

## Local aquaculturists take hands

15:24 (GMT+2), Wed, 08 September 2010



At the recent Aquaculture forum meeting were, from the left (back), Fanus Brink from the George municipality economic development department (SCAF secretary), Dr Chris Fouche (Aquaculture Insight), Paul Hoffman (SEDA acting branch manager), Philip Barnard (Aquaculture Insight). Front: Uwe Dominick (Aquaculture Insight), Gido Crous (SCAF chairman from Jagido Visse) and Heiner Dominick (Aquaculture Insight).

GEORGE NEWS - A new aquaculture forum in George has created a platform for the local industry to share information and to take hands in the effort to establish aquaculture as a regional commodity.

Major problems faced are finding the right markets, finance, fish feed prices and legislation. Southern Cape Aquaculture Forum chairman, Gido Crous says new legislation will hopefully provide more clarity regarding the species allowed in fish farming in the area. Many farmers are waiting for permits and Crous says the forum wants to establish a close working relationship with Cape Nature. Cape Nature is concerned that species alien to the area may have a detrimental effect on the marine eco system if they end up in our rivers or estuaries.

Meanwhile local aquaculture company, Aquaculture Insight has manufactured, shipped, built and commissioned the first of 11 fish farms in Germany. The first fish farm was opened by the German

mayor president of Saxony on 20 August amid strong media interest.

Philip Barnard from Aquaculture Insight says if aquaculture is expected to develop and expand significantly in South Africa, it will most likely do so by incorporating a strategy based on the production of high value products for niche markets such as abalone, marine fin fish species, crustaceans, trout and ornamentals.

Article: Ilse Schoonraad