



agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Ref: 108/01/2018

Dear Small Pelagic Right Holder

Please be advised that the DDG: Fisheries has approved the INITIAL small pelagic TAC's and TAB's and associated FINAL PUCL's and pools for 2018 as follows:

<u>ALLOCATED</u>	<u>(15 January 2018 to 31 DECEMBER 2018)</u>
<u>INITIAL Anchovy TAC:</u>	247 500t
<u>TARGET SPECIES</u>	
Associated Juvenile Sardine by-catch allowance (associated with anchovy directed catches):	25 129t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	
<u>ALLOCATED</u>	<u>(15 January 2018 to 31 JULY 2018)</u>
<u>INITIAL Directed Sardine:</u>	59 214t
<u>TARGET SPECIES</u>	
* Juvenile Sardine by-catch allowance (associated with sardine directed catches)	4 145t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	
<u>FINAL - UNALLOCATED</u>	<u>Pools and precautionary upper catch limitations (PUCL's) - (15 January 2018 to 31 December 2018)</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 <u>Sardine by-catch</u> allowance (associated with directed Red eye)	1 000t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	

<u>Horse Mackerel</u>	8 947t
NOT TO BE TARGETED	
Combined total for <u>Lantern and</u>	
<u>Lightfish</u>	50 000t
TARGET SPECIES	

* Juvenile – smaller and equal (≤) 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 2018 does not exceed 75% of the TAC, i.e. **44 410t**. 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 2017 catches before FINAL permits will be issued. 2017 TACs exceeding (should there be any) will be deducted as per permit conditions after verification with the Right Holder.
- 4) Note that Bird Island and Robben Island are **closed** for 2018. Kindly refer to permit conditions in this regard (St. Croix, Riy Banks and Dassen Island is **open**).
- 5) Allow water allowances of 2.6% of all the species landed in associated directed sardine landings, and of 4.5% of all species in landings other than those associated with directed sardine landings, from 2018 onwards. "Old" landing sheets/books will still be used as cost savings measure. It will be phased out and will eventually be replaced by new books reflecting water deduction calculations. Until such time a template will be developed which should be ATTACHED to the landing sheet. The template will be added to the amended operating manual as reference.

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

Yours sincerely



JOHAN DE GOEDE

Designation: Assistant Director: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management

Date: 11 January 2018