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Hake and sardine under spotlight at international review of South African fisheries

Annual International Stock Assessment Review Workshop, 2 – 6 December 2013, Mathematics Building, Room M212, Upper Campus, UCT

Four leading international fisheries scientists arrived in Cape Town this weekend to conduct an annual review of the analyses used to provide scientific advice for the management of South Africa's major fisheries. Starting today (2 December 2013), the review workshop takes place at the University of Cape Town and concludes with a presentation by the four-member panel of their findings and recommendations at 15h30 on Friday, 6 December 2013.

The four scientists making up the review panel are:

- ❖ Dr Sean Cox (Simon Fraser University, Canada);
- ❖ Dr Ana Parma (Centro Nacional Patagonico, Argentina);
- ❖ Professor André Punt (University of Washington, USA); and
- ❖ Professor Tony Smith (Panel Chair, Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation, Australia).

This year's discussions will focus on the four-yearly process that is currently followed to revise the formula used to recommend hake catches; hake is South Africa's most important and valuable fishery, upon which thousands of jobs in the Western Cape depend. The group will look at research related to the possible sharing of the hake populations with Namibia, and the implications that might have for joint decision making for hake resources in the region.

The other major species that will come under the spotlight is sardine, and the possibility that this consists of two rather than one stock. This has ramifications for the manner in which sardine fishing might best be distributed along the coast. There are also associated implications affecting the recovery of the African penguin population, which is currently severely depleted and relies heavily on sardine for food.

Technical documents that will be considered at the workshop can be found at <http://www.mth.uct.ac.za/maram/publications.php?year=2013&class=ws>.

Times & venue details

The review workshop takes place in UCT's Mathematics Building, Room M212, from 9h00 to 17h30 daily, except for an 11h00 start on Tuesday, 3 December 2013. While most discussions will be fairly technical, the panel's presentation on Friday, 6 December 2013, at 15h30 will be on a lay level. This presentation takes place in the Zoology Building, Lecture Theatre 2 – also on UCT's Upper Campus.

For enquiries: Please contact Di Loureiro at 021 650 2340 (until 14h00) or di.lapidoloureiro@uct.ac.za, or Riana Geldenhuys at 021 650 4846, 082 460 5554 or riana.geldenhuys@uct.ac.za.

About the review panel

Dr Sean Cox is responsible for introducing the innovative Management Procedure approach in a number of fisheries off western Canada. This approach is an area in which South Africa is seen as a world leader.

Dr Ana Parma is widely recognised as the world's leading scientific authority on the management of small-scale fisheries, which includes the TURF (Territorial Use Rights Fisheries) system approach.

A UCT alumnus, Professor André Punt heads the world's leading Fisheries Science Department at the University of Washington in the USA. He is a recipient of prestigious awards from both the Australian Society for Fish Biology and the American Fisheries Society for his contributions to fisheries science.

Professor Tony Smith was recently appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (the country's third-highest national honour) for his contribution to fisheries management. He is also a longstanding member of the Marine Stewardship Council's technical advisory panel.

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Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department

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