

ENRP No: 08 of 2020-21

Memorandum for Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT

Amendments to Fish Catch Limits Table

Memorandum by Director of ENRP

ADVICE SOUGHT

The Economic Development Committee is being asked to endorse the following:

- 1. Catch limits for the fish species included on the Catch Limits Table (excluding Yellowfin and Bigeye tunas)**
- 2. The following Fisheries Licencing Policy (FLP) changes as a result of stakeholder feedback:**

Section 5.2 will be changed to allow the inshore commercial fleet to use droppers to catch bait species all year round.

Section 6.7 will be changed to allow recreational vessels to process pelagic species with minimum sizes aboard the vessel.

Section 18.5 will be changed to allow fish caught under a Sport Spearfishing License to be sold to a fish processing establishment as specified in the FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS ORDINANCE, 2010.

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS

1. In January 2020 EDC endorsed the St Helena Fishing Licencing Policy (FLP) following a period of public and stakeholder consultation. A Catch Limits Table (as attached) will form an Appendix of the Policy for all fishing licence types.
2. In August 2020 at the request of elected members a targeted stakeholder consultation took place to determine what changes to fisheries management stakeholders would like to see. Stakeholder feedback was taken into account and the Catch Limits Table has been updated to represent this where it was felt appropriate.
3. An addendum to the Catch Limits Table has been created to explain how each species TAC and quota has been formulated.
4. It is proposed that the Recreational sector is no longer managed using daily limits. Pelagic species will be managed using an annual quota and inshore species will be managed using monthly limits. This will allow recreational fishing to continue whilst allowing ENRP to collect data via licencing log books. This will lead to well informed effective management measures in the future.
5. It is proposed that the Sports Angling and Spearfishing sectors will no longer be managed using daily limits. The sector will be managed using annual quotas.
6. It is proposed that the following FLP changes should be considered to enable fisheries licensing to take place in line with stakeholder feedback;

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- *Section 5.2 will be changed to allow the inshore commercial fleet to use droppers to catch bait species all year round.*
- *Section 6.7 will be changed to allow recreational vessels to process pelagic species with minimum sizes aboard the vessel.*
- *Section 18.5 will be changed to allow fish caught under a Sport Spearfishing License to be sold to a fish processing establishment as specified in the FISH AND FISH PRODUCTS ORDINANCE, 2010.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. No financial implications is expected for SHG as a result of setting catch limits to implement fisheries licencing and related enforcement activities.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

8. Licencing of the fishing industry will contribute to the promotion of sustainable and economically viable fishing aspirations for the Island through ensuring there are monthly/annual limits to the harvesting of the various species of fish.

CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

9. 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.

PUBLIC / SOCIAL IMPACT

10. Setting catch limits for harvesting of fish species is important for achieving food security relative to the current levels of demand for fish, and is important for sustainable fishing activities in the medium and long term.
11. Cultural values have been considered as part of the feedback, and where possible the setting of the catch limits have aimed to respect those values.
12. Members of the public may have strong views on the best way to implement catch limits or restrictions to achieve current demand levels for the various species and for future sustainability.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

13. A positive environmental impact is expected through setting limits towards sustainable harvesting of fish resources. The limits ensure that fishing activities will be able to continue into the future.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION / COMMITTEE INPUT

14. Committee was consulted in August 2019 on the catch limits schedules as an Appendix to the draft FLP that was approved for consultation.
15. A period of public and targeted stakeholder consultation for the FLP was undertaken in September/October 2019, and included the catch limits.
16. Further consultation with sportsfishing operators was undertaken during November 2019 with regards to changes proposed to licencing conditions for sports spearfishing activities.

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17. Further consultation was had with Committee in January 2020, May and June 2020, members then requested that further stakeholder consultation be undertaken.
18. Further consultation was held with stakeholders in August 2020 regarding the catch limits table.
19. Committee was consulted informally in September 2020 regarding the feedback received from the stakeholder consultation in August and proposed options for the management of inshore species for the recreational sector were presented.
20. Further consultation was held with stakeholders in September/October 2020 regarding updates made to the catch limits table made in response to the August 2020 consultation.
21. It is expected that, if adopted, generally there would be a positive reaction to ENRP setting catch limits across our fisheries resources to eventually determine and implement sustainable levels of harvesting of our fish resources.

PUBLIC REACTION

PUBLICITY

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS

22. All stakeholders that have provided contact details have been consulted multiple times and have been sent the catch limits directly. Many key stakeholders have provided further feedback on changes made to the catch limits following the latest round of consultation (August 2020).
23. The options support “Altogether Wealthier and Altogether Healthier”, and ‘Altogether Greener’ SO’s.
24. This paper supports the following SEDP Goals:
 - Increase Exports
 - Substitute Imports

OPEN /CLOSED AGENDA ITEM

Open

DD

DATE OF MEMO

15/10/2020

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