

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**(For written reply)**

**QUESTION NO. 314 {NW1280E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 6 of 2019**

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**Ms H S Winkler (DA) to ask the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries:**

Whether she will consider introducing a ban, as she did in False Bay, on octopus fishing in Mossel Bay, in order to prevent any further deaths of whales; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what are the relevant details?

**314. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES REPLIES:**

At this stage we are not considering a further ban. Our marine scientists are currently in discussion with licence holders on mitigation measures that can be introduced in all licensed areas. These options still require testing. If however entanglements are reported the situation will be re-evaluated. In line with the Permit conditions of Octopus Exploratory Fishing, if there are entanglements of cetaceans, operators are required to suspend their fishing operations.

**Regards**



**MS BARBARA CREECY, MP**

**MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**

**DATE: 02/08/2019**