

Email to registered stakeholders dated 28 March 2019

Dear Stakeholder,

**APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION THROUGH A BASIC ASSESSMENT PROCESS: PROPOSED SEA-BASED AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE IN ALGOA BAY, EASTERN CAPE**

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), as the lead agent for aquaculture management and development, intends to establish and manage a sea-based Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ) in Algoa Bay located in the Eastern Cape. A sea-based ADZ usually consists of a selection of designated precincts, which provide opportunities for existing aquaculture operations to expand and new ones to be established. ADZs provide economic benefits to the local community through job creation and regional economic diversification. ADZs are intended to boost investor confidence by providing 'investment ready' platforms with strategic environmental approvals and management policies already in place, allowing commercial aquaculture operations to be set up without the need for lengthy, complex and expensive approval processes. It is anticipated that an ADZ will create incentives for industry growth, provide marine aquaculture services and enhance consumer confidence.

The proposed ADZ triggers a number of Listed Activities in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended by Government Notice No. 40772 of 7 April 2017), promulgated in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998) (NEMA). DAFF is therefore required to apply for Environmental Authorisation to the National Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA). DAFF appointed Anchor Research & Monitoring (Pty) Ltd (Anchor) as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to undertake the Basic Assessment (BA) process.

A Basic Assessment process must be undertaken in compliance with Government Notice (GN) R. 326 of 2017 (2014 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations as amended) and with the guideline documents for EIA processes and stakeholder consultation, as produced by the DEA.

Anchor has compiled the Pre-application Basic Assessment Report (BAR), which can be downloaded on our website at <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/node/344>

(If you navigate to our website without the direct link, click on the 'Public Documents' tab and select the 'Algoa Bay Aquaculture Development Zone' project link)

You are herewith notified of the start of the 30 day pre-application public participation phase (public participation phase 1 of 2). Please submit your comments on the pre-application Basic Assessment Report by Tuesday 30 April 2019.

Going forward, DAFF intends to submit the application for Environmental Authorisation to the Department of Environmental Affairs at the end of May 2019. A second public participation process will be held during the application phase, where a public meeting will be held in Port Elizabeth. As a stakeholder you will be notified of the details of the next meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions with regards to the proposed project or stakeholder consultation process.

Kind regards,

Vera Massie