



forestry, fisheries & the environment

Department:
Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

PUBLIC NOTICE

4 March 2024

THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DEPARTMENT) ANNOUNCES THE TRADITIONAL LINEFISH TOTAL ALLOWABLE EFFORT (TAE) FOR THE 2024/2025 FISHING SEASON

The Deputy Director-General: Fisheries Management (DDG: FM), acting under authority delegated by the Minister in terms of Section 79, has, in terms of section 14 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) (MLRA) determined the Traditional Linefish Total Allowable Effort (TAE) for the 2024/2025 fishing season.

The Traditional Linefish fishery is a multispecies, multi-user fishery. The target species are a number of fin fish that inhabit mainly the inshore waters. Like many other inshore fish stocks, Traditional Linefish species are caught and impacted upon by different fishing sectors as a source of protein, for commercial use, food security and for recreational purposes. In addition to the sectors that directly target Linefish, the linefish stocks form a significant part of incidental catch from the big, high-tech trawling activities. The commercial and small-scale Traditional Linefish fishery are a boat-based inshore fishery characterised by low capital investment and labour-intensive operations, of which several commercially important Traditional Linefish stocks are either optimal or over exploited and requires continued management measures aimed at improving the sustainability of the stocks. The following are some of the additional measures aimed at strengthening management of the sector:

- Catch data to be collected from the all sectors harvesting linefish, including Small-scale and Recreational sectors, to ensure catches can be accounted for linefish stock assessments.
- The existing moratoria, bag and size limits are to be maintained.
- All current bag, size, area limits and closed seasons will remain in place. These limits are also applicable to the Recreational and Small-scale sectors.

- The impact of other fisheries on linefish stocks to be reduced – in particular, large by-catch in the trawl, tuna-pole, squid and hake-handline fisheries, through proper monitoring, consistent reporting and management.

In determining the TAE for the 2024/2025 Traditional Linefish fishing season, further consideration was given to the effort distribution among the Commercial and Small-Scale Fishing sectors and therefore applying an apportionment split amongst the sectors, that is in line with best available scientific and management recommendations. This includes the approval for the inclusion of the effort historically applied under the Interim Relief Dispensation to the small-scale fishery, as part of the Traditional Linefish TAE for the sector for the 2024/2025 fishing season, as illustrated in Table 1 below:

Table 1: The apportionment determined for the 2024/25 fishing season per sector are as follows:

Geographic Management Zone	Global TAE (Standard Vessels)	Local Commercial Portion of the Global TAE (Standard Vessels)	Small Scale Fishing Sector Portion of the Global TAE (Standard vessels)	Effort historically applied under Interim Relief Dispensation transferred to the small-scale (Standardised vessels)	Recreational Fishing Species Specific limitations
A. Port Nolloth to Cape Infanta	340	281	59	300	The Recreational fishing species specific bag and size limits are as determined in the Marine Living Resources Regulations.
B. Cape Infanta to Port ST. Johns	64	52	12	0	
C. KwaZulu Natal	51	45	6	0	
Total	455	378	77	300	

Sue Middleton

MS. SUE MIDDLETON

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL: FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

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Branch: Fisheries Management

Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8018. / Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town 8001

For all enquiries contact: CSCenquiries@dfpe.gov.za

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT ZOLILE NQAYI: 082 898 6483