

AGRICULTURE —
FISHING 1992

FM 31/1/92 (3) fishing

20 000 t will work out to 12 000 t because of wastage. This will be 1,2m 10 kg cartons. What SA needs is 6m cartons, or 60 000 t of pilchards in the can, which requires a catch of at least 100 000 t.

Low-wage earners rely on canned pilchards as a cheap source of protein. SA Inshore Fishing Industry Association MD Steve Malherbe says SA will have to import canned pilchards and fishmeal, some of which is derived from pilchard wastage.

The preliminary total allowable catch for anchovies (most of which is used for fishmeal) is 185 000 t compared with 150 000 t last year. SA will probably produce 75 000 t of fishmeal this year and import 25 000 t from Namibia, which would mean it will have to import 160 000 t from elsewhere for about R300m.

To remain viable, the industry should catch 55 000 t of pilchards and 250 000 t of anchovies a year, says Malherbe. He adds: "If the sea doesn't have that much to yield, there is nothing we can do about it."

Sea Fisheries Research Institute director Vere Shannon says fluctuations in quotas relate to changes in environmental conditions. He cites the decline of the lobster catch. There are plenty of lobsters in the sea but, because of a decline in the availability of their staple food (ribbed mussel), lobsters have grown more slowly and so fewer are over the legal minimum size.

"As far as pilchards are concerned, the 1991 total allowable catch was large because of the abundance of fish born in 1988, which was a very good year for spawning," says Shannon. "There are fewer of those older fish around now because of fishing and natural mortality; so this year's allocation is lower."

The allowable catch for south coast rock lobsters has been reduced from 450 t to 405 t and of west coast rock lobsters from 3 790 t in 1991 to 2 715 t this year. But the total allowable catch of hake is 141 000 t, 2 500 t more than the final allocation in 1991.

Environment Minister Louis Pienaar, in charge of sea fisheries, has not yet announced a quota for horse mackerel (*maasbanker*). He will probably do so next month. Last year's quota was 45 000 t.

Quotas will also be reviewed next month when scientific studies of fishing grounds will have been analysed.

In the past (*Business and Technology* June 21 1990) SA allowed five countries — Israel, Spain, Portugal, Taiwan and Japan — to fish in its waters for hake and horse mackerel, but this year Pienaar has not yet granted fishing rights to foreigners or allocated any quotas to them.

SA Deepsea Trawling Association secretary Roy Bross is pleased the 15-year dispute between it and the Board of Trade & Industry, over duties payable on imported trawlers, has been settled, with the board agreeing to remove all duties. Some new vessels have been imported to replace obsolete tonnage. Bross says this is reducing unit operating costs.

FISHING INDUSTRY (3) fishing
Catch as catch can FM 31/1/92

Preliminary quotas for pelagic fishing give an allocation for pilchards of 36 000 t compared with 50 000 t last year.

The initial allowable catch for canning of

Ocfish calls for larger catches

CT 24/1/92 (3) Fishing

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**
Business Editor

OCEANA Fishing Group (Ocfish) could double its lobster exports if catches were adequate, executive chairman **Walter Lewis** said after the agm yesterday.

He told shareholders that there was "a huge mass of lobsters out there". But their growth rate appeared to have slowed down and most of them were below the size it was permissible to catch.

"Substantial new research" was being carried out into the reasons for this. SA scientists were in touch with colleagues worldwide.

More would be known by February and the industry hoped to persuade the Minister of Environmental Affairs, **Louis Pienaar**, to allow smaller lobsters to be included in the catch instead of being returned to the sea.

"It is a problem that is limited to size, not to the numbers available," Lewis told the meeting.

If smaller lobsters could be caught "our catches would increase substantially.

"There is a serious attempt by the industry to ask for a different formula to be applied."

In answer to a suggestion by the chairman of the Shareholders' Association of SA, **Issy Goldberg**, that the price of lobster in local

restaurants was "frightful", Lewis replied: "On the contrary, we are subsidising the local market.

"Prices are far higher overseas. It's a luxury item."

Lewis told shareholders that group operating results for the first quarter of the current financial year "have been most satisfactory and are ahead of budget".

The availability and quality of anchovy was "most encouraging".

The total allowable catch (TAC) of anchovy for the industry, which was 185 000 tons compared with 150 000 tons last year, would be reviewed by the minister in February in the light of scientific surveys and industry landings.

Good season

"Last year the anchovy TAC commenced at 100 000 tons and was increased to 150 000 tons. I hope that this year's initial 185 000 tons will also be increased substantially."

Ocfish had already landed 3 099 tons of pelagic fish in the first week of the season compared with 442 tons last year. "Most of the catch to date is of anchovy whereas last year it was not.

"Judging by historical experience the indications at this stage are of a good anchovy season this year."

Goldberg suggested that representatives of the industry should

be on the Quota Board, since they were "best equipped to judge conditions".

Discussing the group's other activities, Lewis said results of the trading, shipping and clearing division in the first quarter of the current year were "very satisfactory considering the depressed world and local economies and competitive conditions experienced in all markets.

"The group's shipping and clearing activities continue to contend with low demand and volumes, with little prospect of an improvement until the economy picks up.

"Tuna Marine's abalone business is proceeding very satisfactorily. It has already landed 65% of its 1991/92 quota, compared with 58% at the same time last year.

"The market is stable and all production to the end of February has been forward sold.

"This is the first year that Tuna Marine is processing and packing its quota at its own new factory, giving the opportunity for enhanced product quality and the best possible yields."

Discussing the cold storage division, Lewis said: "Volumes in store throughout the country are at a relatively low level.

"Profitability so far this year has nevertheless been satisfactory."

Ocfish argues for reduced lobster sizes

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) could double its lobster exports if catches were adequate, executive chairman Walter Lewis said after the AGM yesterday.

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310 am 24/1/92 (3) Fishery
Own Correspondent

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Police probe huge canned-fish scam

SI Times 26/1/92
(B455)

(3) fishing

By DON ROBERTSON

A SCAM involving the sale of hundreds of thousands of cartons of pilchards is being investigated by Cape Town and East Rand police.

It has also been reported to the Board of Trade and Industry.

Traders have been buying "bright", or unlabelled pilchards, in Namibia and SA after a fall in sales caused by steep price rises.

They forge labels carrying an SABS stamp and offer the fish to wholesalers, such as Metro, Makro and Shield at well below market prices.

Other dealers have been relabelling cans declared below standard by the SABS. The labels say the fish is of high quality and meets SABS requirements.

Dominant

Some traders claimed they were exporting to Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The labels were printed in Portuguese and French.

The scam was discovered when the labels were found on cartons in SA.

Joe Viljoen, managing director of Veekom Intertrade, says he was offered 150 000 cartons at R35 apiece compared with the then price of R42.

Another trader claims to know of a consignment of 500 000 cartons offered at R30 — a deal worth R15-million.

Steve Malherbe, managing director of Federal Marine, which dominates the distribution of pilchards, says many traders offering the cartons seem unable to deliver.

The illegal sale of pilchards came to light last November when Business Times disclosed that hundreds of millions of rands worth of toiletries and gro-

ceries, including pilchards, were being bought from suppliers ostensibly for export and without paying VAT.

The products were not exported, but were sold in SA. The "traders" claimed export incentives.

The R2,6-billion pilchard business is dominated by Federal Marine, which has 95% of the market, mainly through its Lucky Star and Glenryck brands.

Federal Marine was set up by major SA distributors, including Southern Seas in the Premier Group, Oceana, a Tiger Group subsidiary, Fedfood's Marine Products, the Suiderland Group owned by the Du Preez and Neethling families, and Saldanha Bay Cannery, owned by the Silvermans.

Fedfood chairman Dirk Jacobs says Federal Marine operates as a non-profit central selling organisation aimed at cutting the cost of transport and distribution.

Membership of Federal Marine is voluntary and allegations that it was a cartel were dismissed by the Competition Board in 1986.

Federal Marine recently asked the Board of Trade and Industry to lift import and ad valorem duties, amounting to 18,65%, because it could compete with foreigners.

Average

The price of Federal Marine's main brand names has been increased by 54% in the past three years.

Mr Jacobs says this was necessary because large quantities of pilchards had to be imported. Because world prices are higher than those in SA, the domestic price was averaged out to take into account the additional cost. Between 20% and 30% of sales of about 6-million cases a year are imported, mainly from Chile.

TOWNS was concerned for the problem.

Illegal hake boom expected

(3) P-KH-1109
MAY 12/92

GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Weekend Argus Reporter

TUNNY fishermen are readying themselves for an all-out assault on threatened kingklip and hake stocks off the South African coast — and, there is nothing the authorities can do to stop them.

The head of the Department of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, confirmed yesterday that in spite of a warning the department issued last year, dozens of tunny boats were gearing up to catch hake and kingklip which had been severely overfished.

Large amounts of kingklip, selling for as much as steak in some restaurants, have had to be imported from Chile and Argentina.

The situation is so serious that Dr Botha called a meeting with the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar this week.

Mr Pienaar ordered Dr Botha to take "urgent" steps to halt what could be a disaster for a vital industry.

According to reports, Cape Town suppliers of rope, longlines and hooks were completely sold out. One source said boats were catching about 400 tons of hake and kingklip a day off Plettenberg Bay.

"Something must be done before they wipe out the resource," he insisted.

Last year a Weekend Argus investigation revealed that fishermen, banned from using longlines on the seabed since 1990, had discovered a loophole in the law and were determined to make a "killing" while they could.

Aerial photographs revealed that tunny boats were using bottomlines to catch hake off the Peninsula, in spite of warnings from the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Bottomlines, with up to 4 000 hooks, had removed a large proportion of the spawning stock which led to declining catches.

An appeal against the conviction of one of the companies fishing "illegally" was upheld in the Supreme Court last November because Sea Fisheries could not "properly" define a longline, a bottomline or even a handline.

Since October, the department had held meetings with all interested parties to sort out the problem, he said.

He warned that new laws could be introduced next month, but declined to give details.

Hooked on hake③ fishing
FM
7/2/92

Long lines — fishing lines with up to 15 000 hooks — helped to virtually destroy SA's kingklip in the late Eighties. Now long line fishing is threatening the country's supply of hake, says Louis Botha, chief director of the Department of Environment Affairs' Sea Fisheries.

The Deepsea Trawling Industry Association and Sea Fisheries are clamouring for the practice to be stopped. They say hake is the only fish resource that is increasing but it is now endangered because long liners fish in its breeding grounds.

However, the SA Line Fish Management Industrial Association, which represents the growing number of line fishermen, insists the practice does little harm and must be allowed to continue.

The Sea Fisheries Act does not apply to a long line, or even a fishing line or pole line. So there is no limit to the amount of hake long liners can catch. Consequently, all the hake they caught last year — estimated by trawlermen to be 5 000 t — fell outside the total allowable catch of 138 500 t. This figure is set by the Minister of Environment Affairs after Sea Fisheries scientifically assesses the resource. This year it will be 141 000 t.

So the long liners do not have to heed the Fisheries Act which binds the trawling industry to a total allowable catch.

This distresses Eckardt Kramer, chairman of the Deepsea Trawling Industry Associ-

FINANCIAL MAIL • FEBRUARY • 7 • 1992 • 65

Continue →

FM 7/2/92

③ fishing

ation. "If we are allowed to continue to nurture the resource, as we have been doing for years, the stock will grow. But it will be in jeopardy if long lining is allowed to continue. The thousands of tons caught by those fishermen must have an impact on the stock."

Long liners fish in rocky parts of the sea where fish spawn and trawlers cannot operate for fear of snaring their nets. They target mature females who cause the stock to grow faster than their younger sisters because they lay more eggs.

Richard Ball, chairman of the SA Line Fish Management Industrial Association, believes long lining is a fishing technique that, if practised on a limited scale, should be permitted. He says part of the allowable catch allotted to trawlermen should be apportioned to long line fishermen.

Ball casts the conflict in political terms. Long line fishermen, he says, are small independent fishermen with no political clout. "Fishing permits are political instruments. With the emergence of the new SA, they will move down to where they belong, to the fishermen. The trawling industry is capital intensive and owned by large financial groups with tremendous political influence. Happenings in the fishing industry in the next few years will reflect the political change that will happen in SA."

Not fond of trawlers

He says fish resources "don't belong to the wealthy shareholders of the trawling companies; for too many years the small fisherman has been on the outside looking in, while trawlermen were catching heavily into snoek, which is the small fisherman's resource."

Ball says trawlers do far more damage to the bottom of the sea than line fishermen do to the breeding grounds. He agrees, however, that "we simply don't know what effect catching female fish in the breeding grounds will have on the resource; we will probably find that limited exploitation does not harm its ability to maintain a standing stock."

Long lining for hake can be stopped by changing the regulations, but the newly appointed Botha of Sea Fisheries wants to canvass opinions before taking action. He makes no secret of his resolve to outlaw it, but he also has to tread warily.

Hake is traditionally a bottom-trawled fish, but in 1983, fishermen started long lining. The department allowed it because it had no idea what effect it would have, Botha says. Long liners found they could catch kingklip, a much more expensive fish.

"As we hadn't done any research on kingklip, we allowed them to continue on an experimental basis. We started researching it and, in a few years, imposed a quota of 5 000 t on them. The next year we halved that amount and, in 1990, stopped all long line fishing for kingklip because the resource had virtually been destroyed by the combined catches of trawlers and long liners."

The department heard last year that fishermen were misusing permits, granted to fish

for tuna with long lines, by fishing for hake. It put out a regulation declaring they needed permits to fish with long lines but, because a long line is not defined in the Sea Fisheries Act, fishermen ignored the regulation.

"What we need now," Botha says, "is a legal definition of a long line and of line (a line on a pole) fishing. Our aim is to stop long liners, but not traditional line fishermen, from catching hake. If we allow long liners to operate without any curbs, it would be a recipe for disaster. We don't want hake to collapse like kingklip did." ■

Long-line fisherman poised to haul in extra R20 million catch

GRAHAM LIZAMORE ³
Weekend Argus Reporter **FISHING**

LINE fishermen are hoping to land a R20 million bonanza — if they can persuade the government to give them the 3 500-ton hake quota allocated to foreign fishing interests.

So says Mr Richard Ball, head of the South African Line Fish Management Industrial Association. He said this week that line fishermen were desperate for an additional fish resource because of dwindling snoek catches.

He believed there was enough tolerance in the TAC (total allowed catch) of 140 000 tons for the line fishermen to be given a 2,5 percent share.

These fishermen would be restricted to fishing with a maximum of 2 000 hooks a boat, he said.

Mr Ball said: "We must be brought in and the foreigners phased out, which the authorities have undertaken to do anyway." *ARG 8/2/92*

Putting the value of hake at R6 a kg, line fishermen could generate R20 million annually if given as little as 2,5 percent of the TAC.

Mr Ball will be putting his request to the Department of Sea Fisheries on Monday.

It will come at a time when the Department of Sea Fisheries is facing a breakdown in its control over hake and kingklip catches.

This is the result of a loophole in the law passed recently and which bans the use of long-line to catch hake and kingklip.

Reports have it that about 50 fishing boats are fishing for hake with long lines which experts fear will damage the hake resource.

Industry sources have reported that at least 40 more boats are being geared up for long-line fishing.

This flies in the face of a Sea Fisheries' warning last October that the hake resource would be damaged by overfishing and that watertight laws were to be passed preventing the use of long-lines.

However, Mr Ball said that, while he appreciated the Fish-

eries Department had to make sure the TAC was not exceeded, thousands of line fishermen were in dire straits financially.

"We are absolutely behind the small-line fishermen," he said.

Mr Ball said most fishermen believed the trawling industry had made a considerable impact on snoek catches, traditionally a linefish resource.

He said there was a growing demand for top quality line-caught hake overseas. Line fishermen could satisfy this easily. At the same time, they would create an opening that would sustain small fishing communities.

These were barely surviving, he said.

Getting the hook

Government is almost certain to ban long lining for hake, despite pleas from long line fishermen who feel they are entitled to 7,5% of the total allowable catch. The allowable catch is set at 141 000 t this year.

Louis Botha, director of the Department of Environment Affairs' Sea Fisheries, says: "It is getting out of control and we are seriously considering banning long lining for hake (on the sea bed) but will not stop long lining (on the surface) for tuna." (*Business & Technology* February 7).

The trawling industry, which fears it will be hurt by the long liners, estimates that, last year, long liners caught 5 000 t of hake, which was not included in the allowable catch, and will catch "many times more" this year. Trawlermen believe the long liners will devastate the resource, as they did the kingklip resource, because they fish in the breeding grounds — where the trawlermen can't reach — and catch large numbers of full-sized females.

Long liners continue to operate because regulations do not define what a long line is. But a definition would not be difficult to arrive at. Johan van Zyl, deputy director: marine conservation of the Cape Provincial Administration, says long lines used for catching hake may be up to 15 km long, with a hook every 1 m, and are weighted. Those used on the surface for catching tuna are buoyed.

Botha met the long liners last week and told them how he was likely to decide. "They asked for a quota which we couldn't give because the Quota Board, which allocates the allowable catch, does not have any surplus to allocate."

The Minister of Environment Affairs determines the allowable catch, which he bases on the Sea Fisheries Research Institute's assessments of the resource. He then instructs the Quota Board — which, under the Sea Fisheries Act, does not include anyone connected with the fishing industry — to allocate the catch.

Richard Ball, chairman of the SA Line Fish Management Industrial Association, argues that long lining does not damage the hake stock but agrees more research needs to be done. "If they ban us, we will comply with the law, even though we believe long lining creates jobs and exports by opening up new markets. If allowed, it will provide a firm foundation for the line fishing industry, which has always been the Cinderella of the fishing industry." ■

Oceana on growth path

STAR 3/3/92

Oceana Fishing, 70 percent-owned by Tiger Oats, took a breather in financial 1991, but the prospect of renewed earnings growth has sent the share price rallying.

In the annual report, chairman Walter Lewis says results were inhibited by a low anchovy quota, reduced lobster catches and the impact of the recession on other businesses.

Export earnings, however, improved and Mr Lewis says export markets for lobster products remain buoyant and the lifting of sanctions by the US offers further opportunities for marketing frozen lobster tails.

Oceana Fishing, incorporated in 1918, is the major inshore fishing group in SA.

Its fleet of vessels and factories along the West Coast catch and process more than a third of the pelagic and rock lobster quotas.

Products include canned and frozen fish, rock lobster, fish meal, fish oil and abalone.

The fishing division contributes 43 percent to group pre-tax profit, including income from associated companies.

The trading and shipping division accounts for 25 percent, the cold storage division for 18 percent and investment income for 14 percent.

Recent developments



include a cold store partnership venture with Portnet in Cape Town, which is scheduled for completion in mid-1992.

The store will have a capacity of 10 000 tons and will cost R20 million.

Mr Lewis says this expansion, together with the merger of the cold storage operations with those of ICS, will bring benefits in the medium term.

In the year to September, group turnover rose five percent from R309 million to R325,9 million, but operating profit decreased seven percent from R22,7 million to R21,2 million.

After a 20 percent decline in dividend income to R1,2 million and a one percent fall in net interest income to R2,3 million, pre-tax profit fell more than seven percent from R26,5 million to R24,6 million.

A drop in the effective tax rate from 46,1 to 42,4 percent reduced the decline in taxed profit to less than one percent from R14,3 million to R14,2 million.

After a lower share of income retained by asso-

ciated companies and less income attributable to outside shareholders, Oceana's attributable profit hardly moved from R13,3 million to R13,4 million.

Earnings per share amounted to 142,8c, compared with 142,9c in financial 1990, and the dividend for the year was maintained at 90c a share.

The balance sheet discloses an increase in borrowings from R600 000 to R6,9 million, which pushed gearing up from one to eight percent.

The increase is attributable to the merger of the commercial cold stores of Oceana and ICS.

Net asset value appreciated 17 percent from 825c a share to 966c.

Oceana Fishing, priced at R18, is trading on a P/E ratio of 12,6 and provides a dividend yield of five percent.

These yields are relatively attractive and shareholders are advised to hold onto their shares.

COMMENT: Oceana Fishing's share price has done well in recent months, but remains well below the early-1989 peak of R30.

The price recovered from a low of 920c seven months ago and over the past three weeks alone has shot up from R13,30 to R18.

Although some short-term correction could take place, the primary trend is bullish.

Mussel row continues

The University of Port Elizabeth (UPE), recently awarded a contract to research sand mussels, will also study the potential for commercial harvesting, according to Professor Anton McLachlan of the UPE's Zoology Department.

The contract was awarded by the SA Nature Foundation for the three-year study of sand mussels along the city's coastline. It comes in the wake of a controversy around commercial harvesting.

(3) *fishine*
Earlier this year a temporary application by a commercial fisheries company, Team Seafarms, to harvest sand mussels from beaches between the Maitland River mouth and the Gamtoos River, met with stiff opposition from conservationist who organised a 1 000-signature petition to oppose the application.

McLachlan said the study would look at the impact the two forms of harvesting had on the mussel population and the effect of commercial and recreational harvesting on the ecology of the coastline. *South (Southside)*

A spokesperson for the Anti-Mussel Harvesting Action Committee said the committee remained opposed to any harvesting of mussels from the coastline. *6/2 - 12/2/92*

However, the committee would not oppose harvesting for commercial gain if companies farmed and harvested their own mussels, said the spokesperson.

OCEANA FISHING

FM 7/2/92

③ fishing

The high cost of excess capacity

Activities: Catching and processing pelagic fish, rock lobster and abalone. Also cold stores, shipping, clearing and forwarding.

Control: Tiger Oats 70%.

Chairman: W A Lewis; MD: D F Behrens.

Capital structure: 9,4m ords. Market capitalisation: R124,6m.

Share market: Price: 1 330c. Yields: 6,8% on dividend; 10,7% on earnings; p:e ratio, 9,3; cover, 1,6. 12-month high, 1 550c; low, 925c.

Trading volume last quarter, 25 000 shares.

Year to Sept 30	'88	'89	'90	'91
ST debt (Rm)	0,1	0,8	0,1	0,1
LT debt (Rm)	0,7	0,6	0,5	6,8
Shareholders' interest	0,5	0,5	0,5	0,6
Return on cap (%) ..	36	28	18	15
Turnover (Rm)	227	275	309	326
Pre-int profit (Rm) ..	48,5	44,0	25,2	22,3
Pre-int margin (%) ..	17,0	12,6	7,7	6,9
Earnings (c)	250	261	146	143
Dividends (c)	150*	160	90	90
Net worth (c)	730	809	813	966

*Excludes special dividend of 75c.

For plant and equipment to be profitable, breakeven has first to be attained. If limitations placed on an industry do not permit this, clearly losses result. Oceana finds itself in this unenviable position.

Only five years ago, the total allowable catch (TAC) of pelagic fish was about 600 000 t. Oceana had capacity to cope with its relatively large quotas. But the 1991 TAC was no more than 200 000 t; 50 000 t was for pilchards and the rest for anchovies.

Excess plant capacity resulted in a substantial reduction of profitability and is the essential reason for earnings remaining in the doldrums at much the same level as in 1990 and considerably lower than in 1989.

For the past three years, chairman Walter Lewis' optimistic estimates for the year to come have been depth-charged by environmental factors that have affected the resource and hence Oceana's quotas, rather than by any obvious operational deficiencies. Last year, even though both the pilchard and anchovy quotas were landed in full, their earnings contribution was disappointing.

This was worsened by undersea conditions that stunted the growth of rock lobsters. Many of those caught had to be returned to the sea because they were below the regulat-



Oceana's Lewis ... stymied without quota reviews

ed minimum catch size. Only 75% of the 1 362 t quota could be landed.

Director Saul Pick points out that while R115,2m turnover in the fishing division was split roughly 50:50 between lobsters:pelagic, of the pre-tax R10,6m divisional contribution, 85% was lobsters and only 15% pelagic.

One reason lobsters contribute so much is the export-related, hard currency earnings generated. In 1991, this underpinned earnings in the fishing division, which contributed 43% (42%) of group income.

Earnings in both the cold storage and the trading and shipping divisions were marginally down because of the recession.

The merger of Oceana and ICS's commercial cold store operations with effect from October 1 brought a R4,7m appreciation of non-distributable reserves, while long-term debt moved up to R6,8m because of a loan account arising from the merger. Outside shareholders' interest increased by R6m.

Notably, stock rose by 44% to R46,9m, ostensibly as a result of the trading division having taken a long position in goods bought for resale. The balance sheet remains strong, with substantial capacity for borrowing.

Lewis says that provided budget expectations are met, earnings this year should improve.

But, as he points out, the major challenge facing inshore fishing, especially the pelagic sector, is planning for and successfully operating in an environment of steadily rising costs and variable TACs and catches.

The anchovy TAC has been lifted from 150 000 t to 185 000 t. But lobster quotas have been cut by almost 29% and for pil-

chards by 28%. There is not much to be optimistic about unless these are reviewed.

Gerald Hirshon

ADONIS KNITWEAR FM 7/2/92

Mild winter chill

Activities: Makes knitted outerwear.

Control: Directors 77,5%.

Chairman and CE: J Bencen.

Capital structure: 3,5m ords. Market capitalisation: R5m.

Share market: Price: 130c. Yields: 15,4% on dividend; 26% on earnings; p:e ratio, 3,9; cover, 1,7. 12-month high, 225c; low, 130c.

Trading volume last quarter, 18 000 shares.

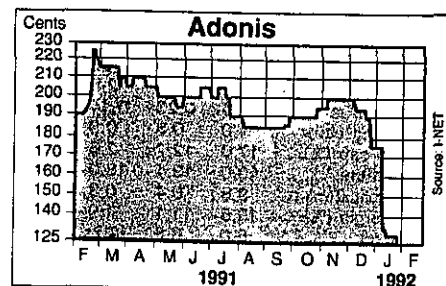
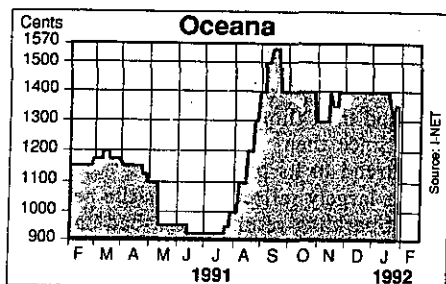
Year to Sep 30	'88	'89	'90	'91
ST debt (Rm)	—	0,2	0,3	—
LT debt (Rm)	0,9	0,8	0,3	—
Debt:equity ratio	—	0,1	—	—
Shareholders' interest	0,6	0,5	0,7	0,8
Int & leasing cover ..	7,9	17	9,6	12,9
Return on cap (%) ..	24	32,5	23,7	23,0
Turnover (increase) ..	15,6	26,3	18,0	(20,1)
Pre-int profit (Rm) ..	2	3,6	2,5	2,4
Earnings (c)	48,8	46,7	68,7	33,7
Dividends (c)	18	24	24	20
Net worth (c)	147	170	214	228

Though Adonis serves the top, fashion-end of the market, lower consumer spending crumbled margins. More directly, results suffered from the effect on importers of the structural adjustment programme aimed at boosting exports and the relatively mild winter.

In August, a new in-house label, Paul D'Orsay, was created to replace Dior (given up, as satisfactory new terms could not be negotiated), complementing the other labels of Adonis, Dino Milano and Lyle & Scott.

Financial director Steven Chaitel says keen competition at manufacturing level followed more conservative buying patterns. Sales fell 20%. Conditions must have deteriorated suddenly in the second half, as at half-time, profits were barely changed and the company felt confident enough to double the interim dividend from 10c to 20c — which ended up the only payment for the year.

Thanks to strong cash flow and tight asset management, the remaining modest loans



Hake longliners face fines up to R500 000

GRAHAM LIZAMORE
Weekend Argus Reporter

FISHERMEN who defy the ban on longline fishing can face fines of up to R500 000 when new legislation to control the illegal catching of hake comes into effect next week.

A spokesman for the South African Line Fish Management Industrial Association, Mr Richard Ball, warned this week: "We will not provide support to people who break the law."

Mr Ball, who has spearheaded demands to the authorities to allow longline fishing for hake said he still firmly believed the total allowable catch (TAC) for hake should not only go to trawling companies.

FISHING 14/3/92
"Line-fished hake would create employment and return more foreign exchange per kilogram caught and would support the small man rather than a few giants in the industry," Mr Ball said.

It would also have greater socio-economic benefits for each kilogram landed which could not be matched by the trawlers, he said.

He said the association had asked the minister to conduct a full investigation into longlining for hake.

"We believe there is a definite place for this line fishery," he said.

Officials at the Department of Sea Fisheries are scratching their heads as they debate what to do with fishermen who caught hake illegally before

new legislation comes into effect next Friday.

Scores of tunny vessels are still at sea. Even if they have stopped using the long lines they will still have fish on board — illegal in terms of the new regulations.

The director of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha said the fact remained that if fishermen had caught hake with long lines they would be guilty of an illegal activity.

"The only problem was that in the past we had difficulty in getting a conviction," he said.

He said it was not possible to say what fines could be imposed on fishermen who landed illegally caught hake, but said in certain cases there were maximum fines of R500 000.

Almost six months ago fish-

ermen — many of them fighting a losing battle against bankruptcy — realised they could move into the hake fishery as a result of a loophole in the law.

But this week the Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar announced that he would introduce new control measures to protect both hake and kingklip stocks from over-exploitation.

The new measures, expected to be gazetted next Friday will include a technical definition of a longline as "a fishing line with more than 10 hooks". Legislation will also be passed to make effective law enforcement possible.

But, most important, the new regulations state that no vessel with a longline used to catch tunny may land hake or kingklip.

Dead fish floating in sea came from vessel — evidence

③ FISHING
APR 17/3/92

Staff Reporter

THE first mate of the Department of Nature Conservation's patrol vessel Pelagus told the Cape Town Regional Court he saw dead fish, which floated in the sea, coming from a Taiwanese vessel they escorted to Mossel Bay.

Mr Andries Laubscher was testifying yesterday in the trial of Mr Chen Ching Chui, 50, master of the Hwa Ren, and Mr Haung Gung, 34, the navigator, who face three charges of contravening the Sea Fisheries Act.

The men earlier pleaded not

guilty to fishing without a permit in South African waters, using an illegal net size and illegally dumping dead edible fish into the sea.

Mr Laubscher said he was steering the Pelagus on February 19 last year when his captain, Mr Dirk Thiar, told him to enter the Hwa Ren's position and radar distance into the log book.

The Hwa Ren had allegedly been 19,3 nautical miles inside South African territorial waters.

He told the court they came up behind the Hwa Ren and

waited for them to drop the ladder on the starboard side.

He said the fish inspector on board the Pelagus spent about half-an-hour on board the Hwa Ren in search of a "pantihose" — a net with an illegal mesh size — with which Mr Ching Chui and Mr Gung allegedly caught fish.

Ten minutes later he found a "pantihose" on board and the Pelagus escorted the Hwa Ren to Mossel Bay for further inspection.

The trial continues today.

Magistrate Mr A L Loubser is on the Bench. Mr L Nortier is prosecuting and Mr W King appears for the defence.

Trawler's catch size disputed

Staff Reporter

A FISHING expert said his estimation of a catch allegedly fished by a Taiwanese trawler with an illegal net did not correspond with that of the ship's logbook.

Mr Barrie Rose, the Sea Production Manager of Irvine and Johnson and a former Department of Sea Fisheries chief technician, was testifying in the Cape Town Regional Court trial of the skipper of the Hwa Ren, Mr Chen Ching-Chui, 50, and the navigator, Mr Hwang Chung, 34. CT 18/3/92

Both accused have pleaded not guilty to fishing with an illegal net and dumping dead fish overboard.

Mr Rose said after inspecting the net he estimated the catch had been eight to 10 tons, which did not correspond with the 1,8 tons the fishermen alleged they caught.

The trial continues.

'Illegal nets in SA waters'

Staff Reporter

A TAIWANESE fishing vessel was within South Africa's territorial waters when an illegal fishing net was used, a Nature Conservation inspector told the Cape Town Regional court yesterday.

Mr Deon Muller said that the bridge instruments on the vessel he had boarded gave the ship's position as 19,3 miles off Plettenberg Bay — 0,7 miles within

SA's territorial waters.

He told the court that he had discovered a "liner" net which had allegedly been cut from the legal larger net, and fish were meshed in the net.

He said that later when he had gone to the fish factory' on the vessel, the fish had been removed from the net.

Mr Muller was testifying in the trial of the skipper of the Hwa Ren, Mr Cheng Ching-Chu, and the ship's navigator,

Mr Hwang Chung, who are charged with fishing with an illegal "pantihose net" and dumping dead fish overboard.

Mr Ching-Chu and Mr Chung have pleaded not guilty.

If convicted they face a maximum fine of R1 million and the confiscation of their vessel.

Mr Ching Chu and Mr Chung's bail was extended and the trial continues today.

The magistrate was Mr A. L. Leubacher. The prosecutor was Mr L. Nortier.

③ FISHING CT 20/13/92

Forgotten coast waits for big boom

51 Times (cm) 22/3/92

3 fishm

NEAR-DEPLETED alluvial diamond deposits, regional tourism on the threshold of a major boom, and a fishing industry in sharp decline with mariculture holding out the promise of a whole new phase in man's relationship with the sea ...

These are some of the key conservation issues in the Western Cape which captured the attention of the Coastal Environment Awareness Expedition during its 2 856 km trek from Alexander Bay on the west coast to Kosi Bay on the Mozambiquan border, late last year.

With the conviction that conservation can — and should — benefit everyone, the National Environment Awareness Trust (NEAT), a small and relatively new non-profit organisation — set out nearly a year ago to seek support for an expedition that would travel the length of the South African coast, with the aim of focusing media attention on marine and coastal environmental issues.

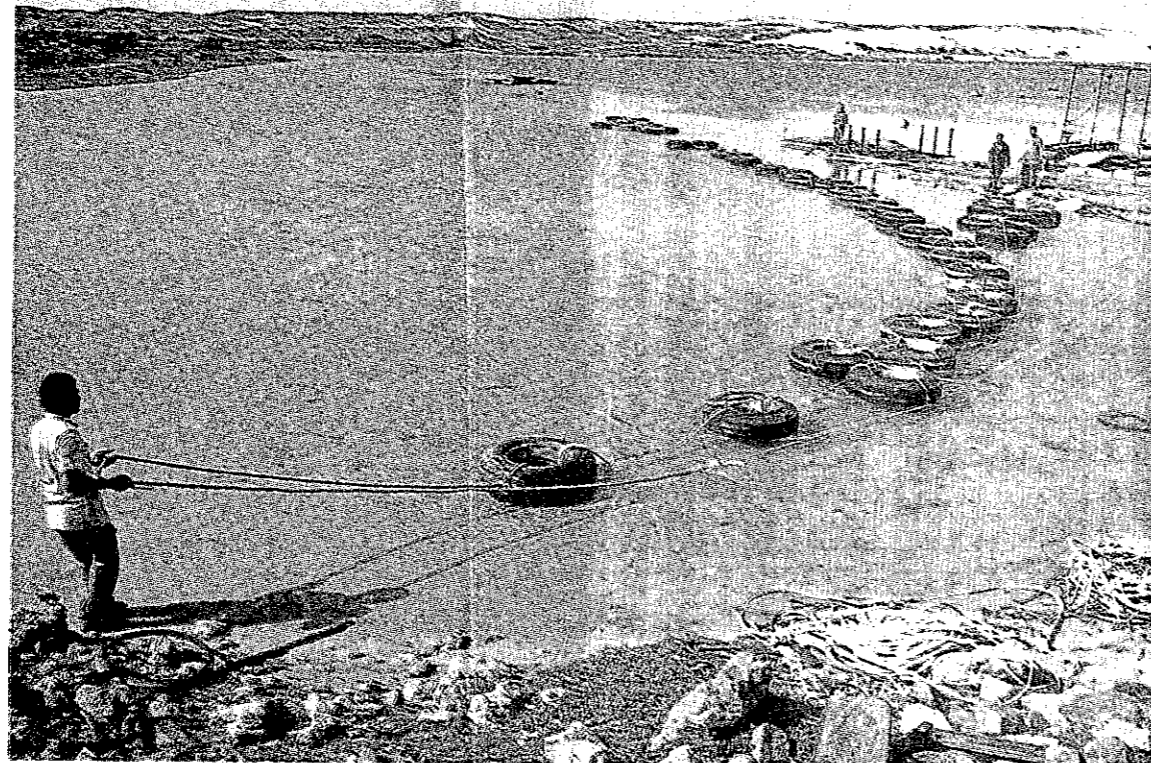
With the expedition now over, the group has been able to digest their findings, and their observations along the west Cape coast are fascinating.

WATCHWORD

The first part of their marathon trek began in the diamond country of the upper west Cape coast, abutting the Namibian border. Here the expedition found an industry in transition — facing the exhaustion of on-shore diamond deposits on the one hand, and the advent of the new South Africa on the other.

With forecasts that land-based operations may have to cease within 15 years, the two big mining concerns operating in the area — De Beers and Alexcor — are turning to mining the seabed, where an estimated 80 percent of total West Coast diamond deposits are concentrated.

Expedition members found that "openness" had become the watchword for



GROWTH INDUSTRY ... shellfish are being grown at this mariculture farm at Saldanha

Special Report
By **KAREN BARRETT**
and **CHRIS VAN DER MERWE**

both companies, with both displaying an unprecedented willingness to share information on mining activities and cultivating a more open relationship with labour.

In fact, both companies declared themselves committed to making provision for their workers' future security should land-based mining wind down.

The diamond companies are also seeking to broaden the base of their involvement in the regional economy: while Alexcor is looking at assisting the development of outdoors-oriented "adventure" tourism, De Beers have implemented a "multi-skilling" programme which is creating a more versatile work force, which will also

be marketable in non-mining sectors.

Both say they also intend making available substantial unmined areas of their concession lands for ecotourism.

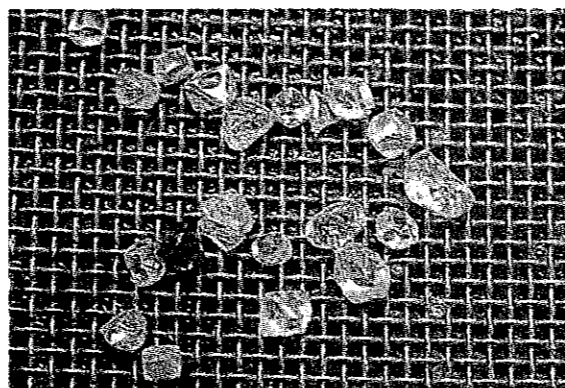
Near Port Nolloth, the expedition came across the first potential ecological problem mining may be causing, where some people believe a shallow-water diamond-extraction operation could be impacting on the crayfish population.

While it has been claimed that the extraction of diamondiferous sea-bed gravel devastates the habitats of crayfish and other creatures, this possibility is not being ignored and, while it is being studied, remains to be proved.

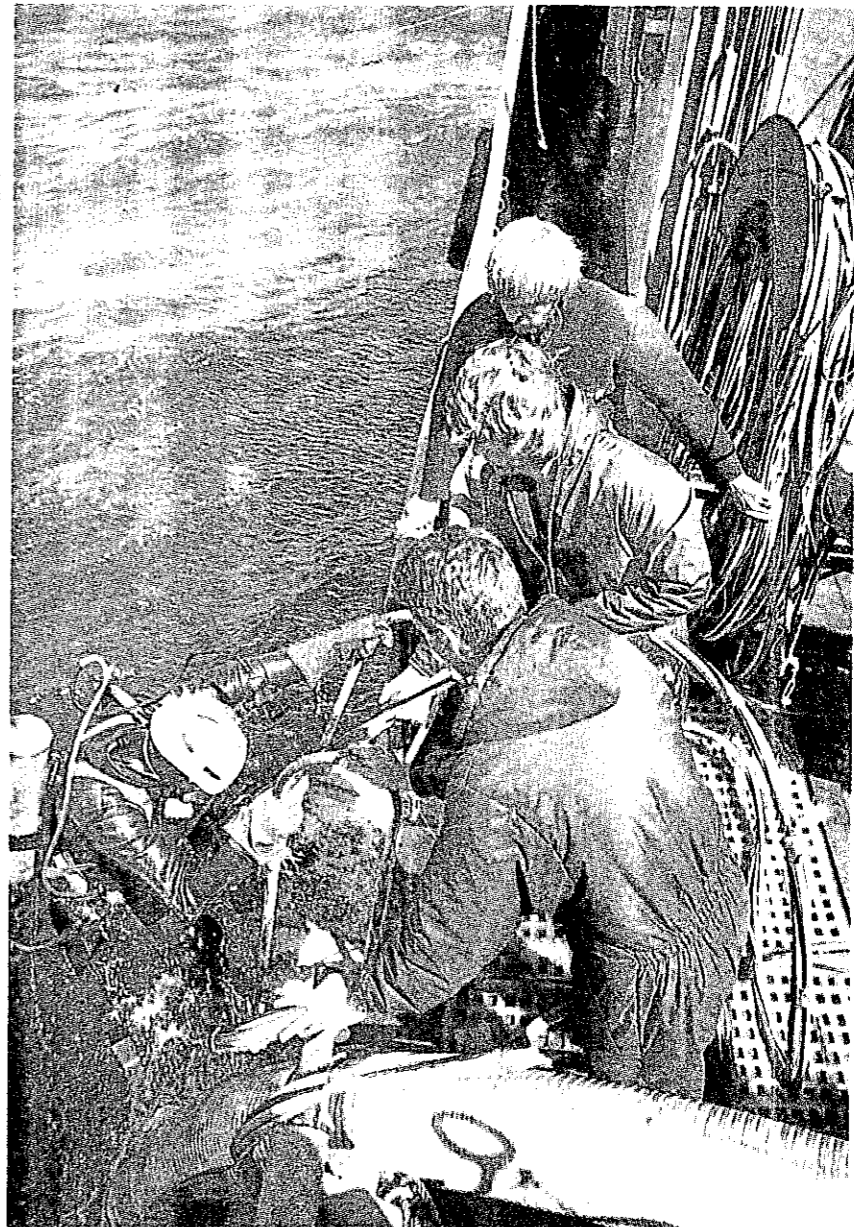
NATURAL

What emerged strongly was that tourism had the potential to become the region's major sustainable industry.

Its most enthusiastic promoter, Isabel du Plessis, who runs the Regional Services Council tourism office at Lamberts Bay, said: "It is



DEEP SEA BEAUTIES ... more than 80 percent of west coast diamonds may be underwater



UNDERWATER MINING ... a diver comes up after a "wet" mining session off Port Nolloth. Mining companies have decided to focus on the sea

SIGNS OF HOPE AS MAN TURNS TO SEA FOR SURVIVAL

worth more than all the diamonds and other minerals here put together".

The tourism which she most favours is centred on the area's unique food, music and rural character and is designed to take pressure off the coast.

"Of course we love and need the tourists to visit us, but we don't want a tar road too close to the coast; that could destroy the natural environment. There is a great deal for them to enjoy within a stone's throw from the N7 — including four of the biggest wine cellars in the country."

Du Plessis is determined that future development in

the area should take place only in existing villages and the prospect of outside developers intent on turning farmlands into residential subdivisions, has her up in arms.

The Lamberts Bay area is a prime example of how tourism can encourage environmental awareness. Famous for its seafood is the rustic *Muisboskern* restaurant, which overlooks a beautiful expanse of unspoiled beach from inside an enclosure of indigenous bush.

Locals say it was the tourists attracted to the restaurant who awakened them to the environmental devasta-

tion which they had come to take for granted.

Local potato farmer Jan Laubscher, said: "We had accepted that we lived in a backwater that nobody cared about. Suddenly, tourists were telling us we had a beautiful coastline and asking us why were we letting it be destroyed by industrial junk? That's when we started cleaning up and also started complaining."

MASSIVE

Of concern is the decline of the west coast's once-thriving fishing but locals are divided between those fishermen who complained

that overfishing had destroyed their livelihood forever, while some locals felt the problem was cyclical and would come right in time.

Said one Saldanha Bay fisherman, indicating a hovering swirl of cormorants, "the birds are back — can the fish be far behind?" Overflying the Kleinsee coastline in the expedition's micro-light aircraft, the pilot and his photographer passenger were awed by the sight of the area's massive Cape fur seal colonies.

Population numbers are estimated at over 1.2-million and it was easy to imagine that — as the seal-cull-

ing lobby would have it — these creatures are a major factor in the denudation of fishing resources.

But, during an excursion to Seal Island near Hout Bay a few days later, Dr Jeremy David of the Sea Fisheries Institute said that blaming the seals for declining catches was "far too simplistic", given the other factors involved, including overfishing.

The expedition members also visited Sea Far, a shellfish-growing enterprise at Saldanha Bay.

When Philip Steyn started the business in the mid-Eighties, he was harvesting 300 kilos of mussels a week,

gathering them from the areas where they naturally occurred. Today, he is collecting four to five tons a week from his "farm".

But to him the real achievement lies in avoiding the removal of resources from the marine environment.

"Mariculture is only now taking South Africa from the hunger-gatherer phase into the age of cultivation as far as our dependence on the sea is concerned."

Another form of mariculture which shows great promise is the harvesting of brown kelp and red seaweed and a Simon's Town-based company, Kelp Products, successfully harvesting and processing the kelp.

According to chairman Peter Friedmann, South Africa is a world leader in the production of kelp-based plant-growth regulators, used extensively in agriculture.

UNIQUE

After a decade of pioneering work, the company has come up with a harvesting method — a selective cutting process that provides each kelp bed with an uncut "buffer zone" to protect it from tidal impacts — and ensures 250 percent re-growth within two years.

The use of a very different kind of coastal resource — the shipwrecks that form an often-overlooked aspect of our cultural heritage — was the focus of a NEAT visit to Robben Island.

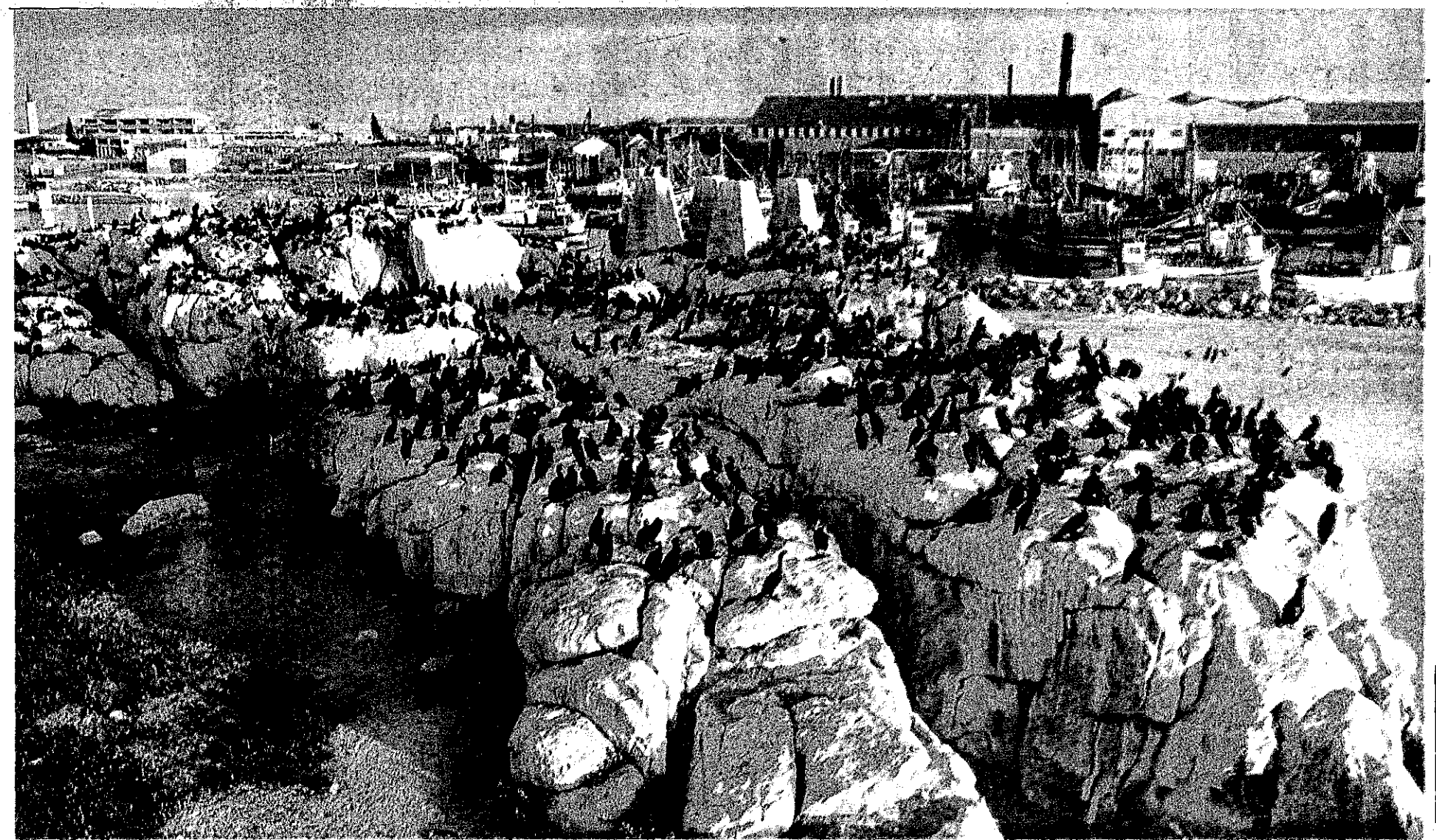
There, a project unique in South Africa is under way. Archaeologists from the National Monuments Council are surveying each of 25 wrecks within a one-nautical-mile radius of the island.

Dive supervisor Bruno Werz regards wrecks as "frozen moments in time" which must be preserved and studied for clues to the customs and technologies of bygone eras.

Professional salvagers meanwhile make a case for allowing them to "record and strip" the wrecks expeditiously, as the wrecks are deteriorating and museum warehouses are "already crowded with redundant brass cannon and other artifacts from the deep".

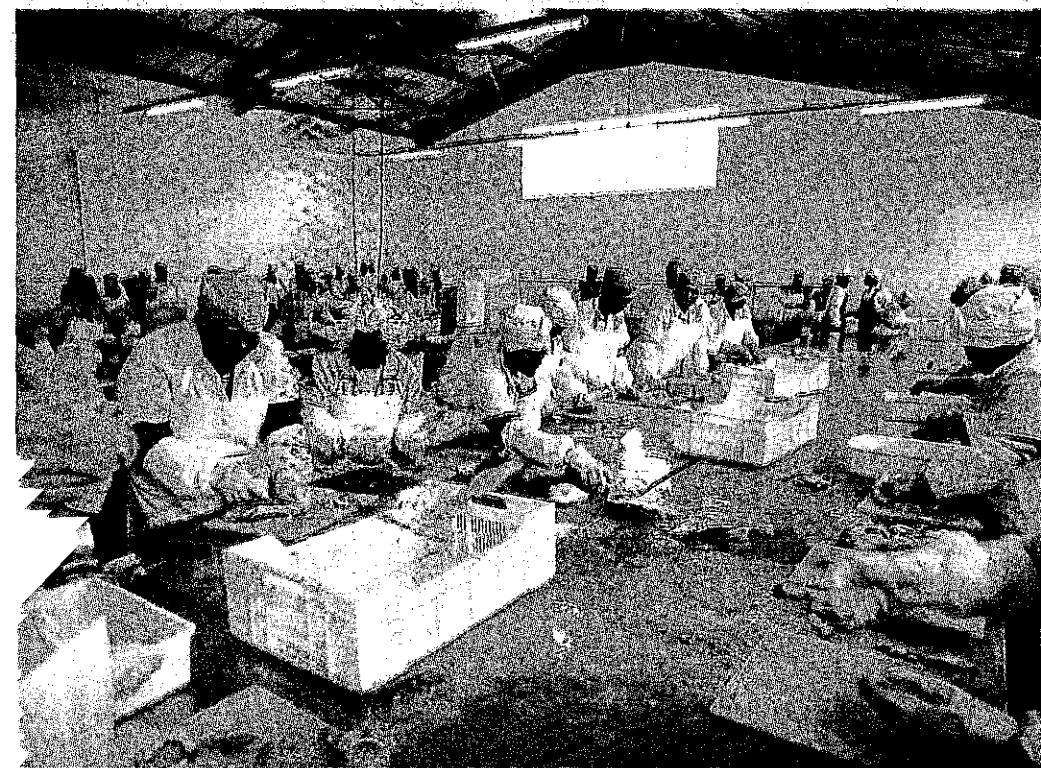
They may be right. However, Werz and his colleagues take pride in their project, which they hope will set an example for the conservation of marine archaeological sites elsewhere on the coast.

FREE WATCH
B & B AUCTIONS
SEE ADVERT ON PAGE 2



HOPEFUL SIGN . . . "the birds are back, a sign that the fish, too, are returning," says a Saldanha Bay fisherman

Pictures: CHRIS VAN DER MERWE



SHARP DECLINE . . . workers clean fish at a factory in Port Nolloth. The workers have been affected by an industry in decline



CULPRIT? The Kleinzee seal, whose population now exceeds 1,2 million, has been blamed for the dwindling number of fish in the area

wa's assets — as a result of investigations by two independent auditors — would have affected other offers. And he said that FSI's potential domination of the market could be countered by imports. ■

FISHING INDUSTRY (3) Fishing

Unhooking the long lines

Fishermen who trawl for hake have finally won their long battle against anglers who catch the fish using long lines.

Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar has defined a long line as a fishing line with more than 10 hooks. This definition now allows officials of the Fishery Inspectorate of the Cape Provincial Administration to enforce the year-long ban against long-line hake fishing and to prosecute offenders.

The ban could not be carried out until now because there was no legal definition of a long line (*Business & Technology* February 21). FM 27/3/92

Long liners, who use lines up to 15 km long with a hook every metre, are catching thousands of hake in the rocky sea bottoms

continue

DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE

FM 27/3/92

where they breed. (3) Fishing

Their catch falls outside the total allowable catch — 140 000 t this year — allotted by the State to trawlermen who catch most of their hake where the sea bottom is smooth, away from the breeding grounds.

Hake had been in danger of going the same way as the once-abundant kingklip, which is now in short supply in shops and restaurants. When long liners began to target kingklip, the resource was devastated.

Eckart Kramer, chairman of the Deepsea Trawling Industry Association, says: "There is no way that 1 000 t of hake a week, taken outside the allowable catch, will not hammer the resource. We don't want a repeat of the kingklip fiasco."

Richard Ball, chairman of the SA Line Fish Management Association, which represents line fishermen, says his members will abide by the Minister's decision, but he denies that they catch 1 000 t a week. He claims that only 3 000 t have been landed in the last six months.

"We have requested Sea Fisheries to conduct a full investigation into the socio-economic merits of line fishing compared with trawling. We believe that merely maintaining the status quo, where only trawling is allowed, is not the most effective way of using the resource."

□ The total allowable catch for pilchard has been increased from a preliminary 36 000 t to 45 000 t and the anchovy catch has been raised from a preliminary 185 000 t to 270 000 t. "This should make life easier for the fishing communities," says Louis Botha, chief director of the Department of Environment Affairs, Sea Fisheries. "They haven't had it easy for the past three years." ■

Good catch for Namsea, Namfish

Business Staff (3) FISHING

INVESTMENT and fishing company Namibian Sea Products has posted an increased turnover of R39,740 million for the year ended December 31, 1991 compared to the R17,126 million the previous year.

Operating income however was lower at R2,643 million compared to R3,517 million in 1990.

Net income attributable to ordinary shareholders amounted to R2,380 million (R2,272 million) equivalent to 46,2c (67c) a share before an extraordinary item of R76 000 and 44,8c (54,1c) a share on a higher number of shares in issue.

A final dividend of 10c was declared.

Fishing group Namibian Fishing Industries has maintained its dividend

for the year ended December 1991 at 20c a share despite a marginal decrease in turnover and operating income. ARG 27/3/92

■ Severely eroded margins and increased finance charges took the shine out of Curnow M & G's performance in the year to end December.

According to chairman Alan Schlesinger, the Cape-based auto refinish supplier concentrated on maintaining its dominant market position in the period under review.

This strategy saw profit margins crumble from 8 to 6,3 percent — transforming a 14 percent rise in turnover to R45 million into a 18 percent drop in earnings to R1 million.

A final dividend of 1c a share was declared from earnings of 4,6c (1990:5,6c), bringing the annual payout to 2c (1990:2,25c).

Minister's son is director of major fishing company

③ Fishing

South 11/4 - 16/4/92

By Justin Pearce

A MAJOR fishing company has admitted that its directors include the son of the cabinet minister responsible for the issuing of fishing licences.

Paternoster Fisheries, which is among the top 10 quota holders for the catching of crayfish, names among its directors Mr JF Pienaar, the son of Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar, who was a director of the firm before his appointment as minister.

Crayfish quotas are issued by the Quota Board, part of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries which falls under the Department of Environment Affairs.

"Mr Louis Pienaar has nothing to do with our firm anymore," said a spokesperson for Paternoster Fisheries Ltd.

"When he was appointed minister he was taken off the board, all his shares were sold and his son was appointed to the board to replace him."

A spokesperson for the Department of Environment Affairs confirmed that Mr Louis Pienaar had previously been a director of Paternoster, and that he had resigned on being appointed minister.

Heated question

The question of access to commercial crayfishing quotas has become a heated one on the West Coast. The owners of small boats

claim that the big fishing companies get preferential treatment from the Quota Board.

"You must have a factory (or sell to one) and a boat, to receive a quota," said one Saldanha fisherman.

"But in many cases, people just get quotas as they wish — sometimes with the help of a cheque book.

"It has been like this for years. The big companies get the biggest quotas. Only two have been awarded to coloured companies so far: Drommedaris in Cape Town, and the Kalk Bay community," the fisherman said.

"It is like a chain reaction. Small subsidiaries and branches of the big companies often get quotas as well."

Mr Johnny Issel of the ANC's Development Department, who is researching the fishing industry, said the question of fishing quotas was a matter of serious concern to the ANC.

"We are concerned that fishermen who for many years were earning a livelihood from the seas are gradually being excluded from the industry."

Drew attention

During his recent visit to Saldanha Bay, ANC president Mr Nelson Mandela drew attention to the fact that "traditional fishermen" were not being granted quotas.

At the recent "Growing the Cape" conference, Mr Franklin Sonn reminded participants that "for the coloured people in the Western Cape, the Group Areas Act and the calculated and systematic removal of our people from the oceans are what they remember best of the scourge of apartheid".

"The Quota Board, with all too well-known arguments like the orderly preservation of ecological balance, good standards and equal opportunity have succeeded in firmly vesting the overwhelming bulk of fishing quotas in the hands of about four large white fishing monopolies who have virtually pushed our people off the ocean," Sonn said.

● Crayfish entangled in the law. See page 6.

State destroying trial documents

South 11/4 - 16/4/92

By Sabata Ngcai

THE ANC has raised its voice over allegations that the state is destroying political trial documents, saying material "crucial to building a full record of South Africa's history" should not be lost.

The ANC released the statement after it had discovered that the state was destroying these documents.

This is in contrast to countries such as the former Soviet Union where such material is kept for public view and posterity.

lic view and posterity.

At the time of going to press, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Justice said more time was needed to comment on the controversy.

The ANC said: "Although the destruction of trial records after a period of five years is a regular procedure, we urge that the practice be halted until such time as their historical merit has been independently ascertained."

It called for a moratorium on the destruction of all trial records and for the appointment of an independent

body of historians to assess the value of such documents.

The statement said the country could not afford to lose other material "as too many valuable South African documents have already been destroyed".

PAC publicity secretary Mr Barney Desai said: "An attempt by the state to destroy documents is to cover up nefarious deeds committed in the past."

The documents were highly esteemed and should not be destroyed, he said.



EU's tough-talking Emma aims to catch fish in southern seas

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

TOUGH-TALKING Italian Emma Bonino has been the European Union's fisheries commissioner for 14 months.

She was in Cape Town this week to talk to people in the government about a mooted bilateral fishing accord between South Africa and the EU.

Mrs Bonino refused to say how close to complete a bilateral agreement might be, saying firmly: "It's a political decision."

Having been a member of the European parliament since 1976, Mrs Bonino knows where to draw the line.

However, she did say she had been given a mandate to negotiate agreements on behalf of the commission.

EU fishing fleets worldwide have an unenviable reputation as predators and despoilers.

Although Mrs Bonino was reported last year as "reacting furiously" to what she called "Canadian intim-

■ European Union fisheries commissioner Emma Bonino foresees joint ventures between South African and European fishing companies as a result of a bilateral fishing agreement.

idation" - when a Canadian gunboat fired on a Spanish trawler which was fishing illegally - she was all sweet reasonableness when SATURDAY Argus mentioned the problems other nations have had with EU fleets.

That is all changing, she said. In the "old days", the EU "came in and fished and paid and went away".

But now there is a new approach which will be applied in South Africa if the government decides to break the monopolies of the big companies and ensure a fairer share of marine resources to "local" newcomers.

She stressed "local", and when SATURDAY Argus asked how EU vessels could be described as local, she explained that the idea was for joint ventures, with new South African entrants to the fishing industry forming partnerships with

European companies.

The total allowable catch would remain the same, so what difference would it make, she asked, if the fish were caught by two or three big companies, as now, or by many smaller joint-venture companies?

Mrs Bonino would not comment on the allegation that EU fleets were given to "quota-hopping" - registering flags of convenience where quotas were available and then pulling out when the fish had been caught.

The European companies involved would offer training, help with the infrastructure and assistance in obtaining vessels, she said.

The most important fish caught in South African waters is hake, she said, adding that if a bilateral agreement was reached the EU might be prepared to lower the market



Emma Bonino

tax, balanced by a decrease in export duties.

Mrs Bonino said that up to now the fisheries sector of the EU had concentrated too much on catching fish and had not paid enough attention to "before catch" processes - such as managing the resource, or to "after catch" processes like trade and preparing the fish for market.

Conditions were changing rapidly in the fishing industry and the EU policy had to adapt to the globalisation of the market.

"Worldwide, fisheries stocks are in bad shape," she said. "There is an astonishing over-capacity in fishing fleets."

"With modern vessels and new technology, we can catch as many fish in three hours as our grandfathers could catch in three days.

"This means that support and encouragement must be given to management and conservation."

Asked what she thought of the way in which South Africa had managed the resource, she said there had been "a good effort".

A recent EU report said that better planning and co-ordination was required in the use of research vessels. This would improve information on fish stocks and on the environmental impact of fishing, as well as on the selection of fishing gear.

Another report proposed controls and conservation measures relating to vessels and catch limitations in the Antarctic.

GREEN PAGES: *War and reconstruction*

SA ships strip coast of LM prawns

w/m ail

1/6/4 - 29/4/92

③ fishing

②

PIRATE ships which sail into Mozambique's territorial waters, mainly from South Africa, are illegally stripping the coastline of its prawns — and local maritime authorities are powerless to prevent this.

Mozambican fishermen last year reported a constant presence of South African boats in Mozambican waters, primarily in Machungulo Bay 25km south of Maputo.

"They are only able to catch fish out there on the high sea as prawns are abundant only in shallow waters. So they come right in here to zones which they know are out of bounds," said Ernesto Nhambe, the director of Maritime Administration in Maputo.

The boats are usually spotted by fishermen in dhows or marine guards, who inform the maritime authorities. "We speak to them over the radio and that's how we found out they are South

Before you shell and pop that delicious LM prawn in your mouth, consider that the prawn was probably illegally caught off the Mozambique coast. By **GIL LAURECIANO**

Africans," says Nhambe. "We immediately inform the National Maritime Directorate who lodge complaints with the South African authorities."

But the government, which spends

about 45 percent of its revenue on the country's war effort, lacks the resources to stop the plunder. The maritime authorities don't have a single boat — and helicopters that could be used to control illegal fishing are engaged in anti-insurgency operations.

The export of prawns contributes 40 percent to Mozambique's foreign exchange earnings and illegal fishing is a serious threat to one of the country's most valuable resources.

"The consequences of this form of ecological destruction won't differ from those of the war in the countryside," says Luis Martins, a biologist from the state secretariat for fishing.

The government has begun to toughen up its controls on legislation and measures to prevent the overexploitation of marine resources, including a revision of the fishing calendar, limiting licences to foreign fishing concerns and penalties for disobeying the law.

Better catches push up Oceana's earnings

186 3 fishing
B/Ocean 29/4/92
LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — An improvement in catches of pelagic fish and a significant reduction in overhead costs in the fishing division resulted in Oceana Fishing Group turning in a 90% increase in earnings in the six months to end-March on a 36% rise in turnover.

The achievement comes following last year's stagnation when earnings showed no growth at all due to a low-anchovy quota and poor-lobster catches.

The interim dividend increased by 20% to 30c (25c) on earnings of 83,5c (43,9c) a share.

This was derived mainly from the fishing division which produced a R176 000 loss at the last interim. In the period under review the division contributed 55% or R9m to group pre-tax profit compared with the 43% in the full financial year to end-September.

This improvement offset the declines in the contributions from the cold storage division to 8% (28%), the trading and shipping division to 20% (44%) and investment income to 17% (30%).

Executive chairman Walter Lewis said the availability and quality of fish had been satisfactory this season.

The total allowable catch of pilchard for the season was slightly lower at 45 000 tons (50 000t), but the anchovy quota was increased to 270 000 tons (150 000 tons).

Lewis said Oceana's rock lobster quota was 859 tons — down from the landed catch of 1 022 tons last year — but was expected to be landed in full while landings and sales of abalone and tuna were ahead of last year's figure.

"Demand for lobster products on the export and local markets remains firm," Lewis added. No material benefit was derived during the six months from the weaker rand.

The fishing division underwent radical

changes last year including staff, fleet and plant rationalisation and the implementation of procedures to improve yields and efficiencies. This rationalisation has already begun to show benefits in improved profitability.

The trading division's performance was satisfactory, but the shipping division performed below expectations and steps were taken to improve profitability. Occupancy levels of the cold-storage facilities improved and results were satisfactory, Lewis said.

The gain in turnover which rose to R196,2m (R144,2m) were further strengthened by an almost doubling of the operating margin to 7% (3,6%), which generated an operating income 167% higher at R13,8m (R5,2m).

Income from investments increased by 25% but bottom-line growth was constrained by the higher tax rate of 49% (37,4%). An extraordinary income of R2m was generated from the sale of surplus land and the receipt of dividends from unlisted investments and was not included in attributable income of R7,9m (R4,1m).

Oceana had little gearing with interest bearing debt to shareholders funds standing at 15% (8%) at end-March, while short term investments and cash amounted to R21,6m (R13m). The group continued to be a net receiver of interest.

Lewis said the group's year-end results would reflect the better outlook for the pelagic fishing industry and provided that fish landings met budgeted expectations earnings should improve satisfactorily over 1991. However, there would be a slowdown in the rate of growth, he said.

Construction of the new R20m, 10 000 ton cold store at Cape Town port was on schedule and it should begin operating in June.

Good catches ^{(3) fishing}

boost Ocfish

STAR 29/4/92
By Derek Tommey

The Cape Town-based Oceana Fishing Group is increasing its interim dividend by 20 percent from 25c to 30c a share, and the company's shareholders can look forward to an increased final dividend later this year.

Oceana reports that earnings in the six months ended March almost doubled, rising from 43,9c to 83,5c. Subject to fish landings meeting budget expectations, the results for the full year should show a satisfactory improvement over 1991, though not at the same rate as in the first half.

Last year Oceana paid a final dividend of 65c a share making a total payment of 90c from earnings of 142,8c. A repeat of the interim increase could add 13c to this year's final making it 78c, and would bring total payments for the year to 108c.

Pienaar is 'out of fishing'

② Fishing Staff Reporters 4/5/92

THE Minister of the Environment, Mr Louis Pienaar, told the Cape Times last night that he had relinquished all business positions in the fishing industry when he was appointed to his portfolio in 1990.

Earlier this month Mr Pienaar reduced the legal crayfish catch size — the first such concession in size since restrictions were introduced in 1933.

Responding to questions put to him by the Cape Times, Mr Pienaar said he had held a directorship with the crayfish company Paternoster Fisheries but in line with "customary and common practice" gave up positions he held "that might have an influence on the execution of (his) public office".

His son, Mr J F Pienaar, a previous director of Paternoster Fisheries, was

appointed again as a director "according to normal business practice".

The minister said all shares held in the fishing company were transferred "out of (his) name".

The statement confirmed Paternoster Fisheries had a 2,95% stake in the crayfish industry quota. But Mr Pienaar said the granting of quotas was not part of his portfolio.

He said in the statement this was the function of the Quota Board comprised of private individuals who, in accordance with the 1988 Sea Fisheries Act, "may not have any direct interest in the fishing industry".

By the same token, therefore, Mr Pienaar's son could have had no influence over the granting of quotas.

Mr Pienaar said in the statement he did "not feel compromised by (his) son's directorship".

Natal hotel raided for crayfish

CTG 18/192 3 JAH/18
Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — An undercover crayfish raid resulted in criminal charges being laid against the directors of an Umhlanga Rocks hotel at the weekend.

Mr Mike Milton, a spokesman for the Natal Parks Board (NPB) here, said a NPB team searched the Oyster Box Hotel on Sunday night and allegedly found 41 Natal crayfish.

He said several crayfish heads and other body parts were found, although 27 of the crayfish were whole. Five of the crayfish were undersized.

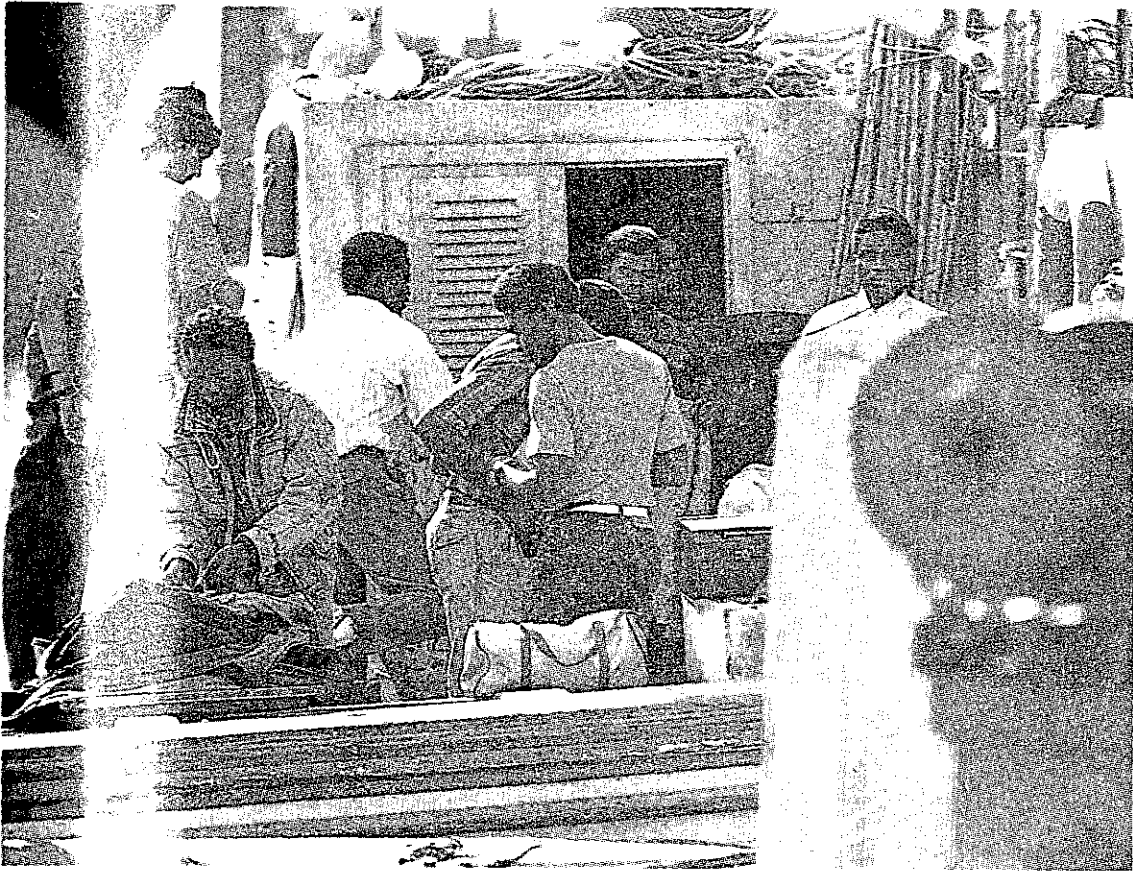
The raid followed months of investigation as well as a "trap" on Sunday night, when two Parks Board employees posing as diners ordered a crayfish meal. A back-up team later searched the hotel.

Mr Milton said it was illegal to sell Natal crayfish, or to catch them without a licence.

A representative of the hotel is expected to appear in court shortly in connection with the allegations.

Mr Brian Parsons, a director of the hotel, declined to discuss the matter yesterday.

Ovambos 'taking our jobs' say local fishermen



OVAMBO ... Ovambo fishermen getting ready to set off on a month-long trip on a Hout Bay fishing boat. Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

(Times Cape Metro) 24/5/92

ENRAGED Hout Bay fishermen claim they are being forced out of their jobs by "cheap labour" from Namibia and Southern Angola.

More than 300 Ovambos have settled in the picturesque fishing village over the past three years and were being employed by private boat owners, several fishermen have claimed.

"They are causing major unemployment problems for the vast majority of us," said one fisherman, Mr Norman Kapiera.

He said the Ovambos were forcing more and more fishermen out of work, because they were prepared to work for less than most other fishermen.

"It is obvious that boat owners would employ them (Ovambos), because they offer cheap labour," he said.

Another fisherman, Mr Mário Ja-

By **JESSICA BEZUIDENTHOUT**

cobs, said: "We are already being exploited by boat owners who underpay us, now the Ovambos still take our jobs."

One of the Ovambo workers, who did not want to be named, said they came to South Africa because "there is no work" where most of them come from.

Some of the Ovambos stay in the squatter area, Imizamo Yethu, but most stay on the boats, said another worker.

He said he worked on a boat where 17 of the 21 crew members were Ovambos.

Some of the Ovambos had passports, but the majority would have to return home when their temporary passports expired after six months, he said.

A private boat owner, who also did

not want to be named, said he was aware that most of the Ovambos were working illegally as they did not have work permits.

He denied that the Ovambos were being paid less than other fishermen.

"They are better workers," he said. Several of the Ovambos seemed to agree that the money they were paid was "not okay".

One of them said they worked mostly for R45 a ton of fish caught, but sometimes had to be satisfied with less than R40.

Mr Richard Ball, director of Sea Freeze, one of the larger companies in Hout Bay, said fishermen were normally paid R60 a ton.

He said his company did not employ Ovambos.

A spokesman for the Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu) in Hout Bay said the fishermen should join the union.

Equally excited about the find is Professor Phillip Tobias who said: "It was an extremely lucky find."

Professor Tobias believes the two teeth could be from the same crea-

dig for the next 15 to 20 years.

The deposits are extremely rich in a wide diversity of extinct animals* including giant horses, antelope and carnivores.

For the latest weather information (Cape Town) ☎ 08720 08206, (Peninsula and Boland) ☎ 08710 08776, and for advice on windspeed/direction ☎ 56 1723 (Bloubergstrand) and ☎ 788 8226 (Muizenberg).



Picture: ROGER SEDRES
of what is left of his
Sarepta Road, Kuils
at the weekend.

SA to revoke all foreign fish quotas

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ALL foreign-held fishing quotas for South African waters — amounting to 6 000 tons — will be revoked at the end of the year.

Countries affected are China, Israel, Portugal, Japan and Spain.

The only exception is Mozambique, which negotiated a mutual quota agreement last year.

The move, announced by Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar today, affects all fish caught by quota — such as hake, kingklip, anchovy and pilchard.

Excluded are non-quota fish such as tuna, a highly migratory

species which cannot be protected unilaterally by a single country.

Mr Pienaar announced last May that foreign quotas in South Africa's fishing waters — the "economic exclusion zone" extending to 360km — would be phased out over two years.

Japan and Taiwan were also banned from fishing in South Africa's territorial waters, which extend to 25km.

This was because the South African fishing industry had proved its ability to harvest the country's fish resources effectively, Mr Pienaar said.

Following this decision, no quotas had been allocated to Israel

since last year or Spain since the beginning of this year.

At the start of 1992, the total allowable catch for South African fishing interests was 186 000 tons, with 6 000 tons allocated to Portugal, Taiwan and Japan.

Last year foreign quotas totalled 11 000 tons.

Mr Pienaar said new quota applications by foreign countries would be considered if the South African industry was unable to utilise the fishing resource and if such allocations would "directly benefit" South Africa.

Mr Pienaar said he envisaged closer regional ties, with fishing quotas being exchanged between Southern African nations, as was being done with Mozambique.

Police manhunt for Valkenberg escapers

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Crime Staff

A POLICE manhunt was under way today for four criminally insane patients who escaped from Valkenberg Hospital after holding up a nurse at knifepoint.

A group of five patients escaped on Friday night and four are still at large.

In February, 34 dangerous in-

mates of the maximum-security ward escaped.

Police said the five were State President's patients found unfit to stand trial for crimes including murder, serious assault and theft.

One, a 17-year-old from George, was rearrested yesterday while walking along the N2 freeway near Khayelitsha.

The patients threatened a nurse, Mr John Cloete, and forced him to hand over the keys of a door. They returned the keys after unlocking the door.

The patients still missing are: John Madudu, 34, of Guguletu, Welcome Ntshengulana, 20 of Nyanga, Rodney Sithole, 21, of Khayelitsha and Zwelngani Sithoza, 50, of Transkei.

Gill looks

Britain smashes car

SA to tighten up on fishing quotas

Blooms 26/5/92.

(3) fishing

GERALD REILLY

ALL quotas allowing foreign countries to fish in SA waters would be revoked at the end of the year, Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar announced yesterday.

Mozambique was excluded from the move since a mutual quota agreement was negotiated with that country last year.

In May last year Pienaar said that the allocation of quotas to foreign countries for fishing rights extending 360km off shore would be phased out over two years to benefit the SA industry.

Pienaar said that the decision was taken on grounds of the local fishing industry's proven ability to harvest SA's fish resources.

Against this background no quotas had been allocated to Israel since 1991 nor to Spain from the beginning of this year.

Japan and Taiwan could also not fish in SA waters inside a 25km limit.

I & J GM Charles Atkins said yesterday the industry welcomed the move.

However, it would not make a

great difference to the amount of fish caught by the SA industry.

It was reassuring, however, that foreign trawlers would be removed from SA waters.

The local industry was well equipped to fully exploit the country's resources, Atkins said.

A spokesman for the Taiwanese embassy said the decision had been made and "we cannot change it".

He said: "We are disappointed, but we knew it was coming."

Pienaar said quotas allocated to countries still operating in SA waters — Japan, Portugal and Taiwan — amounted to 6 000 tons this year.

In the period 186 000 tons had been allocated to South Africans.

Pienaar said new quota applications from foreign countries would be considered if the SA fishing industry was incapable of or not interested in fully exploiting resources and if allocations directly benefited SA.

This could include joint ventures with SA fishing companies under stringent conditions.

Fish: City 'could lose R50-70m'

Staff Reporter

③ FISHING

CT 26/5/92

CAPE TOWN could lose between R50 and R70 million from the Chinese fishing boats if all foreign-held fishing quotas for South African waters were revoked, Mr Tom Chou, the Chinese consul in Cape Town, said yesterday.

He said the South African

government "normally" had a meeting with them and other countries before a quota was agreed upon.

But now they had received a letter from the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, informing them that all foreign-held fishing quotas for South African waters —

amounting to 6 000 tons — would be revoked at the end of 1992.

The 6 000 tons was agreed upon at a meeting last year and was nearly half of the previous year's allocation, he said.

Chinese fishing boats mostly came to Cape Town harbour for repairs and to buy supplies,

and they also created jobs.

A Japanese consulate spokesman yesterday said they were not "clear" about Mr Pienaar's announcement that fishing quotas would be revoked.

A spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs and Mr Pienaar were not available for comment.

Pienaar to throw local fishermen a line?

South 30/5 - 3/6/92

③ fishing

By Justin Pearce

CAPE fishermen hope the abolition of foreign fishing quotas will give them a much-needed foothold in their own industry.

In the past the Department of Environment Affairs allocated fishing quotas to foreign governments, which distribute the quotas among their countries' boats.

This week the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, announced that no foreign boats may fish in South African waters from the end of the year. The only exceptions are Mozambican boats, as South Africa has a reciprocal fishing agreement with this country.

The abolition of the quotas is a "golden opportunity to award quotas to fishermen", said Mr Johnny

Issel of the ANC's development department, which is researching the fishing industry. A group representing the fishermen were making representations to the Directorate of Sea Fisheries on the matter.

It is now up to the statutory Quota Board to determine the re-allocation of the quotas. Issel said the law favoured the large companies and made it difficult for quotas to be allocated to the small fishermen.

But Sea Fisheries director Dr Louis Botha said having small operations could benefit the fishermen in their applications.

He said the state-appointed Diemont Commission of Inquiry recommended the needs of small fishermen be taken into account in the formulation of new fishing poli-

cy.

Meanwhile, the South African Linefishing Management and Industrial Association has successfully applied to the Minister of Environment Affairs to set up an inquiry into the merits of linefishing versus trawling.

Chairperson Mr Richard Ball said his association was promoting the allocation of quotas to fishing communities. With restrictions on the number of fishing lines that could be used by a boat, there was potential for those fishermen who "wanted to make a living, not a fortune," Ball said.

He called for provisions to ensure quotas are granted to bona fide fishermen, and not to those who would simply sell the quotas to larger businesses.

Activities: Fishing for crustaceans off Natal and Mozambique.

Control: Directors 40%.

Chairman: J W Walsh.

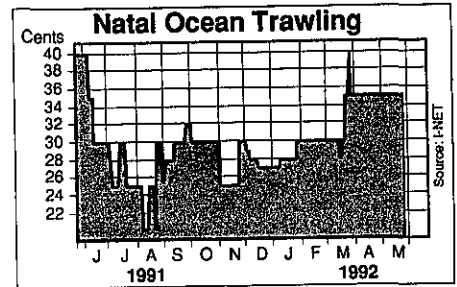
Capital structure: 39,6m ords. Market capitalisation: R13m.

Share market: Price: 33c. Yields: 6,1% on dividend; 19,7% on earnings; p:e ratio, 5,1; cover, 3,5. 12-month high, 40c; low, 20c. Trading volume last quarter, 37 000 shares.

Year to Dec 31	'88	'89	'90	'91
ST debt (Rm)	0,2	0,6	1,3	1,5
LT debt (Rm)	10,6	9,0	7,8	6,9
Debt:equity ratio	2,0	0,8	1,0	0,5
Shareholders' interest	0,2	0,4	0,4	0,6
Int & leasing cover ..	10,7	2,0	0	3,7
Return on cap (%) ..	12,7	7,4	nil	7,0
Turnover (Rm)	13,0	15,0	12,4	11,4
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	2,8	2,1	0,2	1,9
Pre-int margin (%) ..	21,7	13,7	n/a	16,8
Earnings (c)	17,5*	7,0	8,4	6,5
Dividends (c)	6†	—	—	2
Net worth (c)	39	61	47	40

† EPS based on 14m ords at year end.

* Calculated on 19,5m ords of which 5,5m were issued in Jan 1989.



hanced by the appointment of Graham Higgs, recently retired executive chairman of Reckitt & Colman SA. At 33c the share looks attractive, if risky. *Gerald Hirshon*

he's had getting Natrawl shipshape, last year was the first that delivered something of the potential his vision encompassed.

Until last year's R5m rights issue, Natrawl was overgeared and undercapitalised. Walsh's time was cut out trying to finance necessary fleet refurbishment and refitting, juggling resources to put the fleet to sea, negotiating with government authorities for quotas and permits, and trying to put the company on a sound financial basis.

It seems that all has now almost come together. Vessels are fully operational. Fishing off Durban "proved very satisfactory." Natrawl is part of a group, in partnership with the Mozambican State-owned fisheries, which enjoys "one of the largest quotas in Mozambique." Fishing in deeper waters off Mozambique was also "very satisfactory" and the financial structure, with gearing down to 0,5, is more healthy.

Gross income from fishing leapt to R3,3m (1990: R826 000). Administration expenses also climbed by a steep 40% but, thanks to the rights proceeds, R565 000 interest paid was 23% of the previous total. Pre-tax income of R1,4m swung by R3,7m.

Walsh is quick to caution that the way ahead may not be easy. Capex will be heavy this year. With one eye on the coffers, shareholders are offered either a 2c cash dividend or bonus shares at the rate of 5,7 for every 100. At 33c, the share option is equivalent to 5,6c a share: if cash considerations are not paramount, clearly the better.

Thus far in 1992, Walsh says things have not been easy because of weather conditions off Mozambique. But he's optimistic that the second half will be better and that there'll be higher attributable earnings.

As a fisherman, Walsh is naturally optimistic, but he is experienced enough to be conservative in his forecast. If sea and weather conditions for the rest of the year remain just reasonable, there's a firm foundation for believing that 1992 could be a good year. Management skills have been en-

NATAL OCEAN TRAWLING

Shipshape at last ^{FM 5/6/92} ^{Fishing} ③

For chairman Jack Walsh, 1991 was more like business as usual. He is, first and foremost, a fisherman. After all the problems

Something fishy about this island



INSTANT ISLAND — JUST ADD WATER: The narrow channel on the right of the picture was enough to make the Soetwater site an island — and legalise the fish factory

By Justin Pearce

SOUTH 6/6-10/6/92

③ fishing

AT SOETWATER, near Kommetjie, a fish factory stands on an island only 20 years old.

The isle was created not by a violent volcanic eruption, but by bulldozers in the geographical equivalent of a forced removal. It is separated from the mainland by a stretch of water about four metres wide and centimetres deep — depending on the tide, of course.

Fisherman Mr Herbert Levendal recalls plans for the factory were first mooted in the late sixties.

"When the factory started, the council was against it," he said. The reason was that the fac-

tory site, then a small peninsula, was in an area proclaimed as recreational land under the control of the Cape Provincial Council. The site adjoined a "non-white" campsite which has subsequently been removed.

Levendal reports that "two or three years" after the rejection of the proposals, he first saw bulldozers move onto the site. Before long, the spur of land had become an island — and consequently no longer fell under the control of the Provincial Council. All offshore islands fall under the direct control of central government.

Levendal said the island was bought by Mr Tommy Louw, now deceased, then director of Lighthouse Fisheries, which owns the factory.

"When we were down there with the boats, Tommy Louw used to come and bum on the beach and give us wine in exchange for crayfish," he recalls. "And the next thing we knew, he was the owner of the place."

"We also used to see government cars coming down there," says Mr Andy Johnston, a diver who used to frequent the Soetwater site, suggesting tacit government approval must have been necessary for the bulldozers to do their work.

The removal of a few square metres of sand allowed the site to be reclassified as an island — and there were no longer any legal means to prevent the construction of the factory.

Plans to change ③ fishing fishing monopoly

THE ANC is leading an investigation into the SA fishing industry in an attempt to develop an alternative management policy for marine resources.

The organisation wants to restructure the industry by moving away from large fishing conglomerates to smaller, community-based fisheries.

Traditional fisher folk in SA have long had no say in the fishing industry.

At a recent meeting with Environmental Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar, an ANC-led delegation of the beach-net fishermen of False Bay near Cape Town called for representation within the Sea Fisheries Department.

A management committee will now be formed and will be able to reformulate regulations to date imposed on them without consultation.

Community-based fisheries have been severely restricted, which the ANC said was without scientific basis. *apress 12/7/92*

The government agreed, and admitted no consultations had taken place with those who make their living from beach-net fishing.

In a memorandum to government, netters said recreational ski-boat owners had been favoured, resulting in fewer licences being granted and heavy restrictions imposed on beach-netters.

"The progress of this sector in securing representation will inform other sectors in the industry striving for a fair system," said the ANC's Johnny Issel.

Rock lobsters really catch ^③ of the day... FISHING APR 14/7/92

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

RECREATIONAL fishermen caught nearly 160 tons of rock lobster during the 1991/92 season — about 6,5 percent of the commercial catch of 2 469 tons.

The figures, extrapolated from the first survey of recreational fishing for rock lobsters, proves this type of exploitation is not having a major negative impact on the industry, according to Dr Louis Botha, chief director of the Department of Environment Affairs sea fisheries directorate.

"The survey shows very clearly that the bona fide public are not the problem... We will have to be very careful not to penalise the public to compensate for what the poachers are doing. And what these poachers are doing we have no idea whatsoever," he said.

The survey findings are unlikely to lead to an increase in the maximum number of rock lobsters permit holders are entitled to catch. This was recently reduced from five to four a day.

Dr Roy Mellville-Smith, sea fisheries assistant director (inshore resources), said the resource was "going through a bit of a crisis period".

"The industry's total allowable catch is about the lowest it's been. On that basis it's unlikely the catch for the public will be increased," he said.

Seven-hundred of the 44 498 permit

holders were interviewed by telephone during the recreational rock lobster season from November 15 to April 15. Among the survey findings were:

- The estimated total number of rock lobster caught by recreational permit holders was 419 286 — 159,2 tons — at an average of 9,5;

- Most of the rock lobsters — 204 598, or about 40 percent — were caught in the area between Hout Bay and Cape Hangklip, with 77 622 or 25 percent taken between Cape Hangklip and Gansbaai;

- Most respondents caught their rock lobster by diving (49 percent), followed by hoop nets from boats with outboard motors (30 percent), and shore-based methods such as bait bags and hoop nets (12 percent);

- Most of the permit holders interviewed lived in the Peninsula — 55,5 percent — and took the bulk of their catch in the first two months of the season; and

- The average catch was 2,6 rock lobsters an outing, with most respondents (77 percent) catching only at weekends.

The results would be used for baseline information in managing the resource, Dr Mellville-Smith said.

The survey, which cost R30 000, would be repeated if finance was available.

A similar survey for perlemoen is under way.

Traffic ^{environment} cops to help fisheries ^{FISHING}

Environment Reporter

THE government has approved the appointment of 16 local government officials — many of them traffic policemen — as fisheries control officers to help conservation staff stop crayfish and perlemoen poaching.

Seven of the new appointments are in the heart of the perlemoen industry centred on Walker Bay, at Hermanus, Onrus and Kleinmond.

The others are employed at Walvis Bay and by the Algoa and Amatola regional services councils in the Eastern Cape.

The officials include traffic officers, parks and beach superintendents, nature conservation and law enforcement officers and municipal caretakers.

A spokeswoman for the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, said the officers would have the same authority as provincial marine conservation officers.

Approval of the new appointments was gazetted last week by Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar.

REPUBLIEK
VAN
SUID-AFRIKA



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OF
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Staatskoerant Government Gazette

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Vol. 325

PRETORIA, 17 JULIE
JULY 1992

No. 14173

GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSAKE

No. R. 2075

17 Julie 1992

WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988
(WET No. 12 VAN 1988)

REGULASIES KRAGTENS DIE
WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988

Die Minister van Omgewingsake het, na oorleg met die Advieskomitee kragtens artikel 45 van die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988), die regulasies in die Bylae uitgevaardig.

BYLAE

WOORDOMSKRYWING

1. In hierdie regulasies het enige woord of uitdrukking waaraan in die Wet 'n betekenis geheg is, daardie betekenis en, tensy uit die samehang anders blyk, beteken—

“**kreef**” enige kreef van die soorte wat in Suid-Afrikaanse territoriale waters voorkom, te wete weskus-, suidkus-, ooskus- en Natalse kreef;

“**ooskuskreef**” enige kreef van die soort *Panulirus homarus*; en

“**suidkuskreef**” enige kreef van die soort *Panulirus gilchristi*; en

“**weskuskreef**” enige kreef van die soort *Jasus lalandii*.

GESLOTE SEISOENE

2. Behalwe op gesag van 'n permit wat deur die direkteur-generaal uitgereik mag word, mag niemand—

- (a) enige ooskuskreef vang of probeer vang nie gedurende die tydperk vanaf 1 November tot en met 31 Januarie van die daaropvolgende jaar;

462—A

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

No. R. 2075

③ *Fishing*

17 July 1992

SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988
(ACT No. 12 OF 1988)

REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF THE
SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988

The Minister of Environment Affairs has, after consultation with the Advisory Committee under section 45 of the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988), made the regulations set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

DEFINITIONS

1. In these regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have the meaning so assigned and unless the context indicates otherwise—

“**east coast rock lobster**” means any rock lobster of the species *Panulirus homarus*;

“**rock lobster**” means any rock lobster of the species in South African territorial waters, i.e. west coast, south coast, east coast and Natal rock lobster;

“**south coast rock lobster**” means any rock lobster of the species *Palinurus gilchristi*;

“**west coast rock lobster**” means any rock lobster of the species *Jasus lalandii*.

CLOSED SEASONS

2. Except on the authority of a permit which may be issued by the director-general no person shall catch or attempt to catch—

- (a) any east coast rock lobster during the period from 1 November up to and including 31 January of the following year;

14173—1

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>(b) enige suidkuskreef vang of probeer vang nie gedurende die tydperk vanaf 1 Julie tot en met 31 Oktober van elke jaar;</p> <p>(c) enige wesuskreef vir eie verbruik vang of probeer vang nie gedurende die tydperk vanaf 16 April tot en met 14 November van elke jaar; en</p> <p>(d) enige wesuskreef vir kommersiële doeleindes vang of probeer vang nie gedurende die tydperk vanaf—</p> <p>(i) 1 Julie tot en met 31 Oktober van elke jaar in Suid-Afrikaanse territoriale waters noord van 'n lyn (geografiese ligging 270°) getrek vanaf 'n baken gemerk YF, geleë op die hoogwatermerk ongeveer 11 kilometer noord van Yzerfontein teenoor die plaas Abrahamskraal; en</p> <p>(ii) 1 Julie tot en met 14 November van elke jaar in Suid-Afrikaanse territoriale waters suid van die lyn omskryf in (i).</p> | <p>(b) any south coast rock lobster during the period from 1 July up to and including 31 October of every year;</p> <p>(c) any west coast rock lobster for own use during the period from 16 April up to and including 14 November of every year; and</p> <p>(d) any west coast rock lobster for commercial purposes during the period from—</p> <p>(i) 1 July up to and including 31 October of every year in South African territorial waters north of a line (270° true) drawn from a beacon marked Y.F., situated on the high-water mark approximately 11 km north of Yzerfontein opposite the farm Abrahamskraal; and</p> <p>(ii) 1 July up to and including 14 November of every year in South African territorial waters to the south of the line described in (i).</p> |
|---|--|

INHOUD**CONTENTS**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Bladsy No.</i>	<i>Koerant No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Page No.</i>	<i>Gazette No.</i>
GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING			GOVERNMENT NOTICE		
Omgewingsake, Departement van			Environment Affairs, Department of		
<i>Goewermentskennisgewing</i>			<i>Government Notice</i>		
R. 2075	Wet op Seevisserij (12/1988): Regulasies	1	R. 2075	Sea Fishery Act (12/1988): Regulations...	1 14173

Muscling in on Saldanha's bay

w/mail 2417-307192

③ fishing

A SEA-FARMING scheme that is regarded as disastrous for the industrially important region of Saldanha Bay has been approved after the intervention of at least two cabinet ministers.

Atlas Sea Farms, a leading company in the R18-million a year mussel farming industry centred on Saldanha Bay, has been granted farming rights for over 1 550ha of the 3 000ha bay — more than half the bay — at a tariff of about one three-hundredth of what other companies are paying.

They have been granted a lease until the year 2006, at a tariff of R20 a hectare, while the most recent applicant for a lease was required to pay no less than R6 500 a hectare.

It is believed that Atlas only has the capacity to farm 20ha, meaning that half the bay will be "sterile" — unable to be utilised for economic exploitation of any kind and thus suppressing development in Saldanha Bay.

The Steering Committee for Saldanha Bay, which represents all organisations with an interest in developing the strategic area — from publicity and entertainment to aquaculture and job creation — is flatly opposed to the lease. It is putting together a master plan for the development of the area, and the lease apparently undermines the entire plan.

According to sources in the industry, Portnet itself initially rejected the application for renewal of the lease. Atlas owner Hans Benecke then made representations to various cabinet ministers, including Minister of Forestry and Water Affairs Magnus Malan and Minister of Public Enterprise Dawie de Villiers. As a result of these approaches, a meeting was held in Cape Town on July 1, where the application was approved in principle. Malan was present at the meeting.

Malan's private secretary said he was not available for comment. Port manager at Saldanha Bay Danie Barnardo was also unable to comment.

However, a spokesman at Portnet headquarters in Johannesburg, Pieter Smit, said that De Villiers had "agreed in principle to extend the contract until the year 2006. No reasons were given for the extension, but they felt 10 years would be a reasonable extension".

The lease was first granted in 1986, and would have expired in 1996. Industry sources say that Atlas made the application for a further extension early because of the growing commercial interest in mussel farming in the region. Smit said the rea-

Two cabinet ministers muscled in to ensure that one company controls half of the R18-million mussel industry in Saldanha Bay — despite Atlas Sea Farms' apparent inability to utilise it efficiently.

By ARTHUR GOLDSTUCK

son was the need for long-term planning and investment.

"Atlas said that they had invested quite a lot of capital in the project already and will organise foreign capital. To get foreign capital, they need a long-term lease."

However, it appears that this was the same basis on which Atlas originally acquired the lease in 1986. At the time there was little interest in the industry, and little opposition to the large area covered by the lease. Today, there are more than 20 companies vying to farm the bay, but most are

kept on a waiting list because of the large allocation made to Atlas.

Moreover, Atlas was required to pay Portnet the larger of a fixed sum or an annual royalty on the basis of the size of their mussel catch, based on projections made in 1986.

Benecke told *Die Burger* on July 22 1986 that he was planning to bring in significant foreign capital and generate major job creation. He told reporter Terry de Vries that he needed the large area because of the type of development he was planning: if there was competition, it wouldn't work as well.

Six years later, say industry sources, Benecke has not only been "totally unsuccessful" in meeting his projections, but has not made significant progress in job creation — and has only utilised 20 of his 1 550ha. The result is a gap between projected payments and actual income for Portnet. Yet, the same promises were being repeated.

Smit confirmed that Benecke had not met his commitments, but said that this was not an issue.

"Although in the past we did not really need the commitment, Portnet still has to agree on the

repayment of debts from Atlas, but feels confident that in future they will meet their obligations. So we feel quite safe in giving the lease."

Industry sources point out that, in the past five years, Atlas has had no reliable marketing or distribution wing of its own. It has an agreement with I&J for first option on its harvest — but no commitment to buy.

"If you only have one option on marketing, and you're working with massive volumes, you've got a problem. There are potentially many other farmers able to use that water more efficiently," said a source who spoke on condition of not being identified. "Things can always go wrong in a business, but then to extend that anomalous situation for another 10 years just doesn't make sense."

"It's a disaster for Saldanha Bay," said another source. "That water could be used for job creation and food production."

It is understood that Dr Anton Moolman, managing director of Portnet's holding company Transnet, has agreed to consider a new proposal by the Saldanha Bay steering committee for the profitable use of the water.

GREEN PAGES: SA's endangered marine life

It's not so easy these days to eet kreef

W/Mail 17/7-23/7/92

③ Fishing

A ONE-TIME kreef poacher in the Cape can remember how a diver in search of "red gold" in the 1960s could make a catch of 2 900 rock lobster in one day, selling them on at a cost of R3 for a hundred.

Those days are long gone. The rock lobster industry is in decline, signalling the loss of millions in potential foreign exchange earnings, the loss of jobs and a threat to the viability of small fishing communities dotted along the Cape coast.

In April this year, Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar announced the minimum catchable size for rock lobster would be reduced from 89mm to 75mm — and sparked a furore.

If the resource was already in trouble, how could allowing people to catch ever-smaller rock lobster help ensure its survival? commentators asked.

Mike Bergh, senior lecturer in quantitative resource ecology in the Zoology Department of the University of Cape Town, and Amos Barkai, a researcher in the same department, were responsible for the report recommending the size limit be reduced.

Commissioned by the rock lobster industry to investigate, Bergh and

Catches of rock lobster are down — as are the sizes of the crayfish caught. The government's response was to reduce the minimum catchable size.

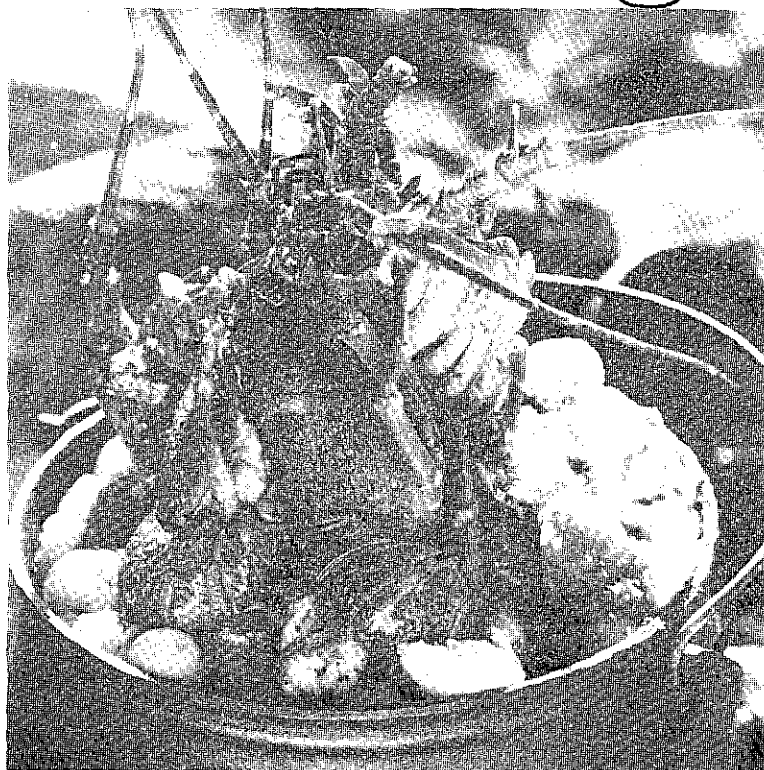
By GAYE DAVIS

Barkai found that rock lobster, which normally grow about 4mm a season, were only managing to grow about 1mm a season. This meant that there were fewer and fewer crayfish at a size of 89mm around, and it was this — rather than a lack of crayfish — that threw the industry into turmoil.

"Lobsters were no longer growing at their normal rate," said Bergh, describing how catch rates plunged by half during the 1990/1991 season. "It's not clear why. The most promising theory is that the population of black mussels (rock lobsters' food) is declining, but that's not been proven."

They found that the 89mm limit had been in place since 1933 — and that the reasons for imposing it were not scientifically founded.

They also found that an enormous quantity of under-sized crayfish (between 15 000 and 20 000 tons)



Shrinking shellfish ... Your main course is becoming a mini course

was being thrown back into the sea.

"They were throwing back between four and five times what they were keeping (because of the size limit)," Bergh said. "It was like a conveyor belt: rock lobster were being raised to the surface, sorted, passed through metal grids and then back to the sea through a chute.

"In the process, they would suffer thermal and barotrauma shock, injury and other trauma. They might be dropped far from their original habitat, or on sand instead of rock."

Thus, by Bergh and Barkai's calculations, the industry was effectively killing 2 000 tons of crayfish to catch its quota of about 4 000 tons. "This is contentious in scientific circles," conceded Dr Bergh, "but we believed this."

The key to the problem, in their view, was that industry was harvesting too big a proportion of rock lobsters which had reached the length of 89mm.

"Now we're saying, instead of just allowing the industry to take from the very tip of the iceberg, let's allow it to take the same amount of the iceberg, but spread it over the entire iceberg and not just the tip."

Thus, if rock lobster growth was poor, the industry's vulnerability would not be as great — and rock lobsters that would otherwise be dying would be fed back into the resource.

"The industry never asked us to come up with this proposal," said Bergh. "We had to convince them that it was the way to go."

In fact, the new measures announced by Pienaar were more conservative than Bergh and Barkai's proposals. They wanted the size limit reduced to 65mm and felt the quota of 3 800 tons could stay the same; Pienaar allowed for a quota of only 2 200 metric tons and put the size limit at 75mm.

Research is now continuing as Bergh, Barkai and scientists in the

Department of Sea Fisheries try to get to grips with the problem.

A comprehensive independent monitoring programme has been launched, which means the scientists will no longer have to rely on data traditionally gathered by the industry itself — and thus open to inaccuracy and bias.

But there are still critical unknowns: why are crayfish taking longer to grow? If a decline in their food supply is the reason, why is it happening? How will harvesting smaller crayfish affect egg production (catching female crayfish was banned in July last year)?

Meanwhile, the industry is marking time. According to Bergh, if the rock lobster growth rate remains low in November this year, when the season opens again, the industry will manage. "But I'm not sure it can live through the same in 1993," he said.

"Of real concern is that the poor growth phenomenon is induced by fishing itself," said Bergh. "Most arguments suggest some unknown environmental anomaly. But we think there may be some processes caused by fishing which make the lobster more sensitive to environmental factors."

He explained: "What we think could have happened is that over the years, all the big lobsters, which usually cannibalise small lobsters, have been harvested out, resulting in a bloom of small lobsters and increased competition for food."

"A lobster usually uses 90 percent of its food intake to maintain its present state and 10 percent to grow with. With more competition for food, they might now be using 95 percent of their food intake to maintain their present state and only five percent for growth. If their food supply is declining, then the impact is that much greater."

Hence the need for a situation in which the larger lobsters are no longer assiduously fished, but one where lobsters are harvested over a wide spectrum of size — so that smaller lobsters can be thinned out.

According to Bergh, the most crucial challenge facing the long-term survival of both the industry and the resource is to develop a management strategy that can cope with the uncertainty and variability of future growth rates.

The only good news in all of this is at least decisions regarding the management of the resource are now being taken on the basis of scientific investigation, rather than powerful lobbying at the political level.

Permit holders not to blame

W/Mail 17/7-23/7/92

③ Fishing

A SURVEY of people who catch crayfish for fun shows that recreational inroads on the resource are minimal, measuring up to only a fraction of crayfish caught.

During the 1991/1992 crayfish season, 44 500 permit holders were responsible for removing a total of 159 tons from the sea — in other words, about six percent of the commercial take of 2 470 tons, according to Roy Melville-Smith, assistant director of Inshore Resources at the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Divers are responsible for 49 percent of the catch, hoop-nets from boats with outboard motors for 30

percent, rowing boats four percent and shore-based fishermen using bait bags on fishing rods 12 percent. Some five percent of permits were used for transporting crayfish.

The survey also recorded where people fished for crayfish — and revealed that the vast proportion of permit holders come from the Cape.

"What these results are saying is that the bona fide public catch is not a big factor as far as the resource is concerned," said Melville-Smith. "However, what the poachers are doing is anyone's guess."

Call on government to cut crayfish exports

By LEW ELIAS (3) Ashman

THE high price and lack of crayfish locally is having a bad effect on the tourist industry and is losing South Africa revenue. Visitors coming to this country who expect to eat the seafood delicacy are finding that the bulk is being exported and the little available locally too expensive, the chairman of the SA Restaurant Guild, Mr Robert Mauvis, said this week. SA Times [C/Metro] 26/7/92

He said the government would be asked to review its condition that 25 percent of the total crayfish catch be available locally.

It would be better to take less from the ocean, ban exports and flood the market with affordable crayfish to make this country the rock lobster centre of the world, he said.

Mr Mauvis said the point would be raised at this week's national congress of the Federated Hotel, Liquor and Catering Association of SA in Cape Town.

Mr Neil du Bois, spokesman for Environment Minister Mr Louis Pienaar, said this week there was a minister's condition that 25 percent of the total crayfish catch was to be sold locally.

Exporters were able to get up to five times as much for crayfish overseas.

He said Mr Pienaar had indicated last year that he had no problem with decreasing the export quota for crayfish.

Tourism 'hit by kreef shortage

CT 27/1/92 (3) FISHING

THE shortage of crayfish in South Africa is harming the tourist industry, says the SA Restaurant Guild.

Many tourists who come to South Africa for its seafood find it isn't available.

Guild chairman Mr Robert Mauvis said he would call for a drop in exports to allow South Africa to become the "crayfish centre of the world".

Ministry of Environmental Affairs spokesman Mr Neil du Bois said 25% of the crayfish catch had to be set aside for local consumption, but at the end of each season permission had been given for the unsold portion of this allocation to be exported. — Sapa



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Vol. 325

PRETORIA, 31 JULIE 1992
JULY

No. 14203

PROKLAMASIE

van die

Staatspresident

van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika

No. 83, 1992

WYSIGINGSWET OP SEEVISSERY, 1992
(WET No. 57 VAN 1992)

Kragtens artikel 22 van die Wysigingswet op Seevisserij, 1992 (Wet No. 57 van 1992), bepaal ek **1 Julie 1992** as die datum waarop genoemde Wet in werking tree.

Gegee onder my Hand en die Seël van die Republiek van Suid-Afrika te Kaapstad, op hede die Ses-entwintigste dag van April Eenduisend Negehoenderd Twee-en-negentig.

F. W. DE KLERK,
Staatspresident.

Op las van die Staatspresident-in-Kabinet:

L. A. PIENAAR,
Minister van die Kabinet.

488—A

PROCLAMATION

by the

State President

of the Republic of South Africa

No. 83, 1992

SEA FISHERY AMENDMENT ACT, 1992
(ACT No. 57 OF 1992)

In terms of section 22 of the Sea Fishery Amendment Act, 1992 (Act No. 57 of 1992), I hereby determine **1 July 1992** as the date on which the said Act shall come into operation.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the Republic of South Africa at Cape Town this Twenty-sixth day of April, One thousand Nine hundred and Ninety-two.

F. W. DE KLERK,
State President.

By Order of the State President-in-Cabinet:

L. A. PIENAAR,
Minister of the Cabinet.

14203—1

INHOUD			CONTENTS		
<i>No.</i>		<i>Bladsy No. Koerant No.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Page No. Gazette No.</i>	
PROKLAMASIE			PROCLAMATION		
83	Wysigingswet op Seevisserij (57/1992): Inwerkingtreding	1 14203	83	Sea Fishery Amendment Act (57/1992): Commencement	1 14203

Call for ban on kreef exports

3 FISHING
CT 5/17/92

By MAGGIE ROWLEY

A TOTAL ban on exports of crayfish, perlemoen and kingklip was called for at the Fedhasa conference in the city yesterday.

The chairman of the South African Restaurant Guild, Mr Robert Mauvis, said strong action had to be taken to counter the local shortage of shellfish and they would be lobbying the government to ban all exports.

Under the present quota system only 25% of South African shellfish was kept for the local market, with 75% being exported.

"The authorities argue that this is necessary for the country's balance of payments situation.

"However, it is short-sighted as the foreign exchange they could earn from tourism is far greater than the forex earned through exporting shellfish.

"Shellfish is a national product, particularly for the Cape, and can act as a great drawcard for tourists. But the reality is that the present quota system has resulted in dire shortages of the products on the local market."

He said if a ban on exports was not enforced, South African crayfish and perlemoen would disappear completely from the local market as had happened to South African kingklip.

Focus on restaurant crime

Business Staff

SECURITY in restaurants came under the spotlight at the Fedhasa conference in the city yesterday in the wake of the increasing number of holdups, muggings and burglaries at eateries in recent months.

Most of these incidents had probably been "inside jobs", speakers said.

The national chairman of the SA Restaurant Guild, Mr Robert Mauvis, said they would be launching a campaign shortly for their members on how best to secure their businesses and their customers.

Mr Dave Varney, chairman of the Johannesburg chapter of the guild, advised

restaurants to take steps which, he said, could reduce their risk of being targeted by criminals by about 70%. These included:

- Screening staff thoroughly and running a check on job applicants with the police.
- Screening deliveries — delivery people get to know the layout and routine of restaurants fairly quickly.
- Providing adequate lighting, such as floodlights, outside the restaurant.

Mr Aldo Girolo, regional chairman of the Western Cape chapter of the guild, said the Mallwatch in St George's Street had reduced crime in the area significantly.

"Kingklip has been physically fished out of our waters and as a result we can now only get imported kingklip and the price has risen from R9 to R26 a kilogram in the past year," Mr Mauvis said. "We have to demand that the local market has its needs satisfied before they start exporting."

● Sapa reports that restaurants could refuse to accept Diners Club credit cards if an agreement is not reached with the company over a discount on commission percentages, the Fedhasa congress heard.

Diners Club had offered Fedhasa R175 000 and a discount of 0,1% in the discount commission by way of an indirect apology for a survey which indicated some

restaurants placed an unreasonable mark-up on wine.

Part of the R175 000 was to be used for a survey into restaurant wine prices to be conducted by auditors Aitken and Peat.

Although no mention was made of the money being for damage to the food industry, the Diners Club offer was supposed to have covered this.

Most SA Restaurant Guild members said they did not want the payout, but would rather have an across-the-board discount in the commission to Diners Club, and they thought the idea of an independent survey was a good thing.

● Protection in liquor industry ruled out — Page 11

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'Keep seafood exports for SA tourism'

CAPE TOWN — Fedhasa delegates at the annual congress yesterday renewed their calls on government for a ban on exports of rock lobsters and perlemoen to help boost the local tourism industry.

Fedhasa's SA Restaurant Guild national chairman Robert Maurvis said there was "no question of increasing the 25% quota of crayfish for local consumption — a ban on the export of crayfish and perlemoen should be the order of the day."

"Banning the export of rock lobster will only affect a few people making millions

out of the industry, but local sales would boost gastronomic tourism and would benefit thousands."

SA's kingklip stocks had been completely fished out to benefit the export industry, he said. "People used to come to SA for the kingklip and we are now serving them imported kingklip."

In many parts of the country crayfish was not available in season and when it was available, it was not good enough for sale in good restaurants. — Sapa.

3 Fishings

(3) FISHING
ARC 5/8/92

Restaurants call for total ban on crayfish exports

Staff Reporter

THE Restaurant Guild will lobby parliament for a total ban on the export of crayfish and kingklip, guild chairman Mr Robert Mauvis said at a plenary session of the Fedhasa congress in Cape Town.

Only 25 percent of crayfish was released on to the local market, and restaurants were battling to fulfil demand, Mr Mauvis said.

This "hardline approach" was not only necessary to supply local demand, but was an environmental issue as well.

The guild appealed to the public to support its demand and was considering drawing up a petition.

The government's decision to reduce legal size requirements could lead to a situation similar to that surrounding kingklip, which has been largely fished out and now has to be imported.

The price of kingklip had risen from R9 to R26 a kg in the past year, Mr Mauvis said.

Against the backdrop of talk relating to a tourism boom, tourists should be encouraged to come to South Africa to enjoy gastronomic delights, rather than sending the product overseas, Mr Mauvis said.

"What earns more foreign currency anyway, tourists or exporting tails?" Mr Aldo Girolo, regional chairman (Western Cape) of the guild, wanted to know.

The government has said that it is essential to improve foreign currency reserves.

It promised to increase the local market quota if restaurateurs could prove that such a measure was necessary.

A dossier of faxes on crayfish shortages had been compiled, Mr Mauvis said.

Industry hits back at restaurants

Kreef ban

■ During the Fedhasa congress held this week in Cape Town the Restaurant Guild indicated that it would lobby the government to ban all crayfish exports as this would benefit tourism to South Africa. The statement led to heavy criticism from the industry.

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE crayfish industry has lashed out at the Restaurant Guild for its "irresponsible" and "absurd" call to the government this week to ban all crayfish exports.

The chairman of the Restaurant Guild, Mr Robert Mauvis, said at a plenary session of the Fedhasa congress in Cape Town this week that the guild would lobby parliament for a total ban on crayfish exports. He said there was a shortage of crayfish for the local market.

But Mr Steve Malherbe, manager of Safroc, the largest crayfish export company in the country, said the call by Mr Mauvis was irresponsible and absurd.

"For years the industry has been struggling to sell the 25 percent of the total crayfish quota that must — according to government regulations — be sold on the local market.

"This year the 25 percent of the total quota represents about 630 tons of crayfish. Yet from November last year to the end of June this year the industry has been able to sell only 356 tons of crayfish.

"But it goes much further

than that. If the total quota of about 2 400 tons of crayfish is flushed on to the local market, the price would drop to about a third of the current price. It would be a case of pushing crayfish down people's throats.

"What will happen to the 5 000 people employed in the crayfish industry? They would lose their jobs."

Mr Malherbe said the industry could earn about R20-million more if it sold the local 25 percent of the quota overseas — at much higher prices.

"We are indirectly subsidising the price of crayfish locally by selling it at about R33 a kilogram for whole, cooked or frozen crayfish. A kilogram is made up of about 2½ fish. This works out to about R13 a tail.

"I recently sold crayfish at this price to a local restaurant. I later saw the menu of the same restaurant offering crayfish at R49,95 each."

But, said Mr Malherbe, it was not for him to criticise restaurants which in some instances made a profit of more than 300 percent, just as it was not for him to criticise restaurants which were allegedly selling wines at inflated prices.

"It is a free-market system, but we in the industry feel it is

highly unfair and irresponsible to attack the industry at regular intervals. We are not the guilty party.

"We have more than enough crayfish for the local market and the price of R13 a crayfish is reasonable considering we have a large number of employees, ships and storage facilities to run and maintain."

Mr James Kroukamp of the Cape Lobster Export Association, the other large crayfish export company in Cape Town, agreed with Mr Malherbe.

"The call by the Restaurant Guild to ban all crayfish exports and so increase tourism to this country is, to say the least, ludicrous. I have never heard of tourists specifically visiting countries because of some culinary dish.

"People can eat crayfish anywhere in the world. I think it is a case of restaurants not being happy with making only about 600 percent profit on a crayfish. They want to make a profit of 1 000 percent and more. How else do they explain the fact that they buy crayfish for about R13 each and sell it for R50 and more in their restaurants?"

Weekend Argus did a flash survey among Cape Town's best seafood restaurants to find out what whole crayfish were selling for. The average price for a crayfish weighing between 340g and 650g was about R55.

Some restaurants said crayfish was out of season and not readily available. But according to the industry this is "hogwash" as about 300 tons of crayfish is still available for the local market.

for 'making profits of 300%'
'absurd'

WEEKEND ARGUS 16/19/92



STEENKAMP

New rules cut back on fishing for fun

CT 8/8/92
Staff Reporter

DRASTIC measures aimed at saving the country's line fish stocks, which will hurt recreational fishermen, were introduced by the government yesterday.

The new regulations would afford "greater protection to the species concerned to adhere to the principle of sustainable yield", a statement from the Department of the Environment said.

The department has formulated four categories of all line fish caught: Critical, restricted, exploitable and recreational.

The white shark and Natal wrasse remain off-limits to any sector of the fishing industry.

The exploitable list, including snoek and yellowtail, limits anglers to 10 per day in total of the about 20 species listed.

The recreational list, which includes stumpnose, galjoen and garrick on the list of about 25, prohibits more than 10 fish a day per person and only five of the same species.

Hout Bay brings back the good old days

STAR 18/92

3 Fishing

Hout Bay is the setting for a R35 million renovation of a fisherman's village dating back to the turn of the century — and which is set to boost tourism to the bay without spoiling the natural charm. **WILLEM STEENKAMP** reports.

PICTURESQUE Hout Bay is laying the foundation for a multi-million rand sprucing up of a fisherman's village dating back to the turn of the century and a development that will offer visitors open air theatres, old-fashioned trading stores, an hotel, restaurant and festival market.

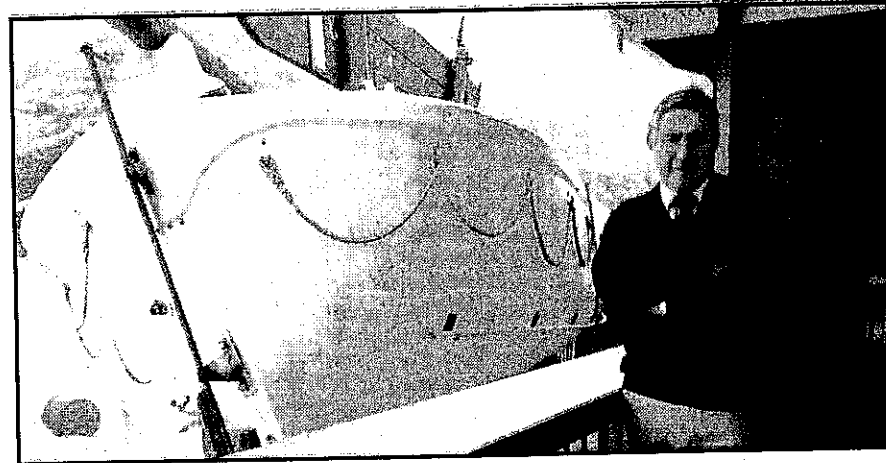
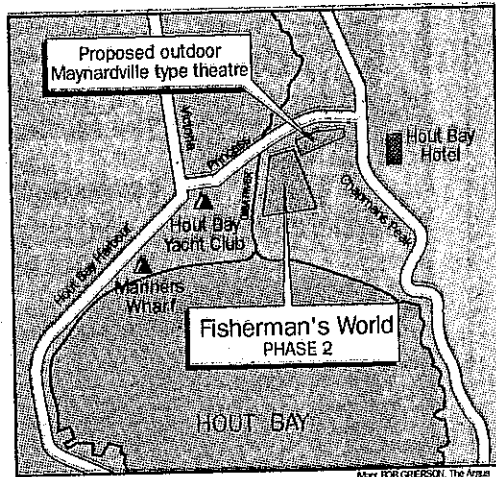
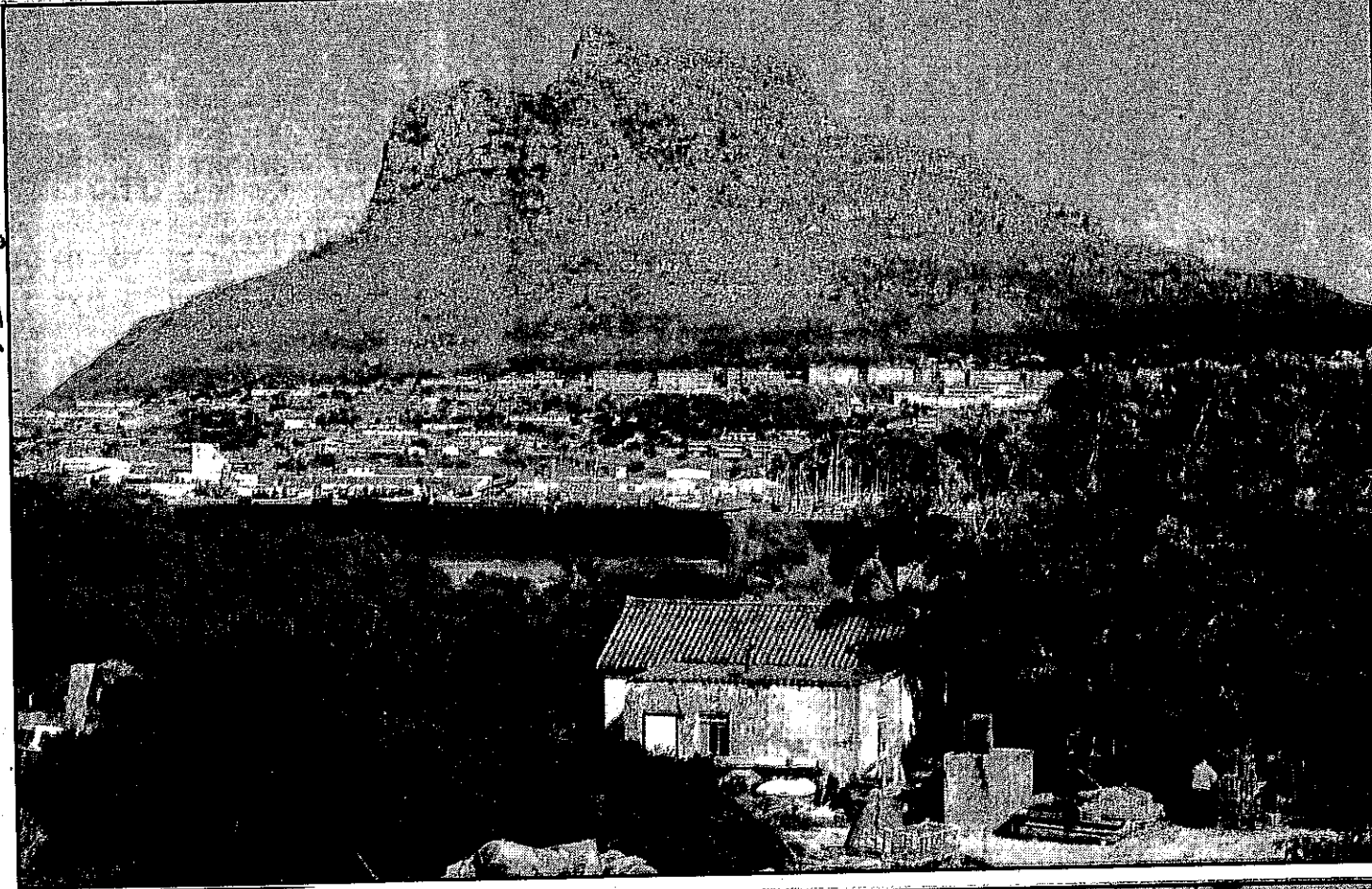
The R35 million project, known as Fisherman's World, will also include cobblestoned walkways, coffee shops, a chocolate and fudge factory, restaurants, a Harrods-style food market and a number of speciality shops.

The "living village" concept is the brainchild of Stanley Dorman, managing director of the Cape Coast group of companies, who believes that the typical lifestyle of fishermen in Hout Bay at the turn of the century should be preserved for future generations.

He says Fisherman's World will be comparable to Gold Reef City on the outskirts of Johannesburg, where the lifestyle of the old mining community in that area was preserved and has become a popular tourist drawcard.

Dorman said: "The concept of a Fisherman's World started more than 18 years ago. Since the turn of the century the Dorman family has been involved in fishing in the Hout Bay area and I carried on with the tradition.

"Through the years I saw how things changed in the fishing industry and about 18 years ago I started thinking of preserving the old fishermen's cottages which are such an integral part of the history of Hout Bay — my father was actually born in one of them.



DRIVING FORCE: Stanley Dorman has big plans for Hout Bay (top).

"I started buying up the land on which these cottages were situated and that is how it started. Mariner's Wharf (the restaurant and seafood delicatessen) developed as a first phase of the whole concept. "Over the years I have bought up old fishermen's arte-

facts — nets, ropes, boats, you name it. I have warehouses full of the tools of the fishing trade. These things I have bought and kept to become part of the Fisherman's World."

Dorman said the concept will include retired Hout Bay fishermen working on their nets

and trade in Fisherman's World.

While their sons are at sea carrying on with the trade, the nets will still be repaired by the older generation of Fisherman's World.

Each of the 14 cottages dating back to the turn of the cen-

tury will be systematically renovated and form the backbone of the development.

Three cottages, one of which originally housed the old 1916 post office, have already been renovated and now house speciality shops in Main Road.

Fisherman's World is a...

dered by the Disa River, Main Road, the Baviaans River and Hout Bay beach. Old shipwrecks will be situated on the banks of one of these rivers to add atmosphere.

Every shop in Fisherman's World will feature a time capsule-style, permanent window display with a turn-of-the-century look.

So, for instance, the pharmacy will have a window display of medical instruments and medicines dating back to 1900, and the shop in the old post office building will have a display of old post boxes, scales and other equipment actually used when the post office was opened in 1916.

A Harrods-style food and retail centre, which will be part of the modern segment of the development, will be completed towards the end of next year. Dorman said all new buildings will be low-rise developments and the whole project will have a rural atmosphere.

A large section of the land will be used as an open-air theatre on the same lines as the Maynardville amphitheatre. The theatre at Hout Bay will be situated under huge old milkwood trees which have grown into large interwoven umbrella-shaped foliage and give ideal coverage.

There will be four stages under these trees.

During 1940 lights were rigged in the trees to illuminate dances and other entertainment presented to crews of visiting and local ships.

Dorman, who is establishing the project using only his own finances, says the development should not be seen as competition to the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront.

The waterfront development received money from Transnet to develop Cape Town harbour and is fully owned by Transnet.

Dorman said the waterfront should be seen as the heart of tourism in the Cape, while attractions such as Hout Bay, the winelands, Cape Point and False Bay should be seen as the arms, legs, and body of tourism.

New fish laws 'will not save' falling stocks

Angling □ PETER GOOSEN

STRINGENT new regulations will do nothing to stop fish stocks dwindling, according to the chairman and conservation officer of the Western Province Rock and Surf Angling Association, Dr Vincent Taylor.

Dr Taylor said the new curbs would give more protection to only three species, poenskop, seventy four and white steenbras.

He called for a halt to B licence, semi-commercial boat angling. If a resource was under pressure there could be no justification for allowing people who already had an income to make a second income out of it, he said.

In a report on the new regulations, he said their best feature was making fish on the recreational list, such as the spotted grunter, galjoen, leervis and white musselcracker, non-commercial.

South Africa had an estimated 500 000 recreational sea anglers, whose interests should be protected, and he could see no reason why commercial anglers should be allowed to catch these species.

Dr Taylor also proposed a critical list for species that need protection from recreational and commercial anglers alike.

He would like to see the dageraad and the red stumpnose on the critical list and elf and zebra on the recreational list. He suggested that the white stumpnose could be moved to the exploitable list because he was convinced that it was less endangered than species such as kob.

The recreational list should include all fish that are important to the recreational angler and are not exploited by commercials, he said.

● There are signs that rock and surf angling is picking up as the water temperature in False Bay and beyond rises and the winter cold fronts get fewer and further between.

False Bay is still yielding good catches of galjoen, and wily galjoen angler Syd Jonkers hooked 10 at Macassar recently.

Goodwood Angling Club had an outing at Pearly Beach recently and Richard Watson got two steenbras of 3,3 and 3,7kg and John Dodo fish of 1,5 and 1,3kg. Whoppers of 7kg and 10kg respectively fell to Neil Gous and Charles Loubser — and they were fishing in awful conditions.

During an outing by the Melkbosstrand Angling Club at Bokbaai on the West Coast two rare bramble sharks were caught estimated to weigh 120-140kg and to be 2,2 metres long. Both fish were returned to the water. Had angler At Scheffer kept the biggest it would have given him a new South African heavy tackle record. On the same trip Malcolm Hart got a kob of 6kg.

The snoek run continues unabated, with fish on both sides of the Peninsula and catches of up to 100 a man. But as soon as the fish increase the price decreases, and R2 to R2,50 a fish is the going rate this week.

Snoek is not the whole picture, as kob and yellowtail have made a welcome reappearance in False Bay.

Gordons Bay skiboat angler Mike Casserley has been hitting the kob in his favourite kob hole at Swartklip. He and his fishing partner bagged their limit of 10 kob each last weekend. Once they had their quota they had to push off — a sobering experience.

The last leg of the WP Deep Sea Angling Association inshore league contest takes place from Cape Boat and Skiboat Club, Rumbly Bay, on Sunday. It is not known whether the contest will be fished according to the new sea fisheries regulations or if a dispensation will be granted in time. The slipway will be closed to non-competitors all day.

New deal for trek fishermen

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

THE often stormy relationship between the False Bay Trek Fishermen's Association and the Department of Sea Fisheries appears set to improve following a decision this week by the Department's to recognise the association in terms of the Sea Fisheries Act.

A new co-management system has also been agreed on and follows months of "intense" discussions to amend the conditions for permit allocation.

The new deal will give small trek fishermen — who complain of unfair treatment in favour of large commercial fishing companies — a bigger say in how the industry is run.

"Co-management, allowing fishermen adequate participation in the management of the industry, is the healthiest form of management," the ANC's Mr Johnny Issel, who is currently conducting participatory research into the fishing industry, said this week.

Regular meetings between the department and the fishermen would take place and decisions reached by this management structure would be sent to the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee or the minister for final consideration.

13/9/92 (Cape metro) ³Fishing Scientific

But "ultimately" the minister would base a decision on the recommendation of the management structure, said Dr Louis Botha, Chief Director of the Department of Sea Fisheries.

Being recognised as an industrial body, would allow the fishermen access to most of the decisions made by the department, Mr Issel said.

He said restrictions were previously placed in favour of "certain political influences" and not on the availability of the resources which were being targeted by the fishermen.

Most of the existing regulations in terms of permit allocation for trek-net fishing would be scrapped and in future allocations would be determined "purely" on the basis of scientific advice, Dr Botha said.

At the same time a scientist, Dr Bruce Bennet, has been contracted by the department to do specific research on the trek-net fishing industry.

A follow-up meeting is to be held this week when a final report from Dr Bennet, dealing with net lengths and closed seasons, will be discussed.

Minister attacks ^{③ FISHING} crayfish profiteers

CT 22/9/92

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

PROFITEERING by restaurateurs — and not the government's quota system — was the reason why so few crayfish and perlemoen were consumed in South Africa, the Minister of the Environment, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

The minister's broadside at the local hotel industry follows recent criticism that the government was making available insufficient stocks of the delicacies for the tourist trade in South Africa.

Mr Pienaar said the local demand for crayfish had been lower during the past few years than the 25% of the total commercial catch allocated for sale within the country.

Permission had to be given for the unused portion of the local quota to be exported.

Fixed quota

"If restaurateurs did not have the wish to make extraordinary profits on these sought-after products — some rumours hint at 300% — South Africans would indeed scoop up the 25% of the production," he said.

Mr Pienaar noted that the allocation of a fixed quota of crayfish and perlemoen for local consumption created a potential loss of about R20 million a year for the local industry and its 5 000 employees.

"Despite representations from the industry I have maintained the long-standing arrangement (for the quota system) established by one of my predecessors," the minister said. "The same applies to perlemoen."

Restaurants in catch-22 on kreef quotas

Business Editor

CRAYFISH — once a speciality tourists expected to find in Cape Town restaurants — is now difficult for restaurateurs to obtain. And they have to pay as much as R45/kg for it, which means customers believe they are being ripped off.

Explaining this at the regional conference of Fedhasa in the Western Cape, Restaurant Guild chairman Aldo Girolo said 75% of commercially caught crayfish was exported and the other 25% was intended for the domestic market.

But, he and restaurateur Don Ball claimed, suppliers said they had no crayfish available and later asked for permission to export more than 75% because restaurants had not taken up their full quota.

Tourism

"We are in a Catch-22 situation," said Girolo. "We cannot get the crayfish and then we are told we did not take up our quota."

He and Ball supported a suggestion from Victor Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Marine Society, that crayfish and perlemoen should not be exported, but should be kept in this country to encourage the tourist industry.

Kabalin said this was the case in California, where "wild" perlemoen was not exported. "Tourists have to go to California to eat it."

Kabalin said the lobster resource in the US was obviously better managed than that in SA, since the crustaceans were plentiful and cheap there.

He accused SA commercial interests of depleting the crayfish resource by catching smaller specimens and females, and by killing many of the undersized juveniles which were put back into the water.

Traps were primitive and the crayfish were sorted for size by passing them through a grid, which sometimes damaged the undersized ones.

UTA to fly direct to Cape Town

FRENCH airline UTA will introduce direct flights from Paris to Cape Town next month — the first since the carrier started flying to SA almost 40 years ago.

The move follows similar earlier announcements by German carrier Luft-hansa, Dutch carrier KLM and British Airways, despite travel industry speculation that major airlines will cut capacity on flights to SA shortly.

SAA and international carriers serving SA have denied any intention of cutting flights in the foreseeable future and have said they would increase flights and services. UTA fares from Cape Town to Paris, London, Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Munich and several other European destinations would be available from R2 700 with certain conditions such as seasonal

STEPHANE BOTHMA

blackout periods and a R800 cancellation fee, UTA spokesman Wilma Lawson Turnbull said. *8:10 AM 22/9/92*

In addition, UTA would introduce non-stop flights between Paris and Johannesburg and flights to Namibian capital Windhoek. The first UTA aircraft would fly into Cape Town on October 29, she said. The airline had been operating in SA since 1953 but this was the first time it would fly to Cape Town.

However, no traffic rights between Johannesburg and Cape Town and Johannesburg and Windhoek existed on the UTA flights and therefore domestic passengers would not be able to board a UTA flight at Johannesburg, she said.

Smoking ban hangs in air

8:10 AM 22/9/92
CAPE TOWN — The Tobacco Action Group (Tag) — an anti-smoking lobby — yesterday urged government to support a proposed ban on smoking on international commercial flights.

Tag said the International Civil Aviation Organisation would consider a resolution to prohibit smoking on international flights at its meeting in Montreal, Canada, this week.

Tag, which represents the Heart Foundation, the National Cancer Association and the National Council Against Smoking, said the meeting would ask member states to phase out smoking on international flights as soon as possible but no later than July 1, 1994. A majority vote was needed, Tag said. — Sapa.

Greed blamed for poor crayfish sales

8:10 AM 22/9/92
CAPE TOWN — Profiteering by restaurateurs — and not government's quota system — was why so few crayfish and perlemoen were consumed in SA, Environment Minister Louis Pienaar said yesterday.

His comment follows criticism that government was making available insufficient stocks for the tourist trade.

Pienaar said local demand for crayfish had been lower during the past few years than the 25% of the total commercial catch allocated for sale within SA.

Far from there being a shortage, permission had to be given for the unused portion of the local quota to be exported, he said.

"If restaurateurs did not have the wish to make extraordinary profits on these

3 fish
Political Staff
sought-after products — some rumours hint at 300% — South Africans would indeed scoop up the 25% of the production."

LINDA ENSOR reports that Western Cape Restaurant Guild chairman Aldo Girolo said it was impossible for Cape restaurateurs to obtain crayfish in season and they were forced to pay 10% to 15% more at the end of the season.

Western Cape Marine Society chairman Vic Kabalin, speaking at Fedhasa's AGM in Cape Town yesterday, said SA's resources of rock lobster, kingklip and abalone were being depleted by gross mismanagement. Signatures were being collected for a petition calling for exports to be stopped.

Denial on crayfish³

FISHING

Political Correspondent

GOVERNMENT claims that profiteering restaurateurs were to blame for the low consumption of crayfish and perlemoen were "nonsense", the owner of the award-winning Truffles restaurant, Mr Peter Gravelius, said yesterday.

He said Environment Minister Mr Louis Pienaar should have established what was really going on ~~CT~~ 23/9/92

Mr Gravelius said the real profiteers were the commercial quota holders, who were keeping prices high so that the 25% quota for the local market was not used up — thereby allowing the surplus to be exported to the more lucrative overseas markets.

Good prices, catches boost fishery figures

③ Fish
B/D Amy 25/9/92
LINDA ENSOR

CAPE TOWN — Good pelagic fish catches and good prices resulted in Namibian Sea Products (Namsea) and Namibian Sea Fisheries (Namfish) showing strong growth in attributable profits in the six months to end-June.

Namsea achieved a remarkable 117% increase in attributable income due to its increased participation in United Fishing Enterprises (UFE).

But this was diluted by the increased number of shares in issue because of its takeover of Sarusas Development Corporation which brought with it the greater participation in UFE.

Earnings a share dropped 16,3% to 64,7c (77,3c) on a rise in the number of shares in issue to about 10,9-million (4,2-million).

The interim dividend, however, was maintained at 10c.

Namfish increased interim earnings a share by 50% to 72,9c (48,7c) and maintained its dividend at 20c a share.

Both Namsea and Namfish participate in the profits of UFE.

UFE increased profits by 57% due to accelerated product movement and improved prices.

Because of a shortage of pilchards on the SA market and strong demand, prices increased by about 20% over the last year.

The pilchard catch increased 19% and non-quota species by 55%.

This last season the total allowable catch for pilchards was set at 80 000 metric tons (60 000), with UFE and its subsidiaries receiving a quota of 13 750.

Namsea and Namfish's associate company, Seaflower Lobster Corporation, made losses.

The total allowable catch for rock lobster was reduced from 1 200 metric tons for the 1990/91 season to 100 to conserve the resource.

Of this, 50 tons was allocated to Seaflower which was also allocated a 5 000-ton hake quota and a tuna licence for 1992.

The tuna fishing has not yet been started to any great extent.

Namfish subsidiary Northern Fishing Industries — which fishes for hake — and its associate company, Blue Sea Fishing, received a quota of 1 938 metric tons (1 333) for the 1992 season out of a total allowable catch of 90 000 (60 000).

Turnover

Northern and Blue Sea have jointly purchased a trawler to expand the business.

Namsea's turnover rose 22% to R18,5m (R15m) but with margins soaring to 51,3% (24%) operating income rose by 161% to R9,5m (R3,6m).

The bottom-line earnings of R7m (R3,2m) was boosted by a lower tax rate.

Namfish's turnover rose 32% to R6,3m (R4,8m), and margins rose to 51,3% (21,6%). Investment income also increased sharply to R1m (R639 000).

Higher earnings for the full year are anticipated for both Namsea and Namfish.

Fish profits up despite ^③ bad weather FISHING MKG 3/10/92

MARC HASENFUSS, Business Staff

NATAL Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) netted bigger profits in the six months to June in spite of adverse weather and worsening economic conditions.

Chairman Mr Jack Walsh said that given the drop in prices arising from a slack worldwide market, a zero contribution from the associate company and the difficulties of operations, the results were satisfactory.

Turnover jumped by more than 40 percent to R7,6 million while operating profit increased a solid 21 percent to R1,5 million in the period under review.

A 53 percent increase in the interest bill to R561.000 slowed the profit growth at bottom line to a more pedestrian 5 percent at R1,2 million.

The number of shares in issue more than doubled to 41,6 million on the back of last year's rights issue. This diluted earnings down to 2,79c (previously 5,56c) a share.

Mr Walsh said the poor economic conditions in South Africa caused an overall drop of 32 percent in prices for product.

"This was with the exception of the inshore prawn, which held its price."

In spite of a greater fishing effort, poor weather reduced landing of inshore prawns by over 30 percent. However, the catch of deep water prawn remained satisfactory.

Deep water fishing results in Mozambique also remained satisfactory but trading conditions had become extremely difficult.

In the last financial year Natrawl enjoyed dividend income of R400 000 from fishing off Mozambique, but Mr Walsh does not expect a contribution for the current year.

This week's financial results disclosed that Natrawl would no longer equity account the results of the company's 40 percent holding in its Mozambique associate. This was due to changed management circumstances in the associate company.

Mr Walsh said negotiations with this associate were under way which could result in a reduction in the size of the holding.

Natrawl has also started up a net manufacturing facility through a wholly owned subsidiary. He said that, apart from improving efficiency, the facility was already running at a satisfactory profit level.

Trek fishermen 'not harming juvenile fish'

③ FISHING
A12G7/10/92

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

FALSE Bay's trek-fishermen are not harming juvenile fish populations seriously and restrictions on their activities are not scientifically based, according to UCT researchers.

Their findings contradict frequent accusations against trek-fishermen by recreational anglers and some conservationists.

Dr Bruce Bennett of the zoology department and Professor Charlie Griffiths of the marine research unit are investigating trek-netting in the bay for the Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries.

In a progress report for the period January 1991 to June 1992, the scientists note that restrictions on trek-fishing — "and the hardship to fishermen which resulted" — are largely the result of public pressure.

"In fact, available catch data on species such as yellowtail, kob and elf suggest that trek-net catches in False Bay are not likely to be detrimental to the overall national stocks of these non-resident species."

Pointing out that commercial trek-netting operations are limited to areas of clean sand, the researchers say: "This, with the selective properties of the commercial net, ensures that only a small proportion of their

catch (less than 6 percent) is made up of juvenile fish.

"These fishermen appear to be nowhere near as harmful to juvenile fish populations in False Bay as has been proposed by certain sectors of the conservationist lobby."

The report suggests that the closed season (May 1 to October 31) be abolished in favour of closed weekends.

"It is estimated that about 20 percent of the angling fish catch would not have occurred if that was the rule.

"The most important point is that the degree of conflict with anglers, most of whom are 'weekenders' and the public would be reduced."

This would also remove the need for constant policing of catches "after hours", they add.

Commenting on the report, Wildlife Society conservation ecologist Mr Andy Gubb said some attacks had been politically motivated.

"While this research has not been completed, it has been found that the results to date do not point towards the trek-fishermen having any significant impact on resources."

Calling for a full scientific assessment of the impact of recreational fishermen as well, Mr Gubb said: "Resources have to be shared by all user groups and a partitioning of the resource has to be done on a sustainable basis, based on scientific evidence."

White steenbras catches declining — researchers

Environment Reporter

CATCHES of the highly popular white steenbras have declined over the years and the stock is over-exploited at present, say UCT researchers.

In their final report of a three-year study into the white steenbras off the Cape coast, Dr Bruce Bennett of UCT's zoology department and Professor Charlie Griffiths of the Marine Research Unit said this was the result of both recreational and commercial fishing and a number of catch restrictions applied over the years.

Noting that anglers presently take two thirds of the total white steenbras catch by number and about half by weight, their report questions the fairness of the different restrictions on angling and commercial sectors.

"One point that is clear is

that *Lithognathus lithognathus* (white steenbras) cannot be considered as an 'angling species' as it was an important component of the commercial catch long before becoming important in the catches of anglers," they said.

Their major recommendations include: increasing the minimum size limit to 65cm, with strict enforcement; abandoning angling bag limits on this species; re-opening areas in the vicinity of river mouths; some relaxation on the use of long-line "Rusman" nets in False Bay; and instituting a short season of four-to-six weeks in mid-summer with no restrictions on the lengths of rope for trek-nets.

"... if these (recommended) restrictions are not strictly enforced, the future of *L. lithognathus* is bleak," they warned.

Bins at the ready for onslaught on targetted waste

Banned toxins found in dead fish

By Julienne du Toit

Fish that died at a specific spot in the Vaal River may have been killed by Dieldrin and benzene, hexachloride (BHC), both banned insecticides, according to the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

The CSIR found traces of Dieldrin and BHC in live fish taken from the river near Schoemansdrif in the western Transvaal, as well as the derivatives of the banned DDT, called DDD and DDE.

The Department of Water Affairs reported four sets of fish deaths starting on August 24 in the area.

Some experts ascribed the deaths to changes in

temperature of the water, but Abre Steyn of the Biotox Foundation said he found it "too much of a coincidence" that Dieldrin was found in dams in Potchefstroom, and that domestic animals were dying in the area at roughly the same time.

Chickens, ostrich, springbuck and cattle were found dead as far away as Christiana, about 200 km away.

The department said in a statement issued late last month that tests of the water of the Vaal River where the fish had died showed good water quality, and that Onderstepoort could not find traces of pesticides in the dead fish.

Said Steyn: "I don't

3 Fishing STAR 12/10/92.
want to say anything harsh about Onderstepoort, but the Department of Water Affairs has long ago acknowledged to me that Onderstepoort is not geared to micro-analysis.

"It is minute quantities that we are dealing with, and it is very easy to get a negative result. This does not mean it's not there, just that you did not find it."

The CSIR tests showed a concentration of 0,028 mg/kg of Dieldrin in yellow-fish. The lethal 24-hour limit, according to a pesticide manual, is between 0,018 and 0,089 mg/kg for fish.

The allowable daily intake for man is set at 0,0001 mg/kg. Dieldrin has been linked to liver cancer in man.

Crayfish: 'Minister ignored the scientists'

Staff Reporter

TWO UCT scientists have criticised Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar for "continuously ignoring scientific recommendations" following his announcement on a revised minimum size limit and a reduced quota for the coming crayfish season.

Mr Pienaar set a rock lobster size limit of 80mm carapace length and reduced the quota to 2 200 tons.

Scientists Dr Amos Barkai and Dr Michael Bergh claimed they recommended a much larger reduction in minimum size to tide the industry over the poor recent lobster growth rates.

Dr Bergh, a mathematician, said the risk as a result of the minister's decision was "not only economic, but biological".

Mr Pienaar announced that the public

would continue to be allowed to take four rock lobsters a day for private use but for an extended period from November 1 to April 15.

The new size limit also applied to the public, he said.

The two scientists recommended a 75mm size and 3 000-ton quota but they said they could have accepted the recommendation of

CT 14/10/92 (3) FISHING
the Sea Fisheries Advisory Council of a size limit of 77mm and a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 2 700 tons.

"Unfortunately, the minister has again chosen to ignore the recommendation of his advisory council, at enormous cost to the economy," he said.

Mr Pienaar said at a press conference that more fisheries inspectors would be appointed.

Instead of kreef — it's grief

③ FISHING ARG 17/10/92

■ The size of catchable crayfish was increased to 80 mm this week, but still falls short of the size limit of 89 mm which had been applicable for many years. The period in which private catchers can catch the fish has also been extended but will this ensure that crayfish is more readily available to the general consumer? Weekend Argus Reporter **WILLEM STEENKAMP** investigates.

ENVIRONMENT affairs minister Mr Louis Pienaar's stepping up of the catchable crayfish size from 75 mm to 80 mm and an extension of the season has lured favourable reaction from private fishermen.

But restaurateurs and consumers remain worried about the current system in which only 25 percent of the total 2 200-ton quota — embracing those for commercial and private hunters of the delicacy — is made available on the South African market.

Restaurateurs believe the fishing industry effectively denies them and consumers access to personally tailored quantities of crayfish because major seafood suppliers only sell a minimum of a quarter ton at a time.

Very few restaurateurs and even fewer consumers have the storage facilities to buy in such quantities and, at an average of R33 a kg, excluding VAT, few can afford the luxury.

This leads to middlemen buying directly from

the industry, adding their own profit and then selling stocks to restaurateurs or the public. Consumers can expect to fork out up to R54 a crayfish in local restaurants.

Mr Louis Pienaar, Minister of Environment Affairs, this week gave Weekend Argus the assurance that he would see to it that the industry would market crayfish in the spirit in which the government originally decided that 25 percent of the fish had to be sold locally.

He said that since 1987 the government had not permitted the exportation of the 25 percent intended for the local market, even if the industry failed to sell it locally.

But Weekend Argus has reliably learnt that it was very difficult to police the export of the crayfish to overseas markets and that it was virtually impossible to ensure that the 25 percent was in fact sold locally.

The government must rely on the discipline of the industry to sell the expected quantity locally. The industry loses an estimated R20 million a year through selling the 25 percent locally instead of exporting it to overseas markets.

He added he would not interfere with private enterprise principles and that "it is the right of the (crayfish) industry like any other, to try and get the best possible price for their product and I will not institute price control".

Mr Pienaar warned that he would discuss the situation with the industry to ensure they would market the product in such a way that it was readily available to the public.

ANC wants end to lobster monopoly

26/10/92

③ FISHING

Staff Reporter

THE ANC has appealed for fair wages in the lobster industry and called for urgent changes in the monopolistic management system.

About 60 representatives of 14 West Coast communities met at a weekend conference called by the ANC to discuss resource management and ownership rights.

ANC organiser Mr Johnny Issel said the meeting had emphasised that the community should be responsible for the resource.

The fisherman also agreed that the quota system should be reviewed. They said over-exploitation was responsible for the decline in lobster

reserves and believed that the environmental factors advanced by the government were a lesser cause.

Options included a division of the quota allocation between the monopolistic companies and the communities fishing the resource.

The fisherman also believed that the permit allocation for sports divers should be cancelled or curtailed.

Mr Issel voiced concern about the poverty of fishing communities, saying more than 90% of quota-holders were white.

"Rock lobsters which earn West Coast fishermen R3,60 a kilogram are sold for as much as R90/kg on the international market," he said.

Fishermen want ban on sports crayfish permits

③
FISHING
ART 28/10/92

Environment Reporter

PERMITS for sports divers to catch crayfish should be withdrawn or restricted and the quota system reviewed, say West Coast professional crayfishermen.

They believe crayfish stocks have declined sharply because of over-exploitation, rather than because of environmental factors affecting mussels, the crustaceans' main food.

These were among the points emerging from a weekend conference organised by the ANC and attended by 80 fishermen from 14 West Coast communities.

According to an ANC statement, the fishermen discussed ownership rights and management of crayfish stocks.

"The meeting stressed that the community should form the basis of, and carry responsibility for, the resource.

"It was further emphasised that the present quota system should be reviewed. The options included a division of the allocations between the pre-

sent monopolistic big companies and the communities fishing the resource."

Crayfish reserves were "in steep decline", the statement added.

"This is due to over-exploitation of the resource base.

"The fishermen felt that environmental factors, as explained by the government, were a lesser cause and that the present quota system is the main culprit.

"Another aspect is the permit allocations to sports divers. The meeting felt that these permits should be done away with or curtailed."

● Organiser Mr Johnny Isseel told the conference that crayfish which earned local fishermen just R3,60 a kilogram — sometimes shared between two men — were sold for as much as R90 on the international market, Sapa reports.

He appealed for fair wages for the fishermen who, he said, risked their lives to catch crayfish.

Pienaar rejects condemnation of cray catches (3)

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

*PSHINING
29/10/92*

THE ANC's criticism of the government's management of crayfish stocks is "scientifically unfounded, apparently blatant political opportunism and cannot be taken seriously", says Environment Affairs Minister Mr Louis Pienaar.

He was reacting to the ANC-organised conference at the weekend when 80 professional crayfishermen from 14 West Coast communities called for the quota system to be reviewed.

They also said they believed crayfish stocks had declined sharply because of over-exploitation, rather than because of environmental factors.

Mr Pienaar said there was no scientific basis for these claims. Rather, the growth of crayfish had been retarded during the past three years because of environmental circumstances.

"The total biomass has not been reduced, but rather the growth tempo."

Mr Pienaar said the total allowable catch (TAC) for crayfish had been reduced from 3 790 tons in 1990/91 to an initial 2 715 tons before being further reduced to 2 400 tons in 1991/92.

This season's TAC was 2 200 tons, he pointed out.

"The ANC's criticism conveniently suppresses the fact that other quotas were raised to the benefit of the fishing community," Mr Pienaar said.

The conference's reference to monopolistic conditions in the crayfish industry were difficult to understand, he continued.

Improved catches help keep Oceana shipshape

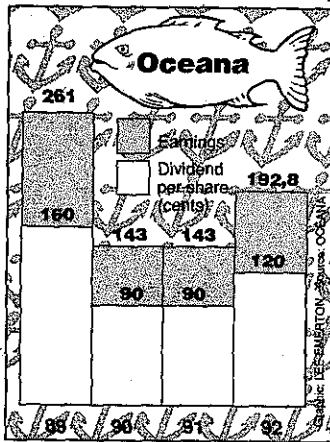
EDWARD WEST

OCEANA Fishing Group netted a fine profit in the year to end-September 1992 with earnings up 35% and total dividends one-third higher than in the previous year.

Turnover increased 15% from 1991 to R375,43m but operating income soared by more than 70% to R36,28m. Interest received climbed to R5,1m from R2,3m and investment income rose to R5,79m from R3,45m.

Pre-tax income, 70% up at R42,07m, lifted the tax bill to R22,61m from R10,45m, leaving taxed income at R19,46m from R14,17m.

Attributable income to shareholders was 36% higher at R18,19m from R13,38m in 1991, raising earnings to 192,8c a share from 142,8c. With the final dividend of 90c (65c the previous year), the total payout for the year reached 120c compared with 90c in 1991.



Directors reported that increased earnings were attributable mainly to improved pelagic landings and the benefits of rationalisation in the fishing division in earlier years. Good performances were also recorded by the trading and cold storage divisions. Investment income increased.

The performance of Oceana's new R19m cold store at Duncan Rock in

Cape Town, which came into operation in August and which was funded by venture partners, Oceana, ICS and Portnet, was in line with expectations, the directors said.

The industry's rock lobster quota for the 1992/93 season had been reduced to 2 200 tons from 2 400 tons the previous season which, together with worsening economic conditions in overseas markets, was expected to adversely affect

Oceana's rock lobster division in the year ahead.

However, marine scientists were confident that lobster resources were sound. Pelagic resources appeared to be stable and good catches could again be expected in the next year.

This, and expected improvement in the trading and cold storage divisions, should improve overall earnings for the coming year, directors predicted.

Ocfish posts healthy 35% earnings rise

Business Editor

FISHING
CT 29/10/92

THE Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) went against the trend by lifting earnings in the year to September 30 by an impressive 35% to 192,8c (142,8c) a share.

The final dividend is 90c (65c) a share, making a total pay-out for the year of 120c (90c) — a 33% rise.

This was achieved on a 15% rise in turnover to R375 433m (R325 889m). Net operating income was R36 282m (R21 172m) and income from investments R5,7m (R3,4m).

Net income before tax was R42m (R24,6m). The tax bill more than doubled to R22,6m (R10,4m). But net after-tax income was still 37% higher at R19,4m (R14,1m).

Income attributable to ordinary shareholders was 36% higher at R18,1m (R13,3m), with R1,3m paid out to outside shareholders in subsidiaries. The number of shares in issue was slightly higher at 9,4m (9,3m).

The directors say the rise in earnings was due mainly to improved landings of pelagic fish and the benefits of rationalisation in the fishing industry in earlier years.

"Investment income was higher," they point out, "and good performances were recorded by the trading and cold storage divisions."

But they warn that a cut in the industry rock lobster quota for the 1992-93 season to 2 200 tons (2 400 tons) "together with worsening economic conditions in overseas markets, is expected to have a negative impact on this division's results in the year ahead."

Govt launches probe into fishing industry

Political Staff

(3) fishing

CAPE TOWN — Wide-ranging government investigations into the fishing industry were announced yesterday by Environment Affairs Minister Louis Pienaar.

They include inquiries into the socio-economic conditions in fishing communities, the award of quotas, the extension of labour laws to fishermen, and disputes over the licensing of the linefish industry.

Pienaar also criticised the ANC for its comments about the crayfish industry and said he found it reprehensible that the circumstances of fishing communities were being exploited for political gain.

"The ANC's criticisms of the management of crayfish resources are not scientifically grounded and are clearly blatant political opportunism that cannot be taken seriously," he said.

BLOM 29/10/92

His statement followed a conference last weekend, organised by the ANC and attended by 60 representatives of 14 west coast communities, at which calls were made for better wages and changes in monopolistic management systems.

Pienaar was "deeply aware" of the harmful and unfavourable circumstances under which fishing communities were suffering and this had been brought to his attention by the communities' MPs.

The quota board would formulate proposals on guidelines for the award of quotas, he said, and Manpower Minister Leon Wessels had instructed his department to investigate the inclusion of self-employed fishermen in labour legislation. Sea Fisheries was also investigating licensing disputes in the linefish industry, he added.

Pienaar said the ANC had, without evidence, claimed the quota system was responsible for the decline in the crayfish resource, but this had no scientific basis.

Although lobster growth had been delayed by environmental circumstances, total weight had not declined.

Govt to probe fishing trade, communities

By BARRY STREEK
Political Staff

③ CR 29/10/92

TKS/HCT

WIDE-RANGING government investigations into conditions in the fishing industry were announced yesterday by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar.

They include inquiries into the socio-economic conditions in fishing communities, the award of quotas, the extension of labour laws to fishermen and disputes over licensing in the line-fish industry.

Mr Pienaar also criticised the ANC for its comments about the crayfish industry and said he found it reprehensible that circumstances of fishing communities were being exploited for political gain.

His statement followed a conference last weekend, organised by the ANC and attended by 60 representatives of 14 West Coast communities, at which calls were made for better wages in the lobster industry and for changes in the monopolistic management system.

Mr Pienaar said he was deeply aware of the harmful and unfavourable circumstances which fishing communities were suffering and this had been brought to his attention by MPs who represented these communities.

Attention was being given to the circumstances of these communities.

Lobster catchers to strike

③ Fishing
SITimes [Cape Metro]

By JESSICA

BEZUIDENHOUT

ALL Western Cape lobster fishermen are expected to start a strike today if they do not get an immediate increase in the catch rate per kilogram, which they demanded from lobster quota holders on Friday.

This was decided at a meeting between representatives of the West Coast Fishermen's Union and the ANC and the managing director of the lobster umbrella body, Safroc (S A Frozen Rock Lobster Association). 11/11/92

The ANC's Mr Johnny Issel, currently researching the fishing industry, said this week quota holders believed fishermen should insist on an increase in the quota if they wanted an increase in the catch rate.

This could not be done however as it would lead to over-exploitation and the eventual depletion of the resource.

Safroc's assistant general manager, Mr Dan de Villiers, said the association would convene a representative forum of lobster quota holders this week to discuss the fishermen's demands.

Kreef strike talks today

③ FISHING ~~FILE~~ OCT 31/11/92

UNION leaders, the ANC and rock lobster industry representatives are to meet today to discuss the strike by kreef fishermen and factory packers.

Crayfish factories in several West Coast villages were deserted as woman workers, most of them members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union, joined their menfolk on strike on the second day of the 1992/93 crayfish season, factory managers confirmed.

Fishing ports affected include Doringbaai, Lamberts

Bay, Elands Bay, Paternoster and St Helena Bay, according to the general secretary of the West Coast Fishermen's Union, Mr Hennie Mostert.

Describing the strike as historic, he said it was the first time fishermen had taken a stand and decided they were no longer prepared to be dominated by quota holders.

The fishermen are demanding that the catch rate paid to them be increased from R3,60 to R8/kg and that fishing companies stop reducing their

fleets and retrenching workers.

Mr Mostert said the fishermen were determined not to go to sea until their demands had been met.

Mr Dan de Villiers, assistant general manager of the South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), said the industry was concerned about the strike and would meet the ANC and quota holders today to discuss the demands of the fishermen.

Mr Aldo Girolo, chairman of the Restaurant Guild, said he

supported the fishermen's demands for a better wage.

"There has to be something wrong with the industry when fishermen only get about R4/kg and we have to pay R45/kg."

ANC fishing industry researcher Mr Johnny Issel said fishermen feared a depletion of the crayfish resource and the collapse of their livelihood following the recent government announcement of a reduced size limit and total allowable catch for crayfish. — Sapa and Staff Reporter

Govt probe welcomed

WESTERN CAPE ANC chairman Dr Allan Boesak has welcomed the government's proposed investigation into the living conditions of rock lobster fishermen on the West Coast.

He said yesterday he hoped the fishermen would be consulted so that their interests would be reflected in the recommendations.

The ANC supported the crayfishermen's strike. ✓

Kreef crisis deepens

Staff Reporter

③ FISHING CT 4/11/92

THE crisis in the crayfish industry deepened yesterday when packers told fishermen they could not meet their demand for an increase in the catch rate.

Mr Dan de Villiers, assistant managing director of SA Rock Frozen Lobster Packers, told fishermen they had to negotiate their demands with individual quota holders.

Safroc, which markets crayfish on behalf of quota holders, decided to call off yesterday's meeting with the West Coast fishermen and the ANC.

Fishermen are demanding an in-

crease in the catch rate from R3,60 to R8 per kilogram and that companies should not reduce their fishing fleets to cut costs.

Dr Allan Boesak, the ANC's Western Cape chairman, said Safroc's decision to call off the meeting was aimed at splitting the community.

"In thinking this divide and rule tactic will succeed, Safroc displays ignorance and contempt," he said.

Mr Johnny Issel, ANC fishing industry researcher, yesterday confirmed the majority of the West Coast fishermen were still on strike yesterday, three days after the season opened.

Govt bans transfer of fishing permits

By BARRY STRECK
Political Staff

FISHING

et 4/11/92
THE government yesterday announced an immediate moratorium on the transfer of all commercial line-fish permits to protect fishing communities.

Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar said yesterday the moratorium had been imposed on the transfer of the commercial A permits until further notice to ensure they were used for the benefit of fishing communities.

During the moratorium the transfer of permits would only be considered in exceptional circumstances, such as when a permit-holder died or could not use the permit any more. Semi-commercial B permits are also being investigated.

Bad times ahead for kreef trade

③ FISHING
CTS/11/92

BLEAK times are ahead for the Cape's lobster industry, which is caught in a four-day strike and facing falling export prices, while tons of the delicacy are warehoused overseas.

Rock lobster prices in Japan, the major export market, had dropped by between 20% and 30%, an industry source said yesterday, adding that about 110 tons of crayfish remained in cold storage in the United States awaiting a buyer.

The reduced commercial crayfish quota and a depressed international market have forced quota holders to cut back on their fishing fleets and staff, industry sources said yesterday.

The resulting fear of job losses and uncertainty over the future of the crayfish industry has led to a four-day-old strike by West Coast lobster fishermen.

West Coast Fishermen's Union committee member Mr Thomas Cupido yesterday said the strike would continue until the union's demands were met.

However, fishermen in Elands Bay are contemplating a return to work today, he said.

Meanwhile Oceana Fishing Group, the largest employer in the industry, will not rehire 121 seasonal fishermen at its Lamberts Bay Canning Company plant this season.

The Oceana group owns four factories in the West Coast ports of Hondeklip Bay, Doringbaai, Lamberts Bay and St Helena Bay as well as South African Sea Products in Hout Bay.

Oceana's human resources manager, Mr Leon Conradie, said his company was aware of the hardship in the fishing communities and realised that further job losses would aggravate the situation.

Alternative job creation schemes, such as the manufacture of overalls and bricks, were being investigated,

Both the ANC and Cosatu's Western Cape region have condemned the failure by South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) to meet the WCFU and the ANC on Tuesday to discuss the dispute.

But Mr Conradie said Safroc was only the industry's marketing arm and could not negotiate on behalf of quota holders.

He said the current stayaway by fishermen was not a general strike, as several quota holders were operating normally.

Oceana had been involved in ongoing discussions with fishermen, community leaders, the WCFU and the ANC. It would convene a meeting in Lamberts Bay on November 9 to again try and settle the dispute, Mr Conradie said. — Sapa

Cape fishermen hang up their nets

W. Mail 6/11-12/11/92

3 Fishm

By GAYE DAVIS

EMBATTLED West Coast fishermen marked the start of the new crayfishing season by striking this week in support of demands for better pay and a greater say in the management of the declining resource.

The strike, apparently unprecedented, has affected crayfishing operations at several points along the Cape's West Coast, exacerbating the problems of an industry already in crisis as a result of declining catches.

Organised by the West Coast Fishermen's Union, the strikers — estimated to be more than 1 000 — are demanding an increase in their catch rate from R3,60 to R8 a kilogram and a moratorium on retrenchments by fishing companies planning to reduce their fleets to cut costs.

While fishermen receive R3,60 a kilogram for crayfish, restaurateurs pay R45 a kilogram and on interna-

tional markets the commodity often fetches as much as R90 a kilogram.

South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), the marketing arm of crayfish quota holders, pulled out of a meeting scheduled to take place with union representatives at the last minute this week.

Safroc called off the meeting on the grounds that it was just the marketing arm and not in a position to negotiate. It suggested the fishermen meet instead with their employers, the individual quota holders.

ANC western Cape chairman Allan Boesak described the move as an attempt to "divide and rule".

Lesley Welman, a University of the Western Cape master's degree student who is researching the industry, said modernisation over the years had shifted the emphasis in the industry from being labour intensive to capital intensive.

This had led to the loss of jobs as fleets were reduced. Because there were too many fishermen for too few jobs, employers wielded substantial power, Welman said.

"Private companies get issued quotas and must ensure that the resource is protected and also that sufficient work opportunities are provided. But there is no mechanism in place to ensure that this happens."

Johnny Issel, who has been investigating the industry for the ANC, said: "Fishermen traditionally harvested and managed the resource, but their role fell away as the industry became privatised. One of the demands of the fishermen is greater access to the resource and a bigger say in its conservation."

"There is acute desperation in fishing communities, which are under threat. I have heard of fishermen arranging for their wives to go to prison to serve terms for their debts so that the men can seek work."

Falling export prices, reduced quotas and fears for the sustainability of the resource are making for a troubled industry. Catches are smaller than ever and while the fishermen charge this is a result of overfishing because of lucrative export prices, researchers have yet to pinpoint a cause.

ANC acts in crayfish row

PATRICK FARRELL
and SHARON SOROUR

Weekend Argus Reporters

③ FISHING
ARG 7/11/92

THE African National Congress might ask international companies and foreign governments to boycott South African crayfish in an effort to force employers in the industry to negotiate with fishermen.

This was the result of a meeting between the ANC, Cosatu, fishermen and South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) in Cape Town yesterday.

Fishermen also voted to continue their wildcat strike, which started this week, coinciding with the opening of the crayfish season.

Although some went back to sea on Thursday, the strike continued in Lambert's Bay and Doringbaai.

Fishing was reported back to normal in Hondeklipbaai, St Helena Bay and Hout Bay.

ANC spokesman Mr Willie Hofmeyr

ARG 7/11/92

said the boycott was one of the options the ANC and Cosatu were looking at to get Safroc and the quota holders to negotiate.

The crux of the issue was demands by the West Coast Fishermen's Union that the catch rate (the price paid for a kilogram of crayfish) for the fishermen be increased from R3,60 to R8.

They maintained middle men were profiteering at the expense of fishermen, who were risking their lives.

The general secretary of the union, Mr Hennie Mostert, said quota holders had "no sympathy for the fishermen and therefore we will continue the strike".

Mr Pierre van der Merwe, chairman of Safroc, the organisation that markets crayfish, said he had urged the ANC to approach individual employers as the industry was too diverse and scattered for Safroc to negotiate for all quota holders.

Mr Hofmeyr disputed this and said if "Safroc can get everybody together

to discuss how to market the product, then they can get everybody together to talk about wages, as well".

He said Safroc had refused to act as a facilitator in setting up a forum "in spite of the fact that more than half the quota holders were at the meeting".

The quota holders, the companies that have government permits to catch crayfish, insist the industry is crippled with problems beyond their control, including:

■ Export prices dropping 20 to 30 percent because of a world-wide recession;

■ The export quota falling by at least 8,5 percent this year;

■ The cost of packing material increasing 18 to 20 percent since last season; and,

■ Cold storage charges at Cape Town harbour increasing 25 percent.

One quota holder said: "The world-wide economic recession has affected

■ To page 3

Fishermen to carry on striking

③ FISHING
ARG 7/11/92

■ From page 1

all our markets in every country to which we export and this has led to a gross income reduction of 33 percent."

Quota holders were paid R45 a kilogram for crayfish on export markets, but this was the "gross price, not profit".

"There are no super profits anymore and there is no margin to cover a double increase in wages. It is a public misconception that quota holders have a government permit to get rich."

Several quota holders with financial problems had had to close their factories and resort to contracting out. The number of boats operating had been reduced and this had led to a reduction in jobs.

"It is a vicious circle. Some staff have had to be laid off to allow an employer to pay others the same wage as last year," said a quota holder.

Oceana, the biggest fishing company, has hired 121 fewer seasonal fishermen in Lambert's Bay and 28 fewer at its Northbay Canning Company plant in Doringbaai because of falling prices, but has established a fund to help communities hit by the recession.

While the union has demanded an increase in the catch rate price paid to fishermen, quota holders insist there is no standard wage because of the diversity of the industry and because of its geographic spread.

"Some workers in one area get paid more than those in others, but they might not get free housing," he said.

A fixed wage could not be applied to all crayfishermen because there were two different ways of catching crayfish commercially: In two-men dinghies with ring nets, and in motor boats with traps.

On the motor boats the price was split in unequal portions between the driver, the skipper and the crew.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Ministry of Environment Affairs said the ministry would not change quotas to help fishermen in financial trouble.

"Our duty is to protect the crayfish resource and we cannot allow a free-for-all that might solve some problems for a couple of years, but create even more problems because the crayfish are depleted."

Striking Cape fishermen to appeal to world?

By YVETTE VAN BREDA

WEST COAST fishermen are to continue their six-day strike and are considering approaching the international market in a bid to force quota holders into negotiating.

This emerged at a press conference yesterday after a failed meeting with "hard-headed" representatives of the industry.

The strike followed a dispute with quota holders prompted by fishermen's demand for an increase in the catch rate from R3.60 to R8 per kilogram. They also demanded that com-

panies should not reduce their fishing fleets to cut costs.

ANC assistant regional secretary Mr Willie Hofmeyr said the ANC and Cosatu were looking at other ways to bring pressure to bear on the crayfish industry.

They would "look at other countries where crayfish was marketed" and probably approach international companies and unions to force SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), which markets crayfish on behalf of quota holders, to negotiate.

Despite more than 50% of the quota holders

being represented at the meeting yesterday, Safroc representatives told the fishermen and delegates from Cosatu and the ANC that they were unable to negotiate wages with the fishermen, Mr Hofmeyr said.

Safroc also refused to act as facilitator in setting up a forum at which negotiations could take place as "it was difficult for them to get together".

"We believe Safroc's intransigent attitude indicates a callousness towards a community whose demands are entirely reasonable."

West Coast Fisherman's Union (WCFU)

general-secretary Mr Hennie Mostert said quota holders had "absolutely no sympathy for fishermen's living standards".

Sapa reports that Mr Pierre van der Merwe, chairman of Safroc and a director of Oceana Fishing Company, the largest employer in the industry, said Safroc could not negotiate on behalf of the industry.

He again urged the WCFU to negotiate directly with individual quota holders in the three crayfishing zones on the West Coast.

"We told them there is no central forum in the industry."

③ FISHING 153

CT 7/11/92

Crayfish strike hit by pullout

SOYTH 7/11 - 11/11/92
By Justin Pearce

③ Fishing ④

THE CRAYFISH strike on the West Coast received a setback on Tuesday when the South African Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) pulled out of a meeting with the West Coast Fishermen's Union.

Safroc is the body which markets rock lobster on behalf of the factories.

According to union spokesperson Mr Hennie Mostert, Safroc undertook last week to meet the union on Tuesday. Safroc reneged on its promise at short notice, saying the fishermen must take their demands to individual employers.

The fishermen's demands are:

- Payment of R8 a kilogram for rock lobster. They are currently paid around R4 a kilogram for lobster that retails for R40.

- Protective clothing supplied by employers at no cost.

- The factory must be the sole employer of the fishermen. Up to now factories have named the boat skippers as the fishermen's employers — thus avoiding having to register their employees with the Department of Manpower.

- The reinstatement of 120 workers recently dismissed in Lamberts Bay, Hondeklip Bay, Doringbaai and Paternoster.

"Some of those men have been working there for 30 years and have no other source of income," Mostert said.

Mostert also claimed that employers in Port Nolloth and Hondeklip Bay were using scab labourers from the Transkei to work on the boats during the strike.

Demonstrations have taken place in various West Coast fishing towns to draw attention to the strikers' demands.

Fishermen sick of mussels and mercy

8/11/92

③ Fishing

SI Times [Cape metro] 8/11/92

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

WEST Coast fishermen, on strike since the start of the crayfish season last Sunday, say they are fed up with living on "mussels and mercy".

"Here we don't live, we struggle to survive," says Mr David Gebuza, 59, of Lamberts Bay, who has downed tools with about 1 000 fishermen and women factory workers in several West Coast villages.

The strikers are demanding that the catch rate be increased from R3,60 to R8 a kilogram and that companies should not reduce their fishing fleets to cut costs.

They hope the strike will bring relief after years of poverty.

"We have grown used to hardship and poverty," said Mr Gebuza.

Although several fishermen in Lamberts Bay's small "coloured" township of Sandkamp were willing to speak, only Mr Gebuza was prepared to be identified.

Afford

He said the fishermen and factory workers in Lamberts Bay worked for only six months each year.

During the other six months, they relied for an income on catching snoek, which "comes by our water very seldom".

"We last had an income in April this year."

"The fishermen are literally living on mussels and mercy — God's mercy," said local Food and Workers' Union organiser Mr Jerome Bezuidenhout.

In Lamberts Bay, where the biggest employer is the Oceana group, fishermen earn R3,60/kg, which has to be split among six to eight fishermen.

"We catch anything from 30kg to 300kg a day — so we never get a fixed income," said Mr Gebuza.

Almost 200 workers, employed by the Oceana group, have gone on strike.

Mr Gebuza said most fishermen could not afford the R160 monthly rent for their council-



ON STRIKE . . . fishermen, from left, Willem Boois, John van den Heever and George Mbeza play a game of dominoes with Johannes Jantjies, Lukas Tieties and Koos Miggel Picture: JACK LESTRADE

owned houses.

"People who cannot pay are evicted. They families then stay with neighbours and the houses stand empty until the start of the next season."

Lamberts Bay fishermen seldom have money for food and their children often go to school hungry.

For many children, on some days the only meal is the sandwich they are given at school.

Deprived

Mr Bezuidenhout said Fawu and the ANC's Western Cape regional office had organised food parcels last week for the people on strike at Lamberts Bay, Elands Bay, Port Nolloth, Hondeklipbaai and Doringbaai.

"These people are dependent on the sea, but have been deprived of the benefits of its resources for years."

Several meetings with the industry's umbrella body, the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc), have failed.

Lamberts Bay fishermen are expected to meet their employers next week.

Kreef pay row may be settled

SHARON SOROUR, Labour Reporter

HOPES are high that a meeting in Lambert's Bay today will resolve the wage dispute that has led to a seven-day stoppage by West Coast commercial crayfishermen. (3) FISHING

According to Mr Pierre van der Merwe, a director of Oceana Fishing Group, which is the largest employer in the industry, quota holders from the North Bay Canning Company are to meet representatives from the West Coast Fishermen's Union, community leaders and the ANC.

Mr Van der Merwe, who is also the chairman of Safroc (SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers), the industry's marketing arm, said he was "very hopeful" problems would be ironed out at the meeting and fishermen would go back to work. CT 9/11/92

He said fishermen were still on strike in Lambert's Bay, Eland's Bay and Doring Bay.

Mugabe revives fears of land redistribution

Blom 9/11/92

MICHAEL HARTNACK

HARARE — With planting about to begin in the wake of the calamitous drought, President Robert Mugabe has revived the anxieties of Zimbabwe's 4 500 white farmers about their future, with a renewed attack on "former oppressors".

Mugabe's bitter speech at the graveside of a veteran nationalist at the weekend came after four months of reviving optimism in the commercial farming sector following the replacement of the doctrinaire Agriculture Minister Witness Mangwende by a noted pragmatist, Kumbirai Kangai.

Kangai revoked a clutch of farm take-overs planned by Mangwende and pledged new ones would only be made in consultation with the Commercial Farmers' Union.

However, when he spoke at Heroes' Acre on Saturday at the burial of Lameck Chikanga, Mugabe attacked unnamed "government bureaucrats", accusing them of delaying the redistribution of white-owned land to blacks.

In 1990 Mugabe caused uproar in legal and commercial circles by declaring his intention to expropriate the six-million hectare "maize and tobacco belt", stretching north and east of Harare, for one-sixth its market value.

Speaking in the Shona vernacular at Heroes' Acre, Mugabe said: "Without land we will never get control of our economy. Land must go to the people first. That is

the basis of economic power."
"(We) should not shy away from former oppressors nor feel embarrassed to grab land which was the basis of the liberation struggle, even if it meant being criticised abroad," he said.

Britain is among major international aid donors to freeze multimillion-rand assistance for peasant resettlement since Mugabe revoked the principle of "willing buyer-willing seller".

Farming sources predict that with long-awaited summer rains about to break, planting of essential food crops on commercial farms may be inadequate due to declining confidence in the industry, shortage of imported inputs and delays in the provision of essential finance.

Mugabe has promised free "crop packs" for each of the estimated 1-million peasant families to plant two hectares. However, his officials have contradicted him, saying only seed for half a hectare will be available — and some consignments may be late in distribution.

Zimbabwe has imported over 2-million tonnes of maize and other food crops to avert the threat of famine caused by the worst drought in a century. In 1991 a mountainous strategic food reserve was flattened due to bureaucratic bungling.

Lobster fishermen will continue strike

(3) Fishers ANC

WEST Coast fishermen will continue their strike because of the breakdown of talks between the SA Frozen Rock Lobster Packers (Safroc) and aggrieved fishermen, says the ANC's western Cape branch.

The strike, which started a week ago, was called by the fishermen to protest against their poor living and working conditions.

On Friday, a delegation from the ANC and the West Coast Fishermen's Union met representatives of Safroc, the industry's marketing organisation, and Oceana Fishing Group, largest employer in the crayfish industry.

Some smaller quota-holders were also present.

ANC western Cape assistant secretary Willie Hofmeyr said on Saturday

the meeting ended in deadlock, with Safroc stating it was "unable and unwilling to negotiate with the fishermen about issues surrounding the strike".

Hofmeyr said Safroc "flatly refused to act as a facilitator in setting up a forum at which negotiations could take place on the grounds it would be difficult for them to assemble so many different players".

Hofmeyr said: "Safroc's attitude indicates a contempt and callousness towards a community whose demands are entirely reasonable and which has, moreover, made every attempt to negotiate — both before and after the strike."

Because of this intransigence, Hofmeyr said, the fishermen had no choice but to continue their strike.

— Sapa.

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Kreef strikers lower demand

STRIKING West Coast fishermen have revised their demand from R8 to R6 a kilogram for landed crayfish after rejecting a company offer of R5/kg. Mr Hennie Mostert, general secretary of the West Coast Fishermen's Union (WCFU), said yesterday.

CT 11/11/92
The Oceana Fishing Group and representatives of the WCFU, the Food and Allied Workers Union, the ANC and the Foundation for Peace and Justice met on Monday. Mr Mostert said the strike would continue until the fishermen's revised demand was met by all crayfish quota holders. — Sapa

Union calls for crayfish boycott

CT12/11/92

Staff Reporter

③ FISHING

THE Food and Allied Workers Union (FAWU) has called for a boycott of crayfish until the strike in the industry is resolved.

The boycott was called by FAWU's regional congress in Athlone last weekend.

An Oceana Group spokesman said yesterday he was still meeting affected parties and could not comment.

The crayfishermen have dropped their demand from R8 a kilogram to R6, while the Oceana Group has raised its offer to R5 from R3,60.

On Monday FAWU and the ANC, Cosatu and the West Coast Fishermen's Union met the Oceana Group to try to resolve the dispute.

FAWU said the Oceana Group offered R600 000 over three years to create work opportunities for 129 retrenched workers.

Another meeting is set for November 16.

Big fines for kreef offences

27 13/11/92
THREE Hout Bay men arrested for illegally fishing for 225 crayfish face a maximum fine of R50,000 and/or six years' imprisonment and an additional fine of three times the value of the crayfish, if convicted.

This was given in papers before the court yesterday at the Wynberg Magistrate's Court appearance of Mr Peter Petersen, 29, Mr Roderick Petersen, 26, and Mr Ismail Solomons, 33, all of Hout Bay harbour.

The three appeared in connection with catching 180 crayfish from Hout Bay on November 4, catching 143 crayfish smaller than 80mm, two fertile crayfish and catching crayfish at night without a permit.

They were not asked to plead and the trial was postponed to December 4.

③ FISHING

Fishermen end strike with pay hike victory

Staff Reporter

THE crayfish strike has ended with a victory for fishermen who secured increases of between 47% and 71%.

The ANC said in a statement yesterday that the two-week strike was resolved when new catch rates were agreed at a Wednesday night meeting.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Oceana Ltd, the ANC, the Food and Allied Workers' Union, the West Coast Fishermen's Union and the Foundation for Peace and Justice.

"A rate of R6/kg will be paid at

③ FISHING CT 13/11/92
Elandsbaai for bakkies unassisted by a motherboat," the ANC said. The former rate was R3,50/kg.

At Lambertsbaai fishermen previously paid about R5/kg will get R7,34/kg.

The ANC said Oceana agreed to help retrenched workers by making R600 000 available for a trust fund to address the needs of affected communities.

The ANC said the negotiations were positive and "an encouraging step forward for the negotiations process in this key industry".



Mussel man ... Fisherman Hennie van Wyk on the beach in Paternoster

Photo: GAYE DAVIS

HENNIE VAN WYK strides across the sand and scoops up the shell of a black mussel. Beyond him, fishing boats bob gently at their moorings on an azure sea. Overhead, strident gulls wheel and keen.

"This is what we live on in the winter months," says Van Wyk, brandishing the empty shell. "But the law says a person can gather only 25 a day. It's not as if they're full of meat, these shells. How can you feed a family on so little?"

And then, says Van Wyk, "if the fisheries inspector catches you, it's off to court and a big fine — jail if you can't pay. They're making criminals of people just because they're hungry."

It is a sunny, wind-blown morning in Paternoster, a fishing village about 30km north of Saldanha Bay on the Cape's west coast.

The adjective most commonly used to describe the place is "picturesque", and so it is. Once you drive past the bougainvillea-festooned hotel, where tourists come to gorge themselves on the delicacy Paternoster is famous for — fresh crayfish — the road takes you up on to a rocky ridge, studded with lime-washed cottages overlooking a sparkling bay.

This is where Van Wyk (38) and his wife Joann (39) live — in a three-roomed cottage with a handkerchief of well-tended garden and their Maltese-cross, Bobbie. On the living-room wall hangs a plaque: "Count your garden by the flowers, never by the leaves that fall." But for the people of Paternoster, the leaves are falling.

Going hungry to feed the rich

Wimma 13/11-19/11/92.

An unprecedented strike by Western Cape crayfish fishermen has turned a spotlight on the industry. GAYE DAVIS visits a dirt-poor fishing village to get behind the headlines

At the school, principal Nicholas Thorne tells of children coming to class hungry and the church-funded feeding scheme now operating to supplement their diets with bread and soup in winter, bread and fruit-juice in summer. "It is because the people's income is so small," he says. "For the greater part of the

year they are out of work."

Van Wyk is one of the lucky ones. A skipper on one of the boats owned by Paternoster Fisheries — one of three quota holders in the area on whom the majority of the male population depend for work — he was already at sea at 5am. He and his crew caught 248kg of *keef* — "a very good catch", he says. As skipper, responsible for the boat and the men under him, he's paid 86c a kilogram. His crew members will get 56c each a kilogram.

It's not enough: especially when you know that restaurants are paying over R40 a kilogram. And on the days when the wind whips the sea into blustery swells, keeping the boats ashore and men fretting in their homes, they'll get paid nothing.

The season itself is short. Officially, it starts in November and closes mid-year — but, as Van Wyk explains, if the crayfish are there to be caught, quotas can be filled as early as February — and then there's no more work until November rolls around again.

Then it will be mussels for supper, or *hottentot* or snoek "if they're running". If times get really hard, Joann van Wyk will rise early to catch the bus to St Helena Bay, where she will work packing sardines in a fish factory. It's what a lot of the women do, she says.

On wintry Sundays, congregants walking to the little Anglican church carry tinned food along with their collection money — to put into specially provided baskets for distribution later. "Those who have, give to those who don't have," says Van Wyk.

● From PAGE 17

"Paternoster isn't like any of the other fishing communities on the west coast," says Paul Sampson, chairman of the community committee. "Here, we're almost entirely dependent on *keef*. In the other places, they catch pelagic fish as well — so the men still have work when the *keef* season ends.

"Many men here — fishermen like their fathers and grandfathers before them — are out of work," says Sampson. "In the old days they used *bakkies* (dinghies) and ring nets to catch the *keef*. A boat would go out with maybe 10 *bakkies* and two men in each. Now the quota holders use boats and traps and take only six men on board. That's how the jobs were lost."

The men are unhappy with what they get paid, says Sampson. "But a big headache is the fact that they don't qualify as permanent workers. They're not covered by labour legislation which would give them unemployment insurance, for example. "And they can't get quotas themselves because they haven't got the money. The quota board decides, and you must show that you've got a boat and processing facilities. These are struggling

Going hungry to feed the rich

Wimma 13/11-19/11/92.

3 Fishing

Now, he says, there are negotiations under way between the fishermen and their employers and the government. "They're looking at wages and ways of accommodating the fishermen under labour legislation and reviewing the quota system to give the people a chance also to get quotas."

But uncertainty still prevails. For years people lived in their houses — owned by the quota holders — rent-free. Then the land was sold to the House of Representatives, and residents must now buy them or pay rent for them.

Pat Pharo (51) represents the third generation of his family to live in the same house, and as far as he's concerned, it's been paid for, "over and over".

"Some of the old people with long memories can remember how our forefathers built the houses," he says. "My grandfather worked 30 years for the house. He didn't pay rent, it was part of his package. Then my mother's sister stepped in and worked at the factory for 44 years for the house.

When she couldn't anymore I stepped in, at the age of 17. I've worked 35 years for that house and now I'm asking why must I buy it?"

"It's got no ceiling, no electricity and the walls are falling in. I think they want me to pay R9 000 for it — R16 000 if I take some land with it. It's not right."

Says Johann van Wyk: "People don't want to feel they're begging for a better deal — they're prepared to work for it, they want to keep their pride. People here are suffering, but they're not trampled flat by it."

"Now there are changes coming. We're talking together. They (the quota holders) can see they made a mistake in the past.

In Paternoster, things have changed. There are fewer *keef*, fewer jobs. Youngsters must leave their families to seek work elsewhere. Fishermen may no longer take home a few *keef* for the pot: if they get caught doing so they lose their jobs and any chance of being employed again.

"We don't want anything for nothing — but if you give a man a share in the business, he'll work harder. I've got confidence that things will soon come right," says Jordaan.

But there is also hope for change of a different kind, for recognition of the role fishermen play. Piet Jordaan (61) is confident that negotiations will bear fruit. Like most of Paternoster's fisher-

tants, he is a National Party supporter. "When Abe Williams (the MP for Mamre) left the Labour Party for the National Party, we followed him. He's a *Westasser* — he grew up in Saldanha. He's done a lot for us.

"It's not our fault we're a poor community. A fisherman works hard and gets little recognition for what he does. Over all the years, there has never been a fair dispensation in the industry. The whites got the quotas and got rich and ploughed nothing back into the community.

"Now there are changes coming. We're talking together. They (the quota holders) can see they made a mistake in the past.

"We don't want anything for nothing — but if you give a man a share in the business, he'll work harder. I've got confidence that things will soon come right," says Jordaan.

In the meantime, the community continues as it always has: helping each other through hard times. "If you've got bread, then you give some to the other person who doesn't have any," says Jordaan. "We help each other, we suffer with each other. Suffering is part of Paternoster, part of being a fisherman. But even though we suffer, we're a happy community."

Fishermen win most demands

By Justin Pearce

SOOTH 14/11 - 18/11/92

STRIKING lobster fishermen achieved a partial victory this week when the West Coast's largest fishing company conceded most of the fishermen's demands.

But the West Coast Fishermen's Union has vowed to continue the strike until the company meets their demand of R6 per kilogram payment for the lobster they catch.

Oceana, which holds about 45 percent of the total rock lobster quota, has agreed to compensate the 101 fishermen and 28 other workers who were made redundant at the beginning of the current season.

The company has also undertaken to employ all lobster fishermen as full-time employees, with the associated benefits.

Until now the quota holding companies have regarded fishermen as employees of the boat skipper rather than of the company. This absolved the companies of the usual responsibilities of an employer.

Oceana also committed itself to creating job opportunities, and has made six small boats available to the fishing communities for the catching of linefish.

The company has agreed to participate in a forum which will also include community leaders and workers from Hondeklip Bay, Lambert's Bay, Doring Bay, Eland's Bay, St Helena Bay and Hout Bay.

The fishermen rejected Oceana's offer of R5 a kilogram payment. They have reduced their demand from R8 to R6 a kilogram, and

intend to continue their strike until Oceana agrees to this figure.

Rock lobster fetches about R40 a kilogram on the retail market.

West Coast Fishermen's Union spokesperson Mr Hennie Mostert said he expected that the concessions made by Oceana, who is the biggest employer, would force other employers to take similar steps.

Mr Leon Conradie, Oceana's human resources manager, said the meeting had helped to "alleviate misunderstandings" but no settlement was reached.

He said another meeting would be held on November 16.

ANC assistant regional secretary Mr Willie Hofmeyr expressed disappointment over the failure to reach agreement on the issue of payment.

Hout Bay fishermen may strike

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③ FISHING 18/11/92

ABOUT 100 Hout Bay fishermen are set to strike unless they are included in last week's settlement between the Oceana Fishing Group and West Coast rock lobster fishermen.

The decision to strike was taken at a meeting on Monday night addressed by African National Congress Western Cape chairman Dr Allan Boesak and Western Coast Fishermens' Union general secretary Mr Hennie Mostert.

Mr Mostert said the increased rates announced recently by Oceana applied only to fishermen in Lamberts Bay, Elands Bay and Doringbaai.

Seasonal fishermen employed by South African Sea Products, a subsidiary of the Oceana Group based in Hout Bay, did not qualify for the increases.

Mr Mostert said the fishermen were demanding R8/kg for landed crayfish, but would settle for R6. SA Sea Products was offering R3,04/kg.

He said the company paid retainers to its skippers and engineers outside the crayfish season, but ordinary fishermen had no income after the season.

SA Sea Products personnel manager Elma Kleyn could not comment.

● The plight of Western Cape fishermen is to be discussed in depth tonight at a meeting in the city to be attended by Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar and nine other National Party MPs.

Ways to improve the socio-economic circumstances of fishermen on the West Coast and the Cape South Coast would be discussed, Mr Pienaar said in a statement.

Mr Pienaar said: "The government is well aware of the difficult circumstances which fishing communities are currently experiencing, as was brought to the attention by MPs on various occasions.

"Steps, such as the placing of a moratorium on the transfer of commercial linefish permits (A-permits), were taken recently to ensure the continuous participation by the fishing communities in the Western Cape."

He had held discussions with sectors of the industry with the goal of achieving positive adjustments.

"This is, however, not enough. Further attention is being given to various circumstances pertaining to these communities," Mr Pienaar said.

— Sapa, Political Staff

Fishermen threaten to resume kreef strike

Staff Reporter

WEST COAST kreef fishermen who were granted a pay increase by Oceana last week may resume their strike if Hout Bay fishermen are not included in the settlement, Mr Hennie Mostert, general secretary of the West Coast Fishermen's Union (WCFU), said yesterday.

The increases of between 47 to 71% announced by Oceana apply only to fishermen in Lambert's Bay, Elands Bay and Doringbaai.

Hout Bay fishermen have not been to sea for three days after threatening to strike at a meeting on Monday, said Mr Gert Koenana of the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) yesterday.

But Mr Andries van Rensburg, managing director of Oceana fishing divi-

sion, said only a limited amount of kreef fishing was done at this time of the year from Hout Bay and their boats had not gone out yet.

Fawu and WCFU held a meeting with SA Sea Products, a subsidiary of Oceana, on Tuesday to discuss demands.

Mr Koenana said the Hout Bay fishermen wanted R6/kg for landed crayfish. SA Sea Products are only offering R3,04/kg.

The union has also demanded a guaranteed catch rate per vessel, increased wages for carrier boat crews and the retrenchment of two Portuguese captains in favour of coloured skippers. SA Sea Products has refused to retrench the two men.

SA Sea Products will meet again with Fawu and WCFU on Tuesday.

③ FISHING CT 19/11/92

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New rules for linefish catches

③ FISHING
02/11/92

Staff Reporter

STRICTER measures to control the catch and sale of linefish caught during angling competitions were announced yesterday in order to protect resources.

Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar said the move was aimed at offering "more and better protection" to the country's linefish resources which had to be managed cautiously because of the popularity of angling in South Africa.

Mr Pienaar said the measures were introduced following an in-depth investigation by the South African Marine Linefish Management Association.

He said the new measures entail that permission to exceed the bag limit — the number of fish which may be caught per person per day — and to sell fish caught during competitions, will in future be considered for competitions of national importance such as inter-provincial championships.

He also said permission to exceed the limit could only be given by the SA Deep Angling Association, the South African Light Tackle Boat Angling Association, the SA Spearfishing Federation and the SA Rock and Surf Angling Association.

According to the new measures all applications for exemption from certain angling regulations must be channelled through the national bodies who would pass them on to Samlma for consideration.

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ment had taken note of a propo

the rock lobster.

Recent scientific evidence has illuminated the critical role that sea urchins play in the life-cycle of the perlemoen.

Juvenile perlemoen, 3mm to 20mm in size hide under the protective spines of sea urchins and are thus protected from predators.

Recently, large numbers of rock lobsters have moved into the prime nursery areas for perlemoen and are decimating the sea urchin population.

The Sea Fisheries Research Institute's surveys of sea urchins in various of these areas indicated that there were almost no sea urchins left, making juvenile perlemoen easy prey for predators.

These research and monitoring surveys also indicated that there were very few juvenile abalone in any of these areas.

As abalone are slow growing animals, these effects would take a long time to become obvious.

In a report the scientists said: "Adding this to the other pressures that the abalone resource is expected to cope with could just be the final factor that causes the abalone resource to collapse forever."

This would lead to tremendous repercussions in the communities and industry that are reliant on this resource for their livelihood - often the only income or employment available for 3 000 people apart from 34 000 recreational fishermen.

On the subject of poaching, Sancor said it was common knowledge that poaching in the Mudge Point area near Hermanus had been rife in the past.

'This is a high value product and there will always be an illegal market in the product'

Research data had shown that a high proportion of these takings had comprised sub-legal perlemoen.

For a variety of reasons the implementation of effective control measures in this area seems not to have succeeded and, by all accounts, poaching was still occurring unabated in the area.

Poachers themselves have acknowledged that they are finding it more difficult to find perlemoen.

While Sea Fisheries Research Institute personnel in their abalone research section have done their best to warn of the negative consequences likely for future

yields in the Mudge Point area, they have had to adopt a somewhat philosophical approach to the problem and have accepted that what is going to happen will, at least be a localised event, and that the rest of the resource also will

not suffer the same fate.

However, increasingly there were reports that poaching activities were expanding to other areas.

Recently data was obtained on a sample of poached perlemoen from the Celt Bay area near Buffelsjags, a sparsely inhabited section of the coastline.

The research showed poachers were removing a high proportion of sub-legal animals.

The scientists emphasised that the consequences of this type of activity were far graver than the mere removal of extra tonnage of perlemoen.

Activities like this could go a long way to destroying the basis of a future sustainable abalone fishery in South Africa.

It was the sub-legal, highly aggregated barely mature abalone that occurred in the shallow accessible waters of the coastline that were so easily accessible to poachers.

Removal of these individuals from the population would have dire consequences for the future of the resource.

The scientists said that Sancor urgently asked that effective measures be investigated to provide additional support to the marine control officers in the perlemoen areas from Cape Hangklip to Cape Agulhas before the situation led to the collapse of the abalone resource.

They said: "It is our opinion that there is no political solution to the poaching of abalone at this time.

"This is a high value product and there will always be an illegal market in the product.

"There will never be enough abalone available in the sea to satisfy the financial aspirations of all the coastal inhabitants.

"New and innovative measures are needed to be developed to manage the resource in collaboration with coastal communities.

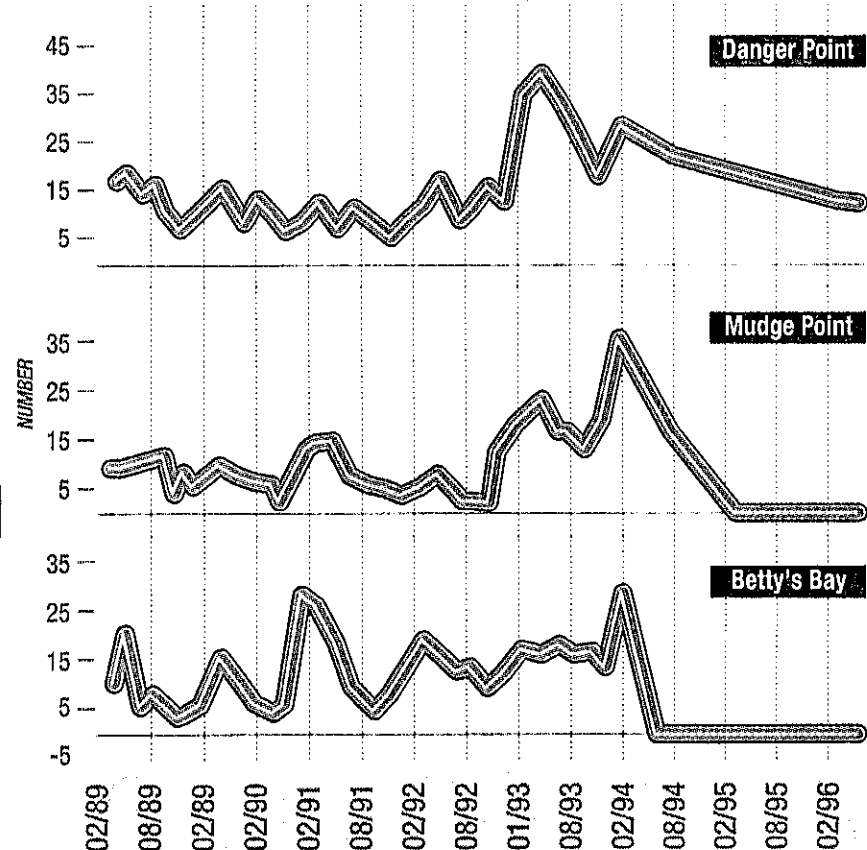
"But, in the meantime, what remains of the resource needs to be protected so that there is a resource to be managed once these new measures are in place.

"Effective control measures must be implemented as the prime means of protection of the resource.

"This can be done only if additional resources are made available to the responsible agency and other means of enforcement need to be considered.

"At present, there are only 14 enforcement officers for the whole of the area from Gordon's Bay to Gansbaai and, as most of them live in the various coastal communities, their effectiveness is compromised."

Perlemoen numbers per 1/4m² quadrat from three sites east of Cape Hangklip



SOURCE: SANCOR

GRAPHS: BOB GRIERSON, CAPE ARRIS

Dwindling resources: these graphs show how the perlemoen and sea urchin populations have declined

Questions as crayfish prices slashed

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT
and LEW ELIAS

CRAYFISH is set to cost less in restaurants as fishing companies have slashed their price by R9,50 a kilogram — even though they are paying West Coast fishermen R3,90/kg more.

This has led to questions about the fishing companies' earlier profit margins.

"The price of crayfish could have been dropped years ago and tourists and locals could have enjoyed them for less," said Mr Aldo Girolo, Cape and Western Cape chairman

of the Restaurant Guild.

Even though the price to fishermen — who recently went on strike and won a better deal — had been increased to R7,40/kg, restaurants were now paying about R35,50/kg. This was down from R45/kg before the strike, Mr Girolo said.

Although he was "delighted" about this, the guild would continue to press for rock lobster exports to be banned for at least five years for ecological and tourism reasons.

The Minister of the Environment, Mr Louis Pienaar, has warned that unless the industry improves its labour practices, strict conditions

will be imposed with the granting of quotas.

He also said fishing companies that followed "unreasonable" labour practices might have their quotas cut, whereas those that fulfilled their social obligations might be given bigger quotas.

Sectors of the industry had been reminded continually about their responsibilities to their employees, but employers had been "slack" about responding.

West Coast fishermen have threatened to resume their strike if Hout Bay fishermen are not included in the new deal.

Sea Harvest nets higher profits

(3) FISHING

□ Plant upgraded to world standards

ARG 3/11/95

Business Editor

A SECOND Cape fishing company reported good results this week: Better catch rates helped Sea Harvest raise shareholders' profits by 22 percent to R49 million in the year ended September.

Pre-tax profit was up 32 percent on a 10 percent turnover rise, but a higher tax rate reduced after-tax profit.

Directors said hake fishing had returned to normal catch patterns, reflecting the sound state of hake stocks. Sea Harvest had upgraded its processing plant to meet demanding international standards.

Goodwill of R23 million was written off below bottom line on the acquisition of a 49 percent stake in a company involved in hake and lobster fishing in Namibia.

Shareholders netted a final dividend of 14,5c, making 23c for the year (19c last year).

■ Canning group Langeberg failed

to meet mid-year forecasts, reporting shareholders' profits of R60,2 million in the year ended September, only 0,3 percent up on last year.

Directors said rationalisation operations to improve international competitiveness following the phase-out of export incentives had cost more than expected.

Langeberg was concluding an alliance with the Dole Food group, which would give access to an established international brand.

The dividend is unchanged at 3c.

■ Electronics group Spescom is to raise R30,6 million through a rights offer. The money will be used to take advantage of growth opportunities.

■ African Oxygen reported a 22 percent rise in attributable profits to R152,8 million in the year ended September. All three businesses — gases, welding and healthcare — should show further growth this year; directors said.

R19,4m capital ^③ Fishing input from Ocfish

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Business Editor

THE Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) has committed itself to capital investment of R19,4m in 1993, although the directors expect tough trading conditions to continue.

Most of this will be spent on three lobster vessels now being built at Vredenburg, and a steel purse seiner for which Cape Town boat builders have been invited to tender.

In the annual report issued yesterday new chairman Robbie Williams, who took over when executive chairman Walter Lewis retired in September, says: "Scientific surveys and observation indicate that the lobster resource is stable.

"As has been the case for many years the industry allocated some 25% of its production for consumption on the local market.

"Demand from this source continued to be below this level, and the surplus of stock reserved for the local market may have to be exported."

Williams says demand for lobster on the international market

has softened, "with a decline in prices due to the world recession. This situation is expected to persist during 1993."

But, he continues: "A diversified market has been built up and Oceana's production facilities are geared for flexibility in supplying the best market at any given time.

"This will be of considerable value in responding to changing requirements from abroad."

Discussing pelagic fishing, Williams says scientific surveys of the anchovy biomass showed a significant improvement in availability and as a result the total available catch (TAC) for the industry had been increased to 530 000 tons in 1992 compared with 150 000 in 1991 and 1990.

"Oceana landed its pilchard and anchovy quotas in full. Fairly high levels of mixing of juvenile pilchards with anchovy shoals were experienced during the year.

"The quality of both pilchard and anchovy was generally satisfactory, although anchovy oil yields were relatively low."

Williams said the group's re-

duction plants and cannery "achieved increases in production and profitability due to higher volumes of raw fish, the effects of rationalisation and cost saving measures and constant attention to full asset utilisation, efficiencies and adding value.

"Good progress is being made in developing longterm fleet capacity and deployment strategy, with the objective of achieving the most efficient correlation between catching and land-based production capacity.

"The cannery at St Helena Bay produced 839 388 cartons of product compared with 728 601 cartons last year, the increase being due to nonfish products.

"Profitability increased as a consequence of a carryover of stock, increased selling prices and movement and improved utilisation of the cannery."

But Williams warns: "While the demand for fish meal, oil and canned fish on the local market remains firm, the current depressed economic conditions will make the recovery of production cost increases difficult to achieve."

Oceana expects a better year as a result of rationalisation

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing expected an increase in earnings in the current year to end-September 1993, chairman Robbie Williams said in the group's latest annual report.

Last year Oceana increased its earnings before extraordinary items by 35% to 192,8c (142,8c) on a 15% rise in turnover to R375,4m (R325,9m), mainly because of good pelagic landings and rationalisation.

Williams said Oceana planned a R15,4m capital expenditure programme this year, including the replacement of assets and the acquisition of three new lobster vessels and a new steel pelagic vessel.

While the 1993 total allowable catch (TAC) for pelagic fish had yet to be announced, Williams said resources appeared to be stable and allowed for similar or improved catches in the coming season.

LINDA ENSOR

This, together with a high stockholding at year-end should enable the fishing division to produce satisfactory results, while the cold storage and trading divisions were also expected to show an improvement.

However, the reduction of the 1992/93 TAC of lobster to 2 200 tons (2 400 tons) in addition to more difficult conditions on overseas markets, would have a negative impact.

Williams noted that the expected improvement in earnings would take place in difficult circumstances.

"While the demand for fish meal, oil and canned fish on the local market remains firm, the current depressed economic conditions will make the recovery of production cost increases difficult to achieve."

Local demand for lobster was below the 25% of total production allo-

ated for local consumption and surplus stocks might have to be exported. International demand had softened and prices had fallen because of the recession, a trend that was likely to persist in 1993.

Last year Oceana landed its pilchard and anchovy quota of 149 984 tons in full. Williams said the group's reduction plants and cannery achieved production and profitability increases because of higher volumes of raw fish and the effects of rationalisation and cost saving measures.

The fishing division's contribution to pre-tax income rose sharply to 55% (43%), while that of the cold storage division fell to 16% (18%) and the trading and shipping division to 15% (25%). Investment income's contribution remained stable at 14%.

The return on average total assets last year increased to 10% (9%) and the return on average shareholders' funds to 20% (17%).

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Higher tax bill trays Oceana's performance

B/D 27/11/92
FOSCHINI's UK associate company, Oceana Investment Corporation, showed a modest 3.6% increase in after-tax profit for the six months to end-September.

The directors said this reflected prevailing difficult trading conditions in major international markets.

However, according to results released today, profit before tax increased sharply to £771 000 (£498 000) from its share in Etam's (a 35%-owned subsidiary) attributable interim earnings. These were not included in the comparative figures for the corresponding period last year.

A higher tax bill of £341 000 (£83 000) reduced after-tax profit to £430 000 (£415 000).

The greater number of shares in issue during the period under review resulted in earnings a share dropping to 2.11p from the previous 3.96p.

An unchanged interim dividend of 1.5p was declared.

UK fashion retailer Etam reported a dramatic turnaround in profit with a 7.4% growth in sales to £106m for the six months to mid-August.

Profit showed a strong increase to £1.2m from £35 000 in 1991.

Interim dividend was lifted 10% to 1.65p a share and the group reported a fall in borrowing from £8.1m to £1.6m pounds, despite capital expenditure which nearly

 Business Day Reporter

doubled to £4.2m.

Earlier this year Oceana came under scrutiny from the Financial Reporting Panel, the UK accounting standards watchdog, following complaints about treatment of profit derived from Etam.

Etam allegedly complained to the panel after a public announcement by Oceana that it would use equity accounting on its shareholding rather than include only the income from Etam dividends.

Equity accounting was permitted only where a shareholder exerted significant influence over a company in which it had a holding.

In September Oceana considered re-launching its bid for an increased stake in Etam. Foschini's UK-based chairman Stanley Lewis, who is also chairman of Oceana, said an increased stake would provide "enormous synergistic benefits which would accrue to both companies".

Foschini's stake in Etam is held through its 35.4% share of Oceana, which owns 35% of Etam.

Oceana's bid last year was seen as hostile by Etam management and rejected.

Analysts in the UK were positive about prospects for Etam, saying it was doing well and should out-perform similar companies.

Fish bait for employers

Staff Reporter ^{3 fishing}
FISHING companies which did not fulfil their social obligations to workers could be penalised with lower quotas while those which did could receive higher quotas.

This was said by deputy Minister of Defence and Environment Affairs Mr Wynand Breytenbach at a National Marine Day function yesterday.

As a matter of urgency the government would investigate ways of bring-

ing all fishermen, as well as temporary workers, under the ambit of labour legislation. *CS5/12/92*

The government, in consultation with National Party MPs from fishing constituencies, would consider measures to improve the lot of West Coast fishermen.

The ANC said the government's sudden interest in the fishermen was a transparent ploy to gain votes in forthcoming elections.



Oceana's Lewis ... a fitting farewell tribute

Activities: Catching and processing fish, shipping, clearing and forwarding.

Control: Tiger Oats 69,4%.

Chairman: R A Williams; MD: D F Behrens.

Capital structure: 9,5m ords. Market capitalisation: R177m.

Share market: Price: R18,75. Yields: 6,4% on dividend; 10,3% on earnings; p:e ratio, 9,7; cover, 1,6. 12-month high, R18,75; low, R13,30. Trading volume last quarter, R40 000 shares.

Year to Sep	'89	'90	'91	'92
ST debt (Rm)	0,8	0,1	0,1	—
LT debt (Rm)	0,6	0,5	6,8	9,6
Debt:equity ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Int & leasing cover ..	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Return on cap (%) ..	28	18	15	17,2
Turnover (Rm)	275	309	326	375
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	44,0	25,2	22,3	37,0
Pre-int margin (%) ..	12,6	7,7	6,9	9,6
Earnings (c)	261	146	143	193
Dividends (c)	160	90	90	120
Net worth (c)	809	813	966	1 067

³ Fishing cult conditions and made a loss. This was partly offset by increased trading (of fish products, locally and internationally) turnover and operating profit.

Cash flow was strong. Gross cash generated from operations rose by 49% to R58m. Because working capital was tightly controlled, it produced a positive R9,6m (negative R19,3m). Net cash available for investment amounted to R47,7m (R2,2m).

This will help to fund planned 1993 capital expenditure of R19,4m, mainly for replacement of assets. An additional spin-off from the cash flow leap was a more than doubling of interest income to R5,1m.

With R44,5m cash or near-cash and only R9,6m in (interest-free) loans, the balance sheet is exceptionally strong. With the biomass recovering well following scientifically based controls, even taking into account the risks associated with fishing, Oceana should be one of the JSE's better investments at present.

Gerald Hirshon

OCEANA FISHING ^{FM} 11/12/92 ³ Fish
Netting the profits

Attributable earnings up by 36% are a fitting tribute to Walter Lewis, who resigned as executive chairman in September after four years. Robbie Williams has been named chairman and David Behrens MD.

Part of the reason for the success stemmed from the large increment in 1992 industry total allowable catch (TAC) for anchovies — to 350 000 t compared with 150 000 t in 1990 and 1991. Oceana landed its quota of 34% of the anchovy TAC in full. Had the industry pilchard TAC not been reduced to 45 000 t from 56 000 t and 50 000 t in 1990 and 1991 respectively, results might have been even better. Oceana's pilchard quota was also landed in full.

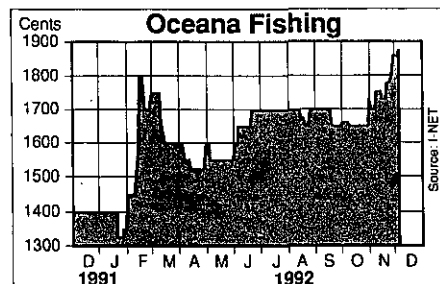
Thanks to higher anchovy landings, fish meal sales improved significantly and better plant utilisation pushed up efficiencies.

Oceana also landed its quota of 859 t of lobster within the much-reduced 1991-1992

TAC of 2 400 t (1990-1991: 3790 t) and achieved satisfactory processing yields. Landings of tuna and squid were ahead of the previous year and more profitable.

Fishing's contribution to group pre-tax income jumped to 55% from 43%. It more than doubled to R23,2m (1991: R10,6m), on a 33% gain in turnover. In rand terms, this eclipsed the 58% increase in pre-tax profit from the cold storage division to R6,9m (R4,4m), which dipped to 16% (18%) of the total. The cold store division benefited from rationalisation and good occupancy levels.

Shipping, clearing and forwarding activities of the Blue Continent division met diffi-



Kreef workers to be protected

(3) FISHING

ARG 5/12/92

WILLEM STEENKAMP, Weekend Argus Reporter

CRAYFISH companies who neglected their welfare responsibilities towards workers might have their crayfish quotas slashed and handed to other companies who did meet their commitments.

This was a warning from the deputy minister of Environment Affairs, Mr Wynand Breytenbach, at Marine Day celebrations in the Waterfront yesterday.

He told guests that the Department of Environment Affairs was to launch a thorough investigation into the socio-economic circumstances of fishing communities.

Urgent investigations also would be done into the possibility of including permanent as well as temporarily employed fishermen under the protection of labour legislation.

Because crayfish had been growing more slowly over the past couple of seasons, the department had to cut the total catchable tonnage of crayfish to 2 200 tons this year.

Several years ago, the allowable catch was close to 10 000 tons.

Mr Breytenbach said the decrease had had a detrimental effect on the living standards of fishermen along the West Coast and led to the recent strikes and unrest in certain fishing communities.

He said another measure that had been introduced to protect fisherman was a moratorium on the transfer of commercial linefish permits.

FISHING — 1993

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Regulation Gazette
No. 4905

3 Fishing

Vol. 325

PRETORIA, 20 JULIE
JULY 1992

No. 14174

GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWING

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSAKE

No. R. 2120

20 Julie 1992

WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988
(WET No. 12 VAN 1988)

REGULASIES KRAGTENS DIE
WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988

Die Minister van Omgewingsake het na oorleg met die Advieskomitee kragtens artikel 45 van die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988), die regulasies in die Bylae uitgevaardig.

BYLAE

In hierdie regulasies het enige woord of uitdrukking waaraan in die Wet 'n betekenis geheg is, daardie betekenis en tensy uit die samehang anders blyk, beteken—

“die Wet” die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988).

1. Niemand mag enige perlemoen vang of versamel en behou nie tensy hy behoorlik daartoe gemagtig is deur middel van 'n permit wat uitgereik kan word deur die Minister aan—

- (a) 'n visser vir die kommersiële vang van perlemoen; of
- (b) enige ander persoon bo die ouderdom van 12 jaar vir die vang van perlemoen vir eie gebruik.

2. (1) Aansoek om 'n permit ingevolge regulasie 1 (a) moet gedoen word by die Direkteur-generaal op die vorm soos deur hom vereis en moet vergesel wees van 'n bedrag van R15. Indien die Direkteur-generaal weier om 'n permit uit te reik, moet hy vermelde bedrag aan die aansoeker terugbetaal.

(2) Perlemoen wat ingevolge 'n permit soos in subregulasie (1) bedoel gevang is, moet aan 'n permithouer soos in subregulasie (3) bedoel gelewer word en moet in 'n heel toestand gehou word totdat dit aan so 'n permithouer gelewer word.

463—A

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

No. R. 2120

20 July 1992

SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988
(ACT No. 12 OF 1988)

REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF THE
SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988

The Minister of Environment Affairs has after consultation with the Advisory Committee under section 45 of the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988), made the regulations set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

In the regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have the meaning so assigned and unless the context otherwise indicates—

“the Act” means the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988).

1. No person shall catch or collect and retain any abalone unless duly authorised thereto by a permit which may be issued by the Minister to—

- (a) a fisherman for the commercial catching of abalone; or
- (b) any other person above the age of 12 years for the catching of abalone for own use.

2. (1) Application for a permit in terms of regulation 1 (a) shall be made to the Director-General on the form as required by him and shall be accompanied by the amount of R15. If the Director-General refuses to issue a permit he shall return said amount to the applicant.

(2) Abalone caught in terms of a permit as intended in subregulation (1) shall be delivered to a permit holder as intended in subregulation (3) and shall be kept in a whole state until it has been delivered to such a permit holder.

14174—1

(3) Niemand mag enige perlemoen in ontvangs neem van 'n visser wat sulke perlemoen gevang het ooreenkomstig die bepalinge van 'n permit uitgereik ingevolge subregulasie (1) nie, of sodanige perlemoen verwerk nie, tensy hy daartoe gemagtig word deur 'n permit wat deur die Direkteur-generaal uitgereik is en beskik oor 'n fabriek vir die verwerking van sodanige perlemoen.

3. (1) 'n Permit vir die vang van perlemoen vir eie gebruik is verkrygbaar by gemagtigde kantore teen betaling van R15 en magtig die houër daarvan om hoogstens vier perlemoen per dag tussen sonop en sononder te vang of te versamel deur slegs vanaf die land te duik sonder die gebruik van kunsmatige asemhalingsapparaat.

(2) Die permit soos bedoel in subregulasie (1) is geldig vir 'n tydperk van drie maande vanaf datum van uitreiking maar sal in geen geval geldig wees gedurende die geslote seisoen vir perlemoen soos voorgeskryf nie: Met dien verstande dat die gemelde permit vir 'n verdere tydperk van hoogstens drie maande verleng sal word indien die permitthouër voor die verstryking van die geldigheidstydperk gemelde permit aan 'n gemagtigde kantoor voorlê en ook terselfdertyd 'n ingevulde voorgeskryfde vangs opgawe vorm by gemelde kantoor inhandig.

(3) Vir die toepassing van subregulasie (1) word 'n snorkel nie geag 'n kunsmatige asemhalingsapparaat te wees nie.

BEPERKINGS OP LYNVISVANGS

4. (1) Behalwe op gesag van 'n permit wat deur die Direkteur-generaal uitgereik mag word aan die eienaar van 'n gelisensieerde vissersboot, mag niemand enige vis vanaf sodanige boot vang of probeer vang met behulp van 'n hoek en lyn, hetsy in die hand vasgehou of aan 'n stok en/of katrol of soortgelyke werktuig nie.

(2) 'n Permit soos bedoel in subregulasie (1), afgesien van enige ander voorwaarde wat die Direkteur-generaal mag stel—

(a) word uitgereik vir—

(i) algemene kommersiële lynvisvangs (A-permit); of

(ii) algemene semi-komersiële lynvisvangs (B-permit); of

(iii) tunavangs (T-permit); of

(iv) tjokkavangs (C-permit);

(b) sal slegs geldig wees ten opsigte van die vaartuig wat in die permit vermeld word;

(c) moet die aantal vissermanne spesifiseer wat vanaf sodanige vaartuig mag werk; en

(d) word slegs uitgereik na betaling van 'n bedrag van vyftien rand (R15).

(3) Die eienaar of operateur van 'n boot wat besig is met lynvisvangs moet verseker dat die permit wat uitgereik is aan die eienaar, of 'n gewaarmerkte afskrif daarvan, te alle tye beskikbaar is op sodanige boot en sodanige permit moet op aanvraag getoon word aan enige bevoegde wetstoepassingsbeampte.

GROOTTEBEPERKING: PERLEMOEN

5. Niemand mag perlemoen vang en behou of in sy besit hê as die skulp van sodanige dier deur 'n ring van 114 mm in deursnee kan gaan nie en enige sodanige dier wat gevang mag word moet sonder versuim onbeskadig in die water terugplaas word.

(3) No person shall receive any abalone from a fisherman who has caught such abalone in terms of a permit issued according to subregulation (1), or process such abalone, unless he is authorised thereto by a permit issued by the Director-General and has at his disposal a factory for the processing of such abalone.

3. (1) A permit for the catching of abalone for own use is obtainable from authorised offices upon payment of R15 and authorises the holder thereof to catch or collect between sunrise and sunset a maximum of four abalone per day by diving from the shore without the use of an artificial breathing apparatus.

(2) The permit as intended in subregulation (1) is valid for a period of three months from the date of issue, but will in no instance be valid during the closed season for abalone as prescribed: Provided that the said permit will be extended for a further period not exceeding three months if the permit holder presents the said permit to an authorised issuing office before the expiry date of the said permit and at the same time submits a completed prescribed catch return form to the said issuing office.

(3) For the purposes of subregulation (1) a snorkel shall not be regarded as an artificial breathing apparatus.

LIMITATIONS ON LINE FISHING

4. (1) Except under the authority of a permit which may be issued to the owner of a licensed fishing boat by the Director-General, no person shall catch or attempt to catch fish from such boat by means of a hook and line, whether hand-held or attached to a rod and/or reel or similar instrument.

(2) A permit as envisaged in subregulation (1) shall, apart from any other condition which the Director-General may impose—

(a) be issued for—

(i) general commercial linefishing (A-permit); or

(ii) general semi-commercial linefishing (B-permit); or

(iii) tuna fishing (T-permit); or

(iv) squid fishing (C-permit);

(b) only be valid in respect of the vessel mentioned in the permit;

(c) specify the maximum number of fishermen which may operate from the vessel; and

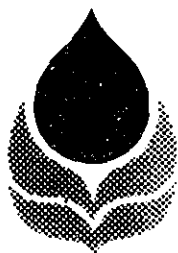
(d) only be issued after payment of the sum of fifteen rand (R15).

(3) The owner or operator of a boat engaged in fishing for linefish shall ensure that any permit issued to the owner, or a certified copy thereof, shall at all times be available on such boat, and such permit shall be produced on demand to any authorised law enforcement officer.

SIZE LIMITATIONS: ABALONE

5. No person shall catch and retain or have in his possession any abalone if the shell of such animal can pass through a ring of 114 mm in diameter, and any such animal which has been caught shall be returned undamaged to the water immediately.

Werk mooi daarmee

Ons leef  daarvan

water is kosbaar

Use it

Don't abuse  it

water is for everybody

INHOUD			CONTENTS		
No.		Bladsy No. Koerant No.	No.	Page No. Gazette No.	
GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWING			GOVERNMENT NOTICE		
Omgewingsake, Departement van Goewermentskennisgewing.			Environment Affairs, Department of Government Notice		
R. 2120	Wet op Seevisserij (12/1988): Regulasies	1 14174	R. 2120	Sea Fishery Act (12/1988): Regulations...	1 14174

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Regulation Gazette
No. 4918

Vol. 325

PRETORIA, 31 JULIE 1992
JULY 1992

No. 14199

③ Fishing

GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING

GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSACE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

No. R. 2209

31 Julie 1992

No. R. 2209

31 July 1992

WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988
(WET No. 12 VAN 1988)

SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988
(ACT No. 12 OF 1988)

REGULASIES KRAGTENS DIE WET OP
SEEVISSERY, 1988

REGULATIONS IN TERMS OF THE SEA FISHERY
ACT, 1988

Die Minister van Omgewingsake het na oorleg met die Advieskomitee kragtens artikel 45 van die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988), die regulasies in die Bylae uitgevaardig.

The Minister of Environment Affairs has after consultation with the Advisory Committee under section 45 of the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988), made the regulations set out in the Schedule.

BYLAE

SCHEDULE

In hierdie regulasies het enige woord of uitdrukking waaraan in die Wet 'n betekenis geheg is, daardie betekenis en tensy uit die samehang anders blyk, beteken—

In these regulations any word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall have the meaning so assigned and unless the context otherwise indicates—

“die Wet” die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988).

“the Act” means the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988).

BEHEERMAATREËLS TER BESKERMING VAN PERLEMOEN EN OESTER

CONTROL MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF ABALONE AND OYSTER

1. Tensy daartoe gemagtig deur 'n permit wat deur die direkteur-generaal uitgereik mag word, mag niemand—

1. Unless authorised thereto by a permit which may be issued by the director-general, no person shall—

- (a) enige perlemoen in 'n voertuig vervoer nie;
- (b) meer as 20 perlemoen in totaal wat deur verskillende permithouers vir eie gebruik gevang is in of op enige voertuig hê of vervoer nie en dan slegs indien—
 - (i) sulke perlemoen in 'n heel toestand; en
 - (ii) die permithouers deur wie die perlemoen gevang is tydens die vervoer daarvan in of op die betrokke voertuig is;

- (a) transport any abalone in a vehicle;
- (b) have in or on any vehicle or transport on such vehicle more than 20 abalone in total which have been caught by different permit holders for own use and then only if—
 - (i) such abalone are in a whole state; and
 - (ii) the permit holders by whom the abalone have been caught are present in or on the relevant vehicle during such transport;

Met dien verstande dat sodanige voertuig slegs gebruik mag word om hoogstens 20 perlemoen per dag te vervoer;

- (c) meer as 20 perlemoen in sy besit of bewaring of onder sy beheer hê nie, tensy hy dokumentêre bewys kan lewer dat sulke perlemoen wettiglik verkry is; en
- (d) enige perlemoen wat gevang is ingevolge 'n permit vir die vang van perlemoen vir eie gebruik, verkoop of vir verkoop aanbied nie.

2. Enige persoon wat meer as 20 perlemoen in sy besit het sonder dat hy daartoe gemagtig is deur die direkteur-generaal, word geag sodanige perlemoen te gevang het tensy hy die teendeel kan bewys: Met dien verstande dat in die geval van 'n besigheid wat perlemoen verkoop of vir verbruik bedien, sodanige teendeel slegs bewys kan word deur die voorlegging van 'n faktuur van 'n verwerker waaraan 'n permit uitgereik is, of van 'n groothandelaar wat sodanige perlemoen wettiglik verkry het en mag verhandel, ten opsigte van alle perlemoen wat op die perseel gevind is.

3. Enige perlemoen, waar dit ook al gevang of versamel is, moet in 'n heel toestand gehou word totdat dit aan land gebring is en moet in sodanige toestand gehou word wanneer dit vervoer word: Met dien verstande dat hierdie bepaling nie die onmiddellike terugplasing in die see van perlemoen, wat strydig met die bepalings van die Wet gevang is, verbied nie.

4. Niemand mag, behalwe kragtens 'n permit wat deur die direkteur-generaal uitgereik kan word—

- (a) enige oester vang, probeer vang of versteur deur daarna te duik nie;
- (b) enige oester vanaf rotse vang of versamel of enige uitgespoelde oester optel en behou met die oog op hervestiging daarvan nie;
- (c) enige oester kultiveer of kweek nie; of
- (d) enige oester vang of versamel en behou, of in sy besit hê nie, indien sodanige oester se skulp vrylik deur 'n ring met 'n deursnee van 51 mm kan gaan, en enige sodanige dier wat gevang word moet sonder versuim in die water teruggeplaas word:

Met dien verstande dat hierdie bepalings niemand belet om op enige dag vir eie gebruik nie meer as 25 oesters te vang of versamel en behou deur daarna te duik nie.

5. Niemand mag enige perlemoen gedurende die tydperk 1 Augustus tot en met 31 Oktober van elke jaar vang, probeer vang of versteur nie.

6. Iemand wat 'n bepaling van hierdie regulasies oortree of versuim om daaraan te voldoen, is skuldig aan 'n misdryf en by skuldigbevinding strafbaar met 'n boete van hoogstens R50 000 of met gevangenisstraf vir 'n tydperk van hoogstens ses jaar of met sodanige boete sowel as sodanige gevangenisstraf.

Provided that such vehicle may only be used to transport not more than 20 abalone per day;

- (c) have more than 20 abalone in his possession or safe-keeping or under his control unless documentary proof can be supplied that such abalone have been obtained legally; and
- (d) sell or offer for sale any abalone which have been caught in terms of a permit for the catching of abalone for own use.

2. Any person who has in his possession more than 20 abalone without being authorised thereto by the director-general, shall be deemed to have caught such abalone unless the contrary can be proved: Provided that in the case of a business which sells abalone or serves it for consumption such contrary shall only be proved by the production of an invoice of a processor in respect of which a permit has been issued, or from a wholesaler who has legally obtained and who may deal in such abalone, in respect of all abalone found on the premises.

3. Any abalone, regardless of where it has been caught or collected, shall be retained in a whole state until it has been landed and shall be kept in such state while it is being transported: Provided that this provision shall not prohibit the immediate replacement in the sea of any abalone which have been caught contrary to the provisions of the Act.

4. Unless authorised thereto by a permit which may be issued by the director-general, no person shall—


- (a) catch, attempt to catch or disturb any oyster by diving for it;
- (b) catch or collect any oyster from rocks or collect any washed out oyster and retain such with a view to the re-establishing thereof;
- (c) cultivate or breed any oyster; or
- (d) catch or collect and retain any oyster or have any oyster in his possession if the shell of such oyster can pass freely through a ring with a diameter of 51 mm, and any such animal which has been caught shall be returned to the water without delay:

Provided that these measures shall not prohibit anybody from catching or collecting and retaining not more than 25 oysters per day for his own use by means of diving.

5. No person shall catch, attempt to catch or disturb any abalone during the period 1 August up to and including 31 October in any year.

6. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a fine of not more than R50 000 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six years or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

Werk mooi daarmee.

Ons leef  daarvan.

water is kosbaar

Use it.

Don't abuse  it.

water is for everybody

INHOUD			CONTENTS		
No.		Bladsy No. Koerant No.	No.		Page No. Gazette No.
GOEWERMENSKENNISGEWING			GOVERNMENT NOTICE		
Omgewingsake, Departement van			Environment Affairs, Department of		
<i>Goewermenskennisgewing</i>			<i>Government Notice</i>		
R. 2209	Wet op Seevisserye (12/1988): Regulasies: Beheermaatreëls ter beskerming van perlemoen en oester	1 14199	R. 2209	Sea Fishery Act (12/1988): Regulations: Control measures for the protection of abalone and oyster	1 14199

Sea poachers fined R450 000

Environment Reporter

MORE than 1 300 people were successfully prosecuted for contravening the Cape's marine regulations last year — including 318 for crayfish-related offences.

Disclosing law enforcement statistics for 1992, Cape Nature Conservation spokesman Mr Dieter Odendaal said they were encouraged by the fact that 75 percent of charges laid — 1 721 — had led to successful prosecutions.

Fines totalling more than R450 000 were imposed. These included:

● R141 505 from 460 charges and 318 successful prosecutions for crayfish offences.

● R110 160 from 296 charges and 198 prosecutions involving perlemoen.

● R74 340 from 23 charges and 18 prosecutions for net-related offences.

● R20 685 from 235 charges and 210 prosecutions involving the catching of linefish.

● R20 821 from 77 charges and 58 prosecutions involving bait.

In six cases suspended sentences and/or corporal punishment were imposed, while eight cases were withdrawn and one person was acquitted.

Four companies holding marine quotas were prosecuted, as were 12 boat licence holders and nine foreign vessels.

The income from confiscated items was R8 090 for snoek and R21 821 for perlemoen.

③ FISHING
ARL 25/6/93



Poaching may bring fish quota cut

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

LARGE-SCALE poaching along the Cape coast is causing concern among the fisheries authorities and could have a "serious" affect on the size of fishing quotas in future.

There has been a drastic increase in fish poaching over the past few years, which could lead to the eventual depletion of the fish resource, the chief director of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, said this week.

Poaching, which included fishing without quotas or permits and fishing outside season, as well as fishing with the incorrect equipment, would make a reduction in quota sizes inevitable in future, he said.

Dr Botha's comment follow an incident earlier this week when inspectors confiscated 30 tons of allegedly illegally-caught yellowtail worth R250 000.

Dr Botha said the Department was investigating whether the fish were

caught with a net, which is illegal because yellowtail are classified as line fish.

Last week 600 undersized crayfish worth R12 000 were destroyed after two men were arrested in Hout Bay.

Undersized crayfish confiscated from poachers were destroyed and this seriously affected the availability of the resource, he said.

The Cape Provincial Administration's marine inspectorate chief, Mr Waldo Moolman said that 1 771 cases of poaching were brought before the courts in 1992 and penalties of nearly R500 000 were levied.

The maximum penalty for poaching was R50 000, but the actual fines imposed by magistrates did not "entirely" discourage poaching, he said.

The ANC's Mr Johnny Issel said that fishermen condemned such "pirate activities", which he called "stealing from the sea" and said they would be eliminated once a new fishing dispensation came into operation.

11/12/93
Cape
11/12/93

(3) fishing

I & J 'clams up' over perlemoen

Staff Reporter

③ FISHING
2/2/93

IRVIN and Johnson has clammed up on reports that its perlemoen farm at Danger Point near Gansbaai has pioneered a breakthrough in the commercial cultivation of perlemoen.

I & J managing director Mr Charles Atkins yesterday refused to confirm reports that I & J researchers had trebled perlemoen breeding rates.

"It is a confidential research project and we cannot comment at this stage, given the competitive nature of the industry," Mr Atkins said.

Under cultivation perlemoen breed once every three months, but I & J researchers led by UCT marine biologist Mr Nick Loubser have reportedly achieved monthly breeding since last August.

If this breeding rate is maintained, I & J should be able to cultivate 1.5 million young perlemoen by the end of the year.

Perlemoen fetch from R100 to R150 per kilogram in the Far East.

SA diet breakthrough a boost for sushi bars!

Aug 10/9/92

3 Fishing

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

JAPANESE yuppies cruising their country's sushi bars will soon be tucking into delicious, cocktail-size perlemoen from South Africa — and they *won't* be illegally poached or under-sized.

This follows a breakthrough by scientists at Rhodes University's Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science who have developed an artificial feed and weaning diet for South Africa's fledgling perlemoen farming industry.

Central to the diet is an artificial feed pellet, water stable for 48 hours, for the "grow-out" stage of the slow-feeding larger perlemoen.

Not only has the pellet overcome the problem of obtaining a reliable supply of kelp — perlemoen's natural food — but it has also proved to produce better growth in the slow-maturing animal, said Mr Peter Britz, joint leader of the Rhodes research team with Professor Tom Hecht.

The weaning diet, for which the researchers have applied for a patent in conjunction with a Hermanus fishing company, is crucial in overcoming the production bottleneck when juvenile perlemoen are weaned off their diet of micro-algae in the hatchery phase.

Local perlemoen farming has great commercial potential, as the South African species is highly sought-after in Far Eastern markets. But the harvesting of wild perlemoen is severely restricted, with a total allowable catch of just 600 tons a year.

"In order to create a sustainable yield situation, the allowable catch has been reduced gradually over the years and the only way to increase the supply is through farming," Mr Britz said.

The Department of Environment Affairs' sea fisheries division has issued permits for the marketing of commercially produced perlemoen smaller than the legal minimum limit of 11,25cms for animals taken in the wild.

"We're looking at growing them for three years to a size of about 7,5cms and between

70-100 grams — 'cocktail-size' abalone — which is well under this limit," Mr Britz explained.

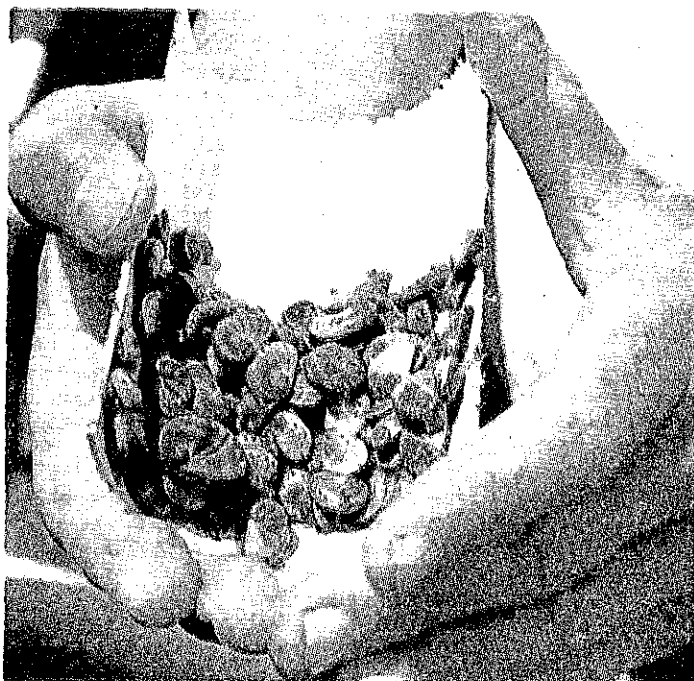
"The idea is to export them live to be sold in sushi bars.

"There was a bit of doubt that this (smaller size) would open a loophole which could be used by poachers, but you can distinguish between farmed and wild abalone by their colours — depending on what you feed them — and by the rings on the shells. So it doesn't look as if it will be a problem.

"It's looking very promising," Mr Britz added. "We've been going three years now and we've solved all our initial problems.

"We can now produce sufficient numbers to go into commercial production, but this is quite a big step up, so we're probably looking at a pilot commercial production phase of about two years."

The Hermanus firm has already constructed a pilot plant and hatchery, and the first "crop" should be started this year.



Pictures: BILL GODDARD

YUMMIE! Bite-sized perlemoen like these, artificially cultivated in South Africa, will soon be on offer in Japanese sushi bars.



WEIGHT-WATCHING: Mr Peter Britz, joint leader of the Rhodes University research team which has developed an artificial feed and weaning diet for South Africa's fledgling perlemoen-farming industry.

Perlemoen: public bagged 61 percent

Staff Reporter

THE Department of Environment Affairs has disclosed the results of a survey to establish the impact sport fishermen had on the perlemoen resource in the past season.

The study was done by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, who interviewed 800 permit-holders about their fishing habits and success rates.

Institute oceanographer Mr Robert Tarr said an estimated 368 tons of perlemoen were taken by sport divers who were allowed four each a day.

The total allowable catch for commercial fishermen was 600 tons and the sport divers' haul was equivalent to 61 percent, indicating that the public was taking substantial quantities, Mr Tarr said.

The major fishing ground for divers appeared to be between Kleinmond and Rooi Els, a large part of which was closed to commercial fishermen. The survey showed about 140 tons were taken in this area.

Recreational divers appeared to be quite active with 53 percent of those interviewed claiming they dived all season. Permit holders took an average of 20 perlemoen each during the season.

The department issued 27 278 permits for the season from November 1, 1991 to July 31, 1992, the majority to men.

Perlemoen 'farming' envisaged

③ FISHING
CT 28/1/92

Staff Reporter

SOUTH AFRICA looks set to become a leading exporter of perlemoen as a result of work done locally on growing this sought-after mollusc in "captive".

Hundreds of thousands of rands are being spent on research, and several pilot plants have already been established on the coast, Mr Peter Britz, a lecturer in the Department of Ichthyology and Fisheries Science at Rhodes University, said yesterday.

"We intend farming perlemoen intensively in concrete tanks by feeding them a balanced diet that enables them to grow much faster than they would in their natural environment, where they feed on seaweed," he said.

Mr Britz said there was a huge demand for the delicacy in Japan, Taiwan and China, where farmed perlemoen were sold at prices ranging from R150 to R200 a kilogram, compared with the retail price of R99 a kilogram of wild perlemoen in South Africa.

South Africa harvested about 600 tons annually, of which 10% was for local consumption and the remainder was exported.

The output of artificially grown perlemoen could equal the annual natural harvest within the next decade.

"We envisage farming it to a size of

SA could be major exporter

7,5cm, weighing 75 grams over a period of three years. Perlemoen caught in the wild are at least 12 years old when they reach the minimum legal size 11,4cm," Mr Britz said.

He said the South African coastline was ideal for growing perlemoen because it was unpolluted and relatively underdeveloped.

Large companies

The east coast provided an optimum farming environment because the warmer water promoted faster growth.

Large local companies that have invested in the pilot schemes include Sea Plant Products, Irvin and Johnson and Atlantic Fishing.

The pilot plants are at Gansbaai, Danger Point and Port Alfred. Another is being built near Hermanus.

"We aim to sell perlemoen commercially within five years," Mr Britz said.

Public exploiting crayfish loophole

③ FISHING 16/1/92

THE public has been exploiting a loophole in the Sea Fisheries Act and removing large numbers of crayfish and abalone from southern Cape seas since the beginning of July.

The chief director of the Department of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, said yesterday there was a "legal hitch" over amendments controlling quotas and sizes.

An amendment, passed in Parliament and effective from July 1, empowered the Minister of Environment Affairs to set down regulations.

However, the rules limiting catches and size were contained in the paragraphs scrapped to allow the new legislation through. So far no new regulations have been drawn up.

"We are addressing the matter ur-

gently," Dr Botha said.

The abuse is likely to end only when new regulations are gazetted.

A spokesman for the Kommetjie Environmental Awareness Group, Ms Jenni Trethowan, said: "The public has reacted in its normal shortsighted and greedy way and has flocked to the nearest beaches to get as many crayfish as possible."

Said Dr Botha: "People are always demanding that we conserve marine life, but in a situation like this they throw all responsibility to the wind."

It is understood that commercial fisheries are observing the old limits.

The crayfish season has been extended to July 31 on the east coast. The season on the west coast ended on June 30.

Inspectors still 'acting against sea plunderers'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

③ FISHING

SEA fisheries inspectors are operating normally and will attempt to prosecute anyone taking advantage of temporary loopholes in regulations to plunder rock lobster and perlemoen stocks.

This follows a blunder by the Department of Environment Affairs in promulgating the revised Sea Fisheries Act at the beginning of the month.

Several clauses giving the minister power to make regulations about rock lobster and perlemoen have been consolidated in the revised act, but the regulations have to be gazetted again in terms of the revised clause.

As a result, one chief magistrate refused to hear cases involving old regulations, which prosecutors and the attorney-general's office agreed were *ultra vires*.

A similar problem developed in July 1990 when all Sea Fisheries regulations were invalid for 27 days.

Unscrupulous operators appear to be taking advantage of the situation and angry conservationists have reported a free-for-all in some areas.

Dr Louis Botha, chief director of the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries, confirmed what he described as "es-

ARG 11/7/92
sentially a technical legal problem" concerning a handful of clauses.

New regulations would be published soon — probably by next Friday at the latest, he said.

The delay had been caused by wide-ranging consultations to get the best possible regulations in force, Dr Botha added.

"It's a bit of a predicament, admittedly. There were a number of new procedures we had to go through which took much longer than before," he said.

Cape Nature Conservation director Mr Niel van Wyk said that in spite of the legal confusion, marine inspectors were continuing as normal.

"We are apprehending people, taking names, investigating cases and issuing warnings."

Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group said angry conservationists had told her False Bay was "being stripped bare".

It was "incomprehensible" that the department could have made a second blunder in less than three years.

"It leaves one speechless — but if an error like this is made, at least people should have the honesty and decency to abide by the spirit of the law."

Small fry make big stink

③ Fishing
South 23/5-27/5/92
By Justin Pearce

THE FISHING industry stinks. That was the message from fishermen who met at UWC on Saturday to discuss the future of the industry.

The meeting formed part of an initiative by fishermen to get access to their own industry, said organiser Mr Johnny Issel.

Fishing in South African waters is governed by stringent regulations which, together with alleged widespread corruption and nepotism, put small fishermen at the mercy of the factory owners.

About 40 fishermen from all parts of the western and southern Cape coast attended the meeting.

A source of passionate concern was the concentration of commercial fishing licences in the hands of big business.

Most licences are held by subsidiaries of Anglovaal, Barlow Rand and SA Mutual. This means fishermen are forced to sell their catches to the factories at lower prices than they would receive on the open market.

Fishermen at Saturday's meeting called for licences to be granted on a communal basis to fishing communities, who would then be free to sell their catches as they chose.

Attention should also be given to basic salaries and decent housing for fishermen working for large companies, and to the system of migrant labour, the fishermen said.

Safety regulations also came under the spotlight, with fishermen claiming that regulations were frequently ignored by owners of boats.

A guest speaker was Mr Peter Lewis of the Industrial Health Unit at UCT. He presented statistics showing that fishing was the most dangerous industry for workers in South Africa.

The fishing industry has an accident rate of approximately 40 per million hours worked, which is roughly twice the figure for mining.

Issel said the ANC plans to take up the fishermen's concerns with a view to restructuring the industry under a democratic government.

ARG 12/3/92

Stricter control to stop illegal ⁽³⁾ fish kingklip catches

WILLEM STEENKAMP, Staff Reporter

INTENSIFIED control measures to prevent illegal longline catches of hake and kingklip have been introduced by Mr Louis Pienaar, Minister of Environment Affairs.

Mr Pienaar said in a statement the new measures should "rectify certain legal technicalities" and provide the necessary legal base for action against illegal longline catches.

Mr Pienaar said he would request the fishery inspectorate of the Cape Provincial Administration to launch an intensified policing action to enforce the new measures.

These were needed because of an increase in illegal practices by some line-fishermen who targeted hake and kingklip.

Catching of these species of fish with longlines was banned at the beginning of last year and the Department of Environment Affairs had previously warned fishermen against using these methods to catch hake and kingklip.

However according to Mr Pienaar it was difficult to enforce the ban because of legal technicalities. The hake resources were controlled by a strict quota system and the illegal longline catches were occurring outside this system — posing a danger to the resource as a whole.

"In order to immediately put an end to this deplorable situation, I decided on the advice of the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee to implement the measures as an urgent first step," Mr Pienaar said.

Under the new measures no vessel with a longline (used for catching tuna) may land any hake or kingklip.

In addition a technical definition of a longline as a line with more than 10 fish hooks will be included in legislation to make effective law enforcement possible.

Mr Pienaar called on all line fishermen to stop using illegal methods to catch kingklip and hake.

University will study potential of harvesting the sand mussel

ARLT 15/1/92 (3) FISHING

The Argus Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH. — The University of Port Elizabeth (UPE), recently awarded a contract to conduct research into sand mussels, will also study the potential for commercial harvesting, according to Professor Anton Mchlahlan of the university's zoology department.

The contract — awarded by the South African Nature Foundation for the three-year study of sand mussels along the city's coastline — comes in the wake of a controversy around commercial harvesting.

Earlier this year a temporary applica-

tion by a commercial fisheries company, Team Seafarms, to harvest sand mussels from beaches between the Maitland River mouth and the Gamtoos River, met with stiff opposition from conservationists who organised a 1 000-signature petition opposing the application.

In its motivation for the project, the zoology department said previous research "has not examined the feasibility of exploiting this resource.

"Although recent requests by Team Seafarms to harvest mussels have been strongly opposed by the public, commercial harvesting might become a possibility in the future," the motivation said.

Professor Mchlahlan said the study would look at the impact the two forms of harvesting had on the mussel population in the area and the effect of both commercial and recreational harvesting on the ecology of the coastline.

"We need to establish whether the production of mussels will be sufficient to support both forms of harvesting," he said.

He said if a company like Team Seafarms was serious about harvesting mussels it should pump money into research.

Professor Mchlahlan said mussel research, which had been going on for the last 20 years, needed to be continued in the light of the hue and cry around mussel harvesting.

The objectives outlined by the zoology department include: To assess the nature, extent, and practices of the recreational fishery; to estimate the yield of the recreational fishery; to set up a programme for long-term quantitative monitoring of sand mussel populations; to describe larval development; and to investigate settlement patterns and the potential for seeding beaches.

A spokesperson for the Anti-Mussel Harvesting Action Committee said the committee remained opposed to any harvesting of mussels from the coastline.

However, the committee would not oppose harvesting for commercial gain if companies farmed and harvested their own mussels.

Oceana insured for dock fire

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing group was fully insured for the losses it suffered in the New Year's Day fire at the Duncan Dock cold storage facility, Oceana MD Dave Behrens said yesterday.

Police are investigating the causes of the fire at the four-month old cold store depot, apparently started by a ship's flare. An office block, one plant room and handling equipment were unaffected by the fire which destroyed 6 500 tons of food.

Oceana has a 42% stake in Commercial Cold Storage, the cold store's owners, with Portnet holding 30% and ICS 28%.

Behrens estimated the cost of reinstating damaged areas to be in the region of R15m, an amount fully covered by insurance. Oceana lost goods worth R2,1m which were also fully insured.

"In addition the group has loss of income insurance which will ensure that Duncan Dock Cold Storage will not be without revenue during the rebuilding period, which is expected to take about six months. Oceana will therefore not suffer any financial loss as a result of this most unfortu-

LINDA ENSOR

nate incident." (3) Fishing

Behrens believed the total amount of the loss had been reinsured.

The owners of the fish, meat, poultry and vegetables destroyed in the blaze were responsible for their own insurance and Behrens said it was probable that the financial burden would be spread across a number of insurers.

The lack of cold storage space as a result of the fire would be a major concern for fresh food exporters in the western Cape. While there were other cold stores in Cape Town, there would nevertheless be pressure on space, Behrens said.

Fruit exports, which were refrigerated in different stores, were unaffected by the fire. 310AM 5/1/93

Willem Visagie, MD of Commercial Cold Storage, the parent company of Duncan Dock Cold Storage, said cold store rates would not be raised to exploit the shortage of storage space.

COMPANIES

Good demand for fish boosts Oceana

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group's operations were performing well in difficult economic conditions, and market demand and prices for pelagic fish products including canned fish, meal and oil, were firm, chairman Robin Williams said at the group's AGM yesterday.

He conceded in reply to comments by Shareholders' Association chairman Issy Goldberg, that there was a valid case for the declaration of a special dividend from surplus funds and said this would be noted. He pointed out, however, that Oceana needed surplus cash to fund its fluctuating working capital requirements.

At its September 1992 financial year-end Oceana had R45m in short-term investments and cash.

Williams said Oceana had landed and canned

LINDA ENSOR

45% of the pilchard quota it had been allocated. MD Dave Behrens said demand for pilchards on the domestic market was extremely strong and had grown by an estimated 10% last year. The shortage of pilchards had accelerated Oceana's fishing and canning programme and fishing had started earlier than usual.

Williams said Oceana was pushing for an increase in the pilchard quota. The reason for the reduction in the total allowable catch of pilchards for the industry to 39 000 tons from 45 000 tons last year was not clear as the resource appeared growing both in terms of biomass and the age profile of the fish population.

He was confident that the final anchovy quota would be fixed at the same level as last year. The total allowable catch had been set at

260 000 tons compared with a final figure of 350 000 tons for 1992 and all but 40 000 tons of this had been allocated.

The quality of lobster landed so far had been very good, Williams said, and 425 tons of Oceana's total quota of 786 tons (973 tons) had been landed compared with the 431 tons for the same period last year.

The total allowable catch for the industry was set at 2 200 tons.

Oceana's shipping and trading activities continued to suffer from low demand and volumes due to the depressed international and local economies and competitive conditions.

"Tuna Marine's abalone business is proceeding satisfactorily. It has landed 84% of its 1992/93 quota, compared with 65% at the same time last year. The market for abalone is stable and sales are ahead of last year."

Prices in place ^③ for Ocfish growth FISHING

By **AUDREY D'ANGELO**
Business Editor

PRICES and demand for pelagic fish products — canned fish, meal and oil — are firm, Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) chairman Robbie Williams told shareholders at the agm yesterday.

But the world recession "has led to a weakening in demand for lobster products, particularly in Japan, the US and Europe, and a reduction in prices which is having a negative impact on contributions from this area of the group's business."

However, Williams said, the fishing operations were performing well on balance "particularly in the current difficult economic conditions."

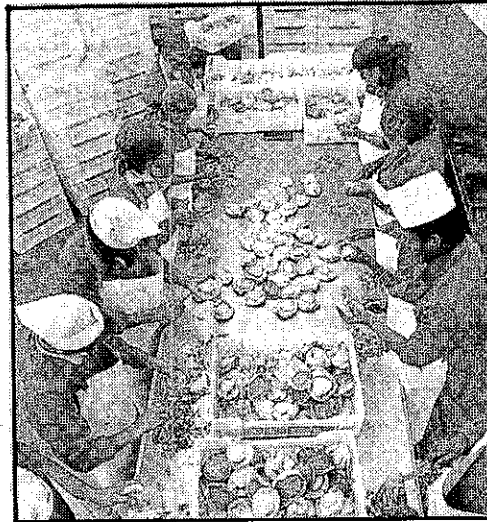
Ocfish lifted attributable profit by 36% to R18,1m (R13,3m) in the year to September 30. Fishing accounted for 55% of this, compared with 43% the previous year.

Williams said the lobster season started in November with the Ocfish quota reduced to 786 tons compared with 973 tons the previous year.

"To date we have landed 425 tons compared with 431 tons for the same period last year.

"The quality of lobsters landed so far this season has been good and available evidence indicates that the resource is sound."

Discussing pelagic fishing, Williams said it was hoped that the anchovy quota for the industry — initially set at 260 000 tons compared with the final figure of 350 000 tons last year — would be reviewed and increased.



"The industry pilchard TAC is 39 000 tons compared with 45 000 tons last year.

"The reason for the reduction is not clear as it appears that the resource is continuing to grow in terms of biomass and the age profile of the fish population."

Increased local demand for canned pilchards and the need to maintain supplies meant that Ocfish started fishing earlier than usual this season.

"At this stage the group has already landed and canned 45% of its 1993 directed catch pilchard quota."

Williams said the continuing international downturn meant that "the group's shipping and trading activities continue to contend with low demand and volumes."

But, he continued, the abalone business of Tuna Marine, which

is included in that division "is proceeding satisfactorily."

"It has already landed 84% of its 1992/93 quota, compared with 65% at the same time last year. The market is stable and sales are ahead of last year."

Discussing the fire at the Duncan Dock Cold store Williams said the store would be "reconstructed as soon as possible with an opening date around midyear."

"Duncan Dock cold store was fully insured against fire damage and loss of profits. We will not therefore suffer any financial loss as a result of this incident."

The chairman of the Shareholders Association of SA, Issy Goldberg, congratulated the group on having achieved "a remarkable" 71% rise in pre-tax profits on a 15% rise in turnover.

MD Dave Behrens said this was a result of rationalisation over the past two years.

Behrens said after the meeting that demand for canned pilchards had risen by 10% in the past year. It was a nutritious, low-priced food.

Prices had "pretty much kept pace with inflation and I am not sure if we can fully recover our increased costs in the present circumstances."

Asked if falling overseas demand for lobster meant there would be more available for the local market, Behrens said: "It has never been a problem for local people to get lobster. It is a fallacy that it is not available."

SA stops fishing quotas

Political Correspondent

ALL foreign fishing quotas in South African waters have now been revoked, Minister of Environmental Affairs, Mr Louis Pienaar, said yesterday.

③ FISHING

The only exception was Mozambique because a mutual reciprocal quota agreement was negotiated with that country in 1991, the minister told a parliamentary briefing.

The decision to revoke quotas in waters extending 360km from the

shore follows an announcement by Mr Pienaar in 1991 that the right of countries like Israel, Spain, Japan, the Republic of China and Portugal to fish in South African waters would be phased out over two years.

The step was taken to benefit local fishing interests, the minister said.

Catches by foreign countries of non-quota species like tuna, a migratory species that cannot be protected unilaterally by a single country, were also being limited in South Africa waters.

Discussion paper soon on effects of fish farming

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

⑤ FISHING

GOVERNMENT concerns about the effects of fish farms on the country's rivers will be sent to the aquaculture industry and other interest groups in the form of a discussion document soon.

ARG 2/2/93
This follows a closed meeting at Stellenbosch last week, attended by officials of Cape Nature Conservation and the departments of Water Affairs and Agriculture and representatives of the SA Aquaculture Association and trout farmers.

Last month, the Smalblaar River in Dutoitskloof was heavily polluted by hundreds of commercially farmed trout which died during a heatwave.

But the Stellenbosch meeting had been arranged last year, following a decision at an aquaculture workshop in September, chairman Mr Gareth McConkey of the Department of Water Affairs pointed out.

Various concerns and proposals by the three departments would be integrated into a single discussion document which would be put to the next meeting of the workshop, he said.

"The whole aquaculture industry is of great interest and concern to us. The three of us (government departments) have various proposals and we wanted to see how close we are to each other."

● The owner of Devon Trout Farm, Mr Graham Watson, would not be prosecuted for the Smalblaar incident because the heatwave — when the river's water temperature reached 29 Deg C — had been a natural occurrence, Mr McConkey said.

"It was a very traumatic incident for everyone concerned, but it was a tremendous heatwave when the temperature was very high ... it wasn't because of anyone's lack of concern.

"One has to weigh up the facts very carefully before starting a court case or anything."

Fisheries board opens industry

③ FISHING
Star Reporter

THE Sea Fisheries Quota Board has abolished the agreement which effectively barred any new entries into the deep sea trawling sector.

"In this way the board aims to extend the allocation of quotas to all population groups," Quota Board chairman Mr J S C van Graan said yesterday. CTU/293

Mr Johnny Issel, the ANC's fisheries spokesman, welcomed the move, saying it would open the industry, long dominated by whites.

Crayfish industry feeling ^③FISHING NEG 6/2/93 the poach

BRUCE CAMERON, Business Staff

THE world recession — and that includes South Africa — is hitting the multimillion rand crayfish industry hard and contributing to a major increase in poaching.

World crayfish prices have dropped by about 30 percent in a year, with world demand slumping as a result of the international recession.

With the slump already biting into profits, fishing companies are also feeling the pinch of the local recession in an unusual way.

The industry has to supply 22,5 percent of total catch to the local market, but can sell only 10 percent.

The reason, according to Mr Malcolm Wallace, managing director of SA Sea Products based in Hout Bay, is a substantial increase in poaching.

As people lose jobs many put to sea to trap crayfish from small boats, Mr Wallace said.

The problem was being compounded because the Cape Provincial Administration had sliced the fisheries inspectorate budget. There were fewer inspectors, who were prevented from working overtime and had limits on distances they could travel.

There was talk of resolving the control problem by appointing voluntary inspectors, as in Natal. Mr Wallace said, however, that no steps seemed to have been taken.

Year-on-year sales for December at SA Sea Products, Snoekies, retail outlet had dropped from R251 000 to R117 000, indicating the extent of the problem.

500kg Natal seizure

'biggest' kreef haul

ETS 12/193
Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — The Natal Parks Board and the police Water Wing have seized more than half a ton of frozen crayfish here, in what is believed to be the province's biggest haul of illegal crayfish.

Nearly 500kg of crayfish had already been sold after a total consignment of 1 000kg was apparently imported from Mozambique.

Police also questioned a Durban man yesterday after he allegedly tried to sell some of the East Coast crayfish to a supermarket earlier this week.

In terms of provincial legislation designed to protect Natal crayfish stocks, it is illegal to sell the East Coast variety.

A man is expected to appear in court shortly.

Move to 'open' trawling circle

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

RECENT changes in the trawling industry, which has been closed to new entrants, could mean it will become more accessible to deprived fishing communities.

The Quota Board has abolished the 80:20 agreement, which barred newcomers from deep-sea trawling, and has appointed a commission to look at ways of making the guidelines more flexible.

The intention was to help fishermen who did not own boats or processing plants, a spokesman said. Present guidelines benefit only the established industry.

"We realise that these guidelines — especially in the case of new entries — could still prevent certain population groups from obtaining quotas," a board spokesman said.

The withdrawal at the end of last year of all quotas to foreign countries and a moderate increase in hake resources had allowed the board to consider quota allocations for newcomers and to abolish the agreement.

The 80:20 agreement had meant that up to 155 900 tons of fish — 80 percent of the allowable catch of hake — had to be allocated to the established trawling industry, the spokesman said.

Only the remaining 20 percent could be allocated to outsiders, so no new significant quota-holders could be admitted to the industry.

Trawling net to be widened

By GAYE DAVIS: Cape Town

3 Fishing

A TRAWLING industry agreement which effectively meant few newcomers could enter the industry has been scrapped by the Quota Board, which is also revising guidelines for granting quotas in new moves designed to make the industry more accessible to all population groups. w/mail 12/2-18/2/93

The 80:20 agreement, in effect since the 1980s, meant that 80 percent of any increase in the total allowable catch (TAC) of hake up to a limit of 155 900 tons had to be allocated to established members of the industry. The remaining 20 percent could be given to anyone.

However, a relatively low TAC (141 000 tons) meant quotas were too small to provide new entrants enough economic incentive to justify their position in the industry, meaning the trawling industry was effectively closed, Quota Board chairman JSC van Graan said this week.

"The withdrawal of quotas to foreign countries at the end of 1992 and an increase in the yield of the hake resource now enables the board to consider quota applications to new entrants from these additional sources of fish, but without prejudice to the current quotas of the established industry," he said.

Assistant director of resource management at the Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries Arnold Slater confirmed the guidelines were being revised as they precluded the board from allocating quotas to outsiders.

According to an industry source, profits could suffer if any increase in quotas were to be allocated to newcomers. Knowing in advance what percentage of any growth in the TAC would be available also made long-term planning easier.

However, Van Graan has assured industry members that the board will not grant quotas to new entrants lightly. The board would recognise the industry's investments of capital and the fact that it provided employment for thousands of people, he said.

Sea Products

BRUCE CAMERON
Business Staff

MR 5/13/2/193

MID

BUSINESS PERSONALITY

plans for a future beyond fishing

DOWN at the far end of the Hout Bay harbour, unnoticed by the hordes of tourists who visit the scenic spot, SA Sea Products managing director Mr Malcolm Wallace is in the thick of planning for the future.

It is no longer enough to look to the sea alone for survival and success in the fishing industry. Research into the growing aquaculture industry and community relations are now part of daily routine.

As a section of the Oceana Fishing Group, Sea Products not only makes a significant contribution to the R375-million annual turnover of the

group, but also plays a significant role in Hout Bay as well.

Mr Wallace ascribes the best results in the Oceana company in providing the best results in the Oceana Group to the attention given to the future.

On the side of community relations, Mr Wallace is no stranger. He is the mayor of Fish Hook and has been very much involved in dealing with community problems for many years as an active member of Rotary, but particularly since he was first elected to the Fish Hook Council in 1989.

In Hout Bay, where ratepayers pay rates to the Regional Services Council without having a real say in their affairs, Sea Products directly or indirectly contributes six percent of the Hout Bay budget.

However, Mr Wallace becomes annoyed when he discusses what his staff, who form a major part of the harbour community, get in return in services.

"It is an on-going fight with the RSC to get what our community needs — from pavements onwards."

Sea Products is also the single biggest employer in Hout Bay and, as such, plays a significant role in a stable community.

"If we withdrew, the impact would be substantial," Mr Wallace says social responsibility is a

prime aspect of the company's mission statement and this covers fighting for the civic rights of employees right through to helping the local school and sports organisations.

On the fishing side, Sea Products is pushing ahead with research in the aquaculture industry concentrating on the production of oysters and sea bream. It is in aquaculture that Mr Wallace sees major growth in the future.

He feels his company is leading the field at the moment and he intends to stay out in front.

No old salt himself, Mr Wallace started of his life as a geography teacher after graduating from the University of the Witwatersrand and before moving into a range of senior jobs, particularly associated with training in the Transvaal.

SA's biggest fish farmer threatens to cash in chips

MR 22/2/93
⑤ FISHING

Millionex gives R400 000 to Teach

Staff Reporter
 THE Millionex 6 charity drive has paid R400 000 to The Argus Teach Fund.

Millionex is the annual mock-share issue which raises money for hundreds of beneficiaries and offers millions in prizes.

The Argus Teach Fund, which aims to further the education of needy children, was one of about 350 charities which benefited from Millionex payouts totalling R4.6 million.

But, Millionex 6 was badly affected by economic conditions, said project leader Mr David Neppe.

The tough times, combined with increased competition in the fund-raising market, meant Millionex 6 missed its sales target of R10 million by more than R5 million.

"As a result, we have had to decrease individual contributions substantially — and for Millionex 6 we increased our beneficiary base by a further 36 organisations.

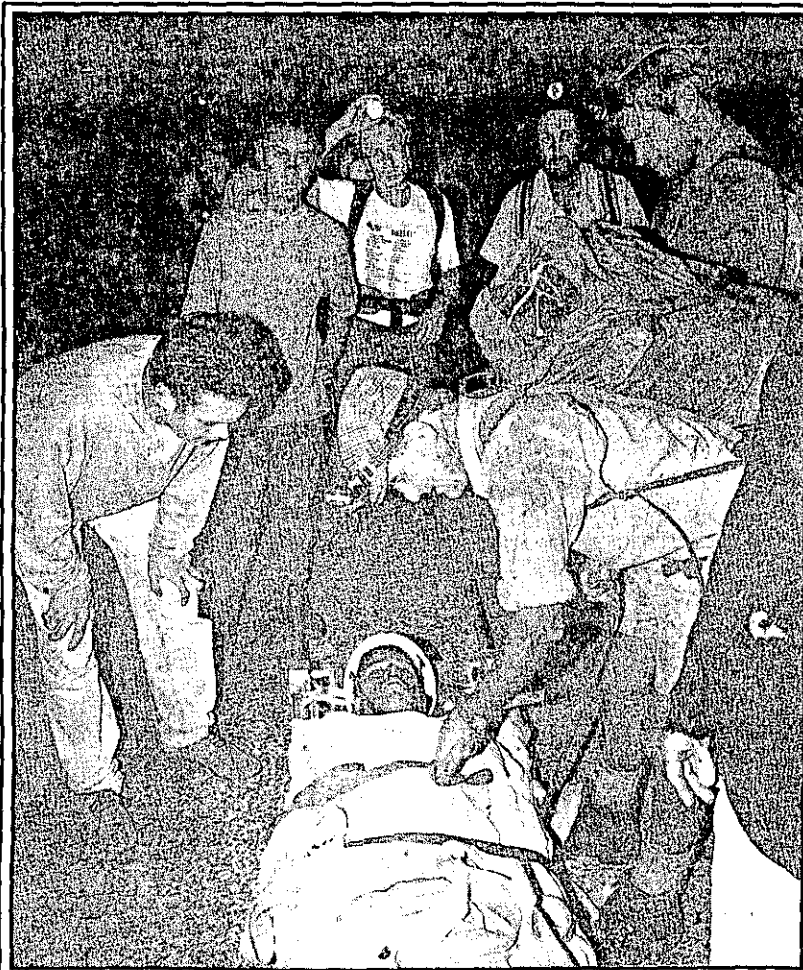
"Thus, we have had to cut the cake very sparingly, ensuring every institution gets a slice," said Mr Neppe.

Series looks to the future

HIGH ROAD, LOW ROAD — the four-part exclusive series published by The Argus recently — can be ordered from Newspaper House, 122 St George's Mall, Cape Town or Brian Bouch (bulk orders of 30 or more only) at 511-0003.

HIGH ROAD, LOW ROAD follows the unfolding political events in South Africa during 1992 and early this year. It is a gripping tale of a nation reaching for new frontiers.

Each eight-page tabloid special section takes an in-depth look at the tumultuous events which shook the political landscape — the bullets, the blood, the bullets and the bargaining ... **HIGH ROAD, LOW ROAD** is a fascinating chronicle of our turbulent times.



SAVED: A rescue party attends to Kensington schoolboy Salaza Rizwaan after he fell into a gully on Kalk Bay Mountain yesterday.

Picture: JOHAN SCHRÖNEN, The Argus

Teen rescued from mountain

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
 Staff Reporter

A 15-year-old schoolboy was rescued after falling down a steep slope into a gully on Kalk Bay Mountain.

Salaza Rizwaan of 10th Avenue, Kensington, his brother Igsaan and four friends were hiking near caves above Kalk Bay yesterday when Salaza lost his footing on a narrow path and tumbled into the gully.

"I thought he was dead. He

didn't move and he was quite a way down," said Igsaan.

"At first we thought we would not be able to get to him and we called him until he responded. We sighed with relief when he moved his legs and arms.

"Two of us took about 15 minutes to get to him while the others ran down the mountain to get help," said Igsaan.

A party of 14 Mountain Club members and Metro rescue personnel, including two doctors, climbed to the spot where Salaza had fallen, but could not find him.

The boys with him had gone down the mountain "when it started to get late" and Salaza had apparently stumbled away.

Search and rescue co-ordinator of the Mountain Club of South Africa Mr Lester Coelen said the rescue party made voice contact with Salaza and found him about 8.45pm.

Salaza, who had multiple bruises and hip and rib injuries, was carried down the mountain on a stretcher and taken to Victoria Hospital.

Investigation urged into pesticide use

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Department of Agriculture has "excessive" powers to use poisons and pest control should be investigated, says Democratic Party environment spokesman Mr Rupert Lorimer.

His call coincides with an outcry over the poisoning of birds of prey in the Dwaalboom area, near Thabazimbi in the Transvaal, after the department sprayed red-billed quelea finches.

Writing in the environmental newsletter Eagle Bulletin, Mr Lorimer said there was fresh evidence of deaths of cattle in sprayed areas.

Tests on dead cattle in Potchefstroom had revealed phention and dieldrin in carcasses.

"The use of dieldrin was banned in South Africa in 1983 and the source of this dieldrin ... is unknown," said Mr Lorimer.

"Phention is used extensively by the department.

"The fact that all deaths were in areas where spraying had taken place seems to indicate the necessity for detailed investigation. "I believe the powers vested in the department are excessive and the Act should be amended.

"There are alternative methods of dealing with agricultural pests which are not as dangerous as spraying poisons."

● Agriculture Minister Dr Kraal van Niekerk has ordered a moratorium on further quelea spraying, pending a report by an ornithologist.

Claims harassment by environmentalists

JOHN YELD
 Environment Reporter

THE owner of a Franschoek trout farm — billed as the biggest fish farm in the country — has threatened to close his business because of complaints by environmentalists.

Cape Town businessman Mr Gerald Lubner, the self-styled father of salmon-trout farming in South Africa, claims criticism of his operation at Dewdale Farm on the headwaters of the Berg River is unfair and misguided.

His warning follows a recent meeting with officials of Cape Nature Conservation and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry.

Mr Dexter Leite, one of Mr Lubner's group executives, said conservationists alleged the farm had damaged the natural flow of the river by extracting too much water.

They also alleged the farm's operation had encroached on state forest.

"Obviously, we can't do anything without authority. We have permits and riparian rights. We've always had these rights," he said.

He also accused an honorary forestry officer of waging a vendetta against them.

"He's a troublemaker who's seeking sensation," he claimed.

Water from the Berg River was diverted, used on the farm and returned to the river. Water quality was monitored regularly and there had been only one complaint, said Mr Leite.

Mr Lubner said the fish farming industry was being unfairly knocked down by environmentalists "who don't have a balanced view".

"Carry on with that sort of thing and the business goes," he said.

Regional director of forestry Mr Angus Wilson said Dewdale had — without consultation — constructed several large flood control dams as well as an extra weir and abstraction canal below their main canal.

"On Forestry's insistence, the lower weir and canal have been removed and the licensing of the flood control dams is in process," he said.

Two small "flood control" dams had been constructed on the boundary of Forestry and Dewdale, with the boundary line running through the dams.

"Contrary to the originally stated intention of Dewdale, these were later stocked with trout on a temporary basis during times of high temperatures."

The forestry branch had no problem with Dewdale's operation, provided no unauthorised activities were initiated on state forest land and the ecological balance of the area was maintained.

"In this respect, we have expressed our concern to Water Affairs at the quantity of water being abstracted at the main canal and the effect of this on the river life below the abstraction point."

Mr Wilson denied the honorary forestry officer had been harassing the farm.

Mr James Butler, regional director of Water Affairs, confirmed the farm had riparian rights to Berg River water and said it had not exceeded its annual allowance "to the best of our knowledge".

"We met to discuss how best to go about summer-time riverine problems with regard to both flow and water quality, as put to us by Cape Nature Conservation," said Mr Butler.

"We are very anxious to institute more accurate recording of the river flows upstream of the Dewdale diversion on a continuous basis and will soon be in a position to do so. We also will insist on flow gauging of the water diverted at any given time ...

Mr Butler pointed out that his branch was employing UCT's Freshwater Research Unit to investigate the effects of fish farming on riverine life.

"These findings, we believe, will assist us in identifying future management strategies for river-water quality where it comes to the impact of fish farming practices in the Western Cape."

● Cape Nature Conservation has not responded to a request for comment.



Mr Gerald Lubner

SAN MARCO

When the

Undersized ^③ crayfish to be destroyed

Crime Reporter

ALMOST 400 undersize crayfish — mostly females — are to be destroyed after two poachers were caught red-handed with about R12 000 worth of the crustaceans in the Karbonkelberg Reserve, Hout Bay, yesterday.

Two men from Hangklip, in their 20s, were arrested and will appear in the Wynberg Magistrate's Court on Monday.

They were arrested around dawn after inspectors with the Department of Sea Fisheries spotted a group of at least eight men carrying large bags of crayfish, about 600 altogether, away from the water's edge.

The inspectors intercepted two of the men but the others ran away.

A police spokesman said another three bags of crayfish were discovered in a Hangberg house shortly afterwards and that another arrest was expected soon.



POACHED . . . Sea Fisheries inspector Mr Justin Enslin and Warrant Officer Etienne Botha of Hout Bay police station with a ring net and some of the R12 000 crayfish haul seized from poachers in the Karbonkelberg Reserve yesterday.

Picture: STEWART COLMAN

White fish quota system to change

*(3) Fishing
St. James [C/Metro]
28/293.*

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

THE Fishing Quota Board is expected to grant white fish quotas to ordinary fishermen and fishing communities soon — the first time this has happened in years.

This follows the recent scrapping of the 80:20 agreement which barred any new entries into the industry. An ANC spokesman said this week “significant changes to the guidelines on quota allocations” were expected soon.

The 80:20 agreement forced the board to allocate 80 percent of all quotas to the established fishing industry and only 20 percent to new entrants.

The Department of Sea Fisheries last year commissioned the Quota Board to review the guidelines to make the industry “more accessible” to the broader fishing community.

The guidelines previously favoured the established industry and prevented ordinary fishermen from obtaining quotas because they did not own a processing plant or a boat, he said.

Chairman of the Quota Board, Mr J S van Graan, said it was “an expectation” that fishermen would soon become eligible for white fish quotas.

He also confirmed that this had “partly” been made possible by scrapping of the 80:20 agreement and changes to the guidelines.

A statement indicating the number of quotas to be allocated, would be released this week, he said.

Star 2/3/93

Durban not safe, say Japanese

(3) fishing

(4) 2

(5) 2

DURBAN — Three Japanese fishing vessels left Durban Harbour yesterday after it was decided that the city was unsafe, following the muggings of 14 crewmen.

Three other Japanese trawlers due to call at Durban today have been rerouted to Cape Town.

The owners of a fleet of some 60 Japanese fishing trawlers have vowed not to use Durban for their bunker fuel and supplies until they are guaranteed safety. The Japanese Embassy in Pretoria is taking up the matter.

A Japan Tuna (SA) spokesman said the ships would fish off Durban, but would offload their catch and take supplies in Cape Town. — Own Correspondent.

Changes loom on fishing quotas

MAJOR changes to the existing guidelines for the allocation of fishing quotas are expected shortly.

This follows a report by the Fishing Quota Board, which was commissioned last year by the Department of Sea Fisheries to review existing guidelines to make the industry accessible to more people.

This week the Sunday Times obtained a copy of the document — which has not yet been made public — listing the far-reaching changes to the fishing and quota guidelines.

The document states that the new guidelines, as approved by the Minister of Home Affairs and Environment Affairs Louis Pienaar earlier this month, will replace all previous guidelines and is clearly an attempt to bring about stability, growth, and development in the industry.

A significant change is that one of the board's objectives would be to promote the development of fishing communities which are dependent on fishing.

SITimes (Cape metro) 21/3/93

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

(3) Fishing community trusts set up to promote development — complying with departmental regulations would be exempt from one of the basic qualifications for quota allocation which states that permit holders must own a boat or a processing plant to qualify for a quota.

This could benefit small coastal communities who have been barred from the industry because they were unable to meet basic conditions.

All other new entrants to the industry will be considered for quotas if they comply with the following basic qualifications for quota allocation:

- The permit holder must be a SA citizen connected to a SA-registered company, association, trust, private corporation or a corporation in which SA citizens have an interest of at least 50 percent.

- They must have a substantial interest in a boat or processing plant or prove that it would be obtained within at least two years.

Rogue 'wall of death'³ fishing boats still fishing in SA waters?

Sunday Times Reporter
ROGUE Taiwanese drift net "wall of death" fishing vessels may still be operating in Cape and other international waters despite a recent United Nations ban on this method of fishing.

Recently 16 Taiwanese fishing vessels were declared "driftnet free" during an inspection in Cape Town by a Taiwanese official who inspect the boats.

But Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group has claimed that at least nine left Cape Town fully equipped to drift net.

She charged that the fisherman offloaded their nets onto other vessels at sea before coming in to comply with the deadline, and would resume drift net fishing once they left.

"We have spent thousands on this campaign to chase these devils all over the place," said an exasperated Mrs Rice.

"I think this big show of Taiwan's on stopping driftnetting is just a good public relations exercise."

One Western fisheries expert, after a recent visit to Taiwan's southern port city, said: "What's going on in Kaohsiung will make environmentalists very happy. But it won't completely stop the driftnet boats."

Environmentalists have blamed driftnets — finely-woven "walls of death" averaging 50km in length, sweeping up nearly all living creatures in their path — for depleting world fish stocks and killing countless sea mammals.

During the 1989-1990 fishing season, between 300 000 and 1-million dolphins drowned after being trapped in driftnets, according to UN estimates.

In 1989, the UN passed a resolution halting the expansion of driftnetting in international waters. Last year the world body amended the ruling to call for a global moratorium on the prac-

tice from January 1 this year.

Taiwan, not a UN member, has agreed to abide by the decision although neither boat owners nor the government believes it is scientific.

"The ban is not rational," said Lin Ming-fa, chairman of the Kaohsiung Fishermen's Association. "There is no evidence suggesting driftnets are walls of death."

Mr Lin, who owns several trawlers, said Taiwanese driftnetters are victims of a ban forced on the world by environmentalists.

Even so, Taiwan officials since 1990 have taken measures to reduce the size of the island's driftnet fleet — then estimated at 400 vessels.

By the end of 1992, the government had purchased and destroyed 68 older boats and provided loans to re-outfit 18 newer vessels for other types of fishing — a process that takes several months and costs up to R1,2 million, officials said.

Mrs Rice said it was "damn disgusting" that the vessels were still allowed to dock in Cape Town although they still carried driftnet equipment.

"One hopeful thing is a possible proposal of a register of driftnet vessels by the UN, if this happens then we've got them," she said.

Meanwhile in Taiwan, the UN moratorium on drift net fishing has taken its toll in Kaohsiung, home port of Taiwan's high-seas driftnet fleet.

At the docks, conversion of driftnetters to other fishing technologies is widespread — lending weight to government claims of "total compliance" with the United Nations-sponsored ban.

However, inconsistent data on the size of the Kaohsiung fleet and evidence of a rogue flotilla suggested some Taiwanese driftnetters still may be working the high seas.

S/Times (Cape Metro) 7/3/93

Kreef plunder 'common'

③ FISHING

CT 10/3/93

Staff Reporter

THE illegal plundering of crayfish is as commonplace as housebreaking and is directly linked to unemployment and the increase in crime, a marine conservationist said yesterday.

Mr Waldo Moolman, chief of the Marine Inspectorate of the Division of Nature Conservation, said people were not concerned with the need to protect the environment and did not consider catching undersized crayfish a serious crime.

In an effort to crack down on illegal crayfishing, 150 honorary sea fisheries inspectors have been appointed.

The police, the navy and the air force are patrolling the coast to apprehend illegal fishermen who could face a fine of R50 000, six years in jail or both.

In two raids yesterday, police and nature conservation officials arrested four men at Kommetjie and at Duikersklip near Hout Bay.

Mr Justin Enslin, Sea Fisheries inspector at Hout Bay, said a boat and 118 crayfish worth R1 500 were confiscated and two men arrested at 4.45am.

Another two men were caught with 198 crayfish worth about R2 500, of which 151 were undersized.

Struggling fishing firm gets new lease on life

(3) FISHING
APR 24 3 1988
TOM HOOD, Business Editor

THE jobs of hundreds of workers in the fishing industry have been secured by the takeover of Seaflower Lobster Corporation, the Luderitz fishing and property company.

Employment in the town dropped from more than 1 100 to below 600 as a result of lower lobster quotas.

Fishcor, the National Fishing Corporation of Namibia, which owned 30 percent of Seaflower, has bought the entire shareholding of Seaflower held by Namibia Fishing Industries and Namibian Sea Products. An offer of shares to the public is being considered.

This makes Seaflower a wholly owned subsidiary of Fishcor, says a joint announcement today.

"The intention is that the operations of Seaflower will continue as in the past and the possibility of expanding the company into a major white fish operation is being investigated," said the announcement.

Seaflower already owns two modern trawlers — former Spanish vessels that were impounded by the Namibian authorities — which will form the nucleus of a fishing fleet, according to an industry spokesman.

The company owns considerable real estate and factory areas in Luderitz and the staff and management are still there.

"The intention is that Seaflower will eventually become a publicly held company after shares are issued to the public. The 30 percent that Fishcor held was not very exciting but now it will be able to do considerably more."

Seaflower has been making losses since 1989.

■ Foodcorp, the Malbak-controlled group formed by the merger of Fedfood and Kanhym last year, has beaten market expectations by reporting a 30 percent increase in earnings per share to 95c in the six months to February, notwithstanding a 60 percent

rise in the number of shares in issue.

Based on the last reported interims for Fedfood/Kanhym, the improvement has been 40 percent (or be it for different accounting practises).

A dividend of 23c has been declared.

Group CE Dirk Jacobs expects earnings to accelerate to between 200c to 220c for the full year.

Turnover increased marginally from R1,21 billion to R1,30 billion, but operating income fell from R90 million to R86 million.

Mr Jacobs says there was an unexpectedly high increase in raw-material prices caused by the drought.

Maize prices increased because of the need to import, affecting Ruto Mills, Nola and the feeding costs of Kanhym's agribusiness.

The increased cost of potatoes also affected Simba's margins.

The operating contribution from the agribusiness was also hit by the lowest red meat prices for 15 years in real terms and its operating profit fell by R14 million.

The oversupply of poultry and increased slaughtering because of the drought contributed to low prices. Subsidised imports from the European Community also disrupted the market.

Mr Jacobs expects prices to increase from September, after Foodcorp's financial year-end, provided demand is maintained.

Marine Products had a strong performance, particularly from its Chilean operation.

Marine is setting up an operation in the south of Chile, which will start landing fish in September.

It has bought a white fish trawler for R10 million with facilities to fillet on board to cater for a shortage of cod in the American market.

Net working capital fell from R344 million to R267 million, despite a consolidation of the Chilean fishing interests, and was a major contributor in the reduction of gearing from 49 percent to 32 percent.

Fish quotas for communities ³

FISHING communities would be eligible for fish quotas under a new system, Minister of Environment Affairs Mr Louis Pienaar said yesterday. ^{FISHING} CT 25/3/93

He said he had, on the advice of the Quota Board, approved revised guidelines for the allocation of quotas for certain fish species.

The new guidelines would allow more substantial quotas for new entrants to the fishing industry and would provide for the allocation of quotas to fishing community trusts. — Sapa

Breakthrough made in cracking crayfish racket

CT 26/3/93 Crime Reporter

③ FISHING

THE Saldanha Department of Sea Fisheries has made a major breakthrough in cracking a sophisticated crayfish racket following the arrest there yesterday of three men from Cape Town and nine from Paternoster.

More than 16 000 crayfish — worth R320 000 — have been seized in the area since January.

The men were arrested after a group handed their 2 700 crayfish haul, worth about R54 000, to a group of men who arrived in a bakkie.

Fish quotas opened to community trusts

S/Times (Cape Metro)

(3) Fishing

28/3/93

FISHING communities may now form trusts that can be awarded fishing quotas, in terms of new guidelines for the industry.

The annual quotas issued to major businesses in the industry will depend on their treatment of their workers and the number of jobs they create for "local labour".

This was said this week by Professor Johan de Beer, vice-chairman of the Quota Board, who led the inquiry that drew up the new guidelines on the allocation of quotas.

One of the major changes is that the allocation of quotas, previously undertaken by the Minister of Sea Fisheries, "has been removed from the control of the government".

The guidelines, which came into effect two weeks ago, were drawn up after two months of consultation, especially with fishing communities who had been treated merely as a labour resource and had little say.

"In the past new quotas were not issued unless fish levels rose, which brought about something of a closed shop," Prof de Beer said. "This will open the industry to new entrants."

Sources note that the issuing of quotas to communities is a dramatic departure from the system that favoured the large, predominantly white-owned and run, companies.

Of major significance is that in terms of the guidelines, a trust is now considered a "juristic person" and can apply for a quota.

"One of the major problems we had to address was that there was hardship in many fishing-dependant com-

By RAYMOND JOSEPH

munities, with both the fishing stock and size of quotas down," Prof de Beer said.

"There is no alternative employment in these communities. We had to find a way of addressing this problem and move away from the paternalistic practices of the past.

"We decided that the best possible way was to establish community trusts, run by the community and for the benefit of the community, according to guidelines laid down by the Department of Sea Fisheries."

No department officials will serve on the trusts, but allowance has been made for people with special skills — like accountants and auditors — to be nominated to assist them.

The trusts will be made up of a maximum of 12 people and will include representatives of the local authority, fishermen and factory workers. A stipulation is that at least two women must serve on a trust.

The new guidelines, in "a complete turnaround from previous practice", also establish a code of practice for anyone issued with a quota.

"It allows for the establishment of a negotiations forum, of whatever sort, to settle disputes and deal with terms of employment and benefits like housing and medical aid," Prof de Beer said.

"We accept that some of the smaller concerns cannot afford benefits that big companies offer, but there are certain basic requirements like formal written employment agreements."

Drought hits Natrawl

B10M1
29/3/93. EDWARD WEST (3) Fishing

NATAL Ocean Trawling's (Natrawl's) earnings a share plummeted 90% to 0,63c in the year to end-December 1992 from 6,5c in 1991 due to drought, reduced demand and lower prices, said chairman Jack Walsh.

Turnover increased two-fifths to R15,95m from R11,42m, but operating income was 17% lower at R1,59m (R1,92m), today's published results show. Interest received climbed to R80 000 (R41 000); interest paid rose to R1,41m (R565 000).

Walsh said drought in Natal had stalled the natural migration of white prawns from land to ocean. Furthermore, if inflation was taken into account, the prices Natrawl was receiving for its catches were almost 50% lower than in 1990, he said.

An extraordinary item of R1,92m represented a write-off of an investment in associate company Natal Ocean Trawling (Mozambique). Problems between shareholders led to an application for provisional liquidation.

Negotiations were under way with a foreign investor who wished to take control of the associate company from its shareholders and form a new company in which Natrawl expected to hold an interest, Walsh said.

NAMSEA/NAMFISH ^{③ Fishing}
Profits snagged ^{FM}
^{2/4/93}

Namsea and Namfish posted disappointing 1992 results because white fish prices collapsed in Europe, international lobster prices

~~* cont'd~~
FINANCIAL MAIL • APRIL • 2 • 1993 • 67

FOX

FM 2/4/93

declined and quotas were low. While these are fundamental reasons for the poor figures, they understate and hide the complex problems, as well as the influence of the Namibian authorities on fishing activities there.

Of Namibia's 1992 total allowable catch of 80 000 t for pilchard (1991: 60 000 t), 13 750 t were allocated to United Fishing Enterprises (UFE). Namsea holds 67% of UFE, and Namfish 23%. UFE caught all its quota and processed — for itself and for other concessionaires — 75 032 t of quota and nonquota fish (1991: 54 995 t). Thanks to economies of scale, efficiencies and satisfactory sales of canned fish, UFE lifted its profit by a fifth. ^{③ Fishing}

However, the allowable lobster catch was only 100 t (1 200 t). Of this, 50 t was allocated to Seaflower Lobster Corp, of which Namsea and Namfish each hold 35%. Seaflower was granted a 5 000 t hake quota. This was caught by chartered vessels and resulted in good profit and a positive cash flow. But it was insufficient to maintain Seaflower's profitability.

Because of that company's continuing losses, Namsea and Namfish decided to sell their stakes. This transaction has been finalised, but details aren't yet available.

Director Peter Kuttel says if the stakes had not been sold, losses from Seaflower in 1993 would have been considerably larger than last year.

To participate in the white fish industry, Namfish bought 25% of Blue Sea Fishing, and in a joint venture it acquired a freezer trawler for R9m. Blue Sea Fishing was allocated a quota of 1 983 t (1991: 1 333 t). With the fall in white fish prices in Europe and the cost of starting the factory trawler operation, the joint venture made losses.

Two main factors contributed to Namsea's 94% leap in turnover to R77m and 120% jump in operating income to R5,8m. It was largely because of UFE's contribution, but also because the contribution from its Sarusas subsidiary was for a full 12 months instead of the two months included in 1991 results. After issue of shares last year to fund the acquisition of Sarusas, EPS fell to 41,8c (46,2c). The final dividend is 20c (10c), and the total 30c (10c).

Namfish's turnover increased to R29,2m (R11,6m), but its earnings were hit by losses incurred through the joint venture with Blue Sea Fishing and in Seaflower. It lost 40,3c a share (1991: EPS of 62c); the dividend was passed.

Namfish and Namsea have larger quotas for 1993. Both could show better profits if catches are good and white fish prices recover in Europe.

Gerald Hirshon

Fishing Board acts on quotas

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

DESPITE protests by existing quota holders, the Fishing Quota Board has allocated more than 7 000 tons of the hake catch to new entrants to the fishing industry, the Chief Director General of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, said this week.

The board did not increase the annual quotas awarded to major businesses and has instead allocated more than 4 071 tons of the hake catch to new entrants.

A further 3 000 tons have been allocated to community trusts set up by fishing communities dependent on the sea for their livelihood, which for the first time are able to apply for quotas.

This decision by the board, which was commissioned last year by the Department of Sea Fisheries to review all existing quota guidelines, is in line with its determination to "make the industry more accessible" to new entrants.

③ Fishing Benefit

New entrants have for years been barred from entering the industry, due to strict measures included in the old guidelines.

A major change, allowing fishing communities to form co-operatives in terms of the guidelines, now enables fishing communities to apply for quotas.

These communities will also be responsible for the marketing of the fish caught with their quotas.

The issuing of quotas to community trusts is a dramatic change from the system which previously favoured the large, predominantly white-owned and run, companies, Dr Botha said.

No new quotas were issued to foreign countries — except for Mozambique and Ciskei — after the department revoked all foreign fishing quotas earlier this year.

SITIMES

(Cinemat) 18/4/93

New fishing forum marks fresh start

SI Times (Metro)
25/4/93

THE fishing industry has achieved a major breakthrough with an agreement by the main role players to form a forum to address problems.

③ Fishing
The agreement followed months of negotiations between the African National Congress, the Department of Sea Fisheries and other stakeholders, ANC spokesman Mr Johnny Issel said this week.

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

The forum would serve as an advisory committee to the Minister of Environment Affairs and the Department of Sea Fisheries, he said.

It would include the West Coast Fishermen's Union, boat-owners and established companies and was the first attempt to resolve problems in the industry with the participation of all role

players, Mr Issel said.

He is a member of the steering committee, in which the industry's main groups and the Department of Sea Fisheries are equal participants.

The "general" idea was that the forum should help formulate a policy for a future dispensation in fishing.

In consultation with

all parties involved, the steering committee would identify the problems that needed to be addressed.

If it failed, this could have a debilitating effect on the industry, Mr Issel said.

The director-general of Sea Fisheries, Dr Louis Botha, said this week that the department fully supported "inclusive and open debate" on all matters affecting the industry.

SA fishing industry suffers 6% decline

Political Staff

THE South African fishing industry suffered a 6% decline in catches in 1991 compared to the previous year, the Department of Environment Affairs said.

In its 1991/2 report tabled in Parliament yesterday, the department said the catches dropped to just more than 500 000 tons although the estimated wholesale value of fish and related products increased by 12% to more than R1 310 million.

The report said the pelagic fishing industry suffered a poor year and the target for West Coast rock lobster catches could not be reached for the second year running.

(3) FISHING CT 27/4/92

Star 28/4/93
**Oceana
doubles
net profit**

By Tom Hood (3) fishing

CAPE TOWN — Oceana, SA's largest fishing group, doubled its net profit to R16,5 million for the six months to March.

The interim dividend has been raised by 40 per cent to 42c from 30c, involving a payout of R8,5 million to shareholders.

Oceana also benefited by R1 million from company tax reduction. However, profits were hit by a R5 million increase in tax to R13 million.

Turnover dropped R14 million to R182 million, but income was boosted from higher fishmeal stocks carried forward from last year and by higher profits from cold storage and the shipping and clearing business coming out of the red.

Fishing was still the group's money spinner, generating almost R5 million in profit.

But it only contributed 35 percent of earnings against last year's first half 56 percent.

The directors say full year results should be better than last year's R19,5 million after tax, though earnings growth in the second half will not be as fast as the first half's, provided the anchovy catch is finalised at expected levels.

A steady performance is expected from the fishing division, although fishmeal prices will be lower in the second half.

Results from the abalone business, shipping and clearing and the cold storage division should be well ahead.

The group has already landed 73 percent of its lobster quota, but local and export demand has been weak, resulting in lower prices.

Oceana cashes in on demand ¹⁴⁰

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group's earnings soared 82% in the six months to end-March as the group took advantage of pilchard demand to land and sell most of its annual quota early in the year.

Earnings of 151,8c (83,5c) a share were notched up and an interim dividend of 42c (30c) was declared.

Because profits accrued

LINDA ENSOR

unevenly during the year, earnings growth for the full year would be substantially lower than in the first half, chairman Robbie Williams said yesterday.

The bottomline performance was mainly attributable to growth at operating level as turnover slipped

7% to R182m (R196m) on account of lower volumes in the trading division. In contrast the operating margin doubled to 14% (7%), generating an operating income of R25,6m (R13,8m).

Williams said the growth in operating income was due to the higher fish meal stocks brought forward from the previous year; earlier sales of perlemoen (the 1992-93 quota was al-

most complete); restored profitability in the shipping and clearing operation, and a strong performance by the cold storage division.

Research indicated that the pelagic and lobster resources were in a sound condition, Williams said.

R196m 25/4/93

Good catch for Oceana

TOM HOOD

Business Editor

FISHING
MAY 28/1992

OCEANA, the country's largest fishing group, doubled its net profit to R16,5 million for the six months to March.

The interim dividend has been raised by 40 percent to 42c from 30c, involving a payout of R8,5 million.

The Cape-based company also benefited by R1 million from company tax reduction. However, profits were hit by R5 million increase in the tax bill to R13 million.

Turnover dropped R14 million to R182 million but income was boosted from higher fish-meal stocks carried forward from last year and by higher profits from cold storage.

Fishing was still the group's money spinner, generating almost R5 million to profits. But it contributed 35 percent of earnings against last year's first half's 56 percent from R4,4 million.

The directors forecast the full year's results should be better than last year's R19,5 million, though earnings growth in the second half will not be as fast, provided the anchovy catch is good.

OCEANA FM 30/4/93

Getting it in the nets

The startling increase in operating profit and EPS for the half-year to March came about partly because the 1991-1992 anchovy quota was more than doubled, to 350 000 t. But MD David Behrens is quick to point out that all four segments of the business did well.

Ironically, comparatively the fishing division did least well, posting only a 13% increase. The cold storage division increased its contribution to attributable income by a substantial 1 200% and there were gains of 129% and 62% respectively from trading and shipping and the investment division.

Against lower group turnover, reflecting

FISH MEAL

Six months to	Mar 31 '92	Sep 30 '92	Mar 31 '93
Turnover (Rm)	196,2	179,2	182,0
Pre-interest earnings (Rm)	13,8	22,5	25,6
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	16,6	25,5	29,6
Attributable (Rm)	7,9	10,3	14,4
Earnings (c)	83,5	109,3	151,8
Dividends (c)	30	90	42

FM 30/4/93

lower volumes in the trading division, operating margin jumped to 14% (7%). Profitability was restored in shipping and clearing and cold storage space was in demand because stocks have grown instead of the quick off-take induced by more prosperous times.

Behrens expects steady performance from fishing for the rest of the year, though fishmeal prices will be lower. Results from shipping and clearing, cold storage and the abalone business should be well ahead of 1992.

But earnings don't accrue evenly throughout the year and EPS growth for the full year will be substantially lower than that indicated by the first six months.

Gerald Hirshon

ICS ups stake ^{(3) FISHW 201} in Sea harvest ^{CT12/S19B}

JOHANNESBURG. — Food group ICS Holdings has increased its stake in Sea Harvest Corporation from 50% to 62%, the company said yesterday.

ICS Holdings acquired the additional 12% from Pescanova SA, a Spanish company, for R72m. This was funded from ICS's own resources.

The intention is to list Sea Harvest on the JSE in July. Pescanova will divest itself of a further 28% by way of a private placing, diluting its remaining stock to 10%.

Sea Harvest operates a fleet of deep sea trawlers out of Saldanha Bay, and processes a wide range of fresh and frozen fish products. It operates fish distribution terminals at City Deep, Transvaal, and at Epping.

ICS MD Nick Dennis sees the increased shareholding in Sea Harvest as a strategic move into an associate which has been a major contributor to ICS's profits over the years. The acquisition results in Sea Harvest becoming a subsidiary of ICS.

ICS boosts stake in Sea Harvest

FISHING
Business Staff

FOOD group ICS has increased its stake in unlisted Sea Harvest to 62% by acquiring a 12% holding from Spanish company Pescanova for R72m. **CT 13/5/93**

The intention is to seek a Johannesburg Stock Exchange listing for Sea Harvest in July, with Pescanova divesting itself of a further 28% by way of private placings.

Pescanova will retain at least 10% of its holding in Sea Harvest.

ICS MD Nick Dennis said that Sea Harvest's attraction was based on "the value added nature of the company's products and its access to international markets".

Council 'not fish killer'

③ fish

MARIANNE MERTEN

JOHANNESBURG City Council this week denied it was responsible for the death of fish in the Jukskei River.

Council deputy director of water pollution control Laurraine Lotter said reports that the fish had died because of chlorine discharged into the river from the Northern Sewage Works were a "gross exaggeration".

Fish had also died in large numbers near Zevenfontein which was upstream from the Diepsloot sewage works, she said.

The chlorine used in the purification process was in a gaseous form and could not be spilt into the river as a liquid, she said.

The chlorine containing effluent complied with the Water Act standard of no more than 0,1mg of chlorine a litre.

This was lower than the chlorine level in Johannesburg's drinking water, she said.

Fishing suspension 'could ruin community'

5 Times LC Metro 2315193

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT



THE Lamberts Bay fishing community on the Cape west coast is faced with ruin in the wake of a decision by a local canning factory, the biggest employer there, to suspend all pelagic fishing.

The Lambert's Bay Canning Company — a subsidiary of the fishing giant Oceana — has suspended fishing "indefinitely" in response to a strike called last Sunday by fishermen to force the company to take heed of grievances which they say affect the entire community.

"This could have a devastating effect," said community leader Mr Jerome Bezuidenhout.

"Most of the people here depend on the sea and its resources, but do not have the means to catch fish."

Hundreds of pelagic fishermen and factory workers downed tools on Monday in support of a strike by about 50 women employed at the local hotel — also owned by

Oceana — who claimed they had heard rumours that some were to be retrenched as the hotel did not make money, said fisherman, Mr Chris Golliath. **(3) Fishing**

He claimed the community was "sick of being monopolised" by the company, which employed 75 percent of people in the area.

"Decisions made by Oceana regarding one sector of the industry eventually affects us all," he said.

Since the strike began the hotel workers have raised several other problems and fishermen are now demanding that the company act on these as well.

A director of Oceano, Mr Leon Conradie, said this week pelagic fishing would be suspended until a representative body of all interested parties was formed to reach agreement on the management of fishing.

The suspension would last for "as long as it takes" to implement appropriate structures and procedures and until fishermen gave an undertaking to abide by such procedures, he said.

Mr Golliath said the formation of a representative committee was unnecessary.

"An existing committee was elected last year to perform the same duty," he said, "but the company refuses to recognise it."

He said the company had locked the fishermen out because they wanted to "force" them into an agreement on sensitive issues like stayaways.

"This is clearly an attempt to break the solidarity between the community and then force us into agreement on their terms," Mr Golliath said.

Mr Conradie said the company's financial viability was under serious threat.

ON STRIKE ... Fishermen taking a walk at the harbour where everything was quiet this week
Picture: AMBROSE PETERS

Natrawl negotiating with Swiss firm.

NATAL Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) was negotiating with Swiss-based Megafish and its associate Eurotrade for a joint fishing venture off Mozambique's coast, chairman Jack Walsh said yesterday.

The multinational wanted to send 10 trawlers to Mozambican waters.

Megafish planned to re-evaluate its investment with Natrawl in July. Walsh was confident the joint venture, Ocean Trawl-

ing of Southern Africa, would go ahead.

The expansion of Natrawl's Mozambican fishing activities had been necessitated by the recent liquidation of associate Natal Ocean Trawling (Mozambique), as Natrawl lacked the infrastructure to fully exploit its fishing rights.

Megafish was considering establishing a base for its African operations in SA.

Russ

201 316173

EDWARD WEST

3 fishing

220

Handwritten scribbles and marks.

Natrawl to reduce debt

NATAL Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) expected improved earnings this year, but was curtailing capital expenditure to conserve cash resources and reduce debt, said chairman Jack Walsh in the 1992 annual report. ^{3 fish}

He said Europe-based Megafish had formed a new association with Natrawl to exploit fishing rights off Mozambique following the write-off of a 40% stake in Natrawl's Mozambican associate, Natrawl (Mozambique).

Natrawl had sold some assets to the new venture and would initially hold a similar shareholding as that held by Natrawl (Mozambique). However, Megafish intended the new venture to acquire several more vessels and its injection

of capital to finance the vessels would reduce Natrawl's shareholding.

Natrawl had contracts with the new company — Ocean Trawling of Southern Africa — to supply administrative and operational services, which, with other rationalisation measures, would have a positive effect on margins.

The construction of new premises on Maydon Wharf was postponed because of difficult economic circumstances. Depressed markets locally and internationally strained demand and prices for Natrawl's products last year, and earnings fell to 0.63c a share from 6.5c a share in 1991. The dividend was passed.

14/6/93
EDWARD WEST

Fishing vessel 'stuck fast in own gill nets' off West Coast

ARG 15/6/93

□ Salvage operator turns a deaf ear to pleas for helping hand

JOHN YELD ^{③ FISHING}
Environment Reporter

THE Portuguese fishing vessel accused of using gill nets in the Seamount Vema area off the West Coast is stuck fast — apparently in its own nets.

South African fishermen reported in March that the Martins Mar, a fishing vessel registered under the Panamanian flag of convenience, but operating out of Portugal with a Portuguese crew, was literally "strip-mining" marine resources at the underwater pinnacle about 500 nautical miles off the West Coast.

The vessel, which was seen laying vast numbers of gill nets in "blanket" fashion over the plateau of the seamount — an important area for the South African industry — was searched when it put into Walvis Bay for bunkers, but nets were not found.

A United Nations moratorium on the use of gill nets came into effect on January 1 this year.

Mrs Nan Rice of the Dolphin Action and Protection Group, who complained to the Portuguese ambassador and alerted international conservation organisations about the Martins Mar's activities, said she had been told by salvage sources that the vessel had been stuck for about 10 days with netting wrapped around its propeller.

A South African salvage company,

which she didn't name, had refused to go to the fishing vessel's assistance because of its activities, she reported.

The vessel's captain is apparently trying to hire a diver to cut the nets free, and the Osa Bremen, a foreign-registered "tug" — technically an anchor handler — which was in Cape Town, is reported to be on its way to help.

The agent could not be contacted to confirm this.

Mr Allan Louw of the only diving and salvage company in Walvis Bay said yesterday he was aware the Martins Mar was in trouble, but that he had not been approached for help.

The Portuguese Ambassador to South Africa, Mr Jorge Ritto, said last month his country could not accept responsibility for the vessel as it was registered in Panama.

But Mrs Rice responded by warning Portugal that unless it was prepared to investigate the incident and take appropriate action, it would face increased international conservation pressure.

Already, several conservation organisations in the United States have contacted the Permanent Missions of Portugal and Panama at the United Nations in New York to complain, and the British-based International Fund for Animal Welfare has asked the European Community to pressure Portugal to end the vessel's fishing.

JSE listing for Sea Harvest

JOHANNESBURG. — ICS subsidiary Sea Harvest Corporation, which trawls, processes and markets deep sea fish, will make its debut on the food sector of the JSE on July 12 in a R168m listing. *27/18/1993 (3) FISHING*

In its prospectus published today, Sea Harvest said the purpose of the listing was not to raise capital but to enable Spanish company Pescanova to reduce its holding from 38% to a minimum of 10%. Pescanova needed to raise capital for its core business activities in Europe.

Pescanova made 28-million ordinary shares at 600c a share available to selected financial institutions and other investors. The offer opens today and closes on July 2.

Sea Harvest became an ICS subsidiary in May after ICS acquired a 12% interest from Pescanova for R72m cash to bring its stake to 62%.

Sea Harvest plans R168m JSE listing

MARCIA KLEIN

ICS subsidiary Sea Harvest Corporation, which trawls, processes and markets deep sea fish, will make its debut on the food sector of the JSE on July 12 in a R168m listing. ~~Sea~~ ^{Sea} ^{③ fishing}

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Sea Harvest became an ICS subsidiary in May 1993 after ICS acquired a 12% interest from Pescanova for R72m cash to bring its stake to 62%. Sea Harvest has changed its year-end from June to September in line with its holding company.

Sea Harvest has provided forecast figures for the 12 months to end-June 1993 and the 15 months to end-September. Turnover at end-September would total R386m from R312,4m in June 1992. Pre-tax income for the 15-month period was expected to decline to R88,8m from R101,4m at end-June 1992. Annualised earnings would be 44c (60,1c) share, and the dividend would be 20c (34,6c) a share. The company intended declaring two dividends a year. Its annual dividend would be covered between 2,0 and 2,5 times by earnings.

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AFFAIRS**

No. R. 1052 ③ Fishing **18 June 1993**

SEA FISHERY ACT, 1988
(ACT No. 12 OF 1988)

**AMENDMENT OF FEES PAYABLE FOR THE
ISSUING OF LICENCES AND PERMITS**

The Minister of Environment Affairs has, with the concurrence of the Minister of Finance under section 46 of the Sea Fishery Act, 1988 (Act No. 12 of 1988), amended the fees payable for the issuing of licences and permits as set out in the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

1. Schedule B of the regulations published by Government Notice No. R. 2934 dated 23 October 1992 and amended by Government Notices No. R. 3248 of 27 November 1992 and R. 5 of 8 January 1993 is hereby substituted for the following Schedule:

"SCHEDULE B

1. The following licence fees are payable in respect of fishing boats for the period specified on the licence concerned:

For each fishing boat—

 - (a) of which the total length does not exceed five metres: R44;
 - (b) of which the total length is more than five metres but does not exceed eight metres: R66;
 - (c) of which the total length is more than eight metres but does not exceed 12 metres: R110;
 - (d) of which the total length is more than 12 metres but does not exceed 20 metres: R220; and
 - (e) of which the total length exceeds 20 metres: R330.
 2. The following licence fees are payable annually in respect of fishing factories:

For each—

 - (a) premises registered or liable for registration in terms of the Machinery and Occupational Safety Act, 1983 (Act No. 6 of 1983): R330;
 - (b) other premises: R66;
 - (c) fishing boat which is used only to receive, process or freeze fish and to transport such fish: R330.
 3. A fee of R20 is payable for the transfer of a licence.
 4. (1) The following fees are payable annually in respect of permits in the fishing industry:
 - (a) The issuing of a permit: R20;
 - (b) the amendment of a permit: R20; and
 - (c) the transfer of a permit: R20.

(2) The provisions of subparagraph (1) shall not apply to the issuing of a permit in respect of research undertaken in the interest of the Department and the amendment of a permit on the instruction of the director-general."
2. The new fees shall come into operation on 1 July 1993.

DEPARTEMENT VAN OMGEWINGSAKE

No. R. 1052

18 Junie 1993

WET OP SEEVISSERY, 1988
(WET No. 12 VAN 1988)

**WYSIGING VAN GELDE BETAALBAAR VIR DIE
UITREIKING VAN LISENSIES EN PERMITTE**

Die Minister van Omgewingsake het, met die instemming van die Minister van Finansies, kragtens artikel 46 van die Wet op Seevisserij, 1988 (Wet No. 12 van 1988), die gelde betaalbaar vir die uitreiking van lisensies en permitte gewysig soos in die Bylae uiteengesit.

BYLAE

1. Bylae B van die regulasies gepubliseer by Goewermentskennisgewing No. R. 2934 van 23 Oktober 1992 en gewysig by Goewermentskennisgewings No. R. 3248 van 27 November 1992 en R. 5 van 8 Januarie 1993 word hierby deur die volgende Bylae vervang:

"BYLAE B

1. Die volgende lisensiegelde is betaalbaar ten opsigte van vissersbote vir die tydperk soos op die betrokke lisensie gespesifiseer:

Vir elke vissersboot—

 - (a) waarvan die totale lengte nie meer is as vyf meter nie: R44;
 - (b) waarvan die totale lengte meer is as vyf meter maar nie meer is as agt meter nie: R66;
 - (c) waarvan die totale lengte meer is as agt meter maar nie meer is as 12 meter nie: R110;
 - (d) waarvan die totale lengte meer is as 12 meter maar nie meer is as 20 meter nie: R220; en
 - (e) waarvan die lengte meer is as 20 meter: R330.
 2. Die volgende lisensiegelde is jaarliks betaalbaar ten opsigte van visfabrieke:

Vir elke—

 - (a) perseel wat ingevolge die Wet op Masjinerie en Beroepsveiligheid, 1983 (Wet No. 6 van 1983), geregistreer is of moet wees: R330;
 - (b) ander persele: R66;
 - (c) vissersbote wat gebruik word om slegs vis te ontvang, te verwerk of te bevries en sodanige vis te vervoer: R330.
 3. Vir die oordrag van 'n lisensie is R20 betaalbaar.
 4. (1) Die volgende gelde is jaarliks betaalbaar ten opsigte van permitte in die visbedryf:
 - (a) Die uitreiking van 'n permit: R20;
 - (b) die wysiging van 'n permit: R20; en
 - (c) die oordrag van 'n permit: R20.

(2) Die bepalings van subparagraaf (1) is nie van toepassing nie op die uitreiking van 'n permit ten opsigte van navorsing wat in belang van die Departement onderneem word en die wysiging van 'n permit wat deur die direkteur-generaal gelas word."
2. Die nuwe tariewe tree op 1 Julie 1993 in werking.

Something fishy about Thebe's deal

AN outcry by African National Congress activists in the western Cape prevented the Thebe Investment Corporation — the ANC's controversial investment arm — from concluding a lucrative fishing deal in a joint venture with a big fishing company.

The Weekly Mail has learnt that in September last year, Thebe, with Viking Fishing — one of the biggest fishing companies in the country — applied for a quota of 2 900 tons of hake.

When word got out about the application, Thebe found itself on a collision course with the ANC in the western Cape and the West Coast fisherfolk the ANC has had much success in organising. After "passionate appeals" from the ANC's western Cape regional office, Thebe withdrew its application.

Thebe managing director Vusi Khanyile this week said his company "withdrew in favour of other black companies who had also applied for quotas", not because of pressure from the ANC.

At Thebe's first press conference this week, called to defend the company and explain its aims, he said: "We would like to avoid a situation where we create tension."

However, in an interview, ANC western Cape regional chairman Willie Hofmeyr said his office had found itself in an "anomalous situation" when it found out about Thebe's application.

The regional office, through the work of ANC member Johnny Issel who is doing participatory research into the fishing industry, had been assisting West Coast fishing communities to secure quotas.

"Thebe didn't know they would end up competing with community quotas," said Hofmeyr. This was brought to Thebe's attention through the ANC's head office, he said. The company then withdrew its application because "Thebe sees its role as empowering communities", he said.

ANC sources in the western Cape, however, said "intense and passionate appeals were made by the region to the head office. After a number of tense meetings, Thebe's bid was withdrawn".

ANC MP Jannie Momborg said he had taken two representatives of the fishing industry — whom he would not name — to the ANC's head office in Johannesburg in December 1991, before he left the Democratic Party to join the ANC.

"They wanted the ANC to become involved in fishing quotas. Thebe's involvement came out of this," said Momborg. "I subsequently heard that Thebe's application for quotas

The ANC's investment arm, already in hot water about a publishing deal with Macmillan Boleswa, was also involved in a controversial attempt to get into the fishing industry.

By **FERIAL HAFFAJEE**

caused unhappiness.

The Quota Board — which allocates fish available for catching — is swathed in controversy. It has long been accused of favouring big fishing companies and only recently fishing communities and black-owned companies have started applying for and receiving quotas.

Meanwhile, at this week's press conference, Khanyile said Thebe had never — and would never — act as a conduit for ANC funds.

Neither did it "wave a political flag" as a way of securing preferential contracts, he said. "Businesses from all over the world approach the ANC directly. The bulk of Thebe's funding has come from commercial loans." He insisted: "We have no direct relation with the ANC. Board members (who are also members of the ANC) sit as individuals."

Thebe's only current shareholder is the Batho-Batho Trust, of which Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu are the major trustees. Thebe will not reveal how much the trust has invested in the company — lawyer Ismail Ayob calls it a "modest sum". Any profits Batho made from Thebe would be ploughed into community projects.

Once Thebe had established a good track record, its managers planned to float it on the stock exchange and would invite the public to invest.

At the press conference, Khanyile introduced the corporation, its board members, shareholders and various subsidiaries.

These companies are an import/export company called Thebe Trading (it would not operate until sanctions were lifted, said general manager Litha Nyhonyha); property companies Dakawa, Yesive and Thebe Properties; Oriole Travel; Sizwe Car Hire; Fumo Trucking (which undertakes trucking in the southern African region); Movement Marketing (the ANC's memorabilia and marketing arm); the Bhekisizwe Computer Company (through which Digital will market its computer ware); and the National Printing Trust.



Vusi Khanyile

~~fish~~ (3) fishing

Star 21/6/93

Fish of a different colour

By Stephen Cranston

Sea Harvest, the ICS fishing subsidiary which is being listed on the JSE on July 12, should not be compared with already-listed fishing companies, says Richard Price, an analyst at sponsoring brokers Fergusson Bros. **③ Fishing**

Price says that Sea Harvest's earnings have been growing at a compound rate of 27 percent a year, compared with 13 percent for the industrial index, 14 percent for the fishing index and 16 percent for the food index.

Sea Harvest will be listed in the food sector rather than the fishing sector of the JSE as it sees itself primarily as a fish and seafood distributor and marketer rather than a fishing company.

Sea Harvest is being listed to enable ICS's Spanish partner Pescanova to dispose of 28 percent of its holding in Sea Har-

vest. Twenty-eight million shares are being privately placed at 600c a share.

Pescanova wants to raise capital for its core business activities in Europe. ~~(see)~~

It will nonetheless keep 10 percent of Sea Harvest and has already sold 12 percent of the company to ICS, which increased its stake from 50 percent to 62 percent.

Sea Harvest is primarily involved in trawling for hake, which has far more stable supply and demand than pelagic fishing (anchovies and pilchards) in which the listed fishing groups are involved.

At 600c, Sea Harvest will be listed on an historic P/E ratio of 10, which is well below the 15,3 rating on which its main competitor I&J trades.

Among the reasons for the modest rating is that Sea Harvest's attributable earnings are expected to fall by about a

quarter, on an annualised basis, in the 15 months to September to 44c.

The results will be affected by the continued recession in its main export market, the European Community, which is expected to show a 0,5 percent decline in gross domestic product (GDP) this year.

The market treats profit histories of unlisted companies with some scepticism as they have not been subjected to the disclosure requirements of the JSE, but it is clear that Sea Harvest has been the mainstay of ICS results in recent years.

Its reported attributable earnings increased from R24,6 million in 1988 to R60,5 million in 1992.

Sea Harvest's balance sheet on April 30 showed negligible gearing, with R4,55 million worth of long term borrowings and R171,7 million of equity.

Lambert's Bay fish meal plant to close

Deputy Business Editor

OCEANA Fishing Group's subsidiary Lambert's Bay Canning Company is to close its fish meal plant in the West coast town at the end of the 1993 fishing season.

This was necessary due to the sharp fall in fish meal prices from R1 750 to R1 500 per ton in the past six months, coupled with increased operating and catch costs, a group spokesman said.

The spokesman said some of the 24 jobs at the plant would become redundant.

However some employees would be accommodated in an expansion project currently in the planning stages, details of which would be announced in due course. Capital investment of more than R1m was envisaged in the initial phase.

He said Oceana would make every effort to find employment elsewhere in the group for those not absorbed in the expansion project. *CP 25/6/93*

The plant closure is part of a restructuring process which will include the company's fleet being

moved to Sandy Point harbour.

Catches will be delivered to St Helena Bay Fishing Industries Ltd and SA Sea Products Ltd in Hout Bay where processing will take place subject to formal agreement between the three companies.

One Lambert's Bay Canning Company boat will be withdrawn from service and its crew fully accommodated on other Oceana Group boats.

Lobster catching and processing at Lambert's Bay will remain unchanged. *(3) FISHING*

FM 25/6/93 (3) fishing

about 39% of the total allowable catch of 145 000 t this year. Its main processing activities are at Saldanha, where its fleet is based. It also fishes and processes hake and sole at Mossel Bay, has a mussel farm at Saldanha and an oyster farm at Knysna.

The hake is flaked, filleted, segmented and either sold in its natural state or with added ingredients in branded packs under the Sea Harvest name, for immediate consumption or for home freezing. About half the hake production is exported, mostly as value-added products.

The business was started in 1964. Major shareholders have always been ICS Holdings, a Barlow Rand subsidiary, and Spanish-controlled Pescanova SA.

Until last month ICS and Pescanova each held half of Sea Harvest. On May 11, ICS bought another 12% for R72m, equivalent to R6 per Sea Harvest share. Pescanova, left with 38%, is now reducing its investment in Sea Harvest to a minimum of 10% and is floating 28m ordinary Sea Harvest shares at R6 each. Proceeds will accrue to Pescanova.

The profit history of Sea Harvest from 1988 to 1992 demonstrates the company's success. Turnover grew at an annual compound rate of 16%, only modest real growth, but pre-interest operating profit grew 24%, while attributable earnings and EPS rose by 25%. Operating margins varied between 22% and 29%.

The local recession and the fall in hake prices in the international market over the past 18 months have interrupted this growth pattern. Forecast turnover, at R318m for the 12 months ending June 30, is only 2% up; pre-tax income at R78,2m is 23% down; and EPS at 48,6c, are 20% down on the 1992 year-end. The financial year-end is being changed to September 30, in line with ICS's. Annualised pro forma figures for the 15 months to September 30 show a further decline.

That makes the issue price of R6, giving a projected p/e of 13,6 and a dividend yield of 3,3%, appear finely pitched. However, I&J, in some respects, runs a similar operation and its current p/e of 14,4 is higher, and its 2,5% dividend yield lower than Sea Harvest's projected ratios even though analysts say its earnings performance this year will not be good. And its performance statistics for the year to June 30, 1992 compare poorly with those of Sea Harvest.

In its favour, Sea Harvest has a strong balance sheet, minimal interest-bearing borrowings, a cash balance of R39m and generates positive cash flow each year even after substantial capital spending. Assuming the stock market maintains its present level until the shares are listed on July 12, they should trade at a premium at opening.

Investors who prefer a more diversified exposure to fishing might consider ICS. An analyst estimates ICS derived 60% of its 1992 attributable profit from Sea Harvest; its stake in that company has now been increased to 62% and it continues to hold 19,7% of Pescanova.

Gerald Hirshon

SEA HARVEST

Good catch for JSE

At last another fishing company, Sea Harvest, is to be listed — even though it will be in the JSE's food sector. It has long been considered one of the best managed of fishing operations. Eckart Kramer, its MD of 26 years, ascribes this reputation to the group's dedication solely to one purpose. Unlike most other SA-based fishing companies, it has not diversified.

Sea Harvest is primarily involved in the trawling of hake. It will catch and process

(3) fishing
FM
25/6/93

**Edited
by
JEREMY
WOODS**



Fresh hake from Cape for Spain

STimes [C Metro]

4/7/93

③ fishing (FFG)

BY LEW ELIAS

FRESH Hake exports from Cape Town are set to take off after almost all the available air cargo space to Europe last week was taken by one of the largest consignments of wet fish ever to leave South Africa.

And this is just the start of what could turn into a complete cargo jumbo-load a week winging its way to the fish markets of Spain, if all goes well with a new scheme started by Spanish fishing entrepreneur, Pedro Erizalde.

Mr Erizalde, whose family has strong roots in the fishing industry in Spain, moved to Cape Town recently to start the business.

The project, which started at the beginning of the year, gives a welcome boost to the local fishing industry with between 50 and 70 tons of fresh hake a week being sent to Spain.

The fish is caught and shipped by Cape-based Marpro, in a joint venture with Mr Erizalde.

Hake is something of a speciality fish in Europe, and not as plentiful as in the Cape waters.

One of the advantages is that the export hake is sold with its head on — increasing the weight of each fish by about 30-percent.

Logistics

"It was difficult to find a supplier who had fish of sufficiently high quality to supply the quantity of fresh fish — and the logistics in getting the product to the markets within 24-hours were also horrific," Mr Erizalde said.

Getting cargo space on carriers from Cape Town was also difficult as the venture was new and experiments had to be carried out to see in what condition the fish arrived in Europe.

The fish is being flown out by Dutch carrier KLM, the French airline UTA and Portugal's TAP.

The company is gearing itself up to fly out 120 tons of fish a week which would allow it to use a cargo carrying jumbo jet — but the difficulty is getting a load from Europe to South Africa to make the trip cost-effective.

"We are looking at the possibility of filling planes carrying aid to places like Mozambique to return to Spain with our fish," Mr Erizalde said.

Margarine panic-buying to combat huge price increases

MYRNA ROBINS
Food Writer

CONSUMERS are panic-buying margarine to beat the huge price increases on Monday.

At a suburban supermarket this week some popular brands were sold out, but the cheapest spread — a low-fat brick at R1,29 for 500g — was still in stock.

A spokesman for a national retail chain said price increases in their Western Cape stores would be between 12 and 30 percent for regular bricks, depending on the brand, and about eight percent for tub margarine.

Medium fat margarine would go up about 60 percent, while one brand of low-fat brick — Crown, selling presently for R1,29 for 500g — would increase 80 percent.

Mr Alan Baxter of Pick'n Pay said that although these increases would take effect on Monday, stores would continue to sell one brand of brick margarine at today's price until stocks ran out.

But at the rate consumers were buying, stocks which normally would last six to eight weeks could be exhausted in less than two weeks.

One brand of medium fat margarine would increase by 30 rather than 60 percent for a limited time. Subsequent increases would be phased in gradually.

Tub margarine, set to rise the least in price, is lower in saturated fat, such as coconut oil, cocoa butter and palm oil, and higher in polyunsaturated fats (sunflower oil), which is why it is commonly recommended as a healthier al-

ternative to hard or brick margarine.

The third class of fat, mono-unsaturated fats, has been the subject of studies whose results suggest they could play a useful role in the dietary prevention of coronary heart disease.

Sources of this fat are olive oil, avocado pears and nuts. Good quality avocados are plentiful at present.

Margarine and butter have about the same number of kilojoules, but butter is a major source of saturated fat.

Butter will not cost much more than top-priced margarines from Monday.

Margarine in 500g tubs will go up about 43c to R5,80 and the lowest-priced butter at present is R5,85 for 500g.

Meeting over plant closure

1970 06
1001 Staff Reporter

COMMUNITY leaders in Lamberts Bay are meeting today with directors of the local fishmeal factory to discuss the possibility of reversing a decision to close the plant in September.

A forum of fishermen, businessmen, school leaders and mayor Mr Piet Redelinghuis will be asking Oceana Fishing Group executives about their plans to restructure the subsidiary, Lamberts Bay Canning Company, Mr Redelinghuis said.

Mr Redelinghuis said they wanted to know how many jobs would be lost

and if the decision couldn't be changed.

However, Oceana spokesman Mr Coenie Meyer said the restructuring was part of a big new project they hoped would create more jobs.

Mr Meyer said if current employees were unable to be accommodated in the project, "every effort would be made by the Oceana Group to accommodate them elsewhere".

Ms Rashieda Abdullah, ANC regional executive member, said the Oceana Group should reconsider their decision.

3 FISHING CT 13/7/73

Lambert's Bay can become 'ghost town'

By DAN SIMON

LAMBERT'S BAY faces becoming a West Coast "ghost town" if Oceana Fishing Group shuts down the fishmeal division of Lambert's Bay Canning Company.

At a meeting yesterday between Oceana directors, local fishermen and community leaders, the company gave details of three possible options

for employees.

It is understood that closure of the fishmeal division would affect 250 workers.

After the meeting, delegates were tight-lipped, saying the company had told them not to speak to the media.

Canning factory director Mr Piet Grobber said: "We don't want to comment at this stage as nothing has been resolved."

Lambert's Bay mayor Mr Piet Redelinghuys, who attended the meeting, refused to comment.

However, a source in the industry, who asked not to be named, confirmed that if Oceana closed its factory the livelihood of 250 people would be affected.

The company had presented delegates with three possible options for

the future of the workforce.

These would be discussed by the local fishing community before another meeting was held with Oceana.

Vice-chairman of Lambert's Bay Community Chest, Mr Fred Booys, said about 80% of the community relied on the factory for an income.

If the factory closed Lambert's Bay could become "a ghost town".

CT14/7/93 ③ FISHING

LABOUR

FISHING communities on the Cape's west and south coasts face an uncertain future, given the steady decline of already scarce marine resources. Poverty and unemployment stalk villages such as Ebenezer, Doringbaai, Paternoster, Hawston and Arniston.

Despite the fact that the commercial fishing industry is a multi-million rand industry which has reaped great financial rewards, precious little of the financial benefits have trickled down to traditional fishing communities. The story of how these once vibrant and thriving villages have been brought virtually to their knees is a depressingly familiar tale of greed, corruption, government mismanagement and overfishing by the commercial sector.

Regulations, such as those requiring the licensing of boats, the acquisition of skipper's licences and fishing permits, have consolidated and perpetuated the shift in control of the industry to the commercial sector. This predominantly white sector could more easily obtain permits and licences because they were in a better position to finance the boats and equipment required to be considered for the licences. Poorly educated and sometimes illiterate fishermen found their lifetime of experience discounted when they were unable to pass the written exam for their skipper's licence.

These regulations, in addition to discriminatory laws applied during the apartheid era, have resulted in the impoverishment and marginalisation of fishing communities, furthering the steady alienation of these communities from their resource base, and causing great bitterness and hardship. But, through their associations and unions, fishing communities are striving to become actively involved in the management of marine resources, as well as to be regarded as more than just a labour resource by the fishing industry.

The union most actively involved on the west coast is the Congress of South African Trade Unions affiliated Food and Allied Workers Union (Fawu), which represents fishermen and factory workers from all sectors of the industry.

By focusing on the socio-economic consequences of unsustainable harvesting of the sea's riches, Fawu made conservation issues both relevant and real to workers in the industry.

In discussions with workers and meetings with employers in the industry, Fawu has made it clear that, while much can be done to alleviate the immediate plight of workers, the industry needs to be reorganised in a manner which ensures that workers have a direct say in their future.

Fawu is currently assisting fishermen in Hout Bay, Cape Town, to be accepted as employees of South African Sea Products, and not to be regarded as employees of the boat's skipper — a national practice responsible for the

Cape villagers fish for a better deal

Cape fishing communities, increasingly marginalised by the power of the commercial fishing sector, are beginning to organise themselves in an attempt to regain control over their livelihoods. UCT Environmental Advisory Unit's FARIEDA KHAN reports



Cape fishermen ... want to be seen as more than just a labour resource for commercial fishing concerns

lack of job security and benefits associated with full-time employment.

The Weskus Vissers Unie (WVU), or the West Coast Fishermen's Union, represents the interests of fishermen involved in the pelagic sector. The WVU feels that factories and large fishing companies have been allowed to exploit fishermen and factory workers and to neglect their responsibilities towards them.

In last year's strike by crayfishermen, the WVU, together with the African National Congress, played a crucial role in bringing about a successful resolution of the strike.

The WVU has recently also been involved in discussions with Oceana, the industry's largest employer, which has been locked in a dispute with striking fishermen and fish processing workers in Lamberts Bay for the past two months.

Despite the efforts of the WVU, Oceana has forced the fishermen to accept new contracts on the company's terms and, in addition, is planning to close its fish processing factory in Lamberts Bay, and relocate it at Sandy Point, south of St Helena Bay. The outcome of the strike is strangely at odds

with the crayfishermen's strike, which successfully resolved the contract issue, with Oceana undertaking to employ all the crayfishermen as full-time employees.

The unsuccessful resolution of the strike at Lamberts Bay underlines the political and economic vulnerability of fishing communities and the extent to which their lives continue to be controlled by the commercial sector. It also exposes the weakness of adopting a fragmented style of bargaining, in preference to a united stance by a union representing all sectors of the industry.

While Fawu and the WVU are very active among fishing communities, trade unionism is not the organisational norm. Many fishing communities, while very closely knit, have not formed organisations to represent their interests. Increasingly, however, the necessity for such organisations is being realised, and small communities are fighting for their very survival through their associations.

Two such examples are the fishermen's associations in Ebenezer, on the estuary of the Olifants River on the west coast,

and in Hawston, not far from Hermanus on the south coast. Both associations have singled out the lack of community involvement in the formulation of legislation affecting their livelihood as one of the major factors contributing to widespread poverty and hardship within the community.

The Ebenezer community, with the assistance of the Environmental Advisory Unit (EAU) at the University of Cape Town, has already begun the process of highlighting community concerns at broader decision-making levels.

The EAU is also assisting the Hawston community to bring the issuing of "A" (commercial line fishing) permits to the attention of the authorities. The system is widely perceived to be unfair

and biased in favour of whites, many of whom are recreational fishermen, and not dependent on fishing for their livelihood.

Fishing associations are being given a voice by the Fishing Forum, which was launched in May this year. The Forum, which hopes to address problems in the industry as well as to contribute to the formulation of new policies, consists of representatives from the ANC, the Foundation for Peace and Justice, the Department of Sea Fisheries, boat owners, established companies, the WVU and fishermen's associations.

The forum is a logical extension of the workshops held last year by Johnny Issel of the ANC's development department. The workshops, which formed a part of the ANC's study of the fishing industry, were held in order to give the largely unorganised fishermen an opportunity to discuss their concerns.

These initiatives, in addition to various discussions held with officials in the Department of Environment Affairs and the Department of Sea Fisheries, have already borne fruit. The extension of the quota system to include community trusts in the white fish sector of the industry in March this year has gone some way to addressing resentment against the exclusion of the ordinary fisherman.

However, the extension of the community quota system to other sectors, such as the lobster industry, remains a thorny issue. At present, only the Kalk Bay fishing community has a crayfish quota.

The Hawston community is angered by the fact that west coast quota holders, unable to fulfil their crayfish quotas last year, were allowed to do so in the waters around Hawston. They question why local fishermen, already hard-pressed to survive, cannot be granted a crayfish quota.

Judging by the work being undertaken by unions and fishing associations, and the concerns being voiced by the fishing communities themselves, it is clear that such factors as the continuing dominance of the commercial sector, the widespread poverty and political powerlessness of the fisherfolk, combined with the lack of broad-based involvement at decision-making levels, continue to be significant obstacles in the struggle of fishing communities to regain control of their livelihoods.

WITS UNIVERSITY PRESS

Applications are invited for the following positions
Financial and Sales Manager

Main duties involve financial control, including foreign exchange.

Other duties include: sales and production management, imports and exports; co-publications and licensing agreements; and inventory control.

Video net cast over fishermen

DURBAN. — Shad (elf) anglers who exceed daily quotas are being bust by "candid camera".

③ FISHING
Video surveillance by the Natal Parks Board helped net more than R19 000 in fines from 43 greedy anglers who were secretly videotaped bagging more than their daily quota of five fish on the South Coast last week.

CT 20/7/93

Ocean View man charged with illegal crayfish catch

Environment Reporter

3 FISHING
ARC 23/7/93

A 22-YEAR-OLD Ocean View man is to appear in Simon's Town Magistrate's Court today in connection with charges of catching 207 crayfish illegally.

The man was arrested at Kommetjie about 3am today by marine inspectors from Cape Nature Conservation.

He is facing charges of catching crayfish out of season and of having 107 undersize crayfish and 93 females in berry.

Chief marine conservation inspector Johan de Witt said several men, who appeared to be fishing, had run away when the inspectors arrived.

● Earlier this week inspectors seized an illegal haul of shelled perlemoen in Cape Town docks.

Lamberts Bay 'hooked'

FISHING ③ ARCT 24/7/93

Locals and fishermen alike at Lamberts Bay on the West Coast are furious about Oceana Fishing Group's plans to close the fishmeal factory in the town, saying the quota for pelagic fish belonged to the town and not to Oceana.

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter



□ **SOMETHING FISHY:** Mr Bok Ggokodaa, above, sucks up anchovy intended for the fishmeal factory.

□ **SHUTDOWN?** Inhabitants of Lamberts Bay are furious about plans by Oceana Fishing to close the fishmeal factory in the town. Semi-retired fisherman and former skipper Mr Hendrik Redelinghuys, left, points to the boats and factory at Lamberts Bay.

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus.

PLANNED restructuring of the Ocean Fishing Group's operations at the picturesque fishing village of Lamberts Bay on the West Coast has drawn furious protests from locals.

The mayor of Lamberts Bay, Mr Piet Redelinghuys, earlier this week severely criticised the moves by Oceana, particularly the closure of the fishmeal factory, saying it would be a tremendous blow to the town and its people and could destroy the town's financial base.

Mr Redelinghuys rejected assurances by Oceana that it planned other expansions so that the closure of the factory would not affect the town.

"That is simply not so. I do not want to say too much at this point as we will be meeting Oceana again next week to see if we can reach some sort of agreement.

"But the fact is that the fish quota under which Oceana operates in this area is coupled to the town and not to the fishing company. The company (Oceana) utilises the quota on behalf of the government, but it is our quota.

"If Oceana should move, there is no doubt in my mind that jobs will be lost and our town will suffer. That is the simple truth."

Dr Louis Botha, chief director of the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, said no application had yet been received from Oceana to move its quota elsewhere.

He confirmed that quotas were coupled to certain towns and were as such intended to create jobs and meet the social responsibility of the state towards communities.

Pelagic quotas for Lamberts Bay constitute some 33 percent of Oceana's local quota and about 11 percent of South Africa's total allowable catch.

When Oceana earlier announced its restructuring plans and the closure of the fishmeal factory at Lamberts Bay, the company said it intended to process the catch at St Helena Bay and Hout Bay.

A spokesman for Oceana said the company had not and did not intend to apply for permission to move the Lamberts Bay quota to another location.

The Lamberts Bay fleet would continue to operate from Lamberts Bay but the catches would be delivered to St Helena Bay and Hout Bay and processed there.

"The group had ad hoc permission to process Lamberts Bay catches at any of its factories," said the spokesman.

That might be so, said Dr Botha, but permis-

sion to process catches outside quota areas was given only in exceptional cases. This was normally done if there was a problem at one or other factory.

"But if Oceana intends to process its total quota outside Lamberts Bay on a permanent basis it will have to apply for a processing permit."

When Weekend Argus visited Lamberts Bay yesterday the mayor refused to speak to the newspaper.

Mr Redelinghuys said: "After Oceana heard I

had already spoken to you earlier this week they gave me a real going-over. We have now agreed not to talk to the Press until after our next meeting. I cannot say anything else."

A nervous Mr Danny Pols, town clerk, also declined to comment. "I know nothing about the whole thing. No one informed me," he said before referring Weekend Argus to the mayor.

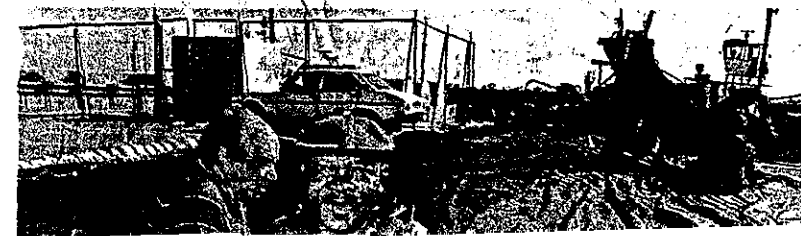
The fishermen themselves, however, had no qualms about talking. But for obvious reasons they cannot be identified.

One coxswain said it was clear Oceana had no feelings for its workers.

"We do not want to move and even if the boats are based here they will eventually be moved to St Helena Bay or Stompneus. It is simply a smokescreen to say the boats will stay based here.

"The quota belongs to our town and the catch should be processed here. If Oceana want to move, let them move. But the quota must remain here."

In a medical



□ **SHUTDOWN?** Inhabitants of Lamberts Bay are furious about plans by Oceana Fishing to close the fishmeal factory in the town. Semi-retired fisherman and former skipper Mr Hendrik Redelinghuys, left, points to the boats and factory at Lamberts Bay.

Pictures: ROY WIGLEY, Weekend Argus.

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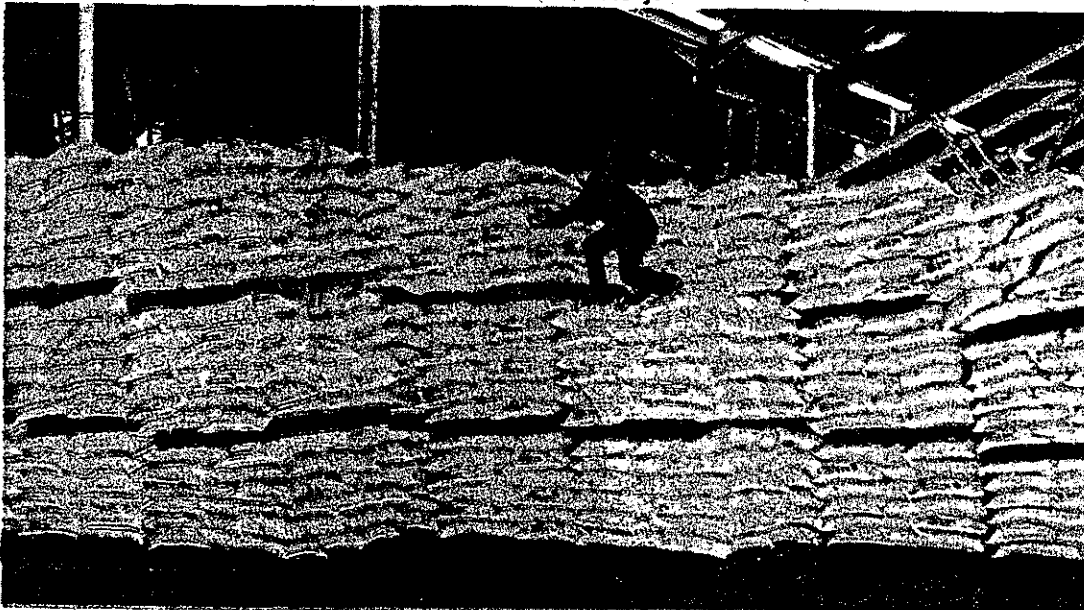
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□ **LAST STITCH:** Mr Hannes Koenana and Mr Hendrik Redelinghuys patch a purse net used to catch anchovy off Lamberts Bay. They are not impressed with Oceana's plans to close the fishmeal factory.



□ **BAGGED:** Bags of fishmeal processed from anchovy is stacked at stores at Lamberts Bay. Oceana Fishing has announced its plans to close the fishmeal factory.

Lamberts Bay will not lose fish quota

STimes CC MeboJ

25/7/93

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

THE closure of the Oceana fishing factory at Lambert's Bay will not mean that the town will lose its fishing quota. ^{③ fishing}

This was confirmed by a company spokesman this week amid fears that employment levels in the town are set to crash.

A row erupted in the tiny west coast town last week when Oceana, the biggest employer in Lambert's Bay, announced it was to close down its fishmeal factory there.

The fishing community, concerned that this would mean the loss of the fishing quota from the town, said a lot of jobs would be lost should this happen.

Statements from the company this week indicated that workers at the fishmeal factory would lose jobs but fishing operations in the area appeared set to continue as the quota under which Oceana operated was coupled to the town.

This had been done to create jobs, said Dr Louis Botha, Director-General of Sea Fisheries, this week.

"Fish processing previously done at Lambert's Bay will in future be handled at factories in Hout Bay and St Helena Bay," an Oceana spokesman said.

The spokesman said a processing agreement between the Hout Bay and St Helena Bay plants and the one at Lambert's Bay would ensure all profits from fishmeal processing would return to the town.

Oceana softens on factory's future

③ FISHING 28/7/93 CT

By DAN SIMON

THE directors of the Oceana Fishing Group and the mayor and community of Lambert's Bay apparently held "fruitful talks" yesterday in connection with the restructuring of the group's operations in the small West Coast town.

This was disclosed by a source who attended the closed-door

meeting which is discussing the future of the fish meal plant at the Lambert's Bay Canning Company.

The source, who preferred to remain anonymous, said the directors of Oceana had adopted a "softer stance" on these two issues compared to the last meeting on July 13.

In a joint statement by Oceana directors and Lambert's Bay

mayor Mr Piet Redelinghuys, the company stated that it was prepared to consult with all interest groups on the future of the factory, the stability within the Lambert's Bay community and the creation of jobs.

The company added that it was prepared to consult on its internal rationalisation programme before the 1994 season.

Oceana offer on plant closure

③ FISHING CT 3/3/93

Staff Reporter

OCEANA Fishing Company is to offer to finance a vegetable freezing plant in Lambert's Bay to offset unemployment from the planned closure of its local fishmeal plant.

Oceana director Mr Leon Conradie disclosed this yesterday after meeting delegations from the Food and Allied Workers

Union (Fawu), civic associations, fishermen and shop stewards, the ANC Youth League and the Anglican Church.

Workers say the plant's closure would deprive 100 local workers of their jobs. Fawu yesterday threatened to seek a court interdict to halt the shutdown.

But Mr Conradie said: "We are going to have to close it. Ration-

alisation must come."

In a statement Oceana said the freezing plant could create employment for up to 170 workers.

Mr Conradie said Oceana would offer R2 million to set up the freezing plant, which could be owned and run by workers.

Fawu officials were unavailable but Lambert's Bay mayor Mr Piet Redelinghuys said both plants should operate.

B/Say 318193

New plant offered

OCEANA Fishing was offering to set up a vegetable freezing plant in Lambert's Bay to stave off unemployment when it closed its fishmeal plant in the town, director Leon Conradie said yesterday. The Food and Allied Workers' Union threatened to seek a court interdict to stop the closure as 100 fishing industry workers could lose their jobs. *(B) fishing*

Lambert's Bay fish plant gets reprieve

Staff Reporter

THE Lambert's Bay community was yesterday granted a reprieve from economic despair over the planned closure by the end of the year of the town's fishmeal plant.

The Oceana Fishing Group undertook yesterday to keep the plant open until the end of 1994.

Oceana announced earlier this month it would close the plant and move the fishing quota elsewhere — prompting a storm of protest from townfolk, who said this could destroy the small town's financial base.

After a meeting yesterday between Oceana and a cross-section of the community and Oceana worker represen-

tatives, Oceana said in a statement the plant would stay open "until at least the end of the 1994 fishing season".

The chairman of the meeting, Mr Schalk van der Merwe — who is also the local peace committee chairman — said Oceana undertook to try to make the plant "profitable" and if it could, "further discussions" would be held about maintaining the plant.

"There is a probability that the plant will stay," he said.

After the furore over the planned closure, Oceana proposed setting up a vegetable processing factory, and Mr Van der Merwe said Oceana undertook yesterday to continue "investigations" into the viability of this project.

③ FISHING 5/8/93

'Nail gun-happy fishermen'

JOHN YELD Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL courts should be introduced to deal with problems like the illegal shooting of seals by fishermen, says conservationist Nan Rice.

A Cape Nature Conservation spokesman said witnesses appeared reluctant to make statements, but Mrs Rice said this did not always apply.

“And, even when there are witnesses and affidavits, the cases are more often than not thrown out by public prosecutors too busy dealing with the escalating violence and other offences to be bothered with the illegal shooting and killing of marine mammals.

“So, it is of paramount importance that the question of environmental courts be given priority consideration

in a new South Africa.”

Mrs Rice asked why fishermen were allowed to take firearms to sea without special permits.

During the recent Snoek Derby a participant had reported being shocked by the number of fishermen carrying firearms and the amount of alcohol consumed during the day, she added.

“It appeared as if every second person carried some form of gun.

“When fishing off Slangkop, shots were being fired at seals, left, right and centre, as well as at a school of about 12 to 15 bottlenose dolphins.

“Why is it being allowed to continue? Are the authorities deliberately turning a blind eye, or what?” she asked.

③ FISHING ARG 26/8/78

Cape trout fishermen hook a new master

③ FISHING

ARCT 31/8/93

□ Piscatorial Society has to restock and control

Environment Reporter

TROUT fishing in the mountain streams of the Western Cape — an increasingly popular sport — will come under the control of the Cape Piscatorial Society from this week, following an agreement with Cape Nature Conservation.

In terms of the new agreement, the society will be responsible for stocking trout in Dutoitskloof, Bain's Kloof and Stettynskloof, and for the control and administration of trout fishing in these areas.

Cape Nature Conservation no longer manages or protects non-indigenous fish species like trout.

Several years ago, there was a major outcry from flyfishermen when researchers suggested trout were harming the Cape's indigenous fish.

Piscatorial society chairman Ian Lehr said the Cape's mountain streams offered some of the world's finest and most

challenging flyfishing.

But, since trout protection regulations had been removed from the Cape Nature Conservation Ordinance, increased angling pressure and abuse had made a new control system necessary.

"This is a resource too valuable to be destroyed by carelessness and greed," said Mr Lehr.

"The Cape Piscatorial Society will have a dual role in preserving trout fishing in our prime streams.

"In order to maintain trout as a sustainable angling resource, high standards of pollution control must be maintained.

"In particular, trout farming operations in Du Toit's Kloof pose a severe threat to the aquatic environment due to the raw effluent from their trout ponds which is discharged into the rivers without adequate filtration.

"Angling must be controlled against over-exploitation and,

when necessary, waters must be stocked with trout.

"The society willingly undertakes this, not only in the interests of its flyfishing members, but as a service to the public as well."

Growing public interest in flyfishing made the new control measures not only timely, but essential, Mr Lehr added.

From tomorrow, anyone wanting to fish in the Holsloot, Elandspad, Smalblaar and Witte rivers will require:

- A valid freshwater angling licence, obtainable at the Receiver of Revenue;

- A daily angling permit, obtainable from the Cape Piscatorial Society, 4th Floor, Mercantile House, 63 Hout Street, Cape Town, ☎ 24-7725, open on weekdays from 10am to 4pm; and

- A forestry entry permit, obtainable from Cape Nature Conservation's Paarl or Bellville offices.

Irvin & Johnson

earnings plunge 24%

③ FISHING
CTI/9/93

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

DEPRESSED consumer spending both locally and abroad, coupled with increased finance charges saw earnings of Cape fishing company and frozen foods manufacturer Irvin & Johnson plunge 24% in the year to end June.

Prices and volumes remained under increasing pressure in most categories with marked declines in seafoods and chicken.

A volume growth of 2,8% yielded an increase of only 0,7% in value, at R1,6bn.

"This is something we have seldom seen in South Africa," financial director John Morrison said last night.

Pressure on margins and increasing costs depressed operating profit by 22% to R84,2m while income from investments was also down at R8,2m, 29% lower than the previous year.

A 56% hike in interest paid to R16,7m due to a substantial increase in interest bearing debt to R95,6m (R24,3m) was partially offset by lower taxation of R18,6m (R34,2m) resulting in a 24% decrease in earnings to R56,3m equal to 195,7c a share. However the dividend remains unchanged at 86c a share, at a reduced cover of 2,3 times.

According to the directors, capital expenditure during the year which included the purchase of two freezer vessels and the new potato chip plant at Delmas in the Eastern Transvaal scheduled to go into operation in November, totalled more than R90m.

A further R43,8m in capital expenditure was approved during the year, R11,7m of which remained to be committed.

To fund the required investment capital to "ensure future growth", longterm borrowings were increased substantially to R76,2m from R14,8m the previous year.

Decreased quota

The depressed performance of the Seafoods division was compounded by a decreased hake quota being awarded to the company in 1993 following a decision by the Quota Board to abolish the 80:20 principle whereby traditionally established members of the industry share in 80% of any quota increase.

However, the directors say that continued effective management of the hake resource in the Namibian fishing grounds had resulted in further improvements in the yields achieved in this fishery.

"The dramatic recovery of this resource has continued and further increases in quota are anticipated in 1994."

An agreement was signed on June 30 this

year giving effect to the introduction of Namibian partners into the group's fishing interests in that country which was expected to play a significant role in the expansion and growth, on a sound basis, of the Namibian fishing industry.

Morrison said the Namibian fishing industry also stood to benefit by the Walvis Bay concessions going to that country.

Considerable efficiency improvements were achieved by the prepared foods division. The sale of the Carmel business was concluded during the year and would be effective in the first quarter of the current year.

Hardhit by the recession, the retail market for frozen foods locally dropped by 3,5% in real terms while food service markets declined by 5% in real terms with the hospitality sector most affected. However the company succeeded in increasing its market share in both segments which partially offset market declines, according to the directors.

Morrison said that not taken into account in earnings was a R9m write off for goodwill relating to an offshore company which was acquired some years back which was only managing to break even.

While trading conditions were expected to remain tough, the group was looking to improved earnings growth in the second half of the current year.

I & J takes a knock as recession bites

Business Staff ^{(3) FISHING}
PROFITS slipped through the nets of Cape Town fishing company Irvin & Johnson as the recession bit deeper into the sales of frozen foods while international prices also slipped back.

Although profits were down 22 percent before tax the company still managed to hook in a fair catch of R92,3 million on a turnover that increased by less than one percent. *Aug 11/93*

Chairman Jan Robbertze cited a list of problems suffered by the company over the year from a reduced quota on hake to the drought cutting potato supplies to its frozen french fries (chip) factory.

Although earnings a share were down by 24 percent to 195,7c it did not affect the the harvest of

shareholders whose final dividend to June was maintained at 86c a share.

The company's debt load has been increased significantly with gearing going from 6,9 percent to 23,9 percent but liquidity improved with the current ratio up from 1,3 to 1,5.

Mr Robbertze emphasised the company would not be deterred by the current poor trading conditions and would continue to develop products.

This was backed up by substantial new investments during the year including two freezer vessels and a new potato chip plant.

The seafoods division received a setback from the sharp drop in international prices and the recession.

Sales and distribution, which

distributes Rainbow chicken as well as I & J's own products, mirrored the recession and weak demand.

There was considerable efficiency improvement in the prepared foods division. But raw material costs for the frozen French fry plant were adversely affected by the drought.

The retail market for frozen foods declined by 3,5 percent in real terms as the recession continued to depress demand.

I & J is a more cyclical share than the other major food shares, although not as cyclical as Rainbow.

Though it looks expensive at a P/E of 18,9 — and will probably fall in the short term — it is worth accumulating at R32 or less.

I&J holds dividend despite earnings fall

BY STEPHEN CRANSTON

Increased costs and declining white fish prices drove Irvin & Johnson's (I&J) earnings down by 24 percent to 195,7c a share in the year to June. **(3) Fishing**

But the strong balance sheet has enabled it to maintain its dividend at 86c.

There was a volume growth of 2,8 percent, but in rand terms turnover rose by 0,7 percent to R1,649 billion.

The seafoods division received a setback from the sharp drop in international prices and recession in SA.

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The share looks expensive at a P/E of 18,9 — and will probably fall in the short term — but is worth accumulating at R32 or less.

IRVIN & JOHNSON

Frosted profits

Financial 1993 was anything but plain sailing for Irvin & Johnson (I&J). With operating profit down 22%, it has been one of the roughest passages in the recent history of this well-managed group. Attributable earnings dropped to R56,3m (R74m) and EPS were 195,7c (258,4c). (3) Fishing

The earnings deterioration can be attributed to the slump affecting demand for food in general, and chicken and fish in particular. Local and international prices came under pressure as demand slackened and competi-

Fm 3/9/93

tors fought to retain market share.

Financial director John Morrison says volumes fell in the local market across the range of seafood by 4,6% over the year. Chicken volumes plunged 7,4%.

The seafood division was hampered by the sharp drop in international seafood prices. This was compounded by a 3% reduction in I&J's SA hake quota. Until international prices improve, prospects in this division are not encouraging. However, the Namibian white fish resource is recovering well and the involvement of I&J's Namibian fishing group Kuiseb Fish Products with new Namibian partners offers grounds for optimism that Namibian fishing will make a solid contribution to I&J's future earnings.

Though profits took a battering, the group continued to express confidence in SA's future: capital spending jumped to R90m (1992: R65,7m). Additional long-term borrowings of R73,4m were raised, increasing the year-end net figure by R61m. Short-term debt climbed by R10m to R19,5m. The net finance charge rose by R8,5m. So borrowing costs for financial 1994 look set to rise considerably. (3) Fishing

I&J provides basic food in convenient format for the consumer at the lower end of its product range and excellent value-added products at the top end. As long as international fish prices remain low and the local economy fails to revive, prospects for an earnings recovery are poor. Gerald Hirshon

Kreef catch up 300 tons

③ FISHING CT 25/93

Staff Reporter

CATCHES of rock lobster and abalone (perlemoen) by recreational users rocketed this year with the kreef catch increasing by 310 tons (200%) while perlemoen catches increased by 34%.

The Department of Environment Affairs said a market research company, together with the sea fisheries department, had found

that recreational fishermen took 470 tons of kreef in the 1992/93 season compared to about 160 tons in the 1991/92 season — an increase of about 200%.

Comparable figures for perlemoen were 493 tons in 1992/93 and 368 tons the previous season — an increase of 34%.

The maximum legal size of rock lobster was reduced this season

and the recreational fishing season was extended by three months.

Recreational permit sales for kreef and perlemoen rocketed this season with 59 835 permits issued for kreef and 34 532 for perlemoen. Figures for last season were 44 469 for kreef and 27 278 for perlemoen.

Permit-holders caught an average of 23 lobsters each this season compared with only 10 last season.

Namsea and Namfish soar

MARCIA KLEIN

ASSOCIATED fishing companies Namibian Sea Products (Namsea) and Namibian Fishing Industries (Namfish), benefiting from the sale of their associate Seaflower Lobster Corp, reported large earnings increases in the six months to end-June. **BISOU**
Directors said Namsea's 29% rise in attributable income to R9m (R7,1m) and Namfish's 39% higher income of R3,2m (R2,3m) reflected a sharp improvement since the December year-end. **29/9/93**

This was largely from the sale of rock lobster, hake and tuna operation Seaflower and increased profits from pelagic operation United Fishing Enterprises (UFE). **U Fishing**

Significantly higher interim dividends were declared. Namsea's dividend was 45c (10c) a share, and Namfish's 50c (20c) a share.

In anticipation of better earnings and dividends, Namsea closed at a 600c high yesterday after a continuous rise over the past year from 340c in October. Namfish closed at 500c — off a low of 350c and a high of 650c.

Namsea reported a rise in turnover

to R44,6m (R18,5m), but operating income was 6,3% lower at R3,9m (R9,5m).

Bottom-line results were boosted by a R2,3m surplus on the disposal. Earnings before the extraordinary item were 5% lower at 61,6c (64,7c) a share. After the item, earnings were 18% higher at 83,1c a share.

Directors said pelagic fishing interests, through UFE, improved operating profit by 15% due to accelerated product movement and improved prices.

Namfish's earnings were down 68% at 23,5c (72,9c) a share before the extraordinary item and up 40,6% at 102,5c a share after the item.

Namfish had nevertheless turned around from a loss at the December year-end. Apart from the disposal and better results from UFE, Namfish also benefited from reduced losses in the joint venture with blue sea Fishing Company.

Directors expect full-year earnings higher than the previous year's.

OCEANA FISHING GROUP

17/12/93
High liquidity (3) Fishing

Activities: Catching and processing fish, cold storage, trading and shipping.

Control: Tiger Oats 68,7%.

Chairman: R A Williams; **MD:** D F Behrens.

Capital structure: 9,6m ords. Market capitalisation: R264m.

Share market: Price: 2 750c. Yields: 5,7% on dividend; 9,1% on earnings; p:e ratio, 10,9; cover, 1,6. 12-month high, 2 800c; low, 1 800c. Trading volume last quarter, 141 000 shares.

Year to Sep 30	'90	'91	'92	'93
ST debt (Rm)	0,1	0,1	—	—
LT debt (Rm)	0,5	6,8	9,6	4,6
Debt:equity ratio	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Shareholders' interest	0,6	0,6	0,5	0,55
Int & leasing cover	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Return on cap (%) ..	18	15	17,2	20,1
Turnover (Rm)	309	326	375	382
Pre-int profit (Rm) ...	25,2	22,3	37,0	43,1
Pre-int margin (%) ..	7,7	6,9	9,6	11,9
Earnings (c)	146	143	193	251,2
Dividends (c)	90	90	120	156
Tangible NAV (c)	813	966	1 067	1 151

The strong earnings increase in financial 1993 occurred despite indifferent turnover and a considerably smaller profit contribution from its fishing division. A buoyant cold storage section, in particular, and results from trading and shipping more than compensated.

Though turnover from fishing declined only slightly, the contribution to after-tax income dropped by 26% to R6,1m. Ocfish landed its pilchard quotas in full but the anchovy catch was small. By year-end, Ocfish had caught 111 561 t (1992: 149 984 t) of all species.

MD Dave Behrens says Ocfish landed its full quota of lobster from resources that appear now to be stable and of good quality. He adds that the recession in Japan depressed demand there for whole cooked lobster and prices fell. Profitability of tuna and squid also dropped. Catches of both species were lower than expected, and the softer international market resulted in weaker prices.

Despite a serious fire at the Duncan Dock

17/12/93

cold store at Cape Town harbour, high occupancy guaranteed good results for the cold storage division. The company was fully insured against fire damage to assets and loss of income. Lower demand because of the local recession restrained offtake of stocks and therefore boosted demand for cold storage facilities. (3) Fishing

The unfavourable trading environment here and abroad weakened margins in the Blue Continent trading division. Behrens says new business and increased efficiencies enabled the trading division to lift taxed profit to R6,25m (1992: R4,6m). TRT Shipping Services continued to enhance its clearing and forwarding business and traded profitably.

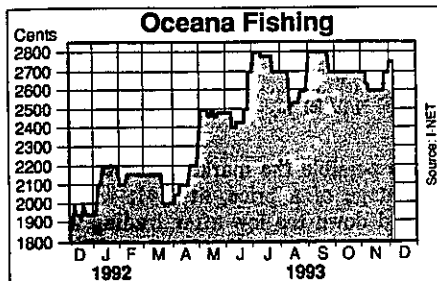
Working capital, especially stock, was cut; long-term loans have been more than halved. The balance sheet is strong and liquidity is to be further boosted by the post balance sheet sale of an investment property for R5,1m. Presumably, that's why the board decided to distribute R6,3m to shareholders by a reduction in the share premium account.

Capital expenditure of R41,4m has been committed and is to be funded internally. This will absorb all the R41m cash and near cash held at year-end. Though 1994 cash flow is still to come, it seems unusual to return funds to shareholders which may be gainfully employed by the company.

After Barlows' unbundling in January, C G Smith will hold control.

The share price has recovered since it started falling in 1990 to reach a low of 900c in mid-1991. Based on the fundamentals, including the yield pattern, it offers good value.

Gerald Hirshon



COMPANIES

Sea Harvest earnings sink

CAPE TOWN — Sea Harvest Corporation suffered a 6,7% decline in earnings to 56,1c (60,1c) a share in the 15 months to end-September compared with the previous year but exceeded both the earning and dividend forecasts made at the time of its JSE listing in July. *BIDAY*

On an annualised basis earnings fell 25,5% to 44,8c, slightly ahead of the forecast. A final dividend of 16c a share brought the total to 26c (34,6c). *3/11/93*

Annualised earnings of 44c a share and a total dividend of 20c a share after the declaration of a final dividend of 16c were forecast by the ICS subsidiary which trawls, processes and markets fish.

MD Eckhart Kramer said the trading environment was difficult. International markets for white fish weakened while local consumption declined and prices came under pressure.

Turnover exceeded the forecast R386m rising to R397,7m (R312,4m) and representing a growth of 27,3% over the 15 month period while on an annualised basis sales

LINDA ENSOR

grew 1,8%.

With margins slipping on an annualised basis to 21% (29,2%), a 27% lower operating profit of R66,8m (R91,2m) was produced. Over 15 months the operating profit amounted to R83,5m.

An after-tax profit of R56m over 15 months and R44,9m over 12 months was produced compared with last year's R60,5m. *(10) (3) Fishing*

Extraordinary items included goodwill of R6,4m written off and listing fees of R1,3m.

Sea Harvest's listing in July was undertaken to allow its Spanish shareholder Pescanova to reduce its holding from 38% to a minimum of 10%.

Pescanova made 28-million shares at 600c a share available to investors. ICS became the parent company in May by acquiring a 12% stake in the company from Pescanova for R72m, thereby increasing its stake to 62%.

Sea Harvest meets profit forecast

BY DEREK TOMMEY

Sea Harvest, listed on the JSE in July, has achieved its prospectus profit forecast despite difficult economic conditions worldwide.

Sea Harvest, a major white fish trawling and processing company, earned R56,1 million in the 15 months to September, equal to 56,1c a share.

This compares with the R55 million forecast for the 15-month period and earnings of R60,5 million in the previous 12 months. It is paying a final dividend of 16c, making 26c (34,6c) for the accounting period.

Consumption declined locally and prices were under pressure.

Chairman Johannes van der Horst says international markets for white fish weakened on a broad front.

But emphasis on added-value products cushioned the full effect of market deterioration.

Sea Harvest sees demand drop as downturn bites

Business Editor

SALDANHA-based Sea Harvest Corporation, announcing its results for the first time since it was listed on the JSE in July, was hit by reduced demand on both local and international markets as a result of the recession.

Earnings for the 15 months to September 30 dropped to 56,1c a share compared with 60,1c for 12 months in 1992. This is slightly above the 55c forecast in the listing prospectus.

Annualised, earnings were 44,8c a share. The company's year end has been changed to September 30 in line with that of parent ICS Holdings, which bought an additional 12% of Sea Harvest this year to increase its stake to 62%.

The final dividend is 16c, making a total pay-out for the year of 26c (20,8c).

Turnover for the 15 months was

R397,6m (annualised, R318,1m) compared with R312,4m in 1992.

But operating profit before paying interest slipped to R83,5m (annualised R66,8m) compared with R91,2m. Attributable profit was R56m compared with R60,1m in 1992.

The directors say the balance sheet is strong, with adequate liquidity and only minimal borrowings.

But, they say, trading conditions in SA were difficult. "International markets, to which Sea Harvest exports a considerable quantity of its white fish, were also depressed because of reduced consumption."

They say catches were satisfactory, "reflecting the healthy state of SA's groundfish resources."

But the company's performance next year will depend to a large extent on the state of the economy, locally and internationally.

Anglo Mar imports to meet demand

Business Editor

CT 6/11/93

ATLANTIS-based Anglo Mar — believed to be the largest producer and marketer of dried salted fish in Africa — is expanding into new markets, and is importing mackerel from New Zealand to meet the demand.

FISHING

Anglo Mar took most of a cargo of 3 000 tons of imported frozen fish delivered to Duncan Dock Cold Storage.

GM Bob Verhave explained: "This is the first time we have had to import fish. With the increase in sales of salted dried fish, SA trawling companies can't supply enough raw material.

Verhave said Anglo Mar exported all its dried fish to other parts of Africa. It has moved into new markets in West Africa and is hoping to penetrate the European market including the Eastern bloc.

Workers 'disgruntled' as I&J lays up trawlers

SHARON SOROUR
Weekend Argus Reporter

IRVIN & JOHNSON is to withdraw three deepsea factory/freezer trawlers from its Cape Town-based trawling operation because of "developments in the fishing industry".

Company spokesman R Whitehead said the move would result in a surplus of 65 seagoing personnel and the company was negotiating with unions to seek alternatives to retrenchment.

The trawling division has also decided to replace inhouse security arrangements with an outside contractor, a move affecting 22 security guards.

Mr Whitehead said the company would try to find opportunities to use the trawlers in other fishing ventures.

Mr Whitehead said the company was particularly concerned about the trend of the government to allow foreign trawlers access to South African fishing grounds to catch quotas issued to local "paper quota" holders.

"That foreign operators should be effectively allowed to displace South Africans from employment is unacceptable and is rejected in the strongest terms."

Mr Whitehead went on:

"The decision to lay up these vessels has not been taken lightly and can be considered as the result of the culmination of developments in the fishing industry over the past few years."

These included:

■ The hake quota granted to the company for 1993 was 1 603 tons less than last year;

■ The rejection of the 80/20 principle established by John Wiley, the 1983 minister for environmental affairs, by the Quota Board and the government.

Mr Whitehead said: "The principle

was established as part of a hake fisheries management policy that recognised sacrifices made by the foundation members of the industry in giving up quotas to ensure the future growth of the resource.

"In return it offered them stability, eventual restitution of previous quota levels and the assurance of participation in the growth of the resource."

Regarding the position of the security guards, Mr Whitehead said some workers had been offered vacant positions in other trawling division departments.

The trawling division had reached agreement with the unions on a full severance package.

Disgruntled workers told Weekend Argus they felt they had been unfairly treated, as the company's intention to retrench them had been communicated to them only two months ago.

"They say they have financial problems and can't afford inhouse security, but at the same time they carry on sponsoring big sporting events which run into hundreds of thousands of rands," one worker said.

The worker said the company had offered them about R400 000 to start their own security company, but they had rejected it.

Workers were fighting for a good retrenchment package, but the company did not give them any options, he said.

"We wanted R1 000 for every three months of work," he said.

The worker said he had earned R417 a week and had been given a severance package of "only R2 600".

"What can you do with this, just before Christmas?" he asked.

A worker with 15 years' service got a total package of about R12 600.

This could not be confirmed with the company.

Sea Harvest beats its forecast

■ BY STEPHEN CRANSTON

The earnings from Sea Harvest for the 15 months to September of R56 million exceed by R1 million the figure forecast in the listings prospectus in July, says chairman Jan van der Horst.

He says in the annual report that trading conditions worsened.

International white fish markets came under

pressure over a broad front, mainly because of reduced consumption. And supplies of competitive products rose. This combination pushed down prices. *Star*

Sea Harvest's emphasis on added-value products and its focus on specialised customer requirements served to cushion it from the full effects of the market deterioration, but trading margins were nevertheless adversely affected.

Export markets previously closed to SA producers re-opened as sanctions were lifted.

Sea Harvest is taking steps to re-establish its presence in several international markets. *8/12/93*

Reduced volume sales were seen on the local market. *(10) (3) Fishing*

The market declined by three percent in volume terms. But thanks to higher promotional expenditure and aggressive

pricing, Sea Harvest maintained market share.

Sea Harvest has made substantial investments to prepare for a recovery in the market.

Two vessels were acquired for R9 million and the second phase of the construction of a new fish processing factory in Saldanha was completed at a cost of R10 million.

A further R10 million was spent on new plant and equipment.

Sea Harvest spends like a sailor

Business Staff

③ FISHING

SEA Harvest has made substantial investments to prepare for a recovery in the fish market, chairman Jan van der Horst said in his annual review.

He said two vessels were acquired for R9 million and the second phase of the construction of a new fish processing factory in Saldanha was completed at a cost of R10 million.

A further R10 million will be spent on new plant and equipment.

Sea Harvest is taking steps to re-establish its presence in several international markets.

Export markets previously closed to South African producers re-opened as sanctions were lifted.

However, the group has seen reduced volume sales on the local market, where the market declined by three percent in volume terms.

But higher promotional expenditure and aggressive pricing has helped Sea Harvest to maintain market share.

The earnings from Sea Harvest for the 15 months to September of R56 million exceed by R1 million the figure forecast in the listings prospectus in July.

■ Malbak's subsidiary Foodcorp is ideally positioned to meet the needs of the emerging market and to become the lowest-cost producer in the food industry, claims Chief executive Dirk Jacobs.

Reviewing group performance in the annual report for the year to August, he said Foodcorp was soundly placed to exploit exciting opportuni-

ties within its grasp.

Mr Jacobs said that given normal operating conditions, Foodcorp should sustain real growth and increase earnings per share to between R2,35 and R2,50 in the 1994 financial year.

"Our staples are affordable, essential foods and our value-added products are those offering the consumer an additional dimension of taste, convenience or variety.

"While there are obviously price and margin differences, both provide perceived value for money.

"In basic foods, we shall sustain profitability by using technology and our substantial agribusiness base to become the lowest-cost producer in the industry."

Referring to its recent joint-venture agreement with Pillsbury of the US, Mr Jacobs said that in addition to creating enormous new opportunities, the partnership would have significant implications for Foodcorp's export drive.

"Pillsbury's products are sold in more than 100 countries around the globe, and it has been agreed that the South African company will be allowed to supply those where it is cost-competitive."

■ Three gold mines within the Gold Fields Group all declared improved interim dividends for the six months ended December 1993.

Group heavyweights Dries and Kloof increased their interim dividends to 80c (1992: 60c) and 60c (45c) respectively.

Deelkraal doubled its dividend to 10c while Doornfontein did not declare an interim dividend.

FW 17/12/93

Annualised, though, they're well down on 1992. **Fishing**

The decline is due in part to the slump but more to curtailed demand overseas where recession dampened consumption of white fish, the company's largest revenue component. Internationally, supplies of competitive products increased and margin narrowed.

Though the SA market slid 3% in volume, reports MD Eckard Kramer, Sea Harvest maintained market share. That wasn't enough to buttress profitability. Annualising turnover for the 15-month period shows a small revenue increase of 1,9% but pre-interest profit declined 26,7% as the cost of maintaining market share shaved margin.

Sea Harvest operated as a private company controlled jointly by ICS Holdings and Spanish-owned Pescanova since inception in 1964. It was listed to float Pescanova's shares at R6 each when the company needed the proceeds to invest in Europe. Pescanova retains 10%, ICS has 62%, institutions and the public the balance.

The disappointing trading result has not inhibited expansion plans. Two fresh fish trawlers were bought for R9m, the new fresh fish processing factory in Saldanha was completed at a cost of R10m and new plant and equipment cost a further R10m. Kramer says international markets are demanding exacting biological and hygienic standards that require the latest equipment; this technology is being acquired.

He does not expect the SA market to grow in financial 1994 but is optimistic that export markets, previously closed to SA because of sanctions, now offer opportunity. He believes that even though it's unlikely international white fish consumption will expand much in the next year, exports to the Far East and the US should gain momentum and help to bolster turnover and profit.

The balance sheet is still strong. At year-end, net cash held was R63,5m (R50m) — an important earnings source. Expected capital expenditure of about R14m can easily be funded internally.

SEA HARVEST
FW 17/12/93
Facing well-fed markets

Activities: Deep sea trawling, and processing frozen and chilled seafood.

Control: ICS Holdings 62%.

Chairman: J G van der Horst; **MD:** H E Kramer.

Capital structure: 100m ords. Market capitalisation: R630m.

Share market: Price: 630c. Yields: 4,1% on dividend; 8,9% on earnings; p:e ratio, 11,2; cover, 2,2. 12-month high, 650c; low, 620c.

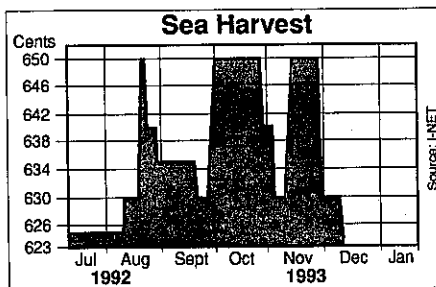
Trading volume last quarter, 695 000 shares.

Year to September 30	'92	'93
ST debt (Rm)	1,5	1,4
LT debt (Rm)	5,2	3,9
Debt:equity ratio	n/a	n/a
Shareholders' interest	0,57	0,60
Int & leasing cover	n/a	n/a
Return on capital (%)	38,0	29,7
Turnover (Rm)	312,4	*318,2
Pre-int profit (Rm)	91,2	*66,8
Pre-int margin (%)	29,1	21,0
Earnings (c)	60,1	*44,8
Dividends (c)	34,6	26,0
Tangible NAV (c)	145,9	168,2

* Annualised.

Fishing

Sea Harvest's 1993 earnings are slightly ahead of those forecast in the prospectus before its July 12 listing (Fox June 25).



The company's hake quota for 1994 remains unchanged and will be caught in full. Good progress is being made farming mussels and oysters. On production, Sea Harvest is in good shape, but, until local and international markets revive, its fortunes are not likely to improve much, even if breakthroughs occur in exports.

On current yields, the share appears fairly priced.

Gerald Hirshon

By **ANDREW BROWN**

THE Oceana Group subsidiary Tuna Marine (Pty) Ltd has invested R500 000 in a joint project with the CSIR to establish an abalone breeding and nursery plant in Hermanus.

Tuna Marine will market the wild abalone to south east Asian markets in addition to consolidating its main business of canned and frozen abalone.

Situated in the New Harbour area, the factory which is now under construction, is expected to be completed in March next year.

The project has created nine permanent jobs but could provide for more over the harvesting season.

Exports

It will have a live export section consisting of holding and packing facilities for wild harvested abalone by Tuna Marine and an abalone mariculture facility operated by the CSIR.

The technology and equipment for the breeding facility will be supplied by the CSIR.

The current expan-

R500 000

Hermanus

abalone

project

for Tuna

Marine

ET 23/12/93

sion of abalone facilities in Hermanus can be attributed to other CSIR joint venture successes with Oceana subsidiaries such as SA Sea Products (SASP) and Blue Continent Products (BCP).

Here the CSIR provides the seed, SASP operates the grow-out facility and BCP markets the product.

Since 1990 Tuna Marine has invested R1,5m to convert the old Hermanus depot into a modern canning factory.

Today its abalone quota of 171 tons is processed at Hermanus. Prior to the investment this was processed in Cape Town.

FISHING

1994

Fishing resources being 'plundered'

By GLYNNIS UNDERHILL

THE rampant poaching of fishing resources that is costing the region "dearly" would continue until fishing stocks had been totally plundered — or until a regional naval presence called a halt to the "robbery".

This warning was sounded yesterday by Deputy Defence Minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils, who opened the South African Regional Maritime Co-operation Conference in Cape Town attended by navy chiefs from the Southern African region.

Mr Kasrils said "billions of dollars worth of sea-food alone", as well as oil, gas and minerals that may be exploited beneath the sea-bed, would be lost if the vast maritime resources were not protected.

"The more fish lost the more hungry stomachs on land and the less jobs. Those

Navy 'should help protect coastline'

thousands of kilometres of open sea and coastline beckon the gun runners, the drug smugglers, the mafia, the terrorists and the pirates, who are fast becoming the greatest security threat of our time."

Mr Kasrils said he was not trying to conjure up a frightening threat to make

the government "cough up" more cash for the naval budget. "We must be mindful of history which shows that conflict arises from the struggle over scarce resources."

A vision was needed to create a common regional maritime policy that can be put into practice, he said.

Chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral Robert Simpson-Anderson, said co-operation among countries promoted ties of friendship, peace and prosperity.

"On the naval side, security is the most important issue, but there is tremendous scope for co-operation on issues such as the protection of the marine environment and its resources, combating of pollution/ of piracy (already a problem on the West African Coast), drug smuggling, which is on the increase, and illegal immigration, all of which will probably increase in years to come," he said.

③ FISHING CT 19/10/94

Price of paper products set to escalate

EAST LONDON. — The prices of paper and cardboard products are set to rocket following three price hikes by SA pulp mills between April and September, each by about 10%.

Also, Sappi and Mondi, which dominate the SA pulp and paper industry, have indicated a further price increase is likely early next year.

Mr Vrij Harry of the Border Printing Industries Federation said the rapid increase in prices this year had "major implications" as printers could no longer absorb escalating costs.

Publishers of newspapers and magazines, already under pressure due to the expansion of the electronic media, would be forced to slash margins or risk losing readers through regular price increases.

Mr Harry said he was concerned increased costs and reduced supplies would affect the provision of school books next year and stymie RDP education projects.

This year's sudden price hikes follow a two-year period of no real price rises when the international market was oversupplied.

● Sappi wraps up 125% rise in income — Page 10

UN convoy hit, [REDACTED]

A dream

and Thabo Mbeki, were both Deputy
with neither enjoying
that those M.P.s in the NT

Cultivate our own seafood stocks, says UCT scientist

ARG 1/6/94

③ FISHING

□ Scheme to lease inshore areas to 'low-income marine farmers'

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE sharp drop in the number of crayfish, perlemoen and other popular seafood species along the South African coast during the past 30 years could be reversed by an innovative scheme to lease small inshore areas to "low-income marine farmers".

So say University of Cape Town marine scientist Rodrigo Bustamante and Observatory restaurateur Allen Bethel, who believe their proposal could unite local labour, the marine biology community and the established fishing industry and create "an extensive aquaculture industry in the new South Africa".

Increasing pressures from commercial and recreational fishing had led to a need for stricter control and management policies, they said.

"Protection of small reserves and sanctuaries prove that the

recovery of fishing target species occurs in relatively short periods of time, and these areas act as 'seeding grounds' to the adjacent exploited areas.

"We propose that the leasing of small portions of inshore coastal zones to low-income candidates — individuals and/or co-operatives — would provide protection for the threatened resources in the form of private marine reserves, as exist in terrestrial (land-based) ecosystems."

In terms of their proposal, small areas of the coast — between one and 10 kilometres long and up to about one nautical mile wide — could be leased to low-income individuals for about 10 years.

For about the first three years, depending on the state of the resources, the leaseholders — who would be paid a small income of about R3 an hour — would not exploit their areas, but would merely guard against poaching while stocks recovered.

During this period, a proper assessment would be made by qualified marine biologists who would recommend appropriate harvesting levels.

When the leaseholders eventually started harvesting, they would market the products through existing fishing companies — a "golden triangle" of interests, Mr Bethel said.

"It's vitally important that the leaseholders get taken from the unemployed masses ... we're talking about community involvement."

Mr Bustamante, who has just completed his Ph D thesis, said that in addition to the anti-poaching function, the leaseholders would learn from marine biologists and develop appropriate skills during the non-harvesting period.

"At the same time as the biologists are doing a stock assessment of these pieces of the coast, they will be teaching the leaseholders — how to sample, how to count — so that there's a transfer of techniques. Even-

tually, the marine biologists will only need to go out and check."

There was a big marine biology community and highly competent students were being produced without job prospects, said Mr Bustamante.

"This year, there were 14 in the honours course at UCT, and then there are also students graduating from Natal, Rhodes and UPE."

Existing infrastructure of established fishing companies would be used to market the products from the leased areas, said Mr Bethel.

"There's no more capital outlay for them (the fishing companies) and they can save on their labour costs because they would just do marketing and take a percentage off the top."

In turn, the companies could supply individual leaseholders with equipment such as bakies or motor boats, giving them security of supply.

'No livelihood for fishermen'

③ FISHING

CT 28/6/94

Political Correspondent

THE concentration of the fishing industry in the hands of a few companies has robbed traditional fishing communities along the west and southern Cape coasts of a livelihood, says the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

The directors' report in the DBSA's annual report released last night states that communities traditionally dependent for their livelihoods on sea resources along the two coasts have seen these eroded "as fishing permits have been taken up by commercial companies and privileged individuals".

Proposing the restructuring of

Resources in hands of a few firms

the fishing industry, the DBSA says affected communities argue that they are being impoverished "by lack of access to the industry and powerlessness to participate in legislative decisions".

"The rurally marginalised and remote communities have little access to other income streams or to credit for entrepreneurship.

"They have poor access to quality education, health services, provision of fresh water and elec-

tricity," the DBSA directors note. The annual report states that the use of marine resources needs to be well managed. "Opportunities exist to integrate the marginalised communities into the industry so that both sectors may benefit from restructuring."

The report continues that at workshops and meetings of the "fisher folk" the need was established for identifying opportunities and formulating a development programme for alleviating poverty.

The Fisheries Development Unit in Cape Town was mandated to facilitate this and ensure participation of various parties.

The DBSA and Kagiso Trust, in a joint funding exercise, will provide a grant of R300 000 for development planning.

Fishing quotas 'awarded illegally on West Coast'

③ FISHING

ART 18/8/94

□ SA fishing industry needs strong remedial action, says senator

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

FISHING quotas have been awarded illegally to some West Coast fishing communities because the required community trusts have not been formally established, says National Party senator Mark Wiley.

Mr Wiley, speaking yesterday during a meeting of the Senate select committee on environment affairs, tourism, water affairs and forestry, said the South African fishing industry was in need of urgent analysis and that strong remedial action would have to be taken.

Mr Wiley said he would be calling in parliament for a national fishing forum "to devise a strategy to prevent the total collapse of the resource".

The committee is likely to adopt at its meeting next week an Inkatha Freedom Party

proposal that the government prepare a White Paper on the industry.

Because of political wrangling, the position of chairman had not been formalised by yesterday and the committee could not pass a resolution.

Mr Wiley questioned closely Sea Fisheries deputy director Guillaume de Villiers, who told the committee the value of the industry was R1,2 billion in 1992 — "and I would say it is certainly a bit higher now."

About 26 000 people were employed, of which one third were on a permanent basis with benefits.

Asked what the state of the industry was, Mr de Villiers replied: "Reasonably healthy, in a general sense."

Mr de Villiers was also closely questioned about the crayfish resource, and particularly on the decision to reduce the minimum legal size.

He said total allowable

catches of crayfish were down because of the animals' abnormally low growth rates during the past few years.

"There is no prospect for an increase in the yield unless we have a recovery in the growth rate, and that is entirely dependent on the contribution from nature. There's nothing we can do about that."

The latest scientific research on the crayfish resource, leading to the setting of next season's quotas, would only be discussed in October.

Carl Worth of the Freedom Front asked whether recreational fishing for crayfish and perlemoen should be allowed until these resources had recovered from poaching.

"I believe fines relative to this sort of abuse should be as heavy and stringent as one can possibly imagine," Mr Worth said.

Mr de Villiers confirmed that poaching was a problem,

particularly in the perlemoen industry.

Mr Wiley said there were only 112 fisheries inspectors in the Cape, of whom 40 were harbour masters.

They earned between R16 500 and R21 000 a year — less than the most junior traffic officers who started at R24 000.

False Bay had been opened again to purse-seine netting but Cape Nature Conservation, responsible for marine policing, had not been informed.

Also, the conservation organisation's budget had been cut by 50 percent.

Responding to an ANC question about affirmative action in the Sea Fisheries branch, Mr de Villiers said the minister had indicated that he wanted the five-person fisheries Quota Board to be made more representative.

"We are giving consideration to that problem," he said.

Resources 'plundered'

② ③ FISHING CT 2/9/94

By CHRIS BATEMAN

POACHING syndicates will continue to plunder our marine resources if money is not found to beef up security, Minister of Environment Affairs, Nature Conservation and Tourism, Mr Lerumo Kalako, said yesterday.

The central government would be asked to meet a R6,9 million shortfall in the budget for conser-

vation needs in the Western Cape, he said.

The cash shortage posed a real threat to the protection of diverse natural habitats and the tourism industry.

This hampered his department in the prevention of oil spills, pollution control and the policing of marine resources.

"We simply don't have the capacity to stop this plunder of our

resources," he said.

Crayfish and perlemoen smuggling syndicates were growing and, because of staff shortages, conservation officers were almost powerless to stop them.

Sancob and the SPCA, almost wholly reliant on his department for funding, were likely to have their subsidies chopped if the central government did not make up the shortfall.

Trading hake quotas 'brings instant wealth without risk'

3 FISHING

ARL 14/9/94

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

THE Quota Board's decision to allow hake quotas to be traded has brought instant wealth to some people at no risk or financial commitment, says Fishing Forum acting chairman Eckart Kramer.

Mr Kramer, who is also managing-director of Sea Harvest, was reacting to the recent controversy over the granting of fish quotas and the state of the South African fishing industry.

It was "totally incorrect" to say major fish stocks had declined over the past two decades, he said.

"The hake resource is today not only healthy and stable, but has the potential to expand from the current annual catch of 148 000 tons to as much as 180 000 tons over the next 10 years, provided sound management and control continue to prevail."

The heated debate about hake quotas was not the result of a declining resource or a poorly-run industry.

"On the contrary, it is precisely because there is a strong and growing resource, a highly developed and prosperous industry, that there is so much clamour from many quarters for access to this activity."

The Quota Board's "unfortunate" decision to allow hake quotas to be traded meant quota holders did not have to invest directly in ships, processing facilities and human resources, Mr Kramer said.

Numerous hake quotas were rented to local and foreign trawling companies.

"This has brought instant wealth to a number of groups and individuals at no risk or financial commitment.

"This situation has strengthened the perception that hake quotas are not only a source of ready cash, but also a simple remedy for all manner of business problems."

● Western Cape Marine Conservation Society chairman Vic Kabalin has hit out at Environment Affairs minister Dawie de Villiers for underplaying the importance of the fishing industry.

Dr De Villiers had not mentioned fisheries at all during his recent budgetary debate in parliament, Mr Kabalin said.

"Fisheries is now one of the major topics from an environmental point of view.

"It has been receiving so much focus and there are so many questions and concerns about corruption and so on — yet it was totally underplayed by his department.

● The Quota Board was to have heard verbal representations on applications for white fish (hake) quotas, but the hearing was postponed. A Sea Fisheries spokeswoman said no reason had been given.

Norwegian ship aids SA fishing resources probe

③ FISHING CT 2879/94

By BARRY STREEK

A NEW state-of-the-art Norwegian fishing research vessel has arrived in Cape Town to assist the probe into South Africa's fishing resources.

The 1 450-ton ship, the Dr Fridtjof Nansen, which started operating at the beginning of the year, will also conduct research off the Namibian and Angolan coast until 1996.

Its equipment includes the latest advances in fishery acoustic instrumentation, gears for bottom trawling, pelagic trawling, plankton samplers and probes and samplers for hydrographic analysis.

The Norwegian government said in a statement the Nansen Programme supported developing countries in fisheries research and management to promote a sustainable use of the living marine resources and improved protection of the marine environment.

The Dr Fridtjof Nansen was publicly welcomed in Cape Town on Monday night by the Norwegian Minister of Development, Ms Kari Nordheim-Larsen, and the Minister of Water Affairs and the Environment, Professor Kader Asmal.

FISHING INDUSTRY

New lines out

Jan 4/11/94
A meeting called in Cape Town last week by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers, in conjunction with the fishing industry and labour, to launch a national sea fisheries policy framework could lead to substantial but subtle changes in the industry. *(3) Fishing*

New policy will be based on the recommendations of a task force led by Food and Allied Workers' Union general secretary Mandla Gxanyana. No deadline has been set for the task force report. But once Gxanyana has assembled his team, it is expected to work quickly.

Jan 4/11/94
Policy changes recommended are expected to fine-tune the industry rather than revolutionise it. Institutions such as the Department of Sea Fisheries, Quota Board, Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee and the Fishing Forum may be restructured. More people may ultimately benefit from the harvest of the sea but all stakeholders are not likely to be satisfied. *(3) Fishing*

"Our resources are relatively modest," says Deep Sea Trawling Association secretary Roy Bross. "The industry's turnover is less than R1,6bn." But many of the 450 who attended De Villiers's meeting don't see it that way. They regard the sea as a never-ending source of wealth being exploited by the big corporations and would like to see more of that wealth being spread among those who earn their livelihood from the industry. But the larger fishing companies take the view that they are an efficient, stable source of employment for thousands of people. Moreover, they accept that the industry has social responsibilities and are committed to the RDP.

The truth is, though, that there wouldn't be an industry without enough fish to catch. That means the industry's priority must be the protection and development of the natural resource. Says Sea Harvest Corp MD Eckart Kramer: "The resources must be optimally used. This includes adding value to the harvest from the sea in any form which, in turn, leads to job creation. Research will have to determine ways of increasing the supplies of minor species, such as horse mackerel, which show up in small quantities in our trawling.

"The question of access rights, quotas and permits will be central in the new policy. The position of the industry is that those who are using their quotas to the full, who have invested heavily in human resources and productive capital assets, and who operate their businesses responsibly shouldn't have their activities curtailed."

If Gxanyana's task force is going to examine how best the industry can contribute to the objectives of the RDP, then it will have to look at ways of creating wealth through more product beneficiation and processing.

It does not have an easy task. Bross says there are people in the industry who have serious concerns and should be heard. There are also many fishermen who have grievances that need to be addressed. "But I don't know if the available fish resources can provide the means to solve all the social and economic problems of our coastal (fishing-dependent) communities on a continuing, sustainable basis. The resource just isn't large enough."

Meanwhile, the trawling industry expects to end the year on a high note. Kramer says it will harvest its full quota of 148 000 t of hake, the same as last year's, despite the summer catches being poor. "Happily, the winter catches were good and we feel the hake resource is stable and healthy," he says. ■

Task force on fisheries

By MELANIE GOSLING

A MAJOR task force involving representatives of all the stakeholders in the fishing industry will be established to develop a new national fisheries policy, Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

CT 28/10/94
At a rowdy meeting in the city, attended by 450 people from across the spectrum of the fishing industry, Dr De Villiers' proposal that a task force be established to initiate the consultative process in formulating a new policy was accepted by the majority.

"Once we have a group of representatives together they can sit down and start working until we have some sort of document on policy which will then be circulated to all interest groups.

"The document won't be a definitive policy, but the start of a consultative process in formulating new policy," Dr De Villiers said.

③ FISHING
Food and Allied Workers' Union general secretary Mr Mandla Gxanyama will be responsible for setting up and coordinating the task force.

Mr Gxanyama said at the meeting that the fishing industry was

still trapped in the past and that the time had come for it to change to be in line with the transformation of the country.

He said complaints from the small fishermen were not merely about access to fishing quotas, but also access to capital and to marketing channels.

BARRY STREEK reports that a new political party to fight for the rights of seamen and their families will inaugurate on Sunday.

The All Seamen's Party would be officially launched at the Hout Bay Civic Centre at 2pm, its leader, Mr S Stevens, said in a statement.

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

TRADING conditions remained extremely difficult and the expected recovery in demand and pricing of white fish both locally and internationally had failed to materialise, said Sea Harvest MD Eckart Kramer.

In an interview following the company's first AGM since being listed last year, Kramer said that they were hoping that confidence would return to the domestic market, by far its largest market, resulting in an increase of demand.

On the international front, he said, they had regained their foothold in the Far East and the US and Sea Harvest was now exporting throughout Europe.

However the slow recovery of the world economies, coupled with the

Sea Harvest in bid for fresh niche markets

③ FISHING
CT 12/11/94

large global supply of white fish had limited growth opportunities in this field.

He said Sea Harvest was budgeting for a moderate increase in exports during the current year and were exploring the development of further niche markets.

A R20m expansion and modernisation of its Saldanha Bay fish processing plant this year would bring total upgrade work in the region of R40m.

In two to three months when work was completed, the company would be in a position to provide products with a high degree of added value which should give it a competitive edge on world markets, he said.

He said the gradual phasing out of general export incentive schemes from which the company currently benefited would hopefully not be too painful and would be offset by other measures such as easier access to the European Community markets and lower duties on the common market.

He said the gradual phasing out of general export incentive schemes from which the company currently benefited would hopefully not be too painful and would be offset by other measures such as easier access to the European Community markets and lower duties on the common market.

Sea Harvest aims for higher profits

BRUCE CAMERON
Business Editor

③ FISHING
ARG 12/1/94

SALDHANA-based Sea Harvest Corporation expects to start reeling in higher profits this year as the world and local economies improve.

MD Eckhart Kramer said in an interview after the company's annual meeting in Cape Town yesterday that trading conditions remained tough even though new markets had opened up with the end of sanctions.

After seeing local sales contract by 3 percent last year Mr Kramer said volumes, which were also dictated by catch quotas, had bottomed out while prices had remained static.

The R20 million capex programme to place the company in the position as a world class producer of frozen seafood would be completed in the current year. The programme was part of the company's philosophy of adding value.

Sea Harvest, which was listed on the JSE last July at 600c a share, is now trading at 615c.

Mr Kramer said the main resource of the company, hake, seemed to be in a fair condition. Hake quotas had been kept at the same level for this year as last year. An increase had not been expected.

Mr Kramer said he was concerned about the removal of the General Export Incentive Scheme (GEIS) but he was confident that this would be balanced out by some other export incentives while the new GATT agreement on world trade made access to the European Community easier.

■ Altron subsidiary Autopage Holdings has acquired Cape Town-based radio paging group Telecall for R7 million, according to a financial notice today.

The Board of directors of Autopage also announced a R25 million rights offer to finance the acquisition and to allow the group to participate as a service provider for GSM (Global Systems Mobile).

Growth ahead for Oceana

③ FISHING
ARG 22/1/94

MARC HASENFUSS
Business Staff

THE Oceana Fishing Group is on course for satisfactory growth in the year ahead, with managing director Dave Behrens reporting to shareholders at this week's AGM that operations are all performing well.

In his divisional review, Mr Behrens said the group's trading and shipping division had performed "very satisfactorily" in the first quarter of the current financial year — with results ahead of budget.

He said subsidiary group Tuna Marine had its abalone quota renewed at the same level as last season. "Landings have been good, with market demand for the canned product being steady and prices firm."

The cold storage division — as

expected — saw a fall in the first quarter from the high occupancy levels of 1993.

The fall in cold-storage business came on the back of a drop in imports and local producers' attempts to quickly move their stock out of storage.

However, Mr Behrens said current occupancies were satisfactory, and financial performance for the first three months had exceeded budget.

In the fishing division, the lobster division has landed 415 tons to date — slightly up from the 394 tons landed in the corresponding period last year.

"The quality of lobster landed so far this season has been very good."

Mr Behrens said demand in Japan, South Africa's main market, continued to be depressed. "The feeling in the trade is that the market has bottomed out, but no price

recovery is expected owing to the economic conditions."

There was no update on the anchovy catch to date as the season only opened last week.

Mr Behrens noted that the uncaught balance of the 1993 anchovy quota was carried forward into the current year. However, the group was unable to complete its quota as the fish dispersed late in the year.

The total allowable catch (TAC) for anchovy for this year is 260 000 tons, markedly lower than last year's final figure of 360 000 tons.

The TAC for pilchard has been set at 43 000, against the 42 000 set in 1993.

Mr Behrens said fishing for pilchard began in December and so far Oceana had landed 1 359 tons.

■ Oceana shareholders also caught the "big one" after resolutions to pay a 66c a share dividend were passed at the AGM.

End of the line for Cape fishermen?

By Shannon Neill

South 114-514494

WHILE the devastation by red-tide along the West Coast is obvious, the effect of the disaster on the communities whose livelihood depended on fishing has largely been ignored.

The feeling in the communities is one of hopelessness.

"So many fish came out of the sea I don't know if there are any left," says Ms Margery Fortuin whose family has fished out of Stompneusbaai in St Helena for decades.

"There were deep-sea fish on the beach - fish people never caught here before. I've lived here for 40 years and it's never been so bad," she says.

Experts have predicted the sea will take, at a conservative estimate, one year to recover fully. Others put the figure as high as four to five years.

The St Helena community is poor and fishing is the only industry. Those who don't live off the sea work in the fish factory.

The red tide has added more misery to the area's severely depressed economy, say residents.

Fortuin lives with her husband Nicholas (62) a son and two daughters, one of whom is working. The family survives on her salary.

"Things have been bad even for

those who tawl. Now there is no hope," says Ms Fortuin.

Says her husband: "You can't start looking for new work at 62."

For many people like the Fortuins, catching line fish meant the difference between living above rather than below the breadline.

For others though, line fishing and collecting the now poisonous shellfish for destruction is the only means of survival.

Groups of men sit despondently on the stoep of St Helena's "Mini Supermarket".

Ask them about their future, and they simply shrug their shoulders.

Mr Anthony Stoffelberg was a line fisherman. Two of his four children are at school. He's not sure whether he can afford to keep them there. *(B)HSLW 9*

"The line fishers aren't doing anything at the moment. And there's no other work here - I've looked.

"Black times are facing us. There have always been bad times here, but then the good times came. Now it's only bad times. What are we going to do for the next five years?"

"My wife works at the hotel and makes R275 a month. Our rent here is R159 a month," he said indicating-asbestos shack.

The house leaks, sand blows in through cracks in the wall and in winter it's warmer to sleep outside

than inside, Stoffelberg says. There's no electricity or running water inside and they share a toilet with three other families.

Stoffelberg is terrified he will not be able to afford the rent now that the fish are gone.

"My wife and I can sleep outside, but the children can't. I sit at home with the seven-month-old baby and wonder how we'll live," he says.

Mr Abraham de Bruin, another line fisher, now spends his days playing dominoes while his sister supports his three children.

Ms Doreen Solomon's husband has left to fish in Cape Town.

"We had no money for food," says the mother of two. "I don't know when we'll see him again.

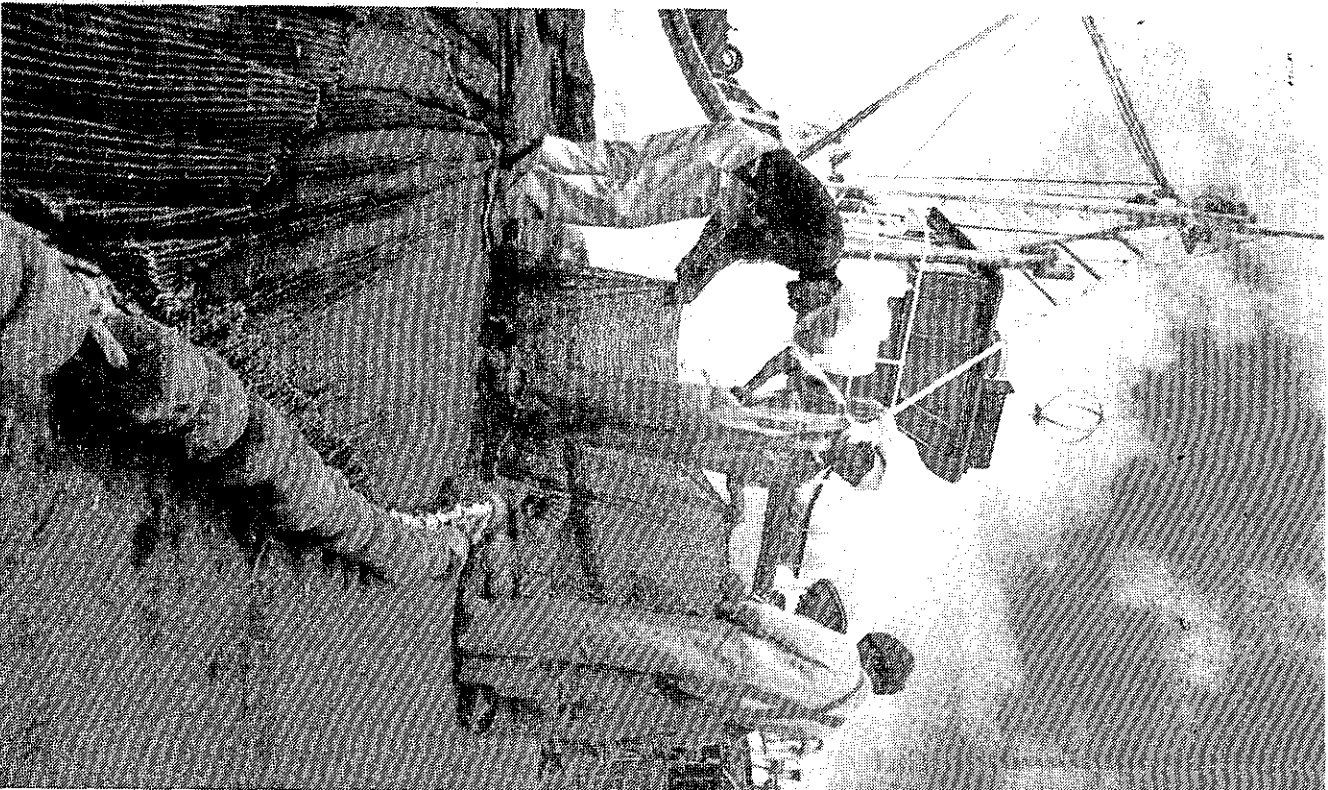
When he arrives, he arrives. "We used to eat the mussels and shellfish. Now I don't know what we'll eat. But we must just survive I suppose," she says.

Mr John do Santos moved to St Helena six months ago after buying the "Mini Supermarket".

"This is a community where a lot of the people lived day to day. They caught fish, they sold it, they bought food.

"I've had businesses all over the country but I've seen the poorest people here. I don't know how these people can survive unless the government or someone helps them.

"Everyone talks about the fish, but what about the people?"



WORK BUT NO FISH: Men prepare the nets with little hope of a good catch
Photos: Yunus Mohamed

Fund to help victims

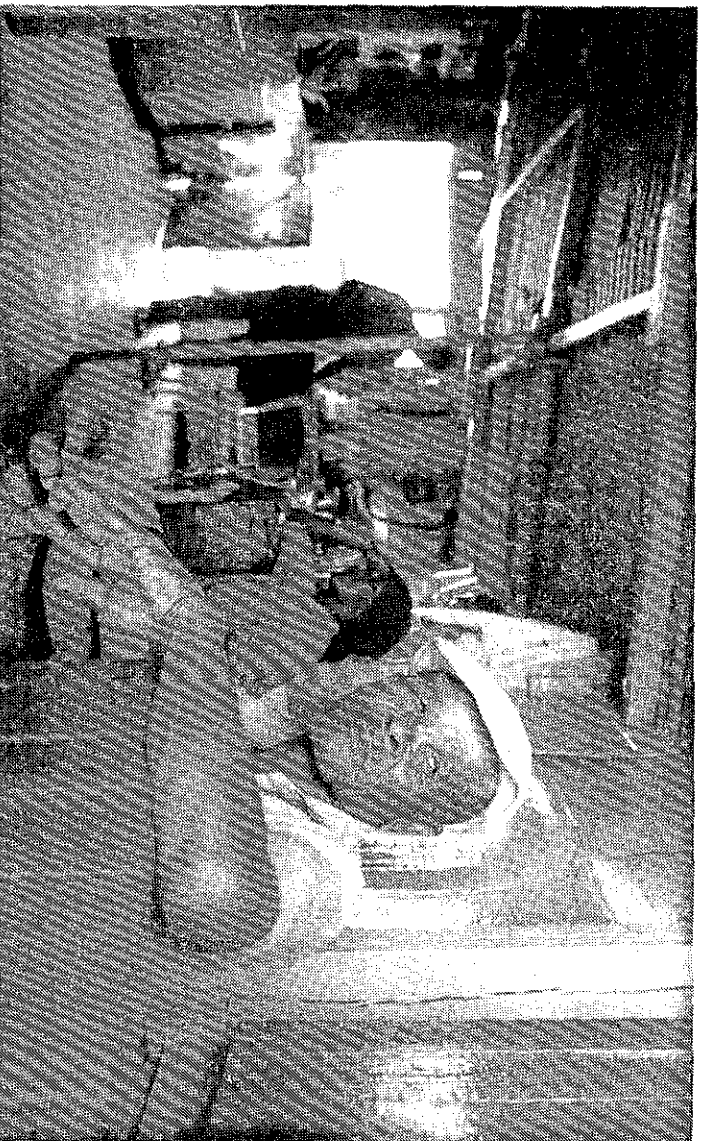
THE ANC has established a relief fund to aid the West Coast fishing communities who lost their livelihoods after the killer red-tide destroyed fish and shellfish along the coast three weeks ago.

According to Foundation for Peace and Justice member, Mr Norman Michaels, the crisis is particularly severe because the fishing is seasonal and now is the time when most of the catches are done. "The fund will be an interim

measure because the net and line fisherfolk who usually harvest the sea are now without income.

"We are looking at a long-term development programme which will improve the quality of life for the West Coast communities," he said. The fund is called the "ANC Red-Tide Crisis Fund".

Those wishing to contribute to the fund can make donations through the First National Bank in Sait River.



NOW WHAT? At 62 you can't learn a new job, says Nicholas Fortuin

Vow to revamp fish industry

From BARRY STREEK

HAWSTON. — The Western Cape fishing industry would be transformed when he became provincial premier, the ANC's leader in the Western Cape, Dr Allan Boesak vowed last night.

③ FISHING
He promised to ensure fishermen and divers were properly compensated and to change the fishing quota system.

Dr Boesak said Johannesburg-based companies were making millions through paper quotas, while local divers were paid 29 cents a kilogram for crayfish which were resold for R55/kg.

Wild Coast being 'plundered'

Own Correspondent

DURBAN. — Unemployed Transkeians, desperate for an income, are plundering the Wild Coast's shellfish. **FISHING**

Undersized crayfish and tiny oysters are being collected in their thousands and resort owners have banded together to try to stop the plentiful shellfish being wiped out.

Youngsters selling undersized crayfish are increasingly being turned away from resorts where in the past they were almost guaranteed a sale as chefs catered for insatiable appetites.

This, plus the fact that tourism to the area has almost ceased, is removing the easy source of income for locals, but is expected to pay dividends when the crowds return.

Town treasurer Mr Barry Gray said the shellfish along the Wild Coast was "incredible".

"Crayfish cost R1 each and some of them have tails 20cm long. There is an abundance of oysters and mussels," he said.

Bags of 36 oysters — which would sell for around R60 in a restaurant — are selling for R3,50.

CT 23/4/94

Sea Harvest less buoyant

8 Day 25/4/94

MUNGO SOGGOT

SEA Harvest corporation — an ICS subsidiary which trawls, processes and markets deep sea fish — saw attributable profit drop to R18,4m (R18,8m) for the six months to March on sales up 3% to R158m (R153m).

Operating profit slipped to R26,2m from R30m the previous year, and profit before tax sank to R30,9m from R33,6m.

Earnings a share fell to 18,4c (18,8c) and an interim dividend of 7c a share was declared. This was the first interim dividend since Sea Harvest was listed in July last year. The company has changed its year end from June to September, making dividends comparisons ir-

relevant.

The directors said no material change in trading conditions was expected for the remainder of the financial year. Catch rates had improved and earnings for the year were expected to match those for 1993.

Capital expenditure almost halved to R7m (R12,9m), and the company had contracts for capital commitments of R10m.

Sea Harvest saw its debt cut to R2,7m from R4,8m. Short-term borrowings slipped to R1,3m from R1,4m. The company's net current assets rose to R100m (R89,4m).

Sea Harvest pays interim div

MARC HASENFUSS
Business Staff

SEA Harvest's catch was gutted by "difficult" trading conditions locally and internationally — but higher interest income coupled with lower tax and finance costs helped the group maintain interim earnings and declare a maiden interim dividend.

In the half year to end March turnover was a slender 3 percent higher at R158 million. Profit margins were squeezed, leaving operating income down 12 percent at R26 million.

Directors said the difficult trading conditions were exacerbated by unusual climatic conditions. This adversely affected hake catches and the volumes processed and marketed in the period under review were below expectations.

However, increases in interest earned to R4.8 million (previously R4.1 million), cuts in finance costs to R270 000 (R620 000) and a lower tax bill of R12.5 million (R14.8 million) bolstered bottom line to R18.4 million (R18.8 million).

Earnings a share came in at 18.4c, making for a first time interim payout of 7c a share.

Directors are predicting no material change in trading conditions for the remainder of the financial year. **ARCT 25/4/94**

"Catch rates have recently improved and earnings for the year are expected to equal those of the 12 months ending September 1993."

■ Malbak is set for a sponsored ADR listing in the US in an endeavour to spread its shareholder base.

An ADR (American Depositary Receipt) is the means by which non US companies facilitate American investment in their shares. Sponsored ADRs trade on the "over-the-counter-market" (OTC) in the US. The programme allows foreign companies to release the benefits of being a US publicly traded security without changing their current reporting processes.

According to a Malbak spokesman, the group filed its F-6 form with the US Securities and Ex-

change Commission (SEC) at the weekend. It should take three weeks for the filing to be declared effective.

Malbak executive chairman Grant Thomas said growing interest from both institutional and private investors located in the US prompted the decision to follow an ADR programme.

"In a few weeks' time, once the SEC has declared our filings effective, Malbak will be able to satisfy and develop further US interest in its ordinary shares."

Mr Thomas said the ADR listing would enlarge the market for Malbak shares and would give the company access to the largest capital market in the world.

"Some institutional investors might have restrictions on purchasing and holding securities abroad and the ADR programme overcomes that obstacle.

"It should also enhance the image and understanding of Malbak, its products and services and financial instruments in the US market place."

Long life recovery forecast

ALIDE DASNOIS
Business Staff

THE current upswing in the economy is likely to last longer than any upturn since 1974, according to Southern Life economist Sandra Gordon.

Writing in Southern Life's quarterly Economic Comment, she said fixed investment, rather than consumer spending, would be the main engine for growth.

Miss Gordon expected gross domestic fixed investment to top 6 percent this year.

Projects worth more than R120 billion were already in the pipeline and the new coalition government was expected to introduce huge social spending programmes.

In an interview Miss Gordon said estimates of three percent economic growth this year "could be conservative".

The strength of the agricultural recovery had been underestimated and good rainfall suggested that farmers would have another good year in 1994.

External economic conditions were improving, and export vol-

umes were likely to increase in 1994.

Higher gold and commodity prices would boost export revenue.

However, the trade surplus would be eaten away by higher imports as the recovery got under way.

Still, Miss Gordon forecast a "still healthy" surplus of about R18 billion this year, giving a current account surplus of about R5.5 billion.

She said the new government was unlikely to break with the financial discipline of the past.

The re-appointment of Reserve Bank governor Chris Stals would indicate the government's intention to maintain financial stability.

"We think the future government will be pragmatic, though we can't expect fiscal and monetary policy to be as tight as in a first world country — which South Africa is not."

Southern Life was expecting average inflation of 7.9 percent this year, rising to 10.4 percent in 1995.

Higher-than-expected infla-

tion rates reduced the chances of interest rate drops.

Also, the economy had entered the upswing with severely depleted reserves.

As a result, she was expecting one — rather than two — cuts in Bank rate this year, probably in May after the publication of April's inflation rate which would exclude the VAT effect for the first time.

Though the chances of sustainable economic growth were good, politics would remain the decisive factor, Miss Gordon emphasised.

But, she noted, even if growth rates topped 5 percent, it would take almost 10 years for the economy to achieve 1981 living standards.

The level of real gross domestic product (GDP) in 1993 was still almost 2.5 percent below its 1989 peak. Real GDP per capita had dropped 18.5 percent since 1981.

"Even if an ambitious reconstruction plan for a targeted annual growth rate of 5 percent is achieved, it will take almost a decade before 1981 living standards are again achieved."

UCT set to rescue segment of Cape Town's rich fishing history

JOHN YELD, Environment Reporter

AN ALMOST-forgotten segment of the Cape's

rich fishing history — the often illegal activities of an informal fishing community at Oudekraal on the Atlantic seaboard — is being rescued from oblivion and recorded by a University of Cape Town historian.

Lance van Sittert, leader of UCT history department's Western Cape Oral History Project, is researching the Cape's illegal crayfish trade from 1945, and is particularly interested in the Oudekraal community which was forcibly removed under Group Areas legislation in the 1960s.

The oral history project was founded a decade ago to record interviews with people forced to leave District Six and the inner city areas and has since expanded to other areas of research, said Dr Van Sittert.

"Basically, we do interview-based historical research. Our brief is to track people down in whatever area (of research) and interview them about the past."

He became interested in crayfish and the Oudekraal community during post-graduate work involving the Hout Bay and St Helena Bay areas.

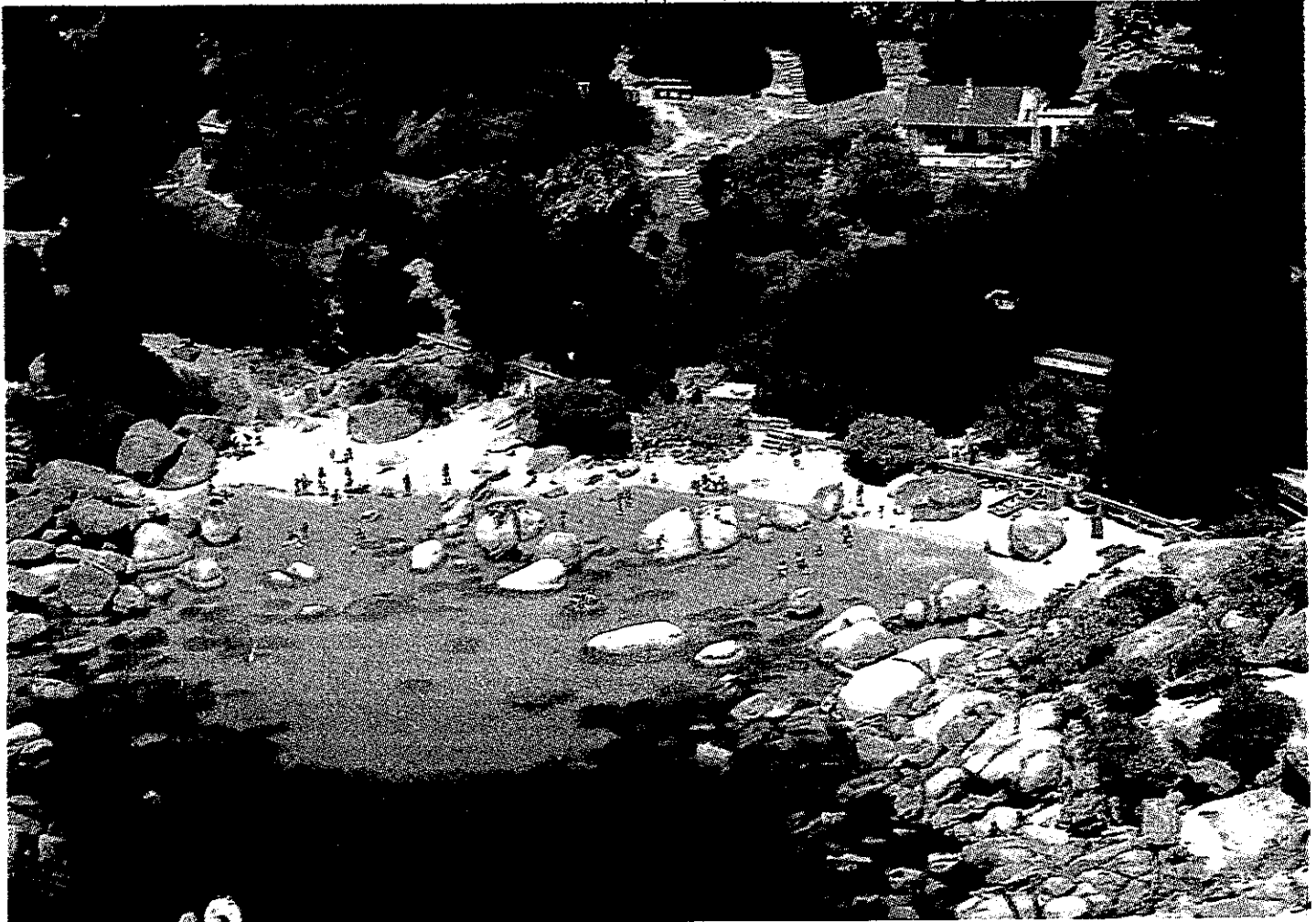
"In the archives I came across a lot of material about the crayfish industry, and I also had discussions two years ago with (former chief marine conservation inspector) James van Langelaar," Dr Van Sittert said.

Afterwards he wrote a letter to *The Argus*, asking readers for any information about crayfish poaching — a subject which has become highly

□ Researchers dig into crayfish trade of the past

ANL 26/4/94

③ FISHING



FISHING HISTORY: An aerial view of Oudekraal, under research by the University of Cape Town's history department, which fears that the history of the area's fishing community may disappear.

topical during the past few years.

But "poaching" is not a word he uses easily when talking to those involved.

"I always wait for them to use the term first — there's a value judgement attached to it and I think that's true whether it applies to divers living in Constantia or Manenberg," Dr Van Sittert said.

"Controls have been tainted in some fashion by the old dispensation and people are very sensitive to that.

"Changes to boundaries of marine reserves and other prescriptive control measures occurred in such an arbitrary fashion in the past that those involved found themselves fishermen one day and poachers the next.

"There is a groundswell of popular

resentment to the way crayfish legislation is applied — it's seen very much as favouring the quota holders and vested interests."

Interview material garnered through *The Argus* has been particularly rich, Dr Sittert said.

"This is the first time we've tried this method and there's been a very good response — I've spoken to about 15 people in a week, including various people still involved in the informal trade."

The Oudekraal community, who used rowing dinghies and later some motorised boats to catch crayfish, lived in caves and shacks.

"I suspect it started as a fishing base that became a permanent fishing community," Dr Van Sittert said.

"They were certainly there in the 1930s when the Sea Fisheries talks of a poaching group in the gap between the two reserves.

"And the Cape Town City Council's archives show the council was aware in the 1950s that people were living permanently on the picnicking and camping ground."

The community increased in size during the 1950s and 1960s with an influx of black Africans.

"It was an out-of-the-way place and they took up as fishermen.

"There seems to have been a growing market for crayfish in Cape Town, certainly in the 1960s, and the community expanded.

"As far as I know — and I haven't been able to verify this yet — the community was cleared out under the Group Areas during the late 1960s, possibly to Manenberg," Dr Van Sittert said.

The earliest archival records of the community refer to 10 shacks — probably about 55 people, he suggested.

"The caretaker who has been there for 30 years speaks about hundreds of people and Van Langelaar said it was a big community. But it seems to have fluctuated — when the crayfish weren't about people drifted out.

"I haven't been able to trace any of the old fishermen, unfortunately. Apparently I'm a few years too late — a whole crop of them died off recently."

There's now no sign at Oudekraal of the once-flourishing community.

"You can see signs that there'd been fires in caves but otherwise there's nothing at all," Dr Van Sittert said.

"That's why this project work is so important — otherwise community history is just erased."

• Anyone with information can contact Dr Van Sittert, ☎ 685-2262.

Demand for restructuring of fishing quotas

CAPE TOWN — The ANC called for a restructuring of the fishing industry quota system during its electioneering, but the question is how this can be done without depleting SA's fishing resources.

At an election rally in Tableview ANC spokesmen said the system of fishing quotas should be restructured and, although the method of doing this without depleting resources had not been devised, the issue was being investigated.

8/1/94
EDWARD WEST

Department of Sea Fisheries chief director Louis Botha said about 34 coastal communities were demanding fishing quotas from his department. 281494

The establishment of a new government had created expectations that there would be quotas available for anybody who wanted one. However, SA's fishing resources were finite. (3) Fishing

Oceana operating profit sinks 6%

31524
EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group lifted sales 14% to R207,1m (R182m) in the six months to March, but operating profit fell and earnings rose only 2% to 155,1c (151,8c) a share.

MD Dave Behrens said a change in the profit mix had cut operating profit, and investment income declined due to lower cash reserves and interest rates. The first half dividend was lifted to 46c (42c).

Operating profit fell 6% to R24,1m (R25,6m) while investment income fell to R3,5m (R4m). Pre-tax profit was 6,9% lower at R27,6m (R29,6m), but tax was lower at R10,8m (R13,1m) leaving taxed profit 2% higher at R16,8m (R16,5m).

Behrens said the change in profit mix was due to substantially higher sales volumes through its trading and shipping division which traditionally produced lower margins than its cold storage and fishing divisions.

The fishing division contributed R3,2m or 22% of attributable earnings, lower than last year's 35% contribution. The shipping and trading division's contribution was 46%, well up from 26% last year.

The cold storage division's contribution to earnings dropped to 16% from 20% due to a decline in occupancy. 215194



Kieth Atwell has been appointed to the divisional board of Printpak.



Susan Sheenan has been appointed manager of Berco Food Management.

Ocfish profit up on lower tax bill

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Business Editor

A LOWER tax bill and higher profits from its trading and shipping division helped the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) to lift earnings by 2% in the six months to March 31, to 155,1c (151,8c) a share. The interim dividend is 46c (42c) a share.

Turnover rose by 14% to R207,1m (R181,9m). But a change in the profit mix — with the fishing division contributing only 22% or R3,2m to attributable earnings compared with 35% or R5m in the first half of last year — meant that operating profit was down by 6% at R24m (R25,6m).

The contribution to total profits by the cold storage division also dropped, to 16% or R2,5m, compared with 20% or R2,9m in the first half of last year.

But the shipping and trading division came to the rescue with a huge rise in its contribution, to 46% or R6,8m compared with 26% or R3,8m in the first half of last year, showing the wisdom of the group's decision a few years ago to diversify from fishing alone.

Contributions from investment income were also slightly down at

③ FISHING
16% or R2,3m compared with 19% or R2,6m in the first half of last year. CT 2/5/94

Profit before tax was R27,5m (R29,6m). But the tax bill was lower at R10,7m (R13,1m), leaving after tax profit of R16,8m (R16,4m).

Extraordinary items — a profit of R5,4m on the disposal of surplus property but the writing off of R855 000 in goodwill on acquisitions — lifted profits to R19,4m.

Forecasting "a satisfactory improvement" in earnings for the full year, group MD Dave Behrens said that "subject to pelagic landings meeting budget expectations, earnings in the fishing division should improve in the second half.

"Performance in the cold storage division is likely to be at a similar level as in the first half, while the trading and shipping division is anticipating a somewhat slower rate of growth."

Discussing the fishing division, he said that although 78% of lobster quotas had already been landed and quality was good, demand had been lower and prices had therefore been depressed. "These conditions are expected to improve in the next six months."

Ocfish's pelagic landings were on a par with last year but had been less profitable because the balance of the 1993 anchovy quota had not been landed.

The industry's total allowable catch (TAC) of anchovy was reduced to 220 000 tons from 260 000. But this is subject to review this month, in the light of further scientific data.

Behrens said the pilchard resource showed strong signs of recovery, with the TAC increased from 43 000 tons to 67 000 tons. "Local demand for canned fish is firm, with industry sales ahead of last year."

Discussing the improvement in the trading and shipping division, he said that trading conditions on the local market had been difficult but "export market sales have improved considerably on last year."

The clearing, forwarding and shipping company had also achieved good results.

Capital expenditure of R21,8m had been on expansion of the Walvis Bay cold store, additional mobile racking in the cold stores and a new pelagic fishing vessel.

Behrens said the additional capacity at the Walvis Bay cold store "is being taken up in line with expectations."

Oceana keeps afloat

■ BY STEPHEN CRANSTON

Oceana Fishing had a two percent increase in earnings per share to 155.1c in the six months to March. *Star*

An interim dividend of 46c has been declared (42c last year). *315194*

Turnover was up 14 percent to R207,1 million, but MD Dave Behrens says there was a substantial change in the profit mix, which led to a six percent fall in operating profit to R24,1 million (~~R25~~).

Fishing's contribution dropped from R5 million to R3,2 million, and accounted for just 22 percent of the bottom line (35 percent previously).

The availability and quality of lobster was good, although demand and prices were low.

Oceana's pelagic fish landings are on a par with those of last year, but profitability fell because the balance of the 1993 anchovy quota was not landed. *(3) Fishing*

The trading and shipping division contributed 46 percent of the bottom line (26 percent last year).

The local market was difficult, but export sales improved considerably on those of last year and there were satisfactory results from clearing, forwarding and shipping.

The cold storage division's contribution fell from 20 percent to 16 percent as there was a decline in occupancy levels.

The expansion of Walvis Bay Cold Storage has been completed and the additional capacity is being taken up, in line with expectations.

OCEANA FISHING
m 6/5/94
Declining the bait

Feeding the fish is hardly the expected task of the MD of a fishing company, but Oceana Fishing (Ocfish) MD Dave Behrens must have felt that's what he was doing during a disappointing first half. The fishing division's contribution to attributable earnings plummeted by 35% and there wasn't much he could do about it.

The problem arose essentially because Ocfish — in common with the industry — couldn't land its full 1993 anchovy quota. Shoals of pilchards and anchovy were so intermingled that fishing for either couldn't progress as normal. ~~the~~ (3) fishing

Anchovy fishing became a stop/start business that affected catch volumes, pushed up cost per unit of effort involved and, in the end, reduced fishmeal production. Even though total pelagic landings were on a par with last year, attributable earnings in the fishing division fell to R3,2m from R5m.

Counterbalancing poor fishing results, the Trading & Shipping division — Blue Continent — turned in a sparkling performance. It increased its contribution to attributable earnings by 76%. Behrens reports that volumes of squid, hake, tuna and horse mackerel all increased and were accompanied by respectable margin growth.

Divisional earnings rose to R6,8m from R3,8m. Blue Continent handles about a third of all SA tuna, squid and abalone exports. Behrens says export sales have improved considerably. Blue Continent's clearing, forwarding and shipping company, TRT Shipping Services, also did well.

During the recession, Ocfish's cold storage division has flourished — at least until now. It is recognised as a contra-cyclical business. When times are tough, merchandise stays longer in cold storage. That benefits the depots. However, in this first half, attributable earnings fell 16%. Ironically, that could

signal better times ahead.

Behrens is confident about the second half. Overall, he forecasts a "satisfactory" improvement in annual earnings.

A 10 p:e is looking for much lower earnings growth than that of its competitors. That seems unrealistic, especially if the economy has turned. The share could easily be re-rated.

Gerald Hirshon

Big changes needed in fish industry

③ FISHING
ARCTIC 14/5/94

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE restructuring of the local fishing industry to allow fishing communities a direct stake in the lucrative fish resource is under way — but it is already apparent that much more will have to be done to save fishing communities from abject poverty.

Already there is concern in some circles that the allocated community quota of 3 000 tons of hake is simply not enough to alleviate poverty.

Last weekend it was reported that the African National Congress was considering several measures to decentralise the industry.

A draft policy document criticised the wide discretionary powers given to the minister, who set the total allowable catch and appointed members of the Quota Board.

In the document it is recommended that more fishing quotas should go to small fishermen and that greater access to the resources by traditional fishing communities should be ensured.

A source in the fishing industry pointed out that two years ago the Quota Board had already decided to grant fishing communities a quota of 3 000 tons, which was to be divided between the different fishing communities in an effort to give them a stake in the fish resource.

Money earned from these quotas would be paid into community trusts, which would use the funds to start upliftment projects.

Louis Botha, chief director of Sea Fisheries, said the department had been asked to identify communities which qualified for the new quotas. Last year about

Major changes will have to be made to fishing policies, with more quotas going directly to fishing communities to alleviate poverty.

16 communities had been identified and had been given quotas.

But since last year the number of needy communities which have applied to share in the community quotas has doubled and there is now serious concern that the figure of 3 000 tons is simply not enough to help the poor fishing communities.

Arnold Slater, deputy director exploitation control of Sea Fisheries, said: "The situation is very serious. We have visited many of the communities and the people are suffering. They need help. Something will have to be done urgently, their need is simply staggering."

Mr Slater was not prepared to speculate on the possibility that some of the quotas of the large fishing companies may be cut back so that a more equitable portion of the resource could be given to long-suffering fishing communities.

For years criticism has been levelled against the so-called large fishing monopolies, which were seen to be exploiting the natural fish and crayfish resources without plowing much of the profits back into communities which had supported them for years.

Mr Slater said many communities have now entered into agreements with the large fishing companies to catch their community quota of hake and pay the profits into the different community trusts.

He admitted that many, if not all, of the fishing communities simply could not afford to buy large vessels and process fish, which in effect meant that the different communities simply had "paper quotas. The idea is to give

each community a stake in the fish resource.

"The different fishing community trusts can then negotiate the terms under which a larger company can catch fish under their quota — earning the community some money to use for community projects."

But a Kalk Bay commercial fisherman who has been fishing for 35 years said the community quotas took away the dignity of fishermen.

"The trusts get the quotas and then summarily sell the rights to catch fish under that quota to a large company for a particular year. The trust gets a sum of money which is then divided among fishermen in the community.

"So for instance the Kalk Bay Fishing Trust had a community quota of 82 tons for hake but then sold the rights to a large company for R72 000."

This in effect meant that each of the 177 fishermen in Kalk Bay got R463 for the year.

"Where is the employment, where is the upliftment?" asked the fisherman.

Mr Slater said when the community trusts were set up the people of the community decided who was to serve on the trust. A deed was then also drawn up which regulated the duties and principles of a particular trust.

"So if the trustees decide to pay out the money they got for their quota to individuals, that is their decision. We do not prescribe to the community trusts how they should use the money, as long as it complies with the deed of the trust."

But Mr Slater admitted the intention of community quotas was to benefit communities as a whole and not just individuals.

ANC men bail out of R6 m share deal

S Times [C Metro]

22/5/94

WEATHER



WATCH

THE Weather Bureau's forecast for today:

Cape Town and vicinity:
Partly cloudy and cold, clearing later. Little chance of any rain. A 15-knot south-easterly wind is expected.

Paarl and vicinity:
Partly cloudy and cold, clearing later. Little chance of any rain. A 5-10-knot south-easterly wind is expected.

Hermanus and vicinity:
Cloudy, with showers mainly in the morning. A 5-10-knot southerly wind is expected.

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

ANC negotiators have sold off shares worth R6-million which they bought privately in a major fishing corporation after criticism of the deal from within the organisation.

Cape Town businessmen Mr Fred Robertson and Mr Norman Michaels — who represent the ANC on a forum dealing with the restructuring of the fishing industry — formed an investment company late last year and bought a million shares in Sea Harvest at R6 each.

Sources within the ANC are known to have raised concerns about the deal as they felt the businessmen's involvement was presenting a conflict of interest due to their membership of the Fishing Forum.

Mr Bulelani Ngcuka, the ANC's head of media, this

FISHING NEGOTIATORS

SELL BUSINESS INTERESTS

week denied any knowledge of the multi-million rand deal.

"If we'd known about it we would have objected in the same manner as when ANC-aligned investment company Thebe Investments tried to obtain fishing quotas," said Mr Ngcuka.

He confirmed both Mr Michaels' and Mr Robertson's involvement in the fishing negotiations.

The forum, which comprises representatives from across the industry, meets to consider restructuring of the industry and ways to empower individual fishermen.

Fishermen and smaller quota holders have for years been barred from the industry, monopolised by giant fishing companies, including Sea Harvest.

Mr Robertson this week confirmed his involvement in the launch of SA Fishing Investment Corporation (Safic) and the subsequent purchase of the million shares in Sea Harvest. (3) Fishway

He said all the shares had since been sold at no profit.

"The main reason for selling was because it was seen as compromising our position on the Fishing Forum," he said.

Mr Robertson said Safic, an unlisted company, was backed by private financiers, whom he would not name.

Safic was started by Mr Robertson and Mr Norman Michaels who both serve on the Fishing Forum.

"Some people felt that having shares in one of the companies we were negotiating

with could influence decision-making," he said.

"The company was started to ensure a decent stake in the industry for ordinary fishermen," Mr Robertson said.

He said it was not an "ANC deal", but that they had been approached by fishermen who felt there was a need for a fishing company controlled by black people.

The aim of Safic was to get fishing quotas and buy stakes in big companies, giving smaller fishermen a share of the profitable industry, he said.

The company would continue to exist, and was open to all, including whites.

He said black people would not only get a stake in the industry through obtaining quotas.

"We would like to get 30 to 40 percent shares in these companies and sell them to fishermen and smaller companies to ensure full participation in the industry," he said.

ANC men bail out of R6 m share deal

SITunes [C Metro]

22/5/94

By JESSICA
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FISHING NEGOTIATORS SELL BUSINESS INTERESTS

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Bank claim 'far-fetched'

③ FISHING ET 30/6/94
Staff Reporter

THE Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) claim that the fishing industry has robbed traditional West Coast and southern Cape fishing communities of a livelihood is described as "far-fetched".

SA Inshore Fishing Industry Association (SAIFIA) managing director Mr Steve Malherbe said yesterday DBSA's claim was "wild".

DBSA's annual report released on

Monday says the communities have seen their livelihood eroded "as fishing permits have been taken up by commercial companies and privileged individuals".

"Opportunities exist to integrate the marginalised communities into the industry so that both sectors may benefit from restructuring," it says.

Mr Malherbe said a SAIFIA survey showed only 11% of people in coastal communities were in fishing.

NAMSEA *FM 8/7/94*
Showing confidence

Activities: *Catching and processing fish.*

Control: *Kuttel family 35%.*

Chairman and CEO: *O C Kuttel.*

Capital structure: *10,9m ord. Market capitalisation: R133m.*

Share market: *Price: 1 225c. Yields: 12,2% on dividend; 5,8% on earnings; p:e ratio, 17,2; cover, nil. 12-month high, 1 225c; low, 350c. Trading volume last quarter, 431 000 shares.*

Year to December 30	'90	'91	'92	'93
ST debt (Rm)	—	—	16,6	1,6
LT debt (Rm)	0,3	—	1,3	8,3
Debt:equity ratio	—	—	0,24	—
Shareholders' interest	0,79	0,77	0,63	0,54
Int & leasing cover	n/a	n/a	23	n/a
Return on cap (%)	34	3,7	5,1	12,3
Turnover (Rm)	17,1	39,7	77,0	101,0
Pre-int profit (Rm)	4,2	2,9	5,9	16,4
Pre-int margin (%)	21,0	7,2	7,7	15,6
Earnings (c)	67	46,2	41,8	138
Dividends (c)	—	10	30	150
Tangible NAV (c)	205	537	503	499

Namibian Sea Products (Namsea)'s earnings before extraordinary items were less than the dividend it declared. When a company's directors take such action, it often indicates they are either anxious to take cash out of the business as quickly as possible or they believe the prospects are good.

In Namsea's case, it signals confidence in the company's future. New chairman "Padda" Kuttel points to promising aspects that imply 1994's earnings are likely to be much higher.

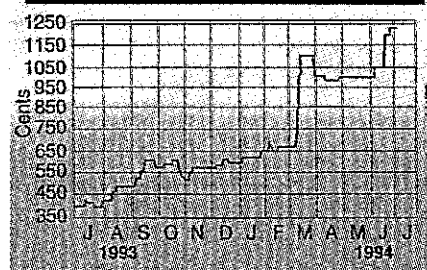
In 1993, a pilchard quota of 20 800 t was issued to member companies of United Fishing Enterprises (UFE), of which Namsea holds 75,8%. It was landed in full and processed by the cannery. UFE also processed 30 500 t for other quota holders, taking the total to 51 300 t. *(3) Fishing*

Though UFE is now processing more than half of the total Namibian production of canned fish, it has the capacity to handle additional quotas.

For the 1994 season, which opened on February 15 for nonquota species and in March for pilchards, the Namibian government increased the pilchard total allowable catch by 8,7% to 125 000 t, confirming the resource remains sound with reasonable prospects for growth. Though the quota for UFE members remains unchanged, UFE will probably process 67 200 t for other concessionaires this year. The price of canned pilchards has risen 8%.

Boosting Kuttel's optimism is the award of

Namsea



a pilchard concession to Namsea for seven years, from the beginning of 1994. This reduces uncertainties. Representations have been made for the extension of the concession to 10 years. *(3) Fishing*

Furthermore, buyers of fish meal, produced mainly from nonquota species such as horse-mackerel, are now paying for the product as it is produced — unlike previous years when payment was delayed for up to a year.

Namsea's sale of its Seaflower Lobster Corp interests enhanced its cash flow by R3,5m. These proceeds represented about 30% of the total dividend declared. Kuttel says that, barring a calamity, the 1994 dividend will not be less than that of 1993. That suggests 1994 earnings will be 23% higher and take EPS to at least 170c, which gives a prospective p:e of 7,2 on the current price. At year-end, Namsea had R16m cash and was ungeared.

With prices and demand for pelagic products expected to remain buoyant on local and export markets, the share price could firm further.

Gerald Hirshon

FM 8/7/94

Activities: Fish catching and processing.
Control: P C Kuttel family.
Chairman: P C Kuttel. MD: W E W Gühring.
Capital structure: 3,1m ords. Market capitalisation: R25m.
Share market: Price: 800c. Yields: 6,1% on dividend; 6,1% on earnings; p:e ratio, 16,4; cover, 1,0. 12-month high 900c; low, 350c. Trading volume last quarter 30 000 shares.

Year to December 31	'90	'91	'92	'93
ST debt (Rm)	—	—	2,9	6,6
LT debt (Rm)	0,4	0,4	5,0	7,1
Debt:equity ratio	—	n/a	0,27	0,33
Shareholders' interest	0,8	0,9	0,6	0,55
Return on cap (%)	23,0	6,8	—	4,7
Turnover (Rm)	11,7	11,6	29,2	36,8
Pre-int profit (Rm)	2,5	1,97	(1,1)	2,4
Pre-int margin (%)	22	17	n/a	6,7
Earnings (c)	72	62	(40)	48,7
Dividends (c)	20	40	20	129*
Tangible NAV (c)	289	812	900	913

* Includes 80c extraordinary dividend.

after a previous loss.

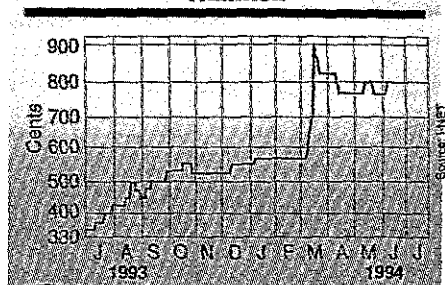
The improvement arises mainly from profit increases that flowed from the main source of income, a 23% holding in United Fishing Enterprises (UFE). But 1994 earnings should pick up because of interests in the white fish industry.

The same industry statistics quoted in our report on Namibian Sea Products (Namsea) apply to Namfish, but Namfish's pilchard and horse mackerel quotas, at 4 154 t and 3 025 t respectively, are much smaller. They were caught in full and processed at UFE.

Namfish differs from Namsea in that it catches white fish or hake; Namsea does not. Namfish has a joint venture in a freezer trawler, which also catches for other hake concessionaires.

Through wholly owned subsidiary Northern Fishing Industries and a 25% holding in Blue Sea Fishing, Namfish's white fish quota for the full 1994 season is an unchanged

Namfish



~~3~~ Fishing

2 411 t out of an increased total allowable catch of 146 000 t (1993: 120 000 t). At the ruling prices of hake throughout 1993, the small quota made it hard for the operation to make a profit on the resultant volumes and this activity lost R4m.

With the hake price stable and rising again in Europe, prospects appear to be more encouraging.

Namfish chairman "Padda" Kuttel reckons UFE is likely to produce similar earnings and Namfish's fishing should be profitable. His optimism suggests Namfish's earnings will be at least R4m higher, with EPS of roughly 175c and the prospective p:e about 4,6.

In financial 1993, Namfish's cash flow was bolstered by R2,5m from the sale of its 35% interest in Seaflower Corp. That is how it was able to pay a much larger dividend. In the same year, R5,9m was spent building harbour facilities, additional processing equipment was bought and refrigeration and ice-making gear upgraded.

Namibia's stocks, including pilchard, anchovy and hake species, are recovering. So Namfish has a promising earnings outlook. The share has risen in the past few weeks but is still a good prospect at the current price.

Gerald Hirshon

NAMFISH FM 8/7/94

Taking the bait

~~3~~ Fishing

Behind Namibian Fishing Industries (Namfish)'s R1,55m taxed profit before extraordinary items there is a R2,9m earnings swing

Lusitania
ARG 9/7/94
women
strike over
leave, bonus

JOSEPH ARANES ³FISHING
Weekend Argus Reporter

ABOUT 30 workers at the Lusitania fishing company's operations centre in the docks have been on strike for a week because union officials and the management cannot agree on the terms and conditions of employment.

The strikers are members of the South African Chemical Workers' Union.

Union spokesman Sizakele Mahlutshana said the dispute arose after the company and the union could not agree on how annual leave and bonuses should be given.

"We followed all the dispute settlement procedures until June 30 when a strike ballot was held and workers decided they would embark on a legal strike.

"Talks with the management have settled some of the disputes, like the salary increases and overtime, but the sticky issues are bonuses and leave."

Lusitania's personnel manager, Francois Kruger, said although the workers were on strike, the company's operations were not affected and that negotiations with the union were continuing.

National body may settle fishing row

S Times [Cimetro]

10/7/94

A ROW over the "unilateral" restructuring of the fishing industry could soon be resolved following a unanimous decision by the parties involved to establish a national body.

The Western Cape Fishing Forum which was launched last year was greeted with severe criticism from fishing industry sources elsewhere in the country, who saw it as a one-sided move to monopolise the industry.

The forum has been responsible for major restructuring of the industry, which was at one stage controlled mainly by big businesses.

But, in spite of the changes being heralded as a major breakthrough, fishing industry sources in the Eastern Cape and Natal are dissatisfied.

Many of the changes, including the allocation of fishing rights to community trusts, were seen by them as being mainly beneficial to Western Cape communities.

Dr Louis Botha, chief director of

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

③ Fishing

Sea Fisheries, confirmed that stakeholders from outside the Western Cape had raised concern about the Western Cape Fishing Forum.

The new national forum was expected to be launched within a matter of months and discussions were already underway between the various stakeholders on how the changes would be implemented, he said yesterday.

"Fishing is a national issue which affects all the people of the country. In terms of the Constitution the forum should have participation from all over the country," Dr Botha said.

The introduction of the new forum will need the final approval of the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, and his deputy, Major-General Bantu Holomisa.

Fishermen angry over pilchard trawling in bay

Angling — PETER GOOSEN

I HAVE been inundated with telephone calls from concerned anglers, commercial skiboat and rock and surf, who are extremely concerned about the news that False Bay is to be opened to pilchard trawling.

Three Kalk Bay boats carrying purse seine nets have been granted a limited pilchard quota of 300 tons to be used only for bait.

Chief director of Sea Fisheries of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Louis Botha, said the limited quota did not mean that trawling would be allowed in False Bay. The quota was so small it would have no effect in line fishing in the bay.

He believed the quota for bait purposes would benefit line fishermen and the fishing community.

Apparently a lot of fishermen disagree, and one of those who contacted me to voice his concern was a Kalk Bay commercial linefish fisherman and skipper.

He said he had grown up in Kalk Bay and had been fishing False Bay since he was 15.

Before former minister John Wiley banned trawling in False Bay, the skipper had to give up fishing and find another job because the fish disappeared.

Once trawling stopped the fish came back — to feed on pilchards.

③ FISHING ARC 21/1/94

"I don't rely on snoek for a living, I concentrate on summer fish. Geelbek is our livelihood. Disturb the pilchards and the geelbek will disappear," he said.

A lot of anglers have expressed much the same sentiments and it is clear that this is not a popular decision especially in the light of the fact that the three boats equipped with purse seine nets already have a 200 ton quota outside False Bay. The question arises, why can't they get the other 300 tons outside the bay as well?

And across at Gordon's Bay, the WP Under-16 interprovincials was fished on four days, but the fishing declined on the last two.

The contest was won by Transvaal followed by 2 Northern Transvaal, 3 Border, 4 Western Province, 5 Southern Transvaal and 6 Natal. The youthful WP development team, if they had been part of the official contest, would have finished a creditable 5th.

Skipper stakes went to Dantjie Truter on Cavalier, 2 Dave Melly, The Roach and 3 Derek Stemmet, Topaz.

On the general fishing front, False Bay is quiet as the yellowtail have disappeared.

Some snoek are being caught at Yzerfontein and at Hout Bay where at least one boat landed 100 fish.

The Kalk Bay boats have been catching a few bankfish. The rock and surf scene is just as quiet.

Fishing trusts 'fail'

Community toyi-toyis while company rakes in money

ARG 6/8/94
③ FISHING

■ Disgruntled fishing community trust members toyi-toyed at the Sea Fisheries offices — but a small company, of which ANC stalwart Franklin Sonn was a director, is raking the money in.

JEAN LE MAY
Weekend Argus Reporter

A FISHING company in which the family of a prominent African National Congress personality are shareholders is set to make a huge profit out of fishing quotas awarded to it.

Meanwhile, a community trust scheme sponsored by the ANC to give struggling fishermen a bigger share of profits from the industry has failed, with payouts as low as R8 a head a year in some cases.

Moreover, there is constant quarrelling over the pay-outs.

An investigation found that among the fishing companies given a hake quota again this year is New South African Fisheries, a company of which Franklin Sonn, rector of the Peninsula Technikon, was a director until two months ago, with his son Crispin.

Dr Sonn said that he and his son were directors of the company which was set up "to help community fishermen disadvantaged by apartheid".

Now that the new government had taken over and his son was studying at Harvard University, they had both withdrawn from the company.

"I never attended a board meeting and do not have a share or an investment in the company," he said.

Present directors are Pedro Williams and his wife Diana, Suleiman Achmad, who has two trawlers in Kalk Bay, and trawler skipper Pat Brophy, said Mrs Williams.

She said Crispin Sonn and his sister

Heather had shares in the company. The company's hake quota this year was 1 000 tons, according to a spokesman for the quota board. At market prices of about R1 000 a ton, this amounts to roughly R1 million.

Meanwhile, the total hake quota for 27 community trusts, whose members number many thousands, is 6 761 tons.

Community trusts were established through the Fishing Forum at the suggestion of the ANC with the object of restructuring the industry and empowering individual fishermen.

There are now 27 community trusts which have been given quotas by the quota board, an independent body appointed by the minister.

This year 3 000 tons of pilchards have been allocated to the community trusts in quotas varying between 374 tons and 83 tons. But in practice, the big fishing companies negotiate with the communities to catch the fish and pay them out for it.

Guidelines have not yet been firmly established for the membership of the trusts, which vary in size from a handful of people to several hundred, and this leads to vicious fighting when it comes to the pay-out, with claims that trustees are showing favouritism.

There was an extraordinary scene at the Cape Town docks some time ago, after members of the docks community forum toyi-toyed on the Fore-shore (see accompanying story).

Valerie Flanagan, research officer at the Food and Allied Workers' Union, said many people benefiting at present from the quota hand-outs were "not really fisherfolk".

"Because of the poor economic situation in the rural areas people flood into Cape Town and get any jobs they can at the docks," she said.

"Some of them work on the trawlers, but many are labourers or even domestic workers and cleaners. However, they all expect a hand-out. The last pay-out was only R8 a head."

Fawu had asked the Human Sciences Research Council to investigate, she said, and the HSRC has suggested that a register should be kept of people actively involved in fishing.

Hake quota pay-out 'a shambles'

MEMBERS of the Cape Town docks community trust had their hake quota increased from 63 tons to 951 tons after a toyi-toying demonstration at the Foreshore offices of the division of Sea Fisheries, during which deputy director Arnold Slater was assaulted.

This was confirmed by chief director Louis Botha, who told Weekend Argus that "the quota was increased by the quota board on the strength of their representations. There are 800 members of the docks community trust (3) FISHING

"They definitely did not get the

increase because they came over here and toyi-toyed."

A witness to the subsequent pay-out at the docks described the event as "a total shambles".

"A man stood with a bag of money and when individuals approached him he appealed to the crowd, asking if they recognised the person and if he or she were entitled to a pay-out.

"The crowd responded by shouting: 'Yes — he can have it' or 'No — drive him away' AR 6/8/44

Subsequently fights broke out among the crowd, said the witness.

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Fisheries in the centre of a storm

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

③ FISHING
ARG 9/8/94

THE present system of community trusts as a means of giving "hands-on" fishermen a financial stake in their industry is not supported by the ANC or the fishing communities themselves.

This was the reaction of ANC Western Cape regional MP and activist Johnny Issel to weekend media reports about problems in the fishing industry.

According to these reports, some fishing communities are being torn apart by fighting because of confusion regarding the trusts.

Sea Fisheries chief director Louis Botha was quoted as saying that hake quotas had been awarded only to trawling companies and the community trusts.

"With the co-operation of the Fishing Forum, we have established 27 community trusts countrywide, but the system is not working," Dr Botha was quoted as saying.

"There is fighting over the quotas and although the trustees of the community trusts were supposed to be democratically elected, things have gone wrong in some trusts and the storm is bursting over the heads of Sea Fisheries."

Reacting yesterday, Mr Issel described the trust system as "nothing but a poor attempt to deny fishermen direct access to the bountiful resources of our seas.

"Let it be known that never has the ANC, nor the poverty-stricken fishermen alongside our coasts, called for the institution of this scheme."

The announcement towards the end of 1992 that hake quotas were to be awarded to fishermen was a blatant political attempt by the government to counter gains made among fishing communities by the ANC, Mr Issel said.

"This drastic intervention by the department (Sea Fisheries), not unexpectedly, caused great concern among all and sundry in the fishing industry.

"The view that this was unashamed political intervention was commonly held by the captain in the industry."

A senior director of a prominent fishing company reported the minister as saying he did not care what happened in the industry and that they (the government) would "pick up the pieces after the elections", Mr Issel said.

"The fishermen, who observed and understood all this, advised the ANC to continue fighting for direct access for them."

Sea Fisheries had "unilaterally" decided to award fishermen indirect or paper quotas and expected them to organise themselves into trusts.

"As feared, the introduction of these trusts led to numerous problems in many coastal communities.

"The ANC has never supported the granting of indirect access to anybody in the fishing industry.

"It has stated unequivocally that rights to our fish resources should be granted, primarily, to those who wet their hands," Mr Issel said.

ICS Holdings raises stake in Sea Harvest

ALIDE DASNOIS
Business Staff

③ FISHING
AFLX 11/8/94

FOOD group ICS Holdings has upped its stake in Sea Harvest Corporation to 72 percent.

ICS and Sea Harvest announced today the group had acquired an additional 10 percent stake in the Cape-based fishing company for R49,8 million in cash.

The transaction would not materially have affected ICS's earnings a share in the year ended September.

If the deal had been effective on September 30 it would have reduced ICS' net tangible asset value a share by about about 87c (7,6 percent) to R1,06 a share.

■ Hotel group Sunbop weathered the March crisis in Bophutatswana to finish the year with a small rise in profits.

Though trading was hit by political unrest in the second half of the year, and by the continuing expansion of rival casinos, Sun International Bophutatswana managed to increase turnover by 14 percent to R1,34 billion in the year ended June.

Attributable earnings rose 3 percent to R236,2 million.

Interest payments rose from R30,3 million to R39,8 million following a full year's financing costs for the Lost City.

However the group is still benefit-

ting from a low tax rate of 12 percent because of tax allowances from the Carousel and the Lost City.

Sunbop has reduced its final dividend from 68c to 57c, making 132c (unchanged) for the year.

■ The acquisition of AECI exploded Anglo American Industrial Corporation's results in the six months ended June.

Turnover nearly doubled to R7,6 billion, but if AECI's results are excluded, turnover is up 34 percent.

Earnings after various extraordinary items came in at R278 million or 434c (272c) a share. The interim dividend has been raised to 132c a share after remaining at 110c for four years.

Following the acquisition of AECI and because of continuing capital spending on the Columbus project, the debt-equity ratio has risen to 30 percent from 17 percent. But this is still acceptable, given the group's cash generating capacity, says chairman Leslie Boyd.

All AMIC subsidiaries reported good results. Boart upped earnings 182 percent and unlisted Scaw Metals showed earnings growth of 21 percent to R55 million.

■ Turnover at building materials company Boumat in the first four months of the current financial year was up 13 percent on last year and estimated profit was ahead of forecasts.

Companies challenge pilchard quota

(3) FISHING ARG 17/8/94
Supreme Court Reporter

FOUR companies of the Oceana fishing group have brought a Supreme Court application to force the Quota Board to give written reasons for the allocation of pilchard bait quotas.

In papers a director of the companies, Marthinus Pot-

gieter said each of the companies submitted an application for quota last September.

In May this year the Minister of Environment Affairs authorised a 24 000 ton increase in pilchard.

The four companies should have received 154,5 tons of the

increase.

He said the Board had allotted the increase to private boat owners and excluded the industry quota holders.

Mr Justice Van Deventer ordered that the Quota Board give reasons for the allocation of the quota by Friday.

Senate committee grills fisheries man

CAPE TOWN — A Senate committee on environmental affairs, tourism, water affairs and forestry yesterday grilled the Environment Affairs Department's sea fisheries director, Guillaume de Villiers.

He disclosed that:

- Fish resources had been dramatically reduced, especially anchovy, pilchard and crayfish stocks;
- 2 200 tons of crayfish were caught annually and two thirds of the catch was made up of immature juveniles;
- The Fisheries Department had no register of fishermen;
- Hake catches had decreased dramatically;
- The fisheries' quota board included members who had no experience in the industry;
- There had been no formal liaison between sea fisheries and the Cape Nature Conservation (CNC) department for more than a year;
- Conservation officials had not been told that False Bay had been opened to netting;
- CNC's current budget was down 50% from its previous level;
- The full annual report of the department of sea fisheries drawn up in 1987 was submitted only in 1993 and
- Two companies controlled 90% of SA's hake industry.

Our Political Staff report that the committee discussed calls by the Inkatha Freedom Party for the Department to produce a White Paper on the fishing industry. The proposal is expected to be adopted next Wednesday.

Earlier, De Villiers said the industry was "in a reasonably healthy state" — but the growth era for the R1.2bn industry had passed.

SA had grown from the 32nd largest fishing nation in the world to the 27th in 1992, with a total catch of 695 318 tons. — Reuter.

Fishermen in standoff

Staff Reporter

FISHERMEN and police had a tense standoff in the harbour yesterday when about 300 fishermen demanded R5 million from Sea Fisheries.

FISHING
The protest shut down the colliery jetty, and protesters refused to move until they had received their money.

The protest was about a hake quota of 950 tons granted to the Cape Town Harbour Community Trust — to whom the protesters belonged — by Sea Fisheries.

The trust was formed to administer fishing quotas granted to fishermen, and the hake quota had been bought by the Sistro fishing company.

Sistro managing director Mr Manuel de Olam said R500 000 had already been paid to the trust, and the rest would be paid at the rate of R1,15 per kg of fish.

Fishermen were now demanding R5 a kilogram, which was far too much, said Mr De Olam.

"Where in the world can you get so much money for 951 tons of fish?" he asked. 27 18 | 8 | 94

A tense situation developed when police tried to confiscate weapons the protesters had armed themselves with, allowing them to walk through the unlocked gate one by one.

The impatient crowd surged through the gate but were stopped when police threatened to fire on them.

Police mediators spent most of yesterday afternoon trying to defuse the situation, eventually persuading the fishermen to meet lawyers representing them to address the issue.

State of fish industry, resources challenged

CT 18/8/94 By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

FISHING

THE South African fishing industry was "in a reasonably healthy state" — but the growth era of the R1,2-billion industry had passed, director of Sea Fisheries Mr Guillaume de Villiers said yesterday.

Senators from the National Party, the ANC, the Democratic Party and the Freedom Front challenged his assessment of the industry.

Senators charged that the available fish stock was being rapidly depleted, poorly managed and that poaching was being inadequately policed.

Mr Mark Wiley (NP) produced evidence to support his contention that the numbers of several fish species were in a dangerous state of depletion.

Fishing trust faces collapse

ROGER FRIEDMAN (3)
Labour Reporter **FISHING**

THE Cape Town Harbour Fisherman's Trust faces imminent collapse, with the 12 trustees split into two camps and the 951 ton hake quota granted them by Sea Fisheries in jeopardy. **ARG 18/8/94**

Yesterday one camp under trust "chairman" Lawrence Hlwele occupied Colliery Jetty in the harbour, threatening to burn trawlers if not paid out nearly R5 million.

His 300 supporters carried sticks, axes, sjamboks and kieries.

Harbour police station commander and "chief mediator" Captain Ian Rudman prevented the outbreak of any violence.

The other camp, under "chairman" and trust founder William Ngwane, sat in the boardroom at Sistro Fishing Company and claimed Mr Hlwele was not even a fisherman.

In terms of an agreement signed by the trust including Mr Hlwele, Sistro has been granted the fishing rights to this year's quota, for which the company must pay the trust R1,15 a kilo for the 951 tons — nearly R1,1 million.

The fish has not yet been caught, according to Mr Ngwane, but more than R500 000 has already been deposited into the trust's account by Sistro, and is available to be divided among the fishermen.

As the trustees squabble, the seasonal fishermen who the trust aimed to assist and empower remain poor.

Mr Hlwele said his supporters would not leave the jetty without money in their hands. Mr Ngwane and managing director of Sistro Manuel De Olim said that if Mr Hlwele was prepared to sit down and compare lists of "real" fishermen, payouts could begin immediately.

Call for
a new line
on quotas

Weekend Argus Reporter

NATIONAL Ocean Watch (NOW), an organisation of conservation and sport fishing associations, has called for an immediate moratorium on the controversial issuing of fishing quotas.

It also has called for a national fishing forum and a commission of inquiry into the activities of the fishing industry.

"There must be a democratic, credible and transparent national fishing forum which has wide community support," NOW told Weekend Argus yesterday.

"There needs to be an immediate, impartial and open inquiry into the activities of the fishing industry.

"Following the inquiry, there must be a thorough restructuring of the industry, including local, regional and national government departments in an accountable and democratic manner.

"There must be a clearly defined national fishing policy. It is time disadvantaged and underprivileged fishermen were considered in such a policy.

"Marine resources are limited and should be wisely conserved for future generations."

Senator Mark Wiley, an NP spokesman on the environment, has criticised the activities of the present Fishing Forum, a body consisting of representatives of the Sea Fisheries division, the industry and trade unions with participation by the African National Congress.

"The effects of the forum have been disastrous," he told Weekend Argus. "It has no formal standing and no legal jurisdiction. It is a participatory advisory body, if anything."

He was critical of a statement by an ANC spokesman that it had decided to take part in the fishing forum so that disadvantaged people could share

'No catch' stalemate over hake

③ FISHING
ARGUS 20/8/94

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

A CAPE-BASED company, Sistro Fishing, has withdrawn its offer to catch the hake quota given to the Harbour Fishermen's Trust after demonstrations and threats to burn trawlers this week.

The trouble arose when the trust split into two opposing camps after Sistro reached an agreement with it to catch the 951-ton hake quota and pay the trust R1,15 a kilo — almost R1,1 million.

The dissident group is demanding R5 a kilo.

Manuel de Olim, managing director of Sistro, told Weekend Argus yesterday that "the trust and the Department of Environment Affairs can sort it out. Sistro is being drawn

"the abundant wealth of the sea".

In fact, the dramatic decline in fish and shellfish species might lead to a collapse of the whole industry, he said.

"If that happens, it will be the Western Cape communities on the West Coast and as far east as Gansbaai who will suffer."

Although he had been as-

■ A Cape Town fishing company has withdrawn its offer to catch a community trust's quota of hake following a near-riot at the Colliery Jetty.

into a dispute which is essentially between individuals in the fishing community and the trust itself."

Some fishermen apparently believed that the price offered them was unfair, he went on.

Mr Olim said: "On the contrary, the price agreed to by the trust, including the present protestors, was fair.

"What was meant to be a project to help the fishing community has turned into an argument from which nobody will benefit. The actions of the protestors are hurting the very people they want to assist.

"If the dispute is sorted out, Sistro will review its position and again undertake to catch the trust's quota for them."

secured at the Senate select committee on environment affairs that the industry was "reasonably healthy", he felt that research into the fishing resource was hampered by inadequate funding.

Meanwhile, the Fishing Forum is debating its own future.

Weekend Argus has been reliably informed that at a recent meeting it discussed:

■ Whether to become a legal

The split is between groups led by trust founder William Ngwane and his followers and a dissident group led by Lawrence Hiwele.

This week, the Hiwele group occupied Colliery Jetty in the harbour, armed with sticks, axes, sjamboks and knobkerries.

They threatened to set fire to trawlers if they were not paid out immediately at R5 a kilo.

A month ago, trust members held a demonstration at the Sea Fisheries Foreshore offices during which deputy director Arnold Slater was assaulted.

Shortly afterwards, the trust's quota of 63 tons was inexplicably increased to 931 tons.

body affiliated to Sea Fisheries, an advisory body to the minister or an non-governmental organisation (NGO);

■ Focus areas, such as having a watchdog role to ensure that restructuring took place;

■ Staff and membership, including the question of whether political parties would become members; and

■ Funding and structure.

West Coast fishermen want rethink on quota allocation

□ Industry is in an absolute shambles, say representatives

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

REPRESENTATIVES of West Coast fishing communities will meet Sea Fisheries chief director Louis Botha and senior officials tomorrow to discuss quotas, slammed by some of them as "an absolute shambles".

Top of the agenda will be the controversial award of a 951 ton hake quota to the Cape Town Harbour Fisheries Trust, which has been criticised as

"disproportionately large".

Communities represented by a 10-strong delegation include St Helena Bay, Lamberts Bay, Elands Bay and Atlantis.

Al Tremeer, partner in an Atlantis fish processing factory which had stopped production because the Quota Board allegedly reneged on a promised quota of about 150 tons of hake, said they would be demanding answers about quotas.

"There is an absolute shambles in the industry," he said.

③ FISHING ARG 22/8/94

In another development in the troubled industry, a member of the Fishing Forum — an informal advisory body of representatives of all sectors — has refuted suggestions that fishing quotas had been allocated illegally to some of the 27 communities identified as qualifying for a stake as their trusts had not been registered.

Eckart Kramer, managing director of Sea Harvest Corporation and interim chairman of the forum, rejected a statement to this effect by National

Party senator Mark Wiley last week.

Mr Kramer said a working group of representatives of the Fishing Forum, the Sea Fisheries branch of the Department of Environment Affairs and communities had been established to determine an equitable formula for distributing the quotas to the 27 communities.

The quota allocated to the Cape Town Harbour Fisheries Trust had not been dealt with by the working group, Mr Kramer said.

Communal fishing rights not the answer — Issel

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — Rural fishing communities' socioeconomic problems were the responsibility of government and could not be addressed by granting communal fishing rights, Western Cape MP and ANC activist Johnny Issel said on Friday. *Biday*

Issel said the ANC opposed granting further fishing rights to community trusts. The previous government and the Fishing Forum established 27 community fishing trusts which were allocated quotas to make commercial fishing more accessible to smaller fishing communities.

Issel said the system was not working. Individuals were fighting for control of the trusts in communities, fishermen believed they deserved a greater role as direct participants and funds raised by the trusts — ranging between R60 000 and R600 000 a year — were inadequate to address socioeconomic needs. *2218194*

As an alternative, he suggested a 2c-3c levy on each fish caught to be paid by fishing enterprises for RDP-related projects in fishing communities, with excess fishing resources to be allocated to fishermen.

But, in sharp contrast, Fishing Forum co-ordinating committee chairman Eckhardt Kramer said the majority of fishing communities granted fishing rights had, with only a few exceptions, found the trust system satisfactory.

He said it was a pity the industry was under attack as its resources, both naturally and financially — with an annual turnover of R1,5bn — was limited.

The aim of the trust system was not to start individual fishing businesses, but to spread the benefits of fishing to communities, he added. *(3) Fishing*

Kramer said the forum would arrange a workshop within two weeks to discuss refining or changing the system of granting communal trust fishing allocations.

R8 m fish

quotas for ③ FISHING community 23/8/94 trusts: Probe

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

THE allocation of fish quotas worth R8 million to 27 community trusts, mainly on the West Coast, is to be investigated by a small commission, environment affairs minister Dawie De Villiers has announced.

Also, new members of the Quota Board which allocates all fish quotas will be announced soon.

Dr De Villiers was reacting to the controversy which has developed about the state of the South African fishing industry, the Quota Board and the formation of the trusts.

In a statement yesterday, Dr De Villiers said that, contrary to recent reports, the country's fishing industry was not in a state of chaos or decline.

"With the exception of rock lobster, which has declined substantially as a result of nature-induced growth-rate reduction, other resources are generally in a healthy state."

The industry was conducted strictly according to scientific advice.

The perception that fisheries would solve all the problems of the coastal communities was unrealistic and dangerous.

The term of office of the present Quota Board expired in October and he would announce the names of new members soon.

Community trusts had been established in an attempt to alleviate the plight of impoverished fishing communities, Dr De Villiers said.

The Quota Board had allocated 6 824 tons of hake, 2 588 tons of pilchard and 10 tons of perlemoen, worth a total of about R8 million, to these trusts.

"It must be emphasised that all these quotas have been made within the total allowable catch set on scientific grounds for each species, and no quotas have been taken away from the existing companies who, in total, employ some 267 000 fishermen ...

"There seems to be some concern about the principle and practice of community trusts, and I will shortly appoint a small commission to investigate the entire matter."

Commission set to probe fishing quotas

CAPE TOWN — A commission had been appointed to investigate problems over fishing quotas held by community trusts, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

Contrary to some media reports, the SA fishing industry was not in a state of chaos or decline, he said.

Trusts had been created to alleviate the plight of impoverished fishing communities.

Democratically elected community trusts, many registered with the Master of the

Supreme Court, were allocated fishing quotas, which they then contracted to trawling companies to catch ³ fishing

To date, the Quota Board had allocated quotas for 6 824 tons of hake, 2 588,4 tons of pilchard and 10 tons of abalone, with a total value of about R8m, to community trusts.

Problems had stemmed mainly from the limited amount of fish available.

The current Quota Board's term of office expired in October and the names of new board members would be announced soon. — Sapa.

Meeting to discuss fish quotas

CT 24/8/94
Staff Reporter

THE Sea Fisheries Research Institute has arranged a meeting next month between disgruntled West Coast fishermen and the Quota Board to discuss quota allocations. **FISHING**

Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Louis Botha said he met representatives of the West Coast fishing community yesterday and had undertaken to put their case before the board on September 13.

"There are too many people chasing after too few fish. Fish are a limited resource. Only if we could manufacture fish to fall from the sky would we be able to satisfy everybody," Dr Botha said.

Stable

He denied reports that the fishing industry was in a shambles and that stocks were declining.

He said the quota of hake had increased from 115 000 tons in 1977 to 148 000 this year. Perlemoen quotas had remained stable at 600 000 tons a year for the past decade. South coast rock lobster were stable, but West Coast rock lobster quotas had been reduced.


"This is due to a slower lobster growth rate which we are investigating," he said.

He said pilchard stocks were recovering from over-exploitation in the past. Quotas had been increased from 25 000 tons in the '60s to 48 000 tons this year.

"Our situation is not euphoric, but it is stable," Dr Botha said.

Concern over crayfish industry after oil spill

ARL 25/8/94

③ FISHING 

□ Large numbers found polluted, dead off Atlantic coastline

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

CONCERNED divers have found large numbers of oiled crayfish off the Atlantic coastline, and believe pollution from the ill-fated Apollo Sea could have a serious long-term effect on the valuable crayfish industry.

A combined research effort by divers and scientists from the University of Cape Town is being organised to look at the extent of the problem.

The oiled crayfish were seen during the past few weeks at Justin's Cave, off Oudekraal, by divers from the Orca diving academy and UCT marine biology student Nigel Stepto.

"We found that a lot of thick oil had settled on the bottom

there and we're very concerned because we also saw a lot of lethargic kreef," Mr Stepto said.

"The young animals didn't seem to be affected, but the medium and large kreef weren't nearly as frisky as they could be.

"Their feet, which they use to feel with, and all their mouth parts were coated with oil, and there were also a fair number of oil-covered carcasses lying around."

Other species did not appear to have been affected by the oil, Mr Stepto said.

"We picked up a few crabs and they were okay, and the oil wasn't sticking to the rocks so those species are pretty much alright as well.

"At the moment kreef are our major concern, and what's

worrying sports divers is that, they might be blamed for the degraded state of this resource in future. They want to show that there are pollution problems as well.

"As a diver and a scientist, I'm concerned with both sides, and I think most of us realise that in the long term the oil will have an effect."

Divers had reported similar patches of oil settling on other reefs along the West Coast, Mr Stepto said.

"We're not sure of the extent of this oil.

"We feel it might eventually be covered up, but at this stage it could be in all the sheltered bays and gulleys.

"We also don't know yet what the full extent of the kreef mortalities are — this might take three or four years

to become clear."

A joint investigation by divers from the academy, sports divers and scientists of UCT's Zoology Department was being organised, Mr Stepto said.

"We want to try and cover most of the dive sites along the coast. Hopefully we'll be able to put our data together and see just what the effects of the oil are."

The huge spill from the Exxon Valdez in Alaska had caused serious environmental damage, and South Africa's legislation had to be changed to try and prevent similar incidents here, Mr Stepto said.

"I think we can do a pretty good surface job of cleaning the oil in the short term, but it's the long term that will tell the real tale."



YUK! Diving instructor Steve Williams examines thick blobs of oil from the Apollo Sea which have contaminated crayfish and popular diving spots. Picture: DUNCAN PATTENDEN.

1 000 fish factory workers down tools

MORE than 1 000 Sea Harvest factory workers at Saldanha Bay downed tools today in support of a demand for a 20 per cent wage increase.

Food and Allied Workers Union West Coast secretary Gerrit Koenana said the workers demanded a 92c an hour across-the-board increase while the company was offering 45c.

ARG 1/9/94

Should the company indicate that they were prepared to negotiate further the workers would return to work.

Sea Harvest human resources manager Salie Smith said the company had already given this undertaking and the workers would return to work tomorrow.

● Fawu returns to the negotiating table at Marine Prod-

ucts in Saldanha Bay today where 58 workers have been on strike since Friday. The difference between the worker wage demand and the company offer is 6c an hour.

● Fawu workers at Accolade Trading Company in Epping have threatened to go on strike tomorrow if agreement over wages is not reached with management by 8am.

③ FISHING

New fishing quota board 'soon'

Political Staff

THE government intended restructuring the fishing Quota Board as soon as possible, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said in Parliament yesterday.

Consultation with the provincial governments was already taking place, he said in reply to questions tabled by Mr Tony Yengeni (ANC).

"The cabinet will shortly consider the procedure to be followed in the appointment of this board," Dr De Villiers said.

At present, the board was appointed by the minister and consisted of people who had no direct or indirect interests in the industry.

Amendments to the existing legislation would be considered during the 1995 parliamentary session.

However, the minister said, membership of the present Quota Board, which awards quotas to quota sectors of the fishing industry, would expire on October 11 this year.

Dr De Villiers said non-quota sectors and non-commercial groups did not fall within the board's ambit.

He added that the Fisheries Forum had been founded on June 14 last year as an initiative

of the Foundation for Peace and Justice to advise the minister on commercial fishing matters.

"The department acknowledges the forum as an interest group and any input by the forum is given serious consideration.

"At present, the forum is mainly a Western Cape initiative and there is a need for a national forum," Dr De Villiers said.

③ FISHING

DT 1/9/94

Fish quotas for 16 Cape communities

③ FISHING
CFB/9/94

By BARRY STREEK,
Political Staff

FISHING quotas had been allocated to one Natal and 16 Cape communities by the Quota Board, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

The allocation of quotas to communities was an initiative of the Quota Board, not his department, Dr De Villiers said in reply to a question by Mr Tony Yengeni.

The criteria for the allocation of community quotas were drawn up and implemented by the Quota Board.

Initially 16 fishing communities along the West Coast were identified and more recently a further 11 fishing communities were acknowledged by

the Quota Board."

Dr De Villiers said the quotas had been allocated to the fishing communities in Cape Town, Saldanha Bay, St Helena Bay, Hout Bay, Humansdorp/Jeffreys Bay, Arniston, Struis Bay, Paternoster, Lambert's Bay, Doring Bay, Velddrif, Gans Bay, Hondeklip Bay, Elands Bay, Port Elizabeth, Still Bay, Port Alfred, Mossel Bay, Richards Bay, Strand/Gordon's Bay, False Bay (trek netters), Kalk Bay, Plettenberg Bay, Vredenburg, Knysna, Langebaan and Kleinmond.

"Fishing communities include members of all population groups," Dr De Villiers said.

In reply to another question from Mr Yengeni, Dr De Villiers also provided a list of fishing companies which had been allocated quotas.

Cape salmon farming could net major savings

31 Day 819/197

CAPE TOWN — Commercial Scottish salmon fishing off the Cape coast could net major forex savings, according to research by a local aquaculture expert.

Aquaculturalist Ray Kourie said yesterday that farming the fish along the southwest Cape coast would have significant advantages over Asian and other producers outside Europe.

Projections for the area reflected an advantage over subsidised Norwegian production — the world leaders in Scottish salmon farming — ranging from 14% to 47% depending on factors such as scale of operation, management practice and site variation.

Current estimates showed net foreign exchange savings of R8,75/kg at a conservative selling price of R13,50/kg.

He said the significantly untapped local market for the fish was worth about R5m a year, while there was substantial export potential.

Kourie said some commercial fishermen had expressed an interest in introducing the fish to SA.

EDWARD WEST

With community involvement, the salmon fish farms could also slot into government's reconstruction and development programme.

Kourie said local producers would overcome economic hurdles experienced by salmon producers elsewhere in the world, giving them a competitive edge on certain export markets.

His research covered aspects such as methods of production — including offshore cage and land-based tank farming — fish quality, international competitiveness, production scheduling, global market forecasts and risks and insurance.

Kourie said intensive commercial farming of tilapia and catfish showed the greatest potential to assist in alleviating malnutrition problems in SA, but prices were too low to make such an option viable. He said the scope for investment in SA's fishing industry appeared to be limited to favourable profit margins rather than sustenance. (3) Fishing

Cape, Natal allocated community fishing quotas

CAPE TOWN — Fishing quotas had been allocated to one KwaZulu/Natal and 16 Cape communities by the Quota Board, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

The allocation of quotas to communities was an initiative of the Quota Board, not his department, De Villiers said in reply to a question tabled in Parliament by Tony Yengeni.

The criteria for the allocation of community quotas had been drawn up and implemented by the Quota Board.

De Villiers said the current quotas had been allocated to the fishing communities in Cape Town, Saldanah Bay, St Helena Bay, Hout Bay, Jeffreys

Political Staff

Bay, Humansdorp, Arniston, Struisbaai, Paternoster, Lamberts Bay, Doring Bay, Velddrif, Gans Bay, Hondeklip Bay, Elands Bay, Port Elizabeth, Still Bay, Port Alfred, Mossel Bay, Richards Bay, Strand/Gordons Bay, False Bay (trek netters), Kalk Bay, Plettenberg Bay, Vredenburg, Knysna, Langebaan and Kleinmond.

"Fishing communities are groups that, according to information supplied to me, consist of various population groups. These include all the population groups," De Villiers said.

He also provided a list of fishing companies which had been allocated quotas when he replied to another question tabled by Yengeni.

Fishermen in a Catch 22

By Alexandra Zavis

HOUT Bay fishermen work up to 23 hours per day and still go home without pay if they do not catch anything.

They also put in long hours preparing their boats before a trip, cleaning the vessel, cooking, keeping watch at night, packing and storing fish in the fridge and off-loading it at the end of the journey.

And they are not paid for this work. Mr Heavyman Mdumata, 35, has been to sea about 10 times since December, but has been paid nothing.

"No fish, no money. I have a wife and two children, and I don't know how long we can survive," he said.

Salaries are determined by individual boat owners, but average at just R50 per ton, according to the Transport and Allied Workers Union (Tawu).

On Mr Eric Staleta's boat, that money is split between an 18 member crew.

If they catch a full load of 30 tons, they will get R83 each for up to three weeks work.

"But we work Sunday to Sunday

with no tea time, no lunch and sleeping only from 8.30pm until 9.30pm for the whole trip," the 27-year-old said.

They also buy their own overalls, boots and tools. Boat owners do not even provide food for the journey.

"We eat dry bread, but we pay for that bread out of our own money," said Mr England Jafta, 52.

He added that fishermen were often cheated out of the money they were owed because only the skipper and the boat owners could see the scales when the fish was weighed.

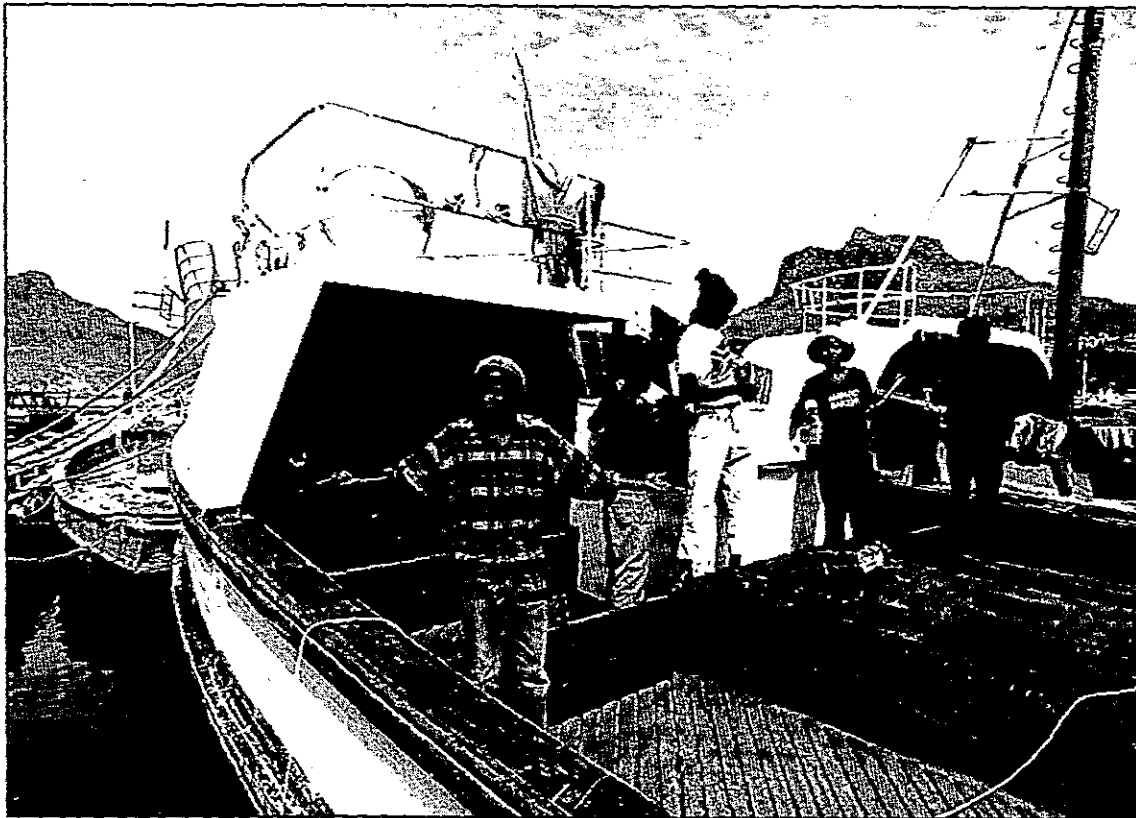
Worse, when fishermen died at sea, their families received no compensation, he said.

And it is dangerous work, with a 40 percent higher chance of being killed than in the mines, according to Mr Johnny Issel, MPP.

But when fishermen complain, they are thrown off their boats.

"If you are politically minded, there is no boat you can work on. The owners tell each other this one is poison to your crew," said Mr Vukile Citabarwa, 27.

Owners have no problem replacing difficult crew members with illegal immigrants from Ovambo, who



WITHOUT HOPE: Fishermen work long hours for little or no pay

are desperate for work, said Mr Khaya Somdyala, Tawu's regional organiser in the Western Cape.

This makes organising a strike near impossible, but Tawu continues to meet with the fishing companies and private boat owners to press fishermen's demands.

They want to be recognised as permanent employees with a fair

③ fishing salary, decent working conditions and a clear job description.

They recommend a basic salary of R100 per day, with a commission of R50 per ton of fish and an additional R50 per day for night-watch duty and R8 per ton for packing.

They also want a separate person hired to cook for the crew at a salary of R100 per day.

In addition, food, clothing and equipment should be provided free of charge, they said.

But conditions are unlikely to improve until fishermen are given some kind of protection in law.

Issel hopes this will be worked into the government's new labour policy, which should be outlined before the end of the year.

ANC probe clears fishing firm partners

(3) FISHING CT 14/9/94

THE ANC said yesterday their probe into the South African Fishing Company (Ltd) had cleared top economic adviser Mr Norman Michaels and businessman Mr Fred Robertson, who set it up to help disadvantaged fishermen.

But the party failed to release a report that senior officials have been promising since Friday.

The probe was launched when the company bailed out of a deal in which it bought R6 million in shares in a major fishing corporation, to give small West Coast fishermen a share of long-denied profits.

Mr Michaels is one of the top advisers to Western Cape Economic Affairs Minister Dr Allan Boesak.

Last month the partners said that in July 1993 Safic had taken out a loan to buy the shares in Sea Harvest.

The loan became repayable and Safic had "sold the shares at no profit on the JSE to repay the loan".

The reason cited for the selling was "because the deal was seen as compromising our positions on the Fishing Forum".

Rev Chris Nissen said the report showed that "in no way were they utilising any ANC resources, nor did they infringe any policies or principles".

The party's weekend conference had therefore resolved not to take any disciplinary measures.



JOBLESS: Fired Hout Bay Fishing Industries workers outside the company premises today warned that they would physically prevent the hiring of new labour.

Picture: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

Fishermen's union consults lawyers on sacked workers

Labour Reporter

REPRESENTATIVES of the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union are consulting lawyers in an attempt to get 100 dismissed workers reinstated by Hout Bay Fishing Industries.

They claim the workers were unfairly dismissed.

The workers, protesting outside the company's Table Bay premises, have warned that they will physically prevent the company from hiring new labour.

According to a statement from the company today, the staff went on an illegal strike in spite of a recognition agreement with the union laying down procedures for the resolution of disputes. "We had no option but to dismiss them."

But shop-steward John Laminie said the 100 dismissed workers were locked out of the premises this week in spite of an "acceptable" wage

agreement with the company.

He said the company had offered R175 a week to workers returning from the off-season break. Those who had remained throughout the year were told to take a pay cut.

The company later increased its offer to R224 a week plus R20 a week travelling costs, but when the workers returned to work the next day, Tuesday, the gates remained bolted.

Mr Laminie said the workers found the R224 offer acceptable and were willing to return to work.

Company managing director A M Bengis sent a fax from the United States today telling the workers to re-apply for their jobs, but when the union discussed the issue with management they were told not all the fired workers could be accommodated. They responded that if they were not all taken back, none would re-apply.

Fishing trusts to be investigated

③ FISHING

DALE KNEEN ARG 17/9/94

Weekend Argus Reporter

A COMMITTEE of inquiry is to be appointed to investigate the concept of community trusts for fishermen.

This was announced by Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers.

He also said a new quota board, which will be representative of the "broad South African society", is to be appointed next month and "will comprise individuals with the necessary expertise, but with no personal interest in fisheries".

Dr De Villiers said: "I already have received many names for consideration, but would like to invite the public to make suggestions for additional candidates as I wish to ensure the legitimacy and public acceptance of the board."

This will include holding regional meetings in October with interest groups and members of his department in the major coastal cities of Durban, East London, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

These meetings will be followed by a national forum workshop aimed at finalising a national policy.

Dr De Villiers appealed to all those with an interest in South Africa's fish resources to take this opportunity to make inputs in the development of a new policy.

■ The public may not have been told the whole truth about an ANC investigation into a fishing company scandal.

JEAN LE MAY
Weekend Argus Reporter

SUSPICIONS are mounting that the African National Congress in the Western Cape has covered up embarrassing details of a fishing scandal which extends as far as the office of President Nelson Mandela.

The president is in no way personally involved.

It appears from sources within the ANC that the report found two leading Cape Town public figures had "acted wrongly" in the matter.

And, Weekend Argus can disclose that Jakes Gerwel, now director-general in the office of the president and former rector and vice-chancellor of the University of the Western Cape, is listed as a director of a fishing company, South African Fishing Investment Company Ltd (Safic), which was the subject of a recent ANC investigation.

Another director is Mr Franklin Sonn, Peninsula Technikon rector who is to become SA's next ambassador to the United States.

Other directors are: Norman Michaels, personal secretary to Allan Boesak, Western Cape minister of finance and possibly SA's next ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Switzerland; Cape Town businessman Frederick J Robertson; and Cape Town lawyer Essa Moosa.

Professor Gerwel responded that he had never been a director of Safic. "I was approached by Norman Michaels and Fred Robertson and there were some discussions, but I decided I was not interested," he said.

Mr Michaels said that after Professor Gerwel had been registered as a director he had decided to pull out "well before Christmas", but his name had not been removed because of a technicality.

Mr Sonn said in an interview last month that he had resigned as a director of Safic because he had other commitments. However, his name, and those of all the others named above, is listed as a director on a document obtained by Weekend Argus lawyers from the office of the Registrar of Companies in Pretoria on Thursday.

Senator Bulalani Ngcuka, then ANC media spokesman for the region, promised when the investigation into Safic was

launched in May that there would be no cover-up and that "nobody would be excluded".

However, although a report of the investigation was read in closed session at last weekend's ANC regional congress, the subsequent Press statement issued by Mr Chris Nissen, newly-elected regional chairman of the ANC, did not disclose all the findings.

It said that "the individuals named in Press reports, Mr Robertson and Mr Michaels, had in no way been personally enriched through their involvement in Safic. Further, they had not breached the ANC constitution in any way."

■ To page 3

However, several people who had been at the congress telephoned Weekend Argus independently to say that "the statement was a cover-up".

According to Weekend Argus informants, the congress was told: **③ FISHING**

■ That Mr Michaels and Mr Robertson had "acted wrongly" in buying shares in a major fishing group, Sea Harvest, while they were ANC representatives on the Fishing Forum;

■ That Mr Michaels and Mr Robertson would be withdrawn as ANC representatives on the forum; **ARG 17/9/94**

■ That no disciplinary action against them would be taken.

Angry speakers from the floor at the ANC congress wanted to know why the terms of reference of the investigation were so limited, according to informants.

Weekend Argus understands that, after several city lawyers refused to do the investigation, the report was eventually drawn up by an ANC committee consisting of Mr Nissen, who is also deputy speaker of the provincial legislature; Mrs Rashida Abdullah, a member of the regional executive of the ANC; and Atlantis lawyer Charles Macdonald.

Mr Michaels and Mr Robertson were directors at the company's incorporation on June 18 1993. Professor Gerwel, Mr Sonn and Mr Moosa joined the board on August 11 1993, according to the Registrar of Companies' records.

The ANC investigation into Safic was set up after Safic pulled out of a deal in which it bought R6 million worth of shares in the major fishing group, Sea Harvest.

At the time, Mr Robertson said the shares were sold because the deal "was seen as compromising our position on the Fishing Forum", which is made up of representatives of the big fishing groups, the division of Sea Fisheries, trade unions, academic units and the ANC.

Mr Ngcuka said when the shares were sold that "if we had known about it we would have objected in the same manner as when ANC-aligned

ANC accused in fishing scandal

③ FISHING

ARG 17/9/94

Thebe Investments tried to obtain fishing quotas".

Mr Michaels and Mr Robertson said in August that the loan became repayable and the shares were sold in May "at no profit".

Hake quota

payment:

③ FISHING

Fishermen

ARG 20/9/94

celebrate

JOSEPH ARANES
Staff Reporter

ABOUT 300 Cape Town fishermen toyi-toyed in the streets after the owner of a fishing company paid the workers for their quota of fish.

The fishermen had earlier occupied the seventh floor offices of Sea Fisheries on the Foreshore, demanding to be paid for their quota of hake sold to Sistro Fishing Company.

About 8am the workers surprised the staff by forcing their way into the building and demanding to speak to the director of Sea Fisheries and the owner of Sistro.

After initial negotiations, MP Tony Yengeni, Sistro's owner Manuel de Olim and his legal representative Frikkie Erasmus addressed the fishermen.

Sea Fisheries administration director Guillaume de Villiers said the problem started because the fishermen were not being paid for their quota of hake.

"The quota board awarded the fishermen's trust 951 tons of hake, which they sold to Sistro Fishing Company for R1 093 650. They are demanding to be paid."

The fishermen, some with sticks and knobkerries, lounged around the office while a large contingent of policemen kept a close watch.

About 4pm Mr Yengeni arrived and arranged for Mr Erasmus and Mr De Olim to report back to the fishermen.

They told the fisherman they had a bank guaranteed cheque for R500 000 made out in favour of the fishermen's union, the Food and Allied Workers' Union, with the second part of the payment due in December.

Mr De Olim said: "My company does not have the money to pay the full amount now. If you insist, you can take your fish and sell them to a different company."

"We have a contract and the second payment is due only on December 20. But I am prepared to compromise and try to pay the money before December."

The workers and Mr De Olim agreed the money should be paid by November 30.

Fishing sit-in ends in payout

Staff Reporter

A SQUABBLE over R500 000 led to 150 fishermen besieging the Department of Sea Fisheries offices in the harbour yesterday and ended eight hours later when a cheque for the amount was handed over for distribution among them.

The squabble was the result of tensions in the Harbour Fishermen's Trust.

The 150-member faction, led by Mr Lawrence Hlwele, who claims to be the trust chairman, demanded immediate payment of the R500 000, the first payment on the trust's fishing quota. The amount had been paid to the trust for its 951-ton fishing quota by trustee and Sistro Fishing Company managing director Mr Manuel de Olim.

After the stand-off, in which ANC MP Mr Tony Yengeni mediated, Mr De Olim reluctantly handed over the cheque to Mr Hlwele's group.

6 476-ton

quota for
③ FISHING
trusts

CT 21/9/94
Political Staff

THE newly-formed fishing community trusts were given quotas this year for 6 476 tons of hake and pilchard, according to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers.

This included the Cape Town Harbour Trust which was granted a quota for 888 tons of hake on July 12 this year, he said in reply to a question tabled by Mr Ken Andrew (DP).

The first trust to be granted a quota was the Hermanus Community Trust which received a quota for 10 tons of perlemoen on September 15 last year.

On March 9 this year 27 community trusts were granted quotas for 3 000 tons of hake, on May 17 they received quotas for 2 588 tons of pilchard.

By Alexandra Zavis

THE ANC's investigation into a fishing company established by a few of its members throws up more questions than answers.

The investigation followed speculation in the press that Mr Norman Michaels, advisor to Western Cape economic affairs minister Dr Allan Boesak, and Mr Fred Robertson, a businessperson, attempted to make money through their positions on the Fishing Forum by setting up the South African Fishing Investment Company Ltd (Safic).

The Fishing Forum is an independent body incorporating commercial groups, trade unions, the ANC and others. It was set up with the intention of giving fisherfolk a share of the resource.

Alarm bells went off when Safic purchased R6-million worth of shares in a major fishing company, Sea Harvest.

The ANC's investigation concluded that the Safic board members, who now include human rights lawyer Mr Essa Moosa and trade unionist Mr Mandla Gxanyana, had not benefited personally from the deal.

This was reported at a press con-

ference before the full investigation was made public.

What the press was not told was that Michaels and Robertson had nevertheless been found guilty of "wrong-doing", though no disciplinary measures would be taken because they had acted in their personal capacities and had not breached the ANC's constitution.

What they did wrong has not been spelled out, but engaging in insider trading is a possibility.

West Coast fishermen say the investigation was a cover-up.

Much remains unclear.

Why was Mr Charles MacDonald appointed the investigating attorney, when his experience is primarily in criminal law and not commercial law?

Why wasn't the investigation made public, with submissions invited from concerned parties at open sessions?

What were the terms of reference

Fishy business

South 23/9 - 27/9/94

What the press was not told was that Michaels and Robertson had nevertheless been found guilty of "wrong-doing"

③ Fishing of the investigation and why were they not published?

According to the report, MacDonald only asked questions about Safic and only spoke to Moosa, who is the company's chairperson.

Why was the Fishing Forum not investigated? After all it was Safic's links to a structure that advises the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism on quotas, shares and other matters, that suggested the possibility of insider trading.

A case for insider trading can only be made if it can be shown that individuals gained inside infor-

mation about what was happening on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange and used it to enrich themselves.

In the event, Safic dumped the shares and no-one made a profit, according to Moosa.

But was it their original intention not to make a profit?

There is also a discrepancy in the findings: The company's auditor, Mr Mustaq Brey (who also works for the Fishing Forum), confirmed that one million shares were bought at R6 each, but the ANC's report says the shares were bought at R1 each. That is a difference of R5-million.

Fishing communities are calling for a full, open and independent investigation.

The matter will be taken up by the ANC's internal fishing forum which is being set up to consider the organisation's position regarding the industry.

● Mr Essa Moosa, chair of Safiq, responded:

"Safiq was set up to empower fisherfolk. The idea was that we would buy shares from Sea Harvest in order to get a stake in the sector, hoping that the shares would increase in value so that the company could sell them at a profit, and at the same time earn from the dividends.

"We also wanted to get a hake quota and pass the profit from the quota to the shareholders, also giving fisherfolk work.

"We would not have had shares in Safic. Company shares would have been given to NGOs, trade unions and fisherfolk, giving them a stake in the industry.

"Sea Harvest went on the stock exchange and offered us one million shares. Metropolitan Life provided a R6-million loan, then all hell broke loose. We sold the shares to repay the loan."

According to Safic auditor, Mr Mustaq Brey, the shares were sold by a stockbroker at R5,60 to R6,25 each. This brought in R5 861 753.

An additional R160 000 dividend income had been made in the interim, which was used to make up the difference, Brey said.

ANC fish for the truth

'Safic had interests of 'fisherfolk' in mind, not gain'

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE report of an internal African National Congress "commission of inquiry" into the South African Fishing Investment Company (Safic) was given to Weekend Argus this week.

It says that the "commission" was convened by ANC Western Cape leader Chris Nissen and attended by investigating attorney Charles MacDonald, ANC fishing representative Johnny Issel and "Safic board members" Norman Michaels, personal assistant to Western Cape Minister of Finance Allan Boesak, Cape Town attorney Essa Moosa, businessman Fred Robertson, Piet Orlam of the West Coast Fishermen's Union and auditor Mustaq Brey.

The purpose of the meeting was to establish whether newspaper allegations of possible misconduct by ANC members regarding their positions in the fishing company were correct.

Mr Moosa, who said he was chairman of Safic, explained the organisation's mission and emphasised that all those involved had the interest of "fisherfolk" in mind, and not personal gain.

He said the opening of the resource to "fisherfolk" could be achieved by applying for quotas and by buying shares in existing companies.

The process of obtaining fishing quotas was under way. The purchase of shares in the major fishing group Sea Harvest was "in pursuit of the second objective".

"One million Sea Harvest shares were bought at R6 each (sic). The deal was financed by Metlife (Metropolitan Life, the black-controlled insurance company). The

■ Safic's purchase of shares in a major fishing group, Sea Harvest, was disapproved of by certain individuals within the ANC, according to an internal report.

underlying shares acted as security for the loan.

"The loan was to be repaid once Safic had acquired a hake quota and the shares placed by means of a rights issue — to be done privately — to non-governmental organisations, churches, unions (70%) and the balance to private investors (30%)," he said.

"This purchase regrettably created negative reactions from certain people within the ANC. Because this would impact adversely on the introduction of the company to the black public and therefore limit the successful launch, it was decided to sell the shares by arrangement with Metlife.

"This sale caused the newspaper reports. No profits were made and none of us gained financially or has any financial interest in Safic.

"In the process, our good names have been slandered without, it seems, any protection, or defence, from the ANC."

The report then gave questions asked by Mr MacDonald and the answers to them, without identifying the respondents.

These are some of the questions and answers:

■ Q: "Who is behind Safic?"

■ A: "Fisherfolk (members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union and West Coast Fishermen's Union) ... at meetings at Laai-plek in 1992 and in Cape Town in 1993 mandated Norman Michaels and Fred Robertson to continue with their economic empowerment."

The report included Professor Gerwel's denial that he had been a director of Safic, together with a comment by Safic director Norman Michaels, personal secretary to former ANC Western Cape leader Allan Boesak, that the professor had decided to pull out of the company "well before Christmas", but that his name had not been removed because of a technicality.

This is the full text of Professor Gerwel's statement:

"As a matter of principle and as a deliberate and consistent decision after many years in public life, I have never involved myself or allowed myself to be involved

in profit-seeking ventures, nor accepted or sought directorships or similar paying positions.

"Exactly because of that well-known position, I was approached to assist with a project in the fishing industry represented to me as one aimed at the economic empowerment of fishing communities at a time when the industry was opening up to newcomers without any benefit to the traditional fishing communities.

"I was also assured that the project would have the support of the relevant trade union.

"After a few meetings at which we were progressively briefed about the project, I asked to be re-

leased from association with the project, principally for two reasons:

■ "I was of the view that the project could only achieve its community-empowering objectives through aiming, at least in its initial phases, at capital and profit accumulation — an area in which I did not feel competent nor philosophically comfortable: and,

■ "The opening-up of the fishing industry was at that point threatening to become an issue of dispute in the then-increasing African-coloured tensions developing in the region. Placing great store by the bridging, nonracial role I have played in that regard, I

■ Q: "Who are the shareholders?"

■ A: "There are no shareholders as yet because the shares will only be allocated once sold to the various buying groups. However, it is a statutory requirement that a limited company must have at least seven shareholders. To register the company, therefore, Fred Robertson and Norman Michaels together with five members from M Brey and Associates office staff formed the original seven members required."

"At the first formal board meeting, the five M Brey and Associates staff members resigned — as is done often in practice. The remaining two, Mr Robertson and Mr Michaels, remain as nominal shareholders of one share of one cent and serve merely as promoters of the company."

■ Q: "Why did you sell the shares if it was a perfectly wise commercial decision?"

■ A: "Firstly, because of our own positions as ANC members we were wary of doing anything that might impact negatively on the organisation and on our own positions within the negotiation process.

"Secondly, because of ANC reservations, individuals' reservations would delay the rights issue and therefore increase the cost of the loan."

■ Q: "Who are the board members?"

■ A: "The initial board members are Norman Michaels and Fred Robertson. The board now also includes Essa Moosa and Mandla Gxanyana.

■ Q: "Why do you not have any fishermen on the board?"

■ A: "The company is in a very early stage of development. There is close contact ... but, it is not practical to ask West Coast people to serve on the board. But, Oom Piet (Orlam) has now also come aboard ..."

■ Q: "What is in it for you?"

■ A: "We are committed to the vision of the ANC — the economic empowerment of the fisherfolk. We will not be allocated personal shares ..."

■ Q: "You do not appear to have consulted enough and the controversy is largely your fault. Where do you go from here?"

■ A: "We acknowledge that we have not ensured that we take everyone with us and we shall do so in future.

"We shall continue to influence the present position and look for the allocation of hake quotas."

■ Q: "Fisherfolk ... do not understand the long-term holding of shares. What prevents them from selling their shares the very next day to the highest bidder?"

■ A: "An educational initiative will be launched and fisherfolk understand that their shareholding will be held in trust in perpetuity.

"Of course, they are free to buy individually into that 30% reserved for private investors such as activists, professional people, parliamentarians, black families, business people, etc."

The report concludes with Mr Moosa's appeal to the ANC "to correct the wrong impression created by the reports by making a clear statement that Safic members acted in their own capacity as people with certain skills and at the behest of fisherfolk."

'I have never involved my self in profit-seeking ventures'

Weekend Argus Reporter

JAKES Gerwel, director-general in the department of President Nelson Mandela, has explained his position regarding a controversial fishing company which was the subject of an African National Congress investigation recently.

Weekend Argus disclosed last week, in its Saturday edition, that Professor Gerwel, former rector of the University of the Western Cape, was listed with the Registrar of Companies in Pretoria as a director of the controversial South African Fishing Company (Safic), according to a search by Weekend Argus lawyers on September 15.

found it inappropriate to be associated with anything that could be exploited for divisive purposes.

"Quite apart from my involvement with the project, it is unclear to me why it should be presented as involving any scandal. My understanding is that nobody made, or stood to make, personal profit from it.

"The above will be my only statement on a matter that I regard as a non-issue. I offer this statement only to protect the office in which I work from any untoward implications.

"That my name remained formally linked with the project is a question best directed at the organisers of the project."

3 FISHING

ARG 24/9/94



Three hurt as police fire rubber bullets at fishermen's demo

AR 12/10/94 ③ FISHING

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Crime Reporter

THREE men were injured when police fired rubber bullets at a crowd of angry fishermen in front of attorneys' offices in Long Street today.

Three lawyers were briefly held captive in their third-floor offices when police tried to defuse the situation by negotiating with the fishermen.

African National Congress MP Tony Yengeni and an official from the Food and Allied Workers' Union went up to try to mediate.

A police spokesman said fishermen who were angry about sardine quotas had been given permission to march to the Foretrust building on the Foreshore, headquarters of the Sea Fisheries department.

But a group of about 300 diverted to the Longwharf building in Long Street, which houses the offices of Erasmus Havemann attorneys. There, they toy-toyed and displayed placards.

A smaller group of about 50 entered the building and went up to the attorneys' offices where, armed with sticks and hammers, they broke fixtures and lifted carpets while threatening the lawyers.

Meanwhile, police opened fire on the men outside. A police video crew filmed the crowd and internal stability unit members stood ready with shotguns.

Wilson Lutwaba, 39, of Philippi, was shot in the chest. Joseph Sipayile, 30, of Khayelitsha, was shot in the head and collapsed on the pavement.

They were taken to hospital with a third man who was more seriously injured.

A spokesman for the fishermen said that they were unhappy about what had happened to a fish quota cheque which they claimed had been paid to the lawyers but which had not yet reached the fishermen.

He said that they were worried that they would never see the money which they needed to carry on fishing.

INJURED: A bystander examines Wilson Lutwaba, who was shot in the chest during a protest by fishermen on the Foreshore, today. Behind him is Joseph Sipayile of Khayelitsha, who was shot in the head. Picture: ANDREW INGRAM/The Argus

Independent commission only way -' DP

JEAN LE MAU

Weekend Argus Reporter ARG 24/9/94

AN independent, public commission of inquiry into the controversial fishing company, Safic, is the only way in which the African National Congress can salvage its credibility in the region, Democratic Party Western Cape leader Hennie Bester said this week.

"This is not an isolated incident," Mr Bester told Weekend Argus. "There have been frequent reports of people seeking to use the ANC for their personal financial advantage.

"The ANC must clear this up as soon as possible or the Reconstruction and Development Programme in the Western Cape could be jeopardised."

Asked for his reaction to the report of an internal ANC "commission of inquiry" into Safic, Mr Bester said: "If I were the ANC, I would be embarrassed by this report. This is not a report of a commission of inquiry — it is merely the minutes of a meeting.

"This report lacks the evidence, cross-questioning and findings associated with a respectable commission of inquiry.

"It is paternalistic and patronising towards the so-called 'fisherfolk' who were not called to give evidence. The touchstone of economic empowerment is the involvement of the people whose needs are being addressed.

Cover-up denied, but vital questions remain unanswered

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE African National Congress has denied a cover-up related to a fishing company, South African Fishing Investment Company Ltd (Safic).

Chris Nissen, newly-elected Western Cape leader of the African National Congress, declined to answer questions put to him about Safic during a meeting with Weekend Argus this week.

Weekend Argus last week reported that people who had been at the ANC's regional congress earlier this month alleged a cover-up related to Safic. ARG 24/9/94

They claimed the congress had been told that after an ANC investigation Norman Michaels, personal secretary to Allan Boesak, Minister of Economic Affairs in the Western Cape, and businessman Fred Robertson had been found guilty of wrong-doing in their involvement in Safic.

They said the ANC Press statement after the congress, which exonerated Mr Michaels and Mr Robertson, and the report of the investigating committee were cover-ups.

The same people, told yesterday that Mr Nissen denied a cover-up, repeated the allegations.

Weekend Argus also disclosed that other directors of Safic were Peninsula Technikon rector Franklin Sonn and Jakes Gerwel, director-general in the department of President Nelson Mandela.

However, in a statement issued yesterday, Mr Nissen said:

"The ANC denies that Norman Michaels and Fred Robertson have been found guilty of misconduct or wrong-doing in their involvement in Safic. Any report or perception to that effect is incorrect. The ANC also denies any allegations of a cover-up.

"The ANC wishes to repeat its earlier statement that it regards the matter as closed, unless evidence is produced which justifies the re-opening of the inquiry. The ANC does not wish to get involved in speculation fanned by the Press.

"The ANC further regrets that the names of Norman Michaels and Fred Robertson have been slandered."

These are some of the questions put to Mr Nissen by Weekend Argus and which he declined to answer:

■ Safic board members as given in the report of the ANC "commission of inquiry" are not those reflected on the document obtained by Weekend Argus lawyers from the Registrar of Companies in Pretoria on September 15.

According to that document, of which a copy was given to Mr Nissen, directors are still: Mr Michaels, Mr Robertson, Franklin Sonn, rector of the Peninsula Technikon, city lawyer Essa Moosa and Jakes Gerwel, former rector of the University of the Western Cape and now chief director in the department of President Nelson Mandela.

(Professor Gerwel's explanation of his position in Safic is given on this page.)

■ How can the company be described as being for the benefit of "fisherfolk" when 70% of shares were to be disposed of privately to NGOs, churches, and trade unions, and 30 percent to private investors such as "activists, professional people, parliamentarians, black families, business persons" as stated in the investigating committee's report?

■ Since Safic is viewed as an economic empowerment project, could the involvement of Mr Michaels not be seen as a conflict of interest in view of his position as personal secretary to Dr Boesak, who is responsible for the implementation of the Reconstruction and Development Programme in that region?

■ Did Safic disclose its full directorship when it applied for a fishing quota?

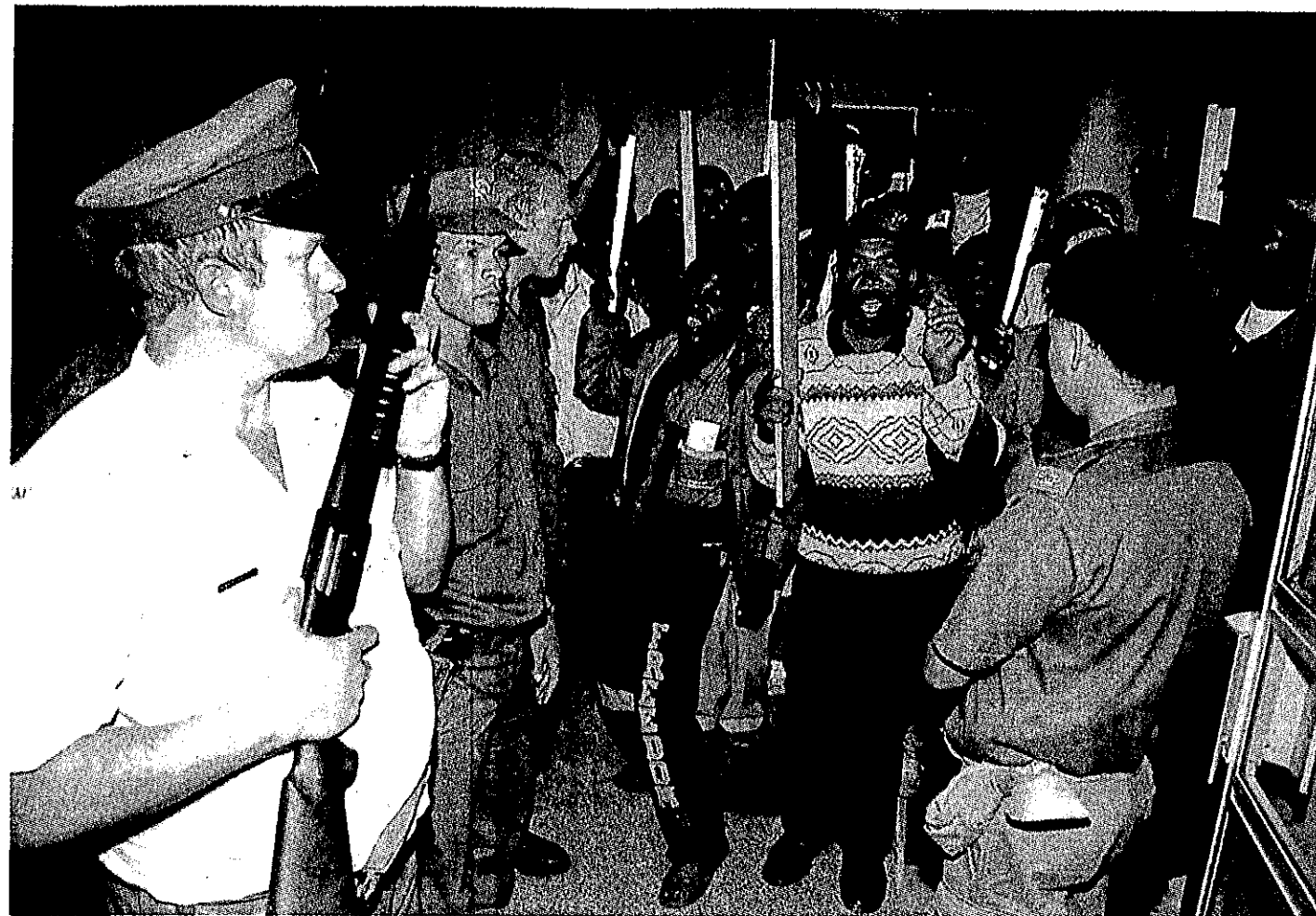
■ Why was Safic not registered under Section 21 of the Companies Act as a non-profit-making company?

■ Why were full details of the share deal with Metropolitan Life, of which Mr Sonn is a director, not given in the report?



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.

HELP FROM PARLIAMENT: MP Tony Yengeni consults with Internal Stability Unit Colonel Willem Snyman about the occupation of an attorney's offices and the reason for police opening fire on the crowd.



OCCUPIED: Members of the Cape Town Harbour fishing community occupy the offices of attorney Frikkie Erasmus on the Foreshore yesterday while heavily armed police guard the door.



NARROW ESCAPE: Attorney Frikkie Erasmus shows how his suit was torn.

Fishermen beat up attorney

JOHAN SCHRÖNEN
Crime Reporter

AN attorney, who claims to have offered his services without charge to administer a community trust, was attacked and robbed by disgruntled fishermen who occupied his offices and demanded payment of the proceeds of a fishing quota sale.

Frikkie Erasmus of Erasmus-Havemann Incorporated locked himself in his office on the third floor of the Longwharf building in Lower Long Street, Foreshore, about noon yesterday to avoid an angry and aggressive crowd.

Armed with sticks and hammers, the protesting fishermen rushed into the law firm premises and intimidated staff.

Mr Erasmus was eventually called out of his office by police who misjudged the mood of the crowd.

He was viciously roughed up, beaten about the head and body and punched in the face. His clothes were torn and he was

robbed of his cellular phone and a wallet containing R400 and credit cards.

Less than a month ago Mr Erasmus was involved in a similar incident in the Department of Sea Fisheries offices on the Foreshore.

There, he was forced to hand over, at knifepoint, a quota cheque of R500 000 to the Food and Allied Workers Union representing the fishermen.

The cheque was taken from him when he became separated from police who had come to protect him.

Yesterday's drama, in which three men were injured when police fired rubber bullets at the crowd, centred around the sale of a government-awarded fishing quota to Sistro, a St Helena Bay Fishing Company.

The Table Bay harbour fishing community had agreed to accept more than R1 million from the sale.

□ Punched, robbed over proceeds of a quota sale

The money was to be paid in two instalments into the account of the newly-formed Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Trust — the first payment on signature of the agreement last month and the balance in December.

However, members of the trust subsequently disagreed among themselves about the terms. Some trustees were allegedly intimidated and physically attacked by colleagues who opposed their views and demanded immediate payment.

Mr Erasmus became the target of the fishermen's anger when he tried to warn them against "reckless" handling of the trust funds.

At an emotionally-charged meeting in the Sea Fisheries Office last month Member of Parliament Tony Yengeni mediated and arranged for Mr Erasmus to pay the R500 000 into Fawu's account for them to distribute among the fishermen.

Yesterday Mr Erasmus

watched scores of people armed with sticks, knobkieries and hammers, gather outside the building and stream into the foyer.

"Before I could escape, the office was full of people," he said.

"They were ramming against the prefab walls and beating on my door. My only contact was by phone with police and colleagues in the building."

Police arrived in numbers and tried to negotiate with leaders among the fishermen. Four policemen led by Colonel Willem Snyman entered the occupied pre-

mises and called Mr Erasmus out of his office.

"That's when things got out of hand. I thought I was going to die when the crowd got hold of me," said Mr Erasmus, blood streaming from his mouth.

"They tore most of my suit off my body and beat me up.

In a repeat of events in last month's protest, Mr Yengeni arrived, consulted the fishermen and helped to a schedule a meeting for Friday when fishermen will meet Mr Erasmus, hopefully to settle the dispute.

Mr Erasmus later said that he was not aware of the arrangement, but would attend the meeting if this would assure his safety.

③ FISHING ARG 13/10/94

It's good fishing for I&J

3 FISHING
ALIDE DASNOIS

Business Staff

CAPE Town-based food group Irvin and Johnson (I&J) is to spend R80 million to modernise technology in its seafood division, financial director John Morrison said.

The project involves updating fishing technology on board I&J vessels and processing technology on land. Facilities in Cape Town, Mossel Bay and Namibia will be modernised.

Mr Morrison said after the AGM yesterday that the new technology would increase export potential and enhance the value of its quota.

Exports of seafood were expected to more than double in the current year.

In the year to June, sales overseas, at R376 million, accounted for 21 percent of turnover.

I&J chairman Jan Robbertze said the group was on track in the first quarter of the year, with earnings above last year's levels.

In the year ended June the group netted attributable profit of R62,3 million, up 11 percent on the previous year.

■ Carlton Paper came off the roll with a 23 percent drop in after-tax profits to R27,9 million in the year ended August, in spite of a 2,3 percent increase in sales.

A final dividend of 33c (49c) makes 66c for the year.

The company said the second half of the year had been better than the first. Lower margins in the tissue market had been partly offset by successful launches into new market segments.

Carlton expected to benefit from improved demand in spite of new competitors.

Fish quota talks delayed

HRGF 15/10/94

A MEETING between disgruntled fishermen and a Cape Town attorney over the proceeds of a fishing quota sale was postponed after discussions with police and African National Congress MP Tony Yengeni.

The attorney, Frikkie Erasmus, was beaten up in his office by angry fishermen on Wednesday following a protest march during which police fired rubber bullets, injuring three fishermen.

The controversy centres on the R1 million proceeds of the sale of a government-awarded fishing quota to a St Helena Bay fishing company.

The money was paid into a

trust account in the name of the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Trust, but members of the trust subsequently disagreed among themselves, with a dissident group demanding an immediate payout.

Mr Erasmus said yesterday he was prepared to meet the fishermen to explain the position, but only if his safety was guaranteed.

It was agreed to postpone the meeting to next week after talks with regional Police Minister Patrick McKenzie, a senior police officer and Mr Yengeni, who is mediating on behalf of the fishermen.

Mr Erasmus said he had given

Mr Yengeni documentary proof that the cheque had been paid into a bank account in the name of the CTHFT on October 3.

"But, somehow, the message does not seem to be getting through to the people."

He emphasised that he was not the administrator of the trust fund, that no funds were paid into his firm's trust account and that he had no signing powers over the CTHFT bank account.

On a previous occasion, Mr Erasmus said he was forced to make out a cheque for R500 000 — the proceeds of the sale of a hake quota — to the Food and Allied Workers' Union. — Sapa.

③ FISHING

Fishing quota row continues

A MEETING between fishermen and attorney Mr Frikkie Erasmus over the proceeds of a fishing quota sale was postponed yesterday following discussions with police and ANC MP Mr Tony Yengeni.

Mr Erasmus was beaten up by angry fishermen on Wednesday.

The controversy centres on the R1 million proceeds of the sale of a quota to a St Helena Bay fishing company. — Sapa

③ FISHING

Ocfish on track with healthy profit growth

③ FISHING CT28/10/94

By MAGGIE ROWLEY
Deputy Business Editor

OCEANA Fishing Group (Ocfish) has reported solid profit growth for the fifth consecutive year raising attributable earnings by 17% to R27,9m for the 12 months to end September.

Due to increased activity levels in the trading operations, group turnover was up 25% at R454,4m.

Operating profit showed 16% growth at R43,6m on improved results from lobster, canning operations and the trading division.

The company landed all its fishing quotas in full but recorded a loss in

the fishmeal and oil operations as a result of the low anchovy total allowable catch.

Due to reduced occupancy levels, profits in the cold storage division were also lower than last year.

Investment income was down 47% at R4,7m (R8,8m) as a result of lower cash reserves and interest rates resulting in profit before tax showing a growth of only 5% at R55,3m.

However, a slightly lower tax bill of R22,9m (R23,2m), coupled with a significant drop in the share of associate companies' retained profit to R54 000 from R332 000 and earnings attributable to outside shareholders

saw earnings attributable to shareholders up 17% from R23,9m last year.

Due to the larger number of shares in issue, earnings at the share level were up 16% at 290,5c a share.

A final dividend of 125c brings the total payout for the year to 171c a share, up 10% on the previous year.

The extraordinary charge of R17,7m largely comprised goodwill written off on the acquisition of the remaining 40% interest in commercial cold storage less capital gains on the disposal of surplus properties.

In the light of this acquisition and increased capex the dividend cover has been increased from 1,6 to 1,7 times.

MD Dave Behrens said the R30m recently invested in increasing the group's stake in the cold storage division would further diversify the group's earning base and was expected to contribute materially to group profits in the medium and longer term.

He said subject to fishing quotas for the 1995 season being at similar levels to those of 1994, the company expected a satisfactory increase in earnings for the current year.

Deputy Business Editor

IMPROVED catches in the second half of the year to end-September after an a poor summer, saw Saldanha-based Sea Harvest Corporation increase earnings by a better-than-expected 8,8% to R37m in the 12 months ending September 31.

In the first half of the year unusual climatic conditions adversely affected hake catches and resulted in volumes processed and marketed being below expectations.

At the interim stage directors warned they did not anticipate an improvement and expected earnings for the year to remain on par with the previous financial year.

The year end was changed last year but the figures for the previous 15-month accounting period have been restated for comparison.

The directors said hake catches had however picked up considerably over the winter months and restored volumes enabled turnover for the year to rise 7,5% to R329m.

Operating profit was down marginally at R58,2m (R59m) as there had been no overhead

Sea Harvest nets 8,8% increase in earnings

ET 28/10/14
recovery in the summer months when catching costs were pushed up due to having to hunt further afield.

Due to the group's large cash resources improving during the year and which now stand at R60m, net interest received was up more than R1,2m at R8,6m.

The bottom line was also helped by a lower tax bill of R26,7m (R29,5m) due to a change in the rate of deferred taxation and the use of an assessed loss in a subsidiary.

Earnings at the share level were 40,2c against 37c for the previous 12 month reporting period.

A final dividend of 12c a share gives a total of 19c, down from 26c for the previous 15 month period.

The directors said the improved catches in the second half were continuing in the current year and so far summer catches were well up on the previous year.

③ FISHING

Fishermen launch own political party

Staff Reporter

A SMALL contingent of local fishermen gathered in Hout Bay yesterday for the launch of South Africa's first political party for seamen and fishermen.

The All Seamans' Party aims to improve the working conditions and morale of fishing communities.

According to the leader, Mr Stephanus Stevens, the All Seamans' Party plans to take part in the regional elections next year followed by the general election.

Addressing about 50 fishermen and their families in the Hout Bay Civic Hall, Mr Stevens said the party "wants profit sharing from the companies which buy from our fishermen, and better wages".

He said local government and not unions was the way to ease the fishermen's plight.

Mr Stevens also complained about Ovambo and Portuguese seamen "taking jobs away from local black and coloured fishermen".

③ FISHING CT 3/110/94

Different kettles of fish

The contrasting results posted by Sea Harvest and Oceana Fishing, both ultimately controlled by C G Smith, highlight the sharp differences in their activities.

Sea Harvest, more akin to rival Irvin & Johnson (both are involved in deep sea hake fishing), concentrates on adding value to its catch. Improved catches in the second half enabled full-year turnover to rise 7.5%, but poor first-half catches hit margin; operating profit fell 1.4%. **(3) Fishing**

With higher net interest income, pre-tax profit was much the same as in 1993 and a lower tax rate left earnings up 8.6%.

In essence, Sea Harvest had an indifferent year, during which it expanded processing capacity and upgraded its ability to add value to its hake catches and strengthen its international competitiveness. It exports much of its production and so offers a rand hedge. As hake markets in Europe have improved, its exports should thrive this year. **(3) Fishing**

Oceana Fishing had a better year. It increased turnover by 25% and operating profit and EPS by 16%. Its fishing activities revolve around pelagic and inshore fishing, but these accounted for only about 26% of attributable earnings in 1993. Other activities — trading and shipping (26%), cold storage (22%) and investments (26%) — produced a spread of income that the market seems to overlook. **(3) Fishing**

Fin 4/11/94
Its trading activities, in particular, carry a substantial rand-hedge aspect. It exports lobster, abalone and other fish products, all priced in US dollars whether sold in Europe, the US or the Far East.

In Oceana's financial 1994, the total allowable SA catch and the corresponding quota for anchovies was so low that, though the full quota was landed, its mass was insufficient for catches to be rendered profitably into fish meal and oil. Profit in the cold storage division fell on lower occupancies. And with net interest income halved, it was left to the trading division to prop up and improve group earnings.

Oceana, with its diverse activities, stands on a p/e 9.3. Sea Harvest, almost entirely reliant on its hake catch and its ability to make and sell value-added hake products, offers a p/e of 12.4.

Both are well-managed companies operating in the food industry. It is almost an enigma that both are rated so well below the sector average p/e of 20. Almost, because the market inevitably perceives fishing and its associated activities as high risk. Even so, Oceana, especially, is sound value. Sea Harvest should perform well if hake prices continue to harden in Europe and in SA. **(3) Fishing** *Errol Hirsch*



□ **STYWE LYNE:** Managing director of diversified fishing company Oceana, Dave Behrens — sailing home with good profits.

Oceana now well diversified ¹¹ ³ FISHING

BRUCE CAMERON

Business Editor

OCEANA Fishing Group after five good years, is getting to where managing director Dave Behrens would like to see the company placed — more diversified and less influenced by fluctuations in its fishing activities.

The cautionary notice to shareholders published this week seems to indicate the company is to continue down this road.

By 1993 the company had managed to divide its earnings into roughly one third contributions from each of its operating divisions. Apart from the 26 percent of profits from returns on cash investment, its fishing division accounted for 26 percent of total profit, cold storage for 22 percent and trading and shipping 26 percent.

Although Mr Behrens likes the balance, he does warn that the percentage can and will fluctuate because of vagaries of the fishing catches, while there are also macro seasonal fluctuations in the cold storage division.

The advantages of diversification have shown up clearly in recent results. The company has continued to reflect good growth in profits even though allowed fish catches have been lower.

Last year the pelagic fish industry was allowed to net 150 000 tons of anchovy — the lowest in recent history — after being permitted 600 000 tons only a few years back. At 150 000 tons the Oceana's anchovy fishing operation is just below profit level.

CAPE
company
focus

Apart from diversifying its activities, the group has also been hard at work rationalising itself. This means its profits now react very rapidly to improvements in turnover, particularly in the fishing sector.

As a result of rationalisation, Mr Behrens says "if the total allowance catch (TAC) is increased to 300 000 tons we can make the same profit we made before on a 600 000 ton TAC".

He candidly admits the variations in the TACs "makes it hell" for budgeting as the budgets are drawn up before the TACs are set.

The purchase last month from Imperial Cold Storage of its 40 percent share of the cold storage business, Commercial Cold Storage, for R30 million was part of the diversification plan.

It also had the advantage of utilising most of the cash reserves to provide for a far better return for

shareholders in the medium to long term.

"We are pleased with what we have achieved in recent years," Mr Behrens says, but he clearly feels the share price does not reflect the consistent performances turned in by the company.

Its shares were trading at R28,50 this week with a price/earnings ratio of 9,8 against an industry average p/e of 20.

A point often missed about Oceana is the rand hedge nature of its business in both its fishing operations as well as its trading and shipping division.

ARG 5/11/94

Its exports of lobster and abalone are important foreign currency earners, while currency rates also affected its trading and shipping operations, which were mainly in exports associated with the fishing industry.

In its results for the year ended September earnings a share went up by 16 percent to 290,5c with a total dividend for the year up 10 percent to 171c.

This was based on turnover that was increased by 25 percent to R454,4 million providing a 17 percent increase to R27,9 million in attributable profits.

Gross margins were trimmed from 11,59 percent to 10,7 percent but Mr Behrens said this is a result of the change in the mix with higher turnover in the trading division where margins are lower.

He believes the group is now better spread, has excellent management in all its operations and is confident of "good fishing" for shareholders in the years ahead.

Commercial quotas for crayfish reduced

THE crayfish season opens tomorrow with the new allowable catch for commercial fishermen set at 2 000 tons — 200 tons less than last season.

Catch limits for recreational fishermen remain the same as last year — four crayfish a person a day for own use.

The legal minimum sizes of 75mm for commercial and 80mm for recreational fishermen remain. Crayfish permits are available from certain magistrates' offices and the Receiver of Revenue for R20.

A Sea Fisheries directive said an estimated 60 000 permits would be issued to recreational fishermen this season.

The season is open until May 31.

FISHING

CRIS/11/94

Fishing quotas: DP 'dissatisfied'

③ FISHING

By ANTHONY JOHNSON
Political Correspondent

THE refusal of the government to supply information on the beneficiaries of recent fishing quota grants was "totally unacceptable" and confirmed suspicions that all was not well, the Democratic Party said last night. ET 18/11/94

DP finance spokesman Mr Ken Andrew said the public was entitled to know who was benefiting from the discretionary quotas granted.

He said "the evasive, contradictory answers" given to DP questions by Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers were "likely to confirm the suspicions that all is not well".

Dr De Villiers told Parliament that in terms of existing prescriptions for fishing quota applications it was not required of applicants to furnish particulars of their directors.

Govt in move on fishing racket

S1 Times (C Metro)

27/11/92

SOUTH African authorities this week moved to close a loophole in the law which allows fishing permit holders to exploit different catching seasons in Transkei and Ciskei — leading to

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

drastic overfishing.

Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers announced that legislation was to be urgently placed before Parliament to incorporate the previously separate homelands' sea fisheries acts into the South African Act.

Mr Boya Chetty, the chairman of the Port Elizabeth Fishing Forum, said Western Cape fishing fleets were "lined up" in the waters off Ciskei and Transkei once their own season ended. **(3) Fishing**

This weekend two Port Elizabeth-based fishing trawlers carrying 3,5 tons of illegally-caught squid worth about R28 000 were impounded at the East London harbour.

The trawlers were caught by the East London Water Unit for fishing in a closed season in Ciskei waters.

Until now the separate acts governing Transkei and Ciskei had "left room for serious abuse" of the fishing quota system, chief director of Sea Fisheries Dr Louis Botha said this week.

At present South African permit holders were able to "con" their way into fishing outside local waters once the season

closed, Dr Botha said.

Once the new bill was passed by Parliament, it would effectively end a situation in which Cape Town-based trawlers merely switched their operations to the seas off the former homelands.

The Port Elizabeth squid season opened earlier this week, but the law "still requires special permission" for PE permit holders to catch in the Ciskei, according to a spokesman from the East London SA police water wing unit.

"Until that changes, it is illegal for non-Transkei and Ciskei permit holders to operate in these waters without special permission."

Most permit holders were aware of the restrictions of their permits, but simply ignored them.

Meanwhile, PE fishermen have ascribed the situation to a "general mood of defiance" against the restrictive system, according to Mr Chetty.

He said the Squid Association, which works closely with the Department of Sea Fisheries, granted permission earlier this year for the PE squid season to start a week earlier.

But trawlers from the Western Cape ignored these restrictions and "were lining up to fish off the homelands."

Oceana Fishing opts for black joint control

③ FISHING

CT 13/12/94

By ARI JACOBSON

OCEANA Fishing Group has thrown open its door to black empowerment, relinquishing partial control to black investors and regional interests, its chairman Robbie Williams announced yesterday.

The deal is valued at R66m, which approximates the rough 26% stakeholding sold at R26 a share and follows a cautionary announcement released in early November.

The deal will be structured so that the acquisition group, made up of Real Africa Investments (RAI) and Cape regional interest groups (including trade unions and fishermen) will obtain joint control over Oceana Fishing Group.

Oceana Fishing is ultimately controlled by Tiger Oats and boasts turnover of close

on R500m a year — producing name brands such as Glenryck, Saldanha, Lucky Star and Lucky Pet.

It also has large exposures to cold storage and shipping businesses as well as in conducting international trading.

In an interview after the announcement, MD Dave Behrens said he was confident that the new corporate identity, with black owners on board, would bode well for marketing the group in the townships as well as in terms of attracting international trading partners.

“We want local and international business to recognise that Oceana is able to keep up to date with changing times.”

RAI is on the threshold of going for a Johannesburg Stock Exchange listing and represents the broad spectrum of black interests.

Its chairman is Donald Neube, who will

also take over the reins as chairman of the newly structured Oceana Fishing Group.

He said in a statement, released late in the day, that “the deal heralds a new era for the fishing industry in SA”.

A new holding company will be formed to facilitate this new control structure, with Tiger Oats placing 52% of the issued share capital therein and offering 50% of that to the acquisition group.

Half of the shares allocated to the acquisition group will go to RAI and the other half to Cape regional interest groups.

Neube commented that “a significant portion of RAI funding has come from various unions strongly represented in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng”.

Behrens concluded that he and Neube enjoyed a “good working relationship” which was established during the many months of negotiations.

RAI in R66m deal for Oceana control

(3) FISHING BD 13/12/94

CAPE TOWN — A consortium led by Real Africa Investments has struck a R66m black empowerment deal with Tiger Oats for joint control of Oceana Fishing Group.

The consortium consists of the soon-to-be-listed RAI, which is controlled by black businessmen, trade unions, informal savings and church groups and provident funds, and Cape regional interest groups representing trade unions, businessmen and fishermen.

Tiger Oats, which holds about 70% of Oceana, will place 52% of the issued share capital in a new holding company and offer 50% of that to the consortium. Half the share offered to the consortium will be taken up by RAI and the other half by Cape regional interest groups.

The transaction was set at R26 an Oceana share — the market price when agreement in principle was reached — and amounted to about R66m for the new investors. The deal was struck at a discount to current market prices, with buyers bidding R33 a share yesterday.

RAI chairman Don Ncube would become Oceana's chairman at the AGM in February. The current Oceana management would remain in place, with Dave Dehrens as MD.

Ncube said the agreement heralded a new era for the fishing industry in SA. "We

EDWARD WEST

got together with Tiger Oats and Oceana because we shared a vision of creating a company which reflected the new SA and was ... a sound business venture."

Tiger Oats and Oceana chairman Robbie Williams said Oceana had for some time been considering ways in which it could make its ownership structure more representative and promote a more inclusive company/employee relationship. After months of negotiations these objectives could now be achieved.

A significant portion of RAI funding came from unions with members in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Kwazulu/Natal and Gauteng. Payment of the transaction, underwritten by RAI, would be funded partly through the listing of RAI, business sector interests' cash resources and cash resources of the unions and provident funds involved.

Oceana staff interests would be accommodated through some form of share trust, while financing structures could be put in place for other stakeholders or interest groups such as fishermen.

Oceana MD Dave Behrens said he expected the alliance would lead to new opportunities in many areas in which the company was active.

NEWS IN BRIEF

(3) FISHING

Fishing quota board
AN INTERIM quota board had been established to attend to the needs of the fishing industry until a new fisheries policy and board were put in place, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said yesterday.

He said a new comprehensive policy was needed and a representative committee was engaged in drawing one up. Wide consultation would take place to ensure the broadest possible consensus.

The interim board, with Judge H Levy as chairman, has been appointed until the end of March.

Perlemoen war: Truce 'close'

By MELANIE
GOSLING

A CEASEFIRE in the West coast perlemoen war appeared imminent yesterday after a face-to-face meeting between the government and representatives of the Hawston fishing community representatives.

A delegation led by Hawston Community Association chairman Mr Phillipus May met Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers in Cape Town yesterday.

Mr May said the rise in perlemoen poaching was an indication of the "desperation" of his community, in which many people were unemployed.

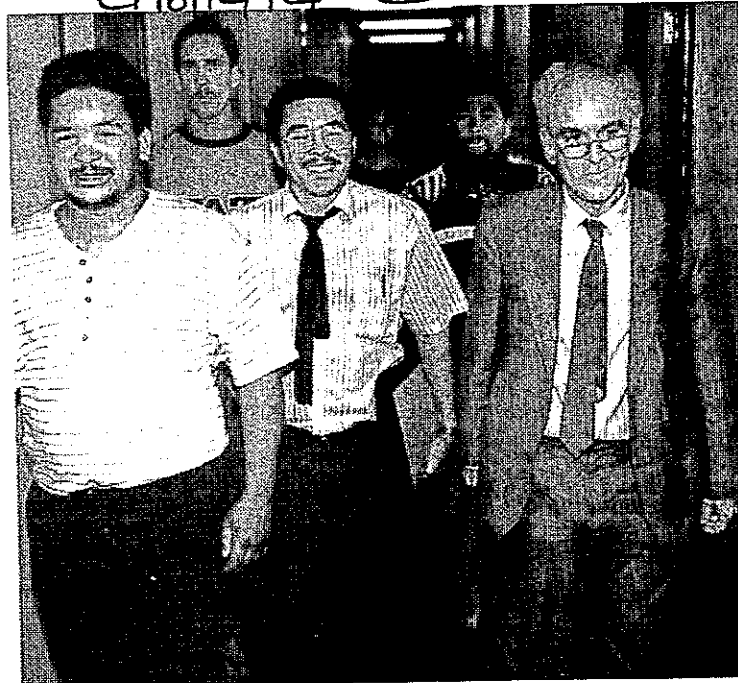
He said if the government gave quotas to 15 Hawston divers, poaching would stop. "Those people are in need. If they get quotas we'll help stop poaching."

"They (the authorities) can't stop it with all their Casspirs and police vans. We can... We have the big fish there in Hawston. But first we want legal access to the perlemoen," he said.

Mr May said he requested a moratorium on perlemoen permit holders selling their permits for profit to "Transvalers and other rich people".

Dr De Villiers said in a statement after the meeting he could not condone breaking the law.

"There is great concern over the damage caused by illegal



MEETING ... Sea Fisheries chief Dr Louis Botha with Mr Phillipus May (centre) and other members of Hawston's fishing community who met Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers yesterday over the perlemoen quota war. Picture: BENNY GOOL

poaching of abalone," he said. Management of marine resources should be handled in a responsible manner, he added.

He said a programme had been initiated to "develop an inclusive fisheries policy which would

form the basis of future just allocation of resources".

He confirmed that a moratorium would be placed on the transfer of perlemoen permits held by commercial divers, to new divers entering the market.

Anchovy, pilchard catch limits changed

THE provisional total allowable catch (TAC) for 1995 has been increased for anchovies and decreased for pilchards, the Department of Environment Affairs (Sea Fisheries) announced yesterday.

The provisional TAC for anchovies was increased from 150 000 tons to 200 000 tons and decreased for pilchards from 95 000 to 77 500 tons.

These had been approved by Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers.

Among the factors considered were the number of young fish becoming available, the negative effect of by-catches of small pilchards when anchovies are caught and the socio-economic circumstances of West Coast fishermen.

Dr De Villiers warned that if fish dumping could be proved or false declarations of catches were made the season would be closed immediately.

Sapa

③ FISHING CT 30/12/94

AGRICULTURE — FISHING

~~1990~~ 1995

2 strikers shot by guards at fish process factory

ARG 22/9/95

Staff Reporter

(3) FISHING (2)

SALDANHA.—Two striking workers were shot by security guards today during a confrontation at the Sea Harvest fish processing factory.

The workers were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds, said Gert Koenana, spokesman for the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu).

The incident came as hundreds of workers, striking over wage increases, waited outside the factory to be paid wages owed from before the strike.

The strike began on Wednesday after workers rejected an offer of 10 percent, holding out for 28 percent.

Mr Koenana said Sea Harvest had got a court interdict against Fawu today, restraining strikers from coming within 500 metres of the factory.

At noon the situation outside the factory was tense, with 50 heavily armed policemen looking on as workers waited to meet Sea Harvest managing director Louis Pentzhorn.

ARD 5/19/95

Stormy waters for fish (3) FISHING policy

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

TOUGH issues face a committee which is working against time to thrash out a new fishing policy.

The draft policy is unlikely to be ready by the October deadline.

Issues include the controversial question of access to the resource.

More than 200 fishermen and members of the working committee were told by environmentalist and committee member Andy Gubb that there was no easy road.

The meeting in Wynberg last night, organised by the National Ocean Watch, was told that the working committee had failed to reach agreement on the vital question of access rights in the industry and had referred this thorny question to a technical committee.

But the brief of that committee was controversial. The working committee had not yet reached full agreement on the brief and the basic question of the upliftment of poor fishing communities had been cut from the brief.

Another major problem was a lack of funding hampering the working committee.

"It makes it difficult to get out there and hear what the fishing communities have to say," said Mr Gubb.

Recreational section spokesman Philip Miller said unless the working group had some kind of draft policy by October, the process would be seen as a farce.

"It will mean another year will go by in which big business will be allowed to rape the oceans," he said.

Speakers from the floor said it was all very well to speak about a policy that might come into effect some time, but the fishermen needed to survive now.

Andy Johnston, representing the informal fishermen, said it was important to have something on the table by October.

"The people must see something to give them faith in the process. We cannot delay any further," he said.

Mr Gubb said even an interim draft policy indicating direction would go a long way towards appeasing those trying to get a fair stake in the industry.

Fishing: Labour, business pull out

(3) FISHING ARG 7/95

Staff Reporter

JUST weeks before the deadline for the submission to government of a proposed national fishing policy, big business and labour have pulled out of the fisheries policy development working committee.

But the working committee has decided to press on with the process of formulating recommendations without them.

Now, the labour sector is seeking the urgent intervention of the Minister of Environment

Affairs, Dawie De Villiers, and Labour Minister Tito Mboweni "to restructure the fisheries policy process".

Labour — a conglomeration of 11 trade unions and associations — had asked that it be allowed to increase its representation on the working committee from one to five.

According to the working committee, it could not make a ruling on labour's proposal as it was not a decision-making body.

Traders in single body

Municipal Reporter (2/95)

THE three largest groups of informal traders in the Western Cape have formed an umbrella body with the view to negotiating with one voice in future.

The Cape Peninsula Informal Traders' Association, National Traders' Association and Western Cape African Hawkers and Independent Business have come together to form the Coordinating Council of Informal Traders. ARG 7/9/95

The new council will campaign for the development of the informal sector.

Other objectives are the setting up of a resource centre for traders.

APR 7/9/95

Fishermen to challenge quota

Staff Reporter

MORE than 30 Kalk Bay subsistence fishermen are to challenge the validity of the commercial fishing quota and the allocation of fishing rights to community trusts.

Informal fishing community representative Andy Johnston, who represents subsistence fishermen around the Cape coast, said because the black fishermen lived in townships and were not resident in, for

instance, Kalk Bay, they were precluded from sharing in the profits of community quotas.

A community-based law firm had investigated the legal and constitutional implications and in their opinion the present system of allocating fishing rights by the quota board and the community trust system was unconstitutional, discriminatory and a denial of their fundamental rights to freely engage in economic activity, he said.

The fishermen intend to take their case to the constitutional court.

Mr Johnston is also a member of the national working committee for a new fisheries policy.

At a report-back meeting at the Bonnytoun hall in Wynberg this week, at which members of the national working committee were questioned by fishermen and other interest

groups, Mr Johnston said the community quota system was illegal. It had not been set up through the right channels.

Concern was also expressed at the meeting that although a new draft fishing policy should have been ready by October, it was now unlikely that a new policy would be ready in time.

Mr Johnston said fishermen needed to be informed of the direction new policy was taking.

Fisheries body still afloat despite walkout

Staff Reporter

(3) FISHING

ARG 9/9/95

THE Fisheries Policy Development Commission is afloat again after a walkout by labour and industry representatives which threatened to sink it.

The commission, which was appointed by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers in December last year, is supposed to give him its proposals for a new fisheries policy in October, but insiders say there is not a hope of a report from it by then.

Members of the commission are drawn from a democratic sweep of "stakeholders" include everyone between the Namibian border and KwaZulu who is even remotely connected with the sea and with fishing.

Meanwhile Dr De Villiers and deputy minister Bantu Holomisa have decided to get personally involved in the commission's work and will soon visit the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu/Natal to drum up support for it, acting director of Sea Fisheries Arnold Slater told SATURDAY Argus yesterday.

One of the reasons for the slow progress made by the commission was integrating the former Transkei and Ciskei fisheries into the national framework, he said.

Another reason was that many of the forums represented on the working committee were in remote regions.

This week's storm arose when the only labour representative, Norman Daniels of the Trawler and Line Fishermens' Union, withdrew from a meeting of the working committee when the committee turned down a repeated request for more labour representation.

It was claimed that a large number of people "with little involvement in the fishing industry" were on the committee, such as representatives from the central government and the maritime provinces, tourism, conservation, sport fishermen and the informal sector.

Industry representatives then asked that a plenary session should be convened to sort out the problem. This was refused and the

committee decided to go ahead without anyone to speak up for labour.

This was not good enough for the industry people, who decided to withdraw until the matter had been settled.

They said they saw no point in debating policy issues in the absence of Mr Daniels as the representative of "practically the entire labour force in the fishing industry".

However after a meeting on Thursday with Mr Daniels and other spokesmen for the five fishing unions, the working committee agreed to allow more representation for labour, subject to confirmation by a plenary session.

SATURDAY Argus was told yesterday that industry representatives would probably go back to the table as well.

Chairman Mandla Gxanyana was not available for comment yesterday, but Mr Slater said the commission's brief was that it should work by consensus and that contentious matters must be thrashed out in discussion.

Black fishermen to fight quota system in court

By JESSICA

ST (M) 10/9/95 BEZUIDENHOUT

FOR Lennox Damazandile, a 58-year-old fisherman who has worked the boats in Kalk Bay for over 20 years, the community fishing quota system stinks.

Despite his long years of hard work in the industry, and despite the fact that he lives on the boat he works from, he is being denied membership of a community trust designed to give ordinary fishermen a stake in an industry dominated by big companies — because he is black.

For years the Group Areas Act denied him the right to live where he worked, and now he is denied membership of the trust because he has not lived permanently in the area.

"It is unfair that we are excluded from the system in this manner," he said. "We will not leave the matter like this and intend to fight for our rights." He and 30 other black fishermen say they will take their case to court.

The Community Quota system was established in 34 coastal fishing communities in 1992 to allow them to share in the profits of the industry.

However, Mr Damanzandile and other "non-resident fishermen", despite working in the community for long periods, have been excluded.

If their intended court case is successful, the future of the quota system could be in jeopardy.

Mr Andy Johnson, of the Informal Fishing Sector, criticised the way in which the system is administered. He said it was open to abuse because trust documents were "ambiguous" about the beneficiaries.

"Administrators of the various fishing trusts have forgotten their communities' moral responsibility towards the people who have worked there for years," he said.

Mr Johnson said fishing communities had now been left to "face the failure of the system," after it had been foisted on them as a political ploy and vote-catcher during the 1994 elections.

Hansard 802

Diamond and Gold Related	71
Stock-theft and theft of game	26
Truck and freight related	20
Firearm related	10
Murder and robbery	5
Housebreaking	4
Unrest and violence related	3
Aluminium related	2
Falsification/forgery	1
Counterfeit money	1
Stolen goods related	1
Theft (Cellular phones)	1
Chinese Triads related	1
(Mostly products of Endangered Species)	1
Organised crime (general)	1
Trade in Endangered Species and Endangered Species products	1
TOTAL	481

- (c) (i) 481
- (ii) None.
- (d) (i) (aa) 34
- (bb) 48
- (ii) 11—since 1 January 1995 to 30 June 1995.
- (e) It is unfortunately not possible to answer this question, as it would require extensive manpower and other resources to look into each individual case.

(2) No.

Level of pollution caused by certain steel plant: complaints

237. Sen Dr G W KOORNHOF asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether his Department has received any complaints about the level of pollution caused by a certain steel plant, the name of which has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply; if so, what steps has his Department taken in this regard; if not,

(2) whether he or his Department will consider instituting an investigation in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S470E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Complaints have indeed been received from a company called Dorbyl Glenvalve about excessive dust pollution, emanating from Iscor's Dunswart direct-reduction plant situated in Benoni.
- (2) The complaint has already been investigated and indications are that during periods of strong winds quite an amount of dust from Iscor is blown towards the complainant. This dust originates mainly from the plant surface.

Since the part of the plant has been paved and the rest is being treated with a chemical adhesive in order to combat the problem as far as possible.

The plant is also continually making improvements to combat air pollution from the plant.

The Department is going to install monitoring equipment at the plant so as to determine air pollution levels on a continuous basis.

Statistics for fish caught by SA fishing industry

238. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

Whether he will furnish the annual statistics for each year from 1960 up to the latest specified year for which information is available, in respect of each species of fish caught by the South African fishing industry, expressed in terms of (a) scientifically estimated biomass, (b) total allowable catch (TAC), (c) percentage of the TAC caught within the identified season, (d)(i) dates when and (ii) places where fishing seasons were extended, (e) what percentage of the catch was juvenile and (f) what tonnage of bycatch was caught; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant statistics?

S471E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

Please note that data are only given for species which are either subject, or have been subject, to a Total Allowable Catch (TAC). Other fished species are considered to be

Hansard
15/9/95

3 Fishing

species falling outside the scope of the question and data on these species are available on request.
(See also Annexure No 609.)

duty, (c) obstruction of justice, (d) maladministration, (e) corruption, (f) sabotage and/or (g) assault; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S475E

Allegations against Department: action taken

242. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

Whether, in view of his allegations in the House on 5 September 1995 with the purport that his Department was dead, needed restructuring and had racist elements, he has instituted proceedings against any member of his Department on the grounds of (a) racism, (b) dereliction of

Noma isiphi isinywethelo esiyothathwa siyokwesekelwa i "Interim Constitution" ne "Bill of Rights".
Translated version: Whatever step that will be taken, will be based on the Interim Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Cape fishing giant crippled as factory workers strike

ARG 21/9/95

Staff Reporter

GIANT West Coast fish processing plant Sea Harvest has been crippled by a second strike in two months.

About 1 800 factory workers — members of the Food and Allied Workers' Union and the West Coast Workers' Union — downed tools yesterday, demanding they be given the same wage increase granted to the company's fishermen a month ago.

The 500 fishermen — members of the Trawlers and Liners' Union — did not go to sea for 18 days, forcing the closure of the Saldanha factory, eventually settling for a 28 percent salary rise.

Sea Harvest, said to be the largest fish processor in the southern hemisphere, has offered factory workers a 10,1 percent increase.

This is after the company opened wage negotiations with an offer of a 2,5 percent in-

crease. The union's opening position was for a 250 percent increase.

The union's Saldanha Bay branch secretary, Gert Koenana, said the workers intended squeezing the company by refusing to offload three fully laden trawlers which returned to port yesterday.

The company's entire 18-vessel fleet was at sea when the strike began. According to Sea Harvest, three more trawlers are due back in port today.

Mr Koenana said the company had put the remainder of the fleet on "standby", meaning they should stop fishing and await further instructions. But late last night the company denied taking this step, saying the last instruction that had gone out to trawler captains was to keep fishing.

Mr Koenana emphasised that nobody would unload the fish, warning that the workers would not tolerate scab labour.

Mr Koenana and a Sea Harvest spokesman accused each other of negotiating in bad faith.

Workers had been prepared to go on strike on Monday after the company ended Friday's wage negotiations with the 2,5 percent offer. But they had been persuaded to continue working, said Mr Koenana.

The company had taken the whole of Monday and most of Tuesday to up its offer to a 59c-an-hour increase (10,1 percent).

By that stage, "the workers were out of control", he said.

The Sea Harvest spokesman said this was not so. The company had consistently told the unions it was willing to negotiate.

The union had reduced its offer from a "ridiculous" 250 percent to 28 percent and expected the company to make a similar, substantive move. In any case, the parties had until October 1 to settle.

CELL PHONES, MIRRORS USED TO WARN DIVERS

CT21/9/95

Perlemoen poaching still rife

POACHERS have adopted sophisticated methods for harvesting perlemoen. **DAN SIMON** reports.

PERLEMOEN continues to be poached in large quantities near Hawston and law enforcement officers in nearby Hermanus say they are powerless to stamp it out.

Although police and Sea Fisheries inspectors at Hermanus undertake daily patrols of the dunes they say they are fighting a losing battle as the poachers have become increasingly sophisticated.

They post lookouts on the dunes and flash warnings using mirrors and even use cell phones if police or inspectors approach.

The Department of Sea Fisheries said that since the beginning of the year, 65 people had been arrested in the Hermanus area and nearly 10 000 perlemoen had been confiscated and sold for R82 000. In 1994, they confiscated more than 16 000 poached perlemoen which was sold for R172 850.

The Cape Times visited the area this week and accompanied the eight-man foot patrol of police and Sea Fisheries inspectors.

The area patrolled was a private nature reserve belonging to local landowner Dr Frank Raimondo.

Earlier this year pitched battles

took place at the reserve between police, poachers and Dr Raimondo, over access to perlemoen resources through the property.

Police at the time said they had identified the poaching problem in Hawston as gang activity — drugs-for-perlemoen smuggling.

Local ANC spokesman Mr Phillipus May said poaching would only cease if the locals were given a legal slice of pie.

"Mostly the poaching has stopped but there are still some people doing it. Most of the local fishermen are waiting for the Quota Board to respond," he said.

Quota Board

The Quota Board is to decide tomorrow on quotas.

However, police say poaching is rife near Hawston. They daily find evidence of the poachers' activities, including freshly shucked perlemoen shells.

"They've hidden it (the perlemoen) somewhere near here," Constable Boetie Viljoen said after he had searched the belongings of a number of local divers.

"There are only eight of us. We are fighting a losing battle. To catch these poachers is like emptying the sea with a bucket."

Legislation was not deterring the poachers. "If they get a fine they'll make it up with one dive."



SEARCH: Members of the Hermanus police search a bag belonging to two divers who were questioned and searched for poached perlemoen. Police and Sea Fisheries inspectors are now conducting joint patrols near Hawston because of the continuing poaching problem.

PICTURE: DAN SIMON

Empowerment plan at Premier

(180) (3) FISHING

Star 21/9/95

■ BY ANN CROTTY

In what is described by one trade union adviser as possibly the best empowerment scheme to date, Premier Food group has restructured its South African fishing interests into a separate subsidiary and transferred 20% of the shares - at 1c a share - to employees.

The trail-blazing scheme has been several months in the planning and involved extensive discussions with the company's employees including the trade union and community representatives.

The new company, Premier Fishing SA, comprises the South African fishing and processing facilities as well as Premier Foods' fishing quotas.

All of the company's 1 000

employees will be allocated shares with some weighting for length of service. Employees will not be able to sell any shares for the first five years; thereafter they will be able to sell 25% of their individual holdings each year. They will, however, be obliged to own at least 25% of their original allocation while they are employed by the company.

Reorganisation

Early this year, Oceana fishing group announced a reorganisation of its ownership, which involved Real Africa Investments Limited (Rail) acquiring ownership from Tiger group.

These steps towards empowerment can be attributed to an urgent need to protect themselves from changes in what

has been an inequitable system of fishing quota allocations, which resulted in the industry being dominated by a few large, highly capitalised players with little ownership opportunities for fishing communities.

The allocation of the highly lucrative quotas is under close scrutiny by the government. A fisheries policy development committee has been established which, marking a break from the past, involves input from employee and community representatives.

While the equity scheme therefore does not smack of more than a touch of opportunism, there is little doubt that, given the constraints under which the quota allocation decisions have to be made, Premier's scheme offers substantial advantages.

2 strikers shot by guards at fish process factory

ARG 22/9/95

Staff Reporter

(3) FISHING (2)

SALDANHA.—Two striking workers were shot by security guards today during a confrontation at the Sea Harvest fish processing factory.

The workers were taken to hospital with gunshot wounds, said Gert Koenana, spokesman for the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu).

The incident came as hundreds of workers, striking over wage increases, waited outside the factory to be paid wages owed from before the strike.

The strike began on Wednesday after workers rejected an offer of 10 percent, holding out for 28 percent.

Mr Koenana said Sea Harvest had got a court interdict against Fawu today, restraining strikers from coming within 500 metres of the factory.

At noon the situation outside the factory was tense, with 50 heavily armed policemen looking on as workers waited to meet Sea Harvest managing director Louis Pentzhorn.

Fishing companies face pressure to change shareholder profiles

By ANN CROTTY

SPECIAL REPORT

For companies in the fishing industry, pressure to change management and shareholder profiles to something more politically acceptable is made all the more urgent by impending changes to the fishing quota allocation system.

Cuts in allocations will significantly affect the asset value of these companies as well as their earnings potential. Over the years, the system of quota allocations has seen the growth of a limited number of highly capitalised, white-controlled companies with local fishing communities effectively excluded from owning a stake in the industry.

It is for this reason that the issue of empowerment has been dealt with more aggressively by fishing companies than by most others.

Given the trade unions' hesitation about involvement in share-ownership schemes, finding a solution to empowerment becomes quite a challenge.

The most significant options are to persuade a high-profile black company to come on board as a substantial shareholder or to undertake an extensive and rigorous exercise of communication with employees with a view to them becoming shareholders.

Oceana has opted for the former while Premier Fishing SA has opted for the latter. While both deserve encouragement, the test of which is the most effective will be seen in the allocation of quotas in years to come.

At this early stage, Premier Fishing looks to have the superior formula.

After extensive negotiations it has brought on board its 1 000 employees, all of whom are involved in the fishing industry and many of whom are residents of small fishing communities.

Employees of Premier Fishing are involved in management through the Joint Management Teams; now they have a 20 percent stake in the company. Depending on how things go, this stake can be increased.

The Oceana deal involved control of the company switching from Tiger to a consortium including Tiger which now has 26 percent and a variety of non-white-owned interests with a combined 26 percent. The non-white-owned interests include 30 different groups, chief of

which is Real Africa (Rail). Dave Behrens, the managing director of Oceana, emphasised the broad base of interests that now controlled Oceana and the fact that shares had not been given away but had been paid for.

The interests include the Food and Associated Workers' Union, which he said paid about R6 million for shares in Oceana; West Coast Pelagic Fishing Association invested about R1,5 million; a group of coloured business people invested R7,5 million and Khavelitsha business people have invested about R1,5 million.

Given the considerable confusion within the union as to whether or not R6 million had been invested in Oceana, the extent of membership support of the deal as opposed to support from individual union executives is questionable.

Politics

If the quota board takes the view that the fishing industry is just another business opportunity, then some quotas will be allocated to players outside the industry such as Rail, with an eye to political acceptability.

But, given the composition of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee set up to make recommendations to parliament and the quota board, it is likely that much emphasis will be placed on developing players within the industry who were previously excluded from ownership.

If this is so, Premier may have the edge. It brings together the capital needed to develop resources as well as a broad base of employee and related community support and does not preclude involvement of new entrants.

Going beyond the industry-specific issue of quota allocations, the Premier Fishing scheme could prove to be something of a blueprint for other industries as it has dealt with most of the trade union/employee reservations about equity participation.

Chief of these is that the percentage of equity involved tends to be far too small; that employees are brought in as shareholders often in an attempt to increase commitment and productivity but rarely with any allowance being made for involvement in management; the cost of share purchase or resulting tax

ET(BR)22/9/95

(3) FISHING



RETAINING QUOTAS A catch of longfish tunny comes ashore at Hout Bay

liability makes it difficult for low-paid employees to hold onto shares, particularly when they are uncertain about the implications and possible long-term benefits; and equity participation schemes are seen to be motivated and driven by management with little input from employees.

The trade unions involved believe the Premier scheme accommodates these concerns.

Ernest Theron, the vice-president of the union, points out that it does not have a formal position on equity participation: "We are not against it as long as it

means real empowerment for workers." He acknowledges that the primary objective of fishing companies in this regard is to retain or increase their quotas:

"The unions have no problem with this, what is crucial is that such schemes are not used to co-opt or undermine workers but involve genuine empowerment such as at Premier.

"Trade unions can run from empowerment or be part of the process and get involved in the running of the company."

This, he notes, inevitably involves re-organising the work place.

"You cannot be part of something if you're not involved in control."

In this regard, he believes that Premier's Joint Management Teams, which are currently being amended, are crucial to the success of equity participation at the company.

It is a point also stressed by Edgar Solomons, a shop steward at the union,

who would like to see similar schemes implemented elsewhere:

"Premier Fishing is the only South African company that involved employees in discussion and training from the beginning."

Solomons rejects the suggestion that the 1c cost of the shares is a hand-out: "Workers in the fishing industry have been in it for generations, they are effectively co-owners of marine resources."

An equity stake means workers have a firm position when it comes to the restructuring of the industry. He would like to see an increase on the 20 percent.



Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, Staff Photographer.

□ **STRIKERS:** Sea Harvest strikers in Saldanha toyi-toyi outside the company's factory.

ARL 23/9/95

(3) FISHING

Strikers simmer in pay stand-off

COLIN DOUGLAS
Staff Reporter

THE sun was out, the sky cloudless and the blue water of the lagoon lapped gently on the beach. It was a perfect day for a fight.

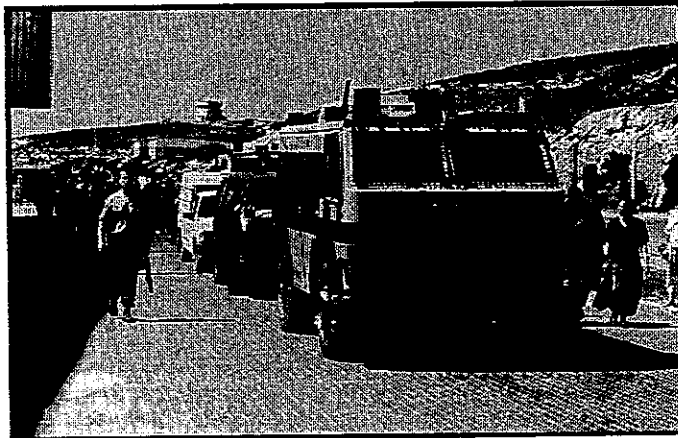
The usually tranquil town of Saldanha turned ugly yesterday as hundreds of striking factory workers confronted their employer, fishing giant Sea Harvest.

Scores of heavily armed policemen staked out the Sea Harvest shoreside factory after the company obtained a court interdict restraining the Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) and its members from coming within 500 metres of its premises.

This followed uproar the previous night, when strikers were said to have trashed the company's administration block.

The interdict also prohibited unionists from intimidating

■ Peace was restored as strikers and non-strikers alike queued for their pay in the wake of violent clashes between with police.



□ **POLICE ESCORT:** Heavily armed police escort the Sea Harvest payroll to the company's Saldanha factory after clashes between strikers and security guards.

co-employees who wished to continue working.

Soon after the interdict was served, two strikers were in-

jured — although not seriously — when security guards in the factory fired at them.

While fears that the scene

would erupt into further violence proved unfounded, the police soon switched their role from law-enforcing to money-protecting.

Being a Friday, it was payday and thousands of rands were on their way into the factory.

Police escorted the funds safely into the factory and strikers and non-strikers alike joined the pay queues, bringing a more relaxed atmosphere to the scene.

Meanwhile, on a hill overlooking the factory, Sea Harvest managing director Louis Penzhorn chatted with advisers and fretted about a strike that he said could have been avoided and which had shut down operations.

The strike, over wage increases, erupted after management made an offer of a 10,1 percent, well short of the 28 percent demanded by the union. Negotiations are continuing.

(3) FISHING
Trust
ET 29/9/95
fishing
quotas
unlawful

STAFF REPORTER

QUOTAS allocated to community trusts were unlawful, a Supreme Court judge found yesterday.

The judgment affects about 760 fishermen.

It follows an application by the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union against the Minister of Environmental Affairs, the Quota Board and various others to have the allocation of 951 tons of hake to the trusts declared unlawful.

Mr Acting Justice G Josman said quotas could not be allocated to trusts, as a trust did not fall within the meaning of the word "persons" contained in the Sea Fisheries Act.

Probe

The court's finding prevents all future allocations by the board of fish quotas to community trusts.

Judge Josman said riots in Cape Town by fishermen or beneficiaries of the trust had led to the minister ordering a probe to determine the merit of trusts.

After the committee released its recommendations many more communities applied for quotas and the issue became politicised.

The intention was that fishing communities who had been deprived of allocations to fish for hake should be allowed to do so.

"It soon became apparent that they were not able to work the quotas allocated, primarily because of lack of infrastructure in the form of boats and organisation. It was clear that the trusts as a vehicle had not been able to achieve this purpose," the judge said.

This resulted in communities selling off their quota rights and transferring them to organisations, including foreign companies which would be able to catch the quotas and pay the communities a fee for the transfer.

Handouts

"The trust beneficiaries were being transformed from fishermen into licensors of fishing rights. Far from having the opportunity restored to them to make a living by fishing, with the consequent restoration of their dignity and purpose, the beneficiaries of the trusts had become the indirect recipients of social security handouts."

Mr Justice Josman said if the minister and the Quota Board were seeking to create work and opportunities for impoverished and disadvantaged fishermen "they have certainly not achieved their purpose".

Activities: Procurement, processing, marketing and distribution of foodstuffs.

Control: Anglovaal Industries 68%.

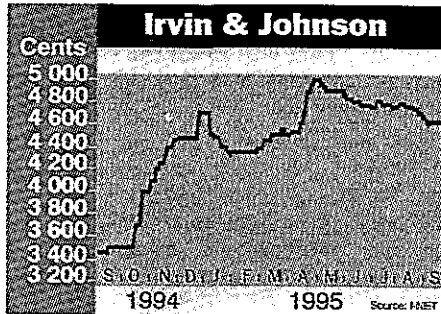
Chairman: J C Robbertze.

Capital structure: 28,8m ords. Market capitalisation: R1,33bn.

Share market: Price: 4 625c. Yields: 2,2% on dividend; 6,2% on earnings; p:e ratio, 16,1; cover, 2,8. 12-month high, 5 000c; low, 3 500c. Trading volume last quarter, 757 000 shares.

Year to June 30	'92	'93	'94	'95
ST debt (Rm)	9,5	19,5	6,2	22,0
LT debt (Rm)	14,8	76,2	70,2	61,8
Shareholders' interest	0,62	0,61	0,64	0,65
Int & leasing cover	11,1	5,5	5,1	6,4
Return on cap (%)	16,7	11,3	11,1	12,1
Turnover (Rbn)	1,64	1,65	1,77	2,12
Pre-int profit (Rm)	118,9	92,4	97,1	125,0
Pre-int margin (%)	6,6	5,1	5,5	5,9
Earnings (c)	258	196	217	287
Dividends (c)	86	86	86	100
Tangible NAV (c)	1 189	1 388	1 604	2 042

comes from the distribution of "third party" products. The rest is from seafood, other frozen food and international sales. Third party products include large volumes of Rainbow chickens in various packed formats, margarine and other products.



I&J's fishing quotas have remained almost static for years. This side of its business has become less important in the earnings mix as the company has diversified, though the fishing division remains the core operation based on capital employed. In a recent change of strategic direction aimed at raising return on capital, the fishing division introduced hi-tech catching and handling methods on its vessels and invested in sophisticated shore-based processing facilities needed to obtain the product quality required by international markets. It involved large capital spending.

Overall capital expenditure for the year was R91m. Major items were the new seafood processing facilities in Cape Town and Namibia and the upgrading of processing facilities in the prepared foods division.

This division's volume growth exceeded budget; efficiencies improved. In particular, the potato products plant at Delmas is operating well ahead of design parameters. Competitors have noted the success which I&J is enjoying and are entering the market. I&J is investing more in this arena.

COMPANIES

The food service market, specifically restaurants and fast food enterprises, is growing rapidly as owners realise the cost-saving benefits of changing from fresh and chilled to frozen products. In contrast, the retail market for frozen foods has been sluggish.

The international division of I&J fared well, with turnover 25% higher at R471m. Export volumes rose, indicating the success achieved with value-added products. Financial director John Morrison expects this trend to continue even though fish prices overseas have recovered and stabilised.

Over the past three years, Rainbow has been beset with production problems because of Newcastle disease. The disease is now said to be under control. If the result is better chicken supplies, it will materially boost profits of the I&J distribution division this year.

Primarily because of the substantial capital expenditure invested in the group over the past five years, productivity in all the divisions is much better than in the first half of the decade. A new information system will be phased in over the next four years.

Earnings growth in the 1996 year is unlikely to match 1995's 33%. Morrison agrees that an EPS rise of about 20% is realistic. That will place the share on a prospective p:e of roughly 13,5. It seems reasonably priced.

Gerald Hirshon

~~(50)~~ (3) FISHING
 IRVIN & JOHNSON
 FM 6/10/95
Delivering more value

Twenty years ago, Irvin & Johnson (I&J) was almost exclusively a fishing company. As the quota board imposed its restrictive powers over the industry after research showed the fishing resource to be limited, the company placed emphasis on producing value-added foods and distribution.

Now more than 51% of I&J's turnover

Kreef may be wiped out

CT 10/10/95 (3) FISHING

STAFF REPORTERS

THAT much-loved delicacy, the Cape lobster (kreef), could be wiped out in five years if industry catches are not reduced dramatically, the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society warned last night.

The warning came in the wake of shock figures disclosed in Parliament yesterday by the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, which showed that catches have declined to the lowest level in 30 years.

Replying to a question tabled in the Senate by Senator Mark Wiley (NP), Dr De Villiers said the amount of West Coast lobster caught last year was 1 958 tons — less than half the 4 092 tons caught in 1968/9 and far short of the record high of 5 908 tons in 1977/8.

The figures show the catch dropping steadily from well over 3 600 tons in the early 1980s to 2 480 a decade later, and the dismal 1 958 tons catch last year.

“Cape lobster stocks could be wiped out

in five years if we don't rein in industry,” Mr Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Marine Conservation Society, said. “We warned five years ago that we had a disaster on our hands.”

He said crayfish had been “over-exploited” for the past 20 to 30 years through industry pressures on the government to allow the maximum allowable catch. There had not been a strong enough conservatory approach.

He said the decline in the crayfish stocks had been apparent for years, and the recent decision to decrease the legal catch size from 89 to 75mm was “a grave error” as older crayfish spawned more eggs.

Dr De Villiers said the catch of South Coast rock lobster had remained at between 454 tons and 477 tons over the past 10 years.

Another worrying factor was that while the West Coast hake catch for 1994 was the highest since 1988, the number of days taken to catch the hake had increased from 6 667 in 1955 to 14 047 in 1994.

Fishing quota allocations 'jeopardising restructure'

③ FISHING

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

PRESIDENT Nelson Mandela has been asked to place a moratorium on the re-allocation of fishing quotas until the work of the Fisheries Policy Development Commission (FPDC) is completed.

The commission was established by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers in December last year and will report to him in February.

Informal and recreational fishermen are furious that the Quota Board has given crayfish and perlemoen quotas to new entrants to the industry. *ARG 28/10/95*

The Western Cape Fishing Forum of the FPDC has reacted strongly to the new quota allocations.

Forum chairman Joelle Row said in a letter to the chairman of the Quota Board, retired Judge Gerhardus Kotze, that while there was no objection to new entrants, recent allocations of resources under pressure were much larger than quotas held by existing small participants.

She said that the allocation of new quotas while the FPDC was still at work was undermining the whole process of restructuring initiated by the Minister.

Andy Johnston, chairman of the informal fishing sector of the FPDC, said in a letter to President Mandela that the FPDC's efforts to restructure the fishing industry were being seriously jeopardised by the Quota Board.

He told SATURDAY Argus that Dr De Villiers had given an undertaking to the FPDC's technical committee in February that the interim Quota Board would not put forward guidelines for the allocation of new quotas without consulting people involved, he said, but 10 new entrants to the perlemoen industry had recently been given quotas.

FPDC chairman Mandla Gxayana told SATURDAY Argus yesterday that "there is no co-ordination between the different arms of the department".

The FPDC has been asked by the minister to make recommendations about the allocation of fishing rights, yet the Quota Board established by the minister was going ahead with "restructuring" the industry on its own, he said.

Quota Board secretary Fanie Fourie said that 10 new-entrant companies and individuals had been given perlemoen quotas totalling 51 tons.

Furore over fishing quotas

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

THE controversial Fishing Quota Board came under fire this week following their allocation of quotas to new entrants to the fishing industry.

The board has been accused of defying calls for a moratorium on new entrants and undermining the work of the Fisheries Policy Drafting Committee.

(3) FISHING
The committee was commissioned by Environment and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers to reform the Sea Fisheries Act last year.

A spokesman for Dr de Villiers said it was important that economic activity continued in the meantime.

However, representatives of various sectors on the committee claim that the "unilateral decisions" of the quota board could jeopardise the reform process.

The Informal Fishing Sector has called for presidential intervention.

ST(M) 29/10/95
In a letter to the president, Mr Andy Johnson said "the spoils" were being dished out before a new fisheries policy is finalised.

The Government supports the involvement of the UN's negotiators and peacekeeping forces in efforts to find a lasting solution to the conflict. The Government believes that the only realistic option in the quest for lasting peace in the region is for all the parties involved to accept the principle of dialogue.

- (bb) (ii) Through their Ambassadors in South Africa we urge the governments of the "Contact Group", ie the UK, France, Germany, the Russian Federation and the USA, to make every effort to put an end to the war. The contents of official press releases reveal that we also fully support the efforts of the United Nations and other international organisations in securing a peaceful settlement of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We welcomed the decisive action taken by NATO in response to the recent massacre of innocent people in a Sarajevo marketplace.

We share the concern and indignation of our own community over the forceful manner in which Bosnian Muslims have been dislocated and forcibly removed. We urge all parties in South Africa to talk to us and share their ideas on what more South Africa can do to assist and end the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The world, and we as South Africans, cannot stand idly by while this carnage and destruction is allowed to continue and threaten world peace.

Dr B L GELDENHUYS: Mr Speaker, arising from the answer given by the hon the Deputy Minister, will he not agree that, given the Bosnian experience, greater emphasis on the protection of minority rights in South Africa would be the right thing?

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Mr Speaker, I want to remind my colleague on the other side that South Africa has probably one of the world's best ways of trying to deal with our specific problems.

Labour problems in West coast fishing industry **3 - Fishing**

*13. Mr C A WYNGAARD asked the Minister of Labour:†

- (1) Whether his attention or that of his Department has been drawn to any labour problems in the West Coast fishing industry; if so, (a) what are the problems and (b) where are such problems being experienced;
- (2) whether he or his Department is contemplating any steps to (a) handle such problems and (b) prevent them in the future; if not, why not; if so, what steps;
- (3) whether he will make a statement on the matter?

N1154E

The MINISTER OF LABOUR:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) As far back as February 1993 the Human Sciences Research Council was requested by the Department of Environment Affairs and the African National Congress to undertake an investigation concerning the West Coast fishing community. The purpose was to collect baseline data to plan community development projects.

This report (August 1993) did not identify labour standards or labour relations as the major problem areas but rather a need for community and regional development.
 - (b) More recent problems on the West Coast (ie from November 1994) that have been brought to the attention of the office of the Provincial Director: Western Cape concern *inter alia*:
 - the registration of fishermen and, I hope, also fisherwomen;
 - central registration of all employers and employees;
 - illegal and legal immigrants;
 - community trust quotas, etc.
- (2) (a) Yes. The Department of Labour forms part of an inter-disciplinary forum, under the auspices of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, together with four-

teen other parties, to address the abovementioned problems.

- (b) See (2)(a) above.

- (3) I do not deem it expedient to make a statement on the matter.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Question 14 is addressed to the hon the Minister for Health. The Minister for Health does not appear to be in the House.

The MINISTER OF LABOUR: Mr Speaker, I am the acting Minister. That is why I had to go and talk to the nurses.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question does not deal with the nurses, however, it deals with the doctors.

The MINISTER OF LABOUR: Yes, I see that it deals with the doctors. [Laughter.] The Minister for Health is currently out of the country and she requests that questions 14 and 19 stand over until her return.

Doctors: resignations from State hospitals

*14. Dr W A ODENDAAL asked the Minister for Health:†

- (1) (a) How many doctors left the service of State hospitals during the period 1 January to 31 July 1995 and (b) what were the reasons given by such doctors for their resignations;
- (2) whether these resignations have impaired the operational capacity of the hospitals in the communities involved; if so, in what respects; *Hansard 13/9/95*
- (3) whether he is contemplating any steps in respect of the resignations of such doctors; if not, why not; if so, what are these steps?

N1155E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH (Written reply subsequently furnished):

- | | | |
|---------|---------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) (a) | Free State | 26 |
| | KwaZulu-Natal | 32 |
| | North West | 40 |
| | Mpumalanga | 24 Full time;
19 Part time |
| | Western Cape | 254 |
| | Northern Cape | 11 |
- (b) — Transfer to academic centres for specialisation

— Resignations to go into private practice

— Emigrated

— Relocation/retirement

— Insufficient remuneration

— Heavy workload

— End of contract period

— Unsatisfactory working conditions

— Threats and disruption of services by trade unions

— No long-term career prospects

— Other and personal reasons

- (2) Yes, certain services at hospitals such as non-emergency operations and out-patient services, had to be delayed for varying periods. Delays in the treatment of patients arise due to insufficient doctors being available.

The Free State indicated that the operational capacity of the hospitals is not affected.

- (3) For staff transferring to academic centres for specialisation, we do not discourage them as we need specialists. For staff who go to private practice, we have difficulty retaining because the salaries are low. Hence we call for support of the National Health System for Universal Primary Health Care which will provide a means for improvement of working conditions of public sector doctors and other health personnel.

Those who emigrate to other countries cannot be stopped. We hope that the educational bursary scheme will encourage many to remain in South Africa as most newly qualified doctors leave the country to developed countries in order to earn more and pay their educational loans.

District surgeons: resignations

*19. Dr R T RHODA asked the Minister for Health:†

- (1) (a) How many district surgeons resigned from their posts in each of the latest two calendar years for which information is

New marine law body will target sea poachers

③ FISHING (B)
Crime Reporter

A CRACKDOWN on sea-life poachers is looming with the appointment of a joint marine law enforcement committee, consisting of police and the sea fisheries department. *AAU 6/7/95*

Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers today announced the formation of the new committee to combat poaching and protect the marine environment.

The committee will pool the efforts of specialised police units and sea fisheries' marine control services, and will nationally co-ordinate the activities of policing agencies in an effort to curb poaching of abalone and rock lobster.

The crackdown on organised syndicates active locally and internationally is poised to be the "mother of all onslaughts" on poachers and will be helped by a countrywide network of information to be managed by the new joint committee.

Poachers should not expect any mercy in the future, said Dr De Villiers.

Earlier this year he lashed out at law-breakers and urged people to resist the criminal element who undermined the community's long-term interests.

He referred to the perlemoen-poaching crisis in Hawston earlier this year which appeared to have been fanned by organised crime syndicates, possibly with links to the Far East.

Dr De Villiers's appeals and efforts opened the way for major changes in the allocation of the perlemoen quota.

He offered to negotiate the structure of the fishing industry to solve the organised poaching problem and to create an acceptable balance in the quota system between the coastal communities and the large fishing companies.

The quota system, which was biased towards the fishing giants and left the traditional fishing communities out in the cold, contributed to organised poaching but Dr De Villiers came out strongly against a "free-for-all" situation.

He urged the community to co-operate in the total onslaught against lawlessness by supplying information directly to Crime-Stop at ☎ 0800 11 12 13. Substantial rewards are offered.

Netting shares

FM 7/7/95

Namibian fishing companies Namsea and Namfish are breaking new ground in the southern African fishing industry. Both are giving shares to all 2 049 workers in their employer companies as a bonus.

Chairman of both companies Peter Kuttel says he has long felt "it would be nice if all the workforce held shares in the company." In addition to the bonus allotment, all employees were offered loans that would enable them to buy more shares — on the understanding that their debt would be repayable out of dividends. The bonus scheme was planned to initiate a long-term interest in acquiring shares.

All shore-based and sea-going staff on company vessels will receive the free allotment. To qualify, wage and salaried earners must have been on the payroll at May 31, have been employed by the group for at least a year and, in the case of seasonal workers, completed one full season of employment.

Employees of Namsea subsidiary United Fishing Enterprises are to be allotted 500 Namsea and 100 Namfish shares. Those of Namfish subsidiaries Northern Fishing and Walpak get 500 Namfish shares.

Few workers in the Namibian — or the SA — fishing industry have any direct participation in their companies. It is a subject being hotly debated in SA. The Namibian industry does not have rural fishing communities like those along the SA coastline, so it does not have similar problems. But the Namibian authorities are keen to encourage local participation in the country's fishing industry and are likely to favour the move by Namfish and Namsea.

It is hoped that worker participation at shareholder level will help to boost productivity and profits. Meanwhile, Kuttel says fishing for both Namsea (mostly pelagic) and Namfish (mostly hake) is better than satisfactory. Both seem to be heading for improved results.

Gerald Hirshon

No mercy for poachers

ET 7/7/95

(3) FISHING (12)

STAFF REPORTER

"NO MERCY" is the message sent out to poachers yesterday, with the appointment of a joint marine law enforcement committee.

The committee, comprising the police and Department of Sea Fisheries officials, was appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs Dr Dawie de Villiers to combat poachers operating in South African waters.

Sea Fisheries deputy director Dr

Johan van Zyl said poachers should expect "no mercy" as the committee would be working to clamp down on their activities.

Dr Van Zyl said the committee consisted of various units of the police and marine law enforcement agencies.

"Everyone will now be kept informed of progress made in investigations. The committee will manage joint operations against large-scale poaching and international syndicates."

Dr De Villiers said in a statement the committee would coordinate the activities of various police agencies, specifically their efforts to curb the poaching of perlemoen and kreef by local and international crime syndicates.

The appointment of the committee should be seen as another step to "protect our valuable marine environment ... against indiscriminate elements who are harvesting resources unlawfully for selfish gain".

Union out of fish talks

(3) FISHING

STAFF REPORTER

2/10/7/95

THE Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) has withdrawn from the process of drawing up a new fishing policy for the country, it said at the weekend.

Spokesman Mr William Thomas said the decision had been taken after a fishing conference attended by delegates from "coastal communities and factories".

There had been complaints about labour's limited representation on a working committee of the Fishing Policy Development Commission.

Fawu, the largest union in the fishing industry, had no delegates on the working committee.

Approaches had been made to the commission to increase the labour representation, but these had been rejected.

New centre for learning

Susan Russell 

A UNIQUE electronic learning centre providing Soweto adults and children with a range of courses, from literacy and school subjects to agriculture and business management, has been opened at the Ipelegeng Community Centre in Mofolo. **BD 12/7/95**

Sponsored by the SA Rail Commuter Corporation, it will be equipped with satellite antennae and up-to-date electronic equipment.

Manager of strategic planning and communications, Connie Nkosi, said the aim was to bring education closer to the people and give those who could not be accommodated within formal education structures a second chance.

The centre will use modern technology to meet basic and sophisticated educational needs.

Courses on offer include literacy and numeracy, agriculture, life skills and school subjects up to matriculation level.

A variety of business and management courses as well as a number of short courses will also be offered.

Fishermen need to reel in democracy

Kathryn Strachan **③ FISHING**

BD 12/7/95
LITTLE progress had been made by most sectors in the fishing industry to recognise the true potential of fishing folk, Deputy Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa said.

Speaking at the Food and Allied Workers' Union congress in Bloemfontein yesterday, he said the labour component had been abused and deprived of its right to negotiate an acceptable package at decision making level over the years.

This situation, which could no longer be tolerated, had contributed directly to violence and depressed fishing communities.

Both labour and fisheries legislation would have to be revisited to ensure that among other key issues such as registration of fishermen, codes of conduct, employment contracts, workmen's compensation and participation in decision making were addressed democratically.

This could be achieved only if the industry was restructured along affirmative lines, a move which would require a new and dynamic management approach.

Holomisa said a new committee had recently been appointed to reshape the industry and to implement new structures for orderly management of marine resources. This process had had its fair share of problems mainly due to the fact that communication systems between govern-

ment and grassroots were non-existent.

From the outset, various sectors were reluctant to participate and the process was further hampered by inadequate funding as his department was unable to contribute more than R250 000.

However, much work had been done in consultation with development trusts and foreign governments to access the initial budget requirement of about R1,7m.

In an effort to promote legitimacy, non-governmental organisations locally and abroad would be co-opted onto technical task teams to assist with the formulation of a representative fishing policy.

The policy would aim to address the imbalances of the past while promoting sustainable utilisation and development of marine resources in accordance with the objectives of the reconstruction and development programme.

He said that if communities were empowered, the policing of resources would be an easier task which would contribute favourably to combating the existing indiscriminate poaching of resources.

Fishermen would also have to be assisted financially to participate in decision making at all levels through area forums, which ideally should function through provincial legislators on structures such as the quota board and the Sea Fisheries Advisory committee.

Will it be MacChips from Ocfish?

③ FISHING (S) Shaw 1/8/95

■ BY PETER GALLI
FEATURES EDITOR

Market talk is that the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) has been awarded the lucrative contract to supply MacDonald's local franchisees with frozen chips when the US burger giant enters the country later this year.

Informed sources said Ocfish's new R8-million frozen chip processing plant at subsidiary Lamberts Bay Fishing Company, had been awarded the contract.

Ocfish's managing director Dave Behrens yesterday confirmed that it had submitted a proposal to McDonald's, and that it had been talking to representatives - who are in the country at the moment. But he declined to comment on

whether it had been awarded the contract to supply the hamburger chain with frozen chips.

"Yes, we have been talking to McDonald's and yes, we did submit a proposal to them, but so did several other firms. I am unable to comment on whether we have been awarded the supply contract or not. You need to talk to McDonald's about that."

A McDonald's spokesman would not disclose who its suppliers were going to be, saying full details would be made public later this month.

Ocfish first started producing chips at the Lamberts Bay operation in March as part of its strategy to use excess capacity at its fish processing plants during off-season. When the plant was opened, Lamberts Bay Fishing Company GM Peter Grobler said a number of

sizeable contracts had been secured. McDonald's, which has been trying to find suitable black franchisees, is believed to be hoping to have its first local operation up and running before the end of the year.

But that depends on this month's court fight to defend attempts to have its trademark expunged from the local register because of non-use. McDonald's registered its trademark in South Africa long ago, but has never used it.

The case is expected to establish what trademark protection international players can expect locally, which has become a serious issue following the US government's recent blacklisting of South Africa as a country where intellectual property violations have taken place.

Fishing strike may end soon

③ FISHING ~~3~~

A BREAKTHROUGH was imminent in the fishermen's strike at Saldanha Bay, according to news reports. Sea Harvest is negotiating with unions, who are demanding a 45% wage increase while the company is offering a 20% rise.

ET 4/8/95

No pay rise as talks enter third week

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Staff Reporter

MORE than 600 fishermen were still deadlocked in negotiations with the fishing company Sea Harvest at Saldanha this week as the strike for better wages moved into its third week.

Fishermen represented by the Trawlers and Line Fishermen Union went on strike two weeks ago. They want across-the-board increases of R50 a day per fisherman and a commission of R5 per ton of fish caught.

Managing director Louis Penzhorn of Sea Harvest said the company had offered a R50 per day and a commission of R3 per ton to long-serving deckhands.

"But the union wants this salary to be paid to all the fishermen regardless of rank. This would in effect mean that some people with higher ranks would then earn less than their current pay. This does not make sense."

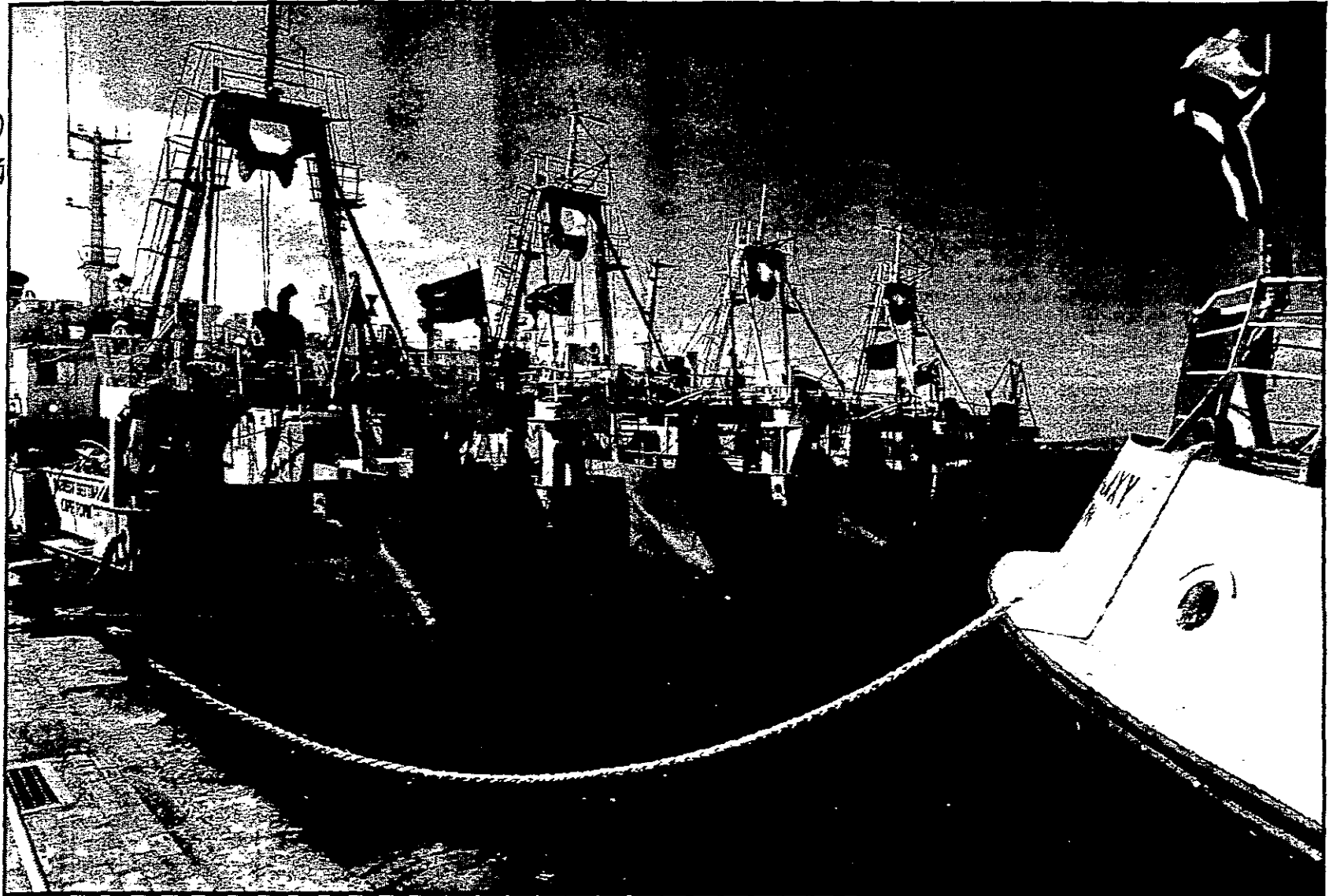
Mr Penzhorn pointed out that the company's offer represented a 20 percent increase in salaries. Late yesterday afternoon he said negotiations were still continuing.

Caval Laubscher, one of the organisers of the Trawlers and Line Fishermen's Union, said the situation did not look good at this stage.

"We are now moving into the third week of the strike and we still have not resolved the problems.

"We will continue negotiations on Monday and hopefully we will then be able to come to some agreement.

He said about 600 people were involved in the strike leaving 16 boats trapped in the harbour.



Picture: OBED ZILWA, Weekend Argus.

□ **NO FISH:** Fishing boats of Sea Harvest lie unused in the Saldanha Harbour as the strike by fishermen for better wages continues.

Ban mooted on foreign fishing fleets off coast

(3) FISHING

CT 14/8/95

A GOVERNMENT commission has proposed that South Africa ban foreign fishing vessels from its territorial waters to protect the small-scale local fishing industry, it was reported yesterday.

The Fisheries Policy Development Commission reportedly made the recommendation after intense lobbying by the informal fishing sector and recreational fishermen.

It said the proposal had alarmed the fishing nations currently making use of the fishing grounds off South Africa, in particular Norway, Japan and Russia.

The Norwegian government has apparently offered South Africa a grant of R245 million to be used to develop the fishing industry in disadvantaged communities, if it holds off the proposed ban.

Two Norwegian scientists have arrived in South Africa to advise

the commission and one of them has been invited to serve on a committee dealing with the question of access rights to fishing grounds.

Small-scale fishermen want exclusive control of inshore fishing and want also to restrict bigger companies to deep sea fishing.

Access

"The big fishing companies' representatives fought this tooth and nail," said commission member Mr Andy Johnston.

"In the end, we decided to refer the question of access rights to a technical committee."

Defence Minister Mr Joe Modise has been trying to persuade the government to invest in Corvette-class strike craft, which would be used partly to protect against plundering by foreign fishing fleets. — Sapa-AFP

Sea Harvest and fishing union talks in stalemate

CT(BR)16/8/95 (3) FISHING

By FRANÇOISE BOTHA

STAFF WRITER

The two-week old strike which has brought the Sea Harvest factory at Saldanha to a standstill is set to cost the company a substantial amount in lost production, and "the longer it continues, the worse it is going to be", said Norman Daniels, general secretary of the Trawler and Linefishers' Union.

Daniels said yesterday that the strike had reached a stalemate.

The disagreement between workers, supported by the union, and the company stems from workers' demands for an increase that "now exceeds 50 percent" said Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest.

According to Penzhorn, the company has increased its offer to 21 percent.

"At those levels, we will have some of the best paid workers in the industry," he said.

According to Daniels, there has been a move by management to meet the demands, but it is not sufficient. "Both sides will have to go in and negotiate, but I do not know if they are prepared to do so right now," said Daniels.

The company also posted notices yesterday warning workers that if they did not arrive for work, they would be dismissed.

Dispelling rumours that the strike could damage profit for the second half of the year, Penzhorn said: "I think it is too early to start speculating about that, especially if the strike ends in a day or two".

The Saldanha plant, which was responsible for 90 percent of the company's fish processing, was ahead of its annual quota at the beginning of the strike.

"We have the rest of the year to catch up two weeks fishing," Penzhorn said.

But, there is no indication as to whether the issues surrounding the strike will be resolved in the next few days.

Penzhorn said that he thought the company had been close to ending the dispute yesterday afternoon, but admitted that it he was no longer certain of that.

Sea Harvest, a member of the CG Smith group, which reported a 26 percent increase in profit for the six months ending in March, had expected that good winter catches would boost earnings growth in the second half.

Fisherman in 21-year battle to land a quota

③ FISHING

MAR 17/87 95

THABO MABASO
Staff Reporter

ELLIOT Fisa does not give up easily.

The 44-year-old Philippi fisherman has been applying unsuccessfully for a fishing quota every year since 1974, and is now taking his case to Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Bantu Holomisa.

Mr Fisa has accused the sea fisheries department and the fishing industry's quota board of racial bias in the granting of quotas.

He said the board had turned down his application every year since 1974 without once giving reasons.

"Whites who applied after me were granted quotas and the board still keeps turning me down."

Mr Fisa, a married man with six children, has been working at sea since 1968 and has an intimate knowledge of the fishing industry.

His reason for applying for a quota is simple: "I want to create jobs for unemployed people."

Although he does not have any cash to back his application, Mr Fisa is adamant he would be successful if given a chance to prove it — and that means a quota.

Sea fisheries acting chief director Guillaume de Villiers denied Mr Fisa's allegations. He said his department did not grant quotas, which was the function of the quota board, and was involved only in law enforcement.

Quota board secretary Wilhelm Kroon said the board followed guidelines when allocating quotas and applicants had to meet set criteria.

These included whether the applicant had a boat, was a South African citizen and had access to a fish processing plant.

The present quota board had only recently been appointed. It had not yet considered quotas, Mr Kroon said.

In the meantime, Mr Fisa has taken his case to Mr Holomisa. The deputy-minister had promised to look at his case, he said.

27 18 18 193

Strike closes fish factory

(3) FISHING (18) (18)

PRODUCTION at the Sea Harvest factory at Saldanha came to a halt yesterday as a fishermen's strike entered its 16th day.

Police intensified their presence at the factory amid allegations of intimidation and damage to property.

Salmon farm planned

Edward West

③ FISHING

BD 18/8/95

CAPE TOWN — A Norwegian company planned to start SA's first commercial salmon farming operation in North Bay, Saldanha Bay this year, producing initially up to 100 tons of Norwegian salmon a year, the sea fisheries department said.

But the local representative of Salmon Salar Sea Farming said yesterday although it had intended to begin operating in September, the company was having difficulty obtaining water lease rights.

Saldanha Portnet manager Danie Benado said although Portnet had jurisdiction over the water, the area was being used by the defence force. There were environmental concerns regarding the farm and various government departments affected by the deal had been slow in providing approvals.

Sea Fisheries aquaculture spokesman Petro Montero said the Norwegian company had been granted permission by Sea Fisheries to produce up to 100 tons annually in a pilot operation for two years. This was the EU production requirement which did not require an environmental impact assessment report to be drawn up.

After two years, and once an environmental impact assessment was done and found to be satisfactory, production would be stepped up to 350 tons a year.

The farm represented a first step towards bringing first world technology and expertise into SA to farm the country's own salmon species, he said.

He said the farm was small by world standards.

Oceana to expand cold storage

By SHIRLEY JONES

STAFF WRITER

In response to the rapid rise of protein imports, the Oceana fishing group is to spend R17 million upgrading parts of its cold storage division in Durban and Gauteng.

According to Don Ncube, Oceana's chairman, the 10 000 tons of commercial cold storage space at Durban's Bayhead will be expanded by a further 5 000 tons at a cost of R9 million, making it the largest cold storage facility of its kind in

the region.

Oceana also intends investing R8 million to add another 4 000 tons of cold storage space at City Deep.

Durban's extended plant will be commissioned in February next year and will offer storage facilities for fish, fruit, vegetables, meat and poultry.

The City Deep facility, which will offer similar high-technology facilities across the spectrum of frozen commodities, will be commissioned in March next year.

"We have decided to proceed with

③ FISHING

this expansion despite indications from clients that their high stock levels will decline substantially over the next few months," Ncube said.

"Recent import tariff uncertainties led to excess stocks, particularly of chicken, being ordered in anticipation of an increase in duties which has now been announced.

"We expect cold storage space to be more freely available in the near future and these new expansions should more than satisfy clients' requirements over the next few years."

ET(BR) 18/8/95

Fishermen's strike ends

STCCM 20/8/95
THE strike at Sea Harvest fish processing factory at Saldanha has ended after 18 days.

The strikers demanded a 50 percent increase, but finally settled for 28 percent on Friday night. — Sapa

(3) FISHING

SA claims tract of southern seas

~~SA~~
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

ET 21/8/95

(3) FISHING

JOHANNESBURG: South Africa intends to claim a huge area of the southern oceans as part of its sovereign territory, under the UN-backed Law of the Sea convention.

Commodore Neil Guy, of the hydrographic office of the SA Navy, said the SA claim included territorial, contiguous, and exclusive economic zones, with a future claim being lodged to the continental shelf.

Territorial waters extend 12 nautical miles from the coast, the contiguous zone is double that, and the exclusive fishing zone or economic zone extends for a further 200 nautical miles. Another 100 nautical miles are now being claimed, to include the continental shelf.

The claim forms a huge arc of the Atlantic and Indian oceans, stretching 340 nautical miles from the coast.

Comdre Guy said that in territorial waters SA had total sovereignty but must allow "innocent passage" (shipping).

In the contiguous zone, SA could enforce legislation, and in the exclusive economic zone and on the continental shelf, it could "explore, exploit and protect its resources".

Sea Harvest strike ends

③ FISHING (136) (152)

The strike at the Sea Harvest factory in Saldanha Bay has ended after an agreement was reached on Friday night between the fishermen and management.

The strikers demanded a 50% increase, but finally settled for 28% after striking for 18 days.

CT 2118195

Law of the Sea provides extra 100 nautical miles

Scan 21/8/95

(3) FISHING

SA rules southern waves

BY NORMAN CHANDLER
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

South Africa intends to claim a huge area of the southern oceans as part of its sovereign territory.

It is doing so in terms of the Law of the Sea convention, an international treaty backed by the United Nations.

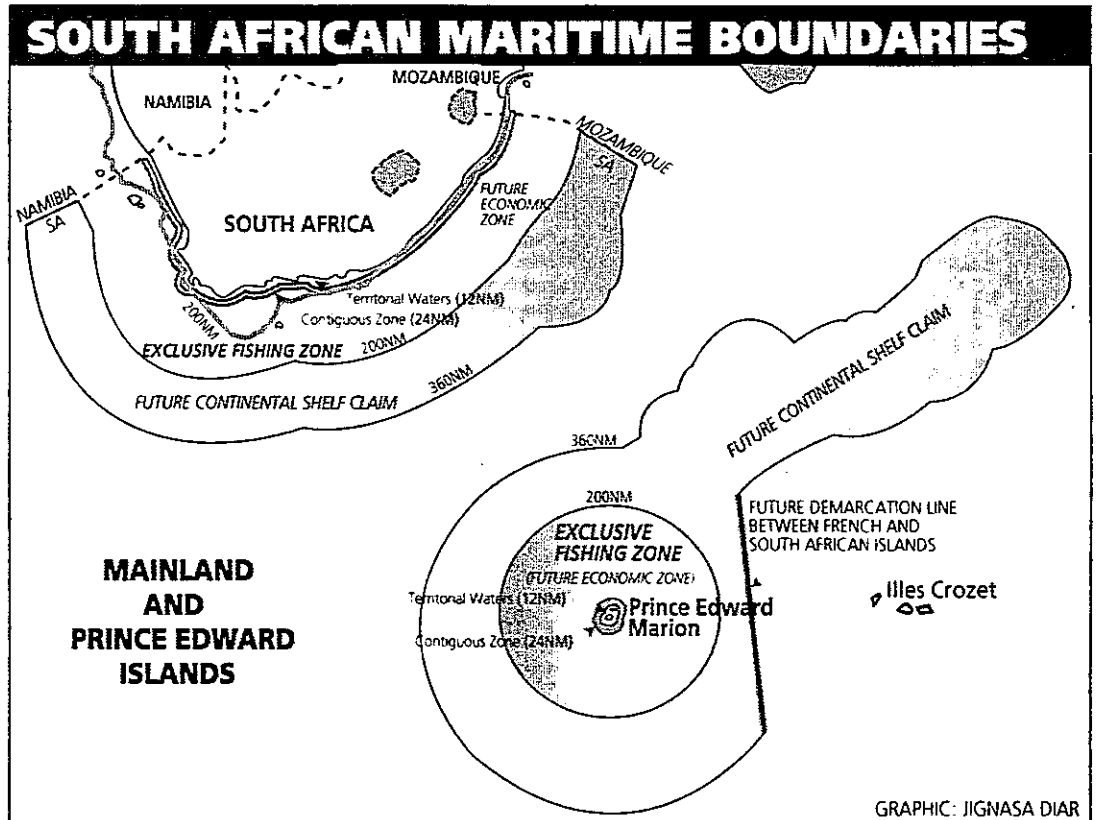
According to Commodore Neil Guy, of the hydrographic office of the South African Navy, the country has now clarified its claims to internal and territorial waters as a result of President Nelson Mandela signing into law the Maritime Zones Act.

"For the first time, a realistic assessment of the roles of the various authorities involved in the seaward areas of South Africa can be made," Guy said.

The claim currently includes territorial, contiguous, and exclusive economic zones with a future claim being lodged in respect of the continental shelf lying to the south of the country. By doing so, it has served notice of its intention to explore and exploit the continental shelf.

Territorial waters extend 12 nautical miles from the coast, the contiguous zone is double that, while the exclusive fishing zone or economic zone extends for a further 200 nautical miles. The country is now claiming another 100 nautical miles to include the continental shelf.

The total area claimed is almost 950 000sq nautical miles of



waters around South Africa and the Prince Edward island group, including Marion island. The claim forms a huge arc of the Atlantic and Indian oceans — stretching as far as 340 nautical miles (about 700km) from the coast — and a large area of sea around the islands.

Guy said that in territorial waters and internal waters —

such as False Bay — the country had total sovereignty but must allow what is known in maritime terms as "innocent passage" (shipping).

In the contiguous zone, South Africa can enforce legislation in terms of customs, immigration, emigration, sanitary and fiscal matters. In the exclusive economic zone and on the conti-

mental shelf, the country can "explore, exploit and protect its resources".

Guy said that enforcing South African law in this area was the task of the navy, which had to maintain an economically viable force to be able to fulfil this role. He believes it could be a logical and economically suitable "solution to a peacetime need".

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(2) This is a provincial matter.

Research project on mussel culture at Saldanha

*11. Mr A S BEYERS asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

(a) What are the estimated costs of his Department's planned research project on mussel culture at Saldanha, (b) when will this project commence and (c) what are the prospects of the mussel industry in respect of the provision of employment?

Hansaid 23/8/95 N1052E
The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(a) Estimated costs for research projects on mussel culture in Saldanha Bay amount to about R460 000 during a period of three years, as follows:

Contract Projects:	R100 000 per annum from the Sea Fishery Fund
Field work:	R20 000 per annum from the Sea Fishery Fund
Equipment:	R100 000 from a single RDP allocation

Personnel costs and consumables to the value of approximately R570 000 during this period, which are funded out of the Departmental revenue budget, should be added.

Two research projects are at stake:

- (i) to assess what tonnage of mussels can be farmed at any one time without negatively affecting the carrying capacity and hence the growth rate of mussels, and
- (ii) to imitate processes within the bay by means of scientific models with a view to ensure the maintenance of the high water quality standards required by export markets.

(b) The Main Programme started in April 1993 and will end in March 1996.

An additional two projects will be carried out in 1996/97 with a view to developing decision-support models, after which it will become an environmental management tool.

(c) The current annual mussel production in Saldanha Bay is 2 500 to 3 000 tons, with a local wholesale value of about R10 million and employing about 300 people. The possibility exist for a sustainable potential to increase the current production volume, value and number of job opportunities ten times, provided that export opportunities can be realised. The local market is limited.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Now we have Question No 12, addressed to the Minister of Education. [Interjections.]

Judgment in Industrial Court re married women teachers

*12. Mr D H M GIBSON asked the Minister of Education:

- (1) Whether a judgment in the Industrial Court relating to married women teachers and their entitlement to housing allowances to the effect that the failure of his Department to pay housing allowances on an equal basis to men and women was held to be an unfair labour practice was brought to his attention; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether an appeal has been lodged on his behalf against this judgment on the grounds that it could never have been the intention of the legislator that merely the omission or failure to remove or to negotiate on the removal of an inherently unfair practice or policy, constitutes an unfair labour practice; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether he will consider withdrawing the appeal; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1055E

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION:

- (1) Yes, the judgment was brought to my attention in its entirety together with its implications for Government in relation to matters of mutual interest on which I am

obliged by the Education Labour Relations Act No 146 of 1993 to negotiate in the Education Labour Relations Council.

- (2) Yes, this appeal has been made on the grounds that "the Industrial Court should have found that it was not the intention of the legislator (with the Education Labour Relations Act No 146 of 1993) that the existing unfair policies and practices (such as the one in dispute in this matter) may be declared an unfair labour practice and may be struck down, but that the said intention was that the removal of such policies and practices must be orderly negotiated by way of a process of collective bargaining". There are also other factors which formed the basis of the appeal. This in effect implies that there is a duty to bargain on conditions of service for educators.

- (3) As the appeal does not affect the right of married women educators to participate in the housing allowance scheme, and the negotiations which started before these were brought to court, and are continuing, but deal with fundamental principles relating to whether matters which are meant to be negotiated in the Education Labour Relations Council, whether discriminatory or not, can be ruled on by a labour court if such negotiations are still in place as determined by the Education Labour Relations Act No 146 of 1993, I am not yet considering to withdraw the appeal. However, I am monitoring the situation very closely.

Mr D H M GIBSON: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, would he not agree with me when I say that the women of South Africa—and more particularly the married women teachers of South Africa—were listening very intently to his reply?

Secondly, would he tell us whether he is committed to ending the unfair discrimination applied by his department and other departments against married women teachers in terms of which they do not receive the same entitlement to housing allowances as is enjoyed by male teachers? Will the hon the Minister commit himself to ending this form of discrimination and could he tell us when he proposes to do so? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Mr Speaker, in the first place I want to say that I am aware of

the fact that most women teachers would be listening to this response attentively. With regard to the second question I would like to say that I believe that, according to the judgment, we shall have met the demand by January. We were given time until January. The way in which negotiations are proceeding indicates to me that we may be there by January. The commitment to do so is definitely there. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! January 1996, Minister? [Laughter.]

The MINISTER OF EDUCATION: Yes.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 199(3) of the Standing Rules for the National Assembly.

*13. Mrs P DE LILLE—Public Service and Administration. [Question standing over.]

International Freedom Foundation

*14. Dr R H DAVIES asked the Minister of Defence:

- (1) Whether, with reference to a certain newspaper article, a copy of which has been furnished to the South African National Defence Force for the purpose of his reply, the International Freedom Foundation was established as a secret project of Military Intelligence; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, (a) when was the project initiated, (b) for what purpose, (c) on whose instructions and (d) what amounts of public funds was channelled to the said foundation;
- (2) whether any funds were channelled to support the activities of Senator Jesse Helms and/or Mr Grover Norquist in the United States of America; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

N1058E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

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Staff Reporter

CAPE Town's inshore fishing community is threatened by conflict between the developers of the V & A Waterfront and the working harbour, a member of the University of Cape Town's Environmental Evaluation Unit has claimed.

In an extract from his master's thesis, published in the latest edition of UCT's Monday Paper, Darryl Killian says tensions between developers and the fishing community suggest that the business objectives of the V & A Waterfront Company are at odds with the realities of the working harbour.

"The V & A Waterfront Company sought to protect and promote tourist-related businesses such as Quay 4 and the Fisherman's Choice restaurant by denying the onshore fishing community access to a nearby slipway.

"For the company it was unacceptable to have boat repair activities, including welding and sandblasting, in such close proximity to leisure activities," said Mr Killian.

Use of the slipway was given to a leisure craft repair company, forcing fishermen to use the harbour's costly synchrolift for repairs.

The Monday Paper report quoted boat owner Larry Da Luz as saying that the fish quay near Bertie's Landing was the only place fishermen could unload their boats. There was one other suitable quay, but boat owners had to ask

Portnet's permission to use it.

"Some people view the maritime industry as being wonderful for photographs, but not so wonderful for its smells," says Port of Cape Town Fishing Industry Association secretary Roy Bross.

"The kind of development the V & A Waterfront Company represents doesn't fit in with the industrial processes of the maritime industry. Essential tensions exist as a maritime resource has been put to what are essentially non-maritime uses," said Mr Bross.

In his thesis Mr Killian said small boat owners had been able to secure only short and medium term mooring as the company developed more land.

A town planner for the co-ordination planners of the Waterfront, Neil Schwartz of MLH Architects and Planners, said the next section to be developed was the fish quay near Bertie's Landing. Access to this area was vital to small boat owners because the quay was the correct height for fishing boats.

"We haven't looked at relocating or changing any of the fishing arrangements. The company has a policy of retaining a working harbour element," said Mr Schwartz.

Financial director of the V & A Waterfront Company Derick van der Merwe said that if the company redeveloped that area, the fishing community would be accommodated.

Fishing community threatened by conflict

③ FISHING 23/8/95

Shopsteward murdered 'by union rivals'

③ FISHING

□ Fish factory obtains interdict

ARG 31/8/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Staff Reporter

A senior shopsteward at a Woodstock fish processing factory has been murdered, allegedly by colleagues who are members of a rival union.

The Food and Allied Workers Union's Richard Anthony was stabbed to death on his way home from work on Tuesday as rivalry between Fawu and the South African Commercial Catering and Allied Workers Union (Saccawu) for control of I&J's Woodstock plant intensified.

Both unions are Cosatu affiliates but the country's leading trade union federation appears to be unable to control the situation.

Fawu is recognised by I&J and has been for the past 14 years.

The union rivalry goes back to June 21 when Saccawu supporters embarked on an illegal strike which culminated in 46 of them being dismissed and another 134 suspended.

According to the company, several Fawu members were stabbed during the June ructions.

Yesterday, after the fatal stabbing

of Mr Anthony, I&J successfully applied for a court interdict restraining Saccawu from entering the company premises and interfering with or intimidating other workers or customers.

The company said today: "Saccawu's history in the company since January has been characterised by confrontation and unprofessional behaviour from union officials and workers alike.

"This increased dramatically when they failed in two verification exercises to secure more than 26 percent membership of the workforce in two major Cape Town-based plants."

In a hard-hitting statement released by Fawu last night, the union accuses Saccawu of harbouring a "different political ideology" in spite of its alignment to Cosatu.

Fawu accused Saccawu of not acting consistently with Cosatu's "one union, one industry" policy.

Saccawu spokesmen were not available for comment.

But a Cosatu official at the federation's Western Cape head-office said the federation "has the matter under control".

We speak for Kalk Bay fishermen, say two determined

APR 1

(3) FISHING



CONTROVERSIAL COUPLE: Kalk Bay community leaders Valda Smith, left, and Mymoena Poggenpoel.

Staff Reporter

THE two women at the centre of a development dispute in Kalk Bay claim they are fighting for fishermen's rights and not maliciously holding up development of the harbour.

They claim "greedy businessmen" want to take over the area and develop it in line with their own plans. This, the businessmen have no right to do, they say.

Passionate fighters for fishermen's rights, Mymoena Poggenpoel and Valda Smith, claim to speak for about 1 000 bona-fide fishermen and local residents in Kalk Bay. They say they approve of new ideas provided they are conducive to the environment.

"Businessmen with big plans to build a fish packing shed will desecrate a sacred part of Kalk Bay. A tavern or pub selling liquor will be detrimental to the fishing industry as a whole," said Mymoena.

The businessmen say the women are holding up the development of the harbour because they have "hidden agendas".

The two women, they say, are blocking plans for a new fish packing factory — a project supported by 31 boat-owners — and an up-market restaurant and tavern, also supported by 28 fishermen and shareholders.

The women's plans for the

upgrading of the area include a walk-in take-away "people's restaurant", kiosks on the quayside selling the community's home-made jams, patés and rollmops made from the locally-caught sardines, silk-screening, drawings and paintings by local artists and many other things including stalls for handicapped people.

They also want to build their own fish packing shed so profits can be ploughed back into the community "instead of into the pockets of greedy businessmen".

"The fishing industry in Kalk Bay was created by Filipinos and Malaysians a long time ago and belongs to the people," said Mymoena.

"We are a very cosmopolitan community and have people in our midst with a lot of different skills. There is not enough space in the small harbour for big businessmen and us and there are not enough fish for them to catch.

"Our plans will go ahead soon and by the end of the year we will have caught our whole pilchard quota."

Ms Poggenpoel declined to say where the development money for her plans would come from but hinted at the RDP.

"We hold the only fishing quota which we can definitely fill and we want to put up our own packing shed so that mon-

ey comes back to the community and not into the pockets of others," said Ms Poggenpoel, a devout Muslim whose father and grandfather were local fishermen.

"We are the only organisation on the side of bona-fide fishermen and we cannot compromise with any businessmen who want to put in a fish packing shed as this was our idea right from the start.

"Many investors wanted to come in with us but we have said no. We have money in our trust fund and elsewhere and our books are properly audited and it's none of anybody else's business what money we have available for our plans."

30/8/95
Women

Oceana reels in bigger catch

By Audrey D'Angelo

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

(3) FISHING

Rising exports and good catches helped the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) to lift operating profit 38 percent in the six months to March 31. Earnings at share level were 19,5 percent higher at 19,5c (15,5c) although the number of shares in issue rose to 97,5 million from 95,8 million. The interim dividend was 5,3c (4,6c) per share.

Earnings per share and dividend have been restated to reflect the effect of a 10 for one share split last month. Attributable profit rose by 28 percent to R18,9 million (R14,8 million). This was achieved on a 34 percent rise in turnover to R277,1 million (R207,2 million).

Operating profit was R33,1 million (R24 million). An extraordinary item, a surplus of R7 million, came from the sale of a 21 percent stake in Oranje Rivier Visserye. The major contributor to earnings was Ocfish's trading and shipping division.

CT(BR) 4/5/95

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ORDINARY LEAD THE PER SHARE

2.50 cents per share to ordinary shares in the ratio of 10:1 closed at 14:30 contained in a

228 ordinary shares in respect of amounting in 10:1 ratio in terms of shares. the price of 2 cents

listed on The Johannesburg Stock Exchange if business on

Intrust maintains

Cold storage division ^{③ FISHING} boosts Oceana Fishing

BD 4/5/95

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group lifted earnings 26% to 19,5c a share in the six months to end-March and profit for the full year was expected to show an improvement on last year, chairman Donald Ncube said.

The interim dividend was lifted to 5c (4,6c) a share.

Results published yesterday showed turnover up 34% to R277,1m and operating profit up 38% to R33,2m.

Income from investments dropped substantially to R126 000 from R3,5m at the same time last year. A R7,3m extraordinary item represented mainly the disinvestment of a shareholding in a small non-quoted pelagic company.

Financial director Rod Nicol attributed the lower income from investments to the increase in business which had used greater working capital, and to the use of some R30m in cash for the purchase of the balance of the shareholding in a cold storage company in October.

"We are employing our cash more in the business," he said. Cash deposits had fallen to R3,3m from R14,1m

EDWARD WEST

and short-term borrowings came to R13,2m compared with no borrowings at the end of the previous interim period and year end.

Nicol said although investment income had comprised 16% of attributable income at the same time last year compared with only 2% at the end of the period under review, the income was made up by increased profits from the cold storage division.

The catches and quality of lobster were good with improved export prices. The profit contribution to date was less than last year due to the lower volume sold during the first half.

Oceana's pelagic fishing operations had performed satisfactorily, with overall landings ahead of the same period last year, due mainly to good catches of redeye herring.

The pilchard resource remained sound, with catches ahead of last year. Although the total allowable catch was increased to 60 000 tons from 50 000, Oceana was allocated

an increase of only 60% of its traditional participation as the Quota Board favoured new entrants.

Oceana's trading and shipping division's turnover increased by 49% and export trading had been particularly active. Abalone landings had been satisfactory, although the export market had softened with demand and prices for canned product lower than last year.

Occupancy levels in the group's cold storage division increased considerably towards the end of last year and had remained high. The construction of a new store in Durban harbour and expansions to existing facilities elsewhere were being investigated.

Ncube said earnings in the fishing division should improve in the second half of the financial year, provided pelagic fishing landings met expectations. While occupancy rates in the cold stores appeared stable at present, these unusually high levels were unlikely to continue for much longer. Group earnings for the full year were expected to show an improvement on last year.

Waltons sells Reggies interest to management

YURI THUMBRAN

STATIONERY group Waltons has disposed of its 69% interest in toy and baby group Redwoods Holdings (Reggies) to Reggies management for R11m, or 30c a share.

Joint Reggies MDs David Bagg and David Bell had decided to buy the controlling interest, the two companies said in a joint statement.

A standby offer had been made to Reggies minorities, who had been offered 31,8c a share.

Analysts said yesterday the buyout had fuelled speculation that Pepkor, which recently acquired a 24,1% interest in Waltons, wanted to increase its stake in the stationery business and shed baby goods.

One analyst said that Pepkor needed Reggies, which trades as Reggies Baby World and Toys R Us, to list its retail chain Ackermans.

Another analyst said it was likely that Pepkor would offer Reggies shareholders 37,5c for each share in the company and then list Ackerman's via Reggies.

Bagg and Bell have assured the Securities Regulation Panel that they have sufficient cash resources to fulfil their obligations in terms of the standby offer.

Reggies' shares closed 1c or 2,44% up at 41c on the JSE yesterday, near their annual high of 45c touched on March 13, while those for Waltons finished the session unchanged at 750c, having peaked at 850c on January 24.

BD 4/5/95



3 new pelagic fish quotas granted

③ FISHING

BETWEEN 70 and 80 new applications for pelagic fish quotas were made for this year but only three were granted, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

Every existing pelagic quota holder also made new applications for 1995, which were all granted, he said in reply to a question tabled in the National Assembly by Mr Chris Wyngaard (NP). —
Political Staff

CT 5/5/95

Higher tax slices Langeberg profit

□ Local sales and exports growing

JOHN VILJOEN
Business Staff

③
FISHING
INCREASED local sales and export volumes helped food processing group Langeberg Holdings report a 13 percent rise in after-tax profits to R27,3 million for the six months ended March.

Turnover increased by 11,6 percent to R430 million, and income from interest of R7 million helped boost the pre-tax profit by 56 percent. But Langeberg's effective tax rate soared from 13 percent to 36 percent, owing largely to the taxation of GEIS.

The group has declared an interim dividend of 4,5 c a share, an improve-

ment of 12,5 percent on a year ago.

ARL 5/5/95
Reviewing operations, the Langeberg board said the group had maintained its market shares, in spite of increased local competition.

The "satisfactory" improvement in margins was owing partly to the success of rationalisation during 1994, and improved efficiencies. The latest deciduous fruit crop had also exceeded expectation.

Export earnings were likely to increase, and the South African market was expected to continue to grow. Full-year earnings were likely to echo the growth in the period to March, directors said.

Sea Harvest reels in better hake catches

③ FISHING

ARGUS 5/95

Deputy Business Editor

BETTER hake catches and strong domestic and foreign demand boosted Sea Harvest's profits 26 percent to R23,1 million in the six months ended March.

The new fish processing plant in Saldanha, which came on stream last November, improved efficiency and helped the group add value.

Directors said markets were expected to remain firm, and with good winter catches earnings growth was expected in the second half.

A dividend of 8,5c (7c) was declared.

■ Bellville based textile group Romatex doubled shareholders' profits to R11,8 million in the six months to March, on the back of a 29 percent increase in turnover.

Directors said all four operating divisions in the restructured group — cotton, household textiles, wool and floor coverings — had performed

well, although the Berg River Textiles plant had not been at full potential.

The group reported a cash outflow of R19 million for the period because of capital spending in the wool and cotton divisions and higher raw material prices.

But Romatex was still ungeared and future cash flow prospects were positive, directors said, declaring an interim dividend of 12 compared with 7c last year.

The rate of increase in profits would not be maintained in the second half, they said.

■ Diversification away from previous core markets helped electronics group Altech increase turnover 24 percent in the year ended February, although attributable profits rose only 6 percent to R73 million.

Strategic partnership with French telecommunications giant Alcatel had been strengthened, and the group bid successfully for Telkom contracts.

(3) FISHING
Sea Harvest objects to mill

CAPE TOWN — CG Smith's trawling and seafood processing company Sea Harvest, which today announced a solid increase in its half-year earnings, has objected strongly to the proposed siting of Iscor's steel mill in Saldanha Bay.

Chairman Eckhard Kramer said at the release of the interim results yesterday that the blasting and excavation needed to build the plant would seriously affect Sea Harvest's mussel farm operations.

Sea Harvest lifted earnings 26% to 23,2c (18,4c) a share to end-March after

EDWARD WEST

improved hake catches and firm local and international demand.

Turnover increased 15% to R180,9m. Operating profit was R35m. Pre-tax profit was R39,9m, while taxation amounted to R16,8m (R12,5m). Attributable profit was 26% higher at R23,2m. The interim dividend was lifted to 8,5c (7c) a share. *BD 5/5/95*

Satisfactory earnings growth was expected in the second half, provided the traditionally good winter catches materialised.

Revamp of fishing industry starts

③ FISHING

ST(CM) 7/5/95

By DICK USHER

A BROAD restructuring of the fishing industry based on the RDP is taking shape with a first draft policy document expected to be ready by June.

The Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) is working out a democratic reshaping of the industry aimed at real growth and job creation and sustainable use of resources.

The aim is to have a final document prepared for presentation to Minister of Environment Affairs Dawie de Villiers by October. This will be the basis for legislative proposals.

The 18-member FPDC working committee tasked with producing this document had its first meeting in Port Elizabeth last weekend.

FPDC chairperson Mandla Gxanyana said a problem in areas like the former Transkei and Ciskei was that fishermen were still working under home-

land legislation.

Tasks will include coastal management and "stocktaking" — a scientific analysis of resources.

"But there is also a lot of mistrust in the industry and questions about possible bias in the scientific information.

"To ensure transparency in the stocktaking process we'll seek international assistance from scientists with the United Nations' Food and Agricultural Organisation," said Mr Gxanyana.

A draft policy proposal drawn up by the ANC calls for scientific research in the industry to shift focus from aspects of scientific management of fish stocks to socio-economic aspects of the industry.

Proposals before the committee include fundamental struc-

tural changes to the fishing industry, including transferring management of marine resources from the Department of Environment Affairs to a Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The Quota Board, centre of some controversy in past years, has already been restructured.

Mr Gxanyana said agreement had been reached with the coastal regions that each regional government would nominate a delegate to be appointed by the minister to sit on the board.

"One small step in democratisation," he said.

Another issue that policy will deal with is wages and working conditions in the industry. Wages are notoriously low and the seasonal nature of the work is a further problem.

"We don't want to create chaos and a restructuring that will lead to people losing jobs," said Mr Gxanyana.

'Poaching a bigger threat to crayfish industry than size'

③ FISHING ARG 2/5/95

Environment Reporter

THE controversial decision to reduce the minimum legal size for crayfish caught commercially is probably correct, says one of South Africa's top marine scientists, George Branch.

But he warned that the need to control poaching was a more important issue than size.

Professor Branch, head of the zoology department at the University of Cape Town and one of a handful of South Africa's "A-rated" scientists, was writing in Scientech '94 '95, the annual magazine of the Founda-

tion for Research Development.

The decision to reduce the minimum legal size for commercially caught crayfish from 89 mm to 75 mm was taken by the government in the early 1990s.

It was prompted by a sharply reduced growth rate in the crayfish population, and followed strong representations from the industry, based on work by UCT scientists Amos Narkai and Mike Bergh.

The decision caused a huge outcry — particularly from the recreational fishermen who were still restricted to "kreef" with a carapace size of 80 mm.

The computer model used to predict the effect of changes in minimum size and accompanying reduced quota had been carefully evaluated by independent, internationally-renowned scientists to test its validity, Professor Branch said.

"A great deal of credit goes to doctors Barkai and Bergh, who spent long and hard hours running and re-running the model to satisfy exacting critics.

"In all my experience, I haven't known any other fisheries recommendations to be scrutinised with the same exacting detail — and rightly so, for the implications are enormous and, once embarked on, there is no

easy turning back from the route of size reduction."

Given all the evidence, it was probably right to have implemented the size reduction, Professor Branch said.

"Of greater concern to me is whether we have the capacity to enforce the recommended controls.

"No matter how good our science and recommendations, if poaching isn't controlled we will fail in our stated fisheries goal of managing living resources for the optimal, long-term sustained benefit of all the peoples of South Africa."

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

SOUTH Africa's fishing industry is heavily weighted in favour of a few major fishing companies, while small fishing operators struggle for a share.

Twelve out of 70 new applicants for pelagic fishing quotas (for pilchard and anchovy) were given small quotas this year, a spokesman for the Department of Sea Fisheries told Weekend Argus. The rest were refused.

But the bulk of fishing quotas continues to be held by a few large companies. The quotas of all previous quota-holders were renewed, he said, although in some cases the quotas were reduced.

New entrants got a total of about 16 000 tons out this year's pelagic Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 278 000 tons, 87 percent of which goes to the big fishing companies.

Len Olivier, secretary to the Interim Quota Board, said this was because "the quotas given to previous quota-holders are renewed every year and no new quotas are given unless more fish becomes available".

The guidelines laid down for the board stated that quota-holders could not have their quotas taken away unless they were found guilty of some misdemeanour, he added.

Little 'uns struggle for a share of

fish

The Interim Quota Board chairman, retired Judge Harold Levy, said "a whole process of discussions takes place at which quota-holders may appeal against our decisions".

He said that although an impression may have been created that the Quota Board was nothing but a rubber stamp, it had considerable discretion.

A spokesman for the Department of Sea Fisheries said all the 1995 quotas had been allocated, except for hake, for which the TAC had not yet been assessed by scientists of the department.

Species subject to quotas are hake, sole, pilchard, anchovy, horse mackerel, West and South Coast crayfish and perlemoen.

TACs for most species were unchanged from last year, except for anchovy (down from 260 000 tons to 180 000 tons), pilchards (up to 78 000 from 43 000 tons) and South Coast crayfish (down to 429,5 from 450 tons), said the spokesman.

However, new entrants were given 3 600 tons of pilchards and 12 000 tons of anchovy, including an

additional 345 tons of pilchards for community trusts, bringing their quota to 2 945 tons.

Most of the new entrants got small pilchard quotas of 350 to 500 tons. Three new entrants got the 12 000 tons of anchovy — Community Processors and Developers, Reiger Fishing and Fishermen's Development Co-operative.

These quotas are miniscule compared to quotas held by the big fishing companies, which have been reallocated this year in accordance with the guidelines.

Highlighting the imbalance, figures for 1994 given to the National Fisheries Policy Commission showed that:

■ Ninety-three percent of the TAC of 512 437 tons was allocated last year to the big business sector, comprising Irvin and Johnson (Anglovaal group), Sea Harvest (CG Smith group), Atlantic Fishing (Premier group), Marine Products (Food-corp group), Oceana (Tiger Oats group), Lusitania, Viking Fishing, Suiderland and their subsidiaries.

■ Only 0,7 percent was allocated to blacks, coloureds and Indian people, who owned seven percent of the 2 700 registered fishing boats. They were issued with six percent of 4 000 commercial fishing licences, and got two percent of the hake TAC, 0,3 percent of the pilchard TAC and two percent of the West Coast crayfish TAC.

■ Of the hake TAC of 147 000 tons, Irvin and Johnson, Sea Harvest and Marine Products between them got 83 percent, with the remaining 17 percent divided between 43 companies.

■ The anchovy TAC was 260 000 tons, of which Oceana, Marine Products and Southern Sea got 57 percent, with the remaining 43 percent divided between 50 companies.

■ The perlemoen TAC was 615 tons, and Marine Products, Oceana, Irvin and Johnson and Blue Star Holdings shared the lot between them.

■ The West Coast crayfish TAC was 2 200 tons. Of this, 48 percent went to Oceana, Lusitania and

Southern Sea, while the remaining 52 percent went to about 75 companies.

■ Lusitania, Atlantic Fishing and Hout Bay Fishing Industries between them got 94 percent of the South Coast crayfish TAC, with the remaining six percent split between two companies.

It is small wonder that, at most meetings of working bodies of the commission, the quota system, and fishing monopolies come under sustained attack.

Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers appointed the commission in October to devise a new national fisheries policy. It must report by October and appears to be making headway, although a meeting in PEI last week could not agree on nominations for trustees to run the commission's R1,2 million funding (from government and parastatal sources).

Representatives of the small business sector have strongly criticised wide discretionary powers given to the Minister of Environmental Affairs in determining the TAC, and his having the final say in quota allocations.

There was no transparency in the decision-making process, said the document submitted to the commission, adding that this could mean "political interference in the management of marine resources".

③ FISHING

ARG 13/5/95

3 FISHING

Fishing port

NAMIBIA wanted to establish a small fishing port with processing facilities at Mowe Bay on its northern coast, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said.

In documents prepared for the 1995 Southern African Economic Summit, the ministry said estimated capital expenditure of \$81-million would be needed for the project. A feasibility study costing about \$1.5-million was required, it said.

ST(BT)4/95
Reports by Business Times staff and Sapa-AP-
Reuter.

W Cape Mussel farming probe launched

STAFF REPORTER

THE Sea Fisheries department, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and several universities have launched a joint three-year research programme to investigate establishing communi-

ty-based mussel farming in Saldanha Bay.

Sea Fisheries spokesman Mr Anton Moldan said yesterday that if successful, the programme would provide an ideal means of granting the local community greater access to coastal resources,

would create jobs and would protect natural stocks of mussels.

"As our coastal resources are coming under increasing pressure from commercial and recreational exploitation, greater emphasis needs to be placed on the development of the mariculture industry

CT 24/5/95
③ FISHING
— the farming of marine organisms — to relieve the pressure on natural stocks," Mr Moldan said.

The research programme will investigate water circulation patterns, water chemistry, planktonic food supply and the best position for floating farms in the area.

Big potential in mussel farming

ARG 25/5/95

(3) FISHING

Environment Reporter

MUSSEL farming in Saldanha Bay is an ideal way of providing jobs and incomes for the community and enhancing living standards, says the Department of Environmental Affairs.

As part of its commitment to the government's Reconstruction and Development Programme, the department is to fund a three-year mariculture research programme in Saldanha Bay.

At the same time the Mariculture Association of Southern Africa has expressed concern that the proposed Iscor steel plant close to the edge of the bay could have a negative effect on the established mariculture industry there.

Chairman Peter Cook said the association had not been approached officially about the proposed steel plant.

"I am not sure of the potential effects it would have on the industry, but I would have expected that before proceeding with the project the association should at least have been given the chance to examine documentation and make comments ...

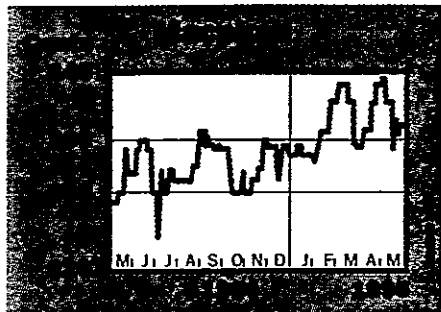
"It is unacceptable that this association has not been included in any discussions or decisions."

The Department of Environmental Affairs said mariculture was a developing industry and 2 982 tons of black mussels had been farmed in Saldanha Bay last year.

"Because of its ideally sheltered nature, there has recently been added pressure to increase the number of mariculture operations in the bay."

Saldanha was well situated for small-scale, community-based mussel farms which could provide many jobs.

The research project is a co-operative venture between the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, several universities and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.



ing Macphail as new parent.

The price for 75% was a R6m coal contribution. Hanseatic keeps a 25% stake. Macphail MD Paul McNaughton says it's intended to take advantage of UK pit closures to penetrate the industrial Midlands (Manchester, Huddersfield, Leeds) from supply depots at Newport.

Finally, there's the purchase of Coalcor, the distribution company centred on Cape Town. This attracted adverse comment from analysts, who say Macphail bought Coalcor only to recoup its large debts. McNaughton confirms Coalcor owed Macphail R17.5m but says the deal involved only R24m. "That's a lot better than the R60m wanted two years ago," he says.

The indication is that 1995 EPS will be unchanged at about 51c. That will be on about 60% more issued shares and implies a rise in attributable profit to R12.2m. Real benefits from the UK and Namibian expansion will flow through only in 1996. Based on this, next year will be one in which Macphail will hope not to fail.

David Glendon

NAMSEA/NAMFISH

3 FISHING

Fritto mixo

RM 2/6/95

Activities: Fish catching and processing.

Control: Namibian Sea Products 38.5%.

Chairman and CEO: P C Kuttel.

Capital structure: 31.5m ords. Market capitalisation: R44.1m.

Share market: Price: 140c. Yields: 10.7% on dividend; 12.6% on earnings; p/e ratio, 7.9; cover, 1.2. 12-month high, 140c; low, 78c. Trading volume last quarter, 1.1m shares.

Year to December 31	'91	'92	'93	†'94
ST debt (Rm)	—	2.9	6.6	7.0
LT debt (Rm)	0.4	5.0	7.1	12.7
Debt:equity ratio	n/a	0.27	0.33	0.68
Shareholders' interest	0.9	0.6	0.55	0.48
Return on cap (%)	6.8	—	4.7	10.0
Turnover (Rm)	11.6	29.2	36.8	78.8
Pre-int profit (Rm)	1.97	(1.1)	2.4	6.2
Pre-int margin (%)	17	n/a	6.7	7.9
Earnings (c)	62	(40)	48.7	17.7
Dividends (c)	40	20	12.5	15.0
Tangible NAV (c)	812	900	110	94.3

* Includes 80c extraordinary dividend. † Share split 10 for one.

In a difficult year marked by an unexpected migration of pelagic species farther north than usual, Namibian Sea Products (Namsea)'s profitability was hit by reduced efficiencies. Namibian Fishing Industries

(Namfish), though, had a highly satisfactory year because increased white fish quotas were caught in full.

Namsea conducts pelagic fishing through 76%-owned UFE and other subsidiaries. UFE also processes quota and nonquota fish caught by other concession holders.

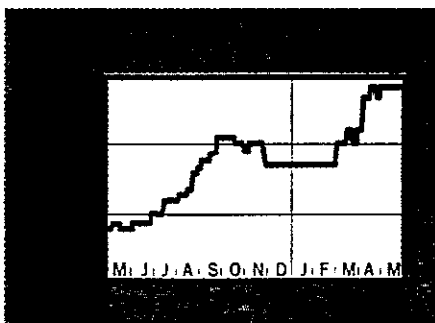
In 1994 a pilchard quota of 23 734 t was issued to member companies of UFE out of a total allowable catch (TAC) of 125 000 t (1993: 115 000 t). This was caught in full and UFE also processed a further 40 352 t on behalf of other quota holders.

The problem was that because of abnormal environmental factors, fish migrated north from the traditional fishing grounds to mass around the Angolan border.

Operating conditions and greater travel distances meant that fuel bills increased, factory costs rose because of higher turnaround times for the vessels, and substantial quantities of fish had to be rejected for canning to maintain standards. Though Namsea's turnover rose by 33%, operating profits and thus EPS could muster only an 11% gain.

The unwelcome migration has had another (more serious) consequence. The Namibian Minister of Fisheries, in conjunction with Namibian Marine Resources, set a provisional TAC for 1995 of only 35 000 t until research provides evidence that the biomass has not been depleted. The provisional TAC has been increased but not by as much as quota holders expected because, as chairman Peter (Padda) Kuttel says, abundant quantities of pilchards are again evident north and south of Walvis Bay.

Kuttel is, however, seemingly unconcerned by this lower TAC. He says catches are "really good, UFE is processing substantial quantities of fish, prices of fish oil and meal are higher and if necessary we'll catch pilchards in Angolan waters for which we have obtained appropriate li-



ences." In a nutshell, he is upbeat about Namsea's 1995 prospects.

He feels similarly about Namfish. Though it also has pelagic interests through its 23% of UFE, its fishing efforts are directed almost entirely to trawling for hake. In 1994 Namfish not only caught its full quota but handled a fivefold increase in volumes through the factory. The freezer trawler *Garoya's* operation also became profitable and contributed significantly.

Moreover, export prices were higher.

Namfish's prospects for 1995 have not been enhanced by an increased TAC. That remains unchanged. But 100% subsidiary Northern Fishing Industries has been awarded a quota of 1 572 t (1994: 750 t). The catch should therefore grow, the hake resource appears sound and plentiful and world prices continue to harden.

Namibia is a member of the Lomé Convention. Namfish therefore has enhanced trading opportunities in Europe and prospects for increased operational profits seem brighter than ever.

In April Namfish set a new high of 140c, its current price. Its p/e ratio is 7.9 and dividend yield just under 11%. If all goes according to plan, a conservative 20% earnings rise is within reach. That would put EPS at 21c and the prospective p/e at 6.7. Given the risks inherent in the industry, it's a fair price. But the dividend yield should make the counter attractive as a yield-sweetener in any portfolio.

Namsea's prospects are more difficult to assess but, considering Kuttel's buoyancy and the possibility that at least some of the direct costs incurred in 1994 can be avoided this year, earnings prospects also appear better below the surface.

Any investor interested in a high yield as well as capital growth should buy and hold both shares.

Gerald Hirshon

LIBERTY INVESTORS

The alternative entry

Activities: Joint holding company of the Liberty Life Group.

Control: Gordon family ±60%.

Chairman: D Gordon.

Capital structure: 209m ords. Market capitalisation: R3.5bn.

Share market: Price: R16.75. Yields: 1.9% on dividend; 3.5% on earnings; p/e ratio, 28.8; cover, 1.8. 12-month high, R18.75; low, R14.75. Trading volume last quarter, 1m shares.

Year to February 28	'92	'93	'94	'95
Total assets (Rbn) ...	1.36	1.97	2.46	2.82
Investments (Rbn) ...	1.34	1.94	2.44	2.81
Pre-tax profit (Rm) ...	68.9	88.6	103.1	121.0
Attributable (Rm) ...	68.9	87.8	102.9	120.6
Earnings (c)	34	43	50	58
Dividends (c)	16.6	†20.9	26.0	32.4
Tangible NAV (c)	655	947	1 181	1 333

† Excludes special dividend of 17.5c (September 1992) and non-recurring dividend of 30c (November 1992).

This is the vehicle through which Donald Gordon exercises joint control, with Standard Bank Investment Corp (SBIC), of the Liberty Life ... Liberty Investors (Libvest) holds 50% of unlisted Liblife Controlling Corp, which in turn owns 52.2% of Liberty Holdings, which holds 52.7% of Liberty Life Association of Africa (the mainstay life assurance company).

At year-end, this 50% interest in Liblife Controlling, on the market value of its 52.2% investment in Liberty Holdings, was

COMPANIES

R8m plant chips in on excess capacity

Edward West

③ FISHING

CAPE TOWN — The Oceana Fishing group's frozen chip processing plant at subsidiary Lamberts Bay Fishing Company represents the town's first major investment in nearly 80 years, said Lamberts Bay mayor Tobie Kaizer.

The plant, which was opened this week, is part of Oceana's strategy to use excess capacity at its fish processing plants during off-season to produce a variety of canned and now frozen products.

Lamberts Bay Fishing Company GM Peter Grobler said it also enabled Oceana to spread costs at a time when fishing quotas were under pressure.

The R8m chip plant is based on a process started four years ago in St Helena Bay where the fish canning plant was used to can basic foodstuffs. Previously fish volumes only justified 80 work days a year, but the new canned products pushed plant utilisation to a double shift for the full year.

Potato chip equipment was imported from Hamm and Hak Engineering company in Holland and the plant, which is situated close to SA's top potato growing regions — the Sandveld and Ceres — was built in five months. *BD 2/6/95*

The first chips were introduced to the market in March and since then a number of sizeable contracts had been secured, said Grobler. Market acceptance of the group's brand, Gold Seal, was ahead of expectations, he said.

The project's feasibility depended on the fact that chips could be processed in tandem with lobster. Without lobster quotas, the chip plant would not be able to stand alone.

He said significant opportunities for the expansion of the plant and product lines were being considered.

Meanwhile, Western Cape economic affairs MEC Chris Nissen this week opened a small business hive in Lamberts Bay, which is to be managed by Oceana.

Tasty days for Ocfish and chips

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

Faced with the prospect of cutting jobs for fishermen and factory workers when its anchovy quota was cut, the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) invested in facilities to process vegetables in its Lamberts Bay canning plant and in a small business hive for entrepreneurs in the West Coast village.

This week its new R8 million French fry processing plant was opened officially by the chairman

of the group, Don Ncube.

Peter Grobler, managing director of Ocfish subsidiary Lamberts Bay Fishing Company, said the investment was a continuation of a highly successful project started at the group's St Helena Bay Fishing Industries some years ago. It was realised that the fish processing plants could be used outside the fishing season for canned and frozen vegetables.

This facilitated the creation of stable employment in a highly seasonal industry.

Ncube said the Lamberts Bay plant already had "a few sizeable contracts" for French fries. Its new Dutch-made equipment would enable it to meet the exacting standards of large international fast food chains expected to enter the South African market in the future.

The mayor of Lamberts Bay, Tobie Kaizer, said this was "the first real investment we have seen in 80 years".

It was a welcome boost for the economy of this otherwise stagnant town.

CT(BR)2/6/95

③ FISHING

JEAN LE MAY
Weekend Argus Reporter

THE family of Manuel de Olim, chairman of Sistro Fishing Company, left their home in Hout Bay after police received a warning on Thursday that it would be burned down by angry fishermen.

Sistro Fishing lawyer Stephen Broekman told Weekend Argus the threat had been reported by the Cape Town harbour police and that police were guarding the house.

Police in Hout Bay said yesterday "all is quiet". Mr De Olim is out of town on business.

Meanwhile, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Bantu Holomisa has been accused of making a political issue out of a dispute involving R500 000 owed by Sistro Fishing to the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Community Trust.

Mr Holomisa's action conflicts with a decision made by Minister Dawie de Villiers, who withdrew his department

Bay fishermen bait boss with fire threat

from the dispute after Department of Sea Fisheries officials were taken hostage by former members of the trust.

These members split to form the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Association, which demanded the money.

The law must take its course, said Dr De Villiers.

"Dawie ran away from it. So now I'm going to settle it," Mr Holomisa is reported to have said at a meeting in his office recently at which trustees and association members were present.

Dr De Villiers was aware of the meetings, said a spokesman, but would not interfere unless it appeared the department was becoming involved officially.

Mr Holomisa has turned his office over as a venue for the association's meetings. He presided over a meeting there yesterday, said a spokesman. He added that Mr Holomisa agreed to act as a "facilitator".

A proposal was put to the fishermen that the money should be placed in trust pending a court decision, but no progress towards resolving the dispute was made, said Mr Broekman.

The fishermen have turned down a suggestion from Sea Fisheries director Louis Botha that they should apply to the Supreme Court for access to the money.

This was not acceptable to association chairman Law-

rence Hlwele and other members, who told Weekend Argus after a meeting with Dr Botha on May 29 that they intended approaching Mr Holomisa.

But, Mr Hlwele is already in trouble with the law. Judge Jeannette Traverso ordered in the Cape Town Supreme Court in December that Mr Hlwele and two other former trustees should explain by June 21 what became of the first R500 000 paid by Sistro Fishing Company for the trust's 1994 hake quota.

It was said in court that Mr Hlwele had paid most of it in cash amounts of about R1 400 apiece to 355 of his own followers "apart from R28 000 which he kept", while the other beneficiaries got nothing.

It has since been established that 241 of the 355 people who were paid out were not fishermen, according to documents prepared by the Department of Sea Fisheries with the assistance of the Department of Home Affairs.

Moreover, it has since transpired that some of the trustees, who took Mr Hlwele to court over the missing R500 000, helped themselves to about R63 000 paid to the trust.

The row is about the second instalment of R500 000 plus interest for the 1994 hake quota now due by Sistro Fishing Company to beneficiaries of the trust.

A cheque for this amount is now in a safe at a Cape Town financial institution, Weekend

The beneficiary community is described as "fishermen operating out of Cape Town harbour and their families".

There are 942 seasonal fishermen: If cash were paid out to them out of the R500 000 they would get R573 each — which is substantially less than the R1 400 already paid to Mr Hlwele's supporters.

Also, the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union have filed papers in the Supreme Court asking for the trust's quota to be set aside.

The union's lawyer, Morris Phillips, told Weekend Argus that the minister and the Department of Sea Fisheries were not opposing the application.

He was taking the legal approach that a trust was not a juristic person and was therefore ineligible to receive quotas, said Mr Phillips.

If the union succeeds, all quotas given to fishing community trusts by the Quota Board will fall away.

ARG 3/6/95

③ FISHING

Oceana opens R8 million chip processing plant

Business Staff

Oceana Fishing Group opened an R8 million potato chip processing plant at Lamberts Bay this week.

The venture is modelled on Oceana's St Helena Bay Fishing Industries project, where employees in the fish processing plant work in the off season on the production of canned and frozen products.

After a feasibility study to find out which raw materials

(3) FISHING ARL 3/6/95
could be processed in Lamberts Bay, Oceana decided to install a French-fry plant.

State-of-the-art technology from Holland will enable the operation to meet the standards of the big international fast food chains, which are eyeing the South African market.

Lamberts Bay Fishing Company general manager Peter Grobler said the company already had a few sizeable contracts for frozen potato chips.

Nets mined by illegal fishing boats

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL STAFF

3 FISHING

CT 9/6/95

FOREIGN boats illegally fishing in South African waters were placing mines on fishing buoys and nets to scare off local fishermen — “an act of hostility”, Deputy Defence Minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils said yesterday.

Mr Kasrils confirmed that the South African National Defence Force had received information that mines were being used in fishing wars off the South African coast, but stressed that “we need information”.

The use of the mines by foreign fishermen was disclosed in the Senate yesterday by the National Party's Senator Mark Wiley.

He asked Mr Kasrils whether he was aware of the use of mines on fishing nets.

The Deputy Minister replied: “We are receiving information about this. We need information.”

Asked by Mr Wiley whether SA regarded these moves as hostile, Mr Kasrils replied: “I think we would consider it an act of hostility.”

Senator Wiley said later foreign fishing vessels were entering South African waters at night, attaching two kilometre-long lines to buoys and then returning the next night to collect them.

In the past, South African fishermen immediately cut these illegal lines. Recently they had found mines on them which exploded when the lines were cut.

Some of SA's wooden-hulled boats had been damaged.

Mr Wiley said fishermen had complained about these illegal fishing boats but had been told by Cape Town Radio it would be a waste of time. They were told the Department of Environmental Affairs' boats lacked skippers or mates because they offered poor pay, and could not put to sea. The boats could in any event only travel at 12 knots.

“This is an absolute disgrace,” Mr Wiley said. “Why pay for a crew and then refuse to pay enough for a skipper?”

His information was that Japanese, Spanish and Russian fishing boats were involved in the illegal fishing. The use of mines to discourage South African boats from cutting lines had only started, however, once Russian vessels increased their presence in the area.

“I cannot understand why this matter is not being tackled at diplomatic level,” Mr Wiley said.



HOSTILE: Deputy Defence Minister Mr Ronnie Kasrils

C J van Zyl en Seuns	3 597 kg	3 597 kg	3 270 kg
D Vierra		3 568 kg	3 244 kg
A Weimar			6 258 kg
A & G Weimar	461 kg	461 kg	419 kg
G Weimar			6 258 kg
E F H Walters		2 800 kg	2 546 kg

(b)(ii)(cc)	(c)(ii)(cc)	(c)(ii)(cc)	(c)(ii)(cc)
Private persons	1993	1994	1995
	—	—	—

(b)(ii)(dd)	(c)(ii)(dd)	
	Bait	
Private persons	1993	1994
S Achmat	77,2	100,00
M de Gerus	77,2	100,00
U Donaggi	77,2	100,00
J G Fernandes	77,2	177,00
H C L Griffiths	39,4	50,00
K Kingna	115,2	116,00
A & P Penglides	39,4	50,00
E M Pimenta	77,2	100,00
R Poggenpoel & Partners	39,4	50,00
P J Steyl & P B le Roux	218,8	319,00
S P J & A B Tredoux	115,2	215,00
E F H Walters	230,4	430,00
A & G Weimar	141,6	357,00
N S William & Vennote	39,4	50,00

Nurses in State hospitals: appointments/resignations

75. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Health:

How many nurses (a) were employed in State hospitals in each province in (i) 1993, (ii) 1994 and (iii) 1995 and (b) resigned in each province in each of these years?

S129E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

(a) Province	(i) 1993	(ii) 1994	(iii) 1995
Western Cape	14 205	14 016	14 338
Eastern Cape	17 832	17 591	17 998
Northern Cape	1 967	2 005	2 037

KwaZulu-Natal	21 624	23 413	25 893
Free State	8 931	9 096	9 204
Gauteng	2 268	20 941	21 361
Mpumalanga	753	702	869
North West	4 052	5 197	6 401
Northern Province	16 364	16 686	15 408

(b) Province	(i) 1993	(ii) 1994	(iii) 1995
Western Cape	1 398	1 257	1 388
Eastern Cape	241	231	202
Northern Cape	204	171	139
KwaZulu-Natal	1 797	1 851	1 932
Free State	638	619	705
Gauteng	1 087	1 103	1 174
Mpumalanga	214	209	306
North West	540	442	576
Northern Province	642	671	739

Per capita allocation of health funds in provinces

79. Sen W F MNISI asked the Minister for Health:

What was the *per capita* allocation of health funds in each of the provinces in (a) 1994 and (b) 1995?

S133E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

Province	Per capita allocation 1994/95	Per capita allocation 1995/96
Eastern Cape	275,83	282,45
Gauteng	514,44	462,95
Mpumalanga	175,59	200,98
Northern Cape	252,85	303,57
Northern Province	213,24	264,50
North West	238,85	249,05
Orange Free State	378,52	366,25
Western Cape	579,37	512,26
KwaZulu-Natal	319,67	327,66

The 1994/95 figures may not be accurate due to difficulties in estimating the allocations in provinces where previously self-governing territories were reincorporated.

Assistance for facilitation/planning of newly established communities

82. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

Whether, with reference to the rendering of assistance for the facilitation and planning of newly established communities, any applications for such help have been received by his Department; if so, (a) how many such applications have been received from (i) individuals and (ii) communities and (b) how many of these applications have been granted?

S136E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes, a number of applications have been received.

(a) (i) None

(ii) 182 (105 inside pilot districts and 77 outside thereof)

(b) 151

A considerable number of communities are currently organising themselves with the support of the Department and/or community based organisations and/or non-government institutions. It is expected that more applications will be received.

Visitors on temporary residence permits

84. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

(1) Whether his Department has any method of tracing visitors on temporary residence permits who do not leave the country on expiry of these permits; if not, why not, if so, (a) what method and (b) what does the budget amount to in this respect;

(2) whether this method meets with any success; if not, why not; if so, to what extent?

S139E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) Yes. A Movement Control System is maintained, which is computerised and monitors the entry and departure

of persons. From this record persons who do not leave on expiry of their permits can be identified.

In terms of section 3 of the Aliens Control Act, 1991 (Act 96 of 1991), immigration officers have been appointed to, *inter alia*, trace persons who exceeded their authorised period of temporary residence in the Republic.

(b) The Department has 1 218 approved immigration officer posts of which 754 are stationed at ports of entry and 464 are tasked with law enforcement. The total personnel budget for immigration officers is R50 461 951 of which R19 223 600 is allocated for law enforcement.

(2) In 1995, 157 084 illegals were repatriated in comparison with 53 418 repatriations in 1990. In a recent study initiated by the Department and carried out by the Human Sciences Research Council it is estimated that there might be up to 4,1 million illegal aliens in the RSA. In view of these figures particularly, it must be stated that although the method of tracing illegals is reasonably successful the lack of funds for the creation of more posts is an inhibiting factor.

Possible amendment of water legislation

86. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

Whether the panel appointed by him to report on the possible amendment of water legislation in South Africa has investigated the water systems and experiences of other arid Western countries; if not, why not; if so, (a) what countries are involved, (b) to what extent research on water legislation has been done in those countries, (c) for how long the systems have been tested, (d)(i) with what countries has South Africa displayed similarities and (ii) in what respects were there similarities and (e) where this is indicated in the report?

S141E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(a), (b) and (c) No. The mandate of the Water Law Review Panel was to draft a basic set of principles on which a new water law

Fishing not ③ FISHING AD 29/6/95 out of woods

CAPE TOWN — SA's demersal and pelagic fish resources were relatively healthy, having shown signs of recovery since setbacks in the 1970s, Environment and Tourism Minister Bantu Holomisa said.

However, there was still cause for concern, he said at the opening of an international fishing conference.

He said these industries accounted for 88% to 95% of the total catch reported over the past 30 years.

Anchovy catches had dropped to 155 000 tons last year from 235 000 tons in 1993. Quota restrictions had allowed a gradual recovery in the pelagic catch, from 16 000 tons in 1974 to about 42 000 tons in 1994.

Demersal fishing was dominated by hake, which peaked in 1972 at 300 000 tons and then fell to "virtually uneconomical levels". He gave no recent catch rate, but said stocks were recovering. — Reuter.

Fish quota row explodes

FISHING ARG(SA) 11/3/95

Boat accused of catching pilchards in False Bay

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

SIMMERING discontent about the community quota of pilchards for the people of Kalk Bay exploded into a full-scale row this week, leading to the stabbing of the skipper of the fishing boat Ang-Jerry.

The skipper, Stephen "Naughty" Almussen, was accosted in the wheelhouse of the Ang-Jerry by the skipper of Star Of The Sea, Richard Poggenpoel, and in the fracas that followed was stabbed in the shoulder.

The Ang-Jerry has been accused of catching pilchards illegally inside False Bay when its licence to catch bait fish stipulates that it must fish outside False Bay.

However, there are three Kalk Bay boats, including the Star Of The Sea, licensed to catch a community quota of 300 tons of pilchards a year inside False Bay.

The shocked owner of the Ang-Jerry, Mr Sulamien "Boéré" Achmat, denied that his boat was fishing illegally inside False Bay.

He said the Ang-Jerry was netting pilchards well outside the bay on Sunday night when its net caught in the propellor. While the crew were trying to clear it, the boat drifted inside False Bay.

Mr Achmat said that because he had refused to have anything to do with the community quota, his boat was forced to travel long distances to find pilchards outside the bay while the boats that held the community quota could catch pilchards half an hour out of Kalk Bay.

"The bay was closed to trawling years ago to keep the big commercial trawlers out. But, we Kalk Bay fishermen were penalised as well, unfairly so. If the community quota boats are allowed inside the bay, we should be as well," said Mr Achmat.

Buoyant Oceana for shares split

ALIDE DASNOIS
Deputy Business Editor

DIVERSIFIED fishing group Oceana is planning a 10-for-one shares split to make the share more tradeable, according to MD Dave Behrens.

Speaking at a Real Africa Investments presentation in Cape Town yesterday, Mr Behrens said at about R30, the Oceana share was under-valued by the market.

One reason was that the share had limited tradeability. A share split, probably in March, would bring the price down from about R30 to about R3 to encourage trade in the share.

Another reason for the share's relatively low price was that the market still saw Oceana as a fishing group, vulnerable to uncertainty about the future of fishing quotas.

The group's association with black-controlled investment group Real Africa and with fishermen's associations which took a stake in Oceana in December, would put it in a better position to defend its quotas, Mr Behrens said.

Oceana, which reported attributable profit up 17 percent to R27,9 million in the year ended September, was on course to beat forecasts in the current year.

The cold storage division was operating at full capacity and fishing catches were ahead of those of competitors, Mr Behrens said.

■ Good performances from all divisions boosted Trencor's attributable profit nearly 30 percent to R62,5 million in the six months ended December.

Turnover was up 35 percent, with the container business which provides most of Trencor's income, benefitting from increased demand in line with a

global upturn.

Directors decided not to up the interim dividend, because of uncertainty about the future of the rand, which will affect the profitability of the container export business.

Shareholders can choose between a capitalisation award of one share for every 155 shares held, or a cash dividend of 9c.

Executive chairman Neil Jowell said the results of W&A Investment Corporation, in which Trencor has a 28 percent stake, should not seriously affect the group's results.

■ Engineering group Murray & Roberts increased attributable profit 36 percent to R145 million in the six months to December. Shareholders can choose between a capitalisation share issue or a cash dividend of 65c, 12 percent higher than last year's 58c.

■ Sasol managed a 25 percent increase in bottom-line profits to R854,1 million in the six months to December thanks to higher production volumes of synfuels, growth in chemical sales, stronger world chemical prices and a weaker rand.

A cash dividend of 46,5c (42,0c) a share has been declared, with the alternative of capitalisation shares.

Capital expenditure for the first part of the year was R594,5 million and authorised capital expenditure is R2,1 billion.

Sasol Chemical Industries improved its contribution to group operating profit to 28 percent or R373 million from 18 percent or R202 million in 1993, making it the second-largest contributor to group profit.

Group directors say this was achieved on a strategy of introducing added value products, as well as higher sales volumes.

APPOINTMENTS



Piet Scannell, managing director: Methealth, Metropolitan Life Ltd.



Gigi van Zyl, director, Thirty Four South Research and Trading (Pty), Cape Town.

NEWS

Cape-built trawler may signal revival of industry

CT(BR) 8/3/95

③ FISHING

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

CAPE BUSINESS EDITOR

The first trawler built in Cape Town in 25 years may lead to the revival of an industry killed off by subsidised foreign competition.

The Oceana Garnet, launched last week in Cape Town harbour, has cost the Oceana Fishing Group

about R8 million.

The tender to build the vessel was won a year ago by Farocean Marine, in competition with yards in Peru and Chile.

The last fishing vessels built in South Africa were two big deep-sea trawlers ordered from Dorbyl Marine in Durban by Irvin and Johnson 12 years ago.

Since then cost-conscious South African companies have bought ships from Spanish, Polish, Rumanian and Yugoslav yards, which are subsidised by their governments to provide jobs.

Farocean director Jendo Ocenasek said the Oceana Garnet, designed by Triton Naval Architects, was intended to be a

prototype. "We hope it will lead to further orders."

He said it was "crazy" for South African companies to order ships from foreign shipbuilders when jobs were needed here.

He added that building the Oceana Garnet took "between 60 000 and 70 000 man-hours, spread over a year".

Rice asks Sea Fisheries to act

ARC 15/3/95

③ FISHING

□ *Intervention needed to quell pilchard quota row*

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

DOLPHIN Action Protection Group secretary Nan Rice has asked Sea Fisheries' chief director Louis Botha to intervene in the simmering pilchard quota row in Kalk Bay.

Mrs Rice said she had decided to become involved in the controversial issue because the members of the Kalk Bay community who were opposed to the quota were too afraid to come forward themselves.

The row flared into violence in the harbour last week and the skipper of a fishing boat was stabbed in the shoulder.

In her letter to Dr Botha, Mrs Rice said she was approached for help by a number of fishermen from Kalk Bay harbour.

"They tell me there is a si-

lent majority in the harbour who are totally against the bait trawling quota in False Bay and that they have valid reasons for taking this stance.

"However, none of those who are against the trawl quota can come out into the open and state their case because they fear victimisation," Mrs Rice said.

The Kalk Bay community quota — 300 tons of pilchards a year trawled inside False Bay — was awarded by the Quota Board to a company set up within the community, The Kalk Bay Fishermen's Company Limited. The quota was given to two Kalk Bay boats to fulfil, the Star of the Sea and Challenger.

However, the boats have yet to fulfil the 1994 quota and have been given an extension to the end of this month. So far they have landed only 100 tons of pilchards.

There was an uproar last year when the quota was first granted. Many professional and sport fishermen and environmentalists said trawling had been banned inside False Bay for years. Reintroducing trawling inside the bay was morally and environmentally wrong.

Worried professional fishermen said they relied almost solely on catching geelbek (Cape salmon) for a living.

The only reason the geelbek were in False Bay was because of abundant baitfish like pilchards.

"Take out the pilchards and the geelbek will disappear," an angler said.

They pointed out that when pilchards were abundant, 300 tons might only be a small percentage. But in a year when there were relatively few pilchards, a 300-ton quota could decimate the stock.

There was also anger and dissatisfaction among other boat owners in Kalk Bay who had normal commercial licences to catch baitfish, but were forced to trawl outside False Bay for their catch, Mrs Rice submitted.

In her letter to Dr Botha, Mrs Rice said it was not acceptable in a democratic society that people should be afraid to speak freely because of threats and victimisation.

The situation should be remedied as a matter of urgency.

She suggested an officer from Sea Fisheries who had no previous connections with Kalk Bay should be sent there for a few weeks to confidentially speak to individual fishermen and to list the arguments for and against the bait quota.

Dr Botha confirmed he had received Mrs Rice's letter and his department was looking into the matter.

Low salaries sink research

CAPE TOWN — SA's fleet of four fisheries research ships was facing its greatest crisis in its almost 100-year history, Sea Fisheries Research Institute deputy director Alan Robertson said. ^{20 15/3/95}

Addressing the fourth National Maritime Conference, Robertson said poor salaries had resulted in the loss of experienced staff, affecting the safety and effectiveness of the vessels and their crews.

The fleet is used to service weather and research stations in the Antarctic, and for environmental research into fishing.

Robertson said the fleet was well maintained, but the manning of the vessels had become "increasingly difficult, especially over the past five years".

"While little difficulty is experienced recruiting crew, drawn mainly from the trawling industry, navigating and engineering officers pose a major problem," he said.

Poor salary packages brought about loss of experienced personnel. ^{to}
Reuter. **FISHING**

NAMSEA/NAMFISH ③ FISHING

Mixed fortunes

FM 17/3/95

Like the proverbial iceberg, Namsea's not-so-good 1994 preliminary results only disclose the tip. The results may be disappointing because of an apparent dividend cut but a look beneath the surface shows things could have been much worse and future prospects appear sound.

Namsea and Namfish chairman Peter (Padda) Kuttel says the Namibian-registered companies enjoyed mixed fortunes.

Namsea, the much larger parent of Namfish, concentrates on pelagic and other industrial fish — mostly pilchards for canning. Because of an unusual climate, sea temperatures rose above normal and pilchard shoals migrated north.

Catches involved greater fuel bills, higher prices paid to fishermen for catches delivered to the factory, increased factory costs and longer turnaround times for the vessels, more rejections of fish to maintain quality, and a general increase in labour costs. That is why a 33,4% rise in turnover left operating income unchanged.

Income from investments pushed pre-tax profit up by 7,8% and, because of a lower tax rate, attributable earnings rose a respectable 11,1%. But there was no extraordinary item to boost profits and cash flow for the benefit of shareholders by way of an increased dividend. So, in conservative mood, Kuttel has declared a dividend equal to that part of the 1993 payment derived from normal activities.

Namsea's quota from a 1994 total allowable catch of 125 000 t was caught in full but the authorities, apprehensive of damaging the distanced pilchard resource, have proclaimed a provisional catch of only 35 000 t for 1995.

Kuttel reports, though, that pilchard shoals have been seen in profusion north and south of Walvis Bay and he is convinced the provisional catch will be increased to 1994's when authorities are

satisfied about the resource. Canning has already started because a continuous supply of pilchards is evident.

Namfish enjoyed a far better year. It concentrated on its recently acquired white fish (hake) quota and filling its pelagic one. Not only did it process five times more hake, it enjoyed higher export prices. This was the main reason for the 114% jump in turnover, 119% increase in operating profit and astonishing 261% leap in EPS.

Its 1995 white fish quota has been raised from 750 t to 1 572 t. That is why Kuttel is confident profits will again advance "despite uncertainties in the pelagic sector."

For investors with a high-risk profile, it would seem appropriate to regard Namfish's prospects with optimism and buy the shares, which, at 115c, offer a p/e of 6,5 and dividend yield of 13%.

But what of Namsea? Its prospects are clouded by the reduced allowable pilchard catch. If Kuttel is correct about the appearance of abundant shoals, though, the authorities should raise the catch and Namsea's quota. And Namsea is the effective holder of 38% of Namfish directly and indirectly through operating subsidiary Sarusas; so it will pick up much of Namfish's success.

At 100c, Namsea is on a dividend yield of 12% and a p/e of 6,5. Both shares demonstrate substantial potential for increasing earnings in 1995 and beyond.

Namsea is more diversified, with its emphasis on pelagic catches. Namfish is more attractive in the short term because of its hake potential. Either or both should be acquired as yield sweeteners and for long-term growth.

Gerald Hurston

Fishing models 'have not stabilised the industry'

BD 22/3/95

EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — The annual anchovy quota had varied between 150 000 and 600 000 tons over the past 10 years and fishing exploitation models devised by scientists to ensure some predictability of catch had not led to the stability of the industry as was hoped, said Oceana chairman Don Ncube. **FISHING**

Ncube, also chairman of Real Africa Investments, which recently acquired a stake in Oceana, spoke at the launch of Oceana's new pelagic vessel, the Oceana Garnet, in Hout Bay on Monday. The R8m vessel was the first locally built steel trawler in 25 years.

Ncube said during the years when quotas were high there were always pressures to allow further entry into the industry and it was forgotten that quotas were introduced as restrictions on harvesting by ex-

isting operators when the lean years had shown the resources to be in danger of over-exploitation.

He said participation in fishing meant more than a simple right to fish, and also entailed the infrastructure to maintain vessels and plant, market the product and account for what had taken place.

SA Sea Products MD Malcolm Wallace said if the pelagic industry was allowed to stabilise and if industry participants could be assured they would be given extended rights, the vessel was likely to be the forerunner of many and a significant new local industry could be created.

The 190-ton vessel was locally designed by Triton Naval Architects and project-managed by Engineering Management Services.

ANC advises a new wing for marine resources

JEAN LE MAY
Weekend Argus Reporter

FISHING
ARG 25/31/95

THE African National Congress has suggested that the management of marine resources should be removed from the Department of Environment Affairs and placed under a new Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

The suggestion is made in a draft ANC fisheries policy document now being discussed by the national fisheries policy commission established late last year by Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

Improving the quality of life of coastal communities heads the list of policy objectives. This, says the draft, will be achieved by restoring rights of access to marine resources "where feasible", increasing employment in the industry and improving conditions in respect of income, health, safety and job security.

Other objectives are promoting development of marine resources to "enhance South Africa's status as a fishing nation", increasing the contribution of fisheries to the RDP, and providing an affordable source of food.

The industry needs thorough restructuring, says the policy document.

This should be based on equitable sharing-out of the resource in a sustainable manner, with the fisheries sector as an integral part of regional development and "transparent and accountable administration".

Access to the resource should be allowed as far as possible to those doing the actual fishing, it goes on.

Four models are examined: the state ownership of fisheries as in Namibia, where they are rented out to the industry; the individual transferable quotas as used in New Zealand; the allocation of quotas to people or companies on an annual basis (as is done at present in this country); and the permanent assignment of quotas or stock as in Japan, where virtually all fishing quotas are assigned to local fishing co-operatives.

Access rights should be allocated for long periods — five to ten years — for off-shore species, and on a semi-permanent basis where coastal communities were involved, says the document.

The present licensing system was a serious problem, said the document, because it allowed "many commercial and semi-commercial licences into the hands of a privileged few who are to all intents recreational fishermen not dependent on fishing as a livelihood".

These "weekenders" sold their catch at "way beyond the going rate", said the document, adding this affected the returns of genuine fishermen.

Enforcement practices need to be revised, says the document. For inshore fisheries and monitoring of catches, there should be greater community involvement — "which would be facilitated by allocation of quotas to these communities".

Net closing on crayfish gang

JACKIE CAMERON
CRIME REPORTER

③ FISHING
CT 6/4/95

CAPE Nature Conservation officials made a huge crayfish smuggling bust this week when they arrested six people, one from Table View and the rest from Mamre, after catching them with about 3 400 crayfish tails — most of them undersize — at Silverstroomstrand.

Officials believe the arrests have led to a breakthrough in the sophisticated racket and say they are closing the net on an illegal crayfish trafficking network, believed to be headed by a Paarl businessman.

Investigations were progressing swiftly and inspectors had information that crew on at least two legal fishing vessels were involved in the illegal network, deputy chief marine inspector Mr Hendrik Geldenhuys said yesterday.

Investigators had not yet determined where the crayfish was being sold, and Mr Geldenhuys said he could not disclose more details for fear of jeopardising the investigation.

Fishing quota
complaints ^{③ fishing}

CT 7/4/95

COMPLAINTS and submissions about the recent allocation of pelagic fishing quotas should be submitted to the independent Quota Board, the Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism, Dr Dawie de Villiers, said yesterday.

Widening the search for net profits

WM 21-27/4/95 ③ FISHING

As catches in their own

Trawlers from Europe head south in search of rapidly dwindling species of fish for their harvests.

This month inspectors seized a lead-and-nylon gill net more than 20km long and capable of strip-mining the ocean of an entire ecosystem from the Grand Banks off Canada's coast.

It is a classic case of the "tragedy of the commons" syndrome: a race by some of the largest fishing nations to develop more and more advanced technology to exploit the ocean's resources.

opening countries.

On April 6 officials from the Department of Sea Fisheries arrested the captain of the *Sistro*, a 40m deep-sea trawler that changed flags from Spanish to South African a year ago, and confiscated a barge that resembles the floating refrigerators seen in television footage of Spanish trawling operations off the Grand Banks near Canada.

They are now probing the possibility that the *Sistro* Fishing Company, owned by local directors, is a front for Spanish marine interests and is using a South African fishing quota to catch vast shoals off the Cape west coast and then offload these in Spanish ports.

"This gill net is just the tip of the iceberg," says Nan Rice from the Dolphin Action Group in Cape Town. "What we are seeing is a sign that some fishing interests are developing new technologies to replace older and now illegal drift nets in their race to plunder the ocean's resources."

Rice says the 22-kilometre-long gill net had lead weights woven into its bottom rope so that it could be dropped from the trawler to the bottom of the ocean where it would be left for a period of time and, like a "curtain of death" fanning out from the seabed, trap everything in its way before the owners returned to collect it.

"It appears to be a new kind of net and there is great international interest in it," she says. "It looks like it was devised as a new method for catching bottom fish in our waters such as hake and kingklip." The Dolphin Action Group has passed on details to Greenpeace which is monitoring illegal fishing methods around the world.

Deep-sea pelagic driftnetting, the practice of placing finely meshed nets up to 40km long and 20m deep on the surface of the ocean, has been eliminated from South African territorial waters since the government slapped a complete ban on all trawlers carrying such equipment and the United Nations implemented an international embargo on all nets longer than 2.5km some three years ago.

"But what we are now seeing," says Rice, "is an attempt to circumvent that ban by devising new types of net that fall outside of the definition of a drift-net. But it will have the same devastating effect, possibly even more so



Ocean plunder: As traditional Spanish fishing methods continue off Gibraltar, hi-tech factory ships ravage international waters

PHOTOGRAPH: JEAN GAUMY

Gunboat diplomacy works

GUNBOAT diplomacy is a term not often coupled with environmental conservation.

But by threatening to deploy a frigate, a destroyer and six patrol vessels against a handful of Spanish trawlers on the high seas, Canada managed last weekend to force an agreement with the European Union that may preserve not just the fish in dispute — turbot in the Atlantic — but many other species as well.

It has been clear for more than five years that the ocean's bounty is in trouble. The global catch has not increased since 1988.

Canada's aggressive pursuit of Spanish fishing boats — one was seized, one had its nets cut, and a third was chased — in the last few weeks brought the issue in to the world spotlight.

"People have always viewed fish as seafood or trophies," says Michael Sutton of the World Wildlife Fund. "Canada has done a lot to show they are wildlife too."

The Easter agreement was preceded last week by a UN conference that has sought for two years to draft a treaty regulating international fishing. The session ended with more progress than expected as negotiators from more than 90 countries set low quotas and agreed to use gear that will prevent unwanted species from getting snared.

The draft also sets out procedures for resolving disputes between nations on the high seas, like the recent drama between Spain and Canada. Canadian

because it drags across the bottom of the ocean. It could wipe out an ecosystem in no time."

Rupert Grundling, a police captain who now acts as an inspector for Sea Fisheries, confirms the *Sistro* Fishing Company is contesting the charges brought against it for possessing illegal equipment by claiming the net is designed for bottom trawling.

The Sea Fisheries Act of 1992 prohibits any ship from entering South Africa's territorial waters with a gill net on board unless a permit has been issued by the local authorities. "The law defines such a net as one which is designed to be suspended in the sea so that fish can be trapped," says

Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin, who told the conference he was "speaking for the fish", said afterwards that Canada's action had provided the UN with a working model to police international agreements on sustainable fishing.

Satya Nandan, Fiji's ambassador to the UN who chaired the fish conference, says the Canada-EU agreement was a breakthrough because "it establishes the principle that there can be boarding and monitoring on the high seas".

The fact that Canada and the EU, acting on behalf of Spain, could reach an agreement augurs well for future conservation, adds Lisa Speer of the Natural Resources Defence Fund in New York.

Canada, she says, is the quintessential coastal state, a nation with everything to gain by keeping others away from its own fish. Spain, like Japan and Russia, is a distant water state, whose economic interest lies in finding places where its ships can freely catch fish.

If those two poles can agree on a fish conservation scheme, she says, perhaps the rest of the world can too — perhaps even without the threat of gunboat diplomacy.

That optimism was countered by Evelyne Meltzer, an international marine lawyer in Halifax, Nova Scotia. "Within the 200-mile limit, countries have not been able to establish the kind of conservation ethic that's required. I don't think the (fishing) industry truly understands that the resource is limited." — *The Washington Post*

Grundling. "It is my personal belief that all nets pose a threat to sea life and should be banned."

Meanwhile the *Sistro* slipped out of port in Cape Town last weekend leaving behind its sister barge, the *Boa Esperanza*, which was used — like the barges on the Grand Banks off the Newfoundland coast — to carry the net and other equipment.

Its Spanish skipper is on R20 000 bail pending an appearance in the Cape Town Regional Court on May 19 and the *Boa Esperanza* remains under arrest while investigations into its role are completed. Both vessels face fines of R50 000, and the captain of the *Sistro*, a possible five-year jail



Fishy: Canadian Fisheries Minister Brian Tobin in front of a net seized from a Spanish trawler on a barge in New York's harbour on March 28

PHOTO: AP

term.

The trawler was refurbished in Spain before being transferred a year ago to the South African company, apparently under a charter arrangement, and it is possible the confiscated net was obtained in Spain. Management of the *Sistro* Fishing Company have refused to answer queries about whether its major shareholders are Spanish.

The World Watch Institute reports that a massive expansion in fishing fleets around the world in the 1970s and 1980s, along with a major advances in technologies, has led to all 17 of the world's major fisheries being harvested beyond their capacity.

Nine are in a state of decline and 70 percent of the world's fish stocks have been all but eliminated.

"Commercial fishing is now largely an economics of today versus tomorrow. (Some) governments are seeking to protect tomorrow's catches by forcing fishers to keep their ships idle; fishing communities are torn between the need for income and food today and in the future."

While some countries, such as Canada, have responded to the dilemma by implementing conservationist measures others have devised new techniques and methods of avoiding international curbs on overfishing.

As the oceans are stretched to breaking point, trawlermen roam the seas in search of species that can still be plundered. A common tactic is to enter into agreements with developing countries who own nine-tenths of coastal waters that provide the most fertile fishing grounds.

Many nations have signed lucrative deals with Western nations to write off debt or boost underdeveloped economies. Senegal, for example, has allowed massive exploitation in its waters by European fishing companies.

Such activities in the Third World are likely to escalate in the wake of tough controls being imposed on overfishing in the northern hemisphere.

For example, Canada and the 15-nation European Union capped a tense Easter weekend of negotiations by agreeing on Sunday to a sweeping new deal that establishes strict fishing quotas and sets tough enforcement measures.

While South Africa has shown the will in the last two years to take strong action against modern-day pirates on the high-seas, the saga of the *Sistro* shows that our waters will not be excluded from the fish wars that are set to expand south as fleets from Europe seek ways of circumventing tough controls that are being implemented in the north.

Many nations have signed lucrative deals with Western nations to write off debt or boost underdeveloped economies

Hostage crisis: Nissen steps in

ARG 25/4/95

③ FISHING

Labour Reporter

TWO senior ANC officials have stepped in to resolve the crisis on the Foreshore where senior Sea Fisheries officials have been held hostage by fishermen for more than 24 hours.

Regional ANC leader Chris Nissen arrived at the Foretrust Building about 10am today and wasted no time contacting Deputy Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa in an attempt to broker an urgent solution to the fishermen's problem.

A weary fisheries chief Louis Botha was still at his desk at midday today — in a chair he has been unable to vacate since he got to work at 7am yesterday.

The 240 fishermen who held the officials hostage are members of the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Association. The association claims that Sistro Fishing Company owes it R593 000 plus interest as the second payment for a hake quota.

Sistro paid the association R500 000 in September after the association had threatened to set fire to trawlers.

Dr Botha, chief director of Sea Fisheries, and administrative director Guillaume du Toit were taken hostage about 10am yesterday.

Dr Botha said the fishermen's association members used to be members of the Cape Town Harbour Community Trust, to whom the quota was originally issued by the quota board, and this complicated the issue.

The community trust appeared to have fallen apart. Three of the 10 trustees and most of the community trust fishermen were now members of the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Association.

Meanwhile, Sistro offered to settle the crisis by making out a cheque for R542 000.

As about 40 fishermen and a dozen police and journalists crowded into Dr Botha's office, Mr Nissen spoke to Mr Holomisa who came up with a solution.

Mr Holomisa proposed that a crisis committee be established immediately, comprising fishermen representatives, Sea Fisheries and the state legal adviser.

He proposed that Sistro's cheque be paid into a special account, controlled by the committee, which would sort out to whom payments should be made.

The fishermen and Sea Fisheries have separate lists as to who qualifies.

Mr Holomisa's final proposal was that the committee decide the future of the floundering community trust, whether it should be reconstituted or liquidated.

Mr Nissen appealed for discipline, and asked the fishermen to leave Dr Botha's office and allow the crisis committee to meet immediately.

The fishermen agreed to withdraw from the office, but not from the building.

● The chairman of the 450-strong fishermen's association, Lawrence Hwele, said just before the meeting he was "hopeful" of reaching a solution soon.

● Mr Holomisa expressed concern at the behaviour of the fishermen.

Mr Nissen said: "Mr Holomisa expressed concern about the way we do things. It is important that we understand that our actions must be disciplined. He was concerned that we had held people here overnight."



HOSTAGE: Sea Fisheries chief director Louis Botha tries to negotiate his release over the telephone, watched by fishermen who held him captive for more than 30 hours. Administrative director Guillaume du Toit, also held hostage, stands to Dr Botha's right.

Fisheries chief 'not bitter' after ordeal

□ Hostage drama ends after 30-hour stand-off

③ FISHING

ARL 26/4/95

ROGER FRIEDMAN
Labour Reporter

THE chief director of Sea Fisheries, Louis Botha, held hostage by fishermen for more than 30 hours, was planning to sleep late today to recover from his ordeal.

Dr Botha and administrative director Guillaume du Toit were taken hostage at 10 am on Monday by more than 200 members of the Cape Town Fishermen's Association demanding to be paid for a hake quota.

The fishermen claimed that fishing company Sistro owed them nearly R600 000 and refused to free the Sea Fisheries officials until they had seen the cheque.

They were released about 5 pm yesterday after the intervention of Western Cape ANC leader Chris Nissen and Deputy National Environment Minister Bantu Holomisa.

Although the cheque was still not forthcoming, the fishermen

were satisfied that Sea Fisheries would do everything in its power to facilitate payment.

Sistro said it had no problem with writing the cheque but insisted on guarantees that it would be indemnified from any further claims by the fishermen, individually or collectively.

The fishermen will return to Sea Fisheries for a report-back on Friday.

Contacted at home last night, a weary Dr Botha said: "Excuse me if I don't sound too coherent ... I'm a little tired."

He said his department had agreed to "try everything we can" to facilitate payment to the fishermen, although the issue was between the fishermen and a private company.

Dr Botha, who remained at his desk virtually non-stop from 7 am on Monday until 5 pm yesterday — and smoked "lots" of cigarettes — said he would probably sleep late today.

"I am about to read The Argus, pour myself a much-earned beer, put on the television and chat to my wife," he said, adding he was "relieved but not bitter".

● The National Party's Mark Wiley has condemned the hostage-taking and called on President Mandela to use "the full force of the state" to bring those responsible to book.

"To give in to their demands, as has been done in the past, will be giving a green light to such behaviour and will ultimately lead to tragic consequences," said Mr Wiley.

"Regretfully, this is not the first time this sort of criminal behaviour has been witnessed in this department. The chief director has been threatened before, has had to escape from his office via a window ledge and has had his office trashed repeatedly. His computer has been urinated on and excrement dumped on his desk."

Nissen slates hostage taking by fishermen

STAFF REPORTER

CT 26/4/95
WESTERN CAPE ANC leader Mr Chris Nissen yesterday strongly condemned the hostage-taking of two Sea Fisheries Department directors in the city by 250 disgruntled fishermen.

Chief director of the department Dr Louise Botha and director Mr Guillaume de Villiers were released early yesterday evening after they had been held for nearly 36 hours in their Foreshore offices.

Mr Nissen said: "We should not create a situation where we willy-nilly occupy buildings. We don't want anarchy, let us look at solutions. This action does not get the approval of the ANC."

The fishermen demanded that R593 650, which they claim is owed to them by local fishing company Sistro, should be paid.

The money comes from a hake quota allegedly caught but not paid for by Sistro.

The company paid an initial sum of R500 000 last September.

③ FISHING
Sistro owner Mr Manuel de Olim is one of only three trustees left on the Cape Town Harbour Community Trust.

The other nine have either resigned or are missing.

The company has to pay the money to the trust.

A statement released by Sistro said they had signed the cheque, but they wanted the Department of Sea Fisheries to indemnify them in the event of a dispute arising about whether the money was in fact paid.

The dispute goes back to August last year when the fishermen threatened to burn trawlers if they were not paid. Half of the money was paid out.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mr Luise Nicholson, said in a statement the Department of Sea Fisheries was acting as a facilitator in the dispute and had no authority or responsibility towards the functioning and decision-making of the trust.

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POWERTECH GROUP

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for fraud, one for arson, one thus m
for a bomb threat and 29 for - Sapa

Hostages³ FISHING freed after pay deal

CAPE TOWN — Sea Fish-
eries chief director Louis
Botha and another director,
Guillaume de Villiers, were
yesterday released by hun-
dreds of fishermen after be-
ing held hostage for 24
hours in their offices on
Cape Town's foreshore.

A tentative agreement
was apparently reached
over quota payments.

The fishermen have re-
fused to leave the building
but allowed a committee
consisting of Botha and rep-
resentatives of the Fisher-
men's Association to start
negotiations on possible
ways to ensure payment.

It was proposed that the
R500 000 owed be placed in
the care of the Master of
the Supreme Court or de-
posited into a special
account from which
payouts will be made.

Botha said he understood
the frustration of the fisher-
men but did not believe the
Sea Fisheries Department
should become involved.

ANC MP Chris Nissen,
present at the negotiations,
condemned the fishermen's
hostage taking actions.

The NP called on Presi-
dent Nelson Mandela to use
"the full force of the state"
to bring his captors to book.

The NP, in a statement,
said hostage-taking was "a
serious criminal offence"
condemned by Mandela.

The NP questioned the
fishing industry's silence on
the matter and said it was
time to investigate "an in-
dustry that appears to... be
corrupt and in mayhem". —
Sapa.

20 26/4/95



HOSTAGES: Dr Louis Botha and Mr G de Villiers, held hostage since yesterday morning, listen to Cape Town Fishermen's Association chairman Mr Lawrence Hlwele explain the state of negotiations to the fishermen late last night.

PICTURE: YUNUS MOHAMED

Late pay: Hostages taken

STAFF REPORTER **③ FISHING**

CT 28/4/95

LATE last night about 300 fishermen were still holding the chief director of the Department of Sea Fisheries and another director hostage until a dispute over payment with a fishing company was resolved.

The men, of the Cape Town Fishermen's Association, demanded that R500 000, plus interest due to them by Sisko Fishing Company, be paid to them before they allowed Dr Louis Botha and Mr G de Villiers to leave their Foreshore offices.

A haggard Dr Botha said the fishermen had delivered a quota to Sisko and money had been due for several months.

Dr Botha said he had been held since 10am yesterday morning and had not

eaten. He was tired but "not in any danger". At one stage Dr Botha was escorted to the toilet by some of the men while others lounged about, smoked, drank coffee and played cards.

Three policemen were present in his office to "help if there were any problems," Dr Botha said.

Mr Mandla Gxanyana, general-secretary of the Food and Allied Workers Union, said he and departmental director Mr Arnold Slater had been involved in negotiations with Sisko's lawyers all day to try and resolve the dispute.

A settlement agreement was being drawn up last night which would be put to the fishermen and "hopefully" a cheque would be handed over, Mr Gxanyana said.

Poachers destroying SA's sea resources

□ *Disheartened inspectors can no longer cope*

ARG 28/4/95 (3) FISHING

POACHERS — most of them South Africans — are making merry with the country's marine resources while a woefully inadequate and demoralised inspectorate struggles to stem the tide.

The illegal stripping of valuable species like perlemoen and rock lobster has soared to record heights in recent years, and is set to continue until the government takes the problem seriously.

Last year, inspectors confiscated 20 000 perlemoen from poachers in the Walker Bay area around Hawston and Hermanus alone.

"That's a lot of perlemoen — and it's just the tip of the iceberg," said Johan van Zyl, deputy director of marine conservation who heads the inspectorate division.

The division was recently transferred back from Cape Nature Conservation to the Sea Fisheries branch of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Conservationists are desperately hoping the move will improve efficiency and morale, but that is going to require a firm commitment from the government for more money and more posts.

As yet, there's no sign this will be forthcoming.

"This (the transfer) is an important opening for having a re-look at what we're doing, because over the past few years we were not being effective — that's for sure," Dr Van Zyl admitted in an interview.

"And one of the reasons is continual budget cuts. We've

SOUTH Africa's marine inspectorate is hopelessly under-financed and under-staffed, and morale is at an all-time low as poachers openly plunder the country's valuable marine resources. Environment Reporter JOHN YELD talked to the head of the division about the problems.

been cut every year and we weren't given any new posts, although the fisheries have been expanding."

There are just 125 inspectors in the division, and they have to monitor all fishing activities along the country's 3 000 km coastline.

Multiple duties include the management of the 12 proclaimed fishing harbours, and checking fishing vessels and catches at off-loading points. There are more than 3 000 registered commercial fishing vessels in South Africa and 150-plus fish processing plants.

"No commercial fisherman is allowed to offload his catch without an inspector in attendance to check that catch and operate the mass meters," Dr Van Zyl said.

The inspectors also operate the fisheries patrol vessels for deep-sea and off-shore inspections, visit restaurants, hotels and factories, try to educate the public, and do special investigations, such as anti-poaching operations.

"That's a hell of a job for (so) few people," he said.

The inspectors controlled a commercial catch worth R1,3 billion.

"Our budget, is less than one percent of that . . . and we don't know the value of recreational fishing which has a significant effect on the coast.

"There are minimum size restrictions, bag limits, closed season and closed areas, and recreational fishermen are not allowed to sell their catch — all that has to be inspected.

"I ask you with tears in my eyes, with our small inspectorate, how do we control all that?"

"And if you work out the pitance we get for trying to do our job, then I have to ask the question: is the government really serious about this?"

Since the move back to Sea Fisheries, there had been an immediate instruction from chief director Louis Botha for a strategic planning exercise.

"We're looking at getting local communities involved. We want them to take co-responsibility for marine resources in their area.

"In other words, the time has gone when people could sit back and say, 'Ja, this government must come and protect my marine resources'. People must start doing it themselves."

One suggestion was for local authorities to take responsibility for issuing permits for catching marine resources like perlemoen and rock lobster, and for policing these activities, Dr Van Zyl said.

"We're looking for a new name too — become green bobbies or whatever."

Also, a regional initiative involving Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania had been mooted.

The Sea Fisheries Act was being redrafted to close existing loopholes which were being blatantly exploited.

"These are mostly technicalities, but at this stage our legislation isn't adequate," Dr Van Zyl said.

There will also be a new emphasis on teaching, rather than policing.

"A lot of our guys are interested in environmental education, who want to educate the public rather than throw the rule book at them.

"And I'm optimistic as far as this is concerned. We have a core of enthusiastic, dedicated young staff to build on for the future."

But those two "terrible twin" problems — a lack of money and under-staffing — remain, at least for the moment.

Is the government likely to listen to what the inspectors have to say?

"They must listen. If they don't, we might as well close up shop right now," Dr Van Zyl said firmly.

Patrol boat option would cost a tenth of the corvette price

FIVE medium-sized, fast patrol boats — costing R175 million and backed by air surveillance supplied by the Air Force — would provide effective fisheries control over South Africa's valuable marine resources.

The head of the Sea Fisheries inspectorate, Johan van Zyl, declines to get into a debate about whether the four new corvettes wanted by the SA Navy at a cost of R1,7 billion would provide more effective policing, or whether a fully-fledged coast guard should be developed.

③ FISHING
"I'm a civil servant, and these are policy issues," he says.

But the inference is clear: There's no doubt at all in the minds of the Sea Fisheries inspectorate that the country's marine resources could be properly protected at just one tenth of the cost of what the Navy wants.

At present, South Africa runs only one deep-sea patrol vessel — the ageing and slow Custos ("It's like the Ark!") — four vessels which can patrol up to 50 nautical miles, and two with a 25-nautical mile capability.

"We have a 200-nautical mile exclusive fishing zone," Dr van Zyl said. ARC 28/4/95

"It would cost us approximately R175 million for five new medium-size, fast ships. With those, we feel we'll be able to protect our deep-sea resources very effectively, if that's coupled with air surveillance."

"Morocco, which is comparable to us because of its 3 500 km coastline, has 11 surveillance aircraft and it uses 126 observers aboard fishing vessels.

"I've got just 125 inspectors to do the whole job!"

Big fish eat small fish in Cape battle

③ FISHING WM 28/4 - 4/5/95



Low tides: Small-scale fishermen cannot compete with well resourced commercial trawlers

Efforts to empower disadvantaged communities are not succeeding as community quotas are sold to bigger trawlers writes **Rehana Rossouw**

BALANCING the delicate equation between environmental protection and human need is tricky at the best of times, but it appears an impossible task in the ongoing row between Cape fishermen and the Directorate of Sea Fisheries.

For years, environmental groups and the authorities have been at loggerheads over the allocation of dwindling marine resources. The establishment of community fishing trusts, introduced in the Cape in 1993 in an attempt to improve the economic lot of fishing communities, has generated more controversy rather than contributing to addressing the imbalances in the industry.

This week, the row escalated when 240 fishermen occupied the offices of the Chief Director of Sea Fisheries for 36 hours, demanding that they be paid the R593 000 owing to them by the Sistro Fishing Company. They claimed the money was due to them for their hake quota — already caught but not paid for by Sistro.

The fishermen were members of the Cape Town Harbour Community Trust — which has been torn apart by discord since July last year. This was the second time trust members have occupied the Sea Fisheries' offices.

The saga exposes clearly the weaknesses in the community trust concept. Many of the trusts expected their quotas to yield instant financial rewards to their members rather than investing their returns in community projects.

The Cape Town Harbour Community Trust was established in June 1994 by seasonal fishermen employed on boats operating out of Cape Town harbour. The 850 fishermen were not based in a single geographical community and wanted the quota to boost their salaries.

The Quota Board awarded them a hake allocation of 951 tons for 1994 — a catch the fishermen had no resources to harvest themselves, as it costs at least R30-million to purchase and maintain vessels equal to this task.

The trust decided to sell the quota for the best price and half of the proceeds were to be paid out in equal shares to all qualified beneficiaries with the other half invested to purchase equipment and boats for trawling in the future.

Offers were made for the quota by numerous companies, including I&J and Marpro, but the highest bid was Sistro's at R1,15 per kg, which was accepted. Half of the R1 093 650 realised by the sale (R500 000) was to be paid immediately and the balance on December 20 1994.

However, the trust split in two before the first R500 000 was paid by Sistro, and the Cape Town Harbour Fisherman's Association was formed by three of the 10 trustees. It was this group which occupied the Sea Fisheries' offices in July last year and again this week.

During their occupation last year, the association managed to wrest the first instalment of R500 000 from Sistro. The other trustees brought a Supreme Court action against them, demanding that the association inform the trust of the whereabouts of the money and provide the names and addresses of the persons to whom it had been paid.

This week's protest ended with a proposal that the R500 000 balance be placed in the care of the Master of the Supreme Court.

Environmental groups say it is not feasible to expect local fishermen to earn a living by providing them with community hake or pilchard quotas. Since the establishment of the community trusts, most small-scale fishermen have been selling their quotas to commercial operators with the resources to undertake deep-sea fishing, and thus not creating employment opportunities and subsistence for their own communities.

The Western Cape Marine Conservation Society is equally concerned about South Africa's declining marine resources and the lot of small-scale, largely black, fishing communities. "You can't expect to increase employment opportunities in an industry with declining resources," said the society's chairman, Vic Kabalin.

"Worldwide seafood catches have been on the decline since 1990 and South Africa's record of over-exploitation and declining marine resources has been highlighted since the early 1970s. For these reasons, we are concerned about the allocation of fishing quotas to provide financial aid to fishing communities which have been deprived as a result of past injustices.

"The allocation of community pilchard or hake quotas will not create jobs for these communities. The big companies are the only beneficiaries. The cash handouts to the communities, which are causing concern as they create expectations for the future."

Kabalin said by subsidising fishing communities there was a possibility of encouraging the exploitation of certain fish species. Employment opportunities for subsistence and traditional fishing communities could be created by allocating quotas for inshore and nearshore fishing.

West coast rock lobster and penaeon quotas could be given to smaller operators as they were best suited to low technology fishing methods.

Payment for observers 'international practice'

③ FISHING ARG 28/4/95

IT is international practice for the owners of fishing vessels to pay for government observers aboard their ships, checking compliance with regulations.

This is Head of Fisheries Inspectorate Johan Van Zyl's response to criticism that inspectors from his department went to Spain to inspect a catch of hake taken in South African waters by the trawler, Sistro, at the expense of the trawler's owners.

The Sistro, which was arrested in Cape Town for allegedly having drift nets aboard, was then still registered in Spain.

Dr Van Zyl said that when Spanish fishing vessels had been regular visitors to South African waters, the government had been paid a standard rate by the owners for putting local observers aboard.

"That's standard practice all over the world," Dr Van Zyl said.

"It does leave an area open for corruption, and the fact is that our people are paid so little, and that morale

is so low, they could be tempted.

"I'm not saying that does happen, but the possibility is there.

"And you know that fishing is about money. Most people don't care about the conservation of species or preserving habitats and genetic diversity, and all that. It's about money, and money talks."

At an international workshop on marine law enforcement in Washington last year, corruption had been identified as a worldwide problem, Dr Van Zyl said.

"Overseas problems highlighted at the workshop included corruption, political pressure, diplomatic pressure, light sentences for offenders and a lack of environmental knowledge by the judiciary.

"Internationally, all fisheries services have got these problems.

"We're doing everything that the whole world is doing — closed areas, marine reserves, gear restrictions, independent fish quotas and so on.

Quota fight: Minister gets tough

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Association intends marching on Parliament next Wednesday in a further attempt to obtain payment of disputed hake quota money, chairman Lawrence Hwele said yesterday.

However, Minister of Environmental Affairs Dawie de Villiers has had enough of fishermen threatening his officials and taking them hostage.

In a dramatic turn of events, his department yesterday withdrew from attempts to facilitate payment of hake quota money to the association.

The law must take its course, said Dr De Villiers.

The money is owed to the Cape Town Harbour Fishing Community Trust by Sistro Fishing Company, which negotiated with the trust last year to catch its hake quota. The trust has since split up and lawyers are having problems establishing who is entitled to payment.

This week about 300 members of the association held Chief Director of Fisheries Louis Botha and administrative director Guillaume du Toit hostage for 36 hours. The department initially undertook to "facilitate" payment.

Police stood by yesterday afternoon when about 100 members of the association gathered at the Sea Fisheries foreshore offices to hear the result of negotiations.

Only 10 committee members, headed by chairman Lawrence Hwele, were admitted through locked and guarded doors to the building.

They were escorted by police to the seventh-floor boardroom, where they met Dr Botha and Mr

③ FISHING ARG 29/4/95
■ Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers has adopted a tough stance against fishermen who abuse Sea Fisheries officials or take them hostage.

Du Toit in the presence of a police officer and five policemen, who remained throughout the meeting.

Weekend Argus was admitted to the meeting, with the agreement of the fishermen.

The fishermen appeared disgruntled when Dr Botha told them of Dr De Villiers's decision.

He said his department had been advised that the association should approach the Supreme Court for access to the money and that the disputed R500 000 plus interest should be paid to the Master of the Supreme Court to hold in trust pending a decision by the court.

After Dr Botha had explained the legal situation, Mr Hwele said that the association would "take further steps".

He said after the meeting that the association's members would march on Parliament next Wednesday and demand an interview with Deputy Environmental Affairs Minister Bantu Holomisa.

Dr De Villiers said in a statement issued yesterday he was "no longer prepared to subject my officials and the true beneficiaries of the registered trust to any further intimidation and abuse.

"The holding of hostages and the damaging of property is unlawful and is not recognised anywhere in the world as part of formal, responsible negotiations.

He and his department were not authorised by law to take decisions affecting the trust.

"All matters must be dealt with strictly in accordance with the provisions of the trust deed by the authorised trustees."

Mr Hwele was one of the original trustees. When the trust split

last year, he led one faction while another was led by William Ngwane, who has since disappeared.

Mr Hwele's group demanded the hake quota money. They demonstrated outside Sea Fisheries offices "with sticks and knives". Later they trashed a city lawyer's offices and assaulted the lawyer.

They were paid R500 000 as a first instalment for the trust's hake quota, and Sistro Fishing undertook to pay the second instalment in December.

However, William Ngwane and the remaining trustees took them to court. In December Justice Jeannette Traverso dismissed Mr Hwele and two other men as trustees and ordered them to explain what had happened to the R500 000.

Sistro Fishing's lawyer, Stephen Broekman, said in court papers that he had been told by workers at the Food and Allied Workers' Union that Mr Hwele had paid most of it to his own followers.

Justice Traverso also ordered that Mr Hwele and his colleagues should not go within 100m of the Sea Fisheries offices, or those of certain lawyers.

The return date is June 21.

Sistro Fishing said this week that the R500 000 had been paid out "in breach of the trust deed which is in the hands of the court. Litigation is pending involving the trust and the trust deed which, coupled with intimidation of the trustees and the untimely death of one of them, has led to a situation in which the trust has ceased to operate properly".

Activities: Deep sea trawling, processes frozen and chilled seafoods.

Control: ICS Holdings 62%.

Chairman: J G vd Horst. MD: H E Kramer.

Capital structure: 100m ord. Market capitalisation: R440m.

Share market: Price: 440c. Yields: 4,3% on dividend; 9,1% on earnings; p:e ratio, 11; cover, 2,1. 12-month high, 630c; low, 440c. Trading volume last quarter, 442 000 shares.

Year to September 30	'92	†'93	'94
ST debt (Rm)	1,5	1,4	1,2
LT debt (Rm)	5,2	3,9	2,2
Shareholders' interest	0,57	0,60	0,64
Return on cap (%)	36,0	29,7	20,8
Turnover (Rm)	312,4	*318,2	329,2
Pre-int profit (Rm)	91,2	*66,8	58,2
Pre-int margin (%)	29,1	21,0	17,6
Earnings (c)	60,1	*44,8	40,2
Dividends (c)	34,6	26,0	19,0
Tangible NAV (c)	145,9	168,2	189,4

† 15months. * Annualised.

than in 1992.

Penzhorn explains that in 1992, local and international demand and prices for hake remained high and catches were good. In Europe, sturdy consumption buoyed strong demand and robust prices. Then came the economic slump there. Within six months, he says, consumer demand and prices fell — the latter helped down by the dumping of Russian catches into Europe. Sea Harvest's exports of fish commodity products suffered, but less so than its value-added products.

Because of the recession in SA, demand for hake declined at the same time. Both local and international markets remained weak throughout 1993.

The tide turned last April. Poor landings reverted to normal and have remained satisfactory. The world white fish market has stabilised and hake is in greater demand mainly because increasing consumption is following in the wake of improving international economies.

In SA, prices for other protein (chicken and red meat) are high, making hake an attractive substitute. Demand has strengthened and is continuing to do so. Sea Harvest has maintained its share of the domestic market.

Exports of products involving labour-intensive beneficiation exceeded R120m in 1994 for the first time. Prospects appear considerably brighter.

But the quota system restricts the volumes Sea Harvest's plants handle. Economies of scale cannot be achieved by

increasing volume throughput, only by more efficient production methods. The installation of state-of-the-art equipment (part of R18m capital expenditure) in the Saldanha fresh fish processing plant will enable expansion of the range of value-added products. Better technology should ensure a higher margin in 1995.

During the year, international fishing group Pescanova disposed of its remaining 10% share in the company and ICS increased its stake to 72%.

The share price has slipped from 650c a year ago to 440c. Financial 1995 should see EPS rising by about 15% to 46c. That will place the share on a prospective p:e of 9,6. Sustained earnings growth is needed to justify a favourable rerating of the share.

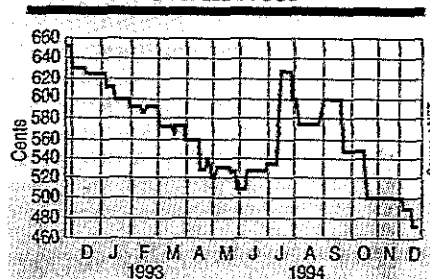
Gerald Hirshon

SEA HARVEST ③ FISHING
 fm 6/1/95
Favourable convergence

Incoming MD Louis Penzhorn objected when I called the 1994 results disappointing. He says, because they are better than those of the previous 12 months, that this is an unfair, inaccurate statement. He is right. The results were better. But only in certain respects.

Turnover in 1994 appreciated by 7,5% but was only 5,2% higher than in 1992. Pre-interest profit was R58,2m. For the 12 months to September 30 1993, it was R59,1m and in 1992, R91,2m. Though EPS improved by 8,6%, they remained 33% less

Sea Harvest



Fragile perlemoen peace

7/8/1/95

③ FISHING

ARLT 7/12/95

■ A truce has been brokered in the Hawston perlemoen war, but emotions are still running high with fears that the peace could be shattered in an instant.

COLIN DOUGLAS, Weekend Argus Reporter

A CEASEFIRE has been declared in Hawston's perlemoen war but the peace is as fragile as the threatened coastal eco-system.

Police, ANC officials and community leaders met yesterday afternoon to negotiate a truce in the poaching war, and agreed to meet again, this time with other protagonists, in a "perlemoen summit" on Monday.

Only hours after the meeting the ANC and police were at loggerheads again, disagreeing over the deployment in Hawston of policemen from outside the area.

"The ANC wanted us take these policemen out of the area, but we've decided that these guys are going to stay," said Hermanus police Captain Paul Thorburn.

"The ANC didn't want to give us a proper commitment that they would control their supporters."

It will be an anxious weekend in the seaside village as residents, worried by the week's violence, wait and see if the truce holds until the summit.

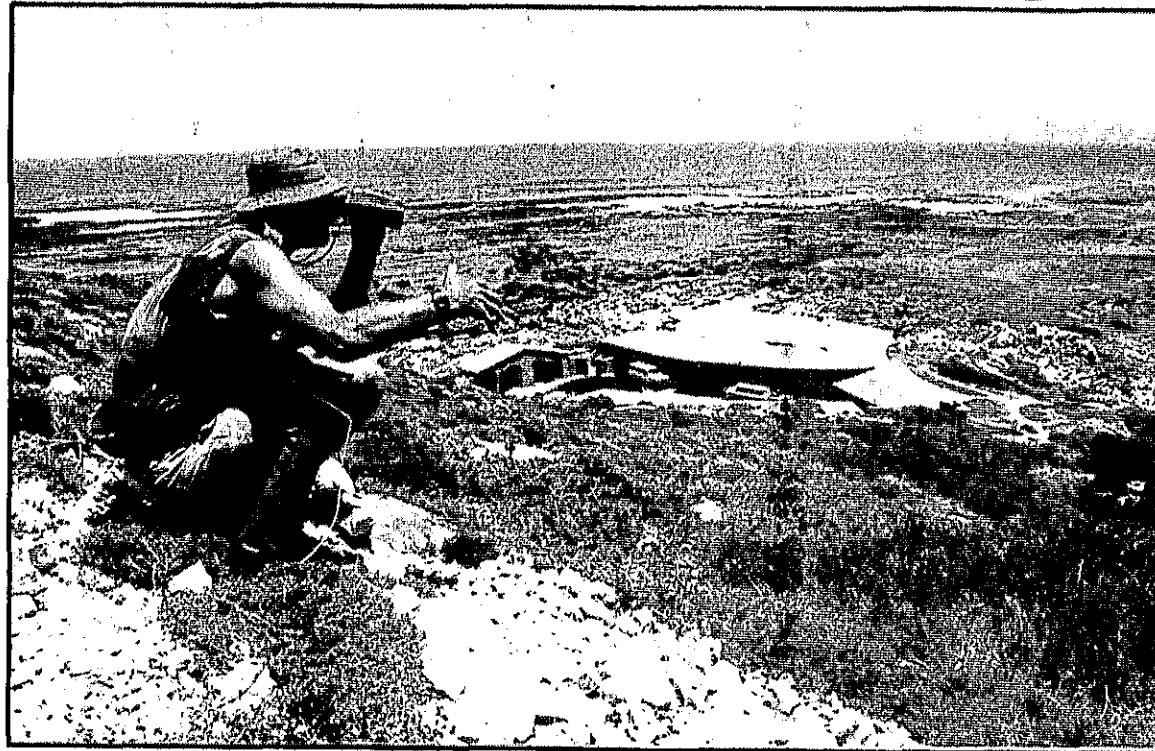
While both sides described yesterday's meeting as constructive, their wildly different opinions on the controversy leave Monday's summit with little chance of resolving the crisis.

Raymond Dowd, spokesman for Western Cape police minister Patrick McKenzie, said the Hawston poaching crisis was part of "deep-rooted gang activity centred on lucrative drugs-for-perlemoen smuggling".

The police promised to "take our gloves off" to fight the gangs.

An ANC regional executive spokesman took the opposite view, saying: "We find it unacceptable that Mr McKenzie condemns the poachers — what these people are fighting for is their right to their share of the area's resources.

"They have no other source of income."



□ **ON THE LOOKOUT:** Former Rhodesian Special Forces member Ian MacIntyre, who has been employed to guard the luxury coastal home of nature reserve owner Frank Raimondo, on the watch for perlemoen poachers.

Pictures: BRENTON GEACH, Weekend Argus.

Eugene le Roux, secretary of the Overberg Commercial Abalone Divers' Association, has little faith in negotiations with the poachers.

"They've negotiated before, but they've never kept their word. All this is, is greed for money.

"The problem will only be stopped through proper policing — otherwise the perlemoen resource is heading for extinction."

It has been estimated that poachers were removing up to 10 000 perlemoen a day in certain areas and locals believe that the resource in these areas could be wiped out if poaching is not brought under control soon.

Frank Raimondo, the embattled owner of the

Hoek van de Berg nature reserve — site of this week's battles — is sitting tight this weekend, guarded by former Rhodesian Special Forces sharpshooter Ian MacIntyre.

The department of Sea Fisheries, which is officially responsible for enforcing perlemoen regulations, has ceded its job to the police.

Some of the department's inspectors say they have been shot at by poachers.

Phillipus May, the softly spoken Hawston ANC chairman who has admitted the perlemoen confrontation has spun way beyond his control, is urgently seeking peaceful solutions.



□ **STANDING GUARD:** Security guards stand watch at the entrance to the Hoek van de Berg private nature reserve, scene this week of violent clashes between police and perlemoen poachers and their supporters.

He has applied to the Quota Board on behalf of the Hawston community for a legal share of the perlemoen harvest, and is investigating the possibility of bringing a Supreme Court application to compel Dr Raimondo to allow local residents to drive through his property.

But a member of the Overberg Commercial Abalone Divers' Association pointed out that at least four of the so-called poachers had in fact held substantial perlemoen quotas until recently, but had sold these quotas at huge profits.

"Clearly they have spent their profits and now want new quotas. How many times do they want to

be given quotas only to sell them yet again?" asked the diver.

He also pointed out that about 70 percent of the existing perlemoen quota was in any event being held by people from Hawston which gave the community a substantial share in the resource.

But marine conservationist Vic Kabalin said only a radical redistribution of diving permits and quotas would put an end to the perlemoen war.

One thing is certain, relations in this picturesque village have been soured and will not recover for months, maybe years, to come.

The pristine beaches and breathtaking views belie an atmosphere of tension, anger and fear.

slams plan to fishing trusts

③ FISHING

Mr Daniels's comments are contained in a letter to Environment Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers, a copy of which has been released to The Argus.

In the letter, Mr Daniels predicted that the retention of fishing community trusts, even with the addition of the Mother Trust, would lead to further conflict.

"The situation may deteriorate as people who feel they have been excluded from the trusts and the benefits of the quotas may resort to violence.

"What the community quotas do not address at all is the need to give previously disempowered, disadvantaged people access to the sea and its resources to enable them to improve the quality of their lives," he said. ARG 12/1/95

He said reports to the committee suggesting the former National Party government granted quotas to the communities as a vote-winning exercise were not reflected in the report.

Good Harvest at home, overseas

CT 12/1/95

③ FISHING

Business Editor

EXPORTS are booming for fishing company Sea Harvest Corporation, and domestic demand has strengthened, newly elected chairman Eckart Kramer said after the agm yesterday.

He and Louis Penzhorn, who has succeeded Kramer as MD, said Sea Harvest was back in export markets in the Far East and North America which had been closed to it during sanctions. Demand had risen with the improvement in the world economy and over a third of turnover now came from exports, which had exceeded R120m for the first time in the past year.

Kramer said the General Export Incentive Scheme (GEIS) would come to an end for his company in March, but it could weather this. Its exports no longer needed subsidising "although this was not the



Louis Penzhorn

case when we began".

It was, however, handicapped by protective import tariffs imposed by the European Union, while exports from Namibia were not because it was a Lome Convention country.

It was hoped that SA would be able to negotiate better terms.

In the domestic market, demand for fish had strengthened with the rise in the price of meat.

The company's hake quota has remained at 56 000 tons this year. It is taking part in discussions on a comprehensive fishing policy mostly involving quotas.

Kramer said that, in view of the fact that Sea Harvest is a major employer in Saldanha and other parts of the West Coast, and follows socially responsible policies, the directors expected it would retain its quota.

"A company such as ours, which fully utilises its quota and adds value, should not be in jeopardy. We operate in a fishing-dependent community and conduct our business responsibly."

He said the first quarter of the current year had been "noticeably better" than the same period last year. "If this pattern continues and there are no unexpected changes, in demand we should have a satisfactory year."

Fishing 'lollipop' trusts have netted a rich shoal of troubles

ARG 13/1/95 ③ FISHING

BACKGROUND TO THE NEWS

COLIN DOUGLAS, Staff Reporter

AN inquiry into the conflict-torn fishing community trusts has disclosed a litany of bureaucratic bungling.

FISHING community trusts, the subject of an official inquiry whose findings were published this week, have been plagued by conflict and controversy almost since their inception.

Bickering, plotting and violence have been the catch of the day along the Cape coast as rival claimants have competed — some legitimately, some not — for a share of the trusts' annual R5 million cash payout.

Initiated by former Environment Minister Louis Pienaar in 1992, the declared idea of the trusts was to award fishing quotas to specific fishing communities to boost their socio-economic strength.

The ANC later dismissed the scheme as a "lollipop" offered to fishing communities by the National Party to secure votes.

The Quota Board, the statutory body responsible for allocating fishing rights for all marine resources along South Africa's coast, set aside a quota of 3 000 tons of hake for the community trusts in 1993.

But hake, a deep sea fish, is fishable only by trawler — and the trawler fleet is dominated

by the big companies.

So, for practical purposes, fishermen in the communities could not catch their quotas themselves.

The only useful thing that could be done with the community quotas was to sell them to the big fishing companies.

This was the picture when the Quota Board began to allocate quotas to community trusts in the second half of 1993.

The size of the quotas ranged from 40 tons for the Kleinmond Community Trust to hundreds of tons for the Cape Town Harbour Trust, which was later to see the apparent disappearance of R500 000 in quota money paid to one of its trustees.

In theory the Quota Board was allocating fishing rights to coastal communities, but in practice was handing out money to the trusts at a rate of more than R1 000 a ton.

The community quota holders never had to see the hake they were selling, let alone pull it out of the sea.

Wiser counsel may have been that simply throwing money in the general direction of a community was a recipe for disaster.

The chairman of the committee of inquiry, De Wet Schutte, diplomatically de-

scribes the process of establishing the community trusts as "not well thought through".

But if the principle behind the trusts was bad, their implementation was worse.

The inquiry has uncovered a litany of bureaucratic bungling in the establishment of the trusts that led to widespread conflict and confusion.

The inquiry's findings include:

- The Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries, which was charged with the task of setting up trusts in the fishing communities, lacked "the experience, manpower, means and time to do the job effectively".

- Not one of the deeds — legal documents — which established the community trusts contained a clear definition of the word "fisherman".

As the trusts were designed to give financial benefit to fishermen, this vagueness led to residents of coastal towns clamouring to identify themselves as fishermen.

In some towns the number of "fishermen" doubled in a few weeks.

- Some trusts were registered simply as "community trusts", not "fishermen's community trusts", causing non-fishermen to make claims on trust funds.

"This fact aroused expectations in the community at large, including expectations of cash handouts, and thus heightened conflict," the report said.

- "We detected some cases of possible corruption," committee member Piet du Plessis said.

"Some trusts couldn't account for funds spent, while in some cases there was a total failure to keep proper books."

In spite of these problems, the committee advised that the trust system be retained, but improved through the creation of a "Mother Trust", on which chairmen of existing fishermen's trusts would be represented, to oversee the distribution of funds.

The Mother Trust would administer the total community quota and would be able to allocate parts of it to specific fishing communities.

But the committee's recommendation to retain community quotas at all is a controversial one.

One of the committee's members, Enver Daniels, refused to sign the report.

"What the community quotas do not address at all is the need to give previously disempowered, disadvantaged people access to the sea and its resources to enable them to improve the quality of their lives," he said.

Mr Daniels called instead for the transformation of the entire quota system.

Fishermen upset about new system

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

FISHERMEN in the informal sector claim that the recommendations of a commission of inquiry into the controversial community trust system have merely "put a new dress on the trusts system instead of doing away with it".

The inquiry was obviously influenced by present community quota holders, who "want to keep the quotas for themselves", said a spokesman.

And fishermen and conservationists agree that the retention of the controversial fishing community trusts will lead to further violence.

A commission of inquiry into the community trusts recommended this week that they should be retained but that a "Mother Trust" should control all the money paid for quotas.

A spokesman for National Ocean Watch, which represents the informal sector, said that a bad precedent had been created in handing over cash to trust members and that the existence of a "Mother Trust" would not stop the conflict.

"There was a lack of transparency in the commission, whose report did not adequately deal with representations made to it," he said.

"We told the commission that we believed there had been a decision to co-opt political figures so that they could influence decision-making.

"We questioned the presence of representatives of the African National Congress and the Foundation for Peace and Justice as well as the presence of the big fishing companies on the Fishing Forum."

The Fishing Forum, established in November 1992 by the ANC and the Foundation for Peace and Justice, co-operated with the directorate of the Division of Sea Fisheries in put-

ARCT 14/11/95 (3) FISHING
■ A commission of inquiry into community trusts was "obviously influenced by present community quota holders", said a spokesman for the informal sector.

Interim Quota Board

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

A KNOWLEDGE of fishing and the fishing industry does not appear to be a criterion for appointment to the fishing Quota Board.

A retired judge, a retired accountant, a lawyer, a shopkeeper and a retired business executive make up the interim board appointed recently by the Minister of Environment Affairs, Dawie de Villiers.

Dr De Villiers said the term of office of the previous board expired in November but that it was necessary to appoint an interim board pending the findings of a na-

tional fisheries policy commission.

The role of the Quota Board will be considered by the commission, he said.

Members of the board are: chairman, retired judge Harold Levy; JWH du Plessis, a Port Nolloth town councillor and shopkeeper; Gerard Krone, a retired accountant; city lawyer Essa Moosa; and Ted Parlabean, former chairman of Barlow Ltd, acting chairman of the Cape Town Community Chest and a former chairman of Captour.

Mr Du Plessis was until recently chairman of the Port Nolloth fishing community trust.

ting the community trust system into practice.

"This inquiry has turned out to be nothing but putting a new dress on the community trust system instead of doing away with it," said the spokesman.

"It is obvious that it was heavily influenced by the present quota-holders who want to keep quotas for themselves."

Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, said that submissions made to the commission had been ignored.

"All the emphasis appears to be on the way in which marine resources are to be distributed without taking into account the fact that it is a diminishing resource and that unless steps are taken to conserve it, there won't be a resource to distribute," he said.

And the commission's report has itself become controversial because one of the members — Enver Daniels, special adviser

to Justice Minister Dullah Omar — refused to sign it.

Mr Daniels also said that the commission ignored the fact that community trusts were established by the former National Party government as a vote-catching exercise.

Commission chairman De Wet Schutte of the Human Sciences Research Council denied this, saying that political aspects had been dealt with "in broad perspective".

"The community trusts were there and we had to find a way to deal with them, instead of going into their history.

"We seriously considered stopping them altogether, but it was the feeling of the commission that this should not be done. We tried to depoliticise the trusts by taking away the connection with the Division of Sea Fisheries.

"The Mother Trust will be controlled by chairmen of all community trusts ex officio."

Sea Harvest chasing exports

BY AUDREY D'ANGELO

Exports are booming for fishing company Sea Harvest Corporation, and domestic demand has strengthened, newly elected chairman Eckart Kramer said after the annual meeting.

He and Louis Penzhorn, who has succeeded Kramer as MD, said Sea Harvest was back in export markets in the Far East and North America which had been closed to it during sanctions.

Demand had risen with the improvement in the world economy and over a third of turnover now came from exports, which had exceeded R120 million for

the first time in the past year.

Kramer said the General Export Incentive Scheme (GEIS) would come to an end for his company in March, but it could weather this. Its exports no longer needed subsidising "although this was not the case when we began".

It was, however, handicapped by protective import tariffs imposed by the European Union, while exports from Namibia were not because it was a Lome Convention country.

It was hoped that SA would be able to negotiate better terms.

In the domestic market, demand for fish had strengthened with the rise in the price of

meat. (3) FISHING

The company's hake quota has remained at 56 000 tons this year. It is taking part in discussions on a comprehensive fishing policy mostly involving quotas.

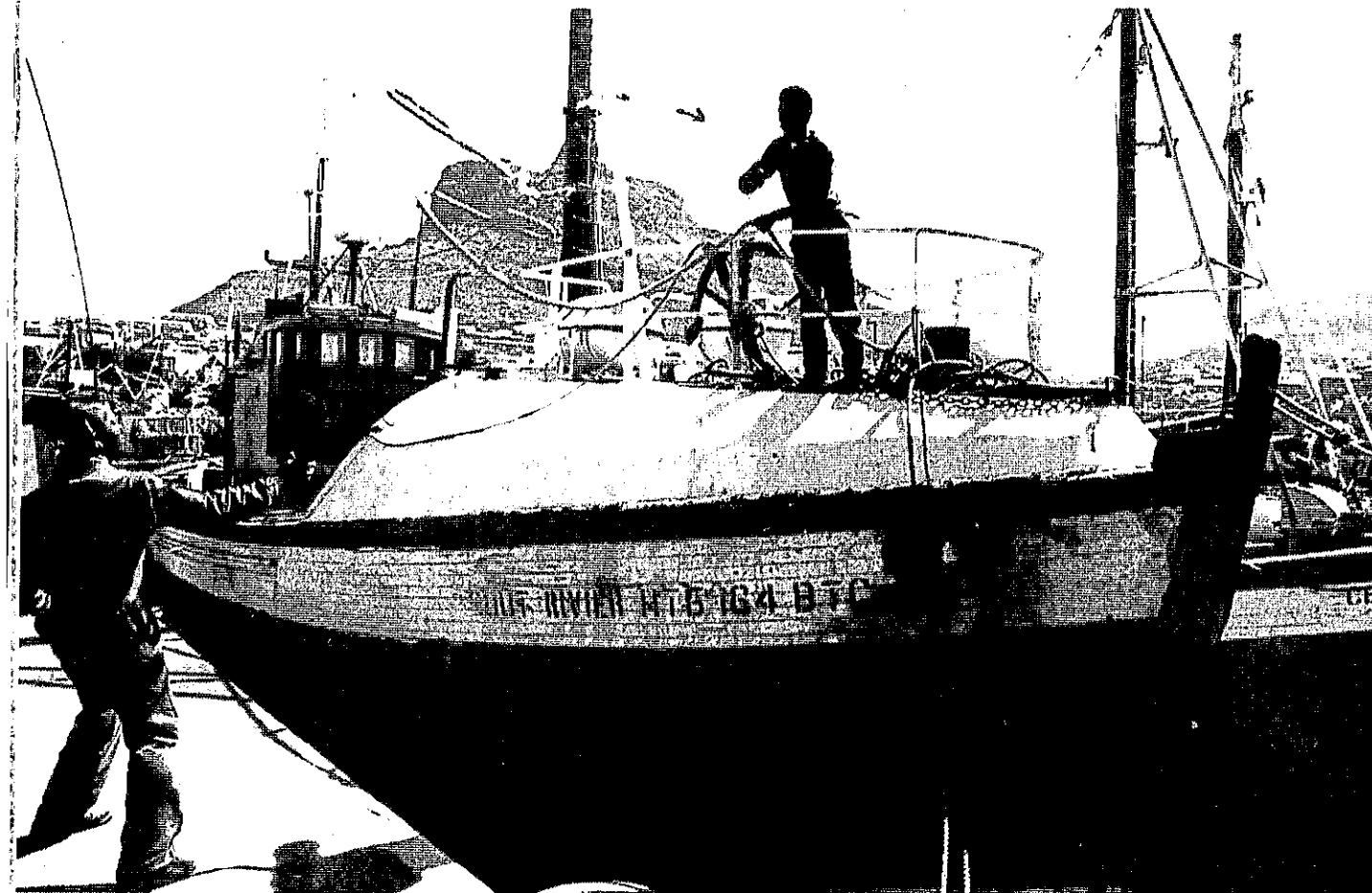
Kramer said that, in view of the fact that Sea Harvest is a major employer in Saldanha and other parts of the West Coast, and follows socially responsible policies, the directors expected it would retain its quota.

"A company such as ours, which fully utilises its quota and adds value, should not be in jeopardy. We operate in a fishing-dependent community and conduct our business responsibly."

Stan 18/1/95

Storm over hake quota money

③ FISHING TRUST ARG 21/22/95 ARG 21/1/95



□ CENTRE OF THE STORM: The fishing boat Sout Rivier, which is in the middle of a R400 000 purchasing row.

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

THE fishing community of Hout Bay wants to know what happened to almost R400 000 paid to the fishing community trust for its hake quota by the Deep Sea Trawling Association.

The row centres around the purchase of the fishing boat Sout Rivier from the fishing company Sea Products for an undisclosed sum.

A spokesman at Sea Products confirmed that the boat was now owned by the trust.

However Hilton Moses, listed as a trustee and said to be secretary of the trust, refused to comment, saying that he had resigned as a trustee.

Trust chairman Norman Kapiera and other trustees could not be reached.

Weekend Argus understands that a deposit of R50 000 was paid for the boat. However there is no clarity on what happened to the rest of the money.

Weekend Argus has established that in mid-November Sea Fisheries was on the point of authorising

■ Trustees of the Hout Bay fishing trust are being called on by the ANC to account for R400 000 paid to them for the hake quota.

payment to the trust when it was discovered that no application had been made for a quota.

A spokesperson for Sea Fisheries said confusion arose because a quota was allocated to Hout Bay before its trust was registered.

Registration was rushed through and the new trustees signed an application — but the community is now alleging that the trustees were not selected democratically.

Representatives of the National Party-associated All Seamens' Party this week alleged in an interview with Weekend Argus that the trustees had been selected undemocratically and beneficiaries had not been consulted about disposing of the funds.

They said although the trustees apparently held a meeting in Hout Bay civic centre on November 11 to discuss the quota money, the meeting was not widely advertised and "none of the fishermen knew about it".

This was echoed by Hassan Adams, secretary of the Hout Bay branch of the ANC and an ANC non-statutory representative on the local council.

Mr Adams stressed that he was in no way connected with the fishing community trust.

"The ANC Hout Bay branch dissociates itself from the way in which the trust has been constituted and administered. No ANC executive holds any position on that trust," he said.

"Sea Fisheries hurriedly put the new trust together and forced its registration.

"There are ten trustees, five from Hout Bay and five from Imizamo Yethu (formerly known as Mandela Park).

"People from Imizamo Yethu wanted the money distributed, half to them and half to Hout Bay," he added.

"In my view this is the wrong way to go about it. There was too much secrecy about the whole affair. There must be accountability for such a large sum of money. Moreover, my information is

that auditors have not yet been appointed."

The money should have been put into an RDP account to be used for the benefit of the whole community, he said.

Mr Adams said that as public representatives he and two colleagues, Dick Meter and Morris Gonya, had made representations to the Schutte inquiry into fishing trusts but had not had feed-back.

He said Dr Schutte had arranged for the trust to hold a meeting in Hout Bay but it was apparently attended by only one person — the trustee who arranged it.

The Schutte inquiry, which reported last week, found that the trusts had been set up too hastily and without proper consultation with communities.

"Where disunity exists, party politics has often played a prominent role ... This conflict is dramatically increased where cash payments are also part of the scenario."

The Cape Town Supreme Court last month ordered former trustees of the Cape Town Docks Fishing Community Trust to disclose, by February 8, the whereabouts of R500 000 paid to them for their hake quota.

No marine crisis, says fisheries department

CAPE TOWN — The Sea Fisheries Department has disputed a Cape conservationist's claim that SA's fishing resource has been decimated and plunged into a crisis through the mismanagement of fishing policy. **(3) FISHING**

Cape Nature Conservation chairman Vic Kabalin said yesterday the decline in SA's marine resources was one of the worst in the world, with the catch only 20% of what it was 25 years ago. **BD 3/2/95**

But Sea Fisheries director-general Louis Botha said apart from the West Coast lobster — the quotas for which had been declining in the past three years — quotas for the other fishing resources had remained relatively stable for the past 10 years, and in many

EDWARD WEST

cases had been increased.


"There is no crisis in SA, especially when you look at other parts of world where fishing industries are collapsing," said Botha.

"We are currently utilising fish resources to the maximum sustainable growth. Because of that we do not expect rapid growth of the quotas. But to say the resource is in a crisis is absolutely not true. All quotas are scientifically determined to suit the size of the biomass."

Botha said, however, there was concern about the Atlantic rock lobster. Its quota had slid to 220 tons a year from 330 tons over the past three years. Numbers had shrunk because of natural causes.

SA marine crisis denied

ET 3/2/95

③ FISHING Staff Reporter 

SEA FISHERIES chief director Dr Louis Botha has refuted claims that the country's marine resources are in a crisis through mismanagement.

He said he disagreed with Western Cape Marine Conservation Society chairman Mr Vic Kabin that catches in local waters were only 20% of what they were 26 years ago.

"Countries in the northern hemisphere, particularly France, Germany and Britain, have major problems with their marine resources, but South African resources are not in a crisis.

"Rock lobster is the only one we have a problem with. But this is not through mismanagement," he said.

He said pilchards, which were over-exploited in the past, had recovered.

Perlemoen quotas had been stable for decades.

Horse mackerel quotas had tripled.

Anchovy quotas varied between 150 000 and 600 000, depending on the state of the stocks which were affected by environmental factors.

OCEANA

③ FISHING FM 3/2/95

Looking beyond fishing

Activities: Catching, processing and canning of fish. Cold storage provision, trading, shipping, clearing and forwarding.

Control: Tiger Oats 70.5%.

Chairman: R A Williams. MD: D F Behrens.

Capital structure: 9.7m ords. Market capitalisation: R312m.

Share market: P: 3 200c. Yields: 5.3% on dividend; 9.1% on earnings; p/e ratio, 11.0; cover, 1.7. 12-month high, 3 200c; low, 2 500c. Trading volume last quarter, 52 000 shares.

Year to Sept 30	'91	'92	'93	'94
ST debt (Rm)	0,1	—	—	—
LT debt (Rm)	6,8	9,6	4,5	6,7
Shareholders' interest	0,6	0,5	0,6	0,4
Return on cap (%)	15,0	17,2	20,1	19,9
Turnover (Rm)	326	375	362	454
Pre-int profit (Rm)	22,3	37,0	43,1	49,6
Pre-int margin (%)	6,9	9,6	11,9	10,7
Earnings (c)	143	193	251	291
Dividends (c)	90	120	156	171
Tangible NAV (c)	966	1 067	1 151	1 017

An increasing emphasis on diversification reflects management's view that fishing will remain a volatile profit contributor. The fishing division still employs the highest value of assets, at R80m, but the trading and shipping division, Blue Continent (R72m), and cold storage (R63m) are catching up fast.

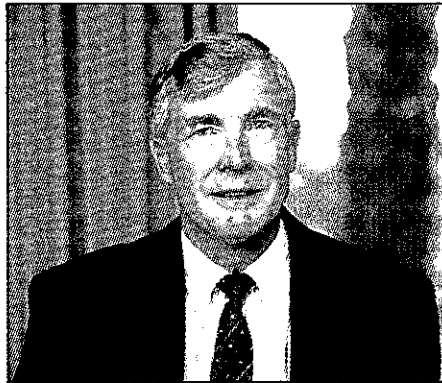
Oceana is the industry leader in the pelagic and lobster sectors. It has, however, had to contend with static or reduced anchovy and lobster quotas for some time.

In financial 1994 the total allowable catch for anchovies was only 150 000 t.

Oceana chairman Rob Williams points out: "A total allowable catch this low cannot sustain profitable fishmeal and oil production in SA without there being some industry, fleet and plant rationalisation. This point needs to be recognised in any revised national fisheries policy."

Yet Oceana's fishing division performed considerably better and lifted its contribution to group after-tax profit to 37% (1993: 26%). The division's profit grew by 71% to R10.4m largely because it landed its increased pilchard quota in full and achieved good yields. And, despite the small and static total allowable catch, strengthening demand from overseas, especially Japan, with firmer prices enabled the lobster operations to achieve better returns.

Low catches and quotas have meant that some fisheries plants have been signif-



Williams... need for rationalisation for profits to be sustained

icantly under-used. In a surprising move, much of this excess capacity is now being used for canning vegetable, fish and meat products for major retailing chains. At Lamberts Bay, a recently completed R6m French fry processing plant will compete with Irvin & Johnson's much bigger enterprise but only in the catering market.

The Blue Continent trading and shipping division increased turnover by 59% and operating profit 73%. It accounted for 38% of group after-tax profit. All its areas of business were active throughout the year and new opportunities that followed the lifting of sanctions were exploited.

The group operates seven large cold stores throughout SA. Occupancies fell well below those of 1993 as red meat supplies to the market were curtailed and high tariffs discouraged imports. Divisional contribution to profit fell 25% to R4m.

Management, aware of possible forthcoming political pressures arising from a change in government, restructured Oceana's shareholder base to make it more representative of the broad SA community. Tiger Oats has placed 52% of the issued share capital in a new holding company, of which half has been made available to Real Africa, an investment holding company controlled by black businessmen, trade unions and other groups.

During the year, R6.3m was repaid to shareholders and debited to the share premium account. This is why shareholders' interest has fallen. In all other respects, the balance sheet remains strong and liquid.

Management is competent, motivated, monitors developments and is quick to

diversify into compatible fields. Oceana is ready to benefit from any increase in fishing quotas, especially in view of better prices for its products. The cold storage division will improve as the economy picks up.

Having broken through resistance at R28, the share price set a new high of R32. The share is showing strength and still offers good value; it should be accumulated on weakness.

Gerald Hirshon

LYDENBURG EXPLORATION

For the bottom drawer

Activities: Mining exploration and mineral rights acquisitions.

Control: SA Mutual 31%; Lydenburg Plats 19%.

Chairman: E P H Bieber.

Capital structure: 124.3m ords. Market capitalisation: R199m.

Share market: Price: 160c. Yields: 2% on earnings; p/e ratio, 48. 12-month high, 210c; low, 58c. Trading volume last quarter, 7.7m shares.

Year to Sept 30	'91	'92	'93	'94
Revenue (Rm)	3,1	10,2	13,7	20,9
Exploration exp (Rm)	5,7	0,6	1,0	6,1
Cash available (Rm)	16,7	18,4	18,7	29,5
Earnings (c)	(6,8)	(23,6)	4,2	3,3

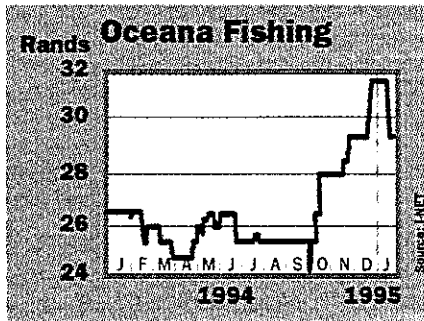
After years of comparative hibernation, relieved recently only by the excitements over JCI's Barnex, investor interest in exploration companies has been renewed.

Companies attracting particular attention are Lydenburg Exploration (Lydex), controlled by Old Mutual, and Randex, dominated by investment trust Genbel. Management of the two are now locked in discussions which may result in the companies being merged to form SA's largest independent exploration and mineral rights operation.

Randex and Lydex have many similarities, not least that they are cash flush (Lydex has R29m and Randex about R20m) and may soon share common management provided by independent Southern Prospecting.

The problem in merging the two, as it always is with companies of this kind, is how to value their assets. Almost any approach other than applying market prices is fraught with complexity and opportunities for dispute are plentiful. In the case of Lydex and Randex, however, the market caps are similar (Lydex at R251m, Randex at R252m); based on issued shares, it looks as if a merger might be consummated on the basis of 1,5 Randex for every one Lydex which happens to be the long-term average.

Some synergies appear obvious from the beginning: both companies have allocations



earned 34c a share on attributable earnings of R19,7m. However, the provision would presumably be charged against operating profit, which last year totalled R29,5m; the effective tax rate was about 23%.

Even so, the mathematics speaks for itself and provides more than sufficient reason to postpone the planned rights issue, particularly in a sagging market.

Chairman Theo Rutstein gives the softer reasoning for the postponement: "The directors wish to evaluate alternative growth strategies as well as new opportunities which might have an effect on the quantum and terms of the rights issue.

"We are examining opportunities that may arise in relation to satellite broadcasts following confirmation that PAS4 will be launched in August-September 1995," says Rutstein. "We have not had the opportunity to fully explore these opportunities to determine the extent of funding that may be necessary in the short term should we proceed."

He adds: "The major shareholders have indicated that they will follow their rights irrespective of whether we proceed now or later. The underwriters have also indicated a



Teljoy's Rutstein . . . evaluating alternative growth strategies

willingness to underwrite the issue in June."

What becomes clear from all this is that the cellular industry in SA is still very much in the developmental stage and though volumes are growing, margins are

thin and one-off costs of this magnitude will occur. Teljoy has more than 75 000 active subscribers — estimated to be about a third of the total market — but in financial 1994, while turnover grew 76%, operating profit climbed only 12%.

Market share has been maintained or even increased, but margins on the sale and rental of handsets have been hit. This situation worsened since mid-November last year, when MTN increased its connection bonuses substantially, resulting in a sharp decline in the prices of telephone handsets. Teljoy reacted by cutting its prices, passing the full connection bonuses on to customers.

Rutstein says cash flow from rental operations remains positive, continuing growth in the cellular market is encouraging and, though additional capital will be required, "there is no reason for us to proceed with haste."

The counter lost 25c to 550c when the announcement was made. However, the share performed well last year, having risen from a 12-month low of 320c. Given the pre of 17,4 and the earnings setback ahead, it could fall further.

Kate Rushon

MARKETS

Tokyo: delayed shocks to confidence

While western Japan continued to feel tremors following the devastating Kobe earthquake, the Tokyo stock market was also hit by an aftershock earlier last week as heavy selling sent share prices plummeting. The benchmark Nikkei average fell 5,6% on Monday, reflecting a delayed reaction to the catastrophe, the worst in 70 years.

At first, there was a hopeful response from investors as many economists pronounced that the economic impact of the damage, and the reconstruction of the region, would be neutral or slightly positive. But televised reports and photographs of collapsed highways, broken buildings, raging fires and human misery quickly undermined confidence.

Rather than focusing on the medium to long-term effects, investors reacted to the immediate costs of rebuilding a region with an economic output greater than Canada's, and the negative effect on corporate profits.

Estimated costs of the rebuilding — ranging from Y2 000bn to Y10 000bn — have prompted fears of higher interest rates, with the government and the corporate sector likely to turn to the bond market for funds. Companies may also have to sell parts of their stock portfolios to raise money for reconstruction and to recover lost profits.

Moreover, worries of more bad loans for the country's ailing banks and the fall in unrealised gains on shareholdings, which serve as buffers against losses, set off alarm bells about the strength of the entire

financial system.

The bulk of Monday's selling came from the US and Europe, highlighting the negative sentiment which was made worse by the earthquake. Indeed, the destruction in Kobe has prompted some investors to factor the "earthquake risk" into Japanese stock prices. "This factor probably accounted for 20% of the decline," says Alan Livsey, strategist at broker Kleinwort Benson in Tokyo.

The remaining 80% probably can be attributed to a reassessment by overseas fund managers of their international investments in Asia. With US interest rates up sharply during the past year, and perhaps set for another increase any day, investors are rethinking asset allocation in potentially risky markets.

Tokyo has been a major disappointment for US and European investors, who had poured a record Y4 100bn into Japanese shares last year. The prospect of a robust economic recovery and earnings rebound had prompted active buying by overseas fund managers.

Domestic investors, meanwhile, believe that the underside of the market is supported by the government, which has injected State postal and pension funds into the market over past years in moments of weakness.

So far, however this has not provided enough incentive for Japanese banks and insurance companies — the large institutional investors — to buy shares, es-

pecially with their overseas counterparts absent from the market.

Indeed, some analysts point out that these institutions are more likely to be worried about the losses on their damaged property assets in Kobe than about the stock market.

Still, it has not been all bad news for Japanese shares this week. The construction sector — which, of course, will have a major role in rebuilding the earthquake zone — rallied and general contractors, housing companies, material and construction machinery sectors topped the lists of stocks traded most actively.

Will the strength in the sector help the overall market? Some analysts are still worried that banks and electronics, which make up more than 15% of the benchmark, remain depressed.

It is also important to note that much of the purchasing has been speculative, with activity centred on private investors and dealers. Such buying has pushed up underlying earnings of many companies.

And though special construction companies — including those in bridge construction, soil improvement and base enforcement — are expected to be beneficiaries, the extent of the earnings boost for the country's many general contractors remains unclear.

"People have to remember that these funds will be quick to run away once the rally loses steam," warns Keiko Ohtsuki, construction analyst at Morgan Stanley in Tokyo.

Oceana performs ahead of budget

BD 9/2/95 (3) FISHING

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group's operations performed ahead of budget for the first quarter to December 31 1994, outgoing chairman Robbie Williams said at the AGM yesterday.

At the meeting Williams resigned as chairman to make way for the appointment of Real Africa Investments chairman Don Ncube to the position. Williams remained on the board as vice-chairman.

The new chairmanship follows restructuring in terms of which Tiger Oats will share control of Oceana with a new broadly based shareholder grouping, comprising partly of Real Africa Investments and Cape regional interests including trade unions, provident funds, fishermen and businessmen.

EDWARD WEST

Williams said the trading and shipping division had performed ahead of budget in the first quarter. Subsidiary Tuna Marine's abalone quota was renewed at the same level as the last season. Landings were good, though market demand and prices for the canned product were below last year.

In the fishing division, 252 tons of Oceana's 709 ton lobster quota had been landed, which was lower than the 455 tons caught at the same time last year, although it was too early to draw a conclusion from the decline.

The red tide phenomena had affected availability in the St Helena area.

Demand for lobster from Japan, SA's main market, improved substan-

tially over the previous year and higher prices were being achieved.

The industry total allowable catch of anchovy for 1995 was 200 000 tons compared with the final figure for 1994 of 150 000 tons. The initial industry pilchard total allowable catch was 77 500 tons compared with 92 938 tons last year.

Oceana holds 35% of SA's total lobster quota, 27% of the pilchard quota and about 33% of the anchovy quota.

Current occupancies and activity in Oceana's cold storage facilities were high due mainly to meat and poultry imports and the company was considering proposals to expand its cold storage capacity in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg to accommodate higher demand over the longer term, said Williams.

Ocfish: New man at the helm

③ FISHING

CT 9/2/95

By AUDREY D'ANGELO
Business Editor

DON Ncube, chairman of African Life and of soon-to-be-listed Real Africa Investments, has become chairman of the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish), the largest inshore fishing group in SA.

Former chairman Robbie Williams has become vice-chairman.

The changeover took place at the AGM yesterday and Ncube said afterwards that he considered Ocfish had a good strong management team. "We must grow the company and get the returns the shareholders are expecting."

Ocfish would continue to promote the interests of the industry and the stakeholders including employees and the wider community. "Not to do so would be inconsistent with the objectives of the Oceana Fishing Group."

He and the present management would work together as a team. They would share ideas, and these must make commercial sense. "I am a businessman," Ncube



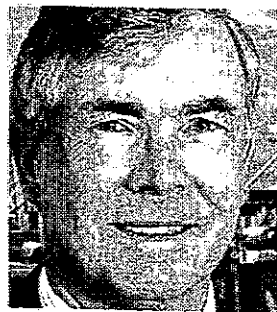
Don Ncube

emphasised.

Discussing fishing quotas, he pointed out that they had been reduced and were restrictions on Ocfish's share of the market, "not something that has been handed to us."

Ncube, who gained a post graduate diploma in labour relations from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland and an MSc degree in manpower studies at the University of Manchester, is a director of many companies including Anglo American Corporation and Anglo American Industrial Corporation.

Real Africa Investments, controlled by black businessmen, trade unions, informal savings organisations



Robbie Williams

and church groups, has joined similar bodies to form the Acquisition Group which will share control of Ocfish with the existing controlling shareholder, Tiger Oats.

Tiger Oats has placed 52% of the issued share capital of Ocfish into a new company, Holdco, and the Acquisition Group will buy 50% of this.

At yesterday's agm outgoing chairman Williams said he believed the ownership changes presented the right structure and shareholder profile for the company. They would lead to additional business opportunities in many areas in which the company was active and had expertise and experience.

Discussing business in the current year, Williams said demand for SA lobster in Japan "has improved greatly compared with last year, with higher prices being achieved," as the Japanese economy recovered from its downturn.

Ocfish's quota was 709 tonnes compared with 782 in 1994. "To date we have landed 252 tonnes compared with 455 tonnes for the same period last year. It is too early to draw any adverse conclusions from these lower landings as it is still relatively early in the season and heavy sea conditions have consistently hampered catching in some areas."

The trading and shipping division's results for the first quarter of the current financial year were ahead of budget. Subsidiary Tuna Marine's abalone quota had been renewed at the same level as 1994 and landings had been good although demand and prices were below those of last year.

Pelagic fishing operations were performing well with overall results ahead of budget for the first quarter to December 31.

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Oceana on course to beat earnings forecast

ALIDE DASNOIS ^{(3) FISHING Africa 12 P15}
Deputy Business Editor

OCEANA Fishing stayed on course in the first quarter of the current year, with overall results ahead of budget, according to outgoing chairman Robert Williams.

At the AGM in Cape Town yesterday Mr Williams gave up his chair to Donald Ncube, chairman of Real Africa Investments, staying on the board as vice-chairman.

This follows the sale last December by Tiger Oats of part of its stake in Oceana to a grouping led by Real Africa and including fishermen's associations.

Mr Williams told shareholders Oceana had landed more than 15 000 tons of anchovy since the pelagic season started on January 15, compared to 4 626 tons in 1994.

The industry's total allowable catch (TAC) for 1995 was 200 000 tons, compared to 150 000 in 1994.

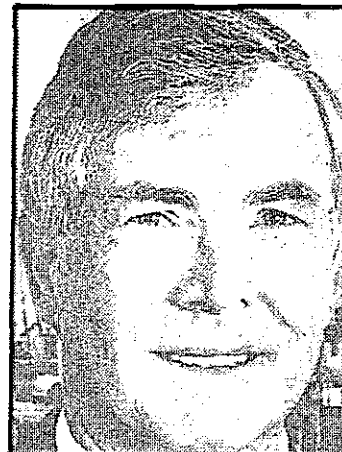
Oceana has about 35 percent of the anchovy quota, 26 percent of the pilchard quota of 77 500 tons and 35 percent of the lobster quota of 2 000 tons.

The group's cannery was well placed to handle increased volumes of pilchards, Mr Williams said.

Landings of lobster were lower than last year, with 252 tons in the bag since the season started on November 16, compared to 455 tons last year at the same time.



Donald Ncube



Robert Williams

Heavy seas had hindered catching in some areas.

But, said Mr Williams, prices in Japan — South Africa's main market — had strengthened.

"The outlook is reasonable provided we can catch up on landings — and I think we will."

Fishing accounts for about 37 percent of the group's income.

The cold storage division, which produces 14 percent of income, was doing well, with first quarter performance ahead of budget. Imports of meat and poultry had boosted turnover.

Oceana, which increased its stake in Commercial Cold Storage to 100 percent last year, buying up ICS Holdings' share for R30 million, was the biggest supplier of commercial cold storage space in the country, Mr Wil-

liams said, and was considering expanding its capacity in Cape Town, Durban and Johannesburg to accommodate higher demand.

The trading and shipping division was also ahead of budget. Landings of abalone by Tuna Marine had been good though demand for the canned product and prices were lower than last year's.

Mr Ncube said after the meeting he intended to work with the management team to promote the interests of all stakeholders in the fishing industry, including shareholders and employees.

He would start by collecting information and learning about the challenges facing the company.

Any changes would have to "make commercial sense", he said.

Boesak's fishing connection



FISHING
3

ARG 11/2/95

JEAN LE MAY

Weekend Argus Reporter

ALLAN Boesak and his Foundation for Peace and Justice were in trouble with the community in the Western Cape long before the present crisis over the FPJ's Danish funding.

In particular, the FPJ's involvement in the fishing industry has led to enormous embarrassment for the African National Congress and for at least two of its most prominent personalities — Professor Jakes Gerwel, director-general in President Nelson Mandela's office, and Franklin Sonn, now South African ambassador in the United States.

The FPJ connection not only caused embarrassment, it lost votes for the ANC in the April election and could lose votes in the coming municipal elections.

Fishing people have had one of the rawest deals of any community under the lash of apartheid. Traditional fishermen were edged out of their livelihood by the stranglehold on fishing quotas allowed the big fishing companies. There were scandals which reached as far as the cabinet.

So, when it became known that the director of the FPJ had formed a fishing company, suspicions were aroused — even beyond the fishermen themselves — that a new generation of fat-cats was about to plunder the marine resources at the expense of ordinary fishermen.

The FPJ's links with the fishing industry were forged

■ The FPJ connection not only lost votes for the ANC in the April election but caused huge embarrassment to prominent ANC people.

through Norman Michaels, foundation director (and later, when Dr Boesak became the regional Minister of Economic Affairs, his private secretary).

The FPJ claimed the credit for forming the now largely discredited fishing forum, which was established with the idea of getting fishing quotas for "disadvantaged" fishermen. Mr Michaels was appointed as the FPJ representative on it.

About the same time Mr Michaels, with Cape Town businessman Fred Robertson, formed a fishing company called SA Fishing Investment Company (Safic).

Weekend Argus established last year that Professor Gerwel, then still rector of the University of the Western Cape, and Mr Sonn, then still rector of the Peninsula Technikon, accepted invitations to become directors. Both subsequently withdrew for personal reasons — but their names remained, unknown to them, on records with the Registrar of Companies. (Both names have since been removed.)

Safic was formed with the laudable intention of "restoring the rights of disadvantaged fisherfolk and empowering them economically".

However, it was not clear how this was to be done, since 70 percent of shares in the company were to be sold to NGOs, churches and trade unions and 30 percent to private individ-

uals "such as activists, professional people, parliamentarians, black families, business people etc".

Weekend Argus was unable to trace any "fisherfolk" on the board of directors, nor any way in which they were to be empowered by the formation of the company.

Safic applied for a fishing quota and did not get it. It then borrowed R6 million from Metropolitan Life — of which Mr Sonn is a director — to buy one million shares in Sea Harvest, the major fishing company whose managing director, Eckhardt Kramer, is chairman of the fishing forum.

Then the row started. When the ANC found out, the shares were sold and an ANC investigation was ordered. Mr Robertson said this was because "the deal was seen as compromising our position on the fishing forum".

But word had got out in the fishing communities. The National Party made great play of it in its election campaign, and the ANC lost support where it had hoped to find it.

The ANC, and Dr Boesak, made haste to deny that he had personal connection with Safic.

But the damage was done, and this was only exacerbated when the result of the investigation was covered up — a cover-up described to Weekend Argus by a prominent ANC lawyer as "an outrage".

Fishermen warned on pilchards, anchovies

② FISHING
MICHAEL MORRIS

Political Correspondent

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dawie de Villiers has warned the fishing industry that he will summarily close the pilchard and anchovy season if there is any evidence of dumping or falsification of catch declarations. ARG 11/12/95

His warning was coupled with the announcement today of a reduced "total allowable catch" for anchovies — from 200 000 to 180 000 tons — and an increase in the allowable catch for pilchards from 58 000 to 60 000 tons for the 1995 season.

The season opened at the end of January and closes at the end of October.

The anchovy catch was being reduced because research since December had shown a drop in the number of young anchovies.

The size of anchovy shoals, which were highly sensitive to environmental changes, tended to fluctuate according to conditions, a Sea Fisheries spokeswoman said.

Dr De Villiers also announced that an 18 500-ton portion of the total allowable pilchard catch of 60 000 tons was reserved for "bycatches".

The term "bycatch" referred to pilchards caught in the same net as anchovies. Limiting the bycatch was intended to conserve the resource.

Dr De Villiers said: "As soon as this bycatch is filled, all catch activities resulting in a pilchard bycatch must stop."

The spokeswoman said that while it was possible to avoid bycatches by fishing more selectively, pilchards fetched higher prices than anchovies.

Without controls on bycatches, fishing fleets might be tempted to fish unselectively, harvest the pilchards and dump the anchovies.



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Picture: CLAUDIA CAVANAGH

Pilchard quotas ^③ FISHING revised

CF 15/2/95

THE Sea Fisheries division of the Department of Environment Affairs announced yesterday revised Total Allowable Catches (TACs) for pilchards and anchovies for the year.

The revised TACs for pilchards was set at 60 000 tons and 180 000 tons for anchovies.

This is 2 000 tons more for pilchards than the preliminary TAC announced in December and 20 000 tons less for anchovies.

Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said the decision to lower the TAC for anchovies was taken after research by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute had shown a decrease in the number of young anchovies.

He also announced 0,7% of the anchovy TAC (1 260 tons) and 2,2% of the pilchard TAC (1 320 tons) may be fished by concession or permit holders off the former Ciskei coast as in the past. — Sapa

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Fishermen told not to dump pilchard catches

CAPE TOWN — Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers has warned fishermen that the anchovy and pilchard season would be closed immediately if catches were falsely declared or dumped.

He said this yesterday when he announced that the revised total allowable catches (TAC) for pilchard and anchovy for the 1995 season would be set at 60 000 tons and 180 000 tons respectively.

The pilchard quota was 2 000 tons more than the TAC announced in December. The anchovy quota was 20 000 tons less. A total of 18 500 tons of pilchard was reserved for bycatches —

PSD 15/2/95
EDWARD WEST

the term used to describe pilchards and anchovy caught in the same net.

A Sea Fisheries spokesman said the minister had made the warning because in the past fishermen had dumped pilchard to fill their anchovy quotas. Anchovy and pilchard usually shoal together, but anchovies fetch a higher price.

The decision to lower the anchovy quota was taken after research showed poor catches. The 78 500 tons of pilchard that could be caught was 11 500 tons more than last year's revised TAC. The anchovy TAC and pilchard bycatch would be revised in June.

FISHING INDUSTRY **③ FISHING**
 FM 17/2/95

Angling for more equity

But allocating more quotas to small fishermen may cause problems

In the ANC, Johnny Issel is the big fisherman. If he has his way, he will motivate the reconstruction of the industry, reel in the major participants, limit their vested interests, break down the present quota system and dish out fishing rights to individuals and to communities of fisherfolk up and down the coast.

Though a landlubber (Issel was born in Worcester, Cape), his heart lies with the fishing community. And the ANC has invested heavily to elevate his knowledge about the industry. He has studied the subject with the UN Food & Agricultural Organisation in Rome, investigated the fishing industry in Japan, studied the industries in Australia, New Zealand and Taiwan and has spent time with the fishing authorities in Namibia.

As a member of the Western Cape legislature he is behind a concerted push to tear down the "apartheid-blackened" quota method of doling out fishing rights. He wants to instal a more equitable written policy and legislation that will address "some of the very serious problems in the industry." He argues that "the SA fishery is a common property resource of which the State is guardian. If the State allocates the resource, that allocation has to be seen to be fair and just — and it isn't."

Shareholders and management of fishing companies, public and private, are understandably concerned how the new order will affect them. If it involves cutting the existing quota cake into ever smaller pieces, it could destroy the profitability of existing assets employed by bigger participants.

Listed companies like Irvin & Johnson (I&J), Oceana Fishing (Ocfish) and Sea Harvest could find themselves forced to reduce investment, lay off labour, and diversify further to maintain adequate earnings growth.

Both I&J's and Sea Harvest's core fishing activity is deep-sea trawling for hake. Though it is experimenting with mussel farming, Sea Harvest relies almost totally on its hake catches, as does I&J. And Ocfish earns most of its fishing revenue from pelagic (in-shore) fishing for pilchard, anchovies and other species caught in purse-seine nets, but a good part comes from its lobster landings.

Ocfish has been proactively seeking to pre-empt new developments which seek to redress perceived inequities in the system.

Its controlling shareholder Tiger Oats has sold half its Ocfish interest to Real Africa Investments, which is soon to be listed on the JSE and which is controlled by black businessmen, trade unions and other formal and informal groups including fishermen.

Robbie Williams, Ocfish's deputy chairman, who has just handed over the chair to Real Africa chairman Don Ncube, says Ocfish is about to announce a scheme of equity participation for all employees and stakeholders — including fishermen who work for the group for only a couple of months of the year.

Ocfish MD David Behrens believes that because of these actions, a new administrative body will be hard-pressed to justify any reduction in Ocfish's quotas. He adds that Ocfish never received any favours from the previous regime.

In the past few years, SA's total allowable catches (TACs) of most species have been falling. Big players in the industry have continued to invest millions to upgrade facilities and enhance capacity in anticipation of eventual growth in TACs. For the first time in years, the pilchard and hake bio-mass appears to be recovering well after a lean period. Higher TACs are likely.

Will the new system pass any increases on to "newcomers"? Are the big players going to have to suffer a decline in their percentages of the overall TAC?

Issel points out that fisheries used to be open to all — anybody could go to sea and take what he needed — until it was realised that the resource had to be managed to avoid over-exploitation. In the Sixties, the government started issuing permits. That was the beginning of the small fishing



Issel



Gxanyana

communities' difficulties.

In the Seventies, the government transformed the access regulations by issuing quotas derived from the TAC of particular species. The TAC was the maximum amount of that species which, according to scientists, could be landed in a year without damaging its bio-mass. Government issued licences to individual small boat owners which specified what fish the boat could catch, how much it could catch and when.

Until then, lobster fishermen, for instance, had no quotas. They simply landed their catch and sold to the highest bidder. When quotas were introduced in 1972, they were widely distributed among fishing people along the west coast. Industry executives say many holders sold their quotas to big business and ultimately had to find jobs.

Issel's viewpoint is different. Big business just took over, he says. The independent fisherman was summarily dismissed. Granted, big business used the independents to help catch their quotas — but when it was caught in full, they were laid off.

Even before the ANC became the majority party in the Government of National Unity, the authorities were recognising inequities. The then Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister, Louis Pienaar, asked the President's Council early in 1992 to inquire into socio-economic conditions in fishing communities. Pienaar is also credited with asking the Quota Board to consider allocating quotas to specific areas to help ease poverty in them.

Pienaar's inquiry was conducted by the HRSC and a report by its De Wet Schutte was presented to the Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries in August, 1993. Earlier, Pienaar asked the directorate for the systematic establishment of community development trusts (CDT).

A task group of industry representatives (including Issel) was mandated to establish CDTs. The group was allocated a quota of 3 000 t of hake. However, they met considerable problems.

According to Schutte, most CDTs experienced functioning problems from the beginning, some of which led to mass

MIXED QUOTA CATCH

SA total allowable catches (t)

Species	1992	1993	1994	± 1995
Hake — Deep Sea	127 830	147 000	148 000	148 000
Pilchard	45 000	48 600	95 000	77 500
Anchovy	350 000	360 000	150 000	200 000
Rock Lobster South Coast* ..	972	972	972	875

* Season spread over two calendar years, ending in year stated. ± Provisional figures.

action and violence. It was partly a problem of definition. Who is a fisherman? What constitutes a fishing community? Who in the community qualifies to benefit from the CDT's quota allocation?

"In some instances," says Schutte, "the CDT developed into a political tool and when cash handouts started, it erupted into serious conflicts."

The Minister ordered an inquiry into the viability of CDTs. It recommended the creation of a Mother Trust, to which the Quota Board should allocate a blanket quota. The Mother Trust would decide on the distribution and allocation of quota among the CDTs.

The committee also recommended that trust monies should not be paid directly to individual CDTs, but kept in trust by the Mother Trust and that an individual CDT may only claim its share in the community quota after it has presented an accepted project proposal to the Mother Trust.

However, these proposals do not address the fundamental problem of how fishermen can be employed out of the short season.

A further experiment was undertaken to determine the feasibility of hake long-lining (fish is caught on extremely long lines with many hooks) in SA waters from both the resource and the socio-economic aspects. Of particular interest was the ability of rural fishermen to catch hake by this method.

CDTs have a hake quota, but hake is almost exclusively trawled for by costly deep-sea trawlers. CDT fishermen do not themselves catch their quota. It is sold to the highest bidder — big business hake fishers — and the proceeds going to CDTs.

Longlining is effective because it can be done from small boats closer to shore. Long-line proponents argue it could provide a longer season for CDT fisherfolk if they

have access to appropriate craft.

The longline experiment is being conducted by some of the Tuna Association's tuna vessels and by small coastal linefish boats. Interim results indicate that longlining can have significant benefits for the individual fisherman. More can be employed for longer periods at better monthly wages.

However, hake longlining is often practised in the species' rocky breeding grounds. Deep-sea trawlers do not fish there. Scientists are understandably worried that longlining for hake in these areas could damage the resource. If hake longlining is approved, quotas will be conservative with breeding grounds carefully monitored.

Also of great importance to the industry is a new fisheries policy. Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers has reconstituted the Quota Board for a transitional period until a new committee, convened by general secretary of the Food & Allied Workers Union Mandla Gxanyana, has investigated and made recommendations for a policy.

Gxanyana's committee's terms of reference are simply to provide the Minister with a draft Fisheries Policy document for SA. The report is likely to be fundamental.

At a stormy meeting with the Minister on December 13, Gxanyana recommended the committee comprise four representatives from each of the four coastal provinces. Northern Cape, Western Cape, Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, plus 11 other units, all with single representatives — organised and unorganised labour, informal fisherfolk, big business and business, recre-



Williams

ational, conservation, tourism, consumers, support industries and national government. The Minister has apparently accepted this.

Gxanyana may have succeeded in making the process democratic, but do any of these representatives have a deep working knowledge of the industry? Repeated calls to Gxanyana's office by the *FM* produced no response. Because the committee is so widely represented, the draft policy document is unlikely to land on the Minister's desk much before year-end.

Major issues Gxanyana's committee is likely to address will include obvious ones, such as evaluation of resource sustainability and the related infrastructure. Topping the list are likely to be the questions of access rights and poverty among fishing communities. There will be proposals which alter the status quo.

Managers of most fishing companies are concerned about poverty in these rural coastal communities. But it is difficult to convince anybody that the CDT can be anything more than a token gesture.

Sea Harvest chairman Eckardt Kramer agrees that an improvement in the quality of life in fishing communities is a priority but believes there are better ways to achieve this than by using the community trusts. He would prefer job creation and staff improvement schemes.

Sea Harvest has not yet followed Oceana's shareholder devolution. C G Smith ultimately controls both companies.

I&J's view is that it is obliged to optimise the resource it is entitled to catch, which

FAURESMITH POST OFFICE SALE OF RENTABLE HISTORICAL BUILDING

Tenders are invited for the purchasing of Lot 16, situated in Voortrekker Street, Fauresmith, measuring 793 square metres. The Post Office will rent back the entire portion (approximately 181 square metres) for the continuation of a postal service.

Particulars of the conditions of sale and tender forms are available at the office of the Managing Director, SAPOS Properties (Pty) Ltd, 2nd Floor, Postpark South, Tulbagh Park, 1234 Church Street, Colbyn, Pretoria, telephone (012) 421-7607, as well as the Regional General Manager: Central Provinces telephone (051) 480404 x 240 at an amount of R200,00 which is not refundable.

Tenders will close at 11:00 on 1995-03-16.

Post Office
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makes a capital-intensive infrastructure and a skilled workforce essential. Like Sea Harvest, I&J adds significant value to the raw product before it reaches the consumer. It supports an extended line of secondary industry which indirectly provides further job creation and employment for many more than are visible in the company itself. This applies to all listed fishing companies.

I&J SA operations executive director Roy Gordon says that with its staff improvement schemes, the group ensures equitable participation by stakeholders and forms the basis for effective resource management.

MD Chris Venn of unlisted Premier Fishing, a big player in the pelagic industry, is sceptical about changes that may follow Gxanyana's recommendations. He, like Sea Harvest's Kramer, tends to the view that people in the industry can be best served by letting the free market find its own way.

Though all agree there has to be access

control to avoid exploitation, and that poverty in coastal communities should be alleviated. Gxanyana's committee should not diminish the role of the free market. History has shown that small quota holders more often than not get the big fishermen to work their quotas and pay them the proceeds. They invariably end up by selling their quotas.

The current system of quota allocation will apply for the next year, so earnings capacity of listed fishing companies is unlikely to be eroded in the short term. The opposite may apply if the final TAC and corresponding quotas are increased.

But investors should ask whether forthcoming legislation will deliver long-term financial benefits for the JSE-listed participants. The answer will probably be no, as some redistribution seems inevitable.

I&J and Oceana are better positioned than Sea Harvest to weather the buffeting

of changed quotas, because they are more diversified. I&J's fishing activities account for less than 25% of its turnover. Oceana's less than 35%. Sea Harvest's hake catches represent more than 90%. However, unless hake longlining quotas are granted in profusion, quotas allocated to individuals in coastal communities are likely to represent only a small percentage of the hake TAC. Sea Harvest's position is, therefore, not likely to be materially eroded.

Oceana's 10.3 p/e offers the best relative value by far (Sea Harvest: 13.2; I&J: 20.1) though its fishing-based earnings could be corroded if its lobster quotas decline further. And since I&J's fish earnings are mostly derived from hake, its prospects for increasing earnings from this source are no better than Sea Harvest's.

Ocfish's mix of fishing and other interests and attractive yield (5.7%) make it the more attractive share.

Gerald Hirshon

DERIVATIVES

Understanding the risks

Most of the spectacular failures can be put down to bad management

Are derivatives, the latest flavour in international financial markets, also a recipe for disaster? Or are they a natural progression in the technology of markets? Recent large losses in corporate treasuries in the US and elsewhere would seem to confirm the suspicions of those who find derivatives unpalatable.

But a conclusion that they are a bad thing, based on a few losses, would be shortsighted. Recent losses point not to an inherent danger in derivatives themselves, but rather that practitioners such as banks, and end-users such as corporate treasurers and portfolio managers, need to decide exactly how and why they use the products. They need risk management techniques to monitor exposures created by derivatives.

Derivatives meet an important need. Bank of England executive director Brian Quinn told a recent New York conference: "Derivatives diffuse and reallocate risk to risk-bearers who are more willing to bear it. The efficiency of financial markets is improved and the economy generally benefits."

A derivative security is any financial instrument or contract whose price is based on that of another asset or group of assets, such as commodities, currencies, interest-bearing securities, shares or share indices.

Derivatives fall into two broad categories: those of a forward nature, such as forwards themselves, futures and swaps; and options. These can further be divided into ex-

change-traded derivatives — futures and some options, and over-the-counter (OTC) products such as forwards, swaps and other options, including exotics such as options on swaps or even options on other options. Their one abiding feature is that they allow the party to a derivative contract to assume a chosen market exposure more quickly and cheaply than in the spot market.

But, as practitioners point out, though derivatives are an important risk management tool, they cannot in themselves create more risk than a spot transaction. "The real difference between spot and derivative markets," says Johannesburg Options Market's David Bullard, "is that derivatives tend to show up your mistakes more effectively."

Last year, German industrial giant Metallgesellschaft suffered a US\$1bn loss through the activities of its US subsidiary in the oil futures market. More recently, US companies Procter & Gamble and Gibson Greetings filed suits against Bankers Trust, on the basis of losses suffered through complicated interest rate products which the bank sold to them.

A number of leading US mutual funds have burnt their fingers trying to boost per-



Smit

formance with derivatives. Orange County, one of the US's most affluent municipalities, filed for bankruptcy due to losses of up to \$2bn caused by its treasurer Robert Citron, who took a view on interest rates using derivatives.

In 1993 local markets were shocked when bank group Sechold lost R200m on an option position on equity futures: a dealer in a subsidiary had bet against the JSE index moving significantly, with disastrous effects when the market staged a bull run. The bank was eventually bailed out by

competitor Investec.

These losses have led to fears, particularly among international bank regulators, of a systemic risk to world capital markets, should one or more large institutions go under when a derivatives deal goes sour. The fear may even be greater for mutual funds, which unlike banks do not have government or deposit insurance schemes to protect clients.

This fear is based, in part, on the exponential growth in the past two or three years in informal or OTC derivative contracts. These are off-balance sheet, and difficult for regulators to measure.

In each case, however, the evidence points to poor management and not to the markets themselves. Metallgesellschaft's US subsidiary tried to hedge a 10-year forward oil contract by buying futures. When oil prices plummeted in the second



Du Plessis

~~IRV~~

3 FISHING

Good catch for I&J

Business Staff *ARL 21/2/95*

FISHING and food group Irvin & Johnson increased its taxed profit by 31 percent to R41,7 million equal to 144,9c a share in the six months ended December.

But the directors say they are not satisfied with this result.

"The improvement in profitability, while pleasing, is in terms of returns on investors funds and capital employed still not at the levels last achieved in 1989."

They plan a further improvement in returns. The higher profit is the result of an upturn in economic conditions both in South Africa and overseas, and also to new projects coming on stream, the directors report.

Turnover rose by 19 percent to R1,06 billion while improved margins led to operating profit rising 25 percent to R56,6 million.

I&J has not declared an interim dividend. It declares an annual dividend (last year, 86c) in August.

Upturn gives I & J welcome lift ³ FISHING

By AUDREY D'ANGELO

IRVIN & Johnson's (I & J) results for the six months to December show the effect of the economic recovery here and in its export markets.

Operating profit was 25% higher at R56,5m (R45,4m) than in the first half of the last financial year.

This was achieved on a 19% rise in sales to R1bn (R886,5m). Earnings were 31% higher at R41,7m (R31,7m). This translates into 144,9c (110,5c) at share level. The company traditionally pays no interim dividend.

The tax bill was 33% higher at R11,2m (R8,4m) and the interest bill 4% higher at R9,3m (R8,9m).

Income from Investments was 46% higher at R5,6m (R3,8m). Profit after tax was R41,6m (R31,8m).

Longterm borrowings have been reduced to R69,2m (R72,9m). The total asset value per share has risen to 1 736c (1 546c).

The directors say profitability in terms of returns on investors' funds and capital employed is still not at the levels last reached in 1989. But they expect earnings for the full year to continue to improve.

Fishing and food manufacturing company I & J was badly hit by the recession in 1993, when earnings plunged by 24% in the year to June. Sales fell in SA and abroad and margins were squeezed.

But, although the market was still weak, earnings began to recover in the six months to December 1993. In the year to June 1994 earnings were 11% higher as sales picked up.

CT 2/12/95

Now the directors say improved economic conditions in SA and international markets, together with the effect of new projects coming on stream, have led to improved turnover and better margins. This, together with lower financing costs, lifted profits.

Sales of value-added products increased sharply in both domestic and international markets. Vegetable exports have continued to grow although sales in the domestic market are only marginally higher than at this time last year.

Hake catches in Namibian waters were poor, which resulted in a poor performance from Kuiseb Fish Products. But capital investment is continuing to increase the factory's capacity for value-added products for the international markets.

Improved conditions and new projects nourish I&J

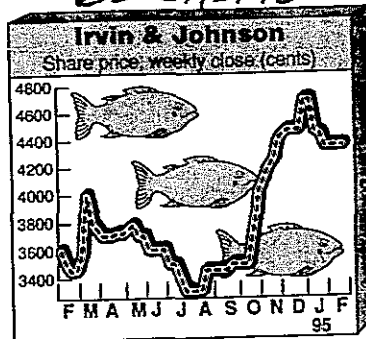
EDWARD WEST

CAPE TOWN — Anglovaal food processing and fishing group Irvin & Johnson (I&J) lifted earnings 31% to 144,9c a share in the six months to end-December on the back of improved economic conditions in SA and international markets and new projects coming on stream.

Turnover was up 19% to R1,06bn and operating profit rose by 25% to R56,59m. Income from investments grew 46% to R5,65m and interest paid was 4% higher at R9,34m.

Tax was up one-third to R11,24m after the tax rate was largely unchanged, leaving taxed profit 31% higher at R41,66m.

Directors said that although capital investments made in the seafood division and policy changes relating to product mix resulted in lower sales volumes, sales values and margins increased. Sales of value-added



products increased sharply both in the local market and internationally.

The SA hake quota remained unchanged for 1995. Hake catches in Namibia had been poor, resulting in a disappointing interim performance by Kuiseb Fish Products. However, the group was confident the situation would improve.

Capital investment was continuing to enhance the capacity to produce value-added product for internation-

al markets and to ensure long-term profitability of white fish processing in Namibia.

In the prepared foods division, the new potato chip plant was operating at better than design parameters and profitability was ahead of plan. Vegetable exports continued to grow, while local sales were only slightly up on the previous year.

The sales and distribution division had performed well, in spite of the chicken shortage during the period. New margarine sales and various new protein products were successfully introduced.

The improvement in profitability was still not at 1989 levels in terms of investor funds and capital employed, and progress in this regard was a planned objective, the directors said.

Capital expenditure for the half-year was R33,46m (1993: R50,94m) and further capital expenditure amounting to R35,16m had been authorised, of which R4,76m had not yet been contractually committed.

Tensions rise as fish funds sink

③ FISHING

ARCT 25/2195

JEAN LE MAY
Weekend Argus Reporter

ABOUT R60 000 paid by the Oceana fishing group to the Cape Town Harbour Fishing Community Trust for its pilchard quota has vanished mysteriously out of its trust account, Legal Resources lawyer Matthew Walton told Weekend Argus this week.

This, added to the missing R500 000 in hake quota money which led to a Supreme Court case in December and R400 000 reported missing by the Hout Bay trust, makes a total of almost R1 million in quota money which has not reached the intended beneficiaries.

"We have reported the missing pilchard quota money to the commercial unit of the police," said Mr Walton. As for the R500 000 in hake quota money, he had concluded that it had sunk without trace.

Quota money is paid to the community trusts by fishing companies who catch their fishing quotas for them. The system has failed, bedevilled by corruption and growing tension between the traditional coloured fishermen of the Cape and more-recent black recruits to the industry.

Mrs Justice Jeannette Traversono in December dismissed three trustees of the Cape Town Harbour Trust and ordered them

■ Almost R1 million in quota money paid to fishing community trusts has gone missing since August — and, there is growing tension between traditional coloured fishermen and more recent black recruits to the industry.

to say what had happened to the hake quota money. It transpired it had been handed out to individuals who supported one of the two factions into which the harbour trust had split, while other beneficiaries got nothing.

According to reliable informants, many of the people who had been paid out were "taxi-drivers and building workers".

A further R500 000 in hake quota money due to the harbour trust is available for pay-out, said Mr Walton, but it had been decided that it would not be paid to the trust until matters had been sorted out.

"It definitely will not be handed out to individuals," he said. Instead, it would be used for capital development, such as buying fishing boats, or for education.

A spokesman for Dawie de Villiers, Minister of Environment Affairs, told Weekend Argus that the recommendations would go to the minister after reaction from "stakeholders" had been assessed, probably by March.

Meanwhile, independent fishermen at Cape Town harbour bitterly resent the way in which people, whom they describe as "Johnnies-come-lately" in the fishing industry, are taking over their traditional livelihood.

Two crayfishermen (who asked not to be named) described to Weekend Argus how they had been edged out by the newcomers.

"The traditional fishermen of Cape Town helped to build up the industry," they said.

"We lived in District Six and for many generations worked the crayfish boats for very little pay. As recently as 1990, we were paid 10c a kilo for crayfish. But, newcomers were prepared to accept the 'slave' wages.

"Then, the catches declined to such an extent that it no longer became profitable for boat-owners to catch their own quotas. What happens now is that one owner catches quotas for five quota-holders — but, of course, he can only employ people to work one boat.

"So, the rest of us are left without work. We've tried going further afield to find work, but it's the same everywhere.

"We feel very bad when we see people who have only recently come to Cape Town and who know nothing about fishing getting all the benefit from the so-called community trusts.

"We are the rightful fishing community — but, we are being ignored."

Ocfish nets 31% growth in turnover

(3) FISHING *Nov 2/11/95*

■ BY MAGGIE ROWLEY

A stronger second half saw diversified fishing group Oceana Fishing (Ocfish) net a 31 percent growth in both turnover and earnings a share for the year to end September.

All divisions performed better, lifting turnover to R593,4 million (R454,4 million). Operating profit is up 40 percent at R67,9 million.

A change in the group's cash position saw net interest paid of R2,1 million against net interest received of R3,8 million previously.

This was, however, partly set off by a decline in profit attributable to outside shareholders following the

acquisition of the remaining 40 percent of Commercial Cold Storage at the end of last year.

The effective tax rate was similar to the previous year.

Diluted

Growth in earnings a share, due to the slightly larger number of shares in issue, was diluted to a 31 percent improvement at 38,2c.

A final dividend of 14,4c a share brings the total payout for the year to 19,7c, only 15 percent up on the previous year in order to increase the dividend cover to 1,9 times and fund the group's expansion.

Last year, the Acquisition Group,

lead by Real Africa Investments, acquired joint control of the group with Tiger Oats.

Don Ncube, the chairman of both Real Africa Investments and Oceana, said that in the fishing division, the cannery had experienced good volume growth thanks to higher pilchard landings, while the lobster export markets had improved during the year.

The trading and shipping division had also enjoyed high volumes increasing turnover 36 percent and lifting operating margins.

Subject to fishing quotas for next year's season, the group anticipated a further good increase in earnings for the coming year.

Ocfish nets 31% growth in turnover

CT (B2) 2/11/95 (3) FISHING
By MAGGIE ROWLEY

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The trading and shipping division, he said, had also enjoyed high volumes and activity levels, increasing turnover by 36 percent and lifting operating margins.

Subject to fishing quotas for next year's season, the group anticipated a further good increase in earnings for the coming year.

Oceana lifts income with a surge in sales

Edward West

BN 2/11/95

(3) FISHING

CAPE TOWN — Oceana Fishing Group lifted attributable income 34% to R37,3m for the year to September amid a sharp increase in sales and improved margins.

The group, which is jointly controlled by Real Africa Investments and Tiger Oats, pushed sales ahead 31% to R593,4m as volumes across its activities increased.

Operating income rose 40% to R68m, but the group paid interest of R2,1m against a R3,8m net interest gain. Taxed profit was 26% higher at R38,2m.

Share earnings came in 31% ahead at 39,2c, while the total dividend rose 15% to 19,7c.

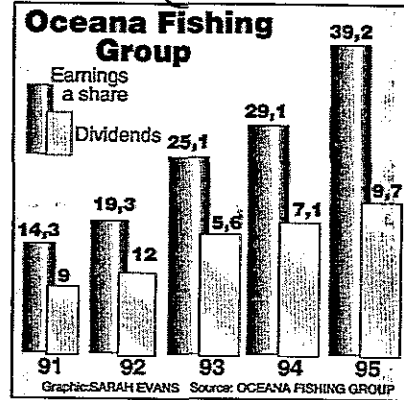
Retained income was swollen by an R8,7m extraordinary gain from the sale of its investments in Oranjerivier Visserye and Nasionale Visserye.

Oceana had taken a huge R17,7m loss last year.

Chairman Don Ncube said earnings should show a rise in the current year, depending on fishing quotas for the 1996 season meeting expectations.

Record landings of non-pelagic species were made, but anchovy landings were similar to last year and the fishmeal and oil operations reported a marginal profit.

High volumes and activity levels in the trading and shipping division resulted in turnover increasing by 36%



as well as an improvement in operating margins.

Handling and storage equipment continued to be modernised, while capacity was expanded with the commissioning of a R9m extension to the Bay-head facility in Durban.

Ncube said the preliminary 1996 lobster total allowable catch was disappointing at 1 500 tons compared with last season's 2 000 tons.

But the pelagic resource was reported to be sound, and the pilchard and anchovy total allowable catch and quotas for next year were expected to exceed those for this year.

Ncube was confident Oceana was well placed to maintain and improve its position in the allocation of quotas in future.

Sea Harvest nets higher profits

(3) FISHING

□ Plant upgraded to world standards

ARG 3/11/95

Business Editor

A SECOND Cape fishing company reported good results this week: Better catch rates helped Sea Harvest raise shareholders' profits by 22 percent to R49 million in the year ended September.

Pre-tax profit was up 32 percent on a 10 percent turnover rise, but a higher tax rate reduced after-tax profit.

Directors said hake fishing had returned to normal catch patterns, reflecting the sound state of hake stocks. Sea Harvest had upgraded its processing plant to meet demanding international standards.

Goodwill of R23 million was written off below bottom line on the acquisition of a 49 percent stake in a company involved in hake and lobster fishing in Namibia.

Shareholders netted a final dividend of 14,5c, making 23c for the year (19c last year).

■ Canning group Langeberg failed

to meet mid-year forecasts, reporting shareholders' profits of R60,2 million in the year ended September, only 0,3 percent up on last year.

Directors said rationalisation operations to improve international competitiveness following the phase-out of export incentives had cost more than expected.

Langeberg was concluding an alliance with the Dole Food group, which would give access to an established international brand.

The dividend is unchanged at 3c.

■ Electronics group Spescom is to raise R30,6 million through a rights offer. The money will be used to take advantage of growth opportunities.

■ African Oxygen reported a 22 percent rise in attributable profits to R152,8 million in the year ended September. All three businesses — gases, welding and healthcare — should show further growth this year; directors said.

Quota board is rotten, say fishermen

Black fishermen are outraged by the 'unfair' allocation of perlemoen and crayfish quotas, writes **Rehana Rossouw**

CHARGES of corruption, nepotism and racism have been levelled at the Directorate of Sea Fisheries quota board by trate black fishermen who say they were promised a moratorium on quota allocations until racial imbalances had been addressed.

Representatives of Cape fishing communities said this week the lucrative quotas for scarce catches of crayfish and perlemoen went to large fishing companies, interests not previously involved in the industry, and foreign nationals.

Black fishermen, robbed of their quotas during the apartheid years, found themselves little better off when the quota board released its latest carving of the cake last week.

Fishermen are perturbed that the quota board went ahead and allocated quotas despite calls for a moratorium until the Department of Environment Affairs' Fishing Policy Commission reported to Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers on the restructuring of the industry.

One of the disappointed groups are Hawston fishermen, who are finding it increasingly difficult to find employment and had hoped for a slice of the perlemoen quota. Many in the tiny fishing village near Cape Town have resorted to poaching to supplement their families' income.

Hawston community leader Phillipus May said he had lodged an appeal with the board on behalf of fishermen who had applied for quotas and were unsuccessful.

"We are extremely disappointed with the board's decision. We have been negotiating with them for three years and once again we were rejected," May said.

May said there were about 120 fishermen in Hawston who had been involved in the perlemoen industry for up to 20 years, and were battling to survive since the quotas were reduced in the past decade to protect the resource.

'What we find completely unacceptable is the fact that a fishing company like Oceana, which has never been involved before in the perlemoen industry, was given a quota while we, who could prove generations of involvement, were not," May said.

"We have been assisting with the drafting of new policy, we have had discussions with the poachers and promised them things would improve if they went through the proper channels and applied for a quota, and now this happens."

Western Cape Fishing Forum representative Andy Johnson charged the quota board was a "rotten empire". He claimed to have information that people who had not applied were allocated quotas and that foreign nationals were granted a share.

Johnson also claimed that at least three members of the quota board had past links with fishing companies, compromising their impartiality.

"I have written a letter to President Nelson Mandela, asking him to intervene in this fiasco. The quota board has enriched certain individuals and companies at the expense of disadvantaged communities," he said.

"What we fail to understand is why they allocated the quotas at all last week. The Fishing Policy Commission is handing its report to De Villiers on Saturday and we had asked for a moratorium on the allocation of quotas until

that was done. The quota board is assisting in dividing up the spoils before black fishermen get their rightful share."

The deputy director of Fisheries in the Department of Environmental Affairs, Arno Shuter, replied: "The board is an independent body appointed by the Cabinet, and the minister cannot interfere in its decisions. We did receive a letter from the Fishing Policy Commission asking for a moratorium, and handed it to the quota board, but we could not insist that they do so."

He said the quota board was between a rock and a hard place. After the fishing policy commission's report was handed to the minister, legislation has to be prepared and will probably only reach Parliament in the middle of next year. The board was also under pressure by groups applying for quotas to expedite their applications.

"I am aware of people's unhappiness with the

quotas board's decisions. All I can do is appeal to them to come forward with their allegations that members of the quota board have vested interests in the fishing industry and that unqualified persons were granted quotas. I can give them the assurance their allegations will be investigated," Shuter said.

"We are hoping that the new fishing policy will be all-inclusive, promote the RDP and give a fair shake to those who were excluded in the past. In the meantime, we are in a period of transition and cannot change things too radically overnight."

● The quota board reduced the total allowed catch (TAC) by 25 percent for both crayfish and perlemoen to protect the resource. During the 1970s, South Africa's crayfish TAC was 12 000 tons, and last week's allocation was reduced to 1 700 ton. Almost 90 percent of the catch is exported and local consumers pay far more for the delicacy as a result.



Something fishy: Stink over quotas

SMOKING DAMAGES YOUR LUNGS

10 mg tar 1.0 mg nicotine As per Government agreed method

The International Mild



Sea Harvest improves

3 FISHING

Edward West

BD 3/11/95

CAPE TOWN — Sea Harvest Corporation's attributable profit grew 22% to R49,09m in the year to end-September due to improved catch rates and satisfactory trading conditions.

Earnings a share advanced 22% to 49,1c. A final dividend of 14,5c raised the total payout for the year to 23c (19c).

Turnover was 10% up at R360,9m, while operating profit was 30% up at R75,4m. Interest received rose 47% to R12,7m and pretax profit was 32% higher at R88,1m. Taxation was 46% higher at R39,04m.

Fishermen's fury: 'They don't want coloureds'

JEAN LE MAY

Staff Reporter

(3) FISHING
ARG 4/11/95

COMMERCIAL fishermen at Gourits River Mouth, a holiday resort near Mossel Bay, claim the local council is trying to stop them using the almost exclusively "white" resort as a base.

Roy Peral, who employs about 70 coloured fishermen, said fishing boats anchored in the river had been "ticketed" and owners warned not to use the slipway.

"They're trying to get us out of the town," he said. "We bought a small piece of ground on the river about 8km upstream from the town and have plans to build a slipway for the boats and a hostel for the fishermen, who are living in caravans. But the council has refused to supply water to the site.

"When I said that I would buy houses in the village to house the fishermen, they said they would not have coloured fishermen living there.

"I am prepared to invest R600 000 in Gourits River Mouth and create jobs for about 80 people, but the locals don't want to hear about it."

Mr Peral said fish would not be processed at the site because all fish caught was sold to factories in Mossel Bay.

Theuns Hanekom, a member of the former council who has won a seat on the newly elected council, denied coloured people were not wanted in the town.

"This is not to be written about in the newspapers," he said.

"The reason we can't supply water to the fishermen's site is that all the water for the village comes from a fountain 12km upriver. We have arrangements with farmers through whose land the pipeline runs, that each may have one water point.

"But Mr Peral's piece of ground is a subdivision and he is not entitled to get water from the pipeline, because there will not be enough for the town. About R75 million has been invested by people who built holiday houses in Gourits River."

The water supply to the village had cost R5 million, he said, and the council did not have the money to increase the capacity.

Fishermen dig deep to keep cash-strapped committee alive

■ Kalk Bay fishermen "passed the hat around" to collect money for staff salaries for the cash-strapped Fisheries policy development committee.

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

THE Sea Fisheries policy development committee was so short of funds at the end of last month that it had to borrow money from its own members to pay staff salaries.

The committee was set up by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers late last year to design a new democratic fisheries policy for the country.

Arnold Slater, deputy director (marine resources) of the division of Sea Fisheries, who is the committee's co-ordinator, spent three days at meetings in Pretoria last week trying to raise funds for the cash-strapped committee.

He said Dr De Villiers and the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) were negotiating with Trevor Manuel, Minister of Trade and Industry, to find ways of getting funds to meet the committee's R2 million budget.

The central government had turned down a request for funds, said Mr Slater.

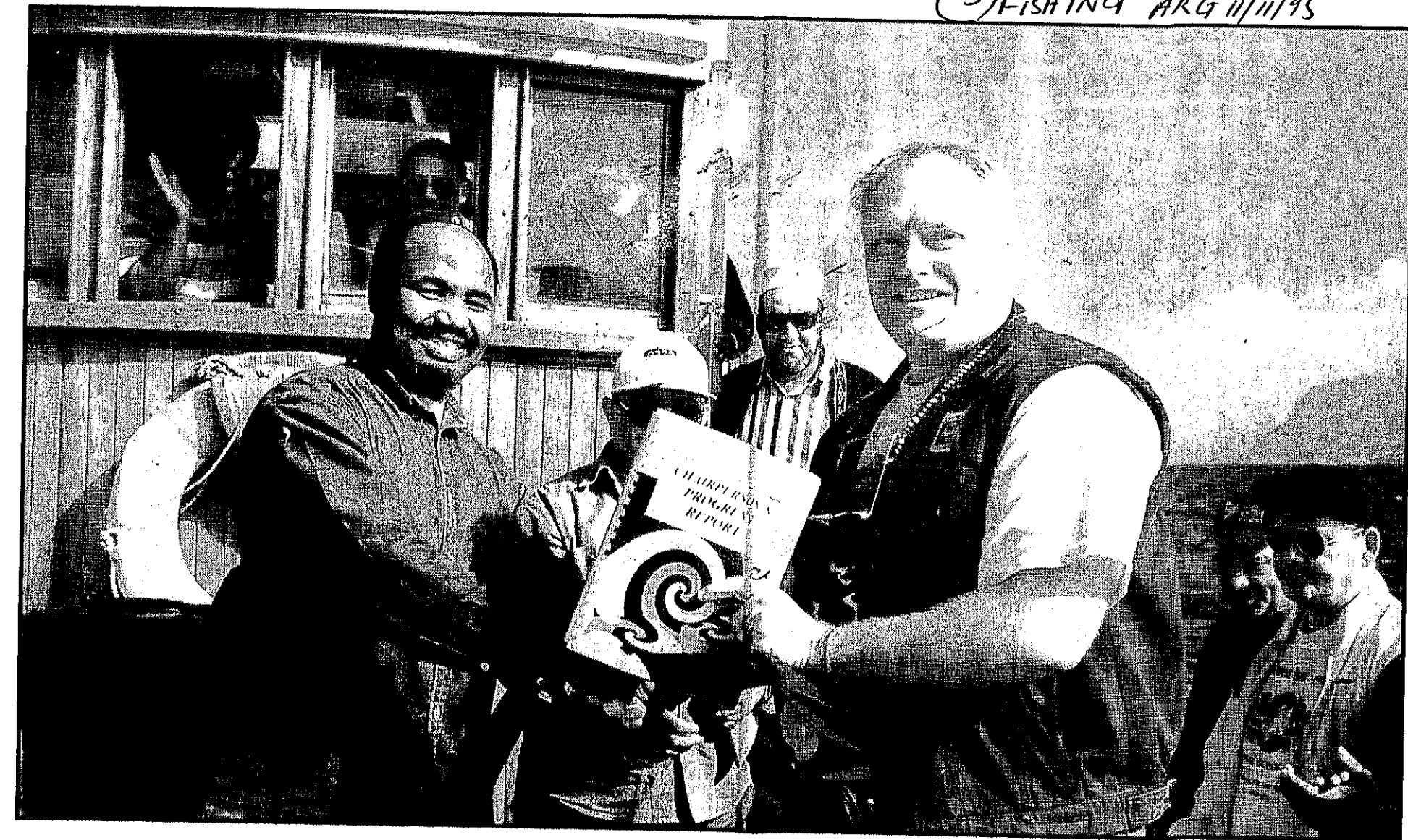
Committee chairman Mandla Gxanyana told Saturday Argus yesterday that when the working committee was told of the financial problems, Kalk Bay representatives of the informal sector "passed the hat around" and collected R15 000 for staff salaries.

Andy Johnson, informal sector representative on the working committee, confirmed that this had been done "to keep the process going".

Mr Johnston caused a furore last Saturday by accusing Dr De Villiers of "pulling the financial plug" on the committee.

He said, at a Marine Day ceremony, that the informal sector believed the committee had been set up as a strategy to give the impression that the industry was being opened up, and that Dr De Villiers had succumbed to pressure from the big fishing companies.

Mr Johnston this week retracted his statement. He told Saturday Argus that, after a briefing from Mr Slater, the informal sector was satisfied that Dr De Vil-



□ **FRUSTRATED:** Mandla Gxanyana, left, handed over his progress report on the work of the Sea Fisheries policy development committee at a recent Marine Day ceremony. The committee's work is being seriously handicapped by lack of funds.

liers was "totally committed" to the reform programme.

However, he said, there was still a great deal of unrest among informal and artisan fishermen, who were threatening violence if the work of the committee came to nothing.

Many of them had survived by poaching, but had now agreed to suspend these activities and co-operate with the committee, he said.

Mr Slater, apparently charged by the minister with a damage control opera-

tion, held a series of meetings with anxious committee members.

Yesterday he sent Saturday Argus a report on the committee's finances.

It shows that the Department of Environmental Affairs (of which Sea Fisheries is a division) has already pledged R503 000 to the committee, although it was not budgeted for.

In addition, the SBDC gave R250 000, the Development Bank of South Africa has pledged R150 000, the Masibambane Trust (apparently formed by SA Brewer-

ies) gave R60 000, while another R17 000 was received in various smaller donations.

The committee has actually received only R663 000 of the R2 million it needs to see it through until the completion of its final report, scheduled for April next year.

It also appears from the report that the committee has debts of R64 000 which are unpaid because of bureaucratic red tape.

Mr Gxanyana said yesterday there was apparently R178 000 in the kitty, but

this was needed to keep the office running and to finance the working committee. From time to time working committee members flew to Cape Town from all over the country to attend meetings, he said.

As it was, two staff members had been retrenched, Mr Gxanyana said. And the lack of funds meant that the committee would have to curtail its highly important task of consulting with informal fishermen and fishing forums which had been established in fishing communities between Port Nolloth and Natal.

(3) FISHING ARG 11/11/95

Perlemoen war: Disaster looms

③ FISHING ACT 18/11/95

WILLEM STEENKAMP

Staff Reporter

POLICE and Sea Fisheries officials are fighting a losing battle against highly-organised, well-armed poachers who are stripping the perlemoen resource along the Hermanus/Hawston coast.

And now sources in the perlemoen industry have warned that the perlemoen resource could be irrevocably damaged if urgent measures to prevent poaching

■ Poaching of perlemoen on the coast near Hermanus is continuing unabated and there are fears that the resource could be severely damaged if steps to curb poaching are not taken urgently.

are not put into place soon.

Poaching has been ongoing on the particular stretch of coast since last year and it is believed that poachers have links with Far East syndicates which are prepared to pay a fortune for the shellfish.

Acting director of Sea Fisheries Guillaume de Villiers this week admitted to Saturday Argus that poaching along the particular stretch of coast had reached a serious level. Something had to be done urgently to head off disaster.

He said Sea Fisheries had a duty to

ensure that the perlemoen resource be protected and maintained for future generations.

"But this is a very difficult situation. Not only are we under-staffed, but officials put their very lives at risk every time they act against poachers.

"The poachers operate in gangs. They are not only well-organised but also carry guns. They have shot at officials on several occasions when these inspectors have dared to confront them."

Mr De Villiers said high level talks

were now taking place with the police and that special combined operations involving both Sea Fisheries officials and members of the police would be launched soon.

"Members of the local communities are very much aware of what is going on, but they are afraid to come forward to help us because they are being intimidated by these armed gangsters.

"Not only is the perlemoen resource under threat, but people in the communities live in fear of their lives from these poaching gangs. We simply can-

not allow this situation to continue," said Mr De Villiers.

He said the fishing policy was being reviewed and it was expected that members of local communities who were disadvantaged in the past would receive rights or quotas in the perlemoen resource.

"But if poaching is allowed to continue on the current level, new quota-holders may very well find that they are holding rights to nothing or, at most, a severely depleted resource."

LOOMS

Warning to tuna boatsmen

ST 19/11/95
By JESSICA

BEZUIDENHOUT

A GROUP of about 700 fishermen have threatened to take "extreme action" against tuna boat owners unless they keep to an agreement signed earlier this year to employ a majority of local fishermen. (3) FISHING

Andy Johnson, spokesman for the Informal Sector — an organisation which represents subsistence fishermen — said his members were "sick of being robbed of their livelihood" by boat owners who employed immigrants from neighbouring countries as "cheap labour". He accused tuna boat owners of breaking the agreement.

"It is absolute madness that they can get away with employing foreigners while skilled South Africans are left unemployed," he said.

Fishing policy a balancing act

(3) FISHING ARG 24/11/95

With South Africa's fishing policy in the process of being completely overhauled, Staff Reporter ROGER FRIEDMAN spoke to a few historically disadvantaged fishermen to learn of their backgrounds, fears and expectations.

FISHERIES policy-makers are expected to show their hand on the vexed question of access rights to precious marine resources in the next three weeks.

Although new draft policy on the total restructuring of South Africa's fishing industry is only expected to be completed by February, the Fisheries Policies Development Committee's technical committee on access rights is due to submit its report by December 7.

Access rights are considered possibly the most crucial issue under discussion by the multi-disciplinary FPDC.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism initiated the process of developing a national fisheries policy some 13 months ago. Mandla Gxanyana, general-secretary of the Food and Allied Workers' Union, was appointed to lead the policy development committee.

The FPDC grew to include representatives of about 30 different sectors, including government, labour, environmental experts, subsistence and recreational fishermen.

But for many fishermen, the workings of the FPDC have been too slow. The committee was meant to have completed its task by November, but the broad consultative process took longer than expected.

QUOTE

Currently, access rights are granted to a limited number of people. Expectations are that access rights should be broadened, particularly to include those previously denied rights or expansion of existing rights of small businesses. But, most stocks are over exploited or exploited to the maximum with little scope for more users unless catches of current users are reduced. — Access Rights Technical Committee.

Eventually, the FPDC will produce draft policy to be incorporated into a white paper which will then have to run the parliamentary gauntlet.

The disgruntled fishermen feel they could forgive the FPDC for dragging its heels, if the Quota Board was not going ahead issuing quotas which largely excluded disadvantaged fishermen in the meantime.

"They feel that the Quota Board

is almost pre-empting the work of the committee," an FPDC insider said.

"They believe the Quota Board should wait until the policies are in place, before deciding how to deal out resources. So what the Quota Board is doing is annoying a whole lot of disadvantaged people," he said.

In his foreword to the FPDC's latest chairman's report, published about three weeks ago, Minister of

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dawie De Villiers appeals to the industry for patience.

"The development of a fisheries policy is a slow and highly complex process and representatives from the appropriate user-groups are urged to be patient whilst sensitive and far-reaching deliberations are being conducted in a responsible manner," he said.

"The process must be a consultative and transparent one and the objective must among others be to reach consensus through a process of give and take.

"Although the process is difficult and demanding, I am confident that it can produce the policy directions required.

"The South African fishing industry is in international terms not a big player — but large enough to be

of great importance to our people and our economy.

"The industry employs about 25 000 people in the form of organised and unorganised labour," said Dr De Villiers.

At least one fishing association — the Witsand Artisanal Fishing Association — has stated that unless access policy is finalised by February, its members will implement their own policies from that date.

● The wholesale value of South Africa's commercial fisheries is in the order of R1,6 billion a year.

But the value to individual South Africans of subsistence fishing and harvesting, the value of recreational use with its multiplier effect, and the value of the non-consumptive use of marine resources to the economy, have never been quantified.

THE OLD MEN AND THE SEA

Crayfishermen believe they've been ripped off

THAT mouthwatering crayfish you will willingly spend about R80 on at a local eatery could be one of those caught by old-time Ocean View fisherman Willem Louw — who was paid R1,65 for his trouble.

Mr Louw used to be proud, running three crayfish boats from the Witsand (near Kommetjie) slipway and selling his catch to the highest bidder.

But then a succession of apartheid government rules and regulations over the past 20 years or so reduced his operation to a single boat and forced him to sell his catch to a white-owned factory at non market-related prices.

Although Mr Louw is not broken today, he is angry and bitter: "I could have retired by now. Instead I've been bamboozled. If I'd been allowed to use all three of my boats I'd be able to sit still today," the 63-year-old said.

"I was forced to run backwards and forwards to try and protect my rights but always ran into a white skin and could never get anything right."

Mr Louw is a member of the Witsand Artisanal Fishing Association which was established last year with the aim of uniting all fishermen who use the Witsand slipway.

The majority of the association's members are less fortunate than Mr Louw, in that they do not have their own

boats and must thus fish for even less reward.

Because he has a boat, the local crayfish factory has signed a contract with Mr Louw to help catch its quota for which he will be paid R1,65 a head.

And the factory has given him a small quota of his own, too, to catch 839 kilograms of crayfish for which he will be paid R14,50 a kilogram. He estimates it will take him four days to catch the 839 kilograms.

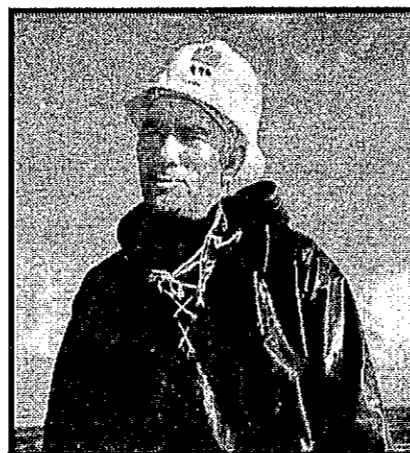
Many other members of the association are forced by the law to become criminals, committee member Charles America said.

These members take out sport and recreational licenses — allowing them to catch four crayfish a day for own consumption only — and then sell the crayfish on the "informal" market.

The problem is, they don't have boats, so they must pay two of their four crayfish as a sort of boat tax. This leaves them with two crayfish which are sold for R8 or R9 each, a daily income of R16 or R18 — and only when wind and sea conditions allow it.

The association appealed to President Mandela to intervene, with little result.

Then it fired off an ultimatum to the Fisheries Policy Development Committee — set up last year to formulate new fishing policy for the new South Africa



CRAYFISHERMAN: Willem Louw of Ocean View says the system forced him to run hither and thither in an effort to protect his rights — to no avail.

— warning its members would catch 20 crayfish each per day from the start of this year's crayfish season last week, at least until the new policy had been finalised.

The policy is, however, still in the making, and the association has shifted its ultimatum forward to February.

"We don't mind how long the policy-making process takes, but for the duration of the process we'd like to be able to survive," said Mr America.

"Instead, we feel as if the noose is being tightened around our neck. The fishing industry should be investigated thoroughly by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission," he said.

Fisherman recalls unhappy past

WILLIAM Zondi's earliest fishing memories are of continually having to outwit the police in order to make a subsistence living.

And each time he was caught for not carrying a pass (apartheid documentation permitting him to live and work in Cape Town) he'd have to fork out £10 (R58) of his hard-earned cash.

Mr Zondi was but one of many black fishermen all over the Cape coast forced to grow adept at hiding in the bushes, running long distances along the shore — even swimming the last few metres to the beach — to avoid the policemen waiting at the quay.

But, he sighs: "They were catching me nearly every time. I was working well, but every time I got some money I would lose it to the government."

Today, 65-year-old Mr Zondi lives in the Harare squatter



LIFELONG TORMENT: William Zondi has been a fisherman for 45 years. Now, losing his strength, he laments he has nothing to show for a lifetime of toil.

camp in Khayelitsha. Gnarled, tired and approaching the end of his working life, he rises each morning at an ungodly hour to get to Kalk Bay harbour in time for the 3 am departure of the

fishing fleet.

He left the Transkei in 1951 for the "better opportunities" offered by a career in fishing along the West Coast.

He "freelanced" in Port Nolloth and Hondeklipbaai. He was forced to freelance due to his lack of papers.

"There were no outboard motors in those days, we had to row up and down, and then often hide in the bushes when we came out."

Mr Zondi moved to Cape Town in 1968.

He complains: "I don't have so much power to pull the fish anymore. Where other, younger fishermen can pull 60 fish in a day, maybe I can pull 15 or 20."

Because he was never (officially) a resident or a worker in the Western Cape he was never a member of any pension fund and a destitute retirement beckons with his wife and three children in the Transkei.

CONTINUED ...

Complaints about 'fishy' business in quota system

ANDY Johnston, chairman of Informal Fishing Communities — an organisation representing more than 2 000 fishermen working from harbours across the Peninsula — wrote a letter to President Mandela last month.

"We believed that the informal fishing community's problems would be addressed after the election of the new government," the letter began.

"But the injustices and denial of social upliftment of the poor are still being perpetrated in the fishing industry. Racism is not only promoted, where it used to be non-existent, but it is being carried out in the name of empowerment.

"Our people are being denied their rights to participate in the fishing industry because the Quota Board is unilaterally allocating fishing rights to the privileged, greedy few.

"In some cases, there are fronts representing businessmen who are not even citizens of this country. In some cases, these beneficiaries represent prominent South African politicians.

"The manner in which these self-interest groups are rushing to get hold of fishing resources at the expense of the impoverished fishing communities is making a mockery of the RDP.

"And it also seriously undermines our democracy and the justice system be-

cause the poor people are being disadvantaged."

The letter concluded: "We now appeal to you, Mr President, to step in and take immediate action by placing a moratorium on any re-allocation of quotas until the work of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee is completed.

"We believe this is the last opportunity to ensure the big cake is equally shared among everybody, including the disadvantaged communities."

Interviewed last week, Mr Johnston said the entire fishing industry was built on a foundation of the violation of human rights.

"It was built on the advantages to the few in the apartheid system and on corruption," he said.

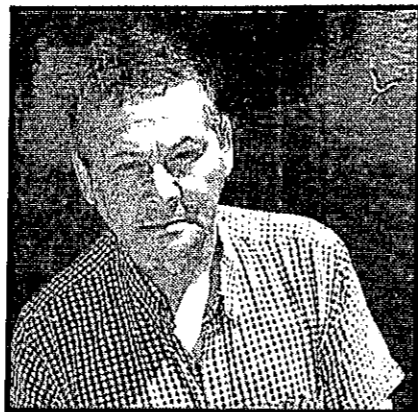
It was impossible to "put a new dress" on the industry, it had to be totally dismantled.

"We need a new concept," Mr Johnston said.

"The Quota Board has abused and marginalised our people and is a creature that has hastened the demise of fishermen.

"The natural resources of this country are a national asset, but the State should only be the custodian of the asset.

"We should look toward equitable distribution where the people who wet



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

SOMETHING SMELLS: Andy Johnston, chairman of Informal Fishing Communities, feels the fishing industry is rotten to the core.

their hands are the people who benefit. The shackles of economic enslavement and oppression must be broken."

Mr Johnston said the fishermen's only hope was the direct intervention of the president.

"It has got worse since about 1992 because greedy people have tried to take advantage.

"We even find politicians given paper quotas... people with no interest in the sea suddenly being given access to marine resources.

"Unless this problem is addressed there will be conflict between those who have, and those who have not," he said.

Local fishermen being swamped by foreigners

LAURENCE Hlwele, chairman of the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Association, says local fishermen are being swamped out of their jobs by Portuguese-speaking Namibians and Mozambicans.

And not a single agreement brokered over the last year between the association and various state authorities and employers' organisations around the issue of illegal foreign workers had been honoured, Mr Hlwele complained.

Immigration authorities had failed to halt the flow of illegal workers to the Cape Town docks — as had Portnet — while the Transport Department had failed to act on the regulation requiring the submission of full crew lists before the departure of a vessel.

Meanwhile, Mr Hlwele said, "we believe Sea Fisheries is giving out quotas to people who don't have the best interests of the workers in mind", while long-serving temporary workers had still not been given full-time

employment.

His association had proposed that the ratio of South African to non-South African workers on Cape Town fishing boats should be 16 to four.

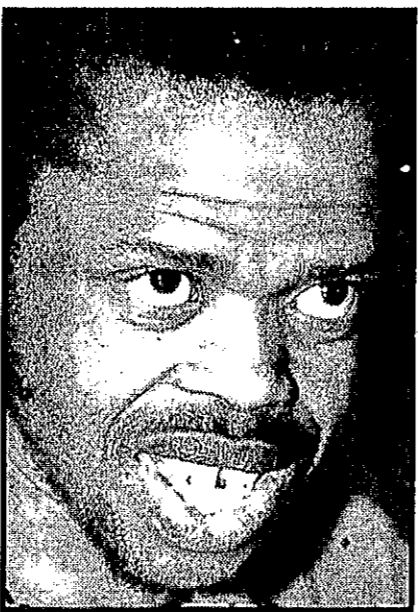
Instead, on many vessels, the ratio was "19 Owambos to one South African".

Mr Hlwele said with the fishing season having got underway in November, the foreign workers had already secured the inside track "while we are on the outside".

Instead of conditions improving, they had got worse.

Bosses had taken to discriminating against workers for belonging to the association. Foreign workers were considered cheaper, less-organised, and easier to exploit, he said. And they spoke Portuguese, the language of many boat owners.

The fishermen had exhausted every channel to no avail.



Picture: HANNES THIART, The Argus.

LET DOWN: Lawrence Hlwele, chairman of the Cape Town Harbour Fishermen's Association, says none of the agreements brokered with officialdom over the past year have been acted on.

Time fishermen were cared for

JERRY Phakoe, 56, gestures angrily towards the ageing fishermen sitting around the table.

"You see these people. They are called bergies (vagrants) today. They have nothing.

"We've seen our brothers drowned in the sea, we've seen our brothers eaten by sharks, we've seen rheumatism and we've seen fishermen with their legs cut off.

"They are just left to die. From the west coast to the east coast, nobody cares.

"I started to work at the time of the pass laws. I used to have to run to Kalk Bay or Hout Bay and hide in the bushes from the police.



OLD HAND: Jerry Phakoe says fishermen are tired of being taken for granted.

"The time has come to address the needs and social welfare of fishermen. We are the feeders of the nation and our

catches are sold overseas. So it is right that fishermen should take their special place in the community.

"The country is being run today by the children of the people we used to work for. They are the lawyers and doctors and accountants.

"But what about the fishermen? Where are they? They are looked upon as bergies.

"People run to the Quota Board and lie to feed their own pockets.

"Yet we are crying. Myself, I've been crying for years. We are being overlooked.

"It is time for the Quota Board to start seeing to it that fishermen are looked after."

Prices push crayfish off Cape restaurant menus

ROGER FRIEDMAN, Staff Reporter

CRAYFISH could disappear off South African restaurant menus due to soaring prices and scarcity on the local market.

One prominent Cape restaurateur said he was being offered live crayfish by a quota holder at R90 a kilogram, an increase of nearly 100 percent over "a few months".

Another said the emphasis on exports was forcing smaller restaurants into criminality — rather than buy the crayfish at "ridiculously inflated" prices, these establishments would buy their crayfish directly from poachers.

The crayfish crisis is not confined to the Western Cape — home of the west-coast lobster. So-called south-coast lob-

ster are also becoming prohibitively expensive and increasingly scarce locally.

An urgent meeting of representatives of the national tourism, hospitality and restaurant trades, and labour, was convened yesterday by Mandla Gxanyana, chairman of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee, to discuss the crisis.

The meeting will resume on Monday to formalise a proposal that a minimum of 20 percent of the total crayfish catch be sold locally or that crayfishermen be allowed to sell their catch directly to restaurants and caterers.

The meeting heard that whereas there was a statutory ruling that a maximum of 20 percent of the total crayfish catch should be sold locally, in fact, over 90

percent of the catch was exported.

Mr Gxanyana said there was widespread concern that the local shortage of crayfish was co-inciding with what looked set to be a record tourist season.

Stanley Dorman, managing director of Mariner's Wharf in Hout Bay, said: "It's an absolute disgrace and absolutely ridiculous that there is a tourist boom but you cannot get any rock lobsters at all."

"What has effectively happened is that quota holders keep pushing up prices because it pays them better to export. We should not be forced to pay export prices."

"It's ridiculous that people coming to Cape Town will not be able to eat Cape delicacies," said Mr Dorman.

ARLT 24/11/95

(3) FISHING

Marching workers chant their protest

ESTELLE RANDALL

Labour Reporter

ARG 25/11/95

HUNDREDS of Food and Allied Workers' Union (Fawu) members took to the street in Cape Town to demand that big companies keep their fishing quotas.

They want to retain the status quo until the Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) comes up with a new policy.

The workers fear losing their jobs if fishing quotas are taken from the big companies that employ them and are unilaterally given to small fishing operators.

Bearing placards which warned that smaller quotas for big companies would mean fewer jobs, the singing workers set off from the I&J factory in Woodstock and wound their way to parliament where they handed a memorandum to a member of President Nelson Mandela's office, Abu Baker.

He undertook to fax the memorandum to the president and promised the union a reply as soon as possible.

In its memorandum Fawu said it was concerned about planned restructuring of the fishing industry. The union said there should be a halt on restructuring until the work of the FPDC completes its work of drawing up a policy.

Restructuring the industry at this stage would not address the problems of marginalised people and sustainability and use of resources because the Quota Board was still operating under rules from the apartheid era, it had no clear programme of job-security and job-creation and there was no vision of the future of the industry.

If the Quota Board continued with its restructuring of the fishing industry, thousands of workers, members of Fawu, could lose their jobs.

A similar memorandum was handed to the secretary of the Quota Board, Fanie Fourie. He undertook to contact Fawu on Monday about the issues it had raised.

William Thomas, Western Cape regional secretary of Fawu, threatened further action from workers if the Quota Board failed to reply.

Marine inspectorate 'in bad way'

(3) FISHING

THE marine inspection division of the Department of Environmental Affairs was in a terrible state, department director-general Dr Colin Cameron said yesterday.

He told Parliament's public service committee the division was understaffed and received too little funding. There were about 80 vacancies on its staff of 300.

Four of its seven patrol boats were out of commission and a fifth worked only occasionally.

Dr Cameron said the inspectorate had been taken over from the provinces. A request had been made for additional funding to bring the inspectorate up to standard, but its already reduced budget would doubt-

less be further reduced next year.

Although the division had responsibility for 3 000km of coastline, its patrol capacity was centred primarily in Cape Town.

The department was considering using foreign funding or assistance to help repair or replace vessels.

Disabled

It had held talks with the Norwegian government, and a British aid programme might also help.

As an interim arrangement, the department's roll-over funds from the last financial year were being used to get one of the disabled boats on the water again.

Poaching would not be solved by policing or patrolling alone. There had to be community involvement and education as well.

In an interview afterwards, Dr Cameron said industries or developers were voluntarily submitting their environmental impact assessments to the department.

Draft regulations to make these studies compulsory were being assessed and negotiated with the provinces, which the department hoped would take over most responsibility for administering these regulations.

"It's better to have no regulations than regulations you can't enforce," he said. — Sapa

27 30/11/95

Broader access to marine resources

(3) FISHING

CT 1/13/95

(55)

ANTHONY JOHNSON

DISADVANTAGED communities — and not just a few big privileged companies — would in future have access to South Africa's lucrative marine resources, Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs Mr Bantu Holomisa said last night.

The minister announced a new marine policy was rapidly taking shape that would result in a major shake-up of the fishing industry.

Opening the first fully international fisheries exhibition in South Africa, he told representatives from 29 exhibiting countries it had to be accepted South Africa's marine resources "belong to all and not just a privileged few".

"More and more people from disadvantaged communities are staking their claims to the country's lucrative marine resources and making their voices heard," he said.

A fisheries policy development committee formed in October last year had been investigating ways to ensure a fair distribution of profits gained from marine resources.

Mr Holomisa said many aspects of the policy would be debated in coming months but a number of principles were beyond debate:

- The policy had to further the objectives of the RDP, particularly job creation.



NEW POLICY: Deputy Minister Mr Bantu Holomisa

- All South Africans, and not just a privileged few, should benefit from the country's marine resources.

- Management decisions would have to depend on the best possible scientific advice.

- It was essential the management process be marked by transparency, accountability and broad participation.

Mr Holomisa said while the government was committed to broadening access rights, the guiding principle of sustainable yield would never be compromised.

Western Cape fisherman striking it rich with giant

③ FISHING

ARG 2/12/95

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

FOR the first time in years, the Western Cape coast is crawling with giant crayfish — the world-famous "Cape gold".

But, the number which legally may be caught this season is likely to be reduced because of a cautious conservation policy.

Marine scientists are baffled at the number and size of crayfish being caught.

Crayfishing companies report huge catches of crayfish

on the West Coast, as far south as Hout Bay. Catches in ring-nets show a 198,5 percent increase over those in November last year — and in traps a 143 percent increase.

Many of the crayfish are said to be exceptionally big, being more than 600g in weight and well over the legal 75mm limit in length.

However, Saturday Argus understands that scientists of the Department of Sea Fisheries have recommended to the Sea Fisheries Advisory Com-

mittee that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) should be reduced.

A spokesman for Sea Fisheries said that the department was aware of the "local abundance" of crayfish, but "stood by its assessment".

"The season opened only two weeks ago," he said. He declined to say what the assessment was.

The committee has passed its own recommendation on to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dawie de

Villiers, who will issue a Press statement "probably next week", said chairman Graham Winch.

When the season opened on November 16, the department said that the TAC would remain at 2 000 tons, the same as last season.

However, Saturday Argus understands that the TAC is likely to be reduced, possibly to 1 500 tons.

Conservationists are cautious about the dramatically increased catches.

Vic Kabalin, chairman of the Western Cape Marine Conservation Society, warned last month that crayfish could be wiped out in five years if industry catches were not dramatically reduced.

And, Joelle Row, national resource manager for the SA Deep Sea Angling Association, said it was too early in the season to decide whether the big catches were a sudden phenomenon, caused by unusual conditions, or whether they were "a reliable barometer"

for the future.

A detailed assessment, by the West Coast rock lobster industry, reported bigger catches in all areas between Port Nolloth and Hout Bay during November.

"Exceptional" catches were recorded in the northern area at Socco Reef and Obeep Bay, with crayfish of good quality, "light in colour, indicating they have moved in from deep water".

Further south, "traps are getting full very quickly, some-

'Cape gold'

times within 20 minutes".

In the Saldanha Bay area, catches showed a 119 percent improvement over last year, while in the most southern area at Witsand Bay, "catches are much better, boats have been put on tally and tanks are full".

All the crayfish were "new", showing no evidence of hantling during previous catches (when they would have been thrown back into the sea because they were undersized), said the report.

Foreign fleets threat to SA

(3) FISHING ARG 2/12/95

Fishing rights here might be bait for trade — claim

■ The European Union tried to coerce Chile into giving Spain more fishing rights in Chilean waters, with threats to limit Chile's access to EU markets.

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

AN immediate public inquiry into negotiations in Brussels, which could bring Spanish fishing fleets to South African waters, has been called for by Senator Mark Wiley, National Party spokesman on environmental affairs.

Saturday Argus reported last week that a bilateral trade and co-operation agreement on fisheries, which would give European fishing fleets access to South African waters, was to be negotiated in Brussels between the EU and South Africa.

"It is absolutely disgraceful that the negotiators should even be considering allowing more foreign fishing fleets into our waters, in view of the bad experiences we had in the past," said Senator Wiley.

"Moreover, Trevor Manuel, Minister of Trade and Industry, was largely responsible for putting new corvettes for the SA Navy on the backburner because he said he had not been consulted about the counter-trade proposals offered by the Spanish shipyard.

"But, now, having deprived the SA Navy of a means of efficient patrolling, his department is apparently part of the team negotiating foreign fish-

ing rights in South African waters, without consulting the Department of Environmental Affairs and South African fishing interests.

"It is all the more worrying that Spain apparently should be driving the EU proposals because the Spanish fishing fleets have a very bad record," said Senator Wiley.

Local industry leaders, as well as the Fisheries Policy Development Committee, are angry that the negotiations had been initiated without any input from South African fishing interests.

It is feared that South African fishing rights will be traded for concessions from South Africa in trade agreements in other fields.

Saturday Argus also disclosed that proposals, put on the table in Brussels by the Spanish government, had been motivated by Spanish fishing companies, including the giant Pescanova group.

Pescanova owned a 50 percent interest in the South African company, Sea Harvest, until 1993, and still has substantial fishing interests in Namibia.

Pescanova managing director Angel Tordesillas denied to Saturday Argus that his company was involved in negotiations in Brussels.

But, he said the company



Picture: JACK LESTRADE

□ **WELCOME INVASION:** Hout Bay fishery worker Welcome Mdoda carries a crateful of hefty crayfish that have invaded Cape waters.

was "considering the possibilities" of a separate agreement with South Africa.

A dossier prepared by the world-wide environmental organisation Greenpeace has been sent to Saturday Argus.

It describes EU involvement in getting fishing rights for Spain in Chilean waters, claiming that the EU "tried to coerce Chile, with threats to limit Chile's access to Europe-

an markets".

New examples of the EU's never-ending, predatory hunger for dwindling fish stocks can be found in most corners of the world, said Greenpeace EU fisheries campaigner Helene Bours.

A Greenpeace briefing on Pescanova's activities — and that of its Chilean subsidiary, PescaChile — in the Chilean southern ocean says it has done great environmental damage and "brought economic disaster to the owners and crews of 600 independent vessels".

By 1990, stocks of hake, whiting, sea bass, pink cusk-

eel and tuna were endangered because of over-fishing and the company was extending aggressively towards the southern salmon grounds.

About 60 factory trawlers and longliners, which set 35 million hooks in a season, were operating in Chilean waters in the early 1990s.

By 1993, reported catches were down by two-thirds.

Up to 90 percent of the frozen hake was exported to Spain.

Greenpeace has claimed that about 75 percent of the catches of sea bass were illegal.

In 1994, the commercial fishing of this species was closed down on the recommendation of the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Resources.

Independent fishermen have had serious confrontations with PescaChile vessels.

They claimed these vessels entered coastal waters and cut their lines.

In 1993, the British government protested to the Chilean ambassador in London of "continuing piracy actions" by Spanish-owned vessels.

"The collapse of the Chilean fishing grounds, as well as new Chilean fishing regulations, are pushing foreign fishing boats to Argentinian waters," says the Greenpeace report.

"Chilean fishermen's trade unions estimate that about 60 percent of the PescaChile fleet has moved to the South Atlantic."

Perlemoen cut restored

(3) FISHING

□ Divers, 'bakkie boys' cheer when told quota is 'back to normal'

ARL 5/12/95

Staff Reporters

LICENCED perlemoen divers and their "bakkie boys" — boat assistants — cheered loudly during a protest outside the Sea Fisheries building on the Fore-shore today when told a 10 percent cut in this season's quota had been restored.

Members of the 53-strong Overberg Commercial Abalone Divers' Association and their assistants demonstrated outside the building while chairman Rodney Gillion and secretary Eugene le Roux delivered a petition addressed to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers.

They handed the petition to the acting director of Sea Fisheries Guillaume de Villiers.

He promised to hand it to the minister, who had said their demands would be taken very seriously, said Mr Gillion afterwards.

The protesters held placards with slogans such as "white death sharks eat divers, but not fat cats", "give us a ride on the gravy train" and "divers 29 percent, packers 71 percent — unfair!"

An attorney representing the divers, Alex Abercrombie, announced to the divers that the Quota Board had decided to reinstate the 10 percent cut from this season's quota after their representations.

His announcement was greeted with loud cheers.

Mr Gillion said afterwards: "We want the minister to put pressure on the packers to meet our demands.

"They're as much dependent on us as we are on them."

The protest comes as Hermanus perlemoen divers are fighting perlemoen processing factories for higher wages which they say will benefit the community and, ultimately, curb poaching.

At a protest at Tuna Marine, one of the processing factories in Hermanus, the Overberg Commercial Abalone Divers' Association handed a memorandum this week to the chairman of the Packers' Association, Donald Spence, and to Tuna Marine manager Danie van Rensburg.

In the memorandum the divers said they were "being



PERLEMOEN PROTEST: Disgruntled perlemoen divers gather outside the Tuna Marine processing factory in Hermanus to protest for higher wages.

Pictures: ANDREW INGRAM, The Argus.



IN THE FAMILY: William Okkers and Lloyd Dynaard, second from right, have been diving for perlemoen for 34 and 39 years respectively. Their sons, Christian and Brian, have followed in their footsteps.

exploited" by the packing companies who bought their catch.

Unlike other sectors of the fishing industry, perlemoen divers are compelled by law to sell their catch to packing companies.

Don Stein, a member of the Divers' Association's committee, said: "The perlemoen industry makes R60 million annually.

"Of that, R13,5 million goes to the divers — the divers employ three times the number

of people the factories employ, yet we are supposed to be partners," said Mr Stein.

He said perlemoen was sold to overseas markets for up to \$820 (R2 952) a carton or for about R400 a kilogramme, canned.

The divers are paid R21,50 a kilogramme and have called on Dr De Villiers to set their back pay at R25 a kilogramme for the 1994/95 season, and R60 a kilogramme for next year's season.

After diving for decades, they want a better deal

Staff Reporter

WILLIAM "Okkie" Okkers, who has been a perlemoen diver in Hermanus for 34 years, recalled the days when he was paid five pennies for each perlemoen he sold.

Likewise his friend Lloyd Dynaard, one of the oldest active divers in the area, has been in the business for 39 years.

The sons of both men are also perlemoen divers.

"We started out with fishing boats, called bakkies, but when we first started using ski boats distances were shortened tremendously," said Mr Okkers.

Mr Okkers retired from diving on his 50th birthday, but his son Christiaan has taken up where his father left off, and Mr Okkers skippers his son's boat.

Mr Dynaard, who started diving when he was 13 years old, went into business for himself to make more money.

"People think because we have boats and bakkies we are rich, but the bank owns these things," he said, adding that 42 percent of his income was taxed and that he had assistants and overheads to pay.

On the divers' protest, Mr Dynaard said: "We just want a better life, we want a medical scheme and decent policies."

THE CAPE

New perlemoen war between divers, poachers

□ *Uneasy calm after Hawston battles* (3) FISHING GEAR
ARG 7/12/95

Staff Reporter

THE Hawston perlemoen war between poachers and legal divers has erupted into pitched battles again, but an uneasy calm returned to the town today.

The main road through Hermanus was open early today after it was closed during the latest outbreak in the Hawston perlemoen war.

But traffic police warn the situation remains volatile and the road will be closed if violence flares again.

Yesterday, at least three cars were damaged as police and a group of so-called poachers (fishermen without permits) fought running battles with sticks, stones and rubber bullets.

The poachers erected burning barricades on the R43 (main road) and traffic was diverted around the war zone until late last night.

The trouble in Hawston revolves around the fact that some perlemoen divers are legally entitled to catch perlemoen, while others have no such rights.

Those without rights are demanding a quota to legalise their presently illegal activities.

According to one of the perlemoen

war mediators, librarian Philip Nel, the illegal divers were incensed by television coverage of a demonstration by legal divers, some of whom carried placards calling for illegal divers to be put to death.

The situation was aggravated when police came across a bag of illegally harvested crayfish at Hawston harbour, and were prevented from confiscating it.

Mr Nel said the situation was brought under a measure of control last night after an ANC delegation stepped in to mediate between poachers and police.

A meeting was to be held at the library today to further defuse the tension.

A member of the legal diving fraternity, who asked to remain anonymous for his own protection, said there were two classes of poachers operating in Hawston: subsistence poachers who dived illegally to feed their families, and a criminal element.

It was feared that if poachers continued diving for breeding stock, perlemoen could disappear from the area entirely within four or five years.

Local tourism bodies likely

ESTELLE RANDALL, Staff Reporter

THE cabinet has approved, in principle, a plan by Western Cape Tourism Minister Lampie Fick that provinces form their own tourism bodies by April 1 next year.

Parliament is likely to enact a law in February to make it possible.

Effectively, the proposal is that the existing South African tourism organisation, Satour, be incorporated into a new three-tier structure.

In the Western Cape, this will consist of a provincial tourism board, 10 regional tourism associations and local tourism boards.

ARG 7/12/95

The local tourism boards, based in specific towns, will encompass all local bodies, including local government.

They must be active tourism structures — not simply tourist information offices.

These bureaux will get funding from local authorities and from the community. They also will nominate people to serve on each regional tour association.

Regional tourism associations will include regional services councils and other relevant organisations, who will also fund them.

PERLEMOEN POACHING WAR FLARES UP

UK tourists dodge stones

(3) FISHING 7/12/95

THE conflict between poachers and legal perlemoen divers in Hawston boiled over again yesterday, with poachers stoning cars on the main road. **DALE GRANGER** reports.

THE poaching wars erupted in Hawston again yesterday as tyres were burnt, barricades erected and cars stoned on the main road to Hermanus — and a touring British couple were caught in the middle of the violent melee.

Police said between 250 and 300 poachers blocked the road with a truck, tyres and barricades, stoning vehicles passing through.

All local police, including reinforcements from the surrounding area and the internal stability unit, were called in to disperse the mob using rubber bullets.

By late last night the situation was still volatile and police were patrolling the area as sporadic stonings were still taking place.

The incident followed days of tension in the town between the commercial divers and the poachers, as negotiations between the two groups for a share of the perlemoen quota broke down.

The protests boiled over into violence, first erupting in the harbour early yesterday morning.

Police said at least three cars had been stoned on the road.

Visiting British tourist Mrs Mary Hepworth, 55, described how her 77-year-old husband, Mr Colin Hepworth, dodged rocks thrown by the angry mob which smashed windows and panels of their car, causing damage worth an estimated R4 000.

"We were approaching Hawston when we saw a lorry had stopped in the road and we were forced to pull over as they had blockaded the road with rocks and burning tyres. When we hesitated they started throwing the rocks and it was terrifying.

"If my husband was a normal 77-year-old we could easily have been killed, but he got us through."

The couple had contemplated

buying a big home in Hermanus but Mrs Hepworth said there was "no way" they would now do so.

Commercial divers and poachers told yesterday of how strife between the two warring factions had torn the town apart.

Librarian Mr Phillip May, who has acted as a negotiator, supports the poachers' demands for a 25-ton annual share of the 640-ton Overberg quota as "the only way to bring peace to the town".

Intimidation

But one veteran commercial diver spoken to yesterday, who asked not to be named for the safety of his grandchildren, said the poachers intimidated townsfolk and were trying to muscle in on people who had made a living for decades legally. He claimed that two divers' children were beaten up at the harbour yesterday.

Mr May said the poachers had poured paint over a bakkie at the harbour and badly damaged another vehicle. And he described how he had cowered behind a

vehicle with an advocate, Mr Betrus Marshall, when police opened fire with rubber bullets. Mr Marshall was wounded in the neck and rushed to a hospital.

The veteran commercial diver, however, claimed police were doing nothing to protect residents and had initially watched the commotion in the harbour without lifting a finger to stop the poachers.

Mr May said tensions rose on Tuesday night when poachers watched TV news showing protesting divers in Hermanus demanding more money and holding placards stating "poachers must get life sentences".

This "made a fool out of negotiations" and fuelled anger among poachers, he said.

Violence first flared last year when land-owner Mr Frank Raimondo, who lives near Hawston in a nature reserve, hired former Rhodesian SAS special forces soldiers to guard his property and evict poachers — who were equally determined to trespass on his land to gain access to the sea.

Spanish link to fish plant

■ A fishing company with strong Spanish connections is involved in a new fish-processing and cold-storage plant in Cape Town harbour.

JEAN LE MAY

Staff Reporter

(3) FISHING

ARG 9/12/95

SOUTH African fishing interests in Cape Town fear that there is Spanish backing for a mysterious new R9 million fish-processing and cold-storage plant being built in Cape Town harbour.

SATURDAY Argus has established that Sistro Fishing, a controversial Cape Town company with strong Spanish connections, is involved.

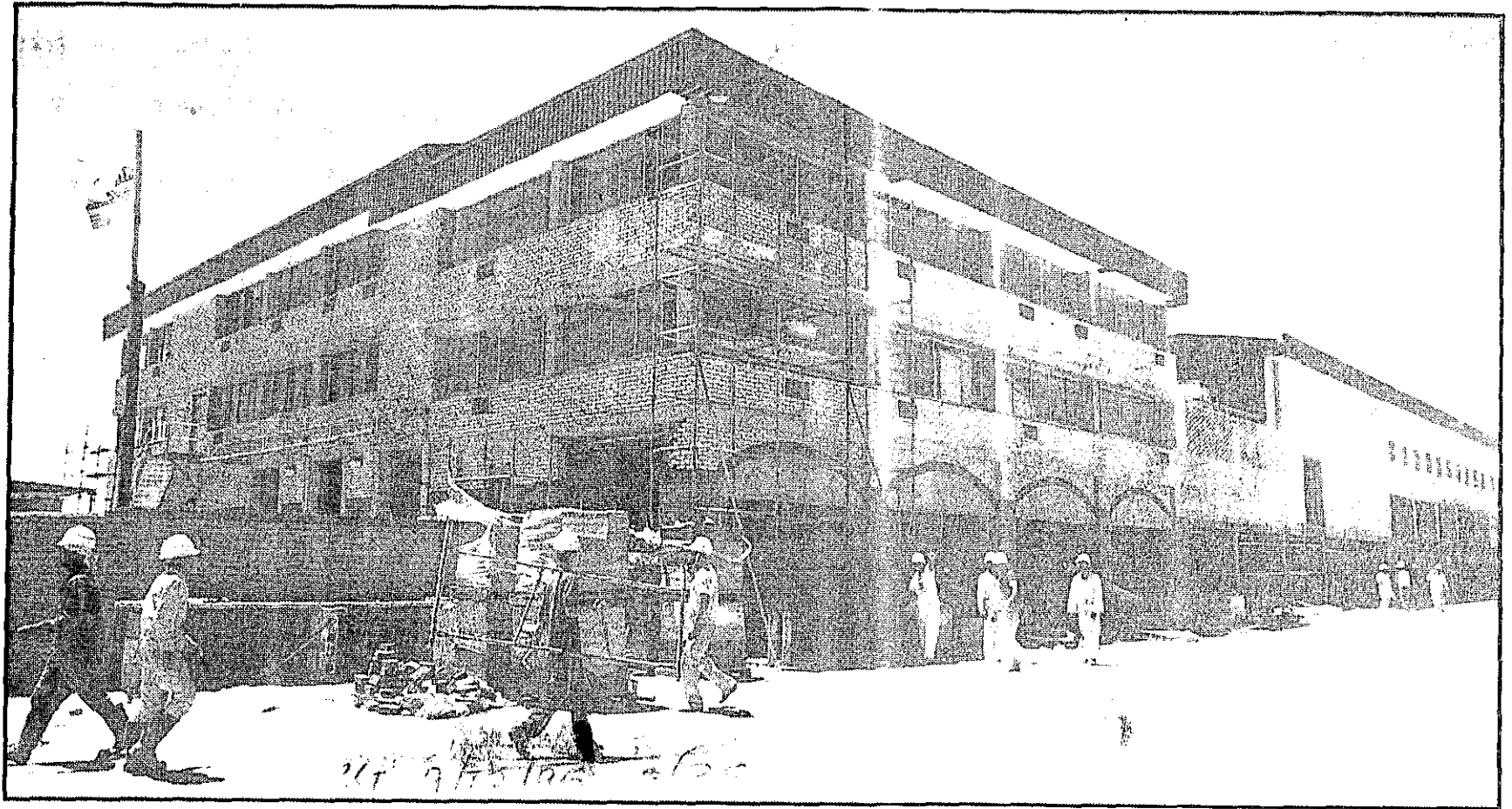
Fishing interests are dead against any Spanish involvement in the South African industry after confirmed reports that rapacious Spanish fleets have stripped marine resources wherever they have operated.

SATURDAY Argus reported last week that a bilateral trade and co-operation agreement being negotiated with the European Union in Brussels could bring Spanish fishing fleets to South African waters.

It was reported from Brussels on Thursday that the Spanish government had told its European Union partners that it would try to reach agreement on a trade offer with South Africa before the end of the year.

Fishing interests fear that fishing rights in South African waters could be traded for concessions in other fields for South Africa.

People involved in the new building in the harbour were reluctant to provide information. However, SATURDAY Argus has established that the land has been leased from Portnet by Cross Berth Cold Storage, a subsidiary of Cross Berth Marine. The link with Sistro Fishing is through one of its directors,



□ **MYSTERY:** South African fishing interests are intrigued about the possibility that Spanish money has helped to build a new fish-processing and cold-storage plant in Cape Town harbour.

Picture: JACK LESTRADE

Tony Ornelas, who is managing director of both companies as well as of Tri-Ocean Marine.

Sistro Fishing owns the trawler Sistro, which was arrested in Cape Town harbour in April with illegal gill nets on board.

Spanish captain José Loira Garcia was given bail of R20 000 and will appear in the Cape Town regional court on December 20 and 21, according to senior

marine conservation officer Rupert Grundling. The trawler previously was registered under a Spanish flag and was owned by a Spanish company, Celcemar, until March last year.

At the time of the arrest, Spanish consul-general Tomas Solis said "maybe some of the money in (Sistro Fishing) is Spanish, which is perfectly possible from a commercial point of view".

Sistro Fishing became involved in a long series of court cases after disputes

over a hake "paper quota" caught by it for the Cape Town Harbour Fishing Community Trust. Angry fishermen several times invaded its offices and threatened managing director Manuel de Olim.

Mr De Olim could not be reached for comment. However, the new premises on the cross-berth have strong security features. Of impressive modern design, the building is on the cross-berth between the tanker quay and the Sturrock

dry dock, taking up the whole length of the quay. Two huge tracked cranes have been adapted for use in loading and unloading trawlers.

Another director of Sistro Fishing is Ivo de Gouveia, who is also a director of Overberg Fishing and Cato Fishing, both of Walvis Bay. SATURDAY Argus was told directors of both companies were flown to Cape Town from Walvis Bay last week for the roof-wetting ceremony of the new building.

QUOTAS FOR RELATIVES ALLEGED

Probe into 'corruption' in fishing industry

(3) FISHING

ET 14/3/96

AS THE BATTLE between the Informal Fishing Association and the Quota Board intensifies, the government announced it will investigate the allegations and restructure the fishing industry, writes **MELANIE GOSLING**.

ALLEGATIONS of corruption in the fishing industry will be submitted to the Public Protector, Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs chairman Peter Mokaba announced yesterday.

Mokaba said the committee would also hold public hearings where every one who had problems with the fishing industry could voice their dissatisfaction.

"The information from the public hearings will be used to develop policy to restructure the industry," Mokaba said.

This follows a portfolio meeting yesterday where chairman of the Association of Informal Fishing Mr Andy Johnson accused five of the Quota Board members of being involved in the fishing industry — which was not legal.

He also said that "people in

political fields" were "handing out rights to their families".

"I would like to see the Quota Board in the rubbish bin," Johnson said.

"It was formed in 1962 to take fishing rights away from coastal communities."

Quota Board vice-chairman Mr J N Krone said "very dramatic allegations" against board members had been made at the meeting, but said none of these allegations had been submitted to Quota Board chairman Mr Justice George Kotze, the proper channel for complaints.

"The press has had a field day with the Quota Board. We're being character-assassinated and it all might force us to say it's just not worth it," Krone said.

Mr Andy Gubb, who represented the environmental sector on the Fisheries Policy Development

Committee (FPDC), said big business held 93% of the fishing resource.

"It is clear that big business must give back some of that. The total allowable catch is finite, so big business must hand back a substantial portion of its historical allocation," Gubb said.

The portfolio committee last week called for a moratorium on all Quota Board activities until the new fishing policy was in place, but FPDC member Mr André de Wet commented: "We support restructuring, but in the meantime life goes on. We have been appointed as an interim measure until the new policy is in place."

De Wet said the FPDC was wasting taxpayers' money because it was moving too slowly.

"We have a fundamental problem in that we don't have consensus in the committee as to whether there is inequality in the fishing industry or not. We spent a whole afternoon debating the status of the RDP — a waste of taxpayers' money and our time," he said.



MARCH CALLED OFF: After a march by 60 fishing boat crews was abandoned, Mr Augustine Rebelo (left) and chairman of the CTBOA Mr Gus Rafael (right), formed a small delegation to approach the department.

PICTURE: CLIVE SMITH

'Intimidation' stops march by fishermen

(3) FISHING

STAFF REPORTER
CTBOA 13/12/95

FISHERMEN abandoned a march on the Sea Fisheries Department yesterday — after allegedly being intimidated by the leader of a rival fishermen's association.

The crews of 60 fishing vessels — some 500 people — who had gathered on the Collier Dock at the Waterfront in the morning gradually trickled away, casting their posters aside, after the arrival of the chairman of the Mnizamo Emihlo Fishing Association, Mr Lawrence Hlwele

Mr Augustine Rebelo, spokesman for the Cape Town Boatowners Association (CTBOA), said the crews were scared of Mr Hlwele, who allegedly threatened people's safety and property. Because of different factions and "trouble-makers" the march was cancelled.

Mr Hlwele denied intimidating CTBOA members.

● A delegation yesterday presented a letter to the acting chief director of the Department of Sea Fisheries, Mr Guillaim de Villiers, asking for a larger longline or stock fish quota.

Corsets conceal crayfish catch

Cr. 14/12/95

③ FISHING

CRAYFISH poachers have found an ingenious way to smuggle the delicacy off boats out of the sight of law enforcers — by getting women friends to tuck the thorny creatures into home-made corsets.

Police arrested a woman in Witsands yesterday after she was found with about 15 crayfish packed around her body, and Department of Sea Fisheries inspectors believe this method of smuggling crayfish is widespread.

The woman was with two men, also concealing crayfish, when she was arrested, and Chief Inspector Johan de Witt said the method was used "because women are seldom searched". A female officer assisted in the swoop, which netted about 60 crayfish tails. — Crime Reporter

Police probe squid fraud

■ Police are investigating a case of fraud involving R400 000 obtained from the sale of forged squid permits.

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

A FORMER clerk in the boat registration section of

R400 000 forged permit scam uncovered — clerk sacked

the Department of Sea Fisheries thought his ship had come in when he started selling forged squid permits. But the ship sank when the fraud was uncovered.

Acting-director of Sea Fisheries Guillaume de Villiers told Saturday Argus that the clerk had been sacked and that a departmental in-

vestigation was under way.

SA Police Services spokesman John Sterrenberg confirmed that a case of fraud involving R400 000 was being investigated.

The clerk may not be named because he has not yet been charged. He also has the right to appeal to the Public Service Commission against

his sacking.

He allegedly inserted nine extra names in a squid permit which had been issued legally, said Mr De Villiers.

In another instance a fictitious person was issued with a permit, which was sold through a middle-man to a third person, he said.

The clerk is said to have

netted R25 000 for every extra name he added illegally to permits.

Mike Botha, chairman of the SA Squid Management Industrial Association, said squid boats were licensed by the Department of Sea Fisheries, which laid down how many people each boat was allowed to carry safely.

Permits to catch squid from a particular boat were issued separately at a cost of R35 each, he said. They were regarded as entry to the resource because the quota system did not apply to squid and linefish.

"The number of permits controls the exploitation of the resource," he said. "The

permits determine how many people may fish from a boat."

Richard Ball of the Independent Fishermens' Co-operative in Hout Bay said that the squid fishery was "very profitable" and that squid permits were legally changing hands "for anything between R15 000 and R25 000".

About 5 000 tons of squid with an export value of about R70 million were caught every year, he said.

Rattle of bhujiva crants in India

Minister 'shocked' by quota decision

JOHN YELD
Environment Reporter

ENVIRONMENTAL Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers is "shocked and dismayed" at the decision of the fisheries quota board to award 951 tons of hake to newcomers to the industry, before a national fisheries policy is finalised.

In a statement yesterday, Dr De Villiers said the decision to cancel all Community Trust quotas, taken after a recent Supreme Court ruling, was understandable.

In September, the Trawler and Line Fishermen's Union launched a successful court application against Dr De Villiers, the Quota Board and others to have the allocation of 951 tons of hake to the Community Trusts made unlawful.

(3) FISHING ARG 29/12/95
But the decision to allocate this mass of hake to newcomers prior to the finalisation of the National Fisheries Policy was "disturbing", Dr De Villiers said.

The policy was being negotiated and drafted by a Fisheries Policy Development Committee which he had appointed in November last year.

"The Quota Board is aware that the entire issue relating to Community Trusts was handed to the policy committee for investigation, and the recent decision will be seen by many as unilateral restructuring.

"There is concern that its decision will not be perceived as legitimate.

"Should this be the case, adverse criticism and additional pressure on

the newly-negotiated structure can be expected, which in itself could retard the much-awaited proactive action required in the fishing industry."

The Sea Fisheries Act specifically prevented him from interfering in the decisions of the Quota Board, Dr De Villiers said.

"But, considering the decision taken, I urge the board to meet the policy committee in an effort to realign itself with the objectives envisaged for an equitable dispensation in the fishing industry, in keeping with the objectives of the RDP (reconstruction and development programme)."

● The chairman of the Quota Board, Mr Justice Gerhardus Kotze, could not be reached for comment.

AGRICULTURE — FISHING

1996

JANUARY — JULY

(3) FISHERIES
Fisheries

JEAN LE MAY, Staff Reporter

THE appointment of Monde Mayekiso as chief director of Sea Fisheries has ended months of speculation following the resignation of former chief director Louis Botha last year.

Informed sources say there has been "a great deal of lobbying", with acting-chief director Guillaume de Villiers and director (marine resources) Arnold Slater in contention.

The sources say the appointment of an outsider should bring badly needed fresh air to Sea Fisheries, which for two decades has recruited senior staff mainly from within its ranks in the classic civil service pattern.

Academic to be chief of Sea

ARG 3/2/96

Dr Mayekiso, 42, who will be chief director in March, is an academic with considerable administrative experience.

His curriculum vitae lists degrees in zoology and fishery science from Fort Hare and Rhodes, topped by a doctorate in marine, estuarine and environmental science from the University of Maryland in the United States.

"He's the best man for the job," said Tom Hecht, head of the department of ichthyology and fishery science at Rhodes.

"He's a very astute and thinking person, with an incisive mind which will certainly make its mark on Sea Fisheries. In all, I consider him a fine fellow."

James Selfe, Democratic Party spokesman on environmental affairs, said Dr Mayekiso would need "the wisdom of Solomon and the agility of Fred Astaire" to make his way through the contentious issues with which Sea Fisheries was faced.

"Apart from the scientific disputes which always rage about environmental matters, vested inter-

ests raise their heads and issues become highly politicised when sensitive subjects such as re-allocating resources are concerned," said Mr Selfe, a senator.

Mark Wiley, National Party spokesman on environmental affairs in the senate, said that although he did not doubt that Dr Mayekiso was an excellent choice, the impression had unfortunately been created that members of the traditional fishing communities of the Western Cape were being sidelined.

One of the relatively few black students who opted for scientific study, Dr Mayekiso won five scholarships between 1977 and 1989. There were two in South Africa (from the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research and the SA Medical Research Council) and three for study in the United States, including the Fulbright scholarship.

Dr Mayekiso lectured in zoology at Fort Hare until becoming a special assistant to the rector, a position which he still holds and in which he has gained considerable administrative experience. He has published several articles in scientific journals and is working on a dictionary of biological terms in English and Xhosa.

He is married with four children and lives in East London.

Open season for poachers

(3) FISHING
WILLEM STEENKAMP, Staff Reporter

SOUTH Africa's marine resources, generating thousands of jobs and billions of rands annually, are ready to be poached by unscrupulous international fishing fleets.

Protection of marine resources has come to a virtual standstill with all seven of the Department of Environmental Affairs' patrol vessels in a serious state of disrepair.

By the end of this week only two of these vessels were deployed. The others are simply not seaworthy enough to go to sea.

Johan van Zyl, deputy director of marine conservation at the Directorate of Sea Fisheries, said R175 million was needed for a fleet of five patrol boats to protect South Africa's marine resources, but no money was available.

In the interim the Department of Environmental Affairs has asked for R2 million for repairs to some of the boats but even this money has not been forthcoming.

"The sad fact is that some are simply too old to repair. We now have to call on the South African Air Force and Navy to assist us in patrolling the coastline," said Mr Van Zyl.

The department has also been hit by budget cuts and one of the vessels still able to go to sea, the *Custos*, cannot sail because of a lack of staff. *ARL 3/2/96*

Aircraft are used to spot ships which poach in South Africa's waters, but they can escape relatively easily because there are no patrol boats to catch them.

The SAAF and the Navy have their own budget problems. Dozens of pilots have left the Air Force for better pay in the private sector and the SAAF's Dakotas, used for marine patrols, have long since passed their sell-by dates.

SAAF pilots have at various times expressed concern about the safety of the aircraft and there is a dire need for modern aircraft to fulfil the duties of the Dakotas.

Most of the Navy's ageing fleet of minesweepers and missile craft have also reached the end of the line and many will have to be decommissioned in a few years.

The Department of Environmental Affairs has already identified new modern patrol vessels which would ensure that South Africa's marine resources were adequately protected but until some money is made available, it is open season on the SA fishing waters.

Crisis for coastal patrols

ST (M) 4/2/96

patrols

FISHING

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

SOUTH Africa's fishing grounds are being patrolled by two ageing vessels which stand little chance of preventing a potentially catastrophic plundering of the country's marine resources, the Directorate of Sea Fisheries warned this week.

Sea Fisheries confirmed that only three of its seven patrol vessels are operational — and that fishery law enforcement along South Africa's 3 000km coastline has virtually ceased.

"Our patrolling capacity is insignificant. It's no secret that we desperately need new patrol vessels to replace our ageing fleet," a senior Sea Fisheries spokesman told Metro this week.

"It must be stressed that failure to protect our fishing resources will have catastrophic results for South African fisheries, especially for the coastal communities dependent on them," the Chief Directorate: Sea Fisheries said this week.

"All the patrol vessels are in a serious state of disrepair and most of them are unseaworthy.

"With an average age of 23 years, these vessels are incapable of providing an effective platform for the purpose of conducting fisheries inspection and law enforcement," the chief directorate said.

Replacing the obsolete patrol fleet would cost R175-million, the chief of the Sea Fisheries inspectorate, Dr Johan van Zyl, said.

Meanwhile, the director-general of Environment Affairs, and the Chief of the Navy were busy drafting a co-operation agreement. Sea Fisheries and the Air Force were also linked via a marine patrol control centre at Ysterplaat, Dr van Zyl added.

Tasked with policing the one-million km² Exclusive Economic Zone — between the Orange River mouth in the west and Ponta do Ouro in the east — marine officials have seen their resources whittled away by under-funding and staff shortages.

"Deep-sea patrols up to 200 nautical miles are non-existent because the Custos, the only deep sea vessel, is laid up at Cape Town because of a staff shortage," a spokesman said.

Patrolling has been left to the 14-year-old Pelagus, based at Gansbaai, and the Protector II at Laaiplek — which has already seen 25 years of service.

According to the Sea Fisheries chief directorate, the Pelagus should be withdrawn by March as she is not suited for her job and is too expensive to repair.

Restricted to a top speed of 12 knots and a seaward limit of 10 nautical miles, she is no match for powerful modern trawlers.

Last week Environment Minister Dawie de Villiers said the inspectorate did not have enough resources when his department took it over from the Cape provincial administration last year.

The poor salaries in the inspectorate were a major problem, but moves were under way to upgrade the status in the civil service of sea fisheries management.

Dr de Villiers said it would cost millions of rands to replace or refurbish the patrol boats and his department was discussing possible co-operation in deep sea patrol work with the navy.

New boss for Sea Fisheries

Dr MONDE Mayekiso of Fort Hare University has been appointed Chief Director of Sea Fisheries from March 1.

Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said this week Dr Mayekiso was joining the department at a very important time.

Dr Mayekiso's work includes studies in quantitative techniques in fishery management, fishery science, resource management and ecology, and evolution and management of African fishes. — Sapa.

Minister slams fishing quotas

Linda Ensof (3) FISHING

CAPE TOWN — The breaking down of the monopolistic stranglehold by a privileged few over the country's R1,4bn fishing industry could begin early next year.

Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers said he had instructed the Sea Fisheries Development Committee — involved in drawing up proposals to restructure the industry — to complete its work by June 3. De Villiers would be pushing for legislation to be passed before the start of next year.

He slammed the Quota Board's bias and said the system had to be made more representative. There had been numerous complaints against the interim board. De Villiers had personally criticised perlemoen allocations because of the exclusion of all community trusts but two.

Jacqueline Zaina reports fishing industry sources said although previously disadvantaged communities were pushing for freer access to fishing quotas, a radical change in quotas as a result of the restructuring process was not expected.

BD 6/2/96

NEWS FOCUS



A supervisor at Dewar Nurseries in Apopka, Florida, looks over potted rose bushes that were sprayed with water to protect them from sub-freezing temperatures earlier in the week. Picture: AP

(3) FISHING

West coast fishermen up against 'unfair' quotas

Samantha Sharpe

BD 7/2/96

WHILE government debates fishing rights access, coastal communities boasting third-generation fishermen are begging a living off mussels dug from west coast beaches — they have no rights to fish.

These communities are threatening on February 18 to take their boats to sea to fish, illegally, and to protest against what they say is a system that discriminates against subsistence fishermen.

Central to their grievances is the enigmatic Quota Board whose task it is to allocate government's total allowable catch to a growing number of applicants keen to enter the fishing industry.

The government-determined catch limits what can be fished in SA waters, in a bid to ensure the long-term sustainability of SA's marine resources, both in the interests of conservation and the danger of dwindling fishing stocks.

The board, an independent body appointed by government, is the only authority that can determine how the catch is to be allocated. It is answerable to no-one but the courts.

The smaller fishermen say the board's decisions reek of favouritism and bad decision making and are a direct cause of the poverty plaguing coastal communities. Their spokesman, Andy Johnston, speaks for second- and third-generation fishermen like Paternoster's Pat Pharo, Median Bailey and Gerald Sampson who say they are tired of people being awarded crayfish quotas "whose hands have never touched the sea".

Stories of a town "dominee" or a "buitelander" from upcountry winning a perlemoen quota ahead of the community are rife in the west coast's smaller coastal towns.

Paternoster councillor Paul Sampson says: "It's not that there have been no crayfish quotas awarded to Paternoster. But these have either been sold or are being used to harvest crayfish out of Kommetjie. The water is rich with crayfish, no one is harvesting them and we can't either.

"We have a change in government, but no change in the lives of the people."

The board's six members, selected by Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers, who has been quoted in the media as critical of the board's decisions, have let serious allegations fly past unchecked — until this week.

In a statement released on Monday, board chairman Judge Gert Kotzé finally hit back at media reports that the board has made decisions that were "cold-blooded and insensitive".

Kotzé called on those making allegations against the integrity of the board to come forward.

"Should any concrete evidence be put forward regarding alleged irregularities we would not hesitate in requesting the environmental affairs and tourism minister to launch a full investigation."

Kotzé rejects claims that board members, who should have no interests in the industry, are pursuing their own fishing agendas.

Board members accused of maintaining links with the fishing industry while serving on the board have been investigated and the charges found groundless, he says.

But what Kotzé cannot dispute is that the way the quotas are allocated, even if government-determined guidelines are followed, perpetuates a system promoted under the old regime.

The guidelines stipulate that the board must first divide the catch among those who have historically had quotas before it can distribute what's left to "newcomers".

This means that quotas awarded under the previous dispensation will continue to be awarded until a new fishing policy is put in place.

Playing mediator in the battle for the seas is the Fisheries Policies Development Committee, chaired by Food and Allied Workers Union general secretary Mandla Gxanyana.

His brief is to consult with all members of the industry and provide a new fishing policy to the minister by June, which is to be used as the frame-

work for new legislation.

Gxanyana says there are three issues to the formulation of a new fishing policy: equity, optimal sustainability and efficiency.

"One of the issues looked at is the possibility that no-one be allowed to own more than a certain percentage of the catch."

He is also keen that consideration should be given to introducing specific licences for subsistence harvesters, allowing larger bag limits than are imposed on recreational harvesters, because subsistence harvesters are gathering essential food.

"At the same time we want to create a development arm for the industry, more particularly for the small fisherman, which can drive the process of those wanting to enter the industry for the first time," he said. He says that there will have to be a change in the way the quotas are allocated and possibly in how the board's members are elected.

But new entrants can only be admitted at the cost of removing rights from people who currently harvest these resources. Any system that allows changes of access has to be fair to both.

While big business dominates ownership of the catch — they've traditionally garnered about 95% — they say their monopoly is justifiable.

I&J, Oceana and Sea Harvest might dominate access rights, but they say they generate benefits for a large number of people through job creation in a range of fishery-related activity. Reducing their quotas means retrenchment.

Latest figures show the fishing industry employs about 27 000 people with an overall wholesale value of about R1,19bn.

The industry says there is no reason why it cannot promote the interests of previously disadvantaged people through training, the spread of shareholding and the development of joint ventures.

Despite this, Andy Johnston and his crew stand by their decision to take to the waters on February 18. Gxanyana says that unless the fishing policy is determined soon "there will be chaos".

Changes to fishing quota laws on hold

By ANN CROTTY

Johannesburg — Changes to legislation on fishing quotas are unlikely before 1998, according to a working document being considered by the fisheries policy development committee.

The new laws are likely to maintain the status quo, favouring large companies over small operators.

The committee was set up in November 1994 to propose changes in legislation governing access

rights to fishing zones off South Africa.

Until the new legislation is in place, the Quota Board will continue to allocate quotas on the basis of the guidelines that were approved by the minister of home affairs and environment in March 1993.

The scope for change is restricted by the possible threat of legal action. Industry sources report that such threats have already been received.

The working document noted

that holders of fishing rights had a constitutional right to expect that their rights could not "be removed arbitrarily, suddenly or without due cause". If those rights were to be removed or reduced, fair compensation should be awarded.

For those seeking a living out of fishing, changes of as little as 10 tons in the crayfish or perlemoen quota could result in job losses and destitution. Last year, the board decided to allocate part of the quotas for West Coast lobster and per-

lemoen to newcomers. But industry experts said that this resulted in reductions for previous holders as the total allowable catch was not increased.

Trade union leaders said the reductions had resulted in the loss of jobs. There have been demands that no changes should be made to existing quota allocations until the new legislation is in place.

Experts warned that ad hoc reallocations would cause disruptions to fishing communities and

employees. Established industries and their unions have argued that the implementation of any reallocations should not threaten established industries as this would have an adverse effect on the labour force.

However, there is likely to be pressure on those companies with substantial quotas, such as Sea Harvest and Oceana, to involve a wider base of stakeholders in the control of the industry and the profits generated from it.

Premier Fishing has already taken this initiative, which has received strong backing from its employees and fishing communities.

The committee recommended that quota allocations be transferable and that this transferability be coupled with a payment for rights when they were allocated.

It also referred to potential conflicts and suggested solutions, including giving access to new entrants through the allocation of new or underutilised resources.

(3) FISHING CT (PR) 7/2/96

Oceana meeting profit forecast (3)

Business Editor

ARG 8/2/96 FISHING

OCEANA Fishing is on course with profit forecasts for the first quarter of the 1995-96 financial year, managing director Dave Behrens said yesterday.

He told shareholders at the annual meeting in Cape Town that results were ahead of last year's.

Total allowable catches of anchovy for 1996 had been set at 200 000 tons, compared with 210 000 tons last year, but the figure would be reviewed this month.

Since the beginning of the season in the middle of January, Oceana had landed 5 817 tons of fish, compared with 12 452 tons last year, Mr Behrens said.

The large catches of redeye herring, which had filled the nets last year, had not been seen this year.

The total allowable catch of pilchards had been set for the industry at 64 500 tons, compared with 117 000 tons last year.

Lobster fishing was going well, with 261 tons landed since the season began in November, compared with 238 tons last year. Demand in Japan, South Africa's main market, was steady, but prices had weakened.

Oceana meeting profit forecast ⁽³⁾

FISHING

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ARG 8/2/96

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Probe into fish quotas

③ FISHING

Samantha Sharpe

BD 16/2/96

CAPE TOWN — Government appointed former judge Gert Kotzé yesterday to investigate alleged irregularities within the Quota Board.

Kotzé is also the board's chairman.

The move, announced yesterday by Environment Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers, follows criticism from Western Cape coastal communities about some of the board's quota decisions and claims of irregularities.

The board is an independent body appointed by government to allocate its total allowable catch to industry members. Only the judiciary can overturn a board allocation.

De Villiers said interested parties who had evidence of irregularities should step forward.

He said he had met informal fishing representative Andy Johnston to discuss Johnston's threat of a mass action campaign by the informal fishing sector against the board.

De Villiers was sympathetic to the grievances of the informal sector but said these could be considered only in the process of developing a new fisheries policy.

Johnston said mass action would continue as planned at the weekend. "An interim solution" was necessary to address fishermen's grievances.

He would give details of board irregularities.

Fishermen threaten war over crayfish

□ 'We're fed up with quota limits'
(3) FISHING

Staff Reporter

FED up with Quota Board restrictions, divers and fishermen have threatened to embark on a mass action campaign and catch as much crayfish as they can.

At a meeting of the Western Province Underwater Union last night, diver Morris Nakan said he would "start a mass action campaign to put the fisheries department inspectors out of work".

"If there are 2 000 of us, catching as much as we can carry, the inspectors won't be able to stop us. They're forcing us to take action," he said.

However, Alex Papayanni, deputy chairman of the False Bay Underwater Club, said illegal actions would not be condoned by the union.

He also confirmed the police commercial crime unit was investigating the Quota Board, which awards crayfish quotas. "We're going right to the top — we're not going to take this lying down," he said.

"At the end of the day we will get it right... but we want the Quota Board eradicated," said Mr Papayanni.

The meeting was intended to be a get-together for divers, fishermen, and Sea Fisheries inspectors and members of the police waterwing unit.

However, only Sea Fisheries inspector Pat Stacey of Kalk Bay was present at the meeting.

"I told the inspectors I would bring them in from the cold, and show people where we are heading. We're going to people who have to enforce unjust laws, and we want to tell them that we will work with them to help stop poaching. We want an end to unjust prosecutions and unfair laws."

One of the major issues raised was that of subsistence fishermen, who have to operate with recreational diving permits, which prevents them from selling their catches legally.

"We can stop subsistence poaching if these men can be given a living," said Mr Papayanni. "We want to get the real culprits who are raping the sea."

He said they would be calling for "people's quotas and a people's quota board".

"We would like fishermen to sell their catches at the harbours — that would bring people into the harbours, create business, and enhance the harbours. This way the inspectors can see what is being brought in."

Mr Nakan said fishermen should be able to sell 80 percent of their catch by auction to big fishing companies, and keep the balance for themselves, to sell locally if they want to.

Call for evidence of interest

Political Staff

DAWIE de Villiers, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, has again asked for evidence of any direct or indirect interest members of the Quota Board might have in the fishing industry.

The board is an independent state institution in terms of Section 15 of the Sea Fishery Act and members are therefore forbidden to have any compromising interest in the fishing industry.

Answering questions in the senate yesterday, Dr De Villiers said that before their appointment to the board, members had been questioned by the then chairman who had satisfied him-

self that none of them had such interests.

However, in view of persistent allegations against board members, the chairman, Judge G P C Kotzé, had been asked to investigate these claims fully, Dr De Villiers said.

Evidence should be presented to Judge Kotzé before March 8. Apart from the chairman, the board members are J W H du Plessis, M Jack, G N Krone, E C C Parlabeau, E Moosa and J M Senogles.

● Judge Kotzé can be contacted via the Quota Board secretary, Fanie Fourie, at Department of Sea Fisheries, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012. Mr Fourie's telephone number is (021) 402 3100.

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Judge to probe alleged fishing industry irregularities

BARRY STREEK,
POLITICAL WRITER

ALLEGED irregularities in the fishing industry are to be investigated by Judge G C Kotze, the chairman of the Quota Board, according to Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr

Dawie de Villiers.

He called on people with hard evidence of irregularities to make it available to Judge Kotze.

De Villiers was speaking last night after meeting the Quota Board and the Fisheries Policy Development Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Mandla

Gxanyana to discuss the allegations, which he said had been raised repeatedly in the media.

He had also held separate talks with Mr Andy Johnson, the Fisheries Policy Development Committee member who represented the informal sector.

De Villiers said he had told

Johnson that any ad hoc decisions at this stage to address the various demands being made would dramatically affect the transitional process in the industry.

The minister appealed to all parties to settle their differences within the transitional process.

(3) FISHING

CT 15/2/96



□ **BIG STINK:** St Helena Bay resident Wendy Heydenrych at the outlet pipe from West Point Processors.

Pictures: OBED ZILWA, Staff Reporter

Fishy business in the air

ARG 17/2/96

(3) FISHING

Residents fear for their jobs as factories' rotting fish makes life unbearable

■ St Helena Bay residents, previously happy to co-exist unquestioningly with smelly fish factories, are now insisting they become environmentally friendly.

ADELE BALETA
Staff Reporter

ANGRY residents living in the shadows of three fish factories in St Helena Bay want the plants to clean up their act by putting an end to air and sea pollution in the picturesque West Coast village.

Air pollution control director of the National Ministry of Environmental Affairs Martin Lloyd has warned the factories not to stall in submitting plans to clear the air or face closure.

SATURDAY ARGUS went to the small bay to investigate complaints from residents that the fishy smell and fire stack emissions from the factories was "intolerable", "suffocating" and aggravating asthma sufferers.

Indeed, the pungent fish odour from the factories permeated the air and immediately was noticeable, although none of the factories were producing fish meal at the time.

It is in the production of fish meal that boilers — fired by coal — are used and malodorous smoke is belched into the atmosphere. Effluent from the factories causes discolouration of the water and coal waste from at least one factory was lying scattered on a nearby beach.

The factories concerned are West Point Processors, Suid Oranje and the Oceana Group, owned by St Helena Bay Fisheries.

Many residents employed at the plants did not want to talk to SATURDAY ARGUS for fear of losing their jobs. However, others, who would not give their names, believed it was time to clean the



□ **UNDER FIRE:** West Point Processors general manager Gerhard Wiese says clean-up operations have begun at the factory.

area, but insisted they did not want the plants to shut.

Western Cape deputy regional director of water quality at the Department of Water Affairs Gareth MacConkey said all three factories were involved in CSIR impact studies.

The Suid Oranje factory has been reported for water pollution and the matter is with the attorney-general who will decide whether to prosecute.

"We are forming a water quality forum for Saldanha Bay to establish what residents want and to set guidelines for the future. We are a similar forum for St Helena Bay," he said.

There is large scale development in the area and road signs promise "a strip of heaven" along the West coast. Now developers fear potential clients will be put off by the air and sea pollution.

The smell is particularly bad when the north-westerly wind blows and wafts smoke towards the residential areas.

Mr Lloyd said: "We have to look at the history. These plants have been operating for decades without air or water pollution control. People have accepted the situation without complaint because the factories provide much-needed

work for the locals.

"Two years ago, we negotiated with the plants' managements, saying the area would be developed and asked the owners to come up with a plan of action. Few came back to us. We had another meeting and the Fishery Industry Research Institute (FIRI) recommended pollution control systems. The factories have still not responded properly. They have been using delaying tactics. I am not happy with their attitude."

He said his department had not given a clean-up time frame, but the situation would be monitored. Unless plans were submitted soon he would withdraw their certificates, which ultimately meant closing the factories down.

The management of all three factories admitted there was a problem and that they were investigating ways to upgrade their plants.

However, they pleaded poverty in the light of cuts in fishing quotas and the expense involved in pollution control. They argued there were no standards for the fishing industry.

All said they were waiting to see the efficiency of a closed-circuit system to control air pollution recently installed at the Oce-

ana Group's Hout Bay factory before committing themselves to buying the system (which costs about R2,5 million).

Malcolm Wallace, general manager of St Helena Bay Fisheries near Stompneus Bay, said: "All three factories were involved in a CSIR impact study on water control for 1996 which was costing them each about R100 000.

"We have stipulated that boats are not allowed to bring in more fish than we can deal with in a 24-hour period because rotting fish — which can be used for fish meal — causes the odour. We are watching Hout Bay. The factory operates under the best hygiene conditions. We also have invested in an indirect dryer."

Eric Germishuys, general manager of Suid Oranje, whose pungent emissions are affecting the Sandy Point development and local residents, said he had booked a flight to Namibia this week to see what was being done at Walvis Bay.

Plant engineer Barend Smit said: "We are spending a lot of money to control water pollution this year and will only be able to look at a five-year plan from next year to deal with the air pollution. It will cost us over R1 million for

two condensers and, although there will be no smoke, it's unlikely the smell will be removed."

West Point Processors general manager Gerhard Wiese said: "We are looking at long-term plans for air pollution. No one can tell us what the solution is.

"Walvis Bay factories do not have the answer either, but there is no nonsense from the locals there. The industry was there first and the town built around it. With fishing quota's being cut, it's difficult to have a feasible operation."

Resident Maggie Heydenrych said part of her home, which was "in the firing line" of West Point Processors, had become blackened from the soot emitted from the fire stacks.

"I have pleaded time and again with them to do something. When we bought, we had no idea of how rotten the smell was. People never complained before because they were too scared to lose their jobs. Now, people are wanting to retire here. I have to close all the windows and doors to keep out the smell."

Domestic worker Barbara Kawe says when the smell "is really bad" she cannot hang up the washing.

"It's no good. The clothes may be clean, but they stink of fish. I get headaches from the smell and people complain of an after-taste of fish in the mouth. It feels like an extra lining in the throat."

She says the "rotten mist" causes chest problems for her 25-year-old son who got asthma shortly after arriving in the area. "It gets better when he moves away from the area," she said.

Wendy Heydenrych said her two-year-old son suffered from asthma. "His chest closes as soon as the north-westerly wind blows the smoke in our direction. It's very uncomfortable for him."

Professor Arthur Weinberg at the Red Cross Children's Hospital said there was no question that sulphur-dioxide emitted from factories that burnt coal aggravated asthma and other respiratory problems.

By JESSICA
BEZUIDENHOUT

ENVIRONMENT Minister Dawie de Villiers this week ordered a full-scale investigation into allegations of irregularities and corruption in the fishing industry.

Dr de Villiers met representatives of the Informal Fishing Sector (IFS) in a last-minute attempt to prevent a national defiance cam-

Probe to fish out crooks

ST (M) 18/2/96
paign which was due to begin later today.

Dr de Villiers has mandated Quota Board chairman Mr Justice Kotze to investigate the fishermen's allegations.

Earlier this week angry

Western Cape fishermen, who said they were being denied access to marine resources, threatened to catch as many crayfish as possible and give them free to the public to highlight their grievances.

But, following the

(3) FISHING
meeting with Dr de Villiers, the fishermen decided to restrict their campaign to a peaceful protest at Kommetjie later today.

"We compromised with the minister by calling off this action, but we

will continue to scrutinise policy formulation to ensure that, ultimately, the people who have been most deprived will benefit," IFS chairman Andy Johnson said yesterday.

Welcoming Dr de Villiers' decision to investigate the alleged corruption, Mr Johnson said he was hopeful that "criminals" in the fishing industry would "finally be exposed."

Fishermen appeal to get back R1-m quota

□ Devastated community could be facing financial ruin (3) FISHING ARG 13/2/96

PETER GOOSEN
Staff Reporter

THE Kalk Bay fishing community, which recently lost, without warning, a 20-ton crayfish quota worth about R1 million, is to appeal to the Quota Board next month to have the quota restored.

The potential loss of income has devastated the oldest fishing community in South Africa, which now could be facing financial ruin.

Secretary of the Quota Board Fanie Fourie confirmed this week that in terms of the Sea Fisheries Act, an internal appeal mechanism did exist and the Quota Board would meet to hear the Kalk Bay appeal on March 4.

The former quota holders and their legal representatives will be present at the hearing. Once their case has been submitted, the board will meet behind closed doors to reach a decision.

Legal representatives of the Kalk Bay Lobster and Commercial Line Fishing Trust said the case for the fishermen was being prepared and the Kalk Bay trust would be

represented by an advocate.

The income from the quota, given to the Kalk Bay fishermen in 1986 by the late John Wiley, then minister of environment affairs, was used to support the fishermen's income, insurance policies and pensions. The trust has 172 members and also supports 32 retired fishermen.

All trusts became illegal following a Supreme Court decision last year. However, the Kalk Bay fishermen maintain they were never part of the community trust quota system in spite of their association having become a trust — on the advice of a Department of Sea Fisheries official and at a cost of R20 000.

The Kalk Bay Lobster and Commercial Line Fishing Association — its name before it became a trust — was formed years before the community trust quota system came into being.

Five boat-owning members of the trust, who normally catch the Kalk Bay lobster quota, have put up their boats as collateral to cover an expected R75 000 in legal costs to get the quota back.

Natrawl liquidation set aside as Barradas offer is accepted

Nicola Jenvey

③ FISHING
BD 29/12/96

DURBAN — The provisional liquidation order against fishing and trawling company Natal Ocean Trawling (Natrawl) was set aside in the Durban Supreme Court yesterday, after the proposed purchase scheme by the Barradas Family Trust company was accepted by creditors.

Natrawl, which operates in the KwaZulu-Natal and Mozambique prawn trawling industry, was placed under provisional liquidation on December 28 1994, with liabilities amounting to R13,8m.

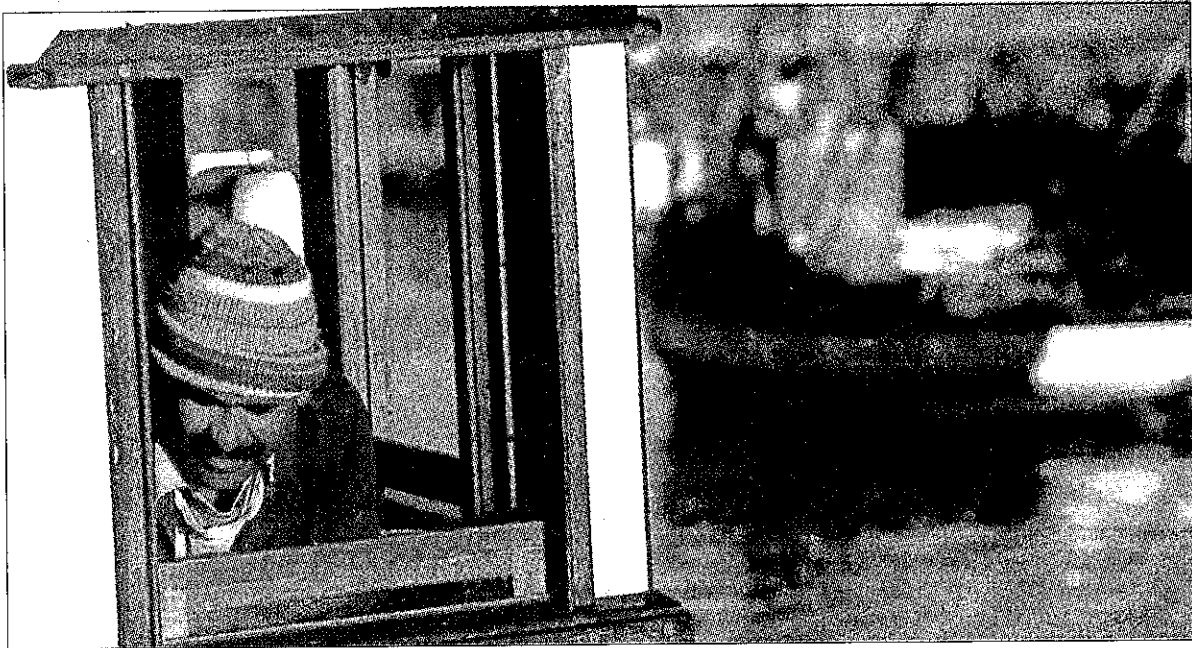
In January creditors sanctioned an agreement by Barradas which saw the company invest an additional R100 000 cash into the Natrawl shell. Barradas had already purchased several of the assets under the provisional liquidation.

Under the agreement, preferred creditors would be paid in full and secured creditors to the extent of their security. Concurrent creditors would receive 7,35c to the rand, but would still receive the admiralty claims in terms of maritime law.

Liquidation of Natrawl's assets realised R2,43m with admiralty claims still to be finalised.

Barradas attorney Mac Scheepers said yesterday Natrawl would be operational once the court orders had been registered with the registrar of companies. However, it was expected to take several months before the JSE lifted the suspension on share trading.

'FISHERS OF MEN'



SOLE MATE Fishermen such as this old man could stand to benefit from recommendations made to the sea fisheries policy development committee. The larger fishing companies are scrambling to institute employee share schemes

Fishermen to share in the bounty

ET(BR) 29/2/96

(3) FISHING

ANN CROTTY

The labour movement's presentation to the sea fisheries policy development committee will include the principle that employees be given shares in fishing companies. The presentation is expected to be completed by early next week.

The principle may be incorporated in the recommendations for changes to policy governing the allocation of fishing quotas. If it is, it will add considerable impetus to what have been tentative moves in an industry dominated by a few powerful companies.

Earlier this week, the CG Smith subsidiary Sea Harvest said it had completed an employee share-purchase scheme allowing employees to take up 1,2 million shares. The shares are being issued at R4 each, compared with the market price of R6. They must be paid for within 10 years.

This scheme is less generous than the one being implemented by Premier Fishing, which allocated shares at no personal cost to

all of its 1 000 employees. As with the Sea Harvest scheme, there are restrictions on the employees' ability to sell the shares.

Management is faced with a difficult situation. To the extent that the management is driven by the need to generate wealth for the existing shareholders, giving shares to employees would need to be justified by the prospect of enhancing the wealth of the company. In this instance, that could be accomplished by protecting or increasing existing quotas under a new policy regime.

This would involve deciding whether shares for labour would influence the new policy as well as a newly constituted quota board.

Oceana and I&J, which so far have done nothing on this front, might be better advised to wait to see what the actual policy recommendations are before implementing any schemes.

They run the risk of falling foul of a quota board before the eventual introduction of a new fisheries policy. The board seems to be searching desperately, though not

always efficiently, for an improved degree of equity in the industry.

One of the biggest problems facing the fisheries policy development committee is balancing the demands of labour and the fishing communities for increased access to the resources of the sea.

It realises that to gain access to these resources generally requires enormous facilities. Therefore, it would be pointless to take quotas from these companies and reallocate them to small players.

This could also result in the loss of jobs at the large companies. To protect jobs, labour's proposals to the committee have generally been supportive of big business.

Sources on the committee believe this is unfortunate because a potentially powerful source of pressure for change has been considerably muted.

They believe that labour will be left with considerably less than if it had adopted a more aggressive stance.

At this stage "considerably less" is one way of describing the

difference between the Sea Harvest scheme and the Premier Fishing scheme.

Trade unions and employees are concerned that the percentage of equity involved tends to be far too small.

They also fear that employees are being brought in as shareholders in an attempt to increase their commitment, but no allowance has been made for their involvement in management.

These schemes are also considered to be motivated and driven by management.

Premier Fishing's scheme scores highly. Sea Harvest's scheme involves just 1 percent of the company's equity, it was motivated by management and it makes no provision for employee participation in management.

Sea Harvest is reported to be looking at introducing new shareholders. Unlike Oceana, which introduced the Gauteng-based Real Africa as a joint controlling shareholder, Sea Harvest is said to be considering a group with closer ties to fishing communities.

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(1) Yes, the possibility of transferring members from the South African National Defence Force (SANDF) to the South African Police Service is being explored.

(a), (b), (c) and (d) As the possibility of transferring members from the South African National Defence Force to the South African Police Service is presently in an exploratory stage, it is not possible to provide the details requested by the Member.

(2) No.

Fishing/quota permits in the West Coast region

*19. Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

(1) Whether any investigation into the issuing of fishing and/or quota permits in the West Coast region has been instituted; if so, (a) when and (b) where will the report on the matter be available;

(2) whether any corrective action has been taken arising from the recommendations contained in the report; if not, why not; if so, what action?

N199E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

(1) No official investigation in this regard was instituted during the last couple of years. Allegations were made that certain members of the Quota Board have interest in the fishing industry. This is against the provisions of the Sea Fishery Act, 1988. These allegations were strongly denied by members. In order to investigate the matter comprehensively I requested Judge Kotze to investigate these allegations fully. I have extended an invitation to everyone who feel they have tangible evidence regarding these allegations to make this information available to Judge Kotze by not later than 8 March 1996.

(a) Not applicable.

(b) Not applicable.

(2) Not applicable.

Exchange rates offered by hotels

*20. Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether, with reference to certain information that has been furnished to his Department for the purpose of his reply, the exchange rates offered by hotels are subject to any statutory and/or other provisions; if not, why not; if so, (a) what provisions and (b) why are there discrepancies in the exchange rates offered by various hotels;

(2) whether he or his Department intends taking any steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

N200E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) No. The exchange rates at which hotels exchange foreign bank notes and foreign currency travellers' cheques are not prescribed. Such entities would use the daily foreign exchange rate as their base rate and add a margin thereto to cover their cost of providing such a service, i.e. commission and handling fees charged by the Authorised Dealer to the hotel. Internationally the rates quoted by *bureaux de change* differ from the market exchange rates. Non-residents have the choice of either exchanging their foreign notes or travellers' cheques at Authorised Dealers at competitive rates or at other authorised exchange outlets who usually offer less favourable rates.

Authorised Dealers in Exchange may authorise Travel Agents, Hotels, Restaurants, Shops, etc. whose business is directly related to the tourist industry, to accept foreign bank notes and foreign currency travellers' cheques from visitors to the Republic in payment of goods supplied and services rendered. This occurs against a written undertaking that such foreign currency will be sold to an Authorised Dealer before the end of the following business day.

Authorised Dealers must advise the Exchange Control Department of the South African Reserve Bank of the names, addresses and nature of business of the

parties to whom such authority has been granted.

(2) Falls away.

SAPS: AK 47 rifles

*21. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister for Safety and Security:

How many AK 47 rifles were (a) seized in the course of police action and (b) voluntarily surrendered to the South African Police Service for reward during the period 1 January 1990 up to the latest specified date for which information is available?

N201E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

(a) 6 372.

(b) 0.

**Statistics from 1 January 1990 to 31 December 1990 were not kept by the South African Police Service as such. Above-mentioned statistics are only applicable from 1 January 1991 until 31 January 1996.*

Moss gas

*22. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(1) What is the expected lifespan of Moss gas, taking into account all commercially exploitable reserves available to it;

(2) whether Moss gas intends exploiting all known reserves; if not, (a) why not and (b) which reserves does it not intend exploiting; if so, what are the relevant details?

N202E

The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY AFFAIRS:

(1) Based on the available reserves in the FA gas field and its satellites, Moss gas' lifespan is between 5 and 6 years (1996-2001). If the proven reserves of the adjacent EM gas field are exploited, Moss gas' life will be extended by 4 years, to 2005. A decision on the EM gas field must be made by 1998/99 to give enough time for its development by 2001. Indications are that the life of Moss gas can be extended

indefinitely on a commercially justifiable basis by, for example, importing condensate as a feedstock.

(2) In terms of the original decision to proceed with the Moss gas project, all the known reserves, namely the FA field, the FA satellite fields and the EM field, were to be developed. These are the only fields off the Southern Cape coast to date of which the reserves have been evaluated and proven, and contain feedstock suited to the current Moss gas processes. Moss gas would ideally intend exploiting all known reserves. However there are a number of contingencies which affect any decisions regarding exploitation of reserves, namely the current process of restructuring of state assets, revenue to be derived from further capital investments and developments in the national and international liquid fuels and petro-chemicals markets.

The main FA field is already being exploited. A decision on the EM field will need to be taken in the future in the light of the contingencies mentioned above.

For further details I wish to refer the hon member to my reply to question No 26 of 21 February 1996.

*23. Mr D H M GIBSON—Safety and Security. [Withdrawn.]

Coating of new coins

*24. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister of Finance:

(1) Whether any problems are being experienced with the substance coating of the new 1c, 2c, 5c, 10c, 20c and 50c coins rubbing off; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what is the (a) extent and (b) cause of such problems;

(2) whether any action is to be taken to rectify these problems; if not, why not; if so, what action?

N205E

The MINISTER OF FINANCE:

(1) No.

(a) and (b) fall away.

(2) Falls away.

occupations, (f) service providers, (g) production foremen and supervisors, (h) mine-workers and quarryworkers, (i) artisans and apprentices and (j) other specified occupations emigrated in each of the latest specified three

calendar years for which information is available? N97E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

The statistics for the period 1 January 1993 to 31 October 1995 are furnished in the Annexure.

Annexure

Emigrants by occupation who emigrated for the period January 1993 to October 1995.

Occupation	Emigrants		
	1993	1994	October 1995
Managerial, Executive and Administrative	*	638	569
Clerical and Sales	*	1 008	708
Professional, Semi-professional and Technical	*	1 960	1 400
Transport, Delivery and Communication	*	45	32
Farming and Related Occupations	*	14	20
Service Providers	*	122	87
Production Foremen and Supervisors	*	18	5
Mineworkers and Quarryworkers	*	7	2
Artisans and Apprentices	*	402	267
Other Occupations (Unspecified)	*	646	697

*A new computerised system to record the entry and departure of travellers to and from the Republic of South Africa became operational from 4 January 1993, with the result that a distinction could no longer be drawn between emigrants and other South Africans for the particular year. However the system was changed to record particulars of emigrants from 1994.

- (3) how many persons are operating for their own account in the fishing industry along the West Coast;
- (4) whether any quotas have been fixed in respect of this category of persons; if so, what are the quotas?

N98E

Fishing industry

52. Mr C A WYNGAARD asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (1) How many persons are employed in the fishing industry on a (a) full-time and (b) part-time basis;
- (2) whether any quotas have been fixed in regard to the catching of (a) stockfish, (b) crayfish and (c) other kinds of fish along the West Coast; if so, (i) what are the quotas, (ii) to which bodies have quotas been awarded and (iii) what is the extent of the quotas awarded to each such body;

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) It is estimated that there are 25 000 job opportunities in the industry of which 3 500 are part-time.
The number of work opportunities expand or contract in sympathy with the increase or decrease of a resource and there are persons who are employed in more than one sector of the industry during a year.
- (2) Quotas for the 1995/96 season are as follows:
(i) (a) Hake 151 000 tons;

Handwritten: *Handmaid #12/101*

- (b) West Coast Rock Lobster 1 500 tons; and Rocky Bank Fishing CC 1 520 kg
G Russo 1 966 kg
Saldanha Bay Canning Co 23 551 kg
SA Sea Products 130 555 kg
Sardinas Ko-op 5 000 kg
N L Sharpley 9 561 kg
A F Shergold 2 408 kg
St Helena Bay Fishing Ind Pty 28 830 kg
Stephan Rock Lobster 66 506 kg
J E van der Merwe 694 kg
Virissimo Fishing CC 288 kg
Visveld Beleggings BK 3 216 kg
Walpat Groep 5 000 kg
E F H Walters 1 884 kg
A & G Weimar 310 kg
A Weimar 4 631 kg
G Weimar 4 631 kg

(ii) and (iii) Quotas allocated:

(a) Hake:

- Pat-Dro Sea Products 372 tons
 - Sea Harvest Corp 41 272 tons
 - Visko Sea Products 200 tons
 - Noord-Kaap Visserman 343,3 tons
 - Laingville Fisheries BK 343,3 tons
 - A J F Eigerbar & Seuns (Edms) Bpk 522,16 tons
 - Móreson Visserye BK 522,16 tons
 - A G Caldeira (Pty) Ltd
 - C le Roux
 - J Mostert
 - B P Pedro
 - H C Smit & Seun
 - or
 - D L Tolken
 - J C van der Westhuizen
- each one receives a pro rata portion
- 1 350 tons

(b) West Coast Rock Lobster:

- C P Bodenstein 373 kg
- B P Quality Fish 1 377 kg
- C J van Zyl & Seuns 2 420 kg
- C J W van Zyl 8 190 kg
- De Seeda See Produkte 7 053 kg
- Elandia Visserye CC 36 544 kg
- Elandsbaai Handels Mpy 55 176 kg
- Hicksons Fishing Co Ltd 7 379 kg
- John Ovenstone Ltd 76 415 kg
- Lamberts Bay Canning Co 100 287 kg
- Lambertsbaai Kreefprodukte (Pty) Ltd 40 301 kg
- Langklip See Produkte (Pty) Ltd 7 166 kg
- J P Laubscher 728 kg
- Live Rock Lobster Corp 15 125 kg
- G R Lumb 7 641 kg
- E Wartens & Ptnr 1 588 kg
- M Mendonca & Ptnr 1 588 kg
- Móreson Bemarking 3 648 kg
- N H Nagel 3 064 kg
- Namaqua Canning Co Ltd 38 927 kg
- North Bay Canning Co 107 814 kg
- North Blinder (Pty) Ltd 5 241 kg
- Paternoster Visserye Bpk 50 705 kg
- Penquin Visserye BK 5 000 kg
- Pesce CC 145 kg
- Port Nolloth Visserye 9 418 kg
- (c) Pelagic Fish
- Fisherman Development Co-op 6 671 tons
- Lamberts Bay Canning Co 23 283 tons
- Paternoster Visserye Bpk 6 522 tons
- Reiger Visserye 3 335 tons
- Saldanha Bay Canning Co 10 957 tons
- SA Sea Products Ltd 20 204 tons
- St Helena Bay Fishing 14 021 tons
- Suid Oranje Visserye Bpk 23 038 tons
- Weskus Visserye Ko-op Bpk 14 396 tons
- West Point Fishing Corporation 11 731 tons
- Yoluntu Sea Products (Pty) Ltd 268 tons
- S Achmat 82 tons
- Chapman's Peak Fisheries (Pty) Ltd 136 tons
- U Donaggi 82 tons
- A G F Eigelaar & Seuns 145 tons
- H C L Griffiths 41 tons
- Lamberts Bay Canning Co 4 tons
- A V & J Mostert 95 tons
- Paternoster Visserye Bpk 75 tons
- Salburg (Edms) Bpk 72 tons
- SA Sea Products 757 tons
- St Helena Bay Fishing 8 tons
- S P G & A B Tredoux 176 tons
- E F H Walters 351 tons
- A & G Weimar 291 tons
- U Donaggi 100 tons
- Elandia Visserye 200 tons
- Group 14 Fishing 200 tons
- Port Nolloth Visserye 210 tons

S J P Tredoux	50 tons	The MINISTER OF MINERAL AND ENERGY
Trawlvis	95 tons	AFFAIRS:
Visko Seeprodukte (Edms) Bpk	100 tons	The statistics mentioned below are for the 12
Weskus Vissers Ko-op	300 tons	months January-December 1995.

(3) Approximately 1 066.

(4) Yes, for particulars, see Question 2 for written reply of Senator M G E Wiley.

Petrol/diesel sales

85. Mr J A JORDAAN asked the Minister of Mineral and Energy Affairs:

(a) What total amount did the State receive from the sale of (i) petrol and (ii) diesel in the Republic during the latest specified period of 12 months for which figures are available and (b) what proportion of the retail petrol price did this constitute in each case?

N165E

(a)(i)			
Fuel Tax	(62,9c/l)	R6 285 868 021	
Customs and Excise			
Duty	(4c/l)	R 388 124 178	
Total		<u>R6 673 992 199</u>	

(ii)			
Fuel Tax	(55,4 c/l)	R2 975 168 900	
Customs and Excise			
Duty	(4c/l)	R 193 209 935	
Total		<u>R3 168 378 835</u>	

(b) In the case of petrol the total amount received by Government constituted 36,36% of the retail price, and in the case of diesel, 32,28%.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

SAPS budget

66. Mr H A SMIT asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) What the 1995-96 financial year budget amounts to with regard to the South African Police Service in each of the Provincial Legislatures;
- (2) whether any of the Provincial Legislatures has exceeded that budget; if so, (a) which Legislatures and (b) in each case, (i) by what amount and (ii) why;
- (3) what amount (a) has been requested by and (b) is to be allocated to the SAPS in each Provincial Legislature for the 1996-97 financial year budget?

N146E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) The original allocation to the South African Police Service for the 1995-96 financial year amounted to R8 851 918 000. The National Commissioner is the Accounting Officer of the South African Police Service Vote and no allocation was made in the budget in respect of the Provincial Legislatures.

The South African Police Service is a National Department and amounts are internally earmarked for the Provincial Commissioners for the financing of functions rendered on provincial level.

- (2) With reference to the above, no allocations were made in respect of the Provincial Legislatures. As far as the earmarked amounts to the Provincial Commissioners are concerned, the current financial year ends on 31 March 1996 and only then will definite figures on expenditure regarding Provinces be available.

- (3) No allocations will be made to Provincial Legislatures for the 1996-97 financial year as the National Commissioner of the South African Police Service is the Accounting

Officer. Amounts will be earmarked for the Provincial Commissioners of the South African Police Service.

SAPS: crimes

68. Mr H A SMIT asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

How many members of the South African Police Service were (a) prosecuted for and (b) convicted of (i) corruption, (ii) theft, (iii) assault and (iv) fraud in 1995 in each of the provinces? N148E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Northern Province:

- (a) Prosecuted
 - (i) 3
 - (ii) 11
 - (iii) 43
 - (iv) 7

- (b) Convicted
 - (i) 1
 - (ii) 4
 - (iii) 14
 - (iv) 4

Gauteng:

- (a) Prosecuted
 - (i) 26
 - (ii) 41
 - (iii) 84
 - (iv) 20

- (b) Convicted
 - (i) 10
 - (ii) 6
 - (iii) 31
 - (iv) 3

North West:

- (a) Prosecuted
 - (i) 1

R94-m fisheries feeding frenzy

ARG 9/3/96

(3) FISHING

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

A FEEDING frenzy has developed in fishing circles about R94 million available from funds held by the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC).

A mysterious low-profile body, the Fishing Development Unit (FDU), has suddenly surfaced as a rival to the official Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) for the money.

The FPDC, established by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers in 1994, is drawing up a new fisheries policy for the country. Late last year it ran out of money and had to be bailed out by a special grant of R1,3 million from the Department of Trade and Industry.

Prominent ANC personalities figure at the masthead of the FDU, including provincial MP Johnny Issel, accountant Mustaq Brey who is also a director of the giant Oceana fishing group, businessman Fred Robertson and Norman Michaels, formerly assistant to one-time Western Cape Minister of Economic Affairs Allan Boesak and now employed in the office of Dr Boesak's successor Chris Nissen.

Mr Issel and Mr Michaels represented the ANC and the Foundation for Peace and Justice respectively on the Fishing Forum which preceded the establishment of the FPDC. They were not given seats on the FPDC because it was decided political parties and interests outside fishing would not get involved.

The R94 million derives from funds of the defunct Fisheries Development Corporation as well as the SBDC's own fisheries money, said Mike Klopper, assistant general manager of the Western Cape region.

■ Prominent ANC personalities are involved in a low-profile organisation which sees itself as a rival to the official Fisheries Policy Development Committee.

"Negotiations are in train and it is by no means sure who will get the money," he said.

Saturday Argus was told by Earle Gildenhuys, secretary of the Association of Informal Fishermen which is represented on the FPDC, that he and Martin Clayton of the Witsand Fishing Association were invited to attend a meeting of the FDU on February 24 and 25 at Bellevue Manor in Sea Point.

Lawrence Hlwele and four other members of the Cape Town Docks Fishermens' Association were also invited.

Among others present were "people who had recently obtained fishing quotas", said Mr Gildenhuys.

He said that the meeting had been told that it had been called to formulate "a new FDU" and to decide how to spend the R94 million if they succeeded in laying hands on it.

Financial statements given to the meeting disclosed that the FDU had been funded at its inception by a grant of R223 000 from the Kagiso Trust and R49 000 from the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

Dr Boesak had contributed R3 000, according to the records.

Expenditure since 1991 amounted to R254 000, including R27 000 for conferences, R195 000 for consultants, R14 000 for stationery, R7 000 for rent and R5 600 for secretarial assistance.

When members of the informal association asked where the FDU's offices

were and who the consultants were to have earned such large fees, the information was not forthcoming, said Mr Gildenhuys.

He added that the meeting had been told that the FDU "did not recognise the FPDC" and that "this was the way to go".

Mr Gildenhuys said that the object of the meeting appeared to be to devise ways of getting sufficient support from fishermen in order to persuade the SBDC to hand the money over.

When he asked why the FDU did not operate in an "open and democratic manner" he was told that this was not possible because "whites would take it over".

There was discussion on the danger of information about the FDU leaking to the press, said Mr Gildenhuys.

In the end, said Mr Gildenhuys, representatives of the informal sector and of the Cape Town Docks Fishermens' association walked out of the meeting.

As he was leaving, he was instructed to hand over the notes which he had made, which he refused to do, said Mr Gildenhuys.

Asked to comment on the work of the FDU, Mr Michaels said it was established "to highlight the issues in terms of what needs to be done so that fishermen themselves are in control of their own destiny".

He said the FPDC was moving too slowly and that fishermen were becoming impatient with it.

Reminded that a large number of informal fishermen were represented on the FPDC, he said: "We are interested in people getting quotas. The moment they get quotas, they cease to be informal fishermen."

New group 'muscling in' on Cape fishing trade

CT 11/3/96

③ FISHING

A NEW group is muscling in on the Cape fishing trade, opening the door to corruption and jeopardising attempts to restructure the industry, the informal fishing sector claims.

These allegations follow a call by the chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs, Mr Peter Mokaba, to Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers for drastic steps to avert a "crisis" in the fishing quota system. The committee has called for:

- The Quota Board to suspend its work until the new fishing policy has been formulated.

- The inquiry into corruption to be reconstituted and to include Sea Fisheries.

- A halt to the prosecution of subsistence fishermen and restaurant and café owners who buy fish from them.

The committee has also called for a public hearing on allegations of irregularities in the industry to be held within three weeks.

The chairman of the Association of Informal Fishermen, Mr Andy Johnson, says his association receives many allegations of corruption every day.

Among the allegations are that:

- Some companies have used the names of dead people to swell the numbers of community members they claim to represent.

- An unregistered company has been allocated a quota of 343 tons of white fish.

- A school principal, whose

business partner is a Namibian, has been allocated a quota of five tons of perlemoen.

- A Quota Board member has allocated a quota for sardines to his wife, a retired teacher.

- A wealthy Bishopscourt man has "inherited" a quota for 10 000kg of crayfish from his father.

- A French national has been allocated a permit to buy and



SMALL fishermen say they are still losing out, Environment Writer MELANIE GOSLING reports.

export all confiscated perlemoen.

Johnson has an affidavit, signed by 345 fishermen, mainly on the West Coast, saying that their names have been used falsely by a registered company in an application to the Quota Board. The company claimed it represented them, but the fishermen knew nothing about it.

Johnson claims a "third force" is helping the fishing industry to maintain the inequality that is preventing bona fide small fishermen from gaining access to resources.

He also claims there has been no genuine restructuring of the industry. "The current scenario is all just to give it a black affirmative action look, but the real coastal subsistence communities will never be able to empower themselves under this system."

Johnson regards the new Fishing Development Unit (FDU) — formed to oppose the official Fish-

eries Policy Development Committee — as part of a grouping that is "muscling in". Members of the FDU include prominent ANC figures in the Western Cape.

"We want to see every bona fide fisherman have to the right to catch fish within the total allowable catch (TAC) and once the TAC is caught, the fishing stops. Skill will determine whether you are successful in making money. That will sort the fishermen from the crooks."

A spokesman for the FDU, Mr Mustaq Brey, said last night that since 1991, he had been called on to advise fishermen in making their quotas commercially

viable. The FDU's custodians were fishermen who had gained control of it two weekends ago, he said.

"Where they don't have money, I normally advise them to sell the quotas in the first year and to keep some of the money for working capital. The quotas were awarded in November and have to be caught by September."

Brey said he had no knowledge of a "third force", although there might be "self-interest" groups.

WILLEM STEENKAMP reports that a portfolio committee member, Mr Wilhelm le Roux of the National Party, says it will be impossible to prevent the stripping of resources if Mokaba's call for a moratorium on prosecutions is effected.

"There is a feeling that the bigger quota-holders must be scaled down to protect the resource and have more available for subsistence fishermen," Le Roux said.

Fishing quota probes on

③ FISHING

PUBLIC hearings into the disputes about the granting of fishing quotas are to be held in Parliament at the end of the month, it was announced yesterday.

The Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism decided at its meeting last week to hold the hearings, the committee's clerk, Ms Zarina Adhikari, said.

The hearings would be held between March 29 and April 1, she added.

Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers recently appointed the chairperson of the Quota Board, Judge Gert Kotzé, to investigate allegations of irregularities in the awarding of fishing quotas. — Political Writer

CT 12/3/96

QUOTAS FOR RELATIVES ALLEGED

Probe into 'corruption' in fishing industry

(3) FISHING

ET 14/3/96

AS THE BATTLE between the Informal Fishing Association and the Quota Board intensifies, the government announced it will investigate the allegations and restructure the fishing industry, writes **MELANIE GOSLING**.

ALLEGATIONS of corruption in the fishing industry will be submitted to the Public Protector, Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs chairman Peter Mokaba announced yesterday.

Mokaba said the committee would also hold public hearings where every one who had problems with the fishing industry could voice their dissatisfaction.

"The information from the public hearings will be used to develop policy to restructure the industry," Mokaba said.

This follows a portfolio meeting yesterday where chairman of the Association of Informal Fishing Mr Andy Johnson accused five of the Quota Board members of being involved in the fishing industry — which was not legal.

He also said that "people in

political fields" were "handing out rights to their families".

"I would like to see the Quota Board in the rubbish bin," Johnson said.

"It was formed in 1962 to take fishing rights away from coastal communities."

Quota Board vice-chairman Mr J N Krone said "very dramatic allegations" against board members had been made at the meeting, but said none of these allegations had been submitted to Quota Board chairman Mr Justice George Kotze, the proper channel for complaints.

"The press has had a field day with the Quota Board. We're being character-assassinated and it all might force us to say it's just not worth it," Krone said.

Mr Andy Gubb, who represented the environmental sector on the Fisheries Policy Development

Committee (FPDC), said big business held 93% of the fishing resource.

"It is clear that big business must give back some of that. The total allowable catch is finite, so big business must hand back a substantial portion of its historical allocation," Gubb said.

The portfolio committee last week called for a moratorium on all Quota Board activities until the new fishing policy was in place, but FPDC member Mr André de Wet commented: "We support restructuring, but in the meantime life goes on. We have been appointed as an interim measure until the new policy is in place."

De Wet said the FPDC was wasting taxpayers' money because it was moving too slowly.

"We have a fundamental problem in that we don't have consensus in the committee as to whether there is inequality in the fishing industry or not. We spent a whole afternoon debating the status of the RDP — a waste of taxpayers' money and our time," he said.

A
is

Fish Quota Board under fire

(3) FISHING *STW 14/3/96*
Cape Town - Public and industry complaints and allegations against the year-old Fishing Quota Board are to be submitted to the Public Protector, National Assembly Environmental Affairs and Tourism Committee chairman Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

The decision followed accusations by Fisheries Policy Development Committee member Andy Johnson who said he had proof that the board had issued quotas to their friends and family. Certain board members, including deputy chairman Gerhard Krone, were accused of still being involved in the fishing industry.

Mokaba asked Johnson and all other individuals who had complaints about the board to submit them to the committee in writing so he could forward them to the Public Protector to investigate. He was "unhappy" with the fact that Board chairman, Mr Justice George Kotze, was also the person who investigated and dealt with complaints against the board.

Asked when new legislation could be expected, Mokaba said the department had "no legislative programme for this year". Public hearings would be held during the course of 1996 to develop policy and legislation. - Sapa.

It's no clam-bake for new fisheries chief

2 Fishing 16/3/96

(3) FISHING ARG 16/3/96

■ Monde Mayekiso, new Chief Director of Sea Fisheries, finds his biggest problem is working with a department where substantive policy changes are imminent.

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

MONDE Mayekiso, the new Chief Director of Sea Fisheries, is easing into his new appointment as carefully as a snook in a shark-tank.

Which is not to say he feels himself in danger of being savaged: on the contrary, he has been warmly welcomed and is getting good co-operation from his staff, he told Saturday Argus in an interview.

All the same, he was very, very careful not to say anything that might cause waves inside or outside the department.

He admitted freely that the biggest frustration was having to work in a department whose policy was likely to be turned upside down and inside out within the next couple of years or even sooner, if those concerned stop messing around in the shallow end.

The Fisheries Policy Development Committee appointed by Minister of Environmental Affairs Dawie de Villiers late in 1994 has had a number of hiccups, but has committed itself to producing a policy document by June. Then it will be published for public comment, after which a white paper will be produced and in the end the new policy will be hammered into legislative shape and will go to parliament as a new Fisheries Act.

In the meantime, Dr Mayekiso has to work with what he's got: an industry restive at the prospect of losing of



□ **MONDE MAYEKISO:** New chief at Sea Fisheries.

Picture: OBED ZILWA, Staff Photographer.

its valuable quotas, with a labour force split between protecting their jobs and looking for a share of the booty; an informal sector of subsistence fishermen justifiably furious at the way they have been sidelined during the last four decades; scientists whose job it is to conserve the stock after years of over-fishing; and a strong lobby of conservationists, some of whom would like

to see anything that swims declared royal game.

He has also inherited the spin-off from an inquiry into some very nasty allegations about corruption in the fishing quota board and indeed within Sea Fisheries itself. The parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs has now become involved and has called for public hearings and for the the public protector to

be brought in. All this will add to the burden of the unfortunate new chief director.

Not that Dr Mayekiso regards himself as unfortunate: he admitted a hankering towards the academic life of Fort Hare where he has been cloistered for the last 15 years, apart from spells at Rhodes and, as a Fulbright scholar, at the University of Maryland.

But he feels up to the chal-

lenges. "I like the idea of thinking differently, about finding other ways of addressing the problems. Thinking differently could improve our chances of solving them," he said.

Dr Mayekiso is a Transkeian by birth — "I tell people I was born in Umtata although my parents lived in Qumbu" — and went to school at the well-known Shawbury and Clarke-bury Schools, both old-estab-

lished mission schools with fine records (which were in the process of being taken over by the state when he was there, after the apartheid government decided to kick the missionaries out of schools).

After school he went to Fort Hare, where in his biological studies he concentrated, naturally, on fish.

"My speciality is *sandelia bainesii* or the Eastern Cape rockie," he said. "It's a freshwater fish, of course: based as I was in Alice it had to be a freshwater fish."

The fish has good colonial connections in a way, like much else in the Eastern Cape. It was named after the great Xhosa chief Sandile and the geologist Andrew Geddes Baines.

"I dabbled a bit with snails and bilharzia, but returned to *sandelia* for both my master's degree and my doctorate. It is interesting because it is a hardy fish, found only between the Nahoon and the Kowie Rivers and nowhere else worldwide. I first became interested in it for conservation reasons: it is listed as vulnerable in the Red Data book."

Not that Dr Mayekiso is a one-fish man. Among his special research interests is the culture of fish species in arid regions and he has also studied the ecology and management of African fishes, resource management, biostatistics, water pollution, the techniques of fishery management and fishery science.

For the past year Dr Mayekiso has been special assistant to the vice-chancellor of Fort Hare, which entailed dealing with people in the volatile atmosphere of a university in the new South Africa.

Any sport or hobbies? "Reading and, naturally, fishing — when I have time. I also play a bit of squash. It's a fine sport because you can get through a lot of it in a very short time" — a judgment he might apply equally to the work to be done at Sea Fisheries.

Deadlock over fishy business

By CHIARA CARTER

A R2,3 MILLION government drive to draw up a new policy for the fishing industry might end up in the dustbin, leading the government to spend still more money on yet another commission of inquiry into the industry.

This was revealed this week at a heated parliamentary committee meeting, which also heard allegations that corruption was rife in the multi-billion rand industry.

The meeting took place against a backdrop of dissatisfaction with the slow pace of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC), which is charged with drawing up a new policy for the industry, and conflict between the Association of Informal Fishing and the government-appointed Quota Board.

After the meeting, the chairman of the parliamentary portfolio committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Pe-

ter Mokaba, called on the Public Protector to look into startling claims of corruption involving top government officials.

He said his committee would summons the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Dawie de Villiers to appear before it and would hold public hearings into the industry.

His committee heard:
■ allegations that five Quota Board members had vested interests in the industry;

■ allegations that quotas were awarded to the relatives of politicians and government officials;

■ that it was common practice for people to apply for "paper quotas" and sell the quotas within 24 hours at inflated prices;

■ that 93 percent of the industry was controlled by a handful of big businesses, while informal fishermen continued to be arrested because they had no legal right to fish;

■ that several "commu-

nity representatives" on the working committee of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) had been applying for quotas, and others had been found to be representing vested interests rather than grassroots communities;

■ that no political direction had been given to the R2,3 million FPDC since it was established at the end of 1994; and

■ that it was doubtful whether stakeholders

would agree on a new policy and De Villiers had decided that if consensus was not reached, a commission of inquiry would be appointed.

By the time it completes its work in June this year the FPDC will have cost about R2,280 million.

Mokaba said his committee was determined to ensure the redistribution, restructuring and transformation of the fishing industry.

EP 17/12/96

(3) FISHING

RESPITE FOR SUBSISTENCE FISHERMEN

Probe into 'quota corruption'

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Dr Dawie de Villiers is to act on allegations of quota corruption and to address the plight of subsistence fishermen, writes **MELANIE GOSLING**.

A TASK force is to be formed urgently to come up with interim measures to give subsistence fishermen access to marine resources while a new fishing policy is being formulated.

And Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers is to discuss with quota board chairman Judge George Kotze the possibility of appointing an independent person to investigate allegations of corruption levelled at members of the board.

This emerged last night at a meeting of the parliamentary portfolio committee on environmental affairs.

During often heated discussion, calls were made to:

- Suspend three members of the Quota Board who were believed to have interests in the

fishing industry.

- Stop prosecutions of subsistence fishermen.

- Place a moratorium on the issuing of quotas until the fishing policy had been formulated.

- Increase the staff of the quota board so that they are able to verify the applications they receive.

- Scrap the criminal records of poachers to enable them to apply for quotas.

De Villiers told the meeting that a "de facto" moratorium already existed, as the quota board had already issued all this year's quotas and no more would be issued until the end of August.

He said he had given instructions that extra staff be supplied to assist the quota board in investigating applications.

Regarding the scrapping of

(3) FISHING poachers' criminal records, De Villiers said: "Neither my department nor I as minister can grant amnesty. I have great sympathy for subsistence fishermen and have urged people to come forward urgently with proposals for ways of dealing with them."

He said if prosecutions against subsistence fishermen were stopped, the consequences would be disastrous.

"The moment you remove laws you will have a free-for-all and our marine resources will be even more seriously attacked than they are at the moment. We have limited resources and the motivation for the quota system is environmental, not to give privileges to some. If we abdicate that responsibility we will have lawlessness and anarchy," De Villiers said.

He said the fishing policy development committee (FPDC) was in the process of formulating a policy that would lead to restructuring the entire industry to make

it more equitable. Their deadline was June 3.

De Villiers said he supported the portfolio committee's suggestion last week that allegations of corruption in the fishing industry be directed to the Public Protector.

Portfolio committee chairman Mr Peter Mokaba said the FPDC at its next meeting would nominate members to serve on the task force. They could come from within the FPDC or be co-opted from elsewhere.

Their task would be to come up with interim measures to bring relief to subsistence fishermen.

"These measures would be submitted to the quota board and the task force would then say how the board's guidelines can be changed until the new policy is in place," Mokaba said.

He said public hearings dealing with problems in the fishing industry would be held after May 4, when the FPDC has completed its draft policy report.

CT 20/3/96

De Lille threatens to reveal quota-holders

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

(3) FISHING

CT 21/3/96

THE PAC's Ms Patricia de Lille yesterday threatened to disclose the names of civil servants who held fishing quotas.

However, Environmental Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers said that as far as could be ascertained from the quota register no public servants had fishing quota permits.

De Lille said these quotas should be handed over to subsistence fishermen.

De Villiers, who answered questions by De Lille in the National Assembly, said a quota register was kept at the offices of Sea Fisheries and was open to inspection by the public between 9am and midday.

De Lille said she had the names of civil servants who held fishing quotas and asked if she had to go



THREAT: Patricia de Lille

to the media to reveal them.

De Villiers said she was free to do whatever she liked with the names, but the Sea Fisheries Act did not prevent any civil servants from being involved in quotas or fishing companies quoted on the stock exchange.

Quota Board ³FISHING loses chairman

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER Dr Dawie de Villiers has removed Quota Board chairman Judge George Kotzé from the inquiry into irregularities involving the board.

CT 28/3/96
This comes after a call by the Environment Portfolio Committee last week for the minister to appoint an independent person to probe allegations of corruption levelled at members of the board.

The committee argued that it was unacceptable for the board to police itself.

De Villiers said yesterday that after discussing the matter with Judge Kotzé, he had decided to "relieve" the judge of the responsibility of investigating alleged irregularities on the Quota Board.

He said he agreed with a proposal by the committee that evidence of any irregularities must be presented to the Public Protector.

De Villiers said the committee's call for a moratorium on the allocation of quotas until the new fisheries policy was in place was "impractical".

He said the call to halt prosecutions against subsistence fishermen fell outside its jurisdiction.

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Public Protector takes over inquiry into fish quotas from board chief

TYRONE SEALE
Political Staff

(3) FISHING
ARL 28/3/96

AN investigation into alleged irregularities involving members of the Sea Fisheries Quota Board will now be undertaken by Public Protector Selby Baqwa instead of the board chairman, Mr Justice George Kotze.

This follows discussions between Judge Kotze and Dawie de Villiers, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism.

Last week a meeting of the national assembly portfolio committee on environmental affairs, which fishing industry representatives attended, raised concerns about letting the Quota Board chairman investigate allegations directed at colleagues.

Dr De Villiers said that shifting the investigation to the Public Protector was one of several initiatives he hoped would help the workings of the fisheries policy development committee and would address the allegations made.

But he said calls for the Quota Board to stop issuing quotas were impractical, as quotas allocated to existing participants in the fishing industry were required in the national interest and had to be renewed by law.

Dr De Villiers said about 25 000 people would be left jobless if quotas were not renewed.

But he supported the call by both the policy development committee and the parliamentary committee for the Quota Board to look at ways to stop unilateral redistribution in the industry while final policy was still being finalised.

● The Public Protector can be contacted by writing to: Advocate Selby Baqwa, Public Protector, Private Bag X677, Pretoria 0001. Tel (012) 322 2916.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply: (3) FISHING

Marine exploitation rights: trade agreements/discussions

2. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has entered into trade agreements or discussions with any other countries in regard to marine (fishing) exploitation rights; if so, (a) with which countries, (b) what is the extent of the agreement or discussion in each case, (c) what measures to monitor such trade have been taken and (d) what is the duration of each such agreement;
- (2) whether any conditions have been attached to such agreements; if so, what conditions in each case;
- (3) whether he or his Department has conferred with other Departments in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) with which Departments and (b) at what level in each case?

S13E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) South Africa has bilateral fishery agreements with Spain, Portugal, Israel, Japan, the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Mozambique. The Department has had discussions with the latter three in recent months, but the other agreements referred to above have long been inactive.

South Africa has been approached by a number of countries, e.g. Russia, Ukraine, Mauritius, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the European Union to conclude bilateral fisheries agreements. I do not intend to enter into any agreements with foreign countries until the policy review process, which is currently taking place, has been completed. The issue of access by foreign companies to South

African waters will form part of the new fisheries policy.

- (b) The bilateral agreement is a framework within which specified co-operation regarding exploitation, trade and research may take place. Specific activities and the periods during which they may take place are negotiated separately.

In 1995, 30 permits for the catching of tuna were issued to the Republic of China and 90 permits to Japan. Negotiations have been conducted during February with both countries regarding the current year's permits, and recommendations following from that are awaited. In addition, a 1 000 tonnes hake quota has been allocated for joint ventures between South Africa and Mozambique, in return for a similar allocation of prawns from Mozambique.

No exploitation rights were allocated to the other countries with whom South Africa has bilateral fishery relations.

- (c) Catches are monitored in the usual manner by inspectors and scientists. In addition, monitoring is carried out by the Navy, the Air Force, the Police Water Wing and vessels of the Deep Sea Trawling Association. It is intended to extend surveillance to embrace a satellite system and observers on-board fishing vessels in the near future.
- (d) Agreements can be terminated by giving six months' notice (except in the case of Mozambique where it is currently being extended).
- (2) Yes, the fishermen of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and Japan are prohibited from fishing within the territorial waters of the Republic. There are also conditions regarding catch data which have to be supplied, and licence fees and levies are payable. In the case of Mozambique it is a condition that the quota must be fished by specified joint venture companies.

7

- (3) The bilateral agreements have been concluded in consultation with the Department of External Affairs.

Security investigation points at international airports

64. Sen C R REDCLIFFE asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) How many (a) security investigation points are there in the international arrival halls at each of the international airports and (b) personnel are employed at each such investigation point;
- (2) whether the number of (a) investigation points and (b) personnel is sufficient to exercise control over the influx of drugs at airports; if so, what are the relevant details; if not, how many (i) investigation points and (ii) personnel are necessary at each of the specified investigation points to control the influx of drugs efficiently;
- (3) whether he or his Department has taken or intends taking any steps to ensure that drugs do not come into South Africa at the airports; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

S105E

The MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

- (1) (a) There are no security investigation points that are manned by members of the South African Police Service. These points are manned by persons appointed by airports.

However, there are searching/monitoring points at the following airports manned by members of the South African Police Service:

Johannesburg International Airport — 1

Cape Town International Airport — 1

Durban International Airport — 0

(b) Johannesburg International Airport — 10

Cape Town International Airport — 4

Durban International Airport — 0

- (2) (a) No.
(b) No.

(i) and (ii) At present, personnel deployed at the airports is insufficient to effectively monitor these points. At this stage, only certain flights are monitored on the basis of priority evaluation. Searching at the cargo section is only conducted on an *ad hoc* basis when information is received.

- (3) Yes. The South African Police Service, including the South African Narcotics Bureau is presently engaged in a process of restructuring and will be able to combat drug related crimes effectively once the process has been completed. The establishment of Border Control and Policing at the three (3) major airports, as mentioned above, is receiving attention.

Furthermore, the Internal Tracing Units of Border Control and Policing in each province will address the problem of illegal movement of people and goods (including drugs) at the other 33 designated airports where the Police Service does not have the manpower, and the air traffic does not justify the rendering of a 24 hour service.

Level of dams in provinces

65. Sen D M MALATSI asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

What was the level of dams in each of the provinces as at the latest specified date for which information is available?

S106E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

Following the recent good rains in the summer rainfall provinces, the total volume of water in storage in the major State dams, compared with the same period last year, is up by 41 percentage points. The levels of all the important State dams as at 11 March 1996 are indicated on the attached weekly report.

Weekly State of Reservoirs as at 18 March 1996

The storage above the FSC is not taken into account to obtain the totals

+ — Area capacity curve change

— Latest available information

() — Restricted storage

Western Transvaal					
Reservoirs	FSC	Water in dam	% of FSC		
			Last		On 18 March 1996
	6 3 10 M	6 3 10 M	year	week	
1. Bospoort	18,3	S 18,8	47	100+	# 100+
2. Buffelspoort	10,3	S 10,4	25	100+	100+
3. Doordraai	46,7	S 46,8	10	100+	100+
4. Glen Alpine	20,0	S 21,2	21	100+	100+
5. Hartbeespoort	186	S 188	55	100+	100+
6. Klein Marico	7,05	4,66	4	66	66
7. Klipvoor	42,3	S 43,5	11	100+	100+
8. Koster	11,8	S 11,9	11	100+	100+
9. Kromellenboog	9,27	7,26	5	78	78
10. Lindleyspoort	14,4	S 14,5	6	100+	100+
11. Marico-Bosveld	27,4	S 27,6	3	100+	100+
12. Mokolo	146	S 150	71	100+	100+
13. Molatedi	201	94,9	10	47	47
14. Olifantsnek	13,7	11,7	3	85	# 85
15. Roodekopjes	103	S 104	13	100+	# 100+
16. Roodeplaat	41,2	S 41,4	99	100+	100+
17. Vaalkop	55,3	S 56,9	17	100+	100+
Sub-total	953	840	33	88	88
Eastern Transvaal					
18. Albasini	28,3	10,9	10	38	38
19. Arabie	99,9	S 104	6	100+	100+
20. Blyderivierspoort	54,6	S 55,4	100+	100+	100+
21. Bronkhorstspuit	58,5	S 60,3	42	100+	100+
22. Buffelskloof	5,34	S 5,37	50	100+	100+
23. Da Gama	13,5	S 13,6	16	100+	100+
24. Ebenezer	69,2	59,0	16	81	85

junction with the external work by a new business unit named PELRAD.

Research into tobacco: funding of MRC

*3. Mr K M ANDREW asked the Minister for Health:

Whether money has been or is to be provided by the Government for any funding of the Medical Research Council in respect of research relating to tobacco; if not, why not; if so, (a) what amounts are involved and (b) what are the reasons for the funding allocations?

N252E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

The MRC receives money from the Department of Health for its research programme. From this amount it conducts tobacco research, which focuses on the impact of tobacco on health and also on the economic cost of tobacco.

However, in 1995-96 the Department of Health funded the National Council Against Smoking to the amount of R262 000 for tobacco-related research. The Council, in turn, gave the MRC R195 000 for tobacco-related research.

The R262 000 given by the Department of Health to the National Council Against Smoking was for the following research activities:

- to examine the impact of health warnings on tobacco packaging and advertisements on smokers' knowledge, attitude and behaviour
- to determine the impact of health warnings on tobacco advertisements on non-smokers' knowledge, attitude and behaviour
- to determine which, if any, of the health warnings have the most impact and why
- to determine the influence of education and socio-economic status on how the messages are interpreted.

Mr K M ANDREW: Madam Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask her if she is aware that the allocation in the Budget this year to the Agricultural Research Council for tobacco research is R3 452 000, which is about 15 times as much as the R262 000 referred to in respect of last year for research into various aspects of the effects of the use of tobacco? If so, does she believe that that is an appropriate way to allocate Government funds in relation to the

production of tobacco as against the combating of diseases caused by tobacco?

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH: Yes, Madam Speaker, I am aware of that, but I think that each department has the right to allocate its funds according to what it thinks is correct, and I have no right to stop or to be involved in the allocation to the Ministry of Agriculture, but obviously, from the health point of view, I would have loved to have that money for health and for health-related research.

Mr K M ANDREW: Madam Speaker, further arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, may I ask her whether she believes that it makes sense for the Government to spend large sums of money helping those who produce products which make people sick, and then large sums of money to try to heal the people that their other sums of money have helped to make sick? [Interjections.]

The MINISTER: Madam Speaker, as Minister for Health, I would love to see everything in this country done in a way that promotes health, whether it relates to industries and pollution or whatever else, but unfortunately life is not like that. There are lots of things happening in the Government and outside of the Government that members of Parliament may or may not be involved in which may not necessarily promote health, but I do not have the right or the ability to stop them. So I may say that it does not make sense, but that is how life is. [Interjections.] The Minister here says that I should say that it is the anarchy of capitalism. [Laughter.] [Applause.]

Mr D J DALLING: Madam Speaker, question 4 is my question and I see that the hon the Minister is not here to reply personally.

The SPEAKER: Order! Someone is about to respond. Would you please . . .

Mr D J DALLING: Madam Speaker, I would like to address you. It is very likely that arising out of the answer I may wish to ask follow-up questions that Mr Matthews will not, I assume, be able to answer, though I thank him for being here. I would suggest, therefore, that this matter stand over until next week, when it can be answered by the Minister personally.

The SPEAKER: I think that if the Minister has asked someone to respond to the question, you must at least hear the answer.

Mr D J DALLING: No, Madam Speaker. I then withdraw the question.

The SPEAKER: That is your right. [Interjections.]

*4. Mr D J DALLING—Correctional Services. [Withdrawn.]

Links between SADF/International Freedom Foundation

*5. Dr R H DAVIES asked the Minister of Defence:

Whether, with reference to his reply to Question No 14 on 23 August 1995, he is in a position to report on the endeavours of the Chief of the South African National Defence Force to obtain information on the links between the former South African Defence Force and the International Freedom Foundation, particularly in respect of funds that were paid to the IFF for services rendered; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

N254E

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE:

The Chief of the National Defence Force has advised that he was unable to obtain the information requested by the hon member because all the relevant financial documents have been disposed of in accordance with Chapter M, section 1.2.1 of the Financial Manual of the Treasury and the Archives Act (Act No 6 of 1962).

Acting on the instructions of the former State President in 1990, the project authorising the former SADF to use the International Freedom Front as a conduit for the dissemination of information abroad was reassessed. When no justification could be found for its continuation in the light of the new political dispensation which was at hand, the project was terminated. After thorough audit, all financial documents were disposed of in accordance with the regulations stated before. The Chief of the National Defence Force is therefore unable to provide the detailed information requested.

I would like once again to reiterate that I am severely limited in my ability to answer questions related to the apartheid era because it is well nigh impossible to gain information where files and records are said to no longer exist.

Mr L T LANDERS: Mr Speaker, arising from the hon the Minister's reply, is he able to tell the House whether the Auditor-General would be in a position to provide the information requested by

the hon Mr Davies, including the details of such funding?

The MINISTER OF DEFENCE: Mr Speaker, I am not in a position to say whether the Auditor-General would be able to supply these details, but if the hon member so desires, he can formulate the question and it will be referred to the Auditor-General. It is up to the Auditor-General to say whether he is able to furnish the answer or not.

Fishing/quota permits

*6. Mrs P DE LILLE asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether any public servants are in possession of fishing/quota permits; if so, (a) who are they and (b) what is the quantity value of such permits;
- (2) whether the public has access to or may obtain a list of such permits; if not, why not; if so, (a) from whom and (b) where is it available?

N255E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) As far as can be ascertained from the quota register no public servants are in possession of fishing quota permits.
- (2) An updated register of quotas is kept at the offices of Sea Fisheries and is open to inspection by the public at large on weekdays between 09:00 and 12:00.

Mrs P DE LILLE: Mr Speaker, arising out of the hon the Minister's reply, I just want to say, in case he is not aware of who is a public servant and who not, that there are, in fact, some public servants in possession of quotas. If the Minister would like, I can give him the names next time. We need to ask those public servants to hand over those quotas to the subsistence fishermen, and that is why I asked the question. [Interjections.]

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Speaker, that was not the question, but if the member has that information, she can use it in whatever way she sees fit. However, the Sea Fisheries Act does not rule against any public servant having a quota. Many of the fishing companies are quoted on the Stock Exchange and people can buy shares. [Interjections.] There is no restriction in the Sea Fisheries Act on anyone holding shares or quotas.

Mr R K SIZANI: Mr Speaker, arising from the Minister's question . . .

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! You mean "reply". I hope the Minister did not put a question to you!

Mr R K SIZANI: Yes, arising from the Minister's reply, if the information that he has given us is correct, why is he instituting an inquiry into the fishing quotas and corruption under a judge?

The MINISTER: Mr Speaker, the hon member has not listened to the details of the investigation which has been instituted. The allegations investigated concern members of the quota board who are not qualified in terms of the Act—that is the allegation—to serve on the quota board. It has nothing whatsoever to do with public servants. [Interjections.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Are there any further questions? Mrs De Lille, are you happy?

Mrs P DE LILLE: No, Mr Speaker. I will engage the services of the *Mail and Guardian*. I think they will help me to get those names.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a great pity, because this is perhaps a better forum. Be that as it may, we have to be friendly to the press.

List of State assets

*7. Mr C A WYNGAARD asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

- (1) Whether her Department is compiling a list of all State assets; if not, why not; if so, when will the task be completed;
- (2) whether such list is to be tabled in Parliament; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) whether she will make a statement on the matter?

N256E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES:

- (1) Yes. We are dealing with two aspects here, namely:

— State assets of a non-commercial nature; and

— State assets of a commercial nature.

In so far as the assets of a commercial nature are concerned my Department is compiling a list of these assets. With

regard to what I might call physical assets, the responsibility lies with the Ministers of Public Works and of Land Affairs.

- (2) Although it has not been requested by Parliament, I am willing to table it when the list is completed.
- (3) No.

Business interrupted in accordance with Rule 199(3) of the Standing Rules for the National Assembly.

Prisoners: previous convictions

*9. Mr A J LEON asked the Minister of Correctional Services:

- (a) How many persons currently in South African prisons had previously been convicted of other offences, (b) what percentage of the total prison population does this constitute and (c) in respect of what date is this information furnished?

N259E

The MINISTER OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES:

- (a) The figures in prisons country-wide are not readily available and can only be obtained through a time-consuming, expensive and manpower-intensive national survey. However, the following figures applicable to sentenced prisoners at three of the country's prisons have been made available in order to provide some perspective on the matter:

• Pretoria Local Prison — 571
• Pretoria Central Prison — 750
• Pretoria Maximum Prison — 192

- (b) 57,5% of the total prison population at Pretoria Local Prison
67,3% of the total prison population at Pretoria Central Prison
61% of the total prison population at Pretoria Maximum Prison.

(c) Pretoria Local Prison — 96/03/18
Pretoria Central Prison — 96/03/06
Pretoria Maximum Prison — 96/03/06

Primary School Nutrition Programme: amount budgeted

*10. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) What amount was budgeted in the 1995/96 financial year for each child to be fed in terms of the Primary School Nutrition Programme;

actual cost per child of this programme: if not, why not; if so, what is the cost?

N260E

- (2) whether her Department and/or any provincial departments have established the

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

The following table reflects the situation per province and at national level.

Province	(1) Average budget allocation per child	(2) Average actual cost per child
Western Cape	50c per child per day	Fixed allocation of 50c per child per day irrespective of actual cost
Northern Cape	88c per child per day	150c per child per day
Eastern Cape	53c per child per day in urban areas 68c per child per day in rural areas	61c per child per day
Free State	25c per child per day	25c per child per day
KwaZulu-Natal	55c per child per day	Fixed allocation of 55c per child per day irrespective of actual cost
Gauteng	88c per child per day	96c per child per day
North West	76c per child per day	58c per child per day
Mpumalanga	68c per child per day	Fixed allocation of 68c per child per day irrespective of actual cost
Northern Province	73c per child per day	73c per child per day
National Average	64c per child per day	71c per child per day

Health care: restructuring

*11. Mr M J ELLIS asked the Minister for Health:

- (1) Whether her Department produced any documentation in 1995 in regard to the restructuring of health care in South Africa; if so, (a) what was the name of each such document produced and (b) on what date was each document released;
- (2) whether such documents were made available to the Portfolio Committee on Health; if not, why not; if so, on what dates;
- (3) whether the said Committee is being fully and timeously briefed in regard to such documents and other activities of her Department; if not, why not, if so, what are the relevant details?

N261E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

Yes; (a) and (b).

- (1) Restructuring the National Health System for Universal Primary Health Care (Draft); released on 19 June 1995.

- (2) Position Paper on the Decentralisation of Hospital Management (Draft); released on 8 December 1995.

- (3) Towards a National Health System (Draft); released on 3 November 1995.

Conditions in mental hospitals

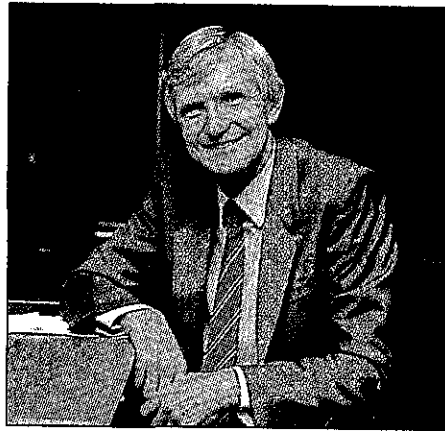
*14. Mrs D GOVENDER asked the Minister for Health:†

- (1) Whether she has been informed about the alleged appalling conditions prevailing in mental hospitals; if so.

- (2) whether she intends taking any action in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action; *Hansard 20/3/96*

Hansard 20/3/96

provinces, central government, big and small business, labour and coastal communities who make their living from the sea. ■



Dawie de Villiers . . . trawling for the best solution

allocate either the whole of the available catch or a portion of it to quota holders.

De Villiers will have to do a fine balancing act if he is to please everyone. He will also have to be persuasive in getting the informal sector to cancel planned mass action.

And those who hold existing quotas are nervous about how they will be re-allocated. Most are held by big white business, which some members of the policy committee find unacceptable.

But Eckart Kramer, who chairs the Deep Sea Trawling Association, says: "You cannot re-allocate quotas without looking at the loss of social and economic benefits. It will lead to job losses and the degradation of communities where most people work for fishing companies."

If De Villiers strips the large companies of their quotas, he will not necessarily please the informal sector. Such action will probably damage the well-known brands and make it hard for those given the quotas to get their product to the market. This will add to unemployment.

A senior Food & Allied Workers' Union official warns: "The quickest way to create disempowerment is to create unemployment. We would all like to see further empowerment and broadening of access to the resource, but expropriating existing rights would be the worst way to go." This shows that reason is prevailing among some of the unions involved but will hardly appease the more militant informal sector members who would like to see quotas taken from the larger operators and handed to them.

De Villiers cannot do anything until he gets the recommendations of the policy committee. Among views it has to consider are those of the four coastal

FISHING INDUSTRY

GAFFED!

③ FISHING
FM 22/3/96

A committee formed to draw up proposals for restructuring the fishing industry has been given June 3 as a deadline.

The edict has been issued by Environmental Affairs & Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers, who has clearly grown tired of waiting.

The Fishing Policy Development Committee was formed nearly a year-and-a-half ago, chaired by Food & Allied Workers' Union secretary Mandla Gxanyana, to advise De Villiers on how the industry can be divided fairly among all players.

Apportioning the catch is complicated. The amount of fish that can be caught is determined by the Sea Fisheries Research Institute, which advises the Sea Fishery Advisory Committee.

The committee, in turn, tells the Minister how much of each species it is advisable to catch. He conveys that information to the Quota Board and instructs it to

Big increase in lobster quotas

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

THE number of quotas allocated to companies and individuals to catch lobster has increased significantly over the past three years. Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers has disclosed.

The number of companies granted lobster quotas went up from 42 in 1992/3 to 64 in 1994/5 while the number of

individuals granted lobster quotas increased from six to 35 over the same period.

De Villiers, who was replying to a question tabled in the Senate by Senator Mark Wiley (NP), said the hake quotas, 30 for companies and six for individuals, and perlemoen quotas, six for companies, had remained the same over this period.

However, pelagic quotas went up from 25 to 49 for companies and from 14 to 19 for

individuals.

Newcomers to be granted quotes were CJW van Zyl Beleg (11 067kg in 1994/5), Balelo (5 655kg), Batsilva (4 399kg), Gomes Fishing (5 581kg), JOC Fishing (4 399 kg), Silva Fishing (3 048 kg), St Anne's Fishing (5 899 kg) and Visveld Beleg (4 347 kg).

Stompneusbaai Kreef, which received a quota of 42 139kg in 1992/3, did not get any quota for the following two years.

(3) FISHING ET 11/4/96

FISHING INDUSTRY (3) FISHING

SPANISH ARMADA

fm 12/4/96

If negotiations with the European Union for an SA free trade area lead to Spain getting fishing concessions, the local deep-sea fishing industry will suffer.

Irvin & Johnson seafood director Charles Atkins says: "Giving Spain a hake quota will be like inviting a plague of locusts into your back yard. It will be a disaster for the Western Cape."

Government has expressed "extreme dissatisfaction" over the terms of a free trade area for SA but the EU is piling on the pressure. Along with a hit list excluding certain SA products from any trade agreement, the EU, in a concession to Spain, appears to agree to a fisheries accord in "parallel trade negotiations."

Atkins and Eckart Kramer, who chairs the Deep Sea Fishing Association, object to the Spaniards' tendency to "vacuum-clean" the ocean of fish.

The Spaniards also appear unwilling to observe terms of an accord such as allowing checking by fishing authorities before transferring fish from one boat to another.

And the industry says the hake resource is used in full by our fishing fleet.

Atkins says Spain is basing its request on the assumption that SA is not using all its resources because hake is being exported. It also claims that SA fishing methods are dated.

"Spain has no valid argument. We are as sophisticated as the rest of the world's fishing industry. Why should Spain be given a quota instead of us? At the last

sitting of the quota board, there were 160 applications from South Africans for hake quotas."

Kramer says Spanish fishermen don't have a good reputation. He points to problems experienced by Namibia: "There was serious over-fishing by them before independence and even afterward, when the 200-mile zone was introduced, the Spanish continued to fish in territorial waters and had to be driven away. This meant marine policing."

He says the navy, with its limited and obsolete fleet, will not be able to police SA waters adequately.

Says Kramer: "It's harsh to describe Spanish fishermen as cheating on accords but their behaviour in Namibian and Canadian waters causes them to be regarded with some suspicion."

Any quota granted to them will be at the expense of the industry, leading to a loss of profits and jobs. Also at stake are conservation measures introduced a few years ago. Industry pundits say conser-



SA trawler . . . an endangered species?

vation efforts have resulted in bigger fish, bringing better prices, but the amount of fish will grow only modestly.

"We have consistently tried but no-one can get hold of either the Minister of Trade & Industry or the Minister of Environment; so we don't know where we are or what they may say. The trouble is that no-one says no in SA anymore. I don't know what's happening to this country," says Kramer. ■

Pilchard quota awaits fisheries policy probe

Linda Ensor

(3) FISHING

BD 23/4/96

CAPE TOWN — The 13 000 ton increase in this year's total allowable catch (TAC) for pilchards was being held back by environmental affairs minister Dawie de Villiers pending the completion of an investigation into a new fisheries policy.

De Villiers announced yesterday a pilchard TAC of 58 000 tons for this year, but the additional allocation of 13 000 tons would await the report of the fisheries policy development committee.

Sources said it was possible a new quota board might allocate the increase to new entrants to the industry who had been traditionally discriminated against by the old board.

Oceana Fishing MD Dave Behrens did not, however, believe this would be the case as many newcomers had already entered the industry and the cake could not be cut continuously to the detriment of the original players.

Last year the final pilchard TAC was 75 000 tons (of which Oceana was allocated 26%) and Behrens was confident that with further assessments throughout the year, the 1996 TAC would be of the same magnitude. He believed only an excess of more than 75 000 tons should be kept for new entrants.

"If we thought the 58 000 tons was the final figure we would be disappointed but there is nothing to be alarmist about at this stage," he said. A departmental spokesman confirmed the chances were good that further assessment would result in a higher TAC.

De Villiers said withholding the increase meant that the pilchard TAC would remain the same as the preliminary November estimate of 45 000 tons while the anchovy TAC had been reduced by 50 000 tons due to drastic decline in the quantity of the resource.

"I believe that the reduction in the anchovy quota, however unfortunate, is essential to ensure adequate survival of adults to allow good recruitment in future," he said. Sea Fisheries Research Institute research indicated an increasing supply of pilchards.

Moves afloat to force firms to pay for fishing rights

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

③ FISHING

ARG 27/4/96

FISHING companies could be made to pay for the right to catch fish if a draft recommendation of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) is accepted.

Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers established the FPDC late in 1994 to evolve a new fisheries policy.

Up to now, quotas have been allocated out of the Total Allowable Catch, but apart from nominal charges for fishing licences and permits, the fish have been available freely - there for the catching.

The innovation is likely to be unwelcome in most fishing circles, with big companies seeing it as a drain on their profits and smaller companies and subsistence fishermen unable to compete price-wise.

However, the draft also says that monopolies will be discouraged. The sixth draft of the committee's report must still be approved by all the people involved. These include commercial companies, subsistence fishermen, environmentalists and recreational fishermen.

Working committees will consider the draft this week and a plenary session will be held on May 15. The final report must be produced by June 4.

The draft says that "fishing rights will be given the same status as property rights", adding hopefully that "there will be no sudden removal or decrease of the access rights of any holder".

A change in the property clause in the new constitution could send the FPDC back to the drawing-board yet again.

The draft also proposes that fishing rights should be long-term or, even in perpetuity, compared with the present system in which quotas are allocated annually.

However, recreational and subsistence fishermen will get their allocations annually, says the draft.

This is likely to draw a howl of outrage. At a working-committee meeting last year, subsistence fishermen and new entrants to the industry turned down the proposal unequivocally.

The same working committee discussed whether subsistence fishermen should be given the right to fish inshore, while deep-sea fishing was to be left to the big companies with their expensive and sophisticated equipment.

The proposal was slammed by some of the big companies which have profitable crayfish and perlemoen rights, but it pleased the informal-sector fishermen.

However, it appears to have found favour with the framers of the draft, who have thrown an additional minnow to the informal sector by adding that they will be granted preferential rights in specified marine areas.

The draft also deals with the ticklish question of foreign fishing rights. Largely, it maintains the status quo, although certain sectors - with an eye on rapacious foreign fleets - wanted foreign fishing companies barred from South African waters altogether.

Finally, the working committee meetings have spent hours discussing the vexed question of fishing quotas. Many members wanted the present Quota Board scrapped.

Protests lead to fish quota investigation

③ FISHING MFG 28/3-3/4/96

Rehana Rossouw

ALLEGATIONS of corruption and nepotism in the allocation of fishing quotas will be investigated by the Public Protector, Advocate Selby Baqwa, following a request from the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Dawie de Villiers.

The investigation follows mounting protests from fishing communities unhappy with the way quotas are allocated. Last month, fishermen gathered on a Cape beach and threatened to illegally catch crayfish, cook and eat them in protest. A tense stand-off with the police ended after lengthy negotiations.

They claim the Quota Board is corrupt, comprises members with interests in fishing companies and allocated quotas to people not entitled to receive them.

But some fishermen are not prepared to cooperate with Baqwa's investigation. The Informal Fishing Community, which represents hundreds of black and small-scale fishermen, intends withholding information they have gathered about the Quota Board.

Earlier this month, they were promised a parliamentary hearing into the matter by the Portfolio Committee on Environmental Affairs and Tourism which was scheduled for Friday and Monday. The hearing has now been postponed to mid-May.

"We have not yet been formally



Something fishy: Fishermen in the Western Cape protest against the skewed allocation of the crayfish quota

notified that the hearings are postponed," said Informal Fishing Community chairman Andy Johnstone. "But we are prepared to wait for the public hearings, we believe the parliamentary committee is our lifeline."

De Villiers's spokesman, Peter Pullen, said the fishermen's reluctance

to cooperate with Baqwa put the ministry in a difficult position. Without their information, there would be little for the Public Protector to investigate.

"We have made repeated requests since December last year for people to come forward with information

pointing to irregularities. The minister is quite happy to receive it and pass it on to the Public Protector," Pullen said.

De Villiers said he would not hesitate to take the necessary action should any irregularities be substantiated.

Johnstone said fishermen from as far afield as Lamberts Bay and the Eastern Cape had been prepared to attend the parliamentary committee hearings. "We were going to bring them pieces of a puzzle to fit together," he said.

"We would have told the committee how the quota system evolved historically, how blacks were denied a piece of the country's national resource for no other reason but the colour of their skins."

Johnstone claimed he had evidence of corruption in the current allocation of quotas, which he was only prepared to divulge at the hearings. He would indicate how big business had co-opted smaller-scale fishermen and businesses to expand their financial gains.

"I know of a company that got an allocation of 15 ton of perlemoen without applying for a quota. Why was that done? I know of three members of the Quota Board who have interests in companies which have quotas.

"We also know of a person who has a quota to export fish, but is not a South African citizen. Another Cape Town school principal has a quota even though his partner is a Namibian.

"We also have information about massive international smuggling rings which move tons of perlemoen out of South Africa every year."

Johnstone said his organisation hoped that the public hearings would finally pave the way for all South Africans to participate freely in the fishing industry with no fear of corruption.

Oceana puts in a strong performance

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Fishing group Oceana posted a 32% rise in headline earnings to R24,51m in the six months to March, buoyed by good results from its fishing division and increased export related trading and shipping activity.

Oceana chairman Donald Ncube said the group expected to show a "strong" performance for the full year.

Group turnover grew 40% to R387,9m, with operating profit up 31% at R43,36m. This reflected a depreciation charge of R11,9m compared with a previous R9,21m and increased operating lease charges.

B0 2/5/95
A higher net interest charge brought profit before tax and abnormal items — an R874 000 profit on the disposal of land and buildings — to R42,12m compared with a previous R33,3m.

An increase in the tax charge to R16,83m from R13,74m was reflected in after-tax profits of R26,17m compared with R26,89m at the same time last year.

This translated into a 29% rise in headline earnings to 24,7c a share, which showed adjustments for profit on the sale of fixed assets and changes of interest in investments — and a 15% hike in dividends to 6,1c a share.

Net profit a share slipped to 26,7c a share from 27c at the same

(3) FISHING
time last year.

Ncube said that the fishing division had been boosted by "better than anticipated" availability and quality of lobster catches, with export market demand and prices steady.

On the trading and shipping division, Ncube said Blue Continent Products' export trading achieved an "appreciable increase in turnover and operating profit".

TRT Shipping Services had recorded increased activity in clearing and forwarding, achieving substantial growth in bunkering and ships' services, he said.

The cold storage division showed lower occupancy levels than last year.

F

Good catches raise Oceana's turnover to R388m

By Marc Hasenfuss

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Strong lobster and pilchard catches helped Oceana fishing group increase earnings 32 percent to R24,5 million in the six months to March.

Growth in earnings a share was diluted to 29 percent at 24,7c by an increased number of shares in issue. The dividend was increased 15 percent to 6,1c.

The group, which is jointly controlled by Tiger Oats and Real Africa Investments, increased turnover by 40 percent to R388 million, but a weaker trading margin restricted growth in operating profit to 31 percent at R43 million.

Attributable earnings after abnormal items was slightly down at R25,5 million. The group only earned R874 000 in abnormal profit

from the sale of a property in the period under review, while last year's R7,3 million was earned on the sale of an investment in Oranjerivier and Nasionale Visserye.

Don Ncube, the group's chairman, said continued good results from the fishing division would depend largely on landings of anchovy and non-quota species during the remainder of the season.

He said that pilchard landings were ahead of last year, but cautioned that landings of anchovy and non-quota species so far were disappointing.

In spite of a lower total allowable catch in the six months under review, lobster resources appeared stronger than expected, Ncube said.

The group's potato-chip plant at Lamberts Bay was also performing above expectation, reporting increased production and higher

(3) FISHING CT (PR) 2/5/96

profitability.

The group's trading and fishing division enjoyed a busy interim period with all divisions performing solidly.

Ncube said Blue Continent Products' export trading activities notched up an appreciable increase in turnover and operating profit.

This division required a higher level of working capital, which was reflected in the more than four-fold increase in the group's interest bill to R1,8 million.

Tuna Marine's abalone quota remained unchanged from last year and landings were satisfactory, he said.

TRT Shipping Services recorded increased activity in clearing and forwarding and recorded substantial growth in bunkering and ships' services.

Ncube noted that occupancy

levels at the group's cold storage division were lower than last year, but showed an encouraging increase in the second quarter of the interim period.

He said the project to install mobile racking in all stores was proceeding well, while the expansion at Bayhead Cold Store in Durban had been commissioned and plans to extend Gauteng's City Deep Cold Store were also progressing.

The group's cold storage division also acquired a minority stake in Walvis Bay Cold Storage last month.

Ncube said the group's trading activity should continue at a high level and occupancy levels in the cold stores should remain good.

"While earnings in the second half of the year may not show the same rate of growth as those just achieved, we expect a strong full year's performance," said Ncube.

Sea Harvest disappoints

BD 3/5/96
Jacqueline Zaina
(3) FISHING

FISHING group Sea Harvest turned in a disappointing performance for the six months to March, raising attributable earnings only 2% to R23,7m after poor shark catches in the summer months in SA and Namibia had depressed sales volumes.

Headline earnings a share, excluding profit on the sale of fixed assets, declined by 5% to 21,8c (23,1c) but an interim dividend of 9c (6,5c) was declared.

Turnover edged up 2% to R185m, while operating profit fell 3% to R34m. Interest received jumped 57% to R7,7m (R4,9m), leaving pre-tax profit 4% up at R41,6m. After tax deductions of R16,2m — 3% lower than in the same period the year before — taxed profit was 10% up at R25,4m.

Chairman Eckhard Kramer said working capital levels had increased, but this had been in line with present trading requirements.

Trading losses incurred by the recently acquired associate company Sea Harvest Namibia had knocked R1,7m off the group's bottom-line profit.

Kramer said the company's processing plant in Luderitz had been upgraded in the review period to add full value to the catch and to comply with European Union import requirements.

EXECUTIVE SUIT

Seaweed could be a goldmine for fishermen

By CHARL DE VILLIERS

A STICKY substance which is used to breed germs and thicken milkshakes could provide a welcome boost for struggling West Coast fishermen if plans are cleared to farm seaweed at St Helena Bay.

A Cape Town businessman says his venture to extract agar, a vegetable version of gelatine, from seaweed could create up to 200 jobs in the town and trigger South Africa's entry into a lucrative international market.

Mr Frik Basson says his Agartek company is ready to move in immediately with an initial R5,5-million investment, but first needs permission

from Cape Nature Conservation which this week confirmed several objections to the project.

According to Mr Basson, seaweed cultivation produced no pollutants and attracted other sealife.

"The beauty of this thing is that it is incredibly environmentally friendly. It is 100 percent green," he said.

Objections were generally on aesthetic and seafaring grounds, according to CNC sources, with concerns being raised about the buoys in the bay and the potential hazards of the submerged seaweed rafts.

Cape Nature Conservation chief director Johan Neethling said an official recommendation would probably reach

Western Cape Finance and Environment Minister Kobus Meiring this week.

"It's then up to the cabinet to make a decision," he added.

Agartek's proposal entails planting seaweed seedlings in nylon mesh tubes which are lashed together in rafts and kept submerged until the crop matures and is ferried ashore for harvesting, Mr Basson said.

The floating seaweed "plots" would take up about 24 ha of Stompneusbaai. The anchored rafts would be about 50cm below the surface of the sea.

Agar yields from two types of red algae were among the highest in the world, Mr Basson said on Friday.

Agar was used in the food and cosmetic industries as a thickening agent, while medical laboratories used it as a culture in which to breed bacteria.

Local fishermen would be encouraged to join the project on a shareholding basis.

The company would finance their initial involvement, maintain the system and offer ongoing technical support

Talks were also underway with the Rural Foundation about basic training for the prospective participants.

The St Helena seaweed farm would give locals an alternative, sustainable source of income and, if the demand warranted, a R4-million processing plant could also be built at the town.

(3) FISHING ST(M) 5/5/96

Sea Harvest's profit slender

CT(BR) 6/5/96

By Marc Hasenfuss

Cape Town — Sea Harvest, whose interim profit was hobbled by poor hake catches during the summer, could show stronger profit growth for the full year on the back of better winter landings.

The group reported a 2 percent increase in attributable profit in the

(3) FISHING
six months to March 31, turnover was up at R185 million, but headline earnings (excluding the sale of fixed assets) showed a 5 percent dip to R21,9 million.

Despite the slip in earnings the group pushed the interim dividend up 6 percent to 9c a share, underlining the directors' confidence.

In the limited time available for tariffication and owing to the large number of products involved, it was not possible to do in-depth investigations. Consequently the Board on Tariffs and Trade recommended protection mainly according to the general guideline that the customs duty should result in domestic production and consumption being more or less the same as was the case under import control.

In general this guideline means that the level of protection is more or less equal to the difference between the landed cost of the imported product and the price of the product produced in the customs union. The difference between the landed cost of the imported product and the price of the local product can be described as the need for protection.

Against the background of the fact that the competition experienced from imported agricultural products will often be a mixture of normal competition and types of abnormal competition, which includes unfair competition such as dumping and subsidised imports, the present customs tariff dispensation, which consists of ordinary customs duty, renders protection against fair and unfair competition. The result of this has been that it has not been necessary to utilise the specific trade remedies available to combat unfair competition in respect of agricultural products, that is, anti-dumping and countervailing actions.

The Department of Trade and Industry and the Department of Agriculture are in favour of the development of a customs tariff policy with regard to agricultural products which can in the medium and long term serve as guideline to all role players and which will serve the primary national economic objectives and the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The development of the customs tariff policy with regard to agricultural products should be a transparent process and it should allow and encourage all role players to participate and to contribute. The departments concerned have embarked on such a process by releasing the Green Paper on Customs Tariff Policy with re-

gard to Agricultural Products on 21 February 1996.

- (2) Dumping is defined in section 1 of the Board on Tariffs and Trade Act, No 107 of 1986. This definition generally conforms to the definition of dumping contained in the Agreement on implementation of Article VI of GATT 1994 ("the Anti-dumping Agreement") entered into at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994. This Act provides that

" 'dumping' means the introduction of goods into the commerce of the Republic or the common customs area of the Southern African Customs Union at an export price which is less than the normal value of the goods."

" 'export price' means the price actually paid or payable for goods sold for export net of all taxes, discounts and rebates actually granted at directly related to the sale under consideration."

" 'normal value' means—

- (a) The comparable price actually paid or payable in the ordinary course of trade for like goods intended for consumption in the exporting country or countries of origin; or
- (b) in the absence of a price contemplated in paragraph (a)—
- (i) the highest comparable price at which similar goods are being exported to any third country in the ordinary course of trade; or
- (ii) the constructed cost of production of the goods in the country of origin plus a reasonable addition for selling costs and profit.

Provided that due allowance shall be made in each case for differences in conditions and terms of sale, for differences in taxation, and for other differences affecting price comparability;"

- (3) No agricultural product is at present subject to an anti-dumping duty and as ex-

plained under (1), the agricultural sector is at present protected against fair and unfair competition through ordinary customs duties. There is no bar, however, to agricultural sectors utilising the anti-dumping/countervailing laws and procedures, provided that the Agreement on Agriculture, as well as South Africa's obligations in terms of the Anti-dumping Agreement and the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Actions are adhered to. Problems experienced relate mainly to protection applied to a too narrow range of products which created opportunities to evade the protection and to the administration of the Customs and Excise Act.

- (4) A too narrow definition of the protected range of products has largely been eliminated and steps to improve the administration of the customs tariff by the South African Revenue Service were announced recently. Also, the anti-dumping system is currently being restructured and capacity is being increased. The Dumping Investigations Directorate should thus now be better equipped to deal with future anti-dumping complaints.

FISHING (3) Companies/private persons allocated fishing quotas

70. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (a) To how many (i) companies and (ii) private persons were quotas allocated for catching (aa) hake, (bb) lobster, (cc) abalone and (dd) other types of fish along the West Coast in 1993, 1994 and 1995, respectively, (b) what are the names of each of the (i) companies and (ii) private persons that were allocated quotas in each of those years and (c) in each case, how big were the quotas allocated?

S124E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (a) (i) (aa) 1993 = 30
1994 = 30
1995 = 30
(bb) 1992/93 = 42
1993/94 = 61
1994/95 = 64

- (cc) 1992/93 = 5
1993/94 = 6
1994/95 = 6
(dd) 1993 = 25 (pelagic)
1994 = 27
1995 = 49
(ii) (aa) 1993 = 6
1994 = 5
1995 = 6
(bb) 1992/93 = 6
1993/94 = 31
1994/95 = 35
(cc) 1993 = —
1994 = —
1995 = —
(dd) 1993 = 14 (pelagic)
1994 = 14
1995 = 19

(b)(i)(aa)	(c)(i)(aa)	(c)(i)(aa)	(c)(i)(aa)
Companies	1993	1994	1995
Algoa Bay Sea Prod	256,67 t	256,67 t	256,67 t
Anglo Mar	200,00 t	200,00 t	200,00 t
Atlantic Fishing Ent	100,00 t	100,00 t	100,00 t
Atlantic Trawling	12 495,00 t	12 495,00 t	12 495,00 t
Blue Continent Prod	522,16 t	522,16 t	522,16 t
Chetty's Fisheries	95,10 t	95,10 t	95,10 t
Cronje Visserye	157,90 t	157,90 t	157,90 t
Fempar	2 499,00 t	2 499,00 t	2 499,00 t
G & T Fishing	400,10 t	400,20 t	400,20 t
Hermanus Seafoods	744,50 t	744,50 t	744,50 t
Hout Bay Fishing	71,00 t	71,00 t	71,00 t
Irvin & Johnson	57 564,90 t	57 564,80 t	57 564,80 t
Mariette Fishing	2 374,80 t	2 374,70 t	2 374,70 t
Marine Prod	6 548,00 t	6 548,00 t	6 548,00 t
Moreson Visserye	522,16 t	522,16 t	522,16 t
New SA Fishing Ent	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t
Pat Dro Sea Prod	372,00 t	372,00 t	372,00 t
Radaco Sea Prod	522,16 t	522,16 t	522,16 t
Saco	200,00 t	200,00 t	200,00 t
Sea Harvest	41 272,00 t	41 272,00 t	41 272,00 t
Selecta	522,16 t	522,16 t	522,16 t
Sistro	1 026,66 t	1 026,66 t	1 026,66 t
Siyaloba	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t
Snoek Wholesalers	522,16 t	522,16 t	522,16 t
Surmon Fishing	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t
Trachus	1 350,00 t	1 350,00 t	1 350,00 t
Viking Fishing	2 634,00 t	2 634,00 t	2 634,00 t
Viking Inshore	1 279,20 t	1 279,20 t	1 279,20 t
Visko Seeprod	200,00 t	200,00 t	200,00 t
Ziyabuya Fishing	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t	1 000,00 t

(b)(i)(bb)	(c)(i)(bb)	(c)(i)(bb)	(c)(i)(bb)
Companies	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95
Abreu Fishing		429 kg	391 kg
Atlantic Fishing Ent	7 601 kg	7 601 kg	6 911 kg
Balelo		6 220 kg	5 655 kg
Batsilva		4 838 kg	4 399 kg
Boventrek Beleg	13 802 kg	13 802 kg	12 549 kg
BP Quality Fish Prod		2 048 kg	1 862 kg
Bridger & Angelico	37 817 kg	31 842 kg	28 951 kg
Cape Reef Prod	23 623 kg	23 623 kg	21 478 kg
Chapmans Peak Fish	67 888 kg	67 888 kg	61 725 kg
Christmas Fishery		3 436 kg	3 124 kg
Coast Trade	78 017 kg	75 344 kg	68 504 kg
Continental Fishing		3 781 kg	3 438 kg
CJW van Zyl Beleg		12 172 kg	11 067 kg
Danson Lobster	99 271 kg		
De Castro Fishing		2 732 kg	2 484 kg
De Jesus Fishing		2 673 kg	2 430 kg
De Sueda Sea Prod	10 482 kg	10 482 kg	9 530 kg
Dewmisa Investments		3 909 kg	
Drommedaris Visserye	152 343 kg	162 644 kg	147 879 kg
Elandia Visserye	53 777 kg	54 314 kg	49 383 kg
Elandsbaai Handel	58 460 kg	82 004 kg	74 559 kg
Ehfeld Fishing		2 921 kg	2 656 kg
Ferro Fishing		429 kg	390 kg
Friedman & Babinowitz	48 310 kg	49 310 kg	44 834 kg
Gomes Fishing			5 581 kg
Good Hope Fisheries	25 258 kg	25 258 kg	22 964 kg
Gourmet Fish Prod	12 680 kg	12 680 kg	11 529 kg
Hicksons Canning	10 966 kg	10 966 kg	9 971 kg
IOC Fishing		4 838 kg	4 399 kg
John Owenston	99 974 kg	99 974 kg	90 898 kg
John Quality	9 160 kg	9 160 kg	8 328 kg
Kalk Bay Lobster	30 000 kg	30 000 kg	27 000 kg
Konsortium Kreef	49 542 kg	51 275 kg	46 620 kg
Lambertsbaai Kreef	59 897 kg	59 897 kg	54 459 kg
Lamberts Bay Canning	149 049 kg	149 049 kg	135 518 kg
Langklip Seeprod	10 650 kg	10 650 kg	9 683 kg
Lighthouse Fisheries	30 447 kg	30 447 kg	27 683 kg
Live Rock Lobster	21 737 kg	22 479 kg	20 438 kg

Luciano Fishing		2 925 kg	2 659 kg
Lusitania Fishing	2 156 kg	2 156 kg	1 960 kg
Lusitania Sea Prod	42 426 kg	42 426 kg	38 574 kg
Marine Prod	51 442 kg	54 034 kg	49 129 kg
Mentel Fishing		429 kg	390 kg
Moreson Bemarking	5 421 kg	5 421 kg	4 929 kg
Namaqua Canning	50 928 kg	50 928 kg	46 305 kg
North Bay Canning	160 237 kg	160 237 kg	145 690 kg
North Blinder	11 370 kg	7 790 kg	7 083 kg
Patemoster Visserye	75 360 kg	75 360 kg	68 519 kg
Paul De Mar Fishing		2 921 kg	2 656 kg
Pesce		215 kg	196 kg
Port Nolloth Fisheries	12 323 kg	12 323 kg	11 204 kg
Rocky Bank			2 053 kg
SA Lobster Exporters	23 565 kg	23 565 kg	21 426 kg
SA Sea Prod	194 035 kg	194 035 kg	176 420 kg
Saldanha Bay Canning	35 002 kg	35 002 kg	31 824 kg
Silva Fishing		3 352 kg	3 048 kg
Southern Sea Fishing	54 661 kg	54 661 kg	49 699 kg
Sparkor	27 571 kg	27 571 kg	25 068 kg
St Annes Fishing		6 488 kg	5 899 kg
St Helena Bay Fishing	42 848 kg	42 848 kg	38 958 kg
Stephan Rock Lobster	98 845 kg	98 845 kg	89 871 kg
Stompsneusbaai Kreef		42 139 kg	
Suid-Oranje Visserye	21 643 kg	21 643 kg	19 678 kg
Tiger Reef Fishing		2 760 kg	2 509 kg
Virissimo Fishing		429 kg	390 kg
Visveld Beleg		4 781 kg	4 347 kg

(b)(i)(cc)	(c)(i)(cc)	(c)(i)(cc)	(c)(i)(cc)
Companies	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95
Abalone Processors	35 999 kg	35 999 kg	35 999 kg
Blue Star Holdings	60 742 kg	60 742 kg	60 742 kg
Hermanus Comm Trust	10 000 kg	10 000 kg	10 000 kg
Sea Plant Prod	193 296 kg	193 296 kg	193 296 kg
Tuna Marine	171 699 kg	171 699 kg	171 699 kg
Walker Bay Cannery	143 246 kg	143 246 kg	143 246 kg

(b)(i)(dd)	(c)(i)(dd)			(c)(i)(dd)		
	1993			1994		
	Pilchard	Anchovy	Bait	Pilchard	Anchovy	Bait
A J F Bigelaar & Seuns		2 763 t				177,0 t
A & J Mostert & Grasveld			115,2 t			116,0 t
Chapmans Peak Fisheries	1 184 t	2 222 t				154,4 t
Columbine Canning	1 100 t	20 651 t		2 060 t	8 674 t	
Ellis S Fishing CC			77,2 t			
Gansbaai Fishing						300,0 t

Gansbaai Marine	6 000 t	24 847 t		7 003 t	10 268 t	
Gansbaaise Ko-op Visserye			26,4 t			81,0 t
Kalk Bay Fisheries						300,0 t
Lamberts Bay Canning	1 914 t	35 938 t	5,0 t		19 701 t	5,0 t
Lusitania Fishing			154,4 t			334,0 t
Marine Products	1 578 t	29 608 t	155,5 t	3 400 t	11 539 t	155,9 t
Oosterlig Visserye				1 200 t		
Oranjerivier Visserye	932 t	17 487 t	105,8 t	1 762 t	7 307 t	105,0 t
Patemoster Visserye	665 t	12 491 t	85,7 t	1 250 t	5 220 t	85,7 t
Pelagic Fishing				500 t		
Poseidan Sea Products			358,1 t			41,4 t
P Christy & Sons			115,2 t			
SA Sea Products	1 661 t	31 184 t	57,7 t		17 096 t	857,7 t
Saco Fishing			115,2 t			397,0 t
Salburg			81,0 t			80,8 t
Saldanha Bay Canning	1 131 t	21 231 t		2 205 t	8 742 t	
Sandalene Fishing CC			234,0 t			215,0 t
Sandy Point Canning			80,8 t			
Southern Sea Pty	900 t	16 894 t		2 714 t	9 890 t	
St Helena Bay Fishing	1 317 t	24 729 t		1 314 t	9 161 t	9,2 t
Suid-Oranje Visserye	1 424 t	26 719 t	9,2 t	4 344 t	18 466 t	
Weskus Vissers Ko-op			41,4 t		11 472 t	
West Point Fishing Corp	2 336 t	43 839 t		2 176 t	9 414 t	
Yoluntu Sea Prod				300 t		

(b)(ii)(aa)	(c)(ii)(aa)	(c)(ii)(aa)	(c)(ii)(aa)
Private persons	1993	1994	1995
S B Chetty	95,10 t	95,10 t	95,10 t
P Cronje	323,30 t	323,30 t	323,30 t
J I Crous			90,00 t
A J F Eigelaar	552,16 t	522,16 t	522,16 t
C W le Roux	89,90 t		
B Oosthuizen	95,10 t	95,10 t	95,10 t
E M Pimenta	256,67 t	256,67 t	256,67 t

F de Sousa		3 724 kg	3 386 kg
G di Giorgia		2 199 kg	1 999 kg
J G Faria		215 kg	196 kg
J N Ferreira		3 352 kg	3 048 kg
M Laters		1 586 kg	1 442 kg
J P Laubscher		1 082 kg	984 kg
J Lino		429 kg	390 kg
J d N Lino		429 kg	390 kg
G R Lumb		11 356 kg	10 325 kg
R H A Lumb		7 202 kg	6 548 kg
E Martins		2 315 kg	2 105 kg
M Mendonca		2 315 kg	2 105 kg
J F Morte		3 086 kg	2 805 kg
N H Nagel	4 553 kg	4 553 kg	4 140 kg
J Nunes		2 921 kg	2 656 kg
J Poggenpoel & Partners		3 466 kg	3 151 kg
G Russo		2 921 kg	2 656 kg
S R Sancho		429 kg	390 kg
S L Sharpley	14 086 kg	14 209 kg	12 919 kg
A P Shergold		3 580 kg	3 255 kg
J E van der Merwe	1 031 kg	1 031 kg	937 kg

(b)(ii)(bb)	(c)(ii)(aa)	(c)(ii)(aa)	(c)(ii)(aa)
Companies	1993	1994	1995
J N D R Alves			2 423 kg
L Angelico		4 550 kg	4 137 kg
C P Bodenstein		555 kg	504 kg
J J da Mata		4 426 kg	4 024 kg
J J da Mata			3 559 kg
J da Silva		1 462 kg	1 330 kg
J G da Silva		1 462 kg	1 330 kg
A H de Beer	1 328 kg	1 328 kg	1 207 kg

C J van Zyl en Seuns	3 597 kg	3 597 kg	3 270 kg
D Vierra		3 568 kg	3 244 kg
A Weimar			6 258 kg
A & G Weimar	461 kg	461 kg	419 kg
G Weimar			6 258 kg
E F H Walters		2 800 kg	2 546 kg

(b)(ii)(cc)	(c)(ii)(cc)	(c)(ii)(cc)	(c)(ii)(cc)
Private persons	1993	1994	1995
	—	—	—

(b)(ii)(dd)	(c)(ii)(dd)	
Private persons	Bait	
	1993	1994
S Achmat	77,2	100,00
M de Gerus	77,2	100,00
U Donaggi	77,2	100,00
J G Fernandes	77,2	177,00
H C L Griffiths	39,4	50,00
K Kingna	115,2	116,00
A & P Penglides	39,4	50,00
E M Pimenta	77,2	100,00
R Poggenpoel & Partners	39,4	50,00
P J Steyl & P B le Roux	218,8	319,00
S P J & A B Tredoux	115,2	215,00
E F H Walters	230,4	430,00
A & G Weimar	141,6	357,00
N S William & Vennote	39,4	50,00

Nurses in State hospitals: appointments/resignations

75. Sen W FMNISI asked the Minister for Health:

How many nurses (a) were employed in State hospitals in each province in (i) 1993, (ii) 1994 and (iii) 1995 and (b) resigned in each province in each of these years?

S129E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

(a) Province	(i) 1993	(ii) 1994	(iii) 1995
Western Cape	14 205	14 016	14 338
Eastern Cape	17 832	17 591	17 998
Northern Cape	1 967	2 005	2 037

KwaZulu-Natal	21 624	23 413	25 893
Free State	8 931	9 096	9 204
Gauteng	2 268	20 941	21 361
Mpumalanga	753	702	869
North West	4 052	5 197	6 401
Northern Province	16 364	16 686	15 408

(b) Province	(i) 1993	(ii) 1994	(iii) 1995
Western Cape	1 398	1 257	1 388
Eastern Cape	241	231	202
Northern Cape	204	171	139
KwaZulu-Natal	1 797	1 851	1 932
Free State	638	619	705
Gauteng	1 087	1 103	1 174
Mpumalanga	214	209	306
North West	540	442	576
Northern Province	642	671	739

Per capita allocation of health funds in provinces

79. Sen W FMNISI asked the Minister for Health:

What was the *per capita* allocation of health funds in each of the provinces in (a) 1994 and (b) 1995?

S133E

The MINISTER FOR HEALTH:

Province	Per capita allocation 1994/95	Per capita allocation 1995/96
Eastern Cape	275,83	282,45
Gauteng	514,44	462,95
Mpumalanga	175,59	200,98
Northern Cape	252,85	303,57
Northern Province	213,24	264,50
North West	238,85	249,05
Orange Free State	378,52	366,25
Western Cape	579,37	512,26
KwaZulu-Natal	319,67	327,66

The 1994/95 figures may not be accurate due to difficulties in estimating the allocations in provinces where previously self-governing territories were reincorporated.

Assistance for facilitation/planning of newly established communities

82. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

Whether, with reference to the rendering of assistance for the facilitation and planning of newly established communities, any applications for such help have been received by his Department; if so, (a) how many such applications have been received from (i) individuals and (ii) communities and (b) how many of these applications have been granted?

S136E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

Yes, a number of applications have been received.

(a) (i) None

(ii) 182 (105 inside pilot districts and 77 outside thereof)

(b) 151

A considerable number of communities are currently organising themselves with the support of the Department and/or community based organisations and/or non-government institutions. It is expected that more applications will be received.

Visitors on temporary residence permits

84. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Home Affairs:†

(1) Whether his Department has any method of tracing visitors on temporary residence permits who do not leave the country on expiry of these permits; if not, why not, if so, (a) what method and (b) what does the budget amount to in this respect;

(2) whether this method meets with any success; if not, why not; if so, to what extent?

S139E

The MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS:

(1) (a) Yes. A Movement Control System is maintained, which is computerised and monitors the entry and departure

of persons. From this record persons who do not leave on expiry of their permits can be identified.

In terms of section 3 of the Aliens Control Act, 1991 (Act 96 of 1991), immigration officers have been appointed to, *inter alia*, trace persons who exceeded their authorised period of temporary residence in the Republic.

(b) The Department has 1 218 approved immigration officer posts of which 754 are stationed at ports of entry and 464 are tasked with law enforcement. The total personnel budget for immigration officers is R50 461 951 of which R19 223 600 is allocated for law enforcement.

(2) In 1995, 157 084 illegals were repatriated in comparison with 53 418 repatriations in 1990. In a recent study initiated by the Department and carried out by the Human Sciences Research Council it is estimated that there might be up to 4,1 million illegal aliens in the RSA. In view of these figures particularly, it must be stated that although the method of tracing illegals is reasonably successful the lack of funds for the creation of more posts is an inhibiting factor.

Possible amendment of water legislation

86. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Water Affairs and Forestry:†

Whether the panel appointed by him to report on the possible amendment of water legislation in South Africa has investigated the water systems and experiences of other arid Western countries; if not, why not; if so, (a) what countries are involved, (b) to what extent research on water legislation has been done in those countries, (c) for how long the systems have been tested, (d)(i) with what countries has South Africa displayed similarities and (ii) in what respects were there similarities and (e) where this is indicated in the report?

S141E

The MINISTER OF WATER AFFAIRS AND FORESTRY:

(a), (b) and (c) No. The mandate of the Water Law Review Panel was to draft a basic set of principles on which a new water law

BETTER CATCHES

Six months to	Mar 31	Sep 30	Mar 31
	1995	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	277,1	316,3	387,9
Pre-int earnings (Rm)	33,2	34,8	43,4
Pre-tax profit (Rm)*	33,3	33,6	42,1
Attributable (Rm)	26,3	19,7	25,5
Headline earnings (c)	19,1	18,3	24,7
Dividends (c)	5,3	14,4	6,1

* Before abnormal items.

Behrens expects continued good results from fishing, but much will depend on landings of anchovy and nonquota species for the rest of the season. Trading will continue strong and occupancy of cold stores should remain high.

The share price has risen steadily, from 100c in 1991 to 560c, without a significant hiccup and neither Oceana's chart nor fundamentals suggest a break in trend in the near future. Coupled with Behrens' predictions that second-half earnings may be as good as the first — which did not benefit from the depreciating rand — there seems justification that shares in this well-managed company will continue to rise. *Gerald Hirshon*

OCEANA FISHING (3) FISHING

TIGHT LINES ALL ROUND

FM 10/5/96

MD David Behrens is pleased with first-half performance. It was "tight lines" in all divisions. The pilchard resource continues to improve, catches have been better and the industry total allowable catch (TAC) is expected to be at least the same as last season. Anchovy TAC is set at 150 000 t (200 000 t). The catch rate is satisfactory, but constrained by the high pilchard by-catch. Catches and quality of lobster have been better than expected and demand and prices steady.

The fishmeal price recently hit a record US\$580/t before easing to \$530/t. This also helped the trading division. Its turnover grew significantly, mainly due to a surge in trading fishmeal and horse-mackerel, with exports increasing of the latter into Africa in both frozen and dried form.

The canning factory in St Helena Bay has been upgraded to handle various agricultural produce apart from fish, and the french fry factory will be expanded to cope with better trading.

Cold stores occupancy was lower in the first quarter but has since increased significantly, says Behrens. The new Bayhead cold store in Durban was commissioned two weeks ago and the minority interest in Walvis Bay Cold Store bought with effect from April 1.

SEA HARVEST (3) FISHING

LOOKING FOR BETTER THINGS

PM 10/5/96

Talk to any old salt and he'll tell you it's been tough catching satisfactory volumes of hake recently. MD Louis Penzhorn explains that sea temperatures were unusually cold. In these conditions fish rise off the bottom of the ocean and disperse, making them difficult to net.

This is the main reason first-half turn-

COLD BOTTOM

Six months to	Mar 31	Sep 30	Mar 31
	1995	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	180.9	180.0	185.0
Pre-int earnings (Rm)	35.0	40.5	33.9
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	39.9	48.2	41.6
Attributable (Rm)	23.2	25.9	23.7
Headline earnings (c)	23.2	25.9	21.8
Dividends (c)	8.5	14.5	9.0

over was virtually static, says Penzhorn. Catches in SA and Namibian waters were lower. In the circumstances, he finds the results pleasing.

That is pushing the boat out. It's not easy to be pleased when turnover rises a scant 2% and operating profit falls by 3%.

FINANCIAL MAIL · MAY 10 · 1996

96 Fox

What he means is that, had overheads not been contained, results could have been worse. Trading losses in newly acquired Sea Harvest Namibia didn't help.

The market for value added products remained strong, though the food industry had a poor January and February at retail level. Even so, demand exceeded supply because of poor catches. Both supply and demand improved in March

and April and the trend seems to be maintaining itself, he says.

Export volumes were static but Penzhorn hopes for an improvement in the second half. Sea Harvest did not benefit at all from the fall in value of the rand in the first half. It should in the second.

Second-half earnings are usually better because catches improve in winter. If these materialise, Penzhorn is confident

of real growth in EPS for the year.

Since the listing in July 1993, the share price has been volatile. In just two months it has fallen from 625c to 500c. If headline EPS increase 10% to 54c the prospective p/e is 9.3. That does not seem unreasonable. But if catches improve markedly, EPS growth may be higher and could make the share good value. *Gerald Hirshon*

EU's tough-talking Emma aims to catch fish in southern seas

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

TOUGH-TALKING Italian Emma Bonino has been the European Union's fisheries commissioner for 14 months.

She was in Cape Town this week to talk to people in the government about a mooted bilateral fishing accord between South Africa and the EU.

Mrs Bonino refused to say how close to complete a bilateral agreement might be, saying firmly: "It's a political decision."

Having been a member of the European parliament since 1976, Mrs Bonino knows where to draw the line.

However, she did say she had been given a mandate to negotiate agreements on behalf of the commission.

EU fishing fleets worldwide have an unenviable reputation as predators and despoilers.

Although Mrs Bonino was reported last year as "reacting furiously" to what she called "Canadian intim-

■ European Union fisheries commissioner Emma Bonino foresees joint ventures between South African and European fishing companies as a result of a bilateral fishing agreement.

idation" - when a Canadian gunboat fired on a Spanish trawler which was fishing illegally - she was all sweet reasonableness when SATURDAY Argus mentioned the problems other nations have had with EU fleets.

That is all changing, she said. In the "old days", the EU "came in and fished and paid and went away".

But now there is a new approach which will be applied in South Africa if the government decides to break the monopolies of the big companies and ensure a fairer share of marine resources to "local" newcomers.

She stressed "local", and when SATURDAY Argus asked how EU vessels could be described as local, she explained that the idea was for joint ventures, with new South African entrants to the fishing industry forming partnerships with

European companies.

The total allowable catch would remain the same, so what difference would it make, she asked, if the fish were caught by two or three big companies, as now, or by many smaller joint-venture companies?

Mrs Bonino would not comment on the allegation that EU fleets were given to "quota-hopping" - registering flags of convenience where quotas were available and then pulling out when the fish had been caught.

The European companies involved would offer training, help with the infrastructure and assistance in obtaining vessels, she said.

The most important fish caught in South African waters is hake, she said, adding that if a bilateral agreement was reached the EU might be prepared to lower the market



Emma Bonino

tax, balanced by a decrease in export duties.

Mrs Bonino said that up to now the fisheries sector of the EU had concentrated too much on catching fish and had not paid enough attention to "before catch" processes - such as managing the resource, or to "after catch" processes like trade and preparing the fish for market.

Conditions were changing rapidly in the fishing industry and the EU policy had to adapt to the globalisation of the market.

"Worldwide, fisheries stocks are in bad shape," she said. "There is an astonishing over-capacity in fishing fleets."

"With modern vessels and new technology, we can catch as many fish in three hours as our grandfathers could catch in three days.

"This means that support and encouragement must be given to management and conservation."

Asked what she thought of the way in which South Africa had managed the resource, she said there had been "a good effort".

A recent EU report said that better planning and co-ordination was required in the use of research vessels. This would improve information on fish stocks and on the environmental impact of fishing, as well as on the selection of fishing gear.

Another report proposed controls and conservation measures relating to vessels and catch limitations in the Antarctic.



RICH HARVEST: Workers at the seaweed farm near Luderitz in Namibia inspect seaweed which broke loose from farming nets and washed up on the shore.

Storm over seaweed farm

ART 18/5/96

③ FISHING

WILLEM STEENKAMP
Staff Reporter

THE battle lines have been drawn between a well known West Coast development company and a private entrepreneur who wants to develop an unique seaweed farm on the coast.

The problem is that the developer of the seaweed farm believes the best site for the venture is in the sea in front of the entrance to a planned multi-million-rand small boat harbour.

The problem is that the developer of the seaweed farm believes the best site for the venture is in the sea in front of the entrance to a planned multi-million-rand small boat harbour.

Frik Basson of Argatek, the company which wants to develop a 40 hectare seaweed farm near Stompneus Point on the West Coast, is furious because Britannia Bay Developers, who are in the process of developing a small golf course, single residential plots and eventually a small boat harbour in the area, have objected to the seaweed farm.

Mr Basson said he could not understand why Britannia Bay Developers were against his plans.

"The seaweed farm is an environmentally friendly development and will create about 200 jobs.

"If they are objecting to the development on an environmental basis, it's like the pot calling the kettle black.

"Their development, which will include a high density housing element, is situated on the sensitive Stompneus Peninsula.

I have been negotiating with Britannia Bay Developers and, even though I have shown them that the seaweed farm is by no means unsightly - and even though I have agreed to allow a 110 metre wide channel to allow boats to have easy access to the small boat harbour - they are still opposing this venture."

But Gert Joubert of Britannia Bay Developers said Mr Basson's plans made absolutely no sense.

■ West Coast developers don't want a kelp entrepreneur to start operations opposite a planned small boat harbour.

"Years ago we received approval in principle for the development of the small boat harbour. We spent hundreds of thousands of rands on environmental impact studies of the harbour site.

"Mr Basson has done no environmental impact assessment on his scheme and it makes absolutely no sense to have this seaweed farm directly across the mouth of our small boat harbour.

"I have great respect for private entrepreneurs and believe they should get all the support they need, but I do not believe it's viable to have such a seaweed farm across the mouth of a small boat harbour.

"It is a good idea, but in the wrong place.

"Secondly, experienced fishermen who have themselves unsuccessfully tried to run mussel farms in the area have pointed out that Mr Basson's seaweed nets will wash out on the beach if the type of storms we have every five years hit the coast.

"That is why we intend building a special breakwater at the small boat harbour, even though the sea is calm 99 percent of the time. It is that one storm in five years that one has to take into account," said Mr Joubert.

Niel van Wyk of Western Cape Nature Conservation confirmed that Mr Basson had applied for permission to operate a seaweed farm off the Stompneus Peninsula, and his department was considering the application.

The West Coast Transitional Council had given a conditional go-ahead for the project. The conditions were that Mr Basson come to some sort of agree-

ment with Britannia Bay Developers and that the go-ahead for the project would be for only five years, after which it would again have to be reviewed in the light of the development of the small boat harbour.

"We will probably hand the application and our recommendations to the office of Mr Kobus Meiring, the local government minister of Finance and Environmental Affairs, next week."

Mr Van Wyk said it was important to remember that the public's interest in the issue had to be protected.

"We have laid down stringent requirements in connection with the development of the small boat harbour to ensure that public use of the harbour and the coast is guaranteed.

"But we will also have to look at what impact the development of a seaweed farm in that area will have on the use of the coast and that part of the sea."

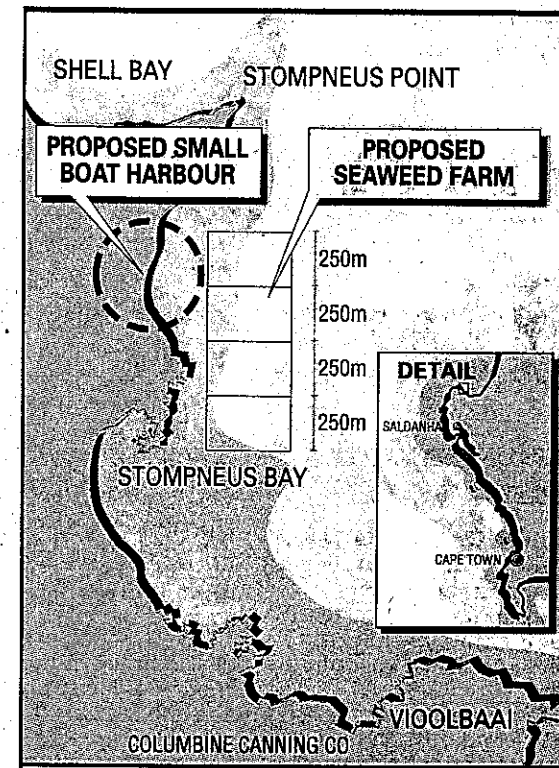
Mr Van Wyk said it was a pity that Portnet had leased the greater part of Saldanha bay to Sea Harvest who only used a fraction of the area for their mussel farming operations.

"We would have liked to have seen that other entrepreneurs also be allowed to practice mariculture in the bay, which is ideal for such projects, but that is under Portnet's control," said Mr Van Wyk.

Extracts from seaweed are used as stabilisers, gelling agents or emulsifiers in thousands of everyday products from pet food to dental moulds.

Cloth dyes, toothpaste, salad dressings, flavoured milks, cosmetics and pizza toppings also contain seaweed.

In the West the seaweed industry is mainly based on these chemical uses, while in the East there are huge seaweed farms where the seaweed is grown for food.



□ **SEAWEED CLASH:** A Cape Town businessman wants to establish a 40 hectare seaweed farm on West Coast near Stompneus Bay but his plans have raised major objections

SA could land a big fish at EU

ST(OT) 19/5/96

(EP) 3 FISHING

By ANDREW TRENCH

FISH could play a surprising role in South Africa's negotiations with the European Union on a free trade agreement.

Spain and Portugal in particular are eager to get their ships in SA waters as fish resources in Europe dwindle.

During a recent visit to South Africa, European Commissioner Emma Bonino raised Europe's interest in a fishing agreement with outgoing Environment Minister Dawie De Villiers.

The approach has been rebuffed with South Africa arguing that it is not in a position to enter talks on the issue as the government is still formulating a white paper on the industry.

However, some SA officials close to the trade talks see the approach for talks on a fishing deal as bit of a cheek when about 40% of the country's agricultural products are excluded from European markets.

However, they do concede that the approach may strengthen South Africa's position at the negotiating table.

Negotiators are trying to seal

an agreement with the European Union which will provide access to the European market — the biggest in the world — without immediately having to allow the Europeans access in return.

There is little in such an agreement for the European Union's member states, some of whom — for instance Spain — have reservations about a deal with South Africa.

But the fish issue has the potential to give the country an incentive to dangle in the talks and could play an important part in securing a favourable deal during the negotiations.

John Mar, political councillor at the SA mission to the European Union who is involved in the negotiations, agrees.

"The fish issue could conceivably be a big issue ... it gives us something that they want."

Filippo di Robilant, Commissioner Bonino's spokesman, says: "We are ready to go. We are very keen to have an agreement."

He says the European Union would like a deal with South Africa which would not simply involve exchanging cash for fish. Instead it is proposing an arrangement of joint ventures and technology transfer.

However, Europe is insisting that a fishing agreement be linked to the broader bilateral talks which include the free trade aspects. This means that all agreements, whether on science and technology, wine names or fishing, have to be negotiated in parallel with and implemented at the same time as a free trade deal.

South Africa's negotiators find this linkage unacceptable. It could place them under pressure to agree to unfavourable aspects of a free trade deal simply to allow minor agreements like that on science and technology to proceed.

Although South Africa has yet to respond formally to the European Commission's opening position in the talks, it is understood that when they do they will reject the position as too restrictive.

Joao Vale de Almeida, spokesman for the European Com-

mission, confirms the Commission's opening position seeks to link all the agreements.

"It is a starting position for negotiations," he said, but added: "We expect to have room for manoeuvre."

"We all know we will have to make a trade-off at some stage," he said.

South African diplomats privately express concern that if the country rejects the European's opening gambit as too restrictive, Europe will simply walk away from the talks.

However, European Commission officials stress this is unlikely. The agreement is not seen as important only in its trade aspects, but also as a possible future model for relations between Europe and other developing nations.

The Lomé Convention, which gives about 70 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries access to the European market, expires in three years time.

The South African talks are being seen as a test of possible new regional agreements which could replace Lomé.

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: Mr Chairperson, I do not deal with this particular part of the department. It has been delegated to my Deputy, who unfortunately cannot be here today. I would suggest that the hon member table the question or obtain the information directly from my office. We are quite prepared to provide any information that the hon senator may require.

Forged fishing licences

*5. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether the Department of Sea Fisheries has been informed of any forged fishing licences which have been issued since the Department ceased to issue licences in 1996; if so, how many such forged licences were issued;
- (2) whether any of these forged licences have been (a) traced and/or (b) confiscated; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (3) whether action has been taken against any persons in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what action?

S278E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) Sea Fisheries was informed of forged squid and linefish permits that was issued during 1995. The following forged permits were issued:
 - (a) 15-man squid permit
 - (b) 8-man linefish permit
 - (c) 9-man squid permit
 - (d) 16-man squid permit
 - (e) 13-man squid permit
 - (f) 9-man squid permit
 - (g) 3-man squid permit
- (2) (a) and (b) All the permits mentioned in (1) were traced and confiscated by Sea Fisheries. A full scale internal investigation is being undertaken by Sea Fisheries to ascertain whether any further forged permits were issued.

(3) A staff member of Sea Fisheries was charged with misconduct. He was subsequently dismissed and a charge of fraud was brought against the staff member at the South African Police Services.

*6. Sen W F MNISI—Education. [Withdrawn]

SABS: announcement of council members

*7. Sen A VAN BREDA asked the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Whether there are any reasons for the delay in announcing the names of the new council members of the South African Bureau of Standards; if not, (a) what are their names, (b) where is each such member currently employed and (c) what are the qualifications of each such member; if so, (i) what are the reasons, (ii) when will their names be announced and (iii) when will their appointment take effect?

S289E

The MINISTER OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY: Mr Chairperson, I feel we are on slippery ground after talking about all those squids. [Laughter.]

The question relates to the SABS. There was no delay as such in appointing this board. When I tabled this matter before Cabinet, there was a query as to whether I was satisfied that there was a degree of continuity between the new board and the old. I indicated to the Deputy Presidents, who had made that request, my view that I believed that there was a degree of continuity and that the persons coming onto the board were of a very high calibre.

Rather than go through all their details and CVs—I will table that—I shall merely indicate the names of these people. They are Dr J P du Plessis, who will remain on the board *ex officio* from his position as president of the council; Dr David Jacobson, who is from Altron; Dr Lorraine Lotter, who is in the Chemical and Allied Industries Association; Mrs Nombulelo Moholi, who is in Telkom; Ms Mdaka, who is in the NEWHCO Group, Goldfields; Mr Peter Masemolo from Nampak; and Mr Kenneth Salo from the Peninsula Technikon.

I shall table their CVs. I think this is a very interesting, representative and quite impressive board.

Following a decision taken by Cabinet on 24 April 1996, and a subsequent discussion regarding the composition of the SABS between both Executive Deputy Presidents and myself,

members have in the meantime, with effect from 1 April 1996 been appointed to the SABS Council for a period of three years.

(a), (b) and (c) Particulars are as follows:

Name	Current employer	Qualifications
Dr J P du Plessis	SABS	
Dr David Jacobson	ALTRON/ALTECH/ POWERTECH/FINTECH Group of Companies	BSc (Eng) (Electrical Eng), Wits, 1963 PhD (Eng) UNIV of London, 1967 Diploma, Imperial College, 1967 Programme for Management Development, UCT, 1987
Dr (Ms) Lorraine Lotter	Chemical and Allied Industries Association	BSc, Stellenbosch, 1970 BSc (Hons) (Biochemistry) RAU, 1982 MSc (Biochemistry), RAU, 1982 PhD (Biochemistry), RAU, 1988 Diploma in Labour Relations, Damelin College, 1987 Certificate of Advanced Business Management, RAU, 1990
Ms Nombulelo Moholi	Telkom	BSc (Eng) UCT, 1984 Several Management Training Courses
Ms Camagwini Mdaka	NEWHCO Group Goldfields	MA (Urban Planning), TUFTS University, Massachusetts, USA, 1985 Diploma Project Management in Construction, WITS, 1991
Mr Peter Masemola	NAMPAK	General Certificate of Education, St John's College, 1981 BSc (Eng), UCT, 1986 Diploma in Business Management, Damelin. Management, Accounting and Language Courses
Mr Kenneth Salo	Peninsula Technikon	BSc UCT, 1978 MSc (Material Science), UCT, 1983 LLB, UWC, 1993 LLB (Environmental Law), UCT, 1995

(i), (ii) and (iii) Fall away.

Hansard (3) FISHING

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For written reply:

New fishing policy finalised

153. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he or his Department has finalised a new fishing policy; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, when is this policy to be implemented;
- (2) whether an interim quota allocation system is to be introduced; if so, (a) what are the relevant details in regard to this system and (b) what mechanisms will be put in place to ensure the proper and regular monitoring of these quotas;
- (3) whether any interim measures have been approved by the Fishing Policy Development Committee to make provision for subsistence fishermen; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

S241E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) No. A draft Fisheries Policy will be submitted by the Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) to the Minister on 4 June 1996. An all out effort will be made via the standard procedures to implement the Policy as soon as possible.
- (2) No. The provisions of the existing Sea Fishery Act, 1988 does not provide for an Interim Quota system.
 - (a) Unknown.
 - (b) Unknown.
- (3) The issue regarding "Interim Relief" has been referred by the FPDC to a Technical Task Team for investigation. The results of this investigation are awaited.

Air pollution levels in provinces

171. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:†

- (1) (a) On how many days during the period 1 January 1996 up to the latest specified date for which information is available did the air pollution levels rise above the nationally acceptable guidelines in each of the provinces, (b) what were the reasons for the increase, in each case, (c) how each of these figures compares to those on the corresponding days in 1995 and (d) what detrimental effects to human health does such pollution have in the (i) short term and (ii) long term;

- (2) whether his Department envisages measures to counter this problem; if not, why not; if so, what measures?

S270A

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) (a) For the period 1 January 1996 to 30 April 1996, the pollution levels did not rise above the accepted guidelines calculated on a 24-hour average, when measures in any province at points which are being monitored on a continuous basis.
 - (b) Falls away.
 - (c) For the period 1 January 1995 to 30 April 1995 very similar measurements as for the corresponding period in 1996 were taken.
 - (d) (i) and (ii) Concentrations below acceptable levels are considered to have no harmful effect on the general population, but it is difficult to determine what the effect for sensitive persons might be.
- (2) It is the policy of the Department to strive continually to reduce the levels of pollution, even if levels are below acceptable guidelines. The Department does this by implementation of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act No 45 of 1965) and regulations.

QUESTIONS

†Indicates translated version.

For oral reply:

Precedence given to Questions *8 and *9:

Delay in ordering of new aircraft

*8. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister for Public Enterprises:

- (1) Whether there was any delay in the ordering of new aircraft from Boeing; if so, (a) what were the reasons and (b) what has been the cost of these delays, taking into account the devaluation of the rand against the dollar during the delay;
- (2) whether South African Airways can be held responsible for possible legal penalties as a result of the delay; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what legal penalties?

S317E

The MINISTER FOR PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (Reply laid upon Table with leave of House):

Transnet Limited furnished the following reply to the hon Senator's question:

- (1) No.
 - (a) The air frames, which Boeing manufactures, were ordered and the necessary down payments and delivery schedules made and agreed upon. There was, however, a delay in the ordering of the engines that will power the new aircraft. The reasons for the delay in the ordering of the engines were:
 - (i) The Government, particularly the Department of Trade and Industry, needed time in which to consider and propose appropriate trade off-set arrangements with all the engine manufacturers that were bidding.
 - (ii) In tandem with the trade off-set process there was a need to revisit the whole aircraft acquisition programme in order to consider alternatives that could pro-

vide SAA with the necessary capacities at the lowest possible cost. This process was made imperative by the resource constraints of Transnet and the need to carefully consider the opportunity cost of each alternative. This process is about to be finalised.

- (b) Any quantification of the cost of the delay in rand or dollar terms would be largely speculative. The only measurable and indisputable cost of the delay is the fact that SAA lost its production slot and would thus take delivery of the new aircraft at a later date. The potential revenue loss relates to the intended increase in frequency on certain routes.

The conclusion of the new aircraft deal prior to the devaluation of the rand against the dollar would not have had a great impact on the total cost of the aircraft to Transnet. The cost of the aircraft would not have been pegged at the prevailing exchange rates on the day on which the deal was signed. Both seller and purchaser normally take the necessary measures to protect themselves from the vicissitudes of currency fluctuations. Transnet did consider whether it was necessary to take forward cover for currency fluctuations.

It was decided not to take that course because SAA is a foreign currency earner which compensates for the cost of downward currency fluctuations and saves the costs of forward cover.

In any case, the finalisation of the finance package for the new aircraft would have, as is customary, been concluded about ten months before the delivery of each aircraft.

- (2) Yes. Since SAA has signed an agreement with Boeing to purchase the aircraft, it is bound by the agreement. The application of the penalties is not, however, automatic. It is normally imposed if all negotiations break down and no other remedy is possible.

Fishing quota 'bias' probed

③ FISHING
POLITICAL WRITER

CT 3/15/96

ALLEGATIONS by fishing communities that big companies had been unfairly favoured in the allocation of fishing quotas is to be probed next week by the National Assembly's Portfolio Committee on Environment Affairs.

The public hearings, under the committee's chairperson ANC MP Mr Peter Mokaba, will be held from Wednesday to Friday next week.

The committee said in a statement that it would investigate allegations from "informal fisherfolk".

"The fisherfolk allege that the Quota Board acts in favour of big business. They perceive big business to be buying quotas in order to rule the Quota Board."

These allegations conflicted with the new fisheries policy which states that resources of the ocean were national assets.

Call for probe into (3) FISHING 'rotten' fishing industry

OCT 4/6/96

BARRY STREEK
POLITICAL WRITER

THE situation in South Africa's R1,8-billion a year fishing industry was "rotten and corrupt" and "economic violence by the privileged few", an all-party Senate committee said yesterday.

The need for an investigation into corruption in fishing was urgent, the select committee on liaison with provinces concluded in its report on the Western Cape.

The scathing report, which is to be debated in the Senate this afternoon, has been published before the start of a three-day investigation into the fishing industry by the National Assembly's portfolio committee on environment affairs.

In its report the Senate committee, which consists of ANC, NP, IFP, FF and DP representatives, said the industry should be restructured completely.

"It is built on a foundation laid by taking advantage of apartheid and the violation of human rights. It abused our people and our labour, leading to the ... enslavement of the fishing communities."

The report continued: "Despite the fact that the commercial fishing industry is a multi-million rand empire, little of these financial rewards have trickled down to coastal communities.

"The story of how once vibrant and thriving villages have been brought to their knees and entombed in abject poverty is a depressing tale of greed, corruption, government mismanagement and overfishing."

The committee said tuna boat owners were not prepared to honour an agreement

reached on April 14 between the Tuna Association, fishermen and the ANC on the employment of foreigners in the place of local fishermen, and fishermen from Namibia were still being recruited. "Alien fishermen provide cheap labour and are not heeding safety precautions.

"Our appeal is to enforce the law by stopping tuna boats from sailing out until the process of official employment takes place. There is an urgent need to investigate corruption in the fishing industry. The Department of Sea Fisheries allocated a hake and a pilchard quota for the first time in 1994 to alleviate poverty.

"The pilchard quota was reduced by 374 tons, whilst the beneficiaries received no compensation. Only part of the debt was paid and the relevant company is still owing the balance.

"Fishermen have been waiting patiently for relief measures to be taken. Broken families, destitution, desperation and hunger are the order of the day."

Historically the right of access to the fishing industry had been controlled by the government-appointed quota board, which had been used as a political vehicle empowering certain groups at the expense of others.

Large companies controlled 80% of the hake quota and also caught the hake allocated to community trusts. Four companies controlled 75% of the anchovy quota and five companies controlled the entire abalone (perlemoen) quota.

"This inequitable distribution ... has created tremendous resentment and distrust." This had exacerbated the need for the development of a national fisheries policy that was acceptable to all.

Recreational fishermen may have to pay

ET 5/6/96

(3) FISHING

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

RECREATIONAL fishermen should pay for licences to fish in the sea and should not be allowed to sell their catches. This was one of the recommendations of the draft National Marine Fisheries Policy released to Minister of Environment Dr Dawie de Villiers yesterday.

Recommendations also include:

- Special licences should be considered for subsistence fishermen, to allow them larger bag limits than recreational fishermen.

- Subsistence harvesters should be allowed to sell selected species of their catches.

- Foreign companies should not be allowed to fish within the 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone.

- Closed seasons should be

used to control catches only if there were good biological reasons.

The policy recommends that the Quota Board be replaced with an Allocation Board and the Sea Fisheries Advisory Committee with a Consultative Advisory Forum. Representative forums and provincial structure will participate on these structures.

Grievances will be referred to an independent appeal board.

Govt committee proposes a new approach on fisheries

(3) FISHING
Samantha Sharpe 5/6/96

THE government-appointed fisheries policy development committee has called for a disbandment of the controversial quota board in favour of a new allocation board and a restructuring of fishing rights.

The committee's draft document, released yesterday, is expected to provide the framework for a white paper on fishing policy, to be ratified by Cabinet.

Committee chairman Mandla Gxanyana said there were still several issues outstanding which government would have to address to ensure that "fisherfolk" were compensated for past imbalances.

These included a financial development arm to provide aid to the informal sector through, for example, an SA fisheries development bank. Interim relief would also have to be introduced.

The document said commercial fishing rights allocation should be governed by an independent statutory body answerable to an appeal board.

Additional changes included a new ministry of fisheries and marine resources, issues which currently fell under environmental affairs and tourism.

3. Proceedings initiated total 1 669.
4. Prosecutions total 368.

Ministers:

Questions standing over from Thursday, 30 May 1996:

Sewage works at Athlone causing air pollution

*1. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether he has been informed of allegations that the sewage works at Athlone are causing air pollution; if so,
- (2) whether he has taken any steps to ascertain the cause of the pollution; if not, why not; if so, (a) what steps and (b) with what result;
- (3) whether he or his Department intends taking any further steps in this regard; if not, why not; if so, what steps?

S300E

The DEPUTY MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) No. No such allegation has been received.
- (2) Falls away.
- (3) No. The management and handling of problems at sewage works is a local authority matter.

Reservation of mineral rights in favour of State

*7. Sen A E VAN NIEKERK asked the Minister of Land Affairs:†

- (1) What is the policy in respect of the reservation of mineral rights in favour of the State in cases where State land is transferred to communities and individuals in terms of (a) the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994), (b) the redistribution policy of his Department and (c) any other agreement;
- (2) whether in any of such cases land has been transferred without the mineral rights in favour of the State having been reserved; if so, in what cases;
- (3) whether any consultation took place between his Department and the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs in this

regard; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

S316E

The MINISTER OF LAND AFFAIRS:

- (1) The existing general policy in respect of the reservation of mineral rights in favour of the State in cases where State land is transferred to communities or individuals is that, should the State be the owner of the mineral rights on the land involved, these rights are not sold or alienated but are reserved for the State—preferably by means of a Certificate of Mineral Rights.
 - (a) Land rights that are being restored in terms of the Restitution of Land Rights Act, 1994 (Act No 22 of 1994) do not perforce include the restitution of mineral rights. It will depend on whether the claimant, prior to disposition, was the owner of the mineral rights to the relevant land. Should that be the case, consideration should be given to the return of such mineral rights to the claimant if the State is still in possession of those mineral rights; and if not, other means of compensation should be considered.
 - (b) In cases where State land is being redistributed by means of sale, donation or being alienated in terms of the Provision of Certain Land for Settlement Act, 1993 (Act No 126 of 1993), the general rule currently applies that, where the State is the owner of the mineral rights, such rights are not alienated but retained for the State. This ruling may, however, be altered or adapted should the new Mineral Policy of the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs make provision for that. The said Department is currently in the process of drafting a White Paper on Minerals, the target date for publication is the end of October 1996.
 - (c) In respect of any other agreement the State may consider the alienation of mineral rights in its possession, but that will depend on the merits of the case and after consultation with the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs.

- (2) In terms of one particular agreement the State has transferred its mineral rights, namely to the Riemvasmaak community. The reason for the restitution of the mineral rights in this case being that the particular community already owned the mineral rights prior to their forced removal.
- (3) Yes. Consultation with the Department of Mineral and Energy Affairs did take place.

New questions:**Fisheries accord with EU**

*1. Sen E K MOORCROFT asked the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism:

- (1) Whether a Fisheries accord has been entered into with the European Union which allows EU vessels access to South African territorial waters; if so, what are the relevant details; if not,
- (2) whether his Department is contemplating entering into such an accord; if not, why not; if so,
- (3) whether any prior consultations with representatives of the fishing industry have taken place in this regard; if not, why not; if so, (a) who was consulted and (b) what was the extent of the consultation?

S336E

The MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM:

- (1) No.
- (2) The Department was approached by the European Union with a request to consider a comprehensive fisheries agreement. It was clearly indicated to the European Union that the question of access and related matters could only be addressed after the tabling of the report of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee.
- (3) No.

The issue of foreign fishermen in local waters forms part of the report of the Sea Fisheries Policy Development Committee and was also debated by the committee who also returned a verdict thereon.

Burglaries at embassies

*2. Sen M G E WILEY asked the Minister for Safety and Security:†

- (1) Whether any burglaries at embassies in the Republic have been reported in the past calendar year; if so, (a) at which embassies, (b) what items were stolen and (c) what was the value of the stolen items;
- (2) whether any persons have been arrested for such burglaries; if so, how many;
- (3) whether the Government makes any provision for security at embassies in the Republic; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? S338E

The DEPUTY MINISTER FOR SAFETY AND SECURITY:

[Latest specified period: January 1996 till 6 June 1996]

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) (1) Swiss Embassy, Claremont, Western Cape
 - (2) Lebanese Embassy, Norwood, Gauteng
 - (3) Lebanese Embassy, Norwood, Gauteng
 - (b) (1) One radio
One binocular
Medical prescribed sunglasses
One watch
Two pairs of earrings
String of pearls
 - (2) One personal Toshiba computer and printer
One professional Minolta fully automatic camera with lens
One Canon camera—Sure Shot Mega Zoom 105
One Sony radio
One Goldstar T.V.
One Christian Dior Fountain pen and ballpoint set—silver
One Sheaffer Fountain pen
One Casio calculator
R17 500 cash
Dining room keys
 - (3) One Ericsson cellular phone
One Panasonic KX-T4001B phone 220 V

Fisheries policy 'tarnished'

FISHING 3 OCT 6/1996

A SENIOR member of the Eastern Cape Legislature claims there are "blatant untruths" in a draft fisheries policy document. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

A SENIOR member of the Eastern Cape Legislature has slammed the new draft fisheries policy as "tarnished" and says vital tape recordings of the policy forum meetings are missing.

Mr Andre de Wet, chairman of the Eastern Cape's standing committee on economic affairs, environment and tourism, says "blatant untruths" have been written into the minutes of the plenary proceeding.

He has called for an independent investigation into "possible deliberate manipulation" of the drafting of the document and the recording process.

This emerged yesterday when

De Wet gave evidence at the National Assembly portfolio committee on environment affairs, which is holding a three-day session to hear public complaints about the fishing industry.

"The accuracy of the recording of the minutes and the drafting of the document is highly questionable. Why are there blatant inaccuracies and untruths written into the draft minutes of the plenary (proceeding)?" De Wet asked.

"Why are some of the audio tapes of the plenary proceeding now missing — tapes containing crucial information?"

"Why has the policy document been changed, directly contradict-

ing decisions agreed to (on Monday)?" De Wet asked.

He said the altered clauses had resulted in "total protection of big business" and tied 90% of quotas to the Western Cape.

The Eastern Cape got only 6 000 tons of the 58 000 tons of pilchards and only 1 800 tons of the 148 000 tons of hake.

He said the policy document could not be used as a foundation in developing a White Paper unless there was an investigation into the competency of the recording process and the drafting process.

Some of the clauses which have caused problems concern:

- The allocation of rights to marine resources by provincial authorities.

- The definition of "inshore resource" and of "low mobility" marine resources.

- The development of fisheries and their contribution to the RDP.

De Wet said the Eastern Cape had the longest coastline of the four maritime provinces, but had been allocated a minimal proportion of the access rights to marine resources.

"Western Cape vessels are completely dominating the harvesting of resources found along the Eastern Cape coast. The harvest is being landed, processed and marketed in the Western Cape. This is a situation that cannot be tolerated any longer," De Wet said.

He wanted the chairman of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee, Mr Mandla Gxanyana, to come up with a version of the policy that accurately reflected the decisions of all members of the policy forum and to have the members sign it as accurate.

TRC to restart in Kimberley

STAFF WRITER

TRUTH and Reconciliation Commission public hearings resume in Kimberley on Monday after a two-week break.

Commission media liaison officer Ms Christelle Terreblanche said about 18 cases of gross human rights violations would be heard, because many of the 150 Northern Cape witnesses had chosen not to tell their stories in public.

In an attempt to avoid further Supreme Court litigation, the commission has warned 10 alleged perpetrators of human rights abuses that they could be exposed by witnesses in Kimberley.

Fishing quota allocations 'racist'

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

AN unemployed black fisherman, so broke he didn't even have train-fare, yesterday gave evidence to the National Assembly portfolio committee on Environment Affairs about his "racist exclusion" from fishing quota allocations.

Xhosa-speaking Mr Dave Fisher told the committee, which is hearing complaints about the fishing industry, that he had been at sea on and off since 1968. He had applied to the Quota Board for a fishing quota every year since 1974, but had never been given one.

"I'm asking what is it I

should do to be a quota-holder. People who are not fishermen get quotas. I observed coloureds get preference over blacks. We blacks don't get employed in the fishing industry," he said.

He said he had been jobless for the past two years and lived in a shack.

A West Coast fisherwoman gave evidence on behalf of her husband who was confined to a wheelchair. Mrs T April described the rise and fall of her family's fishing business which was started in the 1950s.

"That was long before the Quota Board, when we could just catch fish. My family had two small boats. They worked the sea until they had 14 boats.

When the quota system was brought in her family was allocated only a small quota and the family business declined.

"Today we have just one boat and all my five sons work on the boat. We have tried to get the quota increased, but we can't."

Another West Coast fisherman, Mr Hendrik Mostert, said in St Helena Bay people who were not fishermen — including a dominee, a teacher and a secretary — had received quotas.

He said the West Coast Fishing Development Corporation had illegally obtained a quota in the names of 345 fishermen. The fishermen had taken the matter to court, but had to drop the case because of lack of funds.

ET 7/6/96

Kalk Bay crayfish quota blocked, alleges Wiley

(3) FISHING

**BARRY STREEK
AND PETER DENNEHY**

DEPARTMENT of Fisheries officials were blocking the allocation of a crayfish quota to the Kalk Bay fishing community, Senator Mark Wiley alleged yesterday.

The community faces serious hardship after the loss of its 30-ton quota, worth R1 million a year.

The quota had been held by a community trust, but a Supreme Court ruling last year held that only a person could hold a quota, not a trust. The trust had been set up on the advice of the Department of Fisheries, Wiley said.

An attempt by the community to "get its house in order" had been thwarted by officials from the department, Wiley claimed.

Quota Board secretary Mr Fanie Fourie said yesterday the board had to abide by the court's decision.

He referred the Cape Times to the judgment, which concludes

that the act says quotas may be granted to persons, but trusts are not persons.

They are also "inappropriate mechanisms for achieving the board's purpose" of conserving resources and uplifting communities at the same time.

In areas other than Kalk Bay, quotas granted to trusts had led to conflict because of uncertainty over who would benefit.

Fourie said if the trust turned into something else, there was no guarantee it would get a quota.

Wiley said the new documents, submitted six weeks ago, had been withheld from the Quota Board because officials did not like the way they were structured.

In the meanwhile the quota was granted to someone else.

Wiley called the decision a disgrace, saying the quota had been reallocated "even though they (officials) knew Kalk Bay was getting its house in order".

He had appealed to Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers and to the Quota Board and hoped the community would be granted relief soon to enable it to make some catches before the season closed.

The fishermen had been granted a special quota for 30 tons of crayfish in the late 1980s to compensate them for loss of income after significant parts of False Bay were declared a fishing reserve.

They formed a community trust, the Kalk Bay Lobster and Commercial Line Fishing Association, the first of 33 such trusts established in the Western Cape.

Wiley said the Kalk Bay community trust had got its legal act together but a departmental official seconded to the Quota Board had blocked its registration.

The loss of its quota had jeopardised 174 fisherman, 34 retired fishermen, and the insurance and mooring fees of its members.

Fishermen blockade harbour

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

ST(CM) 9/6/96

(3) FISHING

EASTERN Cape fishermen yesterday launched a blockade of Port Elizabeth harbour, barring all Western Cape vessels from entering the harbour area in protest against "severe imbalances" in the allocation of fishing rights.

The fishermen also called on all Eastern Cape-registered boats to support the blockade and to ensure that no fishing vessels go to sea as from tomorrow following the failure of the new draft Fisheries Policy to sort out their grievances.

A number of private speedboats were patrolling off Port Elizabeth and East London to enforce the blockade.

Gavin Roberts, chairman of the Eastern Cape Fishermens Association, also claimed that they had chartered a helicopter to help them keep Western Cape vessels out of their waters.

"This time we are going all out and if they first want to see one of their vessels burnt down we will," an angry Mr Roberts said.

Eastern Cape fishing union officials had also made radio contact with most of the Western Cape fleet in the area and appealed to them to stay away from local ports, he added. In most cases the crews had been sympathetic and had headed back to sea.

The blockade is the result of discontent among Eastern Cape fishermen over a draft policy handed to Environment and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers earlier this week.

Eastern Cape fishing representatives claimed the final document had been altered and called for a ministerial investigation into the alleged disappearance of vital audio and video tapes which were recorded during discussion sessions to draw up a new fishing policy.

An Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature member, Andre de Wet, said the blockade was an "expression of frustration" from fishermen on the ground.

He said in terms of the new draft policy, Western Cape fishing companies were favoured in the allocation of fishing rights to the detriment of those in the Eastern Cape.

He complained that Eastern Cape fishermen had for years been "deprived and disadvantaged" and had hoped that their participation in the drafting of the new policy would end this.

"Andy Johnston, a representative of Cape Town's informal fishing sector, said his organisation had pledged full support for

their counterparts in the Eastern Cape.

Mr Johnston said big business "has not made any effort to find a solution".

Mr Richard Ball, who runs the Independent Fishing Co-operative from Cape Town, admitted that some of his fishing boats might have been in Eastern Cape waters yesterday, but added that he was "not particularly concerned".

● Charges of corruption in the fishing industry would be referred to the Public Protector and police for further investigation, environmental affairs and tourism committee chairman Peter Mokaba said yesterday.

A three-day hearing this week into the fishing industry had painted a grim picture of abject poverty, corruption, intimidation and general crime, Mr Mokaba said.



MOTION AT THE OCEAN:

Performers from the Kaida Dance Theatre go through their routine at Muizenberg before their new show, which opens tonight at the New Africa Theatre Project in Lower Main Road, Observatory. They are Glen Leedenberg, left, Gregg Adams, Julia Nowicki and Geli Schubert.

Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

'Sea Fisheries helped break us'

(3) FISHING ET 10/6/96

Kalk Bay plea to regain quota

HOW a West Coast fishing family lost their thriving business. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Walters family on the West Coast once owned 34 boats and employed 1 400 people in a thriving fishing business. Today Mr Delli Walters, whose grandfather started fishing in Paternoster in 1911 and built the village for his staff, has just three boats and a staff of only 50.

In evidence before the portfolio committee on environment affairs, which is investigating complaints in the fishing industry, Walters told of corruption, underhand dealings and discrimination that led to the downfall of the family business.

Said Walters: "I don't think there is a family in the fishing industry more discriminated against than us. My father was a big, healthy man, but the day he died he looked like a living corpse."

Although they reported many of the incidents to the police, he says the attorney-general declined to prosecute "because of all the important people involved".

His father's attorneys died in suspicious circumstances and Walters received threatening phone calls, as did a reporter who was covering the story in the '70s.

Their troubles began when Santam's then chief, Mr Karel van Aswegan, and Santam's Vredenburg branch manager, Mr Jan Snyman, suggested to Walters' father, Dawid, that he form a company.

Paternoster Visserye Pty Ltd was founded in 1958 and all his father's



DOWNFALL: Paternoster resident Mr Delli Walters told the portfolio committee on environment affairs of discrimination in the fishing industry that deprived his family of a thriving fishing business. **PICTURE: ANNE LAING**

assets were transferred into it. It was later found that Van Aswegan and Snyman had issued shares to themselves and had gained control of the company. Police said Walters senior had a "good case" but the attorney-general declined to prosecute because of the "important people" involved.

When they got a quota in the name of Walters Brothers for crayfish, Sea Fisheries put the quota in the name of Paternoster Visserye without their knowledge.

Eventually Walters senior got a court order making all the company books available to him. Before he could see them, the safe was "stolen" and found lying outside the factory with the books missing.

Walters senior was advised by the attorney-general's office to take the matter to court, but by then they did not have enough money.

The company was taken over by the then deputy environment minister Mr Jan Haak, Mr Albertus Marais and Mr Louis Pienaar — later minister of environment.

"After these incidents it became clear we were discriminated against by the Department of Sea Fisheries," Walters said in evidence.

When his boat Deo Gloria ran aground, Sea Fisheries refused to transfer his sardine licence to his replacement boat. In 1978 Sea Fisheries withdrew his licence to catch hake from his boat Patricia, giving no reason.

In 1975 his licence to pack crayfish at his Paternoster factory was withdrawn. In 1982 he was the only private boat owner refused a crayfish quota. In 1990 his boat Leslie sank and Sea Fisheries refused to transfer his licence to the new boat he was building.

"I believe that I was discriminated against deliberately so that I would not be in a financial position to help my father pay for court action to regain of our company, Paternoster Visserye," he said.

● The leader of the Senate, Dr Sam Motsuenyane, said yesterday that it would investigate allegations of corruption in the fishing industry.

THE Kalk Bay fishing community faces financial disaster if its quotas are not restored in time for it to catch its share of rock lobster, Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers has been told.

Mr Jannie Momberg, ANC Member of Parliament, has supported a call by NP senator Mr Mark Wiley for urgent action to restore the quota, removed in terms of a legal technicality.

"I believe what has happened is grossly unfair and should be put right immediately," Momberg says in a letter to De Villiers.

The season ends this month, but the Kalk Bay Lobster and Commercial Line Fishing Association says in a memorandum that a 30-ton quota could be caught in 14 days. — Political Writer

Fishing industry to be investigated

③ FISHING

CAPE TOWN — Charges of corruption and crime in the SA fishing industry would be referred to the Public Protector and police for further investigation, environmental affairs and tourism committee chairman Peter Mokaba said on Saturday.

A three-day hearing into the industry had painted a grim picture of poverty, corruption, intimidation and general crime, he said. Mokaba said monopolies within the industry and the concentration of wealth and resources in a "few white hands" contributed to poverty among the 1,8-million people dependent on the industry.

According to the Fishing Industries Handbook 1994, 93% of the marine resources were in the hands of only eight companies. Of the 2 700 registered commercial fishing boats in SA, 7% had black owners and only 6% of 4 000 commercial fishing licences were awarded to blacks.

"Policy must create space for

the co-existence of small, medium and big industry," said Mokaba.

Referring to the allegations of corruption, Mokaba said the government would act firmly to root out crime in the industry.

Past policies which produced "dire inequalities in the industry" would be repealed and replaced.

According to evidence before the committee, some workers had no access to unemployment insurance, pensions, medical schemes or worker compensation benefits.

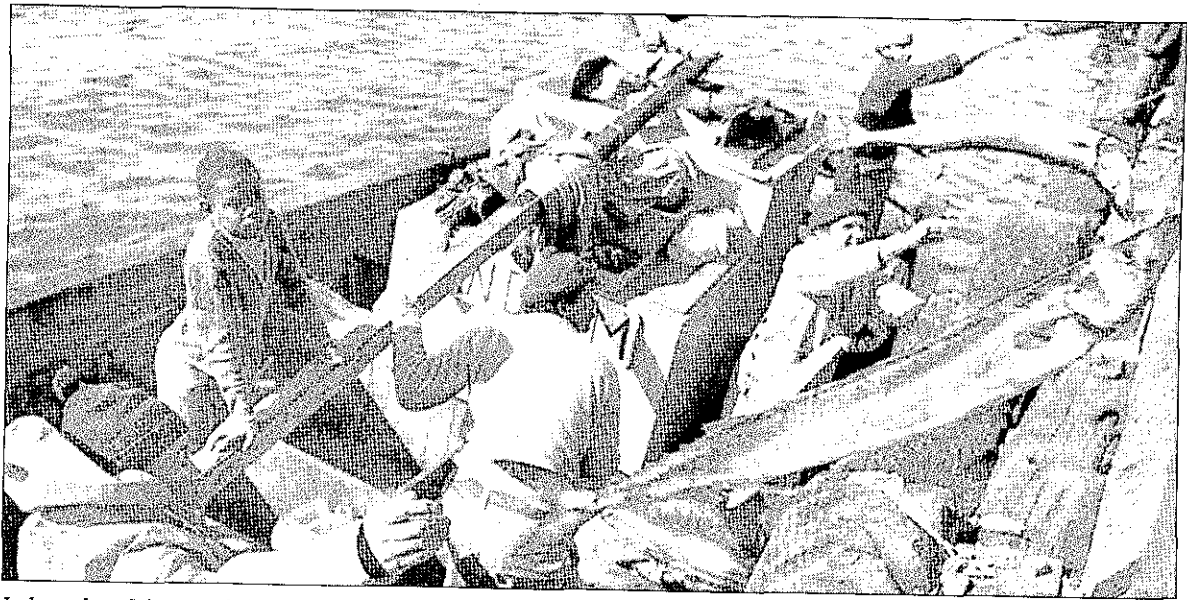
The quota board and its guidelines also came under criticism.

"We heard evidence by self-confessed poachers who claimed that as long as the law is unjust and not equitable, they would find no reason not to poach," said Mokaba.

Local fishermen voiced concern about foreign workers and licences awarded to foreigners.

Co-operation was needed between the navy and sea fisheries inspectorate to police and monitor resources, Mokaba said. — Sapa.

SD 10/6/95



Independent fishermen feel they have been short-changed by the National Marine Fisheries Policy

Fishing for quotas

Ann Crotty

This is perhaps not a good time to be 'big' in fishing. A three day hearing last week in Cape Town into alleged irregularities in the way fishing rights are being allocated and regulated by the Quota Board rapidly dissolved into a platform for small independent fishermen to attack the giants in the industry — a confrontation between the haves and have-nots.

Representatives of the large fishing companies who had turned up expecting to hear allegations of irregularities in quota allocations in the past year, found themselves instead in the spotlight, having to defend the dominance of big business in the industry.

As this was being digested, the Fisheries Policy Development Committee issued the final draft of its National Marine Fisheries Policy for South Africa. The document is set to become the white paper for the fishing industry and will form the basis of changes to legislation on fishing quotas.

The committee, set up by Dawie de Villiers, the departing environmental affairs minister, about 19 months ago, was instructed by him to make fisheries policy more representative and accountable to a broader community.

The essence focuses on quota allocations and the complaints by South Africa's estimated 30 000-strong independent fishing community that they have been given a raw deal.

With this sort of directive, it was probably inevitable that the committee was going to overcompensate.

Its attempts to get input from almost every player in the industry ensured that the process of drawing up the document would be lengthy.

JSE analysts said that it ensured the final document would comprise a lot of generalisations rather than firm policy guidelines. It did.

The final draft does little to clear up the uncertainty that prevails in the industry.

Independent fishermen believe they have been short-changed and have pledged to attach a minority report. Representatives of the large fishing companies — Oceana, Sea Harvest, Marine Products Irvin & Johnson and

Premier Fishing — have drawn little comfort from the document and remain nervous about their quotas being slashed in an attempt by the government to deflect charges that it is pandering to corporate South Africa.

New legislation is not expected to come into force until 1998, however. Until then, the Quota Board, which reports to the environment minister, will continue to allocate quotas on the basis of the guidelines that were approved by the Minister of Home Affairs and Environment in March 1993. In view of the pressure the board has been subjected to in recent months from the independent fishermen, it is possible that this ad hoc approach may favour them to the cost of the large companies and their employees.

This will not solve the industry's core problem, however; fishing resources are finite and the demand for a share of them seems almost infinite.

In allocating quotas, it is necessary to balance the need to ensure efficient utilisation of the resource with the need to ensure the broadest spread of benefits.

The big companies are confident that they can ensure the most efficient utilisation of resources.

They not surprisingly argue that by providing secure employment for thousands in the industry they are spreading the benefits broadly. The unions in the industry broadly support this view.

This support is linked to job security. The large companies have said that quota cuts would necessitate reductions in employee numbers.

The independents claim to be more efficient in the areas in which they compete with the big companies. They forcefully argue that the benefits of their efforts are spread through whole communities.

Analysts say that the areas in which big companies face most threat are those basically inshore — where the resource can be fished by small players with limited resources. This leaves open most of the fishing sectors, except deep-sea trawling and pelagic (pilchard and anchovy).

These two sectors overwhelm the industry

CT(BR) 11/6/96 (3) FISHING

in terms of annual sales and are dominated by large companies.

Anglo Vaal's Irvin & Johnson and Tiger's Sea Harvest dominate the quota allocation for deep sea hake. The total annual catch for deep-sea fish is about 165 000 tons of which hake accounts for 151 000 tons.

Annual sales in the deep-sea trawling industry, which provides about 80 percent of the fresh and frozen fish consumed by South Africans, is about R800 million. It is the leading foreign exchange earner in the fisheries sector, and exports constitute R290 million. The industry employs just over 8 000 people.

In pelagic, the total annual catch is 23 000 tons for pilchard and 256 000 tons for anchovy. According to the committee's report, the pelagic fishery "from catch to customer" is also controlled almost exclusively by larger companies.

The three dominant pelagic companies are Marine Products which is a subsidiary of Foodcorp, Oceana and Saldanha Bay (Silvermans).

Though financially more secure, the companies that dominate these two sectors now face significant threats. These are more serious in view of the R1 billion capital invested in them and the need for substantial capex - issues frequently used by the established companies as justification for securing their quotas. The ownership profile, one of a limited number of white-owned and controlled companies, puts the authorities in a difficult position.

For this reason, companies are manipulating their ownership structures. At Premier Fishing, employees are involved in management and have 20 per cent of the company.

Oceana has changed its ownership profile by bringing in Rail as a big shareholder, but there has been little change in employee participation. I&J has yet to implement a scheme.

But there is a long way to go. As was highlighted by last week's hearing into the Quota Board, pressure on the Government to spread the benefits of fishing South Africa's remaining stock will grow.

The question is whether that is achievable without damaging the viability of the industry's leaders.



GOIN' FISHING: Kalk Bay fishermen are all set to go to sea after hearing that Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers had restored their historical right to a crayfish quota. **PICTURE: THEM BINKOSI DWAYISA**

Jubilant fishermen win quota back

ET 11/6/96

③ FISHING

MELANIE GOSLING
ENVIRONMENT WRITER

THE Kalk Bay fishing community was jubilant when Environment Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers "restored" their crayfish quota by allocating them 20 tons yesterday.

"Our boats are ready and waiting. As soon as the permit reaches us we're going out to sea. The crayfish season closes at the end of June, but we can catch our quota by then."

"Man, we hear this news with the greatest relief, and we must thank Senator Mark Wiley and Mr Jannie Momberg for taking up our cause. We've been shunted from pillar to post for months trying to get our quota back," said Mr Eddie

Rosslind, of the Kalk Bay Lobster and Linifishing Association.

De Villiers said the 20-ton quota allocation rectified an "administrative oversight" when the 1-500-ton crayfish quota was allocated by the Quota Board at the start of the crayfish season last November.

In 1987 the Kalk Bay fishermen were granted a special quota for 30 tons of crayfish by the then environment minister Mr John Wiley to compensate for loss of income after parts of False Bay were declared a fishing reserve.

They were advised by Sea Fisheries to put the quota into a community trust. The quota was lost when the Supreme Court ruled last year that only a person, not a trust, could hold a quota.

Said Rosslind: "We've got 172 people who benefit from the quota. We also support 52 old guys who have retired from fishing who we give R600 a year each. We've been fishing here, ag for generations, and we're trying to keep Kalk Bay alive. If we hadn't got our quota back, our insurance scheme for the fishermen would have lapsed, and our death and disability scheme because we would not have had the money to pay them."

De Villiers said the 20 tons had been "borrowed" from next year's Total Allowable Catch.

The Kalk Bay community would have to apply next season for a quota the same as the rest of the fishing industry.

"I'm well aware that other com-

munities who lost their fishing rights as a result of the Supreme Court ruling may feel aggrieved.

"In making this adjustment for the Kalk Bay community only, I have taken into account their claim to the resource in terms of historical rights granted by the late Minister John Wiley."

Wiley, who gave evidence about the community's plight before the environment portfolio committee last week, said he was delighted that De Villiers had taken such a humane decision.

"He has restored a right which should never have been tampered with," Wiley said.

Momberg welcomed the move and said the fishermen had been victims of a "gross injustice".

Fishermen refuse to lift blockade

Own Correspondent

PORT ELIZABETH — Reports of booming chokka catches and numerous claims of intimidation are fanning the flames of anger at the Port Elizabeth harbour where striking fishermen have resolved to continue their blockade.

Fishing industry officials were yesterday trying to calm the situation after a meeting failed to

60 11/6/96
produce an agreement.

But a source in the industry noted that two factors were going to affect the situation: the chokka are biting and chokka fishermen work on a commission. Because of this the conflict was likely to worsen between those determined to go on fishing and those who wanted to strike.

Portnet yesterday obtained a court interdict preventing striking fish-

ermen from interfering with port activities.

③ FISHING
Fishermen led by the Food and Allied Workers' Union launched a blockade of the harbour on Saturday to support their demands for "a living wage".

Chokka fetches R20 to R24 a kilogram on the export market and chokka fishermen are paid R3 to R4 a kilogram. The boat owner earns up to R18 a kilogram.

Senate to probe 'fishy business'

POLITICAL WRITER

(3) FISHING
CT 12/6/96

THE announcement by the leader of the Senate, Dr Sam Motsuenyane, that alleged corruption in the fishing industry would be officially investigated was welcomed yesterday by the Democratic Party.

The DP also recommended that the Fishing Policies Development Committee be completely reconstituted "to represent the broad spectrum of stakeholders from all affected provinces".

Motsuenyane has pointed out that the evidence given to the Senate Committee of Liaison with the Provinces about corruption claims by Mr Andy Johnson will have to be verified as they were submissions.

FISHING INDUSTRY

③ FISHING

BAITING THE HOOK

AM 14/6/96

The draft fisheries policy released last week attempts to broaden access to fishing rights within the existing quota system. It falls far short of the expectations of the Cape Coast's 2 285 informal fishermen who have produced their own report calling for the abolition of quotas in the one-mile offshore zone.

And it has raised the ire of Eastern Cape fishermen who blockaded Port Elizabeth harbour last weekend, claiming the report has been doctored and that it favours the Western Cape in the allocation of quotas.

The Fisheries Policy Development Committee (FPDC) established by Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers to produce the draft policy as a forerunner to a White Paper, aims to eliminate the shortcomings of the old quota system by replacing the Quota Board with a new, accountable and transparent Allocation Board, an independent appeal board and a consultative advisory forum with direct participation by representative fishing forums.

Western Cape informal fishermen

representative Andy Johnston says they favour a two-tier structure — deep-sea trawlers will be subject to existing quotas, but the private fisherman will be free to operate close to shore under minimum control.

Fishing communities will each be allocated a total allowable catch by an independent scientific body. There will be open access for fishermen who satisfy certain broad criteria. Catching methods, hours and boat sizes will be limited and standardised "to level the playing fields so that skill will determine reward."

Fishermen who testified before parliament's environmental affairs committee last week accused the Quota Board of robbing and dividing once-thriving fishing communities through the racially discriminatory allocation of quotas.

The committee heard of quotas being allegedly awarded to people outside the fishing industry, of nepotism and political favouritism in the allocation of quotas and of marked-up quotas being resold inside 24 hours.

It was told that fishermen were allegedly used to lend their names to quota applications on the understanding that the large firms applying would make use of their services if successful, only to be betrayed or locked into agreements stipulating that they sell their entire catch to the quota-holder at a set price.

Committee chairman Peter Mokaba voiced concern over the fact that more than 90% of marine resources are in the hands of a few large companies, saying that the concentration of wealth and resources in a "few white hands" contributed to poverty among the 1,8m people dependent on the industry.

He said evidence of illegalities would be referred to the Public Protector, who is investigating corruption in the industry.

The FPDC's draft policy seeks to broaden access to the industry to address past imbalances without threatening the existence of established industries. There will be no arbitrary or sudden removal or decrease of the access rights of any holder. Where rights are affected, fair compensation must be awarded.

It suggests that all existing industry members pay a special rental on their fishing rights, in lieu of a purchase price, to fund such compensation and to provide assistance to new entrants.

Government is likely to appoint a facilitator to take the FPDC's proposals further and to negotiate a compromise with all affected parties. ■

No easy solutions to sharing the fish pie

(3) FISHING CT 18/6/96

WHO gets the largest share of the ever-dwindling fish pie? Big business or the small guys?

This is the biggest headache in the fishing industry today — how to cut up the marine pie fairly to an ever-increasing number of people who want a slice.

The problem was highlighted by the release of the draft National Marine Fisheries Policy and the public hearings before the parliamentary environment portfolio committee last week.

The draft policy and the public hearing focused on the thorny question of access. They also looked at the imbalances of the apartheid past, where many people lost, or never had, rights to marine resources.

The public hearings seemed to raise two main issues. First, alleged favouritism (at best) or corruption (at worst) by the authorities in the way marine resources had been allocated. Second, a stand-off between the haves and the have-nots. Big business defended their dominance in the industry, while the small guys accused them of



THE DRAFT FISHERIES policy, which will form the basis of future legislation, is hot on ideas but not on solutions, writes Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING**.

enriching themselves at the expense of people who had been excluded from access to the sea's bounty due to apartheid.

There were some moving tales. A West Coast woman, Mrs April, her face lined and leathery from years at sea, told of how her family's fishing business had been built up from two boats in the 1950s to 14. They fished in Bokbaai when there were no tarred roads and when they used to transport the kreef in canvas sacks on the back of tractors.

Today, through lack of access to quotas and licences, her family's thriving business which once employed scores of locals, now has just one boat on which all five her sons work and battle to make a living from a small crayfish quota.

Paternoster's Mr Delli Walters, whose grandfather founded the little West Coast fishing village, told of how their business plunged from a thriving concern of 34 boats and 1 400 employees, to one with just three boats and about 50 staff. Supported by piles of documents, he told a story of alleged corruption, underhand dealings and discrimination by the authorities that led to his family's downfall.

Then there was Mr Mostert, a fisherman for 26 years, who told of how a small company used his name falsely with hundreds of others to get the Quota Board to issue them a quota.

The general plea was "give us quotas, which are our historical right, and allow us to make an honest living".

Big business's stance is clear. While some concede the inshore fishing industry (such as crayfish and perlemoen) should be restructured, they believe offshore fishing is not a small operator's game. They say it is an industrial business, and

industrial fishing is the way to create maximum wealth from this natural resource. It needs vast amounts of capital — a large trawler costs about R60 million and its daily operating costs are about R30 000 — and so they need big tonnages. The big companies used to hold 100% of the hake quotas in the late '70s, and now have about 72% — 18% having been allocated to "new entrants".

I&J's managing director, Mr Roy Gordon, said: "We didn't acquire the quotas by dint of favour — we earned the right through hard work and sweat. We started the hake industry in 1910, not the West Coast communities. About 40 or 50 hake companies came and went over the years and the quotas were

allocated to those who survived."

He believes it would be wrong to take quotas away from big business "on the altar of political correctness". Large numbers of people would lose their jobs and the country would lose a sizable amount in taxes and foreign exchange.

The draft policy recognises this dilemma. It agrees access rights have been granted to a limited number of people and that in the new South Africa people expect access rights to be broadened.

But it also points out that although only a few people hold access rights now, they generate jobs for 27 000 people in an industry with a wholesale value of R1,19 billion. The salaries in the pelagic industry alone come to R60m a year.

The draft policy is clear that opening access to everyone is out. The industry would be impossible to control, would be financially inefficient and would eventually result in the commercially exploitable fishing stocks being wiped out.

So what does it propose? That quotas are gradually reduced until a fair redistribution has been achieved, after which market forces would take over and the "need for preferential treatment would disappear".

There is no indication of how long this reduction would take.

Amnesty for poachers? The document says they will have to show conclusively that past policies did not result in their unfair exclusion.

The policy also suggests introducing special licences for subsistence people to allow them larger bag limits than recreational fishermen, as they are collecting essential food.

The document is clear on one thing — that sustainable yields have to remain the guiding principle of fish management and allocating rights would be critical in not distorting the free market system.

Does the document, which will form the basis of future legislation, answer the question of who gets what share of the fish pie? The draft policy is good on ideas, not so hot on solutions.

Kreef pose sizeable problem

(3) FISHING ET 20/6/96

THE FISHING INDUSTRY has been badly affected by the slow growth of rock lobsters. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

SCIENTISTS are still trying to find out why our local rock lobsters have shown such a dramatic drop in growth rates — from 5mm a year to as low as 1mm — which has had a disastrous effect on the local fishing industry.

Sea Fisheries scientists have also revealed that under severely adverse conditions, rock lobsters have shrunk in size.

The slow-growing kreef, first noticed in 1988, are found along the West Coast from Port Nolloth to Cape Point.

Sea Fisheries now think the drop in growth may be connected to a series of environmental events in which the El Nino weather phenomenon played a major part.

In a paper soon to be published, they examine the association between the low growth of rock lobsters and productivity changes in the southern Benguela ecosystem caused by the El Nino years between 1990 and 1993.

Sea Fisheries rock lobster specialist Dr Andy Cockcroft said yesterday: "The phenomenon is still not thoroughly understood, but there is no doubt that the underlying cause for reduced growth rates is related to food supplies. We're trying to relate this to various environmental factors which prevailed in the southern

CRASH OF CRAYFISH POPULATION

SEASON	TAC (tons)	LANDINGS (tons)
1988/89	4 000	4 000
1989/90	3 900	3 491
1990/91	3 790	2 996
1991/92	2 400	2 480
1992/93	2 200	2 176
1993/94	2 200	2 177
1994/95	2 000	1 958
1995/96	1 500	—

*TAC = Total Allowable Catch

Benguela ecosystem during the late 1980s and early 1990s."

These environmental factors include the effects of the El Nino Southern Oscillation — a weather phenomenon in the Pacific Ocean which affects world weather patterns and is associated with severe drought in southern Africa.

El Nino also affects ocean ecosystems. In the southern Benguela ecosystem, off the West Coast, the El Nino caused a change in normal wind patterns.

There were fewer and weaker southerly winds which meant less upwelling in the sea and in turn meant less nutrient-rich water reached the surface to be used as food by phytoplankton. Phyto-

plankton are the primary producers of the seas, and if these minute plants don't get enough to eat, it has a ripple effect on the rest of the food chain.

During the El Nino years there was also a high number of toxic red tides on the West Coast, which caused huge shellfish deaths. Autumn storms caused wash-outs of mussels already weakened by red tides, and in 1994 a severe "black tide" caused thousands of fish, rock lobsters and organisms such as crabs, mussels and sponges to die.

Mussels are the most important source of food for rock lobsters.

Said Cockcroft: "All these events meant that the quantity and quality of food for rock lob-



RARITY: City restaurateur Mr Leon Evlambiou with an increasingly rare monster crayfish.

sters were reduced. Not only was there not enough food available for the lobsters, but there was not enough food available for the creatures they lived on either, which reduced their quality."

Cockcroft said the growth rates of lobster were still being monitored.

"There seems to be a slight improvement since 1990, but it is nowhere what it was before. We don't know how long it will be before it gets back to what it was."

Because rock lobster are growing more slowly, they take longer to reach the legal minimum size limit, which means the total allowable catch has been drastically cut over the years.

Fishermen throw line to PE strikers

ST (UM) 23/6/96

3 FISHING

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

Small Business Development Corporation.

WESTERN Cape fishermen have voted to help their striking counterparts in the Eastern Cape even though the Eastern Cape fishermen recently blockaded their ports against them.

Local fishermen voted to inform the Fisheries Development Unit (FDU) that funds collected from them over the past 20 years must be used to support the Eastern Cape strikers.

The money is to come from funds that fishermen for years have contributed through a levy to a former union. They believe the fund has grown to tens of millions of rands.

The strike by Eastern Cape fishermen was sparked by the release of a Draft Fisheries Policy earlier this month.

They claimed the policy failed to address the fishermen's plight.

The fishermen's grievances included claims that the Western Cape-based industry was favoured in terms of quota allocation.

To highlight their discontent, the fishermen barred all Western Cape-registered vessels from entering their harbour.

Earlier this week chaos erupted in Port Elizabeth when striking fishermen stormed the offices of the Food and Allied Workers' Union and demanded that the union pay them strike relief.

According to sources in the area, the fishermen believed that they could be paid from the FDU fund, a point now agreed to by their Western Cape colleagues.

The FDU came into being two years ago and was set up to provide financial backing for fishermen who wanted to start their own fishing businesses.

Eastern Cape fishermen claimed they had been promised money from this fund for the duration of their strike.

According to West Coast fisherman and organiser, Hendrik Mostert, most fishermen had for many years contributed to the former fishermen's union, Viskor, which has since been taken over by the

Earlier this year the fishermen decided to have their money transferred from the SBDC to the FDU, which they consider a more representative body.

Mr Mostert said most fishermen lacked security and battled to qualify for funding from the SBDC, and they thought the FDU option would ensure easier access to funding.

"Although some may argue that this money actually belongs to Western Cape fishermen, it must be understood that all fishermen were deprived by the SA fishing dispensation."

He said until a policy that truly accommodates the needs of fishermen comes into being, fishermen should "lend a helping hand where they can".

However, Johnny Issel, an adviser to the FDU, said the organisation was not in a position to assist the Eastern Cape fishermen financially.

He said the fund was not held in cash, but in shares in several major fishing companies.

He said the fund was still being administered by the SBDC, but was in the process of being transferred to the Department of Trade and Industry.

BRIEFS

(3)

FISHING

of 26/6/96

Hearings on pilchard quotas

THE 13 000-ton revised allowable pilchard catch for the 1996 season had been handed to the Quota Board for allocation, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers announced yesterday.

The allocation would be subject to the Sea Fisheries Act condition that the board hold open hearings to consult all parties concerned before allocating the quotas.

Ban non-SA citizens from local fishing, says report

FISHING

JOHN YELD

Environment Reporter

NON-CITIZENS should be banned from working in the fishing industry in South Africa's territorial waters and its 200km Exclusive Economic Zone, according to a new policy recommendation.

A further proposal is that the fishing industry should be controlled by a new ministry of fisheries and marine resources.

The draft National Marine Fisheries Policy for South Africa was handed to Environmental Affairs Minister Dawie de Villiers today.

The draft policy, which will be translated into a White Paper for the cabinet, is the result of 19 months' work by the Fisheries Policy Development Committee.

It closely follows a Senate committee report which decried fishing policies that had brought once-vibrant and thriving local fishing communities to their knees.

The proposed new policy would aim to return the benefits of marine resources to ordinary fishermen.

The committee consisted of representatives of all sectors in the industry, including big business, labour, informal fishing communities, environmentalists, conservationists and recreational fishing interests.

Dr De Villiers said South Africa's fishing industry was highly complex and had been neglected over the years.

The development of a fisheries policy through a democratic process was a world first.

"There is now a document on our table that perhaps for the first time in our history will provide a policy framework to give direction and certainty to the fishing industry, the importance of which to our economy has been under-estimated," Dr De Villiers said.



**PALLO JORDAN ON
TWO YEARS OF
DEMOCRACY**

-page 14

De Villiers:

Pilchard

fishing

ARG 26/6/96

quota

not final

(3) VISITING

THE 13 000-ton revised allowable pilchard catches for the 1996 season have been handed to the Quota Board for allocation, Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Dawie de Villiers has announced in parliament.

This had been held back until the report of the Fisheries Policy Development Committee had been completed, he said in a statement yesterday.

The allocation by the Quota Board would be subject to a Sea Fisheries Act condition that the board had to consult by way of open hearings with all parties concerned prior to allocations being made. - Sapa.

Namibia halves annual pilchard quota

CT(BR)27/6/96

Fishing industry faces job losses

(3) FISHING
By Tabby Moyo

Windhoek — Fear of massive retrenchments has been rippling through the \$325 million-a-year Namibian fishing industry.

Still reeling from poor performance in 1994, the industry has been dealt a blow by the government's decision to curb fishing by halving the pilchard quota to 20 000 tons for this year's May to August fishing season.

The fishing industry is the country's second largest income earner.

"The decision was taken with the industry at heart," said Abraham Iyambo, the deputy fisheries minister.

"Our overriding objective is conservation, proper management and sustainable utilisation of the fish stock."

The ministry of fisheries and marine resources, advised by the Fisheries Advisory Council, recommended the reduction after conducting scientific research into the pilchard stock.

In a survey last May, scientists commissioned by the fishing industry estimated a pilchard stock of 200 000 tons, but government marine biologists put the stock at 100 000 tons.

Faced with the discrepancy, the Fisheries Advisory Council recommended a lower temporary quota while more research was conducted.

Fishing companies have

expressed disappointment with the allocated 20 000 tons.

But Jan Jurgens, the fisheries permanent secretary, said the pilchard stock found was too young to justify a higher catch.

The pilchard quota has been sharply reduced over the past three years, from 125 000 tons in 1994 to 40 000 tons last year.

Pilchards are the mainstay of the fishing industry. As a result of the restrictions, revenues fell to N\$90 million (about R90 million) last year from N\$110 million in 1994.

Last year, state revenue from the fishing industry fell by N\$30 million, despite a 100 per cent rise in fish levies.

Willem Pronk, the chairman of the Pelagic Factories Association, said the quota could keep the industry busy for only two to three weeks.

"We are talking about survival," he said.

The industry has just spent millions upgrading its fish processing plants to meet new hygienic standards set by the European Union.

In addition, Pronk said Namibia would lose its lucrative overseas fish markets if it failed to deliver a large quantity of pilchard.

However, Iyambo said: "The industry coped before and I anticipate it will cope with low activity this year as well." — Independent Foreign Service-AIA

'Missing' funds: Meeting today to explain

③ FISHING
■ The Fisheries Development Unit has denied that it promised funds to its members for strike support and investment in businesses.

JEAN LE MAY
Staff Reporter

ARG 29/6/96

THE Fisheries Development Unit, an independent body of small businessmen and fishermen formed earlier this year in Cape Town, is holding a meeting today to explain why funds allegedly promised to fishermen were not yet available.

At issue are funds from the now-defunct Fisheries Development Corporation (Viskor).

FDU Chairman Harry Mentor, a Mitchell's Plain businessman, told SATURDAY Argus that the FDU had not promised money. He said that negotiations about the Viskor funds were still taking place and that the FDU had no money in its coffers. It had asked the Kagiso Trust to help out.

There was chaos in Port Elizabeth last week when striking fishermen claimed that they had been promised money from the FDU for the duration of the strike, which is now in its fourth week.

Mr Mentor said that FDU vice-chairman "Tollie" Claassen of Port Elizabeth had not had a mandate from the FDU to promise financial support during the strike.

Saldanha Bay fisherman Benny Clark, who is on the FDU's executive committee, told SATURDAY Argus that "people were getting suspicious. They were told that money would be in the bank by June".

He said that some people had found themselves in financial difficulties because they had made commitments. One man had hired a factory and bought equipment, but it was in danger of being repossessed because of non-payment, he said.

Viskor was disbanded several years ago and its funds, mostly in shares in listed fishing companies, were handed over to the Small Business Development Corporation (SBDC) to help finance small fishing operations.

The SBDC is now being restructured and this means reducing the state capital in it. Some of its assets, including the Viskor funds, will be handed over to the newly-formed Centre for Small Business Promotion in the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

But SATURDAY Argus has established that there is still no clarity on how the Viskor funds will be allocated.

Alistair Ruiters, director of the Centre for Small Business Promotion, said that "through consultation we shall determine the most efficient use".

The funds would "certainly" be used to help previously disadvantaged fishermen and new entrants to the fishing industry, Dr Ruiters said.

"The manner and mechanisms to facilitate support were the subject of a workshop with the FDU on April 26. The FDU agreed to present us with a proposal for the utilisation of the funds. A proposal has not been received from the FDU to date. As soon as a proposal is received, the DTI will enter into negotiations with the FDU," he said.

Dr Ruiters said that any agreement, once negotiated, would be made public.

A spokesman for the FDU, formed by a group of Cape Town businessmen, said in March that it had been in the forefront of highlighting the fact that the Viskor funds were to be transferred to the newly-formed Centre for Small Business Promotion.

It was said then that fishermen themselves should decide how the funds were distributed. This got the support of fishermen from the Western and Eastern Cape and an executive committee was formed largely of active fishermen. Mr Johnny Issel, one of the original founders, remained as adviser.

A spokesman for the SBDC told SATURDAY Argus that the delay at the moment in transferring the funds to DTI was that the capital reduction had to be approved by the Supreme Court.

Policies to protect SA waters

Sowetan 18/7/96

(3) FISHING

Sowetan Correspondent

SOUTHERN African maritime nations are to meet in Durban next month in an attempt to formulate policies of mutual defence.

Decisions taken at the meeting under the chairmanship of the Chief of the South African Navy, Vice-Admiral Robert Simpson-Anderson, will be discussed at the annual Southern African Development Council's Inter-State Defence and Security Committee (ISDSC) conference, which takes place in Malawi in September.

It is expected that South Africa's proposed purchase of corvettes or light frigate naval vessels will come under discussion in view of concerns expressed by neighbouring countries such as Tanzania, Namibia and Mozambique regarding their ability to secure territorial waters.

Tanzania has requested South Africa to help police its waters because of large-scale contraventions by fishing trawlers from foreign countries. However, Simpson-Anderson has told parliament it would be impossible to do so without the acquisition by the navy of capable vessels.

No decision has yet been taken by the government on whether or not the navy should acquire the ships. Informed sources believe that a decision to purchase either Spanish or British-built light frigates may be made next months or in September.

AGRICULTURE — FISHING

1996

AUGUST. — DEC.

SA fishermen snubbed again

By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT

(3) FISHING ST (CM) 4/8/96

JAPAN and Taiwan have again been issued long-line fishing permits for South African waters in spite of simmering resentment among snubbed locals who want a stake in lucrative tuna catches.

This week, Environment and Tourism Minister Dr Pallo Jordan gave Sea Fisheries the go-ahead to re-issue 120 expired long-line licences to the two countries.

While a major bone of contention among South Africa's own fishing community, the deal with the two Far Eastern countries is a hangover from the previous National Party government and will only be resolved once a new domestic fishing policy is finalised early next year.

Small to medium-sized businesses have for years opposed the fact that no long-line permits were ever granted to locals.

Japan and Taiwan were not granted quotas earlier this year because of the Sea Fisheries policy limbo.

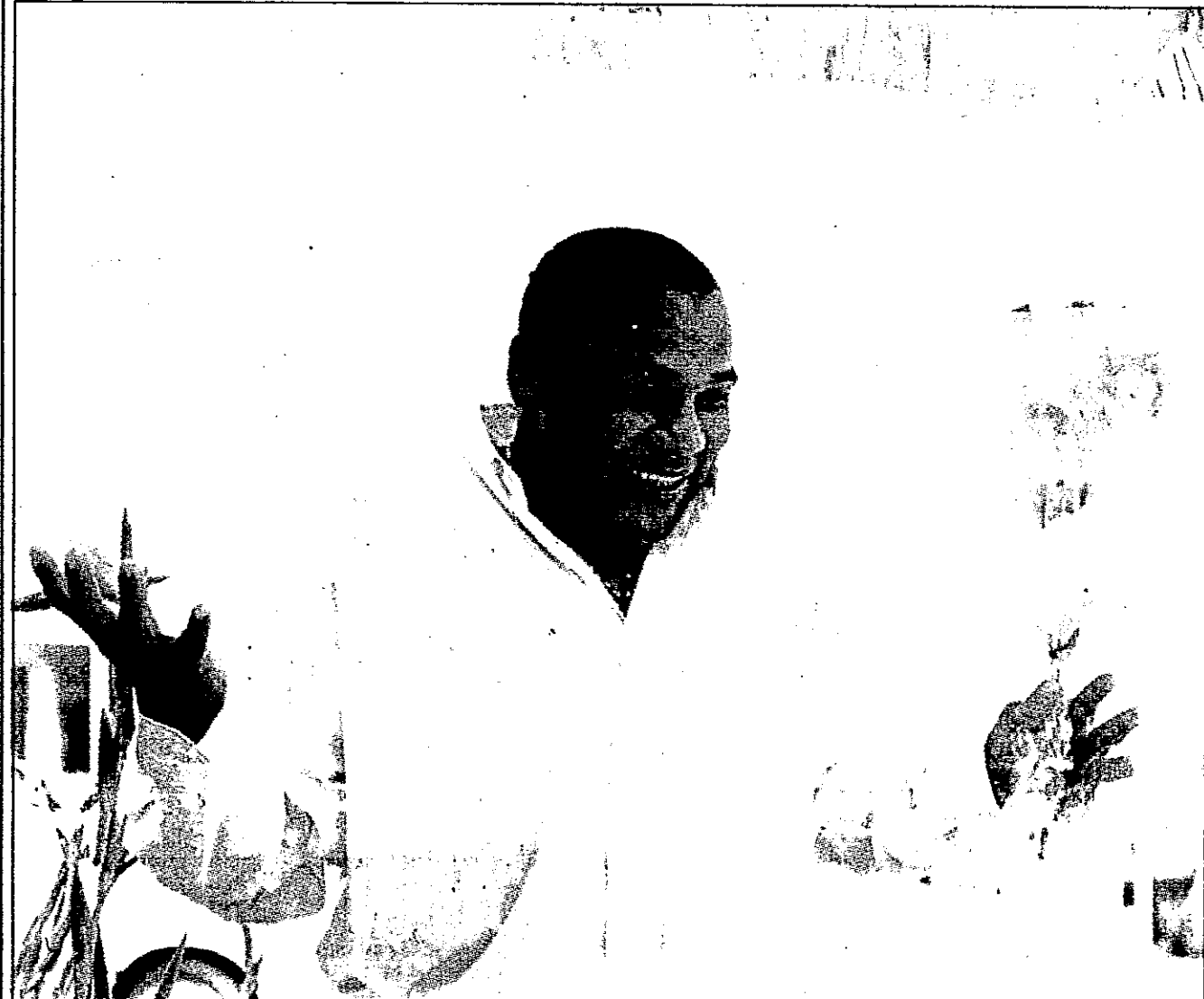
Instead, the two countries were granted temporary quotas in January. The quotas expired on Wednesday.

Earlier in the week, however, the government approved 120 permits: 90 for Japan at a cost of \$14 000 (R63 000) each, and another 30 for Taiwan, at \$10 000 (R45 000) a permit.

A spokesman for the Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries, Rudy Laan, said the cabinet would next year consider new recommendations prohibiting foreign vessels from operating in South African waters.

There was a "general feeling" that quotas should only be allocated if foreigners entered joint ventures with local companies, he said.

However, he added that foreign fishing fleets offered huge benefits to the South African industry, and should be excluded from local waters only once locals were able to effectively take over that role.



**Bok
heroes
show
cuddly
side**

Sunday Times Reporter

RUGBY fans and assorted glitterati will gather at a fashionable Camps Bay restaurant this week to bid for framed and autographed pictures of their Springbok heroes in poses quite unlike any seen on the field of play.

Would you believe a py jama-clad Joel Stransky or a chaise longue with a German Shepherd as a prop, or Chester Williams with an armful of flowers? Or how about the hulking Os du Randt gazing soulfully into the eyes of a beautiful model — and carrying her shoes, *nogal*?

It's all part of Cosmopolitan magazine's auction to raise funds for the SA Red Cross, official charity of the national rugby team. According to Cosmo's Juli Rappaport, the entire

Irvin and Johnson's profit gets a battering

By Audrey d'Angelo

(3) FISHING (P)

CT (PR) 23/8/96

Cape Town — Irvin and Johnson's (I&J), the fishing and frozen foods company, posted yesterday a 31 percent fall in earnings in the year to June 30. The fall comes after disappointing hake catches in Namibian waters, the sale of an under-performing wholesale company in Australia and a shortage of

some vegetables and chicken.

The directors said that improved supplies and export sales resulted in a stronger performance in the second half of the year.

The dividend has remained unchanged 10c a share, but on a reduced cover of 1,8 times earnings. Operating profit fell 9 percent for the year after falling 27 percent

in the first half.

Earnings were 15 percent lower at 24,3c a share before exceptional items from 28,7c for the same period last year. After the exceptional items earnings were 31 percent lower at 18c (26,2c) a share.

The exceptional items included a write-down of R14 million on the investment in the Namibian Kuiseb Fish Products and a loss of

R3,6 million on the sale of the Australian subsidiary.

The interest bill rose by 4 percent to R20,3 million (R19,6 million) and income from investments fell by 24 percent to R10,6 million (R14,1 million).

The tax bill eased 8 percent to R20,7 million (R22,5 million) but after-tax profit fell to R51,9 million (R75,4 million).



Picture: DOUG PITHEY, The Argus

SHARING THE JOY: Ivan Losper shows his delight at receiving shares in the company at which he has been working for 45 years. With him is Lydia Marais of the Oceanarium.

Tide turns for fishing industry as workers net company shares

ANDREA BOTHA
Staff Reporter

ARG-28/8/96

CAPE fishing company Premier Fishing has given 20 percent of its shares to employees in a move to end conflict between workers and employers in the fishing industry.

Environment Minister Pallo Jordan last night presented share certificates in Cape Town to three employees who had worked at the company for more than 40 years - Arrie Nieuwoudt, George Thomas and Ivan Losper.

After 45 years at the company's factory in Saldanha, Mr Losper knows what the industry is all about.

(3) FISHING

He joined the company back in the days when fish factories were not yet machine-operated.

He recalled the days when fish was still cut manually with knives.

But now he works in the fish paste processing department and after all the years, he is grateful for the appreciation of his employers for his long and faithful service.

"I think it's a great idea.

"Everyone back at the factory was very surprised. But we are very happy about it", he said.

Mr Losper has received R340 worth of shares in the company.

Premier Fishing managing director Ian

Heron, explained that all employees received 800 shares.

For additional years of service employees were given 120 extra shares for each year's service.

Mr Heron said that the share scheme could help to solve the conflict in the fishing industry.

In handing over shares, Dr Jordan said he felt privileged to be a part of the scheme.

"This is an important new step in the fishing industry.

"The share ownership scheme represents a fundamental step in the direction of restructuring the fishing industry," he said.

Fishermen discuss

permit row (3) FISHING

By JESSICA

BEZUIDENHOUT

ST(CM) 119/96

THE department of Sea Fisheries has begun consulting stakeholders in the fishing industry in an attempt to resolve the thorny issue of foreign trawlers operating in South African waters.

So far attempts to resolve the issue, which has angered local fishermen, have ended in failure.

Recently Japan and Taiwanese trawlers were granted temporary permits but the move was slammed as being "political" by Richard Ball, Tuna Association chairman.

Sea Fisheries spokesman Rudy Laan said results of talks would be referred to the cabinet for a final decision later this year.

SA's fishermen seek to match foreign net return

③ FISHING
Samantha Sharpe

BD 3/9/96

CAPE TOWN — SA's tuna industry, banned by local authorities from using the more efficient long line fishing method and subject to higher fuel prices, was being undermined by Taiwanese and Japanese ships in SA waters, industry sources warned yesterday.

Latest sea fisheries figures put the local industry's annual tuna catch between 4 500 and 5 000 tons, with Taiwanese and Japanese vessels in SA waters recording similar annual catches.

Tuna Association chairman Richard Ball said while the association and its members were not opposed to foreign vessels operating in SA waters, the playing fields had to be levelled. "Our cost structures are inherently higher, which makes it impossible for us to compete efficiently. What we're calling for is access to long line fishing methods and to increased monitoring and surveillance of the foreign vessels."

A fisheries spokesman said while there was clearly a strong foreign fishing presence in SA waters, the foreign boats fished for different tuna species. "Effectively they're not competing with SA fishing companies. The Taiwanese also target albacore but are shifting towards the more lucrative big-eye, with by-catches in game fish and some shark species."

The spokesman said part of the growing demand for long line rights was linked to the realisation that the industry could make reasonably good by-catches.

Also at issue were joint-venture agreements with international partners. "It's not so much a question of wanting foreign players kicked out of SA as it is a case of wanting to share in their profits, possibly through forced joint venture schemes," he said.

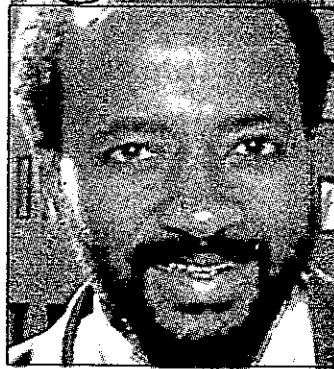
MOVES AFOOT TO CRACK RINGS

Poaching syndicates 'could make perlemoen endangered'

CT 11/9/96

(3) FISHING

FISHERMEN AND POACHERS aired their grievances and made suggestions about protecting perlemoen stocks when they met Minister of the Environment Dr Pallo Jordan yesterday. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.



SECRET STRATEGY: Dr Pallo Jordan

CRIME syndicates are poaching perlemoen at such a rate that the resource might become endangered, according to Minister of the Environment Dr Pallo Jordan.

He was speaking after meeting roleplayers in the perlemoen industry — including poachers — in Hermanus yesterday to thrash out solutions to the problem of access to the resource.

He said there were two types of perlemoen poachers: those who poached to feed their families and make a living and those who were members of major crime syndicates. "These crime syndicates operate on a large scale with no

regard for the natural resource — and that is dangerous. This is what we need to knock on the head," Jordan said.

"The abalone industry in South Africa earns R300 million a year and we need to protect this resource."

A number of suggestions about cracking the big-time poachers had been made at the meeting, he said.

"We won't put them on guard by revealing what we have in mind — but we have some solid and sound ways."

Perlemoen were slow-growing and took a long time to reach maturity.

"In Hawston, they are getting

very open discussion with no holds barred. There was a lot of heat and emotion — it was good that they got things off their chests. Then we got down to serious discussions."

It had emerged that the best method of policing poaching was to use the community living near the resource.

"The community will be the first line of defence against its being depleted."

Mr Andy Johnson, chairman of the Association of Informal Fishermen representing subsistence poachers, said the poachers had told Jordan they wanted an amnesty.

"We said we wanted the corruption in the fishing industry sorted out and a moratorium on quotas issued by the quota board. We want this done before September 23 as the board meets on the 25th. If not, we will be take mass action."

close to the borderline of being endangered," Jordan said.

"One good thing about the meeting was that everyone here realised the need to protect the abalone resource. No one here wants to see it depleted. Everyone said what was in their hearts and it was a

NEWS

Perlemoen poachers in revolt

Pallo Jordan urged to act soon on 'injustices' ARG (3) FISHING 11/9/96

ASHLEY SMITH
STAFF REPORTER

A fresh crisis looms large for the already beleaguered perlemoen industry in Hermanus and Hawston, with subsistence poachers vowing to take "mass action" if the government does not act swiftly to address the "injustices" of the quota system.

Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism Pallo Jordan chaired an urgently convened meeting in Hermanus yesterday in a bid to find possible solutions.

The industry, which generates more than R300-million a year, is in "dire straits", says Andy Johnson, who chairs the Informal Fishers' Association and represents the poachers who make their living from perlemoen.

Delegates from Sea Fisheries are among those involved in the latest bid to save the perlemoen industry from ruin.

Dr Jordan said he was confident the organisations at the meeting were committed to replenishing depleted perlemoen resources at Hermanus and Hawston.

But Mr Johnson said that at the heart of



BRENTON GEACH

Urgent talks: Minister Pallo Jordan talks to Andy Johnson, left, and Jackson Perxa of Sea Fisheries

the dispute was legal access to to the area's perlemoen.

He added that commercial interests had a virtual monopoly on government-awarded quotas and the poachers were only demanding their share.

"The government must address our grievances before September 23 because the quota board will sit two days later.

"If the government fails to do this we will embark on a campaign of mass action

to guarantee that our demands are met."

Subsistence poachers are also demanding amnesty, an investigation into police corruption in the area and suitable restitution for those who lost their right to ply the lucrative perlemoen trade because of the quota system.

Dr Jordan said earlier that solutions to the industry's problems were "very much in the hands of the major stakeholders", represented at the meeting.

"The quota system will be revised, but not now. We are working towards a comprehensive policy, not only for the perlemoen industry but for the entire fishing industry," he said.

But the new policy would not be finalised for a year or more, he added.

Dr Jordan said he was confident the crisis in the industry would be resolved, in spite of heated verbal exchanges during discussions.

Explaining the two types of poaching, Dr Jordan said: "One is where a man poaches to feed his family, but the other is initiated by crime syndicates, who have no regard for the resource - and they represent the greatest danger to the future of the industry."

The police and the Sea Fisheries Inspectorate have complained to the minister about a lack of resources and personnel to enforce legal restrictions on perlemoen divers.

It is a widely held view that if poachers continue diving for breeding stock perlemoen the resource could disappear from Hawston and Hermanus in the next four to five years.

Fishing quota row: Mokaba urges restraint

3 FISHING

Cape Town - Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba last night called for restraint on the part of fishermen who had grievances with the allocation of fishing quotas and the Quota Board.

"The ministry realises that informal fishermen do have legitimate grievances and that their frustrations are running high, but condemns any violent action, as this will not lead to any solutions," Mokaba said.

His appeal came after a fishing Quota Board hearing in Cape Town, when several hundred fishermen trashed quota application forms, and a fisherman who tried to intervene was stabbed.

The fishermen were protesting against quota allocations, and want a moratorium on the granting of all new quotas.

Mokaba is to meet the Quota Board tomorrow. Fishing community representatives will meet Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Pallo Jordan on October 8. - Sapa.

Star 26/9/96 |

Chaos reigns at fishing board hearing

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — A man was stabbed, a stick of dynamite was confiscated and fishermen trashed piles of quota application forms when a fracas broke out during a fishing quota board hearing in the parliamentary complex yesterday.

Andrew Johnston, representing informal Cape fishing communities, said fishermen were protesting over "unfair" quotas. He called for a moratorium on the granting of all new quotas.

The meeting, to hear applications for new perlemoen quotas, turned ugly when about 100 fishermen threw application forms around the room.

During the fracas, LL Dutywa of

FISHING
King William's Town was stabbed and taken to hospital. After this incident, representatives of the fishermen took charge and demanded that all weapons be handed in. Johnston said that some knives and a stick of dynamite were among the weapons.

An environmental affairs ministry representative was called in and a meeting between the protesters and Minister Pallo Jordan was hastily arranged for October 8.

Quota board deputy chairman Gerhard Krone, who was hit on the head during the incident, said the board was in a difficult position because it was given a "total allowable catch" to work within. The board was trying to grant

BD 26/9/96
fishing communities greater portions of the quota, but had to keep in mind the effect of its actions on producers.

Johnston said quotas had been granted to people who were not fishermen and who became millionaires, while ordinary fishermen remained poor. Fishermen demanded that the public protector investigate the board for corruption. Krone denied that the board was corrupt.

Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba said the ministry realised informal fishermen had legitimate grievances and that frustrations were running high, but condemned any violent action. Meetings would be held with the fishermen, he said.

FORMS TRASHED, FISHERMAN STABBED

Perlemoen quota hearings disrupted

CT 26/9/96 (3) FISHING

CLAIMING THAT PERLEMOEN quotas had been allocated by corrupt means in the past, informal fishermen yesterday disrupted a quota board hearing. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

CHAAOS erupted at a quota board hearing in the city yesterday where one fisherman was stabbed in the chest while others snatched hundreds of applications and ripped them up — under the noses of shocked quota board members.

Mr L L Dutywa from King William's Town was taken to hospital with a chest wound and was reported to be in a "reasonable" condition.

In the chaos deputy chairman of the quota board, Mr Gerhard Krone, was struck on the head.

After calm was restored, a stick of dynamite and several knives were confiscated from the 350 fishermen who had crammed into the large auditorium at 120 Plein Street in the parliamentary precinct.

Said Krone: "After tea break they all got up and trashed our papers. In the process I was hit on the head."

Chairman of the board, Judge J P C Kotze, said the board had met yesterday to consider new applications for perlemoen quotas.

"After adjourning, a chaotic situation broke out where the gross dissatisfaction of the fishermen came to the fore and people said they wanted the process of awarding quotas to be reviewed. The applications were ripped off our desk and thrown about the floor.

"My attitude was that I could not possibly negotiate with 300 or 500 people but I'm happy to have an interview with representatives."

Once the group had been subdued by Mr Andy Johnson, chairman of Informal Fishermen's Association, several fishermen were given a chance to voice their demands.

Said Johnson: "The rights of fishing must come back to the people on the ground. All existing quotas must be scrapped."

In the past quotas had been allocated by corrupt means, he said, and fishermen who had been excluded feared that these quotas would simply be reallocated.

They called for a moratorium on the issuing of new quotas until "all the corruption" had been sorted out.

Johnson said while he condemned the violence at yesterday's meeting, he had planned the move to rip up the quota forms.

Kotze said the board had intended to sit today to consider kreek applications, but did not know whether it would be able to. He would have to establish if the application forms were available on computers.

Deputy Environment Affairs Minister Mr Peter Mokaba called for restraint from the fishermen. He said while the department realised they had legitimate grievances, and were frustrated, it condemned violence as it would not solve any problems.

He would meet the fishermen tomorrow and the Minister, Dr Pallo Jordan, would meet them on October 8.



FORM OF PROTEST: An informal fisherman, standing on perlemoen quota application forms that were ripped up yesterday, makes his grievances known to the quota board. **PICTURE: BENNY GOOL**

Fishermen get a bigger slice of commercial crayfish quota

(3) FISHING
By JESSICA BEZUIDENHOUT
31/29/96

HUNDREDS of black fishermen can look forward to their first lawful cut of South Africa's lucrative commercial crayfish quota when the season opens on November 15, Deputy Environmental Affairs and Tourism Minister Peter Mokaba indicated this week.

Frustration with the distribution of fishing rights came to a head this week when angry fishermen disrupted a Fisheries Quota Board hearing in Cape Town to demand a stake in commercial crayfish catches.

Crayfish catches are limited in terms of the government's annual total allowable catch, which is then divided into quotas which are negotiated between the quota board and industry stakeholders.

Black fishermen have labelled the system discriminatory and restrictive, saying their cut of the total allowable catch has been limited to recreational permits, which set a daily bag limit of four crayfish, two of which go to the skipper or boat owner.

They say they have been unfairly forced into subsistence-level fishing, with no economic rewards.



SHORT-CHANGED . . . Matthew May and Paul Padua go home with two crayfish each after a day at sea Picture: JUSTIN SHOLK

But Mokaba said on Friday "interim relief measures" for subsistence fishermen were expected to be in place by November 1.

Without divulging details, he said the total allowable catch — to be announced next month — would "make provision" for fishermen with no commercial fishing rights.

Industry sources said a small percentage of the catch had been allocated to new entrants in the past year, but existing quota holders still held the bulk of fishing rights.

Mokaba said although the restructured system would acknowledge "the vast numbers of people previously ignored", existing quota holders had no reason to worry.

The directorate of sea fisheries was drafting a long-term strategy which would ensure that fishermen contributed to policy formulations and had access to financial assistance, he said.

"This is a long-term plan because we cannot create an island outside the mainstream economy by simply shifting fishing rights from established businesses to new entrants."

Fishermen said this week they had gatecrashed the Fisheries Quota Board hearing on Wednesday because some of the applicants had never experienced the hardships which deprived fishermen had had to endure.

One fisherman, Paul Padua, 64, said he had been working at sea since he was 10 but had nothing to show for it and still shared his council house in Ocean View outside Cape Town with his extended family.

Other fishermen said that when restrictive access rights, which favoured big, established fishing monopolies, had come into effect, most subsistence fishermen had resorted to poaching to support their families.

Andy Johnston, chairman of the Informal Fishing Sector, said fishermen were "sick of lies and empty promises".

"Fishermen only want access to marine resources. They can no longer be expected to tolerate the poverty-stricken environment in which they live," he said.

Guilds proposed to calm fishing storms

③ FISHING PD 1/10/96

Tim Cohen

CAPE TOWN — Government would be proposing a new system of fishermen's guilds as a partial solution to the row over fishing quotas which erupted last week, but warned that sacrifices on all sides would be necessary.

Deputy Environment Minister Peter Mokaba said at the weekend he would be proposing the idea of fishermen's guilds when he meets with the industry and independent fishermen this week. The meeting follows the violent disruption last week by independent fishermen of a public meeting

of the fishing quota board which was hearing applications for new quotas.

Mokaba said the guilds would be made up of people who had a real and concrete interest in fishing rather than the existing community trusts which included many members of the community merely "along for the ride".

The guilds would consist essentially of volunteers that had a real interest in improvements to what they were doing, as opposed to the more amorphous community trusts.

But fishing communities would also have to realise they could not stake their whole futures on fishing and

would have to expand into other areas. Sacrifices would also have to be made by the established industry, which absorbed on average about 80% of quotas of the inshore species, he said.

The established industry had the capacity to fish both inshore and deep sea which gave them distinct advantages over the independent fishermen who could not raise the capital required to buy the trawlers needed for deep sea fishing, Mokaba said.

Government wanted to encourage the established fishing business to concentrate on deep sea, rather than inshore fishing, while at the same time

linking up with fishing guilds for their inshore catch, he said.

Although some worker involvement schemes had been started in the industry, Mokaba said these too needed revision to ensure they were genuinely empowerment schemes rather than simply attempts to buy off workers.

Mokaba noted that he was aware of the sensitivities involved, saying "we are dealing with people's stomachs".

But he added all sides had to be aware that the overall size of the allowable catch was declining and in these circumstances, it was impossible to satisfy everyone.

NAMFISH/NAMSEA (3) FISHING
 Fm 4/10/96
NO QUOTAS, NO CATCHES

Namibian Sea Products (Namsea)'s share price was 170c four months ago. It fell to an 80c low four weeks ago. Namibian Fishing Industries (Namfish) reached a high of 200c in January. It is now 100c. Interim results for the half-year to June 30 show why; it was a disastrous season, particularly for Namfish.

Namfish fishes exclusively for white fish (hake) through wholly owned subsidiary Northern Fishing Industries, a 25% interest in Blue Sea Fishing and a 70% stake in factory trawler "Garoya." It also holds 23% in pelagic fish processor United Fishing Enterprises (UFE).

Namsea catches pelagic fish, particularly pilchards, anchovies and maasbanker. It holds 37% of Namfish as well as a direct 67% in UFE, giving a total 75% interest in UFE.

Until the recent increase in the hake total allowable catch (TAC) for 1996, Namfish received a small hake quota of 2 822 t. The additional 1 305 t received in late September came too late to affect

EMPTY NETS			
Namfish			
Six months to	Jun 30	Dec 31	Jun 30
	1995	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	44,0	78,0	43,6
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	2,1	0,2	(14,0)
Attributable (Rm)	0,9	(0,3)	(13,6)
Earnings (c)	2,7	0,9	(41,5)
Dividends (c)	6,0	nil	nil

results for the half-year.

Excessive expenditure on vessels and the processing facility at Northern, as well as an inexplicable decline in catch rate and fish sizes, sank profits. Losses incurred at home were worsened by reduced fresh fish export revenues because of management problems and lower prices in Spain.

Namsea's dismal showing arose mainly from its equity accounted share of Namfish's loss. But it also suffered greatly from unrewarded catch efforts, partly because of bureaucratic bungling and partly because the pilchards disappeared from their normal catching grounds.

Namibian scientists were unable to define the size of the pilchard biomass in time for the normal quota allocations at the start of the year when sources say pilchards were in evidence.

It took the authorities until May 31 to announce a TAC of 20 000 t, half that of 1995. By that time, says chairman of Namfish and Namsea "Padda" Kuttel, the fish had disappeared. When the season closed on August 31, "not a single can had been produced in Walvis Bay from pilchards caught in Namibian waters."

DROPPED CATCHES

Namsea

Six months to	Jun 30	Dec 31	Jun 30
	1995	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	39,1	122,4	77,4
Pre-tax profit (Rm)	6,8	17,5	(1,1)
Attributable (Rm)	5,0	14,8	(5,3)
Earnings (c)	4,6	13,6	(4,6)
Dividends (c)	5,0	5,0	nil

Operational capacity at UFE has been hopelessly under-used. Namsea and Namfish profits reflect this.

Namsea used its vessels to land other fish species for fishmeal. These activities were "on a par with last year." The operating loss in Namsea was confined to R1,3m by selling existing stocks of canned pilchards.

Kuttel is distressed by the size of losses at Namfish. (He is not alone. Irvin & Johnson's Kuiseb Fish Products lost R24m in its 1996 year). To cushion the effects of similar future problems, it has been decided Namfish and Namsea should be merged to create a stronger capital base.

It is premature to make any earnings predictions for either Namfish or Namsea but Kuttel says that for Namfish, recovery of Northern at present quota levels is

likely to be slow. Namfish's future is therefore even more problematic than Namsea's. Namsea at least has sufficient pelagic quota for sound prospects if the fish reappear but Kuttel says results for the full 1996 year will be lower than those of the previous year.

Both companies passed their interim dividends. *Gerald Hirshon*

Fish farming offers a good catch for workers

Scheme has attracted wide interest

ESAIN DE KOCK
BUSINESS REPORTER

On the Rustenberg Wine Estate in Stellenbosch more than 200 farm workers are involved in managing and operating a trout breeding programme - entirely for their own profit.

They lease a dam from farmer Simon Barlow, who has also provided all their access to finance in terms of a loan scheme.

With a profit margin of between 20 and 30 percent, the workers will be able to repay their loan within two years.

The Small Farmer Aquaculture Programme on Rustenberg wine estate is the second of its kind.

It was initiated by the recently opened Stellenbosch Business and Learning Centre, the Rural Foundation, Stellenbosch University and the Western Cape Department of Agriculture.

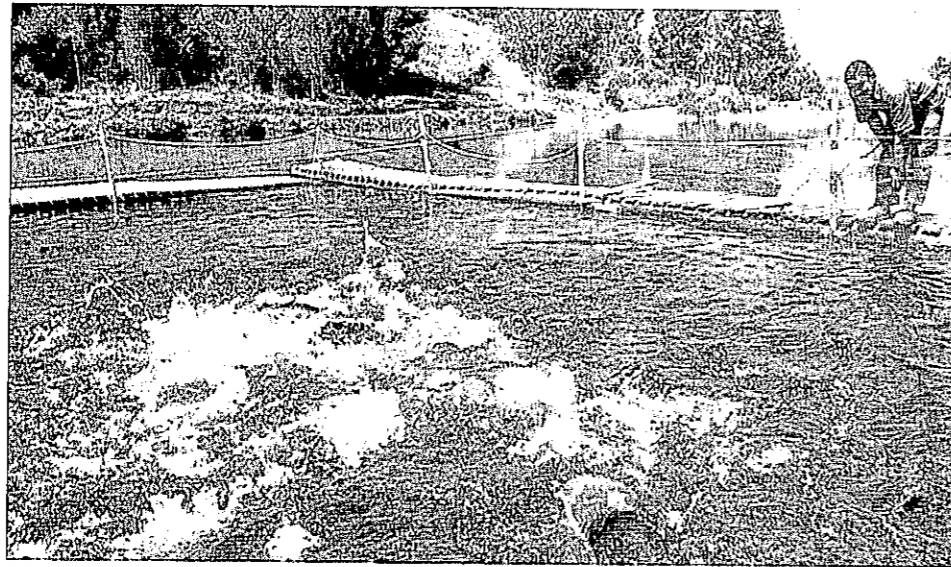
The pilot programme was launched two years ago in the Hex River Valley on the Ganskraal farm where the socio-economic climate provided an opportunity for the economic empowerment of rural people. It was funded by the Development Bank of Southern Africa.

It is economic empowerment that also forms the heart of the Rustenberg estate project, according to Khalied Salie, co-ordinator of the programme.

Mr Salie says the project kicked off with the formation of a workers' committee from which a farm worker, Joseph Burns, was elected to run the Small Farmer Aquaculture Programme.

Mr Burns was given on-site training for two weeks at the Aquaculture Research Unit at Stellenbosch University and is now responsible for managing and running the entire trout breeding programme on the farm - from the business to the financial aspects.

His training was sponsored by the programme organisers and continuous training is at hand from the Stellenbosch Busi-



Farming initiative: trout splash at the surface searching for food in a farming cage which can accommodate about four tons of the fish

ness and Training Centre.

At the moment, this advice service is still free, but a cost-recovery mechanism is due to be introduced later on.

Mr Salie says the Small Farmer Aquaculture Programme is community-based and, in the context of development, it provides an opportunity to build overall capacity and to improve the productivity of farm workers.

It grew from a decision by the Department of Agriculture, the Rural Foundation and the University of Stellenbosch to look into the small-scale implementation of an "aqua culture" - which means the artificial production of species under controlled circumstances.

The university and the Department of Agriculture ran an experimental unit for three years, looking at technology and other issues before venturing into the pilot project in the Hex River Valley.

Mr Salie says the Rustenberg farm

workers currently sell the trout to a pre-arranged market - a smokery in Franschoek. This arrangement is valid for the first two years of operation.

"After that, we will help the farm workers to systematically take the initiative to market the product themselves."

Trout are only bred in the summer months. In winter, the farm workers breed Tilapi, a low-cost production species which they sell at cost price to farm workers and surrounding farms.

The fish are reared in floating cage systems and the fingerlings and feed are supplied by Stellenbosch University. Mr Salie says when the fish is harvested, the workers pay back the university.

The overall cost, including maintenance, of the farming operation is about R60 000 a year.

According to Mr Salie farmers are being encouraged to provide finance and many are keen to do so.



Trout manager: Joseph Burns, who manages the Small Farmer Aquaculture Programme on Rustenberg Wine Estate, is about to feed the trout

JACK LESTRADE

"The profit margin of this programme is not that much, compared to the turnover of the farm. But, for a farm worker, it is a substantial income."

The Small Farmer Aquaculture Programme at Rustenberg estate is environmentally monitored by an MSc student from Stellenbosch University and, according to Mr Salie, the dam was thoroughly checked for sustainability.

The Department of Agriculture also samples the water and fish on a monthly

basis.

He says the short-term goal of the initiators of the programme is to implement 60 similar programmes by the year 2000.

"With the depletion of South African marine resources, aquaculture is the future. And there's a lot of room for development."

The Western Cape has more than 900 suitable existing dams on farms, says Mr Salie.

With enquiries about the small farmer

aquaculture programme coming from as far as Kimberley and Mpumalanga already, he believes the programme shows, amongst other things, how a partnership between farmers and farmworkers can set an example of what can be done to encourage entrepreneurship amongst farm labourers as well as the very real opportunity to earn extra income.

■ Anyone interested in the programme may contact Mr Salie on 883-8344/5 or 887-6870.

Abalone war flares up again

(3) FISHING

CRIME WRITER

ET 7/10/96

AN uneasy calm settled over Hawston yesterday following two days of fighting between commercial perlemoen divers and poachers.

Several policemen were slightly injured during stonings between the warring parties on the streets of Hawston on Friday and Saturday.

Windows and cars were also damaged during the incidents, and a boat was set alight, police spokeswoman Sergeant Vivienne Lentoer said.

The weekend's incidents echo last year's violent clashes between poachers and legal divers in Hawston when tourists were stoned on the highway and a land-owner hired former Rhodesian SAS soldiers to prevent poachers from trespassing.

Peninsula drug gangs muscled in on perlemoen poaching because the delicacy fetches high prices on the black market, police said last year.

The drama in Hawston started up again on Friday when a group of illegal poachers forced their way into the home of Mr Rodney Gillion, a legal diver, in Long Street "for no apparent reason".

A few minutes later a group of about 10 men assaulted Mr Cecil Swart — on the same street.

Around 10pm, a car was damaged during stone-throwing between poachers and divers in Skool Street. Windows of several houses were shattered.

Police used stun grenades and rubber bullets to disperse people armed with sticks and knives and some carrying petrol bombs, on Friday night.

Police in the area said divers would meet at the Hawston library today to discuss the latest flare-up of violence.

Perlemoen war still simmering

Poachers walk out of talks

LINDSAY BARNES
CRIME DESK

③ FISHING

ARG 8/10/96

A tense meeting between Hawston commercial divers and poachers to discuss the perlemoen war has failed to produce a solution.

The meeting was held yesterday after months of tension erupted in violence at the weekend.

Michael Würbach, secretary of the Commercial Abalone Divers' Association, said a memorandum listing "things that are not going to be happening any more" was handed to poachers at the meeting.

The association wanted an undertaking that the poachers would cease their illegal activities and that certain problems would be addressed.

"The only way there will be peace is if the poaching stops," he said. "There is intimidation on both sides. Everyone is a nervous wreck out there."

But a poacher slated the meeting as undemocratic and said some poachers had walked out for this reason.

"They (the association) came with

an ultimatum they wanted us to sign - but we refused because we don't know what's going on with it. We want to discuss it thoroughly first," he said.

He said the poachers' request that representatives from the University of Cape Town's Centre for Conflict Resolution should facilitate negotiations had been refused by the commercial divers.

Tommy Gelderblom, vice chairman of the Hawston Community Association, said about 22 poachers had been trained in commercial diving.

If the Department of Sea Fisheries allocated a tonnage quota to the Hawston Fishing Company, it was hoped it could employ these people and poaching would stop.

He said the memorandum stipulated that poaching should cease, that John Moses and Phillipus May must not make statements to the media on the poachers' behalf, and poachers must not intimidate the divers.

The parties are to meet at the Hermanus traffic department tomorrow afternoon to continue discussions.

Net closes on poachers of lucrative 'black hake'

SA fishing vessel in the spotlight

(3) FISHING
ARG 8/10/96

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

Sea Fisheries inspectors are investigating a South African fishing vessel that arrived in Saldanha Bay at the weekend, in connection with possible charges of illegally fishing for Patagonian toothfish off Marion Island.

Also known as "black hake", the slow-growing fish commands exceptionally high prices on the foreign market.

The investigation follows a recent long-range anti-poaching exercise by a combined team from the SA Air Force, Navy and Sea Fisheries.

The exercise produced photographic evidence that fishing vessels were operating in South African waters off the Prince Edward Islands - Marion Island is one of this group - and in the adjacent area,

which is subject to the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR).

No fishing permits to catch Patagonian toothfish have been issued for either of these areas - mainly because of bureaucratic delays by Sea Fisheries - and any fishing for this highly lucrative species there is illegal.

Sources said prosecutions and/or diplomatic protests were expected to follow soon after the anti-poaching exercise.

Sea Fisheries inspectors yesterday boarded a fishing vessel, the Quantus, in Saldanha Bay in connection with the investigation.

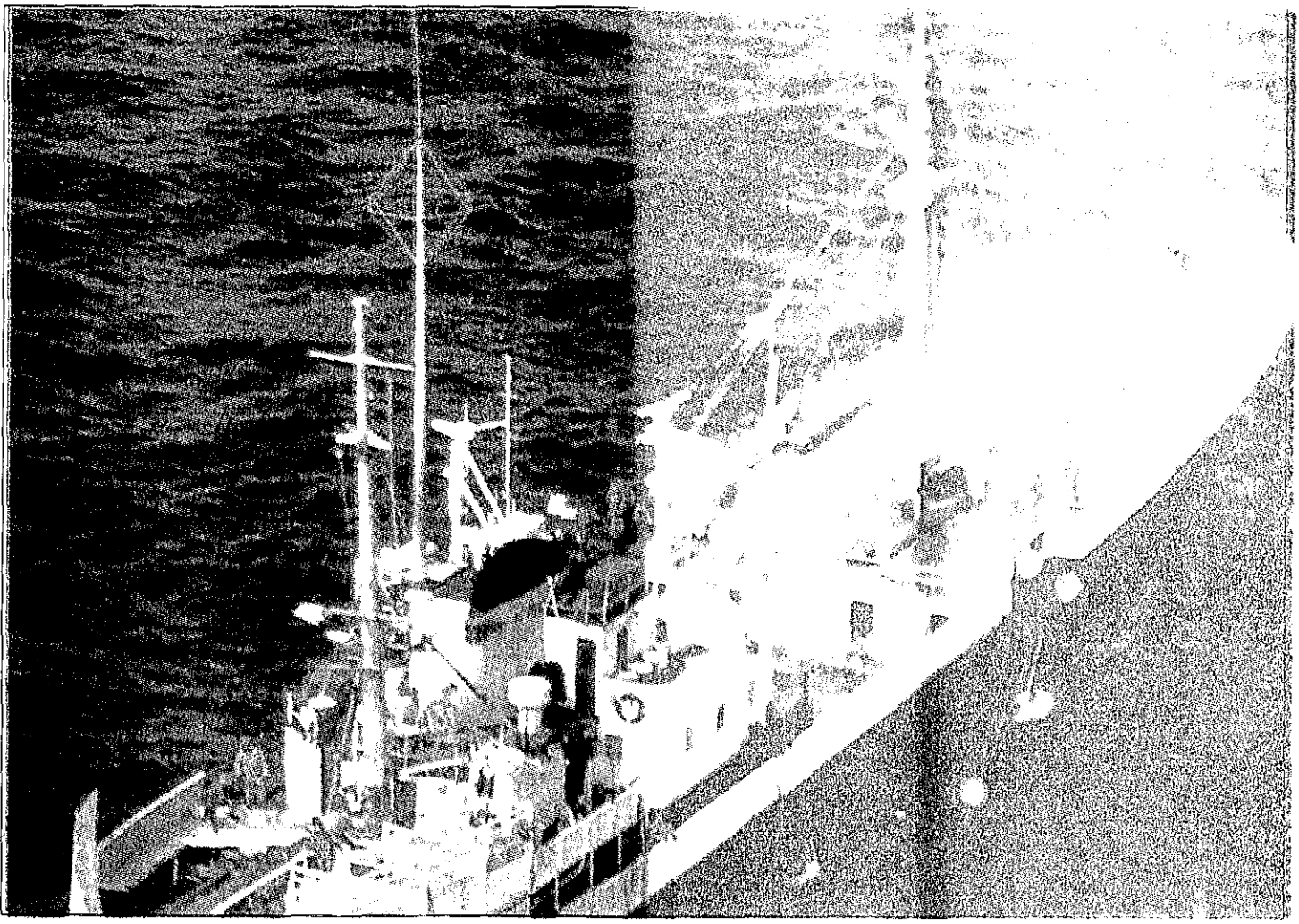
The Quantus was allegedly one of the two ships filmed and photographed during the anti-poaching exercise, in which an Air Force Boeing EW (electronic warfare) surveillance aircraft from 60 Squadron in Pretoria was used.

The Quantus, which is registered in Saldanha Bay, and another vessel, identified as the Praia de Restello, were found allegedly operating about 30 nautical miles off Marion Island. This is well within South Africa's exclusive economic zone (EEZ) proclaimed around the islands in terms of international law.

Another two fishing vessels were found south of the 45-degree line of latitude which demarcates the CCAMLR convention area.

In terms of this convention, no fishing is allowed within the CCAMLR area without the express authority of the signatory countries, and no such permission has been given for the exploitation of the Patagonian toothfish.

Industry sources said at least some of the foreign-flag vessels allegedly poaching in the area were probably fronting for South African interests. They were apparently targeting the Patagonian toothfish,



Suspect: a fishing vessel operating off Marion Island. It was one of four vessels photographed from a South African aircraft during an anti-poaching exercise.

Poaching hits perlemoen quota

JOHN YELD
ENVIRONMENT REPORTER

The commercial perlemoen quota has been slashed by 65 tons this season - mainly because of the severe poaching problem.

The reduced quota would mean a loss of R1,5-million for perlemoen divers and R6-million for the perlemoen industry, Environmental Affairs Minister Pallo Jordan said yesterday.

At the launch of the National Marine Day poster at the Two Oceans Aquarium, Dr Jordan said he had also decided to shorten the season for recreational perlemoen diving by three months in an effort to reduce the pressure on the resource.

"The number of recreation-

al abalone (perlemoen) fishermen has increased dramatically in recent years and scientists estimate that by shortening the season, the total recreational catch will be reduced by about 10 percent.

"Recreational perlemoen catches are on a par with the commercial quota - in the region of 500 tons a year - and a shortened season will reduce the recreational catch by about 50 tons."

Large-scale perlemoen poaching operations, run by organised crime syndicates, had become a serious threat to the survival of this valuable industry, Dr Jordan said.

In the Hawston area poaching had nearly depleted perlemoen stocks.

The quota cuts and shortening the recreational diving sea-

son were severe but necessary steps to ensure the survival of the perlemoen resource.

"But penalising legitimate perlemoen fishermen for the actions of the unscrupulous poaching syndicates, who have little regard for the resource, will not solve the problems - not in the perlemoen industry or anywhere else."

Dr Jordan said the process to develop a national fisheries policy, which would clarify how South Africa's marine resources - including perlemoen - should be shared, was taking a long time.

However, this was because the policy committee wanted to ensure that the final policy would be fair to everyone, both the established industry and the newcomers, the minister added

ARG 1110196 ③ FISHING

Perlemoen industry loses R6,5-m as poaching forces cuts in quotas

TWEET GAINSBOROUGH-WARING
STAFF REPORTER

Increasing poaching of crayfish and perlemoen has prompted drastic measures to boost policing in an effort to preserve dwindling numbers.

The additional restrictions will come into effect at the start of the new season on November 1.

The total allowable catch (TAC) for commercial operators has been reduced by 65 tons and the 1996/7 recreational season has been shortened by three months for perlemoen and one month for crayfish.

The TAC for south coast rock lobster has been reduced to 415 tons from last year's level of 427 tons.

Reducing the commercial quota represents a loss of R1,5-million for perlemoen divers and a R6,5m loss for the perlemoen industry.

Monde Mayekiso, chief director of Sea Fisheries, said the measures were a direct

RRG 12/10/96

result of escalating poaching activities, which posed a severe threat to the lucrative perlemoen industry, which at present earns R300-million a year.

He said poachers had severely depleted resources in the Hawston area and were now targeting such areas as the marine reserve off Betty's Bay and the sparsely populated Celt Bay near Buffelsjag.

Fresh perlemoen fetches about R75 a kilogram in South Africa, but it is estimated the dried product, smuggled mainly to Japan, can earn up to R1 200 per kilogram.

Scientists at the Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRI), who recommended the new measures, said these steps were necessary to save the perlemoen resource from further depletion. They said perlemoen were slow-growing, and the poaching of undersized, immature animals was destroying the industry's future prospects.

"If perlemoen are removed before they are mature, the industry will collapse in eight to 10 years' time," said Dr Mayekiso.

③ FISHING

Legitimate fishermen said they were suffering as a result of Sea Fisheries' inability to control poaching.

In response, Dr Mayekiso said: "A shortage of money and personnel are major stumbling blocks for the Sea Fisheries inspectorate and the tendency towards lawlessness in the country has exacerbated the poaching problem."

At present only 13 enforcement officers patrol the area from Gordon's Bay to Gansbaai and they are often confronted by unruly mobs when attempting to arrest poachers.

The question of legal access to the perlemoen resource is at the centre of the poaching issue, and so-called "informal fishermen" are demanding a share of the annual perlemoen quota.

A recent Quota Board hearing ended in chaos when a group of "informal fishermen" disrupted the proceedings and demanded legal access to the perlemoen industry.

Ill-equipped SA Navy unable to carry out routine investigations into illegal fishing

By **NORMAN CHANDLER**
Defence Correspondent

South Africa's beleaguered navy has had to remain in port while an SA Air Force Boeing 707 jetliner has taken over its traditional role of investigating illegal fishing activities in territorial waters.

The flight has highlighted the navy's urgent need for new ships - bogged down by bureaucratic red tape over whether the country can afford the vessels and whether they are necessary.

The Defence Command Council was told on October 3 that the flight, which took place recently to the remote Marion and Prince Edward groups of islands, was undertaken on behalf of the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, which usually co-operates with the navy in combating illegal fishing activities around the coast.

The cost of the flight was not disclosed but it is understood that it ran into tens of thousands of rands in fuel and personnel costs and maintenance.

The navy found it was unable to

help because it no longer has a maritime aircraft capability and its combat support ship, SAS Drakensberg, has been ferrying personnel and supplies to weather stations on Tristan da Cunha and Gough islands. The navy has no other ships capable of visiting Marion and Prince Edward, which form part of the country's extended economic zone.

In a bid to overcome this shortfall in equipment, the navy is seeking new corvette light frigates and is at present locked in discussions with the joint parliamentary standing committee on

defence in an effort to obtain approval for the R4-billion purchase.

The committee has again referred the request back to the navy for further details of counter-trade proposals from potential suppliers despite pleas from the Chief of the SA National Defence Force, General Georg Meiring, and the Chief of the Navy, Vice-Admiral Robert Simpson Anderson, for urgent action to be taken before the force is deemed to be obsolete.

A further meeting is scheduled for Wednesday but it is unlikely that any decision will be taken before the end

of November.

Five countries - Spain, Britain, France, Germany and Denmark - have been invited to submit tenders. Spain, which was to have been given the contract last year before it was decided to delay the process, remains the front-runner in the face of strong competition, particularly from Britain and Germany.

The navy is also trying to buy four second-hand submarines from Britain, also at a cost of about R4-billion. A decision on this could be made this week.

Star 14/10/96

(3) FISHING

I&J introduce limited share incentive scheme

3 FISHING

MAGGIE ROWLEY

Cape Town — Shareholders of Irvin & Johnson, a fishing and food group, have approved a share incentive scheme.

Employees will be given a 9 percent stake in the group over the next 10 years. At current market value this stake will be worth around R100 million.

The first tranche of 6,5 million shares to be issued next month will put 2,2 percent of the share capital in the hands of employees. This is worth about R23,2 million.

The scheme is less generous than similar schemes that have been introduced.

Shareholders at the annual meeting on Friday approved an increase in the authorised ordinary share capital from 323 million to 400 million shares. This

would facilitate the implementation of the scheme.

The scheme, which follows the 10 for 1 share split in June, is open to all employees with more than two years' service.

Roy Gordon, the managing director, said conditions had improved in the first quarter on both the supply side and international markets.

Exports and the value added sector on the food side were growing, he added. This puts the group on track to show real earnings growth for the year.

Kuiseb Fish Products, a joint venture, posted a R24 million loss last year. Negotiations were under way with the Namibian government to convert its wetfish quotas to more profitable freezer quotas.

"A lot will however depend on timing," said Gordon.

CJ (BR) 14/10/96

COMPANIES

Exports help Oceana reel in profit

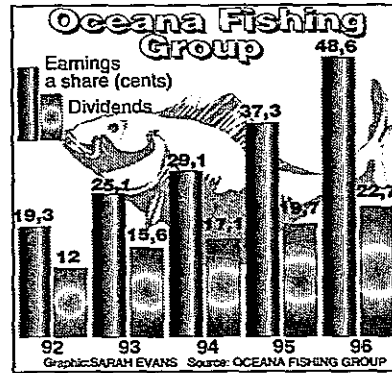
Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Fishing group Oceana posted a 15% rise in attributable income to R52,73m for the year to September, after a strong performance from its trading division and the weaker rand helped boost export earnings.

The robust earnings growth translated to a 13% increase in earnings to 53c a share — headline earnings grew 30% to 48,6c — with dividends 15% higher at 22,7c.

Group chairman Don Ncube said he was confident there would be a satisfactory increase in earnings in the year ahead, with the recent depreciation in the rand continuing to have a favourable effect on export earnings.

The weaker domestic currency had contributed to a 39% surge in group turnover to R825,7m, which was reflected mainly in higher vol-



umes in the group's trading division where about 65% of sales were export based, he said.

Operating profit showed a 32% increase to R89,45m. However, a higher interest bill flowing from increased working capital requirements helped bring profit before tax

and abnormal items to R85,75m, compared with R66,9m at the same time last year. A surplus on the disposal of land and buildings put pre-tax profits at R89,97m from a previous R75,58m, with a higher tax charge and payment to outside shareholders reflected in the attributable earnings figure.

On the balance sheet side, investments slipped to R6,8m from R15,6m following the sale of an investment in preference shares.

Commenting on the group's three divisions, Ncube said margins in the trading division's Blue Continent Group — about 46% of group earnings are sourced from the trading business — showed a favourable improvement, with the abalone quota landed in full, albeit at lower export prices than the previous year.

However, the fishing division, also a 46% contributor to group earnings, was adversely affected by a low

80 3/10/96 (3) FISHING

anchovy catch in the second half of the year and the voluntary moratorium on fishing from mid-July. "The pilchard resource remains sound, however, and fishing will continue into December. This will allow the company to increase its share in the canned pilchard market.

"Moreover, the industry expects similar or improved levels in the total allowable catch (TAC) for both pilchard and anchovy next season.... Oceana's lobster quota was landed in full and ... the lobster TAC has been increased from 1 500 tons to 1 700 tons," Ncube said.

On the group's cold storage division, he said occupancy levels were down on last year, despite improved service levels through the installation of mobile racking. "Expansion of the Duncan Dock cold storage facility is planned and average occupancy rates in the division's stores should remain favourable."

Poor catches dent Oceana profits

Trading arm star performer

LLEWELLYN JONES
BUSINESS REPORTER

The fishing division of Cape Town-based Oceana was hit by low catches and an industry-wide moratorium in the year to September, but the company is more optimistic for the current year as the rand continues to fall.

Chairman Don Ncube said it was a strong performance at the group's trading division which helped boost turnover 39 percent to R825,7 million in the year to September.

Net profits for the group,

which is jointly controlled by Tiger Oats and Real Africa, grew only 14 percent to R52,7 million, as increased working capital requirements saw the company's interest bill more than double.

Despite disappointing anchovy catches in the second half of the year, Mr Ncube said pilchard resources remained sound and the company would continue fishing into December, allowing it to improve its share of the canned pilchard market.

"Moreover, the industry expects similar or improved levels in the total allowable

catch for both pilchard and anchovy next season," Mr Ncube said.

Star performer in the trading division was Blue Continent which "substantially" increased turnover, 65 percent of which was exports.

While export prices for abalone were below those for last year, sales volumes were much higher.

TRT Shipping Services posted good growth in bunkering and ships' agency services. Mr Ncube said he was confident that Oceana would achieve a "satisfactory" increase in earnings in the year ahead.

(3) FISHING

ARG 31/10/96

SH shores up its fleet with R20-m

Aiming for bigger catch

(3) FISHING 31/10/96

Over the past six months, Saldanha-based Sea Harvest has invested R20-million in three wet fish trawlers and an inshore trawler as part of its programme to upgrade its fleet and maximise its catch.

A further R2,8-million is to be invested to upgrade the fishing technology onboard the wet fish trawlers and to increase the processing space below.

The bridge layout is particularly good on these vessels and they boast substantially more fish-hold space, according to Jan Scholte, the company's general trawling manager.

The purchase of the Milo, Equihennois, Boulonnais and Mandi is part of Sea Harvest's fleet modernisation programme, in which the company strives to improve the quality of its catch, he said.

The new wet fish trawlers have an overall length of 33,7m and a gross registered tonnage of 540. The factory decks

of the vessels are being rebuilt using the latest technology to ensure fish handling and storage methods contribute to landing fish of high quality.

Mandi, a 14m in-shore trawler, is the first trawler built by St Helena-based Tallie Marine and has been purchased by Mariette Fishing, Sea Harvest's Mosel Bay subsidiary.

Over the next 18 months Mariette Fishing will replace its existing wooden boats with Tallie Marine's glass fibre vessels.

"Apart from the latest model engine and on-board electronics, the vessel is manufactured locally and we are pleased to contribute to the re-birth of this class of shipbuilding," says Nigel Campbell, manager of Mariette Fishing.

The trawler carries a crew of five and can remain at sea for 10 days. It can hold a catch of 10 tons and has been designed to European Union standards to catch primarily sole, with hake as a by-catch.



Liquid asset: Equihennois, one of Sea Harvest's wet fish trawlers

Fishing quotas still a sore point in industry

... that's just one problem

ARG 31/10/96 (3) FISHING

The local fishing industry is experiencing a period of uncertainty as it faces numerous problems and mixed feelings for the future.

Controversy surrounds fishing quotas, with local fishermen protesting against what they claimed was unfairness in allocation. They have called for a moratorium to be placed on the allocation of new quotas, and demand that no more be given to foreigners.

Things turned ugly last month when several hundred fisherman trashed the quota board's application forms in a government building in Cape Town where a hearing on new fishing quotas was being heard. Scuffles broke out, with a fisherman being stabbed after trying to intervene when fishermen disrupted the meeting.

Fishing quotas have become a sore point with the informal fishing community in the Western Cape, who claim they have been unfairly treated, while the large conglomerates are looked after.

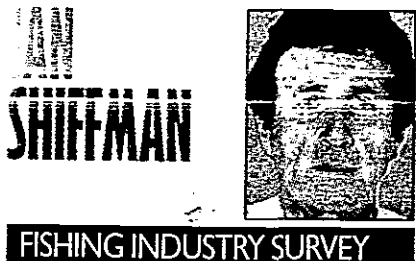
Japanese and Taiwanese fisherman were given 64 permits last month to fish off the South African coast.

The South African fishing industry creates more than 27 000 direct and nearly 100 000 indirect jobs, earning the country R1,7-bn annually.

Fishing giant Irvin and Johnson's trading figures for the financial year ending June 30, 1996 reflect the state of the industry. The company posted a 31 percent fall in earnings after disappointing hake catches in Namibian waters.

The company wrote down an amount of R14-million on the investment of the Namibian Kuiseb Fish products.

In Namibia, very low fishing quotas were allocated by the government this year and it has been accused of discriminating



against foreign fishing fleets. Animosity between local and foreign companies has increased after complaints of overfishing, which foreigners deny.

A total catch of 150 000 tons was allowed by the government this year and was used up in two months. An extra 5 000 tons was exhausted in six weeks.

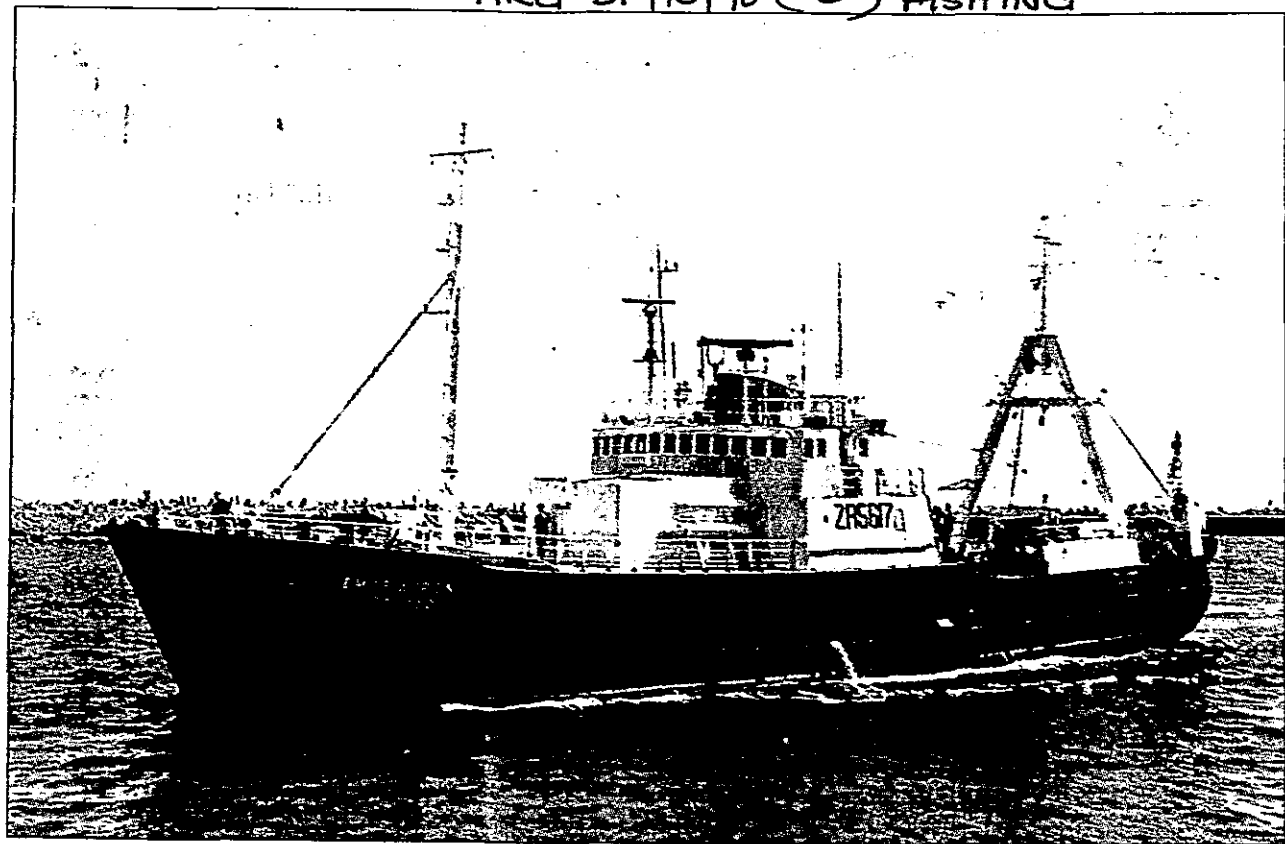
Coupled with the disappearance of pilchards from the fishing grounds this year, the industry says business is disastrous.

A factory in which the government of Namibia has an 80 percent stake closed at the end of September and the reopening of the plant will depend on the quota for next year. Other local companies have described the hake quota as ridiculous and claim the factories are using this excuse to retrench workers.

Fears for the future protection of fish resources have been highlighted as government departments run out of funds.

The Directorate of Sea Fisheries, which is responsible for enforcing marine control of South Africa's fish resources, is saddled with huge funding problems. Only two of its seven patrol vessels are seaworthy.

Meanwhile, a revised and updated plan for Sea Fisheries is being finalised following the transfer of control from Cape



Full load: Cape Town-based trawler Emile Adrien returns to port with her holds full after a successful trip to the fishing grounds.

Nature Conservation to Sea Fisheries at the end of last year.

The South African Navy, which helps protect marine resources, faces a shortage of vessels with many of its ships reaching the end of their line. The prime role of the navy is military, although it has been involved in regular marine patrols to protect the country's resources.

In desperation, some fishing vessels have been seeking new fishing grounds, and two vessels were caught earlier this month fishing illegally off the coast of Marion Island. They were caught fishing for Patagonian tooth fish, also known as "black hake", a fish which commands exceptionally high prices on foreign markets.

In another controversy, violence has erupted again in the ongoing war between commercial perlemoen divers and poachers. The divers have alleged there is large-scale corruption among the authorities, who do little to fight poaching. On a more positive note, local fishing boat builders report buoyant order books as many of the old, smaller fishing vessels need replacing.

Ocfish's trading division lands higher earnings

AUDREY D'ANGELO

Cape Town — A strong performance by its trading division helped the Oceana Fishing Group (Ocfish) to lift earnings a share by 30 percent to 48,6c in the year to September 30, despite a low anchovy catch.

The company declared a final dividend of 16,6c a share, up from 14,4c, making a total annual distribution of 22,7 cents, compared with the previous year's 19,7c.

The number of shares in issue has risen from 98,543 million to 100,591 million.

Turnover was 39 percent higher at R825,6 million and operating profit 32 percent higher at R89,4 million (R67,9 million).

Pretax profit rose 28 percent to R85,7 million before an abnormal profit of R4,2 million on the sale of land and buildings.

After-tax profit was R54,3 million, compared with R46,9 million previously, and attributable profit rose to R52,7 million from R45,9 million.

Don Ncube, the chairman, attributed the higher turnover to stronger volumes in the group's trading division.

The Blue Continent group's turnover increased substantially, with exports accounting for 65 percent of sales.

Abalone sales volumes were higher, though export prices were lower than last year.

TRT Shipping Services achieved significant growth in its bunkering and ship's agency services, and increased its clearing and forwarding business.

Ncube said the low anchovy catch in the second half of the year and a voluntary moratorium by the industry on catching this species after mid-July had a

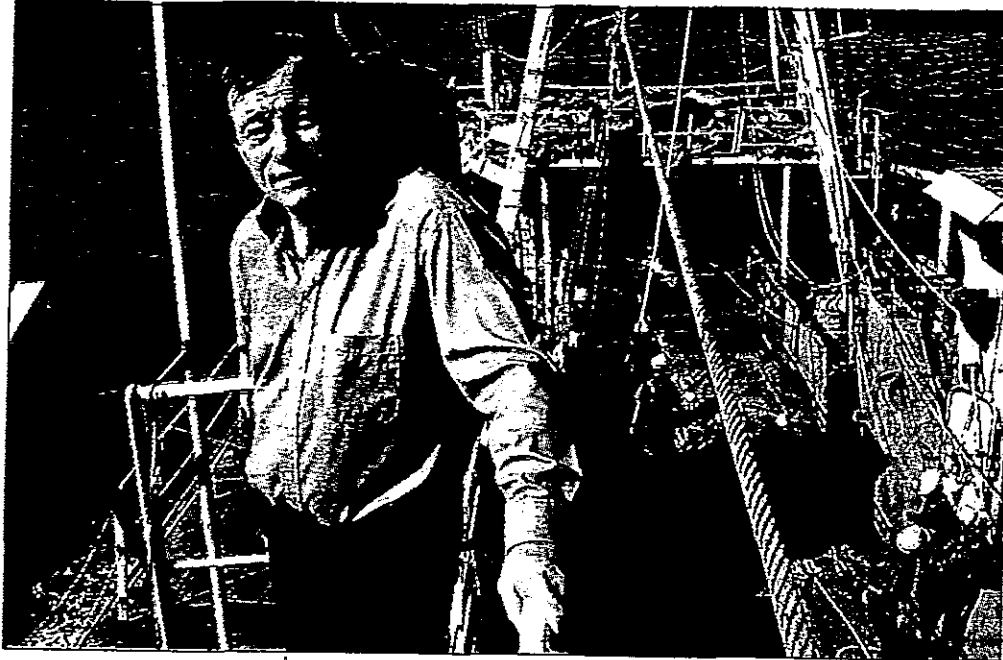
negative effect on the fishing division's earnings. The pilchard resource, however, remained sound and fishing would continue into December.

Ncube said the industry expected similar levels in the total allowable catch for both pilchard and anchovy next season.

The group's lobster quota was landed in full, and the total allowable catch had been increased from 1 500 tons to 1 700 tons.

Ncube said he was confident Ocfish would achieve a satisfactory increase in earnings in the year ahead.

(3) FISHING ET (BR) 31/10/96



PROFITABLE TRAWLING Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, said good catches in the winter months had offset a poor summer haul

Sea Harvest nets export gains

MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Strong second-half catches helped Sea Harvest shrug off losses from its Namibian associate and net a satisfactory 17 percent increase in earnings to R57,6 million in the year to September 30.

Headline earnings after deducting non-recurring income of R2,4 million came in 13 percent higher at R55,2 million.

(3) FISHING CT(BR) 11/11/96
A final dividend of 17c pushed the full-year payout up proportionately to 26c a share.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director, said summer catches in South African waters had been poor, but had recovered well in winter.

He said second-half earnings were 31 percent ahead of last year despite a R5,6 million loss from Sea Harvest Namibia.

He said a 4 percent increase in sale tonnages had boosted

turnover by 16 percent to R418,4 million.

He said that though the domestic fish market had weakened in the second half, international demand for South African and Namibian hake remained firm.

"With the sliding of the rand our well-established and growing export activities provide a useful rand hedge," he said.

□ Business Watch, Page 18

Better catches aid Sea Harvest

(3) FISHING

BD 1/11/96

Samantha Sharpe

CAPE TOWN — Fishing group Sea Harvest posted a 17% rise in attributable income to R57,58m in the year to September after a recovery in SA catches in the winter months offset losses from its Namibian associate.

The increase in income was accompanied by a 16% improvement in earnings to 57,1c a share — stripped of non-recurring income headline earnings rose 12% to 54,7c — and a 13% increase in the group dividend to 26c a share.

Group MD Louis Penzhorn said the latest results were despite poor hake catches in Namibian waters, which resulted in a R5,6m loss for associate Sea Harvest Namibia.

Lacklustre summer catches in

SA, which had affected the group's interim results, also recovered well during the winter period.

Group turnover grew 16% to R418,46m, boosted by a 4% increase in sales tonnage. "This was largely due to the expansion of the company's product range to cater for the local food service market, an increase in value-added fish products and the launch of Copper Kettle, a range of non-fish products," Penzhorn said.

Operating profit showed a 13% improvement to R84,34m, with net income from investments 11% higher at R14,04m. This was reflected in a 12% increase in pre-tax profits to R98,37m.

A 2% fall in the group's tax charge to R38,07m — the result of a reduction in the secondary tax on companies' rate — brought

profit after tax to R60,3m, 23% up on last year.

On the balance sheet side, the group's cash and deposits fell to R36,2m from R96,13m.

Capital expenditure of about R43m was incurred in the period under review, which included the acquisition of three ships at a cost of R18m.

Penzhorn said the group expected to produce satisfactory earnings growth in the year ahead. Although domestic markets for fish weakened in the second half of the year, international demand for SA and Namibian hake remained firm.

"With the sliding of the rand against most major currencies, our well-established and growing export activities provide a useful rand hedge," he said.

Tuna fishing plan welcomed

③ FISHING

Samantha Sharpe

20511196

CAPE TOWN — Tuna industry players have welcomed plans to reintroduce local long-line permits to catch tuna, following claims that SA fleets face unfair competition from their foreign counterparts.

SA's tuna industry has been banned from using the more efficient long-line fishing methods, available to Taiwanese and Japanese ships operating in SA waters, since the 1980s.

However, a notice in last week's Government Gazette notice indicated long-lining would be permitted on an experimental basis. Applications for 20 long-line permits from existing permit holders and 10 from previously disadvantaged groups were invited.

The move should enhance competitiveness, but it was too early to forecast the effect on the industry's long-term profitability, Tuna Association president Richard Ball said. Local players had to compete with foreign vessels privy to fuel prices levied at international bunker rates — a 20% discount — and exemption from VAT.

Long-lining could make use of different baits, hook sizes and fishing areas to limit the environmental effect on by-catches, Ball said.

SA stocking up the world's trout streams

Louise Cook

③ FISHING

60 7/11/96

SA EXPORTED more than 33-million fertilised trout eggs to 17 countries in Africa, Europe and the Middle East this year, Marabou Farming's owner Gary Charsley said yesterday.

"Due to the fact that trout only breed in winter and producers throughout the world require eggs as frequently as possible to sustain regular production, a niche business has developed at Lydenburg in Mpumalanga to supply

northern hemisphere farmers with eggs during their summer."

SA has only three areas suited to this type of production — two at Lydenburg and one in the Western Cape. However, Western Cape exports — a small part of the SA market industry — are likely to be suspended for a while next year following a change of ownership.

Charsley said the business was risky due to the perishable nature of the product, climatic factors and "the narrow ecological parameters within which trout may be

farmed". Marabou Farming has over the past nine years developed technology to produce a highly reputable product sought after as far afield as Iran and Albania.

In the UK, at least one trout in every six starts its life as an egg in SA. About 19-million trout eggs were exported to the UK each year, supplying most of its summer market.

Charsley said getting a site approved for trout farming aimed at the export market was not easy. Stringent rules were applied.

SEA HARVEST, OCEANA FISHING

(3) FISHING
FM 8/11/96

UNIDENTICAL TWINS

Though Sea Harvest is a hake fisher and Oceana a pelagic fisher, neither had consistent fishing throughout their seasons. Both report solid earnings growth, but for different reasons.

As indicated in its interim, hake fishing for Sea Harvest in SA waters was barely satisfactory in summer but good winter catches, favourable second-half trading conditions, improved efficiencies, stable dollar export prices combined with the falling rand and a lower tax rate enabled it to report a 16% gain in EPS. Headline EPS rose by only 12%, deducting R2,4m nonrecurring income.

The figures would have been more impressive but for a disastrous season in Namibia. The associate Sea Harvest of Namibia lost R5,6m, owing to start-up costs and a poor catch rate.

Turnover rose 16% on a 4% increase in volumes but margin was slightly lower, partly because of considerable investment costs in processing technology.

Though the balance sheet remains strong and liquid, cash fell from R96m a year ago to R36m. The purchase of three modern stern trawlers to reduce the average age of the fleet, the strengthening of the lobster division by an acquisition, higher working capital and a R30m investment in short maturity preference shares all ate into cash.

At the more diversified Oceana, turnover climbed by an impressive 39% mainly because volumes grew strongly

OUT OF THE SEA		
Sea Harvest		
Year to September 30	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	361	418
Operating profit (Rm)	75,4	84,3
Attributable (Rm)	49,1	57,5
Earnings (c)*	48,9	54,7
Dividends (c)	23,0	26,0

* Headline EPS

in the Blue Continent trading division. Exports took 65% of sales. TRT Shipping Services enjoyed significantly larger revenue from ships' agency services and bunkering as well as greater activity in shipping and forwarding.

Fishing for pilchards proceeded satisfactorily after the total allowable catch (TAC) was lifted. But the low anchovy catch in the second half and industry moratorium on anchovy fishing because of mixed shoals hit earnings. Thanks to the healthy state of the resource, the authorities have granted an additional pilchard "by-catch" which will help Oceana to increase its share of the canned pilchard market. The lobster quota was landed in full.

Occupancies in the cold storage division fell but it performed satisfactorily, says Oceana chairman Don Ncube.

The turnover rise could not be held at all levels. Margin fell to 10,8% from 11,5% and operating profit growth was confined to 32%. Because of higher interest payments, profit before tax and abnormal items was 28% up. Abnormal items then reduced the gain in pre-tax profit to 19%. A higher tax rate pulled the gain in after-tax profit down to 16%.

Increased outside shareholders' interests chopped this still further to 14,7%. Additional shares in issue stunted the EPS gain to 12,5%. However, headline

EPS — the best indicator of sustainable growth — was 30% better after adjustment for surpluses on asset disposals. Like Sea Harvest, Oceana has a strong balance sheet with no gearing to speak of. Debtors rose R50m (53%) to R144m but this was largely offset by a R40m (26%) rise in creditors to R194m. Ncube is confident of "a satisfactory increase in earnings" this year. If the rand remains depressed, export revenues

STRONG CURRENT		
Oceana		
Year to September 30	1995	1996
Turnover (Rm)	593	826
Operating profit (Rm)	68,0	99,4
Attributable (Rm)	46,0	52,7
Earnings (c)*	37,3	48,5
Dividends (c)	19,7	22,7

* Headline EPS

should post healthy gains. Sea Harvest MD Louis Penzhorn also expects real earnings growth provided catch rates are satisfactory and present quotas are retained. Quotas for SA companies should at least be stable in financial 1997 but the same cannot be said for Namibia. Already the hake TAC there has been cut to 110 000 t from 170 000 t. There's also uncertainty about the pelagic TAC. But

additional export revenues and better efficiencies may let Sea Harvest offset Namibian disappointments. Oceana's diversification and fair prospects of another sound pilchard season, plus possibly better anchovy catches, should allow good EPS growth once again. Gerald Hirschorn

EMPOWERMENT Fishing company to sell up to 8% of its equity to employees

Sea Harvest offers staff discount shares

ET (BR) 14/11/96

(3) FISHING

MARC HASENFUSS

CAPE EDITOR

Cape Town — Sea Harvest, the fishing company controlled by ICS Holdings, is to sell between 7,5 percent and 8 percent of its equity to staff for R46 million.

Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, said yesterday that share ownership by the company's 2 500 employees provided the ideal avenue for a broadening of participation in the fishing industry to previously disadvantaged groups.

"We believe the employee share scheme provides the ideal balance between broadening participation and ensuring the economic use of existing assets and the preservation of jobs."

He said employees would be offered 2 000 shares each at a 23 percent discount to market value (presently at R5,85). This follows the first phase of the employee share purchase scheme in February when every employee was offered 500 shares.

"More than 95 percent of our workforce has taken up the second offer and some 7 million new shares will be issued."

Penzhorn said Sea Harvest would provide interest-free loans to employees to finance



PARTICIPATING Louis Penzhorn, the managing director of Sea Harvest, joins Sheryl Thomas, a packaging clerk, on the shop floor at the company's Saldanha Bay factory

PHOTO: ANDREW BROWN

the purchase of shares over five years, and confirmed they would also qualify for the recently declared final dividend of 26c.

He said Sea Harvest's share scheme was the "purest form of gain-sharing" and an important

move, considering that the company's value adding processes depended heavily on the skills of the workforce.

"Now there's a real incentive for employees to do things better, which leads to bigger dividends and profits and ultimate-

ly translates into a higher share price."

Penzhorn admitted that the number of shares in issue would be diluted by the scheme, but stressed that this would be outweighed by the longer-term benefits.

COMMENT & ANALYSIS

'Longline' can be main line to extinction

'Longline' fishing could make the local fishing industry more competitive — but it might be bad news for the wandering albatross, reports **Samantha Sharpe**

AS SA's tuna industry congratulates itself on winning its recent battle to catch fish using "longlines", the fate of thousands of Atlantic seabirds and other marine creatures hangs in the balance.

The environmental affairs and tourism department decided late last month to issue 30 longline permits for catching of tuna and similar species on an "experimental" basis.

Longlines are literally extra-long fishing lines which are deployed from large vessels — and fishing companies insist the lines are an economic necessity.

Government's decision comes amid growing international environmental concern about the effect of the longlining technique on "by-catch" species, including birds. A single longline can reach 129km in length, dragging behind it several thousand baited hooks which lure and then drown thousands of unwitting birds.

Scientists agree that longline fishing has a severe effect on at least 13 species of bird life, three of which are threatened with extinction globally.

Worldwide, an estimated 180 000 birds die on hooks each year in tuna, swordfish, stablefish and other longline fisheries, with the wandering albatross, with its impressive 3m wingspan, being most at risk.

At a meeting in Canada last month the world conservation congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) — a union of more than 850 governments and non-governmental organisations, including SA — resolved that members would collaborate on the development of other fishing techniques aimed at substantially reducing the mortality among sea birds. Only Japan and Panama opposed the measures.

The IUCN says it is concerned that several bird species affected by longlining are considered to be

threatened with extinction at the same time that the overall use of longlines is increasing significantly around the world.

Peter Ryan, the spokesman for the Percy Fitzpatrick Ornithology Institute, concedes that very little is known about the habits of the bird species which roam the skies above the southern oceans.

Ryan says, however, that if the Australian experience is anything to go by, longlining could be a practice which is extremely detrimental to local bird populations.

Research in Australia and New Zealand has shown that the use of longlining in tuna fishery alone kills about 40 000 albatrosses a year, 10 000 of which are wandering albatrosses. These losses amount to a 10% annual decline in the wandering albatross population and a 5% fall in the overall albatross species.

The birds start to mature only after 10 or 11 years, mate for life and produce a maximum of one chick a year. This makes the mortality rate "scary", says Ryan.

"It is never easy to put a monetary value on an intangible asset like the wandering albatross — an icon of ocean freedom — and it is even harder when you get into the trade-off between economics and the ecosystem.

"But the great oceanic birds are a visible sign of the health of the world's oceans — and that means that things do not look too good," he says.

Tuna Association chairman Richard Ball says access to longline tuna licences is something the industry has been fighting for for several years, both as a more efficient fishing mechanism which

offers new growth opportunities to the flagging industry and as an end to discrimination against local tuna fishermen.

About 90 Japanese and 30 Taiwanese boats are currently allowed to operate in SA waters and are free to use longlines — as well as enjoy access to the reduced fuel prices which are available to foreigners, and exemption from VAT, says Ball.

Such a situation made foreign fishing operations much more competitive in the international market, even when their fleets were fishing far from home and in foreign waters — clearly an untenable situation.

However, the merits of "levelled playing fields" aside, there is evidence pointing to the SA tuna industry's limited ability to catch — or interest in catching — the tuna species which are targeted by longlines.

SA's tuna fishery industry has traditionally concentrated on the albacore (longfin tuna), which is caught by means of "pole lines", with the foreign vessels targeting yellowfin, bigeye and southern blue-eye — all deep sea tuna caught with longlines — for sale on the lucrative Far Eastern sushi market.

While the sushi market offers potentially high profits to everyone, quality controls demand the use of vessels with freezing facilities and other specialist equipment that most of the local tuna industry currently does not have.

This raises the question of whether or not the local market's access to longlines is worth the expected environmental damage

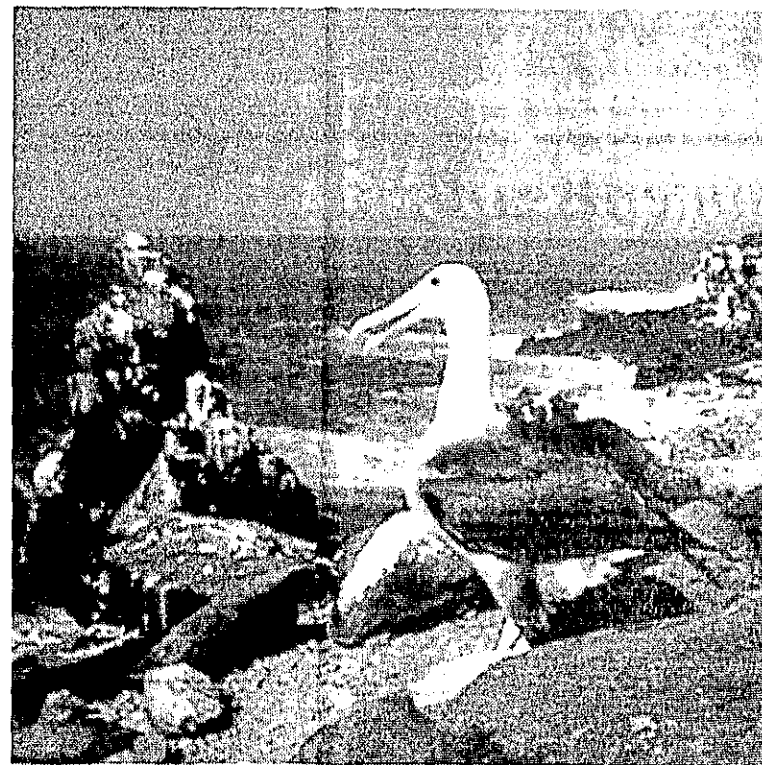
and raises questions about the real intentions behind the call for permission to use longlines.

SA fishermen enjoyed longline tuna licences as early as the 1950s, but the practice was eventually outlawed in 1990 when sea fisheries authorities established that tuna longline permits were being abused to fish for hake outside the hake quota, raising serious concerns about the future of the resource.

Longlining has recently been introduced on an experimental basis in the hake fishery to determine its viability.

Sea fisheries spokesman Andrew Penney says the department is not averse to giving out more longline tuna licences than those recently gazetted, if there is emphasis on controlled access to the resource. The concern is licences will be used to target billfish, like swordfish, and some sharks.

(3) FISHING BD 20/11/96



The albatross ... a victim of the 'longline' fishing technique.

If the tuna industry's longline applications are taken in good faith and their aspirations to increased access to the sushi market and a commensurate increase in licences are realised, then it is clear SA must start to conform to the IUCN's goals.

Ryan and Ball agree that incidental bird mortality may be drastically reduced through the introduction of "mitigating methods", which could be made compulsory requirements to the issuing of a tuna licence.

An array of practical measures — such as the use of weighted lines, bird scaring devices, night setting and underwater setting — have been developed to reduce seabird mortality in longline fisheries without compromising fishing efficiency and without increasing the incidental mortality of other species, Ryan says.

The use of such mitigating methods within the fishery is ultimately of benefit to both fishermen and wildlife. An average of 20 baits are lost for every bird caught, a statistic representing a significant opportunity cost to the fishing industry and suggests that it makes economic sense to minimise incidental bird mortality.

Ensuring that mitigating methods are employed could be a problem though. It is questionable whether sea fisheries has the manpower for the policing job.

Penney says the issue of longline licences will be accompanied by close consultation with the Percy Fitzpatrick institute in a bid to reduce bird mortality. As a IUCN signatory, SA has already committed itself to the organisation's aims in terms of bird protection.

Yet regulatory mechanisms could, to a degree, come from the market. Already in the US there is a consumer campaign towards "albatross friendly" tuna and such pressures could force tuna exporters — including those in SA — to toe the line in eliminating the dangers to untargeted species.

Fishmeal hurt as anchovy catches plunge

~~(2)~~ (3) FISHING

ANDI SPICER

MINING AND RESOURCES EDITOR

CT (BR) 22/11/96

Johannesburg — The fish-meal and oil industry is suffering from a crash in anchovy numbers off the coast of South Africa, which will cause a rapid contraction in the industry, said a report released yesterday.

"The South African pelagic fishing industry faces an uncertain future. Although there is promising growth in the pilchard resource, the anchovy resource is at its lowest ever," Steve Malherbe, the managing director of the South African Inshore Fisheries Association, said at an international conference in Cape Town yesterday.

Anchovies are used for fish meal and oil, mainly as animal feed, particularly for chickens. But most pilchards find their way into cans for human consumption, though some of the heads and tails are used for animal feeds.

Only 42 000 tons of anchovies were caught this year compared with a normal catch of about 150 000 tons to 200 000 tons a year.

South Africa used to be one of the largest exporters of fish meal and oil in the world but rapid growth in the chicken broiler industry resulted in a need for imports and now the South African industry only supplies about 20 percent of domestic demand.

The local industry operates seven canning plants and nine fish-meal plants and runs 66 purse sein vessels.

Even more worrying is a change in government fishery policy that will lead to large numbers of small fishermen moving into commercial fishing.

"If this is allowed, even on a fairly limited scale, it will lead to increased raw material cost and possibly further investment in an over-capitalised industry... Coupled with a declining resource, it can only spell disaster."

Perlemoen industry is facing disaster

Scientists say the resource could disappear unless action is taken

(3) FISHING ARG 28/11/96

REPORTS IN THIS NEWSPAPER LATELY HAVE HIGHLIGHTED HOW THE INCREASING ACTIVITIES OF POACHERS ARE THREATENING THE CAPE'S PRECIOUS PERLEMOEN RESOURCE; LEGITIMATE DIVERS AND POACHERS HAVE CLASHED IN HAWSTON, CENTRE OF THE CAPE PERLEMOEN TRADE AND DIRECTOR OF SEA FISHERIES MONDE MAYEKISO HAS SLASHED THE QUOTA FOR THE COMING SEASON BY 65 TONS AND CUT THE LENGTH OF THE SEASON BY THREE MONTHS. STAFF REPORTER PETER GOOSEN REVEALS JUST HOW BAD IT IS



COLIN DANIEL

Fruit of the sea: an abalone, commonly known as perlemoen in South Africa, which is a prized delicacy

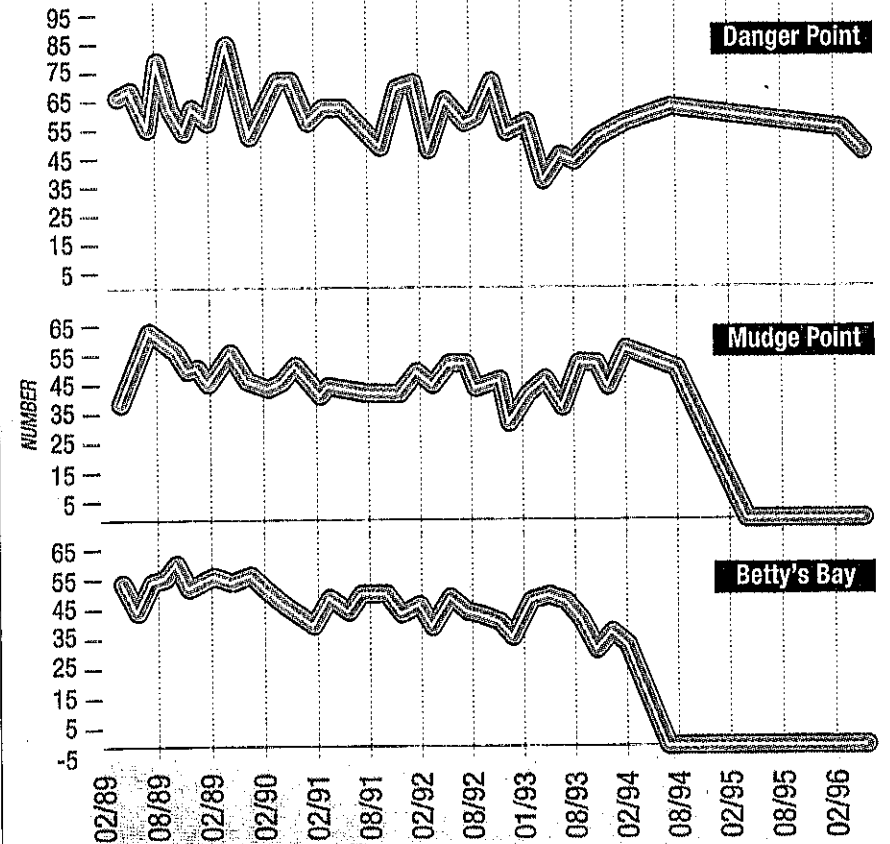
The South African Network for Coastal and Oceanic Research (Sancor), a national body of top marine scientists, engineers and technologists, has taken a fresh look at the problem of the perlemoen's future and found it is actually worse than everyone thought.

To put it bluntly, they say: "Collectively, these pressures will cause the abalone resource to collapse to the detriment of the economy in the western Cape and the numerous communities dependent on the resource."

So, what are these pressures?

As if poachers were not enough for them to worry about, perlemoen now face another enemy, that other Cape delicacy,

Sea urchin numbers per 1/4m² quadrat from three sites east of Cape Hangklip



the rock lobster.

Recent scientific evidence has illuminated the critical role that sea urchins play in the life-cycle of the perlemoen.

Juvenile perlemoen, 3mm to 20mm in size hide under the protective spines of sea urchins and are thus protected from predators.

Recently, large numbers of rock lobsters have moved into the prime nursery areas for perlemoen and are decimating the sea urchin population.

The Sea Fisheries Research Institute's surveys of sea urchins in various of these areas indicated that there were almost no sea urchins left, making juvenile perlemoen easy prey for predators.

These research and monitoring surveys also indicated that there were very few juvenile abalone in any of these areas.

As abalone are slow growing animals, these effects would take a long time to become obvious.

In a report the scientists said: "Adding this to the other pressures that the abalone resource is expected to cope with could just be the final factor that causes the abalone resource to collapse forever."

This would lead to tremendous repercussions in the communities and industry that are reliant on this resource for their livelihood - often the only income or employment available for 3 000 people apart from 34 000 recreational fishermen.

On the subject of poaching, Sancor said it was common knowledge that poaching in the Mudge Point area near Hermanus had been rife in the past.

'This is a high value product and there will always be an illegal market in the product'

Research data had shown that a high proportion of these takings had comprised sub-legal perlemoen.

For a variety of reasons the implementation of effective control measures in this area seems not to have succeeded and, by all accounts, poaching was still occurring unabated in the area.

Poachers themselves have acknowledged that they are finding it more difficult to find perlemoen.

While Sea Fisheries Research Institute personnel in their abalone research section have done their best to warn of the negative consequences likely for future

yields in the Mudge Point area, they have had to adopt a somewhat philosophical approach to the problem and have accepted that what is going to happen will, at least be a localised event, and that the rest of the resource also will

not suffer the same fate.

However, increasingly there were reports that poaching activities were expanding to other areas.

Recently data was obtained on a sample of poached perlemoen from the Celt Bay area near Buffelsjags, a sparsely inhabited section of the coastline.

The research showed poachers were removing a high proportion of sub-legal animals.

The scientists emphasised that the consequences of this type of activity were far graver than the mere removal of extra tonnage of perlemoen.

Activities like this could go a long way to destroying the basis of a future sustainable abalone fishery in South Africa.

It was the sub-legal, highly aggregated barely mature abalone that occurred in the shallow accessible waters of the coastline that were so easily accessible to poachers.

Removal of these individuals from the population would have dire consequences for the future of the resource.

The scientists said that Sancor urgently asked that effective measures be investigated to provide additional support to the marine control officers in the perlemoen areas from Cape Hangklip to Cape Agulhas before the situation led to the collapse of the abalone resource.

They said: "It is our opinion that there is no political solution to the poaching of abalone at this time.

"This is a high value product and there will always be an illegal market in the product.

"There will never be enough abalone available in the sea to satisfy the financial aspirations of all the coastal inhabitants.

"New and innovative measures are needed to be developed to manage the resource in collaboration with coastal communities.

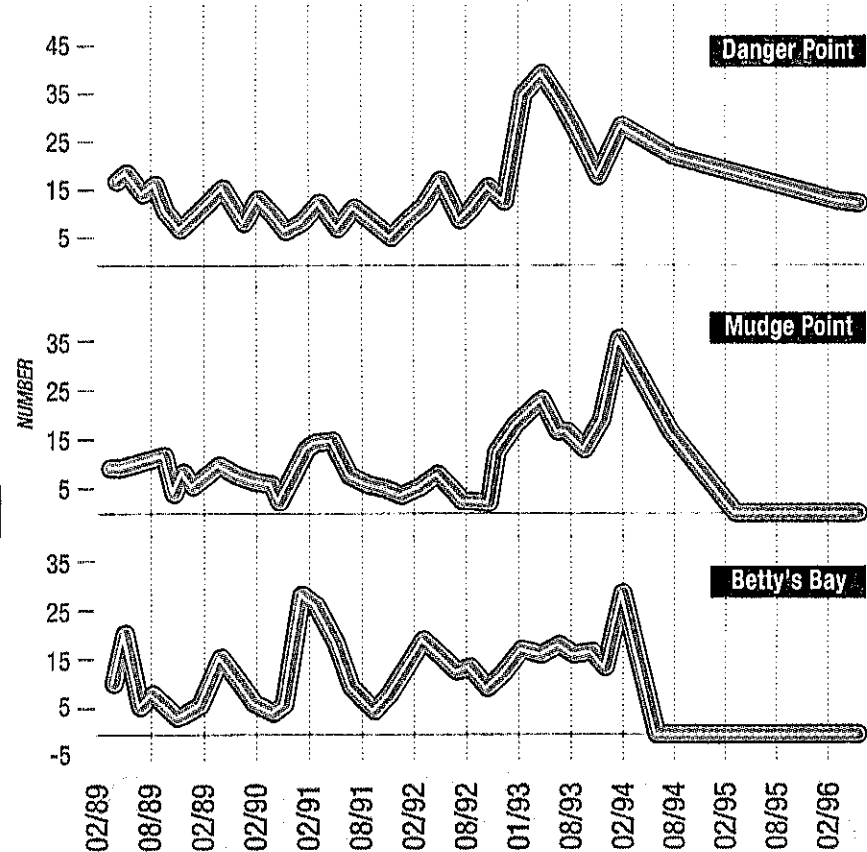
"But, in the meantime, what remains of the resource needs to be protected so that there is a resource to be managed once these new measures are in place.

"Effective control measures must be implemented as the prime means of protection of the resource.

"This can be done only if additional resources are made available to the responsible agency and other means of enforcement need to be considered.

"At present, there are only 14 enforcement officers for the whole of the area from Gordon's Bay to Gansbaai and, as most of them live in the various coastal communities, their effectiveness is compromised."

Perlemoen numbers per 1/4m² quadrat from three sites east of Cape Hangklip



SOURCE: SANCOR

GRAPHS: BOB GRIERSON, CAPE ARRIS

Dwindling resources: these graphs show how the perlemoen and sea urchin populations have declined

QUOTA BOARD MEMBER'S FAMILY BENEFITED

Court overturns crayfish allocations

SEVEN NEW crayfish quotas were found to have been granted to a relative of a Quota Board member and others linked to him. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE Cape Supreme Court has ordered that five crayfish quotas assigned to family members and people connected to a member of the Quota Board, should be scrapped.

The court found last week that the Quota Board had allocated five crayfish quotas of 3.5 tons each to family members of Quota Board member Mr J H W du Plessis, and to two business associates of one of the five people.

At R80 per kilogram, these quotas are worth R280 000 each.

Yesterday the Quota Board, including Du Plessis, met in Cape Town to allocate the new hake quotas.

According to court papers there were 272 new applicants for crayfish quotas. Of these only 18 new quotas were awarded.

Of these 18, seven were allocated to the companies of Mr Harry Cottle, of Crawford, and persons connected to him. Quota Board member Du Plessis is the cousin of Cottle's wife.

The board gave crayfish quotas of 3.5 tons each to Impala Fishing Pty Ltd, and Jessica Fishing Enterprises CC, of which Cottle is director and shareholder.

Court papers said Cottle was also one of those few fortunate enough to be allocated a new hake quota of 350 tons last year, which he then sold within days for R500 000.

His brother, Mr Davy Cottle, and stepbrother Mr Ernest Wasserfall, also received quotas of 3.5 tons each, and so did Khoisan Fishing CC, of which Davy Cottle and Wasserfall are both members.

Mr J A Vaughan and Mr B Fransman, who were formerly directors with Harry Cottle on the board of Dromedaris Visserve Ltd before they were all voted out, also received crayfish quotas of 3.5 tons each.

Court papers stated that each person who was allocated 3.5 tons of crayfish would be able to make R112 000 pure profit by hiring someone else to catch the crayfish, do the packing and the marketing.

(3) FISHING CT 29/11/96

The court ordered that these quota allocations be set aside and re-allocated.

The Quota Board did not contest the granting of the order.

The current chairman of Dromedaris company, Mr Arthur Dirk, who brought the court action, said in papers: "It is inconceivable that — of the 18 new quotas granted out of 272 applications — seven could be allocated to Harry Cottle and persons connected to him if a fair and equitable basis of allocation had been adopted, or if the Quota Board had properly applied its mind when awarding these quotas."

The Quota Board also transferred 30 tons of crayfish quota from Dromedaris to Harry Cottle, his brother Davy Cottle, stepbrother Wasserfall and 18 other former members of Dromedaris. This allocation has also been set aside by the court.

Asked to comment on the court order yesterday, and whether Du Plessis would be allowed to remain on the board, Quota Board chairman former Judge J P C Kotse said: "It is regrettable that comment cannot be given since the matter is sub judice."



QUOTAS: The Supreme Court has ordered that crayfish quotas for relatives and others connected to Quota Board member Mr J H W du Plessis (above), of Port Nolloth, must be re-allocated. **PICTURE: THEMINKOSI DWAY.**

HAWSTON POACHERS 'LIFTED 500 TONS OF ABALONE THIS YEAR'

Stripping the seas without fear of arrest

CT 6/12/96 (3) FISHING

THERE ARE many different ways to poach crayfish and perlemoen, and law enforcement officers are unable to counter the incessant plundering. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

LOOKOUTS with binoculars scan the horizons, drivers of battered cars are ready to roll, the sea is a pancake — it's a perfect day for poaching.

A boat chugs into view, prompting a rusted sedan to reverse to the water's edge. Bulging, kicking white bags are quickly transferred from boat to boot. Helpers struggle to force the bags into the confined space. Some of the boots cannot close. Another 400-odd crayfish are on their way.

"The police won't dare to come here when we're busy," says an unidentified helper on the slipway. "They know they'll get a fight. If they want to come here then they must launch a major operation against us. And when they are planning such a move we always get a warning call first."

Elsewhere on the coast, "recreational" divers and fishermen put to sea to catch their regulation four crayfish. They are doing it for a living — they are poachers, too. They will put to sea three or four times today, each time depositing their stock at a nearby holding area.

Other divers put to sea just once, emerging with their permitted catch only. They will return at midnight to collect the sacks they have left in a hole in the sea. So much poaching, so many differing approaches, so few law-enforcement officers ...

Hawston poachers estimate they have removed about 500 tons of abalone and more than 600 tons of crayfish from the sea this year, startling figures when you consider that the national Total Allowable Catch set by the government for abalone is 550 tons and for crayfish 200 tons.

Said a senior poacher: "We have tried for many years to get into the system legally. I held a meeting



BIG MONEY: The crayfish poacher sells his catch to a "middleman" for between R8 and R11 a head. The "middleman" sells to the "endman" for about R13 each, and the "endman" sells for about R18 each.

with then Environment Affairs Minister Dr Dawie de Villiers about two years ago and warned him that poaching was about to get out of hand. Everybody was doing it, from the ambulance driver to the off-duty policeman. De Villiers said he respected our concerns and initiative in coming to see him, but he could promise us nothing.

"If we were given the legal right to catch, say, 100 tons of perlemoen, if we were given access and processing rights, we would be able to control the situation."

Said another: "We are very worried that the resource will dry up. We need to solve this impasse — but how can we do it if we are continually rejected? This area is still rich. If they tell us tomorrow we will get a quota we will ensure it lasts for another 100 years."

"I am 51 now and have been working the sea since I was 13. People don't respect the resource now. They feel hurt to see that the next person has the right to haul

everything out while they must sit and watch. I don't have work, where must I go? They are forcing me to poach because I've got a family. Our hearts are sore to poach, but what can we do?"

Nobody in Hawston wished to discuss the alleged role of Chinese triads and local gangsters in the poaching industry.

"I cannot tell you who it is sold to. We can never expose that, it's almost an unwritten law. If he is caught he must take the rap. If I am caught I must take the rap. Nobody comes to me telling me he belongs to a gang or triad. The buyer's association is not taken into account."

An Arniston poacher said he and his peers could not employ Hawston's care-free tactics as they had not developed such large markets.

"We do it at night, and supply local markets such as restaurants. There is no crayfish in Arniston because there is no kelp. It is only perlemoen that we steal."



ILLEGAL DIVIDENDS: Chairman of the Informal Fishing Communities Mr Andy Johnston says crayfish and abalone poaching will continue until traditional fishing communities are given a legal stake in the industry.

Poachers tackle fishing giants

CT 6/12/96

(3) FISHING



POACHERS and small-time fishermen are planning to work together and challenge large companies for part of the market share. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

THE Cape Times was present at a little slipway on the Cape coast yesterday as poachers hauled about a ton of crayfish ashore in an hour — but such scenes could soon be a thing of the past with a new fisheries policy in the pipeline and the launching of an ambitious business venture by fishermen.

Sea Fisheries chief director Dr Monde Mayekiso said yesterday his department would submit a draft fisheries policy to Minister of Environment Affairs and Tourism Dr Pallo Jordan before the end of the year, a policy which should redistribute rights over coastal resources such as crayfish and perlemoen to local fishing communities.

Meanwhile fishing communities in Northern Cape and Western Cape towns have formed themselves into 17 registered corporations — which will form the membership of a holding company to be started in January. Its aim will be to compete for market share with fishing industry giants such as Sea Harvest and I&J.

The business venture is largely the brainchild of fishermen, 2 285 of whom have over the past few years organised themselves under the banner of Informal Fishing Communities, chaired by confessed poacher and fishermen's rights campaigner Mr Andy Johnston.

"We are not criminals because we want to be criminals," he said yesterday. "All of these people have been criminalised by the system and want to get out of it. This is not black empowerment from the top down but from the bottom up."

The solution was to implement the so-called CREAD system (Credible, Regulated and Equitable Access and Distribution) which would give sole rights to the mile from the shore to those who worked it. Also,

only small boats should be allowed within the mile limit, and all fishermen should be allowed to compete on equal terms for the Total Allowable Catch set by the government, said Johnston.

"We used to work that way until the early 1960s. But the Afrikaner elite viewed the fishing industry as a means to obtaining economic power. They brought in the quota system, which took away people's rights and gave quotas to the elite. They forced us to become poachers, and when they caught us they made us criminals.

"You can only stop people poaching if you give them an alternative. We plan to have members of the corporations regulate poaching themselves. If someone is found guilty of poaching, he or she will be suspended from the corporation.

"The moment fishermen feel they are part of the resource they will look after it. They know the sea and they know the resources. They know they must look after things for their children."

Johnston said the way the fishing industry was structured, fish had to be marketed through a factory registered with the government which forced fishermen to work for factories in which they had no stake and for which they were poorly paid.

The holding company would set up its own processing plants "to challenge big business head-on". The biggest profit in the industry lay in marketing and processing, not catching.

He said the company — for which a name was still being sought — would vigorously pursue local crayfish and abalone markets, described by Fedhasa chairman Mr Ken Forrester earlier this week as "not sufficiently catered for" and "throttled".

Lawyer Mr Thys Mocke, who has helped set up the 17 corpora-



tions and is now working on the creation of the holding company, said the company would be run along strict business lines with the aim of making money.

"It is being structured with the help of merchant bankers, who will also help us invest the company's money," he said.

A board of directors would be chosen, consisting of high-profile people and people with expertise in the industry. Initial capitalisation would include whatever interim relief allocations were granted by Jordan before the implementation of the new policy, and whatever allocations were given to member communities in the next few months.

Each corporation would own shares in the holding company, which would try to co-ordinate members' activities to the company's greatest advantage. Eventually the corporations would be paid monthly dividends to distribute to their members.

Mocke said negotiations were under way with potential local and foreign investors. The holding company would probably enter into joint ventures for the first few years while members of the informal sector learned business and marketing skills.

A pilot joint venture in a fish-processing factory and retail outlet launched in the Strand recently between members of the infor-

mal fishing sector and an established local processing company, was paying rich dividends.

With regard to poaching, he said: "It has to be sorted out. If we don't sort it out we will continue to have the kind of problems we are experiencing now. And we will be left with few resources in a short time. The big problem is that changing course is not something we can do in three or four months.

"People tend to be impatient and say they have been promised change since 1994. But we feel strongly that we should lay a sound basis for change rather than do things in an ad hoc way."

● See Page 3

RICH BOUNTY: A sack of illegally harvested crayfish is brought to shore yesterday. Sea Fisheries conceded this week there was no money to run an efficient law enforcement operation. Only two of seven law enforcement vessels were seaworthy and "hordes of positions" were vacant.

PICTURE: BENNY GOOL

HONG KONG-CAPE CONNECTION

Triads muscle in on SA poaching racket

③ FISH INC CT 10/12/96

THE PERLEMOEN POACHING operation along South Africa's coastline has fallen under the control of secret Chinese criminal societies. **ROGER FRIEDMAN** reports.

CHINESE organised crime societies — or triads — have set up sophisticated networks in South Africa to control the illegal perlemoen operation and launder their profits back through the country.

So slick are their operations, and so lucrative the illicit industry, that members of a resource-strapped, specialised police unit which devotes much of its time to tracking the triads, fear the country's perlemoen population could be doomed to extinction.

According to figures supplied by perlemoen poachers, they are harvesting more perlemoen illegally than is legally caught under the government quota system. They form but one link in a very organised chain.

The commander of the Organised Crime Aliens Investigation Unit, Superintendent Peter Jacobs, said solving the problem was becoming increasingly difficult, as Chinese criminals fine-tuned their operations and, increasingly, forged links with local crime syndicates.

Slaying this dragon will require much more than a new dispensation for marginalised subsistence fishermen — many of whom turned to poaching after they were systematically alienated from inshore resources by apartheid-government decree.

Jacobs welcomed the formation of a new fishermen's co-operative, which has the self-regulation of

poaching as one of its aims. But he was sceptical as to whether this laudable objective was achievable.

"There's obviously a need for a co-ordinated strategy to look at local poachers, and one way of looking at it would be involving local communities who could benefit under a new dispensation.

"But big players have entered the market and it is not simply a matter of issuing quotas to local communities, because the syndicates will still want their share," he said.

"Right the way along the coastal strip, two or three strong criminal groups have almost centralised control over the poaching industry.

"The Aliens Investigation Unit's involvement in this business came along because we were picking up a lot of Chinese activity between Cape Town and Johannesburg, in the field of false passports and fraudulent documents.

"We carried out some arrests, seized some documents, and our focus began to change," said Jacobs.

He stressed that his unit was not responsible for patrolling the beaches — which is supposedly done by Sea Fisheries officials — but only investigated international organised elements in the industry.

Since the beginning of 1995 the unit has investigated 23 major perlemoen-related docket. In 17 of the cases the unit found Chinese

involvement, arresting 34 Chinese nationals and seizing five tons of wet and more than half-a-ton of dried perlemoen, worth more than R1 million. Jacobs acknowledges these figures represent the tip of the iceberg.

He said the most notable triad players picked up by his unit were the Wo Shing Wo and the 14K Hau, an umbrella body of 14 societies: "The Wo Shing Wo is the main society for perlemoen in South Africa."

Local investigators were able to confirm triad membership and links by checking with Hong Kong police, who run specialised anti-triad units. Whenever a foreign national is arrested in South Africa, Interpol is notified. When Orientals are arrested, it has become routine to notify both Interpol and Hong Kong.

Members of Jacobs' 10-person unit explained the money-laundering aspect of the trade. Typically, a mother-company in Hong Kong sends a director to South Africa to establish a closed corporation. The CC buys illegal perlemoen, dries them, and sends them to Hong Kong as dried fruit or fish.

In Hong Kong the mother company markets the product legally.

Meanwhile, the mother company has established a second, legitimate company in South Africa, perhaps an import/export business. This second company is financed by the proceeds of the perlemoen business.

But the two South African operations have no contact, with all monies bouncing back and forth to Hong Kong. A perfect circle.

MEMBER RECUSES HIMSELF

Quota Board asked to step down at crayfish hearings

ET 12/12/96

③ FISHING

THE QUOTA BOARD refused a request to step down yesterday during hearings regarding crayfish quota allocations. Environment Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

THE entire Quota Board was asked to step down yesterday during appeal hearings regarding crayfish quota allocations.

This came after Quota Board member Mr J du Plessis recused himself from the crayfish hearings held in the parliamentary precinct yesterday because of allegations made against him in a Cape Supreme Court action last month.

Du Plessis attended yesterday's hearings dealing with perlemoen quotas, but just before the appeals regarding West Coast crayfish allocations began, Quota Board chairman, former judge Mr Justice J Kotze said: "There has been some-

what of a newspaper attack on the integrity of a member of the Quota Board, Mr Du Plessis.

"He asked me to state categorically that he disagrees with the allegations made against him, but to lessen the newspaper criticism, he has decided to recuse himself with regard to the West Coast lobster."

He did this without any admission of improper conduct on his part, Kotze said.

The Cape Supreme Court ordered last month that five crayfish quotas assigned to family members and people connected to Du Plessis be set aside and reallocated.

Neither Du Plessis nor the Quota Board opposed the court

application.

The quotas were worth about R280 000 each.

Yesterday Mr Trevor Goldschmidt, the instructing attorney in the court case, called on the entire board to recuse itself from the crayfish quota appeal hearings.

Goldschmidt told the Quota Board that there was a distinct perception — among his clients and the public — that the Quota Board was biased.

"The reasons for this perception are that the court found that seven out of 16 crayfish quotas were allocated to family members or people connected to a Quota Board member. The Quota Board did not put forward any reasons why the court should not set aside those crayfish allocations. If the Quota Board had opposed that application, it would have put evidence before the court

to say why.

"But it did not, therefore I can only conclude that the board does not have any evidence," he said.

Because the board made its quota allocations behind closed doors, Goldschmidt said he could only assume that the whole board was responsible for the allocations.

Because of this, the whole board should take responsibility for the allocations the court set aside, and it should recuse itself.

Board member Mr Essa Moosa, asked: "Are you asking this board to recuse itself?"

"That is correct," said Goldschmidt.

Kotze then adjourned the hearings. After lunch, he and the other board members reassembled, and said they refused to recuse themselves.

The hearings continue.

Quota Board member back at hearings

3 FISHING
STAFF WRITER

ET 13/12/96

THE Quota Board member who recused himself on Wednesday during the appeal hearings regarding crayfish quotas, returned to sit with the board yesterday.

Mr J du Plessis had recused himself from the hearings because of allegations made in court papers before the Supreme Court and which were reported in the press.

Board chairman Mr Justice J Kotze said Du Plessis had sought legal advice and on the basis of that, had returned to sit with the board for the rest of the hearings.

The court ordered last month that five crayfish quotas assigned to family members of Du Plessis, and people connected to them, be set aside and re-allocated.

Neither the Quota Board nor Du Plessis opposed the court application. The quotas were worth about R280 000 each.

INADEQUATE CLOTHING FOR THE 'INHUMAN' CONDITIONS

Cold comfort on icy fishing trip

ET 19/12/96

③ FISHING

TWO local fishermen have described their terrible working conditions while at sea. Staff Writer **MELANIE GOSLING** reports.

FISHERMEN who returned last week from fishing for Patagonian toothfish in the icy Southern Ocean, have complained bitterly of the wretched working conditions they had to labour under.

They claimed they were given inferior food, inadequate protective clothing, made to work 18 hours a day and sleep on wet bunks on the leaking boat.

They say they will be paid 6,5c a kilogram once the fish are landed. The wholesale price of toothfish is around R38 per kilogram.

Two local crew members, Mr William Ngwane and Mr Richard Peter, sailed on November 6 on board the *St Porto*, captained by a Portuguese-speaking man, Mr M Moniz, and registered in Panama.

Ngwane told the *Cape Times*: "Sometimes we didn't even sleep. Even in very bad weather we had to work. Where we were sleeping it was leaking and there was always water on the floor. The mattresses on the bottom bunk were always wet.

"It's very cold there and we didn't have proper clothing for that place. The captain had special boots for himself but we had ordinary gumboots. The cold went right through.

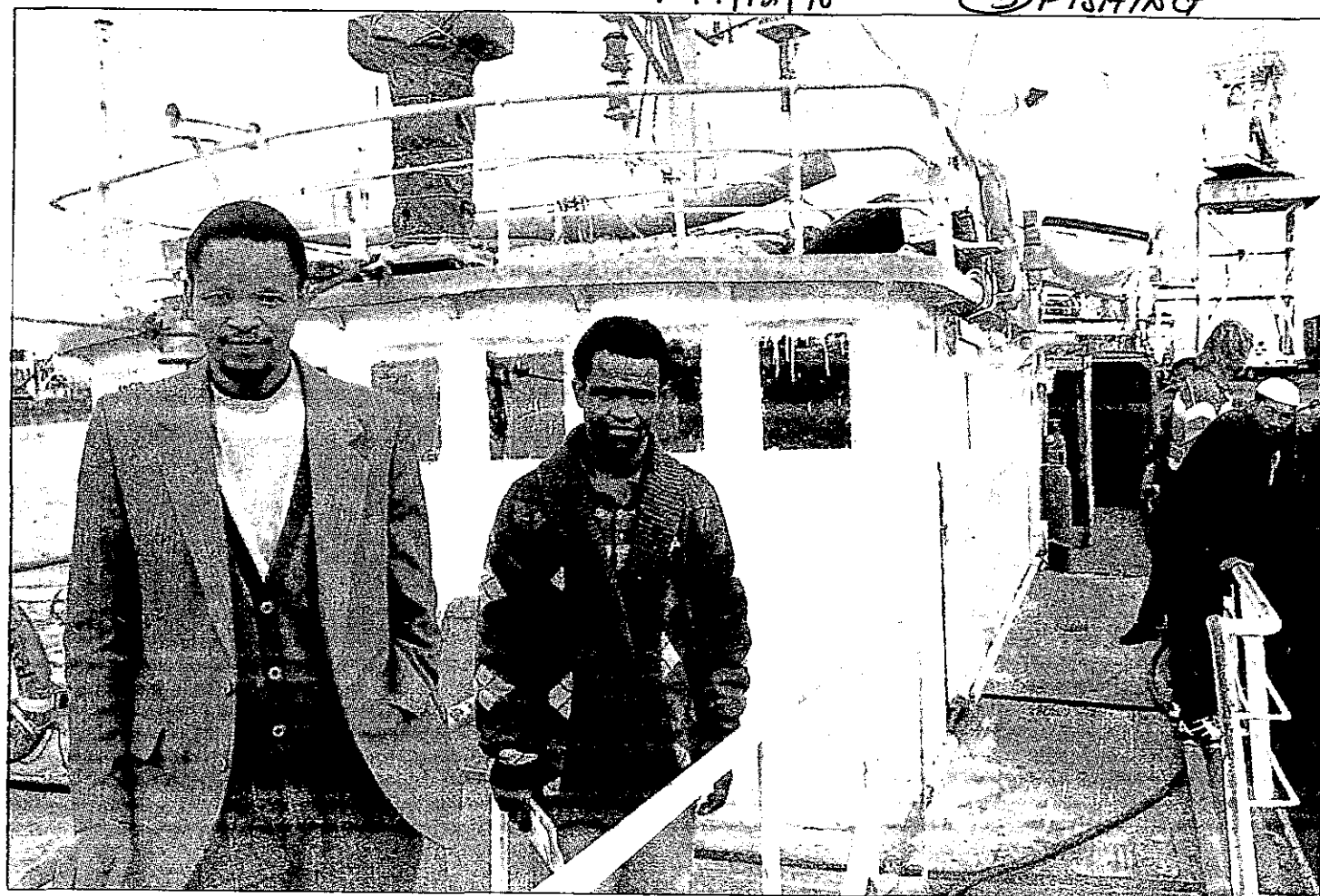
"Some guys got big boils on their hands and they swelled up but they were forced to work.

"Every morning we got black coffee and two slices of bread for breakfast."

Ngwane, originally from Port Elizabeth, said he had been in the fishing industry for 24 years.

Peter said that he had asked Captain Moniz for gloves and was told there were none.

"If you want a lifejacket, he tells you to go and look in the toilet. There were no lifejackets. Every time this boat goes fishing, they



HARD TIMES: Mr Richard Peter (left) and Mr William Ngwane on the *St Porto* in Cape Town harbour. The men have complained of being subjected to harsh working conditions when they sailed in the Southern Ocean to catch Patagonian toothfish.

PICTURE: THEMINKOSI DWAYISA

take new crew so that no one knows how you must work. They don't take the same people," Peter said.

They said there were 10 South Africans among the crew and the rest were Namibian and Angolan.

"Before we left Cape Town they stuck some of these people away in the freezer because they didn't have passports and they didn't want customs to see. They like them to work because they will work for very little and won't make problems.

"There were no showers. The whole month we were stinking.

We couldn't even wash our underclothes," Ngwane said.

The fishermen said normally some of the crew were present when a skipper weighed his catch, so they could check how much they should be paid. They found out yesterday the boat would be off-loading the catch at 6am today. The fishermen would not be able to be present as they could not be on the quay without a permit, which would only be issued with the agent's permission.

The captain was not available for comment.

A spokesman for the ship's

agent, the managing director of All Shipping and Trading Services, who refused to give his name, told *The Cape Times* yesterday: "If you want the captain, you can speak to me. I met that ship at midnight the other night. We nearly had a mutiny on board. I've reported the matter to the lawyer, Mr Simms."

Asked to comment on the claims by the fishermen, the spokesman said: "Are these Xhosas or Ovambos?"

On being told they were Xhosas, he said: "These Xhosas don't want to work. Speak to Mr Simms about it," and then hung

up. He refused to take further calls from the *Cape Times*.

Dolphin Action and Protection Group secretary Ms Nan Rice said yesterday many environmentalists were very concerned at the amount of fishing going on in the Southern Ocean, including fishing for Patagonian toothfish.

"An appalling amount of fish is landed in Cape Town and we're working on trying to stop overfishing. Very little is known about the Patagonian toothfish, so South Africa is very cautious about giving permits to fish around the Prince Edward Islands," she said.

Tuna group halts action on fishing permits

③ FISHING

SUPREME COURT REPORTER

ARG. 24/12/96

The South African Tuna Association has withdrawn legal action in the Cape Supreme Court seeking to prevent the government issuing 120 permits to Taiwanese and Japanese fishing vessels to catch tuna.

The association brought the application against the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Chief Director of Sea Fisheries.

The association asked the court for a stay on the issuing of the permits to Taiwan and Japan until the association could make representations to the minister.

It wanted permits delayed until the association could determine whether foreign fishing vessels had a right to tuna longline permits.

The association also wanted the minister to hear its submissions on the issuing of permits.

The association withdrew its application after Mr Justice S Selikowitz said Sea Fisheries had issued permits to foreign countries in terms of the Sea Fisheries Act since 1977.