



## **environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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Ref:02/1/5/2

**MINISTER**

**QUESTION NO. 188 FOR ORAL REPLY: NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

A draft reply to **Mr J W W Julius (Gauteng: DA)** to the above-mentioned question is enclosed for your consideration.

**MS NOSIPHO NGCABA  
DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE:**

**DRAFT REPLY APPROVED/AMENDED**

**MRS B E E MOLEWA, MP  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**DATE:**

**NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES**

(For oral reply)

**QUESTION NO. 188 {CO452E}**

**INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO. 27 of 2016**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION: 18 October 2016**

**Mr J W W Julius (Gauteng: DA) to ask the Minister of Environmental Affairs:**

What plans does her Department have in place to mitigate ocean acidification that is linked to climate change?

**188. THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS REPLIES:**

Ocean acidification happens as a result of the ocean absorbing excessive amounts of Green House Gases (GHG), such as Carbon Dioxide, from the atmosphere. Therefore, ocean acidification is as a direct consequence of too much GHG emissions in the atmosphere. Mitigation measures implemented by the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) for limiting GHG emissions into the atmosphere has been published and contained within the National Climate Change Response policy. However, at the same time, the Department is monitoring our surrounding ocean to detect any sign of climate change-related ocean acidification, but to date there is no evidence to support this occurring in South Africa's ocean space.

Water quality related mortalities of fish and other marine biota regularly occur along the West Coast. A common one is where oxygen levels in the water are reduced by overgrowth of plankton what is called Red tide. A commercially important species, West Coast Rock lobster is usually most severely affected and walks out of the ocean to die on the beach.

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