



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES and the ENVIRONMENT

BRANCH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

**WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER (WCRL) ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
(DFFE)**



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ACRONYMS

CAF = Consultative Advisory Forum

DDG = Deputy Director-General

DFFE = Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

IOSTT = Integrated Operational Sub Task Team

MAST = Marine Administrative System

MCS = Monitoring Control and Surveillance

TAC = Total Allowable Catch

TOR = Terms of Reference

WCRL = West Coast Rock Lobster

WWF = World Wildlife Fund





BACKGROUND

The fishery generates around R500m per year, and employs about 4 300 people

The fishery has traditionally focused on the West Coast, but resource shifts in the 1990s resulted in three new areas being opened up East of Cape Hanglip

The fishery consists of the following sectors:

- Offshore commercial (traps)
- Inshore commercial (hoop-nets)
- Interim relief/ Small-scale
- Recreational

The resource is fairly easily accessible and is experiencing over-fishing and illegal fishing

The resource obtains good prices on the international markets



PROBLEM STATEMENT

- There have been steady declines in catches (since the 1950s-1960s) that have a number of causes, including unsustainable harvesting, illegal harvesting and environmental changes
- The resource is currently at 1.3% of pristine levels (pre-1910), which is well below the 40% level which is generally considered desirable.
- Monitoring, Control & Surveillance efforts could be strengthened through use of technology and the deployment of innovative and advanced enforcement approaches
- Under resourced fishers, particularly those in the small-scale sector, are exploited by marketers and often do not receive market-related prices for forward selling of catches.





WCRL ENFORCEMENT STRATEGY

- In November 2021, the Minister of Forestry and Fisheries and Environment assigned a special project to the Consultative Advisory Forum (CAF) to advise on the West Coast Rock Lobster fishery.
- The forum was tasked to consider presentations and representations from stakeholders on the methodology used to determine the Total Allowable Catch (TAC),
- To review the appropriateness of the proportional cuts within the various sectors of the fishery,
- To review data on the poaching and local sales estimates used in the TAC model,
- To advise the Minister on whether the current cut in respect of the TAC is an appropriate approach to sustainable use of the resource and;
- To advise on an appropriate way in which fishing communities can assist the department to co-manage the WCRL resource.
- A total of nine meetings (42 hours) were held with observer participation and presentations and documents were provided by observers and officials from or working on behalf of DFFE.
- The CAF developed five cross-cutting recommendations that are considered critical to the sustainability of the WCRL fishery and the communities who depend on the resource.



CONSULTATIVE ADVISORY FORUM (CAF) RECOMMENDATIONS

The CAF made 5 main recommendations to Minister on possible improvements of the WCRL resource:

1. DFFE to co-develop and implement a WCRL poaching reduction strategy

The WCRL enforcement strategy has been developed and approved by the DDG. It will be further consulted with stakeholders at a stakeholder workshop

2. To conduct an integrated socio-economic study in parallel

The Branch is in the process of developing a TOR for the study & it intended that this study will be completed by the time of the stakeholder workshop

3. The implementation of a co-management approach, particularly in the small-scale sector, and to pilot immediate implementation of a more participatory approach

The small-scale sector has been invited to participate in the Scientific and Management Working Groups.

A meeting has been held with the WCRL Industry Association to discuss improving representivity.

The Branch will be setting up co-management structures once the allocation of fishing rights in the Western Cape have been finalised.



CONSULTATIVE ADVISORY FORUM (CAF) RECOMMENDATIONS (Cont)

4. A WCRL Fisheries Improvement Program should be advanced by the Department through collaboration with the World Wildlife forum (WWF) and stakeholders

The WCRL Fisheries Improvement Plan will be presented to the stakeholder workshop

5. Fishing communities need to receive fair benefits along the entire value chain. This will require capacity building and mechanisms to support regulation of marketers.

FOR to define aspects of how the WCRL Strategy will be implemented, defining the objectives outlining the responsibilities and indicating available and required resources, contributing to communities benefiting along the entire value chain through regulation of marketers.

Note:

The WCRL National Strategy has been included in the APP for the 2023/20204.

Similar to the approach used with abalone, the Branch will be convening a multi-stakeholder WCRL workshop where the Strategy, Implementation Plan and Resource Improvement Plan will be debated and finalized.



WCRL POACHING REDUCTION STRATEGY STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A total of 6 Strategic Goals were developed with the corresponding strategic objectives: namely:

- **Strategic Goal 1: A centralized MCS transgression register which includes WCRL transgressions on land and at sea and which includes Rights holders, Exemption holders, Fish Processing Establishments and Exporters.**
 - Establish and implement on the Marine Administrative System (MAST) a centralized MCS transgression register to include WCRL transgressions on land and at sea which includes Rights holders, Exemption holders, Fish Processing Establishments and Exporter detail
- **Strategic Goal 2: Implementation of technology in terms of improved monitoring, control and surveillance and co-management practices to support traceability of WCRL in place and implemented.**
 - Identify the appropriate Information Technology system to enable the real-time reconciliation of West Coast Rock Lobster landings to prevent any over catches.
 - Implementation and procurement of technology toward improved MCS operations.
- **Strategic Goal 3: System in place by DFFE to approve marketers and exporters for the WCRL sector to close poaching loopholes.**
 - Identification of all Marketers and or exporters in terms of WCRL marketing and exports prior to the issuing of export permits.
 - Verification of all Marketers and exporters in terms of WCRL marketing, sales and exports prior to the issuing of export permits and implement Section 13(4), Section 28 and 81(2) in terms of transgressions.



WCRL POACHING REDUCTION STRATEGY STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Strategic Goal 4: Inter-agency co-operation fully enhanced, in terms of Operation Phakisa the Integrated and coordinated Enforcement Programme, monthly operational deployments, reporting in terms of WCRL exports from major export ports namely Cape Town International and O R Tambo.

- Engage Integrated Operational Sub Task Team (IOSTT) to include Inter-agency co-operation and monthly operational deployments and reporting in terms of WCRL exports from major export ports namely Cape Town International and O R Tambo and provide reconsolidated data of WCRL exports to SARS and SAPS at these ports.
- **Strategic Goal 5: Effective awareness raising to support voluntary measures and to facilitate a co-management approach to reduce impacts on the resource and increase benefits for communities are implemented.**
 - Consultation with community representatives, Industry and relevant parties to develop a co-management approach towards measures to reduce impacts on the WCRL resource which is consistent with the Small-Scale Fisheries Policy and implementation of measures to reduce impacts on the WCRL resource.
- **Strategic Goal 6: Improved capacity to implement effective Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) and effective Small-Scale Fisheries Management**
 - Capacity strengthened in the Small-Scale Fisheries Management and MCS to enhance the implementation of the policy for small-scale fisheries rapidly and effectively and to reduce the scale and impacts of illegal fishing on WCRL.
 - Improved participation in co-management and a strategic partnership for more coordinated research and co-management to assess and mitigate cumulative risks to the WCRL resource.



PROGRESS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WCRL POACHING REDUCTION STRATEGY

- The WCRL Anti-Poaching Strategy has been developed and approved
- The key recommendations of the CAF were incorporated within the West Coast Rock Lobster Anti-poaching reduction strategy.
- The Department has initiated criminal cases against marketers for illegal exports of WCRL.
- To date criminal cases have been registered against two marketers and cases registered with the Specialised Commercial Crime Unit for illegally exporting more than 14 tonnes of live west coast rock lobsters
- Implement mechanisms to support regulation of marketers and exporters
- Consultations and meetings have been held with affected community representatives and obtained further information and particulars of marketers not providing the benefits from the sale of WCRL to communities.
- Further cases to be registered in this regard.



NEXT STEPS

- The WCRL poaching reduction strategy must be followed by further consultation and must be presented to all stakeholders with the aim of achieving co-development and co-ownership and supported by all stakeholders,
- As per the CAF recommendations, the enforcement, and poaching reduction strategy must be supplemented by an integrated socio-economic study,
- West Coast Rock Lobster co-management structures must be developed, including a WCRL Fisheries improvement plan,
- A System to regulate marketers, and
- Capacity building to support the small scale and MCS sectors.





*Thank You
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the
Environment
Branch: Fisheries*