



27 September 2006

INVITATION TO MAKE WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS REGARDING THE ALLOCATION OF BEACH-SEINE (NETFISH / TREKNET) RIGHTS IN AREAS 14 & 15, MELKBOSSTRAND

1. Oral hearings were held by the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism: Branch Marine and Coastal Management concerning the allocation of beach-seine rights in Area 14 & 15 (Melkbosstrand/ Bokpunt & Milnerton). The hearings were held on Tuesday, 11 July 2006 at the Conference Room, "Ou Skip" Caravan Park, Otto du Plessis Avenue, Melkbosstrand from 16h30 to approximately 17h00.
2. The topic for discussion was whether the delegated authority for the allocation of netfish rights should allocate **any** beach seine rights in area 14 & 15. When the provisionally successful lists were published for comment, a large number of comments by members of the public regarding this issue were received. Members of the public and stakeholders were invited to attend and make representations at the meeting.
3. It became apparent that a number of different interest groups were present at the meeting:
 - 3.1 Shop owners (tackle & bait) and others with interests in the recreational fishing sector who were strongly opposed to the allocation of netfish rights, at least for use on Melkbosstrand itself. A perceived negative impact of treknetting on the linefish species targeted by recreational fishermen was cited as the prime objection.
 - 3.2 A group of treknet workers, mostly historically disadvantaged persons, who were strongly in favor of the allocation of netfish rights to put "fish on the table for the hungry".
 - 3.3 A group of "supporters" of the above, some of whom had no notion as to the nature of the meeting and were likely there to make up numbers.
 - 3.4 A small group from other beach-seine areas who had been unsuccessful in the medium term rights allocation.
 - 3.5 A few boat owners (mostly non-HDP) and others with historical involvement, who were strongly in favour of the allocation of rights in the area.

- 3.6 One person who was opposed to recreational fishing as this activity made it difficult to walk on the beach (a person stated that he had already had two hooks in his feet).
- 3.7 A few persons who were against netfishing for various other reasons, such as that it would attract sharks and that vehicles on the beach are a danger to children.
4. At the meeting, Mr Stephen Lamberth, a departmental researcher on the netfish / linefish resource, provided explanations regarding the impact of netfishing on linefish species and other issues, such as whether netfishing attracts sharks etc. He explained, in particular, that the number of rights in the Melkbosstrand area had **been reduced from 17 to 3** over the years. He further explained that in terms of the regulations adopted under the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA, Act 18 of 1998), netfishers are not allowed to target or keep species other than harder, St Joseph sharks and fish on the "bait list".
5. During the course of the meeting it became clear that the recreational fishers group only objected to netfishing between **Melkbos Buoy and Slabbert se Klippe**. This limitation was however unacceptable for the netfishers as they need a flat beach and rock free surf-zone to launch their boats.
6. It became clear that the netfishers and recreational fishers would not agree. It was then proposed that the recreational fishers consult amongst themselves and formulate a more precise proposal on the area restrictions, which they wished to introduce. The netfishers would then be given an opportunity to respond to this proposal.
7. The recreational group appears to be represented by Mr M J Spaltman, e-mail address tracey@octillion.co.za. The netfishers could best be consulted through Mr Boonzaaier (021 – 511 4247 / 083 264 5962) and Mr Els (083 651 4966).
8. This is an invitation to Mr Spaltman and other recreational fishers, to formulate the proposal for the area restrictions referred to above. The netfishers will then be given an opportunity to comment on the proposal.
9. The correspondence must be directed at:
- Delegated Authority: Netfish
Adv Abeeda Mugjenkar
E-mail: rvu@deloitte.co.za
Fax: (021) 683-8285
10. The proposal of the recreational fishers should reach the RVU before close of business on Friday, 20 October 2006.

Adv Abeeda Mugjenkar

DELEGATED AUTHORITY : NETFISH SECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM: BRANCH MARINE AND COASTAL MANAGEMENT