



## 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. 3987 { NW5240E }

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 24 November 2023

#### Mr N Singh (IFP) to ask the Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment:

What are the relevant details pertaining to the permitted use of the Aliwal Shoal Marine Protected Area for (a) shore-based recreational, subsistence line-fishers and residents and (b) management and staff training together with additional and ongoing stakeholder engagements?

#### 3987. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (a) The marine protected area (MPA) is zoned into control and restricted areas. Small-scale and recreational fishing are allowed in the controlled area. The conditions or details for fishing by shore-based recreational, subsistence line fishers and residents remain in line with the currently effective regulation, which was gazetted in 2019. However, I have approved changes to accommodate shore-based recreational, subsistence line fishers and residents to fish. This may only happen once the amended regulations, which I have approved in November 2023, are gazetted.
- (b) The management and law enforcement staff operating in the Aliwal Shoal MPA are trained and undergo continuous job refresher training in their respective fields in aspects of law enforcement, specifically in relevant legislation interpretation, procedures and communication

skills. In addition, the officials are also designated as Environmental Management Inspectors in terms of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and are designated as Fishery Control Officers in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998).

Stakeholder engagement happens on an ongoing basis to help improve understanding between management and the affected parties. Currently, the amendment to the Aliwal Shoal Regulations is the result of a collective effort through multi-stakeholder engagement, which resulted in the establishment of a Working Group (WG) inclusive of every stakeholder from fisherfolks associations, authorities and politicians to conservancy and research institutions (Oceanic Research Institute and Durban University of Technology). The Management Authority plans to keep the WG alive so that any emerging issues that emanate are dealt with comprehensively in a transparent and participatory manner.



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**MS B D CREECY, MP**  
**MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**DATE: 28/11/2023**