

# iSIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK AUTHORITY

## iSimangaliso Wetland Park Internal Rule<sup>1</sup> 01/2010

I, **Andrew Philip Zaloumis**, in my capacity as **Chief Executive Officer of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority** and duly authorised in terms of section 13 of the World Heritage Convention Act, 1999 (Act No. 49 of 1999) and in terms of Section 52 of the Regulations published in terms of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003) published in Government Notice 28181 in the Government Gazette on 28 October 2005 do hereby issue the following Park Internal Rule (No 01/2010).

  
Signature: A P Zaloumis  
Chief Executive Officer: iSIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK AUTHORITY  
DATE: 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2010

### **PARK INTERNAL RULE:- Prohibition of the fishing method “vertical jigging” from and the possession of “vertical jigs” on vessels within iSimangaliso.**

#### **1. Description of Park Internal Rule**

Fishing from a vessel using the “vertical jigging” method or the possession, on any vessel, of “specialised fishing equipment associated with this form of fishing” are not permitted within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park

“Vertical jigging” is the use of an artificial lure dropped, from a rod and reel on a boat, downwards and then repeatedly partially recovered in order to attract and hook fish.

#### ***Please note:-***

- *Anglers found engaged in this form of fishing or to be in possession of specialised jigging equipment, including vertical jigging lures will be liable for prosecution.*
- *Skippers of any vessel found to have specialised vertical jigging equipment on board within the iSimangaliso Wetland Park will be liable for prosecution.*

#### **2. Rationale for Prohibition**

Vertical jigging is a relatively new angling technique enabling the angler to fish at great depths, often exceeding 100 m, even in strong currents. One of the draw backs is the unacceptably large ratio of bottom fish caught as by-catch when fishing for pelagic species. This is of great concern in Marine Protected Areas where such fish are afforded protection. Bringing up fish from great depth results in a phenomenon known as barotrauma whereby the swim-bladder expands because of the reducing pressure. This often forces the fish’s stomach to invert and to be pushed out the mouth of the fish. Even with careful handling, the survival rates of these fish are low and sharks are likely to prey on these injured/subdued fish.

In order to fulfill the regulatory responsibility of the Park, this internal rule is issued to protect the reef fish of iSimangaliso’s marine protected areas This prohibition strives to achieve the following:-

<sup>1</sup> Provision of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act (2003) Section 52  
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- To prevent the capture and death of large numbers of deepwater reef fish as a result of a high ratio of bottom fish by-catch, understanding that catching of fish other than pelagic species within the Marine Protected Areas of iSimangaliso is prohibited in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act
- To prevent the capture of coelacanth and other rare/endangered species by recreational anglers
- To protect deepwater reef fish communities from disturbance and new exploitation

In terms of the Marine Living Resources Act (1998) Section 43(2a) no person may fish or attempt to fish within a Marine Protected Area, unless provision is made for it in the regulations. In regulation 1429 of the Marine Living Resources Act (1998) Regulations provision is made to allow for the capture of pelagic bony and cartilaginous fish within the St Lucia and Maputaland Marine Protected Areas. Since 'Vertical Jigging' targets not only pelagic fish but bottom/reef fish the banning of this method of fishing is consistent with the objectives of the Marine Living Resources Act (1998).

**3. Exemption from the Park Internal Rule**

No exemptions will be made, unless for approved research or monitoring purposes. (Special permit for approved research and monitoring?)

**4. Compliance with World Heritage Convention Act and other laws**

This Park Internal Rule does not exempt a person from compliance with any provision of the World Heritage Convention Act or the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act unless stated otherwise or any other applicable law, regulation, ordinance or bylaw.

**5. Area of Applicability**

This Internal Rule is applicable to all areas within the proclaimed boundary of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

**6. Duration of Protected Area Notice**

This Park Internal Rule will be valid from the date of signature of the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Chief Executive Officer, unless-

- a. It is revoked or amended
- b. It is replaced with another internal rule or such legislation having general application in relation to a specific activity or within a specific area; or
- c. A license or agreement issued by the iSimangaliso Authority supersedes this Park Internal Rule.