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**27 November 2017**

## **Invite: UCT workshop takes stock of South Africa's renewable marine resources**

**27 November – 01 December 2017 | 09:00-17:30 | UCT Mathematics Building, Room M212**

The University of Cape Town's Marine Resource Assessment and Management (MARAM) Group, based in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics, is hosting the Annual International Fisheries Stock Assessment Review Workshop this week.

The workshop – funded by the National Research Foundation and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) – brings together scientists, members of the fishing industry and of the Fisheries Research and Development branch of the DAFF. Analyses of the state of the South Africa's major renewable marine resources are discussed together with a four-member review panel of world leading fisheries scientists.

This year, the meeting will focus on how best to calculate sustainable quotas for hake, sardines and rock lobster, which account for most of the value of the country's fisheries.

Emeritus Professor Doug Butterworth, head of the MARAM Group, commented: "The focus for rock lobster will be on assessing the extent of poaching. This has a major impact on the size of the quotas which can be allocated to legal commercial and small scale fishers while still maintaining sustainability."

He added that another important topic under discussion would be whether a recent downward fluctuation in sardine abundance was sufficiently severe that closure of this important fishery might merit consideration.

Most of the workshop will comprise very technical discussions. However, on its conclusion, the international panel from Australia, Canada, Norway and the USA will present their findings and recommendations at a layperson level at a session on Friday, 01 December at 15:30. This session, which will be open for questions from the public, will be held at the UCT Mathematics Building, Room M304.

**Notes to the editors:**

Attendees over the period from **Monday, 27 November at 09:00 to Friday, 1 December at 15:00** will need to show a **personal invitation** to the security officer on the North (Cape Town) side door of the UCT Mathematics Building to be granted access to the venue. Therefore, if you wish to attend these sessions, please RSVP to [Di Loureiro](#) who will return such an invitation to you.

**No personal invitation** will be required for entry to the summary event on Friday, 01 December at 15:30. A UCT staff member will be present at the North side entrance of the Mathematics Building from 15:15 to authorise entrance.

Further information and registration details can be found on the MARAM [website](#).

***ENDS***

**Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department**

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