



Aquaculture and Fisheries (Inland and Marine) Commission

AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES (INLAND AND MARINE) COMMISSION

Date: 26-27 March 2024

Venue: Birchwood Conference Centre, Boksburg, Gauteng Province

EVENT THEME: COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR THRIVING NATURE AND PEOPLE

1. INTRODUCTION

Section 24 of the Constitution requires reasonable legislative and other measures be put in place to ensure that the environment is protected, for the benefit of present and future generations, including through promoting conservation and securing ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting justifiable economic and social development. The National Biodiversity Economy Strategy is one such measure, to ensure effective conservation and sustainable use of South Africa's biodiversity, and inclusive and equitable socio-economic development.

The White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity provides policy certainty and a strong policy base for biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and equitable growth in the biodiversity economy sector. It serves as a policy guiding tool for government, private sector, non-governmental organisations, academia, researchers, industries, and communities to manage South Africa's biodiversity in a manner that promotes conservation, sustainable use, fair and equitable sharing of benefits, and transformation.

In terms of the Constitution, marine resources governance is a national competency. The governance of marine fisheries is well established under constitutional legislation through the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998). The MLRA aims to provide for the conservation of the marine ecosystem, the long-term sustainable utilisation of marine living resources and the orderly access to exploitation, utilisation and protection of certain marine living resources; and for these purposes to provide for the exercise of control over marine living resources in a fair and equitable manner to the benefit of all the citizens of South Africa; and to provide for matters connected therewith.



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When it comes to the inland freshwater fisheries, Cabinet recently approved the National Freshwater (Inland) Wild Capture Fisheries Policy that will guide the management and governance of this sector. This is the first national policy to drive the sustainable development of the inland fisheries sector; guide the sustainable utilisation of inland freshwater fisheries; create recognition of the small-scale fisheries subsector and legitimise trade by local communities surrounding inland public waterbodies. The successful implementation of the policy is an opportunity for socio-economic benefits including job creation, the improvement of rural livelihoods; food security; the development of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises (SMME) and economic development based on the small-scale and recreational fishing value chains.

The aquaculture sector has become important due to the global demand for fishery products, which has increased in recent years. The supply from capture fisheries has been decreasing and aquaculture is now growing to alleviate the shortfall in the demand for capture fishery products, which are regarded as over-exploited. Aquaculture presents a good opportunity to diversify fish production to satisfy local demand, contribute to food security, environmental sustainability, job creation, economic development and export opportunities. In South Africa, the aquaculture sector was therefore identified as a government priority.

The National Biodiversity Economy Strategy (NBES) is developed to optimise biodiversity-based business potentials across the terrestrial, fresh water, estuarine, marine and coastal realms, and to contribute to economic growth with local beneficiation, job creation, poverty alleviation, and food security, whilst maintaining the ecological integrity of the biodiversity resource base, for thriving people and nature.

GOAL 3: Consumptive use of wild and produced marine and freshwater resources that drives inclusive coastal socio-economic development.

IMPACT STATEMENT: Grow sustainable consumptive use of marine, coastal, estuarine and freshwater resources, including through aquaculture, by 10% per annum by 2036.

ACTIONS:

- Develop and implement an inclusive and transformative sustainable harvesting strategy for all components of the commercial marine fisheries.
- Develop and implement a small-scale sustainable harvesting strategy that addresses barriers to entry, ensures economies of scale, and promotes transformative value-chains.
- Develop and implement a small-scale Aquaculture strategy that addresses barriers to entry, ensures economies of scale, and promotes transformative value-chains.
- Effective implementation of the National Freshwater (Inland) Wild Capture Fisheries Policy for a transformed and growing freshwater (inland) fisheries sector.

2. OBJECTIVES

- To facilitate technical discussions towards development of an inclusive programme of action or roadmap for the implementation of Goal 3 of the National Biodiversity Economy Strategy i.e. Consumptive use of wild and produced marine and freshwater resources that drives inclusive socio-economic development.
- To explore and integrate small-scale aquaculture, inland and marine fisheries sectors' contribution to addressing poverty, unemployment, food security and inequality.

3. APPROACH AND PROGRAMME

3.1 Approach

- The session will have seven presentations followed by a panel discussion as outlined in this programme.
- This will be followed by a session for unpacking the key actions required using the remaining time.

3.2 Draft Programme

Convenor: Dr Charlene da Silva / Ms Lisa Mazaleni

Supported by: Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni

Facilitator: Ms Khumo Morake-Makhalemele /Mr Saasa Pheeha (DFFE)

Scribes: Mr Tshepo Sebake (DFFE), Ms Lisa Mazaleni (DFFE), Mr Stanley Tshitwamulomoni/ Ms Jacky Jay (DFFE)

Time	Item	Responsibility
5 Min	Welcoming remarks	Facilitator
45 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on "<i>Small-scale Aquaculture</i>" Questions and answers	Mr Lance Quiding Integrated Aquaculture Farmer Mr Luvo Gugwana Green-Arch Innovation Tilapia Farmer
45 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on "<i>Marine Small-scale Fisheries</i>" Questions and answers	DFFE: Dr Charlene da Silva/ Dr Sven Kerwath DFFE: Resource Management: Ms Bernacia Mullins DFFE: Mr Saasa Pheeha

Time	Item	Responsibility
45 Min	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on <i>"Inland Fisheries in South Africa"</i> Presentation on <i>" Ecological Infrastructure for Water Security and investments"</i> <p>Questions and answers</p>	<p>DFFE: Dr Archiebold Hlungwani</p> <p>Water Research Commission: Dr Roderic Juba</p>
45 Min	Panel discussion	All
50 Min	Unpacking the key actions required/ Implementation Plan	All
5 min	Closure and vote of thanks.	Facilitator

3. PROPOSED QUESTIONS

a) Small-scale aquaculture

Aquaculture, in South Africa is in its infancy with output being insignificant in regional and global terms and despite some early progress in the early 1990s, output has declined in recent years. Recognising the potential opportunities presented for food security, job and wealth creation, reduction of imports and transformation, the government is committed to reversing this trend. To date, several factors have culminated in suboptimal development of aquaculture in South Africa. Principally, the sector is fundamentally constrained by, inter alia, a lack of an enabling regulatory environment which is currently characterized by overregulation when compared with other food production sectors, and by an uncoordinated institutional environment e.g. fragmented policies and strategies from various tiers of government departments.

A number of critical factors are required to secure the development of a sustainable and competitive aquaculture sector. What is required in order to:

- How can we build strong, collaborative partnerships between government, industry, and institutes to support aquaculture development?
- What are the most impactful aquaculture development and technology transfer programs we can invest in for short and medium-term success (2-5 years)?
- How can we remove barriers and improve access to investment, operating capital, and essential resources like seed, feed, and equipment for aquaculture businesses?
- How can we best develop a skilled workforce through strong extension services, education, training, and public awareness programs to support aquaculture growth?
- How can we create a strong, coordinated government strategy for promoting, marketing, and facilitating trade in aquaculture products?

b) Marine Fisheries

The White Paper on Conservation and Sustainable Use of South Africa's Biodiversity seeks to grow sustainable use of marine, coastal, estuarine and freshwater resources, including through aquaculture, by 10% per annum by 2036. Most commercial fisheries are currently oversubscribed in terms of number

of participants, fishing effort and limited resources available. The development of the small-scale fishery can be guided by the analysis of existing markets. Of 485 fish species or products traded within South Africa, 75% are locally caught, but less than half of these in economically significant numbers. About 85 traded fish species are from aquaculture, of which 29 are from the local industry, but most of these are freshwater species. Of more than 300 invertebrates, seaweeds and marine plants traded in South Africa, only 20% are locally harvested, even though many occur here. Several, such as samphire, seaweeds, whelks and winkles, are also easily accessible from the shore so require less capital outlay and have great potential as cottage / boutique industries and niche markets. A 10% growth per annum in the Fisheries sector by 2036 can only be achieved by diversifying access to new resources, more sustainable fishing or harvesting methods, integration with aquaculture and an overall ecosystem approach to fisheries management.

- How can we promote the responsible utilization of promising, underutilized marine resources for the sustainable benefit of traditional and subsistence fishers, particularly in community-managed areas?
- How can we foster productive partnerships with the private sector to unlock the potential of these valuable marine resources?
- How can we implement a comprehensive support program encompassing financial assistance, business development training, infrastructure improvements, and capacity building initiatives to empower Previously Disadvantaged Individuals and communities to participate competitively in the formal seafood market?
- How can we strengthen governance frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to safeguard the integrity and transparency of small-scale fisheries and prevent illegal activities?

c) **Inland Fisheries**

Inland fisheries in South Africa is dominated by recreational and small-scale fishing for subsistence and livelihood purposes. Commercial inland fisheries is not equivalent in scale to South Africa's commercial marine fisheries to supply formal markets due to the low productivity of inland waters. Small-scale fishing is present and growing on most inland waterbodies and contributes to the food security and livelihoods of rural communities. It is however largely an informal activity, lacking formalised governance arrangements and institutions for stakeholder representation.

- What comprehensive support packages, including financial aid, business development, infrastructure improvements, and training programs, can we develop to empower small-scale fishers and communities for active participation in the mainstream economy?
- How can we promote and expand sustainable fishing practices for community use, particularly in rural areas, to ensure long-term resource availability?
- What strategies can we implement to develop large-scale, sustainable enterprises for harvesting and processing inland fisheries products, creating a strong value chain for the industry?

4. **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Immediate: interventions to promote Aquaculture and Fisheries Economy Sector.

Medium-term: 2030 interventions.

Long-term: 2050 intervention.

Means of implementation: Key interventions to be incorporated into the implementation plan of the White Paper.

5. TARGET AUDIENCE

- Fisheries Sector
- Aquaculture Sector
- National and Provincial Departments
- NGOs
- Academia
- Research Institutions
- Traditional Leaders
- CPAs
- Public Entities
- General stakeholders

Enquiries:

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