



# NEWSLETTER

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## FOREWORD

**A**warm welcome into '2013'. This second edition of the National Fishing Forum (NFF) newsletter reflects on the activities that were conducted in 2012 for the benefit of the Fishing Industry. In addition, the way forward that will be undertaken in the year ahead. After the establishment of the NFF at the Fishing Indaba in 2011, it continued to operate as a steering committee. The NFF steering committee was then endorsed at South African Maritime Industry Conference (SAMIC), July 2012 in Cape Town as a platform to facilitate the growth of the industry. Highlights of the SAMIC included, the recognition that the Fishing and Aquaculture sector as a cornerstone in the Maritime industry. The NFF Cluster champions had the opportunity to partake in the breakaway session of the Fishing and Aquaculture programme and gave presentations on the areas of, industry development human development and to ensure sustainable community development. As a post-SAMIC exercise, cluster champions have developed plans with the aim to grow a competitive Fishing industry. Most importantly, NFF in partnership with Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has a responsibility to champion interventions against the challenges that were identified at SAMIC. The future is in our hands, let us work together to build a sustainable fishing industry!

*By Capt. Nigel Campbell,  
Acting Executive Head Centre: for Shipping Services*

*“The National Fishing Forum’s mission is to grow, develop and ensure competitiveness of the South African fishing industry.”*

An initiative of:



## BACKGROUND

In response to the third mandate of the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA): to promote South Africa's maritime interests. SAMSA has since November 2011 taken the responsibility to oversee the interests of the National Fishing Forum (NFF) as secretariat. The forum was established with the mission to facilitate growth, development and ensure a competitive Fishing Industry. In this second issue of our newsletter, we feel that the NFF is now ready to commence and promote the interests of the Fishing Industry.

This forum is to integrate and co-ordinate government programmes at national and provincial levels to avoid duplication in the industry. The forum is striving towards maintaining its mission: to grow, develop and ensure competitiveness of the South African fishing industry. The forum is comprised of the following clusters & championed by:

CLUSTER	NAME	CONTACTS
Human capital	Mary Lou Harry	Mary-LouH@SeaHarvest.co.za
Industry Development	Clyde Bodenham	clyde@molimoman.co.za
Skills and Training	Trevor Wilson	trevor@selectafish.co.za
Community Support	Betsy Ings	visionb@telkomsa.net
Small-Scale fishers	Bongani Jack	BonganiJ@daff.gov.za
Government & Infrastructure	Selwyn Bailey	sbailey@samsa.org.za

Should you wish to bring any issues to the attention of the forum, please address them to the relevant champions. South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA): Centre for Fishing is the secretariat. If you wish to subscribe to the newsletter, please register to: Nondumiso Mfenyana, nmfenyana@samsa.org.za

## ACTIVITIES IN 2012

Since beginning of 2012, the NFF was involved in a series of events towards the development of the Fishing Industry Sector and that included the following:

### 1. VESSEL AGE PROFILE

In response to its mandate to ensure safety of life and property at sea, SAMSA completed a mini-research of the vessel age profile for all commercial sectors that are sea-going. This was in response to the amount of ageing fleet that may be contributing to the loss of life at sea. The outcomes of the research were forwarded to Dr Gowans who has undertaken a study with SAMSA on shipbuilding and repairs (Table 1).

Furthermore, discussions are to be undertaken between SAMSA & IDC on vessel recapitalization. The intension to this intervention is to introduce vessel recapitalization in the Fishing Industry.

Sector	No. of vessels	Average vessel years
SCRL	11	40
WCRL (offshore)	70	33
KZN prawn trawl	8	33
Hake longline	75	33
Horse mackerel	5	32
Large pelagic	16	31
Tuna pole	128	31
Patagonian toothfish	2	29
Small pelagic	57	29
Hake inshore trawl	18	26
Hake deepsea trawl	60	26
Dermesal shark	4	20
Abalone	86	18
Squid	119	15
WCRL (nearshore)	314	16
Hake handline	74	15
Traditional Linefish	312	15
Net fisheries	68	15
KZN sardine beach seine	18	13
<b>TOTAL ACTIVE VESSELS = 1445</b>		

Table 1

## 2. OUTCOMES OF THE SAMIC



The intension behind the South African Maritime Conference (SAMIC) was to pull together all five maritime industry sectors (Oil and Gas, Marine manufacturing, Fishing and Aquaculture, Port shipping and logistics, Tourism and leisure) and government to work together to seek common solutions. The conference focused on the broader perspective of the maritime industry, but the focus here is more on the issues that were highlighted in the Fishing and Aquaculture sub-sector. The break-away session of this sector consisted of interested and affected parties looking at ways to identify opportunities to grow a competitive fishing industry. The dialogue discussions drew attention on the following:

- Strategic challenges included the need to look at the greater way of improving stakeholder communication and partnership of the sector.
- Action to be implemented to improve on the challenges included the need to for alignment of the NFF with a national maritime sector structure across the various sub-sectors to advance the broader industry development.

(However, it is acknowledged that not all the issues that were raised in the conference are covered here.)

### 3. CAREER EXHIBITION AND JOB SUMMIT

The 2012 Career Exhibition and Job Summit was hosted by SAMSA during the National Maritime Week with the theme “Marine – A career less ordinary”.



The objective of the career exhibition was to promote maritime as a career of choice and create a platform for the youth to interact education and training providers in the five sectors of maritime. The job summit started two days after the careers exhibition and it aimed at providing a platform where it enabled strategic decision makers a platform to engage in discussion on areas of job opportunities and overcoming the challenges encountered in the job market of the industry. It is therefore in the interest of the NFF committee to identify the scarce skills in fishing sector in order to determine the necessary interventions, for example: gear technology.

### 4. THE IMO: DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON FISHING VESSEL SAFETY

The Torremolinos International Convention for the safety of fishing vessels was hosted by Department of Transport (DOT) with SAMSA in Cape Town, October 2012. The objectives of the IMO were to ensure safety of life at sea, particularly in high seas as this convention is applicable to fishing vessels not less than 24m length. Deliverables of the conference was for consideration of the draft agreement on the implementation of the Torremolinos Protocol of 1993 relating to the 1977 Torremolinos International convention for the safety of fishing vessels. The agreement was named after the city of Cape Town to honour the success of the conference thereof.



### 5. MERCHANT SHIPPING (SAFE MANNING, TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION) REGULATIONS 2012



These regulations were drafted by SAMSA Surveyors/Examiners with a total experience in seafaring adding to more the 100 years.

The new regulations will repeal the following existing regulations:

Merchant Shipping (Training and Certification) Regulations, 1999 as amended; Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning) Regulations, 1999 as amended; Ship's Officers' Medical Training Regulations, 1992; Examination Regulations for Certificates of Competency for Fisherman, 1993 as amended; and Examination Regulations for Certificates of Competency for Marine Motorman, 1993 as amended. The draft regulations has been widely communicated and distributed for comment. SAMSA has presented the draft regulations to the Directorate for Maritime Policy and Legislation and envisaged that the legislation should be signed and published by March 2013.

### 6. REVIEW OF INCIDENTS RESULTING TO DEATHS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN FISHING INDUSTRY IN 2012

In 2012, 9 fishers lost their lives in 6 separate operational incidents; 3 crew members were lost overboard while vessels were steaming not during fishing operations; 5 fishers died after the 2 small fishing vessels capsized; and 1 fisher drowned whilst attempting to beach a small fishing vessel near a river mouth.

Furthermore, 4 fishers died in non-operational instances; 2 fishers suffered heart attacks on board fishing vessels. A crew member fell into the water while his vessel was berthed alongside and subsequently lost his life; and a crew member drowned after falling into the water when he attempted to board his vessel while it was berthed on the outside of two other vessels in a fishing harbour.

SAMSA will continue with their interventions associated to reduce deaths at sea, and that including: Ad-hoc Inspections, Observer Checklists, Safety seminars, Indabas with industry leaders, Community seminars, Marine Notices, MOSR audits, Trade publications and articles.



## 7. THE MOSSEL BAY, NIKA ITHUBA TRAINING ACADEMY

The academy is the brain child of SAMSA which is looking at having a fully accredited, self-sustained training institution that owned and managed by the Mossel Bay community. Currently, the academy is under the auspices of Siyaloba Academy. This was meant to cater for the Mossel Bay community due to unavailability of an accredited training provider in the area. The institution is sponsored by Smit Amandla to enable the candidates to complete courses in: pre-sea, first aid, marine fire fighting, proficiency in life-raft and radio tickets. At the end of the course, candidates are offered Certificates of Completion.

## 8. COMMUNITY SUPPORT CLUSTER- CSI PILOT PROJECT

SAMSA awarded a contract to Tradelane Commercial Management to undertake a Pilot Project in order to lay foundations that will address shortages of critical skills in the Eastern Cape Fishing Communities. This will also facilitate the roll out of further phases to address retention and transfer of skills in the fishing and maritime industry through the Corporate Social Investment Unit within SAMSA. The Pilot Project will enable the alignment of projects to meet the Social Economic Development and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Codes of Good Practices requirements. The launch of the project will be on the 06 February 2013, in Port Elizabeth.



## 9. DTI-STANDFORD BOAT LAUNCH

The DTI issued 12 boat to six co-operatives in Standford community, in November 2012. An integrated approach of managing the subsistence fishers is required. SAMSA to engage DTI on other issues that need to be put in place for the viability of the small-scale sector, for example organisations like SEDA need to provide training about co-operatives for the fishers to get a broader understanding of enterprise development. Fishers also require security of tenure for them to get additional capital funds from financial institutions.

## 10. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION

An advert about the NFF was published in the August issue of the Fishing Industry News and the Maritime Review Africa as part of promoting the NFF brand and for public awareness of its functions and the contactable persons for any query or clarity thereof.

## WAY FORWARD & FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2013

Cluster champions will be engaging their respective stakeholders to identify priority areas for intervention towards industry developments.

The NFF will embark on road shows at the beginning of the New Year around the identified coastal communities as it was indicated by the SAMIC: Fishing and Aquaculture sector for NFF to be the recognised body that looks at the interest of fishing industry development.

### Way Forward:

- NFF is to marketing itself and the role it occupies within the fishing industry – through roadshows that will be underway along the S.A coastline.
- Cluster champions are to lead identified initiatives (take ownership) in the respective clusters through SAMSA.
- Partner with other relevant institutions in the Fishing Industry.
- Promote the need to engage financial institutions to assist in industry development.
- SAMSA to establish a database for the distribution of the bi-annual newsletter.
- Launch of the CSI Pilot Project, 06 February 2013 in Port Elizabeth.