



**environment, forestry
& fisheries**

Department:
Environment, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ref: O2/1/5/2

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 727 {NW931E}
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 13 of 2020**

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Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) What are the regulations of her department with regard to subsistence fishing during lockdown to curb the spread of COVID-19;
- (2) whether subsistence fishermen will be allowed to catch fish using their existing permits issued by her department during the lockdown; if not,
- (3) whether her department is issuing special lockdown permits for subsistence fishermen; if so, (a) where and (b) how can such permits be obtained;
- (4) what documentation are subsistence fishermen required to provide to authorities at roadblocks and/or in other instances during the lockdown?

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

- (1) Fishing has been identified as an essential service by the National Government as it is an important source of food and contributes to national food security. As such, the Department has amended the existing fisheries regulations and business processes to facilitate and enable fishing activities to continue whilst adhering to the provisions of the Disaster Management Acts and Regulations promulgated thereunder.

The fishing sector, including the Small-scale fishing sector, has been operating as an essential service and as part of food production industries under level 5 and now level 4 of the Disaster Management regulations. The Department issued Annexure C, Form 1: Permit to Perform Essential Services, in terms of Regulation 11 B (3), to all Small-scale Fishing Cooperatives in the four (4) Coastal Provinces and to interim relief fishers.

- (2) Yes. Subsistence fishers (ie. Small-scale and Interim Relief fishers) are allowed to catch fish using their existing permits issued by the department during the lockdown. Please also note, that fishing on a recreational permit is not allowed during levels 4 and 5 of the lockdown.
- (3) The department has been applying the regulations promulgated under the Disaster Management Act through the issuance of necessary authorisations to Small-scale fishing cooperatives to perform essential services.
 - a. Due to restriction on movement and physical contact, all the relevant documentation was transmitted electronically to authorised representatives of Small-scale Cooperatives that have been granted fishing rights. This was followed up with confirmations that all documents were received as transmitted.
 - b. All the relevant fishing documentation can be acquired through the relevant Small-scale fisheries managers assigned to provinces.
- (4) Fishers are required to carry with them copies of their catch permits/exemptions, fishing vessel licences, Annexure C, Form 1: Permit to Perform Essential Services, in terms of Regulation 11 B (3) that indicates a list of all crew/fishers and certified copies of individual's identification documents.

Regards


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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE:.....15/5/2020.....