

FIRST DIRECT PRISON TERM SENTENCE UNDER MLRA

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South Africa - The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) has welcomed the first direct prison sentence under the Marine Living Resources Act, 1997, handed down by the Port Elizabeth Regional Court to Huang Zhanyang and Pow Kekun on 17 November after they were found guilty of operating an illegal fish processing establishment and the unlawful possession of abalone.

Accordingly, both will serve a 36 month jail term after they together with a South African, Brett Killian, were arrested in August this year in the biggest abalone bust in the Eastern Cape when 37 356 units of abalone (around six tons) were confiscated on a farm in the Grassridge-area near Motherwell.

The case against Killian was separated and postponed to March next year, as he intends to plead not guilty.