

Workshop on Identifying and Co-ordinating Research as an Adaptation to Climate Change in the South African Marine Fisheries and Marine Aquaculture Sectors

Fisheries Research and Development Research Seminar Room
5th Floor Foretrust House
Foreshore, Cape Town
14th to 16th March 2017

The Climate Change Task Team (CCTT) of the Chief Directorate: Fisheries Research and Development, Branch: Fisheries, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, is developing a detailed Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan (CCAMP) for South Africa's marine fisheries and marine aquaculture sectors. This includes the identification of possible adaptation measures for all of South Africa's marine fisheries as well as elaborating implementation plans for such measures.

Research to better understand how climate is changing and how these changes will influence South Africa's marine fisheries and aquaculture is required. This is because improved knowledge can lead to informed predictions regarding changes in the abundance, distribution patterns and other characteristics (phenology, etc) of harvested species that may arise from climate change. Similar predictions regarding how climate change could impact cultured and wild-caught species via physiological effects arising from changes in temperature and water chemistry and ecological or ecosystem effects such as increased harmful algal blooms, altered freshwater runoff from land and changes in sediment dynamics may also be possible. In addition, research to better understand the direct effects of climate change on marine fishery and aquaculture operations, for example increased storminess and extreme weather events, is also necessary to enable appropriate adaptation measures.

The Fisheries Branch intends holding a workshop to identify and co-ordinate research as an adaptation to climate change impacts on South Africa's harvested or cultured living marine resources. The aims of the workshop will be to:

- a) inform interested and affected parties of current research on climate change impacts on South Africa's marine environment and harvested or cultured living marine and estuarine resources;
- b) discuss overarching questions and approaches regarding research into potential climate change impacts on living marine resources;

- c) discuss overarching questions and approaches regarding research into potential climate change impacts on marine fisheries and aquaculture;
- d) identify possible collaborators, institutions and funding agencies for such research;
- e) develop an integrated research plan, including the identification and prioritization of specific research projects to be implemented in the short, medium and long term, as part of developing a Fisheries-independent CCAMP.

The workshop will be held at Foretrust House from 14-16 March 2017. Stakeholders, including physical and biological oceanographers, climate and atmospheric scientists, fishery and aquaculture scientists, sector representatives and resource managers, and other interested parties from the South African marine science community, are welcomed. Interested parties are hereby requested to submit expressions of interest should they wish to participate in the workshop, providing a synopsis of their current research and its relevance to meeting workshop aims. Expressions of interest should be sent to C. van der Lingen (CarlVDL@daff.gov.za and Carl.vanderlingen@gmail.com) and G. Pitcher (GrantP@daff.gov.za) no later than 10th February 2017. Given space limitations the organisers may need to restrict participation.