



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. 4011 {NW5286E}

INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 47 of 2023

DATE OF PUBLICATION: 24 November 2023

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

- (1) With reference to the Abalone Scientific Working Group and The West Coast Rock Lobster Scientific Working Group, (a) which areas have their own scientific working groups and (b)(i) who is the representative of each (aa) scientific working group and (bb) community represented and (ii) what qualifies them for the specified positions;
- (2) what process is followed in electing the specified representatives;
- (3) whether the positions are advertised; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) whether the scientific working group meetings are publicly advertised to ensure that all parties involved in the fishing community have access; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details for the meetings and its advertisement for the past 24 months?

4011. THE MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT REPLIES:

- (1)
 - (a) There are dedicated Scientific Working Groups for both Abalone and West Coast Rock Lobster.

(b)(i)(aa)

Each Scientific Working Group has a Chair who is a senior scientist or manager in the Department, and these are rotated from time to time as required. In addition, to the Chairs each Scientific Working Group also has a Vice-Chair and a Convenor, drawn from the Department. Members of the Scientific Working Groups include scientists within the Department, and may also include externally invited scientists who have proven expertise in the area of responsibility of each Scientific Working Group. The Terms of Reference for Scientific Working Groups also make provision for representation by stakeholders. For the sake of practicality, each Recognised Industrial Body (RIB), Community Organisation or Non-Governmental Organisation that applies to participate in a Scientific Working Group is permitted a maximum of two representatives per Scientific Working Group, and the participation of these individuals is approved annually in writing.

(i)(bb)

The following fisheries stakeholder organisations are represented on the Abalone Scientific Working Group: Representatives from each of the commercial abalone fishing zones.

The following bodies are currently officially represented on the West Coast Rock Lobster Scientific Working Group: Sea Management Association, Nearshore Survivors' Association, East of Hanglip Lobster Association, United Small Scale Fishers Association, SMME WCRLOA, and West Coast Rock Lobster Industry Association.

(b)(ii)

The community and industry representatives are selected by their representative bodies.

- (2) The community and industry representatives are selected by their representative bodies.
- (3) The positions are not advertised, as it is the role of the representative bodies to nominate their representatives.

- (4) Scientific Working Group meetings are not advertised, as they are by invitation to the members and the approved representatives of the relevant representative bodies.



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