



PARLIAMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

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Dear Minister Barbara Creecy,

**URGENT CALL FOR AMENDMENT TO THE LOCKDOWN REGULATIONS TO ALLOW FOR
SUBSISTENCE FISHING USING RECREATIONAL FISHING PERMITS:**

The CoViD-19 pandemic regulations have created dire economic circumstances for many South Africans. The subsistence fishing community that heavily rely on recreational fishing permits to feed themselves and their families has been no exception to this.

The Democratic Alliance (DA) has received desperate pleas from hundreds of subsistence fishers who have not been able to fish for food using their recreational fishing permits under the lockdown. This has left many families in circumstances of utter desperation with no alternatives to secure their survival. As it stands, subsistence fishers are often those individuals who exist on the economic fringes of society and who have barely been able to subsist under pre-CoViD-19 economic conditions. By removing the right of subsistence fishers to use their recreational fishing permits under the lockdown, government has condemned these individuals and their families to hunger and untold hardship.

The effects of the ban on subsistence fishers who use recreational permits can be remedied by an immediate lift in the restriction on recreational fishing with the following provisos:

1. Subsistence fishermen and women need to obtain a sworn affidavit from their nearest police station stating that they are a subsistence fisher
2. Social distancing to be adhered to at all times
3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to be worn at all times

I have attached the numerous emails and correspondence received from desperate subsistence fishers appealing for an immediate amendment to the regulations to enable their continued survival. I hope that these recommendations will be received urgently and favourably by yourself and the department.

Regards,

Hannah Shameema Winkler MP
Democratic Alliance