



# PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND ENVIRONMENT 31 January 2023

## Conclusion of the small-scale fishing rights allocations and support programs



forestry, fisheries  
& the environment

Department:  
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Overview

- The presentation focusses on the following:
  - Implementation of the Small-Scale Fishing (SSF) process in Western Cape (WC);
  - Distribution of verification forms;
  - Towards SSF rights allocation in WC;
  - Basket of species;
  - Summary of progress on support programs to date;
  - Plans to expand support



# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SSF PROCESS IN WC

- After the court order of 31 August 2022, the Department commenced with the verification process;
- Mobilisation to inform people about the new process taking place;
- From 26 September to 07 October 2022, the Department distributed verification forms to communities with the original 8500 people as per the court order;
- The Department granted an extra week of catch-all for people to receive their verification forms;
- An extra month was granted for fishers to complete their applications before the Department went back to communities to receive completed forms.



# DISTRIBUTION OF VERIFICATION FORMS

	Communities reached	Attended	Proxies	Deceased
<b>Week One</b>	38	2725	26	70
<b>Week Two</b>	49	2360	41	97
<b>Catch-All-Week</b>	41	190	16	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>5275</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>169</b>

- Distribution of forms based on language preference

	Forms distributed	Language		
		Afrikaans	English	isiXhosa
<b>Week One</b>	2725	889	1673	163
<b>Week Two</b>	2360	1484	790	86
<b>Catch-All-Weeks</b>	190	50	127	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5275</b>	<b>2423</b>	<b>2590</b>	<b>263</b>



# DISTRIBUTION OF VERIFICATION FORMS

- ❑ Extensive mobilisation took place in communicating the intention of the Department to receive completed forms.
- ❑ The Department undertook the Receipting from 05 to 20 December 2022. A total of 70 venues were reached, covering the 102 responsive coastal identified fishing communities out of the 109.

	Receipting Venues	Communities Reached	Registered Submission	Unregistered Submissions	Total Forms Collected
Week One	33	50	2178	159	2337
Week Two	33	52	1470	108	1578
Catch-All	4	-	117	5	122
TOTAL	70	102	3765	272	4037



# TOWARDS SSF RIGHTS ALLOCATION IN WC

Milestone	Target date based on extension
Verification process- receipting	05-21 December 2022
Electronic capturing of 6000+ verification forms and supporting documents and finalizing database for assessments	15 December 2022 – 09 January 2023
Assessment of 6000+ verification forms	February 2023
Announcement of final declared list and commencement of appeals for unsuccessful fishers.	From February 2023 – March 2023 (mandatory 30 day appeal period)
Facilitation of co-op registration and fishing rights application	From May 2023 (two-day co-op training and rights application per community in about 80 communities)
Handover of co-op certificates and fishing rights	July and September 2023 (rights assessments and issuing of Grant Right Letters)



# BASKET OF SPECIES

- Various species have been set aside for the small-scale fisheries sector,
- Some have already been allocated to existing SSF co-operatives;
- These include Squid (up to 25%); Seaweed (14 concession areas); West Coast Rock Lobster (WCRL) (50% NS, 20%OF); Hake hand line, net fish, Linefish and 100% of Oysters and White Mussels, etc.;
- Further suggestions on species to be considered are welcome;
- Additional % apportionments will be confirmed after FRAP appeals have been finalised;
- For species such as Traditional linefish, increase in Total Allowable Effort (TAE) will be effected through S14 of the Marine Living Resource Act, 1998 (MRLA);
- The Department intends to address the issue of Abalone allocations as part of the Abalone strategic workshop due in February;
- Additional support such as experimental and exploratory fisheries will be considered for the sector;
- These may include Anchovy for human consumption, abalone enhancement projects in the WC;
- Additionally, the Department will work on augmenting the value of fish through support to access to markets and improved value chain.



# SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON SUPPORT TO DATE

Through partnerships, the Department has facilitated a number of interventions to date and these include, but are not limited to:

- MoU with DSBD and a project implementation committee is up and operational;
- All 110 small-scale fishing co-operatives have received training on basic fisheries-related business skills, financial management and sea-safety. This targeted the board of directors of all co-operatives;
- Through partnerships with the OR Tambo DM and other Municipalities, the following has been achieved for many co-operatives:
  - Business Entrepreneurship training; delivery of holding containers that are refrigerated, handing over of fishing equipment.
- Holding tanks have been handed over to more than 15 co-operatives through the intervention of NSF;





# SUMMARY OF PROGRESS TO DATE

- Many co-operatives have been assisted with opening bank accounts and provided with administrative support by lodging their returns through partnership with provincial government of the Eastern Cape;
- Additional business management training has been offered to more than 10 co-operatives in KZN with the assistance of Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA);
- The Department is rolling out an East Coast Rock Lobster (ECRL) Fisheries Improvement Project in partnership with WWF;
- The Department is in the process of piloting co-management in Port St Johns in partnership with World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature.



# PLANS TO EXPAND SUPPORT

- The Department is currently recruiting over 800 people to be employed by the Department to:
  - Assist with catch data monitoring of all fish landed by recreational, small-scale and commercial sectors.
    - The Department is targeting 600 people from fishing communities
  - Recruit over 200 individuals who will be deployed to all small-scale fishing co-operatives for the purposes of mentoring each and every co-operative with fishing rights;
- Furthermore, the Department is in the process of drafting and finalising MOUs with various government departments and private sector for capacity building initiatives to small-scale fishers.



# THANK YOU!

Small-scale Fisheries Management  
Fisheries Management Branch  
Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries

Thank You



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& the environment

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