

1 THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is responsible for the management and development of fisheries and aquaculture.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the Ministry are derived from the Mission Statement. Our objectives are to:

- Promote and regulate the responsible and sustainable utilisation of living marine and freshwater resources and aquaculture within the context of environmental sustainability.
- Establish a conducive environment in which the fishing and fish processing industries can prosper and derive optimal income from marine resources.
- Further Namibia's interests within the international fishing sector.
- Provide professional, responsive and customer-focused services.
- Deliver our services efficiently and effectively providing best value for money.
- Continuously invest in human resource development so as to enhance Namibia's capacity to manage fisheries and marine resources, develop and participate in domestic fishing and fish processing, and play an effective role in regional and international fisheries affairs.

1.2 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Executive management is provided by the Office of the Permanent Secretary. The Ministry has four Directorates, namely: the Directorate of Resource Management, responsible for scientific research and advice; the Directorate of Operations and Surveillance, responsible for monitoring, control and surveillance; the Directorate of Policy Planning and Economics, responsible for administration and a range of other functions including economics; and finally the Directorate of Aquaculture, responsible for the administration and development of aquaculture. A General Services Division provides support services.

1.2.1 Directorate of Operations

Main responsibilities:

- Regulating fishing activities within the Namibian EEZ.
- Monitoring, control and surveillance activities both at sea and onshore through the operation of fisheries patrol vessels, cars for coastal inspection and fisheries patrol aircraft by Fisheries Inspectors.
- Fisheries legislation enforcement.

1.2.2 Directorate of Resource Management

Main responsibilities:

- Provides advice on the state of commercially important marine fish stocks and recommendations on their appropriate yields;
- Appropriate management measures in relation to species and fish size limitations, closed seasons, closed areas, and limitations on the types and effectiveness of fishing gear.

- It is also responsible for research on fresh water fish resources in the interior of Namibia and provides advice on the conservation and management of those resources.

1.2.3 Directorate of Policy, Planning and Economics

Main responsibilities:

- Co-ordinates the formulation and implementation of fisheries policies and legislation.
- Carries out continuous policy and economic research and analyses.
- Responsible for the management of information services of the Ministry
- Administration of fishing rights and quotas
- Collection of fees
- Analysis and publication of fisheries statistics.
- Co-ordinates overall planning of the Ministry.

1.2.4 Directorate of Aquaculture

Main responsibilities:

- Ensure the responsible and sustainable development of aquaculture to achieve socio-economic benefits and environmental sustainability.
- Facilitate an efficient, coordinated administrative and institutional framework for aquaculture.
- Ensure that the genetic diversity and integrity of the aquatic ecosystem is maintained.
- Promote responsible aquaculture production practices.

1.3 MINISTRY'S STRATEGIC PLAN AND CUSTOMER CHARTER

The Ministry is guided by its Strategic Plan (2004 – 2008) in delivering services and value for money to the public. The Ministry's Customer Charter (2000) sets out the following:

- Standards of services the public should expect from the Ministry's staff.
- The Ministry's commitment to deliver a high standard of service at all times.
- Explanations on how and where to get information on the Ministry's services.
- Explanations on how to launch complaints should the public not be satisfied with the Ministry's services.

Both the Strategic Plan and Customer Charter can be accessed via the Ministry on web site: www.mfmr.gov.na.

1.4 FINANCE

The operations of the Ministry are financed through the Operational Budget for all recurrent expenditure; and the Development Budget, for capital projects. The operational budget for 2004/2005 was N\$91,473,000, the breakdown is indicated in Table 1.

Table 3: Donor assistance received during 2004.

Donor	Type of assistance provided
Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation	Marine fisheries research, technical, staff training, monitoring, control, and surveillance, Namibia Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI); funding the review of economic model.
Icelandic International Development Agency	Technical assistance to NAMFI, and MFMR to set up fisheries economics database.
Food and Agricultural Organisation	Development of aquaculture legislation, technical assistance
European Union	Support to NAMFI
Regional Government of the Xunta de Galecia	Financial support for Henties Bay Fishermen's' Cooperative; technical and financial assistance on aquaculture development projects (Omahenene/Onavivi); technical assistance to NAMFI; staff training in Spain.
Government of Malawi	Technical assistance (aquaculture development projects).
Government of Cuba	Technical assistance (aquaculture development projects).

2 POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

2.1 MARINE CAPTURE FISHERIES

2.1.1 Policy

During the year, a review of the policy for the marine resources sector was completed. An approved Policy document was approved. This document, titled *Marine Resources Policy: Towards Responsible Development and Management of the Marine Resources Sector*, is available on the Ministry's web-site [www.mfmr.gov.na]

2.1.2 Legislation

The Legislation governing the marine capture sector includes (a) the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone of Namibia Act (1990); and (b) the Marine Resources Act (Act no 27 of 2000) and Regulations (2001).

2.2 INLAND CAPTURE FISHERIES

2.2.1 Policy

Inland Fisheries Policy is outlined in the *White Paper on the Responsible Management of the Inland Fisheries of Namibia (1995)*. This aims to allow the exploitation of inland fish resources on a sustainable basis and at optimum levels. No changes were made to this policy.

2.2.2 Legislation

The Inland Fisheries Resources Act (No.1 of 2003) governs inland fisheries. No changes were made to this legal framework.

2.3 AQUACULTURE

2.3.1 Policy

Current policy for this developing sector is laid out in the policy paper: *Towards the Responsible Development of Aquaculture (2001)*. The main policy objective is the responsible and sustainable development of aquaculture to achieve socio-economic benefits for all Namibians whilst ensuring environmental stability. No changes were made to this policy during 2004.

An Aquaculture Strategic Plan was published in May 2004. The Plan provides guidance on the regulatory framework, business climate, public acceptability, and strategies to ensure training, research, marketing and infrastructure development. It forms a framework to support aquacultural activity, both private and public, and to encourage the growth of this industry. It provides a situation analysis and recommended actions in all strategic areas that impinge on aquaculture development in Namibia. It indicates targets for employment creation, investment, training and the value of production during the next five years. The recommended actions, if implemented, will overcome existing constraints and take advantage of opportunities in the aquaculture industry.

2.3.2 Legislation

The Aquaculture Act (No.18 of 2002) and Aquaculture Regulations are in place to govern the aquaculture sector while work continued on finalisation of the Aquaculture (Import and Export) regulations.

2.4 DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

The Ministry upgraded its ICT hardware and software in support of our strategic objectives to make information accessible for our clients. In this regard, ICT at the Head Office was upgraded. This new connectivity has an instantaneous effect on speedy information sharing via our Wide Area Network, across Luderitz, Walvis Bay, Windhoek and Swakopmund work centres.

The Ministry's website, [www.mfmr.gov.na] was upgraded, enhancing its robustness and coverage. A dedicated workshop on the overall performance of FIMS was held in November 2004. Based on the outcomes of this workshop, activity programs will be undertaken within the next 12 months to enhance system efficiency and compatibility of various datasets.

Furthermore, improvement of the functional design of the Fisheries Economic Database was undertaken and completed with technical assistance provided by ICEIDA. The Fisheries Economic Database utilises economic data from the marine fishing industry for the purpose of improving economic monitoring. The database was upgraded to ensure it is more versatile and compatible with the Ministry's Fisheries Information Management System.

3 FISHERIES RESEARCH

3.1 CONSTRUCTION AND INAUGURATION OF RV !ANICHAB

This new, purpose-built research vessel (Figure 1) was commissioned by the Ministry to replace the ageing *RV Kuiseb*. The vessel was constructed in South Africa at a cost of N\$4.4 million, funded by the Government of Namibia. She was inaugurated by Minister Abraham Iyambo on 16 September 2004, and has commenced fisheries research activities.



Figure 1: RV !Anichab arriving at Luderitz harbour, 26 July 2004.

3.2 MARINE CAPTURE FISHERIES RESEARCH



Research staff from the Ministry continued to conduct research aimed at quantification of the resources and the state of the environment. A demersal survey for hake was conducted with a Namibian fishing vessel fitted with gear similar to that of the *Fridtjof Nansen* (a Norwegian Research Vessel used for survey since 1991) to ensure that results from surveys undertaken with the two vessels are comparable. Horse mackerel, crab and monk were surveyed by the RV *Welwitschia* (Namibian Research Vessel). In the case of small pelagic species (pilchard) the RV *Welwitschia* did the survey and commercial vessels were used for

scouting purposes as in previous years. The Fishing Vessel *Southern Aquarius* was used in surveying the orange roughy resource after having been inter-calibrated (acoustically) with the RV *Welwitschia*. TAC recommendations were presented to the Marine Resources Advisory Council concerning all major TAC-controlled commercial species.

Co-operation and sharing of expertise between scientists of Angola, South Africa, Germany and Norway was remarkable through BCLME, BENEFIT and the NANSEN programmes. BENEFIT provided training and research opportunities for both scientists and technicians within the region. Other research vessels continue to provide valuable ship time on an *ad hoc* basis for research and training e.g. RV *Meteor* and RV *Dr Fridtjof Nansen* for the Ministry in addition to their schedule.