



SECTION C

Sector Specific
Permit Conditions:

Hake & Sole Inshore Trawl

These permit Conditions must be read with the Fishing Permit Conditions For: Hake; Sole, Horse Mackerel and Demersal Shark Sectors ("SECTION B") for 2024.

Fishing season: 2024

DATE OF APPROVAL: 24 NOV 2023

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1. APPLICABLE POLICIES AND PERMIT CONDITIONS

- 1.1. This permit is issued subject to the further provisions of the Policy on the Allocation and Management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the Hake Inshore Trawl Fishery: 2015.
- 1.2. These permit Conditions must be read with the applicable Fishing Permit Conditions For: Hake; Sole; Horse Mackerel and Demersal Shark Sectors ("SECTION B") for 2024.

2. FISHING AND RESTRICTED AREAS

- 2.1 The permit is valid only in South African waters (excluding tidal lagoons, tidal rivers and estuaries) in the area between imaginary lines drawn due east from the mouth of the Great Kei River (32°40'6S, 028°23'1E), and due south from Cape Agulhas (020°E longitude).
- 2.2 No fishing may take place in the Marine Protected Areas as proclaimed in the Government Gazette No. 42478 dated 23 May 2019.
- 2.3 The permit is valid in both the "inshore" and "offshore" zones. The inshore zone is defined as from the coast to the 110m isobath or to 20 nautical miles from the coast, whichever is the greater distance. The offshore zone is defined as offshore of the inshore zone.
- 2.4 No person shall use any trawl net for fishing or any other purpose in the following areas:
 - 2.4.1 on the landward or northerly side of a straight line joining Cape Vacca and the lighthouse at Cape St Blaize;
 - 2.4.2 on the landward or northerly side of a straight line joining the lighthouse at Cape St Blaize and Gericke Point;
 - 2.4.3 seaward of the lines defined in paragraphs 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 above within the sector of a circle with a radius of 1.5 nautical miles drawn from the lighthouse at Cape St Blaize;

- 2.4.4 seaward of the high-water mark in the area bounded by a line (160° true bearing) drawn from the Sunday's River mouth and by a line (048° true bearing) drawn from the Donkin reserve lighthouse to its point of intersection with the aforementioned line;
- 2.4.5 landward of a straight line drawn from the Cape Seal lighthouse to the western bank of the Bloukrans River mouth;
- 2.4.6 landward of a straight line drawn from Cape St Francis Point to the lighthouse at Cape Recife;
- 2.4.7 landward of a (084° true bearing) drawn from the lighthouse at Cape Infanta to the beacon marked K2, situated at Cape Barracouta; and
- 2.4.8 within three (3) nautical miles of the coast in the area between Cape Barracouta (34°26'4S, 021°18'1E) and a line drawn 180°(true bearing) from the lighthouse at Ystervarkpunt (34° 23'6S, 021°43'7E)
- 2.4.9 within three (3) nautical miles of the high-water mark in the area between beacon DH1 at Still Bay Point and beacon DH2 between Rys Point and Skipskop (De Hoop Marine Protected Area).
- 2.4.10 within the Tsitsikamma Marine Protected Area, which is defined as the area bounded by a line beginning at the high-water mark at Die Punt, Nature's Valley (33°59'0S, 023°34'561E), and running eastwards along the high-water mark to the right bank of the Groot River (east) (34°03'6S, 024°11'665E), and then running due south to a point three (3) nautical miles off shore (34°06'6S, 024°11'665E), then running along a straight line to a point three (3) nautical miles from the high-water mark (34°01'817S, 023°38'857E) measured along a line running due south from the right bank of the mouth of the Bloukrans River, and then due north to a point 0.5 nautical miles from the high-water mark (33°59'317S, 023°38'857E), and then along a straight line to a point (33°59'5S,

023°34'561E) due south of Die Punt, Nature's Valley, and then due north to the high-water mark at the point of beginning.

2.4.11 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.

2.4.12 During the period 1 September to 30 November, no fishing may 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

2.4.13 In the fisheries management area (FMA) defined as the sea area on the landward or northern side of a straight line drawn from the lighthouse at Cape Seal (34° 06' 27.60" S, 23° 24' 22.83" E) to the lighthouse at Seal Point Cape St Francis (34° 12' 44.79" S, 24° 50' 11.92" E)

2.5 No fishing may take take place outside of the areas defined as the "Hake Trawl Ring Fence" as described in the DAFF VMS MaxSea file "Trawl Ring fenced 2009 Release V1.ptf". This file is available for incorporation into MaxSea navigational software upon request from Department".

3. NOTIFICATIONS

3.1 If the Permit Holder / Vessel Owner wishes to fish in the Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of another country (e.g., Namibia) for part of the year, the Permit Holder / Vessel Owner is required to follow procedures as stipulated in Annexure 1 of these permit conditions. Any fish caught under this charter agreement will not accrue to South Africa. Furthermore, this performance will not be considered in any fishery performance reviews.



4. EFFORT LIMITATIONS AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS

- 4.1 A fishing plan must be submitted for the fishing fleet of each cluster of Permit Holders for the 2024 fishing season and the fishing plan shall be signed by the Cluster Manager as authorized by the Right Holder/s.
- 4.2 Fishing Gear: Only bottom trawl gear with a minimum mesh size (measured inside mesh diameter and stretched to a maximum tension of 5 kgs) of 75mm (for sole-targeted fishing) and 90mm (for hake targeted fishing) may be used. These shall be only types of fishing gear on board the vessel.
- 4.3 Any inshore vessel intending to fish in the Offshore zone should comply with Hake Deep-sea Trawl Permit Conditions with the exception of bird-scaring line specifications. For ease of handling and operation the specification of inshore vessels are outlined in paragraph 3.8 of the 2024 Hake Deep-Sea Trawl Permit Conditions.
- 4.4 No bobbins, nylon rollers or other devices whatsoever, with a diameter in excess of 375 mm or a weight in excess of 200kgs may be deployed with, or as part of, the trawl gear, except for floats and the single pair of trawl doors. The Permit Holder may not utilise beam trawl or twin trawls.
- 4.5 The use of cod-end liners is prohibited.
- 4.6 The permit Holders whose vessel(s) are fishing in the Offshore zone (paragraph 2.2) shall use the bird-scaring line for the 2024 fishing season as follows:
- 4.6.1 The specifications for approved bird-scaring lines to be flown on vessels fishing in the Offshore zone are contained hereto Figure 1 below.
- 4.6.2 The Permit Holder shall deploy bird-scaring lines outside each trawl warp (Port and Starboard) to reduce the incidence of sea bird mortality.
- 4.6.3 Each streamer (or bird-scaring) line shall be attached to the stern at the maximum practical height above the waterline and as far to port or starboard as practical in order to minimize the danger of entanglement.



- 4.6.4 Each bird-scaring line shall consist of 30-50m of rope with a buoy and road cone attached at the seaward end for tension, and shall be deployed such that the seaward end enters the water at least 10m behind the point at which the trawl warp enters the water.
- 4.6.5 Each bird-scaring line shall have at least six paired streamers (preferably of 10-17mm diameter garden hose to prevent possible entanglement with warps) attached at intervals of no more than 2m, commencing 2m from the stern. Each streamer should reach the water's surface in calm conditions.
- 4.6.6 The bird-scaring lines shall be deployed immediately after the trawl doors enter the water during the setting operation and shall be flown during fishing. The discarding of offal shall not occur during the shooting of trawl gear unless the bird-scaring lines are deployed.
- 4.6.7 Bird-scaring lines shall be retrieved immediately prior to hauling in order to minimize entanglement.
- 4.6.8 Each vessel shall carry a full spare set of bird-scaring lines.
- 4.6.9 The paired streamer specifications are based on the assumption that bird-scaring lines is attached at practical height above a calm water line. (The bird-scaring line be attached to the stern at the maximum practical height above the calm water line).
- 4.6.10 Two bird-scaring lines, one outside of each (port and starboard) warp, are to be deployed during setting and trawling (not hauling) operations.
- 4.6.11 Recommended top-line rope of 10-12mm;
- 4.6.12 Length of top-line from outermost attachment (top rail of gantry) to road cone at least 27m. If the top-line tends to sag under the weight of the streamers additional top-line shall be attached to the road cone end;



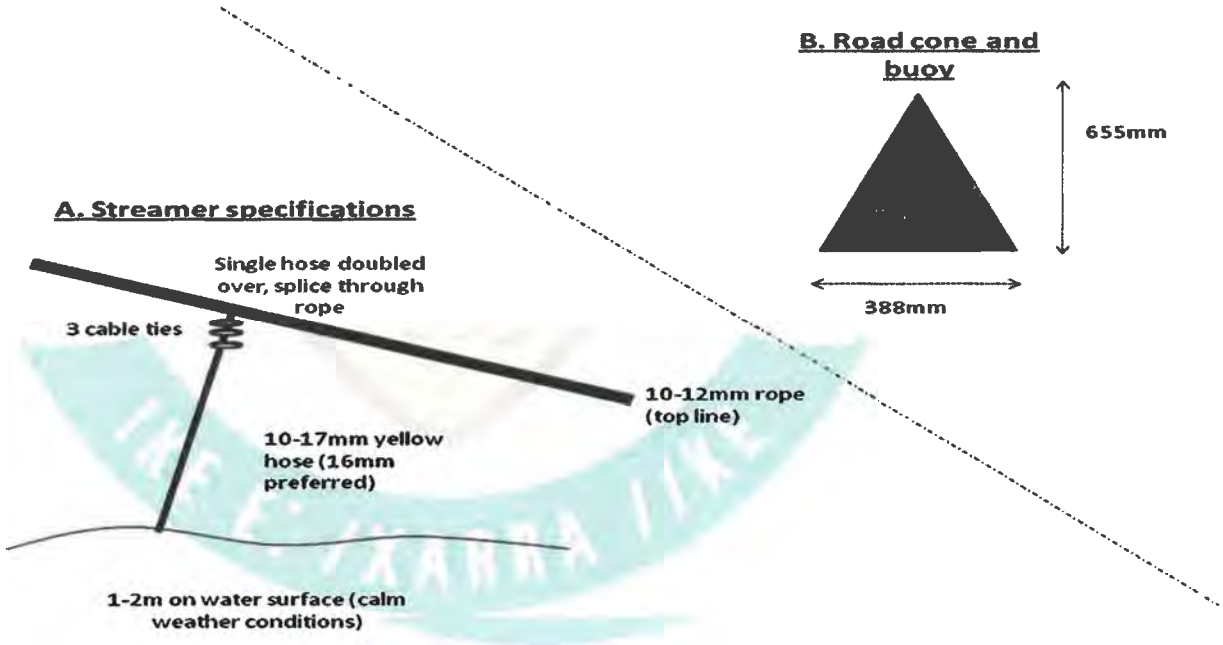
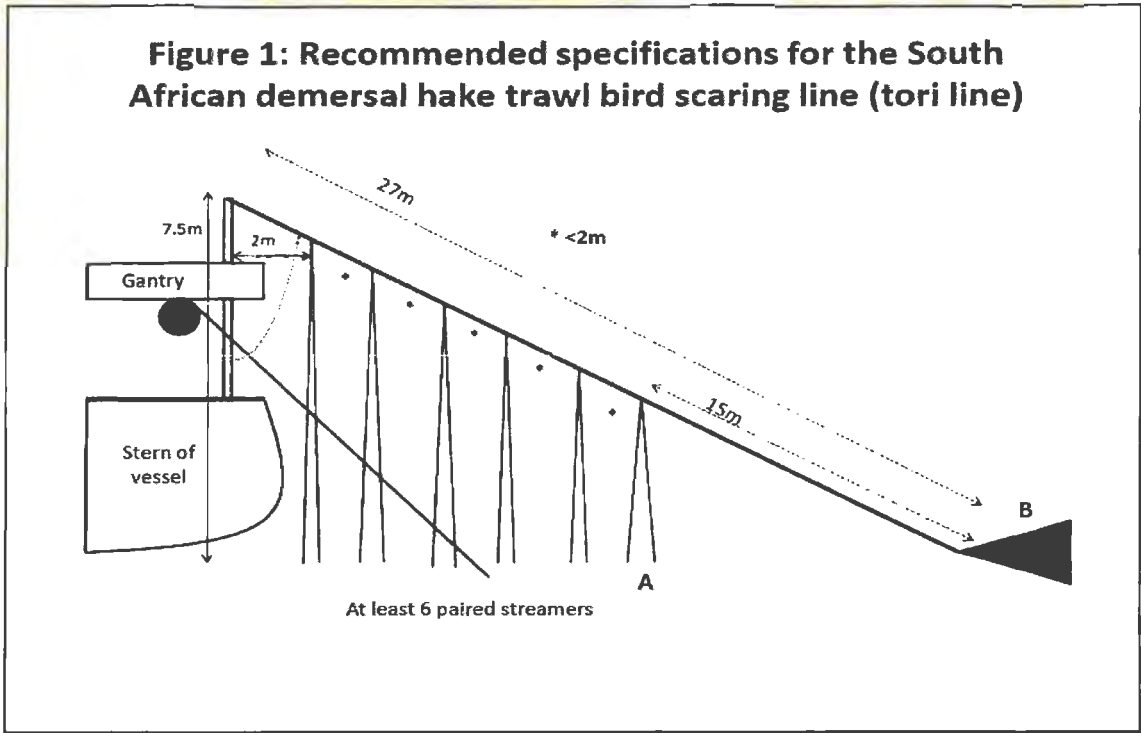
- 4.6.13 An additional 2m at the vessel (proximal) end to secure the bird-scaring line, i.e. total constructed top-line length a minimum of 29m;
- 4.6.14 First set of paired streamers attached not more than 2m from the outermost attachment;
- 4.6.15 Subsequent five sets of paired streamers to be spaced at intervals of not more than 2m;
- 4.6.16 Top-line of at least 15m between last set (number 6) of streamers to road cone;
- 4.6.17 Paired streamers consisting of 16mm yellow (for visibility) hose. Each streamer shall drag/float on the surface (1-2m under calm conditions);
- 4.6.18 The paired streamer consists of a single length of hosing doubled over the top-line;
- 4.6.19 Streamers to be secured to the top-line by appropriate material spliced into the top-line and tied to the streamer. Streamers shall also be attached to a shark clip and removed and stored prior to hauling;
- 4.6.20 Three (3) cable ties to fasten paired streamers below the top-line;
- 4.6.21 Placement of swivel before the road cone to prevent the top-line becoming twisted. A second swivel is optional at the outermost attachment point;
- 4.6.22 Tension device at the end of the top-line consisting of an orange road cone (height 655mm and a width at base 388mm). A plastic buoy (single or double eye) 220mm diameter placed inside the road cone and attached to the top-line. A floating road cone reduces the risk of propeller entanglement should the trawl gear become snagged while the bird-scaring line is deployed;



- 4.6.23 Bird-scaring lines can be deployed and retrieved from the aft/fishing deck by the use of an additional rope (lazy line). This rope should be attached from the aft deck to the top-line between the first and second set of streamers. This arrangement ensures that crew do not need to be deployed to the gantry platform each trawl;
- 4.7 Any modification to the trawl gear configuration that will or could substantially change the fishing efficiency of the gear (e.g., a change in the mesh size; inclusion of escape panels or selector grids) shall be noted *in the Trawl Fishing log* in the *Remarks* section of the appropriate *Header Information per Activity Period page*.
- 4.8 Splices in the trawl warps must be “neat” i.e. loose ends must be trimmed off and whipped to remove potential snags that can hook seabirds.
- 4.9 The permit holder must ensure that trawl warps are lightly greased specifically: the individual wires of the outer strands must be clearly visible and the greasing on the crowns of the warp must not exceed 1mm.
- 4.10 Lubricants containing bitumen are prohibited.



Figure 1: Recommended specifications for the South African demersal hake trawl bird scaring line (tori line)



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5. CATCH CONTROLS AND LIMITATIONS

- 5.1 Whilst the vessel is operating in terms of the provisions of this permit, it may only harvest the Hake and/or Agulhas sole allocations of Hake Inshore Trawl Right Holders issued with a valid permit in terms of section 13 of the Marine Living Resources Act No. 18 of 1998 ("the MLRA"). No other Rights may be activated on the vessel, and primary target species must be hake and/or Agulhas sole.
- 5.2 All horse mackerel caught shall be recorded and deducted from the horse mackerel by-catch reserve allocated for that season.
- 5.3 Processing of squalene from shark is strictly prohibited when fishing under these permit conditions.
- 5.4 The Department intends to test various by-catch mitigation devices and shall legislate the required use of such devices once tests have been completed.
- 5.5 The limits on kingklip and monkfish imposed in terms of these permit conditions (paragraph 5.6 and 5.8) are intended to cap the escalation of effort directed at these species and may be reviewed in the future based on the most recent stock assessment.
- 5.6 The kingklip by-catch for the trawl and line hake-directed fisheries should not exceed a precautionary maximum catch limit of 3733 tons.
- 5.7 The monkfish by-catch for the trawl and line hake-directed fisheries should not exceed a precautionary maximum catch limit of 7780 tons.
- 5.8 The Permit Holder shall take immediate steps to reduce its by-catch of kingklip, kob and monkfish to a level not exceeding its average catch over the period 1998 to 2002 and its kob catch to a level not exceeding 80% of its average catch over the period 1998 to 2002 inclusive except for new entrants in this fishing season.
- 5.9 On approaching the set limit in paragraph 5.6 to 5.8, the Permit Holder will be required to take onboard a scientific observer, at their own expense, on every trip for the remaining period of validity of the permit.

6. HANDLING OF OVER/UNDER CATCHES AND PROHIBITED SPECIES

- 6.1 If the catch of kob taken on any one drag is more than 20% by weight of the sole catch (sole-directed fishing) or 2% by weight of the hake catch (hake-directed fishing), then the vessel must move to an area at least 5 nautical miles from that fishing position.
- 6.2 The Department intends instituting a per trip limit on by-catch. It is suggested that authorised target species (hake, horse mackerel and Agulhas sole) must account for a minimum of 50% (by weight) of each landing for hake-directed fishing calculated over the period of validity of this permit.

7. LANDING OF FISH

- 7.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all fish (including all by-catch) is discharged from the vessel in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the Fishery Control Officer. The fish and/or fish products shall be weighed by species within 48 hours of discharge.
- 7.2 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all catch is offloaded and delivered at an approved processing facility with a valid Fish Processing Establishment Permit.
- 7.3 The Permit Holder shall ensure that on receipt of the fish and/or fish products by the processing facility all fish are weighed and sorted by species, product type and size and a copy of the Goods Received Voucher shall reflect the landing classification. A record of all documents should be retained by both the Right Holder and the Fish Processing Establishment upon request.
- 7.4 Permit Holders whose vessel docks between the 15th of December of one year (the current year) and the 15th of January of the following year, shall elect to have their entire catch (or part thereof) deducted from their allocation for either year, provided that the quantum transferred between allocation years is less than 10% of the Right Holders entire allocation in that year provided that a Right Holder has a valid (not expired) Catch permit.
- 7.5 Any Right Holder whose fishing trip starts from the 1st of January 2024 must deduct all the fish landed at the end of the trip from their 2024 allocation and must have a valid catch permit.

8. SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION

- 8.1 The *Factory Declaration Sheet* contained in the TRAWL FISHING LOG shall be completed and shall be signed by the Permit Holder or its authorised representative. This should not be done before discharging is completed.

- 8.2 The *Header Information per Activity Period* sheets shall be completed according to the instructions contained in the TRAWL FISHING LOG, and the skipper of the vessel shall sign the sheets.

- 8.3 The *Distribution of Catch Among Rights Allocations* sheet contained in the TRAWL FISHING LOG shall be completed and be signed by the Permit Holder or its authorized representative.

- 8.4 The properly completed and signed TRAWL FISHING LOG must be submitted to the Department either by hand or registered mail (*Trawl Fishing Logs*) by the last day of the month following the month in which the catch was discharged from the vessel. In the case of freezer vessels, a copy of the Goods Received (GRV) must be submitted with the TRAWL FISHING LOG.

SIGNATURE: 

DIRECTOR: OFFSHORE & HIGH SEAS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

DATE:

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

Annexure 1

PROCEDURES FOR CHARTERING OF SOUTH AFRICAN VESSEL BY OTHER COUNTRIES

The following procedures shall apply:

1. It is the Right Holder's responsibility to return the original catch permit to the Department (Attention: Assistant: Demersal Fisheries Management) for cancellation. Upon cancellation of the permit the Department will provide written authorization for the vessel to be chartered. It should be noted that the fish hold is to be cleared before departure and no fishing may take place on route to the chartering country (fishing gear to be stowed). Similarly, before returning to South African all fish caught under charter agreement must be discharged in the ports of the chartering country. No fishing is to take place while vessel is on route to South African ports (all fishing gear to be stowed).
2. Should the charter period straddle two fishing seasons then the Right Holder shall notify the Department of the vessel's intention to fish in the South African fishery later in the new fishing season by submitting relevant permit applications prior to 1 January of the new season. (On the application the right should inform the Department that the vessel is currently chartered in a foreign country and will only collect the permit upon the vessel's return to South Africa).
3. Prior the issuing of the South African catch permit, the Permit Holder would need to demonstrate that the vessel's VMS is reporting to Department's base. In addition, a FCO has to inspect the vessel on docking to ensure that no fish is on board. Lastly, the Right Holder shall provide an electronic overall catch summary by species in an Excel format to the Department of catches made under charter. These catch statistics have to indicate that the fish was caught under charter so as to avoid duplication of reporting.
4. Catches made while chartering for another country will not be accepted by the Department when conducting the sector-specific performance reviews. Moreover, permit holders who primarily fish for other countries may have their South African fishing rights revoked.

