Media Release

Namibia’s Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, Honourable Bernard Esau, will preside over a ceremony at the National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) in Swakopmund on Tuesday June 5, 2012.

The ceremony will mark the official “handing over” of office space to two international organisations whose headquarters are based in Namibia, namely the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO).

The Benguela Current Commission is coordinating the efforts of Angola, Namibia and South Africa, which are working together to resolve some of the environmental problems that threaten the integrity of the BCLME. Sound environmental governance and training and capacity building are at the forefront of the Commission’s agenda. The large marine ecosystem is home to massive schools of forage fish that form the hub of the Benguela offshore ecosystem and support important fisheries. It is also a major shipping route, the source of some of the most spectacular diamonds in the world, and the site of substantial oil and gas reserves.

The SEAFO is an intergovernmental fisheries management organization responsible for sustainable management of living marine resources in high seas in the south Atlantic ocean and has seven members, namely Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Norway, EU, Japan and South Korea. Over the last seven years, SEAFO has adopted some of the most highly praised conservation measures to protect vulnerable habitats such as seamounts from fishing.

Since August 2008, BCC operated from rented offices in Windhoek while the Secretariat of SEAFO was based in Walvis Bay since 2005. With the extension and refurbishment of the NatMIRC complex in Swakopmund, the Government has decided to accommodate these organisations in NaTMIRC. It is these offices that the Minister will inspect and present to the executive secretaries of BCC, Dr Hashali Hamukuaya, and SEAFO, Dr. Ben van Zyl, on Tuesday June 5. The handover will take place between 08h00 and 08h30.

“My ministry is delighted to accommodate BCC and SEAFO in our state-of-art
research complex,” Minister Esau said in the run up to the handover ceremony.

“In doing so, Namibia is demonstrating its unwavering commitment to ensuring the long-term sustainable management and conservation of the resources within Exclusive Economic Zones of the BCLME countries as well as in the adjacent high seas.

Members of the media are invited to attend the handover ceremony at the NatMIRC Complex on Tuesday June 5 at 08h00.

Jointly issued by the Benguela Current Commission (BCC) and the South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

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