



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**24 MARCH 2020
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

ATTENTION:

TO ALL HOLDERS OF LICENCES, PERMIT AND AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998) IN THE FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE SECTOR.

EXEMPTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 81 OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998) TO ALL HOLDERS OF LICENCES, PERMIT AND AUTHORISATIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998) TO OPERATE WITHOUT VALID PERMITS FOR THE NEXT NINETY (90) DAYS.

This notice is issued in compliance with the President's National Disaster Declaration following the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and taking into account the risk of exposure faced by operators in the Fishing and Aquaculture sectors, including staff within various offices of the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries.

The President has announced a countrywide lockdown where, companies that are essential to the production and transportation of food, basic goods and medical supplies should be the only ones remaining operational.

In light of the above, the Deputy Director-General: Fisheries Management as delegated by the Minister in terms of 79 of the MLRA has decided to grant exemption in terms of Section 81 of the MLRA to holder(s) of Licences, Permit and/or Authorizations that have been issued in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) and will be or have expired from the 1st March 2020, to operate till 23rd June 2020 following the expiration of their validity period. The exemptions further allows for all Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Small-Scale Fishing Cooperatives that have been allocated fishing Rights to fish species allocated to them as outlined in their Grant of Right Letters.

The above exemption is granted on condition that:

1. A copy of this Notice is retained and appended to the expired Licence, Permit and/or Authorisation for subsequent inspection by relevant Law Enforcement Officers for inspection;



2. Same Licence, Permits and/or Authorisation Conditions issued with the expired Licence, Permit and/or Authorisation are adhered to.
3. Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Small-Scale Fishing Cooperatives attach a copy of this Notice to their Grant of Right Letters.

Licence, Permit and Authorisation holders will be liable for prosecution if he/she fails to adhere to the terms and the conditions of this exemption.

The exemption will come into effect from the 24th March 2020 until 23rd June 2020. The exemption only applies to operators that are in possession of an expired Licence, Permit and/or Authorisation. This exemption may at any time be cancelled or amended by the Minister or Delegated Authority. The Department will continue to review and implement various measures to minimize the spread of the virus.

For All Enquiries:

Contact the Call Centre number on 086003474

or via E-mail: cscapplications@daff.gov.za

**Issued by the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Branch: Fisheries Management
Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8018. Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town,
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