

NATIONAL FISHING FORUM

Terms of Reference

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1. BACKGROUND

South Africa aims to grow its economy in order to address its developmental challenges. To achieve this goal, key economic growth engines must be identified and propelled. The maritime sector is an important contributor to the national economy; fishing is the largest domestic commercial maritime sector under direct South African control. It is vital for the economic prosperity and the food security of the nation.

Furthermore, through associated industries and linkages the fishing sector supports a host of other enterprises offering diverse employment opportunities and other economic activities. For South Africa, fishing is more than just about catching fish. It is the exploitation of opportunities that lie in the value chain of the fishing sector. Therefore, the sector is viewed from shipyards that build, construct, repair or convert vessels or structures that supply services to the sector, vessel victuals, bunkers, fishing gear, packaging of products and supporting a large shore based infrastructure.

Currently, the fishing sector in South Africa lacks the necessary support to develop, expand and play an active role in supporting South Africa's economic growth.

Development and expansion of the fishing sector is not the domain of a single sub-sector and entity. It requires extensive coordination across a range of stakeholders, including, amongst others, national and provincial government departments, parastatals, business and other interest groups. The aim is to promote development by identifying and improving the competitiveness of one or several specific sub-sectors. This also entails the development of a participatory process that will also build trust with all role players and secure their involvement in the sector's development.

In this regard forum initiatives provide the focussed lens through which the forum can effectively engage key role players to ensure that the sector optimally contributes to the country's economic growth. Government should fully address the challenges in the sector, moving from generic and broad-brush initiatives to more focussed interventions supporting the sector and the wealth creating clusters within it. It is at this level that government support should be focussed, with priorities for industry interventions being determined through effective partnerships.

2. SOUTH AFRICA'S MARITIME AGENDA

The fishing sector is composed of all enterprises engaged in the business of catching processing and marketing its products; shipbuilding, repairs and component supply; commercial ports and fishing harbours; marine energy sources; marine and ocean research and sciences; maritime training academies and training centres; a wide range of professional services around fishing activities; professional associations; trade unions and organizations supporting the rights and interests of fishers.

This clearly shows that sectors interests are many and cut across many ministerial and departmental jurisdictions. Furthermore, they include interests whose rights and obligations are covered under international conventions to which South Africa is party or will become a party, through IMO, ILO and FAO and domestic legislation. This underscores the need for national co-ordination and policy coherence.

These interests have widespread linkages to the rest of the non-maritime economy, therefore necessitating careful and deliberate consideration of the intended and non-intended ramifications when executing or discharging the mandate of promoting South Africa's maritime interests.

National interests on sector can thus be categorised under the following areas:

- Security of stocks;
- Support industries;

- Environment and safety;
- Community and social;
- Research (biological, scientific interests); and
- International (conventions, treaties etc).

Given the number of areas, prioritisation and liaison, including co-ordination among government departments and between government and industry is central to building national strength and thereby positively influence the development of the sector.

3. THE NATIONAL FISHING FORUM

3.1 Goal of the Forum

The forum has the mission: *to grow, develop and ensure competitiveness of the South African fishing industry.*

3.2 Objectives of the Forum

The national forum is established to foster an integrated approach to uplifting the fishing sector that is aimed at improving integrated planning, decision making and avoiding duplication. The main objective is to ensure proper coordination of all government programmes at national and provincial levels. Some of the objectives will include:

- Providing a platform for industry and government departments and/or institutions to identify and address cross cutting issues of strategic importance as a collective;
- Facilitating implementation of fishing industry development programmes and other initiatives; and
- Stimulating knowledge sharing among its participants.

3.3 Scope of work and functions

The scope of work outlines the activities that will be undertaken by the cluster. The following are the proposed functions:

- To develop the forum's plan of action;
 - Identify the challenges and opportunities facing the fishing sector;
 - identification of short, medium and long term priorities of the sector;
 - facilitate and monitor the implementation of priority sector programmes;
 - identification of who will implement the initiatives;
 - identification of key performance indicators that the cluster will be measured on;
- To provide recommendations to formulate fishing related policies and strategies for the implementation of sector programmes/projects;
- To coordinate cross-departmental/institutional inputs into sector issues;
- To monitor and measure the performance of the sector;
- To advise the relevant government Ministries on measures that need to be taken to grow and develop the sector; and
- To consider any other matter that the ministerial economic cluster may require the cluster to consider.

3.4 Members

The members of the forum are industry bodies and associations, trade unions, accredited training providers, service providers, financial institutions, government departments, state institutions and/or other relevant institutions that represent the sectors interests. The core and supporting departments/institutions are as follows:

Core Departments/Institutions for now include:

- Departments:
 - Department of Transport;
 - Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
 - Department of Economic Development
 - Department of Trade and Industry;
 - National Treasury;
 - Department of Public Enterprises; and
 - Department of Labour.

- State Institutions:
 - South African Maritime Safety Authority;
 - Transnet;
 - Ports Regulator;
 - Public Works Department;
 - Industrial Development Corporation; and
 - Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Other relevant Departments/Institutions :

- Departments:
 - Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism;
 - Department of Higher Education and Training;
 - Department of Mineral Resources;
 - Provincial and Local Governments; and
 - SARS.

- State Institutions:
 - Transport Education and Training Authority; and
 - Petro SA
 - National Empowerment Fund

- Industry bodies and associations
 - SA Fishing Industry Association
 - SA Fishers Women Association
 - SA Linefish Management Association
 - SA Midwater Trawling Association
 - SA Seaweed Concessions Association
 - SA Squid Management Industrial Association
 - SA Tuna Association
 - SA West Coast Rock Lobster Association
 - Shark Longline Association

- South Coast Rock Lobster Association
- South East Coast Inshore Fishing Association
- The National SMME Fishing Forum

- Financial institutions
 - Business Partners
 - Eduloan

While these stakeholders' interests are varied, they nonetheless coalesce around the need to grow and develop the sector. Other relevant departments/institutions will from time to time be invited to the meeting of the cluster if requested to so. Furthermore, other departments/institutions may attend any meeting of the cluster in an observer capacity and may contribute to such meeting if requested to do so.

3.5 Budget

Where necessary, there will be elements of the budget that will require pooling of funds from the members of the forum for advancement of sector programmes/projects.

Until further notice, the Secretariat will commit funds for the administrative functions of the cluster and some seed money for preliminary knowledge/research work for the forum.

Each department/institution will carry its own costs in regard to transport, accommodation, per-diem and related expenses whilst on the cluster's assignments.

3.6 Forum Meetings

The forum will hold meetings every quarter, unless otherwise agreed by members. Representatives of the members of the cluster will be invited to participate at the meetings. Representatives will have the authority to represent their respective members.

The forum meetings will be held in Cape Town, unless otherwise agreed by members, reflecting the functional spread of the members.

A quorum of the meeting will constitute of at least 1 of the 6 people, comprising a representatives from each of the clusters in the forum.

3.7 Clusters

The following clusters form the forum;

- Skills;
- Human Capital ;
- Industry Development;
- Community Support;
- Government; and
- Infrastructure.

3.8 Secretariat

The secretariat (SAMSA: Centre for Fishing) will have the responsibility to call for the forums meetings, prepare agenda and discussion documents, prepare minutes of meetings, and carry out actions as decided at the meetings.

The minutes of a meeting shall be circulated to all members within 5 working days after the meeting has taken place and confirmed by resolution at the first subsequent meeting of the cluster. The secretariat will also keep a register of members.

4. CRITICAL AREAS/PROJECT OF FOCUS

There are a few strategic issues/activities that require urgent attention, having been raised at the Indaba that cut across all levels in the sector. These include:

- Financial
 - Fuel levy;
 - Cost of harbour;
 - Lack of access to development capital;
 - Import and export duties;
 - High institutional costs;
 - Training costs;
 - Cost of adhering to legislation; and
 - Duplication costs.
- Skills Development
 - Implementation of STCW-F;
 - Relevance of mandatory training;
 - Improvement in seamanship levels;
 - TETA effectiveness;
 - Lack of training berths/vessel;
 - Alignment of SAMSA/TETA accreditation process;
 - Training should be aligned with SAMSA
 - Lack of database of skills; and
 - Skills shortage and retention.
- Human Capital
 - Employment Conditions;
 - Rural community development;
 - Effectiveness of FIBC monitoring;
 - Crew database/register;
 - Support of families whose partners are lost at sea;
 - Wellness centres; and
 - Coaching, mentoring and retention.
- Infrastructure
 - Costs of harbour/ports;
 - Lack of maintenance, berths and slipways;
 - Sanitary facilities;
 - ISPS and access;
 - Dredging of fishing harbours;
- General
 - Out-dated and non-promulgation of revised legislation;
 - Lack of access to relevant Ministers;
 - Lack of access to PCCs;
 - Standardisation of SAMSA services;
 - Viability of small quotas;
 - Fragmentation of industry sectors;

Further areas of focus will be added as the Forum develops.