

PORT TALK

SA research off Mozambique

THE South African research ship *Algoa* has sailed from Cape Town for Mozambique where she will undertake a survey of deepwater crustacea.

The survey has been planned for several months and follows the signing last year of a research protocol between the South African Sea Fisheries Research Institute (SFRi) and the Instituto de Investigacao Pesqueira, Maputo.

In terms of the protocol, the two institutes will co-operate in areas of mutual interest and will undertake joint projects, particularly in areas affecting the Southern African region as a whole.

Over the past 12 months there has also been an exchange of research personnel to obtain a better understanding of the respective organisations and their capabilities.

The survey, under the leadership of Johann Augustyn, will include a pilchard distribution survey between

East London and Richards Bay, where three Mozambican scientists joined the ship last week with a representative of the Oceanographic Research Institute in Durban.

Because of the problems posed by strong currents and rugged topography, local expertise is being made available by a Cape Town firm, Vinking Fishing, which will have a fishing adviser aboard the vessel for the Mozambican leg of the survey.

The survey will take about 16 days after which the *Algoa* will make a 24-hour courtesy call at Maputo.

Both acoustic and bottom trawl survey methods will be used on the cruise, and rare fish, cephalopod and crustacean specimens of scientific interest, will be collected on behalf of the South African Museum.

The *Algoa* will sail on her return voyage to Cape Town on June 24 and repeat the pilchard survey on the homeward trip, arriving in Cape Town on June 29.