Over Monday 27 November to Friday 1 December, the annual International Stock Assessment Workshop funded by the NRF and DAFF will be taking place at UCT (Mathematics Building, Room M212).

This year, the four scientists invited to comprise the Review Panel are: Sean Cox (Canada), Malcolm Haddon (Australia), Daniel Howell (Norway) and Andre Punt (USA).

TOPICS
The primary topics to be covered are the following:

1) South African hake – The formula (OMP – Operational Management Procedure) used to recommend hake TACs comes under four-yearly review in 2018; the analyses and testing processes to be used in this exercise will be reviewed
2) Sardine – A review of progress on multi-stock assessment models for the South African sardine resource and their implications for management and how this might take spatial considerations into account
3) West Coast rock lobster – A review of the basis used to estimate the magnitude and trends in poaching from this resource
4) South Coast rock lobster – A review of the analyses and testing processes planned for the 2018 review of OMP used to recommend TACs for this resource
5) Linefish – A review of assessment models developed for some major linefish species

SCHEDULE
Discussion is planned to take place from 9 am to 5-30 pm each day, with two 30 minute breaks for tea at 10-30 am and at 3-30 pm, and a 90 minute lunch break at 12-30 pm - except for part/all of the Thursday afternoon which will be reserved for the Panel to prepare their report. A detailed schedule indicating which topics will be discussed and their times will be circulated in due course.

For the most part, discussions will be at a fairly high technical level, however on the final day (Friday 1st at 3-30 pm in room M304 of the UCT Mathematics Building, the International Review Panel will provide a summary of their recommendations at a level suitable for a lay audience, and will open for questions from the attending audience. Dr Kim Prochazka, Director Research of DAFF Fisheries Management Branch, will chair this session.

DOCUMENTATION AND ATTENDANCE
Likely commencing Tuesday 21 November, documents for background and for discussion at the workshop will be posted on the following website for prior download, as they become available: http://www.maram.uct.ac.za/maram/workshops/2017

Attendees are asked to bring their own copies of documents (found on the website above) to the meeting as they will not be made available in other forms. However, for technical reasons, there may be some documents which cannot be made available in this way; these will be emailed to those who advise attendance as requested below, and a limited number of hard copies will be available during the workshop.

Because of the need to maintain a workshop type interaction, chairs will limit discussion during each session primarily to panel members and selected key contributors to sit at a central table. However, others are welcome to attend, and their interventions will be entertained in the discussions to the extent that time permits.

Inter alia for catering purposes, and for provision of some documents as indicated above, we need to assess/document likely attendance. Could those wishing to attend part or all of the event please send an email to Di Loureiro dl.lapidoloureiro@uct.ac.za copied to doug.butterworth@uct.ac.za and Candysse Vrancken vrcan003@myuct.ac.za indicating the topics for which you wish to attend (this is not necessary if you wish to attend the final Friday lay summary session only).