



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1651 {NW1892E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 16 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 12 May 2023

Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether, considering that her department recently announced the final list of declared small-scale fishers in the Western Cape after the previous process failed, such applicants were compelled to be part of the co-operative system in order to qualify for the specified list; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) what has been the involvement of the (a) Hangberg Peace and Mediation Forum and (b) local Hangberg Co-operative in discussions with her department regarding the small-scale process in Hout Bay;
- (3) (a) what is the role of the Core Management Team for Small-scale Co-operatives, (b) who are the members and (c) how are they selected?

1651. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

1. In terms of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) (MLRA) and its Regulations relating to small-scale fishing, 2016, declared small-scale fishers in declared small-scale fishing communities are required to be members of small-scale fishing cooperatives. Furthermore, small-scale fishing rights can only be allocated to a recognised small-scale fishing

cooperative. Therefore, it is required that all declared small-scale fishers be members of small-scale fishing cooperatives eligible to be allocated 15-year fishing rights.

2. (a) The Hangberg Peace and Mediation Forum has been involved in the process by attending meetings facilitated by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) in preparation for the roll-out of the new process. Furthermore, members of the forum were observers of the registration and verification process from October to December 2022.
- (b) The local Hangberg Peace cooperatives have participated in a number of engagements with the DFFE for various reasons, ranging from possible abalone projects to the small-scale fishing process.
3. (a) Co-management serves to promote effective participation in policymaking and empower small-scale fisheries cooperatives in the management of nearshore resources.
- (b) Co-management structures are yet to be set up as it follows once small-scale fishing cooperatives have been granted their fishing rights. Primary members of the co-management structures will be small-scale fishers and the DFFE. Secondary members will be any stakeholders that have an interest and/or interact with the operation of a small-scale fishing cooperative.
- (c) Representatives of the cooperatives in co-management structures are nominated democratically. Additional members are identified and invited by primary co-management members (the cooperative and the DFFE).



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 25.10.2023