

ENRP No: 02 of 2020-21

**Memorandum for Economic Development Committee**

**SUBJECT** **Fish Catch Limits Annex to Fishing Licencing Policy**

Memorandum by Director of ENRP

**ADVICE SOUGHT** **The Economic Development Committee is being asked to endorse the catch limits for those fish species where limits are included on the Catch Limits Annex.**

**BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS**

1. In January 2020 EDC endorsed the St Helena Fishing Licencing Policy (FLP) following a period of public and targeted stakeholder consultation. Since the consultations on the FLP in 2019 the catch limits schedules for the different types of fishing has been updated presentationally into one table as Annex 1 for all fishing licence types, and additional groundfish species currently fished has been added.
2. The above-mentioned Catch Limits Annex was presented for discussion as Annex 1 to the policy document but was not approved by the Committee and ENRP officers were asked to provide further justification for the limits proposed.
3. Further information has been added to the Annex to provide justification as to why the various limits have been set as proposed.
4. The sports spearfishing number across the pelagic species have been updated to 4 per boat per day. The earlier proposal was for 2 per boat per day and further representation was received from sportsfishermen for 6 per boat day. A compromise on the number to 4 per boat day has been proposed to support sports sportsfishing and tourism business growth through attracting increased tourism numbers to St Helena for sportsfishing.
5. No financial implications is expected for SHG as a result of setting catch limits as part of implementing new fisheries licencing activities.
6. Setting of catch limits will contribute to promotion of sustainable and economically viable fishing aspirations for the Island through ensuring there are daily/annual limits to the harvesting of the various species of fish.
7. Implementing the recommended options would be consistent with the following Investment Policy principle:
  - No.2. Encourage growth through import substitution, export promotion and domestic production.
8. Setting catch limits for harvesting of fish species is important for achieving current levels of demand for fish and is important for sustainable fishing activities in the medium and long term.
9. Members of the public may have strong views on the best way to set or implement catch limits or restrictions to achieve current demand levels for the various species and for future sustainability.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS**

**CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES**

**PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT**

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**ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT**

10. A positive environmental impact is expected through setting limits towards sustainable harvesting of fish resources.

**PREVIOUS  
CONSULTATION /  
COMMITTEE  
INPUT**

11. Committee was consulted in August 2019 on the catch limits schedules as an Appendix to the draft FLP that was approved for consultation.

12. A period of public and targeted stakeholder consultation for the FLP was undertaken in September/October 2019, and included the catch limits schedules.

13. Further consultation with sportsfishing operators was undertaken during November 2019 with regards changes proposed to licencing conditions for sports spearfishing activities.

**PUBLIC  
REACTION**

14. It is expected that, if adopted, generally there would be a positive reaction to SHG setting catch limits across our fisheries resources to eventually determine and implement sustainable levels of harvesting of our fish resources.

**PUBLICITY**

15. All stakeholders will be informed of the catch limits adopted through inclusion of the Annex within their fishing licence, and the public through being able to publish the complete FLP.

**SUPPORT TO  
STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVES**

16. The options support “All Together Wealthier and Altogether Healthier” SO’s.

**LINK TO  
SUSTAINABLE  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
PLAN GOALS**

17. This paper supports the following SEDP Goals:

- Increase Exports
- Substitute Imports

**OPEN /CLOSED  
AGENDA ITEM**

Open

*DD*

**DATE OF MEMO**

23/05/20

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BY EDC**

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