



# NEWSLETTER

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## FOREWORD

**W**e are soon approaching the end of a productive year '2013' for the maritime industry. At the beginning of 2013, the Minister of Transport declared this year 'a Maritime Year'. A lot has been achieved in commemoration of the impact and the role of the industry to the development of the country. In this 3rd edition of the National Fishing Forum (NFF), contribution made by the Fishing Sector towards a socially, environmentally and economic sustainable maritime industry are highlighted. In the midst of challenges and uncertainties of the future commercial fishing rights, there is still high determination towards developing a competitive sector.

The NFF has been active in all its aspects with regular engagements to assess its progress towards industry development. Among its achievements, is the forum has compiled an action plan that highlights the priorities for interventions required and aligns progress. Furthermore, this edition reflects some of the cluster initiatives and the status quo of the international conventions & regulations of the Fishing sector.

Wishing you a restful holiday, so we can start 2014 with enthusiasm towards a competitive sector!

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

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



## BACKGROUND

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 strives to ensure it meet its objectives through its quarterly meetings.

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

## NFF ACTIVITIES IN 2013

The past 12 months is considered a success in terms of the activities achieved at the NFF. The forum covered most of its planning phase, and that included the ad hoc activities that were also implemented. A brief description of all the highlights achieved in the past year are indicated below:

### 1. THE NFF ACTION PLAN

The forum decided on compiling a planning document in order to align the activities within its mandate. Each cluster champion was given a responsibility to do an overview research with the stakeholders to identify areas of concern and priority areas towards the development of a sustainable Fishing Industry. All inputs were presented at the forum, agreed upon and consolidated into an action plan document that will be used in to lobby for funding from various financial institutions/organisations and government departments that are targeting development of the less privileged, particularly in the Fishing communities.

### 2. CLUSTER DELIVERABLES:

#### A. 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 skills shortages in the Eastern Cape Fishing Communities. The study was undertaken in Port Elizabeth, St Francis / Hummansdorp and surrounding areas.

Mrs B. Ings of Tradelane and the community cluster champion of the NFF was the responsible Project Manager assigned to this project through her skills and experience in community development initiatives.

The intended interventions were completed over a period of 6 months and some of the highlights of the pilot included:

- ABET learner that got employment at the harbour.
- Joshua Project that has now convinced I&J to work through them in training communities.
- The support gained from the Unions.
- Food handling learners - that got absorbed by an old age home where they did their practical work.
- Fire fighter learner – got a voluntary job at the Fire Department
- Lungi (volunteer) - community co-ordinator at St Francis.

The Project was to enable the alignment of projects to meet the Social Economic Development and Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment Codes of Good Practices requirements. The Project was launched on the 06 February 2013, in Port Elizabeth. The event was attended by diverse stakeholder, from individuals from fishing communities & big industry, trade unions, TETA and SAMSA representatives to support the initiatives. By end of end July, a total of 1025 interventions completed the training (Figure 1). The final report of the project deliverables will be available in December 2013, pending a complete competency test from external examination assessors.



Learners that participated in the project

## **B. Transport Education and Training Authority (TETA) funding for training**

The Skills and Training cluster champion, Mr T. Wilson received funding from TETA through Viking Fishing to upskill fisherman. The program is intended to start as pilot and train 15 people for Medical First Aid, at SAFMA Parrow, starting from 12th November 2013. Thereafter, the same people will be required to do Marine Fire fighting at SAFMA Ottery, 19th November 2013. The criteria to be used are the unemployed, seasonal fishers with a valid South African ID document and will have to produce a seamans book to confirm they are fisherman. As part of the requirements for the programme is that, participants will not be allowed to only complete the ancillary courses. It will be required for people who want access to this training to be available to first do the Medical First Aid and Marine Fire Fighting, simultaneously. After completing the pilot phase, the same group will do Marine Fire fighting on 26th November 2013.

Training course available for unemployed fishers include: Medical First Aid for 75 persons, Marine Firefighting for 75 persons, Able Seaman skills course for 10 persons, ENS 10 persons, Deck officers only ( Deck officers Grade 4, Grade 3, or mate under 24m or mate over 24m. (Limadi awaiting SAMSA accreditation). For more information, contact: trevor@selectafish.co.za

## **C. Status quo on seismic developments**

The Industry development cluster champion has provided feedback on the developments made through the task team on seismic issues. A bilateral meeting between the Namibian ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resource and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) was held in July 2013, in exploring the potential impact of oil and gas industry seismic exploration in the Fishing industry. Since the outcomes of that meeting, the Namibian Cabinet has signed a moratorium on phosphate mining for a period of 18 months. FishSA has taken the responsibility for the South African Fishing sector to pursue the matter further to Cabinet through the Minister of DAFF. A letter was sent for her attention and to request a moratorium on seismic testing in South Africa as well, for consistency purposes with the Namibian Fisheries. The issue is pending response. FishSA will update the forum on further developments.

## **D. West Coast Human Capital Developmental Program**

This project is initiated by the Human Capital cluster and is driven by Sea Harvest. TETA and Sea Harvest initiated a program to introduce Maritime to West Coast high schools. Relevant and interested partners have been consulted and are in support of the initiative. Further consultations with potential funders are in place, with TETA on board and has pledged for funding.

## **E. Potential capital funding**

The Dti was invited to present some of the available financial scheme that could be relevant to assist in promoting the development of the sector.

The Dti gave a presentation to one of the NFF meetings on the various funding schemes available for small business. Two programmes were introduced: the Enterprise Investment Programme that is focusing on manufacturing and the Aquaculture Development & Enhancement Programme and the Aquaculture Development and Enhancement Programme. For the purpose of the meeting, Mr Ludidi gave a detailed explanation on the procedures and application criteria for each scheme. For further information and details, members were referred to either the Dti website or visit any of their offices for assistance.

## **F. Stakeholder engagements**

The SAMSA: Centre for Fishing continue to promote the NFF brand through public consultative engagement and stakeholder meetings. Pre-roadshows were undertaken in the coastal areas between the West Coast, Cape Flats and Mossel Bay as part of the NFF awareness program. The visits were welcomed by the communities and they indicated the challenges experienced by the sector. The challenges highlighted form part of the NFF action plan for possible interventions. The Centre will embark on the full Awareness Roadshows in 2014.

## **3. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TORREMOLINOS PROTOCOL OF 1993, RELATING TO THE TORREMOLINOS CONVENTION 1977.**

The Convention was adopted in 1977, it was the first international conference on the safety of fishing vessels and took place in Torremolinos, Spain. The Convention looked at the construction and safety equipment standards for fishing vessels in the same way as the SOLAS convention set standards for cargo and passenger vessels. This was not ratified as it was considered to be too stringent. It was until 1993, when the Torremolinos Protocol was adopted. The Protocol amended certain aspects of the Convention to facilitate ease of the ratification. At the end of 2006, six (6) states had ratified the Convention, nine (9) more signatories were required in order to enter into force.

At MSC 90, January 2012 it was decided to pursue the matter further to adopt the Agreement, by means of a Diplomatic Conference in Cape Town. The outstanding issues that needed to be addressed included signatures consent to be bound as well as the entry into force criteria. In October 2012, South Africa hosted the Diplomatic Conference in Cape Town. After successful negotiations by the Working Group, chaired by Captain Nigel Campbell, consensus was reached on the outstanding issues. The Agreement was adopted and named the 2012 Cape Town Agreement.





Minister of Transport signs the Cape Town Agreement at IMO, December 2013

#### 4. PROGRESS MADE IN BRINGING INTO OPERATION OF THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR FISHING VESSEL PERSONNEL (STCW-F CONVENTION)



Stakeholder engagement and discussions

We are now 5 months into the new era of improved training and watch keeping standards for fishing vessels. The publishing of the Merchant Shipping (Safe Manning, Training and Certification) Regulations, 2013 brought the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel Convention into operation on 23rd July 2013.

All relevant parties have been informed and engaged (Figure 3). Fishing vessel operators are currently being issued with Safe Manning Documents depicting the changes in personnel required.

Operators, skippers, crew, relevant institutions and interested parties are advised to contact their nearest SAMSA office should they need any information or guidance with regards to the regulations.

#### 5. MARITIME OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY REGULATIONS, 1994

In terms of Regulation 39A, all operators managing fishing vessels of over 25GT with a crew of more than 6 persons, will be audited for compliance to these Regulations, by the Authority (SAMSA).

To date 27 fishing companies in Port Elizabeth, Port St Francis, Mossel Bay, Cape Town and Saldanha Bay has been audited by SAMSA. These companies operate 126 fishing vessels with crews of more than 2700 persons in total.

In the past 4 years, the management audit regime has been very successful with companies being regularly found to be compliant, at the time of initial audit. Companies that are found to be lacking in certain areas are issued with an audit report and then guided by SAMSA to comply.

The management auditors evaluate by looking at various procedures and safety activities that are expected to be in place such as; risk assessments, access to and knowledge of legislation, disciplinary procedures, safety officers, safety appointees, safety committees, accident records, emergency procedures, safety training, equipment and machinery, PPE, records of compliance, safe access and general vessel safety management.

Any fishing company or operator requiring more information or assistance can contact SAMSA at the following contact: Mr S. Bailey at (sbailey@samsa.org.za) or 083 5652 996.

#### 6. OUTCOMES OF THE IOL WORKSHOP ON IMPROVING WORKING AND LIVING CONDITION ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS, OCTOBER 2013



Participants of the ILO workshop in Turin, Italy.

##### A. Purpose of meeting and attendance

Mr S Bailey of SAMSA: Centre for Fishing and a cluster champion at the NFF represented South Africa and participated in the collaborative discussions in Italy. The workshop focused on approaches, challenges and strategies on the inspection of working and living conditions in fishing, with a particular focus on the areas

covered in the main provisions of the Work in Fishing Convention, 2007 (No. 188), hereafter C.188. Attendees included ILO personnel and 13 Government officials, 1 employer representative and 1 worker representative with a special emphasis on those involved in inspection/enforcement of laws and regulations concerning working conditions on fishing vessels (Figure 4). Countries present at the workshop: South Africa, New Zealand, United Kingdom, Argentina, Norway, Phillipines, Spain, Portugal, Peru, Brazil, Thailand, European Commission, ITF, and Netherlands. The objectives of the workshop was to raise awareness among participants of the contents of C.188, to mobilise participants, promote the Convention and to organise and undertake activities that will improve flag State inspections of fishing vessels for compliance of national laws, regulations and improve port State control of vessels.

### B. Workshop contents and methodology

Workshop employed a highly participative approach comprising of lectures, discussions and group work. Materials used during the workshop included; training manual on the implementation of C.188 and handbook for improving living and working conditions on board fishing vessels. Participants shared their national experiences on labour inspection of fishing vessels. Participants discussed the application of the manual on labour inspections of fishing vessels.

## 7. THE 2013 CAREER EXHIBITION AND JOB SUMMIT

The Fishing Industry, once again participated in the annual Careers Exhibition and Job Summit, in June 2013. A panel of experts were nominated to represent the sector on the Job Summit in promoting fishing as a career of choice. The focus was to promote both Fishing and Aquaculture ventures and partnership towards industry development.

## WAY FORWARD & FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS FOR 2014

### Way Forward:

- Cluster champions are to take ownership and lead the respective clusters to achieve the objectives of the forum. Each of the champions have the responsibility to engage stakeholders regarding the respective priority areas identified in the NFF action plan to ensure their support toward development of a sustainable and competitive fishing industry.
- Partner with other relevant institutions in the Fishing Industry.
- Promote the need to engage financial institutions to assist in industry development.
- Compile a proposal for the roll-out plan funding.
- Roadshows that will be underway along the S.A coastline.
- Organise a close out function of the fishing community pilot project, Jan 2013.

For more information contact: **Nondumiso Mfenyana** at [nmfenyana@samsa.org.za](mailto:nmfenyana@samsa.org.za)

