



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. 4010 {NW5285E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2023

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

- (1) What are the reasons that abalone quotas have been moved from the Overberg area to the West Coast;
- (2) since 30 May 2019, what was the timeline on which the movement of quotas towards the West Coast took place, with regard to the (a) total number of permit holders that were moved, (b) location they were moved to and (c) reasons that they were moved in each financial year since 2019-20?

4010. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- 1) When granting the abalone fishing rights in 2003/2004, the intention was to manage the resources on a Territorial User Rights Fishing (TURF) system. The TURF policy imperative could not be fully implemented as it would have disadvantaged other successful right holders as the outcomes of the allocations in their Grant of Right letters provided that the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) would be allocated proportionally to existing successful right holders. In addition, the successful right holders would be allowed to harvest their allocated quantum of abalone in their secondary nominated zones provided that there was a determined portion of the abalone TAC in those zones. From the onset,

there were primary zones where there was either zero or limited abalone allocation to accommodate all successful right holders who initially preferred to be allocated in those primary zones; hence, there was a deviation from the pure TURF system by allowing the right holder to harvest their allocations in the preferred secondary zones they had nominated. In some instances, there was not enough quantum to allocate in the secondary nominated zones, so the allocations to successful applicants were based on resource availability.

The process of determination of secondary zones where the right/exemption holders are to harvest their allocation is done in consultation with the abalone right/exemption holders via their abalone representatives at the beginning of every fishing season. During that process, the abalone inter-area schedules are compiled seasonally, which, among other things, depict the name of the abalone right/exemption holder, the right/exemption holders' portion of the abalone TAC (quota allocation), and the portions of the right/exemption holders' quota per zone or secondary zone.

- 2) a) During the 2019/2020 abalone fishing season, 201 exemption holders from Zones A(25), B(27) and C(149) were moved to harvest their abalone allocation in other zones or secondary zones. An additional 15 exemption holders from Zone D were moved to different zones during the 2021/2022 abalone fishing season.
- b) Right/Exemption holders, where there is a portion of the abalone TAC allocation in their initially preferred zones or secondary zone, will always have a portion of their quota allocated in that zone. However, right holders in preferred zones or secondary zones where there are zero portions of the abalone TAC will be allocated to harvest their portions of the TAC in zones or secondary zones where there are determined portions of the abalone TAC.

Since the 2019/2020 abalone fishing season, exemption holders from the Overberg area, which stretches across Zones A, B and C, were moved to harvest their allocations in Zones E, F and G, as follows:

- i. The 25 exemption holders from Zone A were moved to harvest their allocations in Zone F and secondary zone G1.

- ii. The 27 exemption holders from Zone B were moved to harvest their allocations in Zone F, secondary zones E2, G2 and G3.
- iii. The 149 exemption holders from Zone C were moved to harvest their allocations in Zone F, secondary zones E1, G1 and G3.

At the start of the 2021/2022 abalone fishing season, the 15 exemption holders from Zone D were moved to harvest their allocations in Zone F and secondary zone G1.

- c) The movement of right/exemption holders only occurs when not enough portions of the abalone TAC are allocated in zones where they were allocated in the previous season. These movements are done in consultation with the abalone right holder/exemption holder.



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MS B D CREECY, MP
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT
DATE: 30/11/2023