



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

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NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 239 {NW243E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 2 of 2023

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Mr D W Bryant (DA) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

- (1) According to the 2020 report on the status of SA Marine Fishery Resources, the commercial fish stocks of the Republic have steadily increased since 2012, (a) on what date was the most recent scientific analysis of the commercial fish stocks of the Republic conducted, (b) which entity conducted the research and (c) which marine vessel was used to conduct the research;
- (2) how will her department use the analysis of fish stocks to inform the curtailment of fishing rights allocations, especially taking into consideration the dire economic challenges faced by the unsuccessful applicants of the Fishing Rights Allocation Process;
- (3) on what date will the next comprehensive analysis of fish stocks be conducted?

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

- (1) (a) The most recent scientific analyses for all commercial fish stocks were conducted in 2022.
- (b) The research was conducted by the Fisheries Management branch of the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment in collaboration with scientific experts and stakeholders from external research organisations, non-governmental organisations, international organisations of which South Africa is a member, and fishery stakeholders.

- (c) In the past year, the fisheries research vessel Ellen Khuzwayo was utilised for conducting surveys of the West Coast rock lobster resource. Surveys of small pelagic fishes (primarily sardine and anchovy), and demersal fishes (including deep-water and shallow-water hake, kingklip, monkfish, Agulhas sole, and others) were conducted on the Compass Challenger under charter to the Marine Living Resources Fund.
- (2) In the allocation of commercial fishing rights and the annual determination of the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Applied Effort (TAE), the department takes into account the current stock status of the species in question. Fishing Rights Allocation Processes seek to ensure the sustainable use of marine living resources, based on the best available science and international best practice. As such, biologically sustainable rights can only be allocated based on the available resources and not on the required demand for access in order to avoid overcapacity, overexploitation and conflict amongst resource users. This will also enhance food security, effective management, sustainable economic growth and stability within the fishing sectors.
- (3) The status of the stocks of each of the resources (or group of resources) is analysed annually, as per the following schedule:

| Resource/ Resource Group | Date |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Squid | March 2023 |
| Small pelagics (updated) | June 2023 |
| West Coast Rock Lobster | August 2023 |
| Demersal shark | August 2023 |
| Linefish | August 2023 |
| Netfish | August 2023 |
| Abalone | August 2023 |
| Oysters | August 2023 |
| South Coast Rock Lobster | August 2023 |
| Seaweeds | August 2023 |
| White Mussel | August 2023 |
| Prawns | September 2023 |
| Patagonian Toothfish | October 2023 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Hake (trawl, longline and handline) | October 2023 |
| Horse Mackerel | October 2023 |
| Monk and Kinglip | October 2023 |
| Agulhas Sole | October 2023 |
| Tunas, Swordfish and Sharks | December 2023 |
| Small pelagics (initial) | December 2023 |

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

DATE: 24/2/2023