



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

**4 December 2017**

**For immediate release**

**EXEMPTION IN TERMS OF SECTION 81 OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998) TO OPERATE A COMMERCIAL FISH PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENT WITHOUT A RIGHT GRANTED IN TERMS OF SECTION 18 OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998).**

**Cape Town – Monday 4 December 2017:** The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) wishes to announce the decision regarding the granting of an exemption to **fishmongers; restaurants; fish shops; supermarkets; large chain stores; authorised fishing vessels that only pack fish in crates or use ice to land fresh fish; those engaged in the drying of legally caught and purchased fish; and the cleaning, heading, gutting, gilling and tailing of fish on board an authorised fishing vessel from Sections 1, 13 and 18 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998) (“the MLRA”)** for unspecified period of time or until such time that the MLRA is amended.

### **Exemption Condition**

1. Should there be an indication that any stocks of fish or aquatic life, or any species or class of fish or aquatic life in any fishery or part of a fishery may be endangered, the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries may in terms of Section 16 of the MLRA, suspend all or any operation of this fishery or any specified part of it or impose restrictions to address the state of emergency.

Alternatively, the Minister may at any time, in terms of Section 81(2) of the MLRA, cancel or amend the exemption granted.

2. Operators covered by the definition above need not apply for a Permit to Operate a Fish Processing Establishment, but are required to adhere to the provisions of the MLRA.

The Department wishes to advise all operators not covered by the exemption as defined above and not holding a Right to process fish, to apply for a Right to operate a Fish Processing Establishment as the current exemptions expires on the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2017 and no further exemptions will be granted. Current operators must apply for a Right to operate a Fish Processing Establishment on/or before 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 should they wish to continue processing fishing without interruption after the expiry date.

Application forms are available from the Customer Service Centre, Ground Floor, Foretrust Building. Completed Application Forms for Fish Processing Establishment Rights received by the Department after the 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2017 will be assessed and rights will be allocated in January 2018, and thereafter on a monthly basis.

-Ends-

Issued by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

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