
The President’s announcement of a nationwide lockdown to contain the spread of the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) has had an impact on recreational fishers. As stated in the Directions Regarding measures to Address, Prevent and Combat the Spread of COVID-19, in particular relating to the Freshwater and Marine Fishing Sectors (Government Notice R 538, Gazette No.43324), recreational fishing was not allowed under Alert Level 4 from 1 to 31 May 2020 as every person was confined to their residence unless strictly for the purpose of performing an essential service, obtaining an essential good and/or services, etc.


The last two fishing days allocated for the recreational fishing of west coast rock lobster (WCRL) were on the 10 and 11 April 2020 and were postponed. In light of the postponement of the two fishing days, recreational fishing of west coast rock will be allowed on 20 and 21 June 2020. The recreational west coast rock lobster fishing season will then close at 16h01 on 21 June 2020.

Attention is drawn to Regulation 51, issued under the Marine Living Resources Act 18 of 1998 (MLRA), which provides that only persons over the age of 12 years may obtain from any authorized office, a recreational fishing permit to engage in fishing, collecting, keeping, controlling, landing or transporting of,
or to be in possession of not more than four WCRL per day subject to the payment of R94 per permit (R7 application fee and R87 permit fee) as determined by the Minister under section 25 of the MLRA and published under Government Notice No. 795 in Government Gazette No. 33518 of 10 September 2010. Permits remain valid for the entire west coast rock lobster recreational fishing season.

Fishing times for WCRL will be from 08h00 until 16h00 and the bag limit is four person per day and the size restriction is 80 millimeters carapace length. No person catching WCRL with a recreational fishing permit may sell his/her catch and any WCRL caught, collected or transported must be kept in a whole state.

Recreational west coast rock lobster permits are obtainable at the Post Office.

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