



## 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. 2943 {NW4005E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 32 of 2023

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#### **Ms T Breedt (FF Plus) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:**

- (1) Whether there is a drive by her department to redistribute (a) abalone and (b) crayfish rights from commercial fishers to (i) small-scale and (ii) new entry small-scale fishers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) whether, considering the cost and specialisation of operating in the marine environment, her department has plans in place to assist the affected commercial fishers to diversify their catch and/or move into other fishing industries to help them sustain their livelihood; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details?

#### **2943. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:**

- (1) Yes. the Department is considering apportioning several marine species that were predominantly harvested by the commercial and recreational sector to the Small-scale fisheries sector. As the Small-scale fisheries sector is the newly promulgated sector, the legal framework allows for their inclusion in the apportionment of the marine resources, provided they meet the requirements outlined in the Regulations relating to Small-scale fishing.

(a) Regarding Abalone, the Department convened a strategic Workshop with all the stakeholders' representatives on the status of abalone and the strategy to recover the abalone resource. One of the recommendations emanating out of the Workshop was to consider allocating abalone to the small-scale fishing sector as well. No decision has been taken on this as yet.

(b) Regarding West Coast Rock Lobster, the Department has already apportioned 50% of the nearshore Total Allowable catch (TAC) and 20% of the offshore TAC to the Small-scale fishing sector.

(2) Yes. One of the mandates of the Department as incapsulated in the objectives of the Marine Living Resources Act, 18 of 1998 (MLRA) is to promote the optimum utilization of marine resources to achieve economic growth, human resource development, and capacity building within the fishery mariculture sector, employment creation and a sound ecological balance consistent with the development objectives of the national government. To attain this objective of the MLRA, the Minister allocates fishing rights to eligible fishing entities as guided by the General Policy on the Allocation of Commercial Fishing Rights and sector specific Policies. The policies clearly outline the objectives of each sector, considering economic sustainability, investments, job creation, fisheries stock status amongst others. The policies allow for the harvesting of multi-species and multi-sector involvement for the purpose of prioritizing economic and biological sustainability, broadening of access, transformation, and inclusive economic development.



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**MS B D CREECY, MP**

**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

DATE: 27/9/2023