



**forestry, fisheries
& the environment**

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

Ref: O2/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 1127 {NW1379E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 12 of 2022

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Ms A M M Weber (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) Whether her department has a classification of the magnitude of fish kill; if not, why not; if so, will she furnish Ms A M M Weber with the classification;
- (2) whether her department has instructions in place regarding the correct procedures that must be followed when a massive fish kill happens; if not, why not; if so, will she furnish Ms A M M Weber with the documents detailing the procedures;
- (3) what department is actually responsible for the rehabilitation and/or restoration of the river ecology?

1127. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1) The department does not have any classification of the amount of fish killed because the incident is being managed by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE).
- (2) The department does not have any instructions in place regarding the procedures that must be followed in case of a large fish kill in dams or rivers. The mandate to issue such instructions for

any illegal activity in the freshwater resources, including water courses, is with the DWS because it has the responsibility to manage the country's freshwater resources.

- (3) The DWS is the responsible authority because it has the mandate to administer the National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) (NWA), which regulates the country's freshwater resources, including all watercourses. The DWS also has designated Environmental Management Inspectors (EMIs) whose function is to undertake compliance and enforcement activities.

Regards



**MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 4/4/2022