

Majority of South Africa's seafood exported

Most of the calamari eaten in South Africa is imported while the local catch is almost entirely exported due to the premium pricing that it attracts in foreign markets, reports IOL News.

This emerged in a report by World Wide Fund (WWF) and Traffic to better understand the context within which seafood is bought and sold.

Called "From Boat to Plate: Linking the seafood consumer and supply chain", the report was released at a symposium held under the auspices of the WWF, its Southern African Sustainable Seafood Initiative (Sassi) and the Marine Stewardship Council this week. It involved highly placed individuals from the environmental and marine scientific fields, as well as fishing industry professionals.

The report said: "Similarly, much of the hake consumed by South Africans between 2000 and 2010 was imported, with more than 95% of the imported volume coming from Namibia. In terms of prawns consumed in South Africa, 62% originated from India in 2010, with volumes also from Mozambique and Thailand."

It found the South African market was generally poorly equipped to address seafood sustainability challenges.

"Of outlets interviewed, 57% indicated that they were not familiar with the laws applicable to seafood trade in South Africa and 46% had never been inspected by compliance officials.

"Interestingly, a quarter of the respondents stated that they used the WWF-Sassi consumer guide to determine which species were illegal to sell."

Source : <http://www.undercurrentnews.com/2014/12/01/majority-of-south-africas-seafood-exported/> (01/12/2014)