



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE RESOURCES

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MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FISHING GEAR AND FISH BEACHING

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources wishes to inform the public and shed more light on the aforementioned subjects.

FISHING GEAR

The Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources is aware of the recent videos circulating on social media platforms, depicting a crowd of people pulling a Beach Trek Seine net on shore. The Ministry would like to indicate that the video is indeed of legitimate operations by a Mullet Right Holder who was using the correct fishing method to harvest the resource in terms of the Namibian legislation. In this regard, the Ministry would like to inform the public that fishing activities using a Beach Trek Seine net are allowed and are strictly regulated by law.

Conservation measures apply in regards to fishing gears for commercial purposes, measurement of meshes and maintenance of mesh openings. A person who engages in the harvest of marine resources for commercial purposes in Namibian waters may not use any fishing gear that is not authorized. Mesh sizes must comply with the specified measurements and the mesh openings are to be maintained in such a way that they are not obstructed or reduced.

Management and Control measures spelled out in the Marine Resources Act, no 27 of 2000 calls for the conservation of marine resources, control of harvesting and protection of the marine environment in order to ensure sustainability of marine resources.

It is the Ministry's mandate to sustainably manage the living aquatic resources of our country Namibia and it will not waver in executing its mandate. The Ministry in all terms cannot condone the plundering of the country's Marine Resources and strongly caution the Namibian nation to refrain from engaging in illegal fishing activities.

FISH BEACHING

Fish beaching is a sporadic occurrence along the Namibian Coast.

It is common for fish to be trapped in rocky shallow waters in a phenomenon known as a 'walk out'. It is possible that fish behavior led to the circumstance where a school of fish swam too close to the shore during high tide and eventually forced on the rocks/shore by predators or strong currents. Other factors may include, injury, old age or environmental conditions or local changes in the chemistry of the sea-water.

The Ministry would like to inform the public that incidences of this nature are natural occurrences, very sporadic and are beyond the Ministry's control.

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ISSUED BY:

Mr Ueritjiua Kauaria

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

