



**environment, forestry  
& fisheries**

Department:  
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

(For written reply)

**QUESTION NO. 2078 (NW2638E)**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 35 of 2020**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 04 September 2020**

**Mr M N Paulsen (EFF) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

Whether her Department has observers on board fishing vessels operating in South African waters; if so, (a) are the specified observers suspended during the lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19, and (b) by what date will they return to work?

**2078. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

The Department does not currently have observers on board commercial fishing vessels operating in South African waters due to a lack of funding.

- a. As such, there were no observers to suspend during the lockdown period; and
- b. There was no requirement to set a date for observers to return to work. It should be noted that the monitoring of catch landings was conducted by the Department's Fisheries Control Officers (FCOs) who monitor the catch landings at the various fishing harbours and landing sites along the coast. These FCOs were in operation from Level 5 of the national Lockdown as fishing was classified as an essential service.

**Regards**

**MS BD CREECY, MP**

**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

**DATE: 18/9/2020**