7.4 TRAINING AT NAMIBIAN MARINE AND FISHERIES TRAINING INSTITUTE

This course is offered by NAMFI. It is a nine-months course for fisheries inspectors, fisheries observers and includes theory followed by practical in-service training. A total of 25 inspectors and observers completed the course during the year under review.

NAMFI continues to play an important role in the training of Namibians for the fishing industry. In 2004 NAMFI trained an average of 500 students in navigation, engineering and safety.

The structure of the institute was re-organised by the Board following the completion of a study that examined the requirements of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers. This Convention has compelled NAMFI to re-orient its educational strategies and methods and to carry them out as in accordance with the required international standards.

Aquaculture staff participated in several training courses covering quality control and monitoring of growing areas. Aquaculture staff also undertook theoretical and practical studies and laboratory analysis of biological samples. Courses attended included:

- Four staff at Domasi College, Malawi (fresh water fish farming).
- One staff member at Busan, South Korea, (mariculture).
- One staff member at Cairo, Egypt (brackish water fish farming).

7.5 DONOR ASSISTED TRAINING

In addition, the Ministry utilises available donor support for capacity building through training of technical and professional staff. Donor agencies that continued to provide support for capacity building during the year included BENEFIT, BCLME, NORAD, ICEIDA, and SADC Regional Fisheries MCS Programme. A total of 14 staff members benefited from support provided by these donors.

8 REGIONAL FISHERIES RELATIONS

8.1 SADC REGIONAL FISHERIES MCS PROGRAMME (SADC MCS)

Namibia continued to benefit from this Programme during the course of the year. Fisheries Inspectors and Observers attended a total of 182 various courses in the field of safety at sea, investigation techniques, radio operation techniques to management. Also opportunities were extended to some staff members to study fisheries economics, and human resource management in the UK. Others participated in regional MCS courses in South Africa.

Sea surveillance missions were undertaken using the Namibian PV Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda in the EEZs of Angola and South Africa, with funding and technical assistance provided by the Programme.

Other activities arranged under the Programme include a review of the Marine Living Resources Act (2000). Further, technical assistance was provided in the areas of MCS economics, compliance information systems and legal matters.

8.2 BENGUELA LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM PROGRAMME (BCLME)

BCLME is a multi-sectoral initiative by Angola, Namibia and South Africa to facilitate the integrated management, sustainable development and protection of the ecosystem. It is funded by GEF through the United Nations Development Programme with financial and in-
kind contributions by the three member countries. The programme commenced in May 2002. The Programme Management Unit is located in Windhoek, Namibia.

Main Programme activities during 2004 in which Namibia participated included an fish ageing and genetics feasibility study, assessment of data collection in the SADC Region, development of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management, determination of optimal harvesting strategies for the hake trawling and longlining fisheries in Namibia and South Africa, development of a management plan for bronze whaler shark resources and development of responsible aquaculture. Namibia hosted the first regional workshop on developing an ecosystem approach to fisheries management in the BCLME Region which was formally opened by Minister Abraham Iyambo in Windhoek.

A 25-minute CD-ROM based documentary film on the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem: *Current of Plenty*, was formally launched in Windhoek in October 2004 by Minister Iyambo. Copies of the film were subsequently distributed to schools in Namibia to raise educational awareness of importance of Benguela Large Marine Ecosystem.

8.3 **BENGUELA ENVIRONMENT FISHERIES INTERACTION AND TRAINING PROGRAMME (BENEFIT)**

BENEFIT is a sub-regional programme involving three SADC countries: Angola, Namibia and South Africa. The programme management unit is located at Swakopmund, Namibia. The programme aims to create the basis for long-term cooperation between the three countries in the area of management and protection of marine resources, which they share in some cases, through building regional capacities and technical skills.

During 2004, BENEFIT hosted a Consultative Workshop on Biodiversity and Conservation, and also the Lüderitz Orange Rivers Cone Workshop. In conjunction with BCLME, BENEFIT co-funded four legs of a research and training cruise aboard the German research vessel, the *Alexander Von Humboldt*. New BENEFIT research projects on shark biology, hake and *Dentex* ageing as well as *Dentex* biology were started, in which Namibia is taking an active role.

A BENEFIT Forum was held in April 2004, which provided an opportunity for Namibian scientists to interact with international leaders in their fields of science. Several of these experts gave presentations at the forum. In April 2004, the BENEFIT Management Advisory Council gathered for a workshop, which aimed to develop a mandate to develop BENEFIT in line with the BCLME goal of establishing a regional commission. This successful workshop resulted in a new set of goals and outputs for BENEFIT.

9 **INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES RELATIONS**

9.1 **SOUTH EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES ORGANISATION (SEAFO)**

SEAFO establishes a management regime for conservation and sustainable utilisation of fish, molluscs, crustaceans and other sedentary species in the high seas portion of FAO Statistical Area 47, but excluding those sedentary species that are subject to the fishery jurisdiction of coastal States and also tuna and tuna-like species because these fall under the jurisdiction of ICCAT. Namibia became the first signatory nation to ratify the Convention in November 2001.

The inaugural session of SEAFO was held in March 2004 in Swakopmund, Namibia. The meeting was devoted to the adoption of the basic rules for the functioning of the organization and its subsidiary bodies. Regulations regarding the financing of the organization, its rules of procedure and staffing arrangements were agreed. Guidelines and priorities for the work of the Scientific Committee, to be composed of scientists from each party, were adopted at the meeting. It was also decided that a permanent secretariat would be in place by January
2005, based in Walvis Bay, Namibia. For the remainder of 2004, Namibia continued to act as the SEAFO Interim Secretariat, and coordinated arrangements for the recruitment of a full time Executive Secretary. During the year, Namibia urged all remaining co-signatories of the SEAFO Convention and other interested parties sign and/or ratify the Convention as soon as possible.

9.2 INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ATLANTIC TUNAS (ICCAT)

ICCAT is responsible for the conservation and management of tunas and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and adjacent seas. Namibia becomes a member of ICCAT in 1999. Namibia has a developing, lucrative large-pelagic fishery, comprising 19 right holding companies targeting albacore, swordfish and sharks. The United States of America and Japan are the most important markets for Namibia's swordfish, tuna and shark products.

In November 2004, Namibia attended the 18th Regular Meeting of ICCAT held in New Orleans, USA. At this meeting, Namibia was applauded by entire ICCAT membership for developing and implementing a National Plan of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks. A particularly important outcome from this meeting regarding Namibia was the three-year sharing arrangement for Southern Atlantic Albacore, starting in 2005 and ending in 2007, albacore tuna being an important target species for the Namibian Large Pelagic industry. Under this agreement, Namibia's share of this resource is unrestricted and only requires catch monitoring and reporting to the Commission. Another important development for Namibia and other developing member states of ICCAT was the coming into force of the Madrid Protocol of 1992, starting in March 2005. The Madrid Protocol provides for preferential treatment of developing states' financial contribution to ICCAT. Under this scheme, and starting from 2008, Namibia's financial contribution to ICCAT will be significantly less than in 2004.

9.3 INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION FOR FISHERY INFORMATION AND CO-OPERATION SERVICES FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS IN AFRICA (INFOPECHE)

The INFOPECHE Unit was established in 2001 in Windhoek, Namibia. The purpose of the INFOPECHE unit is to promote fish and fish products trade within and outside the region through the development and maintenance of a high quality international market information base.

On 13 September 2004, Hon. Svein Ludvigsen, Norway's Minister of Fisheries and Coastal Affairs, officially inaugurated the INFOPECHE regional office in Windhoek. This office was created in order to give services on regional fisheries sector market and also to publish specific market study on fish products of interest to our SADC region and beyond.

9.4 COMMISSION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC MARINE LIVING RESOURCES (CCAMLR)

CCAMLR is responsible for the management of living marine resources found in the Southern Sea, including Patagonian toothfish, deep-sea crab and krill. Namibia has been a member since 2002.

Namibia participated at the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Commission in Tasmania, Australia (28 October – 5 November 2004).
7 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry continued to train its staff members at all levels and in various fields throughout 2004.

7.1 BURSARIES

The Ministry provides a bursary scheme for staff members. Bursaries are awarded on an annual basis for staff members to further their studies in fields relevant to their daily duties. Funding is provided from the Marine Resources Fund. In 2004, a total of 20 staff members benefited from the bursary scheme, pursuing various degrees/diplomas/certificates locally and abroad on a part-time or full-time basis.

7.2 DECK OFFICER TRAINING

The Ministry continued with the training and upgrading of Deck officers who have previously obtained a Class 3 Certificate of Competency for Deck Officers at NAMFI. The aim of this course is to obtain a Class 2 certificate at management level. Six Deck Officers were successfully trained by the end of 2004. This training is essential to allow these officers to take over officer positions occupied by expatriates on patrol vessels.

7.3 MARINE ENGINEER OFFICER TRAINING

Five Engineer Officers were sent to Cape Technikon in Cape Town, South Africa, with financial assistance from NORAD. Three successfully obtained a Class II Marine Engineering certificate. Unfortunately, two tragic motor vehicle accidents involving Ministry trainees occurred during 2004. One resulted in the death of an engineering student in September 2004. The second accident resulted in one engineering student being seriously injured.
These employ a total of 194 cooperative members. During 2004, the highest flood levels recorded in the past 30 years occurred in these two Regions. This resulted in the flooding of Litapi Fish Farm in the Caprivi Region and Shipapo wa Mbambangandu Fish Farm in the Kavango Region.

![Image of a fish farm]

Figure 17: Fish sampling at Likunganelo Fish Farm, Caprivi Region.

6.2.3 Regional Offices

Aquaculture extension offices were established in May 2004 at Oshakati to provide extension services to existing and emerging fish farmers in Omusati, Oshana, Ohangwena and Oshikoto Regions. A fingerling production center at Ongwediva is planned.

Seventy-two potential fish farm sites have been identified and assessed since establishment of these offices. The distribution of fingerlings to fish farmers is carried out in co-operation with staff based at Onavivi Inland Aquaculture Centre.