct service is becoming a reality in the lives of busy European housewives.

"I&J supplies tailor-made convenience seafood products to the market segment of distributors in France and Germany that provides such services to households," Williams said.

COMPANY NEWS

I&J hauls in better results for second half of tough year

CT (MR) 21/8/98 **FISHING**
VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Irvin & Johnson (I&J), the fishing and food company in the Anglovaal fold, managed to improve its second-half performance, lifting headline earnings by 11 percent to R110,9 million for the year to June 30, Roy Gordon, the managing director, said yesterday.

Headline earnings a share were 10 percent higher at 37,9c while pretax profit rose by 6 percent to R127,7 million.

Driving the better second half was a strong performance by the company's seafood and off-shore operations, the falling rand and the acquisition of the frozen vegetable business of Pillsbury Brands Africa in March for around R80 million, he said. Pillsbury includes household names like Table Top and Harvestime.

"A positive contribution from the Australian joint venture between I&J and Simplot Australia, and a R5,1 million turnaround in the company's interest in the Namibian fishery, grew headline earnings by 11 percent," Gordon said.

After a generally flat performance in the first half of the year, the seafoods division produced "excellent" results to finish the year with a 16 percent improvement in operating profit.

Turning to the group's off-shore operations, Gordon said these continued to deliver excellent results.

Fishing conditions in Namibia and Mauritania showed good improvements which, together with firm dollar prices, resulted in substantially better results from the pelagic fishing fleet.

The Simplot seafood, snacks and meals division in Australia performed ahead of expectations, he said.

The prepared foods division's operating profit improved by 25 percent compared with the 1997 figure, but Gordon said this was not satisfactory.

Local volumes, excluding sales from the newly acquired vegetable brands through the Pillsbury deal, remained static despite growth in market share.

The group said difficult local market conditions and high interest rates could partially be balanced out by accelerated export earnings.

Gordon said improved supply from Rainbow Chicken, which has a long-standing distribution agreement with I&J, and a full year of higher vegetable volumes through the Pillsbury brands, should prop up performance.

The share price edged 4c higher to R2,30 on the JSE yesterday as 293 100 shares changed hands.

Currency moves and exports contributed to improved performance in second half



TOUGH MARKET Roy Gordon says the growing export business and weaker rand helped I&J to better full-year results

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

Tide turns for workers in fishing industry

Communities get chance to profit from sea harvests

③ FISHING

ST(CM) 23/8/98

YVETTE VAN BREDA
and AYESHA ISMAIL



MORE MUSSELS: Saldanha Bay community mussel farmer, Freddie Gaobone, and assistants Albert May and Jan Booysen
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

TRANSFORMATION and black empowerment have become a reality in the fishing industry with workers gaining a significant stake in the R100-million Premier Fishing company.

Black empowerment company Sekunjalo Investments has acquired 80 percent of the former Premier Foods subsidiary, Premier Fishing — and given fishermen and factory workers 70 percent of its investment.

Thousands of workers from Premier's factories in Hout Bay, Humansdorp, Port Nolloth and the Waterfront crowded into a marquee at its fifth factory, Southern Sea Fishing, in Saldanha Bay for the handover ceremony and celebrations yesterday.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan told them the deal had opened an era of transformation in the Western Cape fishing industry.

"The economy of our country will prosper only when the majority become active and full participants," he said. "We are serious about bringing about a better future for all."

To loud applause and cheering, Jordan said there was no

longer a "baas and a Klaas" in the industry.

Sekunjalo would have overall management responsibility for Premier Fishing.

Yesterday's handover follows recent initiatives by Sea Harvest to include workers and the community among its stakeholders in the fishing industry.

Saldanha Bay, where major fishing companies have been farming mussels for up to six years, is one of the world's greatest mussel producers, outranking its competition in Spain and New Zealand.

Now Freddie Gaobone, 38, a member of Saldanha Bay's previously disadvantaged community, has joined the ranks of mussel farmers and is producing up to a ton of mussels a week.

His venture has been made possible by a pilot project initiated by the Centre for Integrated Rural Development (CIRD), which hopes to have 100 farmers afloat within three years.

"After the 1994 elections we decided it was time to involve the community in mussel farming to empower them economically," said project manager Sharon February.

A feasibility study had been carried out with Absa's help and meetings had been held with commercial fishing companies, which agreed the pros-

pects were good for small farmer development.

"We had to come up with about R68 000 to buy a raft," said February.

"Obviously we could not raise so much. Through negotiations, Sea Harvest provided a raft for Gaobone, our first community mussel farmer."

It was agreed that for the next five years Gaobone would sell his mussels only to Sea Harvest, which would deduct money for the raft from its payments to him.

Gaobone has also been taught business development, bookkeeping, business planning and management.

With two assistants, he grows mussels on ropes suspended from a wooden raft in the inner bay.

"I am excited about the project," he said. "Finally we have been given an opportunity to farm."

However, Gaobone believes he needs mechanical equipment to make his venture more productive.

Earlier this year, Portnet made 50ha of water available for leasing to small-scale mussel farmers.

"New farmers have been identified and are being oriented into the mussel farming project," February said.

There was regular consultation among the farmers to ensure the project succeeded.

INITIATIVE 'WISE AND BOLD'

Fishermen, workers sail into new deal with firm

② FISHING

THE LATEST EMPOWERMENT deal in the fishing industry will have workers and fishermen serving on the board of directors and co-managing operations. Senior Writer **YAZEED FAKIER** reports.

CT 24/8/98

AS soon as the speeches were over, the workers and fishermen, who came from as far afield as Port Nolloth and Hout Bay, broke into song.

The occasion? To celebrate the conclusion of months of negotiations that resulted in the black empowerment company Sekunjalo Investment handing 70% of its 80% stake in the Premier Fishing company to workers and fishermen.

The deal has been described as the most significant and historic black empowerment deal in the fishing industry — a point driven home by Environment Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan when he told the attentive gathering of workers in the marquee at Saldanha Bay: "You are now the boss."

One of the much-needed spin-offs of the ground-breaking coup is the revitalisation of the economically depressed areas and fishing communities of the Cape's west and southern coasts. The Premier Fishing company has factories at Port Nolloth, Humansdorp, Saldanha Bay, Hout Bay and the Waterfront. The new company sees its investment in these operations as opportunities to invest directly in the upliftment of struggling communities there.

Delivering his address to the packed launching ceremony at Southern Sea Fishing, one of Premier Fishing's five plants, Jordan noted that the new Marine Living Resources Act — which sought to bring together the diverse and often conflicting views of different stake-

holders in marine fisheries — comes into effect at the end of this month.

It was hoped that this law would create more jobs and encourage more people to become entrepreneurs through initiatives of their own.

"What we are witnessing today is an innovative way of building a new enterprise which entails the sharing of responsibility by those who work in it."

Premier Fishing and Sekunjalo's initiative was "wise and bold", he said. "We would like to see other major fishing companies emulate your lead."

There were rising expectations among the formerly oppressed, who now rightly wanted to gain full access to the nation's marine resources, and the new act would grant them that access.

But, he warned: "This does not mean that everyone who wants to fish, everyone who applies for a quota, will from September 1 be guaranteed that he will get a quota. Our marine resources are finite. They are not inexhaustible. We have to ensure that these resources are exploited in a sustainable manner."

Clearly moved by the significance of the event, an emotional Johnny Issel, an ANC MPL who has been closely involved with the empowerment deal, said after the formalities: "To think we fought all these years and here we are ... those sacrifices we've made ... this is the fruit of those battles we fought."

With the workers dancing to music provided by pop group The Rockets, Issel

also paid tribute to Sekunjalo. "For them to have agreed to go into this deal I think is highly admirable. I never thought we could get to this point."

The Sekunjalo board of directors are led by chief executive Dr Iqbal Survé and include Kevin Patel, executive director of Sekunjalo Fishing, Mary Jane Morifi, chairman, advocate Wallace Mgoqi and businessman and former newspaper editor and political activist Rashied Seria.

Issel, who will direct the empowerment programme of the new R100-million company, which last year made a profit of R29m, said his responsibilities would include changing the culture of the old company.

The fact that workers would have a 70% share had to be reflected in all material aspects of the company. They would serve on the board of directors and directly co-manage its operations.

No models for similar deals exist in the country. Issel returned recently from Europe where he spent time in France and Germany investigating companies wholly-owned by workers.

"The practice there is that 50% of the profits gets reinvested in the company, 50% gets paid out to the workers. We will very likely follow that, and when we say 50% will be reinvested, we mean the first item of reinvestment will be the workers — and then we will look at our fleet or our cannery or our lobster plant ..."

Workers were the most important asset of any company, said Issel, and they would be treated as such in the new venture.

"When we talk about reinvesting profit in the company, the workers will be asset No 1."



SEKUNJALO! NOW IS THE TIME! Dr Iqbal Survé (centre, in dark suit), chief executive of Sekunjalo, the company which spearheaded a ground-breaking empowerment deal with a fishing company, celebrates the victory with jubilant workers at Southern Sea Fishing, Saldanha Bay, at the weekend. **PICTURE: GARTH STEAD**

A senior source closely involved with the negotiations said the government had done well to lay down the foundation and framework that would change ownership patterns in the historically monopolistic fishing industry.

"We have to build on that and we can't do it in a cosmetic fashion," said the source, who preferred not to be named. "The structure of this historic deal speaks for itself. What we've done is really way ahead of other initiatives in the industry."

The process would, however, also be

"quite painful".

"To put the workers and the fishermen into a vehicle, probably a trust, to get them to hold shares in a company, to understand the mechanisms involved is not going to be easy. It's going to be a totally new experience for a lot of us."

The pressure on the venture to perform well was immense, since it would ultimately reflect on the issue of economic empowerment throughout the country.

But workers, whose education and training would be an important compo-

nent for success, have already responded to the challenge of ownership.

"Already they are telling us they know how to improve the quality of lobster that goes to Japan. On the factory floor they tell us — and they guarantee — that they can avoid and prevent wastage."

"For example, if a pilchard falls on the floor, it ends up as fish meal. But they tell us they can be more careful so that pilchards don't fall on the floor and land up as fish meal. They are very aware now that the profits of the company, their company, are directly linked to

their work performance."

But the sense of hope and expectation was probably best illustrated by the master of ceremonies at Saturday's event, Hatchwell Cleophas, a supervisor at Southern Seas, when he concluded the proceedings with the following message: "Today many promises were made in front of many witnesses, in front of many unions, many workers. I believe these promises that were made, they will come true ... that our dreams can well be realised."

● See Page 15

Oceana Fishing and Gendor to list on Namibian bourse

MARC HASENFUSS

Cape Town — Oceana Fishing, the fishing company and seafood distributor, would list on the Namibian stock exchange on September 9, Don Ncube, Oceana's chairman, announced yesterday.

Ncube said Oceana's Namib-

ian subsidiaries formed a significant investment in the Namibian economy.

He said that Oceana had established Walvis Bay Cold Storage and had interests in Erango Sea Products, Pan-Ocean Shipping Services and Erundu Stevedoring.

CT(MR) 28/8/98

⑦ MAING

Gendor, which fishes for orange roughy in Namibian waters, has also applied for a listing on the Namibian exchange.

Gendor posted annual net profit in excess of R30 million on a turnover of R150 million in financial 1997.

It has concluded several long-

term contracts with leading US retailers.

A Gendor spokesman said that the capital required for further development of Namibia's fish resources was one of the main reasons for the company seeking a primary listing on the stock exchange.

poachers

crackdown
ST/CM/30/8/98

DNA used to bust seafood

UCT scientists come to aid of law after arrest of trio in Betty's Bay perlemoen

BOBBY JORDAN

SCIENTISTS are using DNA testing to crack down on maritime poachers.

This follows a major bust in Betty's Bay where officials arrested three suspects and confiscated over 353 perlemoen found wrapped in bags and stashed in seaside bushes.

Researchers at the University of Cape Town were asked to test the poachers' loot using a sophisticated new DNA technique that has already drawn international praise. South Africa is considered a world leader in this field.

"What we do is take tissue samples from whatever the authorities confiscate and identify exactly what species we're dealing with," said UCT zoologist Dr Neville Sweijd. "We're now looking at extending the technique to a much finer scale — we want to see if we can characterise different species to such a degree we can say which part of the coast they come from."

The technique has already been used in several high-profile international poaching cases, most recently in Mexico.

Said Sweijd: "We were called in to help after Mexican authorities seized a couple of tons of cans from a company suspected of poaching abalone from California. The company denied this, claiming they had imported Australian abalone. We did the tests here in Cape Town and exonerated the company."

DNA-testing also had positive spin-offs for the management of marine reserves, he added.

Betty's Bay Sea Watch spokesman Mike Tannett said rampant poaching along the Cape south coast was rapidly wiping out many species.

"On this stretch of coast we figure that within a year or two the breeding areas for perlemoen outside the reserve will have gone," Tannett said. "Stopping these people is a difficult job — we've managed to slow things down but the manpower is definitely not enough."

Local officials had confiscated 3 000 perlemoen in the past month and arrested about 360 suspected poachers over the past few years, Tannett said.

Poachers sold their catch for about R60 a kilo to middlemen, who sold most of it overseas.

Poaching gangs, well-known in the Hawston/Hermanus area, had now moved beyond Gansbaai and were working the Agulhas area.

"There are so few perlemoen left outside the reserves that the chance of them reproducing is becoming smaller and smaller," Tannett said.

Full SA inquiry looms on Sudurhavid sinking

'Much has been left unexplained'

CHARL DE VILLIERS
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The Minister of Transport is likely to be asked to convene a full court of marine inquiry into the mysterious sinking of South African fishing boat Sudurhavid near South Georgia in the South Atlantic.

Seventeen of the 38 crew died when the 42,6m longliner, owned by a Cape Town company, Aluship subsidiary City Fishing, sank at Shag Rocks on June 6 during a winter gale.

It was fishing under licence for Patagonian toothfish.

Bill Dernier, operations manager of the SA Maritime Safety Authority, said his organisation had carried out a preliminary inquiry into the sinking and would probably recommend a full court of marine inquiry.

This would be headed by a senior magistrate assisted by two assessors with maritime expertise.

Captain Dernier declined to comment on the findings of Falkland Islands coroner Keith Watson, who recorded an open verdict in July after an inquest on six Sudurhavid crew whose bodies were recovered.

The victims died of drowning and exposure.

Mr Watson hinted that a civil trial could reach a different conclusion on whether the deaths were the result of unlawful killing.

"Weight of evidence" was also stacked against deaths from "accident" or "misadventure". He said much had been left unexplained.

Arguing that doubt about the cause of the deaths demanded an open verdict, Mr Watson raised serious reservations about command and safety on the vessel.

It emerged during the inquest that the only person qualified and competent to command Sudurhavid, Captain Bjorguin Armansson, was given no more responsibility than a night watch, and was asleep until just before the ship sank.

Evidence was that Brian "Boetie" Kuttel was in charge during fishing and John Gerard "Bubbles" McDonagh was otherwise generally in command.

Mr Kuttel, a nephew of yachting personality and Aluship owner "Padda" Kuttel, was drowned and his body has not been found. Mr McDonagh's body was found the day after the sinking.

Mr Watson said the tragedy might have been averted had those on the bridge not been "totally dismissive" about warnings that the vessel had shipped a large quantity of water on the factory deck and that the pumps were not working.

The inquest heard that the bilge pumps were choked with fish offal and, being welded to the bulkheads, could not be moved or cleaned.

Mr Watson said the fact that no single person was in command of the ship was disturbing, but apparently not unusual. He was convinced the safety of the Sudurhavid was at risk because of this.

The lack of safety drills as described by witnesses was "nothing less than scandalous".

Other facts relevant to the circumstances of the deaths included:

■ Fishing continued in rough seas and high winds.

■ Water came on board through three openings, of which a storm door and fish chute could have been ordered closed.

■ Emergency pumps could not be brought into operation.

■ Only two or three of the 11 drains on deck were not welded shut.

■ No alarm was sounded to abandon ship.

■ Only two of the four life rafts were successfully deployed.

■ There were no immersion suits available on the vessel except for two privately owned ones.

The fact that lifejackets were in a locked cupboard, with access limited to those with a key, "could be relevant to another inquiry in another jurisdiction".

University of Cape Town maritime lawyer John Hare said a court of marine inquiry could suspend or cancel certificates of competency or impose fines of no more than R2 000.

But the effect of such a suspension on foreign certificates would be felt only on South African ships or in South African waters.

"The law imposes no direct obligation on either the SA Maritime Safety Authority or the minister to convene a court of marine inquiry. But one of authority's stated objectives is to ensure the safety of life and property at sea," said Prof Hare.

The tragedy has sent shockwaves through South Africa's small Patagonian toothfish industry, which has invested millions in a fishing operation that places extreme demands on vessels and crew working the world's wildest seas.

It has also prompted the Department of Sea Fisheries to warn of stringent safety checks before marine observers will be allowed on board toothfish longliners.

"No observer means no permit; neither from us nor the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources," said Sea Fisheries research institute scientist Martin Purves.

ARG 3/9/98 (3) FISHING

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1g

6

Fishing giant takes on black partners

THABO MABASO
BUSINESS REPORTER

⑤ FISHING
ARL 4/9/98

Fishing and frozen food giant Irvin & Johnson has become the latest enterprise in the seafood industry to sell off an equity stake to black partners.

The partners are Cape Town black economic empowerment

company Siphumelele Investments, which has acquired a 10% stake in I&J, and Ntshonalanga Consortium, a national empowerment group, which has bought a 5% stake.

The deal is worth R162-million.

Some observers believe the move by fishing companies to get black partners was prompted

mainly by fears that the Government would favour black companies when it overhauled the quota system.

But I&J chief executive Roy Gordon said the deal was "genuine".

He said I&J had put aside an additional 5% to be sold to another, as yet unknown, black partner.

'MINISTRY MUST ADDRESS CONCERNS'

Fishermen demand equal representation

CT 8/9/98 ③ FISHING

CITY FISHERMEN are concerned about the composition of two bodies which are responsible for transforming the fishing industry. **MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA** reports.

CITY fishermen marched to Parliament yesterday to protest against the lack of representation in two government-created structures in the fishing industry.

The two structures, the Consultative Advisory Forum (CAF) and the Fisheries Transformation Forum, were put in place to provide for the transformation process in the fishing industry.

CAF chairperson Daniel Baily was asked to accompany the marchers in a bid to make known their grievances to the portfolio committee on environmental affairs.

Baily said the fishermen have expressed concern about the composition of this body, in particular the lack of clear representation for the black township fishermen. He acknowledged the need for representation of all the stakeholders.

"There is a need for the two structures to contribute to the process of transformation in this industry. And the only way to ensure this is to have all stakeholders represented. I was happy to diffuse the situation by accompanying the marchers," Baily said.

He said it would be to everyone's benefit if the ministry and the portfolio committee can address these concerns as soon as possible to ensure the proper functioning of these bodies.

Portfolio committee chairperson Gwen Mahlangu said the concerns had been noted and that the fishermen will have to make submissions to the minister of environment so that these issues are dealt with.

Mahlangu assured the marchers that their concerns will be forwarded to the ministry and that if there are issues that were neglected in

the Marine Living Resources Act, which came into effect on September 1, they will be looked at.

"It is important that everyone is represented in the decision-making structures if the fishing industry is to transform. We are doing everything in our power to get everyone involved so that people can be part of the whole process," Mahlangu said.

But she warned that not all the issues will be addressed at the same time. "There will obviously be short- and long-term issues that will need to be resolved, but we are optimistic that with proper consultation, these issues will be dealt with."

Spokesperson for the fishermen, Justice Katikati, said he was encouraged by the portfolio committee's response to their grievances. Katikati said a meeting will be held on September 15 to decide on a delegation that will represent the township fishermen in the two structures. "Only then will be assured that our interests will be taken into account," he said.



IRATE: Members of the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen Association asked Consultative Advisory Forum chairperson Daniel Baily to accompany them to Parliament where they met with the portfolio committee on environmental affairs. The group was protesting about the lack of consultation and the non-representation of fishermen in the decision-making structures.

PICTURE BENNY GOOL

ET (SAR) 15/9/98

EU adamant on its fishing rights in SA

JOHN FRASER

Brussels — The European Union (EU) said yesterday it would insist that European fishermen be given access to South African waters as an essential price for agreeing on a new trade and aid framework with South Africa.

The warning was issued in Brussels by Philip Lowe, the EU's chief negotiator with South Africa. Lowe was confident a deal could be struck this week between officials who are due to begin marathon formal talks tomorrow. But he warned that any deal must be ratified by both the South African government and "all 15 EU governments".

He was relaxed about allegations by the Worldwide Fund for Nature that the EU was playing tough in demanding a fisheries deal in return for tying up trade negotiations, which go into their 21st session this week.

"I hope we are playing hardball," he said. "That means we are getting a better agreement for the EU."

He claimed that it would "not be a good idea" to exclude

fisheries from the broader EU-South Africa negotiations on a free trade area.

Spain and Portugal, which both have a veto over any trade accord with South Africa, have warned they would not sign a deal without new access to South African waters.

Lowe said a number of other issues remained to be resolved, including EU demands that South Africa lower its protection against industrial exports from Europe such as cars, textiles and steel.

South African officials believe the deal which is taking shape will be acceptable, though it will involve more concessions than they were prepared to make at first.

A bigger problem is over South African demands for the best possible access to the EU market for wine, fruit and vegetables. Pretoria is still seeking 11th-hour concessions from Europe over access for canned fruits and fruit juices.

There are also aggressive South African efforts to win new markets in Europe for dairy products and cereals. — Independent Foreign Service

New laws give fishermen back their old rights

PETER GOOSEN

ANGLING CORRESPONDENT

Recreational and subsistence fishermen will be allowed to catch four perlemoen or crayfish every day in terms of regulations published this week. This will give fishermen back their rights.

Halfway through last season, Environment Minister Pallo Jordan dealt sport fishermen a blow by limiting their fishing to weekends. At the same time, "subsistence licences" were issued to subsistence fishermen allowing them to sell their catch for the first time.

Then the Fishermen's Rights Action Group was formed to fight the new regulations and it took Dr Jordan to the High Court, winning a reprieve until the end of last season.

The season ended in November for perlemoen and December for crayfish.

The new season for perlemoen opens on December 16 and closes on April 16, and for crayfish on November 15 and closes on May 1.

Now, the eagerly awaited new regulations have reverted to the old status quo.

But there are still vital unanswered questions.

The cost of the licences for the

new season has not yet been announced.

And it has not been announced whether subsistence fishermen will be allowed to sell their catch - sport fishermen have never been allowed to sell theirs.

The subsistence permit system last season was not a success in all areas, although it worked well on the False Bay coast. In other areas, some of the permits were never collected by the successful applicants.

Fishermen told me that one of the main reasons it failed in some places was that some subsistence fishermen relied on the boats and equipment of recreational fisher-

men to catch their crayfish. Many of them could not afford their own equipment.

Another major concession in the new regulations is that divers will be able to transport 20 crayfish or perlemoen in a vehicle instead of 16 as previously, provided each person in the vehicle has a licence. This means, for instance, that five divers travelling in a minibus will each be able to transport his or her own catch.

Any hiccups in the new rules will be covered because the old and new regulations will run in tandem for six months.

Chairman of the action group

Herman Venter said the groups had had a tough time in the past few months fighting for the rights and interests of more than 75 000 recreational and subsistence fishermen.

"Luckily, we had a good friend and support in provincial minister Mark Wiley who is just as interested in the conservation and utilisation of our marine resources."

Alex Papayanni, public relations officer for Dive Africa, the diving union, said it was pleasing to see that commonsense had prevailed at last.

As a result of the department's decision, all divers would be asked to obey the regulations to the letter.

③ FISHING ARG 16/9/98

Warning of violence if fish quota imbalances are not addressed

Informal sector seething and in turmoil

③ FISHING
ART 7/10/98

BLACKMAN NGORO
STAFF REPORTER

The informal fishing sector is in turmoil and violence could erupt if the operations of the newly established Sea Fisheries Transformation Council do not redress imbalances in the allocation of fishing quotas.

Chairman of the South African Informal Fishing Commercial Co-operative, Andy Johnston, said feelings were so high that his executive had been forced to expel some co-op members who had threatened to shoot members of the transformation council.

"Things have been volatile for a number of months now. We are afraid some of our people could be hijacked by militant groups who see an opportunity to redirect anger.

"This situation could lead to anarchy in the fishing sector. It's already showing with the plunder of marine resources," said Mr Johnston.

He accused the council, which replaced the old quota board this year, of being insensitive to the needs of disadvantaged communities.

"We need a hearing into the fishing industry. You can't transform without redressing the imbalances of the past. Apartheid deprived Africans on the coast of a livelihood and now they say 'transform the industry'.

"The big guys continue to get a big cut and we continue to suffer. No one is listening to us."

Mr Johnston has written to President Mandela requesting his intervention in the fishing industry.

In the letter he asked that Mr Mandela place a "moratorium on any re-allocation of quotas. We believe this is the last opportunity to ensure the big cake is equally shared among everyone, including the previously disadvantaged communities."

The president's office has replied



LEON LESTRADE

High and dry: 'the situation could lead to anarchy in the fishing industry. It's already showing with the plunder of marine resources'

that the matter is receiving attention and he will receive a final reply soon.

Last week the International Labour Organisation was in Cape Town to look at updating South African maritime law and labour standards.

And Lulamile Kati-Kati, secretary of the Cape Town Harbour Fisherman's Association - a grouping of informal fishermen - has accused members of the South African Tuna Boat Association of failing to adhere to health and safety measures on their boats.

He said employers sent fishermen to sea without giving them enough time to prepare. He said employers refused to pay his members wages for loading the ice used for keeping the fish, which was an unfair labour practice.

"The cabins of some vessels leak, which affect fishermen's health."

Mr Kati-Kati added that members of the Tuna Association did not provide

protective clothing.

"They also deny crew members food as punishment for alleged offences on board, or use the threat of the denial of food as a disciplinary measure.

A number of fishermen had been assaulted at sea by a boat owner who also doubled as captain of the vessel.

An official of the Tuna Association said: "Ninety percent of the boats belong to our association because we fight for fishing quotas for them. Those workers should point out which boat owners are responsible for these acts.

Tuna Association committee member Gus Rafael said each individual boat should look after itself. The association did not involve itself in the business of individual boat owners.

South African maritime policies have also come under attack by the Sri Lankan United Federation of Labour.

"South Africa is seeking to satisfy

multinational and national corporations at the expense of artisanal and small scale fishermen without safeguarding the rights of fishing communities," charged the federation in a letter to Pallo Jordan, minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

"Countries like Sri Lanka look to South Africa for guidance, as in the case of Constitutional Law. In fisheries however, we respectfully suggest you reconsider policy objectives," wrote general secretary Saranapala Silva.

The ILO seminar, which ended last Friday, sought ways of looking after the welfare of seafarers in terms of safety regulations and pay.

Said Emilio de Sousa, a master mariner and ship surveyor who attended the seminar: "The necessity to improve the standards is there, and we cannot deny that. Only with proper training can this be achieved."

Warning of violence if fish quota imbalances are not addressed

Informal sector seething and in turmoil

FISHING
ART 7/10/98

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'Govt must intervene to halt perlemoen war'

ET 9/10/98

③ WASHING

A LOW-INTENSITY WAR is being fought on the coast less than two hours away from Cape Town. If something is not done to stop this war, no one is going to win. Not the environmentalists, not the poor fishing communities, not the government and — least of all — not the treasure trove of perlemoen that is clinging for dear life to rocks around Betty's Bay. **KARIN SCHIMKE** reports.



WHEN the moon is full and the tide is low, a small but tenacious group of Kleinmonders don their equipment and move into the bushes around the beaches of the marine reserve at Betty's Bay.

There, a small, silent, increasingly dangerous cold war is fought, in which opposing forces dodge and try to outwit each other as they battle for some of the richest territory in South Africa.

By day, when they pass in the street, they greet each other. At night they are enemies. But as in any war, they are merely the foot-soldiers of higher forces, and their war will not end without decisive political intervention.

The war revolves around the rich crop of perlemoen clinging to the submerged rocks around the Betty's Bay marine reserve — just waiting to be harvested.

On one side are the poachers who, although perlemoen is an extremely expensive delicacy in the East, claim they can hardly make ends meet.

On the other side are members of Sea Watch, an organisation trying to stop the abuse of marine resources, not only for environmental reasons, but also because once the perlemoen is gone, the locals will no longer be able to earn their money from diving.

On the side of Sea Watch are law enforcement officers from the South African Police Service and the nature conservation department of Kleinmond, Hangklip municipality, and the men from Sea Fisheries.

The poachers have pretty well no one on their side, except, perhaps their perceived enemies in Sea Watch.

The other factors are the big fishing companies that own most of the fishing quotas around the Western Cape coast, and laws that are skewed to favour large companies and sideline the small, struggling fishing communities.

The war has been tense, but fairly violence-free.

"We have a sort of gentleman's agreement that things don't turn nasty," says Jaap van Deventer, a member of Sea Watch.

The irony is that both sides are deeply concerned about the perlemoen they're fighting over.

Perlemoen need very special conditions to breed in. They need to be close

together, so that the sperm and eggs that are released into the water can find each other.

It takes years for perlemoen to grow to a size where they can legally be removed from the water.

The extinction of any organism, including perlemoen, can have devastating, unpredictable effects on the ecosystem. However, the bread and butter issue of perlemoen poaching is also startling.

Says Sea Watch representative Mark Miles: "We have disadvantaged communities along this coast. If we wipe out the perlemoen, we will have communities

that are doubly disadvantaged."

Sea Watch people and poachers met formally last week for the first time to thrash out a solution. Or rather, to thrash out the way to the solution they all agree on.

What is needed is that fishing quotas must be given to local communities to control.

That will decriminalise the poachers, who are simply trying to feed their families. Once they have been legalised, say the poachers, they will help Sea Watch root out opportunistic poachers from elsewhere.

What to do in the meantime is the unresolved question. The poachers wish to continue with their activities undisturbed by Sea Watch's tenacious warriors, but Sea Watch is not about to give up.

The peaceful resolution lies in the hands of Environment Minister Pailo Jordan who, the soldiers say, must improve the quota laws, bring back a credible body to take over the work of the quota board and ensure that fishing communities are given a fair chance to earning their living legally.



TROUBLED WATERS: The sea around Betty's Bay marine reserve abounds i



POACHING FOR A LIVING: Sam Haydricks doesn't like being labelled a criminal when all he is doing is trying to feed his family.

Hunted ...

SAM Haydricks has been poaching perlemoen for 15 years.

He has been in prison three times and has paid around R40 000 in fines for his poaching activities. But he's not a rich man. He poaches perlemoen to feed his family. He used to poach by day, but Sea Watch activity has limited him, to poaching at night.

Without the money for proper diving equipment, he and his colleagues dive into the icy water in nothing more than swimming trunks. Some believe the divers imbibe heavily before a dive to numb them to fear and cold, but Haydricks denies this, saying none of his friends dive to get money for drugs and none of them have addictions.

Kleinmond's poachers usually go out in a group of 10. Six dive, while the others scan the dunes for Sea Watch members. The perlemoen is shucked in the sea before it is brought out and the heavy bags are often discarded in the bush and collected later. The key to conviction is catching the poachers with the perlemoen and this is near impossible.

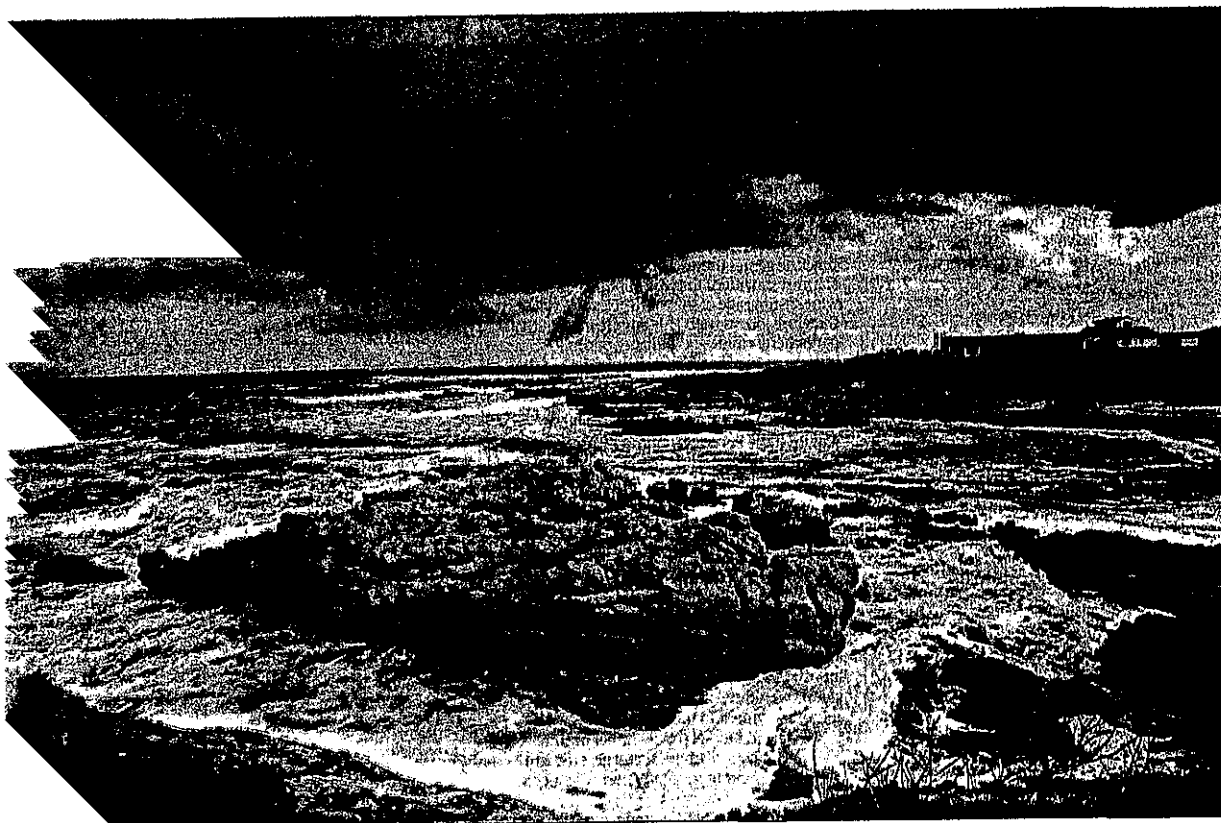
Haydricks says he earns R1 500 to R4 000 a month. He sells it to a middleman in Kleinmond for between R30 and R50 a kilo. The middleman in turn sells it for around R120 a kilo and the end-seller can earn between R500 and R600 a kilo when it is sold as a delicacy in the East.

Haydricks knows the perlemoen is under threat. It's becoming harder and harder to find perlemoen and when it dries up, his earnings dry up.

"We have to get quotas so that we can do our work legally. That is our food in the water and we have a right to it," he says.



SEA WATCHER: Diver and enviro perlemoen poachers.



DOUBLED WATERS: The sea around Betty's Bay marine reserve abounds in perlemoen — the spoils of a low-intensity war.

PICTURES: ALAN TAYLOR

Hunted ...

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SEA WATCHER: Diver and environmentalist Mike Tannett keeps an eye out for perlemoen poachers.

Hunter ...

CATCHING poachers red-handed with a sack of perlemoen is not an easy job.

It requires dedication, detective work, doggedness and a touch of deviousness.

Mike Tannett is honing his skills as the perlemoen sleuth of Kleinmond.

Some nights when the conditions are right, he gets up just before low tide, treks out to the dune bushes on the beach and sets up watch with his binoculars and his walkie-talkie.

"It takes the poachers about 15 seconds to run from the bushes into the sea and if you don't spot them then, you're not likely to see them in the water," says Tannett.

On the off chance he does spot a poacher, he notifies law enforcement officers, who then have to make the arrests.

Tannett is himself a diver.

He believes the people of Kleinmond should have legal rights to the perlemoen, but the preservation of the perlemoen is paramount.

So he is not going to give up his night watches.

"I've been knocked down too many times to keep falling.

"We've managed to reduce daytime poaching by about 90% in the past years.

"But right now people are poaching at night."

Tannett believes there is a way out of the perlemoen war.

"We have to get some of the fishing quotas away from the big companies that have them and give them to the people from here.

"This community should have first choice on quotas."

Empowerment stake in I&J at 20%

CT(MR)9/10/98 (3) FISHING

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Irvin & Johnson (I&J), the fishing and frozen food operation, had sold a further 5 percent of its shareholding to Dyambu Holdings, a women's black empowerment group which has Adelaide Tambo as one of the founders, Roy Gordon, the I&J chief executive, said yesterday.

Dyambu is the third empowerment group to buy a stake in I&J, taking the empowerment shareholding to 20 percent.

Early last month, the group

said it would sell a 15 percent direct stake to Siphumelele Investments, which has the Food and Allied Workers' Union as shareholders, and the Ntshonalanga consortium for R162 million. The consortium has a stake in the Airports Company of South Africa.

"We are particularly pleased to have a national women's organisation of such standing to guide the company in developing its strategies to meet a growing black consumer base."

One of the attractions of Dyambu was its national spread,

particularly in areas close to I&J's major facilities, such as Springs and Delmas.

Hilda Ndude, Dyambu's chief executive, said the group had prioritised the food sector.

"I&J is one of the great household names, having been in existence for nearly 100 years."

She said Dyambu, founded in 1996, looked for investment opportunities in low-risk companies, which would add value and provide a high return rate.

I&J closed unchanged on the JSE yesterday at R1,82.

Struisbaai fishermen accuse Kalk Bay rivals of 'strip-mining'

ARG 10/10/98

③ FISHING

PIETER MALAN

A fishing war is brewing as subsistence fishermen in Struisbaai accuse pelagic fishermen from Kalk Bay of poaching the area's valuable line fish and taking the "bread" out of their mouths.

Struisbaai fishermen say they are at their wits' end after the promise of good yellowtail catches vanished for the second year running.

They believe that the fish were caught by Kalk Bay fishermen illegally trawling the yellowtail reefs with nets at night.

The pelagic fishermen have quotas for pilchard and are not allowed to catch yellowtail, which are designated "line fish", with nets.

Freddie Afrika, the chairman of the local Fisherman's Co-operative Struisbaai, says fishermen saw a lot of yellowtail this month and were

preparing for a good season.

"Yellowtail loves playing on the surface. Especially early in the morning it looks like rain (falling on the water) when they come up."


But the fish disappeared suddenly, without one being caught by the local fisherman.

Mr Afrika said the Struisbaai fishermen believed their fish had been taken by trawlers at night.

"It's so cruel what these guys are doing to us," he said, adding that about 300 families in Struisbaai depended on the sea for survival.

Andy Johnson, the chairman of

The SA Informal Fishing Co-operative, said the organisation was investigating charges of "strip-mining". "We believe these guys catch the yellowtail with nets and then put hooks through the fishes' mouths to convince inspectors that the fish were line-caught."


the sea

Illegal strike after 9% deal

ARG 16/10/98

STAFF REPORTER

Workers at the speciality seafood division of Sea Harvest in Hout Bay went on an illegal strike yesterday demanding higher wages and the appointment of temporary staff to permanent positions.

They are also upset about shift changes.

"Workers have embarked on an illegal, unprocedural strike, outside the law," said a spokesman for Sea Harvest.

~~(FISH)~~) (3) FISHING
The workers have already settled for a 9% increase but want more.

The factory is to operate seven days a week which means that although workers will continue to work a five-day week, some will have to work on Saturdays and Sundays.

"They don't like the idea of working on a Saturday and Sunday," said the spokesman.

The company needed to operate for longer hours and workers would still be entitled to two days off a week, he said.

COMPAN

MARINE PRODUCTS *Diversity of group's four divisions provides market strength*

Ocfish nets 29% increase in earnings for the year

CT (MFR) 30/10/98

FISHING

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), the marine products company, navigated through choppy market conditions to lift headline earnings a share 29 percent to 80,5c for the year ended September 30.

Don Ncube, the chairman, said yesterday the results were buoyed by a strong performance from its fishing division.

The rise in share earnings reflected a 28 percent increase in operating profit to R139,2 million. It was accompanied by a 15 percent growth in dividends to 30,1c.

Similar to the half-year period, turnover rose 41 percent to R1,4 billion, benefiting from the inclusion of Federal Marine, the fish products company, into the group from the start of the year.

Ocfish is jointly owned by Real Africa Holdings and Tiger Oats.

Rod Nicol, the financial director, said that within the fishing division, increased sales volumes of fish meal and fish oil had contributed to the strong improvement in operating profit.

“One of the group's strengths is the diversity of its four divisions — fishing, Federal Marine, cold storage and trading and shipping — and the ability of each one to perform strongly,” he noted.

Still in the fishing division, the full pilchard and lobster quotas were landed but lobster profits were lower than last year, due to reduced selling prices in Far East markets.

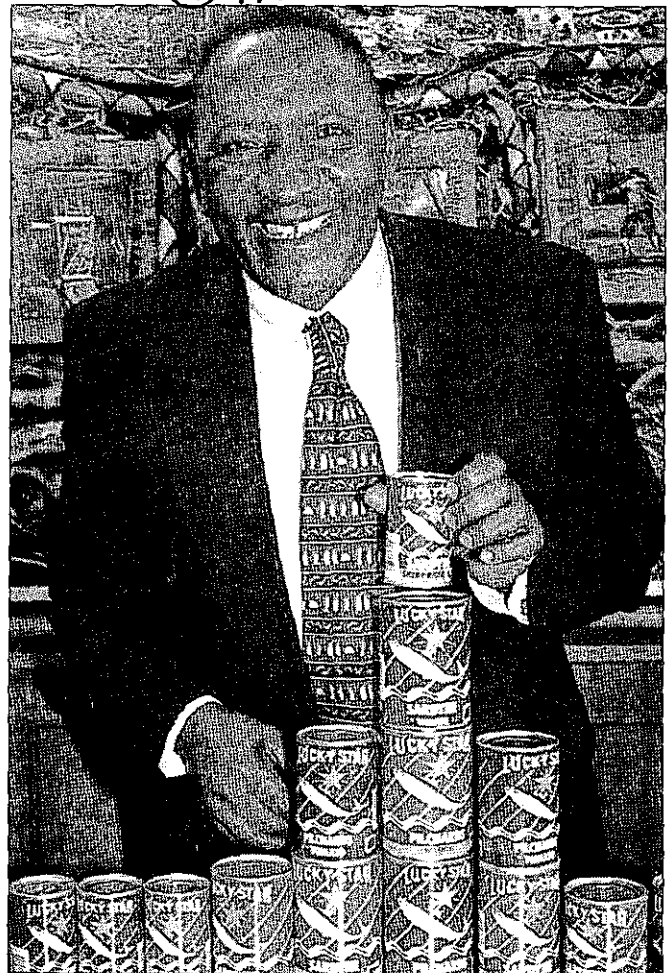
Ncube said Federal Marine's results were “satisfactory”, with demand for Lucky Star canned pilchards intact despite the deteriorating market, while profitability at the cold storage division had improved.

Looking ahead, he expected solid earnings growth to continue, supported by compliance with the requirements of the new fisheries legislation in the form of the new Marine Living Resources Act.

Four years ago, Ocfish took the first steps to make the group more representative, offering shares to employees, among other measures.

Ocfish's shares edged 5c higher on the JSE yesterday to close at R4,60.

Increased sales volumes of fish meal and fish oil contributed to improvements in profit



STACKING UP Don Ncube, the chairman of the Oceana Fishing Group, is in a cheerful mood after a strong set of year-end results yesterday

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

South Africa's labour laws have been hailed as among the world's most sophisticated. But, as JEAN LE MAY discovers, they ignore the plight of the men of the sea

Fishermen cast adrift in sea of lawlessness

⑤ FISHING ARG 31/10/98

The disappearance of yet another fishing vessel, St Porto 1, has highlighted the plight of fishermen as South Africa's forgotten workers.

Government and business leaders never tire of patting themselves on the back for the multiple benefits flowing from the Labour Relations Act and the Basic Conditions of Employment Act, which have been hailed as perhaps the most sophisticated pieces of labour legislation in the world.

But there is a substantial body of South African workers who have no statutory protection at all. Fishermen, unlike farm workers and domestic workers, are not covered by either act. And they do not count as "employees" in terms of the Merchant Shipping Act, so that does not protect them either.

No one looks after fishermen, except trade unions that have forced agreements on individual South African fishing companies.

Without statutory teeth, the unions have to accept agreements that are largely dictated by bosses.

However, there is little the unions can do when foreign-flagged vessels are involved.

Every year the unions are forced to take up the cudgels again.

Last month yet another round of negotiations was held on the issue with the Departments of Labour, Transport and Sea Fisheries.

Cecil Solomons, of the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union, was despondent about the latest talks.

"There does not seem to be the will to do anything for the fishermen, in spite of all the big talk," he said.

Now that a new, progressive fisheries policy is being implemented,

we hoped that the conditions in which fishermen work would be radically revised as well.

"But there are no signs that this will happen."

Most crews on South African boats are covered by union agreements.

But every year scores of foreign-flagged fishing vessels continue to dock at South African ports to take on supplies and fuel and, frequently, to sign on crew to make up their complements.

Most often, the ships come back and the men are paid.

Sometimes they don't come back.

The Belize-flagged Saint Porto 1 took on 14 South Africans as casual crew and sailed from Cape Town on July 18, ostensibly for a month-long voyage.

When the ship was a month overdue, the men's families started making inquiries.

Owner A M Moniz, of Protea Valley, Cape Town, and his lawyer, Tommy Vavatzanidis, have yet to issue a full statement about the missing ship.

Mr Vavatzanidis said yesterday the owners had reported the ship missing when they had not heard from it for a week. He could not give the exact date.

Brigadier Ben Kriegler, the chief of the Maritime Co-ordination Rescue Centre based at Silvermine, said that the missing ship was reported to the authorities on October 6. The authorities put out a warning giving the last-known position - in the Prince Edward Island area on September 20.

According to Brigadier Kriegler, the owners were not really concerned.



DISAPPEARED: Richard Peter and William Ngwane, who crewed on the St Porto, which is missing at sea

The Department of Sea Fisheries told Saturday Argus the vessel had no licence to fish for toothfish or tuna in South African waters, or for quota species like hake.

Tracing Saint Porto 1's recent history, Saturday Argus found the ship worked mostly on charter. The Namibian Department of Sea Fisheries said, in 1995, Saint Porto 1 was owned by a Taiwanese company, Chien Lung Fisheries, and registered in Namibia. It caught hake on

charter for a Lüderitz company that year.

The ship was later sold to Mr Moniz. Namibian Fisheries said it understood that the company involved was Saint Porto Enterprises, which was registered in Panama.

Marco Boni, of South Africa's Department of Foreign Affairs, said the department was making inquiries about the vessel and the company in Belize through the South African mission in Caracas,

Venezuela.

There are two people with the name of J M A Moniz listed in the South African Fishing Industry handbook. No comment was available from either.

Neither Mr Moniz nor the company has a toothfish quota this year, and the St Porto 1 has no South African licence.

Fifteen South African companies have toothfish quotas this year, some of which are exploratory quo-

tas and are not being exploited.

Saturday Argus met with horrified denials from several company officials when they were asked if their companies had chartered Saint Porto 1. Some companies could not be reached for comment and the ship may have been chartered by a company outside South Africa.

Saint Porto 1 had gained notoriety before sailing from Cape Town on July 18. The managing director of a large fishing company told Saturday Argus that one of his skippers who had commanded the ship briefly about five years ago reported that "it leaked like a sieve". And in December 1996 two fishermen told a Cape Town newspaper that conditions on board were horrendous.

Captain Emilio da Souza, of the South African Maritime Safety Authority, who carries out annual safety checks on South African-registered vessels, said that local authorities had no jurisdiction over foreign vessels.

"Of course, if there are obvious indications that a foreign vessel is not seaworthy, we would do something about it."

As for working conditions, the union's Mr Solomons said that no records were kept of whom the foreign skippers hired and what they paid. "The usual arrangement was that fishermen got a percentage of the catch, but there were documented cases in which catches were grossly understated," he said.

In 1996, when toothfish was fetching R38 a kilogram off a foreign boat, South African crew members were paid 6.5c a kilogram.

"The entire process is informal. Foreign skippers pass the word around that they need crew. They

hire fishermen from the growing pool of unemployed who hang around the docks, desperate for work.

"Very often there are no contracts. Many of the fishermen are barely literate and wouldn't know what they were signing even if papers were put in front of them," said Mr Solomons.

Once on board, the new crew often find that no proper protective clothing is provided and that food and living quarters are deplorable, he said.

They are expected to work long hours in appalling conditions with no prospect of overtime pay. Medical care is rudimentary and very often there is no sick-bay or qualified sick-bay attendants.

Safety regulations are often ignored.

Sometimes, fishermen are abandoned in a far-off port. Eight South Africans were recently cast adrift in Mauritius. It cost R24 000 to fly them back to Cape Town and the money was deducted from their meagre pay, said Mr Solomons.

"Casual" fishermen on foreign-flagged vessels are often ill-treated and abused. The union has records of assaults and even murder.

Saturday Argus was told of an incident some years ago when a "troublesome" crew member was thrown overboard and then logged as "lost at sea".

And when foreign-flagged fishing vessels are lost, there is usually no insurance and no compensation.

Destitute families are sometimes offered ex gratia payments, "an added affront to the dignity of those struggling to come to terms with the loss of their loved ones", said Mr Solomons.

Sea Harvest in strong position for quotas

③ PUBLISHING 30 2/11/98

Shareholder restructuring to help in coping with the new marine act

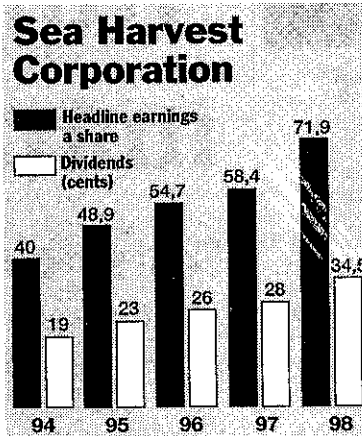
Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Adjustments to fishing group Sea Harvest's shareholding placed the company in a position to cope with expected changes to the allocation of fishing rights, the group said at the weekend.

The recently promulgated Marine Living Resources Act seeks to redress imbalances in the fishing industry that have denied smaller industry players from previously disadvantaged groups meaningful access to SA's fishing resource.

Releasing the group's results for the year to September, which showed a 23% increase in headline earnings a share to 71,9c and a similar rise in the total dividend to 34,5c.

Sea Harvest chairman Chris Nissen said the shareholder restructuring had resulted in a diverse spread of owners led by black empowerment group Brimstone Investment Corporation, which had taken control of the group.



Graphic: RUBY-GAY CAETANO Source: SEA HARVEST CORPORATION

This initiative, together with the 7% equity stake owned by employees, had entrenched ownership and control by previously disadvantaged partners.

Nonetheless, Nissen said the new legislation cast a net of uncertainty

over the group's 1999 quotas. "(However), provided the sum of the hake quota held by the group is retained and the rand does not strengthen significantly from its present level, satisfactory earnings growth can be expected," he said.

Commenting on the period under review, Nissen said Sea Harvest reported a 12% increase in revenues to R613,6m as a lower world whitefish landing resulted in a reasonably firm market, despite lower demand from Asia. The lower level of landing is expected to continue into next year.

A reduction in sundry income of R3m restricted growth in operating profit, however, higher cash balances and interest rates resulted in income from investment increasing 29% to R24m," Nissen said.

On the group's operations in Namibia, he said associate company Sea Harvest Namibia performed particularly well with positive results of N\$4,1m compared with a N\$9m loss previously.

Sea Fisheries shock for researchers

③ FISHING

researchers

ARG 4/11/98

'Staff morale very low'

The new director-general of environmental affairs, Patrick FitzGerald, has shocked staff of the Sea Fisheries Research Institute by accusing them of resisting transformation and banning their logo and letterhead.

The institute has an international reputation for marine research and plays a critical role in providing information on which decisions for managing South Africa's billion-rand fishing industry on a long-term sustainable basis are based.

Some staff fear that Professor FitzGerald's surprise decision - announced last week in a letter to Monde Mayekiso, chief director of the Sea Fisheries Directorate - could compromise the overall quantity and quality of their scientific programmes.

But these fears were rejected by Professor FitzGerald, who told the Cape Argus yesterday that research would continue, but had to be in harmony with the department's new priorities and goals.

He pointed out that the institute was not a separate legal body and the changes were in line with the overall "re-engineering" and restructuring of the department "which everyone agrees is long overdue".

"I certainly respect scientific excellence, but they (the institute's staff) have to understand that such scientific excellence is only an input into the work of the directorate, which is to reg-

JOHN YELD



ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

ulate and facilitate South Africa's fishing resources."

Also, it did not necessarily follow that all research had to be in-house.

Professor FitzGerald said the directorate was being expanded to meet the department's new requirements, which in turn reflected the country's economic needs.

It would also be renamed the Marine and Coastal Resources Directorate to reflect its function.

In his letter to Dr Mayekiso, Professor FitzGerald accused staff of owing a greater loyalty to the institute than the department.

An institute source said there was "a lot of dissatisfaction" at Professor FitzGerald's decision and that some staff believed there was a hidden agenda operating.

"The future is very uncertain now and morale is very, very low," the source said.

Head of the institute Andy Payne declined to comment.

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SHARON GURRICH - MARISSA - LINDA

New sea-fishing licence rule reels in the anglers

CHRIS BATEMAN

③ FISHING
(with)

SEA anglers, who have long considered their sport one of the few remaining free leisure activities, are in for a shock.

From today, they will have to pay R35 for an annual licence — a measure described by Sea Fisheries chief director Moses Mayekiso as “designed to ensure the continued existence of the natural resource upon which their leisure activities depend”.

The anglers can count the cash blow as fairly gentle in comparison with the R50 that others will have to fork out to indulge in their favourite marine pastime from today. These others include people spearfishing, using cast nets, hunting mud crab or any other type of marine bait, and diving for crayfish.

The West Coast closed season is from May 1 to November 15 and the East Coast closed season from November 1 to February 28.

If you're on a boat, don't be fooled. Each person will still have to pay R35 or R50, depending which of the activities mentioned they are pursuing.

Perlemoen have come in for special treatment because of their precarious conservation status.

Mayekiso said that while licences for all other activities would be available freely at all post offices, perlemoen licences were under review and “final details” would be announced before the season opened on December 16.

Anglers, bait collectors and divers would have to carry their licences with them at all times so they could be available for inspection.

A special dispensation for children under 12 will exempt them from needing permits for anything but perlemoen and West Coast lobster — which by law they may not take anyway.

Mayekiso added the caveat that if this exemption was “abused” by children aged under 12, Sea Fisheries would “reconsider” their position.

“No one enjoys paying more for his or her sport and recreation, but it should be understood that conservation of our marine resources comes at a price that can no longer be carried by the taxpayer only,” Mayekiso said.

Time to beef up the holiday pocket money for your teenagers, folks!

● What do you think about the fishing permits? Phone Teleletters at 488 4722 between 10am and noon.

ET 16/11/98

Quota delays spark big crayfish crisis

ARG 18/11/98

③ FISHING

PETER GOUSEN

FISHING CORRESPONDENT

That piece of "Cape Gold" delectable fresh crayfish you eat in a restaurant this season may well be imported from the Far East.

This is the likely result of a crayfish shortage, felt to a certain extent last year and likely to get worse this year.

That's because just about all the Cape rock lobster caught off the Peninsula and West Coast will be exported.

And to make matters worse, the crayfish fleet in Cape Town, Hout Bay and other harbours has not yet had quotas even though the season opened on Monday.

The commercial season has been set back about a month and this is likely to have dire consequences for the industry, which is not earning a cent as boats lie idle and crews hang about waiting.

Recreational fishermen at favourite spots such as Kommetjie have already caught their first crayfish of the season.

Sea Fisheries now falls under the Department of Nature Conservation, where Dennis Fredericks said no quotas had been issued yet because there were far more applica-



LEON LESTRADE

Cape gold: Ocean View diver Paul Afrika gets his recreational quota of four crayfish at Kommetjie

tions than there were quotas and it was taking time to sort them out fairly.

Premier Fishing's Hanief Sablay said the company's fleet was tied up in Table Bay

harbour at a cost of thousands of rands. And competitors, including Chile, New Zealand and Australia, were rushing to Europe to fill the gap left by the South African product.

Chokka blocked by red tape

R48-m industry at risk in latest permit snarl-up

ARG 20/11/98

PETER GOOSEN
STAFF REPORTER

(3) FISHING

The Cape's R48-million chokka fishing industry has been dealt a crushing blow by Sea Fisheries, which will not be able to issue permits until well after the season opens on Sunday.

So more than 160 chokka boats, based mainly at Port Elizabeth, Cape St Francis and Plettenberg Bay, join the idle Western Cape crayfishing fleet, which is unable to put to sea because crayfish quotas have not been issued – although the season opened on Monday.

What is worrying chokka (squid or calamari) fishermen is that the catch has a notoriously short season and

catches drop off to next to nothing about mid-January.

The chokka fleet is fuelled up, provisioned and ready to go, and there have been ugly scenes in Port Elizabeth, where crews have blamed boat owners for failing to obtain permits in time.

The department has also flatly refused to extend last season's permits to enable the fleet to put to sea in the meantime, and issued a warning that any vessel defying the ruling will not be granted a permit.

Greg Christy of Cape St Francis, who heads the SA Squid Management Industrial Association described the situation as "a looming major disaster".

He said the linefish and squid sectors of the industry were told on

October 13 that new applications for permits had to be with the department by October 23, giving the industry 10 days to comply.

But the forms arrived in the Eastern Cape only after the due date.

"I sent urgent pleas to the minister and director to extend application dates and expressed concern that if each application was to be given fair scrutiny, the process would not be completed in time for the opening of the season."

In a desperate attempt to get some action, the association appointed a firm of Cape Town attorneys to deal directly with the department.

But Mr Christy's worst fears have been realised. Yesterday he received a fax from the department which said the

permits would not be issued in time for the opening of the season on Sunday, and it was not yet known when they would be issued.

"The people most affected will obviously be the very people whom the new act is trying to empower. The industry as a whole will be affected negatively and, after the tough 18 months which we have endured, many businesses will be doomed."

If the fleet was unable to go to sea in November the loss in crew income could be more than R3,3-million; in December more than R6-million and in January R3,3 million.

"The estimated loss in foreign exchange could be as much as R48-million," Mr Christy said.

Millions of export dollars at stake as short season slips by

Fishermen at sea over delay in squid permits

ALEX PETERSEN

Cape Town — Wages and exports could be put in jeopardy as hundreds of south coast fishing boats lie idle because the directorate of sea fisheries has not yet issued permits, despite the start of the squid and rock lobster seasons this weekend.

In the case of the squid industry, worth about R35 million in foreign exchange, and millions in wages for the local fishermen who are now unemployed, the issue is urgent because the resource is transitory.

The season opened at midnight on Sunday, but thus far no boats have been able to put to sea.

"If we don't go fishing in the next three weeks, we are looking at a nearly R7 million loss in wages," said Greg Christie, the chairman of the South African Squid Management Industry Association (Sasmia), yesterday.

"It's a short-lived species. If we don't catch this month, it's lost to the industry. That is our sense of urgency," said Christie.

Christie said 30 percent of the total catch was normally caught in November/December. "It's our peak earning period."

He was also worried about the loss of markets. Although the quality of the south coast squid was rated second only to Moroccan squid, and fetched \$5 000 a ton, with the collapse of Asian markets, there was now fierce competition for the main markets in Italy and Spain.

"We could lose market share which has taken us a long time to build," he said.

Players in the west coast and south coast rock lobster industry have expressed similar frustrations on the non-issue of permits.

There are 250 boats in the squid fleet, employing about 2 500 fishermen.

Christie concedes that the directorate of sea fisheries has a mammoth task because of the restructuring of the fishing industry to bring in empowerment players.

"The procedures are completely different from the past.

Every single permit application has to be processed and analysed. I don't think they are inept, they are just overworked; logistically, it's a nightmare," Christie said.

"The entire fishing industry is being restructured, so there are delays to be expected. We support the initiatives, but we would like some interim measures.

"Our chief gripe is that we have had no official response. We have sent letters from our attorneys, although we don't want to be in a confrontational situation.

"We just want to put in place recommendations, or suggestions, on how they could get us fishing in time.

"It's rather disturbing that we have had no response. We don't know if the permits will be issued in three days, three weeks or three months, and we have had the banks down our necks.

"Unemployment is rife. The coastal economies depend on the squid catch," he said.

The directorate of sea fisheries could not be reached for comment late yesterday.

CT (MA) 24/11/98

(3) PHAINE

Crayfish boats get their quotas

ANGLING CORRESPONDENT **FISHING**

ARG 11/12/98

Crayfish boats that catch South Coast crayfish have put to sea after being tied up in harbours for weeks since the opening of the season on November 16 awaiting their quotas.

The boats, mainly based in Port Elizabeth, have now been given permission to go to sea.

However the Cape West Coast Rock Lobster catchers are still lying idle waiting for their quotas.

The Department of Sea Fisheries has allocated the South Coast quotas a much smaller catch than the West Coast rock lobster, but has not yet issued the necessary licences. However, the quota holders have been given permission to start catching crayfish pending the paperwork.

The chokka fleet, also based mainly in Port Elizabeth and at Cape St Francis, has also yet to be given permits for their season. This season also opened several weeks ago.

'Fast-living' sea poachers killing SA marine riches

AKG 5/12/98

(3) FISHING (AKG)

WILLEM STEENKAMP

There is a new breed of crayfish and perlemoen poacher active on the southern Cape coast - they drive the latest 4x4s and luxury German saloons and are backed by the best lawyers in the business.

These men are destroying South Africa's valuable marine resources.

Understaffed and demotivated Sea Fisheries officials deployed on the coast to stop the rape of our marine resources readily admit they are virtually powerless to stop the well-organised poachers.

They say that even when some of the poachers are apprehended they hire top attorneys and advocates to get them off the hook.

They arrive at court with bundles of money, pay the fines and are back on the coast within hours.

"Not only do these people have access to vast amounts of money, but the lives of the few officials we have available to bring these people to book are at stake every time they act against the poachers," said Kobus Engelbrecht, head of the Sea Fisheries unit in Hermanus.

"Recently, one of our men saw three divers illegally poaching perlemoen near Hermanus. When the official went down to confront the men, about 30 others appeared from the bushes and threatened the official. He had to flee for his life and when he got to his vehicle the tyres

had been slashed."

Mr Engelbrecht said officials now rarely acted without the support of the police who were asked to accompany them when officials took action against poachers.

"But this is far from an ideal situation. It must be remembered that the police also are understaffed and battling to contain crime.

The lives of officials are at stake every time they act against poachers'

legislation which makes it compulsory for fishermen to have licences, as must divers and people collecting shells, licences to take out bait and the normal crayfish and perlemoen licence requirements, our workload is going to increase even more."

Mr Engelbrecht said certain sections of the coast had now been stripped of perlemoen by poachers. There was simply nothing left.

"When this happens, the poachers simply target another stretch of

coast. In certain areas, they are also taking to boats. When they see our boats approaching, they simply dump their catches and race away."

Mr Engelbrecht said he suspected the Chinese triads were behind the organised poaching operations.

"We see them around town and we have seen them arrive at court to pay fines for poachers," he added.

Mr Engelbrecht admitted that Sea Fisheries officials were demotivated and were struggling to keep up their morale against mounting odds.

He said the impact that poachers had already had on perlemoen resources could be seen clearly in the fact that Sea Fisheries had had to cut quotas for commercial perlemoen fishermen from 90 tons a season to only 30 tons.

The crayfish resource particularly on the West Coast, has been under severe pressure in recent years and the total allowable catch had to be decreased to ensure that the resource remained healthy.

This year and last year thousands of crayfish walked out and died on beaches on the West Coast after a severe red tide decreased oxygen levels in the sea forcing the fish to leave the water.

Mr Engelbrecht said although poaching of crayfish was rife on the southern Cape coast, the resource in the area still appeared healthy. No commercial crayfish quotas are issued for the southern Cape Coast which helps protect the resource.



ILLEGAL HAUL: Sea Fisheries officials say they are powerless to prevent poachers taking crayfish

OFF TO HARVEST CALAMARY

(3) FISHING

Fishermen

now 'legal'

CT 9/12/98

AFTER YEARS OF fishing illegally, a group of fishermen set off from Hout Bay yesterday on their first legal fishing expedition. Staff Writer **JUDY DAMON** reports.

COLIN MARTINS has been locked-up, harassed and beaten up by authorities who tried in vain to stop him doing what he describes as an art.

The art he is talking about is fishing. And in Hout Bay, he says, no one is supposed to go hungry if you are "living on the rocks".

Yesterday was a historic day for Martins and 19 other fishermen who have been catching kreef, squid, perlemoen and other sea delicacies illegally for most of their lives.

They gathered at the Hout Bay harbour and said a tearful farewell to their mothers and wives, blissfully aware that it was the first time they were permitted to "conquer" the ocean legal-

ly after being granted fishing permits last Friday.

The fishermen from Hout Bay, Nyanga, Guguletu, Khayelitsha and Mandela Park left for Port Elizabeth where they will spend the next three months harvesting calamary.

On Friday, 20 other permit holders will make the same trip.

The fishermen fall under the South African Commercial Holding Co-operation, which has pushed for the quotas and has ensured that the 40 men are allowed to sell their catch "to anyone and anywhere in the world".

Most of the fishermen told how they broke the law to feed their families, how every catch could have meant time behind



LEGAL FISHERMAN: Mary Martins, 55, who bade farewell to her son, Colin, 26, who left for Port Elizabeth yesterday. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

bars and about their exhilaration when they were granted permits.

But they will be watched closely. The hopes of at least 3 400 fishermen who are still waiting for their permits are riding on them. These fishermen are all members of the co-operation and what happens on the shores of Port Elizabeth will dictate the outcome of their applications.

During the coming fishing season, the co-operation must prove that there has been job creation and that the fishermen were not abusing their new rights.

Chairperson Andrew Johnson said he didn't foresee the fishermen abusing their new privilege as they knew the other fishermen were depending on them. But the

government must also include the fishermen under the Basic Conditions of Employment Act as this will help to regulate and gain recognition for the industry.

Although the Transformation Board, formerly the Quota Board, took less than two months to approve the permits, the fight for fishing quotas among the poor has been a long and hard one.

Johnson said his organisation of bona fide fishermen had fought for the right to fish. Over the years, they had been overlooked in the granting of permits.

The co-operation brought together poachers countrywide who want to sell their catch legally and be recognised in the fishing industry.

(3-fishing)



Fertile could boom Saldar

ET 9/12/98

THREE THOUSAND jobs
farming project in the fertile
Saldanha and the industry
boom in the area. JO-ANN

IN terms of global demand for shellfish and the world-class fertility of the Saldanha Bay, the small farmer-based model for mussel farming is extraordinarily viable.

Mariculture — the farming of sea plants and animals in their natural environment — now accounts for 15% of the world's seafood consumption.

By 2010 the figure is expected to swell to 25%. But the figure for South Africa, at less than one percent, begs for the expansion of mariculture and, with it, job creation.

The full complement of the 3 000 potential jobs would consist of raft owners, workers on the rafts and people processing the mussels on shore.

Processing (from smoking the mussels to rolling them in garlic butter and breadcrumbs) could be done by disabled people, says Sharon February of the Centre for Integrated Rural Development (CIRD), the non-government organisation that negotiates on behalf of the farmers.

One mussel farmer, with two barges, can employ up to five other people.

At least three workers together haul up the 200kg ropes.

Seeding of mussels can be staggered, providing substantial income with the harvests.

The growth of Saldanha mussels outstrip that of competitors worldwide by far, thanks to the nutrient-rich water that wells up with the cold Benguela current into Saldanha.

In Spain, where mussel farming is small farmer-based, mussels of the same species (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) take more than three times longer to grow than the six to eight months at Saldanha.

Mussels in the Netherlands take

'One raft
yield a
income
R20 000
farmer
several

MY OWN BOSS: Ex-security guard and would-be mussel farmer Jan Booyesen hauls up one of the 200kg ropes of mussels that hang from the wooden rafts.

PICTURES: ALAN TAYLOR

Fertile bay could yield boom for Saldanha

ET 9/12/98

③ FISHING

THREE THOUSAND jobs could be created by a mussel farming project in the fertile, protected inner bay at Saldanha and the industry could cause an economic boom in the area. JO-ANNE SMETHERHAM reports.

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Mussels in the Netherlands take

nearly four times as long to grow, and in New Zealand, whose imports are competition for the locals, over twice as long.

Saldanha Bay could sustain nearly 30 times the annual production of approximately 3 000 tons of mussels presently cultivated there by Sea Harvest and Lusitania.

"Because the small farmers harvest by hand, unlike the mechanised process at Sea Harvest, there are high production levels," explains Wilfred Wentzel of the centre.

Farmers must be hard and consistent workers, skilled at managing both money and people.

The project's first farmer abandoned his business for "personal reasons".

Another farmer, Jan Booyens — a former security guard and trawler fisherman — arrived at CIRD offices every day for several weeks, to plead his case for a raft. "Mussel farming is hard

work," he says. "But it's not difficult if you've got a raft and ropes to grow the mussels on."

"The more rafts you have, the more people you can employ. I really want to create jobs as well as be my own boss. At last I have the chance to be my own boss. I have been wait-

ing for this for years."

One raft can yield a gross monthly income of R20 000, and a farmer may run several rafts.

The managing director of Sea Harvest, L Penzhorn, confirmed that the company was willing to grant "soft loans" to mussel farmers.

"We were involved in the initial stages of planning the project, and made it possible," said Penzhorn.

"We simply want the farmers we finance to sell their produce to us."

Sea Harvest envisages the small



EXTRAORDINARY YIELDS: The growth of black mussels at Saldanha Bay outstrips that of competitors worldwide, thanks to the nutrient-rich water that wells up with the cold Benguela current.

farmers' project as the growth of an entirely new industry.

February is "overjoyed" at Sea Harvest's offer. She stresses that the farmers will, however, all have to agree to sell to Sea Harvest.

Fifty hectares of water have been contracted, by Portnet, to the mussel farming project.

A total of 80 rafts, controlled by many entrepreneurial farmers, could fill the area if the loans are successfully negotiated.

Who, then, will the farmers be?

"People are very keen," says February. "They all say 'I can, I can do it!' But you have to establish, carefully, who will be successful mussel farmers. People have to be trained to enjoy the experience of managing."

February has always stressed that "the farms will be run along strict business lines".

Income seems relatively secure. Fish do not prey on the mussels, and the rafts are inaccessible to "two-legged predators".

Also, Saldanha is South Africa's

only region where shellfish farming largely escapes the most serious risks: Storms and red tides.

Red tide usually passes on the outer bay, leaving Saldanha safe.

"It is a manageable threat," says Vos Pienaar of Sea Harvest, "although production may stop for short periods each year if mussels are affected."

The feasibility study conducted before the project commenced estimated that storms could destroy five percent of all rafts.

Small farmers will thus need to cross-subsidise one another in a storm-damage fund.

Farming is possible on the outer bay, but the approximate R65 000 construction costs for an inner-bay raft would nearly double should sturdier, storm-resistant rafts be built for conditions there.

"Of course poor people could get rich through mussel farming," says February.

"Agriculture is a business, and wealth is well within the mussel farmers' grasp."

'One raft can yield a montly income of R20 000, and a farmer may run several rafts.'

'People have to be trained to enjoy the experience of managing.'

AGRICULTURE - FISHING

1999.

Temporary ban on kreef fishermen

③ FISHING

JUDITH SOAL

CT 6/1/99

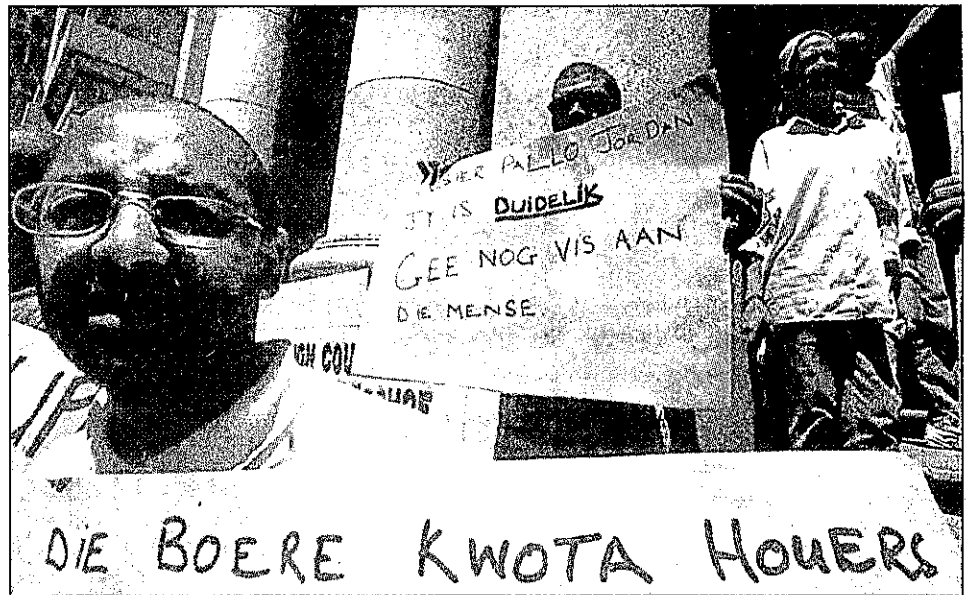
SIXTY-TWO West Coast fishermen who were granted their first permits to catch crayfish last month were yesterday ordered to stop fishing by a special sitting of the Cape High Court.

Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan had given the fishermen quotas under new legislation intended to reform the industry and give access to marine resources to local communities, but a group of fishermen and fishing companies whose quotas were refused or reduced this season responded by launching an urgent interdict against him.

The group said the allocations were "vitiated by gross irregularity and unreasonableness" and a "flagrant violation of rights".

Judge Wilfred Thring yesterday granted the group's request that the new permit-holders be barred from fishing until the case is heard on January 22. He also ordered Jordan to refrain from issuing new permits or exemptions until then.

"This case is about the people who benefited from the old system trying to cling to their privileges," said fisherman Andy Johnston.



STATUS QUOTA: Fishermen protest outside the Cape High Court yesterday after they had — at least temporarily — lost their newly acquired right to catch crayfish legally. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

He and his colleagues admit they poached crayfish in the past, but say they stopped when they heard they would be given legal quotas.

Those opposing the quota allocations are arguing on legal technicalities: It comes down to which section of the new legislation empowers Jordan to allocate quotas. If it is the one preferred by lawyers for the applicants, then he is required to abide by the old guidelines for quota allocation which protect existing quota-holders. In this case the new permits are invalid.

But the minister's lawyers say his power is derived from another section with no such requirements, so the permits are valid.

Until the judge rules on the matter the West Coast fishermen's new-found legality has been taken away. Whether or not they obey the order, or return to poaching to register their dissatisfaction with the ruling, remains to be seen.

"My minister has given me permission to fish, why should I stop now?" said one fisherman yesterday.

Determined to make a living within the law

GASANT ABARDER

③ FISHING

14 JUL 1999
FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Jody can pull out as much as four large sacks of crayfish in just a couple of hours on a good day at the harbour in the rural fishing community of Hawston, near Hermanus, where he lives.

He says he keeps half the earnings from the sale of the kreef and the other half goes to his father, a subsistence fisherman.

Jody (not his real name) has grown up in a culture of poaching like many of the other fishermen in Hawston have done for years after being denied a fishing quota by the old Quota Board.

Fishing is their livelihood and for most, their only source of income in this poverty stricken rural district.

For them, poaching is hardly considered a crime.

But because of an equitable quota system introduced in drips and drabs last year, poachers are slowly but surely changing their looting bags for legal diving gear.

Although the change has been slow, former poachers like Ronald Hendricks, who has been a subsistence fisherman since 1989 but has now received a quota, says he will try hard to make the change from poacher to diver.

This is despite the uncertainty with regard to its economic viability.

His motivation, he says, is the undertaking by the government to now empower poor fishing communities like Hawston with quotas for its residents.

"I used to lift anything from the sea in any quantity, driving through police roadblocks without giving a damn," Hendricks remembers.

"I lost thousands of rands through bail money and either me or the guys who worked for me ended up in jail many times.

"It was not as if I didn't try to get a permit — I was always denied by the old quota board without reasons.

"I am prepared to work within the constraints of the law now that I have a quota.

"I will even help the police to track down poachers.

"To steal now after you have a quota would be greedy, even knowing that it could not be economically viable for me," he said.

● An interview with Hendricks was conducted before the court ordered that his quota was temporarily invalid.

Like the other fisherman, he will have to wait at least two weeks to find out if he is still legal.

Former 'criminals' now have their say in fishing legislation

③ FISHING
CT 7/1/99

ANDY JOHNSTON became a poacher in 1965.

"I was fishing before that but I used to have both crayfish and perlemoen permits," he said yesterday. "In 1965 the permits were taken away under apartheid laws, so I became a poacher, like all the others.

"We've been criminals for a long time and nobody likes it — it changes your whole outlook and your family life. You spend all your time ducking and hiding. We want to be legal," he said.

In 1990 Johnston and his colleagues formed the South African Commercial Fishing Co-operative.

"It started with a group of about 35 of us. We realised the politics of the country were changing and the government was going to change. We wanted to see what we could do to change the fishing system.

"In the beginning it was just the perlemoen poachers, but then the others said they wanted to join too. Now we have 3 756 members and they've elected me as the spokesperson."

The group has successfully lobbied Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan for changes in the legislation governing quota allocations.

"We were part of drafting the new legislation from the beginning. We don't agree with all of it, but we accept it because it was done democratically."

Johnston and his colleagues believe the government should adopt a new system to allocate resources.

Instead of issuing quotas that can be sold as "paper money", they advocate the so-called Cread (Credible Regulated Equitable Access Distribution) system.

Under this system the rights to a mile of the shore are given to the people who work that shore.

Only small boats are allowed within the mile limit and all fishermen are allowed to compete for the Total Allowable Catch.

Johnston says this system is being increasingly used around the world.

"The new legislation still allows for overseas users to come in and denude the fish, and it doesn't put local fishermen into co-management with sea fisheries.

"We would like to have more of a say," he said.

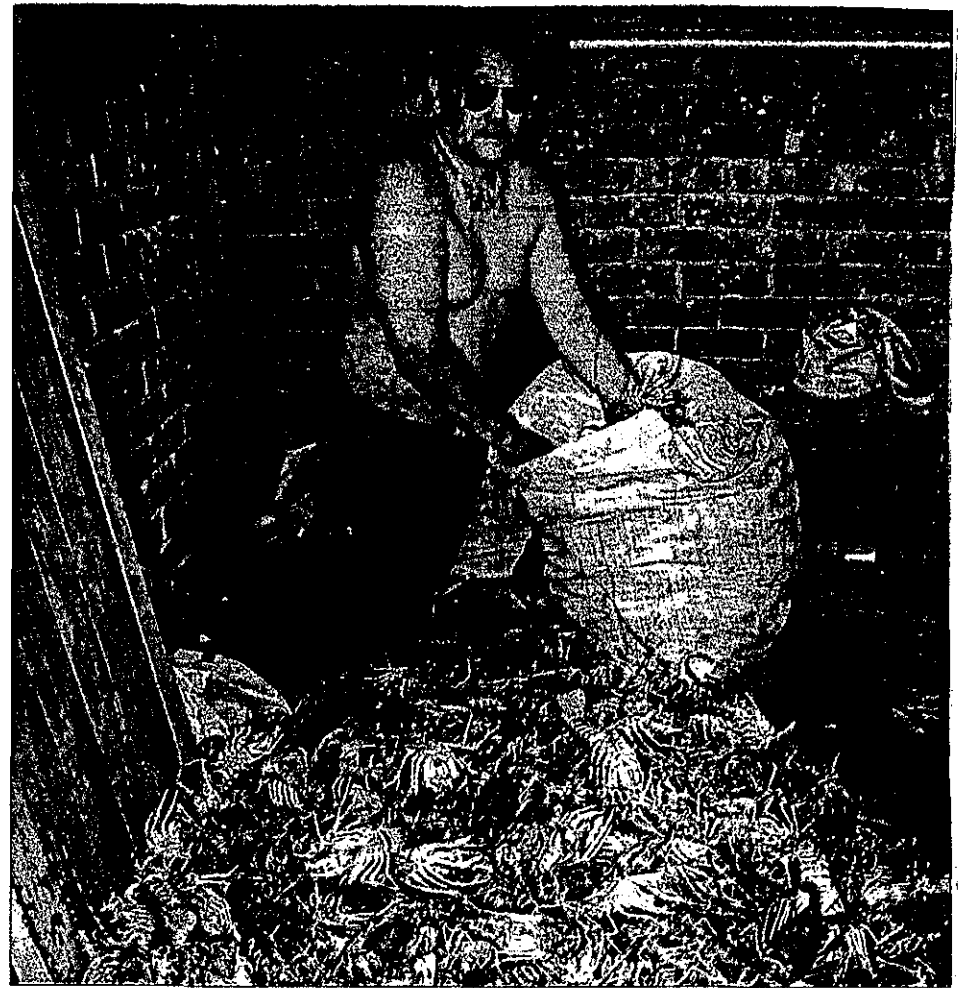


BREAKING THE LAW: Money and crayfish change hands — under the counter.

But Johnston also warned that the days of poaching were far from over. Many subsistence abalone fishermen had not received quotas and they would continue poaching for a living.

"A 20-ton quota for an area can't solve the poaching problem. People involved with it should meet with the government to eradicate this crime. I appeal to the government to get together with the stakeholders.

"Fishing means survival for the people and they deserve the right to earn a living from the sea." — Staff Writers



WARNING SIGNALS: In a picture taken in 1996 fisherman Andy Johnston shows the *Cape Times* part of the proceeds of a day at sea. Johnston warns that unless locals are given a share in the fishing industry poaching will continue.

Caught between the quota and the court

③ FISHING

CT 7/1/99

'WHEN you work the sea, you live the sea, you understand the sea. It's not something you can get from books.' Former poacher Andy Johnston sees this week's court ruling that ordered him and his colleagues to stop fishing as a temporary obstacle in the path to a better life. **JUDITH SOAL reports.**

LAST Wednesday a group of 27 fishermen sat down to decide what to do with the crayfish quota their co-operative had been allocated by Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan.

It was the first time the South African Commercial Fishing Co-operative — made up of former poachers — had been granted legal rights to catch crayfish and they wanted to divide the 130-ton quota fairly between their 3 756 members.

The 27 men, each representing groups from places like Lambert's Bay and Langa, Guguletu and Stillbaai, found that if the crayfish quota was divided equally by the number of people, each fisherman would have a 55kg allowance. But they felt that some of their number had a greater need so they agreed on a set of criteria to share the spoils.

They rated each community according to the level of poverty it experienced, with 0 being affluent and 10 being very poor. They took away from the wealthier areas to be able to give more to the poor.

Then they looked at which groups were involved in fishing other resources. If the fishermen had permits for perlemoen or linefish they lost some of their crayfish allocation to people who did not.

"It was like a mini-parliament," said co-op chairperson Andy Johnston. "But at the end of the day everyone agreed with the decisions. There were

no disputes. We all went around hugging each other and there were many tears of joy."

But on Tuesday Cape High Court judge Wilfred Thring ordered the co-op and 61 other new quota holders to stop fishing — at least until the court was able to hear a legal application against Jordan's crayfish quota allocations. The urgent application was brought by a group of fishermen and fishing companies who had received quota allocations in the past but were denied them this year.

Under the old legislation quotas were allocated by the Quota Board, a group considered unrepresentative by the local fishermen. Legislation passed in September disbanded this group and gave Jordan the power to allocate quotas.

But for technical legal reasons — including that the applications for quotas were submitted on old application forms and addressed to the Quota Board (not Jordan), lawyers for the excluded companies say that Jordan had to abide by the old regulations when allocating quotas, at least for this season.

The old regulations protected existing quota holders and did not allow new quotas to be issued at the same time as existing ones were reduced or refused.

Based on these arguments the companies have asked the court to declare this season's quota allocations invalid — including the 130 tons to Johnston's co-operative.

The case will be heard on January 22 and the interim order to stop the men fishing was granted because, according to the court, the applicants would otherwise not have a chance at redress should they win the application. The argument is that if the local fishermen are allowed to carry on fishing, the quotas could easily be used up by the court date.

The legal principle on which this decision was based is known as "balance of convenience"; it suggests that interim decisions should be made to suit the most urgent need.

In this case the balance weighed towards the convenience of the companies who argued that they stood to lose substantial profits if the quotas were fished out. (Court papers said the export value of a ton of crayfish was between R80 000 and R120 000).

What the court didn't take into account was the inconvenience to the fishermen who have no income to feed their families.

"We stopped poaching in September when the law was passed and we could only start fishing again recently," said Johnston.

"We only heard about this application on Monday so we didn't have time to get our own lawyer."

He said that not all co-operative members would agree to stay away from the sea until the case was heard.

Whatever the merits of the legal arguments and whoever wins the case, the minister's intention in passing the new Marine Living Resources Act was clear: He hoped to transform the fishing industry, which is notorious for the exploitation of local fishermen by large companies with an eye for big profits.

In line with world trends, Jordan wanted to give access to marine



GOING THROUGH CHANGES: South African Commercial Fishing Co-operative members Andy Johnston, Ronald Hendricks and Philippe Carosin prepare to go about earning their daily bread in Hawston. The men admit that they used to be poachers, but say it is only because the government gave them no choice. **PICTURES: BENNY GOOL**

resources to the people who worked the sea.

He warned at the time that it wouldn't be easy.

"We are faced with rising expectations of the historically excluded communities who now want full access to the marine resources of the nation.

"But equitable access to marine resources mustn't be confused with increased availability of resources," he said when the bill was passed.

"All we can promise is that the (quota allocation) process will be free

of racism, that it will be fair and that it will not discriminate against anyone."

The court's decision is a setback for the co-operative, but Johnston says the fishermen are far from giving up.

"Even if they win the court case we know we will get there in the end.

"The minister is doing his best to reform the industry and we support him in that.

"It is only the people who benefited from the past system who are opposed to the change," said Johnston.

In the meantime the co-op will

concentrate on building its structures and preparing for future quota allocations.

"We have been allocated some perlemoen and squid quotas and we are slowly building up in those areas.

"We believe that the way we are working is right.

"We have been invited to go to Namibia and Senegal and Ghana to explain to them what we are doing here so that they can learn from our example. It will take time but things are getting better," said Johnston.

Poachers turn parts of coast into no-go zones

③ FISHING
BOBBY JORDAN

ST (CM) 10/1/99

HEAVILY armed poacher gangs are turning long stretches of coastline into lawless zones, police and conservationists said this week.

A senior conservation official, who wished to remain anonymous after receiving death threats, said poachers had set-up camp at Buffelsjags near Cape Agulhas and were taking vast quantities of shellfish.

"They're poaching there 24 hours a day and taking out tons. It's far away from any of the law enforcement agencies so it's very difficult to catch them red-handed. The poachers can see anyone approaching from miles away," he said.

The poachers were well-off, drove 4x4 vehicles, used cellphones and sometimes rented houses near the coast.

Gang hierarchy ranged from top business contacts overseas to a "pool" of between 100 and 200 full-time divers, some of whom were kitted out with the latest equipment.

They were based in the Hawston area outside Hermanus — a "no-go" area for police and the scene of violent clashes in the past.

Poachers were now seeking to extend their operations further up the coast because the Hawston coastline had been completely "cleaned-out".

Police said the problem needed to be taken more seriously at a political level.

Trawlermen stranded by fishing permit ban

SHARKEY ISAACS
STAFF REPORTER

ARG 13/1/99

③ FISHING

Nearly 20 000 trawlermen and their families face starvation after the Government cancelled exemption permits for trawlers, plunging the fishing industry into crisis.

And thousands of workers in the fish processing industry will be without work as fish supplies dwindle this week. About 100 000 people are likely to be affected.

About 80% of the affected trawlers are "long liners" that target hake and kingklip. In the past, they were granted exemption permits which allowed them to fish while quotas were being allocated.

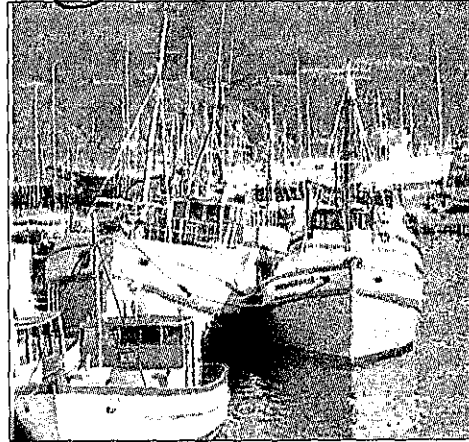
Now the Department of Sea Fisheries has cancelled all exemption permits.

While skippers wait for the green light to put to sea again pending new quota announcements from Sea Fisheries, trawlers are double-banked at moorings from Cape Town to Lambert's Bay on the West Coast and from Port Elizabeth to Durban on the eastern seaboard.

Among the veteran trawler skippers affected are William Adams of Grassy Park and Ronnie Davies of Mitchell's Plain, who work for Irvin and Johnson.

Mr Adams, who has been at sea for 42 years, is the father of South African cricketer Paul Adams.

He said: "I was bluntly told my crew and I wouldn't be putting to sea again until the



LEON LESTRADE

Tied up: trawlers are double-banked in ports like Hout Bay pending new quota announcements

Government announced its new quota system. Like other fishermen, most of my crew have been left nearly destitute since Christmas."

Everyone is now in a dire predicament as fish become scarce and prices soar.

Mr Davies, who has served in fleet vessels for 36 years, said: "The step affects big and small fishing companies alike.

"Hundreds of workers in the fish processing industry also will be without work as fish supplies dwindle and eventually grind to a halt probably by next Monday. About 100 000 people are affected," he said.

Urgent rescue bid as fishing industry sinks

SHARKEY ISAACS
STAFF REPORTER

Sea Fisheries chief director Monde Mayekiso is expected to head for Pretoria to hold urgent talks with Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan as the South African fishing industry faces its worst crisis since the birth of the modern fleet in 1910.

A government decision to cancel exemption permits that until now allowed trawlers to fish until quotas were finalised, has left the trawler fleet tied up in dock, while up to 20 000 crew and 100 000 workers in the food packaging industry are idle.

While skippers wait for the green light to

put to sea again when new quota allocations are issued by the Department of Sea Fisheries, trawlers are double-banked at moorings from Cape Town to Lambert's Bay on the West Coast and from Port Elizabeth to Durban on the eastern seaboard.

Trawlers, which make up about 90% of South Africa's deep-sea fishing fleet, are the only vessels affected. Long-liners, which comprise the remaining 10%, already have permits.

The effect on trawler crew is brought home by the plight of Gert Christie, 33, whose vessel is lying idle in Mossel Bay.



Jordan: crisis talks

ARLT 14/11/99

Mr Christie, a father of two, arrived at union offices in Cape Town to report that all vessels had been recalled to port.

He said his family's predicament would worsen as his wife, who worked in a local fish-processing plant, would have no work after the last fish was processed tomorrow.

"It seems nothing and nobody can step in to help the 1 500 people affected in our fishing community in Mossel Bay."

Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union shop steward Marco van Wyk said: "Most fishermen affected are in the same boat as

③ FISHING

Mr Christie. Most do not have savings to fall back on. The savings of some families who have managed to put a bit of money away are fast dwindling."

The crisis was created by bureaucratic dictates enforcing the Government's transformation policy in the industry.

Irvin and Johnson's chief executive officer, Roy Gordon, said the last deep-sea vessel docked in Cape Town harbour yesterday and thousands of workers in the processing industry also would be without work as fish supplies dwindled this week.

The chairman of the National Certificated Fishing Officers' Association, Faizel Riley, said union members would hold further meetings in Cape Town today.

Govt rethinks fishing rules

BD 15/11/99
Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — The environmental affairs and tourism ministry has backed down on an earlier decision to withdraw exemption fishing permits, a move which almost brought the entire SA fishing industry to a halt.

Irvin and Johnson MD Roy Gordon said he had been advised by Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan that the exemptions would be re-issued so that the industry could start fishing again.

However, at this stage there is no clarity on when the exemptions will be granted. The exemptions are necessary because new legislation governing the fishing industry requires fishing companies to be granted access rights.

This legislation came into force in September. The access rights were legally required from the start of the new year, but as yet applications have not been processed.

③ FISHING

Pallo signs fishing permits as workers bear the brunt

'I wish children's stomachs were full ...'

(3) FISHING ARG 15/1/99

KARYN MAUGHAN
STAFF REPORTER

The crisis that paralysed the fishing industry has also devastated the lives of trawlermen, food processing staff and their families, who depend on full nets for survival.

After an agonising wait, while the country's trawler fleet lay in dock, Environmental Affairs and Tourism minister Pallo Jordan signed new permits to allow the fleet to fish until quotas are finalised.

Some trawlers are likely to sail today.

The stoppage, which happened after the previous permits were withdrawn and the fleet ordered back to harbour, has cost the industry mil-

lions – and for some the damage is already done.

Alan Campbell and his family are trying to survive this harsh reality.

Mr Campbell has been working at Irvin and Johnson for nearly four years as a sorter, and supports his wife Sybil and sons Alan Junior, 19, Mario, 12 and Kevin, 5. They have less than R50 to live on and two 5kg boxes of fish are the only food in their home.

"We eat fish three times a day and the money we have we spend on bread and power," says Mr Campbell.

"We have to share the fish with our neighbours as well. People see you bringing fish in and then there's a lot of knocking on your door.

"You can't give to some people and not others."

Inside the cracked walls, their tiny

Atlantis flat is spotlessly clean, decorated only with the framed portraits of the three children and a colourful mural of a boat on the wall.

The floor is bare and a radio takes pride of place on the battered cupboard.

Mr Campbell sits rubbing his head, his face drawn and marked with signs of sleeplessness.

School is starting soon and his children need uniforms. The R100 pre-school entrance fee and R500 needed to pay Mario's Protea Primary School fees hang heavily on his mind.

"We always have money problems, but this is the worst," he says.

"My youngest child asks me when I am going back to work. He knows that I am supposed to be working.

"I wish that my children's stomachs were full, that they were clean and had clothes and that the lights were on at night," he says.

Alan Junior has matriculated and dreams of becoming a fitter and turner.

"I tried to see about a scholarship, but other than that, there is no hope. I am glad that he has finished school, so that he can help around the house.

"He must help me to support the family rather than go and study."

He feels frustrated: "I miss the sea. I'm not supposed to be at home, drinking coffee and eating bread. It's not right."

Not understanding the quota problems, all he knows is that the job keeping them from starvation is no longer there.

Stroke of the pen averts fishing crisis

CT (MR) 15/1/99 (B) FISHING
VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Papers had been signed for exemption permits to be reissued in terms of the recent Marine Living Resources Act, resolving a crisis that this week threatened to engulf the fishing industry, Pallo Jordan, the environmental affairs and tourism minister, said yesterday.

"I've signed the papers, and the sea fisheries department is empowered to issue new exemptions," Jordan said.

But Roy Bross, the secretary of the Deep Sea Trawling Association, said by late yesterday afternoon the new permits were "not in the hands of the fishing concerns involved".

Bross added: "The department is addressing the matter with great urgency, and we should be receiving the permits shortly."

Jordan said exemption permits were originally issued in December to allow fishing operators to continue fishing until industry allocations, in terms of new legislation, were finalised. However, the permits had to be recalled owing to technical hitches.

"An error was made with previous exemptions issued, which rendered them legally invalid," Jordan said. "It was an administrative glitch."

This week sources said the sector was heading for a crisis because of the withdrawal of

the permits. This could cost the industry R1 million in turnover each day.

Jordan said the fishing industry was in the middle of a transformation process, marked by the introduction of the new Marine Living Resources Act last September. The act institutionalised transformation and ensured the entry of black players in the sector.

"The process of exemptions has been followed to enable the industry to kick over during this period," Jordan said.

Executives of leading commercial fishing groups, including Sea Harvest and Irvin & Johnson, said earlier this week they had pulled back vessels from sea and would run out of

fish for processing at various factories by today.

Industry participants were still waiting on the department to issue crucial hake permits, which have been delayed because of the transformation process.

Cosatu announced yesterday it had been in talks with Jordan's department to ensure fishing factories were able to operate.

The trade union expressed concern about operators who applied for fishing quotas in terms of the new legislation "only to sell these paper quotas to the present large operators".

□ Business Watch, Page 2

Chaos, huge losses in fishing averted

③ FISHING

CHAOS and huge potential losses in the fishing industry were narrowly averted on Friday when the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism announced it would go ahead with the issue of permits to companies in the deep sea sector.

The delay in issuing permits in this sector brought the SA fishing industry to a near-standstill this week, resulting in factory shutdowns at the major fishing companies and industry losses of an estimated R1-million a day.

Sea Harvest MD Louis Penzhorn and I&J MD Roy Gordon confirmed that their companies were issued permits with a quantum limitation late on Friday. They have not yet been issued their quota allocations for the year, but the permit enables them to recommence fishing.

They expect their plants to become operational again during the course of next week. Gordon said the net effect of the delay was factory

PERMITS WRANGLE

By MARCIA KLEIN

shutdowns of about six days and vehicles out of commission for four or five days.

"We will catch up on the quota, but it will cost us more because of the delay and we cannot estimate the loss caused by disturbing the supply chain. We can't yet gauge the reaction of overseas clients."

Sources in the fishing industry said the delay was caused by a technical hitch and the department and minister Pallo Jordan had acted quickly to try and sort it out.

Premier Fishing CEO Tony de Silva said it was important that fishing companies give the department the chance to change the status quo and adapt quotas in line with the spirit of the new Marine Resources Act which calls, among other things, for more representative ownership in the industry and the inclusion of new and smaller participants in the quota system.

ST(BT) 19/1/99

Kreef quotas

scrutinised

③ FISHING

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

CT 26/11/99

THE Cape High Court yesterday had to establish whether previous rock lobster quota-holders had legitimate expectations of receiving fresh quotas for the 1998-99 fishing season.

Langklip See Produkte and 66 others have taken Environment Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan and 160 others — previously disadvantaged fishermen and poachers — to court over the amended allocation of rock lobster quotas.

In terms of the new Marine Living Resources Act, which effectively replaced the Sea Fisheries Act in September last year, previous non-quota holders were allocated rock lobster fishing quotas in a bid to redress imbalances of the past.

Lawyers for Jordan told the court that the applicants did not meet the necessary criteria in line with the new act when applying for fishing quotas for the 1998-1999 season, as they had followed the criteria mapped out in the previous act.

However, the new quota-holders were recently ordered by the High Court to stop fishing until the case had been decided.

The case continues today.

Tempers flare in court row over lobster licences

CT(PR) 27/1/99 (3) FISHING

RONNIE MORRIS

Cape Town — Acrimonious debate raged in the Cape High Court yesterday afternoon over crayfish quotas.

Counsel for 65 opponents to the granting of this year's quotas called for crayfishing to be stopped pending a court review.

Deon Irish, SC, made the call

to Judge Willem Louw as tempers frayed in a public gallery packed with jeering fishermen.

Langklip See Produkte, J Visserye and 65 other applicants had brought an application for an interim interdict against Pallo Jordan, the minister of environmental affairs and tourism, and 160 new quota holders pending a review of the validity of rock

lobster quotas awarded for 1999.

The court was told that the new quotas were awarded in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act which became law on September 1 last year.

Under this act, 21 quota holders for the 1997-1998 season received no crayfish quota this year, while another 44 had their quotas cut 25 percent each.

Debate yesterday revolved around the technical interpretation of the new act and whether the procedures adopted by Jordan were fair.

The applicants argued that they had a legitimate expectation to a hearing by the Fishing Transformation Council, which replaced the old Quota Board, or an opportunity to supplement

their applications for quotas.

Argument also centred on the notices to apply for quotas published in the Government Gazette under the old act and the contention that, between the closing date for applications and the allocation of the 1999 quotas, the new act came into operation.

Judge Louw reserved judgment.

HOWLS OF PROTEST AT OUTCOME

Kreef quota case put on ice

FISHING
CT 27/1/99

APPLICANTS FROM the traditional kreef industry might not have understood that a whole new set of guidelines determines quotas. **MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA** reports.

JUDGMENT was reserved in a High Court battle between historical kreef fish quota-holders and the previously disadvantaged "poachers" who were this year awarded crayfish quotas for the first time.

This follows an application brought by Langklip See Produkte and 66 others against the Minister of Environment Affairs, Pallo Jordan, and 160 others for an interdict pending a review of this year's

crayfish quota allocations.

The quota allocations were made in terms of Marine Living Resources Act, which replaced the Sea Fisheries Act last September.

Deon Irish, SC, for the applicants, said the whole process of the allocation of 1998-1999 kreef fish quotas had to be reviewed by the court and that pending this there had to be a complete cessation of crayfishing activity by both the applicants and the respondents.

Anwar Albertus, SC, counsel for Jordan, argued that the applicants did not have a prima facie case against the minister as he had not passed the new act. It had been approved by Parliament and if the applicants felt it was adversely applied, they should refer the matter to the Constitutional Court.

Judge Willem Louw said it seemed that when the applicants had asked for the quotas, they were still under the impression that the old guidelines applied and only when they had made the applications were they told that there were new ones in place.

"They ran the race and only

when they got to the finishing line were they told that they were supposed to run in the opposite direction," Louw quipped.

When Willie Burger, SC, for the respondent, Abshar Fishing CC, argued that the same amount of blame could not be apportioned to his clients, Albertus responded that the case should be thrown out because more blame could not be placed on Jordan.

Louw reserved judgment, saying he needed time to consider the issues at hand.

This decision was met with howls of protest from fishermen who occupied the public gallery.

Fishermen hard hit as tariffs soar

Harbour fees must be increased to cover high maintenance costs, says harbour-master

③ FISHING ARG 20/1/99

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING

Cape fishermen whose families have made fishing their livelihood for generations, are reeling under a huge rise in harbour tariffs.

The increases affect all 12 fishing harbours on the Cape coast. At Kalk Bay the berthing tariff for a 10-metre boat has risen from R90 to R1 200 a year.

Other boat owners face much steeper increases. People parking their vehicles at harbours have to pay R30 instead of the old R1 fee.

Kalk Bay fishermen have been particularly hard hit as their catch of fish has steadily declined over the past 10 years.

Vincent Cloete, a fifth generation fisherman, said: "The harbour tariff hike is something really awful and couldn't have come at a worse time."

Mr Cloete said he believed Kalk Bay harbour had been particularly badly affected as 70% of the boats were privately owned.

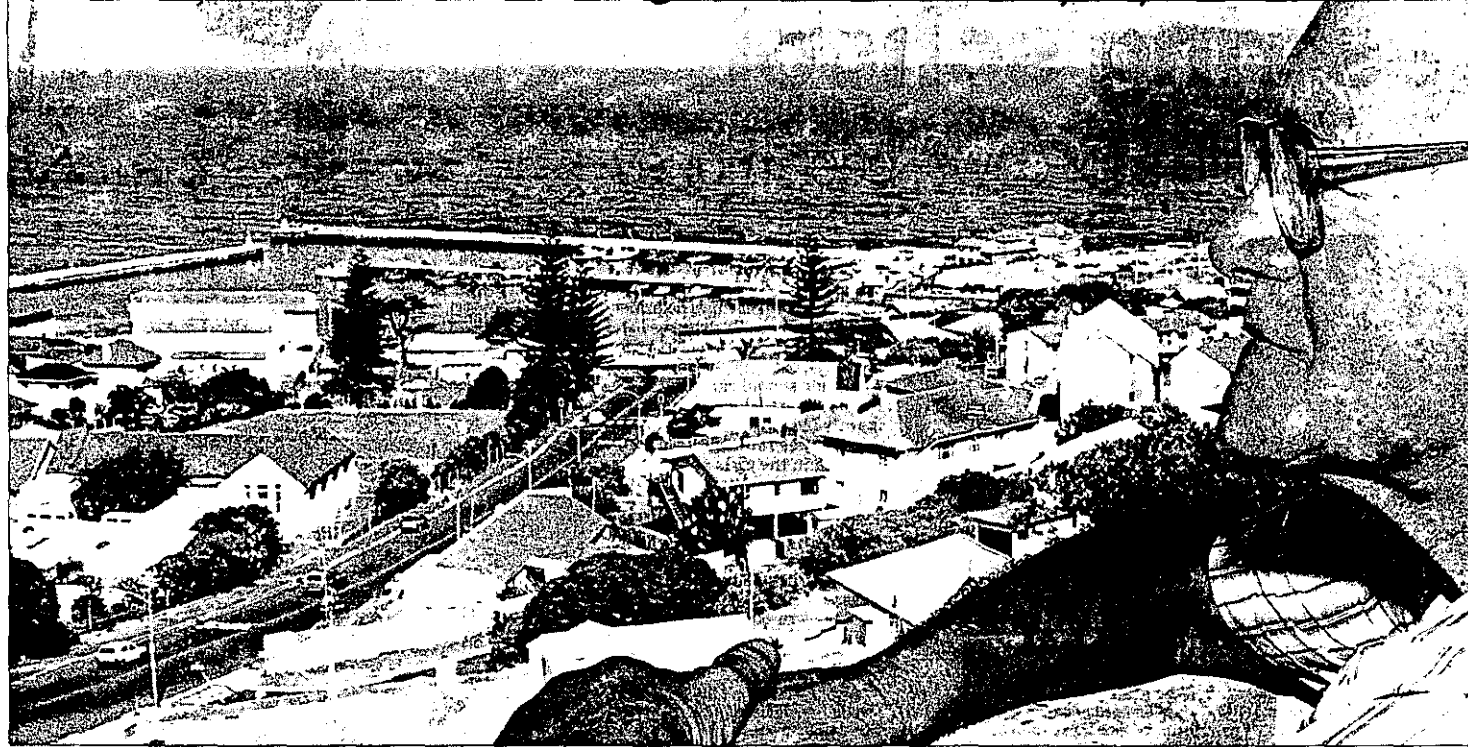
"No one can afford the price hike, not even the small boat owners," he said.

And, he said, to add insult to injury, boat owners were now expected to pay an additional tariff of R100 a year for navigation lights at the entrance to the harbour, which were not clearly visible at night.

Harbourmaster Pat Stacey said it was essential that tariffs be raised pay for maintenance.

"Major maintenance requirements can run into hundreds of thousands of rands," he said.

He said that tariffs were levied for "services rendered" to commercial and recreational fishermen and included the use of the jetty for offloading fish and the slipway where a crane was used for lifting



HARD TIMES: Vincent Cloete, a fifth generation Kalk Bay fisherman, ponders the future after increases in harbour tariffs

Picture: BRENTON GEACH

smaller boats out of the water or engines from the bigger boats. Boat owners also have to handle a large increase in slipway fees, including preparation fees, daily fees and a fee based on the length of the boat.

Joe Voss, harbour master at Hout

Bay, said harbour users were not happy about the increases and he expected to experience problems collecting the raised tariffs. Hout Bay is home to a variety of fishing boats including those that fish as far along the coast as Port Elizabeth.

Director of Sea Fisheries Guillaume de Villiers said the new tariffs came into effect on January 1 and were part of the new Living Marine Resources Act passed at the end of last year. Mr De Villiers told Saturday Argus harbour tariffs had not

been reviewed since 1992, and that under the new act, tariffs from the 12 fishing harbours administered by Sea Fisheries would be put into the Living Marine Resource Fund.

He said in the past these tariffs were paid into the central fiscus.

"R1-million has already been approved for the current financial year to supplement government expenditure on harbour maintenance," he said.

Mr De Villiers said that previously harbour tariffs had been determined

by the Sea Fisheries Act of 1977.

He said: "The tariff increase is definitely being felt harder by those in the smaller working harbours."

The tariff increases have had an impact on all harbour users, even casual visitors.

Tom Anemeyer, chairman of the Atlantic Boat Club at Hout Bay, said: "It's disgusting, the cost of towing a boat into the harbour is now R30 which means it will cost the average fisherman R300 a month just to bring his boat into the harbour and launch."

In addition, he said, mooring fees had also increased.

A spokesman for Hout Bay Yacht Club said the draconian increases could well spell the death of the yacht club and the sport locally.

Circe pleasure launch owner Ken Evans said: "This is straight out of Alice in Wonderland and hasn't been properly considered at all."

Mr Evans said his annual contribution could be hundreds of thousands yearly - more than 10 times his company's annual turnover.

"The fees have potentially increased 250 times," he said.

Mr Evans said there was little improvement in harbour services and they continued to deteriorate.

He said the rise in harbour entrance fees meant four buses now parked outside and tourists had to dodge broken glass and fallen fences to get to boats and other facilities.

Dale Richard, operations manager for Hylton Ross tours, said: "It's not acceptable. The continued price hikes in all areas of tourism are killing the golden goose."

He said although the entrance fee for buses had increased from R1 to R30, they hadn't been too badly affected, as they had the option of parking outside the harbour.

100 000 net angling permits

ARGUS CORRESPONDENT

Durban - With the prospect of spending up to five years in jail for illegally indulging in their sport, more than 100 000 people have bought angling permits, netting the Government more than R7-million.

The chief director of sea fisheries, Dr Monde Mayekiso, warned yesterday that anyone found fishing without a permit would be prosecuted.

Permit fees help to pay for the management and conservation of marine resources.

Anglers without permits can obtain them at post offices at these prices: angling, R35; spear fishing,

(3) FISHING ARCTA/2/99
R50; cast/throw net, R50; marine aquarium fish, R50; abalone, R50; West Coast rock lobster, R50; East Coast rock lobster, R50; and mud crab, R50.

Abalone recreational fishing is limited to Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays until April 13.

Rock lobster fishing is allowed seven days a week until April 30, 1999.

Commercial fishermen and interested people have been invited to apply for long-line hake licences, which cost R100.

A total of 10 000 tons of hake have been allocated to long-line fishermen this season. Application forms are available at Sea Fisheries offices and the closing date is February 22.

③ FISHING
Exports help I&J's
profit leap 51%
(188) CT(MK) 5/2/99

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town — Irvin & Johnson (I&J), the fishing and frozen food group, netted a 51 percent rise in headline earnings for the six months to December 31 as it continued to benefit from international and export earnings, Roy Gordon, the managing director, said yesterday.

"International markets are firm and we've continued to see strong demand in that area," Gordon said, adding that this was to an extent offset by sluggish local food market conditions. Export turnover grew by 45 percent, while group turnover came in 15 percent higher.

Gordon said he was particularly pleased with the results because the corresponding half-year period had been tough,

with margins under pressure from lower consumer spending and a softer economic trend.

There was concern over uncertainty surrounding hake quota allocations, a process still to be completed by the government in terms of new fishing legislation that was introduced late last year. "We remain confident that government will not make decisions that will result in harmful disruption to an industry that provides substantial employment and foreign exchange earnings."

Late last year I&J announced a new empowerment profile by taking on board Siphumelele Investments, the Ntshonalanga consortium and Dyambu Holdings.

I&J shares drifted 5c higher yesterday to close at R1,90 on the JSE.



ON COURSE Roy Gordon, the managing director of I&J, says he is particularly pleased with the results because the corresponding period was tough

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

Fishermen's future on the line

Sidwell Harmans is waiting for something in return for his years at sea – a quota of his own

DIANA POWELL DOUGLAS

Sidwell Harmans looks away, his wrinkled face crumpled with shame, when I ask him to check the spelling of his name in my notebook.

He apologises profusely: he cannot read or write.

But he's better with numbers. He can remember the exact date, November 1 1962, that he went to work for the first time, to catch fish and crayfish for white men in Elands Bay. He recalls that 1982 was the year he and many friends and colleagues in full-time jobs were laid off by the fishing companies when quotas were cut substantially.

He also knows what a good crayfish tally is worth and how his life would improve were he to be awarded one of the fishing quotas – hake, crayfish or pelagic fish – he has applied for, so far without success.

He doesn't believe he's got much of a chance though. He's heard that black people aren't getting quotas; they're all going to coloured people. He thought things would be better in the new South Africa.

Sidwell is only 52, but he could be 10 years older. The long hours in the cruel southern sun and salty winds that blow off the Atlantic have turned his skin to burnished leather and taken their toll of his health.

But illness is a blessing in a way: it has enabled him to get a small disability grant from the Government, which helps keep body and soul together.

Sidwell and hundreds like him who live in the towns and hamlets along the West Coast are modern-day Argonauts in search of a golden fleece. They have earned a pittance harvesting the rich bounty of this cold and windswept ocean for quota-holders for decades.

Now they are hoping for something in return for their years of toil: quotas of their own in terms of the new legislation that is supposed to transform the fishing industry.

But so far the fleece has eluded people like Sidwell.

And the West Coast fishing industry, the crayfish sector in particular,

is in more disarray than ever. The Elands Bay fishing community is still suffering the effects of "the Crayfish Disaster", as a handwritten sign on a wall in the Elands Hotel pub describes the day in April 1997 when 1 200 tons of crayfish beached themselves to escape water that had been depleted of oxygen by a particularly bad red tide.

The beaching resulted in a latter-day gold rush but police and Sea Fisheries officials invoked legislation prohibiting the catching and possession of crayfish without permits.

Even local fishermen were barred from gathering crayfish from the beach and a quantity of the resource equal to three-quarters of the annual allowable catch went to processing factories to be turned into fish meal.

Hopes of a good, early season in 1998/99 – and some money to spend at Christmas – were dashed when the Elands Bay crayfish were found to be in too poor a condition for export.

It was decided to hang fire for catches to improve but on January 5 all crayfishing on the West Coast was suspended by court order pending the outcome of the case in which 67 established quota holders are challenging the award of quotas to new entrants into the market.

Now, halfway into the season, fishing has been prohibited for another month pending a Cape High Court review of the way the quotas were awarded. Only one party, the Oceana group, temporarily escaped the interdict through a technicality. Fishermen catching for Oceana went to sea in dozens of bakkes this week. The haul of red-gold at Elands Bay was impressive, according to the shoreline "kenners". About a ton of good-sized, healthy crayfish were caught on both Monday and Tuesday, a good indication that the resource has recovered.

But people like Sidwell sit on the shore and wait. In three months the season will be over. Perhaps the winter snoek will make an appearance in the bay, maybe they won't.

There's always the potato harvest. It's back-breaking work. But a man has to eat.



MODERN ARGONAUT: Sidwell Harmans: knows how his life would change for the better were he to be awarded one of the fishing quotas he has applied for

Activist vows to fight for small

JEAN LE MAY

Prominent fishing activist and self-confessed former poacher Andy Johnston, who was largely responsible for the formation of the South African Fishermen's Commercial Corporation (SACFC), has accused Pallo Jordan, the Environmental Affairs Minister, of "manipulation".

The present system of fishing quota allocations provided a climate for "corruption, under-the-table deals and crime", said Mr Johnston, who has resigned as chairman of the corporation and as a trustee of the holding company in protest.

SACFC, which has a membership of 3 118 small, independent fisher-

men, was given an allocation of 130 tons of rock lobster for the 1998/1999 season.

SACFC is one of the respondents in a case now before the Cape Town High Court in which long-established quota holders are challenging the entry of new quota holders into the industry.

SACFC got a quota of 130 tons - one of the biggest awarded. Applicants in the case said in court papers that they had not realised they would have to give up part of their quotas "to accommodate poachers".

However, there was argument in court about discrepancies, in a statement to the court from Sea Fisheries chief director Monde Mayekiso, as to the tonnage of quo-

tas allocated to various categories of fishermen and fishing companies.

A letter filed in court papers said that the total allowable catch for the season was 2 300 tons of West Coast rock lobster. Of this, 1 619 tons was to be given to commercial fishermen, 567 tons to new entrants, 290 tons to subsistence fishermen, and 391 tons to recreational fishermen.

However, Mr Johnston claims that, after analysing the figures, he found that the 130 tons allocated to the SACFC was taken out of the 290 tons allocated to subsistence fishermen.

"This is manipulation," he said. "Our group had numerous meetings with Dr Jordan and his offi-

icals. We told them that the only way to stop poaching was to allow independent fishermen legal access to commercial quotas.

"What has happened now is that SACFC has been given a quota which will, in effect, deprive thousands of small fishermen of the right to catch lobster. Our allocation should have been taken from the total allowable catch for commercial fishermen.

"We have the impression that we were thrown a crumb from the table to get us to shut up. I have no intention of doing so."

Mr Johnston, who represents South Africa on the highly regarded World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters, said that he intended taking the matter to the

(3) FISHING

forum conference in Madras, India, later this month.

"My fight for genuine rights for fishermen cannot take place within the present system, which creates an environment for corruption, under-the-table deals and crime," he said.

"All is not well when people who have received access rights regard them as a tradeable commodity. There is no sincerity in the minister's expressed desire for 'equity' when rights are given to people who are not part of the industry.

"We believe we have been sold a mickey ... we were invited to take part in drawing up the new policy and to speak for the informal sector.

"It is now difficult for us to make

ARG 6/2/99

a decent living in the present system of allocations.

"I hope that the people in power will take note of what is happening in the fisheries portfolio, and the adverse effect it is having on fishing communities."

SACFC secretary Thys Mocke told Saturday Argus that the company "did not necessarily agree with Mr Johnston's interpretation. We are grateful for what we can get".

Dr Jordan and his spokesperson, deputy director general Tanya Abrahamse, were not available for comment.

Earlier, Dr Jordan said in a statement that he was "exploring ways and means of expediting the determination of the disputed issues

with a view to getting the industry up and going".

Meanwhile, there is growing resentment among small rock lobster fishermen on the West Coast that companies controlled by the giant fishing group Oceana were excluded from the ban on rock lobster fishing imposed by Judge Willem Louw, pending a review to be heard in the High Court on February 11.

Oceana, now wholly controlled by the black empowerment group Brimstone, was excluded from the fishing ban because it was not represented in court when the order was made. Its lawyers will have to show cause on February 11 why it should not be included in the fishing ban.

commercial kreefers

Foreign fishing: A ban on European fishing in South African waters, aimed at protecting the local industry and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our marine resources, has been contravened by a shady Spanish firm. PHOTOGRAPH BY RICHARD SHOREY



Something's rotten ...

mtg 12/18/99

③ FISHING

A Spanish firm has set up a front company to get a stake in the local fishing industry, writes **Quentin Wray**

Despite a ban on European fishing in South African waters, a shady Spanish company has used black fishermen as a platform to grab a 150-ton stake, worth R3-million, in the hake industry.

The Fisheries Transformation Council (FTC), viewed by most in the industry with suspicion and cynicism, has been accused of unwittingly helping the people it has been mandated to thwart — rapacious foreign fishing operators.

Spanish firm Caladero Seafoods set up a front empowerment company which has been granted the rights to fish 150 tons of hake this year. Top Spanish politician Marcos Vizcaya Romata owns 80% of Caladero's shares.

The FTC issued "paper quotas" to the empowerment firm, United Handline Fishing Corporation (UHFC), which then leased these to three white South African boat owners who are tied in with Caladero. This is the biggest single long-line hake quota offered to any operator out of the 6 400-ton total quota. Industry sources say another 100 tons are available from other quota-holders, of which one is known to be a black empowerment group.

The 400-member UHFC, of Plettenberg Bay in the Cape, was granted its quota because most of its members are black. Its members are drawn from fishermen, boat owners and fishing industry workers, and its stated aim is the upliftment of the local fishing community.

UHFC acting chair Nicklo Pedro said the corporation did not have the capacity to fish its quota so it rented it to three South African fishermen — Johan Conradie, who owns the boat the *Caladero 3*, Bertie Beukes, who owns the *Caladero 2* and Riaan Koekemoer, who owns the *Vonny*.

A source close to UHFC claimed that although the three nominally owned their boats, they owed Plettenberg Bay Fishing (Pty) Limited considerable sums of money and were in effect "controlled" by the company's Danish managing director, Jan Nordensoe.

Nordensoe confirmed that Plettenberg Bay Fishing was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Spanish fish merchants Caladero Seafoods. Nordensoe, who is also a director of Caladero, said he had given the three South Africans "large interest-free loans" to set them up in the fishing industry. Conradie is also employed by

Plettenberg Bay Fishing as operations manager.

The source said UHFC directors either worked for Plettenberg Bay Fishing or owed it money, and were therefore also "owned" by Nordensoe. Nordensoe dismissed this as "absolute and utter bullshit".

Nordensoe's name does not appear on UHFC's letterhead despite being a director, but he said this was for "practical reasons" because "many people had misconceptions about Spanish fishing companies". He said he did not want the company to suffer because of this connection. In terms of Section 171 of the Companies Act, it is illegal to omit the names of directors on company letterheads.

Nordensoe confirmed UHFC had been set up by Plettenberg Bay Fishing. Originally, Plettenberg Bay Fishing had only issued preference — non-voting — shares in UHFC as Nordensoe had wanted to retain control to "protect his investment". This was rejected by the local community and Nordensoe had then agreed that full ownership would be transferred to subscribing members.

However, members have not yet received their share certificates — attributed to administrative delays. Although Nordensoe and Pedro said the members "owned and controlled" the company, this flies in the face of Section 7 of UHFC's memorandum of articles of association. This states that UHFC cannot appoint or remove directors or auditors "if Jan Nordensoe ... does not vote in favour thereof". This controlling clause stops them from paying dividends, changing its name, approving its financial statements or changing its "main business and main object".

Pedro, who is an African National Congress councillor on the Mossel Bay Transitional Local Council, claimed to have taken steps to ensure the deal was above board and that nobody was exploited. He said that although UHFC had been issued paper quotas this year, it was planning on building both human and infrastructural capacity to fish for its own account in future.

Pedro said the R450 000 raised from renting out the quotas — 150 tons at R3 000 a ton — was set aside for "community empowerment" projects. However, our source disputed that the money had been paid over and claimed that Nordensoe had resisted paying because of the

difficulties experienced in doing the fishing. Pedro said the money had been paid over.

Nordensoe said Plettenberg Bay Fishing's involvement in UHFC was in line with its policy to "match business with social upliftment". One of the factors that clinched UHFC's quotas was that it had entered into a black empowerment deal where it would acquire 49% of Plettenberg Bay Packers — also owned by Caladero in Spain.

The involvement of Spanish companies in the South African fishing industry is of great concern to local experts. Rhodes University ichthyologist Peter Britz said: "The Spanish are feared by the South African industry as they have a reputation for ruthless exploitation of fisheries around the world."

Industry sources say Spanish fishermen are known to be masters of trans-shipping fish at sea — offloading on to another ship the portion of the catch which is above its quota — and if granted access rights there is no way South Africa could prevent foreign vessels taking more than they are allocated.

This combined with a loss of local jobs and economic development opportunities should foreigners be allowed in has made the government determined to keep foreign fishing access off the negotiating table at the European Union," said an industry source.

The Marine Living Resources Act states that rights to South Africa's marine resources will only be given to citizens or companies controlled by citizens which will be actively involved in the fishery. It emphasises meaningful access being given to small and previously disadvantaged businesses while ensuring the long-term sustainability of marine resources.

The lawmakers had wanted to exclude "paper quotas" because they worked against black empowerment. Chief director of Sea Fisheries Monde Mayekiso admitted that his department was unable to ensure that the process was not being subverted.

Industry sources say front companies are common in the industry. They are used by foreigners and big business to gain access to the parts of the fishery denied them in terms of the government's redistribution policies.

Mayekiso said the sheer number of applications for quotas meant the department only checked on applicants which "roused their suspicions ... If [false] applications are crafted very well they may have missed our net. However, if we get information ... the law will take its course. The Minister [of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pallo Jordan] can revoke a fishing right."

'The Spanish are feared by the industry as they have a reputation for ruthless exploitation of fisheries'

5 ARRESTED IN FIRST NIGHT

Special unit out to snare sea poachers

FISHING

THE wheels of government grind slowly, but inexorably. The problem of wholesale stripping of the Cape south coast of perlemoen and crayfish by syndicates first reared its head five years ago. Now a specialist unit has been established to deal with the problem. **SYBRAND MOSTERT** reports.

OPERATION Neptune officially kicked off on Monday — and bagged five alleged poachers the same night.

The new unit is made up of out-of-town policemen to avoid the problem of local cops being threatened by poachers.

They will complement their standard firepower with shotguns and have the use of several craft to patrol the area. Army personnel from the Oudtshoorn base are on standby for back-up and observation duties. They will be using night vision equipment to watch the poachers.

A national team of detectives based in Gauteng to trace the smuggling routes out of the country and to liaise with Interpol will also dovetail into the operation.

Sea Fisheries inspectors and local conservation volunteers will further beef up the numbers to fight poaching.

"We are here to stop them getting the kreef and perlemoen out of the water," says Senior Superintendent Deon Hagan, who is chipper about heading the new unit, which will cover an area from Rooi Els to Agulhas.

But the move comes months, if not years, too late. Perlemoen and kreef stocks have almost been wiped out at Mudge Point, near Hawston, says the Department of Sea Fisheries.

With Hawston denuded, poachers have now moved in to strip the areas around Buffeljags, near Cape Agulhas. A conservation official said heavily armed gangs were camping in the area, and were taking out tons of shellfish on a 24-hour basis, although 14 people had been arrested last week.

Poaching gangs have also gained a foothold in the Hawston area, with police virtually not entering the town. Battles have been fought between poachers and police in Hermanus' main street.

Hagan says the poaching is not the only problem. The poaching syndicates, based in Hawston, are run as an extension of the Cape

Flats gangs. Poaching, drug trade and burglary were interchangeable activities, depending on police activity.

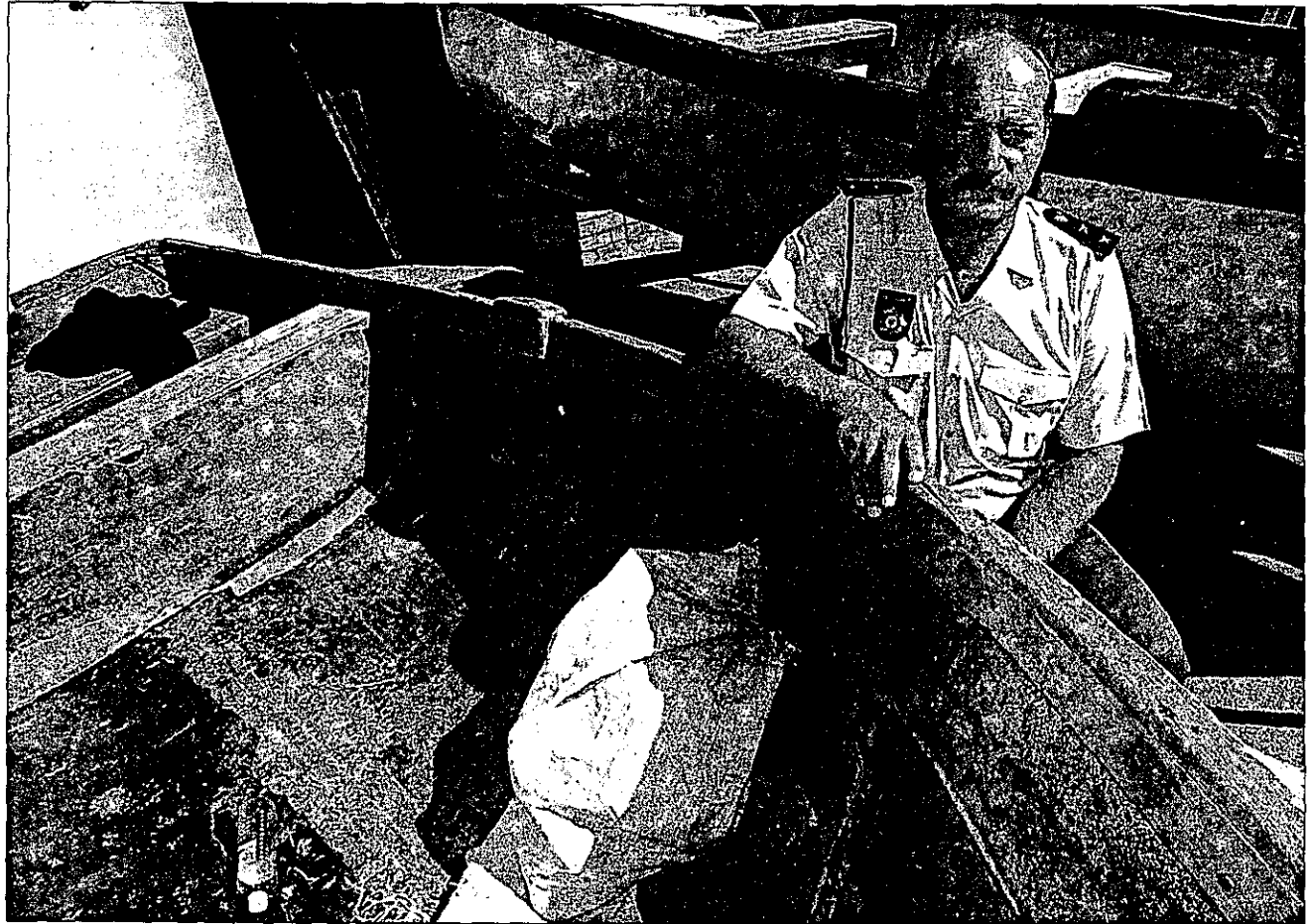
The enormity of what the new unit is tackling cannot be underestimated. The poaching syndicates went into top gear about five years ago when small-time poachers linked up with organised crime.

Now there are large groups of up to 200 divers and "runners" at work. Syndicates use 4x4 vehicles and cellphones. The booty is shucked and cleaned in southern Cape towns and shipped up to Johannesburg, from where it is flown out of the country by international crime gangs. It's big business worth millions a year.

Hagan says the unit will move around to follow poaching activity. Unit members will also be interchangeable to minimise the threat to personnel.

"We have already received a lot of information from the public, but we need more," he says. Anonymous calls can be made to police in Hermanus on (0283) 70-2703 or the toll-free Crime Stop number 0800-11-12-13.

Chris Martens, Overberg area officer for Cape Nature Conservation, said the CNC and locals were backing the operation.



MAKING WAVES: Senior Superintendent Deon Hagan, who will be leading the new, beefed-up anti-poaching squad. "We will stop them getting the kreef and perlemoen out of the water," he says. **PICTURE: ALAN TAYLOR**

Fishermen to march on Parliament

TYRONE SEALE **③ FISHING**
STAFF REPORTER
ARG 23/2/99

More than 2 000 fishing industry workers were to march on Parliament today to demand a resolution of a legal stand-off that has brought the industry to a halt.

The marchers, members of the Food and Allied Workers Union, represent 14 000 people who earn a living from fishing or fish processing.

All commercial fishing for West Coast rock lobster has been suspended for more than a month since 67 established quota holders went to court to question the validity of quotas given to new fishing concerns, mostly black empowerment companies.

The Cape High Court has ruled that quotas for the current season should be subjected to judicial review.

Anxious about the validity of yet-to-be-issued pelagic quotas for hake, pilchard and anchovy, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries has said it cannot issue quotas until the case is resolved.

FAWU Western Cape secretary William



ROY WIGLEY

Hungry: feeding scheme sandwiches are the day's only square meal for some St Helena Bay children

Thomas said today's march would focus attention on the plight of people left unemployed, albeit temporarily in many cases, by the legal wrangling.

Even though the allocation of quotas had to be reorganised to make allowance for new, black-empowerment concerns, the Department of Sea Fisheries could not simply take away concessions from existing

quota-holders, he said.

Jay Singh, spokesman for Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan, who is overseas, said he was not aware of any actions by the ministry or the Department of Sea Fisheries that could influence events ahead of a court ruling.

Fishing families on the rocks, page 5

(3) Fishing

Cruel sea puts fishing fam

Community of St Helena Bay left high, dry – and hungry –



ROY WIGLEY

Spread thin: Christelene Carstens makes sandwiches for the Laingville Primary School feeding scheme. Eslin Coetzee waits for a sample

SPECIAL REPORT



TYRONE SEALE

On Sunday night, eight-year-old Christopher Bester had porridge for supper.

His next meal was at school just before noon yesterday: peanut butter and jam on two slices of brown bread.

The sandwich came from a government-backed feeding scheme in Malmesbury, about 60km from Christopher's Grade 3 classroom in Laingville. St Helena Bay, on the West Coast.

Christopher is one of thousands of West Coast children who are growing more dependent on school feeding schemes as the legal and political doldrum in the fishing industry takes hold.

On the West Coast, nature has had a cruel hand in the unfolding economic and social disaster: the snoek have not been running for months.

Christopher and some of his classmates are proof that the hardship – unlike the fish – is beginning to bite.

Yesterday, he and seven other pupils put up their hands when teacher Marlene Baadjies asked who had not brought lunch from home.

Archerrol Claasen was one of the children caught between the embarrassment of admitting to poverty and the excitement of breaking an unplanned fast. He last had a square meal on Saturday.

Yesterday's godsend of 15 loaves for 100 or so needy children at the Laingville school was the first of its kind this year.

"I can see from their results who's going hungry," said Ms Baadjies. "If a child's stomach is empty, he cannot think or concentrate. During my break, I don't feel like eating, because I know how the children feel."

Last year, the feeding scheme provided the jam and peanut butter only. The bread came from a local businessman.

Now he is feeling the pinch, with the community's buying power at rock bottom since the end of the last fishing season. When the school reopened in January, the bread sponsorship dried up.

What should be fun-filled routines, like opening their readers, "Goue Reeks, Boek Sewe", must be torture, since entire stories with enticing illustrations are built around eating and food.

While the children suffer at school, their parents are doing much the same at home.

Ganief Malick, chief driver on an Eyethu Fishing trawler, doubles as a prophet of doom: "This is going to become a ghost town like Walvis Bay unless something is done urgently."

Mr Malick is well schooled in fishing politics and he says new,

Industry waits for court ruling

All commercial fishing for West Coast rock lobster has been suspended for more than a month since 67 established quota holders went to court to question the validity of quotas awarded to new fishing concerns, most of them black empowerment companies.

The Cape High Court has ruled

that quotas for the present season should be subjected to judicial review.

Anxious about the validity of yet-to-be-issued pelagic quotas for hake, pilchard and anchovy, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries has told the South African Pelagic Fish Processors Association that until the case is resolved, it cannot issue quotas.

The result is that thousands of fishermen and seasonal workers, many of them single mothers, in fish processing plants along the Cape coast from west to east have had no work since the beginning of the year.

They are also banned from catching fish for their own domestic consumption.

families on the rocks

and hungry - as employers battle to stave off job cuts

ARG 23/2/99 (2) FISHING



E
light, eight-year-old Bester had porridge

meal was at school just yesterday: peanut butter on slices of brown bread, which came from a government feeding scheme in 1977, about 60km from the Grade 3 classroom in St Helena Bay, on the

coast. He is one of thousands of the poorest children who are dependent on school meals as the legal and economic drum in the fishing industry holds. On the West Coast, nature has had a hand in the unfolding ecological disaster: the snoek is running for months. The weather and some of his friends are proof that the hard-fought fish - is beginning

to dry up, he and seven other children slip their hands when the Baadjies asked who they got lunch from home. Claassen was one of the embarrasingly admitting to poverty in the statement of breaking an arrangement. He last had a square of bread yesterday.

It's a godsend of 15 loaves of bread for needy children at the school was the first of its kind. From their results who's best, said Ms Baadjies. "If each is empty, he cannot concentrate. During my meal I feel like eating, because the children feel."

The feeding scheme of jam and peanut butter bread came from a local bakery. The feeling the pinch, with the city's buying power at its lowest since the end of the last year. When the school closed in January, the bread dried up.

It could be fun-filled round-up opening their readers, says, Boek Sewe", must be the entire stories with illustrations are built around food. The children suffer at home. Parents are doing much for home.

Mallick, chief driver on an fishing trawler, doubles as a fisherman: "This is going to cost town like Walvis Bay. Nothing is done urgently." Mallick is well schooled in politics and he says new,



On the rocks: Mlolo Manji, front, and colleague Lawrence Jantjies at the Westpoint Processors factory, idle over a quota dispute.

black entrants to the industry should avoid the temptation to build monopolistic enterprises in which nepotism and a lack of concern for individual fishermen will echo of the erstwhile all-white trade.

He is equally well schooled in the pain of his neighbours. But compassionate though he may be, he keeps his backyard tap locked.

"People steal water here because many are having their water cut by the council (the West Coast Peninsula Transitional Council). People are borrowing water to survive."

His next door neighbour, Isak Bouwers, had his water cut off more than two months ago, but he came to an arrangement with the council to be put on "the drip".

This way, with a plastic tub and a lot of patience, Mr Bouwers can gather limited amounts of water.

He's been at home for nearly six months because of the scarcity of snoek. His is one of up to 600 families in St Helena Bay that have been warned they will soon have their water cut because of huge arrears.

One of the councillors is Laingville's Randall Abdol, chairman of the Food and Allied Workers Union branch at Westpoint Processors, one of the major fish plants at St Helena Bay.

But as a worker at the factory, Mr Abdol is himself threatened.

Westpoint managing director David Katz says that unless the standstill in the industry is resolved



High and dry: fisherman Ganlef Mallick keeps his tap locked to prevent water theft

soon, permanent staff at his three West Coast plants may soon have to work shorter shifts and retrenchments could follow.

The company recently ordered staff to take all leave due to them and now Mr Katz and his management team are sitting out a costly lull in business while other companies have already cut jobs.

Between his duties as a unionist and a councillor, Mr Abdol has become the focus of despondent neighbours' complaints.

"This is the first time in many years that things have been this bad," he says. "Nearly 600 households may have their water cut off soon. We don't do this easily."

"There's also the problem of creditors repossessing furniture and other goods almost every day."

However, as the departing furniture trucks kick up dust, the thoughts of the newly dispossessed are elsewhere: what's for supper?

Which is why Christopher Bester relished his sandwich yesterday.



ROY WIGLEY

'Stop political patronage': some of the fishermen protesting outside Parliament yesterday

Fishermen win pledge (3) FISHING from Mokaba

ARG 24/2/99

Urgent probe into quota crisis

TYRONE SEALE AND
SIPHOKAZI NGUDLWA
STAFF REPORTERS

An urgent investigation into the trouble-plagued fishing industry will begin this week.

This was promised yesterday by Peter Mokaba, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Tourism, to more than 1 000 Food and Allied Workers' Union Members who marched to Parliament.

Fawu and the Artisanal Fishers' Informal Fishing Association handed in a memorandum that claimed political patronage and "connected elitist groups" were alienating traditional fishermen from the industry.

Most of the fishermen on the march came from the West Coast, where all commercial fishing for rock lobster has been suspended for more than a month.

The union has 14 000 members in the fishing industry.

A total of 67 established quota holders have gone to court to question the validity of quotas given to new fishing concerns, mostly black empowerment companies. In the meantime, fishing has not been possible.

The Cape High Court has ruled that quotas for the present season should be subjected to judicial review.

Anxious about the validity of yet-to-be-issued pelagic quotas for hake,

pilchard and anchovy, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries has said it cannot issue quotas until the case is resolved.

Fawu is angry about what it describes as the increasing promotion of "the old ruling elite and their new political surrogates" at the expense of marginalised workers.

The marchers also went to the Spanish embassy in the city centre yesterday to demand that Spain abandon attempts to gain access to South African waters for its fishing fleets.

Fawu said Spanish fleets should be kept out as long as it maintained a hard line in trade negotiations between South Africa and the European Union over South Africa's use of the word, sherry.

Spain claims only its own wine producers are entitled to use the word.

In a memorandum handed to embassy officials, Fawu said Spain had a history of violating marine resources in other countries' territorial waters.

Fawu Western Cape secretary William Thomas said the union was concerned that new black empowerment concerns were entering joint ventures with Spanish companies that were trying to get around South Africa's territorial rights.

Mr Mokaba promised to hand the marchers' memorandum to the President's office, and to organise discussions with Fawu.

Fishermen protest against joblessness

LINDA DANIELS

UNEMPLOYED fishing industry workers marched in protest to Parliament yesterday. About 2 000 workers demanded an end to the joblessness forced on them more than a month ago, when the Cape High Court ruled that a judicial review of the validity of newly allocated fishing quotas had to be done before commercial fishing could commence.

Andy Johnston, chairperson of the Informal Fishing Association, said fishermen in the crayfish industry have been unable to work since last June because of wrangling over quotas.

Not only have these workers been unemployed, but the court has also ruled that they may not fish for personal consumption.

The new quotas, aimed at restructuring the industry along equitable lines, were contested by previous quota-holders, who were not given quotas for the present fishing season.

But in a groundswell of support of the fishermen's plight, angry members of the Food and Allied Workers Union demonstrated in support of a memorandum handed to Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs and

Tourism Peter Mokaba yesterday.

The memorandum requested an end to access rights through political patronage and close business associates, and an investigation of allegations of corruption in the department.

Johnston said: "The corruption is of such a terrible nature that it is having a severe effect on the fishing communities.

"The communities feel there is no hope for them because they are seeing all these elitist groups getting the quotas.

"People haven't been working since December.

"They need these quotas so that they can get some food in their stomachs."

Receiving the memorandum at Parliament, Mokaba said that evidence had to be given to the department so that an investigation could be launched as early as this week.

He said: "You need to assist us to identify those communities so that we can empower them ... I will ensure that I'll come back to you in writing."

The group also handed in a memorandum at the Spanish embassy, saying the Spanish had a history of violating marine resources.

③ FISHING
ET 24/2/99

PICTURES: ROY WIGLEY



Industry on the rocks ... another idle day greets Miolo Manji, foreground, and colleague Lawrence Jantjies at one of several West Coast fishing plants brought to a standstill by disputes over fishing quotas.

West Coast fishing industry in chaos

Star 24/2/99

③ FISHING

Quota disputes and the lack of snoek running in St Helena Bay brings hunger to the fishing town

BY TYRONE SEALE
Cape Town

On Sunday night, 8-year-old Christopher Bester had porridge for supper. His next meal was at school just before noon on Monday: peanut butter and fruit jam on two slices of brown bread.

But the sandwich didn't come from home.

It came from a government-backed feeding scheme in Malmesbury, about 60km from Christopher's Grade 3 classroom in Laingville, St Helena Bay, on the West Coast.

Christopher is one of thousands of West Coast children who are growing more and more dependent upon school feeding schemes as the effects of a fishing industry caught in a legal and political doldrum take hold.

All commercial fishing for West Coast rock lobster has been suspended for more than a month since 67 established quota holders went to court to question the validity of quotas awarded to new fishing concerns, most of them black empowerment companies.

The Cape High Court has ruled that quotas for the current season should be subjected to judicial review.

Anxious about the validity of yet to be issued pelagic quotas for hake, pilchard and anchovy, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries has told the South African Pelagic Fish Processors' Association that until the Cape High Court case is resolved, it cannot issue quotas.

The result has been that thousands of fishermen and seasonal workers, many single mothers, in fish processing plants along the Cape coast from west to east have



Spreading cheer ... Eslin Coetzee, a pupil at Laingville Primary School, St Helena Bay, is tempted by simple sandwiches on the first day of a new feeding scheme at the school.

had no work since the beginning of the year and they are unable to catch fish for their own consumption.

Nature itself has had a cruel hand in the unfolding economic and social disaster: snoek have not been running in this region for months.

Monday's godsend of 15 loaves of bread for 100 or so needy children at the Laingville school was the first of its kind this year.

"I can see from their results who's going hungry," said teacher Marlene Baadjies. "If their stomachs are empty they cannot think or concentrate. During my break, I don't feel like eating, because I know how the children feel."

Last year, the Government-based feeding scheme provided the jam and peanut butter only. The bread came from a local businessman.

But even he began to feel



Tapping into hardship ... veteran fisherman Ganief Malick keeps his tap locked to prevent desperate neighbours helping themselves to water.

the pinch as the community's buying power decreased since the close of the last fishing season late last year.

When the school reopened in January the bread sponsorship dried up and since then some children have had nothing to eat at school.

While the children suffer at school, their parents are doing much the same at home.

Ganief Malick, chief driver on an Eyethu Fishing trawler, doubles as a prophet of doom: "This town is going to become a ghost town like Walvis Bay unless something is done urgently."

Malick is well schooled in the politics of the fishing industry and he warns that new, black entrants to the industry should avoid the temptation to build monopolistic enterprises in which nepotism and a lack of concern for the lot of individual fishermen will echo that of the erstwhile all-white trade.

Although he is compassionate he keeps the tap in his backyard locked: "People steal

water here because many are having their water cut by the council (the West Coast Peninsula Transitional Council). People are borrowing water from one another to survive."

His next door neighbour, Isak Bouwers has been at home for nearly six months because of the scarcity of snoek and is barely coping with "the drip" water arrangement made with the council.

Between 500 and 600 families in St Helena Bay have been warned by the West Coast council that they will soon have their water cut because of huge arrears.

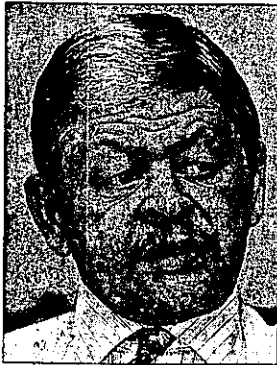
While workers have been asked to take their leave, creditors have started repossessing furniture and other goods almost every day.

However, as the departing furniture trucks kick up dust, the thoughts of the newly dispossessed are elsewhere: what's for supper tonight?

Which is why Christopher Bester and his friends relished their lunch today.

Morkel set to tackle fishing quotas shambles

Jordan promises official probe if Western Cape can back up charges of nepotism and favouritism



Gerald Morkel: 'lack of transparency'

STAFF REPORTER

The Western Cape government is to investigate allegations of nepotism and favouritism in the process of issuing fishing quotas.

This was Premier Gerald Morkel's decision after meeting environment minister Pallo Jordan yesterday.

Mr Morkel said Dr Jordan had announced he would launch an official investigation into the process if the Western Cape government could produce sworn affidavits supporting the allegations.

At a press conference after the meeting, Mr Morkel said Dr Jordan had also undertaken to take steps to issue quotas.

This was because a six-month

transitional period, declared to allow time for transformation, had passed.

"What has not helped (the process of issuing quotas) has been the total lack of transparency, the lack of criteria and the incompetence of officials at the Department of Sea Fisheries," Mr Morkel said.

"It was Dr Jordan's determination to disband the Quota Board prematurely and to give unfettered powers to his advisory council and himself that led to the present catastrophe in the industry."

Western Cape Safety and Security MEC Mark Wiley said: "We will now go out and get those affidavits. There is a problem in that some of the victims of the nepotism are afraid to come forward, because they

believe their quotas may be taken away if they speak out."

Mr Morkel insisted that he was dealing with the matter as Western Cape premier and not as leader of the New NP.

"We told Dr Jordan we fully support transformation in the fishing industry, but we need to know what the Government means by transformation.

"It should be mentioned however that Dr Jordan was adamant in refusing to acknowledge the rights of a province or any individual to have access to fishing resources.

"This is despite the fact that 85% of all marine resources are found along the Western Cape coast and in excess of 25 000 Western Cape residents are directly employed in

this industry.

"In the meantime, you find people from the Free State, who may not even ever have seen the sea, are being given fishing quotas, instead of those people who put their lives and their property into it."

In his response to the meeting, Dr Jordan said the Western Cape delegation had recognised the fact that a case concerning quotas now being heard before the Cape High Court constrained his actions in certain respects.

His spokesman said: "They therefore appealed to the minister to take whatever steps were necessary to ensure that the fishing fleets for pelagic species, presently not at sea, can begin exploiting the pelagic resources as soon as possible.

(3) FISHING ARG 3/3/99
 "The minister concurred with the premier's delegation that the transformation of the fishing industry should not become a party political football."

Dr Jordan undertook to be in touch with Mr Morkel within the next week to discuss the measures to be taken by his department to sort out the problem.

"Dr Jordan reiterated his contention that the transformation of the industry, as well as the maintenance of stability, were the two compelling imperatives that had to be borne in mind.

"Both parties to yesterday's meeting agreed that the primary issue was the welfare of the fishing communities and the economic sustainability of the fishing industry."



Pallo Jordan: 'keep party politics out'

Parties fish for votes in quota crisis

^{(3) FISHING}
ANC's Rasool hits at Nat role

HENRI DU PLESSIS AND CLIVE SAWYER

While the politicians cross swords, the fishing industry waits.

Less than 24 hours after agreeing that the issue of fishing quotas should not become a political football, both the Department of Environmental Affairs and the Western Cape government broke their undertaking.

They dragged the plight of sailors and fishermen into the middle of what promises to be a vicious party-political bunfight in the run-up to the June 2 general election.

In a meeting on Tuesday between Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan and a Western Cape delegation led by Premier Gerald Morkel, the parties agreed not to capitalise politically on the situation.

Fishermen working on boats at all South Africa's harbours have been affected by the impasse in the quota award system.

Thousands of people are idle as a result - including fishermen, sailors, engineers and fish packers.

The latest salvos in the battle for the hearts and minds of the fishermen - or at least their votes - were fired by the African National Congress yesterday.

At a press conference, ANC provincial leader Ebrahim Rasool said the New NP demand that the issuing of quotas should be a provincial matter could not be allowed.

South Africa's coastline was very long and should be managed to the benefit of all, regardless of race, he said.

"It has also come to our attention that a senior member of the New National Party in the provincial legislature is involved with a quota holder," he said.

But he declined to name the person.

"The ANC is going to do its own investigation about this in a follow-up on the gambling issue. We are going to

ARG 4/3/99
get affidavits from people."

Mr Rasool also referred to a court case in which a fishing company was applying for a declaratory order against the cutting of its crayfish quota.

"We have seen the New National Party, once again, stand in the way of the restructuring of the fishing industry.

"Instead of calling on the applicants in the court case to settle the matter, they have chosen to attack the very process which is already ensuring that those who never had access to the fishing resource now have the opportunity to do so.

"We repeat our call to the applicants in the Cape High Court to withdraw their action, settle the matter and allow the transformation process to continue."

■ The row between the Western Cape ANC and New NP over fish quotas today reared its head in the National Assembly with an allegation by an ANC MP that New Nat provincial minister Piet Meyer, named to head a probe into the industry, has financial interests in the industry.

Noel Williams, speaking during the environmental affairs budget debate, said it was "ironic that Mr Meyer's fingers are deep in the fish industry".

He quoted from what he said was an affidavit by seven shareholders in CSM Fishing, registered as a company in 1997.

"The involvement of Piet Meyer, National Party member of Parliament (sic) as a shareholder in the company who gets dividends is unacceptable to the shareholders.

"All attempts to date to get rid of Mr Meyer as a shareholder were rejected by the chairman and Mr Strauss on the grounds that Mr Meyer apparently intervened to get back the crayfish quota of the company, which had been refused."

Fishing quotas set for swift go-ahead, says Pallo Jordan

Fishing will resume as dispute goes on

ARG 5/3/99
③ FISHING

POLITICAL STAFF

Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan has told Parliament the Directorate of Sea Fisheries will proceed with the issuing of fishing quotas, a process suspended by a court action over the proposed allocations.

The quotas would be for pelagic fish and would allow fishing to resume while the quota dispute was being resolved, he said.

Sea Fisheries officials have confirmed that the allocation of quotas has resumed and that most pelagic fishing will be allowed "almost immediately".

During a debate in Parliament yesterday, Mr Jordan said there had been a "quantum leap" in the number of applicants seeking access to marine resources.

There were still glaring inequities in the industry and a compelling need for change, but this had to be brought about in a manner that did not unduly destabilise the industry, he said.

"The fishing of the West Coast rock lobster has been interdicted by the High Court - but this is the outcome of litigation inspired by a handful of individuals who are opposed to change in the industry.

"The myopic urge to cling to the ill-

deserved privileges accrued in our divided past ... poses a real danger to the nation's resources."

He accused Western Cape English-language newspapers of not reporting accurately on fishing issues, and of making "baseless allegations ... that the law is being employed as a device for political patronage".

During the debate, Western Cape transport MEC Piet Meyer, whom the New National Party wants to head a probe into favouritism in fishing quota allocations, was alleged to have a large personal stake in the industry.

African National Congress MP Noel Williams cited an affidavit signed by eight shareholders of CSM Fishing, in which they stated their unease at Mr Meyer holding a stake in their company.

But Mr Meyer later denied any knowledge of CSM Fishing and said the only interest he had in the fishing industry was a shareholding in Brimstone, which owned 50% of Sea Harvest.

No fishing quotas were held in his own name, he said.

The dissident CSM shareholders claimed company officials had said Mr Meyer's name must not be shown or registered as a shareholder in the company.

Minister named in fishing quota deals

27/3/99

③ FISHING

FATIMA SCHROEDER

UNDER-THE-TABLE fishing quota deals were exposed in the National Assembly yesterday and the culprit named was Western Cape Transport MEC Piet Meyer — but Meyer denied the allegations.

Meyer, of the NNP, whose roots lie in the West Coast fishing community of Vredenburg, said he only had the fishing community's best interests at heart.

However, in the Assembly yesterday, ANC MP Noel Williams slammed Meyer in the environmental affairs budget debate yesterday for having financial interests in the industry, saying that "it is absolute hypocrisy".

The row comes about a week after about 2 000 unemployed fishing industry workers marched to Parliament, demanding an end to the joblessness forced on them over a month ago when the Cape High court ruled that a judicial review of the validity of new fishing quotas had to be done before commercial fishing could commence.

Informal Fishing Association chairperson Andy Johnston accused Meyer yesterday of using his position for personal financial gain. "It is a disgrace that people in powerful positions can manipulate fishing rights for themselves at the expense of poverty-stricken communities. The poor fishermen are becoming poorer and poorer."

He said Meyer had shares in two fishing firms, CSM Fishing and District Six Fishing, and accused him of manipulating fishing rights in favour of both firms through contacts in the transformation council (the new-era quota board).

In an affidavit, seven CSM shareholders expressed uneasiness with Meyer's involvement in their firm and said it was "unacceptable" for him to receive dividends.

Several attempts by the shareholders to get Meyer to stand down were resisted by the chairperson, Henry Albertus Cloete, and the secretary, Lucas Strauss, on the

grounds that Meyer had apparently intervened to get their crayfish quota back, the document said.

However, according to the affidavit, the shareholders were still uneasy about his role because Cloete and Strauss had declared that Meyer's name as a shareholder could not be made public or be registered.

Meyer admitted that he had been involved with both companies, but denied allegations that he had received any money.

He said the only time he had been involved with CSM was when he helped them to fill out a form for a fishing quota because of his involvement in the fishing development committee. He was paid a "consultancy fee" of about R2 000.

Meyer said he owned shares in District Six Fishing, but not after he left the company in 1995.

"They (District Six fishing) only received a quota after I left so I didn't receive any money," he said.

Meyer said he owned ordinary shares in Brimstone and Old Mutual, who owned shares in Sea Harvest and Oceana respectively.

Strauss said yesterday that Meyer's only involvement with CSM was when he "motivated" them in a court case to get their crayfish quota back. He admitted that he and Meyer had owned a taxi business about 17 years ago.

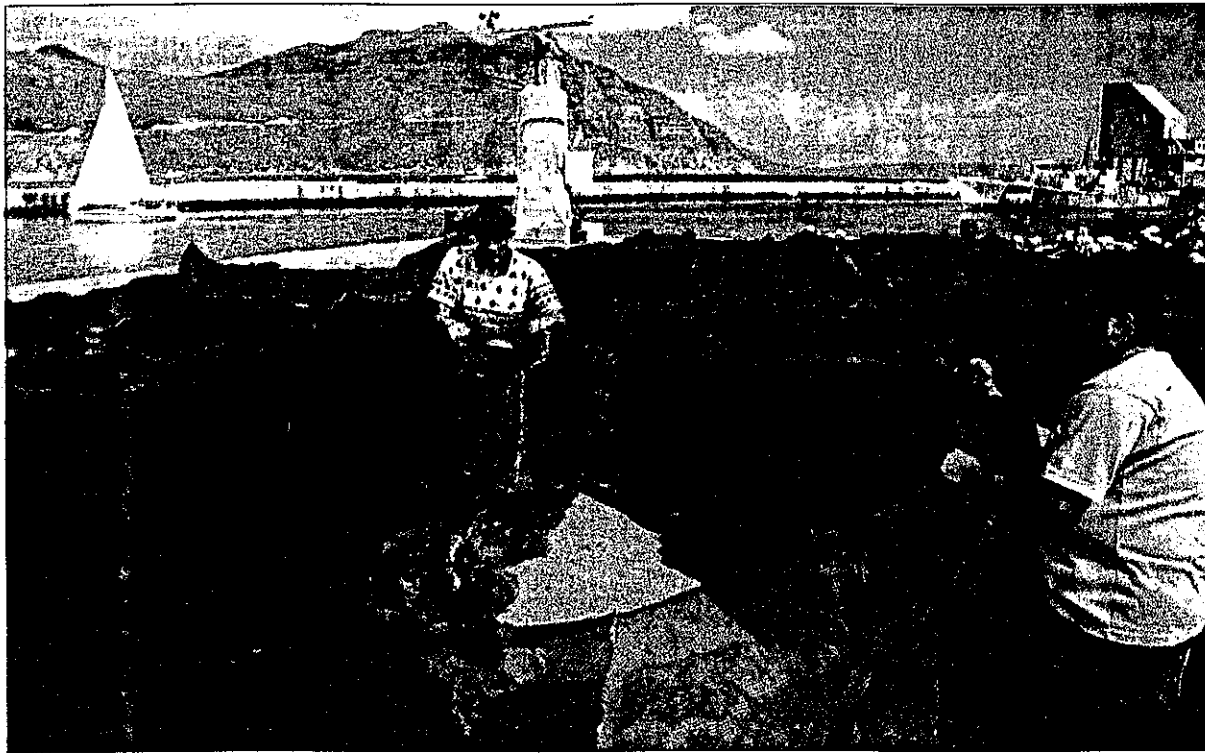
In a meeting last Tuesday, a provincial government delegation, led by Premier Gerald Morkel, appealed to Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan to ensure that fishermen could go to sea.

Morkel asked Jordan to set up a ministerial board of inquiry to investigate nepotism in the industry.

But the informal fishing industry has demanded that an independent judicial inquiry be held.

"What is happening now is only the tip of the iceberg. The corruption goes through all political groups," Johnston said.

The board of inquiry will be set up as soon as Jordan is supplied with affidavits about nepotism in the industry.



ACID ATTACK: Neil Opperman, left, and boat owner Mr Engelbrecht, with fishing nets destroyed by acid

Picture: LEON LESTRADE

Fisherman's nets destroyed by acid as rock lobster quota dispute continues

JEAN LE MAY

③ FISHING

ARG 6/3/99

The rock lobster quota dispute, which led to a Cape High Court ban on all deep sea fishing until yesterday, took a violent turn when nets, valued at R147 000, on the *Kavaller* in Hout Bay harbour were destroyed by acid on Thursday night, the owner, B J Engelbrecht, has alleged.

Hout Bay police confirmed that a charge had been laid.

Mr Engelbrecht is one of 67 applicants asking the court for a review of how Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan awarded crayfish quotas for the 1999 season.

Many of the applicants are from "old guard" companies and object to their quotas being reduced in favour of new entrants to the industry.

Mr Engelbrecht said the person who threw acid on his nets "knew his way about the boat". Now, Mr Engelbrecht will be unable to take advantage of Sea Fisheries' concession to pelagic (anchovy and pilchard) fishermen to go to sea.

Guillaume de Villiers, acting director of Sea Fisheries, yesterday said those who got pelagic quotas would be allowed to fish pending the

formal announcement of successful quotas. Inshore rock lobster and hake fishermen would also get permission to fish "soon", he said.

However, the ban on deep sea hake and rock lobster fishing will stay until the court case is decided.

But Western Cape Premier Gerald Morkel has accused Dr Jordan of buckling under political pressure from the Cosatu-allied Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu).

He said preference was being given to workers in the pelagic sector where prominent ANC people were involved. Chris Nissen, former ANC provincial leader and cabinet minister, is chairman of Sea Harvest, while Johnny Issel, a former member of the provincial legislature, works for Premier Fishing.

The ANC reacted angrily to the appointment last week by Mr Morkel of provincial transport minister Piet Meyer to a team investigating nepotism and corruption in the fishing industry.

ANC members alleged that Mr Meyer was deeply involved in the fishing industry. ANC MP Noel Williams said he had a sworn affidavit that Mr Meyer had used his

influence to get a quota for a fishing company he was involved with.

It was suggested in the provincial legislature that provincial cabinet ministers and MPs should declare all their financial interests, as is done in Parliament. Mr Meyer said he had shares in fishing companies but he was no longer a quota holder.

Safety and Security Minister Mark Wiley said allegations against Mr Meyer were "a smokescreen to divert attention from the ANC approach of awarding quotas to ANC members only".

Mr Wiley said a commission of inquiry should investigate ANC allegations of impropriety, which the Western Cape government proposed to Minister Pallo Jordan this week.

He said the inquiry "should investigate why a prominent member of the Fisheries Transformation Council (FTC) allegedly signed quota applications for a company of which his wife is a signatory".

An affidavit, in the rock lobster case, stated quota applications for Bluefin Holdings were counter-signed by Dick Meter, a member of the FTC and an ANC councillor in the South Peninsula municipality.

Fight over quotas begins to hurt

BD 8/3/99

(3) FISHING

Hundreds of families become increasingly impoverished as the small-scale west coast fishing industry grinds to a virtual halt pending the outcome of litigation, writes Linda Ensor

CAPE TOWN — Fishing communities along the West Coast have been impoverished by a dispute over quotas, with local businesses along the coastline taking a dramatic turn for the worse as people in the fishing-dependent region await the outcome of litigation over the matter.

The dispute has been ranging for four months, with the communities many of them wholly dependent on their seasonal incomes, deprived of their livelihood. About two weeks ago thousands of fishermen and workers dependent on the industry marched to Parliament to highlight their plight. Their houses and boats have been repossessed by the banks and water supplies have been cut off.

However, the wait for the outcome of litigation could be a long one as no final date for a court hearing has been set.

Provincial health MEC Peter Marais announced emergency measures at the weekend to stave off hunger among the 2 992 employees of the 21 affected fish factories. About R1,2m has been set aside by the provincial government, with each affected worker and fisherman getting R400.

"The financial situation of workers and employers affected by the delay in the allocation of fishing quotas has worsened so drastically that a crisis situation has developed," Marais said. He said this had resulted in the theft of marine resources. "Businesses' normal sales have more than halved, with the result that their workers have been dismissed."

The deputy director-general in charge of sea fisheries, Tanya Abrahamse, said the delay in the

issuing of quotas was caused by the court action instituted by 62 small fishing companies whose interests were undermined by the change in the quota system required by the newly promulgated Marine Living Resources Act.

The act gives the Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan the power to grant rights of access to the sea, and not the quota board as was the case in the past. The board is seen as having only looked after the vested interests of a few fishing companies in the past.

There was initially some delay in drawing up regulations in terms of the new act, but when Jordan announced the first tranche of quotas for the West Coast rock lobster, there was an uproar by small companies.

These companies were required to give up part of their share to the previously excluded and the new entrants into the industry. Rock lobster was regarded as a good start for transformation, Abrahamse said, because of its accessibility to small fishermen. Not much capital investment is required to get going.

Court action was launched in December by the 62 companies to have the quotas declared invalid and, pending the outcome, an interdict was handed down preventing any fishing of rock lobster.

In Jordan's view, the action of these companies was motivated by "the myopic urge to cling to all the ill-deserved privileges accrued in our divided past". He said the companies' actions posed a real danger to the nation's marine resources.

Abrahamse said there was uncertainty over whether the interdict related only to the fishing of

rock lobster or to all other allocations made by Jordan and the fisheries transformation council, an independent body set up in September last year in terms of the new act to allocate fishing rights to small-scale fishermen.

The department has been advised by its lawyers that the interdict in effect means that the council cannot make any allocations of any fish species to small players in the industry, pending the outcome of the case.

Until clarity is obtained, even big companies have been prejudiced by delays in getting their allocations. All allocations have been frozen while the department seeks legal advice. The pelagic fishing season lasts from mid-January to end-October and the rock lobster season from mid-November to end-May, so delays in getting started can be critical.

However, Jordan allocated a portion of the quotas for pelagic and hake to big companies last week even though the legal dispute has not been resolved. Other fishing sectors will receive attention shortly. Ways are also being sought to allocate at least some of the quotas to smaller players so that they can make a living.

The abalone industry is also in the grip of uncertainty. More than 20 divers working for fishing companies whose interests have been prejudiced by their quotas have sought to have the decision of the transformation council reviewed. Their case begins in the Cape High Court today and the small fishermen are hoping that a court judgment will set a precedent which will allow them to earn a living again.

T
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Fishermen head out to sea again

③ FISHING

ALEX PETERSEN

Cape Town — Several thousand canning and fish processing workers will be back at work this week after the Department of Sea Fisheries awarded almost 50 percent of the pelagic quota to the leading companies in the industry.

The award of quotas which were eventually granted on Friday.

Tony de Silva, the chief execu-

tive of Premier Fishing, said yesterday that some of the boats had already returned with their hauls. "The catches have been satisfactory," De Silva said. "We might still catch up on lost time."

Fishing companies awarded quotas included Premier, Oceana, the Saldanha group, Marpro and Suiderland. Exceptions were made for extraordinary permits for hake to allow the main companies in the

sector, Irvin & Johnson, and Sea Harvest, to continue operations.

De Silva said he was unhappy about the handling of the transformation process. This had more to do with bureaucracy within the directorate than with the minister, he said.

Ironically, much of the loss suffered by the industry has been through lost catching opportunities of a non-quota species, redeye, which is more abundant early in the season.

ET (BR) 9/3/99

Small fry left high and dry by new quotas

Traditional kreefers lose out

⑨ FISHING ARG 13/3/99

JEAN LE MAY

Mary Lateres, 55, inherited her fishing boat, the Maria Louisa, in 1985. It had belonged to her father, who had fished in St Helena Bay for 40 years.

Since 1994, when the new democratic government opened the fishing industry to small and medium businesses, she has had a small rock lobster quota of about 1,5 tons.

This year the new Fisheries Transformation Council took away her quota.

Ms Lateres wept when she told Saturday Argus she was forced to find a temporary dressmaking job to make ends meet.

"I'm sick with worry. I have no other income and it costs a lot of money to run a boat, paying the crew and keeping the boat in order. It costs R2 000 to have it surveyed for the yearly inspection.

"The boat is tied up in St Helena Bay. We caught a little snoek earlier in the season but the snoek are not running. You can't depend on them. I thought that the new law would look after traditional fishing families.

"Now they say that a 1,5-ton quota is not viable and they've taken it away from me. It was viable enough for me and the crew to live on."

Willie Plaatjies of Lambert's Bay

is also a traditional fisherman and owns the vessel Eland.

His crayfish quota has been reduced by 25% and he has taken a job on a Hout Bay fishing boat. Mr Plaatjies was at sea and could not be reached this week, but his wife Katie told Saturday Argus the quota cut had left the family in severe financial straits.

"It was so unexpected," she said. "We were not even warned. How can you run a fishing business if you don't know from one season to the next if you will be allowed to catch fish?"

Southwest Cormorant, owned by J F Morte, and the Chris Trautman, owned by J M Agrela, were also tied up in Cape Town harbour this week. Mr Agrela lost his entire crayfish quota of just over a ton and Mr Morte's two-ton quota has been cut by 25%.

Meanwhile, about 30 of the companies interdicted from fishing for rock lobster in a case now before the Cape High Court have applied successfully to the court to be released from the interdict.

Their applications were not opposed, said a source.

Saturday Argus was told that all the companies that applied for release were respondents in the case, which was brought by 67 quota-holders against Environment Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan, the



ON THE ROCKS: Jose Morte, who lost 24% of his quota, with John de Silva and Manuelle Louw, who lost their entire quotas Picture: ANDREW INGRAM

Fisheries Transformation Council and 158 other quota-holders.

None of the 67 applicants applied for release because they were told their applications would be opposed, said the source.

The entire allocation system for rock lobster quotas is to be taken on review by the Cape High Court when the case comes up again on April 6.

Monde Mayekiso, the Sea Fisheries' chief director, said in court papers filed early in the case that the applicants were members of the "old guard" who enjoyed virtual monopolies of valuable rock lobster quotas and who objected to quotas being given to previously disadvantaged people and their companies.

However, Ms Lateres and Mr Plaatjies are themselves from the previously disadvantaged fishing community.

They believed they would continue to enjoy a share in the lucrative rock lobster industry after having been deprived for so long, and are bitterly disappointed.

The case started late in December, soon after long-delayed quota allocations were announced.

On January 22, Mr Justice Louw interdicted everyone involved in the case from fishing.

Eight companies associated with the Oceana Fishing group were exempted on a technicality.

The rock lobster season was supposed to open on November 16 and will close on May 31. Once the case is resolved, quota-holders will have about six weeks instead of six months to catch their entire quotas.

In court papers, disagreement has been expressed about the viability of

small quotas and the decision to take away "paper quotas" - quotas caught by somebody else or sold.

"Paper quotas" and quotas under two tons were introduced in the early 1990s to "rationalise" the industry; there was no hint from Dr Jordan or Sea Fisheries that they would be abolished.

However, it appears from court papers that the decision to cut quotas or take them away from "non-performing" quota-holders was made by the minister on the advice of Patrick Fitzgerald, his Pretoria-based director-general, who consulted various bodies including the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee.

Letters from Mr Fitzgerald introduced in court say that the total allowable catch should be set at 2 300 tons - up from 1 920 tons last year -

and that recreational and subsistence fishermen should get allocations, which has not been the case before. The new quotas would be found in the tonnage taken away from others.

The new policy was never debated in public.

An affidavit from Gert Pharo, of Langklip See Produkte, alleges political influence in granting quotas to a cluster of 10 Hout Bay companies.

This was disputed in an affidavit from Dr Mayekiso, who said the committee that recommended the quotas consisted of "people of integrity who would not have been influenced by improper motives".

Dr Mayekiso said in the affidavit Mr Pharo had lost his quota because it was not economically viable and he did not catch it personally.



Plundering the ocean: Prawn trawler *Ocean Spume* hit a sandbank and capsized earlier this month while scooping up prawns less than 300m off the mouth of the St Lucia estuary. PHOTOGRAPH: KIAN BARKER

P(r)awns in a rotten industry

M+G 19-25/3/99 ~~(S)~~ FISHING

Niki Barker

The KwaZulu-Natal marine environment is being plundered by unscrupulous fishing fleet owners who are taking advantage of the government's inability to adequately regulate fishing operations off the coast.

A recent shipping disaster in northern KwaZulu-Natal has revealed the lack of control of the lucrative prawn-fishing industry by the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Prawn trawler *Ocean Spume* hit a sandbank and capsized earlier this month while scooping up prawns less than 300m off the mouth of the St Lucia estuary. The trawler allegedly had five tons of prawns on board.

St Lucia residents rejoiced at its sinking, as the trawling operation has been a sore point with the townfolk for several years.

The owner of the trawler, Jack Walsh of Durban-based Spray Fishing, says it was operating legally when it sank. But this week it emerged his fishing permit was issued only two days after the trawler went down.

A Department of Sea Fisheries official says fishing is allowed only after a vessel is in possession of the permit. "But these guys often take a chance. They know they will soon be getting their permits, and they start fishing at once — hoping no one will come aboard and check."

Prawn trawling is certainly worth taking chances for. There is a limited season as the lifespan of prawns is short — about eight weeks. They congregate in large numbers in

the shallow water off estuaries and lagoons, so it's easy to scoop them up in large drag nets.

A single trawler can net between three and five tons a day. A catch this size would be worth about R500 000.

All commercial fishermen are compelled to pay a levy to the Department of Sea Fisheries. In the case of prawns, this levy is a remarkable R95 a ton, which works out to less than a cent a kilogram. With a market value of more than R60 a kilogram, prawn fishing is an extremely lucrative business.

When the new Living Marine Resources Act was introduced in September last year, all previous laws and licences were repealed and fishermen were required to re-apply for fishing licences.

Historically, the South African fishing industry has been Cape-based, so most attention has been paid to the protection of cold-water species such as crayfish and abalone. Prawn fishing occurs in the tropical waters of KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique, and until recently the industry has been a bit of a free-for-all.

The KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service has been tasked with patrolling the coastal waters of the province, and has been allocated a budget to do this.

But doubts have been expressed about its ability to protect the coast from marauding fishing boats. Reports of vessels lowering nets at night into the protected marine reserve north of St Lucia, for instance, have not been followed up as the service does not have the sea-going capacity to react to public alarms.

"Launching a boat at night to investigate is

very difficult, as there is no harbour close by [to the St Lucia marine reserve]. We use the navy as much as we can, but they also have their restrictions," says an officer in the conservation service.

"However, we are still fortunate. The Eastern Cape and Transkei have no policing at all. Their fishing is wrecked."

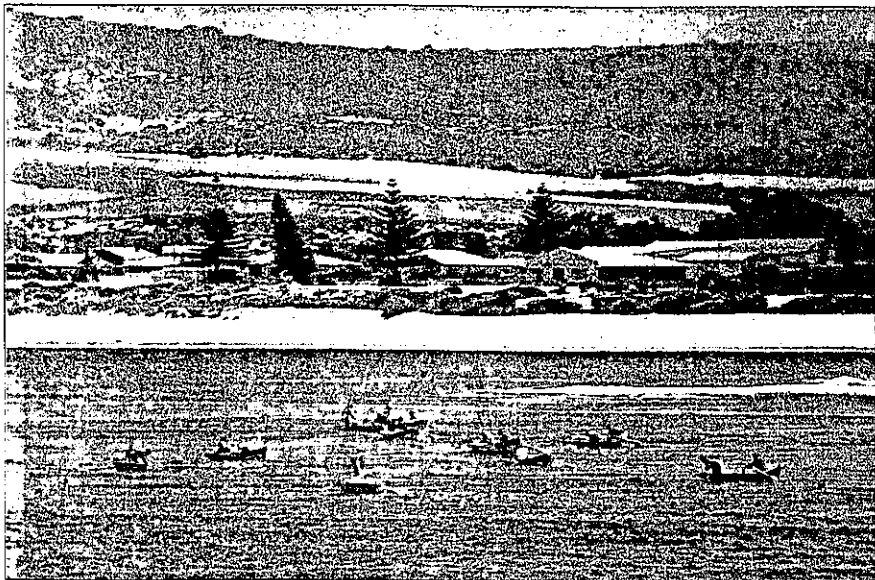
The conservation service says the *Ocean Spume* matter is under investigation. "We need to get samples of the catch, and sworn statements as to whether the trawler was actually engaged in fishing."

Proof of the trawler's activities will not be slow in coming. The residents of coastal towns such as Zinkwazi, Mtunzini, Tugela and St Lucia have been protesting for many years against the presence of trawlers a few hundred metres from their beaches. Their protests have been based on environmental and economic concerns.

St Lucia's economy relies entirely on fishing and tourism. Businesspeople in the town accuse the trawlers of destroying the food chain off the sensitive St Lucia estuary mouth and damaging fish populations. They stress that the area is a proposed World Heritage Site and deserves protection.

There are also concerns about the safety of bathers, surfers and divers, as the trawlers operate just beyond the line of breakers, less than 300m offshore.

Residents are preparing a petition in an attempt to pressure the government into extending the boundaries of the present marine reserve, where no fishing should be allowed.



ME TOO: screeching seagulls demand their share of the pickings

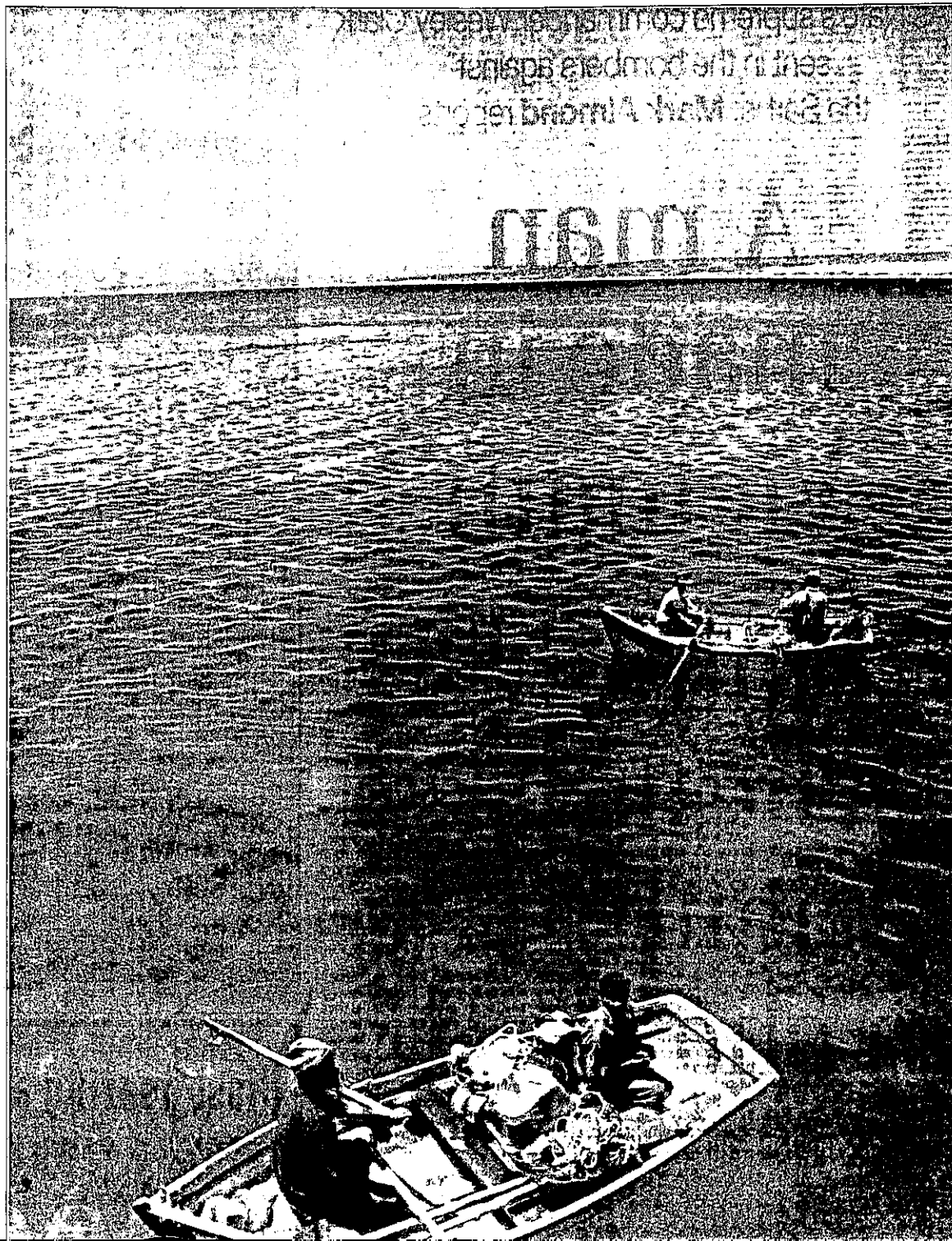
A mine of red gold waits under the sea



RED GOLD: Deon Boois of Doring Bay, who has been fishing for 27 years

Two years have passed since the Great Crayfish Disaster at Elands Bay on the West Coast when 1 200 tons of rock lobster beached themselves to escape water depleted of oxygen by red tide. The resource has recovered and tons of kreef are out there - but the ban on crayfishing pending a legal dispute over quotas means few are able to harvest the red gold. These 'bakkies' put to sea at Elands Bay to catch for the Oceana group, which escaped the banning interdict on a technicality.

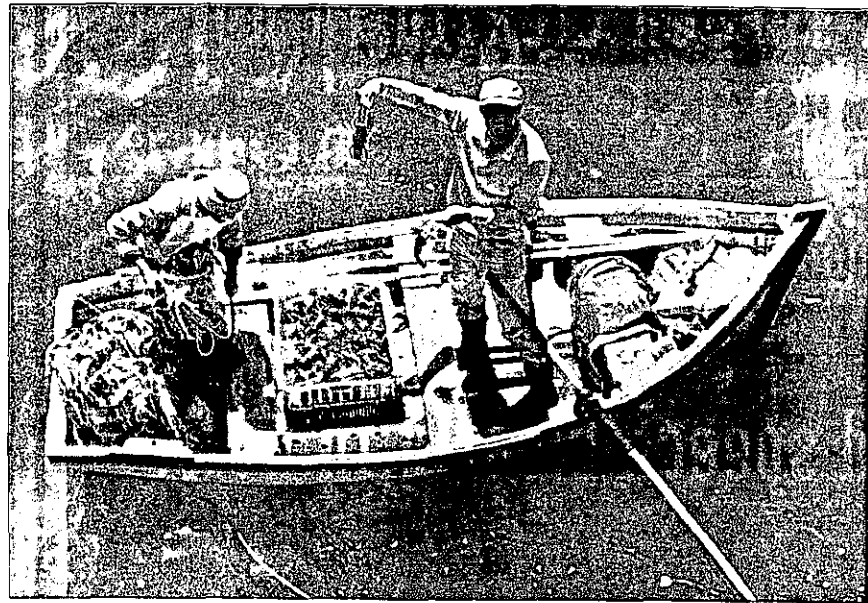
Pictures: ROY WIGLEY



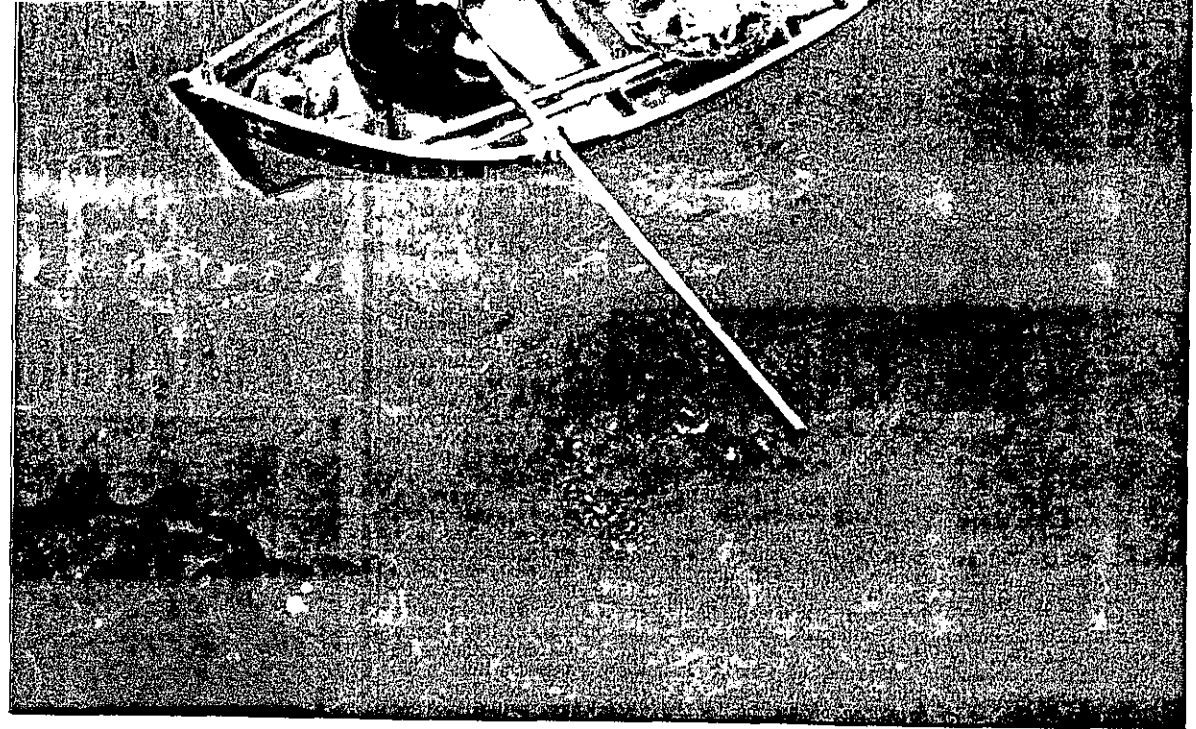
interdict on a technicality.

RED GOLD: Deon Bools of Doring Bay, who has been fishing for 27 years

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY



HAPPINESS IS: a fish box full of good sized kreef



ON A CLEAR DAY: visibility in the cold Atlantic is so good these fishermen can watch the kreef crawling into their traps

The fishermen forgotten by law

New legislation all but ignores the people who depend on the sea for daily sustenance

JEAN LE MAY

As far back as people can remember, rural women from coastal villages throughout South Africa have relied on the sea as a source of food for their families.

But Rose Gono, a Cape Town domestic worker who returned recently from her annual holiday in the Transkei, tells a dismal story about her sisters, who have been threatened with arrest for doing what their mothers and grandmothers have done for decades: collecting mussels from the rocks near the coastal village where she grew up.

"The inspector asked for their permits and took the mussels away from them," she exclaimed.

"Where would they get money for

a permit? If they had money, they would buy food. They needed the mussels for food. What is wrong with the Government?"

The new Marine Living Resources Act stipulates that permits, which cost R50, are required to collect mussels. However, no one in Rose's village knows about the new law.

The Department of Sea Fisheries has set up a special task group to investigate how subsistence fishermen have been affected by the legislation.

Although the Fisheries Policy Development Committee spent four years and a great deal of money on the spadework for the new law, it is now clear that not nearly enough attention was given to subsistence and informal fishermen.

There have been numerous court

cases about fishing quotas for rock lobster and abalone, which subsistence fishermen often depend on.

The new law also appears to have done little to stop poaching, although it was hoped that introducing innovative quotas for subsistence fishermen would help curb illegal fishing activities.

Abalone poachers are now said to take out even more than the annual total allowable catch.

One of the problems could be traced to a lack of coordination within Sea Fisheries itself.

The task group, according to a well-placed source, immediately identified a problem with the numerous Sea Fisheries units dealing with policy and its implementation, saying there was "confusion" about their respective roles and

potential overlaps.

At last count, at least five committees were dealing with the allocation of fishing rights.

"It's no exaggeration to say each of them works in a vacuum, without knowing what the others are doing. This is the source of much of the delay and confusion in the industry," said the source.

For example, rock lobster quotas were announced only in mid-December, although the season opened on November 15. With most quota holders interdicted by a case before the Cape High Court, only a handful of exempted quota holders have started fishing. The season ends in May.

The task group noted at one of its early meetings that the closing date for subsistence-fishing permits for

the current season was published "very late" and, moreover, it was published in the Government Gazette, which the task group considered "inappropriate".

It recommended that calls for permits applications be made timeously on radio and in pamphlets and newspapers.

The task group is under the overall supervision of Monde Mayakiso, the Sea Fisheries chief director. Jean Harris, an environmentalist from the KwaZulu Natal Nature Conservation Service, is chairman of the group.

A "core" group includes Professor George Branch of the University of Cape Town, consultants from provincial conservation departments, Sea Fisheries officials, a lawyer and two economists.

FISHING ARG 27/3/99

Dr Harris told Saturday Argus that the group was "really an implementation plan".

"Road shows" to explain the new laws would be held in fishing communities until September, she said.

The group is funded by grants from the Marine Living Resources Fund, the Norwegian government and the Department of Sea Fisheries, with additional funding possible from the World Wildlife Fund's Green Trust and the European Community.

The task group's terms of reference include:

- Defining subsistence fishermen and recognising the different categories.
- Identifying appropriate zones where they may fish.

■ Deciding how much fish they should be allowed to catch.

■ Developing guidelines for small-scale commercial groups and recommending management models.

Dr Harris told Saturday Argus that not enough recognition had been given in South African fishing law to artisanal fishermen, a group recognised in the fishing laws of almost all developing countries.

These are seasonal fishermen who may hold down other jobs, but who depend on fishing for part of their yearly income.

The task group hopes to make recommendations on subsistence fishing rights by October. Next year it plans to develop guidelines for a longer-term project to place the management of subsistence fishing on a firm footing.



STEER CLEAR ... DTI chief director Bahle Sibisi thinks it is not viable to let more vessels into SA's fully utilised fishing waters

Fish row looms between EU and SA

ST(BT) 28/3/99
 ANOTHER row could be on the cards next year when the European Union and SA start talks on a fisheries pact after this week's historic decision by EU leaders to endorse the SA trade deal.

Both sides pledged in the agreement to make their "best endeavours" to negotiate a fisheries accord by the end of next year. Spain, one of the five EU states that initially vetoed the trade agreement, is likely to play rough, and demand access to SA fishing waters. That is not likely to find favour with SA.

Bahle Sibisi, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) chief director who has played a key role for four years in the

WATERS ACCESS

By THABO KOBOKOANE

trade talks, says SA is not opposed to a fisheries agreement that emphasises co-operation on broad issues.

But, he says, "our view is that opening access into our waters is not viable and attainable, and not in line with current restructuring in the industry".

SA contends that its waters are fully utilised, and there is no room for outside interests.

Still, the EU, acting at Spain's request, is expected to insist on a fisheries accord that includes access to SA waters for its fishing vessels. Spain contended un-

til last July that a trade agreement should be linked to one on fisheries, wines and spirits.

The view in Brussels now is that there can be no fisheries agreement without access to SA waters. For this reason, the EU is likely to link an SA request for better market access for its fisheries to compel SA to open its resources to Spanish vessels.

SA's fishing industry has indicated its willingness to forego such a request for better access as the benefits of the status quo outweigh those of better market access. Only 1.3% of SA exports overall are based on fishing.

The agreement endorsed this week by EU leaders, which is set

to come into force from next year, ends four years of protracted negotiations, which on several occasions came to the brink of collapse.

Widely welcomed by everyone, from President Nelson Mandela down, the agreement will see about 90% of trade liberalised on both sides. SA will liberalise its markets to 81% of EU agricultural products and 86% of its industrial sector, and the EU will do so for 99% and 61% of SA industrial and agricultural products respectively.

The deal was finally wrapped up after agreement on new wording on the controversial issues of port and sherry.

FISHING INDUSTRY

③ FISHING

BATTLE OF THE PILCHARDS

Namibian challenge to Oceana

Namibian Fishing Industries (Namfish) is about to challenge pilchard industry leader Oceana Fishing (Ocfish) by introducing its own brand of canned pilchards from the end of April.

The move follows a radical restructuring of the SA fishing industry by the Marine Living Resources Act passed last year.

The market for canned pilchards in SA is the largest in the world, amounting to 7m cases worth about R600m annually. It's an important food source because pilchards provide cheap, high quality protein and are not subject to Vat.

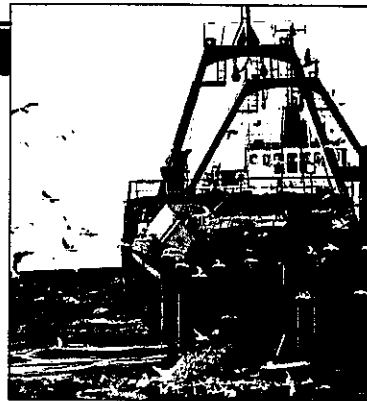
Until now, pilchard production from the major fishing companies has been pooled and marketed by Federal Marine under the Lucky Star brand, which serves about 75% of the market.

Federal Marine was bought by Ocfish for R45,3m in January last year. Ocfish is controlled by Don Ncube's Real Africa group. Federal Marine also markets Lucky Pet, the second largest brand of canned cat food in SA.

Federal Marine continues to buy some

of its requirements from Namibia but there was a huge build-up of unsold canned pilchard stocks in Walvis Bay last year. This caught the Namibian companies un-awares because stock shortages caused by tight fishing quotas have been the norm, and they have tended to sell nearly all their production to SA.

Industry sources say that at the beginning of 1999 there was nearly a year's stock of canned pilchards sitting in warehouses in Walvis Bay, though the level has dropped in recent months. Increased fishing quotas for pilchards in SA and Namibian waters have led to oversupply and the stock glut. Namfish chairman Peter Kuttel says the total allowable catch for pilchards in Namibian waters has gone from



Pilchard fishing... Namibians have decided to rock the boat

20 000 t in 1996 to 25 000 t in 1997 and 65 000 t last year.

The Namibian companies were worst affected by the oversupply because they did not have their own retail brands, had not developed export markets other than SA, and were cut off from direct access to the retail market. That's about to change.

"We have shifted most of our carry-over stock and are about to start canning again," says Kuttel. "This year's Namibian pilchard quota has been provisionally set at 35 000 t but is expected to be finalised only by the end of April. It makes no sense to start up the canning factory

only to shut it down and then restart it." Namfish has a 23% stake in United Fishing Enterprises (UFE) which is Namibia's largest supplier of canned pilchards and processes the catch of several other concession holders. Kuttel says UFE will introduce its own brand of canned pilchards in competition with Lucky Star "within the next few weeks". He won't give specifics at this stage.

Events could yet play into the hands of the Namibian fishing companies because of the current confusion caused by delays in finalising this year's SA fishing quotas. A lower overall SA pilchard catch for whatever reason would greatly help to shift the remaining excess stock from Namibia.

Brandan Ryan

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Black-owned fishing company to focus on hake industry

Tim Cohen

③ FISHING

BD 9/4/99

CAPE TOWN — The Gugulethu Fishing Company, claimed to be the first genuinely black-owned fishing company, announced at its launch yesterday it would invest R3,3m in the long-line hake industry in the next two years.

Director Liwa Gunguluza said the company comprised eight business units, the majority originating from various previously disadvantaged communities in the Western Cape.

It has an 80% empowerment shareholding with the remaining 20% held by Pimenta Fishing, which would give the company access to its state-of-the-art long-line vessel and export-approved processing plant, Gunguluza said at the launch.

The eight business units consist mainly of people with long and varied experience in commercial fishing, but who have until now been excluded from quotas, which Gugulethu Fishing hopes will be awarded during

the course of this month.

"This is not a paper empowerment company. Each of the black business clusters will have a direct say and interest in Gugulethu Fishing, and will be represented in the day-to-day running of the operation," Gunguluza emphasised.

He said the company aimed to invest R1,5m working capital in its first year of operation, with an increase to R1,8m in the second to set up a processing plant and to train shareholders in various aspects of fishing, seamanship, sustainable management of fish resources and marketing. About 50 jobs would be created.

By the end of its second year in operation, Gugulethu

Fishing planned to invest R2m in purchasing a new fishing vessel for harvesting long-line hake, but until then the company would use the skills base and infrastructure of Pimenta Fishing.

Gunguluza says the bulk of Gugulethu Fishing's catch will be exported to lucrative European markets. "In anticipation of a quota we have thoroughly researched our potential customer base.

"One of our first priorities will be to send black shareholders to Europe to gain first-hand knowledge of the markets for long-line hake." The main market for long-line hake is Spain, where it commands prices of about R34 a kg.

Gugulethu Fishing nets empowerment

③ FISHING

CT(BR)-9/4/99

VERA VON LIERES

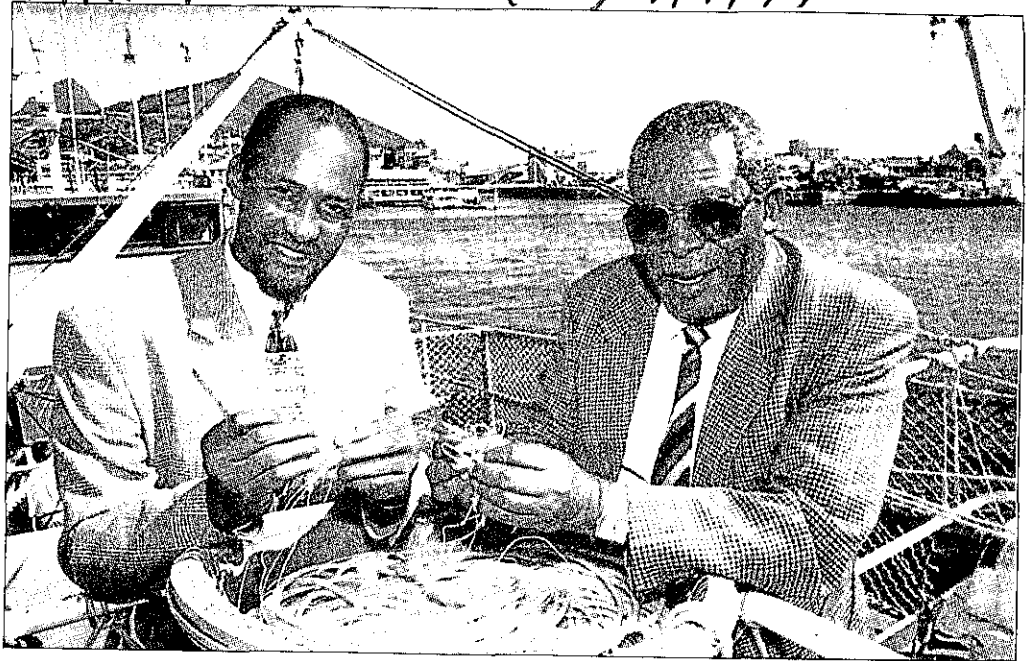
Cape Town — In a drive to introduce empowerment in the fishing industry, Gugulethu Fishing, a black-owned fishing group consisting of eight business clusters from Cape townships, was launched yesterday, Liwa Gunguluza, a director, said yesterday.

The new contender in the fishing industry, which has an 80 percent empowerment stake, will focus on long-line fishing as opposed to trawling. It is one of numerous players that has applied for long-line hake quotas.

"This is not a fish and chips shop in Gugulethu ... It's the first black-owned fishing company in the Western Cape, which will empower from the ground up," Gunguluza said.

Gugulethu Fishing was founded on the aspirations of black business people who had been excluded from quotas and thus any real economic stake in the fishing industry.

The group aims to invest R1,5 million in working capital in its first year and R1,8 million in the second year. This will be used for a processing plant. It also plans to invest R2 million in a new fishing vessel.



HOOKING UP Gugulethu Fishing's Liwa Gunguluza (left) with Lungile Daba, a fellow director, gearing up for the big bite

PHOTO ANDREW BROWN

About 50 jobs should be created in the first stage of operations, with the processing plant bumping up the employment potential.

The launch comes amid a turbulent time in the industry, which has been marked by an impasse over outstanding quo-

tas to be allocated in terms of new legislation. This led to out-of-work fishermen marching on parliament, demanding a speedy resolution of problems.

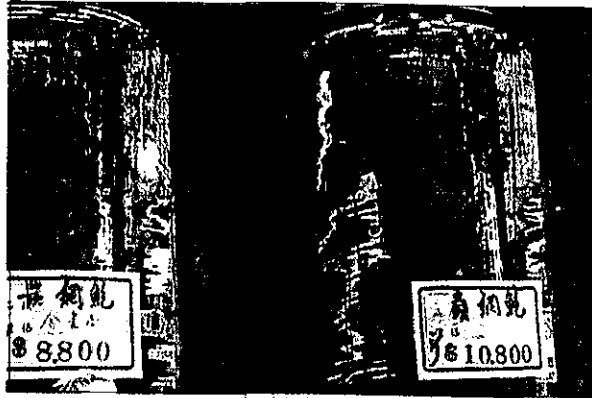
The new group would initially use the skills base and infrastructure of Pimenta Fishing, the Cape-based group regarded

as a leader in long-line fishing.

The bulk of the catch would be exported to lucrative European markets, of which Spain is the main market for long-line hake.

Gunguluza was confident that the long-line permits would be awarded without hitches.

Abundance of top quality SA 'illegal' shellfish filling the shops of Hong Kong



CONTRABAND: South African perlemoen smuggled into Hong Kong, on sale for up to R9,000 a kg. Pictures: ANDREW JOHNSTON

JEAN LE MAY

The fact that large quantities of "illegal" South African perlemoen reach Hong Kong is apparently no secret in the former British colony, says Andy Johnston, a Cape Town fishing activist.

He visits Asia regularly as South African delegate to the World Forum of Fish Harvesters and Fish Workers.

Mr Johnston said he was surprised at the superb quality and large quantity of dried South African perlemoen in shops and wholesale establishments when he was in Hong Kong recently.

"When I was there two years ago, I noticed that the quality of South African perlemoen was very poor, so poor that the suppliers were looking at other markets.

"This time I found that there had been an astonishing change. The South African perlemoen was excellent, with the highest grade selling at 10 800 Hong Kong dollars (R9 000) a kg. It was professionally packed, not the sort of packaging done by backyard smugglers.

"The wholesalers told me it was 'illegal' South African perlemoen. I see no reason why they should mislead me.

"They told me that since Hong Kong left the Commonwealth there had been no control over imports at the port of Hong Kong. As for the South African end, they told me South African customs officials were as easy to bribe as Nigerians.

"They told me there was a huge demand for the 'illegal' shellfish, showing me a coldstore room which I estimated held at least 150 tons of it.

"At R9 000 a kg, that would have been worth more than R1-billion. This was only one of many similar cold stores in Hong Kong stacked with South African perlemoen.

"They said that much of it was sold in mainland China, where it is very popular.

"While I was with them, they were negotiating a sale with a Chinese dealer from the mainland. I noticed they insisted on cash, refusing him credit."

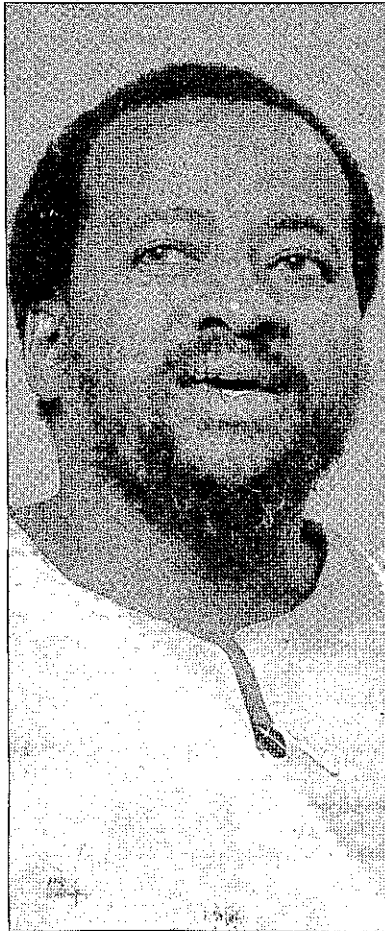
Mr Johnston said some of the "illegal" perlemoen was canned in Hong Kong and sold under a counterfeit label as "Clock abalone", an export-market leader produced legally in South Africa by a leading fishing company.

"They counterfeit Gucci handbags and Rolex watches, why not Clock abalone?" he said.

③ WASHING ARG 17/4/99



COUNTERFEIT: smuggled perlemoen that was canned in Hong Kong and then sold under counterfeit brandname labels



On the losing end: Pallo Jordan

Disadvantaged fishermen sunk in kreef quota ruling

Judges find in favour of former permit holders

LENORE OLIVER
HIGH COURT REPORTER

A Cape High Court judgment on rock lobster fishing quotas has left 160 formerly disadvantaged fishermen out in the cold.

Langklip Sea Products and 66 other applicants won their battle in the Cape High Court today after a judge ruled that they were solely entitled to the total allowable catch for rock lobster this year.

Langklip and the other applicants had taken Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan and 160 other respondents to court.

They were angry because they were historically the existing quota holders, but this year Mr Jordan decided most of the quota should go to previously disadvantaged

fishermen. Today's ruling effectively left the new quota-holders, most of them historically disadvantaged, with no access to this season's total allowable catch of 1 619 tons.

In January, a judge granted an interdict in favour of Langklip Sea Products and the other applicants which stopped all new quota holders from catching West Coast rock lobster commercially, pending an eventual decision.

Langklip, which did not get a quota, and the other applicants brought the court action because they had received quotas for the previous season and wanted to make sure this would continue.

Although the Fisheries Act was replaced by the New Marine Living Resources Act on September 1 last year, "transitional measures" in

terms of the new act required the minister to exercise all the functions of the old institutions – including the quota board – for six months from September.

That meant the minister should have applied the guidelines of the old quota board in determining quotas for the new season, said the applicants.

These guidelines required him to consider the existing quota-holders in allocating quotas.

Today, Mr Justice Dennis Davis and Ms Justice Jeanette Traverso ruled that Mr Jordan had been obliged to follow the rules of the old quota board. They ruled that the total allowable catch be divided between the applicants and that whatever they had caught so far this season be considered part of that total.

③ FISHING ARG 23/4/99

COMPANY NEWS

FOOD Group nets 36% increase in interim earnings

Sea Harvest overcomes setbacks

③ FISHING 23/4/99

VERA VON LIERES

Cape Town - Sea Harvest, the fishing and food processing company jointly owned by Brimstone and ICS, netted a 36 percent increase in headline earnings a share to 37,9c in the six months to March 31 despite a temporary setback early this year when the group was forced to tie up its entire fleet, the company said yesterday.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director, said the earnings growth, which was accompanied by a 14 percent rise in dividends to 12c, was driven by solid results from the Namibian unit and a satisfactory local showing.

In January, the Saldanha Bay-based fishing operation pulled back its fleet for two weeks after the withdrawal of fishing permits.

Sea Harvest, which last year restructured to allow a more diverse spread of ownership, was able to send its vessels out to sea again after it was given a bridging hake allocation of about 40 percent of the 1998 quota.

The department of sea fisheries is still in process of finalising the 1999 hake quotas in terms of the



HAKE HAUL Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, says the fishing group will probably be allocated lower hake quotas this year to allow for redistribution in the sector

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

new Living Marine Resources Act.

"Despite this temporary setback, we were able to grow turnover by 9 percent to R261,4 million on firm export demand, a weaker rand and a more favourable sales mix," Penzhorn said.

Bottom-line profits came in

36 percent higher at R40,9 million.

Final hake allocations for 1999 could be lower than last year to make room for a redistribution of rights to new entrants.

Sea Harvest shares were untraded at R3,60 on the JSE yesterday.

Management service for quota holders

③ FISHING

ARG 24/4/99

Afrifish Ship Management was formed last year by a group of dynamic fishing industry professionals who anticipated demand for experienced fishing vessel and quota managers by newly emerging quota holders as a result of the restructuring taking place in the South African fishing industry.

The company currently has several vessels under management and is anticipating significant growth in the future.

The founding members of the company have all had extensive, practical experience in vessel and quota management prior to initiating this venture.

Managing partner Martin Windt has gained wide experience around South Africa in the operational management of many types of fishing vessels and is in charge of the day-to-day running of the company. He is supported by a team of experienced personnel.

Afrifish offers a service tailored to each quota holder's specific requirements. These include:

- A consulting service – advising quota holders on optimal utilisation of their fishing, rights;

- Full management of fishing vessels – including crewing, maintenance and repair, equipping, victualling and directing fishing strategy;

- Assistance in the identification and acquisition of appropriate fishing vessels for quota holders; and

- Facilitation of joint ventures by the bringing together of smaller quota holders into viable fishing groups jointly capable of fully employing their own fishing vessel on a long term basis.

A general perception exists that the issue of a fishing quota is a licence to print money. This is far from the truth.

Deep-sea trawling particularly is a capital intensive business. For example, a second-hand trawler in reasonable condition costs many millions of rand to purchase and needs about R30 000 a day in direct operating costs to keep it at sea. Investments of this magnitude demand experienced and sophisticated management of the type offered by Afrifish if anticipated levels of profitability are to be achieved

Afrifish Ship Management believes in careful management of the component parts of the three "pillars" of a profitable fish catching operation. These pillars are:

1. **Landed cost** – this is a function of catch rate and operating cost. Catch rate (tons per fishing day) can be influenced by factors such as skipper ability, fishing gear and fishing position. There are few truly variable costs in fishing – most daily costs (such as fuel, basic pay, repairs and maintenance) are fixed.

2. **Catch mix** – a 1 000 ton quota could be worth between R3 million and R5 million depending on the catch mix targeted.

3. **Catch quality** – in order to consistently achieve "top dollar" for your match you must be able to deliver superior quality.

"Any quota holder engaging the services of Afrifish Ship Management can lock into the company's extensive network of ship owners, providers of capital and marketing channels. As a completely independent and fishing management focussed company, customers can be assured that they will be getting the most objective advice and support available in the country," said Mr Windt.

Fishing industry in a knot over EU talks

JEAN LE MAY

The government indulged in an orgy of self-congratulation when it eventually pulled off a trade agreement with the European Union.

Hidden away behind the back-slapping and the handshakes was the fact that one of the terms of the agreement was that South Africa and the EU will "make their best endeavours" to reach a fisheries agreement by the end of next year. And fish and fish products are excluded from the tariff schedules pending a fisheries agreement.

Until then, South Africa will continue to import and export fish and fish products without benefit of tariff concessions. In 1997, EU nations bought about R519-million's worth, almost 25 percent of total South African fish exports. From all accounts, the Europeans are so hooked on South African hake that they're happy to pay high prices for it - especially the Spanish, who are by far the biggest buyers.

So South African negotiators are bracing themselves for the battle to keep heavily-subsidised EU fleets out of South African waters.

The government's earlier approach was that it needed an EU fishing agreement like a hole in the head. A brief to negotiators actually said: "We don't need a fishing agreement". Now they need to start talking about it again, at least.

One myth must be cleared up: the wine-and-spirits agreement with the EU must be in place by September,

^③FISHING and it has absolutely nothing to do with the fisheries agreement. At one stage, early on in the trade talks, some EU nations, notably Spain, pushed for the trade agreement to be linked with fisheries and with wine-and-spirits agreements. The South Africans stood their ground, and eventually they were de-linked.

The port-and-sherry threat has been around ever since South Africa was given limited membership of the Lome Convention, an EU trade-and-aid accord with developing African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) nations. We may not have heard the last of it.

Foreign fleets

So the crunch for the fishing industry will come when fisheries talks with the EU get serious. The clause in the trade agreement doesn't specify what a fisheries agreement will entail. And there are hardly enough fish for all the South Africans who want to fish, let alone rapacious foreign fleets.

A diplomatic source has said South African negotiators were thinking of "limited experimental fishing" by EU fleets. But this "could be the thin end of the wedge", he said.

The snag is that South Africa doesn't have the vessels or the manpower to monitor it, and experience has proved that it needs monitoring.

Namibia had a horrendous time with foreign fleets, eventually refusing to re-negotiate its EU agreement after

Spanish vessels were caught poaching. Five vessels were confiscated and their captains fined R1,65-million. The chairman of the Spanish trawler owners' association said it was "an operating cost, like getting a traffic fine".

Another suggestion is a regional agreement between the EU and other South African Development Community countries. This should appeal to the EU's ideal of community, said the diplomat. The timing could be right, because the Lome agreements are being re-negotiated.

But, according to Brussels-based Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements, the majority of ACP countries which had EU fishing agreements declared that EU fleets breached the terms. However, massive EU "aid" in the form of outright payments weakened their resolve to have nothing further to do with the EU. Morocco, Mauritius and Mozambique have already signed agreements.

"The irony is that the so-called "aid", amounting to many millions of rands, goes straight back into the EU as debt repayments, instead of being used for development," said the diplomat.

Other suggestions are for joint-venture or joint-enterprise agreements between South African and European companies. The snag here is that, up to now, new entrants to the industry, who are meant to be the biggest beneficiaries, often come off second best.

In a recent court case, the Eastern Cape new-entry companies which had the quotas would have ended up with a 5% share-holding if the judge had not refused to sanction the issue of a licence to a Spanish vessel.

ARG 24/4/99

High Court judges rule against Environment Affairs minister in

JEAN LE MAY

Environment Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan's move to "restructure" the fishing industry for the benefit of new entrants has backfired.

Two Cape High Court judges yesterday ruled against him in a case which could have widespread implications for the industry.

The effect of the judgment is that the total commercial catch of crayfish for 1998/99 must go to people who had quotas for the 1997/98 season.

This includes big companies such as Irvin & Johnson, which held huge quotas for years.

And the most recent entrants, consisting largely of previously disad-

vantaged fishermen - the very people Dr Jordan was trying to help - are excluded.

Langklip See Produkte and 60 others v the Minister of Environmental Affairs and 157 others went to court because many of the applicants had their rock lobster quotas reduced by 25% or lost them altogether. The tonnage made available was split

among new entrants.

The case began on January 5 when Mr Justice Thring ordered everyone involved to stop catching lobsters until the issue was settled.

Most respondents applied to court to be released from the ban and were allowed to carry on fishing.

However, none of the applicants applied because they were warned

they would be opposed by the minister, said their lawyer, Peter Edwardes.

None of the applicants has fished since the application was launched and they have suffered grave financial losses. And apparently the case need not have lasted so long. It was common knowledge that the judge president offered to have the case

urgently reviewed, but this was refused by Dr Jordan.

At issue was the interpretation of a section of the new Living Marine Resources Act which said that for six months after the Act came into force, the minister had to follow the procedures of the old quota board in considering applications.

The court found that the minister

had not acted in accordance with those procedures.

In reaction, the chief director of Marine and Coastal Management Monde Mayekiso said he didn't want to comment on the judgment itself, but its implications would be studied by Dr Jordan's legal team to establish a course of action available to the minister.

crayfish quota case
24/4/99
ARG
(3) FISHING
(ARG)

Ports in safety storm

Fishing trawlers in danger from rundown breakwaters and jetties at Cape harbours

BOBBY JORDAN

③ FISHING ST(CM) 25/4/99

SOUTH Africa's fishing harbours are falling apart, threatening the livelihood and safety of thousands of fishermen, it emerged this week.

Harbours such as Hout Bay, Kalk Bay, Gordon's Bay and Hermanus are among those identified as potentially hazardous due to a complete standstill in funds for harbour maintenance. The crisis at fishing harbours was highlighted this week at an international conference on coastal and port engineering in Cape Town, attended by more than 300 international delegates.

Prominent SA coastal engineer Keith Mackie told delegates many of the breakwaters protecting fishing boats along the coast were beginning to collapse. "Virtually nothing" had been spent on maintenance at any of the fishing harbours over the past year.

"These harbours are in great danger of disappearing into the sea," Mackie said.

"It's disastrous. There's a serious risk of an accident where people could get killed," he said, adding that the industry urgently needed a commission of inquiry into the proper administration of small harbours.

"The problem has nothing to do with the political changes in the country over the past decade — it's a classic case of bureaucratic inertia. The SA coastline is the most inhospitable in the world and it's central government's responsibility to provide proper access."

Instead, maintenance levels had been declining for the past 10 years.

"What was at first a slow rate of deterioration is now accelerating. If matters continue as they are, it will not be long before the various structures, breakwaters, jetties and slipways, need to be de-rated for safety or begin to fail or collapse."

"In some cases the collapse could be catastrophic with dire consequences," Mackie said in a paper presented to the conference.

But future prospects remained bleak because the once substantial budget for capital expenditure and maintenance at fishing harbours had completely vanished.

"Once a budget has lapsed, it is not easy to reinstate it," the paper said.

Today's problems were in stark contrast to the "golden years" in the '60s when the government appointed the Fisheries Development Corporation to start building fishing harbours. The replacement value of the harbours totalled nearly R1-billion, Mackie said.

"The work that the corporation was doing and the environment it worked in put it at the forefront of technological developments. Its engineers were constantly pushing the limits of the technology available to them."

However, matters deteriorated quickly after 1986 when the state closed down the Fisheries Development Corporation.

Control of both the harbours and technical services had been handed over to the provinces which had been unable to cope.

"Suddenly fisheries inspectors were expected to administer the harbours and operate equipment — which included equipment used to lift ships of up to 1 200 tons out of the water," Mackie said, adding that by 1986 there were no longer any engineering services available to fishing harbours.

According to Deon Retief, another prominent local coastal engineer and part of a team that recently drew up the coastal management white paper, the problem facing fishing harbours has been identified within government as "a specific resource that needs attention".

Also speaking at the conference this week, Retief said the matter had been raised with Water Affairs Minister Kader Asmal.

He said the aim of future coastal management policy by the government was to enable it to become sustainable within the next 10 to 15 years.

"The past coastal management policy was conservation based. It tended to ignore the economic and societal values of the people living along the coast," Retief said.

COMPANY NEWS

Oceana nets lower profit

3 FISHING (ET (BE) 30/4/99
MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town - Oceana Fishing Group, the seafood company controlled by Real Africa and Tiger Oats, continued to show profit in the six months to the end of March, despite reporting yesterday that operations were impeded by lower and late quotas.

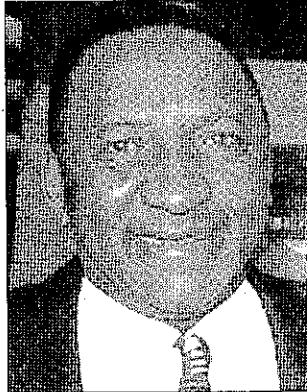
Although turnover was up 16 percent to R744 million, operating profit shrank 13 percent to R57 million.

Bottom-line growth was made possible by interest earnings of R4,2 million, with headline earnings up 7 percent at R42,4 million.

Don Ncube, the chairman of Oceana, said quotas for lobster, which usually earn Oceana substantial export earnings, had been cut by 25 percent.

"Although fishing commenced only in the last week of December, due to the late allocation of quotas, we expect to land our full quota during the season."

Ncube said pilchard and anchovy quotas had not been granted yet, and Oceana was catching against provisional allocations set



GONE FISHING Oceana's

Don Ncube PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

at about 50 percent of last year's quotas.

"While landings of non-quota species, mainly red eye herring, have been good, pelagic fishing was delayed by seven weeks due to fishing permits being issued late."

Ncube said the results of Federal Marine were satisfactory and sales volumes were higher than last year, thanks to strong demand for Lucky Star canned pilchards.

In Oceana's trading and shipping division the lower turnover and operating margins of Blue Continent were offset by higher abalone sales, the improved horse mackerel market and higher turnover and operating profit at TRT Shipping.

Ncube said he expected Oceana to achieve real growth in headline earnings for the full year as the performance of the fishing division should improve. He said trading conditions for Blue Continent products were also more favourable, and the cold storage division expected higher occupancy and activity levels.

□ Business Watch, Page 2

ANC seeks to broker deal as fight continues over crayfish quotas

LYNNE RIPPENAAR
STAFF REPORTER

③ FISHING

ARG 7/5/99

The African National Congress is trying to broker an agreement in the dispute over how fishing quotas are issued to formerly disadvantaged groups.

The ANC has proposed a meeting between all stakeholders next week.

About 25% of the rock lobster quotas were taken from existing quota holders and distributed among previously disadvantaged fishing communities.

A court interdict in January stopped all parties involved in the dispute from catching crayfish until the case had been finalised.

But it allowed quota holders for the 1997/98 season to continue.

Recently the Cape High Court ruled in favour of existing quota holders Langklip Sea Products and 66 other applicants who took Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan to court over the dispute.

The court decided the existing quota holders were solely entitled to the total allowable catch of rock lobster this year.

The court found that the new

Living Resources Marine Act, which replaced the Fisheries Act on September 1, 1998, required the minister to enforce the criteria of the old quota board for up to six months after the new act had been passed.

Marius Fransman, provincial deputy secretary of the ANC, said the party saw the judgment as an "ambiguous" ruling which allowed the minister to go ahead with the reallocation of quotas following the old criteria guidelines, but also meant the total commercial catch of crayfish of 1998/1999 had to go to holders of quotas for the 1997/1998 season.

"We are calling on big businesses to come up with a proposal that will keep the case out of court and will help the reallocation of access rights (to the previously disadvantaged)," said Mr Fransman.

"If we can get a negotiated agreement or settlement then it will get the industry going in the next few days."

He said that the ANC believed that there were people in the Department of Sea Fisheries who "were undermining the process" of transformation.

'RAIDS ON THREATENED SPECIES'

Magnate linked to fish poaching



DECKHAND: Johannes Visser blew the whistle on poaching.



OWNER: Fishing magnate and yachtsman Peter "Padda" Kuttel.



MANAGER: Alan Newman of the company Aluship.

A SURVIVOR of a Cape Town trawler that sank in the Southern Ocean has told a marine court of inquiry that the boat poached tons of Patagonian toothfish. **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

CAPE TOWN fishing magnate and yachting personality Peter "Padda" Kuttel has been linked to illegal fishing operations by a former deckhand who told a marine court of inquiry yesterday about four poaching trips on board one of Kuttel's vessels, the Sudurhavid.

In dramatic evidence, Johannes Visser, who survived the sinking of the Sudurhavid in the icy Southern Ocean last June, told the court how they had fished around the French islands of Crozet and Kerguelen at night and without lights so that the French navy patrol ship would not see them poaching.

"We sat without lights because we were told we were stealing fish. We knew we were stealing because the French gunboat was always after us. We were scared that we would be caught like the Praia (do Rostello), but we were lucky and got away."

The Praia do Rostello was impounded by the French last year for poaching.

"Once, when we were running away (from the gunboat), we were told to throw all the hooks and fish guts overboard and to scrub the whole ship clean in case we were caught."

They had also poached around South Africa's Marion and Prince Edward islands, Visser said.

They were poaching the lucrative Patagonian toothfish. The fish is called "white gold" because it fetches up to \$45/kg. Experts have estimated the pirate toothfish industry to be

worth around R500 million a year.

Visser said that on his first poaching trip on the Sudurhavid in 1997, they caught 103 tons of toothfish. They off-loaded the catch in Walvis Bay for a company called Namibian Fishing.

"Then we went back to Marion Island and stole fish again."

They off-loaded their illegal catch from their second trip in Cape Town. The catches from their third and fourth poaching trips were off-loaded in Mauritius.

A report released last year by a conservation organisation, Isolfish, described Mauritius as the "pirate capital" of the illegal toothfish trade.

Visser said Kuttel's nephew, Boetie, had been the skipper on all the poaching trips.

He also told of his terror, during his fifth trip, when the Sudurhavid sank. He spent hours in a leaking lifeboat surrounded by the corpses of friends and fellow crew members.

Visser said the lifeboat had been tied to the sinking vessel and had struck against the vessel with each huge wave.

"The waves were slamming us against the boat. One man had one side of his face taken off by the force ... There were five people, all just blood. We didn't have a knife to cut the lifeboat loose. Then Eugene (Niemand) got a penknife and we cut it."

"There was nothing in that lifeboat. It was filling with water and people were dying. It was so cold people were freezing to death. There were 10 men dead, floating in the water.

③ FISHING 18/5/99



SURVIVORS: When the Cape Town fishing vessel the Sudurhavid sank last year, 17 crew members died. Some of these survivors spent four hours in a leaking lifeboat with the bodies of their friends floating around them. They are Eugene Niemand, 26, of Malmesbury, Mome van Geems, 23, and Sven Lizamore, 20, both from the Strand, Johannes Visser, 29, and Danie Greeff, both from Malmesbury, and Brian Forbes, 46, of Mitchells Plain. PICTURES: ALAN TAYLOR

We were standing on bodies. I said: "Skipper, can we dump the bodies?"

Then Visser realised that his foot had become entangled in a rope. Although he was standing, the water reached up to his shoulders. He

believed the lifeboat would soon sink beneath him and he feared he would be dragged down with it.

"Only my head stuck up above the water. I said they must cut my leg off," Visser said.

But no one had the strength to go under water to cut his leg and because of the cold most of the men could hardly move.

"They froze around us, spierwit (snow white).

"I thought: 'We're going to die.'"

The lifeboat did not have a light and the survivors thought they would not be seen by the rescue ship in the stormy night. After four hours of hell, Q Turn to Page 3

P.T.O



STRUGGLING: trawler fisherman Darra Cameron in front of his humble home



TEARFUL: Marja Saayman has to beg to find something to eat

Pictures: WAYNE CONRADIE

Employers in Mossel Bay's fishing industry are refusing to back a campaign to raise money because they say it is a ruse to garner support for a micro-lender. **Chené Blignaut** reports

Fishermen's fund: buoy or sinker?

A campaign to raise funds for Mossel Bay fishermen who have no income because of the virtual ban on fishing is being used to promote a money-lending operation. People in the fishing industry have refused to support the controversial campaign, called Red-Ons-Dorp, because they say it is a ploy to encourage cash-strapped fishermen to borrow money from micro-lenders.

But labour consultant and Red-Ons-Dorp chairman Bert du Plooy is adamant his intentions and those of the campaign are "purely altruistic".

About 700 trawlermen and factory workers in the coastal town are directly affected by the impasse over fishing quotas.

The court battle over West Coast rock lobster quotas, which started in



ALTRUISTIC SPIRIT: Bert du Plooy started the Red-Ons-Dorp fund

ARLT 22/5/99 ③ FISHING

buy food hampers for families identified by a welfare worker.

But industry role-players, community organisations and representatives of the Department of Sea Fisheries refused to get involved in the project when questions were raised about Mr Du Plooy's motives.

Sparking their suspicion was the campaign's offer of "interest-free" loans by micro-lenders Louhen Financial Services to "affected" fishermen.

The loans, for which special Red-Ons-Dorp application forms were created, would be "interest free" for as long as the fishermen could not go to sea. The scheme was publicised on the front page of the local newspaper in articles written by Mr Du Plooy.

The three biggest employers in the

works from Louhen's offices and uses their telephone and fax number.

But he strongly denies any connection with Louhen.

His consulting service is advertised as "a free service" offered by Louhen to their clients.

Mr Du Plooy also used a Louhen letterhead to apply for a trust account at Absa bank for administering Red-Ons-Dorp funds.

The account is managed by Louhen's attorney, Durr Meyer.

Louhen director Len Swanepoel served on the Red-Ons-Dorp committee.

Mr Du Plooy is also planning to start a "soup kitchen" for the "starving" fishermen in the old Mossel Bay railway station, which is rented jointly by Louhen and Durr Meyer.

Anglican Church and chairman of the Fishermen's Community Trust, which has been involved in welfare work in the community for seven years.

"However, I had a problem with the fact that a money-lender was going to benefit on the back of people who are suffering," said Mr Kamenmeyer.

The trust also criticised the fact that Red-Ons-Dorp was basically "a one-man show" run by someone who had not been involved in the community before.

I&J fleet manager Selwyn Bailey, who was invited to represent the company's workers at a Red-Ons-Dorp meeting, said he walked out because Mr Du Plooy was not prepared to answer questions about Louhen or who would be in charge of

a money-lender in a welfare initiative. "I think it was some sort of stunt to get Louhen's name in the paper and to get the people on their side," he said.

But Mr Du Plooy was adamant that Red-Ons-Dorp was "purely a welfare campaign", inspired by his concern for the community.

He said the R40 000 in loans offered by Louhen was "only one component" of the campaign that had been "blown out of proportion" by people "because it suited them".

He said the loans were "an issue" at the outset of the project but had been "downplayed" when the community had expressed its concern.

However, the loan scheme went ahead "quietly".

is adamant his intentions and those of the campaign are "purely altruistic".

About 700 trawlermen and factory workers in the coastal town are directly affected by the impasse over fishing quotas.

The court battle over West Coast rock-lobster quotas, which started in January and was settled only last week, has delayed the allocation of inshore fish quotas because the Department of Environmental Affairs feared another court challenge.

The town's core industry of hake



ALTRUISTIC SPIRIT: Bert du Plooy started the Red-Ons-Dorp fund for starving fishermen

and sole fishing has been at a virtual standstill since January because of the delay, which means fewer jobs and less money for fishermen and factory workers.

In March Mr Du Plooy started the campaign to raise R20 000 in a month to provide food for affected families.

He approached businesses and raised R25 000, which was used to

Financial Services to "affected" fishermen.

The loans, for which special Red-Ons-Dorp application forms were created, would be "interest free" for as long as the fishermen could not go to sea. The scheme was publicised on the front page of the local newspaper in articles written by Mr Du Plooy.

The three biggest employers in the Mossel Bay fishing industry, Sea Harvest, Viking and Irvin & Johnson, refused to support the fund and advised their staff against taking loans from Louhen or other money-lenders.

Mr Du Plooy, who claims to be an independent labour law consultant,

account at Aosa bank for administering Red-Ons-Dorp funds.

The account is managed by Louhen's attorney, Durr Meyer.

Louhen director Len Swanepoel served on the Red-Ons-Dorp committee.

Mr Du Plooy is also planning to start a "soup kitchen" for the "starving" fishermen in the old Mossel Bay railway station, which is rented jointly by Louhen and Durr Meyer. Mr Du Plooy said a Louhen cash-loan office would be set up in the same building.

"I don't want to condemn the whole Red-Ons-Dorp initiative. I still don't know if his (Du Plooy's) intentions are genuine," said Allan Kannevemer, pastor of the All Saints

The trust also criticised the fact that Red-Ons-Dorp was basically "a one-man show" run by someone who had not been involved in the community before.

I&J fleet manager Selwyn Bailey, who was invited to represent the company's workers at a Red-Ons-Dorp meeting, said he walked out because Mr Du Plooy was not prepared to answer questions about Louhen or who would be in charge of the fund's finances. He advised I&J workers against getting involved in the campaign.

"We also wanted to know why it had to happen in such a hurry (one month), when the crisis had been going on for several months."

He questioned the involvement of

Louhen was "only one component" of the campaign that had been "blown out of proportion" by people "because it suited them".

He said the loans were "an issue" at the outset of the project but had been "downplayed" when the community had expressed its concern.

However, the loan scheme went ahead "quietly".

"I have peace in my heart that my intentions were good and that I handled the fund correctly," said Mr Du Plooy.

He also denied that the campaign was not transparent, saying there was no time for lengthy talk forums because of the "urgency" of the situation.

Christa closes up shop as quota delay bites into business

Christa Grobler of Mossel Bay has lost everything she has worked for for seven years.

"I can't stop crying," said the owner of Merlet Fishing, who has decided to close her company.

"I built this business out of nothing into a stable concern and now I have to destroy everything I worked for," said Ms Grobler, who sold and distributed hake throughout the country and ran a take-away shop.

Ms Grobler is a victim of the delay in issuing inshore quotas for sole and hake, the core of the fishing industry in Mossel Bay.

"I have invested all my capital in the business over the past few months, hoping the crisis would be resolved. Every time, they told me it would be over in two weeks. It's been four months now," said Ms Grobler.

Since January she has had to reduce her staff from 10 permanent workers and several casuals to herself and three workers.

"I have to close my shop at 2pm

because they (the workers) just stand around and do nothing. And if there's no work, there's no pay," she said.

Before January Ms Grobler's business was handling about 36 tons of hake a year.

The smaller businesses are not the only ones affected by the quota deadlock, which has virtually paralysed the town's next biggest industry after Mosses.

At Viking Fishing, three brand-new trawlers, representing a R3-million investment, have been tied up since January and a R6-million new factory and ice plant have been underutilised.

The local companies stand to lose hundreds of thousands of rands in dead freight with SAA every month because they don't have enough fresh fish to meet the terms of their contract with the airline.

"It's taken the industry years to position themselves in the world market and we are now in danger of losing all of this," said Rory Williams, of Viking Fishing.

Viking and the two big companies, Sea Harvest and Irvin & Johnson, have been forced to buy hake from private hand-line fishermen, who have not been affected by the quota debacle. The hand-line industry is booming as an increasing number of desperate fishermen turn to the sector to stay alive.

The big companies transferred some of their bridging deep-sea quotas to Mossel Bay, enabling them to catch hake outside the 110m watermark. The companies also allowed some private smaller boats to fish on their quotas to tide them over.

But the smaller boats catch far fewer fish than the trawlers.

Meanwhile, sole has become a delicacy on local restaurant menus - it has to be trawled with nets and cannot be caught with hand lines.

Mossel Bay fishing companies used to have the biggest slice of the country's 830-ton annual sole quota.

The fishing companies have warned that the bridging deep-sea quotas will

run out in the next few weeks, after which there will be no fish at all.

"If this issue is not resolved soon we will have to close our doors and there will be no more jobs. We can't keep running at a loss indefinitely," said a senior company manager.

Although the companies have not resorted to retrenchments, they use fewer casual workers than previously. They have not filled any vacancies since January.

A fisherman who used to earn commission on the catch of the day now gets a basic salary of between R30 and R60 a day.

Company managers said they hoped a solution to the crisis would be found soon.

Although they supported the transformation of the industry and were willing to assist in joint ventures with black empowerment groups, they warned that unstructured re-employment would cause the industry to collapse, leading to huge job losses.

Maria and Darra 'beg, borrow and steal' to stay alive

"If this pot could talk, it would tell you how much we suffer," says Maria Saayman, pointing to an aluminium cooking pot on a shelf below a paraffin stove in her cramped, run-down caravan.

The caravan in the mainly coloured neighbourhood of Civic Park outside Mossel Bay has been home to Ms Saayman and her partner Derrick "Darra" Cameron for seven years.

Mr Cameron, 49, has been a trawler fisherman in the inshore fishing industry for 27 years. For the past five he has worked for Sea Harvest. He is still on the company's permanent payroll but he has not been to sea very often since January.

The inshore trawler fishing sector, the heart of Mossel Bay's fishing

industry, has been paralysed by the fishing quota debacle, leading to fewer jobs and a dramatic drop in income for local fishermen.

"See for yourself, the food cupboard is empty. It's only the light shining through," says Mr Cameron, lifting the red check curtain in front of the cupboard to reveal bare shelves.

"I beg, borrow here and there and steal to stay alive," he says without a trace of shame.

The couple "borrow" water from their neighbours for cooking and washing and rely on rain to water the parched plants in the neat little garden in front of the caravan.

A spokesman for Sea Harvest admitted that Mr Cameron had not gone out "as often as before January", but said

he always had the choice to go out on the hand-line fishing boats. Mr Cameron had also been "sick" many times, he said.

But Mr Cameron says he gave up on hand-line fishing after one attempt. "I'm stupid with a hand line, man," he says.

Since then he has been "falling around", doing the odd gardening job for about R5 a time. "For that you can buy only half a loaf of bread and a bottle of lamp oil," he says.

"I've been a fisherman all my life. What am I supposed to do?"

The couple have been battling to survive, even more so since Ms Saayman lost her job as a domestic worker after she burnt her right arm while cooking.

7 JUNE 1999

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11th-hour deal on fishing crisis

Trawler fleets to resume operations today after agreement on hake

③ FISHING
ARG 26/5/99

The Government and the fishing industry have signed an 11th-hour agreement about hake quotas that will see deep-water trawler fleets resume full-time hake fishing operations from today.

The agreement, initiated by the Deep Sea Trawling Association and signed on behalf of the Government early yesterday by Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Peter Mokaba, includes an offer by big fishing companies to donate 10 000 tons of their 1999 hake quotas to the Government for allocation to emerging fishermen trying to establish themselves in the industry.

This amount is 8,2% of the total allowable catch for this species, and is worth at least R4-million.

Mr Mokaba told the Cape Argus that this would allow the Government to "top up" some quotas which were financially unviable.

Roy Gordon, chief executive of fishing giant I&J, described the agreement as "a very amicable and pragmatic arrangement".

JOHN
YELD



ENVIRONMENT WRITER

The agreement follows several months of chaos in the fishing industry after a Cape High Court ruling in January in favour of existing rock lobster quota holders who had not been given new quotas in terms of new sea fisheries legislation - the Marine Living Resources Act - adopted by Parliament last year to transform the industry.

Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan was then also unable to award new quotas for other species, such as hake and pelagic fish like anchovies, because of the likelihood of similar court action by disgruntled former quota holders.

Faced with the prospect of thousands of fishermen and fish processing plant workers being out of work

for months until new quotas could be issued in September, Dr Jordan allowed the hake industry to catch 40% of last year's quotas while he attempted to find a solution to the crisis.

But two of the biggest players - I&J and Sea Harvest - were at the point of filling those reduced quotas by the end of last week, and some trawlers were reportedly already on their way back to port.

Before the agreement was signed, industry sources were predicting serious labour unrest and protest action, including a possible blockade of the harbour, when fishing came to a halt.

Mr Mokaba announced details of the agreement while addressing an ANC Consultative Fishing Forum in the Civic Centre yesterday.

Emphasising that the Government was committed to transforming the industry and that more equitable quotas would be allocated in terms of the new legislation, he said the agreement had been the best way of giving effect to the court order.

But he criticised the court, saying it had made a finding on technical grounds that the department had not followed proper procedures.

"Let me be honest and frank - we remain with unreconstructed courts. They did not look at the intention of the (new) law, of what we wanted to achieve.

"We still feel the interpretation the court gave did not take into account the spirit of the new legislation."

Mr Mokaba said the fishing industry had to be restructured to give a greater share of the resources to small and medium-size enterprises. There were many problems relating to the establishment of "front companies" by people who had no intention of going to sea and who merely wanted to get rich quickly through unfair quota allocations.

He said appeals by his department for affidavits about corruption had been ignored.

However, the department would check people's credentials when assessing future quota applications.

World fishermen slam SA quotas

Country will face 'increasing pressure' to abandon what is seen as an unfair system

JEAN LE MAY

International fishermen believe South Africa's new fisheries law will perpetuate control of the resource by a few large companies.

This emerged at the annual conference of the World Forum of Fish Workers and Fish Harvesters in Brussels this month, according to observers at the conference.

Although the new Marine Living Resources Act was ostensibly designed to open up the industry to new entrants, the individual transferable quota (ITQ) system implicit in the law would merely transfer control from large white companies to large black companies, they said.

South African delegate Andy Johnston, chairman of the Artisanal Fishing Association, told Saturday

Argus the quota system had come in for a hammering at the conference.

"South Africa will come under increasing pressure from now on," he said.

"World Forum representatives will come to South Africa soon to rally support for protests and demonstrations on World Fishing Day in November."

The World Forum has wide international backing from labour and environmental movements, including the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements and Greenpeace.

Although the new law enabled the minister to dish out quotas more equitably than in the past, it would still allow individuals and companies with the most money to acquire the right to catch the most fish, Mr Johnston said.

"We all know that there has been a

lot of political influence in quota allocation. The poorest fishermen will be no better off than they were before.

"The fact that many of the bigger fishing companies have been taken over by black empowerment groups will make little difference to impoverished traditional and artisanal fishermen."

Mr Johnston said the conference had heard that many countries - including France, India, Senegal, Ghana and many developing countries in the Pacific region - had abandoned Individual transferable quotas altogether.

Others had adopted a tandem system, he said. This involved using these quotas for deep-sea fisheries and the "Cread" system for inshore fishing. Cread is the acronym for controlled regulated equitable

access distribution.

In the Cread system, there are no quotas; instead, inshore fishermen are registered to fish in certain areas, usually close to where they live.

The catches are weighed as soon as they come out of the water and the amount that may be caught is determined by the biomass of the particular stock. Once that amount is caught, fishing stops.

Once the fish are off the scales, the free market takes over.

Papers by French representatives at the World Forum conference praised the Cread system for inshore fishing, saying it had helped the country's traditional fishermen to survive.

Other conference papers confirmed that several other countries, including Canada, Iceland, Chile

③ FISHING ARG 19/6/99

and New Zealand, had had real problems with the ITQ system.

Greenpeace, in a paper written by Jed Greece of Greenpeace USA, defined the ITQ system as one in which participants were allocated and owned quota shares of the total allowable catch which they could transfer by selling, buying or leasing, exactly as in South African law.

He said: "Big corporate operators are winners in the individual transferable quota system, and smaller-scale fishing interests the losers."

He quoted researchers at Rutgers University, who found that, although the United States was a relative newcomer to the ITQ system, it had "intensified the long-established pattern of domination by a few large firms".

The International Collective in Support of Fishworkers appealed to

Chilean President Eduardo Frei Ruiz-Tagle to reject a proposal made by the Chilean fishery council to introduce ITQs to Chile.

"As well as undermining the livelihood rights of artisanal fishermen, ITQs abdicate the state's responsibility to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and to the Food and Agricultural Organisation's code of conduct for responsible fisheries," it said.

"ITQs will create a new class of quota-owning sealords with ownership and control over resources which are the property of all the people of Chile."

And in Iceland, a Supreme Court case which found ITQs unconstitutional had "set the stage for intense legal and political debate", said a paper by Gisli Palsson of the University of Iceland.

Mr Johnston said that during the conference, delegates met members of the European Union fisheries commission who were involved in negotiating a fisheries agreement with South Africa.

"I was particularly disturbed by the fact that the EU people appeared to be under the impression that 'previously disadvantaged' people did not have the money to run fishing operations, although they were now getting quotas.

"This makes European companies think that if they offer enough money, they will easily find people prepared to enter into joint ventures with them.

"In spite of this, there was a great deal of wariness about providing funds to any developing country because of the frequent reports of corruption," said Mr Johnston.

OYSTERS

SA OYSTER INDUSTRY STRUGGLES TO COME OUT OF ITS SHELL

The market is riding high but it's a perilous enterprise

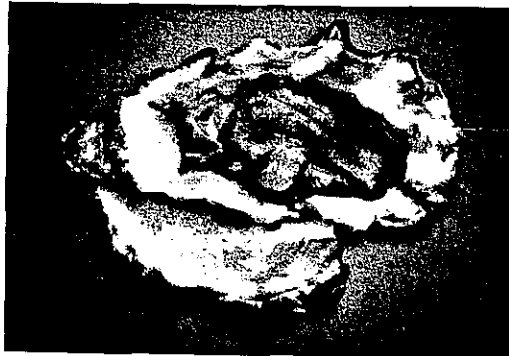
The weak rand and the tourist boom have conspired to boost SA oyster consumption substantially over the past five years. But, oh, what a fragile market it is.

"When tourists come here and find they're paying something like US20c an oyster, their eyes light up and they buy 30 at a time," says leading Gauteng oyster distributor Shelagh Clark.

But as much as demand has grown, the vagaries of the southern African coast — rough seas, high winds and the constant threat of disease — have kept the number of oyster farm-

ers down to a handful. Just three doughty producers in SA and another three on the Namibian coast can't keep up with local demand, let alone think of exporting. This has left a gap for rather costly, though delicious, French imports by EdC Trading's Eric de Clermont.

Pricing aside, from a gourmet's point of view the imports have the advantage of being harvested in the European winter, when they are at their plump, and sold into the SA summer, when diners most want to make like the Walrus and the



Carpenter. SA-grown oysters, on the other hand, are not at their best in the summer high season, as they've shed their winter fat and the glycogen that makes them sweeter. That's why Knysna oysters, for instance, are best eaten in winter. Still, the contrariness of climate hasn't hampered the development of a lively trade in the delicacies in SA, especially over the past 15-20 years.

Between them, the two dominant producers of farmed oysters in SA, the Knysna Oyster Co and South Cape Oyster Co,

produce about 4,75m oysters in a good year. The ex-farm value of their production is about R7m a year, which is small by world standards. The Australian state of New South Wales, for example, produces 104m oysters worth about R112m a year.

About 90% of the cultivated oysters produced in SA are farmed by the two Knysna players. The Knysna Oyster Co, founded in the mid-Forties, is owned by Cape Town-based fishing company Sea Harvest, and, with about 14 ha under oyster cultivation, is the bigger producer. South Cape Oyster Co, which is a relative newcomer and has 4 ha under cultivation, is owned by Cape Town's Snoek Wholesalers in partnership with MD Tony Tonin.

Tonin points out that harvesting of wild oysters by rough-and-ready crews of concession holders "is a completely different industry from ours. I'd hazard a guess that its value is between R500 000 and R1m a year. We and the

Knysna Oyster Co buy some wild oysters, but mainly as a service to our customers."

The "diamond coast" oysters are grown near the Namibian towns of Swakopmund, Walvis Bay and Luderitz and SA's Alexander Bay, and account for about 20% of the oysters consumed in SA. Whereas Knysna oysters are cultivated in inland bays, the Namibian variety are farmed in salt pans which give them a saltier flavour.

Tonin says the growth in tourism over the past four years is the main reason for

Continued on page 53

Continued from page 49

the strong increase in SA oyster consumption. By far the biggest market is Gauteng, which consumes 55%-60% of the total Knysna harvest. The Garden Route accounts for 20%-25% — both producers have oyster restaurants in Knysna — and Cape Town the remainder. "We get into a cold chain problem when it comes to Durban which, in any case, is rich in wild oysters."

One of the big surprises of the SA oyster trade is not that the restaurant mark-up is 100%-200% on an average wholesale price of R2,50/oyster. It's that in Gauteng one of the biggest players is a one-woman show.

For nearly 20 years, Shelagh Clark has been a major distributor of mussels and oysters. Tonin says a similar situation exists in Cape Town, where South Cape Oyster Co distributes exclusively through husband-and-wife team Kelson and Elena da Cruz of Marazul Seafood.

It is better to have a dedicated distributor because the perishable food wholesaling business tends to be dogged by fly-by-nights and bankruptcies. Certainly, it would not be feasible for the Knysna oyster producers to deal directly with restaurants.

Clark is a former nursing sister who discovered she "could sell ice in winter" as a medical company representative. She

recalls that in the late Seventies, just before she filled the niche for the distribution of mussels and oysters, hardly any highly perishable produce was available in the Transvaal. "You ate oysters when you were at the coast, and that was that."

Not only did she pioneer the distribution of the shellfish but Clark also had to teach restaurateurs how to handle the delicacies. It was she, too, who coined the term "champagne oyster", which stimulated the trade in smaller specimens.

She stresses that the key to success in her business is speed. "I have cold trucks collecting oysters from the airport for immediate delivery to restaurants and hotels. They come mainly from Knysna, but also from Namibia. My service, which is com-

plicated from a logistics point of view, ensures that oysters are harvested and consumed within 12 hours."

She says cultivated oysters last from five to seven days if kept at the correct temperature. Wild oysters have a shorter life because they are generally not handled correctly by the pickers. "Oysters not grown in tidal waters are trained to close down tightly when they are out of water, which extends their shelf life."

Mussels and oysters are often associated with food-poisoning. But Clark argues that "the truth is they smell so bad when they're off that they rarely find their way into a person's mouth".

What makes wild oysters from, say, the Transkei coastline so delicious is that they take longer to grow — six years — and so their flesh is better-established in content and flavour.

Oyster farming is labour-intensive and subject to environmental hazards. The molluscs have to be continually graded and sorted, often under difficult environmental conditions, so as to allow the smaller ones to flourish. Knysna oysters take one-and-a-half to two years to reach market-readiness — from spawning, when they are the size and texture of a fingernail; Namibian oysters take about a year. The oysters are then cleaned with high-powered water jets and packed carefully.

Tonin points out that they are packed in wood wool (treated fine pine shavings). "The funny thing is that the only machine that makes wood wool dates back to the last century."

Freight and transport inland are costly because, as Clark points out, "oysters are a heavy and bulky commodity".

On SA's southern coast, skirted by the Garden Route, there is always the risk of floods that can desalinate the water and kill off millions of

oysters overnight. A few years ago, a strong south-easter and high seas completely destroyed an oyster farm near Port Elizabeth.

Clearly, oyster farming is an enterprise not for the faint-hearted.

Unda Stafford



Rocky delights... the heavy shells of oysters make them costly to freight inland

Widows of the sea fight for their fishing rights

Kalk Bay women who gave their lives to the industry want to know why they are denied their share

MADON LARKIN
STAFF REPORTER

Sybil Edwards and her friends have given their lives to the Kalk Bay fishing industry - and now they want something back.

As the widows of fishermen who lived and worked in Kalk Bay, they weathered a tough and uncertain life centred on the sea, and developed close and long-standing bonds.

Now Mrs Edwards and 13 other widows are battling for their share of the fishing rights, previously known as quota allocations.

If they are successful, they will exercise their right to fish by hiring local Kalk Bay fishermen.

The group, aged from 56 to 88, first lodged their applications for rock lobster, pilchard and hake quotas in 1994, and have done so each year since then. But their applications have been refused each time.

"We don't know why they aren't giving it to us. We're just living in hope," said Mrs Edwards, 73, whose

husband, James, was a fisherman for more than 40 years.

Fishing rights are granted under the Marine Living Resource Act. Previously, applications were made to the Quota Board, which has been replaced by the Fisheries Transformation Council.

The council was created to open up the formerly white-dominated industry to new entrants.

Applications are processed by Marine and Coastal Management, formerly Sea Fisheries, and are approved by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Melody Kingma, the spokeswoman for the Kalk Bay group, said the women wanted to use revenue generated from the fishing rights to set up medical and welfare facilities for widows and disabled Kalk Bay fisherfolk.

The widows also want to buy their flats, which have been their homes since they were married.

Most of them survive on a monthly pension of R500.



Kalk Bay harbour: 'These families have been its backbone,' says Melody Kingma

"The husbands of these widows, and their fathers and forefathers, were the founders of the traditional Kalk Bay fishing industry and community," Mrs Kingma said.

"These fishing families have

been its backbone. "They were truly of the disadvantaged generation. The widows and their families feel deeply hurt and betrayed that the contribution of their husbands and forefathers to the fishing industry in

South Africa has gone unnoticed and unrewarded.

"They find it difficult to perceive a valid reason for their being excluded. Their aim is not self-gain, but their concerns are for the community."

When the group first applied for a quota, they were told that the people who "got their hands wet" would be granted rights, but that had not been the case, Mrs Kingma said.

"This group of ladies is unique. It's a traditional fishing community," she said.

Enid Fish said the women knew each other well because they had raised their families together in the Harbour Road fishermen's flats and nearby cottages. Their efforts to get fishing rights had brought them even closer.

"We have always been a group. There is no distinction about any of us. There has always been a ready hand, but this has drawn us even closer," she said.

Mrs Edwards said young

members of the Kalk Bay community did not understand the contribution of the elderly to the area.

"If it were not for the older fishermen, things would not have come to where they are today. It was a very hard life. I would not like to live it again."

Gairnssa Fortune, 75, said the group had not received an adequate explanation why their applications had been rejected.

"I just think they don't want to share their money with us."

Her sister, Monica Collison, 68, who raised seven children on her own after her husband died 20 years ago, said Kalk Bay lacked such facilities as a chemist, butchery, bakery or supermarket, forcing the women to travel to shops elsewhere for their basic needs.

Few widows were able to save, and they also feared becoming ill and being unable to get care locally.

The sisters' mother had 22 children from two marriages, both to Kalk Bay fishermen.

ARC 12/7/99

(3) FISHING

Mrs Collison said she had worked in the harbour, flecking fish and sewing oilskins for fishermen among other jobs.

"Kalk Bay is my home and I would not want to leave it, but it gets harder when you are older," she said.

Wilhelm Kroon, assistant director of resources control of Marine and Coastal Management, said the former Quota Board had been responsible for granting quotas to Kalk Bay fishermen.

He could not comment on specific cases or say why the Kalk Bay widows had been turned down.

Applicants had to meet certain criteria. They had to outline how they were going to use their rights and they needed to be a registered company.

"They must comply with the criteria, then they must just hope for the best.

"The cake is only so big and there are so many people that want to get into the industry," Mr Kroon said.

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Trawlers may be in hot water

(3) FISHING
FOREIGN SERVICE

Melbourne – Australia is considering sending a warship to the Southern Ocean to deter intrusions into its territorial waters by three “factory” fishing vessels – two from South Africa and the other from Belize.

The trawlers were operating in an important spawning area for the orange roughy species of fish, on which Australia’s deep-sea fishing industry is largely based, Fisheries Minister Mark Vaile said yesterday.

Australia lodged formal complaints with South Africa after a surveillance flight last week detected two large South African trawlers four nautical miles outside Australian waters. The Government had asked the trawlers to move away.

Time to clean up apartheid's fine kettle of fish

Big fisheries are going to have their quotas reduced in order to redress the industry's racist legacy, writes Yunus Mahomed

RECENT legislation introduced to regulate fishing aims to redress problems in a fragmented and conflict-ridden industry that is competing for scarce resources.

The fishing industry is characterised by several problems:

- Too many fishermen and vessels are attempting to get access to limited and declining fish stocks;

- Historically disadvantaged people have been denied access to fishing rights for decades;

- The transformation, which is necessary and inevitable, has caused instability; and

- Poaching of fish is rife and threatens the resource.

The aim of the new legislation is to create an industry that is sustainable, stable and equitable.

To achieve this a shared vision of restructuring and transformation, which has the support of all interested parties, must be developed and implemented speedily.

The Marine Living Resources Act of 1998 provides the framework. It is the result of a consultative process that began in 1994.

Those charged with managing the resource must give effect to the objectives of the act. These are to conserve the marine ecosystem, provide for the long-term sustainable use of fish and to grant orderly access to all citizens in a fair and equitable manner.

Given these characteristics it is unavoidable that fishermen will have conflicting interests among themselves as



Transformation of the fishing industry cannot solve the poverty and unemployment in fishing communities. Other economic challenges need to be created for them.

competitors and with managers that are required to lease fishing rights. Compromises are necessary and no fisherman will be entirely happy with the final outcome.

The main players have to develop the shared vision and develop rules for efficiently managing fishing.

These players are the resource man-

agers — the minister, the director general, department officials and the Fisheries Transformation Council, which have to take and implement tough decisions — and the fishermen.

Since the resource is limited it has to be managed by ensuring sustainable exploitation.

The only way to address the issue of inequity is to reduce the quantities leased to those who previously exploited the resource. Under apartheid access was predominantly confined to white-owned companies and individual whites. Redistribution means less has to be leased to those who previously had quotas.

In broad terms this has been accepted. The debate now is about the extent of the reduction.

The inevitable reduction will have the following consequences:

- The larger companies, because they will have rights to catch less fish, will have to decrease their catching capacity;

- As more rights will be leased to companies owned and managed by disadvantaged individuals, medium-size companies will emerge and grow; and

- Access rights will be granted to smaller players in some inshore fisheries.

There will be no paper quota holders. The minister and the Fisheries Transformation Council are burdened with the paper quota legacy.

In the past rights were granted to people who did not intend to own, acquire or build a business that caught fish. They

merely traded the quota right.

This practice is wrong and it will be eradicated. Rights will be leased only to fishermen who will own, manage and operate fish-catching businesses.

Restructuring the fishing industry and redistributing access rights cannot solve the poverty and unemployment prevalent in fishing communities. The fact is that there are not enough fish.

Acute poverty and high unemployment in fishing communities have to be addressed by government and civil society. The challenge is to create other economic opportunities for these communities and help them manage the transition.

Government is determined to effect transformation and will do so no matter the cost. In the fishing industry there appears to be a war-weariness which, it is hoped, will create a climate of negotiation and compromise.

The challenge is for fishermen and resource managers to develop co-operative strategies while understanding and respecting one another's roles.

If we succeed we will have sustainable, equitable and well-managed fisheries.

If we fail industry conflict will become endemic, resulting in the destruction of some species in the short term and greater damage to our ecomarine system in the long term.

Mahomed is chairman of the Fisheries Transformation Council. He writes in his personal capacity.

Saving the Orange Roughy to help the Patagonian toothfish

(fb)

③ FISHING

BD 11/8/99

SA trawlers are in hot water as the law of the sea protects a tasty morsel, writes **Jean-Jacques Cornish**

NO MATTER how bloodily their rugby giants settle their Tri-Nations differences, diplomats and conservationists from SA, Australia and New Zealand have already scored a significant, quiet victory this winter.

The immediate, albeit short-term, beneficiary of this success is an oily, unlovely, long-living, deep-dwelling fish that stretches the rugby analogy with its tough name of the Orange Roughy.

That 40-cm, white-fleshed delicacy with an almost shell-like flavour, will now be allowed to spawn on the high seas off the South Tasman Rise. Only to be netted at some later stage, of course.

The envoys' triumph has a much longer-term significance for the countries of the East Antarctic Coastal States grouping, which includes SA, Australia and France.

They believe the precedent set by the affair on the high seas last month will have a positive impact on saving the Patagonian toothfish from over-exploitation. SA officials say it is the first time the conservation elements of the 1982 United Nations (UN) Law of the Sea Treaty have been so smoothly applied.

Furthermore, they notch up the protection of the Orange Roughy as a success for SA's Marine Living Resources Act, promulgated last year. It enabled Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Valli Moosa to respond quickly

and decisively.

The affair began when three Irvin and Johnson vessels began trawling for Orange Roughy in international seas on the South Tasman Rise last month.

Tim Reddell, general manager for trawling at I&J, said the 150 crew members on the fishing boats were mostly from historically disadvantaged sectors of SA society.

"These vessels and their crew were previously deployed on the hake resource in the SA exclusive economic zone. The company's hake quotas have been reduced over the past years to enable the SA government to implement a policy of redistribution of quotas and allow new entrants into fishery."

To maintain full employment of the vessels and their crews, Reddell said, the company has in good faith been conducting exploratory fishing on the international high seas.

"All I&J vessels are managed in accordance with international best practices and comply to a stringent set of company conservation measures."

Reddell said the fishing operations commenced on the understanding that these fishing grounds were in international waters and outside the jurisdiction of any country.

Maybe so, said the Australian and New Zealand governments in daily notes to Moosa, but we have a management plan on this fish.

The Roughy lives up to 50 years and takes 25 years to mature, which makes its long-term prospects decidedly dicey if it is fished on its spawning ground.

The Australian and New Zealand governments realised this and agreed bilaterally to a moratorium on Roughy fishing from July last year. This has since been extended to February.

The I&J vessels, properly licensed by the SA authorities, were unaware of this agreement.

The Roughy is what fishermen call a straddling stock. While it occurs mostly in Australian and New Zealand waters — or exclusive economic zones, as they are known in terms of the Law of the Sea Treaty — it breeds on the high seas.

Conservation of such species is covered in the 1995 UN Straddling Stock Agreement which SA is expected to ratify after final approval by Parliament in the next session.

This agreement is an improvement to the treaty, a delicate balance of international measures designed to stop any country from exploiting marine resources in a manner that harms others.

In landlubber terms it is rather like preventing one country located at the head of a river from damming its waters to prevent those countries downstream from using it.

So while the I&J vessels were perfectly entitled in terms of international law to be fishing where they were,

Moosa knew that SA might easily find itself in a similar predicament with the Patagonian toothfish off the Prince Edward Islands or the highly migratory hake that move between SA and Namibian waters.

The Royal Australian Air Force kept tabs on the SA fishermen with its long-range Orion aircraft. At one stage, night vision equipment aboard the aircraft confirmed that the South Africans, who had undertaken to withdraw, had returned and were trawling in the dark.

Moosa pulled the plug by amending I&J's high-seas licence to stop them fishing on the South Tasman Rise.

"We could not be happier with the response of the SA authorities at every stage and at every level," said an Australian High Commission spokesman.

"They were very responsive and eager to learn what they could about taking this forward. It is in everyone's best interest to keep these lines of communication open and continue co-operating on the conservation of our marine resources."

Denzil Miller, senior specialist scientist at Marine and Coastal Management said this was the first time that a third country fishing on the high seas had become involved in an agreement made between two other countries.

"This has taught us that the Law of the Sea is a reality. We are going to have to be more circumspect in future."

Moosa to move from crisis management on fish quotas

CAPE TOWN — Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Valli Moosa has vowed to move away from the "crisis management" which has characterised SA's fishing quota system.

Briefing members of Parliament on his department's new look yesterday, he said there was no reason why there should be a crisis over

who could catch fish and who could not.

"I've had discussions with the chief director of the department and what we'd like to do as quickly as possible is move away from crisis management when it comes to fishing quotas every year."

Moosa said contracts should be predictable, medium- to long-term

and allocated long before fishing seasons start. He said traditional fishing communities would not be short-changed in the process.

Turning to tourism Moosa said it was a "national priority".

SA had everything it took to grow this industry rapidly, but was hamstrung by a lack of international exposure. — Sapa.

BD 17/8/99

③ FISHING

I&J headline earnings sail into rough seas

③ FISHING

CT (BR) 20/8/99

RONNIE MORRIS

Cape Town – Irvin and Johnson (I&J), the fishing and food company, reported yesterday a 31 percent decline in headline earnings to R80 million in the year to June 30 when a strong performance by the seafoods and international divisions were offset by the prepared foods division's poor showing.

The bottom line was hit by higher interest paid stemming

from high capital expenditure but the decline was softened by a credit arising from the reduction in tax. Headline earnings a share came in at 25,7c but the dividend was maintained at 12c a share.

Roy Gordon, the managing director, said the seafoods division produced an excellent performance. Trading profit was boosted as a result of increased penetration in European markets for value-added products, successful new product launches, a good performance from the fleet

and favourable exchange rates.

He said the prepared foods division, however, had a very poor year, recording an operating loss. The vegetable operations in Springs and George were successfully rationalised but savings from that were eroded by the closure of the Port Elizabeth factory a year later than planned.

The costs of holding high inventories as a result of higher than planned crops and lower than planned sales because of

poor trading conditions further depressed profit.

Gordon said the sales and distribution division had a difficult year, with a sharp decline in trading profit. Major negative factors were extremely high, bad and doubtful debts, operational on-costs resulting from the breakdown of the cranes at Roodepoort, poultry prices at 1995/1996 levels for much of the financial year and poor trading conditions.

The recovery of the Aus-

tralian economy buoyed trading conditions, with the seafoods and meals division of Simplot showing improved profit.

Shares to empowerment shareholders had a capital injection of R72 million in April.

The major unknown factor remained the extent of the hake quota which would be awarded to the company. It expected to return to the profitability levels of previous years.

I&J's share price closed up 10c to R1.70 yesterday.

FISHING GIANTS ANGRY

Outcry over hake quotas

CT 26/8/99

③ FISHING

FISHING COMPANIES I & J and Sea Harvest are unhappy that fishing rights they sacrificed for transformation of the industry have been allocated to "front companies" of hake quota holders. **MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA** reports.

THE Department of Sea Fisheries chose not to respond yesterday to inquiries about its alleged breach of the industry's hake agreement by allocating hake quotas to front companies.

The allegation was contained in a letter written by lawyer Michael Evans, acting for Sea Harvest and I & J, to Sea Fisheries chief Monde Mayekiso outlining his clients' "understandable concern".

Evans claimed that the department had breached the agreement by awarding 1 500 tons of the 1999 hake fishing quota to Calamari Fishing and Offshore Fishing Company, both subsidiaries of existing hake quota holders.

A third quota was awarded to Bato Star Fishing, a newcomer to the hake sector but a major player in the abalone industry.

Offshore Fishing Company is a subsidiary of Protea Fishing, which in turn is a subsidiary of Suiderland, a major Port Elizabeth fishing company. Calamari Fishing is part of the Oceana Group.

Evans also questioned the basis on which 750 tons each were allocated to Calamari Fishing and Offshore Fishing Company and on what basis these companies were

regarded by the minister as "potential new trawl entrants".

The chairperson of Sea Harvest, Chris Nissen, said yesterday that his company plans to have discussions with top government officials on the issue.

Sea Harvest had given up some of its quotas so that these could be allocated to new entrants. "We cannot give up quotas only to have them given to front companies who are not going to create jobs and employment. That goes against the challenge that is facing us in terms of making black fishermen benefit from this industry."

Nissen said Sea Harvest "does not want to transform the industry alone" and is holding discussions on hake with I & J.

"Though we gave up some of our quotas, we ensured that we protected jobs because we cannot afford job losses on the West Coast. It makes us sad that we were prepared to make sacrifices and to restructure to avoid job losses, but we cannot allow quotas to be given to existing quota holders."

The hake agreement was entered into by the former minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Pallo Jordan, and the S A

Deep Sea Trawling Industry Association, of which I & J is a member.

Attempts by the *Cape Times* to obtain comment from the Department of Sea Fisheries were unsuccessful.

Andrew Marshall, managing director of the Oceana Group, confirmed that Calamari Fishing is part of the group.

Marshall said Calamari Fishing was awarded the quota of 750 tons of hake on the basis that the company is based in the Eastern Cape and that it would open new facilities in the region and provide employment opportunities.

However, Marshall said he could not comment on Evans' allegations without being provided with further details.

Another source, who did not want to be named, said transformation in the fishing industry was not happening and that poor fishermen and women were still getting the "raw end of the deal".

The source said the initial agreement was that the hake quota allocations were going to be given to new entrants "but instead the same big companies are still getting the quotas", though no one knew how these were made.

"We had more transparency in the old Quota Board than we have now because people who sat on the board had no interest in fishing. Now two or three people are appointed to make allocations."

Taiwanese and Japanese 'plunder SA fish stocks'

③ FISHING

ARG 11/9/99

Anger is growing among anglers over Taiwanese and Japanese long-line fishing vessels, which have been accused of plundering fish stocks off the South African coast.

Springbok angler and Richards Bay town councillor John Harvey said the Department of Sea Fisheries had issued more than 100 permits this year allowing the Taiwanese and Japanese to fish in South African waters as part of a bilateral trade agreement.

"That is horrendous. These 'long-liners' have lines 30km long with hooks every 20m and they're in the water 24 hours a day."

Mr Harvey said the long-liners came to his

attention last month when a local game-fishing skipper discovered three long lines off Richards Bay.

He said the boats had permission to come within 12 nautical miles of the coast. "In every other civilised country in the world the limit is 200. These boats are picking up the fish and putting them on to mother ships, which return to Taiwan and Japan. We really get nothing out of it."

Mr Harvey said that the long liners, which fished mainly in the top layer of the water, were taking the pelagic species, including marlin, tunny and shark.

Mr Harvey, a member of the Richards Bay

Ratepayers and Residents Association, said he was collecting information on the long-liners and would raise the problem at the next council meeting.

"We will be looking for a council resolution to try to get this type of fishing stopped.

"The SA Deep Sea Angling Association has tried unsuccessfully for years to have it banned. We don't want them closer than 200 miles."

Mr Harvey said there was tremendous potential for charter boats to operate off Richards Bay, but this could be affected by the long-line operations.

"Americans pay big money to come here

and catch four of the big five - marlin, yellowfin, sailfish and broadbilled swordfish."

But conservationists say people tend to blame the Taiwanese and Japanese trawlers for the destruction of the resource, but there was proof that it was not that type of fishing that caused the destruction of fish species.

The resource that was in most danger off KwaZulu-Natal was the endemic reef fish, which were not targeted by the long-liners. Endangered stocks like square-tailed cob, seventy-four and slinger were not part of their catch.

These were targeted by commercial and recreational ski-boat fishermen.

SA trawlers irk Australia

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

CT 11/10/99

THE Australian government has confirmed that three South African trawlers, that had been fishing in an "unregulated manner" near Australia's coast this winter, are owned by fishing giant Irvin & Johnson.

I&J vessels the Rosalind Bank, the Roxana Bank and the Iris were fishing for the sought-after orange roughy, which can fetch up to R100 a kilogram, particularly on the North American market.

Glenn Hurry of Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, told the *Cape Times* yesterday that the three South African vessels and a Belize-registered vessel had been fishing four miles outside the Australian fishing zone in an important orange roughy spawning ground.

"These vessels, by fishing in an unregulated manner, were undermining our efforts to manage this vulnerable orange

FISHING

roughy stock. Following strong representations by Australia to the two governments concerned, the four vessels ceased fishing," Hurry said.

Because the orange roughy is slow-growing, the Australian and New Zealand authorities have signed an agreement in terms of the United Nations Straddling Stock Convention, putting a moratorium on fishing for orange roughy on the high seas in that region.

The South African authorities said they had been unaware of the agreement, and had given I&J a permit to fish the high seas.

Marine and Coastal Management spokesperson Guillaume de Villiers said yesterday: "I&J came across the South Tasman Rise south of Australia and started fishing orange roughy stocks. Then we got a message from the very excited Australian authorities saying we were breaking international fishing laws. But they had not informed us about their

□ To Page 3

Fishing dispute

CT 11/10/99

● From Page 1

agreement. It is not legally binding on us, but as we believe in responsible fishing, we agreed to sacrifice our rights to fish in that area. We then negotiated with I&J to get them to withdraw," De Villiers said.

I&J's general manager for trawling, Tim Reddell, said the company had also been unaware of the agreement, which had been signed only after their vessels had already left South Africa.

"We were fishing legally with a permit. The South African authori-

ties then withdrew our permit temporarily," Reddell said.

The *Cape Times* was told that an injured crew member on one of the I&J vessels had not been taken ashore in Australia for treatment because of the international incident.

Said Reddell: "It's true that a seaman was injured. He was treated by paramedics on board and delivered to New Zealand. At the time the Australians were claiming that we were sitting on their border, which we weren't. If we had gone any closer, there would have been allegations that we were using the injured man as an excuse to come into their waters."

FISHING

Controversy over new abalone ranch

MTG 1-7/10/99 (3) FISHING

Marianne Merten

Millions of rands have been poured into an experimental abalone ranching project at Port Nolloth on the west coast — and the licence was awarded without tender. This is despite doubts whether the venture will ever become commercially viable as research has yet to be compiled and vetted.

The licence was given to Port Nolloth Sea Farms, headed by two former diamond divers, in early 1998 after support from the Northern Cape Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism in lobbying Marine and Coastal Management (formerly Sea Fisheries).

The Fisheries and Mari-culture Association, to which the company belongs and which is supporting the initiative, is partly funding its research and development through a British government grant via the province.

The parastatal Industrial Development Corporation has invested R3-million in the R10-million venture. And local businesspeople like African National Congress deputy mayor Dan Singh have contributed substantially.

Officials at the Cape Town-based Marine and Coastal Management confirmed there had been no tender process.

Said one senior official: "[Port Nolloth Sea Farms] was given the licence because they had already made huge investment in capital and research. The whole idea was to put it out on tender. This hasn't happened yet."

Abalone — known as perlemoen in South Africa — is the most expensive marine animal and is at the heart of a multimillion-rand legal industry and crime syndicates organising poaching along the Cape south coast.

Depleted natural stocks have meant that Marine and Coastal Management has refused to permit abalone ranching in those areas be-

cause the natural and seeded animals are indistinguishable. However, Marine and Coastal Management hopes that if abalone ranching along the west coast is successful, it may be a solution to restocking other areas.

In Port Nolloth abalone is cultivated in tanks up to a specific size and then transplanted into the sea for further growth. In contrast to natural stocks, the ranched animals can be harvested when they are still under-sized and marketed as "cocktail abalones".

There seems to be some confusion regarding the 10-year permit, renewable each year. Marine and Coastal Management officials maintained that once commercial viability is established a tender will have to be put out, so everyone can bid for it.

But Port Nolloth Sea Farms managing director Dan Harvey insisted the experimental permit also allows the company to operate commercially. "We can take the abalone in and out and we are allowed to sell them. After 10 years we expect the OK [from authorities]. They can give 20 concessions. We would have the first choice. I'd like to believe they are not insane."

Despite the self-confessed entrepreneurial spirit of Port Nolloth Sea Farms, it has emerged that the first large commercial seeding of 50 000 animals only happened earlier this month in only one spot of the kilometres-long concession. The survival rate of particularly the smaller abalones has not yet been proven.

The rate of unemployment in Port Nolloth, a tiny seaside village mostly dependent on diamond mining, already stands at between 70% and 80%. In the face of a bleak financial future as mine operations are winding down, the Northern Cape Department of Economic Affairs and Tourism hopes mari-culture will provide secure jobs.

DIVERS IN GETAWAY SWIM

CT 11/10/99

Perlemoen pilferer nabbed off island

(3) FISHING

POLICE have arrested a man with four bags of perlemoen off Robben Island. He was on a boat owned by a diver contracted to a fishing company. **GASANT ABARDER** reports.

ROB BEN Island staff discovered a 42-year-old man with about 354 out-of-shell perlemoen in four bags, in a boat just off the island's quay minutes before midnight on Friday.

It appears that the divers who had removed the perlemoen escaped by swimming to Sea Point.

Chris Rossouw of the Organised Crime Investigation Unit said island staff apprehended the man when the boat was spotted alongside the island's quay.

The man, who is not a diver, was arrested.

He was released on R5 000 bail at a special out-of-court hearing on Saturday.

He is expected to appear in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court today.

Police are still looking for a group of divers after finding clues to their identities on board the boat.

The clues include wallets, credit cards and a licensed firearm which belongs to the owner of the vessel.

Rossouw said the owner had not come forward, but police had his name.

Police found no sign of the divers and called off the search on Saturday afternoon.

It is also being investigated whether the group are members of a syndicate believed to be smuggling perlemoen to the Far East.

Rossouw said the haul of perlemoen was worth about R90 000.

Andy Johnston of the South African Artisanal Fishers' Association said the vessel was owned by divers who were contracted by the South African Commercial Fishermen Holding Company.

The company had invited Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Valli Moosa to attend the launch today of a partnership between itself and South African Sea Products in Hout Bay.

Moosa's office said the minister had other commitments and was unable to attend.

Johnston said co-operation between perlemoen divers and police had led to the arrest and investigation.

Divers who worked within their quotas were aggrieved that a group of others were poaching perlemoen beyond their quota allocations.

The *Cape Times* is in possession of the names of some of the divers as well as of the owner of the boat.

Johnston said the illegal diving was by a group of six divers who had 20% perlemoen quotas and were removing more than the quantity they were allowed.

"They are not the only group doing this," he said.

"There is quite a lot of this going on.

"But they are doing it with the full knowledge of the companies

they work for. That is most disturbing. We don't know whether these companies are turning a blind eye or condoning the poaching.

"One cannot get a quota and then dive illegally."

Johnston said he had received information that the divers, who had been under police surveillance, swam to Sea Point and made their escape on shore.

"It is an absolute disgrace that commercial companies and new quota holders use poaching purely for profiteering," he said.

"We appeal to the government to listen to the grievances of the genuine fishers as a major step towards solving the abalone poaching problem.

"It is evident that this resource will be under tremendous threat if harvesting continues at this level.

"We are committed to working with the authorities to expose the corrupt practices of these companies, which are not only exploiting the sea but also the fishers for their own selfish greed."

Roland Wiegman of the South African Commercial Fishermen Holding Company said the owner of the boat had rights to dive for perlemoen and was under contract to the company.

However, he emphasised that the boat did not belong to the company.

"The message we are sending throughout the country — especially as a new company in the industry — is that we do not condone poaching at all," said Wiegman.

New crayfish firm to benefit poachers

Everyone can now fish legally, says minister

HENRI DU PLESSIS
SHIPPING EDITOR

Poachers along the country's coast can expect no mercy after the Government's restructuring of the fishing industry is complete. This was the clear message from Environment Affairs Minister Valli Moosa yesterday.

Mr Moosa spoke at the launch of a new crayfish processing company, Ikamva Lethu, based in Hout Bay.

The company has a unique feature: its members and employees are former poachers and subsistence fishermen who joined forces and obtained a crayfish quota to fish commercially.

The launch, held in the Victoria

and Alfred Waterfront because of a strike in Hout Bay Harbour, is a result of co-operation between Oceana Fishing and the SA Commercial Fishermen's Corporation.

The creation of Ikamva Lethu marked the completion of the Government's vision to fundamentally restructure the fishing industry. Mr Moosa said.

"The Government set out to make these changes, as the industry had existed on the basis of race and privilege. Legislation was not enough to transform the industry. It needed people to make it happen."

Mr Moosa said the Government could not allow poaching to continue and took policing very seriously. "But the Government does have a responsibility to give people the

opportunities they needed to make a legitimate living."

The fishermen who would benefit from the founding of Ikamva Lethu were poachers, admitted Lulamile Kati Kati of the fisherman's corporation.

"Many of us were forced to become poachers, as the previous government did not allow us to take part in the industry," he said.

"Now we have a government that has made it possible for us to do the only work we know - fishing."

The corporation believed the solution to the future needs of informal fishermen and their communities lay in the creation of companies that functioned on market principles, but showed social responsibility to their constituencies, he said.

ART 12/10/99

③ FISHING



True grit: Johnny Tilling, his wife Elizabeth and daughter Farren look at a pawns while grandma keeps an eye on the youngsters



Battle: firemen douse burning oil drums and pallets after workers started fires at fish factories in St Helena Bay yesterday

Strikers shut fish factories

BEAUREGARD TRUMP
 The West Coast fishing industry has been thrown into turmoil, with strike chaos bringing the pelagic fish processing industry almost to a standstill.

Yesterday workers locked out management and security staff, started fires and besieged factories. The strike, which affects mainly black empowerment companies, started on Saturday over a dispute which has been dragging on since July. Factories which process pilchards and anchovies in the fishing towns of Elandsbaai, St Helena Bay, Lambert's Bay, Gansbaai and Hout Bay were halted by the strike after a dispute over wages and a cutback in the number of working hours.

Companies, among them the Oceana group and Premier Fishing, are offering a 7.5% wage increase, but the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) is demanding a 10.5% increase.

In St Helena Bay, at Westpoint Fishing Corporation, Oranjevis and St Helena Bay Fishing Industry factories, workers' frustrations boiled over as they set pallets and oil drums alight yesterday.

Factory management and security were chased out of the factories and workers controlled entry as they laid siege to the premises.

Today Oranjevis and Westpoint were to seek an interdict in the Cape High Court to prevent union members occupying factory premises.

Fawu provincial secretary William Thomas said a meeting of workers was to be convened as soon as possible. About 5 000 are estimated to be on strike. "We are not condoning any type of violence or breaking down of property. But we do understand there have been frustrations."

A spokesman for the SA Pelagic Fish Processors' Association, Dan de Villiers, said the current situation was not good for either party in the confrontation. He said the dispute had developed into a full-blown strike on Monday.

"The bad part for us is that the office workers can't go to work. They have been asked to leave."

West Coast fishing villages on rocks

Behind the picture postcard facade, a traditional Cape way of life is facing ruin

BEAUREGARD TRUMP
 STAFF REPORTER

For generations the people of the Cape have made their living from the sea but as the stakes are raised more and more West Coast fishing communities face ruin.

With the whale season in full swing, thousands of tourists are flocking to the beaches to watch and admire some of nature's most glorious creatures.

Driving through fishing villages often described as "picturesque" or even "quaint" in tourist guidebooks, visitors soak up the best of what the Cape has to offer in wine, seafood, accommodation and hospitality.

But behind this facade and usually some distance off the main routes one finds the poverty that has descended on these small fishing communities, which are the reason for the very existence of these places.

Laingsville is not unlike most of

these communities with its small, weather-beaten houses where people make valiant attempts to maintain the little they have and where the local liquor store seems the most popular venue.

"Ag, we accept life the way it treats us," said Johnny Tilling who lives in a small semi-detached house with his wife, mother and three children.

For two months now he has sat at home, waiting for the factory to call him back to work again.

"Here we get up in the morning and see where we can get a few cents to buy bread ... and then we try again," said Mr Tilling.

Mr Tilling and his wife both work at the same factory but unlike his spouse, Mr Tilling is a seasonal worker.

With her job Elizabeth Tilling helps make up the 12% of workers on the West Coast who have permanent employment.



Break time: workers at a fish factory in St Helena Bay during a pause in their protest

Unemployment has led to the usual social problems of crime, abuse, alcohol and drug addiction and unwanted teenage pregnancies.

"I've looked everywhere for work at all the factories but they all say that they only employ seasonal workers," he said.

But this is the life the born and bred St Helena Bay father has accepted as he cannot remember when it was not a struggle to survive.

Outside in the street the young girls play gaily as they jump in and out of pieces of old nylon stockings tied together.

Further up the road a group of boys no older than three have tied together three plastic crates, pretending to ride a train.

"That's my baby, and it's a miracle that she's still so fat," said a laughing Mr Tilling, as he points to his two-year-old daughter, Farren, who is shyly peering as she hangs on to the doorframe.

"As parents you want things to be better for them but the way things are going now ..." said Mrs Tilling, casting her eyes skywards.

Statistics show that almost 19% of people along the West Coast are totally illiterate with 25% of the population

having studied no further than primary school.

"Usually around this time of the year I go out and help fix the trawler nets but I don't think there'll be much work because the boats haven't gone out much," said Mr Tilling.

At the factory where he works, the 300 workers have been divided into three shifts.

"The A shift will start on a Monday and if there is no fish for the B shift then they wait until there is."

"A lot of the time this means that there is no fish for the C shift and when the week starts again then the A shift will start the week," explains Mr Tilling.

The C shift and its 100 workers have not worked for more than two months now. The desperate situation has forced Mrs Tilling to take a loan from the company. This and the little money she brings in is the only thing that keeps their heads above water.

ARG 13/10/99

(152) (3) FISHING

Export deadlines threatened as 5 000 fishing industry workers strike in pay dispute ⁽¹⁵²⁾ (3) FISHING

GASANT ABARDER

ABOUT 5 000 employees from 10 companies in the Western Cape's pelagic fish processing industry have embarked on a crippling strike which could see the industry failing to meet its export deadlines.

Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) spokesperson William Thomas said yesterday work has stopped and trawlers have been docked for eight days following the declaration of a wage dispute and cutbacks in working hours.

Employers are offering a 7,5% wage

increase, but Fawu is demanding 10%.

Also, the 46-hour working week has been reduced to 45, meaning a loss of one hour's pay for workers.

Thomas said yesterday: "We are prepared for an eight percent increase if the employers are willing to backdate pay to August 1. Negotiations at the bargaining council are still continuing, but some companies have already indicated that they want to settle for the eight percent option. We are considering their offers."

Sapa reports that Dan de Villiers, a spokesperson for the South African Pelagic Fish

Processors' Association, said the situation was not good for the workers or fishing companies.

"The bad part for us is that the office workers can't go to work. They have been asked to leave," De Villiers said.

Meanwhile, the South African Commercial Fisherman's Corporation (SACFC) is adopting a zero tolerance approach to any of their contracted fishermen and divers found guilty of poaching.

This statement yesterday followed the arrest of Jacobus Jordaan, 42, who was charged in the Cape Town Magistrate's Court on Monday with

possessing 354 out-of-shell perlemoen.

Jordaan was granted R5 000 bail in a special out-of-court hearing on Sunday.

He was found in a boat with the perlemoen in four bags, worth about R90 000, off the shore of Robben Island shortly before midnight on Friday.

The owner of the boat who, along with a number of divers, is still at large and is believed to be involved in the poaching, is contracted to the SACFC.

The police organised crime unit know the identities of the boat owner and the divers and

more arrests are expected.

Lulamile Kati-Kati, chairperson of the SACFC, said should the boat owner be found guilty, he would face immediate expulsion from the corporation. Kati-Kati confirmed the person was contracted to his company with rights to catch 20 ton of perlemoen.

"At the moment, we do not have concrete information. We intend to contact the boat owner, who was contracted to the company. If we can have concrete evidence, then we will expel this member," he said.

Kati-Kati said a hearing will be held today

where the member's fate will be decided.

He said the company entered into contracts with its members to catch the company's quotas to enable former poachers to "earn a living from the sea in a legal manner".

"This is the clear message we want to send to all our contracted members. We will not tolerate this kind of poaching. Everybody in this company knows that we want to eradicate poaching," Kati-Kati said.

An undertaking by the SACFC on poaching was also made to the Department of Marine and Coastal Management.

CT 14/10/99

Bid to rescue SA fishing harbours

Crumbling facilities at Kalk Bay, Hout Bay could be privatised to save them from decay

JEAN LEMAY

South Africa's crumbling fishing harbours, including Kalk Bay, Hout Bay, Gordon's Bay and Hermanus, could be privatised in a bid to save them from further decay.

A private agency or even a new parastatal similar to the old Fisheries Development Corporation, generally known as Viskor, could take over the control and maintenance

of the neglected harbours.

Environmental Affairs Minister Valli Moosa has disclosed this in a discussion with Antoinette Versfeld, Democratic Party spokeswoman on environmental affairs.

Mr Moosa could not be reached for comment but deputy director-general Tanya Abrahamse confirmed yesterday that the department was considering a new Viskor or a private agency to manage the harbours.

"We are looking at all the options

because something has to be done urgently about the fishing harbours," she said.

Marine and Coastal Management deputy director Victor Mayisela said recently the department had asked the government for funds for a three-year programme to renovate fishing harbours.

Many of the 12 official fishing harbours along South Africa's 3 000km coastline are in a dangerous state of disrepair because of a complete stop-

page of repair and maintenance work for lack of funds.

Breakwaters and quays at many of them are in such a dangerous state of disrepair that fishermen have described them as "hazardous".

The Western Cape's disintegrating harbours are to get an emergency grant of R5-million for dredging and renovating breakwaters.

But coastal engineer Keith Mackie described this as "a drop in the ocean". In a recent report, he said

that in the past few years "not a single cent" had been spent on maintaining the fishing harbours.

And Mrs Versfeld was instrumental recently in saving detailed surveys of all fishing harbours done years ago by Viskor. She discovered that the surveys, done at great expense, were stored in a dilapidated storage depot in Paarden Eiland, inaccessible to the public or to potential tenderers for harbour work.

They were "rotting away from

mildew and being eaten by rats", she told Saturday Argus.

But the records were moved to a place of safety after she gave notice in the provincial legislature of a motion on the fishing harbours.

Viskor was appointed by the government in the 1960s to build fishing harbours. Mr Mackie told a recent conference on port and coastal and port engineering that the work Viskor was doing at the time "put it at the forefront of technological

developments".

Viskor was dissolved in 1986 and its considerable funds, estimated at R90-million at the time, were handed to the Small Business Development Corporation for the development of fisheries. Control of the fishing harbours and the technical services were handed over to the former Department of Sea Fisheries (now Marine and Coastal Resource Management), which was unable to cope because of lack of staff and funding.

ARG 16/10/99

③ FISHING

Poachers win war

Police are powerless as armed syndicates plunder Cape's crayfish and perlemoen

BOBBY JORDAN

ST (CM) 17/10/99

(3) FISHING

(56)

THE fight against marine poachers in the Western Cape has virtually collapsed and perlemoen could be extinct within five years.

That's the desperate message this week from conservationists who claim police are powerless against several armed poaching syndicates operating freely along the coast, plundering the country's valuable perlemoen and crayfish resources, much of which ends up for sale in the East.

In the latest series of setbacks in the war against poachers:

- The police anti-poaching operation on the south coast, dubbed Operation Neptune, has been scaled down due to funding shortages;

- Poachers are running riot in Kleinmond, where inspectors have confiscated hundreds of kilograms of poached perlemoen over the past 10 days;

- Poachers broke into the Sea Point headquarters of the Department of Marine and Coastal Management on Wednesday night and walked off with over 1 000kg of confiscated perlemoen and crayfish worth over R350 000.

Department officials have warned that the stolen perlemoen contained potentially lethal toxins caused by red tide;

- Police say they are investigating a Table Bay poaching syndicate that may have an "operational link" on Robben Island.

"Poachers have removed more than 90 percent of the (perlemoen) breeding stock," said Mike Tannett, co-ordinator of south coast marine conservation group Sea Watch.

"In the 2½ years since we were formed we have confiscated 14 500 perlemoen. The government's coastal management policy has clearly failed," Tannett said.

"The sea is suffering — we're losing the battle hand over fist."

He said young perlemoen had disappeared from the Betty's Bay area, raising fears that the resource was close to extinction.

Members of the police water wing, many of whom recently pulled out of the south coast area, had faced constant intimidation from poachers — some of them armed. The worst areas were Hawston, Gansbaai and Buffeljags.

investigators had also been unable to secure convictions against poachers who were well organised and hired expensive lawyers.

Sources in the Department of Marine and Coastal Management said this week investigators were unable to compete with high-tech poaching syndicates, one of which had been plundering a "goldmine" of perlemoen around Robben Island.

The island poachers, who operated at night, allegedly used underwater torches mounted on helmets and custom-made poaching baskets to collect the lucrative shellfish.

Police said last week's arrest of a 42-year-old skipper 100m off the island — caught with four bags of perlemoen — suggests lawmakers have gained the upper hand. But the divers had "disappeared" — apparently onto the island.

A senior police officer investigating the syndicate, who wished to remain anonymous, said there was "a strong possibility" of links between poachers and island personnel.

"They launch from Cape Town, Hout Bay or Sea Point and go to the island at night. It's difficult to catch

them because we don't know where they come out — so we can't wait for them. They are careful not to stick to one spot."

Director of the Robben Island museum, Professor Andre Odendaal, said undercover police operations on the island had so far been unable to uncover a poaching syndicate.

He said island administration had also teamed up with the National Intelligence Agency in an attempt to crack the case.

The island was considering applying for its own perlemoen quota "to

enable us to manage the island in an integrated way", Odendaal said.

Conservation spokesman for the Kleinmond/Hangklip municipality, Johan Erasmus, said it was virtually impossible to halt the carnage along the coast. Poachers were operating with near impunity.

"The frustrating thing is we know who the guys are. There's one who has a boat with radar on it and a GPS system — he can track other boats as they approach. We haven't been able to catch him once.

"He goes in with divers, they dive

up their catch and just leave it there — and then go back and fetch it later. There's virtually nothing we can do to stop that," Erasmus said.

Tannett said the crisis prompted a meeting between conservationists and police top brass at Hermanus last week, attended by Community Safety MEC Mark Wiley.

"Wiley said he would speak to (Environmental Affairs Minister) Valli Moosa and we are hoping to bring Operation Neptune back at a national level. How long it will take we don't know," Tannett said.

(3) FISHING (76) CT 20/10/99

'Poachers' have no choice, study finds

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

ALL along the South African coast there are large numbers of poor people who knowingly poach marine resources because the current "bag limits" prevent them from feeding their families.

This was the picture that emerged from a draft report commissioned by Marine and Coastal Management, formerly Sea Fisheries, which aims to provide information on the needs of "subsistence fishers" to help the authorities manage the country's scarce marine resources.

Many poachers use destructive implements like spades and pangas to hack off shellfish, or pour on vinegar or bleach to force mussel worms — used for bait — from behind the mussels. In many regions law enforcement is non-existent.

Most of the "poachers" are poorly-educated and 40% are unemployed — higher than the national unem-

ployment figure of 29%.

In the apartheid era, these people were classed as poachers, but the Marine Living Resources Act, passed last year, aims to give equitable access to marine resources to all citizens, and recognises subsistence use of the sea for the first time.

The report highlighted the poor level of communication between the authorities and the subsistence fishers, which should "ring alarm bells for those responsible for marine resource management".

Most subsistence fishers are not bothered about being arrested. They are more concerned about the weather, tides and availability of resources which may impede their harvest.

The report states: "It appears that there is no effective enforcement, and little by way of local involvement in co-management of marine resources. This could be seen as 'the worst of all possible situations'."

It says these fishers have in the past

been "criminalised" by the law, which has left many with "deep emotional scars". They have become used to operating on the margins of society and have low status.

The study looked at sample subsistence fisher communities along the coast, which was divided into West Coast, South Coast, East Coast and KwaZulu-Natal.

Fish was the most commonly harvested resource (81%), of which just over half (56%) was sold. Mussels were the second most commonly harvested resource (58%).

Generally, poorer households exploited the inter-tidal resources like mussels, limpets, oysters, alikreukel and crabs. Despite the high prices for perlemoen, the study found that subsistence fishers ate most of the perlemoen they caught, selling only 31%.

"Subsistence users were quite adamant that their needs were in excess of the current bag limits for recreational fishers, and that it was unreasonable to

expect them to meet the needs of their families on the basis of these quotas."

Of the households studied, 39% believed all marine resources belonged to God, 28% believed they belonged to the government and only 12% believed they belonged to the locals.

The average subsistence fisher household consisted of five people and the education levels of two thirds of adults was "some" primary school training or nothing at all.

Using international standards, the report classed 40% of them as poor and 20% as "ultra-poor". A quarter of households said there was never enough food to go around.

The study also found that the poverty of the subsistence fishers was worse in the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, which showed "rather bleak scenarios". About half the households had at least one member who was employed, most of them as labourers.

Other income was from old-age pensions and disability grants.

Union's fishing venture 'a dream come true'

YUNUS KEMP AND SAPA

The Food and Allied Workers Union says it is tired of seeing small fishing villages becoming ghost towns because of worker retrenchment and exploitation.

This was the union's message at the launch of its own fishing company, the Food and Allied Workers Union Fishing Corporation (Pty) Ltd, in Cape Town last night.

Union leaders said they hoped the corporation would prove to be the turning point for the beleaguered industry.

The corporation has applied to the Quota Board for the right to start commercial fishing in the 1999-2000 season and Derrick Cele, Fawu's general secretary and chairman of the new company, said the project was a dream come true.

"One of our dreams is to see a society free of oppression and free of exploitation and we decided to take a stand and open a company that will be owned by the workers," Mr

Cele said.

Fawu has about 15 000 members in the fishing industry.

Mr Cele said the launch of the corporation was just the beginning. "We need to identify regions such as the Eastern Cape where workers have been sidelined by big business."

The union's lawyer, Bradley Conradie, said the corporation was anxiously waiting to see which quotas it would be awarded.

"We've applied for the right to fish for 10 species.

"There can be no basis for us not receiving the go-ahead as we have followed all the guidelines," said Mr Conradie.

The corporation viewed its entry into the fishing industry as crucial in terms of safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of its members and related workers in the industry.

It would strive to sustain and facilitate job creation as well as broad-based economic empower-

ment in the industry. All profits made would be used for the benefit of its members and the fishing communities from which of the workers came.

Franklin Sonn, chairman of Africa Group Corporation which helped set up the corporation, said through the workers' initiatives "the oceans would belong to all the people".

"Today is a historic day where workers and the industry can work together," said Mr Sonn.

He emphasised that it was vital that the unions' activities not be confused with this initiative, which, he said, was primarily a business venture.

Mr Sonn referred to a demonstration earlier yesterday during which West Coast fishermen marched on the offices of fishing companies Oceana and Sekanjalo in Cape Town and Claremont to protest against poor working conditions and wages.

Yesterday's protest went off without incident.

ACT 22/10/99 (3) FISHING

Black company hooked on a dream

THE launch of the black empowerment company Food and Allied Workers Union Fishing Corporation (Pty) Ltd was just the beginning of a dream, the company's general secretary and chairman, Derrick Cele, said yesterday.

"One of our dreams is to see a society free of oppression and free of exploitation, and we decided to take a stand and open a company that will be owned by the workers," Cele said. "Now we need to identify regions such as the Eastern Cape, where workers have been sidelined by

The corporation viewed its entry into the fishing industry as crucial in terms of

safeguarding the interests, rights and well-being of its members and related workers in the industry. It would strive to facilitate job creation in the industry as well as facilitate broadly-based economic empowerment in the industry.

All profits made by the company will be used for the benefit of its members in the industry and the fishing communities from which many of them come.

The company, said Cele, would strive to reverse the trend by bigger fishing companies to close factories in coastal communities and centralise operations in areas such as Cape Town.

The union had received an undertak-

ing from the Oceana Fishing Group to make its infrastructures available at market-related rates.

A similar arrangement had been entered into with the SA Commercial Fishing Corporation (Pty) Ltd.

The union did not view these relationships as joint ventures or strategic partnerships, but as "arms-length" relationships which would be commercially-based and dictated by market-related principles.

Earlier West Coast fishermen marched to offices of Oceana and Sekanjalo in the city and Claremont to protest about conditions and wages. — Sapa

ACT 22/10/99

(3) FISHING

Fishy tales of empty ANC quota promises

③ FISHING

Small fishermen unable to make ends meet

ARG 23/10/99

JEAN LE MAY

A large number of Southern Cape and Overberg members of the African National Congress-aligned South African Fishing Action Committee (Safac) are threatening to switch their support from the ANC.

They say this is because they did not get fishing quotas which they claim were promised by the committee and people closely connected to the ANC "fishing desk".

Safac chairman Harry Mentor was asked to comment but cancelled an appointment with Saturday Argus at short notice. His secretary said he had gone to Paarltsdorp on "urgent official business".

He reacted angrily on hearing that Antoinette Versfeld, Democratic Party member of the Western Cape legislative assembly and spokeswoman on fishing, had recently met a group of disgruntled members of Safac from as far afield as Stribaal, Struisbaai and Mossel Bay.

Norman Murtz of Bredasdorp told Saturday Argus fishermen in the Southern Cape and Overberg were assured in 1996 by a group known as the Fisheries Development Unit (FDU) that the new ANC government would "look after them" when they applied for quotas.

"We formed our own small companies and have applied for quotas every year since then - and we have got nothing," he said. "We are very disappointed because we all supported the ANC but it has let us down," he said.

The FDU, funded by the Kagiso Trust, was formed early in 1996. People originally associated with it were Mustaq Brey, then head of a city accounting firm and now a director of fishing giant Oceana; Cape Town businessman Fred Robertson; and then member of the Western Cape legislature Johnny Issel.

About two years ago the FDU and its then directors dropped out of sight and Mr Mentor became chairman of a new organisation, the South African Fishing Action Committee.

Mr Mentor is a director of fishing companies, including Azanian Fishing and Cape Fish Processors, which since 1996 have acquired quotas for hake and pilchard respectively.

Safac's apparent links with the ANC surfaced in September last year when placards advertising a meeting in Hout Bay had a Safac logo at the top and an ANC logo at the bottom.

The placards read: "Safac helps people fill in quota forms and gets

quotas for its members". The meeting was addressed by Marius Fransman, then vice-chairman of the ANC in the Western Cape and a member of the ANC's parliamentary fishing desk.

Mr Mentor, questioned at the time by Sunday Argus, said it was a Safac meeting and denied that quotas had been promised in return for votes.

By then fishermen in the Southern Cape and the Overberg had formed themselves into regional committees under the auspices of the umbrella body, Safac.

But they are now angry and disappointed because, they say, "the people are looking after themselves and have done nothing for us".

They made it clear they wanted nothing further to do with Mr Mentor or Safac, said Mr Murtz.

Mr Murtz said fishermen in the region were desperately poor and independent line fishermen were neglected by the authorities.

"We have small bakkies, but the big boats come right inshore and push us away. In good weather we can get out to the banks, between six and nine miles out, where the fishing is best, but the big boats push us away there, too. And they stay out all night fishing, which we cannot do, so that when we go out in the morning there are few fish left."

Mr Murtz said he owned one boat which supported six fishermen and their families. "If the weather is bad and we can't go out, there is no money in their houses for food. People are surviving on borrowed money."

"Many of the children go to the Albert Myburgh School in Bredasdorp, but parents can't keep up with the fees and now they are getting lawyers' letters from the school."

He said linefish - red roman, silverfish, kabeljou, geelbek and yellow-tail - were sold at the quayside to middlemen for very low prices.

But Mr Murtz and the fishermen from Arniston have developed a plan to help themselves.

"Instead of selling our fish for a song, we have negotiated to hire a piece of land from a farmer on which we want to erect a small fish-processing plant," he said.

"We also plan to grow proteas on the land so there will be an income outside the fishing season. But it all depends on getting fishing quotas to give us some working capital."

"In addition, we shall impose a small levy on every member to build up an emergency fund for families and to enable us to give bursaries for children to go to technical colleges. There is no future for our children as fishermen."

No empowerment in fishing industry

mtg 29/10-4/11/99
③ FISHING

Marianne Merten

The Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) wants the government to address the alleged failure of black empowerment companies to help transform the fishing industry. The call was made as part of the strike by 5 000 Fawu members at 10 West Coast fishing and fish processing companies with black empowerment components.

"The dispute is not just about wages. It's about promises made to workers," says Fawu Western Cape secretary William Thomas. "Black empowerment is not happening."

Fawu also wants councillors, politicians and former MPs involved in the industry to be ex-

cluded. The union says the lack of transformation is also reflected in the use of so-called paper quotas by which formerly disadvantaged communities and individuals apply for quotas. These, Thomas says, are then sold off to established big players in the industry. He adds that several union members have been approached to form closed corporations to apply for quotas.

This concern seems to be shared by some of the large fishing companies. Earlier this month it emerged that Sea Harvest and Irvine & Johnson apparently sent a letter of complaint to Marine and Coastal Management over the quota allocation to three front companies supplying other industry players. The letter questions why allocations were made specifying the recipients as

new entrants to the market even though they were linked to established companies.

At this stage the government does not plan to intervene to regulate the matter, but is currently redrafting the criteria for quota applications.

Deputy director general of environmental affairs (resource management) Tanya Abrahamse says one of the difficulties is that there is no consensus on what transformation means. The government has an obligation to ensure viable access of new entrants to spread the benefits of the fishing industry to all those who had been denied access in the past. At the same time, fishing is based on a finite resource to be protected.

Most established big fishing companies have over the past few years entered into joint ven-

tures with black empowerment companies, but only Premier Fishing is black controlled. Sekunjalo Company CEO Iqbal Surve says his company has successfully promoted people who had worked at the company for 15 years into key posts. There has also been investment in socio-economic development projects. Last year Premier Fishing withdrew from the bargaining council to offer better wage increases.

In light of its concern over black empowerment, Fawu next month will reconsider its participation in Siphumelele Investment involved at Irvine & Johnson. Thomas said the union's participation had not been properly authorised as it came during a time of an internal leadership dispute. Instead the union has launched its own empowerment company, the Fawu Fishing Corporation, to work on a commercial basis with established businesses like Océana Corporation. CEO Wentzel Oaker says the company is a broad-based empowerment initiative to benefit the 15 000 union members in the fishing industry.

Clearing the stink in fishing

③ FISHING

Empowerment group challenges SA's mainly white fishing industry, writes JANETTE BENNETT

STCBT 23/10/99

IN A rocky fortnight for SA's fishing industry, a high-powered black empowerment consortium has entered the fray, determined to break what it calls a stranglehold on the industry and to kick-start meaningful transformation.

The consortium is made up of the Southern Oceans group and Velamar Fishing Corporation, which represents shareholders in coastal communities from Mozambique to Namibia. Through the Kholso Trust, the consortium represents the interests of 14 welfare and community organisations. Its members include Princess Zenani Mandela Dhlamini, Princess Nandi (the daughter of King Goodwill Zwelithini), and ANC veterans Herman Loots and Gertrude Shope.

The consortium says the fishing industry, estimated to be worth over R2.5-billion a year, is still overwhelmingly dominated by white interests — both in terms of companies and the boards and commissions which make the decisions on quota allocations.

"No real transference of rights has taken place to date," Velamar said in a prepared statement. "Big players appoint PDIs (previously disadvantaged individuals) to window-dress their companies."

They say this is despite government's stated aims to uplift impoverished communities through improved access to marine resources. And it is despite the passing of the Marine Living Resources Act last year which aims to conserve the marine ecosystem — Velamar says wholesale poaching and abuse is wiping out SA's marine wealth — provide for long-term sustainable use of fish, and grant orderly access to all citizens in a fair and equitable manner.

Southern Oceans chairman Dupree Vilakazi is scathing about the "crumbs" his companies have been offered. "We understand that if quotas of the big operators are reduced, that will not be by more than 10%, which translates into 200 or 300 tons of hake — absolute peanuts. At the very least we need a quota of about 5 000 tons, worth around R33-million



A SEA CHANGE: Gibson Thula, chairman of Velamar Fishing Corporation, says he is fighting the old currents

— or else it is simply not viable to run an operation."

Vilakazi, who is also president of the National Black Business Caucus, points to hake quotas to illustrate the consortium's point that there is no space for smaller operators in the industry. Of the total long-haul hake quota of 150 000 tons, 110 000 are shared by a few big operators, he says, and the other 200 or so smaller fishing companies share the remaining 40 000 tons.

The consortium says this has created a situation where individuals, who lack the financial means or knowledge to use their small paper quotas in a profitable manner, are "forced to sell their rights to the old established companies who had the quotas in the first place". Paper quotas granted, the consortium continues, have been too small to make capital investment feasible.

This ensures the quotas, with enormous profits, remain in the hands of the established companies and prohibits new en-

trants from entering a "very lucrative business".

Velamar chairman Gibson Thula, who is also chairman of the SA Diamond Board, told BT: "The old status quo still exists and we understand it is not being determined by our politicians, but by bureaucrats stuck in the past. It's time for us to move forward. We are on the warpath."

The consortium has formed partnerships with the Spanish-based fishing group Frelremar, which has some 30 companies worldwide. Frelremar has signed an agreement with Southern Oceans to supply vessels and to market SA products, as well as a code of conduct to adhere to the provisions of the Marine Act and uplift previously disadvantaged communities.

The chief director of Marine and Coastal Management in the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Monde Mayekiso, is frank. "Yes, there are problems. Yes, it is valid to say there is a stranglehold and that the status quo has not

changed," he told BT.

However, he points out that whereas big companies held 92% of quota allocations in 1993, they now hold about 71% — still a significant slice. "To bring that figure down involved the quota board making allocations to other smaller players, but they have faced constraints." He said the department was considering various options; reducing quotas further for the big players was one option.

"Quotas have been small but new entrants could always come together and pool what they have to make it meaningful. Some have acted irresponsibly by selling the quotas."

He says the department was making quota allocations on the basis of the 1998 Act. But the West Coast lobster sector challenged the allocations in court, and won. "It stopped the process and meant allocations for 1999 were based on the old Act, making it difficult to remove quotas from existing holders."

Events over the past two weeks have highlighted some of the ironies and frustrations in the industry. Workers have taken to the streets of Cape Town, marching on the offices of the Oceana group. Oceana has just completed a deal which saw it form a new empowerment company, Ikamva Lethu, with the 3 000-member SA Commercial Fishing Corporation (SACFC). In terms of the deal, SA Sea Products, Oceana's fishing division, will provide management, technology transfer and training for SACFC members.

The workers, protesting against employment conditions and wages, alleged a "black and white mafia" was controlling the industry. According to Sapa, in a memorandum handed to Oceana MD Temba Vundla, the workers demanded a living wage for all; a bargaining council; a commission of inquiry investigate all government officials in the industry; and nepotism be eradicated.

A similar memorandum was presented to Sekanjalo, an empowerment fishing group.

Picture: MICHAEL WALKER

Fishermen angry over refusal of quotas

STAFF REPORTER

Fishermen are enraged at being refused fishing quotas for south coast rock lobster and long-line hake for the current season.

They now want an urgent meeting with Monde Mayekiso, chief director of Marine and Coastal Resource Management (formerly Sea Fisheries).

The names of 17 companies which got quotas for south coast lobster and 48 companies which got long-line hake quotas were recently released.

"Disadvantaged fishermen were totally ignored for the long-line hake quotas," said Charles Thompson, chairman of the Struisbaai Fishing Company.

This company was formed two years ago, he said, under the auspices of Safac (South African Fishing Action Committee), which has strong links with the African National Congress.

Recently fishermen in the Southern Cape and Overberg threatened to withdraw their support from the ANC because Safac's promises of fishing quotas had not been met.

"Some of us have had long-line quotas for the last two years," said Mr Thompson.

"For the last five years we took part in the experimental long-line hake fishery, and now they have left us out in the cold.

"With our experience and expertise, we helped to develop the new technique. Some of us were congratulated by Sea Fisheries for excellent performance.

"We were assured by Safac that we would be helped to get quotas, but that has not happened.

"Meanwhile we see that Safac chairman Harry Mentor's Azanian Fishing Company got 200 tons of long-line hake. Dr Mayekiso has some explaining to

do.

Earlier this year two of the major fishing companies, I&J and Sea Harvest, complained to Dr Mayekiso that they had agreed to give up part of their valuable hake quotas in the interests of transforming the fishing industry - but that quotas had been given to subsidiaries of established companies, instead of new-entry companies.

Lusitania, another of the old Cape fishing companies, and its three subsidiaries Baratz Fishing, C&S Underwater Products, and Seafarer Distributors, got 54 tons between them in rock lobster quota.

However new-entry and black empowerment groups have been given the lion's share of South Coast rock lobster.

Out of a total allowable catch of 357 tons, 129 tons went to Atlantic Fishing Enterprises, a subsidiary of Premier Fishing, owned by the black empower-

ment group Sekunjalo.

South African Sea Products, owned by the black empowerment group Oceana, got 15 tons, and another 15 tons went to Bluefin Fishing Enterprises of Hout Bay.

The latter company was in no way connected with Bluefin Fishing Pty Ltd, formerly owned by Shantaa Meter, wife of Fisheries Transformation Council chairman Dicky Meter, said its spokesman MM Chetty of Port Elizabeth.

Hout Bay Fishing Industries and its three subsidiaries - Amandla Abasebenzi Fishing, Fullimput 2 and Tradequick 62 - got 60 tons between them. Spokesman Godfrey Howes told Sunday Argus that the three subsidiaries were owned by the company's 300 employees.

"Of course, we'll deduct the cost of catching the lobster from their profits," he said.

ARK 8/11/99
KSHINGR

Long-term fishing quotas on way

JOHN YELD
Environment Writer

Long-term fishing quotas are essential for managing South Africa's economically important fishing industry on a fair and sustainable basis, says Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Valli Moosa.

Speaking at a function at the Two Oceans Aquarium on Friday to launch this year's National Marine Day poster, he said he was putting "tremendous pressure" on his department to find ways to issue these long-term quotas.

Mr Moosa said he expected a start to be made by next year.

He also said that plastic pollu-

tion was a "marked threat" to marine life, and that plastic bags in the sea and on the coast were leading to the elimination of marine creatures.

A five-year survey of 50 Eastern Cape beaches had shown a 150% increase in the amount of plastic litter.

Also, 63 pipelines along South Africa's 3 000km coastline were pumping 800 million litres of household and industrial effluent into the sea each day.

Mr Moosa paid tribute to the "Beach Buddies" organisation in Hout Bay, whose members cleaned the beach every weekend and who had asked all retailers in Hout Bay to start using linen shopping bags instead of plastic

as a way of reducing plastic pollution in the bay.

Roy Gordon, group managing director I&J, which sponsors National Marine Day, warned that over-fishing in other parts of the globe had led foreign fishermen to seek alternative seas to fish, including South Africa's.

"Bilateral agreements such as that between the European Union and Argentina, for example, have led to the decimation of that country's fish stocks," he said.

"Granting access to foreign fleets has the potential to very seriously damage South Africa's fishing industry.

"We believe that the rights to fish in South African waters belong only to South Africans."

KSHINGR
ARK 8/11/99

Something fishy in the trade arena

ARG 13/11/99

(74)

③ FISHING

JEAN LE MAY

Two European fishing experts say the European Union could be renegotiating its trade agreement with South Africa to pressure the country into a fishing agreement on EU terms.

Mediterranean EU members, Spain in particular, have long coveted South Africa's fishing resources.

Beatrice Gorez and Brian O'Riordan, Brussels-based fisheries experts now visiting South Africa, believe South Africa's refusal to give European fleets access to its waters could explain their action.

The "Club Med" countries - Spain, Portugal, France, Italy and Greece -

are expected to ask European foreign ministers at a meeting on Monday to suspend the huge benefits of the historic free trade agreement, which was supposed to come into force on January 1.

And Spain - believed to be the ringleader - has already blocked a European Investment Bank loan package to South Africa, worth more than R5-billion.

South Africa has already agreed to phase out the use of the terms "port" and "sherry". But now the Club Med countries want other terms controlled as well, including "grand cru", "ouzo", "grappa", "claret" and "vin de pays".

Ms Gorez of the Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreements and Mr O'Ri-

ordan of the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers have extensive experience with EU fishing agreements.

They told Saturday Argus it was common knowledge among influential trade unions and non-government organisations in Europe that EU countries, especially Spain, would "go to any lengths" to get their fleets into South African waters.

"We have the strongest suspicion that influential Spanish fishing groups with investments in Namibian fishing may be involved," said Mr O'Riordan.

The biggest Spanish investor in Namibian fishing is the international Pescanova group, controlled by

well-connected Spanish tycoon Angel Tordesillas.

The Pescanova fishing plant in Luderitz was hailed as the biggest single investment in Namibia since its independence, and the group's companies have 70% of the Namibian whitefish catch.

Pescanova has been targeted frequently by conservation groups, including Greenpeace, for the huge damage it has allegedly done to worldwide fish stocks.

Mr Tordesillas was "travelling abroad" and not available for comment this week, said a secretary in the group's Cape Town shipping office.

"There is good reason for South African fishers to hope that the

South African negotiators will not give in," Mr O'Riordan said.

"It could be interpreted as a first step towards conceding to EU demands for access to South African waters."

Mr O'Riordan said that he and Ms Gorez were "disturbed" by a remark made to them by Noel Williams, a member of the parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs, that the fishing industry contributed only about 5% to South Africa's gross domestic product.

"We hope that this is not an indication of government thinking, that the fish resource may as well be sacrificed in order to get the free trade agreement in place," he said.

Mr Williams was not available for

comment.

However, Trade and Industry Minister Alec Erwin has condemned the EU move in the strongest terms.

"No country can sign an agreement and then break it," he said, recalling that all 15 EU nations - including the "Club Med" countries - signed the trade agreement last month.

Saturday Argus reported last year that South African trade unionists suspected the EU of wanting to link a fishing agreement with the general trade agreement.

South African and EU spokesmen, however, said there would be separate agreements on wines and spirits and on fishing and that there would be no linkage.

Industry crisis leaves fishermen all at sea

(3) FISHING ARG 20/11/99

JEAN LE MAY

The fishing industry, still smarting from serious disruption and financial loss after endless litigation over quotas last season, could be facing another round of legal fights over quotas.

Moreover, the industry claims that the delay in issuing quotas and permits for non-quota species for the current season will exacerbate the crisis.

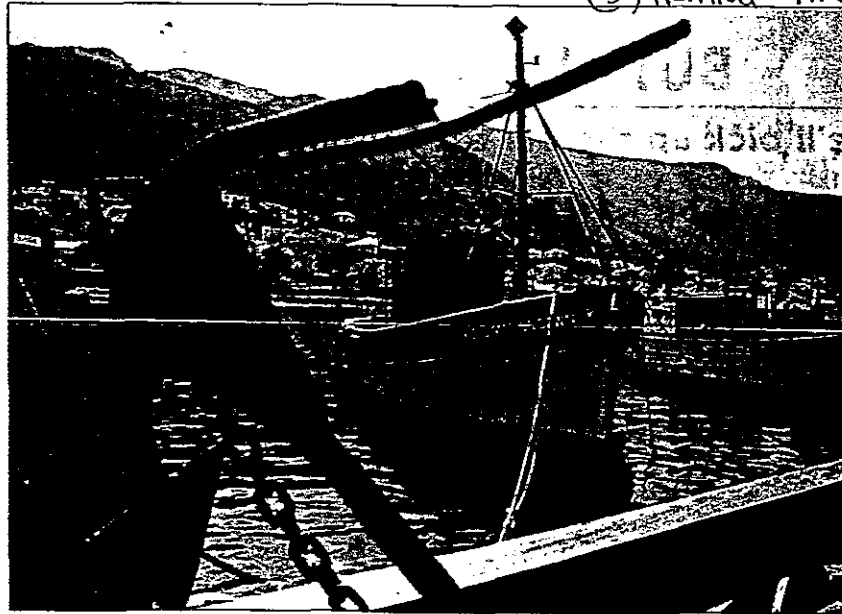
No quotas or permits have been announced for south coast rock lobster, squid, hake or pelagic fish, although the lobster season opened last week and the squid season should open on Monday. The other fisheries should be well under way by now.

And now a court case will cause a delay in the long-line hake fishery as well. A list of 48 applicants was released by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resource Management on October 30. Only 28 of the applicants have been granted permits to fish.

But long-line hake fishing must stop for the remaining 20 applicants because Valli Moosa, the Minister of Environmental Affairs, and the Fisheries Transformation Council, which replaced the quota board, undertook in the Cape High Court this week to stop issuing further permits or entering into further lease agreements for long-line hake fishing.

The application was brought by Avecel Fishing, Amaqobela Fishing and eight others, all members of the South African Tuna and Hake Association.

Avecel Fishing said in court papers that in 1994 an experimental long-line fishery for hake was introduced as a supplement to the tuna



SEASICK, YET STILL DOCKED: the fishing industry could face another round of legal fights over quotas

fishery, which was under pressure.

Members of the South African Tuna Association – now the SA Hake and Tuna Corporation – applied their expertise and experience to develop the long-line hake fishery, said Avecel Fishing.

In the following years quotas were allocated to the people and companies who had taken part in the experiment.

However, in 1998 there were “extraordinary” delays in allocating the quotas and applicants were

told it was unlikely that tonnage would be allowed to “roll over” to the 1999 season.

In January 1999, the minister announced that 10 000 tons of hake had been allocated to long-lining and invited applications.

That was apparently later reduced to 8 400 tons. It was also noted that there would be open hearings for all 1998 quota-holders.

However, the applicant said that this favoured existing quota-holders and, moreover, that applicants

were not given an opportunity at the hearings to clarify their proposed operations. The company contended that only 7 700 tons of hake were allocated and that 46 existing quota-holders had been deprived of their quotas for the current season.

The company said that it believed there were irregularities in some of the successful applications.

No explanation was given why applications had failed, said the company.

Answering affidavits had not been filed yesterday.

The case was postponed until December 7.

Meanwhile, the South African Squid Management Industrial Association said that there was no clarity on the squid permit allocation, although the department had assured them it would be complete by Monday, when the season reopened.

The association claimed that a spokesman for the department had said that the allocation would not be granted until December, and that the department had not responded to queries.

“There are 2 500 fishermen in the industry who have had no salaries for five weeks of the closed season,” said the association.

“This also impacts on boat owners, who must, for the second month, explain to financial institutions why monthly repayments cannot be made.

“We can prove that 20% to 35% of the catch is caught in the first three weeks of the season opening. The industry generates about R50-million a year and this delay will mean a huge financial loss.

“Last year a delay of seven days was experienced and the department promised this would never happen again. Obviously there is the same administrative incompetence this year.

“We are in a desperate situation and our industry will be looking at several small industries and businesses going bankrupt if the permits are not allocated by November 22.”

Saturday Argus could get no comment on the squid permits from Marine and Coastal Resource Management.

Fisher-folk face extinction

Kalk Bay's 200-year-old community is dying out because of increased tariffs and dwindling resources

BOBBY JORDAN

(3) FISHING ST (CM) 21/11/99

THE poverty-stricken Kalk Bay fishing community is on its knees, with many fishermen no longer able to fish or provide for their families.

"It's a dead end. We're a dying breed," community spokesman Vincent Cloete said yesterday.

"We, as a fishing community, have been very, very proud of ourselves living here for almost 200 years. We survived through the time of forced removals. Now we have to die out because we can't afford to operate here any more," Cloete said.

The historic community — almost entirely dependent on the wages of hand-line fishermen who fish in False Bay — has been crippled by a massive hike in fishing harbour tariffs and steadily dwindling fish resources.

Tariffs skyrocketed last year following the implementation of the Marine Living Resources Act, drawn up by the Department of Marine Resources and Coastal Management in an attempt to bolster much-needed revenue from fishing harbours.

The department says the increases are necessary to raise capital to repair harbours, most of which are in a serious state of disrepair.

In a presentation to the Public Works Portfolio Committee earlier this month, the Public Works chief director of state property holdings, Gugu Mazibuko, identified fishing harbours as a vital source of increased revenue collection.

But fishermen say the increased tariffs have effectively destroyed their way of life.

At least 10 of Kalk Bay's fleet of fishing trawlers are up for sale and many boats have stopped going out to sea, leaving many of the estimated 250 fishermen without income.

According to Cloete, boat-owners were also struggling to afford slipway tariffs for repairs.

"Last year in September four days on the slipway cost me R265. Now if I go on the slip for one day it costs me R440," Cloete said. "We feel strongly that we should be subsidised because we provide a service and a way of life. We are providing food and work."

He said children no longer showed an interest in fishing because it had no future.

"The harbour is dying and with it a tremendous tourist attraction. Tourists want to see boats coming in and off-loading fish that fishermen have caught with their hands — that has always been the unique attraction of Kalk Bay," Cloete said.

Kalk Bay harbour master Pat Stacey said the government could no longer afford to subsidise fishing harbours.

"The state coffers are drying up — one can't subsidise an institution like this forever. But one has to be careful because if you make prices ridiculously high then you could squeeze out the struggling fishermen," Stacey said.

This was exactly what government was trying to avoid, said deputy director of inshore resource management Vincent Mayisela. Harbour tariffs had not been increased for the past five years so the increase a few months ago was considered reasonable.

"Perhaps we might consider changing them when we review the situation next year," he said.

The men who fish the seas to live another day

ET 22/11/99

(3) FISHING

Call for equity in SA fishing industry

GASANT ABARDER
STAFF WRITER

It is 4am — and even the sun has a couple more hours to sleep in — but Les Frans and his crew of fellow fishermen are already braving the icy seas of the West Coast to earn their keep.

Frans, 37, has been fishing to stay alive for 15 years at Witsand, down the road from Ocean View, the historically-disadvantaged fishing community where he lives. If he misses his catch for the day Les and his wife and three children will go hungry for the day.

The single-engined, four-man wooden boat is chopped about by the swells. All the fishermen's hands are hardened and calloused from the ropes and nets they use to catch crayfish. Frans' blue sweatshirt, green track pants with maroon socks up to the knees and black beanie carry the indelible stench that only a seasoned fisherman can appreciate.

At 1pm, Frans is back in Ocean View. The fisherman is now out of his natural terrain and on the streets trying to sell his catch to unsympathetic customers. His legally allowed four crayfish catch will earn him about R40 today. It depends on his market's demands.

"If I can make R50 a day it is a good day," he says.

"Out of season, the sea is cold and if they don't bite it means no salary for me," Frans tells me. His forehead is lined with the wrinkles of a labourer as he frowns. He is the sole breadwinner.

"Last month I sold my own clothes to feed my children — many times all I can put on the table is bread and water."

Two of his three children, his seven-year-old son and his 14-year-old daughter, are at school. This means school fees, uniforms and other related costs.

He fears the day when his 32-year-old wife might leave him and claim for maintenance.

"I don't want to be a criminal and end up in jail. If the law sends me maintenance papers, where are they going to send me? They are going to make me a criminal. I don't want to poach either. But the government is pushing me into a tight corner," he says.

For fishermen like Frans, who the government regards as subsistence fishers, it has become increasingly difficult to earn a living from the sea. But fishing is the only skill he knows and although it is hard, for these men it is a passion.

The allowed catch of the individual, the law book says, is for own consumption and cannot be sold.

If Frans is caught selling his catch on the streets he will be arrested and branded a poacher. It is a hand-to-mouth system with little room for the development of small business.

But the story of Frans, and Ocean View, is not unique. Saldanha Bay, Hawston and Paterson are but a few fishing communities



MARGINALISED: Les Frans is just one of thousands of bona fide fishermen trying to eke a living from the sea, with the government making it increasingly difficult.

PICTURES: JACK LESTRADE

dotting the West Coast, where the same rules apply. Although these communities are kilometres apart, they share a similar trait — immense poverty.

Frans and his crew have been organised to work for themselves through the generosity of a local skipper, Charles America. America gets them permits to catch crayfish and allows them to work from his boat.

America, who comes across as a trade unionist rather than a fisherman, insists that his men work within the framework of the law.

There are other options. They can put their

catches together and sell by the kilogram to commercial companies. But this earns them a measly R13/kg, out of which the larger fishing conglomerates make a killing, selling sometimes for R113 a kilogram, America said.

Or, they can sell their crayfish to a quota holder in the community, which is not very profitable.

America says that many of the quota holders in the community have little knowledge of fishing or the seas and they contract the services of local fishermen to do the dirty work.

There is an imam and the owner of a local

butchery who hold fishing quotas. Those with money can afford the quotas. It opens the door to exploitation, America says.

But surprisingly, there is very little contempt shown toward the quota holders by the group. According to them they are only a small part of the problem which international observers are calling economic apartheid.

What is heartbreaking for the group is that the quotas are transferable.

This means that quotas are sold and bought like shares on an open market. South Africa is one of the few countries in the world where this

is practised.

The United States has placed a moratorium on the transfer of quotas, which it views as destructive to the industry.

However, there is little love lost for the larger commercial companies.

"They come into our seas and use traps, taking out as much crayfish as they like," Frans said.

"They are killing our seas. The ANC government who promised a better life for fishermen has let us down. All they care about is making money."

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

VELAMAR Fishing Corporation, a black empowerment consortium which applied for the South Coast rock lobster fishing quotas, has claimed that there was a concerted effort by the big players in the fishing industry to stop previously-disadvantaged individuals (PDIs) from entering the industry.

At recent meeting the consortium's chairman, Gibson Thula said that his organisation had done everything to ensure that they got the quota but that they were unsuccessful.

"We are a representative group and we ensured that we got people with the expertise — we hired lawyers, advocates and people with a financial background to ensure that we got the quota. We also contracted a Spanish company for vessels because we were always told that PDIs did not have the vessels for deep-sea fishing," Thula said.

"Previously black companies failed to secure quotas because they were told they had no fishing vessels, no marketing expertise or financial muscle. But even when we have the expertise we are still denied quotas and it is very frustrating because we are never given reasons why."

The consortium is made up of Southern Ocean's group and Velamar Fishing Corporation which represents shareholders in coastal communities. Through Khotso Trust, the consortium also represents the interests of 14 welfare and community organisations. It has formed a partnership with a Spanish-based fishing group, Freiremar, which has signed an agreement with Southern Oceans to supply vessels and to market South African products while uplifting communities.

The consortium said the fishing industry — the value of which is estimated as R2,5 billion a year — was still dominated by white interests, both in terms of the companies and the boards and commissions which make the decisions on the quota allocations. "We want to draw the government's attention to the flaws in this industry. The latter had promised that there will be new entrants in the industry but that has not happened. What they call new players are just fronts for the old companies," added Velamar director Mandla Tshabalala.

Tshabalala said that there was a concerted effort by big companies to stop foreign vessels from fishing in South African waters claiming that if those allocated quotas are allowed to fish there would be a threat to marine living.

"But how can this happen if the quota is awarded and everyone follows the strict conditions set out?" asked Dupree Vilakazi, of Isidileke Fishing Corporation and president of the National Black Business Caucus.

Vilakazi said that "no real black empowerment group was involved in the fishing industry, except for Premier Fishing SA, a subsidiary of Sekunjalo Investments.

International observers shocked as rich get richer, poor get poorer

GASANT ABARDE

THE Marine Living Resources Act's preamble is that "all South Africans should have equal access to the resources of the ocean".

But group representatives from artisanal fishing and environmental NGOs have found exactly the opposite to be true. They came to South Africa on a fact-finding mission, visited fishing communities, and left in disbelief. Nowhere in the world have they seen such an inequitable access to marine resources.

Andy Johnston, the chairperson of the South African Artisanal Fishermen's Association, invited a number of artisanal fishing and environmental NGOs from around the world to see for themselves. They could not believe that the same SA government they had supported was doing very little for genuine fishermen.

"In most parts of the world, quotas are a means of regulating and accessing fish stocks and reserves. People who are regarded as smugglers and poachers here are actually legitimate fishers," said Brian O'Riordan of the International Collective in Support of Fish Workers based in the UK. "The government of South Africa seems to want to maintain the status quo and rather offer a token to disadvantaged fishermen, labelling them as subsistence fishermen".

O'Riordan and others were shocked to see the poverty-stricken conditions of fishing communities in South Africa during their week-long visit.

Andrey Cardwell, an American citizen working for Greenpeace, said there is a big difference between quotas in SA and other countries was that quotas here were transferable.

"The transferable quota introduces a gold rush. People who have no interest in fishing are getting quotas. We have heard stories of former MPs and their wives who have quotas. For them it is a get-rich-quick scheme."

O'Riordan agreed: "Transferable quota is an opportunity to speculate. Like shares on an open market, quotas are being negotiated to large commercial fishing companies."

Beatrice Gorez, of the International Coalition for Fair Fisheries Agreement in Belgium, said in other countries, artisanal fishing was taking off.

"In Madagascar and Senegal, artisanal fishing is a big part of development with wide economic impact.

"More and more people are coming to the coast. Here artisanal fishermen are being crim-

inalised and called poachers," Gorez said.

So too, in Chile where communities instead of individuals are given quota rights, the artisanal fishing sectors account for the most profit in the whole industry, said Juan Carlos Cardenas of the Confederation of Artisanal Fishworkers there.

Five miles of the Chilean coast is zoned to the community. Quotas do not exist. Artisanal fishers are responsible for 10% of the fish catch but responsible for 90% of fish consumed. The commercial sector concentrates on exports. But most astonishing, the artisanal sector is more profitable than the commercial sector, with far less harm to the environment,

Cardenas explained.

However, O'Riordan said, while the SA government was responsible for inequities, it was not to blame: "The problem is a lack of understanding of the fishing industry. Obviously there are historical dimensions when during the apartheid regime black fishermen were denied access to the sea. These fishers have the right to restitution and their right to fish should be recognised.

"But government is fudging the issue by making them subsistence fishers. They are being limited in that they cannot process or sell

'The fishers have the right to restitution and their right to fish should be recognised.'



'SHOCKED': Juan Carlos Cardenas of Chile (left) and Brian O'Riordan of the UK, on a fact-finding mission to South Africa, were appalled at the conditions of impoverished fishing communities.

their products on certain markets — a kind of economic apartheid. There is no plan to improve the sector and develop the socio-economic conditions of these communities. Internationally, the rights of artisanal fishers is fundamental."

He said the current situation was favouring the commercial sector. He claimed nothing was done when they broke certain vital ecological laws.

Cardwell said the current situation was destroying marine resources: "Communities

are being destroyed and if the situation continues, fisheries will be gone in 10 years or less. It is disappointing to see from a country that is looked up to as having implemented the most sweeping changes in the last years. The rich are still getting richer and the poor even poorer."

CAPE TOWN
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1999

Fishworkers ask

for a fair share

GASANT ABARDE

③ FISHING CTA/11/99

Despite five years of democratic rule, artisanal fishworkers in South Africa are still denied their rights to participate fully in the fisheries.

This was the central theme of the South African Artisanal Fishermen's Association's celebrations of World Fisheries Day yesterday.

Speaking to a crowd of bona fide fishermen in Bellville yesterday, chairperson Andy Johnston said that all over the world, fishworkers will be demanding the recognition of their rights.

Johnston said artisanal fishers in South Africa had four basic demands:

- The legal recognition of artisanal fishers as a distinct sector;
- The establishment of a five mile exclusive artisanal fishing zone;
- The scrapping of the corrupt and criminalising quota system;
- The democratisation of South Africa's fishery.

"The current act promotes economic apartheid — benefiting the haves and discriminating against the have-nots," Johnston added.

"We therefore demand the legal recognition of our artisanal fishers."

He said artisanal fishers fish with boats under 10m in length.

"The corrupt and unmanageable system of quota-based commercial and industrial fisheries currently practised in South Africa benefits few at the expense of the majority.

"This is neither equitable nor democratic.

"This unjust quota system also makes criminals out of genuine fishers struggling to earn their livelihoods.

"We urge the government to scrap this system which only provides a little bread for today but promises much hunger for tomorrow," he said.

Johnston has also secured the support of 350 international artisanal fishing and environment NGOs.

These groups have planned to join hands early next year in a show of solidarity for the plight of artisanal fishermen in South Africa by putting pressure on the government.

Representatives of these NGOs investigated the South African fishing industry on a fact-finding mission recently.

They were shocked by the inequities regarding access to the sea and impoverished fishing communities on the coast.

See page 8

Co-op asks interdict for hake quota

MOTSHIDISI MOKWENA

COURT WRITER

(3) FISHING

An urgent application for an interdict to set aside allocated fishing quotas was brought against the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Valli Moosa and the chairman of the Fisheries Transformation Council (FTC), by Masizakhe Fishing Co-op Ltd, in the Cape High Court yesterday.

The FTC did not allocate long-line hake fishing rights to Masizakhe for the 1999 fishing season on October 29 this year, but allocated commercial hake quotas to AFC Fishing and 47 other organisations.

Masizakhe claimed they were left out because the council decided that they were a co-operative and "co-operative societies cannot be South African persons as defined in the act and hence cannot hold fishing rights".

The co-operative believes the FTC contravened the Marine Living Resources Act of 1998.

The application follows a visit by international artisanal fishing and environmental NGOs, who came to South Africa on a fact-finding mission last week.

They concluded that there was still unequal access to marine resources and that the government was doing very little to uplift previously disadvantaged fishing communities.

Masizakhe also applied for an interdict restraining the minister from issuing any permits, and an order restraining the other respondents from using their quotas for hake fishing.

In court papers, it was stated that Masizakhe consisted of 34 members from previously disadvantaged communities, with founder and non-founder members holding 15 shares and 10 shares respectively.

Masizakhe stated that non-allocation of the hake quota affected its profits, existing rights and legitimate expectations, and that a reasonable person would have awarded the quota. The case was postponed to November 30.

CT 25/11/99

Pescanova, the fishing conglomerate conservation groups love to hate, may not be the pirate many believe it to be, writes **Jean Le May**

Spain's big fish speaks out

ARG 27/11/99

Pescanova, the giant Spanish fishing conglomerate, is a favourite target of conservation groups including those in southern Africa, which see it as the villain of the seas – the big, bad pirate that holds small fishing nations to ransom.

Angel Tordesillas, who is responsible for the group's operations in Africa and Australasia, doesn't look like a pirate.

Suave and well-connected, he has been decorated by King Juan-Carlos of Spain and is descended from an old Castilian family. In 1494, after Columbus's first voyage, the Treaty of Tordesillas split the Western world in the mid-Atlantic between Spain and Portugal.

This scion of the family has kept up the public service tradition, having worked with the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organisation and other international fishing organisations.

And he is adept at diplomatically short-circuiting the conservation groups' allegations.

Talking to Saturday Argus in Cape Town this week, Mr Tordesillas gave the impression that Pescanova was so big and powerful that it really did not have to worry about what critics said.

Saturday Argus found some moral support for Pescanova among executives of Cape Town fishing companies, who agreed that the group probably did not deserve the opprobrium heaped on it.

"It's usually smaller companies

that get up to no good," said one executive. "Really big companies can't afford scandals."

And Pescanova is really big. It has about 34 companies in Europe, South America, Africa and Australia, and interests in another 43.

A further 50 or so are described as "dependent".

It is probably one of the biggest fishing groups in the world, with a listed asset value of more than \$500-million (about R3-billion).

Pescanova's only South African company is a shipping and ship-broking business in Cape Town.

Until 1993 it had a 50% interest in the fishing group Sea Harvest, which was later acquired by the black empowerment group Brimstone.

Pescanova got out soon after a threatened European trade union boycott when it sacked workers for taking part in a sympathy strike.

Mr Tordesillas said the company sold its South African fishing interests to concentrate on Namibia, where it now fishes 17% of the whitefish catch.

And he hinted that Pescanova had foreseen "turmoil" in the South African fishing industry after the 1994 election.

Mr Tordesillas criticised the new South African fisheries policy.

"Too much hot air is talked by some of the big noises," he said.

"There is too much emotion. You can't establish a strategy on emotional grounds. There is a sophisticated fishing industry in South

Africa and the whole issue needs to be handled very sensitively.

"For instance, the authorities are allowing long-lining and trawling simultaneously, for the same stock.

"Long-lining is selective. If they go all out to take the reproductive element from the stock, it is a recipe for disaster.

"To my mind, the fundamentals are being ignored. The resource belongs to the country and not to a group or a company.

"Fishing is a privilege and not a right. The principle is that if conditions are in place to access the resource on merit, then the state can determine the amount that can be fished and the manner of fishing.

"People think there's money to be made in fishing, but the fact is that it is a very risky business, which must be seen as having a 20 to 30-year lifespan. That is a condition never considered by new entrants. I'm waiting for the bubble to burst."

He objected to allegations that Pescanova was promoting a fishing agreement between South Africa and the European Union "when for years I have been speaking against fishing agreements".

The EU's fishing agreements with underdeveloped and developing nations were "a neo-colonial approach", he said.

"I have been attacked in Spain and in the EU for being an opponent of fishing agreements. Pescanova usually fishes in countries that don't have agreements.

"We contribute positively by pro-

(3) FISHING

viding training, management skills and market access."

Conservationists suspect Pescanova's motive for avoiding countries with EU agreements is to avoid regulation.

Mr Tordesillas had another explanation. "We don't believe European fleets should get access to the waters of developing countries," he said. "The catching capacity of European fleets is too great and there will be too much damage to fish stocks.

"This has in fact happened. Argentina had a fishing agreement with the EU and so much damage has been done that this week the Argentinian authorities declared a moratorium on all fishing until December 31. Next year the total allowable catch of hake will be down substantially."

Conservationists also allege that Pescanova vessels have broken fishing regulations by poaching, unloading in unscheduled ports and not reporting the true catches.

Mr Tordesillas disputed the allegations.

Isfish, a Tasmanian-based research group, reported in 1997 that Pescanova vessels were poaching Patagonian toothfish and breaching fishing regulations generally. But it was obliged to retract the allegations when nothing could be proved against Pescanova.

"I am not disputing that a Pescanova skipper may misbehave, but I can assure you that he will not remain a Pescanova skipper for long," said Mr Tordesillas.

Quota divers feel cheated

JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT **FISHING**

ST (cm) 08/11/99
IRATE fishermen who promised to stop poaching in exchange for a valid perlemoen quota claim they have been double-crossed.

Despite giving up poaching, which hauled in around 400 tons of perlemoen a year, a new fishing company, comprising 51 fishermen, was granted a meagre five-ton quota this week.

The fishermen and their crews suspended all poaching activities following a meeting with then-Minister of Environment Affairs Pallo Jordan last year. They formed a company, Artisanal Divers Association, and applied for a quota of 80 tons.

They claim the five-ton quota will drive them back to poaching and the black market.

"We have no option but to believe that we have been double-crossed," said Philippe Carosin, chairman of the company.

"We cannot accept this. A lot of our members are daily divers. They would qualify for subsistence tickets, which allows four perlemoen a day during season. They would make more money selling their daily catch than if we accepted the five-ton quota. We are giving it back. They can give it to charity because it is useless to us."

Another executive member of the company said they had applied for an 80-ton quota because this would allow them to earn R300 a kilogram, whereas poachers received only R60.

He said the five tons shared among the 51 members would mean an income of about R8 000 a year. This did not include up to four seamen employed by each member and who had to be paid.

Fishermen to blockade harbours

BOBBY JORDAN

THE fishing community in the Kleinmond/Hangklip area has vowed to blockade local fishing harbours to stop "outsiders" plundering their valuable perlemoen resource.

This follows controversial quota allocations handed down by the Department of Marine and Coastal Management at the end of last month.

Kleinmond fishermen are furious that all the quotas for taking out perlemoen along their stretch of coast have been given to outside applicants.

In a statement this week the

Hangklip/Kleinmond coastal management forum said locals had indicated they would blockade access to the fishing harbours unless they were given their fair share of the resource.

"Of the 85,522kg to be fished in the Hangklip area not a single kilogram has been granted to local fishermen in spite of a number of well-motivated, community-centric applications," the statement said.

"The previously disadvantaged communities in this area are impoverished. Traditional fishing activities are no longer sustainable. Poaching is rife and this has led to anti-social behaviour and conflict."

The total perlemoen quota for the entire coast was 464 433kg divided between 37 applicants — not one from the Hangklip/Kleinmond area, the forum said.

The community planned to appeal against their omission from the quota allocations and would continue poaching unless the department reviewed its decision, the forum said.

Fishermen said access to the resource appeared to have been granted to applicants from Hawston outside Hermanus and others from as far afield as Namaqualand.

A public protest is planned for next week at Kleinmond harbour.

③ FISHING

Secretary of the Kleinmond commercial fishing industry, Neels Janson, said the decision to exclude the local Kleinmond community was highly suspicious and had ruined any chance of managing fishing activities in a sustainable way.

"Poaching had dwindled completely in this area because our people were waiting for a quota. Now there's a feeling that we've been done in and people will have to take care of themselves," Janson said.

Kleinmond conservationist Mark Miles said the department's decision could end up being challenged in court.

"Everyone here is shocked at what has happened."

ST(CM) 5/12/99

Fishing industry faces shake-up after probe

ARLT 7/12/99

SHIPPING EDITOR

⑤ FISHING

The marine court of inquiry into the sinking of the Sudurhavid has made several recommendations, some of which are likely to have far-reaching effects on the fishing industry.

The first recommendation dealt with the issue of so-called "paper captains" - qualified masters only nominally in charge of vessels - and the court recommended that "everyone involved in the merchant shipping industry shall ensure that the person holding the superior certificate aboard a vessel in the deck department shall at all times be the only effective master of the vessel".

The court recommended that it be made compulsory to report to the relevant authority any modifications to a ship that might affect the ship's

watertight integrity.

A recommendation that would directly affect the industry was that the shore management of vessels should be vested in people with appropriate maritime expertise.

Turning to the SAN Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa), the court recommended that the registers of fishing vessels indicate the current master of the particular vessel.

Samsa should also ensure that South African-registered vessels did not sail without an approved stability booklet.

Owners of vessels should also ensure that all emergency equipment was tested on a planned basis, and that the fact that it had been done should be recorded. The court also recommended obligatory safety training for all new seafarers entering the fishing industry.

Quotas and dwindling fish threaten to cut a 300-year-old lifeline

TREVOR DOSTERWYK
Staff Reporter

Life as a fisherman in Kalk Bay was never easy. Nevertheless, this unique fishing community 27km from Cape Town has survived since the 17th century on what the sea provided.

But today the community's survival is under threat because of problems with quotas and a shortage of fish in "die Bloudam", as False Bay is called by the locals.

Kalk Bay derived its name from the place where sea-shells were burned to make lime, and was almost exclusively a coloured community for most of its history. For the most part, the fishermen are law-abiding and God-fearing people and churches and a mosque have been intimately linked to the sea.

Jacobus Poggenpoel, 70, comes from a long line of fishermen. He has lived in Kalk Bay all his life and has been a fisherman for more than 40 years. But he does not go to sea any more and now spends his days looking out over die Bloudam.

He speaks freely about the problems of the fishing village. "Hand-line fishing has decreased dramatically over the past 10 years," he says. "The younger generation do not want to be fishermen, they rather opt to study for something else. The sea is a very hard life."

He recalls how the False Bay coast always had a variety of fish.



Family business threatened: Jacobus Poggenpoel and his son, Jacobus junior

"I have noticed that the water temperature has changed over time. It has become colder. The fish like warm water. I'm not sure whether it is really so, but it certainly seems like it."

He feels this could be an explanation for the disappearance of the fish.

Mr Poggenpoel also spoke about the abundance of crayfish in the bay.

"This is a somewhat new development. It could be explained because of the perceived changes in the water temperature.

"Things will be better with us if we



Out of sight: a Kalk Bay fisherman waits for clients to buy his catch. Fishing has been the livelihood of many for years

could get quotas to catch the crayfish.

"The old government gave us a quota of 30 tons of crayfish and this helped us a lot. Now, since 1994, the quota has been reduced to 17 tons, which must be shared among about 100 people.

"The fact is that there are enough crayfish and if we could get a greater percentage quota, we could certainly make a living. There are also a lot of sardines, but once again the quota restricts us," he said.

His son, Jacobus Poggenpoel junior,

said he worked for only four months this year.

"I even had to go to Hout Bay, because the snoek were there. That is in the nature of the job, we have to go where the fish are. But because diesel and repairs are so much more expen-

sive, it becomes difficult to go to Dassen Island, it's just not profitable any more," he said.

"And if we do not have fish on the boat, then we do not have money. We cannot continue to live here if there are no fish, so we need greater access to the resources in the bay."

Veronica Pepino also comes from a family of fishermen and has been in Kalk Bay for the past 40 years.

She said: "The harbour is one of the biggest attractions of Kalk Bay because of the fishing industry and the availability of fresh fish. The fishermen sell directly to the public.

"Kalk Bay is unique because apartheid did not force out its coloured fishing community, they were allowed to stay.

"But the fishermen need more quotas in order to survive.

"These fishermen have been part of the landscape of Kalk Bay for hundreds of years and have built this place up from the sand dunes it once was. Because of the quotas and the problems in the fishing industry, young people do not want to catch fish any more.

"And without the fish, they cannot keep a roof over their heads. This means that the youth begin to engage in criminal activities which will impact negatively on the whole of Kalk Bay and tourism.

"The sea is in their blood, but if they do not have food on the table, they will slowly bleed to death."

Defaulters owe R1,3m in fishing tariff chaos

Audit shows irregular financial transactions and possible fraud at directorate of marine management

JOHN YELD
Environment Writer

South Africa's lucrative fishing industry is refusing to pay tariffs specified by the new Marine Living Resources Act, and debts to the Department of Environmental Affairs exceed R1,3-million.

This is one of the findings of a special internal audit of the department's Marine and Coastal Management directorate (formerly Sea Fisheries), which found financial irregularities and possible corruption involving at least R24-million.

As a result of the audit, Environmental Affairs Minister Valli Moosa has removed the head of the directorate, Monde Mayekiso, from his post

Harbour gatekeepers poach entry fees – when they are around

ENVIRONMENT WRITER

Gatekeepers at several South African fishing harbours are pocketing entrance fees, and security at harbour entry points appears lax.

In one incident at Saldanha Bay

and suspended two senior officials.

These three and three other officials at the directorate are facing disciplinary proceedings.

The department's deputy director-general, Tanya Abrahamse, has temporarily

harbour, gatekeepers were seen washing the harbour master's car while vehicles passed freely through the gates.

These were among the findings of the audit report to the Marine and Coastal Management directorate of

the department's financial transactions were "highly irregular" and probably involved misappropriation of funds. These cases needed to be investigated in detail by forensic auditors, and transactions requiring criminal

investigation should be finalised urgently so that they could be referred to the Office for Serious Economic Offences.

Referring to the fishing industry's refusal to pay the new tariffs, the audit

report said.

"Most gatekeepers do not conduct themselves in a manner that guarantees the department receiving all income due to the state," the report said.

number of the directorate's financial transactions were "highly irregular" and probably involved misappropriation of funds. These cases needed to be investigated in detail by forensic auditors, and transactions requiring criminal

In St Helena Bay, a gatekeeper had invited about five friends to the security room for a chat while vehicles – including the internal auditor's car – passed through.

Velddrif harbour received no income from gate entrance fees

because the gate was always open with no gatekeeper in attendance.

"In all the harbours visited, gatekeepers did not always issue entrance tickets to motorists ... and were pocketing the money for their personal use," the report said.

report stated that the department was being illegally deprived of revenue.

It recommended that department management applies for court orders to seize the property of defaulters; that defaulters be refused entry to har-

bour; and that management considers using independent lawyers.

According to the report, one area requiring specific attention was double payments to companies for staffing the directorate's research vessels.

The pattern of payments indicated "collusion" with the companies in regard to interest earned on double payments prior to correction.

It said an amount of R238,568 was paid twice to Elite Maritime Personnel during July, with the payments being processed within two days of each other. The overpayment was subsequently repaid.

Also, as of August 10, this company had been paid R1,675-million without a contract or approval by the director general or the Tender Board.

③ FISHING
Fishing
industry
crisis
deepens

STCCM 12/12/99
JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT,
BOBBY JORDAN

THE crisis in the fishing industry looks set to deepen following the suspension of key officials in the Department of Marine and Coastal Resource Management.

With just three weeks before next year's fishing season, industry players are uncertain about whether the embattled department can resolve the crisis and avert another delay in issuing fishing quotas to commercial fishermen.

The removal of the department's chief director, Dr Monde Mayekiso, the suspension of two senior officials and disciplinary investigations against three others, have sparked fears that fishing could be suspended because of the delay in issuing quotas.

Mayekiso and his staff were removed following allegations of a R24 million kick-back scam in the department.

Hake longline quotas, effective from January 1, issued by the Fisheries Transformation Council are currently on hold pending the outcome of a forensic audit.

Tanya Abrahams, deputy director general in the department, yesterday vowed to ensure that fishing continued when the season starts in January. Sea Harvest chairman, Chris Nissen, was also confident that the crisis would be resolved before the start of the new season.

But other industry players fear the embattled fishing industry could face yet another costly delay.

Johnny Issel, a director of Premier Fishing, said: "The crisis is disruptive and has serious financial implications for the country."

Issel said that Cuba and Australia, country's main competitors in the European and Asian lobster market had capitalised on delays in the issuing of lobster quotas earlier this year.

Western Cape ANC spokesman, Marius Fransman said: "The outside world is losing faith in South Africa. Our industry is not reliable when it comes to exporting on time."

Cops set for probe into fishing quotas

JOHAN SCHROENH
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FISHING

ARG 13/12/99

An inquiry into alleged corruption involving the issuing of fishing quotas in the Western Cape may soon be launched.

Detectives of the Investigations Directorate, Serious Economic Offences are waiting for more information before deciding whether to go ahead with the inquiry.

Advocate Tommy Prins of the directorate said his office has been approached to investigate irregularities in the fishing industry and had asked for more information during a meeting in Pretoria last week. "Once we have evaluated the information ... we will know whether to institute a preliminary investigation," said Mr Prins.

Accusations of nepotism and corruption surfaced in the industry after fishing quotas for 80 000 tons were awarded to only 48 out of 1 000 applicants last year.

Probe into fisheries under consideration

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

③ FISHING

ET-14/12/99

TOMMY PRINS of the Investigations Directorate: Serious Economic Offences yesterday refuted reports that his department was investigating allegations of corruption in the fisheries authority.

Reacting to reports that his organisation would begin an investigation today into the Department of Environment's Marine and Coastal Management directorate (formerly Sea Fisheries), Prins said this was not true.

It was true that his office had been approached to investigate the matter, he said, and had asked the EMCA directorate for the documentation.

"So far we have not received the documentation. Once we do we will evaluate it, but we need a basis in law to instigate an inquiry. We have to be cautious because we have far-reaching powers.

"We have to be convinced that there is something to investigate, and if there is, that we are the organisation to do so.

"It may be that the fisheries issue is too small, or not particularly complicated.

"For example, if there is a

R10 million fraudulent case, it might involve just one fraudulent cheque, which is a cut-and-dried issue and one in which we do not need to become involved.

"We usually take on cases which are complex, involving shares and foreign exchange, where large amounts of money are involved, and which are difficult for an ordinary police officer to deal with. We have multi-disciplinary teams of police officers, lawyers and accountants."

Prins added that the documentation they had requested dealt with financial irregularities and had nothing to do with the alleged corruption in the department's fishing quota system.

Last week Environment Minister Valli Moosa swooped on Marine and Coastal Management after an internal audit of the directorate found unauthorised expenditure amounting to around R24 million.

The investigation found a serious lack of basic financial administrative procedures and controls, disregard of treasury instructions, financial irregularities, as well as corruption.

As a result, head of Marine and Coastal Management, Monde Mayekiso, was removed from his post and two senior officials were suspended.