SECTION C

Sector Specific Permit Conditions:

DEMERSAL SHARK FISHERY

These permit conditions must be read with the Fishing Permit Conditions For: Hake; Sole, Horse Mackerel and Demersal Shark Sectors ("SECTION B") for 2026.

Fishing season: 2026.

DATE OF APPROVAL: 2025 -12- 03

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1. APPLICABLE POLICIES AND PERMIT CONDITIONS

1.1 This permit is issued subject to the provisions and regulations of the following laws but not limited to:

(a) The Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) ("the MLRA") and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(b) The National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(c) The National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(d) The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) (NEMPA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(e) The Sea Birds and Seals Protection Act, 1973 (Act No. 46 of 1973) (SBSPA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(f) Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) (ICMA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(g) The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships Act, 1986 (Act No. 2 of 1986) (ICPPSA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(h) The Fire Arms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000) (FACA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(i) South African Maritime Safety Authority Act, 1998 (Act No. 5 of 1998) (SAMSA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(j) The Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962) (APA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(k) The Standards Act, 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008) (SA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(l) The National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications Act. 2008 (Act No. 5 of 2008) (NRCSA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(m) National Ports Authority Act, 2005 (Act No. 12 of 2005) (NPA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(n) The Merchant shipping (Act, Act 57 of 1951) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder;

(o) The Companies Act, 2008 (Act No. 71 of 2008) (CA) and the Regulations promulgated thereunder; and

1.2. This permit is issued subject to the provisions of the -

(a) General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Commercial Fishing Rights, 2021.

(b) Policy for the Allocation and Management of Fishing Rights in the Demersal Shark Fishery: 2021.

(c) Policy for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights (currently under review).

1.3. This permit is issued subject to the further provisions of the following once finalised and/or promulgated;

1.3.1. Demersal Shark Longline Fishery Manual (to be developed), and;

1.3.2. National Plans of Action for the Conservation and Management of Sharks (NPOA-sharks) and Seabirds (NPOA-seabirds).

1.4. These permit conditions must be read with the applicable Fishing Permit Conditions For: Hake; Sole; Horse Mackerel and Demersal Shark Sectors ("SECTION B") for 2026.

1.5. The Directors: Offshore and High Seas Fisheries Management (D: OHSFM) and Inshore Fisheries Management (D: IFM) shall be entitled to amend these permit conditions after consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

1.6. Any reference to the Permit Holder in these permit conditions includes the entity or person in whose name the right is allocated to ("the Rights Holder") by the Minister or the delegated authority.

1.7. Any reference to the Department in these permit conditions means the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment.

2. VALIDITY OF PERMIT

2.1 This permit shall be valid for the period indicated in Section A ("the permit").

2.2 This permit shall automatically expire and be invalid if one or more of the following occur:

(a) the right is cancelled or revoked in terms of Section 28 of the MLRA;

(b) the quantum allocated to the Permit Holder is caught;

(c) the fishing season is terminated or ends; and

(d) the permit is revoked, cancelled or suspended in terms of Section 28 of the MLRA.

3. FISHING AND RESTRICTED AREAS

3.1. The permit is valid in South African waters (excluding tidal lagoons, tidal rivers and estuaries).

3.2. Setting and retrieving of longlines can be conducted in South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), except in the following areas:

3.2.1. No fishing shall take place east of a line drawn due south of East London Harbour (27°55' E).

3.2.2. No fishing may take place in the Marine Protected Areas as proclaimed in the Government Gazette No. 42478 dated 23 May 2019.

3.3. Fishing and/or the removal or disturbance of any marine life in the National Parks is prohibited. Fishing in other marine and estuarine areas controlled by the South African National Parks, is subject to regulations promulgated under the National Parks Act, 1976 (Act No. 57 of 1976) as amended.

3.4. No person shall use any fishing equipment within the Bird Island Marine Protected Area, a rectangle around Bird Island in Algoa Bay defined by the latitudes 33°48'0S and 33°52'0S and the longitudes 026°14'5E and 026°20'0E.

3.5. During the period 1 September to 30 November, no fishing shall take place within the quadrilateral described by lines joining the following four points: —

A: 34°48'S 024°00'E;

B: 34°38'S 025°00'E;

C: 34°44'S 025°00'E; and

D: 34°57'S 024°00'E.

4. EFFORT LIMITATIONS AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS

4.1. The Permit Holder shall utilize demersal longline fishing gear only.

4.2. To minimize interactions with seabirds, when longline fishing at night, only the minimum ship's lights necessary for safety shall be used. All deck lights should be shaded in such a way that the beam is directed down towards the deck.

4.3. Dumping of offal must be minimised and must take place only on the opposite side of the vessel from that on which lines are hauled. Where possible, vessels must be fitted with a mechanism

(e.g., a chute or conveyor belt) to convey and dump offal. No dumping of offal may take place during setting.

4.4. The Permit Holder must ensure that the vessel has bird-scaring lines (tori lines) onboard. The bird-scaring line/s shall be deployed during longline setting to deter birds from approaching the hookline. Specifications of the bird-scaring line and its method of deployment are given provided in Annexure A.

4.5. All banded birds killed must be retained whole (frozen or on ice) and returned to port. Other birds killed must be retained, either whole (preferable) or heads and feet (the heads and feet from each bird to be tied together) and returned to port. On landing the birds must be handed over to the Fishery Control Officer. Information contained on bands recovered from seabirds must be reported to DFFE:

4.6. No fishing hooks, fishing line or plastics may be discarded. All fishing hooks must be removed from offal before the offal is dumped. All fishing hooks must be removed from discards, save where the removal of hooks from live discards may endanger the safety of the crew or be detrimental to the survival of the animal.

4.7. Discarding of any long lining gear at sea is prohibited and Permit Holders must attempt to recover all long line gear lost during fishing operations at sea.

4.8. All live ETP species (Endangered, Prohibited and Protected) such as listed sharks, all seabirds and turtles caught must be released and where possible the hooks must be removed before release. See Annexures A, B for information on the correct procedure to use a de-hooking devise and for guidelines on the handling of sea birds and turtle guidelines on releasing ETP species (sharks, seabirds and turtles). Data on release and release condition must be recorded.

4.9. Fishing gear lost at sea must be documented and the navigational position of the lost gear recorded in the Fishing logbook provided by the Department.

4.10 All fishing gear must be clearly marked.

5. CATCH CONTROLS AND LIMITATIONS

5.1. This permit shall only be used for demersal shark longline with the following applicable management measures:

(a) The Permit Holder may not utilise or exercise any other fishing rights or in any other sector on the vessel while conducting demersal shark fishing;

(b) target only the following species:

i. soupfin (*Galeorhinus galeus*)
ii. smooth-hound sharks (*Mustelus spp.*)
iii. spiny dogfish (*Squalus spp*)
iv. St. Joseph sharks (*Callorhinchus capensis*)
v. Carcharhinus spp.) noting that many of these are now CITES Appendix II listed.

(c) The target species list may be revised annually by the Traditional Linefish Scientific Working Group.

(d) The use of stainless-steel hooks is prohibited.

(e) The vessel shall not have any sharks or shark products on board prior to the commencement of a fishing trip.

(f) The right Holder shall only capture and land demersal sharks within the **slot limits** of 70 cm to 130 cm total length (TL).

(g) All sharks below or above mandatory slot limits must be released, with release and release condition recorded on the logbook. Prohibited sharks mortally wounded during fishing operations must be declared in the logbook, landed and handed over to Fisheries Control Officers during offload in an unprocessed state. Best practice release guides for sharks outside of the slot limit can be found in Annexure B.

(h) All sharks (including Skates and St. Josephs) must be landed with heads and fins naturally attached to allow for monitoring of the size limits as stipulated in permit condition (g) above.

(i) Shark finning, i.e. the removal of fins and the discarding of the trunks at sea, is prohibited.

(j) The targeting and or landing of Bull Sharks (*Carcharhinus leucas*), Hammerhead Sharks (*Sphyrna zygaena*, *S. lewini* and *S. mokarran*), Thresher Sharks (*Alopias vulpinus*, *A. superciliosus* and *A. pelagicus*), Oceanic White-tip (*Carcharhinus longimanus)* and Sevengill Sharks (*Notorynchus cepedianus*), Spotted Gully Shark (*Triakis megalopterus*), White Sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) Silky Sharks (*C. falciformis*) and sharks of the genus Poroderma or Haploblepharus is prohibited.

(k) Catching, landing or being in possession of species listed on the "Prohibited and protected species list" is prohibited (Table 1).

(l) No chondrichthyes (sharks, rays and chimaeras) may be used as bait.

(m) Catches of Endangered, Threatened and Protected (ETP) species such as turtles, seabirds, protected sharks and linefish need to be recorded in dedicated logbooks, as well as their release condition. In the event of capture, the Permit Holder shall encourage the crew to release live ETP species by implementing live release handling procedures (Annexure B). Interaction and depredation events by ETP species need to be recorded in the logbook comments section.

(n) All fish of the Class Osteichthyes are prohibited with the exceptions of hake and kingklip. A precautionary catch limit of 2% for hake and kingklip combined as by-catch per landing. This limit will be reviewed annually. These limits on hake and kingklip shall not apply if an Observer has been onboard the vessel to collect all the bycatch information.

(o) Should the Permit Holder inadvertently exceed its per trip by-catch allowance (as specified in paragraph 5.1(n)), the vessel must notify the Department (Excess Catch) the local Fishery

Control Officer in writing (with reasons for such over-catch) at least 24 (twenty-four) hours prior to landing. The Department may then seize the excess catch and, will not initiate further legal sanctions against the Permit Holder provided that such excess catches do not occur on a frequent basis. Failure to notify the Department timeously may result in legal action against the Permit Holder.

(p) Dead prohibited specimens and excess by-catch must be retained whole and declared to the Fishery Control Officer where the catch will be landed at least 24 (twenty-four) hours prior to landing of the catch. Dead specimen and excess by-catch must be handed over to the Fishery Control Officer who will dispose of this fish in the prescribed manner. Failure to adhere to the provision of this condition will lead to legal proceedings.

(q) Permit Holders will be required to participate in tagging and biological sampling programmes. This implies that Permit Holders shall allow from time-to-time DFFE personnel and Observers on board to tag and release, or sample sharks, which are in suitable condition. No more than 5 sharks, where applicable, in total, may be tagged or sampled per fishing trip. Permit Holders are also encouraged to allow for the tag and release or sampling of as many sharks, which are in suitable condition.

(r) All catches on board when any demersal longline shark gear is on board will be deemed to have been made with such longline gear. None of the prohibited species shall be on board at any time that demersal shark gear is on board, irrespective of what other fishing permits are held.

Table 1: Prohibited and Protected Species List

PROHIBITED SPECIES LIST	
COMMON NAME	**SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Baardman (bellman, tasselfish)	*Umbrina* spp.
Banded galjoen	*Dichistius multifasciatus*
Basking shark	*Cetorhinus maximus*
Billfishes (marlin, sailfish)	Family Istiophoridae
Blacktail (dassie)	*Diplodus sargus capensis*
Brindle bass	*Promicrops lanceolatus*
Bronze bream (bluefish)	*Pachymetopon grande*
Cape knifejaw	*Oplegnathus conwayi*
Cape stumpnose	*Rhabdosargus holubi*
Galjoen	*Dichistius capensis*
Garrick (leervis)	*Lichia amia*
Coelacanth	*Latimeria chalumnae*
White shark	*Carcharodon carcharias*
John Brown	*Gymnocrotaphus curvidens*
Kingfishes	*Caranx* spp. and *Carangoides* spp.
Large-spot pompano (moony, wave garrick)	*Trachinotus botia*
Leopard cat shark	*Poroderma pantherinum*
Natal knifejaw (cuckoo bass)	*Oplegnathus robinsoni*
Natal stumpnose (yellowfin bream)	*Rhabdosargus sarba*
Natal wrasse	*Anchichoerops natalensis*
Pipefish & seahorses	Family Syngnathidae
Potato bass	*Epinephelus tukula*
Ragged tooth shark	*Carcharias Taurus*
River bream (perch)	*Acanthopagrus berda*
River snapper (rock salmon)	*Lutjanus argentimaculatus*
Sawfishes	Family Pristidae
Seventy-four	*Polysteganus undulosus*
Southern pompano	*Trachinotus africanus*
Spotted grunter (tiger)	*Pomadasys commersonnii*
Spotted gulley shark	*Triakis megalopterus*
Springer (ten pounder)	*Elops machnata*
Stonebream	*Neoscorpis lithophilus*
Striped cat shark	*Poroderma africanum*
Swordfish	*Xiphias gladius*
West coast steenbras	*Lithognathus aureti*
Whale shark	*Rhinocodon typus*
White musselcracker (brusher, cracker)	*Sparodon durbanensis*
White steenbras (pignose grunter)	*Lithognathus lithognathus*
Zebra (wildeperd)	*Diplodus cervinus hottentotus*

6. CATCH CONTROLS AND LIMITATIONS

6.1. Failure to comply with catch limitations shall result in criminal proceedings being instituted against the Permit Holder which may be in the form of a fine being issued. Furthermore, the Department may institute section 28 proceedings in terms of the MLRA against the Permit Holder for failing to comply with the permit conditions.

7. OBSERVER PROGRAMME

7.1 The Department shall require each Permit Holder to carry one or more Fisheries Observers on board its vessel on their fishing trip at least on a minimum of 10% observer coverage per annum.

7.2 Failure to comply with this request shall result in the vessel being ordered to remain in port and may result in the initiation of proceedings under section 28 of the MLRA.

7.3 The Permit Holder shall bear the costs of the Scientific Observer deployment. It should however be noted that the Department is in the process of recruiting a Service Provider to render services in respect of the Observer Programme and once the Service Provider is appointed, the Department will bear the costs of deploying Observers.

7.4 Observer companies need to be accredited and provide the Observer service in line with the Departmental requirements.

7.5 The Scientific Observer shall be fully accommodated on board the vessel and provided with food and facilities of a level accorded to officers.

7.6 The Scientific Observer shall be responsible for verifying fisheries data or as otherwise directed by the Department. The information collected by the Scientific Observer shall be standardised to the department's requirements. The Scientific Observer shall monitor all fishing operations and shall record any transgressions of the MLRA.

7.7 Should the Department reasonably believe that a Scientific Observer is being prevented from carrying out his/her obligations in any way or threatened in any way while on board, the Department may implement proceedings under section 28 of the MLRA.

7.8 The Permit Holder shall, when requested, allow for land-based sampling of catches for scientific purposes by persons authorized by the Department.

7.9 Scientific Observers on board shall bring back whole specimens of all ETP species killed during longline fishing operations.

7.10 Rights Holders are encouraged to use an Electronic Monitoring System. If feasible this may eventually replace requirements for Scientific Observers.

8. LANDING OF FISH

8.1 The Permit Holder must inform the local Fishery Control Office / Fisheries Management's Fishery Control Officers (FCOs) as stipulated Table 1 of the 2026 Section B General Permit Conditions in in writing (by email and/or by phone, WhatsApp or send a short message service (SMS) at least 24 (twenty-four) hours prior to the estimated time of arrival ("ETA") unless prior arrangements have been made with the relevant Fishery Control Office. The prior notification should indicate the nature of the port call, i.e. if the vessel intends to transship, discharge, bunker, repair, crew change etc, and whether the vessel has under-sized fish on board.

8.2 The Permit Holder shall confirm the time of landing 2 hours prior to the intended time of berthing as per the contact details as stipulated Table 1 of the 2026 Section B General Permit Conditions.

8.3 Discharging shall only take place in the presence of an FCO or Marine Resources Monitor. Discharging may take place in the week and over weekends and public holidays between 08:00-16:00 in the presence of a FCO or Marine Resource Monitor. Discharging after hours or on weekends and public holidays is subject to the availability of FCOs or Marine Resource Monitors and would be the responsibility of the Permit Holder to co-ordinate with the relevant offices.

8.4 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all fish (including by-catch) is discharged from the vessel in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the Fishery Control Officer (FCO) or Marine Resources Monitor (MRM) in writing by email and/or by phone, WhatsApp or send a short message service (SMS) at the landing/launching sites. The fish and/or fish products must be weighed by species within 24 (twenty-four) hours of discharge.

8.5 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all catch is offloaded at an approved processing facility with a valid Fish Processing Establishment Permit.

8.6 All sharks from one fishing trip shall be discharged together and weighed. Number and weight of each shark species to be recorded on the Demersal Shark Longline catch statistic form as per logbook instructions.

8.7 The Permit Holder must ensure that on receipt of the fish and/or fish products by the processing facility all fish are counted, weighed and sorted by species, product type and size by the processing facility store and a copy of the Goods Received Voucher must reflect the landing classification. A record of all documents should be retained by both the Right Holder and the Processing Facility and copies of which should be submitted to the Department.

8.8 No Permit Holder shall discharge fish until it has notified the Department as stipulated above and approval is obtained from the Department to proceed.

9. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

9.1 A new catch statistics logbook, available at Marine Resource Management upon receipt of a permit, is to be utilised every year. A second book can be obtained should the first book be fully utilized.

(a) The original catch statistics forms shall remain in the logbook until they are delivered to the Department. By the end of each month, following the month in which the fish were caught (e.g., January to be submitted by the end of February). The catch statistics must be submitted to the Department. Delivery methods include:

i. Scans of the original catch statistics form or electronic (excel or equivalent) copies and to be emailed a copy to pllresearch@dffe.gov.za. The electronic version of the catch statistics form is available upon request from pllresearch@dffe.gov.za.

ii. Hand deliver the original catch statistics form to the Customer Support & Permitting Centre (Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way). Certification and receipt of delivery will be confirmed by an official of the Branch: Fisheries Management who will stamp, date and sign the carbon copy of the catch statistics form in the logbook.

iii. Post to DFFE's Foretrust Building. Address in Clause 15.1. Attn: Large Pelagics Scientific Technician.

Delivery methods (i) requires that all original logbook catch statistics forms only be submitted for Attn: Scientific Technician by the 20th December 2026 (i.e., end of the fishing permit year), or when requesting a new logbook, or when the originals are requested by the Department. Catch statistics logbook forms and notifications must be submitted for the duration of the active permit.

(b) A "NO FISHING" return must be submitted for every month where no fish has been landed.

(c) Any errors in recording information in the catch statistics book shall only be rectified using a pen to strike out the incorrect information. (No correction fluid such as Tippex shall be used).

(d) Actual weights (offload weights) of all fish landed must be reported in the catch statistics logbook. This is to be filled out in the grey row at the end of each trip on the catch statistic logbook form and should reflect the same amounts as per the landing declaration sheets.

(e) The Department will not issue the 2026/27 catch permit to the Permit Holder if the required catch statistics data are not provided or are incomplete.

(f) Species identification guides for target and bycatch species are available on request.

9.2 A **Landing Declaration Sheet (LLF/4)** must be completed when the catch is landed. The Landing Declaration Sheet must be signed by the Right Holder (or authorised representative) and by the local Fishery Control Officer or Marine Resource Monitor before any authorization will be given to discharge This sheet to be emailed with logbook information to the DFFE.

9.3 The Landing Declaration Sheet must state to which factory/processor the catch is to be delivered, and if it is split, the landing sheet must be endorsed to this effect.

9.4 The Landing Declaration sheet should not include any number of bins used, instead of providing the number of fish caught per species.

9.5 The duly completed and signed Longline Daily Logsheets and Landing Declaration Sheet must be submitted to the Department either by hand or by registered mail (Demersal Shark Longline Catch Statistics) to reach the Department before the 15th of the following month. If the Exemption Permit Holder has not fished for a particular month then a no fishing catch statistic form must be submitted to the Department before the 15th of the following month.

10. CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

10.1 The Permit Holder may contact the Department in one of the following ways (all correspondence must be clearly marked as to subject matter:

Table 2: Contact details of Departmental Officials (Marine Resource Management; Fisheries, Research and Development; and Revenue Management)

By mail			**By hand**		
Subject: Customer Services Centre, Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8018 Attn: Insert below contact			Subject: Customer Services Centre, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town Attn: Insert below contact		
Section	**Designation**	**Name**	**Email**	**Tel**	**Fax**
Marine and Resource Management	Director: Offshore & High Seas Fisheries Management	Mandisile Mqoqi	MMqoqi@dffe.gov.za	0664710756	N/A
	Assistant Director: Demersal Fisheries Management	Regina Dyasi	MDyasi@dffe.gov.za	0664711273	
	Senior Administration Officer: Demersal Fisheries Management	Xolisa Mazana	XMazana@dffe.gov.za	0664711632	
Fisheries Research and Development	Chair: Line and Netfish Scientific Working Group (LFSWG)	Stephen Lamberth	SLamberth@dffe.gov.za		021 402 3034
	Shark Production Scientist	Charlene da Silva	CDasilva@dffe.gov.za	021 402 3218	
	Large Pelagics Scientific Technician	Melissa Meyer	MeMeyer@dffe.gov.za	021 402 3627	
Revenue Management	Assistant Director: Revenue Management	Siyasanga Qaziyana	SQaziyana@dffe.gov.za	021 402 3209	086 239 8448

SIGNATURE: .....

DIRECTOR: OFFSHORE & HIGH SEAS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

DATE: 2025 -12- 03

M. MQOQI
Department of Forestry Fisheries and the Environment
Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town, 8000
D: Offshore & High Seas Fisheries Management

ANNEXURE A
Specifications for bird scaring lines for vessels UNDER 35m total length

The bird-scaring line (also called a 'streamer line' or 'tori line') is made up of a line or backbone to which streamers are attached. The aerial portion of the line creates an aerial barrier that deters seabirds from accessing baited hooks before they sink out of reach of diving birds.

The construction of the line is divided into four sections. The first three sections of the line should consist of a lightweight cord that is ultra-violet (UV) resistant and be strong enough to withstand the tension of the drag portion of the line in the water and light enough to stay in the air. The fourth section or in water drag section should be made up of buoyant materia. The streamers are long and short, made of light-weight UV resistant materials that do not easily become entangled. Long streamers need to be of a bright colour, ideally yellow and examples of materials are Sekiyama cord sheathed in clear tubing or UV resistant rubber tubing. Short streamers can be made up of white packaging straps need to be of a right colour, ideally yellow and examples of materials are Sekiyama cord sheathed in clear tubing or UV resistant rubber tubing.

Specifications for the construction and deployment of a bird-scarring line for smaller vessels under 35 metres are given below.

Specifications for construction

The line must be a minimum of 90 meters in length and should be attached at the stern of the vessel, at a minimum height of six (6) meters above the surface of the water. The optimum aerial extent of the line, (the portion of the line that extends from the vessel to the sea surface astern of the vessel) should be at least 75 meters.

Specifications for each section:

Section 1 (From the stern, the first 50 meters)

The streamers for this section alternate between a single long rubber yellow PVC tubing, and paired short white packing strips as follows:

Attach a total of 9 single long streamers, each cut to varying lengths in the following order from the stern: (1st) 2m, (2nd) 2.5m, (3rd) 3.0m, (4th and 5th) 4.0m, (6th) 2.5m, (7th) 3.0m, (8th and 9th) 1.5m (Figure 1)

- The first long streamer must be attached within 10m from stern.
- Subsequent long streamers (2 to 9) shall be attached at a maximum of 5m intervals of each other after the first, with two short (1m) paired streamers fitted in between.

Section 2 (51 to 80 meters from the stern of the vessel)

- Attach double short streamers of a minimum of 50 centimetres in length, at a maximum of 2.0 meter apart.

Section 3 (81 to 88 meters in-water section)

- Break away swivel attached to Plain lightweight cord that is ultra-violet (UV) resistant with no streamers.

Section 4 (89 to 90 meters, drag section section)

- A bundle of 12 x 2m rubber 6mm PVC clear tubing. Provide a mop effect drag and tension to achieve a 75m areal section

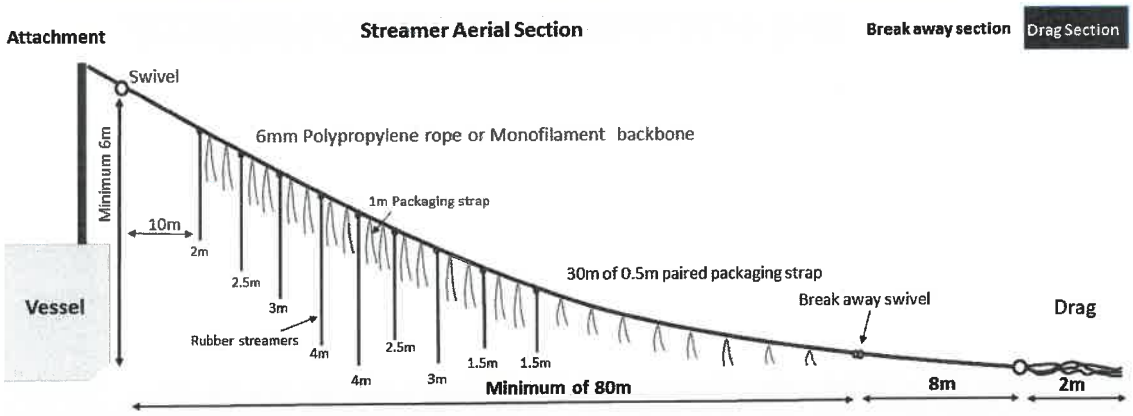

Figure 1. A schematic representation of bird-scaring line design for vessels **UNDER 35m**, with streamers and a drag.

Bird-Scaring Line deployment

To be effective, a single streamer line must be placed directly above the hook line (or slightly to the windward side of the hookline). In order to achieve this in all weather conditions it should be possible to adjust the attachment position of the line.

The line must be deployed over the port or starboard side (depending on which is the lee-side) so as to allow the streamers to drift astern of the vessel without interfering with the deployment of the anchor lines.

Once the bird-scaring line has reached its full extent it should be positioned to protect the area directly above the hooks as they sink.

If baits are cast to both port and starboard during a set, bird-scaring lines must be deployed on both sides.

The bird-scaring line must also be deployed prior to the first baited hook entering the water and retrieved after the last hook has been set.

An additional bird-scaring line that meets the required specifications should be kept on board and ready for immediate deployment if required.

Streamer Line Recommendations (What makes an effective bird scaring-line?)

Maximising aerial coverage: The key to an effective bird-scaring line is maximising the portion of the line which is in the air. The best way to achieve this is to make the point of attachment on the vessel as high as possible, at least 6 meters for vessels <35 meters. Where a high attachment point is not accessible, an outrigger (tori) pole can be mounted to provide extra attachment height.

Increasing the drag or tension on the line also increases the aerial extent of the line and its resultant effectiveness. Buoys, road cones and similar devices are not recommended for creating drag as they 'bounce' through the water and result in an uneven tension or snatching on the line that can cause the 'tori' pole to break and potentially injure members when deploying or recovering the line.

A "Break-off point or "weak link" should be built into the line between the sections 3 and 4 to allow section four to break-off should this section of the line become entangled with the fishing line and prevent damage to the 'tori pole' or fishing line.

Affixing backstays to the 'tori' pole to counteract the drag of the streamer line, reduce bending and wear, is also highly recommended.

The importance of streamers: it is advised that short streamers should be paired, but single reflective streamers may also be considered. Long streamers should be of a light-weight, material that does not become entangled easily, they should be brightly coloured, ideally yellow tube and white packaging straps for the shorter streamers.

The bundles of short streamers attached to section 4 of the line are designed to create drag and tension on the streamer-line. Extending the length of this section will both assist in increasing the ef
ective aerial extent as well as deterring seabirds accessing baited hooks before they have sunk deep enough for them to be reached.

Adjusting the bird-scaring line: Once a bird-scaring line is operating at its full height a "lazy line" attached and tied off at a convenient point on the stern allows it to be retrieved with ease once setting has ended. The lazy line also allows the line to be adjusted according to wind conditions.

ANNEXURE B

Seabirds release procedures

1. Carefully lift the bird aboard, preferably using a net, or by holding the bill, wing tips and body – never pull the bird up with the line. Once aboard, keep hold of the bill and carefully fold the wings into the body.

2. Hold the bird securely, without squeezing.

3. Hooks can then be extracted easily from wings, legs or bill tips using bolt cutters to remove the barb.

4. If an albatross has swallowed a hook, and its position can be found, the following procedure is recommended but must only be attempted by trained people with access to the correct equipment: Reach down the bird's throat, grasp the hook and gently push it so it bulges under the skin. Make a small cut to allow the hook to pass through. Cut the barb off the hook and remove it. Never try to remove the hook with the barb. **If you cannot remove the hook, cut the line as short as possible and let the bird go.**

5. When releasing a bird, allow it to move away from the vessel before proceeding with fishing operations.

Turtle release procedures

1. Longline safe handling and release of sea turtles:
2. When practicable, and when operator or crew on board are trained, comatose sea turtles should be brought on board immediately.
3. All turtles alive on the line should be treated correctly to improve their chances of post release survival.
4. Upon sighting a sea turtle, the vessel and line reel speed should be slowed, and the vessel direction adjusted to move toward the sea turtle.
5. If the turtle is too large to bring on board, avoiding putting too much strain on the line. If the turtle is hooked and the barb visible, in such manner as to prevent safe boarding without causing further damage/injury to the sea turtle, use a long handled de-hooker to remove the hook/line clippers/line cutter should be used to clip/cut the line and remove as much line as possible. Let the turtle swim away from the vessel before continuing fishing operations.
6. If a sea turtle is observed to be hooked or entangled by longline gear during hauling operations, the vessel operator should immediately cease hauling operations until the sea turtle has been removed from the longline gear or brought on board the vessel.
7. If the turtle is small enough to be safely handled, use a dip net or basket lifts to bring it on board. Avoid pulling on the line. When handling a sea turtle, attempts should be made to hold the animals by shell, avoiding the head and neck region and flippers. Placing the sea turtle on its bottom shell (plastron) so that the sea turtle is right side up, safely isolated and immobilized on a cushioned surface, such as an automobile tire without a rim, a boat cushion, or coil of rope once on board. The primary purpose of the cushioned surface is to elevate the sea turtle from the deck to assist in restraining it. Keep the turtle on board in a cool location to recover.

8. If the hook has been swallowed, or is in the mouth, place a gag in its mouth so it cannot bite.
9. If the turtle is hooked in its mouth or externally fully visible use bolt cutters, or a de-hooker to remove the hook quickly and carefully as possible.
10. If the turtle is hooked in its throat and the barb is visible, use a de-hooker and if the turtle is deeply hooked and the barb is not visible (e.g. ingested or in roof of mouth),, remove as much of the line as possible, without pulling on it.
11. Live sea turtles should be returned to the sea after handling:
12. By putting the vessel engine in neutral gear so that the propeller is disengaged, and the vessel is stopped, and releasing the sea turtle away from deployed gear; and
13. Observing that the sea turtle is safely away from the vessel before engaging the propeller and continuing operations.
14. Resuscitation for a sea turtle on board:
15. If the sea turtle brought aboard the vessel is inactive, resuscitation should be attempted.
16. When handling a sea turtle, attempts should be made to hold the animal by the shell, avoiding the head and neck region, and flippers.
17. Strive to remove and /or disentangle any foreign items from the sea turtle, such as any plastic items, netting or embedded hooks, etc.
18. Placing the sea turtle on its bottom shell (plastron) so that the sea turtle is right side up, safely isolated and immobilized on a cushioned surface, such as an automobile tire without a rim, a boat cushion, or coil of rope once on board. The primary purpose of the cushioned surface is to elevate the sea turtle from the deck to assist in restraining it. Elevate its hindquarters at least 6 inches (15cm) for a period of 4 up to 24 hours. The amount of the elevation depends on the size of the turtle; greater elevations needed for larger sea turtles. Periodically, rock and sea turtle gently left to right and right to left by holding the outer edge of the shell (carapace) and lifting one side about 3 inches (8 cm) then alternate to the other side. Gently touch the eyes and pinch the tail (reflex test) periodically to see if there is a response.
19. Sea turtles being resuscitated should be shaded and kept damp or moist but under no circumstance be placed into a container holding water. A water-soaked towel placed over the head, carapace, and flippers is the most effective method in keeping a sea turtle moist.
20. Sea turtles that revive and become active should be released over the stern of the boat only when fishing gear is not in use (i.e., not actively being set or hauled), when the engine gears are in neutral position, and in areas where they are unlikely to be recaptured or injured by vessels. Gently release the animal headfirst, ensuring the water is clear of fishing gear and the boat is stationary. Sea turtles that fail to respond to the reflex test or fail to move within 4 hours (up to 24, if possible) shall be returned to the water in the same manner as that for actively moving sea turtles.

How to use a de-hooker:

- Thread the line through the eye of the de-hooker.
- Keeping the line taught, push the de-hooker down the turtle's throat until it reaches the hook.
- A sharp downward movement will dislodge the hook.
- Turn the handle 45˚ and slowly remove the de-hooker.

De-hookers and instructions can be obtained from www.dehooker4arc.com.

Shark releases.

(a) for sharks above the slot limit (big sharks): Bring the shark to the side of the vessel as quickly as possible. Avoid taking the shark out of the water while releasing it from the line. Cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

(b) for sharks below the slot limit (small sharks): Bring the shark to the side of the vessel as quickly as possible. Keep the line under tension to avoid entanglement. Handle animal as little as possible, avoid contact with eyes and gills, and preferably handle with wet hands/gloves. Support the weight of the animal if removed from the water, and do not hold by its tail. Cut the line as close to the hook as possible if the barb of hook is not visible, or if handling the hook is unsafe. If correctly hooked, and removal of the hook is safe and the barb is visible, cut the line and remove hook in the direction of the tip.

https://sharkattackcampaign.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Commercial-Fisheries-HandlingGuidlines-Sharks.pdf