



**forestry, fisheries  
& the environment**

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

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT ROLLING OUT WESTERN CAPE SMALL-SCALE FISHERIES VERIFICATION, REGISTRATION, DECLARATION, AND RIGHTS ALLOCATION**

Following the declaration of Small-Scale fishers in the Western Cape in 2016, the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), Ms Barbara Creecy and the Department received several complaints from fishing communities about the fairness and accuracy of the process followed.

The Department then decided to launch an audit on the entire process followed in verifying and recognising small-scale fishers in the Western Cape. The audit findings concluded that the verification process was wholly inadequate, and that the results of the assessments cannot and should not be relied on for any decision-making purpose in terms of the regulations.

Based on the results of the audit report and legal advice, the Minister made an application to the Western Cape High Court to review and set aside the process of registration, verification, and declaration of small-scale fishers in the Western Cape.

On 31 August 2022, the court reviewed and set aside the 2016 verification, registration, declarations and rights allocations process as per the Minister's request. The court judgement ordered that the applications which were made for the verification and confirmation of small-scale fishers and communities in the Western Cape be remitted to the DFFE and the Minister for decision.

Considering the court judgement, the Department intends to re-run the verification, registration, and declaration of small-scale fishers for all persons that participated in the previous process and ultimately allocate rights to the small-scale fishing sector. Pending the outcome of the envisaged new and revised verification and recognition process, access to fishing by persons who were declared small-scale fishers under the previous process and those fishing under the Interim Relief dispensation will remain.

The revised process as guided by the recommendations of the audit report of the previous process is based on promoting transparency and fairness and it will follow the steps below:

1. Communication and community mobilization
2. Explanation and Distribution of Verification Forms in fishing communities
3. Collection of Verification forms from fishing communities
4. Announcing the Provisional Lists in fishing communities
5. Assisting communities with their Appeals of the provisional lists
6. Co-operative Registration and Rights allocation

**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**

The process will only be open to fishers that previously participated in the original verification process in 2016. To confirm eligibility to participate in this process, community members can visit their nearest Fishery Control office or the Departments offices in the Foretrust Building from 12 September 2022 or contact the dedicated call centre line on 021 402 3614.

In preparation for the process, eligible community members are encouraged to ensure that they have their original Identity Documents (ID) with them and look out for the posters that will be put up in all identified communities from 12 September 2022, which will outline all other required documents. The Department will also make available "Sample Verification Forms" during the Mobilization process, for community members to familiarise themselves with the verification form.

For more information regarding the process:

- Visit or contact the nearest DFFE fishery Control Office
- Alternatively, contact the call centre on 021 402 3614 or send an email to [SSFEnquiries@dffe.gov.za](mailto:SSFEnquiries@dffe.gov.za)

**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT**

