

# uLwandle

KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group Coastal Management Newsletter - Issue 2 \*Winter 1999

## The Coastal Management Policy Programme - Where to Now?

By Duncan Hay  
*Coastal Management Policy  
Programme Regional Manager*

The CMPP Draft White Paper was handed to Dr Pallo Jordan on 15 March 1999. The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism have taken ownership of the product and the process. It is the Department's responsibility, through its various forums, to steer the draft White Paper through the formal parliamentary process.

All stakeholders who have been consulted in the process should have received a copy of the Draft White Paper by post. Should you not have received one please contact Gail Knox-Davies at 0331-460796. I am presently organising meetings with key stakeholders to discuss the draft's contents. I urge you, as individuals with an interest in the coast and as members of organisations with a considerable stake in sustainable coastal development, to familiarise yourselves with the contents and submit any comments that you have to the project management team in Cape Town. (Contact details are contained in the Draft).

So, in the context of KwaZulu

Natal, where to now? What should we be doing and how should we be doing it? The Draft White Paper sets out a proposed national policy for sustainable coastal development. Being a national initiative that covers a coast and its people varying considerably in character, it is broad in nature. It provides us with certain norms, standards and guidelines, and with a strategic direction for implementation. It is also only a draft and might change during the course of the formal parliamentary process. So, do we respond by sitting on our collective "butts" and wait for national government to produce a formal policy, and then continue to wait hoping that some other department or organisation will lead in its implementation? Or, do we say that it is too broad for application to our specific purpose and consign the document to a dusty shelf? Alternately, do we extract what is useful to us and begin immediately on implementation steps? The reality is that if we wait for government or for someone else to lead we might wait a long time.

Whether you operate at a local, regional or provincial level, or in the private, public, labour, or NGO sectors, I urge you to take guidance from the draft and to run with it. What should you be doing first? ...

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### KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group Newsletter

"uLwandle", which means "sea" in Zulu, is a Coastal Management Newsletter produced by the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG). The CWG was established to provide coordination among KwaZulu-Natal Government Departments, parastatal organisations and non-governmental organisations regarding Coastal Policy matters.

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...The most important thing to do is to organise yourself together with other individuals and organisations around the focus. So, set up local beach management forums, regional coastal development forums, provincial management forums and such like. Then, organise yourselves so that you have some authority or influence, and so that you can make and implement the necessary decisions (ie. set your policy and

procedures). Then, start managing: start implementing actions.

Management is not a perfect science. The only way we will get coastal management right is by doing it. And the more we do it and the more we learn by doing it, the better we will get. Ultimately this will be reflected by an improvement in the quality of goods and services that the coast serves up to us -- society

as a whole.

In KwaZulu-Natal the window of opportunity for establishing effective coastal management is now. Stakeholders are interested and aware, provincial government is providing leadership and support. Let's make it happen now!



SEE NEXT ISSUE

The Establishment of a Provincial Coastal Management Forum

## The "Sardine Run": KwaZulu-Natal's Annual Bonanza



Extract from *The Oricle*, Official Newsletter of the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI)

The "sardine" run is an annual phenomenon that generally takes place along the southern KwaZulu-Natal coast during the winter months.

The arrival of shoals of silvery fish, together with their associated predators such as sharks, game fishes, dolphins and birds, causes great excitement amongst beach-seine fisherman, anglers, local residents and tourists alike. Recently, ORI staff completed a synthesis of available information in the "sardine run" for the KwaZulu-Natal Nature Conservation Service.

The temperate sardine, *Sardinops sagax*, inhabits shelf waters off southern Africa, California, Japan, Peru/Chile and Australia. Sardines exhibit size-specific patterns of availability and distribution which are related to seasonal hydrology and age-related behaviour patterns. It has been proposed that the "sardine run" is a phenomenon arising from expansion of the environment suitable for temperate sardines during the cooler water conditions that prevail along the southern KwaZulu-Natal coast in the winter months. Acoustic surveys by Sea Fisheries have shown that, north of Port St Johns, sardines frequently descend into deeper, cooler water.

Sardines are relatively short-lived, fast-growing fish and those occurring during the "sardine run" are typically about 16-17cm standard length or approaching two years

in age. Sardines spawn their eggs in batches about every 15 days during the lengthy spawning season and high proportions of reproductively active fish are usually found during the "sardine run". Sardine eggs have been recorded off Park Rynie from June to December with peaks in June/July and November/December. This has been attributed to the northward movement of sardines during the "sardine run" followed by a return migration when shoals head south as shelf waters increase in temperature in summer. During plankton surveys off the east coast, sardine larvae were found to be particularly abundant during the spring months.

Sardines are omnivorous microphagists feeding on both phytoplankton and zooplankton and are primarily filter-feeders though particulate feeding occurs when they are exposed to large food particles. Sardines are important prey items for piscivorous fishes, birds and marine mammals.

Increased abundances of predatory sharks (eg copper sharks), teleosts (eg elf, yellowtail and geelbek), Cape gannets and common dolphins are usually associated with the "sardine run" in KwaZulu-Natal.



The purse-seine fishery for sardines is concentrated...

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...in the Western Cape, and catches peaked at 410,200mt in 1962, declining dramatically thereafter. The pelagic industry switched to anchovy but since the mid-1990s the annual catch for sardines has risen again to around 100,000mt. A small Eastern cape fishery, which operates throughout the year, harvests up to 7,700mt of sardines annually. In KwaZulu-Natal up to 700mt of sardines have been harvested during the "sardine run" by the 30-35 licensed beach-seine operations. Most of the national sardine catch is canned, frozen or reduced to meal and oil but in KwaZulu-Natal the catch is generally eaten fresh or is frozen for use as bait by the large recreational angling fraternity.



Nationally, catch and biological data are routinely collected and acoustic surveys of spawner biomass and recruits along the west and south coasts are undertaken by Sea Fisheries. Setting of the annual Total Allowable Catch is done through an operational management procedure agreed to by scientists, managers and industry and takes into account biomass estimates from the acoustic surveys and the sardine by catch in the anchovy fishery.

Wise management of the sardine fishery at a national level to prevent stock collapse should, in the absence of massive environmental change, ensure the KwaZulu-Natal "sardine run" and its associated economic benefits.

## Update on the Implementation of the Sensitive Coastal Area Regulations

By Sandy MacDonald  
Department of Environmental  
Affairs and Tourism

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEA&T) has now extended the scope of the Sensitive Coastal Area (SCA) Regulations to cover the remainder of the Outeniqua region in the Western Cape, as well as the Pennington and Umtamvuna areas on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast. The Regulations (which control potentially harmful activities by means of a permit system within these SCA's) were promulgated in Government Gazette Number 19493 on 27 November 1998.

As DEA&T does not have the manpower to administer the SCA Regulations, powers in this regard are delegated to local authorities. Some authorities do, however, foresee that they might have difficulty in evaluating permit applications, due to shortages in their manpower, expertise and finances. Given the overall capacity constraints on local government,

DEA&T has compiled a set of Guidelines to assist authorities and applicants. These Guidelines include a background document, definitions of terms used, an explanation of legal procedures involved, and a *pro forma* impact report (in questionnaire format) combined with the permit application form. The impact report and permit application form will be available in both printed and electronic format. Completing the Guidelines' impact report will, however, not be compulsory, and an alternative impact report can be compiled by either the applicant or a consultant, on condition that such a report meets the requirements of the SCA Regulations.

A computer-based Decision-Support System (DSS) has also been developed for the Outeniqua coastal region. The DSS provides information which will enable permit applicants to answer questions in the impact report, and which will assist local authorities in making informed and correct decisions. Although DEA&T has not yet developed DSS's for other areas, this could be

explored with any authorities who believe that they would benefit from a DSS. The following computer hardware and software is needed to run a DSS:

- ❖ 16 MegaByte RAM (memory);
- ❖ 1 GigaByte hard-disk space;
- ❖ Standard 80486 or higher processor;
- ❖ CD ROM (drive);
- ❖ Windows '95.



The SCA Regulations do not only apply to private land-owners. A local authority or a provincial department wishing to undertake any of the controlled activities has to submit a permit application to the relevant provincial Premier; a national department has to apply to the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism for a permit.

To ensure transparency and accountability, decisions made regarding permit applications will have to be comprehensively recorded, and made available to any party upon request. DEA&T has a...

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...mandate to monitor the implementation of the SCA Regulations, and will thus request all authorities affected by the Regulations to supply DEA&T with all records of decisions made in respect of permit applications. Public access to a fair and equitable appeal procedure is also an underpinning principle of the SCA Regulations.

Even though the law in South Africa does not require it, DEA&T has indulged in extensive public participation campaigns to advertise and discuss the SCA Regulations with affected parties. This is because the success of the Regulations will largely depend on the public and NGO's to act as "watchdogs" to monitor their implementation.



There are, of course, other areas on the South African coastline warranting legislative protection. DEA&T intends to progressively implement the SCA Regulations in a phased manner in these areas, and has already commenced initial consultations with various authorities who have showed interest in the project. In the Western Cape, for instance, DEA&T is taking steps in conjunction with affected authorities to extend the SCA Regulations from Tergriet westwards to the Breede River. The Cape Metropolitan Council has also

shown interest in having a SCA -area, implemented in their jurisdictional and DEA&T will be taking this forward as well during 1999. In KwaZulu-Natal, steps are being planned to implement the SCA Regulations on other parts of the South Coast, namely Port Shepstone and Hibberdene. Regarding the Eastern Cape, DEA&T is currently liaising with the provincial and regional authorities, as well as two local authorities (Jeffrey's Bay and St Francis Bay) with respect to implementing the SCA Regulations in that province.

In general, DEA&T wishes to speed up the overall SCA implementation process. It would also like to standardise the text of the SCA Regulations as far as possible, given that they are national legislation. This could probably be best achieved by publishing one general set of draft standard SCA Regulations for comment, and requesting comments on these from all local, regional and provincial authorities (as well as NGO's and the general public) in coastal areas.

Assuming agreement can be reached on the basic content of the standard SCA Regulations, the only issue that would need to be debated during the establishment of future new SCA's would be the demarcation of their boundaries.

DEA&T will continue to advertise the SCA Regulations so that parties in other remaining areas will be made more aware of the initiative. With this in mind, DEA&T recently distributed information packs (which included the Guidelines and the Regulations for the Pennington and Umtamvuna SCA's) to all local and regional authorities along the South African coast. It is hoped that the local authorities and/or NGO's in coastal areas will respond by requesting DEA&T to implement the Regulations in their areas. If, however, it is clear to DEA&T that certain areas need regulatory protection, then it can take the necessary steps to implement the SCA regulations in such areas, even if there have not been specific requests in this regard from local parties.

If you would like more information on SCA's, or if you wish to obtain copies of the relevant documentation, you are welcome to contact the author at DEA&T's Coastal Management Office via any one of the following -



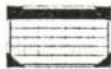
☐ postal address: *Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012*  
 ☎ tel no: 021 - 402 3023  
 fax no: 021 - 418 2582  
 E-mail: [amdonald@sfri.wcape.gov.za](mailto:amdonald@sfri.wcape.gov.za)

## Days to Remember...

Courtesy of Jan Wiltshire

*Department of Traditional and Environmental Affairs*

- ❖ 5 June World Environment Day
- ❖ 16 June Youth Day
- ❖ 17 June World Desert Day
- ❖ 11 July World Population Day
- ❖ 1-7 September Arbor Week
- ❖ 11 September Readathon Day
- ❖ 16 September International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer
- ❖ 21 September International Day of Peace



- ❖ 24 September Heritage Day
- ❖ 4 October World Habitat Day
- ❖ 16 October World Food Day
- ❖ 5 November National Marine Day
- ❖ 20 November Universal Children's Day
- ❖ 1 December World Aids Day