

SECTION B

Permit Conditions: Tuna Pole-Line Fishery

Fishing season: 2024/25

DATE OF APPROVAL: 05 March 2024

DEPT. VAN BOSBOU, VISSERYE EN DIE OMGEWING
TAK: VISSERYE BESTUUR PRIVAATSAK X2, VLAEBERG 8018
PRIVATE BAG X2, VLAEBERG 8018 BRANCH: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
DEPT. OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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1. APPLICABLE ACTS, POLICIES AND DELEGATIONS

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
- (p) The Conservation Measures and Resolutions **(ANNEXURE 6)** adopted by the:
 - i. Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT);
 - ii. Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC); and
 - iii. International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).

1.2 This Permit is issued subject to the further provisions of the –

- (a) General Policy on the Allocation of Commercial Fishing Rights: 2021;
Policy on the Allocation and Management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the
- (b) Tuna Pole- Line Fishery: 2021; and
Policy for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights, 2009.

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



- 1.4 Any reference to the Permit Holder in these permit conditions includes the entity or person in whose name the long-term commercial fishing right was allocated to ("the Permit Holder") by the Minister or the delegated authority.
- 1.5 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 permit is cancelled or revoked in terms of Section 28 of the MLRA;
 - (b) the fishing season is terminated or ends; and
 - (c) the permit is revoked, cancelled or suspended in terms of section 28 of the MLRA.

3. FISHING AREAS

- 3.1 The Permit is valid in South African waters (excluding tidal lagoons, tidal rivers and estuaries) and may be used on the high seas in conjunction with a high seas vessel license.
- 3.2 The Permit Holder or any of his/her or its employees or skipper of the vessel shall not undertake fishing, or take or destroy any fauna and flora, or in any way disturb alter or destroy the natural environment, or carry on any activity which may adversely impact on the ecosystems in Marine Protected Areas except where so permitted by the Minister in writing.



- 3.3 Fishing in other marine 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 purse-seine net for fishing for live bait or any other purpose in the following area:
- (a) East of Cape Point, east of 18°29.865' E.
 - (b) Within a 10.799 nm radius around Dassen Island, with the light house at the centre of the circle. The following way points serve as a Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) guideline for the 10.799 nm radius around Dassen Island:
 - (1) 33°14S 18°06E
 - (2) 33°15S 18°04.500E
 - (3) 33°15.582S 18°01.832E
 - (4) 33°18.398S 17°57.214E
 - (5) 33°21.462S 17°55.235E
 - (6) 33°25.337S 17°54.345E
 - (7) 33°29.543S 17°55.204E
 - (8) 33°33.319S 17°57.438E
 - (9) 33°35.538S 18°01.177E
 - (10) 33°36.414S 18°05.380E
 - (11) 33°35.310S 18°10.157E
 - (12) 33°33.230S 18°13.274E
 - (13) 33°29.296S 18°15.323E
 - (14) 33°26S 18°15E
 - (c) All Marine Protected Areas and all closed areas as declared under section 77 of the MLRA and the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003).

4. NOTIFICATIONS

- 4.1 Prior to any fishing trip, the Permit Holder shall inform the local Fisheries, Fishery Control Office as per Table 1.
- 4.2 When fishing on the high seas, notifications of exit and entry into South African Exclusive Economic Zone (SA EEZ) must be sent via email or SMS to the Department's VMS Office (vmsops@dfpe.gov.za) and (tplmrm@dfpe.gov.za). The catches (number and estimated weight) of yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*) caught on the high seas must be submitted with the notification of entry back into the SA EEZ.
- 4.3 The Permit Holder must inform the local Fishery Control Officer (FCO) (**see Table 1**) either by SMS or Fax (A minimum of two hours) prior to the intended time of landing of the following:
- (a) The estimated time of arrival of the vessel;
 - (b) The harbour/port of arrival. If place of departure differs to the place of arrival then the local Fishery Control Office at both the departure and arrival port/harbour port should be notified of berthing details;
 - (c) The estimated total catch (all species combined) on board;
 - (d) The intended time of discharge of the fish and/or fish products; and
 - (e) Whether bigeye tuna is on board.
5. If the Permit Holder / Vessel Owner wishes to fish in the 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 Annex 2 of these Permit conditions. Any fish caught under this charter arrangement will not accrue to South Africa. Furthermore, this performance will not be considered in any fishery performance reviews.

Table 1: Designated landing sites for the landing of catches made by tuna pole-line Permit Holders.

LANDING SITES: COMMERCIAL TUNA POLE-LINE		
Designated Landing Sites	Addresses for FCO Offices	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
Cape Town Harbour	Foretrust Building Cape Town	Ms. Buyekezwa Polo 060 789 8031 / 021 402 3275 / 3427 Fax: 021 402 3113 Email: BMamaila@dffe.gov.za
Hout Bay Harbour	Harbour Road Fisheries office Hout Bay	Mr D. Gadisi Tel: 021 783 2295 Fax: Cell: 072 195 4957 Email: dgadisi@dffe.gov.za
Mossel Bay Harbour	64 Bland Street Searles Manour	Ms H. October Tel: 044 691 2939 Fax: 044 691 2939 Cell: 084 404 6483 Email: hOctober@dffe.gov.za
Kalkbay Harbour and Miller's Point slipway	Kalk Bay Harbour Fisheries Office Main Road, Kalk Bay	Ms. Anel Nortier Tel: 021 7888 313 / 021 788 7471/7463 Cell: 082771 8890 Fax: 021 788 1038 Email: anortier@dffe.gov.za
Gordon's Bay Harbour	Kusweg 1, Gordon's Bay Hawe Gordon's Baai, 7140	Ms. Nomboniso Jozi Tel: 021 856 1910 / 073 264 5953 Fax: 021 856 5222 Email: nntlanganiso@dffe.gov.za
Saldanha Bay Harbour	Saldanha Bay Harbour President Street; Saldanha	Mr. W. Theron Tel: 022 714 1710 Fax: 022 714 3997 Cell: 082 771 8910 Email: wtheron@dffe.gov.za
St Helena Bay	Sandy Point Harbour	Mr. W. Basson Tel: 022 783 1118 Fax: Cell: 078 714 7422 Email: wbasson@dffe.gov.za
Hermanus Harbour	Hermanus New Harbour	Mr M Grootboom Tel: 028 312 2609 Fax: 028 313 0502 Cell: 071 581 1581 Email: mgrootboom@dffe.gov.za
Gansbaai Harbour	Gansbaai Harbour Office	Mr. P.J Mersna Tel: 028 384 0321 Fax: 028 384 1546 Cell: 082 645 4795 Email: pmersna@dffe.gov.za
Port Elizabeth Harbour	21 Stanley Street	Mr. D. W. Mostert Tel: 041 586 4051 Fax: 041 585 0385 Cell: 082 771 8906 Email: dmostert@dffe.gov.za
Port Nolloth Harbour	Beach Road Way 8280	Ms. MZ Dasi Tel: 022 714 1710 / 022 736 1125 Fax: 027 851 8053 Cell: 073 122 9987 Email: zdasi@dffe.gov.za
Lamberts Bay Harbour	Lamberts Bay Harbour Lamberts Bay	Mr. W Cockrill Tel: 027 432 1637 Fax: 027 432 1228 Cell: 082 321 2381 Email: wcockrill@dffe.gov.za

6. EFFORT LIMITATIONS AND GEAR RESTRICTIONS

- 6.1 The Permit Holder shall utilize handline / pole / rod and reel fishing gear only.
- 6.2 Other fishing gear, such as nets, may not be carried on board the vessel, except to catch and/or hold live bait, according to 6.1 (h) below. In this case the vessel may have a purse-seine net, a lift net, or a blanket net. A purse-seine net used for live bait fishing may not exceed 201 m in length and 35 m in depth.
- 6.3 The use of any line or connected lines or fishing gear to which a total of more than 10 fishing hooks attached, is prohibited.
- 6.4 The use, installing or operating above surface or submerged artificial lights to attract fish is prohibited. Artificial lights not necessary for the safe operation of the vessel, such as, but not limited to, chains of three or more metal halide globes to attract squid ("chokka lights"), must be removed off the vessel before going out to sea.

7. CATCH CONTROLS AND LIMITATIONS

- 7.1 The Permit Holder shall target tuna of the family Scombridae (excluding the genus *Scomberomorus* which is prohibited) by way of the handline / pole / rod and reel method:
- (a) The target species for the Tuna Pole-line fishery are: *Thunnus alalunga*, *Thunnus albacares*, *Thunnus obesus*, *Katsuwonus pelamis* and *Thunnus maccoyii*.
 - (b) By-catch species including snoek, angel fish, oil fish, escolar, dorado, wahoo and squid (excluding Chokka, *Loligo vulgaris*) are permitted.
 - (c) By-catch shall be defined as species not designated as target species of the Tuna Pole-line fishery.
 - (d) By-catch limits are exceeded if the cumulative round weight of annual landings exceeds that of the target species.

- (e) The Permit Holder may also land yellowtail by the handline / pole / rod and reel method, but shall not exceed the daily bag limit of 10 yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*) per crew member onboard. As daily bag limits shall not be accumulated over the duration of the trip, daily bag limits are in essence trip limits and shall apply to vessels fishing in South Africa's EEZ.
- (f) Annexure 2 explains procedures for Permit Holders to be granted a temporary concession to catch up to 50 yellowtail per crew member per trip.
- (g) On the high seas, the greater amberjack (*Seriola dumerili*), yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*) and five fingerfin may also be landed subject to the Permit Holder having a high seas licence (no bag limits apply for these species). However, the greater amberjack and yellowtail shall only be landed whole, or gilled and gutted with head on).
- (h) All yellowtail caught on the high seas must be kept separate from yellowtail caught in the South African EEZ.
- (i) The Tuna Pole-line sector shall be allocated a quantum of southern Bluefin tuna, which shall be equally divided to the Permit Holders that have confirmed interest in catching and landing of southern Bluefin tuna.
- (j) Permit Holders will have until 1 April 2024 to confirm their interest in catching and landing of southern Bluefin tuna. The confirmed Permit Holders shall register by submitting their details to the Department by completing a registration form to be submitted to the CCSBT Secretariat. Kindly please contact the Senior Administration Officer: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management (ANonkeneza@dffe.gov.za) in this regard.
- (k) Permit Holders are authorised to catch and/or hold live bait in accordance with the following:
- i. Live bait can only be transferred from tuna pole-line vessels to other Tuna Pole-line vessels;
 - ii. The live bait caught by a tuna pole-line vessel cannot be sold to other Tuna Pole-line permit Holders; but excess catch may be given to surrounding live bait vessels;

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- iii. Only anchovy and redeye may be targeted in live-bait fishing; sardine, horse mackerel and any other species may NOT be targeted;
 - iv. Live-bait may not be sold under any circumstances, and operators are encouraged to keep bait alive for as long as possible;
 - v. No on-board freezing of live bait is permitted;
 - vi. Fishing for live-bait may only be conducted to the west of Cape Point;
 - vii. Live-bait fishing operations should be regulated by a Precautionary Upper Catch Limit (PUCL) of 500 t per annum of retained fish (combined for anchovy and redeye round herring, only).
- 7.2 No other species of fish shall be retained by the Permit Holder.
- 7.3 In the event of capture of sharks, the Permit Holder shall encourage the crew to implement live release handling procedures as detailed in <https://sharkattackcampaign.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Commercial-Fisheries-HandlingGuidelines-Sharks.pdf> and Annexure 7. It is prohibited to gaff, lift by the gill slits/ spiracles or punch holes through the bodies of sharks.
- 7.4 The Permit Holder must ensure crew release live marlins (Black, Blue, Striped and White) and sailfish.
- 7.5 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 (e.g., sharks) may endanger the safety of the crew or be detrimental to the survival of the animal.
- 7.6 Whilst operating in terms of the provisions of this permit, the Permit Holder or any of his/her or its employees shall not activate the right afforded to him/her in terms of any other permit including recreational fishing permits.
- 7.7 No vessel registered as a commercial Tuna Pole-line vessel shall be used for recreational charters, i.e., only *bona fide* commercial South African fishers, who are in possession of valid SAMSA accredited pre-sea / safety familiarization certificate, are allowed to make up the crew compliment.



8. HANDLING OF OVER/UNDER CATCHES AND PROHIBITED SPECIES

8.1 Not applicable

9. VESSELS SPECIFICATIONS

9.1 The Permit Holder shall display, on the vessel next to the registration letters and numbers (area code) assigned to the vessel by the Director-General, the letters "TP" (Tuna Pole-line) (e.g., TP).

9.2 The Permit Holder shall not use any fishing vessel unless it bears the registration letters and numbers assigned thereto by the Director-General. Such letters and numbers shall be painted or displayed in accordance with Section 23(2)(a)(i) of the Ship Registration Act, 1998 (Act No. 58 of 1998) in uppercase in white on a black background or in black on a white background on both bows in characters not less than 15cm in height, 10cm in breadth (figure "1") excepted and 2cm in thickness (width of stroke). The space between adjacent letters and figures shall be 2cm and 5cm.

9.3 Radio call signs must be clearly visible and displayed as stipulated in terms of regulation 78 of the Regulations promulgated under the MLRA.

10. VESSEL MONITORING SYSTEM (VMS)

10.1 The Permit Holder's nominated fishing vessel shall be fitted with a functional vessel monitoring system ("VMS"), which is approved by the Chief Director: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (CD: MCS).

10.2 The Permit Holder / Vessel Owner / Skipper shall ensure that the VMS is fully operational and that the VMS continues to transmit to the Department's Operations room. The Permit Holder shall notify Departmental Operations Room prior to sailing as per clause

9.4 or submit a list of vessels sailing for the forthcoming week to Operations Room by fax **021 425 6497** or email vmsops@dffe.gov.za by no later than the Thursday of the week prior.

10.3 Whilst at sea, the VMS shall report continuously and uninterruptedly to the Operations Room. Should the power supply to the VMS be interrupted or the



equipment not be operational for any reason whatsoever and the problem persists, the vessel shall return to port within 24 (twenty-four) hours of being informed of the problem, unless special arrangements have been made with the Department's Operations Room to allow the vessel to continue fishing. Such special arrangements shall include:

- (a) 3-hourly reporting of the vessel's position on email vmsops@dffe.gov.za or faxed to **021 425 6497**, and shall include the following: date; time (UTC); latitude and longitude degrees minutes and decimal minutes e.g. 36° 32.786' S; course (true direction), and; speed (knots);
- (b) Notice of estimated time of arrival;
- (c) Notice of port of arrival;
- (d) Inspection of the catch by a Fishery Control Officer/Monitor; and
- (e) A copy of the vessel track for the voyage for verification purposes.

The Department will keep a record of the frequency of VMS breakdowns in order to discourage repeated use/abuse of this special arrangements dispensation.

- 10.4 Vessels fitted with Inmarsat C VMS units, wishing to switch off their VMS units whilst alongside in port, shall do so only after a minimum of six (6) hours after berthing, and switch on their units a minimum of 6 (six) hours prior to their estimated time of departure from port.
- 10.5 In cases where VMS units are non-functional due to "technical" problems, and such Permit Holders'/ Permits Holders', Vessel Owners/ Skippers wish to proceed to sea without a VMS unit onboard, an "Application for a right to undertake fishing without a VMS" form must be completed.

This form, together with a letter from the Company undertaking the repairs (which must include the fishing vessel's name, area number and estimated time that it will take to repair and re-install the unit), must be faxed to the Operations Room Centre, fax number **021 425 6497** or emailed to vmsops@dffe.gov.za

Only once written permission has been received from the Department (i.e., an exemption has been granted), may the vessel proceed to sea. The VMS exemption must be kept onboard the vessel for the duration of each trip undertaken within the period of validity of the right.

Operations Room on telephone numbers **021 402 3076** or **021 402 3077** or email vmsops@dffe.gov.za that they are proceeding to sea, and upon arrival back in port or launching site for the duration of the right.

- 10.6 Should the Permit Holder/ Vessel Owner/ Skipper not adhere to the provisions of the above, the Department may detain the vessel once in port and implement proceedings under Section 28 of the MLRA.

11. LANDING OF FISH

- 11.1 The Permit Holder shall ensure that all catches are discharged only at landing points approved by the Department (Table 1). The entire catch (including any by-catch) shall only be discharged at one landing point.

- 11.2 The Permit Holder must ensure that all fish is discharged from the vessel in accordance with the reasonable instructions of the Fishery Control Officer.

- 11.3 Either a FCO / Monitor shall monitor the discharge if the catch includes species that require statistical documents for export, e.g., bigeye and southern bluefin tuna. A completed landing declaration (Clause 11.3) (Annexure 3 and an electronic version is available upon request from tplresearch@dffe.gov.za) is required when applying for the necessary statistical documents. For further enquiries in this regard please contact Senior Administration Officer, Assistant and Deputy Directors: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management (Table 2).

- 11.4 The Permit Holder shall keep a record of all fish landed and sold for at least 60 months, and such records shall at all times be available for inspection at the registered place of business by a FCO or authorised person.

12. **SUBMISSION OF INFORMATION**

12.1 The Permit Holder shall submit to the Department:

- (a) any change of contact details within 30 days of such change by completing the application form available at the Customer Services Centre and address the form to Permit Holder Information, Attention: Deputy Director: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management, Customer Services Centre, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town or Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8018.
- (b) performance statistics as stipulated in paragraph 20.

12.2 Catch Statistics:

- (a) The Permit Holder shall render statistics as required in the prescribed numbered catch statistics logbook. Permit Holders catching live bait are to complete the table at the bottom of catch statistics form after every purse-seine event. Both catching and holding Permit Holders are to indicate whether live bait was used and the condition it was used in (live or fresh) on the main table of the tuna pole catch statistics logbook.
- (b) A new catch statistics logbook, available at Marine Resource Management upon receipt of a catch permit, is to be utilised every year. A second book can be obtained should the first book be fully utilized. The original catch statistics forms shall remain in the logbook until it is delivered to the Department. By the end of each month following the month in which the fish were caught, the catch statistics must be submitted to the Department. Delivery methods include:
 - i. Scans of the original catch statistics form or electronic file (excel or equivalent) to be emailed to tplresearch@dffe.gov.za. The electronic version of the catch statistics form is available upon request from tplresearch@dffe.gov.za
 - ii. Hand deliver the original catch statistics form to the Customer Services Centre (Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Rd). 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 method (i) requires that all original logbook catch statistics forms only be submitted for Attn: Scientific Technician by the 31st March 2025 (i.e. end of the fishing permit year), or when requesting a new log book, or when the originals are requested by the Department. Catch statistics logbook forms and notifications must be submitted for the duration of the active right.

- (c) A "NO FISHING" return must be submitted for every month where no fish has been landed as per 11.2(b) (i) -(iii) above.
- (d) 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).
- (e) Actual weights (offload weights) of all fish landed must be reported in the catch statistics logbook in the grey row at the end of each trip. The number of fish and the kilograms caught per day to be recorded on the catch statistic logbook sheets, no cluster days are allowed.
- (f) The Department will not issue the 2025/26 catch permit to the Right Holder if the required monthly catch statistics data up to and including December 2024 are not provided or are incomplete.
- (g) Random fork length measurements are to be taken for 20% of the yellowfin catches made. This information is to be collected by the Right Holder and is to be submitted together with the catch statistics book to the Department (Attention: Large Pelagic Research Section c/o Linefish Section). The form is available in Annexure 5 and electronically upon request from tplresearch@dffe.gov.za.
- (h) Species identification guides for target and bycatch species are available online; contact tplresearch@dffe.gov.za for this link or copies to be sent via email.

12.3 Landing declarations

- (a) The Permit Holder shall complete a manual landing declaration form (Annexure 3 and electronically copy on request from the Large Pelagics Scientific Technician on tpresearch@dffe.gov.za, Table 2) by indicating the total weight by species, after each trip. The form shall be countersigned by either the Monitor / FCO when the catch includes bigeye and southern bluefin tuna. The completed form shall be submitted by the end of the following month in which the fish was caught attached with the catch statistics logbook forms (Clause 11.2). Copies of the completed landing declaration form shall be retained for 60 months.
- (b) If any corrections were made on a landing declaration, then the form has to be countersigned by either the Monitor / FCO / Factory Manager again in order for the form to be valid. (No tipex shall be used to correct mistakes).

12.4 Socio-Economic Information

The Permit Holder shall provide, on request, any economic, socio-economic or financial information in the format as requested by the Department.

13. **RECORD KEEPING**

- 13.1 The Permit Holder shall store at its registered place of business the original permit(s) issued to it over the duration of the right. The Permit Holder shall at all times have available a true certified copy of this permit(s) on board the vessel utilised to harvest Tuna using tuna pole gear.
- 13.2 The Permit Holder shall keep the second copy of all catch returns and landing declarations for a minimum period of sixty (60) months.

14. LEVIES

- 14.1 The Permit Holder must pay the prescribed levies for the fish landed, according to the weight declared on the landing declaration (Clause 11.3) for species as stipulated in the Government Gazette No. 33518, published on 10 September 2010.
- 14.2 The Permit Holder shall submit a levy declaration form (Annexure 4) with all levy payments by the last working day of the month following the harvesting periods stated below in paragraph 13.3.
- 14.3 All levies and fees shall be paid monthly in arrears and by the last working day of the month following the harvesting period (e.g. January 2023 levies are due by February 2023) for the 2023/24 fishing season.
- 14.4 Non-compliance will result in a 10% penalty being charged on the late submission of the prescribed levy declaration form.
- 14.5 The Department may refuse to issue fishing permits to Permit Holders who have any levies or fees outstanding for a period in excess of 30 days, or may suspend the Permit Holder's fishing permit until all outstanding levies have been paid to the Department.
- 14.6 A "NIL" levy declaration form must be submitted for every month where no fish has been landed.
- 14.7 All levy declaration forms shall be submitted to the Directorate: Revenue Management by either of the following:
- (a) Facsimile – 086 613 6256
 - (b) Electronic mail – revenue@dffe.gov.za
 - (c) Postage – Private Bag x2, Vlaeberg, 8018
 - (d) By hand – Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Branch: Fisheries Management, Customer Service Centre, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foretrust Building, Foreshore, 8001
 - (e) Enquiries can be directed to Chief Debtors Clerk and Assistant Director: Revenue Management (Table 2).

- 14.8 The information required in condition 13.2 shall be submitted when paying levies to the cashier at the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, Branch: Fisheries Management, Customer Service Centre, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town. Alternatively, payment can be made via direct deposit at any First National Bank (FNB) branch or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) to the following banking details:

Branch code – 210554

Account name – Marine Living Resources Fund

Account number – 62123256382

Deposit reference -

The Permit Holder must use its Customer (Party) Number as a deposit reference.

The Permit Holder must ensure that proof of the payment together with a levy declaration is faxed to 086 613 6256 or email to revenue@dffe.gov.za.

- 14.9 In light of the accession to the CCSBT and IOTC, and the increase in country allocations for southern Bluefin tuna and southern Atlantic albacore tuna, the Department will engage Permit Holders regarding a proposed increase in levies.

14 VIOLATIONS

- 14.1 A breach of the provisions of the MLRA or these permit conditions by the Permit Holder, or its employees (whether permanent, full-time or part-time), its contractors, agents or advisers and the skipper of the vessel, may result in the initiation of legal proceedings (which may include initiation of section 28 proceedings in terms of the MLRA and or criminal proceedings).
- 14.2 A breach referred in paragraph 14.1 includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) failure to provide information to which the Department is entitled to or to submit information which is not true or complete; or
 - (b) failing to effectively utilise the right.
- 14.3 The Permit Holder shall not land, sell, receive or process any fish taken by any means in contravention of the MLRA.



- 14.4 No transshipment at sea shall be permitted. Transshipment in port shall only be permitted subject to application and issuing of a Transshipment permit.
- 14.5 The Permit Holder may only harvest the fish in terms of the Total Applied Effort (“TAE”) allocated to it under Section A. Fishing over these limits will result in the initiation legal proceedings including but not limited to proceedings in terms of section 28 of the MLRA.
- 14.6 The Permit Holder shall safely store all inorganic waste material, garbage and pollutants on board the vessel. Should the Permit Holder discard any inorganic waste material, garbage or pollutants into the sea this right will be suspended for a period determined by the Department and the Permit Holder shall take those steps considered necessary in terms of NEMA to remedy any pollution caused.
- 14.7 Any contravention of the MLRA, Regulations promulgated thereunder as well as the Permit Conditions shall immediately be reported telephonically to the Customer Service Centre at **(021) 402 3180/402 3443** or faxed to **(021) 402 3663**, Attention: The Chief Director: Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS).
- 14.8 The Department may refuse to issue a subsequent fishing permit should the conditions stipulated in this permit not be adhered to.

15 CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

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 and High Seas Fisheries Management (OHSFM)	Mandisile Mqoqi	MMqoqi@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3574	
	Assistant Director: PHSFM	Johan De Goede	JDeGoede@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3683 / 083 461 4522	
	Senior Administration Officer: PHSFM	Aphiwe Nonkeneza	ANonkeneza@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3026	
	Chair: Large Pelagics and Sharks Scientific	Sven Kerwath	SKerwath@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3017	021 402 3034
Fisheries Research and Development	Working Group (LPSSWG)				
	Large Pelagics Production Scientist	Wendy West	WMWest@dfpe.gov.za	076 128 2245	
	Large Pelagics Scientific Technician	Melissa Meyer	MeMeyer@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3627	
Revenue Management	Assistant Director: Revenue Management	Siyasanga Qaziyana	SQaziyana@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3209	086 239 8448
	Chief Debtors Clerk: Revenue Management	Sarah Baartman	Sbaartman@dfpe.gov.za	021 402 3016	

15.1 The Department will prefer to consult and communicate with the recognised bodies, which are currently the South African Tuna Association (SATA) and the Large Pelagic Small Medium and Micro Enterprises Association (LPSMMEA), and interested groups in terms of the MLRA.

15.2 Communication regarding collection of all permits and licenses shall be addressed to the Department's Customer Service Centre, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town. The Customer Service Centre may be contacted on 086 000 3474.

15.3 The Chief Director: Marine Resources Management will consult with Permit Holders when conducting performance reviews to determine further criteria against which Permit Holders will be measured.

16 **OBSERVER PROGRAMME**

16.1 20% of all fishing trips shall be monitored at landing sites for length frequency information to be collected from a representative sample of the landings. 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 Land-based Scientific Observer to undertake such monitoring. Permit Holders are responsible to ensure that the department receives all relevant data and information pertaining to monitoring at landing sites. This information shall be submitted to Ms Wendy West, email; WMWest@dfpe.gov.za

- 16.2 The Permit Holder shall bear the costs of the Land-based Scientific Observer deployment until the national Observer Program has been finalised.
- 16.3 The Scientific Observer shall be responsible to verify fisheries data or as otherwise directed by the Department. The Scientific Observer shall monitor all fishing operations and shall record any transgressions of the MLRA.
- 16.4 Should the Department reasonably believe that Scientific Observer is being prevented from carrying out his/her obligations in any way or threatened in any way, the Department may implement proceedings under section 28 of the MLRA.
- 16.5 The Department will progressively increase the land-based Observer coverage of this fishery.

17 PROCESSING AND SALE OF FISH

- 17.1 The Permit Holder (or vessel owning company where catch agreements) shall keep at its registered place of business records of invoices issued for all fish sold for a maximum period of 60 months. The invoice shall reflect the name of the Permit Holder (or vessel owning company where there is a catch agreement), the name and address of the buyer, the date of delivery, the quantity of fish species sold by total weight and number.

18 TRANSFER OF FISHING RIGHTS

- 18.1 The Permit Holder may only transfer the long-term commercial fishing right allocated to it in terms of section 21 of the MLRA read together with the Policy for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights (Gazette No 32449).
- 18.2 Any transfer of shares or sale of shares and/or or membership interest that results in a change in control or ownership of the Permit Holder must be approved by the Department in terms of section 21.
- 18.3 Failing to comply with 18.1 or 18.2 may lead to the initiation of further legal proceedings including but not limited to proceedings in terms of section 28 of the MLRA.



19 TRANSPORTATION OF FISH

- 19.1 A tuna pole-line transport permit is required if fish is being transported from landing point to fish processing facility outside of the harbour.
- 19.2 In the event that an alternative truck to that which is referred to on the transport permit is used for the transportation of the fish, the Permit Holder shall note the registration details of the truck in the comments section of the landing declaration and the FCO shall verify these truck registration details.
- 19.3 The Fish Processing Establishment receiving the fish shall verify that the details of the truck and the details on the landing declaration are the same.

20 FISHING PERFORMANCE MEASURING

- 20.1 The Permit Holder shall be obliged to provide the Department with information required to carry out a performance measuring exercise, which information may include but not limited to:
- (a) Data regarding transformation levels;
 - (b) Sustainable fishing practices;
 - (c) Data regarding investments made in the fishery and jobs created and sustained; and
 - (d) Data regarding compliance initiatives.

21 MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- 21.1 The Permit Holder or any of its employees or agents shall not undertake fishing, or take or destroy any fauna or flora, or in any way disturb, alter or destroy the natural environment, or carry out any activity which may adversely impact on the ecosystems in Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) except where so permitted by legislation.
- 21.2 A vessel is not allowed to stop or fish in any Marine Protected Area, or any other similar marine protected or conservation area, except where so permitted by legislation.



- 21.3 In case of an emergency if a vessel intends to anchor, moor or stop in a restricted Marine Protected Area or any other area closed for fishing, the Permit Holder shall notify the Department. The notification shall describe the nature of the emergency and the reason required for anchoring, mooring or stopping in the area. Such notification shall be sent via e-mail to: VMSops@dffe.gov.za or faxed to: (021) 425 6497 or phone to: 021 402 3077/76.
- 21.4 As per **Government Gazette No. 42479, 23 May 2019**, a vessel is required by law to have a Vessel Monitoring System; must, when entering or traversing the Marine Protected Area with fishing gear onboard, ensure that the Vessel Monitoring System is active.
- 21.5 **Gear stowage:** in the case of pole fishing, all poles will be secured above deck.
- 21.6 Phakisa MPAs declared 23 May 2019:
<https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/actsregulations>
- 21.7 Alternatively, please use:
<http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Pages/Published-Separate-Gazettes.aspx> and download 42478 and 42479.

22 **ECOSYSTEM EFFECTS OF FISHING**

- 22.1 The deliberate killing of seabirds, turtles, seals and sharks is prohibited. If a marine animal is caught incidentally while trolling then the Permit Holder shall immediately stop the vessel. The greatest care must be taken to ensure the survival of the animal during the unhooking and releasing process (Annexure 7).
- 22.2 Should a seabird be too injured to release, keep the seabird in a safe shaded area, do not feed or provide water and contact SANCCOB when returning to port (Cape Town: +27 21 557 6155 or +27 78 638 3731 (After Hours); Gqeberha: +27 41 583 1830 or +27 64 019 8936 (After Hours)). Should the seabird be dead upon retrieval, freeze the seabird and contact BirdLife South Africa for collection (+27(0)11 789 1122).

- 22.3 All turtle, seabird, mammal (whales, dolphins, seals) and shark by-catch need to be monitored and reported in the catch statistics logbook. Encounters with these species must be mitigated according to international best practice and in line with the CCMs of the relevant regional fisheries management organizations.
- 22.4 The Permit Holder must take cognisance of sustainable fishing practices and impacts of tuna pole-line operations on the ecosystem. A specific concern is the impact of lost “strops” (cords used to hang fish during freezing) during discharge procedures. Marine animals subsequently become entangled in these strops resulting in mutilation of these mammals and in many cases a slow agonising death. In order to solve this problem the Permit Holder is to ensure that “strops” used during freezing and discharge are to be constructed according to the following specifications;
- (a) A double strand of polypropylene cord (or better still any biodegradable material) rather than being made into one large circle is to be restricted to a maximum size of circle by knotting the rope to limit the hole size to a maximum of 80mm between knots. (See Figure 1 for clarity).



Figure 1. An example of correct “strops” to use to avoid seal entanglement.

- (b) The minimum stretch length between knots may not exceed the stipulated 80mm. This design allows the application of the strops as originally used but will ensure that seals cannot become entangled in the loops.

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22.5 Fisheries management areas: The Department intends to declare fisheries management areas in the future.

22.6 **Bycatch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries**

- a) To reduce bycatch and increase post-release survival of threatened and endangered sea turtle populations, refer to Annexure 7 on turtle release procedure.



DIRECTOR: OFFSHORE AND HIGHSEAS FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

DATE: 05 March 2024

Annexure 1**PROCEDURES FOR CHARTERING OF SOUTH AFRICAN VESSELS
BY OTHER COUNTRIES**

Some South African tuna pole vessels, in particular, have for many years engaged in fishing operations in Namibia under charter agreement. This notice is in accordance with the ICCAT Recommendation 13-14 and IOTC Resolution 19-07 and serves to formalize chartering procedures for South African vessels by other countries. The following procedures shall apply:

- 1) The Fisheries Authority of the chartering country is to inform the Department (Chief Directorate; Marine Resource Management: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management) of the company the South African vessel will be fishing for and that the chartering country will take full responsibility for managing the South African vessel for the duration of the charter period (a realistic charter period should be provided). The management of the vessel will include VMS reporting, observer coverage, port inspection, size sampling, and catch reporting to the relevant Regional Fisheries Management Organisations. It is only upon this request from the Fisheries Authority of the chartering country that the Department will consider approving the charter operation and giving consent for catches to accrue to the chartering country. It should be noted that the intention for chartering foreign vessels is to develop a countries fishery and should not persist indefinitely.
- 2) It is the Permit Holder's responsibility to return the original catch permit to the Department (Attention: Assistant and Deputy Directors: Pelagics and High Seas Fisheries Management) (Table 2) 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 appropriately stowed). Similarly, before returning to South Africa 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 appropriately stowed).
- 3) Should the charter period straddle two fishing seasons then the Permit Holder shall notify the Department of the vessels 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 Permit Holder 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.)

- 4) Prior to the issuing of the South African catch permit, the Permit Holder would need to demonstrate that the vessel's VMS is reporting to Department base station (an updated certificate from the Department's operations office is required). In addition, a FCO has to inspect the vessel on docking to ensure that no fish is on board. Lastly, the Permit Holder shall provide an electronic overall catch summary by species as per Annexure 8 in Excel format to the Department (tplmrm@dfpe.gov.za) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) In terms of the EU catch certificates for fish caught under charter the following requirements needs to be adhered to:
 - (a) The vessel needs to have a valid fishing vessel licence issued by the flag state and released on the South African web-based EU IUU Catch Certificate System;
 - (b) The exporter of the fish products caught under charter needs to be registered on the South African web-based EU IUU Catch Certificate System (www.catchcertificate.co.za); and
 - (c) A South African catch certificate must be used to export fish product from a South African flagged vessel.

Annexure 2
MANAGEMENT MEASURES APPLICABLE TO THE TEMPORARY CONCESSION TO
CATCH 50 YELLOWTAIL PER CREW MEMBER

This temporary concession has been adopted solely to improve South Africa's tuna catch performance by improving the economic feasibility of tuna vessels searching for tuna (particularly albacore) north of Cape Columbine.

Management measures:

- 1) Only the LPSMMEA and the South African Tuna Association may make nominations to the Department (Attention: SAO, Assistant and Deputy Directors: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management).
- 2) A maximum of four (4) vessels may be allowed.
- 3) The concession shall allow the Permit Holder to catch a maximum of 50 yellowtail per crew member per trip if the vessel has only fished north of Cape Columbine (i.e. north of 32° 45' S) for that particular trip.
- 4) Any fishing south of Cape Columbine will nullify the concession.
- 5) The individual concessions shall only be valid for a maximum period of 1 month from date of issue. If a concession is not being utilized it may be returned to the Department to be issued to another Permit Holder.
- 6) Permit Holders in possession of the concession are required to notify their associations immediately of the geographic co-ordinates where tuna is caught.
- 7) The Permit Holder has to land the yellowtail together with all the other fish species at one of the designated landing sites (Table 1) within the validity period of the concession.
- 8) All Permit Holders in possession of a valid concession shall have their discharges monitored by a FCO / Fishery Monitor.



- 9) All landing declarations of fish landed during the validity period of the concession must be submitted within one week to the Department (Attention: SAO, Assistant and Deputy Directors: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management).
- 10) The Department reserves the right to withdraw this concession, if at any point there is a reasonable doubt that the concession is not in line with the Department's agenda of sustainable utilisation of marine resources.
- 11) The Department may implement proceedings under section 28 of Act against any Permit Holder that has not adhered to these management measures.



A handwritten signature or set of initials in black ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

Annexure 3



forestry, fisheries
& the environment
Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

TUNA POLE-LINE LANDING DECLARATION SHEET

Tel: 021-402 3627 Fax: 021-402 3034

**Submit with the corresponding catch statistics sheet(s)*

Rights Holder: _____ Trip No: _____
 Vessel name: _____ Sailing Date: _____
 Vessel Registration No: _____ Discharge Date: _____
 Permit No: _____ Vessel Flag: _____
 Fishing Vessel Licence No: _____ Gear Type: _____
 Harbour Name: _____ Factory Name: _____
 Fishing Area: _____ EEZ: _____

SPECIES	NUMBER OF FROZEN FISH (no bins)	NUMBER OF FRESH FISH (no bins)	LANDED FORM	TOTAL WEIGHT PER SPECIES (kg)
Longfin tuna (albacore)				
Yellowfin tuna				
Bigeye tuna				
Bluefin tuna				
Skipjack tuna				
Yellowtail				
Snoek				
Dorado				
Oilfish				
Angel fish				
Other:				
.....				

(Landed Form: GG = Gilled and Gutted, DR = Dressed (H&G), RD = whole round, FL = fillet)
 (Landed Form Southern Bluefin Tuna: GGO = Gilled and Gutted Tail On, GGT = Gilled and Gutted Tail Off, DRO = Dressed Tail On, DRT = Dressed Tail Off, RD = whole round, FL = fillet)

Declaration: To the best of my knowledge, the figures reported are correct and are the true reflection of the vessel's landed catch.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Skipper/Owner: _____

Monitor: _____

Fishery Control Officer: _____

Comments: _____

Annexure 4



**agriculture,
forestry & fisheries**

Department
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES
FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
SECTION 10(2)(g) MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (NO. 18 OF 1998)

TUNA (POLE OR LINE METHOD)

1 CATCH LEVY RETURN FOR THE MONTH:.....20.....

2 CUSTOMER REFERENCE NUMBER:.....

3 NAME OF PERMIT HOLDER

.....
.....
.....
.....

4 NAME OF PERMIT HOLDER

5 Telephone number:

6 Season:

7 Particulars of Tuna caught:

Product Category	Total Mass in kg	Tariff per kg	Levy Payable
Tuna			
Tuna bycatch			
TOTAL			

8 My remittance of R is attached

9 I certify that the particulars above are correct and true in all respects.

.....
SIGNATURE

.....
DATE

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY						
RECEIPT NUMBER	RECEIPT DATE	AMOUNT RECEIVED	INVOICE	MAST	PENALTY	PARTY
		R	DATE	INVOICE	INVOICE	NUMBER

- Note:** Payment of the above levy on fish or fish products may be made as follows:
- Cheque, postal order or cash** - at our cash hall, Customer Service Centre, Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, 8001 or post, Attention: Revenue Management, Private Bag X2, Roggebaai, 8012.
 - Direct Deposit or Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** - Marine Living Resources Fund Deposit Account, First National Bank, Branch Code: 210554, Account Number: 62123256382. Kindly contact (021) 402 3016 to receive your unique reference number. Proof of payment must be attached to the monthly levy declaration form. Submission of this form may be made per point 1 or via electronic mail to revenue@daff.gov.za or via facsimile to 086 613 6256.
 - For general levy enquiries, you may forward your correspondence to revenue@daff.gov.za or 086 613 6256 or simply call (021) 402 3016.
 - A penalty of 10% will be imposed on the late submission of this document.
 - No part of this document may be reproduced.

Annexure 5

Official use:

	Initials	Date
Entered		
Validated		

Tuna pole length frequency form

Right Holder's Name:.....

Vessel Name TP

Permit No:

Cell No:.....

Skipper:

Start and End date of trip:.....

Species: **YELLOWFIN TUNA**

General fishing area:

FL (cm)	No of fish per size class	FL (cm)	No of fish per size class	FL (cm)	No of fish per size class
60		101		142	
61		102		143	
62		103		144	
63		104		145	
64		105		146	
65		106		147	
66		107		148	
67		108		149	
68		109		150	
69		110		151	
70		111		152	
71		112		153	
72		113		154	
73		114		155	
74		115		156	
75		116		157	
76		117		158	
77		118		159	
78		119		160	
79		120		161	
80		121		162	
81		122		163	
82		123		164	
83		124		165	
84		125		166	
85		126		167	
86		127		168	
87		128		169	
88		129		170	
89		130		171	
90		131		172	
91		132		173	
92		133		174	
93		134		175	
94		135		176	
95		136		177	
96		137		178	
97		138		179	
98		139		180	
99		140		181	
100		141		182	

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TUNA LENGTH FREQUENCY FORM

- 1) A form must be filled out for each trip making sure that the particulars above the table are completed.
- 2) **FISHING AREA:** This can be very general eg: South of Cape Point or West of Saldanha Bay will suffice.
- 3) Only the Fork Length (FL) of tuna must be measured i.e., from the tip of the snout to the fork in the tail. This must be done in a straight line measure using a tape measure attached to a stick or perhaps attached to your cleaning box. You cannot lay a tape measure along the fish as it gives the wrong statistics.
- 4) All measures must be rounded down to the nearest cm. eg a 65,2 and a 65,8 cm fish should be recorded as 65cm.
- 5) The fish measurement must be recorded alongside the correct size class. Eg., a 65cm yellowfin will be recorded as a | (vertical stroke) alongside the category 65. A further stroke will be added for each additional fish of this size. On landing the fifth fish of a particular size the 4 strokes should be crossed to indicate 5 fish of this size. Eg. The 6th fish will once again start as a stroke and will be crossed when the 10th fish is landed etc. If fish landed are smaller or larger than the size classes provided please make a note at the bottom of the page.
- 6) An attempt should be made to randomly measure at least 20 % of the catch but if only catching say 20 - 30 fish per trip it would be appreciated if the whole catch could be measured.
- 7) Any queries please contact the Large Pelagics Scientist or Technician (Table 2)



Annexure 6


**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

 Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**APPLICABLE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT MEASURES AS ADOPTED BY VARIOUS
TUNA REGIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ORGANISATIONS**
Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna (CCSBT)

RESOLUTIONS		
Number	Title	Status/Requirement
	Resolution for a CCSBT Scheme for Minimum Standards for Inspection in Port	All foreign fishing vessels are subjected to port inspection
	Resolution on a CCSBT Record of Vessels Authorised to Fish for Southern Bluefin Tuna	Only authorised vessels shall fish and land SBT
	Resolution on the CCSBT Vessel Monitoring System (VMS)	All authorised vessels fishing for SBT are required to have a fully functional VMS on board
	Resolution on the Implementation of a CCSBT Catch Documentation Scheme	For all transshipments, landings of domestic product, exports, imports and re-exports, all SBT shall be accompanied by a statistical document
	Resolution on Establishing a Program for Transhipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels	At sea transhipment is prohibited. 100% monitoring of transhipment in port
	Resolution on Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing Activities for SBT	Vessels found to be fishing for SBT but not authorised shall be reported to the CCSBT Secretariat and will be listed under the IUU vessel list
	Resolution on large-scale driftnet fishing	Use of large-scale driftnets is prohibited in this sector
	Recommendation to Mitigate the Impact on Ecologically Related Species of Fishing for SBT	As per permit conditions
	Resolution to Align CCSBT's Ecologically Related Species measures with those of other tuna RFMOs	Mandatory use of Tori poles is required by all Members in all longline SBT fisheries below 30° south.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT)

RECOMMENDATIONS		
Number	Title	Status/Requirement
23-11	Recommendation by ICCAT to replace recommendation 19-08 on management measures for the conservation of South Atlantic blue shark caught in association with ICCAT fisheries	Permit Holders to record their catches and submit the same to the Department.
23-12	Recommendation by ICCAT for the conservation of whale sharks (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries	Permit Holders are prohibited from retaining on board, transshipping, or landing, in whole or in part, any specimen of whale shark (<i>Rhincodon typus</i>). Permit Holders shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the safe release of live whale sharks.
23-14	Recommendation by ICCAT on mobulid rays (Family mobulidae) caught in association with ICCAT fisheries	Permit Holders are prohibited from retaining onboard, transshipping, landing or storing any part or whole carcass of all species of mobulid rays (family Mobulidae), caught in the ICCAT Area of Competence. Permit Holders shall promptly release unharmed, to the extent practicable, mobulid rays as soon as they are seen on the hook or at the vessel, in a manner that will result in the least possible harm to the individual.
23-15	Resolution by ICCAT on cetacean encirclement	Purse seine and FADs not permitted.
23-18	Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards and programme requirements for the use of Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) in ICCAT fisheries	Permit holders to meet the requirements of the ICCAT Electronic Monitoring Systems (EMS) minimum standards, should EM be implemented, and to complement the required level of human observer coverage.
22-11	Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of the South Atlantic stock of shortfin mako caught in association with ICCAT fisheries	Permit holders to record total catches, including any landings, dead discards and live releases of shortfin mako sharks
22-06	Recommendation by ICCAT on the Southern Atlantic albacore catch limits for the period 2023-2026	Vessels (20m or greater) fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area for south Atlantic albacore are required to be registered on the ICCAT authorized vessel list.
22-01	Recommendation by ICCAT Replacing	Vessels (20m or greater) fishing in the ICCAT

	Recommendation 21-01 on Multi-Annual Conservation and Management Programme for Tropical Tunas	Convention Area for Bigeye, Yellowfin and Skipjack tunas are required to be registered on the ICCAT authorized vessel list.
22-12 and 23-13	Recommendation by ICCAT on the bycatch of Sea Turtles Caught in Association with ICCAT Fisheries (Combine, Streamline, and Amend Recommendations 10-09 and 13-11)	Vessels to reduce and eliminate, to the extent practicable, interactions with sea turtles in ICCAT fisheries where encounters with sea turtles
21-15	Recommendation by ICCAT on Transshipment	At sea transshipment is prohibited. 100% monitoring of transshipment in port
21-14	Recommendation by ICCAT amending recommendation 13-13 concerning the establishment of an ICCAT record of vessels 20 metres in length overall or greater authorized to operate in the convention area	Vessels (20m or greater) fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area are required to be registered on the ICCAT authorized vessel list
19-09	Recommendation by ICCAT on Vessel Sightings	FCOs to collect, through enforcement and surveillance operations conducted by their competent authorities in the Convention area, as much information as feasible when a foreign-flagged vessel or vessel without nationality is sighted as engaged in fishing or fishing related activities (e.g., transshipment) that are presumed to be illegal, unreported, and unregulated
19-11	Recommendation by ICCAT on Abandoned, Lost or Otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear	Permit Holder/Skipper shall ensure that its fishing vessel(s) authorized to fish species managed by ICCAT in the Convention area are prohibited from abandoning and discarding fishing gear except for safety reasons, and taking into account the special requirements of developing CPCs in relation to conservation and management of straddling fish stocks and highly migratory fish stocks and development of fisheries for such stocks
19-05	Recommendation by ICCAT to establish rebuilding programs for blue marlin and white marlin/roundscale spearfish	Permit holders shall work to minimize the post-release mortality of marlins/spearfish in the ICCAT region.
18-09	Recommendation by ICCAT on port state measures to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing	Vessels found to be fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area (for ICCAT species) without authorization shall be reported to the ICCAT Secretariat and will be listed under the IUU vessel list

17-03	Recommendation by ICCAT amending the recommendation for the conservation of South Atlantic swordfish, Rec. 16-04	Vessels (20m or greater) fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area for South Atlantic swordfish are required to be registered on the ICCAT authorized vessel list.
17-01	Recommendation by ICCAT on Prohibition on Discards of Tropical Tunas by Purse Seine	Purse Seine fishing is strictly prohibited in the Large Pelagic Longline sector
16-14	Recommendation by ICCAT to establish minimum standards for fishing vessel scientific observer programs	A minimum of 5% observer coverage of fishing effort in the pelagic longline fishery
15-06	Recommendation by ICCAT on Porbeagle caught in association with ICCAT fisheries	Retention of Porbeagle is prohibited
14-08	Recommendation by ICCAT to support effective implementation of recommendation 12-07 by ICCAT for an ICCAT scheme for minimum standards for inspection in port	All foreign fishing vessels are subjected to port inspection
14-07	Recommendation by ICCAT on access agreements	Access agreements have not been allowed
13-14	Recommendation by ICCAT on vessel chartering	Chartering nations shall be Contracting Parties to the ICCAT Convention. All vessel flags shall effectively exercise their duty to control their fishing vessels to ensure compliance with ICCAT conservation and management measures
07-07 and 11-09	Recommendation and Supplemental Recommendation by ICCAT on reducing incidental by-catch of seabirds in ICCAT Longline fisheries	As per permit conditions
11-08	Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of Silky sharks caught in association with ICCAT fisheries	Silky sharks shall not be retained on board the vessel
10-08	Recommendation by ICCAT on Hammerhead sharks (Family Sphyrnidae) caught in association with fisheries managed by ICCAT	Hammerhead sharks shall not be retained on board the vessel
10-07	Recommendation by ICCAT on Oceanic Whitetip sharks caught in association with fisheries in the ICCAT Convention Area	Oceanic Whitetip sharks shall not be retained on board the vessel
09-07	Recommendation by ICCAT on the conservation of thresher sharks caught in	Thresher sharks shall not be retained on board the vessel

	association with fisheries in the ICCAT convention area	
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Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC)

RESOLUTIONS		
Number	Title	Requirement/Status
23-01	On the management of anchored fish aggregating devices (aFADs)	aFADs not permitted
23-03	On establishing a voluntary fishing closure in the Indian Ocean for the conservation of tropical tunas	Not applicable
23-04	On establishing catch limits for bigeye tuna in the IOTC area of competence	South Africa has maintained catches of <500t annually of bigeye, and the fishery is a mixed target fishery. South Africa has a catch limit of 2 000t
23-05	<u>On Establishing a Programme for Transshipment by Large-Scale Fishing Vessels</u>	At-sea transshipment is prohibited. 100% monitoring of transshipment in port
23-06	On the conservation of cetaceans	Purse-seine and FADs not permitted. Report all interactions with cetaceans
12-06 and 23-07	On reducing the incidental bycatch of seabirds in longline fisheries	As per permit conditions
23-08	On electronic monitoring standards for IOTC fisheries	Permit holders to meet the requirements of the IOTC EM Program Standard (Annex 1) and EM System and Data Standards (Annex 2), should EM be implemented
23-09	On a fish aggregating devices (FADs) working group	Not applicable
22-04	On a Regional Observer Scheme	All fishing vessels of 24 meters length overall and above and under 24 meters, if they operate outside the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of the flag CPC and in the IOTC area of competence, comply with the minimum observer coverage of 5% as defined by the number of operations/sets
21-01	On an Interim Plan for Rebuilding The Indian Ocean Yellowfin Tuna Stock in the IOTC Area of Competence	Purse Seine, Gillnet, FADs and Supply vessels not permitted; South Africa's reported catches of yellowfin tuna for 2014 were below 5000t and the average catches of yellowfin tuna for the period from 2017 to 2019 inclusive was below 2000t
21-03	On harvest control rules for skipjack tuna in the IOTC area of competence	Not applicable. South Africa's total skipjack catch in the IOTC area was less than 1 ton, hence the HCR's have not been applied

19-02	Procedures on a Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) Management Plan	FADs not permitted
19-03	On the Conservation of Mobulid Rays Caught in Association with Fisheries in the IOTC Area Of Competence	Vessel(s) is/are prohibited from intentionally setting any gear type for targeted fishing of mobulid rays in the IOTC Area of Competence, if the animal is sighted prior to commencement of the set Vessel(s) shall not retain onboard, transhipping, landing, storing, any part or whole carcass of mobulid rays caught in the IOTC Area of Competence
19-04	Concerning the IOTC Record Of Vessels Authorised to Operate in the IOTC Area Of Competence	Only authorised vessels (24m or greater) will be permitted to fish in the IOTC Area of Competence In case of vessels less than 24 meters, those operating in waters outside the EEZ of the flag State; and that are authorised to fish for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence
19-05	On a Ban on Discards of Bigeye Tuna, Skipjack Tuna, Yellowfin Tuna, And Non-Targeted Species Caught by Purse Seine Vessels in the IOTC Area of Competence	Purse seine fishing is not permitted
19-07	On Vessel Chartering in the IOTC Area of Competence	Only vessels registered in the IOTC authorised vessel list are permitted
18-02	On Management Measures for the Conservation Of Blue Shark Caught in Association with IOTC Fisheries	All catch data is required to be submitted to the Department
18-03	<u>On Establishing a List of Vessels Presumed to Have Carried Out Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in the IOTC Area of Competence</u>	Only vessels registered on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels shall fish for IOTC species in the IOTC Area of Competence. Any other vessel that is carrying tuna and tuna like species and not registered with the IOTC shall be reported for IUU and will be listed in the IUU vessel list. Further, S28 of the MLRA shall be initiated.
18-05	On Management Measures for the Conservation of the Billfishes: Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo-Pacific Sailfish	CPCs shall endeavour to ensure that the overall catches, of the Indian Ocean Striped Marlin, Black Marlin, Blue Marlin and Indo Pacific Sailfish in any given year do not exceed either the MSY level or, in its absence, the lower limit of the MSY range of central values as estimated by the Scientific Committee.

		<p>3. The limits referred to in paragraph 2 correspond to the following:</p> <p>a. Striped Marlin: 3,260 t</p> <p>b. Black Marlin: 9,932 t</p> <p>c. Blue Marlin: 11,930 t</p> <p>d. Indo Pacific Sailfish: 25,000 t</p> <p>CPCs shall not retain on board, trans-ship, land, any specimen smaller than 60 cm Lower Jaw Fork Length (LJFL) of any of the species</p>
17-05	On the conservation of sharks caught in association with fisheries managed by IOTC	Hammerhead sharks (belonging to genus Sphyrna), oceanic whitetip sharks, porbeagle sharks, dusky sharks and silky sharks shall not be retained on board the vessel. Fins may not be removed from the shark trunks (i.e. headed, gutted).
17-07	On The Prohibition to Use Large-Scale Driftnets in The IOTC Area	Use of Large Scale Driftnets is prohibited
16-07	On the use of artificial lights to attract fish	The use, installing or operating surface or submerged artificial lights is prohibited
16-08	On the prohibition of the use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids	Use of aircrafts and unmanned aerial vehicles as fishing aids is prohibited
15-03	On the vessel monitoring system (VMS) programme	A fully functional VMS is mandatory on all vessels
15-04	Concerning the IOTC record of vessels authorised to operate in the IOTC area of competence	Only vessels registered on the IOTC Record of Authorised Vessels shall be authorised to fish for, retain on board, tranship or land tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC Area of Competence.
13-05	On the conservation of whale sharks (Rhincodon typus)	Purse seine and FADs not permitted. Report all interactions with whale sharks
12/04	On the conservation of Marine Turtles	As per permit conditions
11/02	On the prohibition of fishing on data buoys	Operators are prohibited from taking on board a data buoy and fishing on data buoy while engaged in fishing for tuna and tuna-like species in the IOTC area of competence.
05-03	Relating to the establishment of an IOTC programme of inspection in port	All foreign fishing vessels are subjected to port inspection

**Annexure 7:
RELEASE PROCEDURES**

Seabirds

Birds released from hooks have a good chance of survival if they are treated correctly.

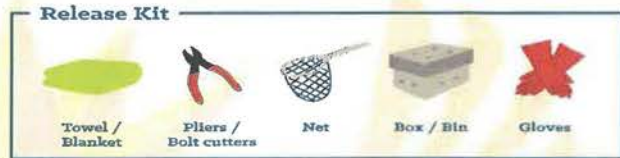
- Carefully lift the bird aboard, preferably using a net, or by holding the bill, wing tips and body – never pull the bird up with the line. Once aboard, keep hold of the bill and carefully fold the wings into the body.
- Hold the bird securely, without squeezing.
- Hooks can then be extracted easily from wings, legs or bill tips using bolt cutters to remove the barb.
- If a seabird has swallowed a hook, and its position can be found, the following procedure is recommended, but must only be attempted 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. If you cannot remove the hook, cut the line as short as possible and let the bird go.
- When releasing a bird, allow it to move away from the vessel before proceeding with fishing operations.



HOOK REMOVAL FROM SEABIRDS

Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels

For more information visit:
www.acap.aq



1 Bring bird aboard

If possible, slow or stop hauling and slow or stop vessel to release line tension. If practical, use a landing net to lift small birds on board, otherwise retrieve the bird on the line as safely and quickly as possible. When within reach, grab it by the bill. **Never grab the wing.**



2 Restrain bird and hold securely

Carefully fold the wings into the bird's body. Wrap the bird in a towel/blanket (not too tightly). Make sure the bird doesn't come into contact with oil on deck.

For large birds that you cannot manage under your arm, restrain the bird securely between your legs without squeezing. Hold the bill gently shut but **do not cover the nostrils.**

If the bird vomits, loosen hold on bill so the bird does not suffocate.



3 Remove the hook

If the hook is visible

Use pliers (or bolt cutters for large hooks) to cut through the hook shaft (or to flatten the barb). Pull the hook back out of the bird.

If the hook is swallowed and removal is possible

A second person can find the hook position externally by feeling along the neck or internally by following the line to the hook. Gently force the tip of the hook so that it bulges under the skin of the bird (**for large birds**, this may be easier if you reach down the bird's throat and hold the hook). If you can get a good grip on the hook, push the tip of the hook through the skin and remove.

Never try to extract the hook backwards



OR



OR

If hook removal is not possible

Either because removing the hook will cause further damage to the bird or the hook is too deeply ingested, cut the line as close to the hook as possible and leave the hook in the bird.



4 If the bird is exhausted or waterlogged

If possible, place in a ventilated box or bin in a quiet, dry, shaded place to recover for an hour or two. Otherwise, contain bird in a quiet dry area, **away from oil.** The bird is ready for release when the feathers are dry, bird is alert and able to stand.



5 Release the bird

If the bird is strong and mostly dry, release it onto the water (but clear of the vessel) immediately after hook removal. Having again first grabbed the bill, lift and slowly lower the bird onto the water letting go of the bill last.

Where birds cannot be lowered directly onto water, lift and release the bird from the side of the vessel into the wind letting go of the bill at the same time. The bird may remain on the water for some time after release.



Turtles

Safe handling and release of sea turtles:

- (a) When practicable, and when operator or crew on board are trained, comatose sea turtles should be brought on board immediately.
- (b) All turtles alive on the line should be treated correctly to improve their chances of post release survival.
- (c) Upon sighting a sea turtle, the vessel should be slowed, and the vessel direction adjusted to move toward the sea turtle.
- (d) 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.
- (e) If a sea turtle is observed to be hooked or entangled by gear, the vessel operator should immediately cease fishing operations until the sea turtle has been removed from the gear or brought on board the vessel.
- (f) 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.
- (g) If the hook has been swallowed, or is in the mouth, place a gag in its mouth so it cannot bite.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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.
- (j) Live sea turtles should be returned to the sea after handling:
 - i. 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 fishing gear; and
 - ii. Observing that the sea turtle is safely away from the vessel before engaging the propeller and continuing operations



Resuscitation for a sea turtle on board:

- (k) If the sea turtle brought aboard the vessel is inactive, resuscitation should be attempted.
- (l) When handling a sea turtle, attempts should be made to hold the animal by the shell, avoiding the head and neck region, and flippers.
- (m) Strive to remove and /or disentangle any foreign items from the sea turtle, such as any plastic items, netting or embedded hooks, etc.
- (n) 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.
- (o) 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.
- (p) 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

Sharks

The Permit Holder must follow the best practice for shark release as set out below:

(a) for sharks above the slot limit (big sharks):

- a. Bring the shark to the side of the vessel as quickly as possible.
- b. Avoid taking the shark out of the water while releasing it from the line.
- c. Cut the line as close to the hook as possible.

(b) for sharks below the slot limit (small sharks):

- a. Bring the shark to the side of the vessel as quickly as possible.
- b. Keep the line under tension to avoid entanglement.
- c. Handle animal as little as possible, avoid contact with eyes and gills, and preferably handle with wet hands/gloves.
- d. Support the weight of the animal if removed from the water, and do not hold by its tail.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.





Saving sea turtles starts with you

Fishermen can do a lot to help turtles survive.

During Catch



During Release



During Hook Removal



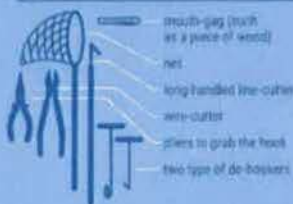
- If the hook is in the mouth, always try to remove it
- If the hook is swallowed, do not attempt removal; it will only make injuries worse
- If the hook is external, remove it if easy; leave it if you do not succeed after 2 attempts.

To Open the Mouth

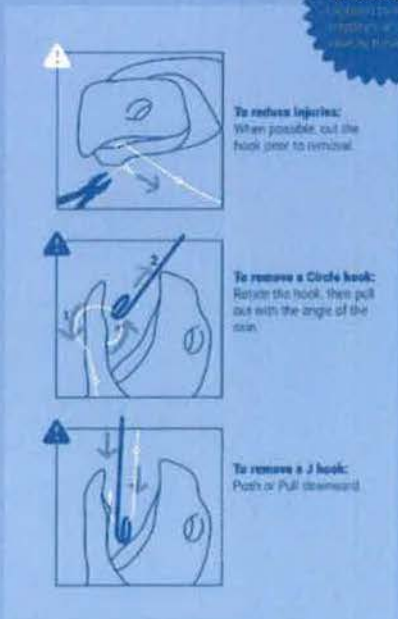
Place your thumb and index finger on both sides of the nostrils (not covering them). This immediately makes the animal open its mouth.



Essential Tools



99%
of marine turtles
survived after hook
removal with these
best practices.



To learn more about sea turtle handling and hook removal, watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8d11a7e4u8Y>



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SAFELY REMOVING HOOKS

1. Removing a barbed hook from an animal, without causing too much harm, includes pushing the point of the hook through the tissue of the animal and flattening the barb when it protrudes. The hook can then be removed without snagging and causing damage to tissue.
2. If an animal is hooked in an area which is sensitive (like the gills, throat, eye or if the hook has been swallowed), cut the line as close to the hook as possible and release the animal with the hook left in place (the hook will eventually rust out or if barbless, will be spat out or safely passed through the digestive system).
3. Dehooking devices should be used and are encouraged.
4. Never swing and/or smack rays against the side of the vessel to separate hook from jaws. The jaws of the rays will be ripped out. This method to release stingrays is dangerous for crew whilst swinging through the air and the animal will die.

RELEASING SMALL SHARKS (1 PERSON)

1. Ensure that all hooks, line or rope are removed (if not possible, then ensure that the trace is cut as short as possible).
2. Use two hands to support the animal when releasing it, one hand should be used to support the body and the other should be used to hold the pectoral / dorsal fin as shown to the right. If possible support the shark under its pectoral fins (pectoral girdle).
3. When releasing the shark, take care to ensure that the shark enters the water with its head first.
4. Where handling is not feasible, small animals can be released via stern ramps, offal conveyors or bycatch chutes.



RELEASING SMALL RAYS AND SKATES (1 PERSON)

1. Ensure that all hooks, line or rope are removed (if not possible, then ensure that the trace is cut as short as possible).
2. Use two hands, with one hand in or under the mouth and the other hand supporting the remainder of the body with the tail away from you to avoid coming into contact with the barbs at the base or on the tail.
3. If possible, place ray on a movable flat surface to avoid contact with the ray / skate.
4. Place gloved hand directly over barb, holding it against the tail.
5. NEVER break off the tail or barb.
6. NEVER insert fingers into spiracles or gills.
7. NEVER pierce holes in the wings so it is easier to grasp the animal.
8. When releasing the ray, try to ensure that the ray enters the water right side up and with its head at a slight downward angle.
9. Minimise touching the animal or dragging it across deck. The mucous serves an important function for the ray / skate.
10. Never swing and bash a ray on the side of a vessel to dislodge a hook from an animal.
11. Where handling is not feasible, animals can be released via stern ramps, offal conveyors or bycatch chutes.



RELEASING MEDIUM AND LARGE SHARKS (2+ PEOPLE)

1. Ensure that all hooks, line or rope are removed (if not possible, then ensure that the trace is cut as short as possible).
2. A wet, dark cloth may be used to cover the eyes of an energetic shark (ensure not to put pressure on the eyes and nose of the shark when doing so). This calms the shark down.
3. A hose pumping seawater into the shark's mouth may also calm the shark down and increase its chances of survival if its release is not imminent. A stick or medium sized fish could be placed into the mouth of the shark to prevent it from biting the crew.
4. When releasing, use one person to hold the tail (with both hands) while another person holds the pectoral / dorsal fins as shown below while monitoring the head (in case of sudden movement).



5. Care must be taken to drop the shark into the water, head first, and not thrown it forcefully overboard.
6. If the shark is too large to carry by hand, a brailer, net or a piece of canvas can be used to return the animal to the water with the aid of a crane.
7. Where handling is not feasible, animals can be released via stern ramps, offal conveyors or bycatch chutes.
8. Avoid lifting a shark (regardless of size) by its tail. This practice can break the spinal column. If possible a second strop / rope should be placed near the pectoral (front) fins (without damaging gills) to support the sharks weight.

RELEASING MEDIUM AND LARGE RAYS AND SKATES (2+ PEOPLE)

1. Ensure that all hooks, line or rope are removed (if not possible, then ensure that the trace is cut as short as possible).
2. When releasing, one person may support the head of the ray using both hands underneath where the mouth is. A second and/or third person may support the ray under the wings, while holding the tail. Some rays have barbs on or at the base of their tails which could inflict damage.
3. Holding directly over the barb on the tail with a gloved hand will prevent injuries.
4. Care must be taken that the ray is dropped into the water and not thrown forcefully overboard.
5. If the ray is too large to carry by hand, a brailer, net or a piece of plastic canvas can be used to return the animal to the water with the aid of a crane.
6. NEVER insert fingers into spiracles or gills.
7. NEVER pierce holes in the wings so it is easier to grasp the animal.
8. Where handling is not feasible, animals can be released via stern ramps, offal conveyors or bycatch chutes.

BAD PRACTICES OF SHARK, RAY & SKATE HANDLING (CONTINUED)



CONCLUSION

If this simple guide is followed, the fishery and crew can be confident that the released sharks, rays and skates have the highest chance to recover and survive after being caught. By following safe handling procedures, the crew can reduce their chances of being injured by sharks, skates and rays. In addition, their impact of fishing on the marine environment can be greatly reduced which supports fishery managers and industry to comply with ecosystem-based fishery management principles.



Annexure 8

Example of Large Pelagic Catch Summary

Permit Holder	Vessel	Trip No	Trip start date	Trip end date	Albacore in kg	Bigeye in kg	Yellowfin in kg	Bluefin in kg	Swordfish in kg	Billfish in kg	Sharks in kg	Other in kg
Lucky Trading	Swift	1	1/5/2009	13/5/2009	100	1560	3000	0	4500	300	1000	330
Lucky Trading	Swift	2	29/5/2009	10/6/2009	200	3030	1210	75	3500	150	970	100
Lucky Trading	Delta	3	1/8/2009	14/8/2009	900	1900	900	350	4110	230	790	460

* Catch Summaries to be submitted after every trip on the same spreadsheet.