



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Chief Directorate: Fisheries Research and Development,  
Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
Private Bag X2, Roggebaai 8012

12 June 2012

Mr. Brian Flanagan  
Secretary South Coast Rock Lobster Industry Association  
PO Box 50132  
Waterfront 8002  
South Africa

Dear Sir

## **SAFE – Responsible Fisheries Management Program - South Coast Rock Lobster**

I refer to our various discussions and correspondence concerning the *SAFE (South Africa Fishing Ethically)* responsible fisheries management program that is due to be launched by the members of the South Coast Rock Lobster Industry Association. I would hereby like to confirm the endorsement and support for the program by the Chief Directorate: Fisheries Research and Development of the Department.

Along with issues of equity and stability in the fishing industry, sustainability is of utmost importance to government. It is also an integral part of the Policy for the Allocation and Management of Commercial Fishing Rights in the South Coast Rock Lobster Fishery, read together with the General Policy on the Allocation and Management of Long Term Commercial Fishing Rights.

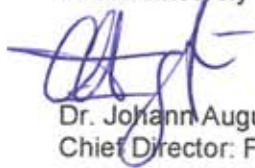
The South Coast Rock Lobster fishery is being managed sustainably, based on sound scientific advice and principles. Long-term management, designed with long-term social, economic and resource sustainable targets in mind, have been agreed to by all parties and are being pursued by the use of management procedures, which are subject to both local and international peer review processes. Effective co-management between Fisheries Branch Management and the South Coast Rock Lobster industry is taking place, as a result of industry's active involvement in both scientific and management working groups.

Management measures include a Total Allowable Catch (TAC), a Total Allowable Effort (TAE) and individual catch and effort quotas calculated as a percentage of the TAC and the TAE. These allocations are scientifically determined through internationally accepted research and strictly enforced. The industry participates in various data collection initiatives such as the mark-and-recapture tagging program, the electronic logbook program and the self-sampling catch program.

The permit to undertake commercial fishing of South Coast Rock Lobster is issued in terms of Section 13 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998, read together with Regulation 44 (1) (a) of the regulations promulgated thereunder, the Seabirds and Seals Protection Act, 1973, the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships Act, 2 of 1986, and the regulations promulgated thereunder and is subject to numerous conditions. Effort limitations, fishing gear restrictions, catch control and limitations, vessel specifications, a vessel monitoring system, record keeping, participation in an observer program and fishing performance measuring are some of the important permit conditions.

The *SAFE* programme complements the management structures in place for the South Coast Rock Lobster fishery and we welcome this initiative and look forward to its further development.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Johann Augustyn  
Chief Director: Fisheries Research and Development