

TRIP REPORT

Community Reporter Workshop

Três Marias, MG Brazil
May 17 - 21, 2004

Alison Macnaughton
World Fisheries Trust

**RADIO REPORTER UPDATE, NOVEMBER 2004:
Maria José Alves Costa Leads The Charge For Community Radio In Beira Rio**



Maria José Alves Costa, professional fisherwoman, resident of Beira Rio and proud community radio reporter has been working tirelessly since the completion of the radio reporters training workshop in an attempt to get the reporters on the air. Her ultimate goal is to create a community-based radio

station. In the meantime, she is finding ways to get her message out on other local broadcasters and working hard to drum up support for community radio within her local neighbourhood association.

Since June 2004, she has organized and run several community meetings to discuss various aspects of the subject, and formed a working group to pursue the initiative. She is being assisted by her daughter Hosana Alves Costa, as well as by Daiana



Taise da Silva, another community reporter, also a resident of Beira Rio and the secretary for the



state-level Federation of Artesenal Fishers. The Beira Rio neighbourhood association has recently agreed to amend their constitution to include community radio as a priority initiative, thanks to Maria José's hard work. Next steps in the creation of the community

radio station will involve acquiring the broadcast frequency and finding funding to set up a broadcast station

and tower. Maria José's current radio program is on the air Sunday mornings on Radio Canãa, and showcases the São Fransisco River, with lots of air time given to local fishermen and community residents expressing



their concerns for the health of the river and its plant and animal populations.