

NEW MANAGEMENT FOR RESEARCH AND PATROL VESSELS

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South Africa - Nautic South Africa, the company which restored the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries' (DAFF) vessels to operational fitness in August 2013, is transferring the operations of six research and patrol vessels currently under its management to the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA's) Special Marine Projects Division at the end of October 2014.

Nautic South Africa, a 100% local maritime company, was initially awarded a six-month interim contract by DAFF in August 2013 to manage the return of the research and patrol vessels from the SA Navy back to the DAFF.

According to Nautic South Africa, "Although DAFF had twice extended the initial six-month interim contract with the company but the contract could not be extended any further due to supply chain management regulations.

DAFF hopes to make a decision on the long-term management of the vessels during the next 12 months.

The patrol vessels are Ruth First, Victoria Mxenge, Sarah Baartman, Ellen Khuzwayo, Africana and Lilian Ngoyi. The latter is about to be full commissioned and the research vessel, Africana, is due to return to operational duty early January 2015.

Nautic South Africa successfully crewed the vessels for their required operations, implemented a Lloyds approved Safety Management System, and conducted vessel support in conjunction with Damen.