



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY (For written reply)

**QUESTION NO. 1343 {NW2555E}
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 22 of 2019**

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M. Gen O S Terblanche (DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs, Forestry and Fisheries

- (1) Whether she has been informed of the high level of abalone poaching by gangs in and around Hermanus;
- (2) whether her department is taking any action to combat the poaching of abalone by gangs in and around Hermanus; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

1343. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:

1. Yes, the Minister has been informed of the high level of abalone poaching by gangs in and around Hermanus
2. Yes, the Department has plans to combat abalone poaching. Yes, These interventions are planned and implemented as part of the Enhanced and Coordinated Compliance and Enforcement Programme of Initiative 5 of Operation Phakisa (Oceans Economy). Integrated

teams at national and provincial level, as well as local law enforcement are deployed under the NATJOINTS to combat abalone poaching which is a threat in a number of coastal regions, including the Western Cape.

During Phakisa Initiative 5 operations for the 2017/2018 financial year, confiscations were made of abalone worth more than R21.3 million as well as equipment used in illegal activities worth more than R5 million.

In the first 6 months of the current financial year, confiscations of abalone and equipment associated with poaching and trafficking of abalone were made to the value of R3.6 million.

The most recent deployment of the integrated Phakisa teams to the Overberg region to combat abalone poaching commenced towards the end of September 2019. As a result of these interventions, there has been a noticeable reduction in illegal harvesting activities. A number of arrests have also been made as well as confiscations of vehicles, equipment, vessels and abalone. Deployment in this area will continue in line with the proactive and reactive strategies set out in the operational plan.

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 8/11/2019