



GANSBAAI MARINE WEEK

Whale Coast Conservation celebrated Marine Week with learners from Academia High School, Gansbaai Primêr and Laerskool Gansbaai. The theme was sustainable fishing practices and the role all of us can play in conserving fish stocks through responsible consumerism.

Andre Coetzee of Gansbaai Marine kindly hosted the learners on three afternoons at their factory in the Gansbaai Harbour.



Andre described sustainable fishing practices in and around Gansbaai and the involvement of Gansbaai Marine. He explained that only 10% of pelagic fish get taken out of the ocean, and our Department of Agriculture, Fishing and Forestry ensures that there is minimum pressure on the fish species. He also gave the learners an insight into what happens on the boats and how the fish species are caught.



The young people learned a great deal about the fishing industry. He also showed a very informative movie on the operation of the fish factory from the beginning when the fish is received, right through the process of canning fish and the making of fish meal to the end where it is consumed.



He gave all the children a can of Sardines and explained that it is very nutritious "brain food" as it contains both omega 3 and 6 unsaturated fatty acids, especially recommended for doing maths. Afterwards there was time for questions.



Christoff Longland from Whale Coast Conservation then gave a short talk about sustainable fish consumption, using the SASSI list which indicates which species are good to consume (green), not so cool (orange), and no go (red).



Each learner received an Enviro Kids magazine from WESSA with lots of articles and games to further consolidate what they had learned.

They also received a small bag with green beads prepared by Shirley Mgoboza of Whale Coast Conservation and a SASSI list. The learners used the beads to make bracelets as a reminder of the green list of fish.



Some beads had letters on them and the predominantly Afrikaans-speaking children had great fun stringing these together to spell "VIS".

We would like to thank Gansbaai Marine, especially Andre Coetzee, for hosting the learners from the three schools and giving the very informative talk.



We also thank WWF-WESSA for the Enviro Kids Magazines and the SASSI charts. The magazines were distributed as follows:

- 22 Magazines were given to the Grade 4 class at Laerskool Gansbaai + 1 teacher
- 40 Magazines went to the Grade 7 class at Gansbaai Primêr + 1 teacher
- 19 Magazines were given to the special learners' class at Gansbaai Primêr + 2 teachers
- 57 Magazines were left with Mr Pedro at Gansbaai Primêr to be used for his grade 6 classes and teacher.
- 24 Magazines were handed out to learners on the excursion who had already received them at school.

The magazines will be used in classroom consolidation of the learning achieved on the trip to the harbour. The associated activities described in the magazine are especially exciting.

The concepts and practices around sustainable fishing are especially relevant in a community where fishing and other ocean-based activities are the major economic drivers.