

# Oil threat to M'bique prawn catch

**Own Correspondent**

**JOHANNESBURG.** — There are fears in Maputo that oil from the stricken Greek tanker Katina P could harm the prawn and shrimp catches that earn about 40% of Mozambique's foreign exchange.

There was evidence yesterday that some of Mozambique's beaches have been badly polluted, and fishermen complained there had been no catches since the oil hit the coast.

Oil has reached the popular tourist beach at Macaneta, about 30km north of Maputo.

Salvage experts from the Cape Town-based company Pentow Marine last night boarded the Katina P to prepare the tanker for the arrival of salvage and oil transfer vessels and equipment. South African, Russian, British and US anti-pollution and salvage experts are to inspect the ship today.

The Mozambican government estimates that 3 500 tons of oil have leaked from the tanker, which it says is in danger of breaking up, but salvage experts say only 150 tons have escaped and that the tanker is in sheltered waters. Maritime experts warn that a change in the weather could cause the ship to break up and spill its cargo.

The Katina P, carrying about 60 000 tons of heavy-grade oil between Venezuela and the Persian Gulf, was damaged by a freak wave on Thursday.

The tug John Ross is due to reach the Katina P this morning. Other salvage and cargo transfer vessels are to sail today from Durban.