

DAFF PERSPECTIVE ON DEVELOPING A NEW MARINE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

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Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

A BIT OF HISTORY

Our historical role in National marine science initiatives

- Sea Fisheries Research Institute and the FRD
- Marine and Coastal Management and the NRF
 - The Sea & Coast Programme
 - The SeaChange Programme
 - Provincial Research Programmes
- The Joint Venture Agreement – a highly successful and beneficial partnership
- Marine Science and Global Change – DST support



FISHERIES RESEARCH AT DAFF

- The split between DEA and DAFF
 - Focus now almost entirely on resources research and aquaculture
 - Resulted in divide between fisheries and marine environmental research
 - Is detrimental to EAF and climate change research
- New arrangements
 - DAFF/DEA MOU and Research Forum



CURRENT DAFF PRIORITIES

- Much stronger focus on job creation, poverty alleviation and transformation
- Developmental approach, outreach and decentralization
- Emphasis on small scale fisheries monitoring and research
- Still a strong focus on
 - sustainable utilization and an ecosystem approach to fisheries,
 - rebuilding of over-exploited resources,
 - aquaculture R&D
 - development of new fisheries (octopus, whelks)



SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION AND AN EAF

- Fish stock survey methodology and technology
- Stock assessment research
- Biology & population dynamics of key stocks and bycatch species
- Monitoring, data collection and analysis in small-scale fisheries and in data poor situations
- The use of indigenous knowledge in fisheries
- The effect of gear selectivity in fisheries
- Climate change effects on marine ecosystems and fisheries



REBUILDING OF OVER-EXPLOITED RESOURCES

- Fisheries economic and social and studies
- EAF research on indicators, ecosystem dynamics and modelling
- Potential for development of new fisheries
- Research into value-adding of fisheries products



AQUACULTURE R&D

- Technology to promote indigenous species
 - Feeding and growth experiments
 - Life cycles and husbandry
- Disease control in cultured species
- Environmental impacts of fish farming
- Small-scale aquaculture

New DAFF Aquaculture Programme



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DEVELOPMENT OF NEW FISHERIES

- Exploratory and experimental fisheries, assessment of potential stocks
- Product and market research (e.g. anchovy for human consumption)
- Associated fishing technology



THE IMPORTANCE OF PARTNERSHIPS IN MARINE SCIENCE

- SA marine science is strong because of partnerships
- Integration and multidisciplinary research is critical to progress
 - SA history
 - International trends
 - Climate change research, EAF and sustainable use
- Addressing societal challenges with appropriate research
- Addressing regional imbalances by supporting appropriate research in the coastal provinces

