



forestry, fisheries & the environment

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

Ref: 02/1/5/2

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(For written reply)

QUESTION NO. 3149 {NW4222E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 34 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 13 October 2023

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

On what date(s) (a) were the last studies conducted on which the latest available Total Allowable Catches and Total Applied Effort determinations for (i) abalone and (ii) rock lobster were based and (b) does she envisage that the new recommendations for (i) abalone and (ii) rock lobster will be announced, considering that only two months are remaining in the current year?

3149. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a)(i) The last full stock assessment of the abalone resource in the Western Cape was conducted in 2016. An updated assessment will be conducted again in 2024. In the interim, annual updated information on the catch and effort from the fishery, which provides the Catch Per Unit Effort Index of relative abundance of the abalone resource, has been used to track the status of the resource and to make informed scientific recommendations on biologically sustainable catch limits for the coming season.
- (ii) A full assessment of the West Coast Rock Lobster (WCRL) resource was conducted in 2023 to inform scientific recommendations on its status and biologically sustainable catch limits for the coming season.

(b)(i)(ii) As part of the decision-making process, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) communicates the outcomes of the determination. Total Allowable Catch (TAC) and Total Allowable Effort (TAE) determinations are announced before the beginning of every fishing season. The TAC/TAE is then apportioned between right holders, with annual catch permits being issued to them, reflecting their apportionment. The WCRL nearshore season is from 15 October 2023 to 30 April 2024. The season for WCRL Offshore is from 15 November 2023 to July 2024, which includes Small-Scale Fisheries allocations. The abalone fishing season commences on 1 November 2023.


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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 21.10.2023