

Empowerment. Business Skills Training For Fishers

By

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Celebrating the launch of the Alternative Livelihoods Project for fishers in Kenton-on-Sea in the Eastern Cape are, from left, FADI project manager Sulaiman Appoles, Ekuphumleni Co-op secretary Busisiwe Tobi, co-op chair Mzamo Marwanqana, fisherman Willie Peters, and SAIMI research associate Akhona Baninzi.

The SA International Maritime Institute (SAIMI) is funding business skills training for subsistence fishing communities in the Eastern and Western Cape.

This will hopefully also widen their scope to become involved in opportunities beyond fishing activity.

The Alternative Livelihoods Project

Ninety South African fishers will benefit from training under the auspices of The Alternative Livelihoods Project run by the Fisheries and Aquaculture Development Institute (FADI) which has received the funding.

These fishers come from Ocean View, Cape Town; Kenton-on-Sea, Eastern Cape, and Saldanha Bay, Cape west coast.

According to SAIMI research associate Akhona Baninzi, SAIMI had partnered with FADI on the project because it aligned with "our goal to support maritime skills and capacity-building towards a diversified and sustainable oceans economy".

Practical skills training

The project includes training in practical entrepreneurship skills. This includes:

- compiling viable, bankable business plans
- managing finances
- marketing
- how to identify business opportunities
- how to register a business and ensure compliance.
- networking and linking up with other networks through business chambers or industry bodies
- The advantages of mentorship and business coaching

It also includes basic training in construction.

Fishing co-operatives

According to FADI chairperson, Jeremy Marillier, it is likely that the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries will begin allocating rights to small-scale fisheries co-operatives during the Fishing Rights Allocation Process (FRAP 2020).

“Business skills and entrepreneurial skills will provide an added benefit to the beneficiaries,” he says.

<https://www.fishingindustrynewssa.com/2018/02/06/training-starts-milestone-small-scale-fisheries-sector/>

<https://www.fishingindustrynewssa.com/2019/03/19/launch-today-kzn-small-scale-fisheries-sector/>

<https://www.fishingindustrynewssa.com/2019/05/15/small-scale-fishing-splitting-and-reclassifying-sectors/>

Complementing income

Marillier emphasises that the Alternative Livelihoods programme is intended to complement income from fishing, not replace it.

“The issues of equitable access, fair rights allocation and restorative justice for small-scale fishers and coastal communities remain the core concerns that should be resolved by the State,” he said.

Small-scale fishing is a relatively new sub-sector of the commercial fishing industry. The government’s Small-Scale Fishing Policy aims to include traditionally subsistence fishers in the value chain.

The Alternative Livelihoods Project was recently launched and is set to run to the end of March 2020. Training has already started in the Ocean View community