DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

VISION
A dynamic, high performance, consultative and client focused Department that promotes, builds and ensures sustainable development, utilisation and management of the fisheries resources in Malawi.

MISSION
To provide framework conditions and excellent services for the maximization of socio-economic benefits through sustainable utilization and management of capture fisheries and increased aquaculture production.

MANDATE
To provide professional services to ensure sustainable fisheries resource utilization and enhanced aquaculture through principles of good governance.

DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES
- To increase annual fish production from capture fisheries and aquaculture.
- To reduce fish post harvest losses.
- To increase per capita fish consumption.
- To enhance business and entrepreneurial capacities and skills of small-scale producers.

FUNCTIONAL DIVISIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT
The Department of Fisheries has 6 Cost Centres including Mzuzu, Mangochi, Malawi College of Fisheries, Salima, Zomba and Fisheries Headquarters, which cater for the following functional divisions: Extension and Training, Fisheries Planning and Development, Research, as well as General Administrative Support Services.

1. Fisheries Extension and Training Division
This Division is responsible for the provision of extension and training services in Fisheries Resource Management and Aquaculture Development. It has stations in all districts.

2. Fisheries Planning and Development Division
This Division is responsible for the provision of fisheries planning and development services. Specifically, its main role is to plan, monitor, and evaluate departmental and project activities, including coordinating the preparation of annual workplans and budgets. It also coordinates policy analysis, international cooperation and Gender and HIV/AIDS programmes.

3. Fisheries Research Division
Responsible for the provision of research services in both capture fisheries and aquaculture. The Fisheries Research Station at Monkey Bay and National Aquaculture Centre in Zomba are the headquarters for research in capture fisheries and aquaculture, respectively. The division is charged with the responsibility of generating technologies and information for use by fishers and fish farmers.

4. General Administrative Support Division
This division is based in Lilongwe at Fisheries Headquarters and provides leadership on day to day running of the fisheries sector. It is responsible for the provision of general administrative support services in Human Resource Management, Accounting and Office Services.
Notable achievements

• In order to improve efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability in the implementation of activities in the Fisheries Sector, the Department is in the process of reviewing the National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy (2001). The Revised policy has just gone through the Cabinet Committee on the Economy and Public Sector Reforms and is about to be presented to full Cabinet for final approval.

• An MOU between Malawi and Mozambique on fisheries development was produced and signed in October 2014.

• Deepwater fishing technologies have been promoted and the overall fish production in Malawi is around 116,128 tonnes.

• There has been increased fish production of 4,739,950 kgs from aquaculture.

• Interventions on HIV and AIDS at workplaces have improved with the establishment of HIV & AIDS committees, nutritional support to affected and infected staff members and improved awareness campaigns, among others.

• To improve fish handling the ministry installed fish storage facilities (cold rooms and ice plants) in Nkhata Bay, Nkhotakota, Mangochi and Zomba.

• A total of 880 males and 664 females trained in various fisheries and aquaculture courses including HIV and AIDS.

For more information, please contact:

The Director of Fisheries,
P.O. Box 593
Lilongwe.
Tel: +256 1 788 511
Email: fisheriesdept@sdnp.org.mw