

**ENRP F01/2020**

	<b><u>Memorandum for the Economic Development Committee</u></b>
<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>Fisheries Management Policy Statement and Licencing of Fishing Activities Policy</b>
	Memorandum by Director of Environment, Natural Resources and Planning
<b>ADVICE SOUGHT</b>	<b>The Economic Development Committee is asked to consider the key feedback received and changes proposed to the Fisheries Policies following the public and targeted consultation exercise last year and approve the latest draft provided.</b>
<b>BACKGROUND &amp; CONSIDERATIONS</b>	<p>No overarching policy currently exists for the management of St Helena’s fisheries apart from the legal provisions that support fisheries management through the Fisheries Limits Ordinance, 1977. As a result, St Helena Government’s position on management of its fisheries is not always clear to SHG, the community and those external entities who are interested in St Helena’s fisheries.</p> <p>Policy gaps currently exist for managing access for foreign fishing vessels to fish in St Helena’s 200 nautical mile Exclusive Fishing Zone (EFZ) and the fishing methods and gears that St Helena wishes for the future to permit to be used for fishing within its territorial waters and EFZ.</p> <p>A reform of fisheries legislation is planned to underpin St Helena’s fisheries management planning and governance, which is one of a suite of reforms proposed for the development and implementation of a robust regulatory framework for the Island’s Marine Protected Area.</p> <p>To inform the above legislative improvement, and to provide a management framework for fishing activities, SHG proposes to introduce a Fisheries Management Policy Statement (FMPS) and Fishing Licensing Policy.</p> <p>The <b>FMPS</b> provides an overarching statement for management of St Helena’s fisheries. The statement is intended to support SHG’s position on those management and governance areas that are relevant to St Helena’s fisheries.</p> <p>The <b>Fishing Licensing Policy</b> provides for the licensing framework for all fishing activities within the fisheries, apart from the traditional rock fishing which will not be licensed due to the implications for</p>

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	<p>policing a form of licensing for this type of fishing. The Policy will be further supported by a 'Fishing Licensing Procedures' document to guide ENRP in operation of the licencing system and to give guidance to the public on how the system is administered.</p> <p>The above mentioned policies have been made available to EDC in August 2019 and can also be used to compare content with the current drafts attached. As a result of comments received through the public and targeted consultation exercise, a number of changes have been made to both policies.</p> <p>1. <u>FMPS document</u></p> <p>Table 1 provides a list of the key comments received which relates to proposed changes to the document.</p> <p>2. <u>Fishing Licencing Policy document</u></p> <p>Table 2 provides a list of the key comments received which relates to proposed changes to the document.</p> <p>Implementation of the Policies is proposed to begin in April 2020 to align with new budgetary provisions for 2020-23 and a number of operational requirements having to be undertaken.</p>
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>There will be financial implications arising for ENRP as a result of the adoption of these policies that are over and beyond the funding currently available or are being spent for fisheries.</p> <p>Financial implications will be mainly for the required compliance and enforcement actions and fisheries science and monitoring activities. The Blue Belt programme is supporting the establishment of a marine compliance and enforcement function through a TC Marine Enforcement Officer arriving in February 2020 for the wider marine management framework and a local enforcement officer to work with and succeed this officer after a 2 year period. Increased observer coverage resources and funding to continue a science and monitoring programme has been proposed and budgeted for through the 2020-23 budget process.</p> <p>A small amount of annual revenue is expected to be realised through introduction of licencing fees for fishing activities from 2021.</p>
<b>ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS</b>	<p>Implementation of both policies will enable economic prospects for the Island to improve through both enabling fishing activities as well as regulating fishing activities through requirements for sustainable use and conservation of the marine environment. This will support our fishing industry to eventually become viable through improvements in commercial fishing operations, a sustainable supply of high quality seafood and providing an opportunity for the sportsfishing sub-sector to grow and provide benefit to other local businesses through encouraging visitor numbers for the Island.</p>
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT</b>	<p>Encourages opportunities for investment and growth in the fisheries sector to achieve a viable fishing industry through domestic production, import substitution and export, whilst recognising the sustainable use and environmental parameters of a Category VI MPA</p>

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<b>POLICY PRINCIPLES</b>	and as far as possible, mitigating impacts on fishing businesses already established.
<b>PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT</b>	Whilst there will inevitably be some conflict that may arise from time to time between the different sub sectors of the fishing industry during or as a result of fishing activities, it is expected that the policy will have a positive public and social impact providing it is able to be implemented fully and a high level of compliance with and enforcement of its provisions is able to be achieved.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>	It is expected that the policy will have a positive environmental impact through regulating fishing activities to reduce opportunities for harmful impacts on fish resources and marine habitats through adoption of selective fishing methods, fish catch restrictions and regulating fishing activities generally throughout the MPA.
<b>PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT</b>	<p>Previous consultation and input has been had with EDC on the first draft policies through the Committee meeting in August 2019 and a public consultation period agreed.</p> <p>A period of public and targeted stakeholder consultation for the policies was undertaken in September 2019.</p> <p>EDC was consulted in October 2019 on the key stakeholder and public's comments on the sportsfishing element of the policy.</p> <p>Further consultation with sports spearfishing operators was undertaken during November 2019 with regards changes proposed to the existing licencing conditions for sports spearfishing activities.</p>
<b>PUBLIC REACTION</b>	Although there are changes proposed which will regulate fishing activities and therefore impact on some current fishing activities and practices (such as the current ability to fish without a licence and absence of catch limits on recreational spearfishing), it is expected that overall public reaction will largely be positive knowing there will be a management framework in place to manage our fisheries and regulate all fishing activities (apart from licencing traditional rockfishing) within the MPA.
<b>PUBLICITY</b>	<p>A press release was issued in September 2019 through the consultation process advising the public of the introduction of the policies and seeking their feedback.</p> <p>Radio discussion and newspaper articles will be undertaken nearer the time of implementation to inform the public of the policy, its intentions and how it will be implemented.</p>
<b>SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<p>These policies support the following strategic frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ In the Ten Year Plan: The Altogether Wealthier and Altogether Greener goals;</li> <li>○ In the 2019-20 ENRP Strategic Plan: strategic priority 'a robust regulatory framework in place and operational for the MPA'.</li> </ul>
	<i>DGD</i>

<b>OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM</b>	Open
<b>DATE OF MEMO</b>	17 January 2020

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