

FROM: DIRECTOR-GENERAL: MS PAM YAKO

TO: DDG: memCOMMENTS: Approved

GEWINGSAKE

flow DetailsMINISTERIE VAN OMGEWINGSAKE
EN ERISMEPRIVAATSAK X 447
PRETORIA 0001

2007 -11- 22

PRIVATE BAG X 447
PRETORIA 0001MINISTERIE VAN
OMGEWINGSAKE EN ERISMEMINISTERIE VAN OMGEWINGSAKE
EN ERISME

| 17253 2008 Traditional Linefish TAE recommendation | | | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| Date Initiated: | Initiator: | Current Performer: | Due Date: | Done Date | Workflow Status: | |
| 06 November 2007 09:26 AM | Kwanele Booi | WF: ODG Scan Registry | 28 November 2007 09:33 AM | | Executing | |
| Initiator Comments: | | | | | | |
| Please attend to the attached TAE recommendations. | | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Step Details... | | | | | | |
| Step Name | Performer | Task Disposition | Due Date | Done Date | Comments | |
| Step 2 - Director | Ntobeko Bacela | Forward to CD | 08 November 2007 09:26 AM | 12 November 2007 05:27 PM | | |
| Step 3 - Chief Director | Ntobeko Bacela | Approved | 14 November 2007 05:27 PM | 12 November 2007 05:28 PM | | |
| Step 3B - Select Person to Print | Karen Meintjes | | 14 November 2007 05:28 PM | 13 November 2007 08:37 AM | | |
| Step 4 - Chief Director | Ntobeko Bacela | Recommended | 15 November 2007 08:37 AM | 13 November 2007 08:54 AM | | |
| Step 5 - Deputy Director-General | Monde Mayekiso | Recommended | 15 November 2007 08:54 AM | 14 November 2007 04:11 PM | | |
| Step 6 - Chief Financial Officer | Saliem Mohamed | Funds available | 16 November 2007 04:11 PM | 19 November 2007 01:06 PM | | |
| Step 7 - Chief Operating Officer | Nosipho Jezile | Recommended | 21 November 2007 01:06 PM | 21 November 2007 05:25 PM | | |
| Step 8 - Language Practitioner | Nondwe Nkayi | | 23 November 2007 05:25 PM | 22 November 2007 08:59 AM | Edited. LP 22 11 07 | |
| Step 9 - Director-General | Pam Yako | Recommended | 26 November 2007 08:59 AM | 22 November 2007 09:28 AM | | |
| Step 10D - Print Documents for DG | Betta Coetzee | | 26 November 2007 09:28 AM | 22 November 2007 09:33 AM | | |
| Step 10E - Scan & Attach Signed Submission | WF: ODG Scan Registry | | 26 November 2007 09:33 AM | | | |
| Step 11 - Workflow Complete | WF: D:IFM | | 28 November 2007 09:33 AM | | | |

17253



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Reference: V1/29/5/1

MINISTER

TOTAL ALLOWABLE EFFORT (TAE) FOR THE 2008 TRADITIONAL LINEFISH SEASON

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To request you to determine the TAE in the Traditional Linefishery for the 2008 season in terms of the provisions of Section 14 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998).

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 It is recommended that the commercial Traditional Linefish TAE be determined at the 455 vessels and a maximum crew of 3450. The fishing season starts on 1 January 2008 and ends on 31 December 2008.

3. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

- 3.1 You determined a TAE of 450 vessels and a maximum crew of 3 450 for the Traditional Line fishery in the 2007 fishing season (Annexure A). The department considered scientific recommendations (**Annexure B**) and wishes to advise as follows:
 - You noted over-utilisation of stocks targeted by Traditional Line fishers in December 2000 and declared an emergency in the sector in terms of Section 16 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998).

- Regional Management zones for the Traditional Linefishery were introduced with the long-term rights allocations as an added management tool to control the geographical allocation and movement of effort. The areas are:
 - Port Nolloth to Cape Infanta (Zone A)
 - Cape Infanta to Port St Johns (Zone B)
 - KwaZulu-Natal (Zone C)
- Since 2003, the Traditional Linefish Total Allowable Effort has been set at 450 vessels or 3450 crew.
- The allocation of the effort has been managed on the basis that TAE is closed when either the maximum number of vessels per management zone is reached or when the overall crewing level is attained, whichever level is attained first.
- Since the long-term rights allocations the overall TAE has been exceeded by five vessels after the appeals process was completed (Annexure B).
- There has not been a period where effort was optimally utilised (Table 1, Annexure B).
- The current TAE levels at 455 vessels and 3161 crew are therefore tolerable.

4. OTHER BRANCHES/CHIEF DIRECTORATES CONSULTED

- 4.1 The Chief Directorate Research Antarctica and Islands was consulted.

5. IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Personnel

Limited

5.2 Communication

Limited

6. RECOMMENDATION

6.1 It is recommended that the global Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for commercial Traditional Linefish for 2008 season be determined as follows:

6 Commercial (local) fishing: 455 vessels

7 Recreational fishing: nil allocation

8 Subsistence fishing: nil allocation

9 Foreign fishing: nil allocation


DIRECTOR-GENERAL

DATE:

RECOMMENDATION APPROVED/~~NOT APPROVED~~

MINISTER

DATE:


27/11/07



environment & tourism

Department:
Environmental Affairs and Tourism
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Reference: V1/29/5/1

MINISTER

TOTAL ALLOWABLE EFFORT (TAE) FOR THE 2007 TRADITIONAL LINEFISH SEASON

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To request that you determine the TAE regarding the Traditional Linefish for the 2007 season in terms of the provisions of Section 14 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998).

2. SUMMARY

2.1 It is recommended that the commercial Traditional Linefish TAE of 450 vessels and a maximum crew of 3450 be determined and that the TAE be divided into the regional management zones as follows: Port Nolloth to Cape Infanta – 295 vessels; Cape Infanta to Port St Johns – 103 vessels; and KwaZulu- Natal – 52 vessels. The fishing season for Traditional Linefish is from 1 January to 31 December.

3. BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

3.1 For the 2006 fishing season you determined a TAE of 450 vessels or a maximum crew of 3450 for the commercial Traditional Line fishery (Annexure A).

3.2 The department considered the recommendations from the Chief Directorate: Research, Antarctica and Islands, Branch Marine and Coastal Management (as per Annexure B) and wishes to advise as follows:

- Your predecessor, having noted the over-exploited conditions of the linefish stocks targeted by the traditional line fishers in December 2000, declared in terms of Section 16 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) an emergency in the linefish sector.
- In June 2003 the TAE was reduced to 450 vessels after the medium rights allocation process under the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998). This was done to rebuild the collapsed linefish stocks and to reach the resolution agreed to by South Africa at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (in 2002) that requires rebuilding of depleted fish stocks to be achieved by 2015.
- Since 2003, the Traditional Linefish TAE has remained constant at 450 vessels or 3450 crew and the TAE recommendations in the policy for the long-term rights remained at 450 vessels or 3450 crew (whichever level is first attained in the allocation process).
- A maximum number of vessels and crew has not been reached and it is now 448 vessels and 3377 crew linked to vessels.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Personnel
Limited

4.2 Communication
Limited

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

5.1 The global TAE for the 2007 commercial Traditional Linefish season be determined as follows:

- Commercial (local) fishing: 450 vessels or 3 450 crew (maximum)
- Recreational fishing: nil allocation
- Subsistence fishing: nil allocation
- Foreign fishing: nil allocation

5.2 The effort per Regional Management Zones be limited to the levels as indicated below:

| Regional Management Zones | Vessel Effort |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Port Kolloth to Cape Infanta | 295 |
| Cape Infanta to Port St. Johns | 103 |
| Kwazulu-Natal | 52 |
| TOTAL | 450 |


Recommended by DG on EDMS 20/12/2006

DIRECTOR-GENERAL
DATE:

RECOMMENDATIONS
5.1 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED
5.2 APPROVED/NOT APPROVED

MINISTER
DATE:

Minister approved telephonically. Will counter sign on his return to office.


22/12/2006
OFL30

Counter sign on

15/1/07



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM
MARINE & COASTAL MANAGEMENT

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF THE
TRADITIONAL LINEFISH RESOURCES IN 2008

September 2007

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the global Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for the traditional linefish sector should return to a maximum level of 450 vessels with the same level of crew as allocated to these vessels during the long-term right allocations of 2006.

INTRODUCTION

Given the over-exploited condition of linefish resources where many of the stocks targeted by the traditional linefishery have been classified as collapsed, the Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, taking cognizance of the critical status of traditional linefish stocks, declared the linefish resource to be in a state of emergency in terms of Section 16 of the Marine Living Resources Act (Act 18 of 1998) in December 2000.

The linefishery comprises commercial, recreational and subsistence sectors that target a multitude of species along the coastline of South Africa. Owing to the large number of users, launch sites, species targeted, and the wide operational range, the linefishery is managed on an effort basis (TAE), rather than on a catch basis (i.e. TAC). The underlying philosophy is to control fishing effort within the commercial, subsistence and recreational sectors by input (number of participants) and output (e.g. bag and size limits) controls, respectively. Nevertheless, bag limits for critical species also apply to the commercial component.

The challenges that need to be faced in the linefishery as a result of having reduced many fish populations to such low levels is that productivity and hence annual catch are seriously depressed; with obvious ramifications for job creation, tourism and food provision. But apart from these losses, the risk of stock collapse and commercial extinction, as has already occurred for the species seventy-four, is extremely high. Moreover, linefishes are important predators of fish and large invertebrates - such as squid, octopus and shellfish - and therefore play an important role in the ecosystem. The ecosystem effects of the seriously depleted linefish resources are not well understood but are likely to be significant and might have already led to irreversible consequences.

In order to rebuild collapsed stocks, in keeping with the MLRA and the resolutions taken at WSSD, that require rebuilding to be achieved by 2015, and to achieve a sustainable level of utilization, the level of commercial effort in the traditional linefish sector was dramatically reduced when linefish rights were allocated for the first time under the MLRA in July 2003 for the medium-term fishing rights.

There has since been a concomitant reduction in the fishing pressure of the recreational and subsistence component in the linefishery through the implementation of more realistic species-specific daily bag and size limits in the regulations published in April 2005.

In order to stem the downward trend in many of the target species it has been calculated that a reduction of 70% in the catch of these species would be required. The total allowable effort level (TAE) recommended as a starting point to recovering these resources in the traditional linefish sector since 2003 has consistently been 450 vessels (3450 crew). This level was set to maximize the number of commercial participants and hopefully stem the downward trend in stock status of many species.

Although this TAE is a substantial reduction in the commercial linefishery effort it must be noted that trends in the catch information, derived from the historic commercial landings for the period 1985 to 1998, indicate that 20 percent of the vessels in the fishery accounted for 80 percent of the reported catches. The current TAE is approximately 22% of previous effort and therefore is potentially maintaining

catches above the level that has been calculated to induce a recovery in the depleted resources.

The general philosophy for the allocation of commercial traditional long-term linefish rights, (i.e. to reserve them for those who are dependant on traditional linefish stocks for more than 50% of their income) was stringently applied in the 2006 right allocations, although consideration was given to allowing the linking of west coast rock lobster (near shore) rights, hand-line hake rights and KwaZulu-Natal beach seine nets as identified in the allocation policy for the traditional linefish sector.

A moratorium on the catch of the species seventy-four for all sectors was introduced in 1998 due to the extremely compromised status of this stock. In keeping with the management plan for seventy-four the stock status was again reviewed during 2006 to allow for reassessment of the moratorium in its tenth year. Notwithstanding the fact that this species has received the fullest protection the results of the recent stock assessment have indicated no significant change in the status of the stock after 9 years. There are however positive signs detected during the sampling period indicating that this species is again recruiting to reef areas further afield than the core distribution area of central Kwazulu-Natal and the Transkei coast, albeit at sizes still below maturity for the species. It is recommended that the moratorium for this species be retained for a further 5 years after which a stock assessment will again be undertaken.

The seventy-four is typical of many of the linefish resources having a lifespan of some twenty two years, hence the slow rate of recovery. Due to the life histories of many of the linefish these resources are likely to take many years (decades) to rebuild to the target reference points. The results of the seventy-four stock assessment reiterate that linefish resources, notwithstanding the stringent management measures, still remain at a high risk of commercial extinction. The uncertainty of the catch potential of the reduced TAE and the severely depleted state of many resources coupled with the uncertainty of the stock-recruit relationship prevent predicting the likely time span for recovery. The declared emergency in the linefish sector will need to remain active for the foreseeable future (next decade or more) until stocks reach target reference points.

The economic viability of the fleet is directly linked to the mobility of the fishing effort to follow the migrating shoaling species; however, the downside of this is that unacceptably high effort levels can be sustained on collapsed species across their full geographic distribution. Regional management zones for the traditional linefishery have been initiated with the long-term right allocations as an added management tool to control the geographical allocation and movement of effort.

It is acknowledged that the "Regional Management Zones" concept will need further development and refinement as part of the "Traditional Linefishery Management Manual", in the process of being developed in conjunction with the sector. The following three geographic management zones for the traditional linefishery have thus been established.

- Port Nolloth to Cape Infanta
- Cape Infanta to Port St Johns
- KwaZulu-Natal

Effort domiciled within each of these zones is only allowed to migrate within the specific zone.

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

The allocation of the effort for the long-term rights has been managed on the basis that the TAE is closed when either the maximum number of vessels per management zone is reached, or when the overall crewing level is attained, whichever level is attained first. The long-term rights allocated, as currently recorded in the updated Rights Register in December 2006, after the completion of the appeals process are presented by geographical zone in Table 1.

The allocation in Zone A has been oversubscribed by 9 vessels and although the other two zones were marginally under allocated, the overall TAE has been exceeded by 5 vessels (Table 1). It is recommended that the current allocation of 455 vessels should be reduced during 2008 to meet the recommended level of a maximum of 450 vessels.

The performance of the commercial sector during 2006 and 2007 continue to reflect highly variable catch in many of the target species. As a result of the depleted status of the linefish resources and the long road to recovery, the bio-economics of this sector should strongly influence the viability for the retention of the allocated effort. The number of right holders who activated their right to fish during 2006 and 2007 account for 84.6% and 77.6% of the full allocation respectively (Table 1). This is a reflection of the economic challenges in this depressed fishery.

Until such time that scientific review (stock assessments) indicate that the decline in the resources has been arrested it is recommended that the failure of a right holder to make an economic success in this sector should not be rewarded with an opportunity for this non viable or latent effort to be reactivated by virtue of a transfer of the right to a new participant.

It is therefore recommended that until such time as the negative trends in the resources is arrested, and certainly for 2008, the transfer of a right in this sector is strongly discouraged and should only be considered on the basis of permanent medical disability or death of the right holder.

Table 1: Recommended TAE (one vessel per right holder) by management zone and the number allocated for long-term rights (2006 to 2011) compared with the number of right holders activating their permits during 2006 and 2007. (Numbers in parenthesis in "allocated" column reflect the number of crew attached to these vessels and in "active" column represent the percentage of right holders activating per year).

| Management Zones | Effort Recommended | Long-term Rights allocated | Active right holders 2006 | Active right holders 2007 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Port Nolloth to Cape Infanta | 295 | 304 (2155) | 258 | 231 |
| Cape Infanta to Port St Johns | 103 | 102 (670) | 80 | 87 |
| Kwazulu-Natal | 52 | 49 (336) | 47 | 35 |
| TOTAL | 450 | 455 (3161) | 385 (84.6%) | 353 (77.6%) |



Dr C. J. Augustyn,

Chief Director: Research, Antarctica and Islands

Date: 21 September 2007

From: Ntobeko Bacela
To: Meintjes, Karen
Date: 13/11/2007 08:27 AM
Subject: 17253 2008 Traditional Linefish TAE recommendation

CC: Adonis, Nandiswa
Dear Karen,

I made a mistake and approved instead of recommending the EDMS with the following details: 17253 Traditional Linefish TAE recommendation. Please reverse that so that I can recommend to DDG: MCM.

Regards,
Ntobeko