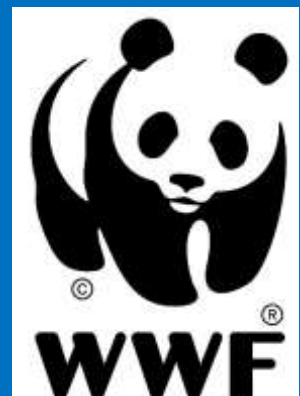


Small-Scale Responsible Fisheries Training 2017 - 2018



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Doringbaai

About the Small-scale Responsible Fisheries Training

In 2017 and 2018, a skills development project was rolled out across coastal South Africa to educate and empower small-scale fishing communities around the importance of sustainable fishing. The Small-scale Responsible Fisheries Training Project, was conceptualised by WWF South Africa (WWF-SA). It is being co-ordinated nationally by the International Ocean Institute - African Region (IOI-SA) and is funded by the Transport Education Training Authority (TETA).

The project is designed so that a selection of people from small-scale fishing communities are trained as trainers and empowered to deliver workshops to other coastal fishing communities around South Africa. [Knowledgeable, passionate and articulate facilitators are a key element in the success of the Small-scale Responsible Fisheries Training courses.](#) The workshops explain the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and responsible practices through a series of discussions, videos, interactive games and presentations. The desired outcome is two-fold: by investing into community leadership development that many small-scale fishers will be upskilled and aware of the urgent need to fish responsibly in order to contribute to ensuring healthy oceans.

For these upskilled trainers, facilitating community workshops is a valuable source of income but also an opportunity to engage with their communities. It also helps these community leaders to feel empowered to explore partnerships that could complement this training through other sources of funding for additional or complementary training events.



Lamberts Bay

Steering Committee

The project work is overseen by a steering committee that includes organisations with long-standing involvement in the small-scale fishing communities. [Adnan Awad, Director of IOI-SA](#), described the steering committee as a hub of advice on all aspects of the course and training programme during the two years and looking forward beyond 2018 to the institutionalising of the training within existing structures.

The steering committee includes representatives from The Collective, SAUFF, Masifundise, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), WWF-SA, TETA, IOI-SA and Abalobi and the project welcomes input from any stakeholders in the sector.



Where ever possible, we invite local stakeholders (e.g. local DAFF representatives, NGOs, fisher groups and conservation agencies) to workshops we run in their areas. This is to encourage partnership and collaboration for improved communication. As a neutral NGO, IOI-SA aims to foster trust and understanding amongst different groups by creating an open space in which individuals can meet and communicate openly.

It has been helpful when DAFF representatives have attended workshops and have been able to answer some of the questions around the Small-scale Fisheries Policy implementation process because it is better for answers to come from the official channels. Another wonderful addition to some of the Cape Metropolitan workshops was [WWF-SA's Robin Adams](#). Robin Adams is an enthusiastic speaker and has extensive experience in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and since communities are frequently resistant to the idea of MPAs it was helpful to have someone who could explain the social and ecological benefits of MPAs in an engaging way.



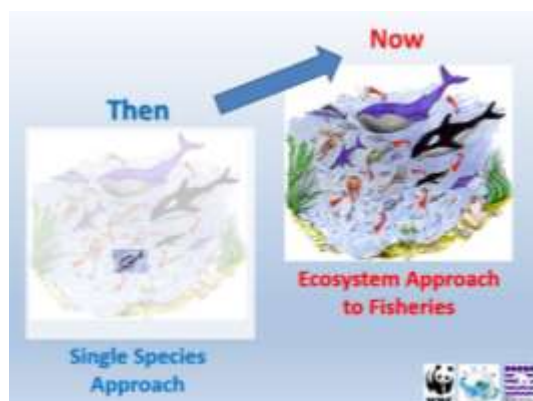
[Robin Adams, WWF-SA, addressing workshop participants in Kalk Bay](#)

It is hoped that by engaging stakeholders and encouraging to attend workshops, they will also see the value in the workshops and work towards hosting their own workshops in future. [Ideally, the workshops would be institutionalised in various organisations around South Africa so that they can be run on a recurring basis.](#)

Training Content

The workshop is designed to be interactive and promote discussion and debate. We know that the members of the fishing communities that attend our course have interesting knowledge and experiences to share with us and the other participants.

The training materials includes PowerPoint presentations, with content that matches the manual and videos that were developed by the WWF-SA. All content is available in Afrikaans, English, Xhosa and Zulu. Through a series of discussions, videos, interactive games and presentations, each trainer leads the attendees through the importance of responsible fishing practices and a holistic ecosystem approach to fisheries. *An ecosystems approach aims to protect and improve the health of our marine ecosystems on which so many people depend for both their daily food and family income.*



CONTENT OUTLINE

Chapter 1: Introduction

- Our Changing World
- Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries

Chapter 2: Ecological and Community Health

- South Africa's Fisheries
- South Africa's Marine Life
- South Africa's Marine Ecosystem
- Ecosystems and Climate Change
- Food webs
- Effects of Fishing
- Fishing and Communities

Chapter 3: Introduction to Management

- Introduction to Management
- Co-management
- Data collection
- Management options

Chapter 4: Enforcement and Compliance

Examples of the PowerPoint presentation slides from Chapter 1 (English), Chapter 2 (Xhosa) and Chapter 3 (Afrikaans).

The Trainers

The Small-scale Responsible Fisheries Training workshops are designed to be facilitated by members of the community that have been trained to deliver the content, engage in discussions and run exercises with the communities. The trainers were nominated by the steering committee.

The impact of the passionate, enthusiastic and knowledgeable trainers cannot be overstated. The trainers are not only the ones that are sharing the knowledge with the community on the training day, but they encourage community members to attend, provide much-needed local knowledge about the local fisheries and logistics. The trainers are really the champions of this project.



Train-the-trainer events were held in Cape Town, Port St Johns (co-hosted by SAUFF), Umhlanga (hosted by the KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board)

The trainers are members of small-scale fishing communities from our four coastal provinces. They are community leaders, fishers, fisher representatives or involved in environmental education, ecotourism or all of the above. It is hoped that they will have opportunities to be involved in delivering training for other organisations once the training of the small-scale fishing cooperatives begins in earnest. They are passionate, proactive individuals and many of them are involved in other initiatives for the upliftment of their communities including soup kitchens and vegetable gardens; coastal clean ups; painting and rejuvenation of communal areas and teaching of sports and environmental education at schools.



Some of the trainers in the EC, WC and KZN with WWF-SA and IOI-SA team

Feedback from the Trainers

At the start of 2018 we had small workshops in the Western and Eastern Cape to discuss the workshops with the trainers. We wanted to find out from them what they would change about the content, logistics or how they deliver the workshop; whether they have had any feedback from their communities about the workshops and if there was any additional information they needed. It was a good opportunity to touch base with the trainers and address any concerns or identify possible improvements going into the second half of the project period.



A fishing boat (of a fisher who attended the Kleinmond workshop) has initiated in placing a plastic bottle on his boat for 'stompies'. Members of the ladies co-op have been spreading the issue of the dangers of litter via word of mouth.

My favourite thing about this project is finding out and communicating the "why" behind rules. I found it frustrating that people tell fishing communities what to do without ever explaining why and how the rules can help the community and aren't just there to hinder them.



I didn't know that I could have so much confidence and would be able to stand in front of so much people and share the info I learned from the project



The community was very happy to have had the workshop and pleased to have attended, but I still worry that they don't grasp that the future is directly in their hands and that their actions directly impact their future.

The people who attended the training event are now self-monitoring their fishing.

The importance of inviting partners (and having them attend). Partners can assist on the day in addressing queries from participants (as an example, Robin of WWF addressed on MPAs in Retreat, DAFF addressed in Kleinmond).



Stand up for future of community and feel that I am strong because working with people is not an easy thing

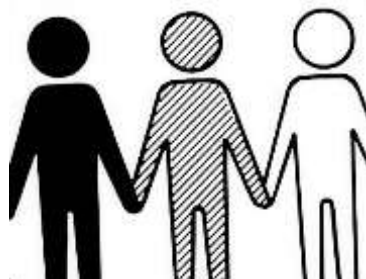
Workshops Snapshot



3 Train-the-Trainer workshops

19 Trainers (10 women) hired to deliver at least one workshop

Of the official participants:



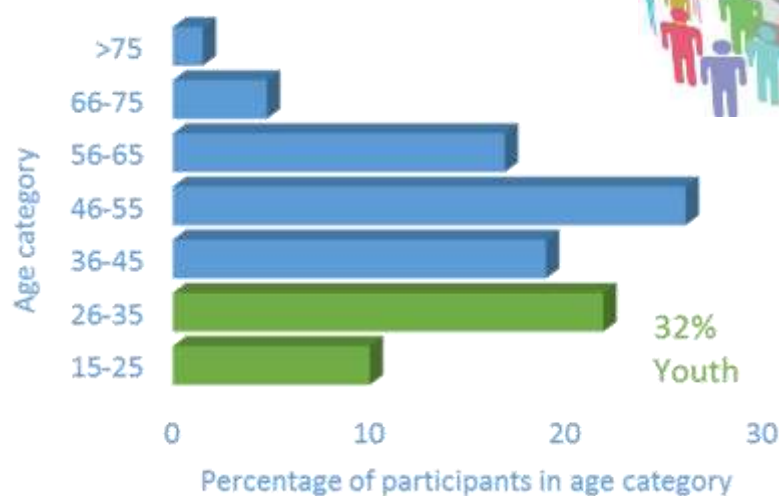
99.4% 0.6%



56% 44%



1.8% with disabilities



Average cost per workshop: ~R11'000

Feedback from Communities:

Where possible, participants were asked to fill in a feedback form at the end of the workshop. Some of the questions and their responses are below.

- Which was the most useful exercise and why?

The Marble Fishing Game

The marble game is a quick simulation of fishing under different scenarios. Depending on the ability of the participants to “fish” for marbles with a plastic spoon, they were quick to realise that unlimited fishing leads to no fish after a season or two. The game is a simple exercises that incorporates breeding, a total allowable effort and the complications of bycatch management with species that have different breeding rates and population sizes.



“Marbles” “it made me understand easily why we must catch proper limits to keep species for the future”
“because it shows us about saving fish and if we catch more we will be left with nothing so there must be off season so that the species will grow”

Participants from Hibberdene

“Marbles” “the more you give time for the fish to breed the more fish we will have in the next season”

Participant from Retreat



Retreat (WWF photo)



Port Nolloth

“Marbles” “Now I understand to use good practices and make good choices to sustain and manage the ocean”

Participant from Port Nolloth

“Marble exercise” “because I learn more about the fisheries. If there is no monitoring for the fisheries we going to harvest all the fishing products we have in the sea”

Participant from Hamburg



Langa



Coffee Bay

“Marbles” “The marble exercise was fun and more of reality game because it shows how harvesting fishes effects the number of fishes in the ocean”

Participant from eMpembeni

The Ecosystem Blocks Game

The Ecosystem Blocks game is designed to show how the ecosystem and food-web is all interlinked. You can't take from one trophic level without impacting on others – and humans impact all trophic levels. It is a simple exercise that gets the participants quite competitive and determined not to topple their “ocean ecosystem”.

“The ecosystem and the food web and season of different species”. “Because we as people don't engage ourselves with the nature and we easily forget that nature is more important and we as people must be active to protect our nature at all times”

Participant from Port St Johns



Port St Johns



Kleinmond

“All exercises” “because it made us be aware of things that we did not take into consideration when it comes to fishing industry. How humans play part in marine resources.”

Participant from Struisbaai

“Ecosystem” “It gives us more information on how to protect our marine life and the habitat of the sea system.”

Participant from Marselle



Marselle



Kalk Bay

“Blocks” “It was simple, but it means a lot.”
Participant from Kalk Bay



Kalk Bay

Port Edward



“Building a tower” “It made me understand the life in the sea that choosing the certain type of fish is important to keep the ecosystem and the food chain and web stable.”

Participant from Port Edward

- *What will you do with knowledge?*

Community members tended to answer by saying they would use the knowledge by passing it on to others in their community or by changing the way they interact with the environment. Some examples of their responses are captured below.



Keeping the Ocean Clean

Kalk Bay: “Keep our seas clean, do not litter into our oceans, Do not over catch. Teach others about how to improve keeping our ocean clean”

Kleinmond: “Ek sal al my plastic terug bring uit die see”

Kalk Bay: “Keep our seas clean, do not litter into our oceans. Teach others about how to improve keeping our ocean clean”

Fishing Sustainably

Kleinmond: “To become a better fisher and save some of sea-life for our children”

Retreat: “by making sure people don't overfish and catching undersize”

Port Nolloth: “To do according the rules and tell the fishers to protect their fish”

Langa: “As small-scale fishing organisation it helps me to be knowledgeable to how things are managed in the sea and not to abuse the sea resources in order to have sustainability for the future”

Port Edward: “I will follow all the rules and regulations of fishing and will teach all other fishmates on how to fish sustainable”

Hout Bay: “By not wasting or killing small animals.”



Sharing knowledge

Port St Johns: “I am going to comply and make sure that I pass the knowledge to the people who does not know about fishing”
“I'll teach those who don't understand but are willing and grow the information”

Port Edward: “I would pass it to those who cheat the rules of the sea and also tell them to pass it on to others”

Hout Bay: “When we go to meetings, workshops, I will talk [about] what I learned from this workshop.”

Hibberdene: “By convening meetings within our community and explain how/why it is important to preserve our resources”

Hondeklipbaai: “Organise meetings for people who did not attend the training. Speak to kids at school”

eMpembeni: “I will use it to teach other on how their actions will affect negatively the wild life (nature). Also use it to be a responsible fisherman.”

Struisbaai: “by implementing it into my own way of living & sharing what I've learned with others.

Jeffreys Bay: “Telling people and advise them if we don't do things the right way we might end up without jobs.”

- *What would you like to learn more about?*

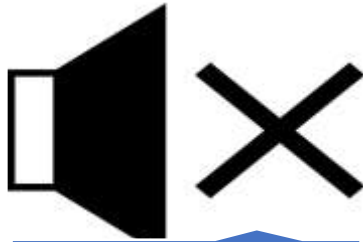
We asked this not only to guide content in workshops that we run, but also so that we could share this information with other organisations that are interested in running training in the communities. The responses we received are available for each community on request, the word cloud below summarises all responses received.



- *What other challenges does your community face?*

This question was added in 2018 at the suggestion of one of the trainers during our feedback sessions. We realise that we can only achieve a certain amount during a one day workshop, and this question acknowledges that the communities we visit face many and varying challenges. The problem of poaching and overfishing are symptoms of larger, complex societal issues that aren't addressed during the workshop and although these issues differ for different communities, there are some common themes that occurred regularly and are highlighted below.





Lack of communication from government. Lack of a voice. Transparency issues.



Lack of access to jobs. Poverty. Unemployed youth.



Drugs, gangsters, crime, alcoholism.



Lack of knowledge. Lack of schooling. Lack of skills and training.



Shortage of fish, poachers. Permit problems.



Pollution.



Wavecrest



Banganek workshop - 2018

Lessons Learnt:



Gugulethu

Communities are **enthusiastic** about training courses and almost always requested repeat visits or training to be delivered on other topics. It was frequently mentioned that the communities have been neglected and look forward to opportunities to learn more. **They appreciate an opportunity to be heard and to voice their experiences and share their knowledge.**

It was important to be transparent about what the goals of the training are particularly in certain communities where members of the community arrived with the intention to disrupt the workshop because of frustrations they were experiencing over the rights allocation process.

It helps to have a **team** to coordinate the workshops. It is unrealistic to expect one person to manage all the logistical and administrative requirements in addition to keeping the momentum going in the workshop. We have also found that it helps to pair trainers together because they can bounce ideas and discussion off each other and keep energy levels in the workshops up.



Hamburg

The number of people attending a training courses was unpredictable. Although the courses gained momentum, in terms of turnout, there was always the risk of travelling long distances and spending money on a course, and not having a large turnout. This might be more of a problem when the trainers are not resident in the community. We tried to also engage a community resident to act as a “fixer” to help mobilise the community to attend the course when the trainer was non-resident.



Mngcibe

There were varying levels of literacy in the community and the course was attended by different age groups and had different male to female ratios. The trainer needed to be flexible to address the demographic of the attendees and their interests. One of the most important skills of the trainer is being able to read their audience and try keep their interest, adjusting the timing of breaks or games as needed. It was also important for the trainer to acknowledge cultural sensitivities and beliefs. Some communities have strong faith-based or spiritual beliefs for current environmental conditions and these can't be

dismissed. Trainers also need to be respectful of community dynamics, for example, in one community, the trainer was aware that it would be disrespectful to interrupt the older participants, even if they had been speaking for long periods.

A R100 stipend per participant was incorporated into the original contract for this project – this was to acknowledge the cost of a day spent in the workshop that could have been spent fishing or doing other work. It was also designed to cover incidental costs such as transport to the workshop venue (where this was not covered by the project). There were concerns that this would attract the wrong participants to the workshop or that it would create an expectation of stipends for future workshops run by other organisations. We looked at ways in which the money could be donated to the community for the benefit of all, but this wasn't possible in terms of the contract stipulations and not all communities were at a stage of organisation where a donation would benefit all members. There were some communities where we were warned in advance not to give stipends because it would create tension in the community, and in those cases we didn't pay stipends.

All communities are different and local knowledge is important, not just in terms of logistics, but also in how best to engage the community. We relied on the best available knowledge from both the trainers and other contacts we had within communities. We tried to be as inclusive as possible and did not turn away participants eager to learn.

The participants, although eager to learn and participate in the workshop, also have other commitments in their day and in some communities we were asked if the workshop could finish early so that they could fetch children from school or sort and sell the catch that had come in that day. We tried to adjust the workshops accordingly and to keep the participants' interest engaged and energy levels up while being respectful of their other commitments and also being welcoming to the occasional younger members of the community joining the workshops.



The involvement of women is integral to the sustainable future of small-scale fisheries. It is important to consider that the gender dynamic varies in different communities. In some communities, women are vocal and participate without hesitation, while in other communities, women require more encouragement to participate.



Thank you

This project would not have been possible without the funding received from TETA and WWF-SA and the advice received from the steering committee and all the community liaisons and the amazing people that work with and in small-scale fishing communities around South Africa.



Thank you to the wonderful members of the communities that we have visited who have spent their day with us and shared their knowledge, interest and passion for the oceans from which they make their livelihoods. Also a huge thank you to our wonderful, passionate trainers, it is a joy working with them. Thank you to Liz McDaid for running the train-the-trainer sessions with such enthusiasm and knowledge.

We are also grateful to the representatives of SANParks, Cape Nature, DAFF, EC Parks Board, Sustainable Seas Trust, WESSA, WWF-SA, Benguela Current Commission, Abalobi, Coastal Links, Masifundise, South African Police Force and local Mayors, Councillors and Kings who gave up their time to attend workshops in their communities, find out more about what we are doing and meet the people at the workshop. Thank you to everyone who attended the KZN stakeholder workshop and overwhelmed us with your experience and knowledge.

We have had so many helpful hands in the various communities that we have visited, from Councillors, schools, libraries and churches allowing us the free use of their venues, to restaurants lending us their urn for the day to wonderfully helpful locals smoothing our way to visiting their communities. Thank you to Abalobi for sharing their wonderful space in Lambert's Bay with us, to DAFF for hosting our Eastern Cape trainer feedback workshop and to SAUFF for co-hosting the Eastern Cape Train-the-trainer workshop. Thank you to KZN Sharks Board for hosting our KZN Train-the-trainers event and KZN Stakeholder workshop.



Special thanks to the WWF-SA team: Junaid Francis who so enthusiastically joined in on so many of the workshops all around the country, making them even more lively and enjoyable; Babalwa Matutu for your company at the workshops and help translating feedback forms; and Robin Adams for sharing your knowledge about MPAs with the Western Cape communities.



Group Photos

Eastern Cape Group Photos



Western Cape Group Photos



KwaZulu-Natal Group Photos



Northern Cape Group Photos



Hondeklipbaai (2017)



Hondeklipbaai (2018)



Port Nolloth

