

Ulwandle

KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG)
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What is CoastCARE?

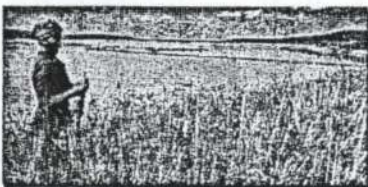
By Jenny Colerous
DEAT



Visitors to Kosi Bay on the northern KwaZulu-Natal coast will have noticed people on the beach dressed in a uniform with a CoastCARE logo. "CoastCARE?"

What is CoastCARE?" you are probably asking yourself. READ ON to find out more about this national project.

The first project of the CoastCARE programme was launched by Mohammed Valli Moosa, Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, on 17 October 2000 at Kommetjie on the Cape Peninsula. The second CoastCARE project was launched in Kosi Bay on the KwaZulu-Natal coast on Friday, 20 October 2000, coinciding with the celebration of National Marine Day. This poverty alleviation scheme forms part of the implementation of the White Paper for Sustainable Coastal Development and has been set up to kick-start a



multi-faceted drive to empower people from coastal communities who have been unemployed for some time.

Kosi Bay and Kommetjie are the first of many future CoastCARE projects which aim to create employment for about 1,000 people along our coast by March 2001. Apart from their responsibilities to clean, rehabilitate and maintain the coast and associated facilities to make it attractive to tourists and visitors in general, they will also

form part of a comprehensive education, training and development programme, aimed at life orientation and business opportunities. Part of this training involves identifying litter and debris that can be recycled and put to good, even lucrative, use. Other training involves learning how to assist tourists and to be a protective presence for them, and keeping amenities like ablution blocks and parking areas clean, safe and in good repair. Life skills training, including elementary business training and first aid, also form part of this holistic learning curve. At Kosi Bay, 33 people have been employed to assist KZN Wildlife and they will be wearing the distinctive CoastCARE gear. They have been actively involved in demolishing a house and other structures on the banks of the Kosi River Estuary. These structures had been constructed many years ago but hampered the natural functioning and dynamics of the estuary.

Many other CoastCARE teams will shortly be active in other parts of the northern KwaZulu-Natal coast and the focus will be on the rehabilitation of coastal and wetland ecosystems of the Greater St Lucia World Heritage Site.

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☞... Activities will include:

- Removal of large tracts of Casuarina trees planted a long time ago in order to stabilise the coastal dunes;
- Removal of other structures impacting on the natural functioning of coastal ecosystems in this area;
- Cleaning and maintenance of beaches and public facilities where there is high human impact in order to promote the enjoyment and use of these areas by tourists and visitors alike; and
- Providing security and safety to visitors to these areas.

Through employment and training opportunities, the CoastCARE initiative will see its employees equipped to make the best possible use of this experience to enhance their self-worth and future advancement, both in their communities and in their lives. So, when you see a CoastCARE worker, remember that he or she is there to help you have a memorable and safe visit to the coast.

CoastCARE is in the process of expanding along the entire

South African coast and if you have specific needs or advice for your coastal area please contact the CoastCARE office at 021 402 3029 or send your fax to 021 418 2582.



NEWSFLASH

In the Spring 2000 issue of Ulwandle, the Blue Flag Campaign and its significance for South Africa was introduced. Since then, two more beaches have been added to the KZN list! These are Sodwana and Ballito.

It is hoped that Blue Flag South Africa will be officially endorsed by the international Blue Flag management body, the Foundation for Environmental Education in Europe (FEEE). *Watch this space for more news and updates!*

ALI WAL SHOAL

By Jill Gowans
The Sunday Tribune



The Aliwal Shoal is located approximately 5km offshore, south of Umkomaas, near Durban. It consists of dune rock which evolved on the shoreline some 30,000 years ago. This was submerged about 6,500 years ago when the sea rose to its present level. It is rugged in topography with pinnacles, caves and gullies. Nearby are two wrecks, the *Nebo* which sank on her maiden voyage in 1884, and the *Produce* which sank in 1974.

"Aliwal Shoal is the last bus stop for coral distribution," said coral specialist Michael Schleyer of Durban's Oceanographic Research Institute (ORI). "It's the southernmost extension of hard corals and has a very high level of soft corals. There's a high level of endemism (species that only occur in one place) and we've found a new soft coral genus." "It's basically world-class diving on our doorstep," said scientist Jeremy Cliff of the Natal Sharks Board. "It's very spectacular with lots of caves and overhangs with names like Raggie Cave, Shark Alley and the Cathedral. It's a temporary home to the ragged tooth shark on its way from the Eastern Cape to the gestation areas of Maputaland. Divers can get very close to what is

a large, seemingly menacing-looking shark which poses very little threat to humans."

The shoal has been a focal point for commercial linefishing and spearfishing for several decades. Alongside this has been a dramatic increase in scuba diving, with up to 15 dive companies now operating in the area. It was thus inevitable the groups would come into conflict. Aliwal Shoal, unlike other major coral reefs like Sodwana Bay, has no conservation protection. So in 1995, amid growing concern, a workshop for interested people was convened by ORI and the former Natal Parks Board. Out of this came the Aliwal Shoal Forum which drafted a management plan. This has been fine-tuned by ... ☞ Page 3

... Marine and Coastal Management, the former Sea Fisheries department. If this gets ministerial go-ahead it will be unique in our marine conservation history.

How it will work:

The management plan caters for the proclamation of the Aliwal Shoal within a marine protected area under the Marine Living Resources Act.

Its salient features are:

- ❖ It will be self-funded from user levies, a recognised international principle whereby users pay, either an annual fee or a fee per entry;
- ❖ It will be regulated by a management board representing all interested and affected parties;
- ❖ Zones will be identified for use by divers and fishermen (with restrictions on catches by the latter). Fishermen, spearfishermen and divers formed a sub-committee which agreed to certain time and

spatial constraints on their own groups in order to lessen conflict and maximise benefits to each of them. There is now blanket restriction on the capture of all resident reef fish; and

- ❖ It will be policed by a Baywatch type operation, using volunteers like divers, off-duty police, police reservists, honorary conservation officers, with the full support of KZN Wildlife.

PRAWNS AND PEOPLE: THE PRAWN FISHERIES AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

By Nicolette Demetriades
Coastwatch



A research programme centred around the penaeid prawns of KwaZulu-Natal provided the basis for the formation of the Prawn Fisheries and Development Association.

Research began initially with investigations into the migration of the postlarval stages from the marine breeding grounds of the Thukela Bank to the nursery grounds of the St Lucia system. The programme was then expanded to look more closely at the population dynamics of the prawns by using the information contained in the records of the fisheries. At that stage there were estuarine bait fisheries, run by the then Natal Parks Board (now KZN Wildlife), in both the St Lucia system and Richards Bay harbour and commercial trawl fisheries exploiting the adults on the Thukela Banks. Although the idea of farming the prawns in northern KwaZulu-Natal had been around for a long time, at this stage the industry was in its infancy.

As a result of the research work the scientists involved slowly developed contacts with the various sectors linked with the prawn resource. These sectors were often in

conflict with each other and the development of the relationship with the scientists allowed for the opportunity to link these stakeholders and bring them together with a different focus. With this aim in mind the Prawn Interest Group was formed by Prof Ticky Forbes in 1996 and ran out of the Department of Biology, University of Natal, Durban. After sustained interest from the stakeholders during the next two years and the development of understanding of the benefits of co-operative management, it was suggested that a more formal association was needed. This suggestion was strongly supported by the DEAT representatives, and the newly formed Prawn Fisheries and Development Association was officially granted government recognition in 1998.

During the last two years the most significant aspect of this association is the opportunity provided to prawn trawling companies, prawn farmers, conservation agencies, research organisations, DEAT and any other individual or group with an interest in these animals, to network with each other about commercial, conservation or habitat-related issues.

Government recognition also allows the group to link with the Chief Directorate: Marine and Coastal Management, SABS, DTI and DWAF with regards to permit issuing, problems of management, illegal imports, disease control as well as catchment and coastal conservation issues that relate to the prawn habitat.

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... This co-operative management approach has successfully brought together various stakeholders, previously in conflict, and focused attention on the more effective management of a limited resource. This is very much in line with the ideas put forward in the new White Paper on Sustainable Coastal Development and fits directly into Theme A of the policy document which promotes public participation, partnerships and co-responsibility for coastal management. It also ensures natural resource management (Theme D) and includes all five goals encapsulated in this theme by trying to ensure the effective use of a non-renewable coastal resource by including habitat conservation and 'wise use' fishing practices amongst the different activities of the association.

The Water that I Use in My Daily Life Goes to the Sea



When we use water for bathing, brushing our teeth or washing our clothes we create dirty water with large amounts of organic matter, microbes and detergents. Most of the time this dirty water goes back into rivers and lakes, and finally to the sea.

Some cities recycle the water before it goes back into the ocean at water recycling facilities. But even if your community recycles water it is important for each of us to reduce the amount of water we pollute. Here are some guidelines:

- Use water in moderate amounts; the more water we use, the more dirty water we produce.
- Use detergent and cleaning products with caution.
- Avoid throwing paint and solvents down the drain because they end up in the sewers.
- Remember that neither rivers nor sewers are waste dumps.
- Teach others how to take care of water.

ANGLER ETHICS

An ethical angler will:

- remove any litter after fishing;
- take away left-over bait;
- return all unwanted fish to the sea alive;
- respect bag and size limits; and
- respect other user groups whilst they are fishing.



Limit your catch, catch your limit!

COASTAL TRIVIA

- ❖ The mole crab uses its spade-like legs to dig backwards into the sand until only its stalked eyes and two pairs of antennae are visible. These antennae, which are fringed with hairs, are held out to filter food particles from the water.
- ❖ Ancient Greeks used sea sponges to pad their helmets and leg armour.
- ❖ The official seashell of Oregon (USA), the Oregon hairy triton, is the only shell that shares the name of a state, and one of only three in the world named after a location.
- ❖ At about 200 million years of age, the Atlantic Ocean is the youngest of the world's oceans.
- ❖ When under stress, such as in captivity, some octopuses eat their own arms, which regenerate.



"Ulwandle", which means "sea" in Zulu, is the Coastal Management Newsletter produced by the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Working Group (CWG).

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