

Communiqué

Opening of In-Lagoon Fishing Activities in the regions affected by the MV Wakashio Oil Spill

The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping wishes to inform the public and in particular registered and applicant fishers, that in-lagoon fishing activities will resume as from **Monday 29 March 2021**, in the regions affected by the MV Wakashio oil spill, as follows:

- a) from La Cambuse to Mahebourg; and
- b) from Bois des Amourettes to Trou d'Eau Douce.

The attention of registered and applicant fishers concerned is drawn to the fact that the restriction on in-lagoon fishing, as well as the collection of baits in the region from Pointe Canon to Vieux Grand Port including mangroves **is being maintained**.

In view of the COVID 19 situation prevailing in Mauritius, the following special arrangements are being made to enable the carrying out of fishing activities during the confinement period –

A. Registered Fishers

- a) All registered fishers are authorised to carry out their fishing activities in their respective fishing areas as mentioned in their Fisherman Registration Cards issued by this Ministry from Monday to Saturday between 6.00 am and 6.00 pm, excluding public holidays, irrespective of alphabetical order;
- b) The fishers shall notify the nearest fisheries post or the National Coast Guard office before they set out for their fishing activities;

- c) They shall keep in their possession their Fisherman Registration Cards for the whole duration of their fishing activities; and
- d) **Only two** fishers including applicant fishers will be allowed per fishing boat and they should observe all sanitary precautions.

B. Applicant Fishers

- a) Applicant fishers are allowed to accompany registered fishers for fishing activities from Monday to Saturday between 6.00 am to 6.00 pm, excluding public holidays, irrespective of alphabetical order;
- b) To strictly control their movement, this Ministry is issuing a memo to the applicant fishers certifying that they are allowed to accompany registered fishers for fishing activities from Monday to Saturday between 6.00 am to 6.00 pm, excluding public holidays;
- c) Applicant fishers must call at their respective fisheries posts to collect the memo;
- d) They shall keep in their possession the memo issued by the fisheries posts and their National Identity Card for the whole duration of their fishing activities; and
- e) This memo shall be valid during the confinement period **only**.

Access to the fishing sites will be strictly monitored by officers of the Fisheries Protection Service of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Resources, Fisheries and Shipping and the National Coast Guard.

For their safety, registered and applicant fishers shall wear their life jackets for the whole duration of the fishing trips.

The Ministry relies on the collaboration of all for the smooth running of the fishing activities.

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