

# PROFILE OF THE ABALONE INDUSTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA



†  
R.I.P.  
Abalone  
TAC  
1952-  
2008  
*Missed by  
many*



Illegal trade  
Quality/ price  
No governance



Governance  
Standards



# South African Abalone



South Africa



South Africa

Image NASA  
© 2008 Europa Technologies  
Image © 2008 TerraMetrics  
© 2008 Google

Google



# Minister Closes Abalone Fishery

## Clampdown on legal perlemoen fishery

Minister says ban is the only way to  
conserve stocks lost to poaching

GUY ROGERS  
Environment & Tourism Editor

**IN a far-reaching move the government yesterday banned legal perlemoen harvesting in a bid to deal with plummeting perlemoen stocks – the result of rampant poaching.**

While the announcement was guardedly welcomed by environmentalists, the decision has left in doubt the future of hundreds of people employed in the legal perlemoen industry, although Environmental Affairs Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk said efforts were being made to find alternative employment for the



unfortunate decision to suspend fishing." Prior to the TAC approach, perlemoen catches were unregulated.

Landings escalated to a high of nearly 3 000 tons in 1965, before declining rapidly to a point, in 1970, when the first commercial quotas, under the ambit of the TAC were introduced.

The stabilising effect of a TAC-managed fishery was apparent with catches remaining relatively constant at 600 to 700 tons a year between 1970 and '95, he said.

"Over the past 10 years due to declining resources the TAC has had to be reduced annually from 615 tons in 1995 to a record low of 125 tons for the 2006/07 season."

"We are unfortunately at a point where the commercial harvesting of wild abalone can no longer be justified because the stock has declined to such an extent that the resource is threatened with commercial extinction,"

4 December 2007

*Perlemoen: South African abalone*

*But there's an elephant in the room....*



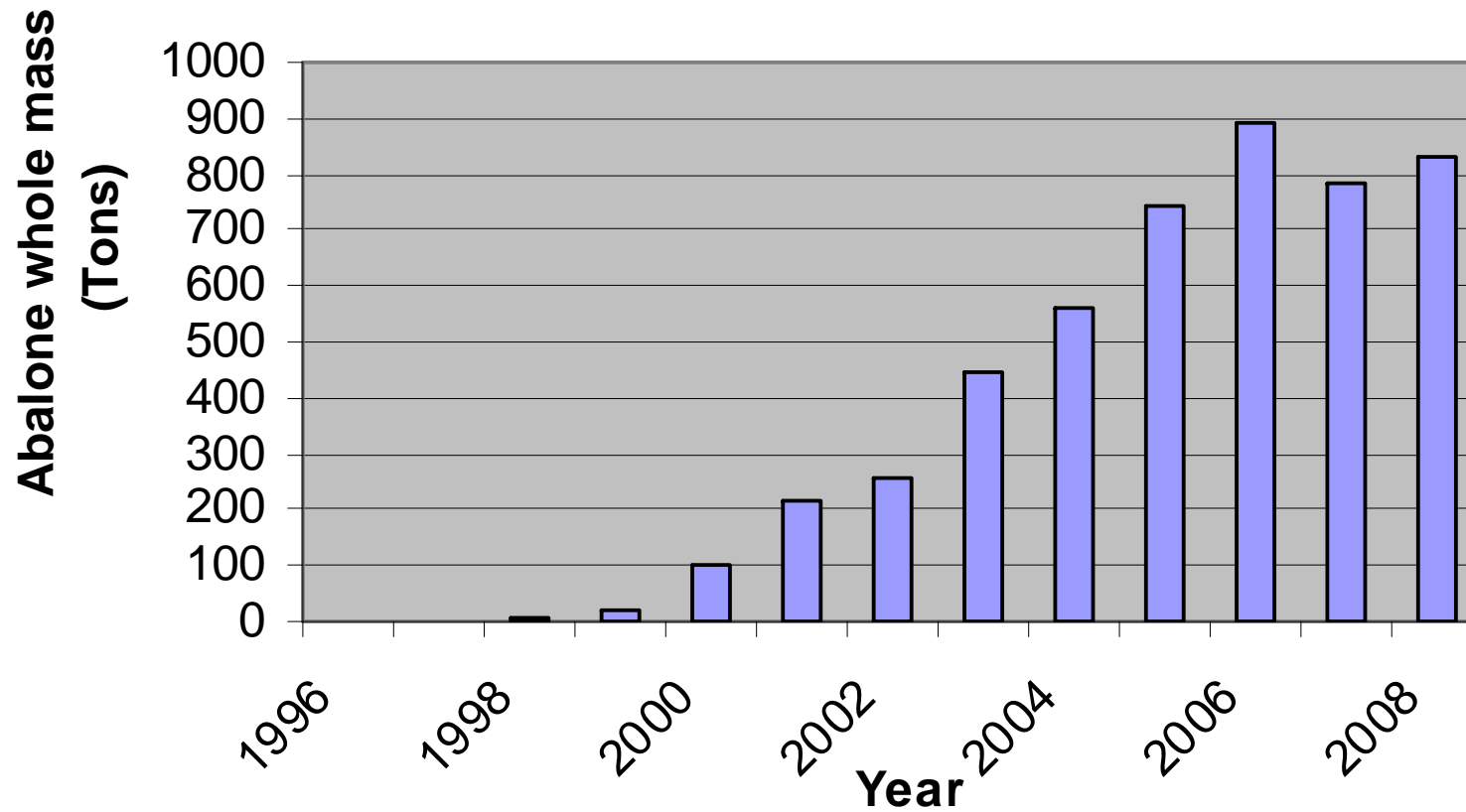
# The Illegal Fishery

## A Full Scale Commercial Fishery

- Price -divers: \$32-56/kg meat
- Income: \$50,000 / boat/ day  
up to R5,000/diver/day
- Harvest: >2000 ton per annum
- Value:
  - Divers: \$21 million p.a.
  - Export: \$56 million p.a.



# S.A. Farmed Abalone Production



# S.A. Abalone Farm Statistics

- Employment 1040 full time 141 part time
- Product Gate Value \$32 million
- 18 active farms
- Average production 58 tons (up to >200t)



# Aquaculture Trends

- Price pressure – rising Korean Ezo production
- Larger farms consolidating and expanding
- Some smaller operators struggling
- Limited harvested seaweed (3650t)
- Increasing use of pelleted feed and cultured seaweed (600t).



# Trends...

- Biosecurity awareness and protocols
- Water reuse, water quality management
- Genetic management
- Ranching guidelines – MCM positive approach



Ranched  
abalone



Sabellid  
worm

# SA Abalone Standards and Reporting

## Current:

- ❑ MCM Monthly reports: Disease, medications, production
- ❑ EU requirements: South African Molluscan Shellfish Monitoring and Control Programme
- ❑ CITES compliance

## Draft:

- ❑ Marine Aquaculture Codex
- ❑ Western Cape Best Management Practise guidelines
- ❑ MCM Marine Aquaculture Environmental Management Plan
- ❑ Integrated Coastal Zone Management Bill – reporting on all effluent pipelines every three years



**The end**