



environment, forestry & fisheries

Department: Environment, Forestry
and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE

3 June 2020

TO: ALL HOLDERS OF ACTIVE RECREATIONAL FISHING PERMITS TO HARVEST WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER ISSUED IN TERMS OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998) AND THE REGULATIONS PROMULGATED THEREUNDER.

The President's announcement of a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) has had an impact on recreational fishers. As stated in the Directions Regarding measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19, in particular relating to the Freshwater and Marine Fishing Sectors (Government Notice R 538, Gazette No.43324), recreational fishing was not allowed under Alert Level 4 from 1 to 31 May 2020 as every person was confined to their residence unless strictly for the purpose of performing an essential service, obtaining an essential good and/or services, etc.

The directions that guide and permit marine and freshwater fisheries under Covid-19 National Lockdown Alert Level 3 are published in terms of the Disaster Management Regulations published under Government Notice No. R.480 in Government Gazette No. 43258 of 29 April 2020 as amended. Under Alert Level 3, recreational fishing is permitted from 1 June 2020.

The last two fishing days allocated for the recreational fishing of west coast rock lobster (WCRL) were on the 10 and 11 April 2020 and were postponed. In light of the postponement of the two fishing days, recreational fishing of west coast rock will be allowed on 20 and 21 June 2020. The recreational west coast rock lobster fishing season will then close at 16h01 on 21 June 2020.

Attention is drawn to Regulation 51, issued under the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998 (MLRA), which provides that only persons over the age of 12 years may obtain from any authorized office, a recreational fishing permit to engage in fishing, collecting, keeping, controlling, landing or transporting of,

or to be in possession of not more than four WCRL per day subject to the payment of R94 per permit (R7 application fee and R87 permit fee) as determined by the Minister under section 25 of the MLRA and published under Government Notice No. 795 in Government Gazette No. 33518 of 10 September 2010. Permits remain valid for the entire west coast rock lobster recreational fishing season.

Fishing times for WCRL will be from 08h00 until 16h00 and the bag limit is four per person per day and the size restriction is 80 millimeters carapace length. No person catching WCRL with a recreational fishing permit may sell his/her catch and any WCRL caught, collected or transported must be kept in a whole state.

Recreational west coast rock lobster permits are obtainable at the Post Office.



SUE MIDDLETON

DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT (ACTING)

DATE: 8/06/2020

For all Enquiries contact the Department Call Centre on telephone number 086 000 3474
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