



Strong storm hits aquaculture industry in Saldanha Bay

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By BSASA Chairman,

Gale-force winds and strong swells impacted aquaculture industry in Saldanha Bay as the powerful storm made landfall on Monday.

Gale- to strong gale-force winds blowing at 65-100km/h and swells in excess of 9m hit the Saldanha Bay ADZ and resulted in several operators losing infrastructure. These losses range from a couple of rafts that broke free and floated in the bay, two of which ended up on the beach as well as some longlines and various floats that ended up on the surrounding beaches.

Blue Ocean Mussels lost three rafts on Monday afternoon and they were temporarily moored to the iron ore and gas jetty for retrieval to the farm when the storm dissipated. One of these rafts broke free from the jetty through the morning hours of Tuesday and ended up on the stretch of beach next to the TNPA dam. This raft will be retrieved when springtide allows and swell has decreased towards the end of the week. The other two rafts are being returned to the farm throughout the course of today.

African Olive Trading, situated in the Small Bay precinct lost one raft and this raft ended up on the beach in front of Blue Bay Lodge. Industry operations are currently underway to tow this raft back to the farm.

No other severe losses were experienced by the aquaculture industry except for some broken longlines and various floats and buoys that ended up on the surrounding beaches. Two TNPA marker buoys are included in the debris that ended up on the beaches. Mop up operations are underway currently and Port Control is being kept updated. The industry will be sending clean-up crews onto the beaches in the next two days to collect floats and debris.

BSASA is coordinating clean-up of the surrounding beaches and will be sending vehicles to collect floats and debris over the next two days and we are in contact with the ADZ ECO and Port Control and will keep everyone updated as new information becomes available.