

SMALL-SCALE FISHERS LOSE RIGHTS CHAMPION

Written by Tracy
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South Africa – Langebaan artisanal fisherman, Kenneth Blaauw, and champion of rights for small-scale fishers, has passed away. Blaauw, a member of Coastal Links South Africa, was instrumental in successfully pursuing a 2008 high court action in which he provided an affidavit that the 1245 small scale fishers it represented were allowed to fish for west coast rock lobster, this despite the Industry's assertion that artisanal fishers did not exist in law. The Industry said only recreational, subsistence and commercial sectors had legal status.

Said Naseegh Jaffer, a director of Masifundise Development Trust, "Kenneth Blaauw has made a huge contribution to the cause of small-scale fishers countrywide. "We must ensure that his struggle is taken forward until the policy becomes lived reality in the lives of fishers around the coast."

The Small-scale Fisheries Policy was adopted last year but is yet to be implemented.

Blaauw leaves behind his partner, two sons and two daughters..