



**environment, forestry  
& fisheries**

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Ref: O2/1/5/2**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 167 {NW163E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12 of 2020**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 29 May 2020**

**Mr A Arnolds (Western Cape: EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether her Department has any plans to improve service delivery to the fishing communities in the Western Cape (details furnished); if not, why not; if so, (a) what plans and (b) what are the further relevant details?

**167. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

1 (a) Since the transfer of the fisheries function to this Department, the new Department will not only seek to maintain existing programs to assist fishing communities, but it will consider how else it can improve delivery of its mandate. The further actions are briefly outlined below.

(b) The current programs in place include the deployment of Fishery Development Workers (FDW) and Small-scale Fisheries Managers at Fisheries Compliance offices along the coast and to assist with community development. Quarterly roadshows are held in major coastal fishing communities in the four coastal provinces. The Department also annually assists the KwaZulu-Natal North and South Oyster right holders by receiving their applications and

handing over their approved permits as this group of right holders had been exploited by certain consultants in the region in the past.

A few areas in the Western Cape were strategically selected to be provided with decentralised services. Fisheries services were combined with the South African Revenue Services (SARS) who assisted stakeholders with the provisions of tax clearance certificates. A mobile service went out to communities on the West Coast which was well received.

Prior to the National Lockdown, the Department had embarked on the development of an electronic permitting system. In response to the Covid-19 Regulations, and to minimise physical contact of Fisheries officials and the Fisheries stakeholders, a new system was introduced where clients can submit their applications electronically, and permits are also issued and sent back electronically. It is anticipated that when the electronic permitting system unfolds after the lockdown, it will build on the current electronic process. Once fully implemented, this should benefit fisheries stakeholders as they will not be required to travel long distances to Cape Town, or be forced to rely on postal services or pay for the services of fishery consultants. Mechanisms will also be put in place to assist those stakeholders who may find it difficult to use online application services by allowing them to still apply for permits in person.

**Regards**



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

DATE: 17/6/2020