

**KWAZULU-NATAL INTEGRATED
MARITIME STRATEGY
(REVISION)**

**KZN FISHING AND AQUACULTURE SUB
-SECTOR**

FISHING AND AQUACULTURE SUB SECTOR

Fishing and aquaculture play an important role in ensuring economic growth and employment, not to mention food security within South Africa. The fishing and aquaculture industry makes about R80 billion turnover annually and contributes 0.5% to the South African GDP. The industry contributes approximately 31 500 direct employment and 81 000 indirect employment. It is further estimated that 500 000 people participate in our recreational fishery activities. ¹

The Operation Phakisa Lab 3: Aquaculture is aligned to the KIMS framework through promoting the conservation, production and exportation of fish. For KZN, Operation Phakisa plans the implementation of an expansion programme for Amatikulu fish ornamentals and Kob, aimed at producing 1.4 million tonnes with a R80 million value, with potential to create 225 jobs, this is housed under initiative 1.

Within KZN, commercial fishing and aquaculture does however have a significantly smaller contribution to economic growth than within the Western Cape, where the commercial fishing industry and aquaculture activities are far more established. Regardless of this, potential does exist to enhance these industries within the Province.

5.4.1: COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHING

Commercial fishing within KwaZulu-Natal is on a much small scale than within the Western Cape, which has an established fishing industry. There is however small-scale commercial fishing that occurs. In addition, there is a large recreational and subsistence fishing community within the Province. This is referred to as line fishing. Given that line fishing is accessible to a wide variety of communities, ranging from subsistence users to recreational and commercial operators, and coupled with the diversity of users, methods of harvesting, and diversity of species, this poses a threat to effective management and sustainable development. A crucial study of line fishing was undertaken in 1996, and provided a comprehensive assessment of the levels of participation in all sectors of the KZN line fishery, which include shore-fishing, recreational and commercial ski-boat fishing, spearfishing and estuarine-fishing to a lesser extent).

Since the completion of the KZN line fish survey, significant changes have taken place in the line fishery. These include implementation of a licensing system for recreational anglers, declaration of a crisis in the line fishery, prohibition of beach driving, a cut in commercial line fishing effort, promulgation of new line fish regulations, to name a few. Considering the depressed status of many line fish resources, it had become of great importance that this survey be repeated without delay as it could compromise the resource and expose the authorities to criticism over poor management strategies. Use of marine fish resources (for recreational purposes) in KZN is managed by DAFF who have delegated authority to the provincial management agency Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The recreational use of these resources is monitored by EKZNW in all of their fifteen zones along the KZN coast. Fishery monitoring in KZN is primarily by means of observer-based shore angling inspections (creel-type shore patrols) and boat

¹ SAMS Maritime Conference Report, July 2012

angling inspections (access point boat inspections).

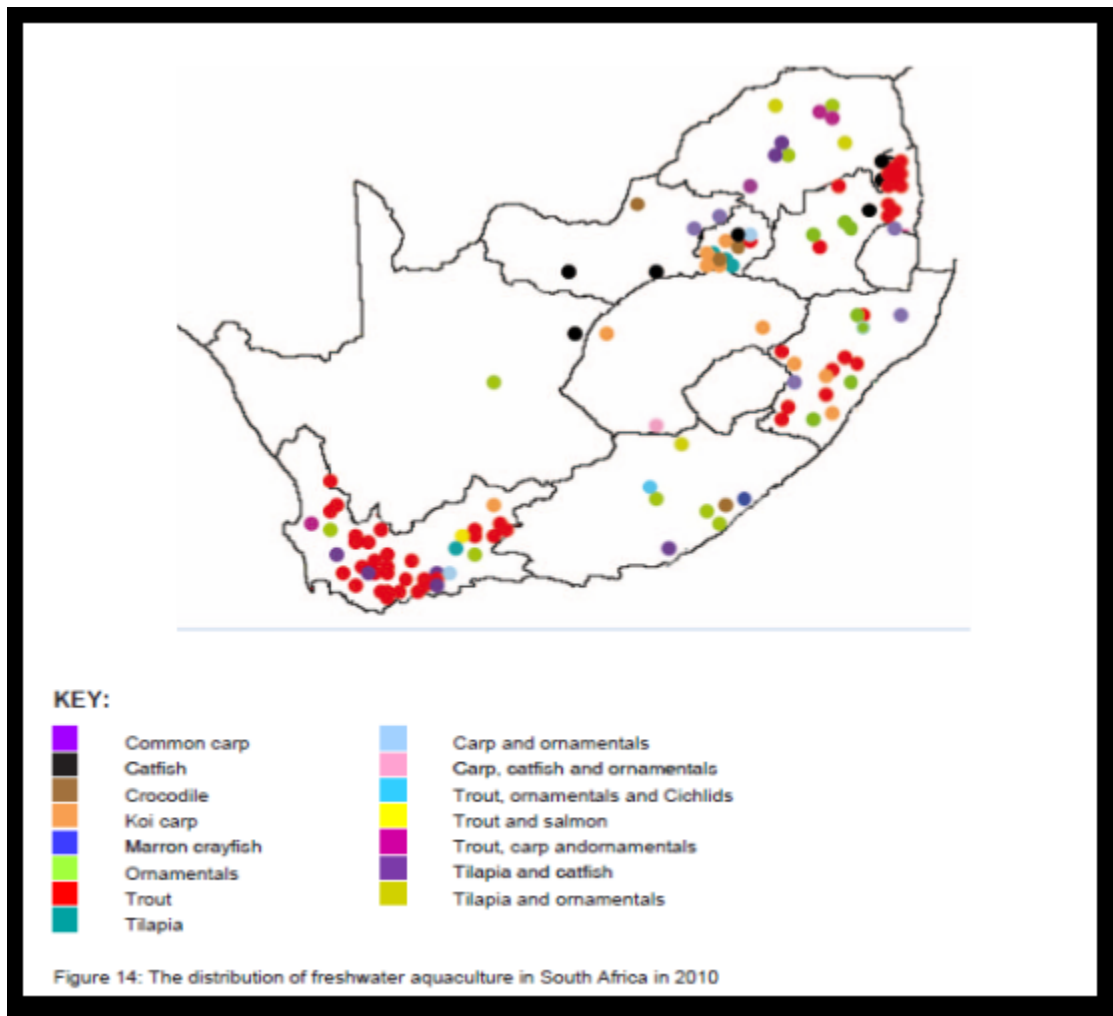
This strategy must ensure that these key stakeholders are engaged regarding issues management, regulation and control of marine resources to ensure that both commercial and recreational fishing is carried out in a sustainable manner.

5.4.2: MARICULTURE AND AQUACULTURE

This function falls under the umbrella of the National Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF). The 2011 Annual Report of the Department identifies the 'freshwater aquaculture' that is cultivated within the country. The freshwater aquaculture industry is dominated by the Western Cape with the highest number of farms in 2010, followed by Mpumalanga and then KwaZulu-Natal. Trout is currently the most cultivated freshwater species in South Africa, followed by Ornamental fish. In 2010, the total freshwater aquaculture production was 2621 tons, with trout contributing 950 tons, followed by Ornamentals with 600 tons, and Koi Carp with 520 tons. The total aquaculture industry has recorded an increase of 11,6% over the past 5 years from 2006 – 2010. The table on the following page displays the spatial distribution of freshwater aquaculture within South Africa.

(N.B. KZN EDTEA developed and Gap Analysis Study for Aquaculture Industry, benchmarking exercise undertaken in Egypt and China, TIKZN will commission a study to assess Aquaculture Industry in the Province, various existing aquaculture projects visited and assessed)

Figure 9: Location of Aquaculture in South Africa



SOURCE: URBAN-ECON, 2012

The most farms within KwaZulu-Natal are Trout farms which are largely located within the KZN Midlands region. There are also a number of Ornamental and Koi Carp farms within the Province, as well as Tilapia and Catfish farms.

Aquaculture has been identified as one of the priority sectors for development by Government. This however requires strong multi-stakeholder cooperation and coordination, and in order to facilitate this growth, the Department established three forums in 2010. These are the Marine Aquaculture Working Group (MAWG), the Aquaculture Intergovernmental Forum (AIF), and the Marine Aquaculture Industry Liaison (MAIL). The key roles of MAWG are to access and make recommendations of the rights, scientific investigations, permits, and practical investigations and permit applications within the industry. MAWG also provides advice on environmental protection, policy and legislation, and guidelines to management within the DAFF. The AIF is a forum established to ensure better communication among government departments regarding aquaculture, and is led by DAFF. The main objective of the forum is to provide better management and development of the sector through joint planning, facilitation and coordination, resource mobilization, and monitoring and evaluation. MAIL was established to ensure a more structured stakeholder engagement process and creates a platform for stakeholder to engage with

DAFF.

In terms of key priority areas for aquaculture within the country, DAFF have identified the development of Aquaculture Development Zones (ADZs) as crucial in growing and developing the sector. The concept of the ADZs is to create an environment whereby multiple farmers can utilize the same area.

Freshwater Marine Aquaculture has the potential to reduce poverty and create employment within the Province and will be considered in detail within the Strategic Framework developed as an outcome of this process. It will be important to engage with the key stakeholders identified above to ensure that the potential opportunities for the Province are fully realized.