



I, Gladys Botha, Head of Department for the Department of Environment and Nature Conservation in the Northern Cape Province, hereby, in terms of section 72 (2) (a) of the Northern Cape Nature Conservation Act, 2009 (Act No. 9 of 2009), exempt Rhodes University and all applicable employees and fishers involved in the Vanderkloof fisheries project from any provision of this Act., and I bind the applicant to the regulations as set out hereunder. This exemption comes into effect from the January 2017 and remains in force until January 2018.

Exemption conditions – Fisheries research in the Vanderkloof Dam, Northern Cape Province

1. This exemption will be valid for one year and may be renewed on request after evaluation of research data stemming from this research project.
2. The fishing gear used during the experimental period are gill nets, seine nets, long lines, fyke nets and rod and lines. Hooks on the rod and lines may not exceed two. The gear must also be checked at regular intervals to avoid fish decay. The specifics of the gear is listed in Table 1.
3. Fishing activities will be restricted to the area from the dam wall to the area upstream of Osplaat (roughly 30% of the dam).
4. The Experimental Fishery will be limited to the use of one open deck fishing vessel.
5. Vessel launch and landing to be limited to the Vanderkloof Boat Club controlled access slipway.
6. Restrictions on dead largemouth yellowfish (*Labeobarbus kimberleyensis*) by-catch will be limited to 20 per month for gill nets. Once this limit has been reached, use of this gear type must cease for the remainder of the month. All largemouth yellowfish (*Labeobarbus kimberleyensis*) caught alive using gear types other than gill nets, are to be released.
7. A selected closed season will be implemented for certain gear types, during the peak spawning season (November – January), if these gear types are observed to catch spawning aggregations.
8. Size limits for species will be adhered to; minimum size for smallmouth yellowfish (*Labeobarbus aeneus*) is 360 mm, with a maximum of 440 mm and minimum size for mudfish (*Labeo capensis*) 323 mm, with a maximum size of 400 mm. As data is obtained during this research period the size limits for species needs to be calibrated to avoid catching too much of a certain type of fish, eg yellowfish.
9. Total catch per annum will be limited to 60 tons.
10. Fisheries manager will submit monthly catch records to NC-DENC and NC-DALRRD.
11. The Fishery Officer must conduct daily monitoring and DENC will conduct compliance inspections on regular intervals.
12. Data collection by the fishers themselves must be verified by the resident Fishery Officer.
13. The penalties for non-compliance of these conditions as well as any stipulations as per the Fisheries Management Plan will result in the cancellation of the exemption.

14. Only fishers registered as part of this research project, and having ID cards, will be allowed to partake in this initiative.
15. A register must be kept regarding the catch data. See table 2 below.
16. All stipulations, not mentioned here, but contained in the Vanderkloof Fisheries Management Plan ratified by the Vanderkloof steering committee must also be followed.

Table 1. The fishing gear allocated for the experimental fishery

Fishing gear	Parameters
Gill nets	6 gill nets, each 45 meters in length. The mesh sizes of the gill nets will be 60, 75 and 90mm. For each mesh size there will be two gill nets.
Seine net	50 meter length
Long lines	6 long lines each set with 20 hooks
Fyke nets	6 Fyke nets
Rod and line	10 Small scale fishers will be supplied with a rod and line to supply (sell) the project with fish.

Table 2. To be monitored with each catch and per day (minimum information to be recorded, including additional data as per research project proposal)

Equipment used	Catch data
Gill nets	# caught, # / Species caught, time of day, size classes / species, bait used, caught from bank or boat
Seine net	# caught, # / Species caught, time of day, size classes / species, bait used, caught from bank or boat
Long lines	# caught, # / Species caught, time of day, size classes / species, bait used, caught from bank or boat
Fyke nets	# caught, # / Species caught, time of day, size classes / species, bait used, caught from bank or boat
Rod and line	# caught, # / Species caught, time of day, size classes / species, bait used, caught from bank or boat

G. Botha

Head of Department

Department of Environment and Nature Conservation