



## RECORD OF DECISION – RISK ASSESSMENT – ALIEN FISH SPECIES

**Holder of authorisation:** Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
**Mr. M. P. Thabethe, HOD**

**Location of activity:** China South Africa Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre, Gariep Dam  
Boiteko Fish Project, Petrusburg  
Gotswametsing Fish Project, Koffiefontein  
One Vision Fish Farming Project, Fauresmith  
Ludlow 3 Project, Springfontein  
Lephoi Agricultural Fishing Cooperative, Bethulie  
Letlaka Fish Project, Zastron

### Decision

The Free State Department of Economic Development, Tourism & Environmental Affairs (FS DETEA) is satisfied on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this record of decision (ROD) that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activity as specified below.

### Activities Authorised:

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by section 89 of the National Environmental Management Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act 10 of 2004) (NEMBA) and the related Acts, Regulations and related Amendments, the DETEA hereby authorises –

Mr. M.P. Thabethe, HOD Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development  
With the following contact details:

Main Building  
Gielie Joubert Street  
Glen  
Bloemfontein  
9360

Tel: 051 861 8454  
Fax: 051 861 8509  
E mail: [pa.hodagric@fs.agric.za](mailto:pa.hodagric@fs.agric.za)

## To undertake the following activities

1. To import, transport to and release for the purpose of aquaculture into the aquaculture ponds and tanks at the China South Africa Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre at Gariep Dam, and the six Recirculating Aquaculture Systems/fish farms/fish projects at Petrusburg, Koffiefontein, Fauresmith, Springfontein, Bethulie and Zastron the following two fish species that are alien to the Free State Province:
  - 1.1 Mozambique tilapia, *Oreochromis mossambicus*
  - 1.2 Common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*

## CONDITIONS

### Scope of Record of Decision

1. Authorisation of the above activities is subject to the conditions as contained in this document, which conditions form part of the authorisation and are binding to the holder of the authorisation.
2. The holder of the authorisation shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his or her behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, employee, sub contractor or persons rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
3. The authorised activity may only be carried out at the properties as indicated above.
4. This authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.
5. The holder of this authorisation must inform all interested and affected parties in writing within seven (7) calendar days of the date of this authorisation, of its decision to authorise the activities.
6. This authorisation does not cover activities that have previously taken place.

### SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

1. All applicable provincial and national legislation must be adhered to.

2. Only the following two alien fish species will be allowed to be imported and released for aquaculture purposes at the localities as specified above:
  - 2.1 Mozambique tilapia, *Oreochromis mossambicus*
  - 2.2 Common carp, *Cyprinus carpio*
3. Although the biodiversity risk and benefit assessment indicates that the alien Nile tilapia, *Oreochromis niloticus* might not survive the low water temperatures in winter and will possibly not be able to establish feral populations, this species will not be allowed to be imported into the Free State Province based on recommendations from aquatic scientists in South Africa. This species has the potential to hybridise with the Mozambique tilapia, which is indigenous to certain parts of southern Africa, and can completely eliminate other indigenous tilapia species of the genus *Oreochromis* should it escape and spread.
4. Before release of the alien fish species the applicant needs to demonstrate that the above mentioned facilities into which the species will be released are suitable and appropriate for the intended purpose.
5. The applicant needs to submit to the FS DETEA a decommissioning plan. This plan needs to be approved by the FS DETEA prior to any alien fish species being released and needs to specifically address the issue of disposal of the alien fish species.
6. Before any alien fish species are to be released at the China South Africa Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre at Gariep Dam, the prescribed prevention and sterilization systems as required by the original Environmental Authorization EMB/1i.7, 18/08/267 have to be in place and fully operational. No import and release of any alien fish species will be allowed until such time that proper fully operational prevention and sterilization systems are in place.
7. The prevention and sterilization systems must be inspected by officials of the FS DETEA to ensure is it fully operational and in a working condition before any alien fish species are to be imported.
8. To further prevent any eggs, ova, fish fry or alien fish reaching the Orange River near the China South Africa Agricultural Technology Demonstration Centre, mechanical screens must be installed on all effluent pipes in the main hatchery, at all the outside ponds and all effluent channels, especially the main effluent channel leading to, and ending in the Orange River.
9. Proper safety and management systems must be put in place by the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and their implementing agency, Econofish at the six Recirculating Aquaculture Systems/fish farms/fish projects in the Xhariep district and project beneficiaries must be trained and

informed on the control and preventative measures to prevent the spread of the alien fish species to other places within the borders of the Free State.

10. No live alien fish may leave the premises of the six Recirculating Aquaculture Systems/fish farms/fish projects in the Xhariep district.
11. All imports of Mozambique tilapia and common carp to be released at the approved localities must be accompanied by a valid animal health certificate from a reputable animal health practitioner/veterinarian stating that all fish to be imported are disease and parasite free and that the necessary preventative measures have been done to ensure this.
12. No hybrids of Mozambique tilapia x Nile tilapia, and vice versa may be imported into the Free State and all import consignments must be accompanied by a statement from the supplier stating that only pure strains of Mozambique tilapia will be imported.
13. For every consignment of alien fish to be imported, the applicants need to apply for a permit for the import and release of freshwater fish into water systems in the Free State and pay the applicable administration fee.
14. All conditions and stipulations as stated on the appendix to the permits must be adhered to.
15. None of the alien fish species to be imported for aquaculture purposes may be resold, redistributed, handled or held by any third party without a valid permit from the FS DETEA.
16. Officials from the FS DETEA retain the right to inspect at any time all the aquaculture facilities, tanks, ponds etc. where stocking of the alien fish were done.
17. Under no circumstances may the alien fish species be released in any other water system within the Free State and may not be donated or sold without a valid permit from the FS DETEA.

## CONCLUSION

All the conditions as set out in this Record of Decision must be adhered to and all possible measures must be implemented to prevent the escape of the alien fish species into the natural freshwater systems within the Free State Province.

Should any intentional or un-intentional release or escape of any alien fish species into any natural freshwater systems from the aquaculture facilities and fish farms take

place, the “polluter-pay-principle” will be enforced to remedy the damage or threats to the indigenous biodiversity of the Orange Vaal River Systems.

APPROVED:



M. R. Seleke  
Head of the Department

Date: 01/04/2014

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FAX :  
TEL :  
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ROOM NO **410**

ORGANISATION	Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Development
ATTENTION TO	Mr . M. P. Thabethe : HOD
FAX	051 861 8509
FROM	DETEA
DATE	10 March 2014
FAX	086 538 1590
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**SUBJECT:** Record of Decision - Risk assessment – Alien Species

**MESSAGE**

**CONSERVATION**

34 Bojanala Building  
Markgraaf Street  
Bloemfontein  
9300

Private Bag X 20801  
Bloemfontein  
9300

Tel +27 (0)51 400 9410  
Fax +27 (0)51 400 9504  
e-mail: [pulenimdetea.fs.gov.za](mailto:pulenimdetea.fs.gov.za)