

**1. OPENING AND WELCOME**

Everyone in attendance was welcomed and the meeting was officially opened by the chairperson. Individuals introduced themselves and their affiliations.

**2. ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**

DAFF	STAKE HOLDERS	APOLOGIES
Johann Augustyn (chair) Tembaletu Tanci (scribe) Dennis Federicks Kim Prochazka Kobus de Swardts Gloria Rangayi Luyanda Tuko Desmond Stevens	See attached attendance register	No apologies tendered

**3. FINALISATION OF AGENDA**

The following items were included in the agenda.

- 3.1 Copper steenbras (red steenbras)
- 3.2 Yellowtail Treknetting (licensing)
- 3.3 Recreational Abalone fishing
- 3.4 Recreational bag limits
- 3.5 Recreational Import permits
- 3.6 Diving ban areas

- These additional items were not discussed due to time limitations and it was agreed that they will form part of the agenda at the next meeting.
- The chairperson advised that, individuals with matters of discussion should submit items well in advance.
- It was also highlighted that the stake holder should request extended meeting time should it warrants so.
- The chairperson indicated that the meeting invitation did highlight the scheduled time and that no request for additional meeting time can be accommodated on meeting day.

**4. TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)**

A draft terms of reference was circulated and it was also noted that the received comments following the previous meeting were included in the draft-TOR.

**Comments on the TOR**

The following comments were put forward.

- Meaningful dialogue between the industry and the DAFF is needed and that actions should be taken in addressing the challenges in place

## RECREATIONAL FISHING FORUM

Date: 23 February 2011 Time: 11H00 – 13H30

Venue: MRM 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR MAIN BOARD ROOM FORETRUST BUILDING, CAPE TOWN

- The industry should be updated and consulted with regard to DAFF activities and decisions that may impact on their operations
- The Forum should have a constitution
- The industry needs to be recognized and acknowledged by the DAFF
- The use of funds collected from recreational fishing sales should be spelt out
- SAMLMA has to be listed as a consultative interest group in the TOR
- 1 or 2 representatives per organization with a term of up to 3 years should be appointed as members of the Forum. A letter confirming nomination of the representative should be provided to the chairperson.
- The impact of recreational fishing and its socio-economic impacts especially to coastal communities should be acknowledged and be tested

### Responses and decisions

- It was agreed that meaningful dialogue was the main purpose of the initiation of the Forum. The Forum is meant to inform management decisions and address challenges in the recreational fishing sector
- The Forum does not need to have a constitution in order to operate. It was highlighted that the Recreational Fishing Forum was not the only body where the DAFF engage with fishing sectors. A number of Management Working Groups are in operation where the DAFF engage with the fishing industry and are guided by the TOR.
- The Forum should not be regarded as an Industrial body to be recognized under section 8 of the MLRA.
- The industry was also advised not to “panic” and to stop showing signs of distrust to the Forum. It is to be understood that the Forum is at its initial stages and deliverables will come about in the future engagements.
- The TOR should cater for representation of all users groups in the recreational fishing sector
- **All comments received prior to meeting, in the meeting and post the meeting will be included in the TOR and that a DRAFT –TOR be finalised and circulated to all members before the next meeting.**

## 5. RECREATIONAL ROCK LOBSTER ISSUES

### 5. (a) CURRENT ARRANGEMENTS

Various concerns and with regard to the current recreational lobster season were raised.

### Concerns

- The industry claimed to have not been consulted properly when the decision to limit the recreational share in the lobster fishery.
- The socio economic impact of the current arrangement needs to be considered.
- There were claims that there was no scientific basis for the decision to limit the recreational
- The industry has interest on the reasons leading to the season being reduced.

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- Unfavorable weather conditions has limited fishing time and that additional time is required (most likely during March month)
- Notice to be put out in advance to allow the industry to plan accordingly (there were claims that some people have travelled from Gauteng and were caught by surprise of the new arrangements)

### Responses and decisions

- The DAFF did agree that consultation with regard to the reduced recreational lobster season was indeed limited. Pressing matters which included the accommodation of the Interim Relief fishers in the lobster sector resulted in the recreational allocation being cut. The DAFF further admitted that it must not be regarded as a norm to cut the recreational share when need to accommodate others arise. The DAFF agreed to extend its consultation with the recreational sector in order to get issues of consideration when decisions are made.
- With regard to the dissemination of information and notification, the DAFF highlighted that the government gazette is an official public notice board for government notices and it must be considered as such. Further important information can be disseminated via the Forum which will intern notify affiliated members. The Forum will therefore be a platform to eliminate communication barrier between the DAFF and affected members.
- It was confirmed that the DAFF have undertaken to conduct a study with reference to the “economic and socio economic impacts of the recreational west coast rock lobster fishery” (**minimal funds have been made available**).
- The scientific recommendations on which the TAC determination was based are available on request via the access to information process. It was made to be understood that the scientific recommendation is meant to provide for the TAC and not how the TAC should be shared amongst the resource users.
- For all other requests the interested parties should submit formal request via the Customer Service Center for the attention of the Chief Director: Marine Resource Management

## 5. (b) BOAT DIVING

### Concerns

- It was requested that a special dispensation be explored to accommodated older fishers

### Responses and decisions

- It was explained that the exclusion of boats in recreational lobster fishing is an effort control measure and that its re-introduction cannot be allowed without extensive research to review the impacts (note: the lobster recourse is under extreme fishing pressure and therefore current restrictions are to be maintained).

**5.(c) RECREATIONAL STUDY**

**Concerns**

- There is a need to attest the importance of the socio economics of recreational fishing in coastal communities. The recreational fishing industry should be part of such a study

**Responses and decisions**

- It was confirmed that the department have initiated the study with a draft TOR already in place and funding has been set aside for the 2011/12 financial year (TOR distributed during the meeting)

**5. (d) FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS**

**Concerns/ Responses and decisions**

- It was agreed that the Forum should continue to meet in going forward and matters discussed to be looked at.
- It was also suggested that cross-sectoral meetings should be organized to discuss matters of concern. These meetings should include the recreational sector, commercial sector and other interested bodies (e.g SAMLMA). It is envisaged that cross-sectoral meetings could be fruitful if all stake holders can exercise professionalism which will gear towards a much more controlled meeting environment.

**6. (a) and (b) CHARTER BOAT OPERATORS**

**Concerns**

- The charter boat operators submitted to have received no feedback from the DAFF with regard to the current recreational permit sales arrangement.
- SADSAA aksed the DAFF if they can be afforded the right to sell the permits.

**Responses and decisions**

The DAFF responded and mentioned that a TASK TEAM has been put in place to resolve the matter. The TASK TEAM is tasked to explore avenues as follows.

- Consult internally to explore possible remedies to the issue
- Extensive external consultation which must include consultation in all coastal provinces
- Registration of charter boat operators by the DAFF
- The issuing of permit booklets to charter boat operators
- Online permitting system to be explored for the future
- The DAFF will be to revisit the contract with the South African Post Office with regard to permit sales and explore all possibility to accommodate users.

The TASK TEAM is likely to start the process immediately

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**OTHERS MATTERS TO NOTE:**

With regard to the reduced recreational lobster season the industry has done the following

- Submitted and Access to Information request for TAC annexures from the DAFF
- Wrote a letter to the Minister with regard to the transgression of the Act by the DAFF
- Submitted a petition to parliament
- Submission to the Human Rights commission.

- The meeting was adjourned at 13h31

Next meeting to be held on April, June and September 2011