

Just a Slap for Abalone Poachers... Again

By FINSA reporter 21 April 2021



Poached abalone

Six members of an abalone poaching syndicate who entered into a plea bargain with the State this week, have all received suspended sentences.

They appeared in the Khayelitsha regional court yesterday where they were all sentenced to two years in jail, wholly suspended for five years with stringent conditions.

An investigation by the [Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation \(Hawks\)](#) exposed a syndicate involved with the poaching, buying and selling of illicit abalone in the Western Cape as well as in the Gauteng area during February 2020.

All the suspects were arrested during February 2020 including a Chinese buyer and processor.

On 19 April 2021, the accused entered into Sec 105A plea in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act 51 of 1977.

Jeremia Abraham's (42) and Romania Curtis Hans (26) were found guilty on one (1) charge of the Marine Living Resource Act (Act no.18 of 1998) and transporting abalone .

Frederick Myburgh (49) and Angelo Charles (41) pleaded guilty on two (2) counts of the Marine Living Resources Act and transporting Abalone.

Albert Van Niekerk (33) and Ashley Cloete (32) pleaded guilty on three (3) counts of the Marine Living Resources Act and transporting Abalone.

All Abalone and equipment seized was forfeited to the State.

Meanwhile, on 9 February 2021, Solomon Sauls the kingpin of the group in the Western Cape pleaded guilty on POCA charge and contravention of the Marine Living Resources Act where he had already been sentenced to six (6) years direct imprisonment.

[Abalone Poaching. A Serious Problem with a Long History](#)

[Time to Increase Punching Power to Stop Poaching](#)

[Abalone Poaching. Report Highlights Illegal Trade](#)

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