

BRANCH FISHERIES MANAGEMENT
**SALDANHA BAY AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT ZONE (ADZ)
 CONSULTATIVE FORUM (CF)**
Record of Meeting

Date 06th May 2019
Time 18h00 – 20h00
Venue Thusong Centre – 07 Antonio Seini
 Street, Langeaan
Chairperson Errol Cerff
Secretary Ernest Fortoh

Documents referred to in the Record can be found using the following link:
https://drive.google.com/open?id=1viMdGVRjVIKHed_Ln0XwwdxUI74g-QCu

NO.	AGENDA ITEM	ACTION
1	Welcome and introductions The Chairman welcomed all present. Attendees were given the opportunity to introduce themselves.	
2	Finalization of agenda The Chairman clarified that the agenda was a draft until it was accepted by the meeting. The Chairman requested for addition to the items on the agenda from the attendees who accepted the agenda with no additional item added.	
3	New Matters arising	
3.1a	ADZ ECO Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMC statement on Independence of ECO The Chairman presented a statement from the AMC stating that the AMC is satisfied with the independence of the Chairman of the CF who is also the ADZ ECO. The statement was accepted by the CF meeting without any objection or further question raised. Clarification on meeting frequency The chairman clarified that the CF meeting frequency will be once every quarter of the year going forward. The meeting frequency will be clarified in the revised terms of reference (ToR). Communications received register The chairman explained that the communication received register is an amalgamation of complains and incidences. The only incident recorded since last meeting was reported by Molapong on the 13th March 2019 of military boats detonation of 2x explosions close to their cages. The Port Captain was contacted who promised to follow up on the incident and feedback to ECO but has since not given any feedback on the matter after repeated attempts by ECO. Molapong though reported that they did not lose any fish as a result of the explosions. Mr Wright (SLL) indicated that such concerns were raised during the 	Chairman

	<p>EIA process and were a regular occurrence. AB indicated as Molapong was still located at pilot site which is outside the ADZ area and was removed from the ADZ expansion area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monthly ADZ ECO site visit checklist The ECO presented to the meeting a checklist of items that he uses to make sure the farm level ECOs are in compliance with the requirements of the ADZ. The ECO also mentioned that he will not be giving propriety information of the operators to the CF meeting but will however be presenting a quarterly compliance report with details of any non-compliance to the CF meeting. Propriety information will only be given to the regulators. ECO also clarified that his role is only to monitor and report on compliance of the ADZ and not reporting on the stocks of the farmers. Queries were raised about the transparency of the process and whether information could be hidden this way. This discussion was continued later in the meeting. 	
--	---	--

<p>3.1</p>	<p>Revised CF ToR</p> <p>The ToRs have been reviewed and some changes made to make it clearer. Two key changes made in the ToR are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That any communication by anyone with media about the CF should not be purported as the view of the CF as a whole and without authorization of the Chairman. Secondly that any technical documents released by the CF meeting through the chairman or any CF delegated member should not be distributed to any 3rd parties or used for personal or any 3rd party gain without complete referencing and permission from the author. It was agreed by the meeting that the heading of the confidentiality clause in the ToR related to media communication be rephrased to read “Rules of engagement” instead. <p>A question was posed on how decisions taken in the CF meeting influence the decisions of the AMC – The chairman responded (supported by DAFF representatives) that all statements made by the CF meeting are tabled at the AMC meeting for deliberation. Note was also made of the fact that the role of the AMC was not to analyze environmental monitoring data. A follow up query was raised by SBWQTF regarding how the CF advises the AMC regarding environmental data that is collected and decisions that are made. A concern was raised that data is first presented to the AMC and decisions made before input is sought from the CF and resulting lack of transparency,</p> <p>It was concluded that the matter would be tabled at the AMC and that a Standard Operating Procedure be developed in terms of submission of environmental data and advice provided between the CF and AMC. A need was expressed for a bilateral between the DAFF and the SBWQTF to discuss better communication. The Trust will send the Chair some pointers for the agenda and a date will be set. Mr Christo van Wyk undertook to also recommend some guidance on how the CF should interact with the operators.</p>	<p>ToR amended (Chairman)</p> <p>Table protocol of submission of environmental data at AMC (Chairman)</p> <p>SOP developed (Ms Bernatzeder/SBWQTF) Bilateral between DAFF and SBWQTF (Mr Van Wyk/ Mrs Pretorius)</p> <p>Mr Van Wyk</p>
-------------------	--	---

3.2	<p>Progress Update on the ADZ</p> <p>Michelle Pretorius from DAFF presented an update regarding the progress on the ADZ. This presentation can be viewed by following link at the top of the first page of this record - No question was raised after the presentation.</p>	
3.3	<p>Progress with implementation of the Sampling Plan</p> <p>Andrea Bernatzeder gave an update presentation on the progress with implementation of the sampling plan. This presentation can be viewed by following link at the top of the first page of this record.</p>	
3.4	<p>Production monitoring guideline</p> <p>Andrea Bernatzeder presented the production monitoring guideline. This presentation can be viewed by following the link at the top of the first page of this record.</p> <p>A question was raised on the protocol that was followed to appoint independent specialists to conduct baseline monitoring studies and whether the appointments were done as per the requirements of the ADZ EA – With emphasis that such a protocol needed to be an open and informed process to ensure the independence of the appointed specialists. Ms Bernatzeder clarified that the Environmental Authorisation indicated each project should be conducted baseline sampling before commencing. However, it makes more scientific sense to do a broad baseline assessment of all potential new areas at one time. In order to fast track the process, industry appointed an independent specialist to collect the benthic samples and DAFF requested quotes from various qualified service providers (including Anchor) to analyse the samples for macrofauna and chemical analysis. This and the consultant appointed was presented at the last CF where Mr. C van Wyk was not present.</p> <p>Another question was asked whether the monitoring data collected by the State of the Bay monitoring process is being considered and collated with data collected by baseline monitoring studies conducted by the ADZ process so as to ensure both monitoring processes work together and ensure confidence in the entire process by the general public. Thus avoiding any conflicts due to difference of data collected. Andrea Bernatzeder responded that the methods being implemented by the ADZ are aligned with how the State of the Bay monitoring methods to ensure that it can be combined in future. However, additional stations needed to be added for the baseline assessment to the State of the Bay and baseline was planned for December initially which did not align with annual SOB sampling surveys.</p> <p>Mr Wright questioned what happened to shellfish that was not harvested and not reseeded. Ms Bernatzeder indicated that it is dumped into the sea, below the rafts. The matter had been raised with industry to look at alternative methods as this impacted local benthic habitat and therefore their ability to expand in future. This is in line with the EMPr for the ADZ.</p> <p>Andrea concluded by requesting any further questions regarding the above be sent to her in writing so that it can be presented to the AMC.</p> <p>It was also emphasized that one of the key focus of the CF meeting was alignment of information gathered.</p> <p>The chairman concluded this portion of discussions by requesting the attendees to send through to him in writing any further questions they may have regarding the monitoring guideline so every concern is properly captured and taken into consideration.</p>	<p>Mr Wright and Mr van Wyk to send additional clarification of their concerns to AMC</p>
3.5	<p>Update on allocation of new water space by TNPA</p> <p>Andrea Bernatzeder explained that TNPA is still to complete the leasing process and that the process has taken longer than expected due to internal processes</p>	

	within the TNPA. The latest feedback received spoke to the end of May 2019 It was questioned whether DAFF was involved in the lease process and Ms Bernatzeder indicated that DAFF did give input on the criteria that need to be considered when evaluating the proposals to ensure that projects had technical expertise to successfully operate the projects.	
4	Discussion	
4.1	<p>Any other matters arising from the CF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles and responsibilities between AMC and Operators were discussed in the meeting and it was decided that these should be presented at the next meeting as per the EMP for the ADZ. A question was raised regarding the lack of participation of the local fishing communities at the CF and how information on the ADZ could be transmitted to the local communities – Ferdie Endemann explained that efforts were made to get the local community involved in mentorship with the farmers but no success was achieved in the process. The local communities who DoA had a meeting with and arranged mentorship with the operators did not show up as arranged. In addition that clarity was also made to the local communities that the purpose of the CF was not to issue fishing rights and this may have resulted in the communities not attending subsequent meetings. It was questioned whether further fish processing establishments were planned as part of the ADZ. DAFF indicated not at present and they would need to go through their own EIA. Any concerns around waste management of the existing mussel and oyster land based activities should be reported to DAFF and DEA. 	Present EMP at next CF (Michelle Pretorius)
5	<p>Way forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No items were raised 	
6	<p>Closure and date of next meetings The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 19:47h.</p> <p>The dates for the upcoming meetings are: 6 Aug 2019 6 Nov 2019</p>	

ACTION LIST FROM MEETING

No.	Action	Responsible Person(s)
1	Feedback from Port Captain regarding the detonation of devices in the vicinity of the Molapong cages	ECO to make a follow up with the Port Captain
2.	CF Terms of Reference to be finalized and distributed	Secretariat
3.	Standard Operating Procedures to be developed after engagement with the SBWQTF Mr Christo van Wyk undertook to also recommend some guidance on how the CF should interact with the AMC, to be included in the SOP.	DAFF
4.	SBWQTF to forward agenda items to the Chairperson to engage on environmental	SBWQTF

	protocol.	
5.	CF concerns regarding the appointment of service provider for baseline monitoring to be tabled at the next AMC after written input from SBWQTF for clarity	SBWQT/ Chairperson
6.	Questions regarding the production monitoring guideline to be sent to secretariat to be discussed at next AMC	CF members
7.	Roles and responsibilities in the EMP to be presented at the next meeting	DAFF