

# uLwandle

KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group Coastal Management Newsletter - Issue 3 ☆Spring 1999

## The Coastal Management Policy Programme - Progress

By Niel Malan

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**C**ustodianship of the Coastal Management Policy Programme (CMPP) was transferred from the Policy Committee responsible for overseeing development of the coastal policy to the Department for Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) on 1st May 1999. Since that time, DEAT's Coastal Management Office has assumed responsibility for guiding the CMPP Draft White Paper through government and preparing for its subsequent implementation.

We are thankful for the opportunity to share with you progress to date in taking forward the Draft White Paper as much of this work has been 'invisible'. We recognise that keeping coastal stakeholders up to date is critical if we are to transform the momentum and enthusiasm generated during policy formulation into a successful implementation process: that is, maximising the social and economic opportunities offered by coastal resources, whilst maintaining the integrity of coastal ecosystems

now and for future generations.

Most significantly, a great deal of effort has been focused on translating the 'Plan of Action' into an outline business plan which can be used to seek financial assistance for implementation of the (still draft) coastal policy. The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) has been approached for technical and financial support and negotiations with them are on-going. We are pleased to note that DEAT's new Minister, Valli Moosa, supported our approach with a letter to the regional head of DFID.

If DFID's approval in principle to support the programme is obtained, detailed project design will be undertaken between representatives from DEAT, DFID and provincial government, independent specialists and the network of regional contacts and institutions built up during policy formulation. Given the complexity of the project, it is anticipated that this process will be undertaken between September and November this year. A joint DEAT/DFID review will follow, resulting in a finalised project design submission from DEAT to DFID, expected by ...

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### KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group Newsletter

"uLwandle", which means "sea" in Zulu, is a Coastal Management Newsletter produced by the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG). The CWG was established to provide coordination among KwaZulu-Natal Government Departments, parastatal organisations and non-governmental organisations regarding Coastal Policy matters.

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... January 2000. Based on this projected timetable, project inception is anticipated around February 2000.

Concurrent with this process, DEAT, in coordination with provinces, intend to approach other donors for support with implementing the coastal policy. In this vein, the Secretariat for Eastern African Coastal Area Management (SEACAM) has agreed to support a programme of public sector coastal management training, focused initially on national and provincial senior and middle management. Thereafter, it is hoped to expand this training to a wider audience.

Meanwhile, to help reduce the lead-in time between policy adoption and implementation, DFID has agreed to assist the Coastal Management Sub-

Directorate financially in preparation for implementation. The most significant examples of proposed activities include seeking specialist advice on an appropriate legislative framework and preparing for the appointment of Provincial Coordinators.

Comments received on the Draft White Paper have been synthesised and recommendations for alterations, based on those provided by Common Ground Consulting (project managers of the policy formulation process), have been incorporated into the policy formulation process. Once a CMPP presentation has been made to Minister Moosa, the process of formally ratifying the policy will be speeded up. It is hoped that a slot on the agenda of the Committee for Environmental Coordination will be secured in September.

We had hoped that in writing this article we would be in a position to be more specific about implementation and policy adoption dates. Whilst there remain significant uncertainties, we would anticipate an implementation start date (fully designed and funded) around February 2000. Meantime, we will keep you up to date with progress via an e-mail distribution list compiled during policy formulation, progress reports on the CMPP web site [www.cmpp.co.za](http://www.cmpp.co.za) and a CMPP Newsletter (unfortunately there are only sufficient finances for one publication between now and policy implementation).

## Celebrating 40 Years of Marine Conservation



*Extract from The Oricle, Official Newsletter of the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI)*

**H**ow inappropriate to call this planet Earth, when clearly it is Ocean.

*Arthur Clarke*

Unmatched in its intricacy, elegance and savagery, the ocean is the last great frontier of our planet. As our greatest natural resource, it sustains many of our nutritional, economic and social needs. Ensuring the future of this resource is perhaps man's greatest challenge.

Since 1959 the Sea World Aquarium and the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI) have been meeting that challenge by playing a vital role in stimulating community awareness of the marine environment and ensuring wise, sustainable use of marine resources.

To date, nearly 14 million people have been introduced to the wonders of our oceans through the aquarium and countless more have benefited from marine science projects conducted by ORI.

Sea World and ORI are divisions of the South African Association for Marine Biological Research (SAAMBR), which was founded as a not-for-gain, non-government marine conservation organisation in 1951. Today, through its divisions, which also includes the NBS Sea World Education Centre, SAAMBR continues to serve not only the communities of this province, but many more throughout Southern Africa, by providing marine research, education and a variety of aquarium displays of the highest calibre.

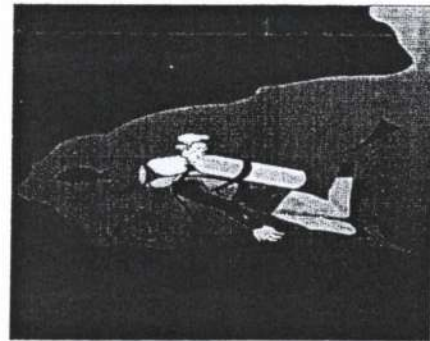
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☞ ... Open seven days a week from 9am to 9pm, Sea World has a dual function. Firstly, it brings people in close contact with a wide variety of sea creatures, exposing visitors to aspects of their biology and habitat, and the importance of marine conservation. Secondly, Sea World is a major tourist attraction which generates much of the funding that makes the vital work of the Oceanographic Research Institute and the NBS Sea World Education Centre possible.

Sea World dolphinarium is home to ten bottlenose dolphins (eight of which were born at Sea World), ten Cape fur seals and an African penguin colony. Dolphin and seal demonstrations are held daily. The demonstrations, while being thoroughly entertaining, are highly educational and focus on the need for marine conservation, including a measure of what contributions

the public can make to this cause.

While funding for SAAMBR's work is generated through Sea World gate-takings and ORI's research contracts, public and corporate support is essential to ensure we can continue to fulfil the marine conservation needs in Southern Africa. You can make a valuable contribution to the future of our oceans by visiting Sea World, becoming a member of Sea World or ORI, or assisting with donations. Membership privileges include: free admission to Sea World as often as you like, special member tours and functions, exclusive discounts, quarterly newsletters, and lots more! Phone Sea World (031) 337-3536 for further information.



## Marine Ecotourism

By Andrew Cobb  
*EcoDiving*

**E**veryone understands the impact of ecotourism when visitors visit our game parks, yet in KwaZulu-Natal our marine assets are widely open to uncontrolled exploitation. There is no difference between viewing shark, whilst diving without a cage, and a guided walk in a Game Park. Both require a guide that is knowledgeable, informative and understands the environment and the animals concerned.

Marine ecotourism involves:

- ❖ visiting the marine habitat and viewing its flora and fauna on a sustainable basis;
- ❖ diving on a reef without damaging the reef ecosystem; and
- ❖ viewing marine animals without stressing, injuring, chasing, harassing or feeding them.

Some of the pertinent marine ecotourist ventures in KwaZulu-Natal and their associated detrimental impacts include the following:

### Dolphin watching/snorkelling with dolphins

Dolphin watching has in the last year become very popular. Many operators stress the dolphin by circling them at speed in a ski boat, in an attempt to contain them. As a result many dolphins are prone to propeller cuts.

### Turtle Watching

- ❖ Turtles have no eyelids, hence any eye protection. Turtles laying their eggs can be blinded from photographers' strobe lights. General torchlight also disorients a turtle laying its eggs.
- ❖ Turtle eggs are at risk from 4x4 vehicles above the high water mark.
- ❖ Riding a turtle underwater could drown the turtle should it be on its way up for re-oxygenation.
- ❖ Turtles can shut down their metabolic rate and shelter in a cave for up to 3 months. If a diver pulls out such a turtle for a ride, this sudden stress could result in a heart attack 2 days later.

### Shark Diving

Shark diving is in great demand by local and international divers, and the ragged tooth shark can be viewed with ease off our eastern shores. However, ignorant diving is stressing this resource severely, forcing these sharks away from their historical reef resting-places.

We have some incredible marine ecotourist ventures in KwaZulu-Natal but we need a sustainable, professional and regulated industry to ensure that the tourist experience is informed and safe.



## The Stork Visits Sea World Yet Again

By Rudy van der Elst  
*Oceanographic Research Institute*



The staff at Sea World, Durban, sister organisation of the Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI), must be doing something right - or at least the animals in their care are doing it right. Following shortly on the successful births of a number of dolphins, and recently the world's first birth in captivity of two ragged tooth sharks, excited staff witnessed the arrival of **three honeycomb ray pups**.

Once again, this is believed to be one of the very few records, worldwide, of these animals being conceived and born in captivity. The honeycomb stingray is an Indo-Pacific Species and can obtain a considerable size - possibly close to 60kgs. The male and female responsible for this festive event have been in the Sea World main reef tank for at least 15 years, so it has taken them some time to get it right.

However, the news is encouraging for many projects at Sea World and ORI, especially for those that deal with future aquaculture programmes in KwaZulu-Natal.

### What's on at Sea World

- ❖ Monday 1 - Friday 5 November: National Marine Week
- ❖ Friday 19 - Sunday 21 November: Durban Getaway Show
- ❖ Thursday 9 & Friday 10 December: Marine Careers Holiday Workshop
- ❖ Monday 13 - Sunday 19 December: Carols and Dolphins by Candlelight
- ❖ Tuesday 14 & Wednesday 15 December: Sea World Art Day Holiday Workshop

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## Coastal Trivia

- ❖ **24cm** - The average rise in sea levels over the next 50 years.
- ❖ **753** - The number of Minke whales that Norway's whaling fleet aims to catch this year, up from 671 last year.
- ❖ **80,000** - The number of dolphins and other marine mammals trapped in fishing nets and killed each year.
- ❖ **275,000** - The number of harp seals the Canadian government will permit to be killed by hunters this season.
- ❖ **10 billion** - The number of marine viruses in a litre of seawater.
- ❖ If the world were to become totally flat and the oceans distributed themselves evenly over the earth's surface, the water would be approximately 3km deep at every point.
- ❖ The substance that human blood resembles most closely in terms of chemical composition is **sea water**.
- ❖ About two-thirds of the world's fresh water flows out of the Amazon River in South America. The amount is so immense that fresh water can be found on the sea surface 60km from the river's mouth.
- ❖ When young abalones feed on red **seaweed** their shells turn red.
- ❖ A "Winkle" is an edible **sea snail**.

