



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 2885 {NW3313E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 22 OF 2025

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Ms N Makasi (ANC) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

Given that Athlone is a well-recognised hub for fish processing and distribution in Cape Town and that many small businesses either operate in the fishing sector or support a network of businesses involved in the fisheries space, what (a) economic development initiatives does his department have in place to uplift and support small-scale fishing industry players within the Athlone constituency area and (b) mechanisms does his department have in place to ensure equitable access to fishing licences and quotas for small-scale fishers in previously disadvantaged areas such as Athlone?

2885. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- a) The Department of Forestry, Fisheries, and the Environment (DFFE) acknowledges that Athlone functions as an important post-harvest node in Cape Town's fisheries value chain, particularly in fish processing, packaging, storage, and distribution. However, Athlone as a geographic area has not been formally recognised as a traditional fishing community as it has not submitted a formal application or expression of interest to be recognised as such. Consequently, no fishing cooperative has been established, specifically for the Athlone area. However, traditional fishers residing in Athlone, who qualify as bona fide small-scale fishers, have been accommodated and incorporated into cooperatives established in adjacent coastal areas within the Cape Metropolitan, such as Langa, Gugulethu, Kalk Bay and Hout Bay.

The DFFE, through the implementation of the Small-Scale Fisheries Policy, is supporting post-harvest and value chain participants, including those based in urban centres, by facilitating access to enterprise development support, market linkages, infrastructure such as cold storage and processing facilities, and training through partnerships with entities such as the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), the Small Enterprise Finance Agency (SEFA), and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

- b) In respect of equitable access to fishing licences and quotas, the DFFE concluded the Small-Scale Fishing Rights Allocation Process, which resulted in the registration and recognition of over 171 small-scale fishing cooperatives across South Africa's four coastal provinces. The process was designed to ensure that historically disadvantaged individuals (HDIs), including those living in previously excluded areas, gain access to marine resources in a sustainable and legally organised manner. The DFFE ensures equitable access to fishing licences and quotas for small-scale fishers in previously disadvantaged areas through the implementation of the Policy for Small-Scale Fisheries Sector in South Africa (2012), which promotes redress and inclusive participation in the marine sector. Through the Small-Scale Fishing Rights Allocation Process, rights were allocated to registered cooperatives comprising verified fishers from marginalised coastal communities. The DFFE uses pro-poor and transformative criteria that prioritise historically disadvantaged individuals, including women, youth, and people living with disabilities. Additional support is provided through partnerships with agencies such as SEDA and SEFA to offer training, funding, and infrastructure for post-harvest and value chain activities, all aligned with broader government efforts to promote transformation and rural economic development.

Regards



DR D T GEORGE, MP

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

DATE: 3/6/2025