Namibian Total Allowable Catches and Landings
{Tonnes}

Production	1991	1992	1993	1994
Total Allowable Catch	1,800	1,200	100	100
Namibian Lobster Landings	600	400	100	n/a

Source: Canadian High Commission, Johannesburg.

Namibian traders has exported significant quantities of rock lobster frozen to the Japanese market {1,778 MT in 1986}, but declining resources have reduced exports to Japan {137 MT in 1992}. For at least one of the Luderitz lobster companies, Seaflower Lobster Corporation, the move into white fish is a major departure from its traditional activities, catching and processing rock lobster.

Namibian Lobster Exports to Japan
Frozen {Metric Tonnes}

	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
Total Exports	987	547	354	137	185

Source: National Statistics, Japan.

SOUTH AFRICA
Most of the South African rock lobster is harvested off the west coast of the country with a nominal catch equalling 3,161 tons in 1993, a decrease from 3,459 tons in 1992. Growth and production rates of West Coast rock lobster continued to be low on most grounds during 1993.

South African Rock Lobster Production

Year	Nominal Catch (tons)	Landings (Tons)	FOB Wholesale {Processed} (R$,000)
1992	3,459	2,936	134,922
1993	3,161	2,634	138,270

Source: FAO/Economic Section: Chief Directorate of Sea Fisheries

After intense scientific debate, the minimum size for the 1993/94 commercial fishing season was reduced to 75mm carapace length and the corresponding Total Allowable Catch (TAC) set at 2,200 tons, with the retention of a mixed-sex fishery. Management decisions have been guided by a size-based model of the resource. The model has been used to project forward for 20 years and to ascertain the maximum TAC which can be realized for a given minimum size, under an assumed two additional years of low growth before recovery, without violating two constraints. These constraints are that the harvest proportion must not exceed 30 percent, and the egg production must remain above 50 percent of an agreed reference level.

There are however, some concerns about the approach, including uncertainties regarding the relationship between pristine egg production and the reference level, the likely duration of the slow growth phase, and the absence of a feedback control in the existing procedure. Work has been done, and is continuing, trying to obtain a better estimate of the true abundance of females at the end of the 19th century, so the true extent of decline in egg production can be ascertained.