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Illegal Gill Netting on the Pongola River

Problems with illegal gill netting along the Pongola River continue to cause concern, with Pongola Game Reserve field rangers recently impounding 12 nets containing approximately 1000kg of fish at the Pongola River Mouth. The nets contained 741 Bream, 32 Barbel and 5 Tigerfish.

The poachers in question were actually apprehended and prosecuted a few months ago, but were let off due to a grey area in legislation. Now that they have been caught again, in another location, a prosecutor from Vryheid will be handling the case.

The poaching of fish is a major cause of damage to the ecology of a river, as the gill netting technique is indiscriminate as to which species land up in the nets.

Hopefully, with a new prosecutor, the poachers will not 'slip through the nets' and we will see some real action being taken to put a stop to illegal gill netting on the Pongola River and Lake Jozini.



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