

Ally 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.



environmental affairs

Department:
Environmental Affairs
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Environmental Authorisation

In terms of regulation 25 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014

Establishment of the Molapong Aquaculture Project in Saldanha Bay within Saldanha Bay Local Municipality in the Western Cape Province

West Coast District Municipality

Authorisation register number:	14/12/16/3/3/1/1728/2
Last amended:	First issue
Holder of authorisation:	MOLAPONG AQUACULTURE (PTY) LTD
Location of activity:	WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE: Within Saldanha Bay

This environmental authorisation does not negate the holder of the authorisation's responsibility to comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable to the undertaking of the activity.

Decision

The Department is satisfied, on the basis of information available to it and subject to compliance with the conditions of this environmental authorisation, that the applicant should be authorised to undertake the activities specified below.

Non-compliance with a condition of this environmental authorisation may result in criminal prosecution or other actions provided for in the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and the EIA regulations.

Details regarding the basis on which the Department reached this decision are set out in Annexure 1.

Activities authorised

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 the Department hereby authorises –

MOLAPONG AQUACULTURE (PTY) LTD

(hereafter referred to as the **holder of the authorisation**)

with the following contact details –

Mr Barend Stender
Molapong Aquaculture (Pty) Ltd.
P.O. Box 705
HERMANUS
7200

Cell: (082) 782 7937
Email: saldanha@molapong.co.za

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

May 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

to undertake the following activities (hereafter referred to as "the activity") indicated in Listing Notice 1 (GN R. 983):

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 7:</u></p> <p><i>The development and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of sea-based cage culture of finfish, crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs, echinoderms and aquatic plants, where the facility, infrastructure or structures will have a production output exceeding 50 000 kg per annum (wet weight).</i></p>	<p>The project involves the farming of finfish (salmonids) of max 2000 t production output in the sea in Saldanha Bay. Mussels and seaweed would be used next to the cages to mitigate nutrient loading from finfish and may exceed 50 t pa. The Big Bay site would be a new site of 40ha. The development therefore entails the development of a new sea-based cage culture facility at the Big Bay site.</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 17:</u></p> <p>Development</p> <p>(i) in the sea:</p> <p>in respect of</p> <p>(f) infrastructure or structures with a development footprint of 50 square metres or more.</p>	<p>Aquaculture infrastructure (cages, mooring lines etc) will cover an area of approximately 50% of 55ha, of which the Big Bay site one would be a new site. The area covered at any time would be more than 50m².</p>
<p><u>GN R. 983 Item 19(A):</u></p> <p><i>The infilling or depositing of any material of more than 5 cubic metres into, or the dredging, excavation, removal or moving of soil, sand, shells, shell grit, pebbles or rock of more than 5 cubic metres from:</i></p> <p>(iii) the sea</p> <p>but excluding where such infilling, depositing, dredging, excavation, removal or moving— (i) occurs within existing ports or harbours that will not</p>	<p>Placement of anchors may trigger this activity at the Jutten Island site. The activity is not applicable to the Big Bay site, as there is an exclusion if it occurs within existing ports. The Saldanha Port boundary extends to the Langebaan lagoon and the Big Bay site falls within the Port area.</p>

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has

15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths

Hans Liebenberg • 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths • Ex Officio

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1728/2

15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg • 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths • Ex Officio

Listed activities	Activity/Project description
increase the development footprint of the port or harbour.	
<u>GN R.983 Item 42:</u> The expansion and related operation of facilities, infrastructure or structures for aquaculture of sea-based cage culture of finfish, crustaceans, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs, echinoderms and aquatic plants where the annual production output of such facility, infrastructure or structures will be increased by 50 000 kg (wet weight) or more.	The project involves the farming of finfish (salmonids of max 2000 t production output in the sea in Saldanha Bay. Mussels and seaweed would be used next to the cages to mitigate nutrient loading from finfish and may exceed 50 tpa. The Jutten Island site entails the expansion of an existing site from 1 ha to 15 ha.
<u>GN R.983 Activity 54:</u> Expansion of facilities (i) in the sea in respect of (f) infrastructure or structures where the development footprint is expanded by 50 square metres or more.	Aquaculture infrastructure (cages, mooring lines etc) will cover an area of approximately 50% of 55ha of which the Jutten Island site and existing experimental site would be expanded; the area covered at any time would be more than 50m ² .

as described in the Basic Assessment Report (BAR) dated August 2017 at:

Sea area 1- Big Bay (40 ha)		
Point-	Latitude	Longitude
J	33° 02' 17.2"S	18°00' 04.3"E
K	33° 02' 13.0"S	18°00' 24.7"E
L	33° 02' 35.3"S	18°00' 33.6"E
M	33° 02' 39.7"S	18°00' 13.0"E
Sea Area 3- Near Jutten Island (to be expanded from 1 ha to 15ha)		
Point-	Latitude	Longitude
N	33° 04' 23.9"S	17°57' 24.5"E
P	33° 04' 23.9"S	17°57' 36.1"E
F	33° 04' 36.7"S	17°57' 36.1"E

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1728/2

Ally 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

E	33° 04' 36.8"S	17°57' 32.2"E
H	33° 04' 40.0"S	17°57' 32.2"E
Q	33° 04' 40.1"S	17°57' 24.5"E

the location indicated in the locality plan, attached as Annexure 2 of this authorisation.


- for the establishment of the construction of Molapong Aquaculture project in Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape Province, hereafter referred to as "the property".

The applicant is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative related to the listed activities:

- The development entails the establishment of a sea-based aquaculture development in Saldanha Bay. The areas are located in Big Bay and near Jutten Island. The Big Bay site will have a total footprint of approximately 40 hectares (delineated as J, K, L, M in Annexure 2 below) while the existing site near the Jutten Island will be expanded from 1 hectare to 15 hectares (the total expanded area (including the existing area) is delineated as N, G, P, Q in Annexure 2 below, of which the new ±14ha area approved in this authorisation is delineated as N, P, F, E, H, Q).
- The development entails the phased installation of sea cages for the production of 2000 tons or less of finfish per year. The cages will be assembled on land and will then be towed to the respective sites in the sea. Mooring of the cages will occur at the project sites through a grid system with a number of configurations possible to provide optimum conditions for finfish production. These configurations would be changeable to allow for fallowing. Thus there is no specific site plan, but rather a total area to be utilised interchangeably. The configurations for cages will not exceed a total coverage of approximately 50% of the total area of 55 ha or 30% of any one area.
- Approximately 30 longlines each with a 200m length will be installed next to the cages for the production of mussels (2000 t) and seaweed, while the finfish are under development. The longlines will cover a total area of approximately 15 hectares for both sites. The marine infrastructure will consist of longlines which run almost on the surface of the water, which will be attached to floats. Mussel production may decrease as finfish culture develops and expands, but mussel and seaweed production will continue to form part of mitigating measures against nutrient

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/1/1728/2

 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

loading from finfish production. The cages and longlines methods are in line with the methods recommended for ADZ

- The total development footprint for both sites will be approximately 55 ha in extent.

Species considered for farming:

- Molapong has a Marine Aquaculture Right for five species of salmonids i.e. Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Atlantic salmon (*Salmo Salar*), Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), King salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) and Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*). Molapong is in the process of amending this Right to include Mediterranean mussels (*Mytilus galloprovincialis*) and seaweed.
- The first two species, Rainbow trout and Atlantic salmon, have been tested in a previous research phase / pilot project in Saldanha and are considered to be also the most suitable species to the South African and export markets. King and Coho salmon have not been farmed in South Africa; but the applicant will test their viability in an experimental project to determine if they are viable species to farm in this area.

Note that this environmental authorisation **does not** include for authorisation of the land based facilities. Should proposed land based activities trigger any listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, authorisation for those land based activities will need to be obtained from the Competent Authority prior to commencement of the activity.

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1728/2

Bluly 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

Conditions of this Environmental Authorisation

Scope of authorisation

1. The preferred alternative 3 for the construction of the Molapong Aquaculture Project in Saldanha Bay, within West Coast District Municipality, in the Western Cape Province is approved, as per the geographic coordinates above.
2. Authorisation of the activity is subject to the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation, which form part of the environmental authorisation and are binding on the holder of the authorisation.
3. The holder of the authorisation is responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions contained in this environmental authorisation. This includes any person acting on the holder's behalf, including but not limited to, an agent, servant, contractor, sub-contractor, employee, consultant or person rendering a service to the holder of the authorisation.
4. The activities authorised may only be carried out at the property as described above.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from, the project description set out in this environmental authorisation must be approved, in writing, by the Department before such changes or deviations may be effected. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department may request such information as it deems necessary to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations and it may be necessary for the holder of the authorisation to apply for further environmental authorisation in terms of the regulations.
6. The holder of an environmental authorisation must apply for an amendment of the environmental authorisation with the competent authority for any alienation, transfer or change of ownership rights in the property on which the activity is to take place.
7. This activity must commence within a period of five (05) years from the date of issue of this environmental authorisation. If commencement of the activity does not occur within that period, the authorisation lapses and a new application for environmental authorisation must be made in order for the activity to be undertaken.
8. Commencement with one activity listed in terms of this environmental authorisation constitutes commencement of all authorised activities.

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1728/2

Ally 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

Notification of authorisation and right to appeal

9. The holder of the authorisation must notify every registered interested and affected party, in writing and within 14 (fourteen) calendar days of the date of this environmental authorisation, of the decision to authorise the activity.
10. The notification referred to must –
 - 10.1. specify the date on which the authorisation was issued;
 - 10.2. inform the interested and affected party of the appeal procedure provided for in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014;
 - 10.3. advise the interested and affected party that a copy of the authorisation will be furnished on request; and
 - 10.4. give the reasons of the competent authority for the decision.

Commencement of the activity

11. The authorised activity shall not commence until the period for the submission of appeals has lapsed as per the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 and no appeal has been lodged against the decision. In terms of section 43(7), an appeal under section 43 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 will suspend the environmental authorisation or any provision or condition attached thereto. In the instance where an appeal is lodged you may not commence with the activity until such time that the appeal has been finalised.

Management of the activity

12. The Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") submitted as part of the application for environmental authorisation is hereby approved. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation. Copies of all permits and licenses issued to Molapong Aquaculture (Pty) Ltd, permitting aquaculture activities, must be attached to the EMPr.
13. The EMPr will be subject to the same compliance monitoring by the ADZ Management Committee (AMC), which is to be established by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), in order to ensure appropriate ADZ management in line with the broader approved EMPr for the DAFF Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ). The AMC will have the same powers and

exercise the same duties concerning the Molapong development, as they have for the broader DAFF ADZ (where such powers and duties are outlined in that DAFF ADZ environmental authorisation e.g. supervising and monitoring compliance by the holder of the authorisation (Molapong) to the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr; reviewing monitoring data; and making recommendations for improvement).

Frequency and process of updating the EMPr

14. The EMPr must be updated where the findings of the environmental audit reports, contemplated in Condition 22 below, indicate insufficient mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity, or insufficient levels of compliance with the environmental authorisation or EMPr.
15. The updated EMPr must contain recommendations to rectify the shortcomings identified in the environmental audit report.
16. The updated EMPr must be submitted to the Department for approval together with the environmental audit report, as per Regulation 34 of GN R. 982. The updated EMPr must have been subjected to a public participation process, which process has been agreed to by the Department, prior to submission of the updated EMPr to the Department for approval.
17. In assessing whether to grant approval of an EMPr which has been updated as a result of an audit, the Department will consider the processes prescribed in Regulation 35 of GN R.982. Prior to approving an amended EMPr, the Department may request such amendments to the EMPr as it deems appropriate to ensure that the EMPr sufficiently provides for avoidance, management and mitigation of environmental impacts associated with the undertaking of the activity.
18. The holder of the authorisation may apply for an amendment of an EMPr, if such amendment is required before an audit is required. In assessing whether to grant such approval or not, the Department will consider the processes and requirements prescribed in Regulation 37 of GN R. 982.

Monitoring

19. The holder of the authorisation must appoint a suitably qualified and experienced independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) for the construction phase of the development that will have the responsibility to ensure that the mitigation/rehabilitation measures and recommendations

referred to in this authorisation are implemented and to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr.

- 19.1. The ECO must be appointed before commencement of any authorised activities.
- 19.2. Once appointed, the name and contact details of the ECO must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department.
- 19.3. The ECO must keep record of all activities on site, problems identified, transgressions noted and a schedule of tasks undertaken by the ECO.
- 19.4. All monitoring studies conducted for the development must be submitted to the ADZ Management Committee (AMC) commissioned by DAFF, to ensure appropriate ADZ management. The monitoring studies must be reviewed by an independent specialist to verify findings before the report is submitted to the AMC.
- 19.5. Findings of the daily monitoring by the ECO must be summarised into a monthly report which must be presented by the ECO to the AMC at the bi-monthly meetings.
- 19.6. The ECO must also submit a detailed monitoring report to the Directorate: Compliance Monitoring on a monthly basis. A summarised version of this report must also be made available to all AMC members on a monthly basis.

Recording and reporting to the Department

20. All documentation e.g. audit/monitoring/compliance reports and notifications, required to be submitted to the Department in terms of this environmental authorisation, must be submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
21. The holder of the environmental authorisation must, for the period during which the environmental authorisation and EMPr remain valid, ensure that project compliance with the conditions of the environmental authorisation and the EMPr are audited, and that the audit reports are submitted to the *Director: Compliance Monitoring* of the Department at Directorcompliance@environment.gov.za.
22. The frequency of auditing and of submission of the environmental audit reports must be as per the frequency indicated in the EMPr, taking into account the processes for such auditing as prescribed in Regulation 34 of GN R. 982.
23. The holder of the authorisation must, in addition, submit an environmental audit report to the Department within 30 days of completion of the construction phase (i.e. within 30 days of site

handover) and a final environmental audit report within 30 days of completion of rehabilitation activities.

24. The environmental audit reports must be compiled in accordance with appendix 7 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 and must indicate the date of the audit, the name of the auditor and the outcome of the audit in terms of compliance with the environmental authorisation conditions as well as the requirements of the approved EMP.
25. Records relating to monitoring and auditing must be kept on site and made available for inspection to any relevant and competent authority in respect of this development.

Notification to authorities

26. A written notification of commencement must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity. Commencement for the purposes of this condition includes site preparation. The notice must include a date on which it is anticipated that the activity will commence, as well as a reference number.

Operation of the activity

27. A written notification of operation must be given to the Department no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the activity operational phase.

Site closure and decommissioning

28. Should the activity ever cease or become redundant, the holder of the authorisation must undertake the required actions as prescribed by legislation at the time and comply with all relevant legal requirements administered by any relevant and competent authority at that time.

Specific conditions

29. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate reduction, recycling, re-use and disposal where appropriate. Any solid waste must be disposed of at a landfill licensed in terms of section 20 (b) of the National Environment Management Waste Act, 2008 (Act No.59 of 2008).
-

30. No new mooring blocks must be placed within 200m of the Merestein site (33.087355°S, 17.955044°E)
31. A detailed anchor distribution plan be provided to the Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit at SAHRA once this has been finalised. This can be used to reassess potential shipwreck impacts to assist developers in determining whether to amend placement plans to avoid incurring further heritage intervention costs.
32. Diver surveys must be completed during the activities required for setting anchor arrays. Commercial divers working on the project must be provided with brief orientation training. If wreck material is identified, archaeologists must be contracted to make an assessment.
33. The location and nature of any identified maritime and underwater cultural heritage resource must be provided to a maritime archaeologist and to the South African Heritage Resources Agency for inclusion on their Shipwreck Database.
34. Should evidence of archaeological material be identified, the Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit at SAHRA must be notified and an archaeologist must assess the findings.
35. In accordance with the interim comments issued by the South African Heritage Resource Agency ("SAHRA") dated 21 April 2017, should any shipwreck or cultural heritage material be detected in the development area via the geophysical survey, diver inspections, or other means, the position must be recorded and the area must be excluded from the list of proposed mooring block locations. SAHRA must be notified immediately, and work must be ceased and cannot commence until feedback has been provide by SAHRA. Under no circumstances may mooring blocks be placed on any shipwreck site which is proven or suspected to be older than 60 years.
36. Should any shipwreck site or associated material be in danger of damage and/ or disturbance, a permit application will be required from SAHRA must be acquired prior to continuing with activities.
37. Benthic Mapping / survey of the area under individual farms must be undertaken before the commencement of the operational phase in order to establish baseline conditions for monitoring purposes.
38. Monitoring points must be established before the commencement of farming activities on each site, in order to measure pre-farming baseline conditions with observed conditions during the operational phase. The number and placement of these monitoring points, and the parameters measured, must be appropriate to the mariculture activity type (and its by-products) at that site, the benthic habitat at that site, as well as the prevailing environmental conditions (such as the dominant current directions). The information gathered from monitoring points must be used to guide the phased development of each sit.

39. The applicant must form part of the Consultative Forum which is to be commissioned by DAFF for the ADZ.
40. In accordance with the recommendations included in the Biodiversity Risk Assessment Report for Coho Salmon and King Salmon (compiled by Anchor Environmental Consultants, dated November 2014), the following mitigation measures must be implemented.
- 40.1. The operation must install best available technology to ensure durability of the cages and nets.
 - 40.2. Predator blinds must be installed on the bottom of the cages, to prevent predators from observing and attacking fish.
 - 40.3. Double net-pen enclosures must be used, which consist of an inside culture net, holding the fish being grown and a second net that distances predators and forms an additional barrier.
 - 40.4. An underwater camera must be installed to ensure integrity of the net at all times.
 - 40.5. The operation must follow best management practices for training and education of employees on escape prevention and response plans.

Phasing in of aquaculture expansion

41. The holder of the authorisation must consult with DAFF to determine the phasing-in allowances for shellfish and finfish production applicable to this activity, in order to ensure that the activity is aligned with the precautionary phasing-in targets and objectives which have been set for the broader ADZ as a whole to mitigate impacts on Saldanha Bay. The holder of the authorisation must adhere to the precautionary targets set by DAFF.

General

42. A copy of this environmental authorisation, the audit and compliance monitoring reports, and the approved EMPr, must be made available for inspection and copying-
- 42.1. at the site of the authorised activity;
 - 42.2. to anyone on request; and
 - 42.3. where the holder of the environmental authorisation has a website, on such publicly accessible website.
43. National government, provincial government, local authorities or committees appointed in terms of the conditions of this authorisation or any other public authority shall not be held responsible

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1728/2

15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths • Ex Officio

for any damages or losses suffered by the holder of the authorisation or his/her successor in title in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction be temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance by the holder of the authorisation with the conditions of authorisation as set out in this document or any other subsequent document emanating from these conditions of authorisation.

Date of environmental authorisation: 08/07/2018


Mr Sabelo Maraza

Chief Director: Integrated Environmental Authorisations
Department of Environmental Affairs

Annexure 1: Reasons for Decision

1. Information considered in making the decision

In reaching its decision, the Department took, *inter alia*, the following into consideration -

- a) The information contained in the BAR dated August 2017;
- b) The information contained in the application form dated 01 March 2017 and received by the competent authority on 03 March 2017, the BAR dated March 2017 received by the competent authority on 23 March 2017, the amended BAR dated July 2017 and received by the competent authority 01 August 2017, the EMPr submitted together with the final BAR dated August 2017.
- c) The listed activities applicable in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), and the assessment of the activities in the final BAR received by the Department on 04 September 2017;
- d) The comments received from the Department of Environmental Affairs: Oceans and Coasts, SANParks, West Coast District Municipality, Western Cape Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, Cape Nature and Interested and Affected Parties as included in the BAR dated August 2017;
- e) Mitigation measures as proposed in the BAR dated August 2017 and the EMPr;
- f) The information contained in the specialist studies contained on the BAR; and
- g) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No.107 of 1998).

2. Key factors considered in making the decision

All information presented to the Department was taken into account in the Department's consideration of the application. A summary of the issues which, in the Department's view, were of the most significance is set out below.

- a) The findings of all the specialist studies conducted and their recommended mitigation measures.

- b) The need for the project stems from the requirement to develop and facilitate aquaculture (the sea-based or land-based rearing of aquatic animals or the cultivation of aquatic plants for food) in South Africa to supply food, create jobs in marginalised coastal communities and contribute to national income.
- c) The project forms part of a presidential initiative to unlock the potential of the oceans to create employment and income in coastal communities, and specifically aims to create incentives for development of the aquaculture industry in Saldanha Bay, which has historically already provided skills development and employment in the area. As such, the project forms part of a government initiative and aims to further the objectives of the National Development Plan in terms of economic development.
- d) The sites are located in the sea which forms part of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' approved Aquaculture Development Zone (ADZ). The development is located in an area earmarked by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries ("DAFF") for aquaculture farming. The DAFF applied for the rights to engage in marine aquaculture in Saldanha Bay. The DAFF therefore formally acknowledge the Molapong Aquaculture development as part of the Operation Phakisa work stream and thus the development falls within the objectives of the National Development Plan (2030). In addition, the development will provide employment opportunities.
- e) This site location includes for a 250 m wide buffer around Jutten Island MPA (aligned with the island) and the entire channel between Jutten Island and Donkergat Peninsula (to mitigate marine ecology, socio-economic and heritage impacts). This buffer is in line with the DAFF post-mitigation ADZ layout.
- f) The holder of the authorisation will form part of the Consultative Forum to be commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, which will help to ensure appropriate environmental management of the development within the ADZ as a whole.
- g) The BAR dated August 2017 identified all relevant environmental legislation and guidelines that have been considered in the preparation of the BAR dated August 2017.
- h) The methodology used in assessing the potential impacts identified in the BAR dated 31 August 2017 and the specialist studies have been adequately indicated.
- i) A sufficient public participation process was undertaken and the applicant has satisfied the minimum requirements as prescribed in the EIA Regulations, 2014 for public involvement.

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/3/1/1726/2

Ally 15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

3. Findings

After consideration of the information and factors listed above, the Department made the following findings -

- a) The identification and assessment of impacts are detailed in the BAR dated August 2017 and sufficient assessment of the key identified issues and impacts have been completed.
- b) The procedure followed for impact assessment is adequate for the decision-making process.
- c) The proposed mitigation of impacts identified and assessed adequately curtails the identified impacts.
- d) According to the independent environmental assessment practitioner, the information contained in the BAR dated August 2017 is accurate and credible.
- e) EMPr measures for the pre-construction, construction and rehabilitation phases of the development were proposed and included in the BAR and will be implemented to manage the identified environmental impacts during the construction phase.

In view of the above, the Department is satisfied that, subject to compliance with the conditions contained in the environmental authorisation, the authorised activities will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management laid down in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the authorised activities can be mitigated to acceptable levels. The environmental authorisation is accordingly granted.

I certify that this document is a true copy of the original which was examined by me and that from my observations, the original has not been altered in any manner.

Department of Environmental Affairs
Environmental Authorisation Reg. No. 14/12/16/3/31/1728/2

15/12/2022
Commissioner of Oaths
Hano Liebenberg - 0486249
Chartered Accountant (SA)
Commissioner of Oaths - Ex Officio

Annexure 2: Locality Plan

