



environment, forestry  
& fisheries

Department: Environment, Forestry  
and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

23 SEPTEMBER 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**TO: ALL HOLDERS OF COMMERCIAL FISHING RIGHTS ISSUED IN TERMS OF SECTION 18 (1) OF THE MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 1998).**

On the 25 September 2019, the Department published a Notice titled: *Update on Moratorium for submission of section 21 (Transfer of Commercial Fishing Right) applications and notifications of changes in shareholding and/or members' interests during the 2020 Fishing Rights Allocation Process ("FRAP2020")*. In the Notice, the Department communicated the extension of the timeframes for dealing with the fishing rights which will expire on 31 December 2020, as well as the moratorium on Applications for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights which was to come in to effect on Wednesday, 30 September 2020.

On the 15 March 2020, the South African President, Honorable Cyril Ramaphosa declared a national state of disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2000 (Act 57 of 2002) (henceforth referred to as "lockdown"). The declaration was intended to enable South Africa to have an integrated and coordinated disaster management mechanism that will focus on preventing and reducing the outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19). Consequently, there were restrictions in terms of movement and economic activities in order to limit contact and the risk of exposure between persons who may be infected and the non-infected South African citizens.

The Department is aware that there are a number of Right Holders who have experienced challenges in preparation and submission of their Applications for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights because of the restrictions posed by the lockdown. A number of fishing Industry Associations have also expressed similar challenges experienced by some of their members. In the circumstances, the Department has decided to extend the cut-off date for the submission of Applications for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights including Notifications of Change in Shareholding and/or Member's Interests to **Thursday, 31 December 2020 at 16h00**. The extension is granted with the exception of the rights held in the South Coast Rock Lobster sector which expires on 30 September 2020. In terms of the section 18(6) of the MLRA, all fishing rights shall be valid for a period as determined by the Minister, whereafter it shall automatically terminate and revert back to the state for reallocation. Therefore, since commercial fishing rights holders will be issued with an exemption in terms of section 81 of the MLRA to continue operating, no commercial fishing rights that expire on 31 December 2020, may be transferred after 31 December 2020.


Commercial fishing right holders intending to transfer their commercial fishing rights may apply online and Applications should be submitted electronically to: [cscapplications@daff.gov.za](mailto:cscapplications@daff.gov.za) . Please note that

Applications submitted electronically must comply with all the set requirements for *Application for the Transfer of a Right to Undertake Commercial Fishing in Terms of Section 21 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998)*.

The Department will not accept and/or process any Applications for the Transfer of Commercial Fishing Rights and/or notifications of change in shareholding and/or members' interests received after **Thursday, 31 December 2020 at 16h00**, unless in exceptional circumstances where the Right Holder and/or shareholder and/or member is deceased.

For all FRAP enquiries, contact the FRAP Call Centre on 021 402 3727 (FRAP) or via E-mail: [FRAPenq\\_2020@daff.gov.za](mailto:FRAPenq_2020@daff.gov.za)

For enquiries relating to application process, contact the Department's Customer Service Centre on telephone number 08600 3474 or at the e-mail address [cscenquiries@daff.gov.za](mailto:cscenquiries@daff.gov.za)



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