

FISHING QUOTAS ALLOCATIONS ARE ON SCHEDULE

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Tuesday, 17 January 2012 17:40

The South African Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has reacted to “unnamed reports” which it says “intentionally spreads misinformation aimed at causing instability in a very important economic sector; the fishing industry.” The Department says the reports allegedly, “indicate that the Department of Fisheries has made no apparent attempt to commence with the process of renewing fishing licences, despite the renewal date for fishing quota allocations being less than a year away”. The statement, issued by DAFF is aimed at reassuring concerned parties, continues: “We are acutely aware of the timelines and with the rights of six commercial sectors expiring only on 31 December 2013 (KwaZulu-Natal prawn trawl, demersal shark, squid, tuna pole, Hake Hand-line and traditional line fish) – almost two years away - and abalone on 31 July 2014 – almost 30 months away, we have ample time to ensure the kind of allocation process we envision.”