

# Hake industry warns over allocations

THE local hake fishing industry has warned that sensible rights allocations are necessary to preserve international competitiveness and jobs in coastal areas.

South African Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association (Sadstia) chairman Terence Brown said the industry's well developed, unique economic characteristics should be foremost during the fishing rights allocation process scheduled for completion in 2020.

"Long-term rights for 12 commercial fisheries will be allocated by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries next year. Similar processes conducted by the department in 2013 and 2015/2016 were highly controversial and characterised by lengthy delays, prolonged litigation, disruption of fishing, and the destruction of value for individuals and companies invested in fishing," Sadstia said in a statement issued to mark the release of a study it commissioned from Genesis Analytics on the deep sea trawl fishery in Cape Town.

Brown said the hake deep-sea trawl fishery was an industrial-scale fishery that did not in any way compete for resources with small-scale fisheries because it fished in deep, offshore waters that were inaccessible to small boats.

"To overlook the risky, capital-in-



LONG-TERM rights for 12 commercial fisheries will be allocated by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries next year, says the South African Deep-Sea Trawling Industry Association chairman Terence Brown.

tensive nature of the deep-sea trawl industry, and the need for economies of scale in the catching and processing of Cape hake, would be risk destroying this industry, which currently provides compelling value and thousands of good jobs in coastal areas," he said.

"Genesis Analytics' researchers calculated that if the quotas of existing rights holders are reduced by 10% in 2020, the objectives of the Marine Living Resources Act and the National Development Plan would not be met and the socio-economic contribution

of the fishery would be materially reduced – for little or no gain in economic or political transformation. This would have a major impact on production costs, resulting in a forced restructuring of the industry and job losses," Sadstia said.

Brown added: "We believe that the findings are critically important. Our fishery is South Africa's most valuable. It is transformed, sustainable and internationally competitive – a true South African success story." | African News Agency (ANA)