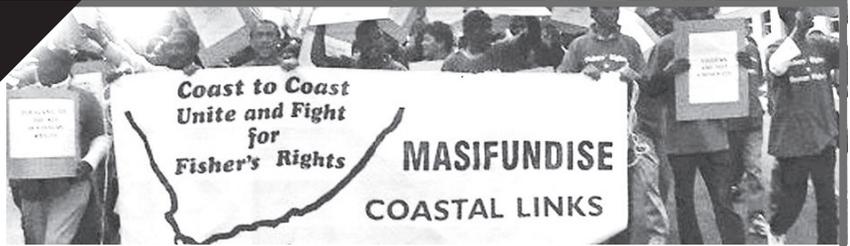


SMALL-SCALE  
FISHERS



## **We have travelled A HARD, LONG JOURNEY**

For almost ten years, we campaigned together for a policy that will benefit small-scale fishers. We went to court, we protested, we stood in unity and we spoke to government. Last year in June, the Cabinet finally adopted a policy that can bring positive changes to the lives of small-scale fishers countrywide.

### ***Benefits of the new policy include:***

- The formal recognition of small-scale fishing communities.
- A move to collective fishing rights, away from the individual quota system that excluded the majority.
- The demarcation of preferential fishing zones for small-scale fishers, where they will be able to harvest or catch multiple species throughout the year. The potential for sustainable income will improve. These zones will be out of bounds for big commercial fishing companies.
- Improved and sustainable marine resource co-management.

### **COLLECTIVE RIGHTS**

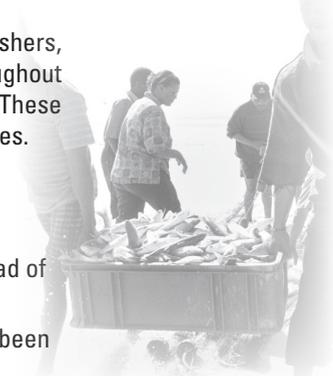
This will entail a new approach that promotes co-operation instead of competition and conflict.

Up to now, a system of Individual Transferable Quotas (ITQs) has been used. There are many problems with this system.

- Only a small percentage of applicants (around 10%) are successful in getting ITQ's. Just 700 out of 7 000 applications were successful in 2004.
- New entrants into the markets sell their quotas to more established players. This works against genuine change in the sector.
- Community members and their families have to compete against each other for opportunities rather than work together.

The **collective rights** approach, on the other hand, demands co-operation rather than competition. Community members will have to register as a group. This will place us in a position to get access to capital with which we can acquire better equipment, fishing gear and holding facilities. We can use our collective strength to access improved prices and markets.

Once we have established a legal entity (whatever its form), members will be in a position to qualify for UIF, join medical schemes and benefit from skills training programmes.



**SMALL-SCALE  
FISHERS**



## ***Now it is operation*** **IMPLEMENTATION**

The government has adopted an implementation plan. We must be completely ready for this process. Norton Dowries, Coastal Links leader from Langebaan, sums up the situation well

***“Now at last we have our own policy. It took us 10 years, but it was worth it. All the pain and suffering. Now the implementation of the policy must be understood and undertaken fully and correctly on ground level. Our local leaders must now give the message to the members in a manner they truly understand. Our leaders of Coastal Links must be loyal, active and committed.”***

We expect the government to move with speed, to deliver on their promises. And we will hold them accountable.

But also need to understand our own responsibilities. We must know what we have to do in order to complete the final lap successfully.

We must act together to ensure the following:

- That we work together and not against each other.
- That we develop the skills that enable us to set up collective structures.
- That we take a firm stand against poaching.
- That we fish responsibly by not catching undersized fish or more than the bag limit allowed.
- That we follow the regulations and permit conditions
- That we prepare and submit accurate reports
- That we do not pollute the water or the shoreline



***Now is the time to act in unity and with purpose.***  
**OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!**



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