

Networking Friday with Samuel Mafwila

May 8th, 2020

Question and Answers Report

Yesim Sireli:

Q: Is there a website we can review about these new opportunities [generated by the All Atlantic Ocean Community]?

A: <http://www.allatlanticocean.org/>. Any important question concerning the All Atlantic Ocean Community can be sent directly to Sigi Grüber (sieglinde.gruber@ec.europa.eu) Head of Unit, Healthy Oceans & Seas (RTD.C.4) with the functional mailbox (rtd-atlantic@ec.europa.eu) and Laura.Mc-Donagh (laura.mc-donagh@ec.europa.eu) in copy. Any queries relating to the Youth Ambassadors Initiative can be sent directly to Laura Mc-Donagh (laura.mc-donagh@ec.europa.eu). For more information on opportunities in Namibia, please visit the Website of the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Namibia (<http://www.mfmr.gov.na/>).

Isa Elegbede:

Q: It is interesting to see how indigenous fisheries is contributing to the Namibia economy, do the Namibia fisheries policy recognise their role and consider them in decision making?

A: Live answered

Asma Ibrahim:

Q: The Sam Nujoma Institute researches in coastal and desert agriculture. That sounds interesting. What exactly is being researched?

A: Climate-Smart Agriculture, Hydroponics, Aquaponics, Horticulture in desert and coastal areas, mushroom cultivation

Yaya Soro:

Q: Given the pressure of agricultural practices along the African coast, what strategies are you using in Namibia to avoid the impact of agricultural pollutants on mariculture spaces?

A: Live answered

Patience Obatola:

Q: Thank you for your presentation. I am interested in the rebuilding of stock of fish in your country. Can you explain how this was done and the status of your fish stock now? Bearing in mind that these are marine fisheries, how can this be replicated in other countries that have their fisheries resources in rebuilt?

A: Live answered

Enrique Montes:

Q: What type of environmental monitoring is carried out and does it include biological variables?

A: Dissolved Oxygen, Salinity, pH, Temperature, Nutrients, Heavy metals, wind, currents, upwelling, phytoplankton, benthic communities

Suleiman Sadiku:

Q: What is the demand and supply gap of fish to meet the Namibian demand?

A: Live answered

Oludare Adeogun:

Q: Observing closed season, what alternative(s) livelihoods does Government provides for the people?

A: No direct support from Government per se, however, the closed season is only one to two months, and fish vendors turn to selling fish from the aquaculture farms and some stockpiles of fish before the fishing is closed.

Suleiman Sadiku:

Q: What is the state of cage mariculture in Namibia with her enormous coastline and bays?

A: No cage culture for finfish so far, however, the Bays are used for oyster farming in baskets attached to long-line ropes. Small scale rope culture for black mussels in Walvis Bay. Open ocean is a very hostile environment, it is rough thus poses a high risk of losses.

Adekunle Oresegun:

Q: Sam, good presentation. I found a strong disconnect between the fish intake in Namibia and the high industrial fish production. What could be responsible for this?

A: We have a long history of colonialism in Namibia, and local people who would have occupied settlements along the coast were forced to move inland, and due to the harsh desert conditions they moved further inland and could not access the ocean resources, thus developed a culture of eating red meat more than fish. However, in the northern parts of Namibia where there are rivers, people there eat a lot of fish from the river, since they were never displaced, up to the modern day, tilapia is one of the delicacies there. When marine fish became accessible after independence it was an all-new beginning to eating marine fish. Comparative taste, and preferences compared to freshwater fish, as well as price consideration could have led to less fish consumption. Naturally, Namibians love eating red meat.

Ibukunoluwa Akintayo:

Q: How do manage pollution from marine aquaculture industry?

A: Biggest farms are for Oysters, and these are grown in natural systems. They are not fed with commercial feed, they filter the water for phytoplankton, thus posing very low risk of pollution, and the water exchange and dilution factor are very high due to turbulent environment.

Christos Arvanitidis:

Q: What is the relation between marine biodiversity and fisheries in Namibia? Are there existing data?

A: The Benguela Current is an upwelling ecosystem, and therefore has a less biodiverse fish community than for instance other parts of the Atlantic. And although the populations of fish in the area has been impacted by fisheries no species have been totally extirpated, so not sure there is an impact on biodiversity yet.

Yaya Soro:

Q: What strategies for the management of artisanal maritime fishing in the face of the rarefaction of catches and the reduction of the mesh of fishing nets which collects more and more fry?

A: We do not have artisanal marine fishery, our marine capture fishery is industrial, thus we have no management hurdles to overcome.

Suleiman Sadiku:

Q: Quality seeds and feeds are very key to sustainable aquaculture, what is the role of institutes to guarantee these?

A: SANUMARC is championing the development of low cost feed from locally available starch, and protein (fishmeal), and there is fish feed manufacturing plant in northern Namibia.

Ibukunoluwa Akintayo:

Q: Do you practice cage culture system in Namibia?

A: Not for mariculture. New developments in cage culture in the Zambezi region of Namibia is taking momentum though. Mainly for tilapia species.

Veronica Kapula:

Q: What are the challenges if one wants to farm Kob fish in Namibian waters?

A: The supply of fry is a big problem since the spawning of Kob in captivity have not been perfected yet. Cost of fish is very high too