

MEDIA RELEASE

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TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

RE: SUCCESSFUL AUDIT OF THE NRCS FAI BY THE EU

The Food and Associated Industries, as the Competent Authority for the Export of Fish and Fishery Products to the European Union, has undergone a successful audit by the European Union from 19 April until 30 April 2021.

The objective of the audit was to verify compliance of South Africa's legislation and systems, including official certification with the EU Food and Food Safety rules. This was also aimed at verifying the capacity of the control system in place to ensure that fishery products exported to the EU complies with general rules, and particular the health attestations.

The audit was centred around the sampling, inspection and certification of fishery products, facility inspections (factories and fishing vessels), food safety verifications, trace-ability of fishery products, training and competency of staff.

A positive outcome to the audit is critical in ensuring the ongoing bilateral trade of fish and fishery products between the EU and South Africa to give effect to the Economic Partnerships Agreements with the EU and Operation Phakisa objectives aimed at augmenting the exports of fishery product.

It is therefore important for the NRCS-FAI as the Competent Authority in South Africa to demonstrate competence in this area and to continue offering sufficient health guarantees for fishery products intended for export to the EU.

Excluded in the auditing scope were the shellfish monitoring programme and the production of aquaculture abalone, mussels and oysters, which NRCS is still engaging the EU on to consider the assessment of South African Aquaculture industry in order to extend the export and the trade of fish and fishery products to aquacultured products between the two countries.

For technical queries, please speak to Meisie Katz on 0 21 526 3401 / 084 427 0467

For media related queries, please contact Mirriam Moswaane on 012 482 8826 / 083 364 2007

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