

HARVESTING FOR RECREATIONAL PURPOSES

Regulations related to the exploitation of Marine Resources, made in terms of section 61(1) of the new Marine Resources Act, (Act No 27 of 2000), came into force on the

1st August 2001 and amended on 7th December 2001. A large number of visitors enjoy recreational fishing along the coast. It is than important that the general public takes note of some relevant aspects of the new Marine Resources Regulations, Conservation measures include *inter alia* the following:

Permit required for harvesting for recreational purposes in terms of section 5 of Regulations.

Regulation 5

(1)A person who, for recreational purposes harvests in Namibian waters, must

- (a)be in possession of a fishing permit ; and
- (b)carry out such harvesting, subject to the conditions prescribed by these regulations.

(2)A person referred to in sub regulation (1), who is found without a fishing permit –

- (a)is guilty of an offence; and
- (b)must produce that permit within a period of 21 days from the day on which the person pays the fine prescribed in regulation 39 (h) (iii) in respect of a failure to comply with sub regulation (1) (a)

(3)A person, who fails to produce a fishing permit within the period of time prescribed by sub regulation (2), is guilty of an offence.

Means of harvest for recreational purposes

Regulation 6

A person may not for recreational purposes harvest marine resources by any means other than

- (a) a hook and line, whether operated by a rod and reel or otherwise, and using a scoop net to lift rock lobsters from the water once they have been reeled to the surface;
- (b) a ring net; or
- (c) diving

Issuance of recreational Fishing permits

Regulation 7

(1) A fishing permit for recreational purposes referred to in regulation 5 (a) must be

Issued by the Minister or by any person or authority authorized thereto by the Minister, if that person authority agreed to do so.

- (a) Must be issued in the form set out in the Annexure L; and
- (b) May be issued for a period of either one month or one year and may be obtained upon payment of a fee determined by the Minister as illustrated below.

One month against payment of N\$ 14.00

One year against payment of N\$ 168.00

Fishing permit for recreational purposes is now available at the below listed places:

1. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Brendan Simbwaye Square, Block C,

C/O Uhland & Goethe Street
P/Bag 13355,
Windhoek
Telephone: 061 2053911
Facsimile: 061 240212

2. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Inspectorate Office, 1st Street
P.O. Box 1594
Walvisbay
Telephone: 064 2016111
Facsimile: 064 205008

3. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
NATMIRC/Aquarium, Strand street
P.O. Box 912
Swakopmund
Telephone: 064 4101000
Facsimile: 064 404385

4. Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources
Inspectorate office
P.O. Box 394
Luderitz
Telephone: 063 202905
Facsimile: 063 203337

5. Namibian Police at Henties Bay
Henties Bay police Station
Telephone: 065 50201
Facsimile: 064 500889
Henties Bay

However, we have noticed that some anglers are not bringing the required documentation when purchasing the permits. We urge the public to produce Identity Cards (ID) or Passport for intended permit holders. Anglers under the age of 18, are required to produce birth certificates and passport photos in order for them to be issued with fishing permits.

Daily bag limit.

Regulation 8

(1) A person may not, for recreational purposes in one day, harvest more than –

- (a) 30 fish of the species barbel;
- (b) 20 fish of the species snoek
- (c) one (1) shark

(2) Subject to sub-regulation (3) and 11 (1) a person may for recreational purposes harvest any of the following species of fish:

- (a) Blacktail
- (b) Galjoen;
- (c) Kob;
- (d) West Coast steenbras:

Provided that the total number of fish harvested does not exceed 10 in one day.

(3) A person may not harvest any species of fish referred to in sub regulation (2), which is smaller or larger, as the case may be, than the size specified in Annexure J.

For the purpose of sub regulation 8 (3), the species referred to in regulation 8 (2) may not, including head and tail, be shorter than –

- (a) 25 cm in the case of blacktail;
- (b) 30 cm in the case of galjoen;
- (c) Subject to 2

- (a), 40 cm in the case of Kob; and
- (b) 40 cm in the case of West Coast steenbras;

Notwithstanding paragraph 1 (c) and (d), a person harvesting for recreational purposes may not in one day harvest

- (a) more than 2 individuals of kob that are each longer than 70 cm including head and tail;
- (b) more than 2 individuals of West Coast Steenbras that are each longer than 65 cm including the head and tail.

(4) A person may not –

(a) harvest more than 7 rock lobsters in one day; or (b) accumulate or have in his or her possession more than 7 rock lobsters.

Possession and Transport of marine resources:

Regulation 11

A person may not have in his or her possession or transport in a vehicle or vessel any quantity of marine resources caught for recreational purposes/p>

- (a) which exceeds the accumulated bag of more than three days in respect of the fish referred to in sub regulation 8 (1) and (2): Provided that, in respect of regulation 8 (2), the accumulated bag of 30 fish does not contain more than 10 fish of one particular species of fish and;
- (b) without being in possession of a fishing permit.

(2) A person may have in his or her possession or transport in a vehicle or vessel fish referred to in regulation 8 (1) and (2), or rock lobsters referred to in regulation 8 (4) on behalf of other person, on whose behalf the fish or rock lobsters are being transported, is present and is in possession of a fishing permit.

(3) A person may not have in his or her possession or transport in a vehicle or vessel

Fish, which is not in a whole state, if that fish is subjected to the size limits referred to in regulation 8 (3).

The fishing season and the minimum size remain unchanged, i.e. from the 1st November to 30th April, both days included and 65 mm carapace length respectively. The maximum number, a person may catch and retain, is to seven (7) rock lobster per day per permit holder. No more than seven (7) rock lobster per permit holder shall be transported at any time in or on the vehicle and such lobster shall be in a whole state. A person may not harvest any rock lobster between sunset and sunrise.

Quantity or Mass of Marine Resources that may be harvested for own use without a fishing permit.

- (a) 1 kg of aquatic plants, other than brown seaweed;
- (b) 50 black mussels;
- (c) 2,5 kg dry weight or 10 kg wet weight of brown seaweed;
- (d) 15 limpets;
- (e) 5 molluscs, other than black mussel, limpet, periwinkle or white mussel;
- (f) 25 periwinkles;
- (g) 10 kg of sea shells; and
- (h) 25 white mussels

- (a) more that the quantity specified in Annexure K in respect of the marine resource referred to in that Annexure; or
- (b) white mussel that is able to pass through a ring with an inner diameter of 38 mm, when it is in a whole state.

Fishing Areas for Recreational purposes

Fishing for recreational purposes is now allowed in only the following areas.

- Terrace Bay and Torra Bay
- From the Ugab river to Walvis Bay
- Pelican Point to Sandwich harbour
- From the Southern limits of Diaz Point to Grosse Bucht; and
- From Pomona Island to the Orange river.

Regulation 9

A person may not use –

- (a) Use as bait or have in his or her possession any worms. (Worms are prohibited)
- (b) Collect any red bait by cutting or in any way dislodging the red bait from the substrate, except red bait which has been washed up on the seashore

Inspection

Fishing permit for recreational purposes must be presented to Fisheries Inspectors during inspections or on request.