



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## MEDIA STATEMENT

10 November 2017

For immediate release

### DAFF ANNOUNCES THE 2017/18 WEST COAST ROCK LOBSTER TAC AND RECREATIONAL FISHING SEASON DURATION

**Cape Town – Friday, 10 November 2017:** The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) wishes to announce the total allowable catch (TAC) for the 2017/18 fishing season for west coast rock lobster (WCRL).

The TAC is unchanged, remaining at 1924.08 tons. The allocations per sector are as follows:

	<b>2017/2018 TAC remains unchanged</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Commercial Fishing (Offshore)</b>	994.8	2016/2017 TAC minus 20% to Small-Scale sector
<b>Commercial Fishing (Nearshore)</b>	305.7	50% of the Nearshore TAC
<b>Recreational Fishing</b>	69.2	Unchanged
<b>Small-Scale Fishing sector (Interim Relief Measure)</b>	235.3	Unchanged
<b>Small-Scale Fishing sector (Nearshore allocation)</b>	70.4	The remainder of the Nearshore allocation for IR/SSF
<b>Small-Scale Fishing sector (Offshore allocation)</b>	248.7	20% of the Offshore allocation
<b>Foreign Fishing</b>	0	

1924.08

The Department will apply an effort limitation, shortening the season to 3 months in each Super-area/Zone. The start and end dates for the season will be as follows per sector and Super-area/Zone:

Area	Catch Period		
	Commercial and Small-Scale Fishing sector (Interim Relief Measure)	Nearshore Fishing (Interim Relief Measure)	Commercial Offshore
Super-area 1+2	15 Nov, Dec, 15 Feb		
Super-area 3+4	15 Nov, Dec, Jan, 15 Feb		15 Nov, Dec, Jan, 15 Feb
Super-area 5+6	Dec, Jan, Feb		
Super-area 7			Dec, Jan, Feb
Areas 8 and 11	Dec, Jan, Feb		Jan, Apr, May
Area 8 (Deep water)			Jul
Areas 12, 13 and 14	15 Dec, Jan, Feb, 15 Mar		

The Recreational sector has been granted 9 days to fish. The Government Gazette announcing the recreational fishing dates will be issued in due course.

The Department is working with various stakeholders to develop a comprehensive fishery management plan for the lobster fishery in order to address the existing gaps and to ensure the long term sustainability of the resource.

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
[www.daff.gov.za](http://www.daff.gov.za)

For further information please contact

Carol Moses

071 229 8484

[CarolMO@daff.gov.za](mailto:CarolMO@daff.gov.za)

021 4023448

-Ends-