



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref:02/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 258 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

A draft reply to **Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DATE:

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 258 {CO379E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO.29 of 2017

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 10 October 2017

Ms C Labuschagne (Western Cape: DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:

At what point in the assessment of a fishery stock under pressure will her department act in accordance with the principles of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998), as amended and safeguard both the species in question and also the ecosystem that is dependent on the presence of the species?

CO379E

258. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

The Department of Environmental Affairs does not undertake fishery stock assessments. Fishery stock assessments are undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Where ecosystem functioning is impacted, or a vulnerable species is further threatened, the Department of Environmental Affairs will in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries define necessary management interventions. This cooperation is undertaken in response to Chapter One of the National Environmental Management Act (NEMA) which defines the Principles of the Act, including considerations for ecosystem and biodiversity loss. The Department of Environmental Affairs will work in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries in zonation of the Marine Protected Areas for the protection of marine species. In addition, the two Departments continue to work together in the National Working Group for Marine Spatial Planning to properly allocate spatial distribution of activities in South African ocean space.

DR B E E MOLEWA, MP
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: