



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

DRAFT

NAMIBIA FISHERIES POLICY

Ensuring fisheries and aquatic resources sustainability. Maximizing economic and social benefits to all Namibians

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List of Abbreviations

BCC	Benguela Current Commission
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity CBD (1992) and FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO CCRF, 1995)
CBD	Convention of Biological Diversity (1992)
CCAMLR	Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine and Living Resources
Codex	Codex Alimentarius Commission
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FAO CCRF	FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (1995)
FISHCOR	National Fishing Corporation Limited
FOA	Fisheries Observer Agency
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point system
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
ICT	Information Communication and Technology
IPCC	Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights Protocol
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing
MCS	Monitoring Control and Surveillance
MSY	Maximum Sustainable Yield
NAMFI	Namibia Maritime and Fisheries Institute
NFCPT	Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust
OIE	Office International des Epizooties
RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SEAFO	South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization
SOE	State Owned Enterprises

TAC	Total Allowable Catch
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982)
Ministry	Ministry responsible for fisheries and marine resources, for the time being the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Minister	Minister responsible for fisheries and marine resources
WHO	World Health Organization

Introduction

1. This Policy is guided by Vision 2030, which is the overall development agenda for Namibia. The specific aspects in this policy are informed by the fourth National Development Plan (NDP4),

various fisheries management plans and annual action plans of the Ministry of Fisheries and marine Resources.

2. Namibia is one of the leading capture fisheries nations in the World. The annual marine landings of about 550,000MT valued at about N\$ 7 billion (about 800 million US\$) ranks Namibia as the 3rd largest African capture fisheries nation after Morocco and South Africa, and 30th worldwide. Fisheries in Namibia is the third largest income earner after mining and tourism, and contributes about 15% of total exports and about 4.5% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).
3. The Country has an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) comprising of 504, 000 square kilometres, and a 1,572 km coastline along the South Atlantic Ocean. This EEZ is located in rich fishing grounds in the Benguela Current System which is one of the four eastern boundary upwelling systems in the world. The other such systems are off North-West Africa, off California and off Peru. These systems support rich stocks of demersal and small pelagic species.
4. Marine fisheries constitute the bulk of Namibia fisheries. In the past 5 years, marine landings have been about 550,000MT (annual average), which is 99.8% of total landings.
5. Inland fisheries in the northern perennial rivers and floodplains yield about 8,000 MT annually. Although they are of lesser economic value than marine fisheries, inland fisheries are important for food security especially in the densely populated rural communities of Zambezi and Kavango regions.
6. Aquaculture, particularly mariculture is still in its infancy, and annual production has been about 2,250MT. The country has a rich potential in aquaculture.

Situational Analysis

7. There are about 20 commercial fishery species in Namibia. Seven of these species are regulated by setting of annual Total Allowable Catches (TACs), while the other commercial species are regulated through effort control. A summary of the main commercial fishery species and resources, their TACs, average landed value and main markets are summarised in tables 1 to 5.

Table 1: Average Annual Data on TAC Controlled Fishery Species and Marine Resources in Namibia (2010-2014)

Fishery/Marine resource	Biomass (MT)	TAC (MT)	landed Value (N\$)	Main products traded	Main Markets
Horse mackerel	1 470 000	315,400	2,507,770,499	Whole Round, fishmeal, oil	DRC, Angola, Mozambique, South Africa
Hake	1 082 000	155,800	3,879,390,000	Fillets, Headed & Gutted	Spain, Italy, South Africa
Monk	34 800	10,900	530,860,646	Headed & Gutted	Spain, Italy
Pilchard	184 200	27,200	121,731,676	Canned	South Africa
Rock lobster	924	335	28,807,680	Whole Round	Japan, China
Crab	26 800	2,990	135,087,200	Sections, Whole Round	Japan, Spain, China
Seals (numbers)	1.2 million individuals	86,000 pups and bulls	4,639,486	Skin, oils and genitals, bone meal	Turkey, China, South Africa

Table 2: Effort control commercial fishery and marine resources in Namibia (2010-2014)

Fishery or Marine Resource	Average landings (MT)	Average landed values (N\$)	Main products traded	Main markets
Snoek	3,213.0	59,793,930	headed and gutted, salted	Seychelles, Namibia, South Africa
Barber	3.2	9,600	headed and gutted	Namibia
Kob	19.7	591,000	gutted, headed and gutted, fillets	Namibia, South Africa
Mulletts	25.9	51,840	whole round	Namibia
guano	194.0		guano	South Africa
swordfish	312	15,275,794	Headed and gutted	
albacore			gutted	
short fin Mako, blue sharks	3,186	70,099,858	Fins, trunks, fillets	

Table 3: Non-targeted (by-catch) Commercial Fisheries Species (2010-2014)

By-catches	Landings (MT)	Landed Value (N\$)
Sole	498	11,471,219
Squids	23	231,602

Panga	383	2,298,000
Angel	122	729,712
Tunas	2,426	51,678,902
Sharks	3,186	70,099,858
Mackerel	1,091	1,636,425
Anchovy	206	309,496
Red eye	258	387,276
Kingklip	4,003	169,648,220
Jacopever	8	58,100

Table 4: Effort Control Inland Fishery Species in Namibia (2010-2014)

Fishery Species	Average landings (MT)	Annual value (N\$)	Main markets
Tilapia/ breams	4,500	67,500,000	Namibia, DRC, Zambia and Botswana
cat fish	500	7,500,000	Namibia, DRC, Zambia and Botswana

Table 5: Main Aquaculture Fishery Species in Namibia (2010-2014)

Species	Annual Production (MT)	Annual Value (N\$)	Main Markets
Mariculture Species			
Oysters	2,089	108,628,858	China, South Africa China
Abalone	50	8,977,299	
Mussels	15	510,000	Namibia
Total	2,154	119,558,925	
Freshwater Aquaculture Species			

Tilapia	115	2,300,000	Namibia
Cat Fish	4	63,359	Namibia
Total	119	2,363,359	

8. Since independence, Namibia's fisheries policy has focussed on rebuilding of fisheries stocks, especially those that had suffered long periods of unsustainable over-exploitation during colonial times, and enforcement of monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) measures in fishing operations. These initiatives have borne fruit, and several of the previously over exploited fisheries stocks such as hake and horse mackerel have now recovered and are being harvested at sustainable levels. There was also significant emphasis on Namibianization of fishing activities, particularly through issuance of rights and allocation of fishing quotas to previously disadvantaged Namibians.
9. Whereas stocks sustainability will always remain the top policy priority in Namibia's fisheries, it is important to also focus on socio-economic contribution of fisheries to the country, and a value addition approach that seeks to maximise value retention nationally. Namibia's fishery is significant both in terms of volumes and value of fish landed, and policies aimed at maximization of its socio-economic contribution such as employment creation, resource rent capture for wealth distribution and contribution to food security are necessary.
10. In order to maximize value of Namibia's fisheries and marine resources, it is important to add value locally and target lucrative markets, especially in export destinations. These markets require fishery products safety standards official guarantees that require human resource capacity and facilities to effect. Such guarantees, including certifications accompanying fishery products consignments, require competencies on safety in aquatic ecosystems, on board operations and land based activities, which is within the mandate of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.
11. For inland fisheries, it is important to focus on the food security needs of the rural communities, with emphasis on, and support for, co-management of the fisheries resources, both locally and between riparian states in shared fisheries.
12. This policy focuses on ensuring stocks sustainability, while at the same time promoting value addition and socio-economic contribution of fisheries and marine resources to Namibia's economy.

Policy Framework

Policy Statement

13. This policy defines Government objectives on all matters as per mandate of the ministry responsible for fisheries and marine resources. Such resources include all living matter in or associated with aquatic ecosystems such as fish, seaweed, seals, sea birds, frogs, crocodiles and products derived from them such as guano and organic phosphates from seabed fossils.
14. The Government is committed to responsible fisheries and marine resources governance and management to ensure that all such resources within its borders including Exclusive Economic Zone, aquaculture and inland waters, are produced and harvested sustainably, for the benefit of all present and future generations of Namibians.
15. Fisheries development is essential in the national goal of attainment of national development, food security and poverty eradication. In this regard, the Government shall support developments aimed at building the capacity of key stakeholders involved in Namibian fisheries.
16. To this effect, the Government shall ensure effective and efficient development, implementation and enforcement of a coordinated policy on fishing, aquaculture, processing and trade guided by principles contained in this document.

Policy Objectives

17. This policy aims to achieve sustainable utilization of fisheries and marine resources, and equitable distribution of their wealth while facilitating trade in fisheries. In order to achieve this objective, this policy establishes controls with regard to marine resources harvesting, inland fishing, aquaculture, processing and trade of fish.
18. The principles of fisheries harvesting in this policy are based on ecosystem approach to fisheries as contained in United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS, 1982), Convention of Biological Diversity CBD (1992) and FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (FAO CCRF, 1995). This is in line with the precautionary approach which ensures conservation, management and exploitation of living aquatic resources and preservation of the aquatic environment.
19. The principles on standards compliance in this Policy are based on *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (codex), Office International des

Epizooties (OIE), hazard Analysis Critical Control Point System (HACCP), and Namibia Food Safety Policy.

Specific Objectives

20. The specific objectives of this policy are to:

- a. Define the specific roles and coordination of Government and stakeholders in attainment of this policy.
- b. Facilitate review of Acts and Regulations on fisheries and aquatic resources;
- c. Facilitate the protection of aquatic ecosystem to ensure that adverse impacts are avoided and/or minimized
- d. Facilitate sustainable harvesting, production and trade in fish and fishery products both nationally and with other countries by enforcing official control measures on food safety in line with international conventions.

Application

21. The Namibia Fisheries Policy is applicable to the following:

- a. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources, including the Ministry's state owned enterprises such as National Fishing Corporation (Fishcor), Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT), Fisheries Observer Agency (FOA) and Namibia Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI);
- b. Line ministries whose mandate impacts on fisheries and marine resources development in Namibia such as ministries responsible for finance, trade and industry, health, poverty eradication, justice, safety and security, planning, environment, transport, education, urban and rural development, labour, mines, water, poverty eradication, agriculture and land;
- c. Traditional and regional authorities;
- d. The entire fishing industry including fishers in marine and inland aquatic ecosystems in Namibia;

- e. All persons involved in aquaculture in Namibia;
- f. All persons or organizations involved in financing, clearing and forwarding, labour unions, transporting and storage of fish, fishery products and marine resources;
- g. All persons or organizations involved in transformation of fish and fishery products including handling, processing or packaging; and
- h. All persons or organizations involved in trade in fish and fishery products including retailing, wholesale, export and import.

Organizational Responsibilities

- 22. The Government through Cabinet is responsible for approval of policies and bills on fisheries matters, and for provision of financial, human, facilities and infrastructure resources necessary for implementation of the mandate of the minister responsible for fisheries and aquatic resources.
- 23. The Minister is responsible for all fisheries governance matters, including implementation of this policy, legislation on fisheries and aquatic resources, and management, research, and capacity building activities.
- 24. The Minister shall implement cross-cutting activities contained in this policy which require inter-ministerial coordination in close collaboration with other line ministries concerned, as the Cabinet shall determine.
- 25. The state owned enterprises under the ministry responsible for fisheries, such as National Fishing Corporation Limited (Fishcor), Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT), Fisheries Observer Agency (FOA) and Namibia Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI) are responsible, subject to conditions approved by the Minister, for implementing activities in line with their gazetted mandates as the Minister, in consultation with Cabinet, shall determine.
- 26. The stakeholders in fisheries such as fishers, fish handlers and processors, traders, and service providers to the fish industry are responsible for aligning their activities with the provisions in this Policy. Such alignment shall include adherence to applicable regulations and payment of taxes, levies and fees.

Sustainable harvesting of fisheries stocks

27. The Ministry shall maintain and/or rebuild the biomass of each fishery resource to levels where they can support long-term maximum sustainable yields (MSY).
28. The Ministry shall develop and implement fisheries management plans for all commercial fisheries including shared stocks, in line with the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) as outlined in the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and UNCLOS.
29. The Ministry shall develop, implement and regularly review national plans of action (NPOA) in support of the various international plans of action, relating to, *inter alia*, sea birds, IUU fishing, fishing vessel capacity and sharks.
30. The Ministry shall continue to control fishing effort through the existing system of rights, total allowable catches, quotas, effort restrictions, spatial and temporal closures and other management measures.
31. The Ministry shall continue to facilitate harvesting of living marine resources off Namibian coast such as seals, and inland waters such as crocodiles. This harvesting shall be carried out on a sustainable basis through measures such as setting of TAC based on best available scientific information.
32. The ministry shall continue to facilitate non-consumptive fisheries activities such as whale watching and marine tourism.
33. The Ministry shall continue to facilitate responsible development of recreational fishing through measures such as implementation of appropriate management controls and promotion activities.
34. The Ministry shall facilitate development of small scale and artisanal fishing in marine and inland waters, especially for coastal and riparian communities.
35. The Ministry shall adopt co-management principles in fisheries management including implementation of appropriate fishing controls, standards at facilities at landing sites, value addition and marketing.
36. The Ministry, in collaboration with the ministry responsible for mining and environment, shall implement management measures to

regulate non-fisheries related activities that may impact negatively on the aquatic ecosystem such as seabed mining and seismic activities, in line with this policy.

37. The Ministry shall ensure that the quality of research undertaken in the Namibian waters is of internationally accepted standards to improve the management of the aquatic ecosystem.
38. The Ministry shall ensure that intellectual property rights to the information gathered is in line with national data policy and, in accordance with international Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protocols, Namibia's rights are safeguarded.
39. The Ministry, in consultation with the ministry responsible for environment, shall develop measures to mitigate climate change and its impact on the aquatic ecosystem, in accordance with Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) principles and other international conventions to which Namibia is party.
40. The Ministry shall implement measures adopted at RFMOs and international fisheries organisations, to which Namibia is a party, on all fisheries matters including protection of aquatic ecosystems and sustainable production, utilization and trade in fisheries resources.
41. The Ministry shall encourage public-private collaboration in eco-labelling schemes or other certification programs aimed at demonstrating the country's best practice fisheries management measures.
42. The Ministry shall support development of relevant specialised skills in research, operations, management and standards enforcement for its staff and employees in the sector through facilitation of formal and practical trainings, and provision of necessary facilities for effective skills implementation. The Ministry shall encourage the retention of such skills within the sector by providing enabling work environment, and competitive remunerations.

Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS)

43. The Government shall continue to enforce monitoring control and surveillance (MCS) measures on fishing operations in marine and inland waters to ensure compliance with national and international requirements in fishing, harvesting of marine resources and other fishery-related operations.

44. To ensure effective MCS, the Ministry shall continue to provide facilities, equipment, financial and human resource capacities to operate aerial surveillance, sea and river patrols, and land based vessel monitoring systems.
45. The Ministry shall ensure that fishing activities by Namibian flagged and licensed fishing vessels inside and outside the EEZ, in waters of other states and inland waters are monitored and controlled.
46. The Ministry shall continue to prohibit unauthorised transshipment at sea, except under force majeure or under provisions of international instruments to which Namibia is a contracting Party.
47. The Ministry shall, in accordance with national legislation and international conventions, continue to combat Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing.

Fishing Rights

48. The Ministry shall ensure that fisheries determined to be ecologically sustainable and economically viable are managed using a rights based approach and that their harvesting is limited to pre-determined Total allowable Catches (TAC).
49. No person shall in Namibia or in Namibian waters harvest any marine resource for commercial purposes, except under a right, an exploratory right or a fisheries agreement.
50. In the case of a marine resource which has been made subject to a quota, no person shall in Namibia or in Namibian waters harvest such a resource for commercial purposes, except in terms of a quota or of permitted by catch under a right, an exploratory right or a fisheries agreement.
51. The Ministry shall facilitate beneficiation, through rights based approach, of riparian communities dependent on fish resources for food security and livelihoods.
52. Fishing of all other specified species shall be managed by measures such as effort control through licensing and permits.
53. As part of the Namibianization policy, fishing rights shall be restricted to Namibian nationals. In allocating rights, special consideration shall be made to previously disadvantaged persons and marginalized communities.

54. The Minister shall determine different durations of fishing rights for different fishery species, not to exceed twenty years, taking into account return on investments required in each fisheries operations.
55. The Minister shall gazette conditions and procedures required in granting each type of fishing right. Such conditions shall include monitoring of performance of every right at least once every three years, based on transparent criteria. Non performing rights may be cancelled, or sanctioned otherwise, as the Minister may determine.
56. The Minister shall, in considering application for fishing rights, take into account the competence of the applicant in that fishery, and capacity to make the necessary investments in its operations. The Minister may cancel a fishing right issued to a right holder if it is established that the right holder is unwilling, unable or not planning to invest in that fishery.
57. A fishing right held by a right holder who is not fishing directly but rather fishes using other fishing agents in which he/she has no shares shall not be renewed, and may be subjected to a reduced duration, as the Minister may determine.

Exploratory Fishing Rights

58. In determining whether a non-target fishery species has achieved commercial viability, the Minister may, in addition to normal stock assessment activities, allow companies or persons to participate in the assessment through exploratory fishing rights. The Minister shall set out the conditions of such exploratory fishing, which shall be monitored continuously.
59. The Minister may grant not more than two exploratory fishing rights per fishery species. An exploratory right for a particular species shall be evaluated at least once annually and may be cancelled if it is not performing as per conditions set. An exploratory fishing right shall be limited to two years.

Total Allowable Catches

60. The setting of Total Allowable Catch (TAC) amounts of every fishery species shall be based on best available stock assessment information; and upon advise from the Advisory Committee. With a view to ensuring continuous adherence to international best practises on stock assessment and management, the Minister shall appoint a panel of relevant experts to independently review the methodologies and reports at least once every two years.

61. The Minister may determine the total allowable catch to be allocated, in a given period, to the following categories:
- a. Commercial harvesting;
 - b. Non-commercial harvesting; and
 - c. Reserve
62. A total allowable catch allocated to commercial harvesting shall be harvested by commercial right holders.
63. If the Minister has determined a total allowable catch allocation for allocation to non-commercial harvesting or reserve purposes, the Minister may, upon application, allocate a quota to the National Fishing Corporation of Namibia Limited.

Fishing Quota Allocations

64. The Minister shall, subject to set TAC levels and based on criteria gazetted from time to time, allocate an amount of fishery resources (quota) to specific right holders in a particular fishery. The amount of quota may vary depending on performance of right holders against a pre-determined criteria which shall include investment, employment, value addition and socio economic factors.
65. Any ship or vessel which catches a quota allocated to a right holder who is not the registered owner of that vessel, shall be deemed to have benefited from that quota. The Minister may take that benefit into consideration when making quota allocations to right holders owning such ship or vessel during the following fishing season.
66. The Government may enter into fishing agreements with a member country of the Southern African Development Community, or any other country as the Government, through Cabinet, shall determine. The Minister may allocate fishing quotas for particular fisheries in line with such agreements.
67. The Minister shall implement measures aimed at maximization of Namibia's quota of fish from ICCAT, SEAFO and other RFMOs. The Minister, in collaboration with the fishing industry, shall facilitate initiatives aimed at ensuring that all Namibia's RFMO quotas are landed annually.

Aquaculture Development

68. The Ministry shall, in collaboration with traditional authorities and ministry responsible for regional governments, establish aquapark

schemes in areas where there is aquaculture potential, especially along the coastal areas, in dams and perennial rivers.

69. Such aquapark schemes shall be organized as business and investment and business parks, which shall, with a view to enhancing skills transfer and partnerships, incorporate small scale producers, and medium to large scale aquaculture investors.
70. The aquapark schemes shall incorporate necessary infrastructure for standards including aquatic health compliance, production of fingerlings, marketing, cold chain structures, and value addition infrastructure.
71. The Ministry shall ensure that aquaculture and other investments which promote business skills achieve financial sustainability in line with Government procedures on business oriented State Owned Enterprises (SOEs).

Socio economic considerations

72. The Ministry shall, within the first two years of this policy, develop a national fisheries strategy aimed at maximizing economic benefits of fisheries and aquatic resources to Namibia. Such strategy shall consider both direct and indirect value added activities associated with fisheries, and mechanisms of making Namibia an international economic hub for such operations.
73. In determining direct value added benefits of particular fisheries, the minister shall consider contributions such as resource rent capture through taxation or levies, and direct employment creation for Namibians in fishing and fish handling and processing per unit amount of fishing quota allocated.
74. In determining indirect value added benefits of a particular fisheries, the minister shall consider factors such as employment created in activities associated with fisheries such as supplies, services, stevedoring, trade and logistics, investments and skills transfer, and promotion of other sectors of economy that indirectly rely on fisheries.
75. In order to encourage maximization of socioeconomic contribution by fisheries industry through employment creation, priority in fishing quota allocation shall be given to right-holders who create the highest number of high quality jobs per MT of fish landed.
76. In allocation of TAC quota to right holders, priority shall be given to wet quotas for onshore processing as compared to quota for freezing on board fishing vessels. The Minister shall, in consultation with

fisheries associations, set annual increasing target of jobs per MT of fish landed in each fishery.

77. The ministry shall encourage compliance by all stakeholders in fisheries sector to national labour laws, occupational health and safety and worker welfare. The Ministry shall encourage stakeholders to adopt of international best practises including certifications on labour issues.

Value Addition and Standards Compliance

78. In order to maximize value addition activities in fisheries nationally, the Ministry shall, in collaboration with the private sector and training institutions, facilitate best practises in handling, processing and product development technologies.

79. The Minister shall, within the first 3 years of this policy, establish a fisheries value addition and standards facilitation unit. This unit shall have facilities and human resource capacities aimed at ensuring that Namibian fish and fishery products meets food quality and safety standards as established by *Codex Alimentarius* Commission (codex), Office International des Epizooties (OIE) or any other international organization or convention to which Namibia is a signatory.

80. The fisheries value addition and standards unit shall, in addition to facilitating standards compliance, build capacity of emerging investors and small scale fisheries on human resource skills and provide access to facilities for fisheries product development.

81. All fisheries and aquaculture handling and processing activities shall apply the principles of hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) system as stated by the *Codex Alimentarius* Commission coordinated through FAO and WHO of the UN.

82. Fishing vessels and fishers activities shall be required to apply principles of general food hygiene as per HACCP principles in their premises. These practises shall be recorded by the vessel operators, inspected and verified periodically by standards inspectors from the Ministry.

83. In order to provide necessary official guarantees to markets on standards compliance in the fisheries sector, the Minister shall gazette regulations defining fisheries safety requirements as follows:

- a) Boats, fishing vessels, factory vessels and freezer vessels: equipment and facilities on fishing vessels, areas for receiving

products taken on board, work and storage areas, refrigeration and freezing installations, pumping of waste and disinfection;

- b) Personnel and facilities hygiene on board fishing vessels, factory vessels and freezer vessels: cleanliness, protection from any form of contamination, washing with water and cold treatment;
- c) Landing ports, sites and facilities: conditions of hygiene during and after the landing of fishery products. Protection against any form of contamination, equipment used, and conditions at markets;
- d) Regulations on live, fresh and frozen products, mechanically separated fish flesh, endo-parasites harmful to human health, processed fishery products; and cooked crustaceans and molluscs;
- e) Regulations on control of presence of substances and toxins harmful to human health; and
- f) Packaging, storage and transport of fishery products.

Fisheries Marketing

84. The Minister, in collaboration with the minister responsible for trade, shall annually implement activities aimed at promoting Namibian fish internationally. The objective of these activities shall include branding Namibian fish, expanding existing markets, and diversifying to new markets.

85. The Minister shall, in collaboration with other Government agencies and fish industry exporters and importers, set up mechanisms aimed at increasing the bargaining power on price of Namibian fish in international markets such as dedicated distribution networks, and collective marketing.

86. The Minister shall continue to facilitate international trade negotiations to ensure an enabling environment for competitive marketing of Namibia's fisheries.

Investments and Joint Ventures

87. The Government shall continue to invest in public infrastructure development for the benefit of the fisheries sectors to ensure optimum utilization of the resources for the benefit of all Namibians.

88. The Government shall facilitate a private sector-led approach to investment in the fisheries sector. Investment by the Government in fisheries shall be limited to those operations where there is insufficient participation of private sector, or insufficient participation by Namibians. The Government shall divest from operations in the fisheries where there is sufficient private sector capacity to operate.
89. The Ministry shall encourage initiatives between private sector and banking institutions such as dedicated funds, aimed at providing affordable credit facilities to the fisheries industry.
90. The Government shall continue to encourage foreign participation, through joint ventures with Namibians, in fishing, processing and marketing of fisheries and marine resources.
91. The Government shall continue to support joint venture chartering of local and foreign vessels.

Domestic food security

92. The Ministry shall continue to encourage increased national consumption of fish. In this regard, the Ministry shall collaborate with the private sector, regional and urban authorities and other organizations to provide fish markets, and domestic cold chain distribution and value addition of fishery products.
93. The Government shall continue to promote initiatives aimed at availing affordable fish to Namibians, especially in rural and low income areas. Such initiatives may include allocation to quotas of specific fisheries to Namibia Fish Consumption Promotion Trust (NFCPT). The amount of quota allocated to NFCPT and pricing at consumer level shall, in consultation with Marine Resources Advisory Council, ensure that it does not affect the economic sustainability of competitiveness existing right holders or their competitiveness in local markets.
94. The Minister shall, in consultation with the fishing industry, set a proportion of every fishing quota that shall be marketed locally.
95. The Ministry shall seek to maximize participation of coastal and riparian communities in fisheries development. This shall include participation in fisheries business, jobs creation and promotion of corporate social responsibility activities by fishery industry in the development of such communities.

Financing

96. Fisheries management shall be financed through government revenue, resource rents such as taxes and levies, and resources obtained from development partners.
97. In order to maintain financial sustainability, the Government shall ensure that revenue obtained from the fisheries sector by way of taxes and levies exceeds the operational budget of the Ministry financed through Treasury.
98. The Government shall ensure resource rent capture by gazetting a levy payable by all quota and effort-control fisheries, aquaculture and marine resources.
99. The Minister shall, from time to time, gazette levies to finance operational costs of activities on fisheries and marine resources, such as research, fisheries observer activities and other management services.
100. Levies applicable to fisheries and marine resources shall be based on landed value of fisheries or marine resources harvested.
101. The Government shall ensure that the total quota fees and levies applicable in fisheries in Namibia shall be between 5 and 15% of the landed value of fisheries or marine resources harvested.

International collaboration

102. The implementation of this Policy shall be in accordance to the relevant provisions of international agreements to which Namibia is a signatory, such as the following:
 - a. Agreement for the implementation of the Provisions of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (more commonly known as the “UN Fish Stocks Agreement”);
 - b. FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas (more commonly known as the “Compliance Agreement”);
 - c. Benguela Current Commission (BCC);
 - d. South East Atlantic Fisheries Organization (SEAFO);

- e. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT);
- f. Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine and Living Resources (CCAMLR);
- g. FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries; and
- h. SADC Regional Protocol on Fisheries.

Communication

103. The Minister shall establish effective channels of communication between all stakeholders in fisheries and marine resources. Such communication shall include regular briefings using various media, use of ICT technologies, and effective public relations management.
104. The Ministry shall communicate effectively with the public on issues such as advertisements on available rights, opportunities in inland and aquaculture fisheries and other opportunities in fisheries development. Such communication shall involve media that effectively reaches rural communities such as local radio, print press, and direct communications via traditional and regional authorities.
105. The Ministry shall facilitate formation and capacity building of fishery industry associations or beach management units, and encourage participation of all fishers or fishing industry in such organizations.
106. In order to facilitate communication, consultation between ministry and fishing industry on all matters shall be coordinated through fishing associations and beach management units.

Monitoring, Review and Amendments

1. The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources shall develop and implement monitoring and evaluation (M&E) tools in planning, allocation of resources and evaluation of results of the implementation of this Policy.
2. For successful implementation of the Namibia Fisheries Policy, an M&E framework will be developed as an integral component

of all annual work plans of Directorates and State Owned Enterprises within the Ministry to ensure the policy objectives are achieved in a cost effective, coordinated and harmonized approach at all levels.

3. This Policy shall be applicable from the date of adoption by Cabinet. It may be reviewed through consultation and mutual consent on any of its provisions by the Minister, and re-submission to Cabinet for consideration.