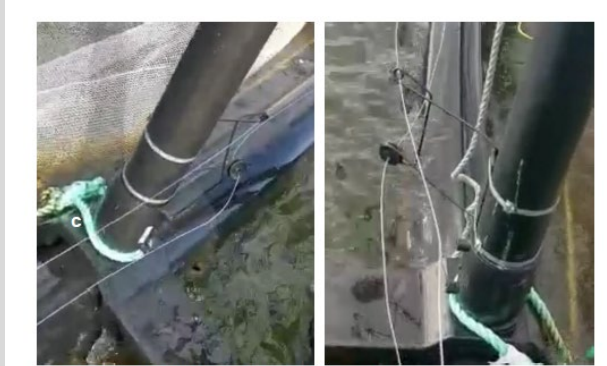



# Communication Register

## January 2020

| Incoming      |              |  |                  |   | Comment and actions  | Outgoing  |            | Status   |
|---------------|--------------|--|------------------|---|--|-----------|------------|----------|
| Respondent    | Organisation | Subject  | Date received    | Doc Ref                                     |  | Date sent | Doc(s) Ref |          |
| Arissa Greeff | Molapong     | Suspected sabotage incident – Molapong Aquaculture | 03 February 2020 | <i>Molapong Aqauculture incident report</i> | <p>Good day all,</p> <p>Trust this email finds you well.</p> <p>Please find attached a formal report on an incident that have occurred at our pilot site regarding possible sabotage.</p> <p>I feel that this situation must be discussed at the upcoming CF meeting and pre industry CF meeting. We, not just as Molapong Aquaculture, but the whole industry cannot afford incidences like these. The industry and AMC alike works hard towards not only their own success, but also improving the public perception of the industry.</p> <p>I look forward to your response.</p> <p>Kind regards / Vriendelike groete,</p> <p><b>Attachment:</b></p> <p>Dear Sir / Madam<br/> <b>INCIDENT REPORT – potential sabotage on 20 January 2020</b><br/>                     The incident occurred at the Molapong Aquaculture pilot site, coordinates:<br/>                     33° 3.380'S, 18° 0.680'E<br/>                     33° 3.382'S, 18° 0.747'E<br/>                     33° 3.435'S, 18° 0.746'E<br/>                     33° 3.435'S, 18° 0.680'E</p> <p>Upon arrival at the site on Monday morning 20 January, it was noticed that two seals have gained access to the pen on the far South Eastern corner of</p> |           |            | Recorded |

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|            |              |         |               |         | <p>the farm, pen four. First response by the team is to check the integrity of the stitching of the bird net to the culture net to check for loose ends where the seals might have entered, but no problems were detected. Secondly, the team checks the state of the electric fencing. This has led to the discovery that three of the electric fencing brackets were bent on the Eastern side of the pen, see Figure 1 below. This follows a site visit by staff on Sunday, 19 January 2020, after which all fencing was left intact.</p>  <p><i>Figure 1: Bent electric fencing brackets on pen four</i></p> <p>This gives indication that a vessel has made contact with the pen structure, completely disregarding the presence of the fence, thereby damaging the electric fencing.</p> <p>After safely removing the seals from the pen, a diver was sent down to investigate the culture net. This has led to the discovery of an approximately 40 cm by 40 cm square hole in the culture net at the same side of the pen as the broken electric fence brackets and only about 1,5 m down from surface.</p> <p>What gives reason to believe that this hole was cut, other than the broken electric fencing brackets, are</p> |           |            |        |

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|            |              |         |               |         | <p>the following (Figure 2 below shows the hole after it was patched):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The net is new, it was first put into water and on site on 03 January 2020. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Net integrity is high</li> <li>• No biofouling on the net</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The hole was a square form, rather than a torn circular section as per previous incidents.</li> <li>• The edges of the hole were neatly cut at sections, rather than having only frayed edges – as with constant nipping by seals.</li> <li>• The additional netting that was removed to form the hole was nowhere to be seen. This usually remains attached to the culture net as a loose flap, as the seals only tear a section open and not off.</li> <li>• The hole was 1.5 m from surface. Previous incidents have shown that seals mainly target the cone (bottom) of the net, this is at 5 – 8 m from surface. They see a mortality that has sunken to the bottom and they would nip at it continuously – multiple acts like this can lead to eventual holes.</li> </ul> |           |            |        |

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|            |              |         |               |         |  <p><i>Figure 2: Net hole in pen four after patch</i></p> <p>These incidents are to be avoided at all costs as seals cause major stock losses, ultimately incurring financial losses to the company. In addition, it decreases net strength and integrity once a net must be patched, meaning another operational and financial impact. This can also have environmental impacts as there is a possibility of fish escaping - even though small, this should never be overlooked.</p> <p>Ultimately, this is severe damage to property.</p> <p>We are currently working on solutions to prevent future occurrences. Nevertheless, we feel that this is a matter of urgency to bring under the attention of the DAFF. This incident should be the last of its kind and that we as industry should work alongside the DAFF to come up with bay wide solutions and mitigation measures.</p> <p>We look forward to working together on this matter.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Dewald Fourie</p> |           |            |        |

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| Andrea Bernatzeder | DAFF         | RE: Suspected sabotage incident - Molapong Aquaculture | 03/02/2020    |         | <p><b>27 January 2020</b></p> <p>Dear Arissa,</p> <p>In terms of the attached, please can you indicate the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Were there fish in the cage, what size and when will we know how many may have been lost through that hole?</li> <li>2. Has Molapong looked at camera options on sight as we previously discussed.</li> </ol> <p>Kind regards,<br/>Andrea</p>   |           |            |        |
| Arissa Greeff      | Molapong     | RE: Suspected sabotage incident - Molapong Aquaculture |               |         | <p>Dear Andrea,</p> <p>Yes, the pen was stocked and the fish in that pen is currently at an average weight of 1.2 kg.</p> <p>Unfortunately, it is near impossible to determine an exact amount of escapees in pens we also had seal ingresses into, as it is impossible to determine exactly how many fish they have devoured during the ingress. Therefore, any remaining shortage at the end of a cycle could be an indication of seal damage OR escapees. We are positive that if there were escapees, it would not have been a lot due to the location of the hole, but we will try to determine and confirm within a few months, once the pen is emptied.</p> <p>Molapong is currently in the process of putting a monitoring station together, which will include</p> |           |            |        |

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|               |              |   |               |         | cameras. We are hoping that the process will not take too long.<br>Kind regards / Vriendelike groete,  |           |            |        |
| ECO           |              | Re: Consultative Forum - 06 February 2020 | 04/02/2020    |         | Good afternoon all,<br>Please find Molapong's fish escape recovery plan attached that will be discussed at the meeting. This document can also be found in the google drive folder: <a href="https://drive.google.com/open?id=1t9dS9Jpab5fU0Hh5l6_Da-YRniNNFWJk">https://drive.google.com/open?id=1t9dS9Jpab5fU0Hh5l6_Da-YRniNNFWJk</a><br>Please let me know if you have any challenges accessing the link above.<br>Kind regards,<br>Kelly   |           |            |        |
| William Kelly |              | Re: Consultative Forum - 06 February 2020 | 04/02/2020    |         | Kelly,<br>Do you want a comment on it?<br>It isn't worth the paper it isn't written on.<br>"In the event of a large stock loss (over 1000 depending on size), Molapong will contribute financially toward researching the impacts of escapes on the ecosystem within which the escape has occurred."<br>This alone, aside from the spelling mistakes and so forth within this document along the lines of "don't worry, you can trust us. No really you can." make me believe it was written by an amateur. Surely, if there |           |            |        |

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|            |              |         |               |         | <p>were to be any environmental impact at all the EIA would have taken this into account already?</p> <p>It's rubbish. An R100 contribution is a financial one - without specifying exactly how much this financial contribution it going to be it is a meaningless statement. Depending on size is also not detailed - what size? Who is going to do the research? Who will oversee, assess and monitor it? How long will it take? What will the total cost be? What if no research is done at all? Who makes this decision? This raises all manner of questions of the processes and procedures (i.e. none) in place to deal with escapees - I do not know of a single caged farming system world wide that has NOT had escapees.</p> <p>I could go on about all the nice things written about net maintenance and the like but really, I have better things to do with my time than to waste it on this drivel.</p> <p>The issue is an important one. It cannot be dealt with so loosely and incoherently if anyone is to take it seriously.</p> <p>Regards,<br/>William</p> |           |            |        |