



A fully-equipped 5,5 metre KING CAT ski boat was handed over to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources in Namibia on behalf of the United Nations Development programme (UNDP) and the Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) programme.

A joint signing ceremony of the transfer document between the parties transferred ownership of the *noctiluca* to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources.

The attractive vessel which has been named *Noctiluca* was built at the Z-Craft boatyard in KwaZulu Natal in South Africa, and comes complete with trailer, twin 90-horse power YAHAMA engines and is fitted with a fish-finder, GPS and VHF Radio. It also comes with coastal charts, sets of protective clothing and safety equipment. The vessel can be transported to and launched from any number of locations along the coast.

The *Noctiluca* has been donated to the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources primarily for use in the implementation of project activities of the BCLME programme in Namibia. Such work is to include environmental monitoring and sampling of water quality and harmful algae blooms as well as the near shoreline fisheries.

The boat is also intended to assist the Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources with training and capacity-building and for promoting activities that would contribute towards sustainable management of coastal fisheries of the BCLME.

During the official handing-over ceremony, Simon Nhongo (Resident Representative UNDP-NAMIBIA) said that as part of this package they were pleased to announce that Z-Craft would be providing a three-day training course in basic vessel operation.

This basic training course in the operation of the vessel will be given to selected staff members of the National Marine Information and Research Centre (NatMIRC) by Z-Craft boat-builders of Empangeni in KwaZulu Natal. This will include lessons on the use of

the trailer, reversing, launching and retrieval of the vessel engine operation, refuelling lubrication and technical maintenance procedures, to mention just some.

Z-Craft will also demonstrate the use of safety equipment on board and the electronic equipment, and will provide a short training session on basic navigation and weather conditions.

Dr Abraham Iyambo, Minister of Fisheries and Marine Resources, received this lavish donation, saying that due to a lack of accessibility to the inshore grounds by the large research vessels, little monitoring had taken place.

"The arrival of the *Noctiluca*", he said, "will remedy any lack of data and information on our marine environment in these areas, since monitoring of inshore water status and quality is es-

Something to celebrate – the 5,5 metre King Cat ski boat donated by the UNDP and BCLME to the Ministry of Fisheries for the Benguela Current marine Ecosystem programme. Here Fisheries Minister, Dr Iyambo, pops the cork with Dr Michael O'Toole (Chief Technical Adviser; Programme Coordinator Unit BCLME) and Simon Nhongo (Resident Representative UNDP-NAMIBIA).

KING CAT Ski Boat donated for Benguela Marine monitoring

sential.

"As is the case with other patrol and research craft, I should stress that this boat will be available for the services of other Ministries such as Works, Transport and

Communications – for pollution-control activities.

"The BCLME is a multi-sectoral entity, and I believe it will be in everyone's interest to work together for a common cause."

