



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: 1/07/08/2017

Dear Small Pelagic Right Holder

Please be advised that the DDG: Fisheries has approved the FINAL small pelagic TAC's and TAB's and associated PUCL's and pools for 2017 as follows:

<u>ALLOCATED</u>	<u>(15 January 2017 to 31 DECEMBER 2017)</u>
<u>FINAL Anchovy TAC:</u>	450 000t
<u>TARGET SPECIES</u>	
Associated Juvenile Sardine by-catch allowance (associated with anchovy directed catches):	29 969t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	
<u>ALLOCATED</u>	<u>(15 January 2017 to 31 DECEMBER 2017)</u>
<u>FINAL Directed Sardine:</u>	45 560t
<u>TARGET SPECIES</u>	
* Juvenile Sardine by-catch allowance (associated with sardine directed catches)	3 189t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	
<u>FINAL - UNALLOCATED</u>	<u>Pools and precautionary upper catch limitations (PUCL's) - (15 January 2017 to 31 December 2017)</u>
<u>Anchovy</u> TAB for SARDINE-ONLY Right Holders:	500t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	
<u>Red Eye :</u>	100 000t
<u>TARGET SPECIES</u>	
** Adult <u>Sardine by-catch</u> allowance (associated with directed Red eye and anchovy fishing)	7 000t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	

* Juvenile Sardine by-catch allowance (associated with directed Red eye) NOT TO BE TARGETED	1 000t
Horse Mackerel NOT TO BE TARGETED	8 372t
Combined total for Lantern and Lightfish TARGET SPECIES	50 000t

* Juvenile – smaller and equal (\leq) than 14cm total length

** Adult – bigger ($>$) than 14cm total length

Additional:

- 1) Rights Holders are encouraged to spread their effort such that the overall directed >14cm sardine catch taken in the area to the west of Cape Agulhas (west of 20° E) in 2017 does not exceed **24 140 t**. This is in line with a recent evaluation of the risk to the sardine resource on the west coast of increased catches there, and a previous voluntary agreement that aims to spatially balance fishing effort and resource availability. Failure to limit catches taken to the west of Cape Agulhas could jeopardise the recovery of the sardine population. Industry associations are requested to assist in managing this restriction as spatial conditions will not be incorporated in permit conditions until such time as stakeholder consultation has taken place.
- 2) The pelagic industry (through the Chief Area Controller Mr. Tony van Boom – 082 5562 135 and TonyV@luckystar.co.za) should continue to take appropriate steps to attempt to keep the sardine by-catch as low as possible by avoiding areas where a relatively high proportion of sardine is found mixed with anchovy schools. Also refer to permit conditions related to horse/chub mackerel management and the necessary communication procedures via the Chief Area Controller.

The SWG-PEL remains concerned about the low sardine population size observed over the past several years as a consequence of a prolonged period of poor recruitment. This concern is accentuated by the low result from this year's recruit survey. Given that population recovery depends on survival of as many recruits as possible, and because sardine recruits are caught in anchovy-directed fishing operations, the pelagic industry should take appropriate steps to attempt to keep the sardine by-catch as low as possible by avoiding areas where a relatively high proportion of sardine is found mixed with anchovy schools.

- 3) RH's must confirm 2016 catches before FINAL permits will be issued. 2016 TACs exceeding (should there be any) will be deducted as per permit conditions after verification with the Right Holder.
- 4) Note that St. Croix Island, Riy Banks and Robben Island are closed for 2017. Kindly refer to permit conditions in this regard.

Kindly email: JohannesDG@daff.gov.za for further enquiries.

Yours sincerely



JOHAN DE GOEDE

Designation: Assistant Director: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management

Date: 7 August 2017