



NAMIBIA COUNTRY PROFILE: FISHERIES*

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Introduction

Namibia's fishing industry is well known for its world class capabilities, in handling, distributing, and marketing of fish products. Today the fisheries sector is one of the highest contributors to the Namibian economy, and second only to the mining sector in terms of exports. Management of commercial fisheries is based on a system by which rights are granted, total allowable catch are set based on research results and quotas are issued to rights holders.

Policy objectives

There are **three broad policy objectives** for the fisheries and aquaculture sector:

- To ensure **sustainable utilisation** of marine and inland fisheries resources
- To develop industries based on national fisheries resources to contribute to overall **economic and social development**
- To develop **sustainable aquaculture** industries for household food security, employment creation and export earnings

The reader should note that a **virtual open access regime** characterized Namibian marine fisheries **before independence**, with virtually no participation of Namibians.

Three key strategies were implemented to achieve policy objectives for the marine resources sector. These are:

- **Stock rebuilding** due to overfishing prior to independence
- **Namibianisation**, by integrating the fisheries sector into the mainstream economy
- **Empowerment**, ensuring broad-based participation

Table 1. Namibian aquatic resources

Freshwater systems	Perennial rivers; Orange river, Kunene, Kavango and Zambezi
Length of coastline	1,500 km
Size of EEZ	536,805 km ²



Figure 3. New fisheries patrol vessel: Anna Kakurukaze Mungunda

Legal Framework

The policy and legal framework governing resource and aquaculture management in Namibia is provided for the fisheries and aquaculture white papers and attendant legislation.

The following legal instruments, incorporating regulations, correspond to the conduct of fisheries and aquaculture management:

- **Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone Act 1990.**
- **The Sea Fisheries Act (Act No.29 of 1992)**
- **Marine Resources Act (No. 27 of 2000.**
- Policy Statement for **"The Granting of Harvesting Rights and Allocation of Quotas"** 1993.
- **Aquaculture Act (Act No. 18 of 2002)**
- **Inland Fisheries Act (Act No. 1 of 2003)**

Table 2. Main commercial species in Namibian waters

Main Commercial species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse Mackerel (<i>Trachurus capensis</i>) • Hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i> and <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>) • Monkfish • Pilchard • Orange roughy (<i>Hoplostethus atlanticus</i>) • Deep Sea Red Crab • Rock Lobster (<i>Jasus lalandi</i>) • Linefish (snook, kob, mullets) • Tunas • Swordfish • Cape Fur Seals
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Summary

Namibia has a well developed industrial fishery, concentrating on mackerel and hake as well as other species. The fisheries sector is built up in a similar way as most Northern hemisphere fisheries with a quota system. Artisanal fisheries are only found in fresh water systems. The country has considerable aquaculture potential, which is being developed.

Management System

Ocean fisheries management system is **rights-based**. Private fishing access rights and **Individual Quota (IQ) regime** was introduced in the fisheries at independence (1990).

The granting of rights is in accordance with set criteria, corresponding to national objectives. Relative to national objectives, fishing rights are subject to evaluation, given their duration.

Enforcement of regulations is undertaken on-land and at-sea. This is done by **fisheries inspectors**. Namibia has three patrol vessels and one patrol air craft for sea patrols

Government policy

The general policy frame-work for long-term national development is given in **Vision 2030. Five-year National Development Plans** work towards this long-term plan. **Development and management strategies for fisheries** and aquaculture form an integral part of the general policy.



Figure 3. Integrating aquiculture with agriculture

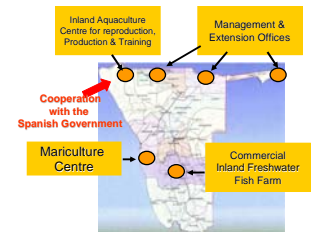


Figure 4. Aquaculture activities in Namibia

Institutional Structure

The **Ministry of fisheries and Marine Resources** is responsible for the management and administration of Namibia's fisheries resources and aquaculture activities. Certification of fisheries and other products resides under the **Ministry of Trade and Industry** with institutional and technical collaboration of the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). All merchandise exports correspond to Customs authorities of the **Ministry of Finance**.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources consists of **four** directorates:

Directorate of Resource Management responsible for biological research and monitoring as well as provision of scientific advice on the sustainable conservation and utilisation of the ocean and freshwater resources	Directorate of Policy, Planning and Economics responsible for economic research and evaluation of the performance of the fisheries and aquaculture operations
Directorate of Operations responsible for Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) as well as enforcement of regulations	Directorate of Aquaculture responsible for management and coordination of aquaculture activities

Other Statutory Bodies

The Marine Resources Advisory Council for advice in relation to the management and conservation of marine resources	Aquaculture Advisory Council for advice on sustainable development and management of aquaculture
Fisheries Observer Agency for provision of fisheries observer service	Namibia Maritime and Fisheries Institute (NAMFI) for maritime training



Figure 2. Fishing vessels in Lüderitz

Research Institutions

The **National Marine Institute Research Centre** is responsible for undertaking scientific research on marine resources.

As well, research on freshwater resources is undertaken by the **Division Inland Fisheries of the Resource Management Directorate**.

A national **Research and Training Centre for Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture** is under construction in Kavango Region in the north-eastern part of Namibia.

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