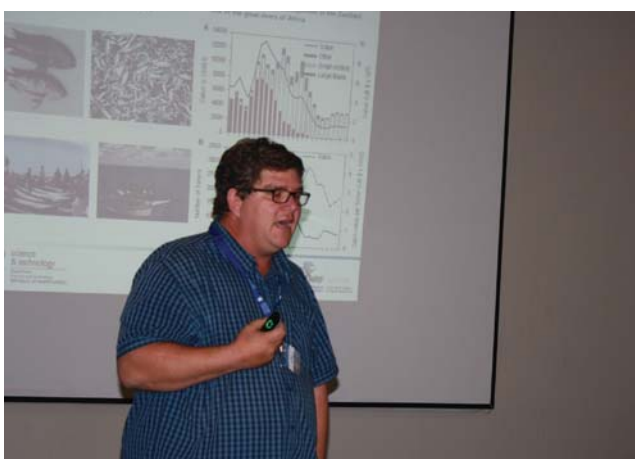


# Let the fish swim – Workshop celebrates World Fisheries Day

Besides pollution, habitat degradation, threats from alien and invasive fish, drought and climate change, the disruption of fish migratory routes poses a serious threat to many fish. South African conservation authorities, led by South African National Parks (Sanparks), in partnership with the World Fish Migration Foundation, have launched the South African Swimway Programme. The programme is aimed at the protection of migratory fishes and their ecosystems in South Africa. The programme was one of the themes discussed at the Water Research Commission Dialogue, held on 21 November 2016 to celebrate World Fisheries Day. Other themes included celebrating the role of fish in society and, particularly the role of freshwater fisheries and fishing in the economy. The dialogue further reviewed existing information and explored existing and future research opportunities.



*Sanparks' Robin Petersen presented on the rich biodiversity of the Kruger National Park's rivers. More than 50 species of fish have been recorded.*



*Prof Olaf Weyl, principal scientist at the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity presented on the importance of inland fisheries in creating jobs and providing food for communities.*



*Delegates at the workshop.*