



1. Who may participate in the small-scale fishing (SSF) rights allocation process/who is eligible?

- a. The process is open for all those individuals who participated in 2016, regardless of whether they were successful or not. Individuals, who did not participate in 2016, will not be allowed to participate in this process.

2. How will the process unfold?

- a. The new improved process is based on promoting transparency and fairness. The process will unfold in six (6) phases outlined below:
 - o Phase 1: mobilisation
 - Detailed communications plan and community mobilisation
 - o Phase 2: Distribution
 - Explanation and distribution of the verification forms in identified fishing communities.
 - o Phase 3: Receipting
 - Collection of verification forms from identified fishing communities
 - o Phase 4: Announcements
 - Announcing the provisional lists in identified fishing communities.
 - o Phase 5: Appeals



- Distributing the record of decision (ROD) letters to registered applicants
- Assisting communities with appeals of the provisional lists
- Phase 6: Cooperative registration and rights allocation
 - Communication to declared small-scale fisher on cooperative registration and rights allocation process.
- b. All the above processes will be conducted in languages dominant in the identified communities.

3. How will the SSF rights be issued?

- a. Registered small-scale fishing cooperative may apply for 15 years fishing right through the formal rights application process facilitated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE). All accessed right applications deemed successful will be granted 15 years fishing right, based on the assessment outcomes of the application.

4. How will communities apply for a SSF catch permits?

- a. SSF cooperatives may apply for catch permits for species granted, through the departments customer services centre.



5. When will SSF rights be issued?

- a. The department plans to complete the entire process by the end of the 2022/2023 financial year.

6. When will SSF rights end?

- a. The SSF rights will expire 15 years after the date of issue.

7. Will there be a “catch all” process or time for those areas that might not complete their verifications on the set dates?

- a. Yes. The department will set aside an additional week to collect verification forms in specific central areas, which will be communicated timeously.

8. How will youth, with little to no fishing experience, be verified or included?

- a. SSF cooperatives will be encouraged to employ and empower the development of youth, women and people living with disabilities who failed to reach qualifying criteria to be declared as small-scale fishers. This will assist in accumulating fishing experience that will be later enable them to qualify against the set SSF criteria.



9. Will those with disabilities be accepted?

- a. Yes, as long as they meet the criteria.

10. Will interim relief fishers be exempted from being verified or applying?

- a. No, they will not be exempted. Everyone who participated in the initial process will need to apply again, since the process is being restarted.

11. What will happen to spaces of fishers who have passed away?

- a. The verification process is based on an individual application. Individuals who have passed on do not leave a space behind. The declaration of individuals as small-scale fishers will not consider spaces of those who have since passed away as the spaces cannot be replaced.

12. In cases where family member (mother / father / sister / brother / child / uncle / aunt) was successful as a small-scale fisher in 2016 and has since passed away (deceased). May a relative/ family member apply on behalf of the deceased family member?

- a. No, only individuals who participated in the process may apply using their own knowledge and evidence of experience. Family members may not apply on behalf of the deceased.



13. During the 2016 process, I was employed on a part time basis and now (2022) I am permanently employed. Can I still take part in this process? What is the criteria regarding people who are permanently employed? Will I have to declare it to small-scale fisheries management (SSFm)?

- a. The criteria remains the same as in 2016. If an individual participated in the initial process in 2016, they may participate again. The verification form provides an opportunity for the applicant to declare their employment status, by selecting the appropriate box for current employment status.

14. Will the experience post 2016 be considered during the verification process of SSF in the Western Cape?

- a. Yes. Fishing experience post 2016 will be considered during the verification process.

15. Can fishers of the night/poachers apply?

- a. Yes. If the individual participated in the initial process, they could participate in the process.



16. If an individual has a fish-processing establishment (FPE) right or commercial right but was successful in 2016 and will be participating in the upcoming process, must they decide which right they will be keeping?

- a. Yes. If the individual has been declared as a small-scale fisher, they may not possess any other right.

17. Is there a limit to the number of individuals that may form part of the SSF cooperative per household?

- a. No, there is no limit to the number of SSF per household. All applicants will have their own applications where they will provide motivation and evidence/supporting documentation.

18. Since there may be implications for applicants such as night fishers, who must complete the affidavit?

- a. An individual you have worked closely with must complete the affidavit and be able to support the information you have submitted.

19. Can a SSF cooperative membership (right) be transferrable?

- a. No. The small-scale fisheries right is not transferrable.



20. What resources will be issued under the SSF rights?

- a. Species available to SSF cooperatives will be based on the request for access to species as listed on the rights applications forms. In addition, the department may consider and evaluate the conditions (total allowable catch, total allowable effort, etc.) related to species requested for commercial and own consumption purposes. Please refer to [government gazette dated 8 March 2016](#) and [small-scale regulations](#).

21. Will the allocation for SSF rights be more than interim relief?

- a. The total allowable catch (TAC) and total allowable effort (TAE) for a specific fishing sector is determined annually by the delegated authority. The annual recommendation includes inputs and considerations from research, fisheries management, and relevant stakeholders in the industry. Hence, the determination of an allocation differs per sector and per season.

22. What is the difference between SSF and interim relief?

- a. The interim relief dispensation is a temporary arrangement put in place as part of a 2007 Equality Court order to allow traditional fishing communities access to marine resources until the department



implements the small-scale fisheries sector and allocates small-scale fishing rights. The interim relief dispensation, hence will automatically expire when small-scale fishing rights are allocated.

23. If we register our own cooperative, are we going to receive SSF rights?

- a. No. Only small-scale fishing cooperatives registered as part of the SSF implementation process will receive small-scale fishing rights as part of the SSF rights allocation process.

24. Will members of existing cooperatives receive SSF rights?

- a. No. SSF rights are granted to a SSF cooperative as declared by the delegated authority, and not to individuals. SSF cooperative members can only be a member to one (1) SSF cooperative in their respective community or as grouped by the department.

25. Will all interim relief fishers form part of the legal entity that will receive SSF rights?

- a. Only successfully declared small-scale fishers, by the delegated authority will form part of the cooperative. If you are an interim relief fisher and



never applied for verification as SSF, you will not be part of the cooperative that will receive SSF right.

26. Will the current interim relief representatives be the management of the SSFM legal entities?

- a. No, cooperative managers (board members) will be elected amongst members of the cooperative. This will be a democratic election, which will depend on members (small-scale fishers) voting for whom they see as most suitable to lead/ manage the cooperative.

27. How many fishers will be in the legal entity?

- a. A minimum of 20 members is needed to form a SSF cooperative.

28. How many cooperatives can be formed per community?

- a. Only 1 SSF cooperative per community.

29. What will happen with our interim relief permits?

- a. As soon as SSF rights are allocated, Interim permits will be discontinued, as this was only a temporal arrangement.



30. Can a community member be registered under two cooperatives?

- a. No. SSF can only be registered under 1 community SSF cooperative.

31. How are cooperatives formed?

- a. The department groups the declared SSF as per the communities in which they applied under and the SSF cooperatives are formed per community/ area.

32. If I pass away before the constitution of the cooperative is signed, will my family benefit from the cooperative?

- a. The small-scale fishing cooperative may consider the inclusion of a general support plan for the dependants of a deceased SSF fisher who did not sign the constitution or complete the member registration process with the cooperatives.