

Kleinmond Fishing History

I am Petrus Johannes Fredericks, ID Num: 480711 5122 081.

My grandfather, M Samuels, was a fisherman. He was living with his family in the Kleinmond Visbaai. My mother, most of her sisters and brother were born in the Visbaai – Kleinmond Harbour - where they grew up.

Later on my grandfather moved to a new bigger house in up in the street (Harbour Road 11). My mother, Dolfina Samuels, in the meantime was married to Petrus Johannes Fredericks. During the fifties he applied a couple of times to hire a section of the old Fish House (Vishuis) in the Kleinmond harbour. During the late fifties & early sixties he was successful in his application. It is minute in the Overstrand Municipality - Kleinmond (Local Government) archives. He held the lease until the Vishuis was abolished during the forced removals. All the houses were also abolished.

During these years my father has his own fishing boat and a crew. He was also a builder and subcontractor. He trained many people the art of building, skills transfer. Today these or their siblings are still in the building industry as carpenters, bricklayers etc.

In the early sixties a new trade started in our fishing village, it was abalone diving. My father bought three boats & started the abalone diving in Kleinmond. The first "coloured" divers in our village were the Swartz brothers, namely Abraham, Michael & Nolan. They began their diving career in partnership with my father. Later Abraham (Ivan) Oncker & Daniel Arendse were diving in partnership with him.

The divers, after a couple of years, bought their own equipment and left my father to dive for themselves. All of them or the siblings still hold fishing rights today. The last diver to work for him was Daniel Arendse, who died of a heart attack in 1984.


During all these years my father also used his boats to catch fish, when they did not dive. He was the sole person in this industry and trained many in the small fishing community. From this Kleinmond became a commercial fishing village. The skills he taught are already into the fourth generation.

After the death of Daniel Arendse, he lost his faith in the sea and sold his boats.

We, his sons and daughters, applied for Rock Lobster quota East of Hangklip during 1998. We were rejected again under FRAP 2005.

Since then we were still involved in the fishing industry and during the late 2003 establish empowerment companies (Kleinmond Community Investment Holdings (PTY) Ltd, Kleinmond Fishbay Heritage A21 and Kleinmond Marine Products (PTY) Ltd) to empower, educate, train and mentor the Kleinmond fish community. I was the 1st chairperson for two until my resignation due to health in 2011.

My son, Garth Heinrich Fredericks, 770929 5121 080, is already the 5th generation who participate and are involved in the fishing industry.


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