



Date issued:

07 May 2019

South Africa - Fishing and fresh fish products on board

Dear Captain

Following received from P&I club:

QUOTE:

The Department of Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) have appointed inspectors who attend on vessel's to check whether there is any illegal fish on board.

Three seafarers were faced with arrest and prosecution recently under the Marine Living Resources Act No. 18 of 1988 for fishing whilst at anchorage or in South African ports. Under the act, the fine can be as much as 2 million rand or up to 5 years imprisonment.

The DAFF inspectors have also informed that ALL ships calling at South African ports were also required to disclose whether they have fish products on board and where those fish products were obtained. If the master fails to make such disclosure and they find fresh fish products on board, they can detain and fine the vessel. The fine is up to 2 million rand or 5 years imprisonment.

Please note that fishing is not permitted in South African waters by Ships crew and vessels must disclose whether they have fresh fish products on board. If they do, the master must disclose the origin of the fresh fish.

Whilst the above may seem trivial, if a master is arrested or the vessel is detained, for breach of the above legislation, then the vessel could be delayed, taken off hire, and the financial implications as a result of any off-hire could have greater financial consequences for owners.

UNQUOTE:

Please ensure compliance.