



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

MINISTER

QUESTION NO. 393 FOR WRITTEN REPLY: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

A draft reply to **Mrs A M M Weber (DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

DATE:

DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED

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

DATE:

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 393 {NW572E}
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 9 of 2020

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 March 2020

Mrs A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries :

- (1) Whether there are any management plans for fisheries in the Republic to ensure (a) their sustainability in general and (b) the ecological sustainability of Soupfin and Smooth-hound sharks in particular; if not, why not in each case; if so, what are the relevant details in each case;
- (2) what is the status of the implementation of the National Plan of Action for the Management of Sharks that was adopted in 2013;
- (3) what is the total number of scientific fisheries-specific posts that are currently (a) filled and (b) vacant in her department?

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

- (1) (a) and (b) The National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks is aimed at ensuring the sustainability of all shark species. This NPOA was adopted in 2013. There is ongoing monitoring of fishing in the Soupfin and Smooth-hound shark sectors, which has been addressed in the Department's response to National Assembly question number 392.
- (2) The National Plan of Action (NPOA) for sharks has been steadily implemented since its adoption in 2013 and significant progress has been made. Actions were grouped into seven clusters as follows:
 - (i) Data and reporting
 - (ii) Classification and assessment of shark species
 - (iii) Sustainable management
 - (iv) Optimum use, capacity and infrastructure
 - (v) Compliance
 - (vi) Regulatory tools.

The status of implementation of the NPOA for Sharks was reviewed in 2018. Progress was made in all seven clusters, most notably within the optimum use (100% of listed actions completed) and classification and assessment of species (84% of listed actions completed). Reasonable progress was made in terms of sustainability and management (50% of listed actions completed), capacity and infrastructure (50% of listed actions completed), data and reporting (44% of listed actions completed). It is anticipated that the NPOA will be updated based on the review once the departments have successfully merged;

- (3) a) The current establishment for scientific fisheries-specific posts is 113 posts. Of these, 81 posts are filled (72%), and b) 32 posts are vacant (28%).

Regards



MS BD CREECY, MP

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

DATE: 26/3/2020 .