



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Small Pelagic Right Holder

Please be advised that the aDDG: Fisheries has approved a FINAL sardine TAC and TAB subsequent to the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 recommendations as follows:

<u>ALLOCATED</u>	<u>(15 January 2018 to 31 DECEMBER 2018)</u>
<b>FINAL Directed Sardine: TARGET SPECIES</b>	- 65 000t
<b>* Juvenile Sardine by-catch allowance (associated with sardine directed catches)</b>	- 4 550t

\* Juvenile – smaller and equal ( $\leq$ ) than 14cm total length - **NOT TO BE TARGETED**

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. **48 750t**. 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](mailto: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**).

Kindly email: [JohannesDG@daff.gov.za](mailto:JohannesDG@daff.gov.za) for further enquiries.

Yours sincerely

**JOHAN DE GOEDE**

**Designation:** Assistant Director: Pelagic and High Seas Fisheries Management

**Date:** 28 August 2018