

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The fishing industry in South Africa has long faced the problem that the levels of pollutants discharged at coastal factories producing fish-meal and canned products were in many cases unacceptably high for discharge into the marine environment. The Water Research Commission was approached by the industry and has sponsored factory surveys and pilot plant effluent treatment studies over a number of years to address the problem. This work has been described in a series of reports ("Water and Effluent Management in the Fishing Industry", Volumes 1 to 4, internal reports prepared by Binnie and Partners on behalf of the Water Research Commission), culminating in the present guide.

Achievable management targets for pollution loads arising from fish off-loading and factory processing are identified initially. Means of achieving these target levels are addressed firstly by considering improved housekeeping procedures to minimise effluent generation and secondly, by installation of effluent treatment processes which have been proven in pilot plant studies. Suitable effluent treatment processes are described on a modular basis, and design options for effluent treatment schemes are given.

The guide is designed to be a tool for management to progressively improve the quality and volume of the waste waters discharged by the industry, and it is urged that the recommendations contained be systematically applied as an on-going exercise towards minimising the marine pollution problems faced.