Editor’s Notes

Interesting times for fishers

Welcome to the first edition of Fishers Net for 2014.

We have arrived at a very exciting, but challenging time in our journey as small-scale fishers.

The amended MLRA has been signed off by President Zuma, paving the way for the implementation of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) policy. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have indicated that resources have been set aside for the implementation process.

Our journey has been long and hard and littered with frustrations and delays. But we demonstrated that with vision, unity and collective power, people are able to make great progress.

This is our moment of truth, our situation of do-or-die. We have reached a Rubicon that we have to cross together.

It requires even greater unity and determination than ever before. It demands that we work well with each other and with other important stakeholders.

We believe that it is in everyone’s interest for the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and ourselves to work together in harmony. We have a common goal of implementing the SSF policy, for the benefit of fishing communities.

Our past relationship has not helped us to go forward quickly. It was marked by distrust, disappointment, delays and unnecessary disputes.

We need to put all of this behind us and start forging a partnership that propels us rapidly forward.

We have noted the appointment of a new Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Mr Sezeni Zokwana and his deputy, Mr Bheki Cele. We wish them well and urge them to pay special attention to the implementation of the SSF policy.

It is our wish that we can join hands with them and their department, so that we are able to successfully complete the final leg of our long journey.

Coastal Links and Masifundise have called on government to pay special attention to the implementation of the small-scale fisheries policy (SSF).

The call came following the appointment of Sezeni Zokwana and Bheki Cele as the new Minister and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

“The SSF policy is the result of sustained struggles by fishers, and an order by the Equality Court in 2006. It has taken years to go through the formulation and legislative processes and so it is imperative that the implementation process is undertaken with huge urgency,” said Coastal Links SA chairperson Christiaan Adams and Masifundise Director Naseegh Jaffer in a statement.

“The quality of lives of small-scale fishers and fishing communities depend on it. We are ready to work with the Ministers and the Department to ensure that this process is successfully undertaken and concluded,” they said.

Two weeks earlier President Jacob Zuma finally signed off on the amended Marine Living Resources Act, paving the way for the implementation of the small-scale fisheries (SSF) policy.

Masifundise, Coastal Links and its partners had struggled for years to get this policy formulated and adopted.

Now, as the final leg of the journey approaches – implementation of the SSF policy – there are some good signs but also some dangers ahead.

At the launch last month of a Handbook on policy implementation, a Chief Director in DAFF, Mr Saasha Phieeha committed the department to seeing the process through.

He said the department had budgeted R90 million in the next financial year for work related to policy implementation, and that it was committed to working closely with fishing communities.

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Masifundise Development Trust is a long-standing NGO and today focuses on the small-scale fisheries sector. On this page we provide some background and information about MDT.

ALL EYES ON THAT WALL IN MOWBRAY
The huge, colourful mural on the front wall of the Masifundise office is the talk of the town in Mowbray, Cape Town.
A group of artists – Garth Erasmus, Gaby Chemainis, Sophie Pieters and Thembinkosi Kohli are responsible for the magnificent work of art. The mural depicts life in a small-scale fishing community.
Masifundise has also transformed the inside of its office into a mini-exhibition, which consists of visuals and texts about the histories of Masifundise and Coastal Links South Africa.

UNDERSTANDING THE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES POLICY
More than 150 people gathered in Ocean View, Cape Town on 15 May for the launch of a Handbook that outlines the basic rights of small-scale fishers.

The Handbook was produced by Masifundise, the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS) and the research institution Too Big to Ignore (TBTI). Its aim is to help small-scale fishers with an easy understanding of the Small-Scale Fisheries Policy and facilitate the implementation process.

The handbook details many aspects of the policy such as rights allocation, co-management, skills development, community structures, and baskets of fish and gender rights.

The launch was attended by fishers from various parts of the country, researchers, academics, civil society groups and members of the Ocean View community.

Masifundise Director Naseegh Jaffer, chaired the session and speakers included Andy Johnson of the Artisanal Fishers Association of South African, Professor Moeniba Isaacs of PLAAS, Solene Smith, a Coastal Links leader from Langebaan and Saasa Phieeha, of the Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture (DAFF).
Mr Johnson and Mrs Smith spoke about the hard struggles that eventually led to the adoption of the progressive policy. Professor Isaacs outlined some of the challenges that are likely to accompany the implementation process and Mr Phieeha committed the department to seeing the process through and said the department had budgeted R90 million in the next financial year for work related to policy implementation.

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON SECURING SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES
The International Guidelines on Securing Small-Scale Fisheries is a document that is meant to assist small-scale fishers globally to secure their livelihoods, food and eradicate poverty. It is drafted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on Fisheries with objectives that will be achieved by applying the human rights based approach which aims to empower communities.
Masifundise Director Naseegh Jaffer has participated in these processes, as a representative of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples.

Early in February 2014, the Committee on Fisheries (COFI) completed their negotiations on the Voluntary Guidelines on Small-Scale Fishery (SSF). The full set of draft guidelines were approved which marked a huge step forward for the SSF sector internationally. Only one paragraph was not approved and this was forwarded for further discussion for the next COFI meeting which will take place on the 5 June this year. The Guidelines come from a set of meetings (participatory and consultative processes), involving SSF communities, civil society organisations, governments, regional organisations and other stakeholders of FAO.

You can go to this link to read the final draft that was approved: http://masifundise.org.za/international-guidelines-on-securing-sustainable-small-scale-fisheries/

KEEPING THE WHEELS TURNING
In this edition, we introduce more of the Masifundise staff, who keep the wheels of the organisation turning.

Carsten Pedersen – Policy and Programme Assistant
Carsten has worked with Masifundise since 2004 and been part of the family since 2010. He keeps an eye on the role players in fisheries governance - such as looking at the governance approaches of the Nepal, European countries and the World Bank - and shares the relevant information with fishing communities. He also builds crucial alliances and networks with movements and institutions in the Global North in order to strengthen international solidarity and establish new partnerships.

Sithembiso Gwaza - Project Coordinator
Sithera, started working with MDT in 2001. He has spearheaded the National Footprint programme, which was the expansion of CLSA into the EC and KZN, managing to secure more than 2000 members. He works closely with the field staff preparing and implementing community programmes. He is situated in the Mowbray office.
**Voices from the Coast**

The amended MLRA was signed off by President Zuma last month, paving the way for the implementation of the SSF policy. Coastal Links members from around the country share ideas of how fishers should prepare for this phase.

**Nozuko MnyomboLo**  
Khayelitsha, Western Cape

“We must make sure that the implementation takes place, an important factor is to make sure that people in fishing communities are verified and known by the system so that they can receive their rights, as you will find many organisations coming out of the blue who claim to be representing small-scale fishers because they know that the process of implementing the policy is about to happen.”

**Hilda April**  
Mamre, Western Cape

“This is a major achievement for our small-scale fishers in our destitute fishing communities. To prepare for implementation all the role players – beneficiaries, permit holders, families - must be UNITED. We must update and refresh ourselves with the SSF policy, and get a copy of the SSF policy handbook that was recently launched.”

**Harvey Ntshoko**  
Kucentane, Eastern Cape

“We need to make sure that we are informed about the developments in the fishing industry, we need verification so that the department knows who we are, what we do and what we fish. We also need support programmes that can assist to start and prepare for our legal entities. We are ready here in the Eastern Cape- let the implementation start.”

**Sindiso Nongcavu**  
Port St Johns, Eastern Cape

“We need opportunities to open in the market. We must prepare our storage facilities and licences to be able to sell or export our catches. Moreover, we need to make sure that we have access to boats so that we go further into the sea. As a community we should apply for licences and prepare.”

**Samke Mchunu**  
Kwadukuza, KwazuluNatal

“Fishing communities need to be more organised, they should mobile themselves and put more effort to be ready for the fishing, marketing ourselves and getting permits. As a young person, I see this time as a phase that will create opportunities for young people and changes lives in many way. We are ready.”

*continued from page 1*

“Our concern is that this process could delay the implementation of the SSF policy and also impact negatively on the fishing baskets that have to be set aside for the SSF sector”, said Mandla Gqamlana of Masifundise.

“We are keen to join in the court case to ensure that there are no delays and that small-scale fishing allocations are not jeopardised,” he said.

For more details on the case, see page two.

**CLSA spreads its wings**

Coastal Links South Africa (CLSA) continues to grow and make an impact in fishing communities around South Africa. More than 4 000 fishers are united under the banner of CLSA, and currently the organisation has been exploring greater financial sustainability and the development of a constitution.

These matters were discussed at a national meeting in Port Elizabeth last month. In KwaZulu Natal and the Eastern Cape, CLSA continues to campaign for an exemption permit allowing fishers a bigger catch and permission to sell their catch.

In KwaZulu Natal, local structures of CLSA have been campaigning around Marine Protected Areas to ensure greater access and a stop to the harassment of poor fishing communities.

In the Western Cape, there have been ongoing issues around Rock Lobster and line fish allocations, in various communities, including Struisbaai, Arniston and Gansbaai.

Coastal Links structures countrywide are participating in the distribution of the small-scale fisheries policy Handbook that they produced in partnership with Masifundise, PLAAS and Too Big To Ignore.

The challenges of policy implementation will prove to be the biggest responsibility in the history of CLSA. It will require maximum unity, skills development and good interaction with many stakeholders. CLSA also forms part of a team preparing for the General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples, scheduled to take place in Cape Town in the first week of September.

Masifundise would like to thank the members of CLSA who assist with the distribution of Fishers Net. Through you, we are able to reach a large number of people, spread information and create awareness.
Face2Face

with Nico Waldeck

Where are you from?
A I’m from Langebaan in the West Coast, Western Cape.

Tell us about your family
A I am married, with two children - a girl of 17 and boy of 12.

When did you get involved in the fishing industry and how?
A After I finished my high school at Vredendal, I then worked as a qualified retort operator in a fish cannery.

When did you start working for Masifundise Development Trust?
A I started working for MDT in 2003 as a field worker. I worked a lot with communities and that is how CLSA began.

What do you like most about your work?
A I like working with the passionate small-scale fishers and also tackling challenges that come with the industry, especially when it comes to politics influencing the industry.

I heard you once went overseas, where did you go?
A Yes, I did – we went to Chile, to visit fishing communities that are involved in fish farming/aquaculture – we saw how different communities are involved in other types of small-scale fishing/farming. I remember that we specifically visited fishers who dealt with Abalone.

Where do you see yourself in the next 5 years?
A I will still be at Masifundise because we are working on the small scale fisheries policy, so I want to see it being implemented, jobs created and fishers having a sustainable livelihood.

What is your wish – what do you think fishing communities should do to prepare themselves for the ssf implementation process?
A To see the small-scale fishers having food on the table on a daily basis - but mostly our communities must constantly check and know what is happening, they must organise themselves and make it easy for the department to communicate with them. There must be a change of mindset, where fishers are able to approach experienced fishers for help and be able to learn from those fishers’ experiences.

Court bid could delay fishing rights

The decision by the South African Commercial Linefish Association to take DAFF to court over long term fishing rights could delay the implementation of the SSF policy.

Furthermore, it could lead to the allocation meant for the small-scale fishing sector being significantly reduced.

The Minister of Fisheries last month scrapped the allocation process, but the Linefish Association is still continuing with its court bid.

In April, Masifundise sought to become an intervening party in the court case with the purpose of preventing a delay in the policy implementation and fishing allocation processes.

LRC attorney Wilmien Wicomb made the application on behalf of MDT, and this application will be heard on the 12 of June 2014. Currently the court has opposed the Masifundise application and the Linefish Association objected to it.

The Linefish Association does not believe that Masifundise represents small-scale fishers or that small-scale fishers exist as a sector.

On the date we were writing this, the Association was pursuing a settlement that will involve the re-dispensation of rights to all current and previous right holders. This would then mean that small-scale fishers have less catches, as most rights will be given to those who fish recreationally and commercially.

The Small-Scale fisheries policy gives legal recognition to fishers in this sector for the first time, provides for specific fishing zones for the sector and allows for collective rights rather than the destructive individual quotas of the past. “MDT and CLSA support any process that leads to a just and equitable allocation of fishing rights. We will oppose any process that will delay the implementation of the small-scale fisheries policy which enjoys wide support and will introduce a new chapter for the sector,” said Masifundise’s Mandla Gqamlana.

“We will also oppose any (court) action that will lead to small-scale fisher being robbed from receiving what is due to them,” he added.
Legal Resources Centre a great friend of fishing communities

LEGAL Resources Centre, Masifundise and Coastal Links will work together at least as long as it takes to get the successful implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF) Policy realised, and the customary rights of fishing communities properly recognised, according to Wilmien Wicomb, Attorney, Constitutional Litigation Unit, at the Legal Resources Centre (LRC).

The relationship between Masifundise and the Legal Resources Centre goes back to 2004, when, “…the first significant case, the 2004/2005 Equality Court challenge that led to the order that the small scale fishing policy should be developed,” said Wicomb.

Masifundise and Coastal Links, representing the small-scale fishers are the clients of the LRC, and have been instructing the LRC as the representatives of small scale fishing communities.

Naseegh Jaffer, National Director of Masifundise, has high praise for the work done by the LRC, and feels that they have a good grasp and commitment to the issues and struggles facing not only local small-scale fishing communities, but local communities facing difficult struggles all over South Africa.

Jaffer said that LRC played a valuable role in defending local fisherfolk when they get prosecuted for breaking laws that place a hindrance on their abilities to earn a sustainable living.

“LRC also played a significant role in helping us to draft the Small Scale Fishing Policy, by giving legal advice, and in drafting the Amendment to the MLRA,” said Jaffer.

With Jackie Sunde, the LRC did research into the implementation of the SSF Policy in KZN last year and Masifundise contributed a local researcher to the project. LRC also made comments on the policy and its implementation. The LRC also represented the fishing community at Nedlac during the negotiations on the SSF Policy, and represented Masifundise in the negotiations on the Amendments to the MLRA, making comments at every stage.

“Memorable cases in which LRC represented small-scale fishers, include the Kenneth George Equality court case (2005, 2009 and 2010), and the current line fish case where we are representing Masifundise as an intervening party. We are doing the Langebaan case with Coastal Links Langebaan, and also the case in Dwesa-Cwebe.”

“We advise Masifundise and Coastal Links on what we understand to be the best legal route in achieving the goals that we both understand to be important, i.e. social justice and equality. Masifundise and Coastal Links must ensure that they understand and communicate the voice of the actual clients – the fishers – to us so that we act upon what they want. The LRC generally works through NGOs and CSOs when we litigate on behalf of communities as it is not possible for lawyers to also play a mobilising role,” said Wicomb.

LRC was started in 1979 in Johannesburg by Arthur Chaskalson, former Chief Justice and Constitutional Court Judge, Felicity Kentridge and other prominent human rights lawyers and activists at the time.

It has four regional offices in Johannesburg, Cape Town, Grahamstown and Durban and a Constitutional Litigation Unit based in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The LRC was mainly started to represent people who were arrested on pass law charges, as one strategy to help to work towards the demise of apartheid.

Wicomb is one amongst many lawyers working at the LRC, but currently the only one working with fishing communities. She follows in the footsteps of William Kerfoot and Henk Smith who have been representing fishing communities for many years. “We represent individuals and communities in various areas: land reform, customary law, gender, education, refugees, housing, children’s rights,” she said.

Ocean Grabbing must stop!

The fight against illegitimate institutions that do not represent fisher people will be intensified at the forthcoming 6th General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP) due to take place in South Africa in September.

Recently, in April 2014, the World Bank and the Dutch Government co-hosted a global level summit where all the key partners, including New Partnership for Africa’s Development (Nepad) and international environmental organisations such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), gathered to pave the way for more privatisation of fisheries.

Naseegh Jaffer was there to represent the voices of the WFFP and stressed the need for the protection of human rights of fisher people, by allocating non-tradable fishing rights to fishing communities on the basis of equity and justice for all.

The World Bank has developed a programme for the African continent that builds on private property in fisheries. The programme, that has a budget of US$ 550 million, is developed without any consultation with fisher people and without any recognition of the key principles and mechanisms upon which
The General Assembly of the World Forum of Fisher people takes place in Cape Town in the first week of September 2014, bringing together fisher representatives from 35 countries.

The General Assembly is held every four years and this time the focus will be on issues of Ocean Grabbing/Privatisation of the Sea and the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries.

As the representative in the host country, Masifundise is responsible for the operational side of the conference.

While the majority of the member organisations are from Asia and Africa, the WFFP also represents fishers in North and South America, Europe and the south-western Pacific Ocean.

The choice of South Africa as the host nation for the 6th general assembly was not a coincidence. At the last general assembly in Pakistan in 2011, it was Solene Smith from Coastal Links Langaheen who took the floor and motivated for bringing the assembly to South Africa.

“Over the next few months, our communication unit will write more about the conference and publish the articles in their websites, publications and social networks,” said Nosispho Singiswa of Masifundise.

The World Forum of Fisher People (WFFP) is an international organisation that was launched in October 2000 at a conference in France with its office currently located in Karachi, Pakistan. The organisation brings together small-scale fisher organisations for the establishment and upholding of fundamental human rights, social justice and small-scale fishers.

It aims to affirm the sea as a source of all life, commits to sustain fisheries and aquatic resources for present and future generations with an overall objective of strengthening, improving, protecting and defending communities dependent on the ocean for their livelihood and quality of life.

WFFP is currently made up of members from 35 different countries and its membership is open to organisations of subsistence fishers’, artisanal fishers, aboriginal or indigenous people who are customary fish harvesters. The organisation consists of a General Assembly, a Coordination Committee, and Five Continental Fora all working together to source the economic viability and quality of fisher people in their communities.

The organisation engages in a range of lobbying and advocacy work. It played a critical role in the development of a set of International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries through the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Committee on fisheries.

Also campaigning against Ocean Grabbing, Naseegh Jaffer, director of Masifundise Development Trust (MDT) and co-chairperson of the organisation said “We believe that the ocean or any natural resource should not belong to certain individuals or companies”.

“Natural Resources should be free, people should have the rights to use them especially when they are dependent on that natural resource for income that provides for them and their families”, continued Mr Jaffer.

WFFP is adamant in influencing the government to look towards a “human-rights approach; they want to ensure that fisher rights and needs are taken in to account and into consideration by the government worldwide.

The timing of the 6th WFFP general assembly couldn’t have been better. It is expected that the International Guidelines on Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries will be endorsed by the Committee on Fisheries of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in June 2014. As with our South African Small-scale Policy, this means that we have to shift focus from developing policy towards policy implementation.

With the world’s attention on the guidelines there seems to be great momentum around the implementation and Masifundise and Coastal Links will take advantage of that when proudly hosting the WFFP general assembly on 1-4 September this year.

Naseegh Jaffer, who serves his second term as co-coordinator of the WFFP, underlines the importance of discussing the Small-scale Fisheries Guidelines but also stresses the urgent need to raise awareness and develop strategies to secure collective access rights for the world’s small-scale fishers. “We face serious challenges in this regards, as the predominant position of the powerful elite builds on privatisation of fisheries and Individual Transferable Quotas”, said Jaffer.

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our small-scale policy is based.

The small-scale fisheries policy of South Africa– and its move away from individual quotas to community fishing rights – has been recognised for its immense contribution to food security by the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food in a report to the United Nations General Assembly in 2012. The policy addresses the injustice of past fishing legislation – in particular the 2005 long term policy – by introducing a new mechanism that allocates fishing rights to fishing communities to ensure equitable access.

“In the name of ‘poverty eradication and food security for the people’, many powerful institutions, organisations and corporate companies seek to impose the individual quota systems on the fisher peoples all over the world”, commented Mr Jaffer.

As members of the WFFP the organisations, MDT and CLSA have fought for the small-scale fishers and at the international level, they have openly criticised the World Bank and all its partners, who deliberately neglect the move away from individual quotas to community fish rights.

Privatisation of the sea, Ocean Grabbing and creating sustainable fishing communities are amongst urgent issues that need to be addressed so to ensure justice in fishing communities around the world, “We will never allow the corporate world to colonise our fish resources and coastal lands. Evictions of fisher people from their land in order to access fish resources must stop” MDT’s Eastern Pedersen said.
Hey Thozama, now that President Zuma has signed off the amended MLRA, we must swing into action...

The small-scale fisheries policy will now be implemented and we must be ready to participate!

We hear that Daff has set aside R90 million and drawn up a plan for the implementation process?...

Yebo rasta, the individual quota system is a thing of the past and now we have to work together as communities.

Sure Edgar, we must learn to run co-ops and other collectives and prepare for co-management.

You see Thozie, it is so important that we ensure enough fish is set aside for the small-scale sector...

For us to be successful we must work well with Daff and other stakeholders.

We must also unite with the 4000 coastal links members around the country and ensure we all move in the same direction...

We have struggled long for this policy. Now we have to join hands to make it a reality in the lives of all small-scale fishers!
Spotlight on Port Nolloth

The Northern Cape Province currently occupies 300km of South Africa’s 3000km shoreline, with two main fishing towns, Hondeklipbaai and Port Nolloth.

Port Nolloth is a fishing community for the crayfishing industry (or rock lobster), and for small-scale diamond recovery.

Coastal Links South Africa has a presence in Hondeklipbaai and Port Nolloth.

“Currently we have 77 permit rights holders in Port Nolloth and only 10 boats, which is a challenge for the fishers as not all the 77 can go out to sea,” said Mr Dawie Phillips, chairperson of Coastal Links.

Port Nolloth was established in the 1850s to facilitate the export of copper, which was brought to the coast from the mines near O’Kiep and diamonds from the Namaqua coast.

For more than 150 years it has been an occasionally rowdy seaport catering to copper miners, seafarers, diamond divers, fishermen and, these days, overland travellers with a sense of adventure with large-scale shipping coming to an end in the 1970’s as diamond discoveries gradually declined in the area.

Situated 144 kilometres northwest of Springbok in the Northern Cape; the first name for this community was given by the Nama people who lived here: Aukwatowa, which means ‘where the water took away the old man’.

It then became known as Robbie Bay (rob meaning ‘seal’ in Afrikaans) because the Nama sold sealskins and dried seal meat to the hardy copper miners who began to drift up into the area in the mid-1800s.

The bay was later renamed Port Nolloth after its surveyor, Captain MS Nolloth. Laying along the West Coast which is well known for its seafood restaurants serving a range of seafood dishes, the sunny town with hot temperatures, houses the most northern lighthouse on the western side of South Africa, standing at 11 meters high, it is one of the many tourist attractions of the town.

There are whale watching spots; McDougalls Bay a home to clean beaches and calm seas, offering hours of swimming, walking, kayaking and boating time; and one can fish for snoek or yellowtail if they have a permit.

Port Nolloth make a good stop off if you are at all interested in the Namaqua Flower Route, or a visit to the Richtersveld National Park. There is a local museum filled with history, and the little town of Lekkerwater, just north of Port Nolloth, offers a ‘look into’ a community workgroup, ‘Russoord,’ where local craft in the form of ‘velskoene’, mats, huts, dresses and riempie chairs are available.

The harbour at Port Nolloth has become badly silted and now only the smallest of vessels can enter the harbour. The only vessels using Port Nolloth since 2006, are fishing and pleasure craft and small vessels employed by the diamond mining industry.

“The only challenge we face is the issuing of permits for us to go out to sea. I am glad to say, that the DTI will, on the June 4, give us boats that are 8.9 metre long and can take 12 people,” continued Mr Phillips. The port consists of a single 67m long quay. The inner quay is only suitable for small craft. There are no tugs or pilots available.

Sources:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Port_Nolloth
http://www.portnolloth.co.za/
http://ports.co.za/port-nolloth.php

Fisheries Facts and Figures

Did you know that the UN has declared 2014 the International Year of Family Farming? This aims to raise the profile of family farming and smallholder farming by focusing world attention on its significant role in eradicating hunger and poverty, providing food security and nutrition, improving livelihoods, managing natural resources, protecting the environment, and achieving sustainable development, in particular in rural areas.


Fisheries play a critical role in providing direct and indirect livelihoods for over 140 000 people in South Africa. Fish protein is also a critical protein source for many of the traditional fishing communities along the South African coastline, many of whom are considered food insecure. The successful roll out and implementation of a new small-scale fisheries policy will be critical in ensuring the livelihoods and food security of many of these fishing dependent communities.

In the impoverished Eastern Cape region, R500m in foreign revenue is generated in the squid fishery every year, making it one of the country’s most valuable fisheries. South Africa’s commercial fishing industry employs 43 458 people, including seasonal and permanent employees.

http://www.wwf.org.za/14900/fisheriesfactsandtrends

Did you know that through giving communities access to fishing rights, the Bill (MLRA), would also help reduce the incidence of poaching, as communities would be more likely to protect marine resources if they were also able to make a livelihood from it.

Read more: http://www.southafrica.info/business/economy/development/Fishing-041013.html

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Fishy Jokes

Two guys were on lake fishing, using worms. One of the guys gets a nibble and reels in his line. He caught a fish. He uncorks the bottle and outcome a genie. He grants him one wish, so the guy thinks and thinks.

Finally he said: “I wish this whole lake were beer!”

Poof!!! The lake turns to beer. The other guy looks at him and said: “You idoit, now we have to pee in the boat!”

Two morons rent a boat and go fishing. They catch a lot of fish and return to the shore.

1st moron: “I hope you remember the spot where we caught all those fish.”

2nd moron: “Yes, I made an ‘X’ on the side of the boat to mark the spot.”

1st moron: “‘You idiot! How do you know we’ll get the same boat?”

Mother to daughter advice: Cook a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but teach a man to fish and you get rid of him for the whole weekend.

Published by: Coastal Links and Masifundise Development Trust: Email: info@masifundise.org.za
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FishersNet Vol. 22 – June 2014