



# South African Maritime Safety Authority

Ref: SM6/5/2/1

Date: 8 April 2020

## Marine Notice No. 22 of 2020

### COVID-19 Lockdown: Small Vessel and Essential Fishing Vessel Operations

TO ALL REGIONAL MANAGERS, PRINCIPAL OFFICERS, SURVEYORS, AUTHORISED AGENTS, SAFETY OFFICERS, SAMSA APPOINTED EXTERNAL EXAMINERS, BOAT OWNERS AND OTHER INTERESTED AND AFFECTED PARTIES

*To be read in conjunction with Marine Notice 21 of 2020, 20 of 2020, Marine Notice 19 of 2020, Marine Notice 18 of 2020, Marine Notice 15 of 2020, Marine Notice 14 of 2020, and Marine Notice 25 of 2014.*

*The following Marine Notices are cancelled: Marine Notice 13 of 2020 and Marine Notice No. 16 of 2020*

#### Summary

This marine notice is to inform all vessel operators of emergency procedures, to be enforced midnight Thursday 26 March 2020, for small vessel and essential fishing operations during the “Covid-19” pandemic lockdown period.

#### 1. BACKGROUND

On Monday 24th March 2020, the South African President Mr Ramaphosa, announced a nationwide lockdown to curb the spread of Covid-19 pandemic.

“A lockdown is an emergency protocol that requires South Africans **to stay at home** except for essential purposes. All non-essential activities are suspended. The full national lockdown will begin at midnight on Thursday 26 March 2020 and will continue for 21 days”.

This notice is issued in compliance with the President’s National Disaster Declaration.

#### 2. IMPLEMENTATION

SAMSA has received numerous requests to clarify which vessels may still proceed to sea and as such, it was decided to provide clarity to the industry.

##### 2.1 SMALL VESSELS

SMALL VESSELS	
PERMITTED	PROHIBITED
Essential Services Vessels such as: Port Authority Vessels Emergency Response Vessels Approved OPL* vessels	Any Sport & Recreational Passenger Vessels Shark Cage Diving Whale Watching Diving Vessel for the purposes of Tourism Fishing Charter Vessels

**Note:**

Any vessel not holding a Certificate of Fitness will be prohibited from operating.

\*Approved OPL Vessels engaged in providing essential services from a port

This prohibition includes the use of any human propelled vessel including, canoeing, kayaking and, recreational fishing vessels for both sea going and vessels operating on sheltered waters.

For those members of the public who reside permanently on board a vessel, specifically those within the yachting fraternity, **you may not** “go to sea” or leave your designated mooring during the lockdown period. SAMSA does not wish to place emergency personnel at risk when responding to any accidents or incidents that may occur.

## 2.2 ALL FISHING VESSELS

Fishing’s Vessels and Fishers are regarded as Essential Services for food supply to South Africa.

ALL FISHING VESSELS	
PERMITTED	PROHIBITED
<p><u>As per DAFF confirmation:</u> All commercial, small scale/interim relief fishing vessels, including those operating in the near shore sector for which a blanket exemption or an exemption has been given, holding the necessary permits.</p>	<p>Any Sport &amp; Recreational Fishing Commercial Fishing Vessels used for the purposes of tourism</p> <p>Fishing vessels issued with a Local General Safety Certificate, used for sport &amp; recreational purposes or chartered under the false pretense of commercial fishing.</p>
<p><u>Note:</u> If unsure whether your vessel falls within the permitted category, please contact the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries for clarification before proceeding to sea</p>	

Fishing vessels are reminded that self-isolation or quarantine rules and regulations may apply to them for a period of 14 days when they sail or return to port. It is therefore imperative that vessel owners/skippers obtain clarity from their local immigration, port health or port authorities on the protocols to follow when returning to port.

## 3. SAFE MANNING

Owners/Masters/Skippers are reminded to adhere to the requirements of Safe Manning of the vessel to ensure that the vessel can safely operate.

Where possible, Master/Skippers should exercise:

- a. Social distancing of between 1-2m, as best as can be attained while onboard
- b. Hand Hygiene by regularly washing hands for at least 20 seconds or more.
- c. Wearing of protective masks, eye protection and gloves

Vessels **shall not proceed to sea** without Safe Manning requirements being adhered to. Vessel Owners and Skippers will be held liable if they are found to have proceeded to sea without the correct safe manning and may be subject to a fine and/or prison sentence, as prescribed by the Merchant Shipping Act or National Small Vessel Regulations, 2007 as amended.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

SAMSA requests all stakeholders within the small boating fraternity to abide by the emergency lockdown protocol as detailed in this Marine Notice and any regulations published in terms of the DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002

**8 April 2020**

**SM6/5/2/1**

Issued by and obtainable from:  
**The South African Maritime Safety Authority**  
**146 Lunnon Road**  
**Hillcrest, Pretoria 0083**

**PO Box 13186**  
**Hatfield 0028**

**Tel: +27 12 366 2600**

**Fax: +27 12 366 2601**

**E-mail: [marinenotices@samsa.org.za](mailto:marinenotices@samsa.org.za)**

**Web Site: [www.samsa.org.za](http://www.samsa.org.za)**