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Taking stock of South Africa's renewable marine resources

Technical sessions:

2-6 December 2019 | 09:00-17:30 | Mathematics Building, Room M212, University of Cape Town Upper Campus

Open for public – Layperson level summary by international review panel:

6 December 2019 | 15:30 | Mathematics Building, Room M304, University of Cape Town Upper Campus

The University of Cape Town's Marine Resource Assessment and Management Group (MARAM Group), based in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, will host the Annual International Fisheries Stock Assessment Review Workshop this week, 2-6 December 2019.

The workshop brings together scientists, members of the fishing industry and of the Fisheries Research and Development branch of the Department of Environment Affairs where analyses of the state of South Africa's major renewable marine resources will be discussed together with a five-member review panel of world leading fisheries scientists.

This year, the meeting will focus primarily on the extent to which hake, the mainstay of the South African fishing industry, may extend into Namibian waters – a matter with possibly important management implications. Other issues coming under discussion include how best to calculate sustainable catch levels for the local sardine and west coast rock lobster resources in circumstances where both are highly depleted, and how to determine whether fishing of sardine and anchovy in the vicinity of islands (such as Robben and Dassen islands) on which penguins breed is having a negative impact on this endangered species.

Emeritus Professor Doug Butterworth, head of the MARAM Group, said: "The focus on the distribution of local hake stocks follows this matter coming under question in the current review of the management of this fishery by the international Marine Stewardship Council (MSC). It is critical that the fishery pass this review to retain its certification by the MSC, without which key overseas markets will close to our hake products, and thousands of local

jobs will be lost". He added that the MARAM Group had been fortunate to secure the participation of two of the world's leading fisheries geneticists, Ralph Tiedemann (Germany) and Robin Waples (USA) to contribute to these discussions on hake.

Most of the workshop will comprise very technical discussions. However, on its conclusion, the international panel, which includes three other leading fisheries scientists from the USA - David Die, Michael Wilberg and Andre Punt - will present their findings and recommendations at a layperson level at a session on Friday, 6 December at 15:30 in the Mathematics Building, Room M304, University of Cape Town Upper Campus. This session will be open for questions from the public.

Further information and registration details can be found on the MARAM website <http://www.maram.uct.ac.za/maram/workshops/2019>. No registration is required to attend the layperson's event.

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