

## **Implementation of small-scale fisheries policy: DFFE Bernacia Mullins**

We started with the two days' training for small-scale fishers from the 15th of May until the 13th of June. Where we conducted 2 days training session with the small-scale fishers along the Western Cape with the motive of introducing them to what cooperatives are, what they mean to them and how the department registers a fishing community as the Cooperatives. The two days sessions were conducted successfully. Overall, we will be registering about 80 cooperatives out of all the communities we visited in the Western Cape. We had 96% of attendances and it was overwhelming to experience. There were challenges within the sessions but that didn't change the progress and excitement of the process.

On the 13th of June we got a positive outcome and currently the Department with the service provider is at the point of registering all the cooperatives on the SIPs. The CIP system is online now and there are several requirements, and it was challenging regarding the number of members per cooperative to conduct a quick upload on the system we're facing challenges with the system but by the end of July we're planning to be done with the registrations. At the same time while registering the cooperatives online we are also conducting the rights application process with them in parallel so we can conclude the two processes at the same time.

The rights application process is basically for the cooperative to identify the species that they would like to apply for that can form part of their basket. The species could range from lobster, white muscle, but the species will be assessed based on the availability of that species. We are workshopping the cooperatives on how to fill in the forms and how to best reflect how the cooperative will look in terms of participating in the economy and the resources that they will have available, we are busy with that process.