

Fisheries Management in Namibia with emphasis on Fishing Rights

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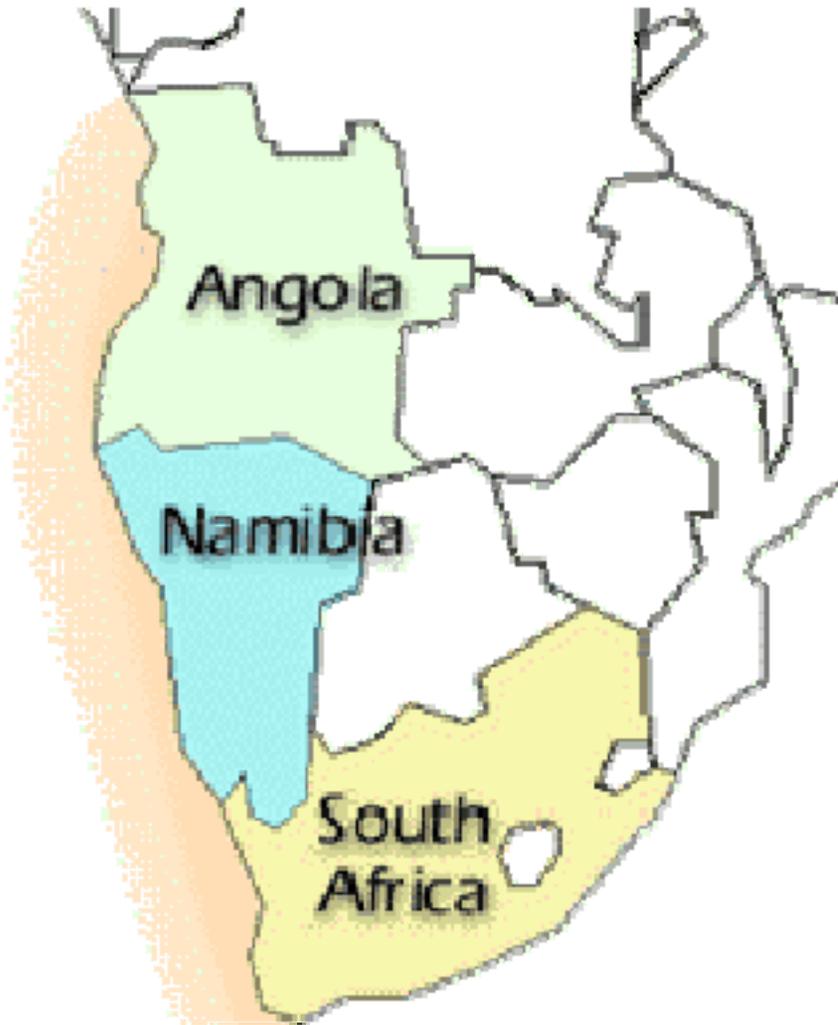
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Outline

- A brief introduction to Namibia;
- Brief overview of Namibian Fisheries;
- Fisheries management in Namibia:
 - Focus on fishing rights;
- Concluding remarks.

Namibia and the Benguela LME



- Namibia is not the U.S.:
 - Population: just over 2 million people;
 - Gained independence in 1990;
 - Has a history of apartheid;
 - Namibian Coast bordered by desert;
 - Only 2 landing ports;
 - Fishing sector is big!

The fisheries of Namibia

- Mining, fisheries and agriculture are the key economic sectors in the country;
- The Namibian EEZ contains about 20 different commercial species: The major species historically are:
 - hake;
 - Pilchard; and
 - horse mackerel.



The fisheries of Namibia

- **Principal fisheries:**
 - Demersal 70%; Midwater 15%;
 - Small pelagic 10%; Large pelagic 2%;
 - Other 3%.
- **The fishing sector accounts for 1.8% of the labour force (about 14 000 people);**
- **Fisheries is the fastest growing sector after tourism.**

The fisheries of Namibia

- A total of 277 vessels were licensed to fish in Namibia in 2007;
- Total landings in 2007 was just over 410,000 tonnes, with landed value of about N\$3.6 billion (US\$480 million);
- Namibia's marine fishing is almost wholly commercial.

The fisheries of Namibia

- **Contributes about:**
 - 6-10% of GDP;
 - 18-20% of export earnings.
- **Only two landing ports:**
 - Walvis Bay (70%); and
 - Luderitz (30%).



Fisheries Management in Namibia

- The responsibility of the Government, with some elements of co-management;
- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources (MFMR) executing agency of state;
- Fairly centralized - functions not delegated to regional or local authority.

Namibia fisheries management: Marine Resources Act 2000

- “No person shall ... harvest any marine resource for commercial purposes, except under a right”;
- Main objective:
 - Limit entry to the fisheries sector in order to protect the fisheries resources and maintain sustainable operations.
- Fishing rights is the central element of Namibia’s fisheries management regime.

An ecosystem approach to fishing rights

- Total allowable catch (TAC) is set based on the best scientific knowledge about stocks and the ecosystems that support them;
- TACs determined using single species models are run thru ecosystem models for insights ...;
- Closure of EEZ area of 300 m depth or less;
- 300-350 m depth area of EEZ set aside exclusively for wet-fish trawlers.



An ecosystem approach to fishing rights

- Closed season during the month of October to protect breeding stock and spawning fish;
- A strong by-catch and discard policy;
- A strong Monitoring Control Surveillance system:
 - By land, sea and air;
 - Two observers on virtually every boat fishing; paid by fishing industry.



Fishing rights designed to meet socioeconomic objectives

- Fishing rights cannot be permanently transferred;
- Namibianisation policy:
 - Increase participation by previously excluded Namibians.



Fishing rights designed to meet socioeconomic objectives

- Emphasis on onshore processing;
- Co-management:
 - Fisheries Advisory Council established to advise minister on a wide range of fisheries related matters;
 - Members of the Council include Industry via organized associations; labour unions; NGOs, etc.



Namibia's fishing rights system

- About 90% of catch is determined by TACs;
- The remaining 10% is by-catch, which is managed by effort limitations and fees;
- The policy of Namibianization is central;
- Fishing rights are not freely transferable in Namibia;
- Fishing rights are granted for periods of 7, 10, 15 and 20 years (renewable) depending on various factors:
 - the level of investment;
 - the level of Namibian ownership of the enterprise.

Namibia's fishing rights system

- **7 year rights are granted to applicants with less than:**
 - 50% Namibian ownership of vessels or onshore processing plants;
 - 51% ownership in ventures without significant onshore investments.
- **10 year rights are granted to applicants with:**
 - At least 50% Namibian ownership of vessels or onshore processing plants;
 - More than 51% ownership in onshore investments.

Namibia's fishing rights system

- 15 year rights are granted to:
 - ventures with at least 90% beneficially Namibian ownership of vessels or onshore processing plants;
 - majority foreign owned ventures with the capacity to make a major to economic and overall development (e.g. Employ at least 500 people;
 - smaller joint or wholly foreign-owned which can make innovative contributions such as developing new products or export markets.

Namibia's fishing rights system

- 20 year rights are granted to applicants who:
 - fulfill the 15 year rights requirements; and
 - employ at least 5000 permanent employees in onshore processing facilities.
- In 2007:
 - Four 7-year fishing rights;
 - Forty four 10-year fishing rights;
 - One hundred and seven 15-year fishing rights;
 - Zero 20-year fishing rights.
- were granted.

Namibia's fishing rights system

- Vessels must be licensed to fish;
- A total of 277 vessels were licensed to fish in Namibian waters in 2007.



Levies and fees

- Namibia is one of few countries in the world that has succeeded in capturing economic rent from its fisheries;
- A number of fees and levies are charged:
 - Quota fees;
 - Marine resource research fund levy;
 - By-catch fees;
 - License fees.
- Total revenue collected in 2007: N\$130 million (landed value of N\$3.6 billion).

Levies & fees for hake quota

- Hake quota fees:
 - N\$880 per t. paid by foreign freezer vessels;
 - N\$680 per t. paid Namibia-based freezer vessels;
 - N\$480 per t. paid by fully Namibian-owned freezer vessel;
 - a further rebate of N\$200 is given if the catch is given if the catch is processed onshore.
- NB: If allocated quota is not caught, the rights holder must pay a fee.

Concluding remarks

- The Namibian fishing rights system is cast in an ecosystem framework and designed with the socioeconomic goals of the country at the centre;
- The system seems to be working, with more (previously disadvantaged) Namibians earning a living from the sector;
- The system has supported the effort to manage the country`s marine resources sustainably.

Thanks for your attention

