

# An ocean of opportunity

## School pupils learn about the wonders of fishing

By ANELISA NGCAKANI

LEARNING about the ocean during last week's National Marine Week opened up a new world to Thuthuzelwa Stempa, a Grade 10 pupil at Inkwenkwezi High School in NU7.

So much so, she is now considering a career in this field.

The South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity and the South African Environmental Observatory Network (SAEON), held a three-day workshop for the school's Grade 10 and 11 pupils, teaching them about the marine world.

The pupils, members of the Inkwenkwezi Sustainable Fishing Project, learnt about many subjects, including regulatory fishing permits, how to use marine resources wisely and how to fly-fish. The Tuesday workshop was followed by a two-day fly-fishing field trip on the Beacon Bay side of the Nahoon River.

During the field trip 40 pupils were taught how to

fly-fish and how to connect up a fishing rod. The aim was to introduce fly-fishing as a sport to the pupils.

Stempa, 15, said: "The workshop and the field trip have been very exciting because at school we don't learn much about the marine world. I've learnt how to connect a fishing rod and about careers in the marine industry. So I've become interested in a career in this field."

Gaji Magajana, a senior education officer at SAIAB, said that they had started a fishing club last year for Inkwenkwezi's Grade 10 pupils so that they could incorporate it in their life sciences school work.

"These workshops are in line with Marine Week's theme, Opportunities in the Ocean, so we wanted to teach them about career opportunities in the marine industry," Magajana said.

Dumile Tshingana, an education officer for SAEON, said they were planning to continue holding the workshops at the school.



**JUST LIKE THIS:** Fishing guide and teacher Mzwandile Zake shows pupils from Inkwenkwezi High School in NU7 how to get a rod ready for fishing.  
Picture: PHILLIP NOTHNAGEL