

BASIC ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED PROSPECTING IN SEA CONCESSION AREA 14C BY TRANS ATLANTIC DIAMONDS (PTY) LTD

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TRANS ATLANTIC
DIAMONDS

Appendix 18: Comments & Responses Table

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AFFILIATION	COMMENT	RESPONSE
<p>Tourism Development and Environmental Coordinator</p> <p>Community Development Matzikama Municipality</p>	<p>19/05/2022</p> <p>Cognisance must be taken by the general Duty of Care, as stated in Section 28 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998:</p> <p>“Every person who causes, has caused, or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing, or recurring, or, in so far as such harm cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimize and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment”.</p> <p>1) With reference to the content of the draft BAR your attention is drawn to the potential impacts on marine ecology and fisheries as mentioned in par. 3.2.1. on pg. 20 of the Final BAR document.</p> <p>Due to a lack of resources and capacity within this office only the following concentrated and pointed out studies and resources are referred to, however, there are quite a few other studies and resources within this regard.</p> <p>Studies as being mentioned below has shown also that seismic disturbance in the water may have a huge impact on marine animals as they are very sensitive to sound disturbances in the water as is indicated by this study By Robert C. Jones Jr. 01-03-2019.</p> <p>“Marine mammals use sound to communicate, navigate, and hunt for prey,” said Jill Richardson, program director and senior lecturer in the Department of Marine Ecosystems and Society at the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science. “Evolutionarily, they capitalized on the effective propagation of sound underwater, but this also makes them very susceptible to noise pollution. Airgun noise can be so pervasive, spatially, and temporally, that it can be debilitating.”</p> <p>Changes in diving and surfacing patterns, displacement from important feeding habitats, disorientation, stress, and either temporary or permanent shifts in hearing thresholds are some of the known impacts to marine mammals, according</p>	<p>1) Please note that the studies and impacts you are referring to are based airguns which are commonly used for oil and gas explorations. Trans Atlantic Diamonds will not be using an airgun array, but a sub-bottom profiler/ and or multibeam echosounder – the latter is almost identical to the technology of fish finders used by fisherman. Overall, the noise output from this equipment is much lower than that of airguns. With impacts on marine mammals expected to be of very low significance with the implementation of the recommended mitigation measures. Some of the most important mitigation measures are listed below (please refer to the EMPr for a comprehensive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vessel operator must keep watch for marine megafauna in the path of the vessel during vessel operation. • At least two on-board independent Marine Mammal and Seabird observers (MMSOs) must be employed to carry out daylight observations and ensure compliance with mitigation measures during geophysical surveying. • Confine surveys to seasons when cetaceans are scarce, avoiding mating season, and migratory seasons (beginning of June to end of November) (confirm these times with MMSOs). • MMSOs to conduct pre-survey visual scans of at least 30 minutes for the presence of megafauna around the survey vessel prior to any vessel movement. • Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) technology must be incorporated by a designated onboard PAM Observer. • If spotted, wait until all marine megafauna have cleared an area of 500 m radius of the centre of the vessel. • Vessel transit speed to not exceed 12 knots (22 km/hr), except within 25 km of the coast where it should be kept to less than 10 knots (18 km/hr) as well as when sensitive marine fauna are present in the vicinity.

to Richardson. "And since sound is so important to their survival, the fact that they may not be able to hear each other is extremely concerning and may lead to impacts at the population level," she said. "Imagine trying to raise a baby or communicate with friends while navigating in a concert hall where the band, essentially, never stops."

According to Richardson, the sounds generated by airguns can travel more than 4,000 kilometres from the source. "We are only starting to understand the impact of stress on marine mammal health, but it likely contributes to immune function disruption," she said. "This, when layered on top of the menagerie of other emergent threats, such as exposure to contaminants and biotoxins and the loss of habitat, can lead to devastating effects on marine mammals."

This office is not aware of any studies or sources that consider the impact of the proposed activities impact on the environment to be positive.

The Matzikama Region takes pride in marketing itself as an Eco Tourism Destination where visitors can come to see the whales as part of a niche West Coast Experience.

Research have also shown the Southern Right and Humpback whales pass Strandfontein in groups of 8-10 between June and December. Bryde's whales, common dolphins, Heaviside dolphins and dusky dolphins is also spotted during the year. The southern right whale (*Eubalaena australis*) is the most spotted whale along the West Coast in the cool season between May and November. Courting pairs breach and lobtail or slap the water with their flippers while the mothers can be seen escorting their newly born calves around sheltered bays.

Considering the above research, seismic activity in the application could potentially cause great harm to the Marine Ecology and fisheries should the approval of prospecting activities leads to mining activities over a long period of time.

2) The West Coast is also traditionally known for its small fishing communities which relies on fish catches from the sea for a livelihood. Taking the above research outcomes into account it is extremely important to acknowledge the fact that seismic activity effects breeding and moving patterns of fish and that it could potentially lead to a devastating decline in fish population species along the Coastal Towns of Doring Bay, Strandfontein and Papendorp as well as in the lower and upper Olifants River Estuary in the Matzikama area.

2) Please refer to the Marine and Fisheries specialist studies. Note that the potential effects of diamond prospecting and mining in southern Namibia on marine mammals have been reported to be minimal (Findlay 1996).

It should be noted that natural sound sources are also emitted frequently from the ocean to a point where "sea noise" and biological sound sources (baleen whale calls, dolphin echolocation, shrimp snapping etc.) may even overshadow anthropogenic noise (Penney et al. 2007; Pulfrich 2017; Au 1993; Richardson et al. 1995). The impacts of seismic survey noise on spawning behaviour of fish have not been quantified to date. However, the Multibeam Echo Sounder to be used in this study is a high-frequency system (frequencies in excess of 10 kHz) and it is known that fish are unable to perceive the high frequencies that characterise these sources (Popper et al. 2014; Barham and Mason 2021). The Topas chirp SBP falls within the mid-frequency range from Popper et al. (2014) (1 kHz to 10 kHz) which is also mostly inaudible to fish (Mason 2017). Popper and Schilt (2008) conclude that as the vast majority of fish exposed to seismic sounds will in all likelihood be some distance from the source, where the sound level has attenuated considerably; only a very small number of animals in a large population will ever be directly killed or damaged by sounds from seismic sources. Impacts will be a t individual level and not population level. The overall impact of the use of the seismic survey equipment on fish is thus assessed to be of INSIGNIFICANT risk and no mitigation is considered necessary. For the cumulative impact assessment; significance of this impact was assessed to be LOW.

3) Thank you for your comments. We fully agree with the necessity of assessment of cumulative impacts from all the prospecting and mining applications in the region. We have included a brief description of the extent of marine and coastal mining along the west coast and have included an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts. Detailed information pertaining to prospecting, mining and applications currently underway is, however, not readily available nor within the scope or timeframe (only three months) of a Basic Assessment Process for a single application. We therefore support calls for the DMRE to commission a strategic EIA to address

It is my sincere request that this application is implemented through the regulatory system of binding Marine Area Plans with detailed guidelines and spatial regulations that would steer development according to the Marine Spatial Planning Act (No. 16 of 2018) which inter alia provides a framework for Marine Spatial Protected areas in South Africa, provides for the development of marine area plans and provides for the Institutional arrangements for the Marine Spatial Planning to govern the use of the ocean by and across multiple sectors. This act must be read in conjunction with the National MSP Framework (including the spatial management approach) and the National MSP Data and Information Report (NDR)

3) Also, of concern as pointed out in the Draft BAR is the accumulative impact of the amount prospecting applications on the West Coast either from sea or land as can be seen on the map below and referred to at par. 3.2.9 on pg. 23 (Refer to email). Each of the marked applications has some negative potential impacts on the coastline of the West Coast and it seems like collectively, it could damage or destroy the living resources and heritage of the people of the West Coast.

Referring to Appendix 8 : 1 “Motivation for no other alternatives” it is made clear that the site being applicated to do prospecting is known to be rich in resources therefore chances is good that mining will follow prospecting which may lead to “long term Mining “up to a period of 15 years as mentioned in the cumulative impacts with the results of no reservable rehabilitation and a detrimental effect on the marine life as well as on the livelihood of the local community which derives a daily living from the sea.

4) With regards to the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment even though the negative impacts of prospecting would be low the long-term impacts of mining may have devastating negative impacts on the maritime sector especially as mentioned the Doring Bay Aquaculture facility and the local subsistence fisher groups.

5) However, the proposed activities would have a social economic contribution it must be kept in mind (referring to the comments made at the community Meeting held in Doring Bay on 11 November 2021 hosted by Anchor Environmental Consultants) to the adjacent application for concession 14 A that there is a definite concern from the community that they might lose their heritage and livelihood support from the sea through supporting this application.

this gap. This is now stated in the Marine specialist report and BAR as the recommended mitigation to address cumulative impacts.

With regards to the statement “site being applicated to do prospecting is known to be rich in resources”. Please note that these concession areas were established by the former Department of Minerals and Energy (now the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy — DMRE) as it is believed to be rich in diamond, mineral and other deposits. However, prospecting still needs to occur to determine the quality and quantity of these resources to determine if mining will be economically feasible in this area.

4) Due to the short duration of prospecting, (approximately two months over 5 years), negative socio-economic impacts were rated as Very Low or Insignificant as it is not expected to exclude fisheries or subsistence fishers from catching fish. Note that we cannot comment on any concerns/ questions relating to potential mining in this area as the Basic Assessment process is for prospecting rights and based on studies which considered the impacts of prospecting activities. No studies relating to mining activities have been conducted in this area to enable us to provide comment on the impacts of mining activities.

5) Due to the short duration of prospecting, negative socio-economic impacts were rated as Very Low or Insignificant as it is not expected to exclude fisheries or subsistence fishers from catching fish or losing their livelihood. One of the most important mitigation measures is to appoint a Fishing Liaison officer to ensure that prospecting does not interfere with fishing activities.

	<p>In light of the above it is critical that the Revised Strategic Impact assessment to assess cumulative impacts that marine, coastal diamond mining as well as sand mining activities has had over the last 14 years as referred to in paragraph 1.3.10 of the Draft BAR document be determined and documented first prior to the approval and further processing of this as well other current pending applications. The Municipality reserves the right to request further information and revise initial comments based on any additional information that might be received.</p>	
<p>Control Biodiversity Officer Grade B: Biodiversity Conservation Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment</p>	<p>16/05/2022</p> <p>Based on the information, the 14C concession block is not identified as part of a National Marine Protected Area (MPA), although it does fall within the Benguela Upwelling System Ecological and Biologically Significant Area (EBSA). It was determined that specialist impact assessments would be required for Plant and Animal Species Impact Assessment in the form of a Marine Ecology and Fisheries Impact Assessment. Kindly note that the DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation is not the commenting authority for this project because the proposed activities are taking place in the marine environment and no terrestrial biodiversity specialist studies were conducted. Therefore, you are advised to request comments from Marine and Coastal Unit within the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, as well as the Heritage Unit.</p>	<p>Thank you for clarifying. We have requested and received comments from these departments.</p>

<p>Directorate: Development Management (Region 1) Biodiversity and Coastal Management)</p>	<p>16/05/2022</p> <p>Based on the information contained in the Draft BAR, this Directorate notes the following:</p> <p>3.1.1. Prospecting by Trans Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd is proposed in Sea Concession Area 14C, north of Doringbaai to just north of Donkinsbaai. Both non-invasive and invasive sampling activities are proposed. The aim of the prospecting is to determine whether there are any precious metals, gemstones, and ferrous and base metals present within Sea Concession Area 14C.</p> <p>3.1.2. As the activity is located offshore and comprises prospecting only, no land-based infrastructure will be required.</p> <p>3.1.3. Sampling will be conducted in four phases and include a combination of non-invasive and invasive activities to detect the presence of paleo-beach deposits, which are known from other concessions to contain diamondiferous gravels.</p> <p>3.1.4. Non-invasive activities will include a desktop study, geophysical exploration (acoustic survey), data acquisition and analysis, whilst the invasive activities will include physical sampling (collection of core, drill and grab samples).</p> <p>3.1.5. The proposed prospecting programme will take place during spring and/or summer and when weather conditions are suitable, and seas are calm.</p> <p>3.2. Based on the findings of the Draft BAR, the significance of all the potential negative environmental impacts can be mitigated to a low, very low or insignificant level. It must be ensured that all the specified mitigation measures are strictly implemented and adhered to during prospecting. It is essential that the recommendation that a designated onboard Marine Mammal and Seabird Observer be employed to ensure compliance with mitigation measures during geophysical surveying, be included as a condition of approval, should a positive environmental authorisation be granted.</p> <p>3.3. Comments from all relevant organs of state should be obtained, included and adequately addressed in the Final BAR.</p>	<p>Thank you and noted. We have requested comment from all relevant organs of state and the public participation process complied with the requirements as per NEMA and the EIA regulations.</p>
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	<p>3.4. The public participation process must comply with the requirements of regulation 41 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) (“NEMA”) Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended) and proof of compliance with all the steps undertaken must be included in the final BAR</p>	
<p>Biodiversity and Coastal Management</p>	<p>16/05/2022</p> <p>4.1 The Draft BAR indicates that the proposed prospecting activity will not seemingly have a significant impact on the receiving marine environment prior to mitigation; however, prospecting may in all eventuality lead to further mining activities, which have more pronounced environmental impacts.</p> <p>4.2. The Marine Specialist Study compiled by Anchor Environmental Consultants dated March 2022 records in Table i that the pre-mitigation impact of seismic disturbance to marine mammals, is rated as having a medium negative significance, which is provided with a medium level of confidence. Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning cumulative impact of seismic disturbance to marine mammals is also rated as having a medium negative significance (pre-mitigation) and is provided with a low confidence level.</p> <p>4.3. It is further noted that the cumulative impact of seismic disturbance to seabirds is recorded as having a medium negative significance (pre-mitigation), provided with a low confidence level.</p> <p>4.4. The West Coast coastal communities are culturally fishing communities who depend on marine species for their livelihood. The proposed prospecting area coincides with historical fishing areas as well as spawning grounds of various marine species. The potential socio-economic impact of prospecting activities, especially considering the required exclusive zone around the prospecting vessels, is concerning.</p> <p>4.5. It is noted with cautious concern that scientific consensus of seismic activities on marine species is seemingly not conclusive in terms of understanding the actual impacts within the marine environment, which could raise the environmental risk of undertaking the proposed activity, and lead to more significant impacts on the</p>	<p>4.1) Note that we cannot comment on any concerns/ questions relating to potential mining in this area as the Basic Assessment process is for prospecting rights and based on studies which considered the impacts of prospecting activities. No studies relating to mining activities have been conducted in this area to enable us to provide comment on the impacts of mining activities.</p> <p>4.4) Socio-economic impacts of prospecting on the livelihood of communities were rated as Very Low. This is due to the short duration and temporary nature of prospecting activities. It is not expected that fish would be found in the immediate vicinity of the vessel and would therefore not exclude fisherman from catching fish. The fish would simply move to an adjacent area to which the fisherman are free to move to catch the fish.</p> <p>4.5) Noted. A risk averse/cautious approach has been adopted through implementation of the recommended mitigation measures.</p> <p>The geophysical survey equipment to be used during this seismic survey includes a multibeam echosounder and Chirp sub-bottom profiler (not an airgun array). A noise modelling study (using marine mammal noise exposure criteria from Southall <i>et al.</i> (2019)) that was undertaken in Greenland in 50-250 m water depth for a similar MBES and Chirp sub-bottom profiler geophysical survey system predicted worst case scenario impact ranges for HF and LF cetacean hearing groups of less than 100 m for both PTS and TTS (Barham and</p>

marine environment as an unintended consequence of such activity. This Directorate therefore encourages a risk averse/ cautious approach which considers the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of decisions and actions.

4.6. Figure 19 of the Marine Specialist Study depicts the current extent of mining and prospecting applications and operations along the West Coast. The extent of operations and applications is of concern as there is no assessment of cumulative impacts of both prospecting and mining activities on the marine environment.

4.7. This Directorate is strongly of the view that there is an urgent need for a strategic level impact assessment to determine these cumulative impacts (both local and regional) on the marine environment. This view is also expressed by the EAP on page 33 of the Draft BAR as follows: "It is recommended that a strategic level Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process based on marine spatial planning principles be undertaken to assess and manage potential cumulative impacts in a holistic manner and to identify and implement regional level mitigation measures. The decision-making authority (DMRE) must take cognisance of this recommendation to do a strategic level EIA in order for Specialists and Environmental Assessment Practitioners to accurately assess cumulative impacts."

4.8. Based on the above, this Directorate does not support the application for prospecting in Sea Concession Area 14C.

5. The applicant is reminded of its "duty of care" prescribed in section 28 of the NEMA, 1998 which states that "Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment", read together with section 58 of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008) which refers to one's duty to avoid causing adverse effects on the coastal environment. Please direct any enquiries to the official/s indicated in this correspondence should you require any clarity on any of the comments provided.

Mason 2021). This means that cetaceans could be at risk of injury if they are within 100 m of the seismic source. This is extremely close and it is almost certain that an MMSO on duty (in combination with passive acoustic monitoring) would be able to detect cetaceans at a much greater distance allowing sufficient time to implement the recommended mitigation measures i.e. terminate the survey if any marine mammals show affected behaviour within 500 m of the survey vessel or equipment until the mammal has vacated the area. The MMSO will be positioned in the bridge of the intended survey vessel that has an elevated 360 degree view which would enable detection of cetaceans well beyond 500m away. The survey speed of the intended survey vessel is approximately 4km/h which should leave sufficient time for any marine mammals within the vicinity to be observed on the surface whilst breathing well before they are within 100 m of the survey vessel (the distance at which potential acoustic injury may occur). The total duration of the seismic survey is expected to be no more than 5 days. In light of this and with implementation of the stipulated mitigation measures, the impact is reduced from medium to very low significance.

4.6, 4.7 and 4.8) Thank you for your comments. We fully agree with the necessity of assessment of cumulative impacts from all the prospecting and mining applications in the region. We have included a brief description of the extent of marine and coastal mining along the west coast and have included an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts. Detailed information pertaining to prospecting, mining and applications currently underway is, however, not readily available nor within the scope or timeframe (only three months) of a Basic Assessment Process for a single application. We therefore support calls for the DMRE to commission a strategic EIA to address this gap. This is now stated in the Marine specialist report and BAR as the recommended mitigation to address cumulative impacts.

5) Duly noted

<p>Department of Forestry, Fisheries & the Environment (DFFE), Branch: Oceans and Coast</p>	<p>10/05/2022</p> <p>The following specific Conditions below are for the attention of the Environmental Assessment Practitioner EAP) and Competent Authority (CA).</p> <p>1.1 Past assessment of similar applications has revealed that there is an adequate consideration of cumulative impacts. The scope of assessment in terms of cumulative impacts and/ or unintended impacts is often limited to direct impacts (project-related activities). The scope of assessment often fails to consider long-term, residual, and/or unintended impacts resulting from conducting the same or similar type of activities within one area of interest (other non-invasive seismic surveys/ exploration drilling expeditions, oil, and gas activities).</p> <p>1.2 What is often not acknowledged is that all the anticipated impacts of the exploration, drilling, sampling, and/or non-invasive surveying, are taking place together at the same locations. While the report might detail that the activities because of this application are negligible or insignificant, the potential impact of these activities (acoustic sounds, vibrations), coupled with other similar activities within the same area can result in cumulative impacts on marine ecology. The Branch O&C would like the assessment reviewer and appointed specialist to take cognisance of this and report on the significance of these impacts in the next report.</p> <p>1.3 The report outlines that the anticipated impacts by means of physical sampling activities, acoustic surveys, or vessel movement and noise include the disturbance of fauna (invertebrates, fish, mammals, seabirds, and turtles), submerged prehistoric resources, shipping activities, fishing activities, tourism, and the community of Doringbaai. Sampling will be done at 20–50 sites, disturbing a total surface area of 5 square meters (m²) and a total volume of 1.5 cubic meters (m³).</p> <p>1.4 However, the assessment findings conclude that these impacts are either INSIGNIFICANT or VERY LOW. While the Branch O&C concurs that these impacts, with the implementation of adequate mitigation measures, can be minimised, these impacts are irreversible and have the potential to result in the loss of environmental integrity, social values, and economic opportunities should appropriate measures not be undertaken to ensure that they are avoided, abated, or mitigated. This aspect of the impact assessment needs to be revised and adequate ratings of all associated impacts should be assigned.</p>	<p>1.1 and 1.2) Thank you for your comments. We fully agree with the necessity of assessment of cumulative impacts from all the prospecting and mining applications in the region. Please note we have included a brief description of the extent of marine and coastal mining along the west coast and have included an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of each impact identified during the marine ecological and fisheries assessment. Detailed information pertaining to prospecting, mining and applications currently underway is, however, not readily available nor within the scope or timeframe (only three months) of a Basic Assessment Process for a single application. We therefore support calls for the DMRE to commission a strategic EIA to address this gap. This is now stated in the Marine specialist report and BAR as the recommended mitigation to address cumulative impacts.</p> <p>1.3 and 1.4) The application area is Sea Area 14C (i.e., Concession 14C) and is an area of sea covering 106 100 ha offshore of the Western Cape coast of South Africa.</p> <p>The total area of soft bottom habitat expected to be impacted by the Van Veen grab will be approximately 5m² (0.000000004% of the entire concession area). This is perceived to be virtually negligible. Furthermore, areas disturbed by grab sampling and/or coring are expected to make a full recovery.</p> <p>The total duration of the seismic survey and prospecting activities in 14C is expected to take no more than 5 days. Given the above, and in light of the recommended mitigation measures, no impacts relating to the proposed prospecting activities have been identified as irreversible or with the potential to result in the loss of environmental integrity, social values, and economic opportunities.</p> <p>1.5) Please note we have included a brief description of the extent of marine and coastal mining along the west coast and have included an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of each impact identified during the marine ecological and fisheries assessment. Detailed information pertaining to prospecting, mining and</p>
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1.5 The report findings ascertain that marine mammals and shipwrecks of high heritage significance will be significantly affected by the proposed prospecting activities in terms of echolocation, behaviour, and critical activities such as feeding. A comprehensive Marine and Ecological specialist study is required to review these impacts and report on the anticipated long-term, cumulative, and unintended impacts on marine ecology to ensure informed decision-making.

1.6 The report further outlines that the impact of prospecting on submerged cultural, prehistoric heritage, and paleontological resources was assessed and its significance is expected to be LOW or VERY LOW. It is unclear how the assessment practitioner reached this outcome. Further clarity is required.

1.7 The report identifies that due to the location of the concession area relative to the nearest town and harbour (5 km offshore of Doringbaai) and the short duration of the activities, prospecting is not expected to have a significant impact on fishing effort, the visual integrity of the area, tourism, sense of place, noise levels or local crime rates. However, given the short distance, the proposed prospecting activities could potentially result in the accidental introduction of invasive marine species, disturbance of indigenous species and/ or marine ecosystems, unauthorized/ accidental discharge of trash and debris which could potentially result in the degradation of water quality, disruption of seafloor sediments and benthic communities and impact on the fishing community.

1.8 The assessment findings conclude that the impacts on the marine environment and fisheries before mitigation as ranging from MEDIUM to INSIGNIFICANT and with effective mitigation, these impacts can all be reduced to VERY LOW or INSIGNIFICANT. However, the impacts on fisheries and the livelihoods of fishing communities due to exclusion from fishing grounds and disturbance of target fish species (impacts on tuna pole and line, traditional linefish, small pelagic purse seine fishing sectors, local households, tourism, and small businesses, sense of place, crime levels and noise levels are socioeconomic impacts that are irreversible and cannot be easily mitigated.

1.9 It should be noted that the community of Doringbaai the towns closest to Concession Area 14C, are predominantly fishing communities and that are highly dependent on marine resources and the coastal environment as a livelihood strategy and a source of employment. As such, it is unclear how the impacts associated with this can be minimised, avoided, or abated. Development applications that have the potential of negatively impacting communities' ability

applications currently underway is, however, not readily available nor within the scope or timeframe (only three months) of a Basic Assessment Process for a single application. We therefore support calls for the DMRE to commission a strategic EIA to address this gap. This is now stated in the Marine specialist report and BAR as the recommended mitigation to address cumulative impacts.

1.6) Please refer to the Heritage Impact Assessment with regards to how this outcome was reached for Maritime Heritage. With regards to Cultural, Prehistoric and paleontological resources, results of this assessment were drawn from the impact assessment as conducted for concession area 14A by John Gribble due to the fact that this study and impact assessment was based on the broader region which also includes concession area 14C. . Please refer to appendix 4 at <https://anchorenvironmental.co.za/node/464>

1.7) The vessel would most likely come from Cape Town or Saldanha Harbour. Alien species which might be transported with the vessel are unlikely to survive and establish in the open ocean. They are more likely to establish in ports and harbours. Furthermore, this vessel is not more likely to transfer alien species than any other fishing vessel in the area. All vessels adhere to strict regulations in terms of The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) and thus pollution is highly unlikely.

1.8 and 1.9) Socio-economic impacts of prospecting on the livelihood of communities were rated as Very Low. This is due to the short duration and temporary nature of prospecting activities. Prospecting is not expected to exclude fisheries or subsistence fishers from catching fish or losing their livelihood. Fish are expected to avoid the vessel and simply move to another area. The fisher people are free to follow and catch the fish in this area. Furthermore, a Fishing Liaison Officer will be appointed to be the liaison between the communities and the applicant to ensure that prospecting does not interfere with fishing activities, by

	<p>tosustain themselves should be reviewed with caution to mitigate adverse long-term impacts.</p> <p>1.10 The report details that the proposed sampling via coring and drilling is not expected to create significant underwater noise as the sound is largely restricted to the seabed material (sand/rock)and environmentally significant sound propagation in the water column is not anticipated.</p> <p>1.11 The assessment findings ascertain that the potential impact of most concern is that of seismic disturbance to marine mammals and was assessed as MEDIUM negative significance prior tomitigation. It is known that migrating humpback, southern right whales, dusky dolphins, and the near threatened Heaviside’s dolphin are frequently encountered on the west coast of southern Africa. Of the proposed seismic survey activities, the Topas sub-bottom profiler system couldpresent a risk to dusky and Heaviside’s dolphins.</p> <p>1.12 It should be noted that it is not easy to detect humpback whales using PAM. Therefore, this may not be a very useful mitigation measure in this regard. These months should simply be avoided for geophysical surveying along with July-Oct.</p> <p>1.13 Considering that whales (other species) and dolphins are likely to be present year-round in thesurvey area, PAM must be operated in all months when surveys occur, at least at night and inconditions of poor visibility.</p> <p>1.14 MMSO should conduct pre-survey visual scans of at least 30 minutes for the presence ofmegafauna around the survey vessel prior to any vessel movement. The start-up must bedelayed, or (if in operation) surveying must be halted if a turtle is sighted.</p> <p>1.15 The EAP should further elucidate whether this has been proposed in case surveying should take place in these months and where the limits of the whale migrations cannot be avoided. This aspect should be clearly outlined in the report to ensure informed decision-making.</p> <p>1.16 This assessment should also detail the operational impacts associated with the proposedactivities such as the night lights of the vessel on seabirds, especially considering the foggyconditions that often occur off the West Coast.</p>	<p>communicating which areas need to be avoided during which fishing.</p> <p>1.10, 1.11, 1.12, 1.13, 1.14 and 1.15) This is noted and as mentioned, a MMSO will be consulted to determine the seasons that need to be avoided. This will be clearly outlined in the EMPr once established.</p> <p>1.16) Seabird collision with the vessel is not anticipated as the vessel will not be creating fish offal to attract sea birds and is not expected to create light that will be brighter or more intense than that on any other operational vessel in the region.</p> <p>1.17) Please see response to this comment in section 1.1, 1.2 and 1.5 above.</p> <p>1.18) Please see response to section 1.10 – 1.15 above.</p> <p>1.19) This is noted. Should prospecting prove that mining would be economically viable, the applicant could consider making an arrangement with the community to contribute towards community upliftment and benefits.</p> <p>1.20 and 1.21) Agreed</p>
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1.17 There has been a recent increase in applications for prospecting and exploration rights along the west coast and increased prospecting/survey activity in the short term and marine mining in the long-term is anticipated. Cumulative impacts of marine prospecting and mining must be considered at a broader spatial scale in a strategic manner for each potential impact identified.

1.18 The report outlines the proposed prospecting programme will take place during spring and/or summer and when weather conditions are suitable, and the seas are calm. The timing of seismic survey activity in concession 14C should be confined to seasons when cetaceans are scarce to ensure minimal disturbance.

1.19 The Branch O&C strongly holds that these factors need to be considered when reviewing exploration applications and making decisions relating to mining within the marine and coastal environment. A sustainable development approach needs to be adopted to ensure that the environmental rights of South Africans are protected, that people and communities equally benefit from the resources and economic benefits derived from the use or extraction of all resources, and that existing and future planned, economic activities along this coastline are protected from long-term, cumulative, and unintended impacts of seismic surveying, exploration and/or mining on this coastal shelf.

1.20 Marine Mammal and Seabird observers (MMSOs) with experience in marine megafauna (including, but not limited to, all marine mammals (cetaceans and seals), sea turtles, and seabirds) identification and observation techniques must be employed to carry out daylight observations and ensure compliance with mitigation measures during geophysical surveying. It must be ensured that there are sufficient MMOs on board the vessel to prevent fatigue and meet health and safety requirements, during the survey periods.

1.21 It must be ensured that there are sufficient MMOs and PAM operators on board the vessel to prevent fatigue and meet health and safety requirements, during the survey periods.

Coastal Justice Network	<p>03/05/2022</p> <p>Please note that I registered as an Interested and Affected Party for the 14C application (see your email below) but I have not received any further information from you regarding this application. I hear from others that it was approved? Please kindly provide me with the necessary information and confirm that I have 20 days from the date that I receive this information?</p>	<p>I apologise for the confusion. Please note that Environmental Authorisation has been granted for Concession area 14A and NOT 14C. The subject line of the email had a typo. The email body did, however, contain the correct information. We will be sending out a correction email shortly. The Draft BAR for Concession area 14C is still in circulation and the Public Participation Period will end at 23:59 on Wednesday 18 May 2022. You have until then to submit your comments on the Draft BAR for 14C.</p>
Coastal Justice Network	<p>04/05/2022</p> <p>Please kindly register me as an interested and affected party. Please kindly take note of the interests of the small-scale fishing communities and other coastal stakeholders and ocean users on the West Coast and make the notice accessible to them.</p>	<p>Thank you for getting in touch with us. We have registered you as a stakeholder and you will receive all further communication and documentation regarding the proposed prospecting activity. We also duly note your concern regarding the small-scale fishing communities and other coastal stakeholders. We have widely distributed the notices and ensured that we contact all relevant users of the area.</p>
West Coast District Municipality	<p>2022/04/28</p> <p>1. I refer to the notification dated 31 March 2022 regarding the availability of the Draft BAR for the proposed prospecting by Trans Atlantic Diamonds in Sea Concession 14C, between Doringbaai and Donkinsbaai, as well as the email dated 12 April 2022 that provided a link to the relevant documents.</p> <p>2. This application, together with recent prospecting applications in the vicinity (Blocks 11B, 11C, 13B and 14A), will have potential cumulative impacts on the environment and local communities, recreational fishermen and the fishing</p>	<p>1 and 2) Thank you for your comments. We fully agree with the necessity of assessment of cumulative impacts from all the prospecting and mining applications in the region. Please note we have included a brief description of the extent of marine and coastal mining along the west coast and have included an assessment of the potential cumulative impacts of each impact identified during the marine ecological and fisheries assessment</p>

		industry utilising this area for commercial, interim relief, subsistence and small-scale fishing for West Coast rock lobster, the annual snoek season, etc.	
		3. Prospecting Rights for Sea Concession 14C will also impact the public and local communities' access to Coastal Public Property (CPP) as regulated and detailed in the Integrated Coastal Management Act (ICMA).	Please note that this will not be the case during prospecting. There will only be a 500m exclusion buffer around the vessel for safety purposes.
		4. It is recommended that a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the entire South African West Coast be conducted prior to the acceptance of further prospecting and mining applications in order to address these concerns in a strategic manner.	We fully agree with the necessity of an assessment of cumulative impacts from all the prospecting and mining applications in the region. Detailed information pertaining to prospecting, mining and applications currently underway is, however, not readily available nor within the scope or timeframe (only three months) of a Basic Assessment Process for a single application. We therefore support calls for the DMRE to commission a strategic EIA to address this gap. This is now stated in the Marine specialist report and BAR as the recommended mitigation to address cumulative impacts.
Heritage Maritime Underwater Heritage Unit	Officer: and Cultural	<p>26/04/2022</p> <p>The South African Heritage Resources Agency would like to thank you for submitting the Draft Basic Assessment Report for the for the proposed prospecting in Sea Concession area 14C by Trans-Atlantic Diamonds (Pty) Ltd, West Coast, South Africa.</p> <p>In terms of the National Heritage Resources Act, No 25 of 1999 (NHRA), Sections 2 and 35 stipulate that any wreck, being any vessel or aircraft or any part thereof older than 60 years old lying in South Africa's territorial waters or maritime cultural zone is protected and falls under the jurisdiction of SAHRA's Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit. These heritage sites or objects may not be disturbed without a permit from the relevant heritage resources authority.</p> <p>The prospecting activities described in the report are a geophysical/ acoustic survey, Van Veen grab sampling, core sampling and drilling. The geophysical survey is non-invasive and it is proposed that both a multibeam echosounder and sub-bottom profiler will be used. The grab sampling will take between 20-50 samples and will disturb a total surface area of approx. 5m² and a total volume of 1.5 cubic metres (m³). Core samples will be collected at 100-200 sites, it is invasive and will disturb a total surface area of approximately 1.57 m² and collect a total volume of 4.71m³. The most invasive sampling period will come during the drilling stage.</p>	<p>Thank you and we take note of your comments.</p> <p>Please note that we have changed the sections which read: "South African Heritage Resource Association" to "South African Heritage Resources Agency" in all places in the documents.</p> <p>A case was opened on SARHA as part of the BAR and all required documents uploaded as they became available. The final BAR will also be uploaded on 30 May 2022.</p>

Target areas will be sampled using a drill with a surface area of 5m² and will be done in three steps: (1) An initial 150 samples will be collected and analysed. (2) An additional 150 samples will be collected during follow-up sampling. Should these follow-up samples indicate that there could be a potential resource, only then will step 3 (resource development phase) commence. (3) An additional 60 samples will be collected in a resource area of 500 m x 300 m. Approximately 20 resource development areas will be required. This equates to 1 200 samples. In total, 1 500 samples will be collected and will cover a surface area of 7500m².

A maritime heritage study has already been undertaken as part of the application process and is included in the DBAR. The specialist study was informed by desktop research and has identified that the potential for disturbing maritime cultural heritage is low. However, records state that there is DEFINITELY one modern wreck within the Sea Concession, the fishing vessel Oceana Sapphire which foundered in 2002. It must be noted that although the wreck of Oceana Sapphire is currently not old enough to be protected by the NHRA, it should still be reported to the authorities if it is discovered as the information can be added to the national shipwreck database. There are five modern wrecks that are POSSIBLY in Sea Concession 14C as they were reported as being lost near the concession. This information regarding the location of the above wrecks would be able to be verified with geophysical data. There are a further 38 wrecks lost in the general area of the concession but whose locations are not known.

The heritage study has made recommendations and mitigation measures that should be adhered to during the project, these are:

Areas where shipwreck sites are identified during the geophysical surveys must be excluded prior to undertaking sampling activities. The contractor must be notified that archaeological sites could be exposed during sampling activities, as well as the procedure to follow should archaeological material be encountered during sampling. Any core sample sections which contain alluvial material, particularly where organic remains are present, are retained and are subject to paleo-environmental assessment. Any fossils found during the processing of cores must have the details of context recorded, must be kept for identification by an appropriate specialist and, if significant, be deposited in an appropriate institution.

If shipwreck material is encountered during the course of sampling in any of the concession areas, the following mitigation measure should be applied: Cease work in the directly affected area to avoid damage to the wreck until the South African

	<p>Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA) has been notified and the contractor has complied with any additional mitigation as specified by SAHRA; and Where possible, take photographs of them, noting the date, time, location and types of artefacts found. Under no circumstances may any artefacts be removed, destroyed or interfered on the site, unless under permit from SAHRA.</p> <p>The study has also recommended that the onboard Trans-Atlantic representative must undergo a short induction on archaeological site and artefact recognition, as well as the procedure to follow should archaeological material be encountered during sampling. SAHRA supports the recommendations and proposed mitigation measures outlined in the heritage study and included in Section 8.9.3 of the DBAR.</p> <p>It has been noted in the Glossary on page viii that SAHRA is called the South African Heritage Resource Association when it should in fact read South African Heritage Resources Agency, it also needs to be corrected on pages xiv, 114 and 128. Please amend these errors in this document and in all future documents.</p> <p>While there is only one known shipwreck site and five further sites possibly within the proposed prospecting areas there is always the potential for unknown wrecks or shipwreck material to be uncovered during the works. Should anything of archaeological or paleontological significance be exposed during the proposed project, work must cease immediately and SAHRA must be informed of its discovery without delay. In this event, work may not commence until feedback has been received from SAHRA. Please note that all updates and/or changes to the project, supporting documentation, correspondence, reports, or any other work relating to the project must be uploaded to the case on SAHRIS to provide SAHRA with the opportunity to comment. SAHRA does not accept emailed documents or hard-copy documents received via post. Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.</p>	
<p>Road Planning Transport and Public Works, Western Cape Government</p>	<p>2022/04/25</p> <p>This Branch offers no objection to the issuing of the environmental authorisation.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We take note of this.</p>

<p>Environmental Officer</p> <p>Western Province Deep Sea Association</p>	<p>22/04/2022</p> <p>Thank you for the meeting of interested and affected parties at your offices on 11 April. We at the Western Province Deep Sea Association and the South African Deep Sea Angling Association find no reason to be concerned regarding the prospecting for gemstones, minerals or metals at this location. I unfortunately did not capture the name and contact details of the geologist who was at the meeting. He undertook to share with our association the survey data he had acquired for the Cape Canyon which would be of interest to our members. Would you kindly request from him this data or alternatively, send me his contact details so I may contact him directly?</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. These details were shared with the stakeholder privately.</p>
<p>DFFE: Biodiversity and Conservation</p>	<p>2022/04/21</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report for the Prospecting Rights for Concession Area 14c. Kindly note that the project has been allocated to Ms Rabothata and myself (both copied on this email). Please note: All Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries will be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We take not of this.</p>
<p>DFFE: Biodiversity and Conservation</p>	<p>2022/04/04</p> <p>DFFE Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation hereby acknowledge the receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the mentioned project. The directorate does not have any comments regarding the acceptance and acknowledgement of the applications. Kindly notify us as soon as the Basic Assessment report becomes available.</p> <p>Please note that all Public Participation Process documents related to Biodiversity EIA review and any other Biodiversity EIA queries must be submitted to the Directorate: Biodiversity Conservation at Email: BCAdmin@environment.gov.za for attention of Mr Seoka Lekota.</p>	<p>We have noted the correspondence below and notified the department of the availability of the draft BAR.</p>

<p>Masifundise Development Trust</p>	<p>2022/03/17</p> <p>The public participation process as required by NEMA as well as the EIA regulations state that all Interested and affected parties must be given an adequate opportunity to participate in these processes. Additionally, I&APs must have the correct understanding, as well as the skills and capacity that are needed in order to participate fairly and effectively. NEMA and the guidelines also require that disadvantaged and poor communities are able to participate in these EIA public participation processes and that information is made available in an accessible format, and in the appropriate language. Furthermore, the NEMA regulation 41(2)(e) requires that "participation by potential or registered interested and affected parties is facilitated in such a manner that all potential or registered interested and affected parties are provided with a reasonable opportunity to comment on the application or proposed application".</p> <p>It is the EAP's responsibility to identify the most appropriate method of public participation for the particular context, including accounting for persons with disabilities and those who are illiterate. In this case, members of the local small-scale fishing communities, especially those who benefit from marine resources and rely on it for food and livelihoods, should have been notified and provided an opportunity to give input to this process.</p> <p>In the case of this prospecting application, awareness of the first public meeting would have been a challenge for many small-scale fishers in these communities. The public participation meeting so far is only taking place in Doringbaai, thereby excluding the fishers of nearby communities such as Papendorp and Ebenhaeser, and even Lamberts Bay in the South. Despite the fact that the Sea Concession Area 14C does not fall in line with these communities, the impacts on the water column as well as the species in the area will also impact the fishers in these communities. It is therefore important that these communities are included in the public participation process, that their concerns and comments are included in the process, and that they are assisted in accessing these meetings through transport cost support. The public participation to date has been insufficient.</p>	<p>Please note: that a pre-consultation meeting was held at Doringbaai on 11 March 2022. The purpose of this meeting was to consult with the communities in the immediate area before the specialist and impact studies were carried out. The aim was to inform the communities and other interested and affected parties of the project and associated activities, to get the community's input and answer questions so that these can be taken into account during the impact studies. The pre-consultation was also used as an opportunity to obtain contact details of other important community representatives, fishing communities in other towns, and important organisations to inform them of the process and the official public participation process.</p> <p>The Draft Basic Assessment Report (BAR) was made available on our website (https://anchorencvironmental.co.za/) and at the Doringbaai, Ebenhaeser and Lutzville Libraries and the Strandfontein West Coast Information Centre for 30 days during the Public Participation Period.</p> <p>Public meetings were held in Cape Town, Doringbaai and Ebenhaeser. The meetings at the latter two locations were held in Afrikaans to accommodate the communities. The BIDs were also available in both Afrikaans and English.</p> <p>Furthermore, we did circulate notices and newspaper ads. Regardless, we did not receive any correspondence from community members in Lamberts Bay, neither did we receive correspondence from them during the previous public meetings.</p>
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	<p>2.2. Need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Area</p> <p>The BID for this project does not provide an acceptable explanation or understanding of the context of the diamond mining application, especially in light of the recent increases in prospecting and mining applications and operations along the entire West Coast region of South Africa. The BID also does not consider the potential cumulative impacts of the activities proposed in this application when combined with other prospecting, mining, and other development activities along the coast on the marine environment and ecosystem function, especially in terms of the migration of fish. There are also impacts on fisheries resources and the communities that rely and depend on these resources for food and livelihoods that are not considered in light of potential cumulative impacts. The communities in this area rely on the annual snoek run for a large portion of their annual income. Sea Concession Area 14C stretches out into the area in which the snoek migrate down on the coast.</p> <p>Finally, the lack of assessment of cumulative impacts does not account for the potential impact on benthic macrofauna, marine megafauna, seabirds, prehistoric heritage, marine archaeological and palaeontological resources, as well as access to the oceans for local communities as well as tourists.</p> <p>It is requested and recommended that a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the entire West Coast is conducted prior to the acceptance of further prospecting and mining applications.</p>	<p>Thank you for your comments. Please note that the BID is a summary of the most important information in lay terms to enable all to have access to the information in a manner that they can understand. The Specialist Studies and Draft BAR includes more detailed information including an assessment of cumulative impacts.</p> <p>The Marine Specialist Impact Assessment report assesses cumulative impacts and individual impact to benthic macrofauna, marine megafauna, seabirds, prehistoric heritage, marine archaeological and palaeontological resources, as well as access to the oceans for local communities as well as tourists for impacted section 14C.</p> <p>The scale of activities for 14C does not warrant a strategic environmental assessment of the entire West Coast..</p>
	<p>2.3. Socio-economic Impacts</p> <p>The BID does acknowledge that there will be socio-economic impacts on the fishing industry. It is important that the BAR does an in-depth dive into what these potential impacts are, especially on the marginal and poor small-scale fishing communities. These communities rely on the health of the ecosystem to put food on their tables. These impacts need to be carefully considered.</p> <p>The BID also states that these prospecting activities will result in regional and local benefits. However, in many cases of mining and prospecting on the coasts of South Africa, the job creation is minimal. In addition, the jobs that are created are not available for the local unskilled and semi-skilled workers that exist in the</p>	<p>A socio-economic consideration report was compiled for the exploration and prospecting activities in sea area 14C. Recommendations from this report have been included in the final BAR. Furthermore, the Marine and Fisheries Specialist report assesses negative impact on several fishing industries (Traditional Linefish Sector, Pelagic Purse Seine Fishers, and Tuna Pole and Longline).</p> <p>Please note that the benefits associated with prospecting activities are considered to be much less as prospecting is a research phase with no economic gain. The potential local and regional socio-economic benefits of prospecting were therefore assessed to by</p>

	community, and labour is generally brought in from outside of the community. How many realistic jobs will this project create for the local community?	INSIGNIFICANT Potential employment opportunities which can be created have been included in the BAR.
<p>DFFE: Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management</p>	<p>2022/03/17</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The DFFE, Branch: Fisheries Management has a mandate in the development and management of aquaculture. 2. The proposed Trans Atlantic Diamonds prospecting right concession 14C area overlaps with the Southern section of new Western Cape sea-based aquaculture ranching concession area. 3. A call for interest was gazetted (GN 44636) on the 28th May 2021, by the Minister of DFFE for those with an interest to conduct sea-based ranching of abalone along an approximately 7km stretch of coastline between Doring Bay and Strandfontein Bay in the Western Cape (WC) (Coordinates, point A 31 45'26.34"S; 18 13'25.35"E, Point B 3149'14.43"S; 18 13' 54.44"E). 4. There is currently an application from Doring Bay Abalone (Pty) Ltd for a "Right to Engage in Abalone Ranching and Stock Enhancement pilot project in terms of Section 18 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No, 18 of 1998)" ("ranching right") and it was assessed in terms of the "Criteria for allocating rights to engage in abalone ranching and stock enhancement pilot projects". Doring Bay Abalone (Pty) Ltd demonstrated compliance with all exclusionary criteria points as per Phase 1 of the application process (Government Gazette 21 April 2011, No. 352 & 353). The applicant proceeded to Phase 2 (Balancing Criteria of the application process in September 2021 which included demonstrating equity and job creation; capacity technical; future investment in the sector and environmental considerations. 5. The Environmental Impact Assessment process for the proposed prospecting in concession area 14C should consider the already approved aquaculture ranching concession area for the Western Cape. The application should consider the necessary specialist studies, such as but not limited to Dispersion Modelling, Marine Ecological Assessment etc., to assess the impacts of proposed mining application on the approved abalone ranching concession area. 6. The Department requests that the impact studies investigate about the potential impact of accumulation of heavy material from the mining activity in the sediments 	<p>Concession area 14C does not overlap with the abalone ranching facility. Furthermore, Doringbaai Abalone is registered as Stakeholder 301 and 302 and is therefore aware of this activity and has thus far had no objections to this application.</p> <p>The marine specialist report does consider potential impacts on the Doringbaai abalone farm and proposed ranching programme. Due to all drill sampling proposed for water deeper than 70m depth and some more than 5 km west of Doringbaai, significant negative impacts on this sector are therefore not anticipated</p> <p>Given the small volume of sediment that will be disturbed in the prospecting phase, and the method of sampling (with a drill, at discrete points), 5 km away from the shore, it is not expected that there will be any impacts of elevated TSS on the nearshore environment. A dispersion model is therefore not required for the prospecting phase, but will be recommended to assess mining phase activities</p>

	<p>located near the ranching site which may settle in the sediment that will become suspended and accumulate in the flesh of ranched abalone.</p> <p>7. Doring Bay Abalone which has an application for a ranching right at an advanced stage should be included as an Interested and Affected Party and should be engaged further on the overlaps and impacts.</p> <p>Please note the Directorate Sustainable Aquaculture Management reserves the right to review and/or provide additional comments in future. Enquiries may be directed to the contact information provided at the top of this correspondence.</p>	
Biodiversity and Conservation	<p>2022/03/11</p> <p>Fishing for West Coast Rock Lobster occurs from October to June between sunrise and 14h00. Inshore commercial mining in these areas will impact on fishing, specifically inshore fisheries, linefish and small pelagics.</p>	<p>Fisheries sectors operating within Concession 14C that could be impacted include small pelagic purse seine, tuna pole and line, and traditional linefish. The catches from these sectors made within the concession area 14C are all of limited significance as a proportion of the national total catch of each of these fisheries but they may be important at the individual vessel, right holder or fisher level. Due to the short-term nature and small degree of overlap of proposed prospecting in 14C with fisheries and fish nursery areas, the impact is assessed to be VERY LOW and INSIGNIFICANT with implementation of mitigation to avoid fishing seasons and inform key stakeholders from the potentially affected Small pelagic, Tuna Pole and line, and Traditional Linefish sectors. The cumulative potential impact on fisheries due to the proposed prospecting activities within 14C in combination with other anthropogenic activities along the west coast is assessed as LOW overall negative significance with the implementation of the same mitigation.</p>
Department of Public Works	<p>2022/03/11</p> <p>The above-mentioned invitation has bearing. The notice to attend the meeting was received too late. I am responsible to provide comments on these mining/prospecting applications on behalf of my department, the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (NDPWI) and would like to place it on record that NDPWI has received the invitation only a week prior to the meeting. Furthermore that the meeting has been convened at a much unappropriated time. It is not possible for government departments that is situated in Cape Town to attend PPP meetings on a Friday evening.</p>	<p>Thank you for getting in touch with us. The email below refers to a pre-consultation stakeholder meeting, one which precedes the official public participation process.</p> <p>Our intention was to receive any initial concerns from stakeholders before the start of the official public participation process. The stakeholder consultation report following this meeting will reflect, as requested, an apology for NDPWI and the reason for this as stated below.</p>

	<p>You are therefore requested to render an apology at the meeting for NDPWI and also to please place it on record that NDPWI were not sufficiently informed well in advance about the meeting. Furthermore I would like to recommend that you arrange another open day meeting during a week and that your meeting should start from 14:00 to allow officials from government department sufficient time to drive through to attend the meeting. As one of the larger role players wrt land in that area I will also have to inform the Department of Mineral Resources that we are not satisfied with the time of the meeting and the short notice provided to attend.</p>	<p>The official 30-day Public Participation Meeting began in April and a Public Participation meeting was held during this time.</p> <p>There was also opportunity to comment on the Draft BAR during this time. We have noted your concerns regarding the timeframe within which the notice for the meeting was sent and the preferred day and time for the meeting and will take this into consideration when setting the date for the next meeting. All stakeholders was notified of the official Public Participation Process and the availability of the Draft BAR.</p>
<p>South African Pelagic Fishing Industry Association</p>	<p>2022/03/11</p> <p>Commercial mining in this area will impact on inshore fishing and recruitment of small pelagic fish. Fishing occurs from February to July. Recommend that prospecting occur between August to December to avoid harm to early fish recruits. West Coast Rock Lobster Association should be included as an I&AP</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. WCRLA is already registered as I&APs (stakeholder 74).</p> <p>Fisheries sectors operating within Concession 14C that could be impacted include small pelagic purse seine, tuna pole and line, and traditional linefish. The catches from these sectors made within the concession area 14C are all of limited significance as a proportion of the national total catch of each of these fisheries but they may be important at the individual vessel, right holder or fisher level. Due to the short-term nature and small degree of overlap of proposed prospecting in 14C with fisheries and fish nursery areas, the impact is assessed to be VERY LOW and INSIGNIFICANT with implementation of mitigation to avoid fishing seasons and inform key stakeholders from the potentially affected Small pelagic, Tuna Pole and line, and Traditional Linefish sectors. The cumulative potential impact on fisheries due to the proposed prospecting activities within 14C in combination with other anthropogenic activities along the west coast is assessed as LOW overall negative significance with the implementation of the same mitigation</p>
<p>Natal Deep Sea Angling Association</p>	<p>2022/03/11</p> <p>It is obvious that for NDSAA to attend such public participation meeting, the locality of the meeting poses a problem for us. However, I have made myself conversant with the topic, and taken note of the possible negative impacts that you willingly supplied in your overview document. From Natal's side, two areas concern us most.</p>	<p>Please refer to the Heritage Impact Assessment with regards to how this outcome was reached for Maritime Heritage.</p> <p>A shipwreck database was compiled from the available written and other sources and is available in Section 6 of the Underwater Heritage Impact Assessment (UHIA) report.</p>

1) Firstly, the statement that there would be archaeological degradation to a degree. How is this degree defined or measured.

2) Secondly the impact on fishing and the economic loss. Again, how is this loss to be measured, and for what duration is this loss expected to continue. Surely if small subsistence type activity is affected, some degree of financial assistance should be forthcoming.

The affected marine transport routes and safety zone requirements are all understood.

3) Lastly, the fact that the South African government considers these activities, yet they offer very little opportunities of employment nor limited local investment opportunities, seems to be order of the day and is a very questionable and sensitive issue.

For the record, we would appreciate feedback on the possible degree of impact on both the fishing and archaeological aspects. Natal is aligned to South African deep sea angling association, which has angling provinces in the north and down in the western areas, hence our concerns.

. In Sea Concession 14C there may be 44 shipwrecks, dating from the 1500s through to modern times. According to the databases, there is DEFINITELY one modern wreck, within the area. There are five modern wrecks that are POSSIBLY in Sea Concession 14C. The other 38 shipwrecks may be found in this area during work, although it is UNLIKELY. The significance of most of the wrecks is low or medium. There are, however, a few that may have a high significance factor. These include very old ships, war-time losses, and other vessels with a specific national or international significance. The significance of a shipwreck is hard to pinpoint without significant research and would have to be dealt with on an ad hoc basis if they are discovered.

With regards to Cultural, Prehistoric and paleontological resources, results of this assessment were drawn from the impact assessment as conducted for concession area 14A by John Gribble due to the fact that this study and impact assessment was based on the broader region which also includes concession area 14C. Please refer to appendix 4 at <https://anchorencvironmental.co.za/node/464>

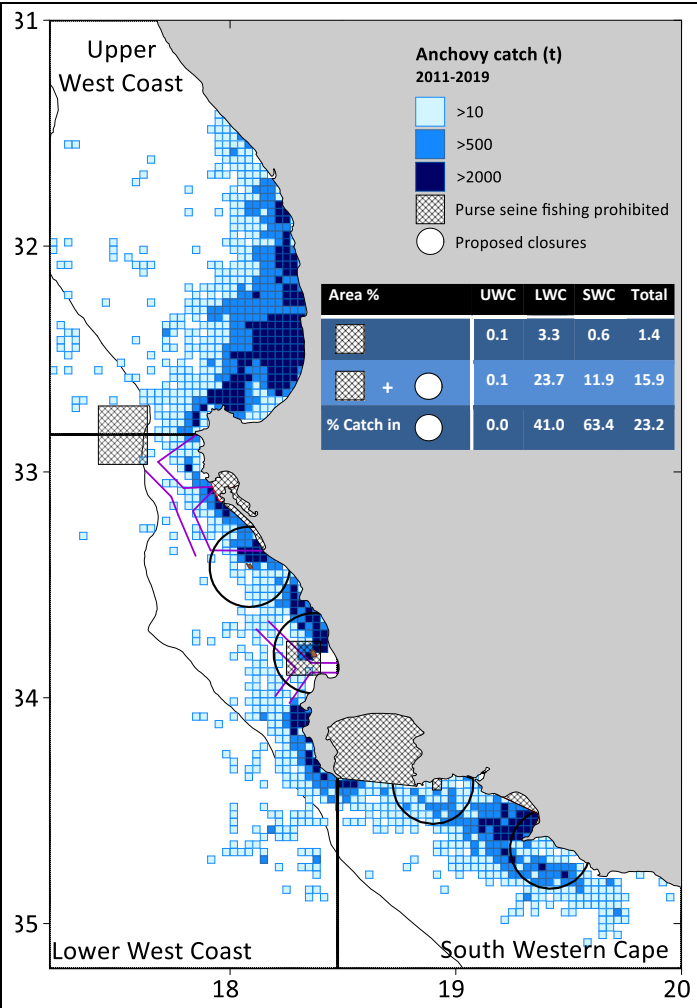
2) Line fishers operate in shallow water (generally <100 m depth) and would potentially be negatively impacted by coastal and nearshore seismic exploration, prospecting and mining operations (particularly recreational, small scale and subsistence shore fishing). Concession area 14C is, however, relatively far offshore in water that is mostly deeper than 100 m. A spatial analysis of the reported commercial line fish catch data does show some limited overlap with traditional line fishing activity on the inner margin of the 14C concession area. Fisheries sectors operating within Concession 14C that could be impacted include small pelagic purse seine, tuna pole and line, and traditional linefish. The catches from these sectors made within the concession area 14C are all of limited significance as a proportion of the national total catch of each of these fisheries but they may be important at the individual vessel, right holder or fisher level. Due to the short-term nature (less than 10 days) and small degree of overlap of proposed prospecting in 14C with fisheries and fish nursery areas, the impact is assessed to be VERY LOW and INSIGNIFICANT with implementation of mitigation to avoid fishing seasons and inform key stakeholders from the potentially affected Small pelagic, Tuna Pole and line, and Traditional Linefish sectors. The cumulative potential impact on fisheries due to the

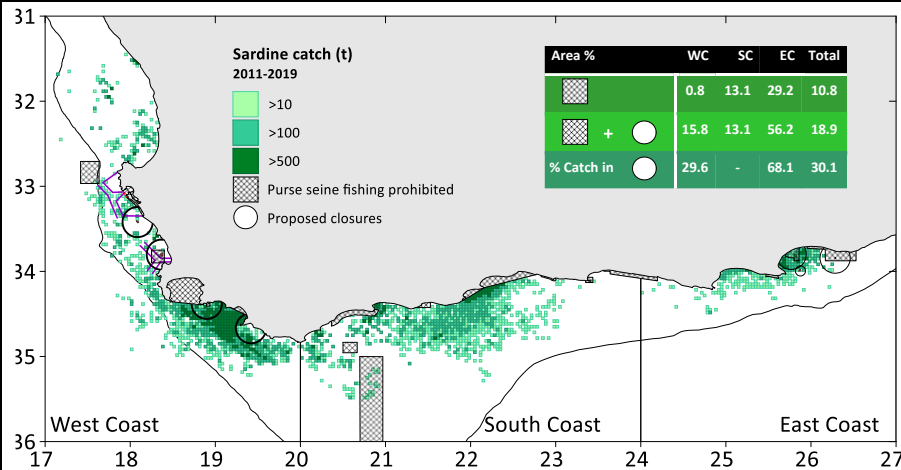
		<p>proposed prospecting activities within 14C in combination with other anthropogenic activities along the west coast is assessed as LOW overall negative significance with the implementation of the same mitigation.</p> <p>A marine specialist study was undertaken to assess the status of the existing environment and the potential impacts of the proposed prospecting activity on fish stocks, marine mammals and the organisms living on the seafloor. The outcomes of this assessment are included in the BAR, EMPr and will also be made available to stakeholders.</p>
Cederberg Municipality & Verlorenvlei Estuary Advisory Forum	<p>2022/03/09</p> <p>1) All local fishermen in Doringbaai must be informed and allowed to comment.</p> <p>2) Stop this prospecting right application process. This geophysical survey will cause degradation of the environment and lead to marine species mortalities as well as disturbance of sea-beds and reef functionality.</p>	<p>1) Fishermen were identified as I&APs from Doringbaai and a public participation process followed, allowing time for them to comment as required by NEMA.</p> <p>2) Please refer to the marine and fisheries specialist studies and Draft BAR. Prospecting activities are not expected to cause significant species mortality or have a significant impact the sea-bed. Furthermore, reef areas will be avoided,</p>
Biodiversity and Conservation	<p>2022/03/04</p> <p>I hereby acknowledge the receipt of the invitation to review and comment on the mentioned project. The directorate does not have any comments regarding the acceptance and acknowledgement of the applicants. Kindly notify us as soon as the Basic Assessment report becomes available.</p>	<p>Duly noted. Thank you for the feedback. We did notify the department of the availability of the Draft BAR.</p>
Matzikama Municipality	<p>I have unfortunately been on sick leave and see that you requested the Comments for Sea Concession Area 14 C in by yesterday already. Would you please accept my comments latest by Tuesday 23 March as Monday is a public holiday?</p>	<p>Please also note that this is a Pre-Consultation for initial comments and that you will still have time to submit comments during the official 30-day public participation process which will commence on 6 April 2022.</p>

	<p>Kindly register the West Coast District Municipality as an Interested & Affected Party for the proposed Sea Concession 14C prospecting right application. Issues to be addressed during assessment include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of prospecting activities on marine environment and fishing resources 2. Impact of sound levels from acoustic equipment on marine and migratory species such as, whales, dolphins, west coast rock lobster, invertebrates, fish and birds. 3. Impact of prospecting on livelihoods of coastal communities. 4. Discharge of sediment into the environment. 5. Land based infrastructure required for the proposed prospecting. 	<p>Thank you for your response. All of these potential impacts have been assessed as part of the specialist studies and Basic Assessment Process.</p>
<p>Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town</p>	<p>Please note there are several coastal communities that would have an interest in and potentially be impacted by this application who do not have access to email or the internet. Please consider using other appropriate means of alerting them to this application.</p>	<p>Thank you for registering as a stakeholder, we have asked community representatives to notify community members about the upcoming meeting on Saturday the 12th of March 2022.</p>
	<p>Please register myself and the Strandfontein Ratepayers Association as I&AP's. The two-e-mail addressed are: I would like my name to be posted with any comments I submit. Allan Lyons</p>	<p>We have registered you as a stakeholder and you will receive all further communication and documentation regarding the proposed prospecting activity</p>

<p>Cederberg Municipality & Verlorenvlei Estuary Advisory Forum</p>	<p>Are you or the community you represent a user of this area? Coastal access, visiting the Doringbaai area</p> <p>If you think you or the community you represent might be affected by this project, please explain how or why you think this might happen? Yes, affecting the local community that is depending on the fishing industry to provide an income for them. The fish stock will be negatively affected by the geophysical survey and dredging.</p> <p>Are there any areas that you recommend should be specifically avoided during prospecting? Reef areas, fishing grounds, migratory routes</p> <p>Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided? The entire seabed is sensitive to dredging and drilling, disturbing the natural functioning of marine ecosystems.</p> <p>Are you aware of any other impacts that this project might have on the community or environment? Negatively affect both the community and environment by disturbing natural marine ecosystem functioning, altering seabeds, cause changes in migratory routes and breeding of fish. Cause a decline in fish stock, mortalities of marine mammals.</p> <p>Do you have any mitigation measures to propose? Do not continue with this prospecting right application. All local fisherman in the Doringbaai area must be informed and must comment.</p> <p>If you have any additional comment, questions, or concerns, please elaborate. Stop this prospecting right application process. Their geophysical survey will be causing degradation of the environment and lead to marine species mortalities as well as disturbance of seabeds and reef functioning.</p>	<p>Thank you for these comments. These have been taken into consideration in the Marine and Fisheries Specialist Study.</p>
	<p>Please register me as an Interested & Affected Party (I&AP) for the prospecting application WC 30/5/1/1/2/10405PR, being for Sea Concession 14C My details are as follows: email address: cellphone number: interest in the matter: resident and farmer in the Matzikama municipal area It is my intention to submit my comments once the Draft BAR document has been issued and a public participation meeting has been held regarding this matter.</p>	<p>We have registered you as a stakeholder and you will receive all further communication and documentation related to the project. Please let us know if you have any initial concerns, comments or questions regarding the prospecting application.</p>

	<p>Registreer my asb. as 'n Belanghebbende & Geaffekteerde Party (B&GP) vir hierdie prospekterings-aansoek WC 30/5/1/1/2/10405 PR tov See-koncessie 14C</p> <p>My besonderhede is soos volg:</p> <p>eposadres:</p> <p>selfoon-nr:</p> <p>belang in die saak: booring en boer van die Matzikama-streek</p> <p>Ek sal kommentaar lewer binne die 30-dae publieke deelname periode, nadat die konsep-BAVerslag beskikbaar gemaak was, en die openbare vergadering plaas gevind het.</p>	<p>We have registered you as a stakeholder and you will receive all further communication and documentation related to the project. Please let us know if you have any initial concerns, comments or questions regarding the prospecting application.</p>
<p>Road Use Management Department of Transport and Public Works Chief Directorate: Road Planning Western Cape Government</p>	<p>Received your application, our reference Job 29065.</p> <p>The matter is receiving attention and further communication will be addressed to you as soon as circumstances permit.</p>	<p>Thank you for getting in touch with us.</p>
<p>South African Pelagic Fisheries Association</p>	<p>Are you or the community you represent a user of this area? Yes, fish in the area.</p> <p>If you think you or the community you represent might be affected by this project, please explain how or why you think this might happen? Commercial mining in this area will impact fishing and recruitment of small pelagic fish. Prospecting can be done out of season.</p> <p>For those who are involved in fishing, please indicate what sector you belong to and whether you are a recreational/small scale commercial/subsistence/commercial fisher. Small pelagic.</p> <p>Please describe the location and details of you main fishing grounds. Refer attached maps.</p> <p>ANCHOVY AND SARDINE CATCH HISTORY</p>	<p>A marine specialist study was undertaken to assess the status of the existing environment and the potential impacts of the proposed prospecting activity on fish stocks, marine mammals and the organisms living on the seafloor. The outcomes of this assessment are included in the BAR, EMPr and will also be made available to stakeholders</p>





In which months do you fish and what times of the day.

Mainly night-time. February to July.

Are there any areas that you recommend should be specifically avoided during prospecting?

Prospect outside these months.

Are you aware of any sensitive areas that should be avoided?

No.

Are you aware of any other impacts that this project might have on the community or environment?

Yes impacts on inshore fishers.

Do you have any mitigation measures to propose?

Prospecting can be done in the months of August to December just in case there are early recruits.

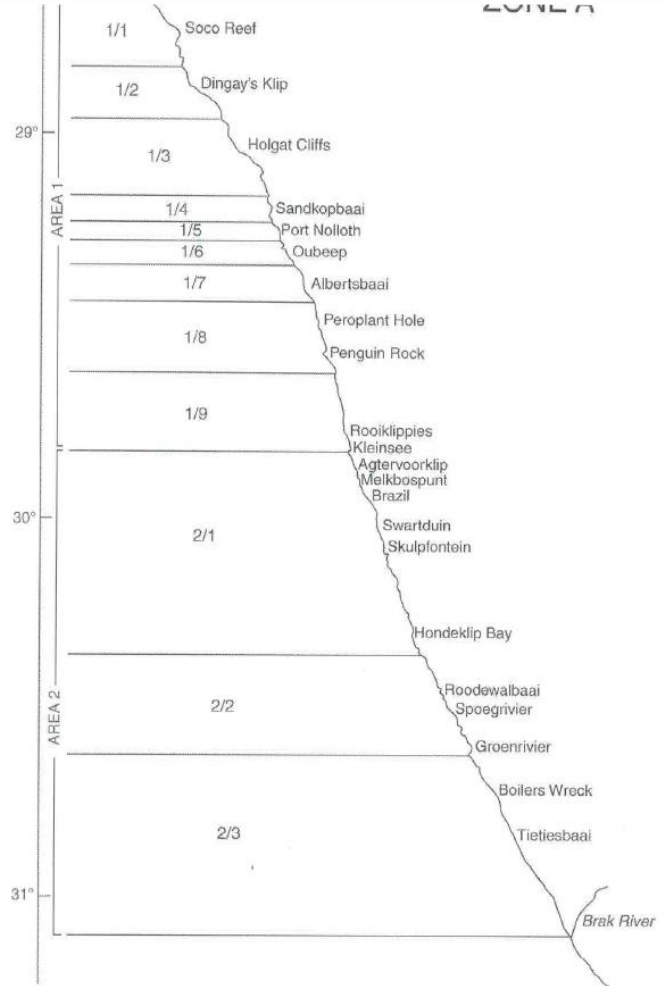
Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified?

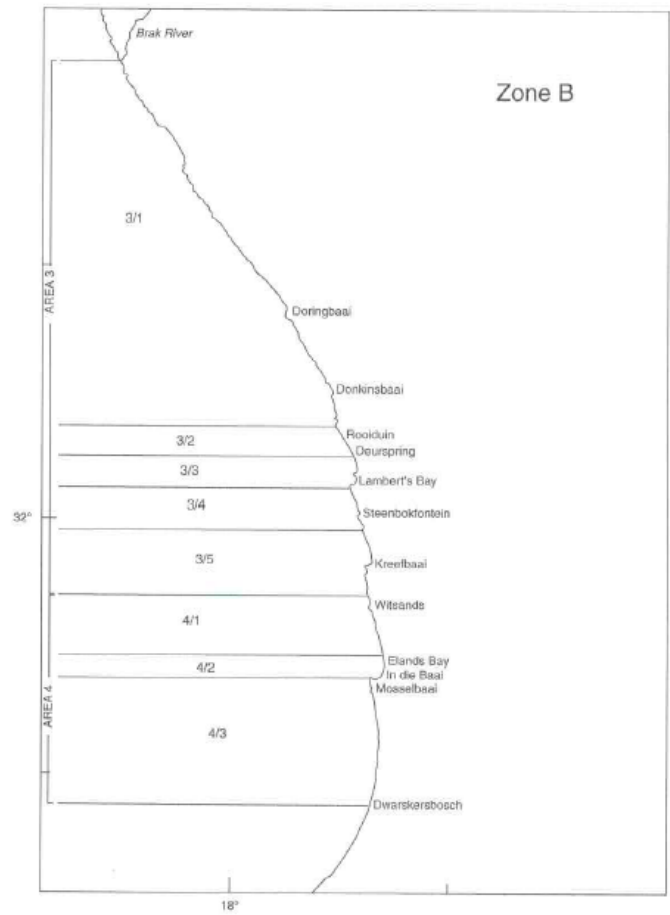
West coast rock lobster association.

Thank you for your email. I am unable to attend as I am cape town based. I will review the BID and forward any comments or questions that I have by the due date. Will I be able to access the presentation after the meeting?

Thank you for notifying us, any comments you provide would be appreciated. We did have a meeting in Cape Town for those who are Cape Town-based to attend.

<p>West Point fishing Corporation, West Point Processors.</p>	<p>West Point Fishing Corporation, a fishing vessel company, and their processing facility, West Point Processors, two well-established participants in the fishing industry, share the views and opinions of the South African Pelagic Fishing Industry Association (SAPFIA) that was presented to you, on behalf of all their associates, of which we form part off.</p>	<p>Thank you for notifying us and your comments are duly noted.</p>
<p>West Coast Rock Lobster Association</p>	<p>In which months do you fish and what times of the day (please indicate if this is different for different species). October to June Sunrise to 14h00 Are you aware of any other impacts that this project might have on the community or environment? Yes impacts on inshore fishers and small pelagics Are you or the community you represent a user of this area? Yes. Fish for west coast rock lobster. October to June. If you think you or the community you represent might be affected by this project, please explain how or why you think this might happen? Inshore commercial mining in these areas will impact on fishing. For those who are involved in fishing, please indicate what sector you belong to and whether you are a recreational/small scale commercial/subsistence/commercial fisher. West Coast Rock Lobster Please describe the location and details of you main fishing grounds. Refer attached maps.</p>	<p>Thank you for providing us with this information. This has been taken into consideration in the Marine and Fisheries Specialist Study. A marine specialist study was undertaken to assess the status of the existing environment and the potential impacts of the proposed prospecting activity on fish stocks, marine mammals and the organisms living on the seafloor. The outcomes of this assessment are included in the BAR, EMPr and will also be made available to stakeholders.</p> <p>No impacts are expected on the West Coast Rock Lobster fisheries (including commercial and interim relief nearshore), and impacts on these activities were therefore screened out of the impact assessment.</p>





Do you know of any other persons, organisations or parties that should be notified?

Small pelagics, linefish, small scale commercial.

West Coast District Municipality	<p>Are you or the community you represent a user of this area? No</p> <p>If you think you or the community you represent might be affected by this project, please explain how or why you think this might happen?</p> <p>As the Manger: Air Quality for the West Coast District Municipality, it is required that this office is aware and kept informed of any activity taking place within the West Coast municipal area.</p>	
	Pre-consultation Meeting 11 March 2022	
Doringbaai private citizen	<p>What will the local community gain in terms of social development?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth gaining in this process 2. Scholarship for learners 3. Tertiary education, bursary to develop their studies. 4. Teenage pregnancy 5. Support to institutions (school) 	<p>Thank you very much for your helpful comments and input. These will be Communicated to the client.</p> <p>TAD: We are still busy with the prospecting phase and it is still to be determined if there is a resource. Once established we will look into community uplift programs and social development.</p>
Green Connection & Ubuntu Rural Youth Movemen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The way you arranged and advertised this meeting was wrong. The law requires that sufficient notice be given, such as e.g. Posters, newspaper, radio. Based on this, we as a community demand that this meeting is only an information session and not a Pre-consultation. 2. Who did you contact to arrange this meeting? 3. You say that the applicant wants to determine if this is the right area to mine. How does the applicant know if 14C is the right area to mine and why are we only finding out about this application now? How long have you known about this application? 	<p>1. Pre-Consultation is the beginning of the process. We submit the application and the Department of Mineral Resources and Energy (DMRE) then has 2 weeks to review it and decide whether to accept or reject it. Once the department has accepted the application, the EAP has 30 days to inform the stakeholders of the application and arrange a consultation with the community and other stakeholders. The purpose of the Pre-Consultation is to inform the communities and other interested and affected parties of the project and associated activities and thus get the community's input on it and answer questions so that these can be taken into account during the impact studies. . The “Pre-consultation” is also used as an opportunity to collect contact details of other important community representatives and organizations to inform them of the process and future public participation process.</p> <p>All this information and findings are then compiled together with the questions and comments from the stakeholders and submitted to the DMRE in a report. Members have been informed that this is the Pre-consultation meeting and not the official public meeting.</p>

		<p>The public meeting is still going to be properly advertised. We would like you to give us suggestions for this. E.g. Advertise on the radio. We're still going to advertise the meeting and process in the newspapers one to two weeks ahead of time.</p> <p>We have already had posters made that we will put up today and tomorrow in Doringbaai, Papendorp, Ebenhaeser, Koekenaap, Strandfontein and Lutzville to let the community know about the process and meeting. This is the beginning of the process. The Department accepted the application on 21 February 2022 and Anchor was notified on 24 February 2022. The following week we started contacting community leaders / representatives to ask them to help us inform the community of this Basic Assessment Process and today's meeting.</p> <p>2. We contacted the people who were introduced to us by the government, certain organizations and other community representatives. It is very difficult to get contact details and that is why we are here to first hold an initial meeting with the people and also collect contact details. This meeting is therefore the starting point.</p> <p>3. The applicant does not yet know if this is the right area to mine and is why they first apply for prospecting rights. They take sediment samples which are then analysed by specialists to determine which minerals / metals / precious stones occur in concession area 14C and what the quality and quantity of these minerals are. This will determine whether it will be worthwhile to mine in this area in the future.</p>
<p>Youth Leader</p>	<p>What is going to happen here affects me and all of us and is why we are interested in being here.</p> <p>1. As we understand it, you were hired to do the job for a company on their behalf. If we had hired you, you would have done the environmental assessment for us. You are paid by them and for this payment you must give results that count in their favour.</p> <p>2. The fact that they have applied for prospecting rights in concession 14C shows that they already know what is happening here. We know because we see here are research boats coming to investigate. Unfortunately, we just cannot see the names of the boats and so we do not know who the company is. We know what they are looking for here. We do not have sonars that can scan the area, but we know how prospecting works and even do prospecting sometimes. We are</p>	<p>1. In certain other countries such as Djibouti, the government is responsible for the costs of the impact studies and the environmental consultants. Unfortunately, the South African government does not have the budget to bear the costs of such studies. Furthermore, the community cannot be expected to bear these costs. It is only fair that it is the responsibility of the company that wants to prospect, to bear any costs, including paying an environmental company to do impact studies and get input from the community.</p> <p>Also note that EAPs are legally obliged to act independently during these studies. They are therefore required to sign a declaration stating that their report is based on scientific information. We as environmental consultants do not take this responsibly lightly and</p>

	<p>therefore aware of what is happening here and who is entering our area to investigate.</p> <p>3. We do not want the process to continue. Clearly, the executives of this company are arrogant because they know that the community and the majority of people are against this process, and yet they continue to do so. Do they consider the community? We do not seem to be able to rely on them, because they do not seem to take our interests into account. The few people who will get a job through prospecting mean nothing. Yes, there may be some people here who may be in favour of the process as there may be job creation, but I'm not saying we want prospecting and mining to continue. This is a risk for all of us.</p> <p>4. The abalone farm has been here for about 10 years now. What if the boat breaks or starts leaking and all that oil / fuel runs into the sea and affects the abalone and farm? Where does all the waste produced by the boat go (gases, oil, solid waste, wastewater, debris from the soil samples tailings)? We are endangering (dooming) the work of the fishermen. For my part, it is a 100% "no". They should not come in here.</p> <p>There is no guarantee they can give to say exactly what they are going to do during prospecting / mining over the next 20 years or all the activities they are going to do. Mining is a greater risk to the fishermen, community and next generation than it will ever be an asset. Mining is not going to benefit us. We are not looking for money from them. Thanks, but we're not looking for them here. Please give them the message.</p>	<p>do our best to gather the most accurate information. The final decision regarding the prospecting rights lies with the DMRE and not with the environmental consultants.</p> <p>2. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>3. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>4. We take note of your comments.</p>
<p>Doringbaai Resident</p>	<p>Of Doringbaai, born in Doringbaai, whose ancestors are from Doringbaai. Where my history comes from. I am a native of Doring Bay.</p> <p>1. There has been such a meeting here before and this is the same presentation as last time.</p> <p>2. I went to see who Trans-Atlantic Diamonds is. Where they came from, they have already exhausted the resources. Where does this company come from? From overseas I assume ? I see their eye is on the West Coast. If it's not the one thing they want to mine, it's the other thing. Or it is oil. Are they a BEE company? Trans-Atlantic Diamonds is the South African middleman for overseas mining companies who want to mine here. The overseas companies find BEE companies in South Africa to apply for prospecting and mining rights on their behalf. The capitalists behind the whole plan are overseas companies. They have one focus, and it is about capital (money).</p> <p>3. They come out to come take. Because they do these things they do, they prevent us from continuing our heritage and our heritage is going to die out completely. In 20 years, the fuel is exhausted and then what are they going to do?</p>	<p>1. Yes, this is a similar presentation with the same background information as the previous submission.</p> <p>2. This is Trans-Atlantic Diamonds' first prospecting application and they have never prospected or mined in the past. The Directors are all South African citizens, and their offices are in the Cape. However, there are also offices overseas and they trade diamonds between different countries. They are not associated with the Australian company that came here to mine. Yes, they are a BEE company. Whether they are affiliated with another mining company, I have to confirm with them.</p> <p>3. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>4. I cannot answer on behalf of Trans-Atlantic Diamonds and will therefore pass this information on to them so that they can give you an answer during the official meeting.</p> <p>5. Studies that monitor the impact of mining on the seabed indicate that the seabed does rehabilitate to some extent and that the species that once lived there do return. It does, however, take</p>

	<p>This is a continuous thing that is happening here. Mining is never going to stop. My grandchildren are not going to have anything left of this environment.</p> <p>4. The fishermen here have been fishermen for 50 years. These activities will cause the fish to become scarcer. What are the fishermen going to do because fishing is all they know? The possibility exists that the activities may have a negative effect on the lobsters and fish. Is this company going to compensate those who suffer under it in terms of money and food they lose? How will the company accommodate them and cover their losses and provide them with an income?</p> <p>5. If the applicant starts disturbing the seabed, it cannot return to its natural state. It cannot be rehabilitated. What are you going to do about it? They drill deep into the sea floor.</p> <p>6. You need to go back to your people and say this is not a meeting. The community was not aware of the meeting. You have to go back and then advertise the process all over again and do the thing right.</p>	<p>more than a decade for this to happen. The prospecting does not involve frilling into the bedrock, but only in the topsoil layer to take soil samples. If your question refers to mining, please keep in mind that this is an application for prospecting rights and the answers therefore only apply to prospecting. We cannot comment or answer on any questions related to mining as no impact studies for mining have been done. These studies are only done after applying for mining rights. This mining rights application only follows after prospecting has been completed should the prospecting rights be approved. Prospecting can take anywhere from a year to 5 years to complete. It is therefore not possible to say with certainty whether and when mining may take place in the future</p> <p>6. We want to know what you want us to do. We contacted the community representatives and asked them to inform the community about the pre-consultation. At the previous meeting you said the community and fishermen were not consulted before the impact studies were done and they were not given the opportunity to comment. Now we arranged a meeting even before the studies have started and before the official meeting and invited people to give us input and contact details of people who need to be contacted, but still, this is not sufficient. Where should we then start? What is the first step we need to take after the DMRE has informed us that the application has been approved and we need to approach the community? This is what we're trying to do here right now. We arrange a meeting to get contact details to hear how we should approach the community and inform them about the process and meeting. This is not yet the official consultation process.</p>
<p>Fisherman</p>	<p>1. The sonar and frequencies will have a big impact on the fish and drive the fish away. This is going to be the same as Denel where they tested the bombs in the sea. This had major consequences for the sea and fish populations. Now the fishermen must go 100 miles into the sea to find fish. There are hundreds of applications for oil and gas and minerals out there. They now want to come and blast, dig, etc. And it's going to have the same impact.</p> <p>You should go to the Department that approves these applications and say we are not looking for mining and prospecting here. There are applications all along the coast which means that along the entire length of the coast there will be prospecting and mining.</p> <p>Whether you're talking about prospecting or mining, it's all mining. These are just different levels of mining and both have impacts. Trans Hex came and banned us</p>	<p>1. I understand your concept about the bombs, but the consequences cannot be compared to prospecting.</p> <p>We understand that there are many prospecting and mining applications / activities and we take note of your concerns about this. Please note that they will not prospect or mine on reefs where lobster and many species of fish occur. They avoid these areas and any other important and sensitive areas. Please also note that they will not necessarily prospect or mine over the entire concession area. A section is usually selected within the concession area where prospecting or mining takes place. This will have to be confirmed with the geologist.</p>

	<p>from certain areas and said we were not allowed to enter their concession area. There are many concession areas in the area (e.g. Brand's Bay) where they have pumped the area empty. The areas are now void of any marine life. Our fear is that this is going to be the same story. The area is also going to end up with no marine life.</p>	<p>We also want to make it clear that we are environmental consultants who also do not want to see the environment deteriorate and people lose their livelihoods. We must also be realistic and realise that the world is advancing. We are all consumers and the everyday products we use must come from somewhere. Nevertheless, there must be a balance between progress and the protection of the environment and community. As environmental consultants, we need to consider all of these things. We need to assess the pros and cons of prospecting for South Africa, consumers, the environment and the community. We therefore do not take sides, but collect and assess all the scientific facts, information and the community's concerns, and submit these in a report to the DMRE. They then make the final decision in terms of approving or rejecting the application. Unfortunately, we cannot prevent the prospecting or mining. We can provide the DMRE with all the information and facts as accurately as possible. We are here today to ask you to give us your concerns and input so that all the facts can appear in the report.</p>
<p>Organization: Resident & Fisher Folk Women</p>	<p>1. Wisdom is better than fine silver and gold. We in Doringbaai are not highly educated, we did not go to University, we do not have a scientific degree, but we received wisdom from the Lord and nature and the sea taught us. The people who want to come here do not know all the finer detail and works of the sea and seafloor here in Doringbaai. They can get a picture with the sonar and the samples they take, but they will never really know this area. Even with all their scientific wisdom, they will never really know the area. This knowledge and detail comes with experience and years of working and living in the area. It's mother nature and she works the way she wants. My father was also a fisherman and I learnt a lot from him. I especially learned a lot about the sea. I take all this knowledge and store it in my heart and pass it on to my children and grandchildren who will one day pass it on to their children. I learnt that there are three streams. If something goes wrong with the boat and it breaks or leaks, even if it is far outside Doringbaai, it will affect Doringbaai. The middle current pushes everything that the sea does not want ashore where my child and grandchild swim. We are not in a position to have swimming pools so this is their pool. I do not see in your presentation that you have identified potential problems and possible solutions. You should have a table with possible problems that may occur</p>	<p>1. Thank you very much for this comment. We ask that you please also put it in writing for us so that we can include it in the report.</p>

	<p>and the possible solutions to them. The people here can tell you what the dangers are going to be</p>	
<p>Youth Leader</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. With all these applications, how many mining vessels are going to be on the water at one time? 2. As I understand it, they can be anything here from 5 years to 30 years. 3. And as I understand it, they are going to take samples over that whole concession area. So they are going to be busy back and forth across the concession area for months. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are only a handful of these vessels available in Southern Africa that will do all the prospecting / mining activities. So there will only be a few vehicles at sea at a given time. 2. The prospecting work must be completed within 5 years, although it does not take that long. It can take anything from a few weeks to a few months to complete. It can be completed within the first year or over the five-year period. I can not comment on the mining at all now as it is not the process in question. 3. Prospecting is not carried out over the entire concession area. The geologist selects a specific area within the concession area where samples will be taken according to the data they collect during the sonar. 3. Unfortunately, I cannot comment right now on exactly how big the area will be, or where in the concession area the target area will be. This will be confirmed with the geologist.
<p>Organization: Resident of Doringbaai</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What worries me is that the people who are going to prospect here are not going to invest anything in the community. There is not going to be much job creation. <p>Oceana came at one time and they came to get rich here. Then one day they decide they are done and close the factories and all the people lose their jobs and they take their salaries along too. I had big plans to go study, but then I could not, because I had to help my family to earn an income, after they lost their jobs.</p> <p>What will happen after the prospecting is that the people will no longer be able to fish. They will not have an income, nor will there be job creation for them as they will mostly use skilled people. If they cannot guarantee our community that they can repay any income that our people will lose or invest in our community, then they cannot come here to prospect.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I cannot answer on behalf of Trans-Atlantic Diamonds in terms of job creation and investment, but as I understand, Trans-Atlantic Diamonds wants to give the community a percentage of the income they earn from mining. Please also note that Trans Atlantic Diamonds does not receive any revenue during prospecting, as no mineral extraction takes place. <p>An income is only obtained during the mining process. So, one can only invest in the community during mining. Mining is not yet in question here and so I will not comment further on this.</p> <p>Trans Atlantic Diamonds wants to train local people from the area as crew members for the ship during prospecting and mining. However, it will only be a handful of people from Doringbaai and the surrounding towns and the positions will not be permanent as the prospecting will only take about 30 days. This is something that Trans Atlantic Diamonds will be able to further comment on.</p> <p>TAD: We are still busy with the prospecting phase and it is still to be determined if there is a resource. Once established we will look into community uplift programs and social development.</p>

Resident & Coastal Links	<p>It has been made very clear that this is an information session and that the next session will be an official meeting with a presentation.</p> <p>1. I would like to know what you base your socio-economic study on? Is it based on general information as obtained by the Municipalities and reports, or was a study done?</p> <p>If we as a community say it's fine for them to come and prospect, also want people from our community to be appointed.</p> <p>2. What happens to the minerals and diamonds they find in the samples during prospecting? They do not throw them back into the water, do they? Who monitors this and makes sure they do not sell them?</p> <p>3. Are you only talking to the community of Doringbaai or have you informed the people of other towns about this meeting as well?</p>	<p>1. The information is obtained from reports as published by the Matzikama Municipality, national census survey reports (Stats-SA database) and other published sources. Information about the fisheries is obtained from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment. We requested the most recent data, but unfortunately it takes a minimum of six months to receive the data. It is not possible at this stage to collect accurate fishing data ourselves. Such surveys require a collaborative approach by the fishing community and various fisheries. It is not possible for the environmental consultants to collect such data within one basic assessment process. We call on the DMRE and DFFE to conduct an integrated joint survey to collect fisheries data on a monthly basis and to make the data available to environmental consultants and specialists.</p> <p>Do you as community currently have such a database where you record the catches of each day / week in Doringbaai?</p> <p>2. In terms of the diamonds found during prospecting. I cannot speak on behalf of TAD, and will confirm the answer with them, but as far as I am aware, the diamonds may not be sold. There will be a Scientific Officer on board who will have a responsibility to ensure that regulations are complied with. The Scientific Officer will report to the DMRE.</p> <p>3. We have informed people of Papendorp and Ebenhaeser of this meeting as well as all the government departments and stakeholders that are on our database. We will be distributing notices and posters at Papendorp, Koekenaap, Ebenhaeser and Lutzville to also inform the people there about the public participation process and the meetings that will be held on 12 April 2022 in Doringbaai and 13 April 2022 in Ebenhaeser. This pre-consultation meeting is more for the people who live in the immediate vicinity of the concession area.</p>
Organisation: Resident	<p>First of all, I just want to say that we understand that you are only here to come and pass on the information to us and get our input.</p> <p>I have questions here that you should please give to the applicant so that they can give us comprehensive answers during the official meeting 12 April 2022.</p> <p>1. What job creation / benefits will it bring to the local community?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will there be social development or scholarships for learners to develop their skills? • Will contributions be made to schools and other organizations? 	<p>Thank you for the questions. It will be passed on to TAD so that they can provide complete answers to these on 12 April 2022. What I can say is that they want to provide an opportunity for members of the community to be trained to fill certain positions on the vessel. Then they also want to invest a percentage of the income they earn during mining in the community .</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can all contribute to lowering school leavers and teenage pregnancies. 2. Is there an Integrated Environmental Study that will be done? 3. Then you asked who you should contact. With whom are you going to find out who the designated people are to represent the community of Doringbaai and have the final say? 4. The community is very uninformed about the rights they have regarding prospecting. 5. When you prospect / mine, you disturb the seabed and sediment is discarded back onto the seafloor and changes the habitat. 6. I understand and respect what you have come here for and understand that not everything will have an impact on the coastline 7. Can you please explain the abbreviations better, because there are many that you use. 8. What is the safety plan / contingency plan, should something happen? 9. In the long run, this project might work, and may have benefits for the community, but it will depend on many factors such as safety, sustainability of the project in terms of the environment (environmental conservation), job creation and benefits for the community. 10. We know that the activities are very technical and complex and that the community do not necessarily have the technical skills to do the work, but is there capacity for the company to train and hire a local person? 11. Is the community going to gain anything if there is mining here? What does the community get back for what they give up? 	<p>We are still busy with the prospecting phase and it is still to be determined if there is a resource. Once established we will look into community uplift programs and social development.</p>
Sisterhood	<p>1. You must ensure that your public participation process is done in full and that you inform all the people in Doringbaai of the process. Everyone should be given the opportunity to participate. You have to advertise on the radio, in the newspaper, distribute notices etc. You have to hire the local young people to spread the notices between the neighbourhoods. This way you spread the word in Doringbaai and also help the youth to earn some money.</p> <p>There was a lot of confusion about the current meeting and not everyone was aware of it. The way you informed the community was therefore not sufficient. A few people spread it on Doringbaai's Social media page. All that people ask is that they are properly informed of the meetings.</p> <p>The fishermen are out at sea all week to provide for their families and just want to rest on a Friday night. This is their only time to rest. You therefore cannot expect people to attend a meeting on a Friday night.</p> <p>We are there to assist them and help fight this process. We are already raising money to appeal against the prospecting rights. If we find any gap in your report or the public participation process it will be used in court in their favour.</p>	<p>1. Thank you for your comments and input. We will follow your advice and appoint local young people to distribute the notices. Unfortunately, we are given very little time to inform the community, arrange a meeting and put together a report. These were therefore the only days we had available to hold a meeting. We thought it would be better to have a meeting on a Friday and Saturday, as people work during the week and are too tired to attend a meeting in the evening during the week. It's good to know that people do not want to attend a meeting on a Friday night. We have made sure that the official meeting (12 April 2022) does not fall over the weekend.</p> <p>2. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>3. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>4. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>5. Thank you for this input. As independent environmental consultants, we take the information and studies as provided to us</p>

	<p>2. There is a lot of concern about the impacts that these activities will have on marine life. The sound waves that will travel through the sea, the waste products, etc. What we hear from the majority of people here is that the community does not want prospecting in their area. They do not want mining operations in the area. Leave what is in the earth in the earth.</p> <p>3. Even if it is a South African company, it does not matter. Most of these companies are international companies and their way of gaining access to South Africa is by appointing and using a BEE company to apply on their behalf.</p> <p>4. We hear you say that our resources have to come from somewhere, but most of the community here rides bicycles, walks or uses public transport and is not dependent on fuel. Besides, we have to move away from oil because of climate change and its negative consequences. Where are all these earthquakes, tornadoes and natural disasters happening? Where the people impact and disrupt the earth</p> <p>5. We would like you, as independent environmental consultants, to look at the studies where people have been disadvantaged due to prospecting / mining and put this into the report to show that these activities will have a negative impact on the community.</p> <p>The future of the community, the environment, the habitat and the fish are threatened. If I could see such a study from you, I would believe that you are independent. You need to do a study that looks at the bigger picture. These companies have money and do not care about the community.</p> <p>You have to consider the impact on lobster and snoek, because that is the people's livelihood and income. The research used is very general and outdated. Efforts must be made to obtain current and accurate data. The constitution of South Africa does not say that mining is "core business", core business is "to make sure that the poor are uplifted". The core business is neglected and there is no effort to do the research.</p> <p>6. We cannot trust the government because it sells our people's birthright and existence. It does not care what the community says. We cannot wait for the government to make a decision, the independent environmental process we are doing now must capture the concerns, questions and comments as accurately as possible and be submitted to the government.</p> <p>7. We understand what you are saying about the short timeline and that this should be discussed with the DMRE as you are not given enough opportunity to do a proper public participation. This is something we are going to discuss with the DMRE.</p>	<p>by the specialists, as well as our own research, and submit it to the department. Unfortunately, there is no time within the short period that the DMRE gives us to do such a large-scale study. Such a study is what we would call a Strategic Environmental Assessment and requires a collaborative approach by various government departments, fishing organizations, universities and researchers. This is not something that one Environmental Consultant can do within one basic assessment process.</p> <p>6. We take note of your comments.</p> <p>7. We think it would be good if such comments from the public were addressed to the DMRE</p>
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<p>Fisherman</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not get me wrong, we understand that it can provide money for the unemployed youth, but you should actually do the work yourself. Actually, you have to pay all of us to attend the meeting. Do not come with cash rewards, shares, etc., because when you promise people money, that is when the corruption starts. I will, however, see who I can get to distribute the notices. 2. The communities that were affected by the bomb tests at Denel have to go 100 miles into the sea to look for fish, and the petrol is now expensive, R24 / liter. And then one does not even get the catches you are looking for. This mining is going to affect the community just as adversely. 3. EMG should have fishing data. 4. The small-scale fishermen sail 5km or more to go fishing. They do not just catch fish close to shore. 5. The government imposes this short timeline on you and then you impose it on us. Talk to the government to extend the timelines 	<p>Thank you. We take note of your comments.</p>
<p>Youth Leader</p>	<p>Can the people also mine with this application if it is approved?</p>	<p>No, the mining rights application is a separate process. Mining rights are only applied for after prospecting has been completed. This process also takes longer to complete.</p>
<p>NDPWI</p>	<p>The above-mentioned invitation has bearing. The notice to attend the meeting was received too late. I am responsible to provide comments on these mining/prospecting applications on behalf of my department, the National Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (NDPWI) and would like to place it on record that NDPWI has received the invitation only a week prior to the meeting. Furthermore that the meeting has been convened at a much unappropriated time. It is not possible for government departments that is situated in Cape Town to attend PPP meetings on a Friday evening.</p> <p>You are therefore requested to render an apology at the meeting for NDPWI and also to please place it on record that NDPWI were not sufficiently informed well in advance about the meeting. Furthermore I would like to recommend that you arrange another open day meeting during a week and that your meeting should start from 14:00 to allow officials from government department sufficient time to drive through to attend the meeting. As one of the larger role players wrt land in that area I will also have to inform the Department of Mineral Resources that we are not satisfied with the time of the meeting and the short notice provided to attend.</p>	<p>Thank you for getting in touch with us.</p> <p>The email below refers to a pre-consultation stakeholder meeting, one which precedes the official public participation process. Our intention was to receive any initial concerns from stakeholders before the start of the official public participation process. The stakeholder consultation report following this meeting will reflect, as requested, an apology for NDPWI and the reason for this as stated below.</p> <p>The official 30-day Public Participation Meeting will begin in April (date to be confirmed) and a Public Participation meeting will be held during this time. There will also be opportunity to comment on the Draft BAR during this time. We have noted your concerns regarding the timeframe within which the notice for the meeting was sent and the preferred day and time for the meeting and will take this into consideration when setting the date for the next meeting.</p> <p>All stakeholders will be notified once the Public Participation Process starts and when the Draft BAR becomes available for comment.</p>

	13 April Ebenhaeser Meeting	
community member	A community member asks if they have already approved the area and if it is still non-negotiable?	Cheruscha confirms that they are only now working on applications.
community member	Is prospecting a right and if they find something, may the government refuse for them to mine in that area or not?	The Consultant says it's a right that is applied for to search for commodities. She cannot comment on the mine itself and the DMRE's decision. Prospecting is a separate process. No applications have been accepted yet. Transatlantic diamonds have no mining rights or prospecting rights. These are the first applications they submit.
community member	How much land is being excavated and is it a lot?	The Consultant says its small amounts of material they take, but that it's not of such a nature that it will affect the fish. Please refer to the Draft BAR and the BID for this information.
community member	Are they just looking for diamonds and minerals, or are they looking for oil, metals and other resources? Will oil leak and pollute the sea?	They may not search for oil, they may only search for diamonds and other minerals. No oil will leak and pollute the sea because they are not going to drill that deep. Pollution control plans are in place as required for every vessel on sea.
community member	How deep is going to be drilled?	Drilling is done 3 meters deep.
community member	Will the sound of the fish be disturbed?	Cheruscha and Herman says it will not disturb the fish because the frequency is equal to that of the fish finder's sound. Fish finders are used by fisherman to find fish.
community member	Will their source of income be affected negatively?	Socio-economic impacts of prospecting on the livelihood of communities were rated as Very Low. This is due to the short duration and temporary nature of prospecting activities. It is not expected that fish would be found in the immediate vicinity of the vessel and would therefore not exclude fisherman from catching fish. The fish would simply move to an adjacent area to which the fisherman are free to move to catch the fish.

community member	How will they be assured that they will benefit? (What papers with stipulated regulations on how they will benefit will be given to them?)	8. TAD explains that all the details in the contract with the community should be summarized and legalized, it will determine how the community will benefit economically. Documents must be drawn up legally to stipulate what the logistical details and the process are as well as the process around how the community will benefit. This will be stated in the contracts what % profit is for the community and how much of the specific community for work is appointed. Note that benefits and profits will only become applicable during the mining phase which is years down the line.
community member	Will the river mouth be closed and is this the follow-up prospecting of a previous project that happened on land.	Their prospecting work takes place only in the sea and this is their first prospecting project. The river mouth will not be closed.
community member	Why should the consultant explain the project?	They can be blamed if the community is not notified and they want to avoid misconceptions.
community member	A community member asks the consultant how they concluded that it will not have a big impact? (Did they just guess?)	The Consultant says that they use scientific methods such as environmental assessment methods, and do intensive research.
community member	Is this the formal consultation process with the community or is there an alternative legal and formal consultation process that still needs to be held outside this forum in the future?	This session is the formal public participation process and the community has 30 days to comment.
	12 April Doringbaai Meeting	
community member	Is it not yet clear where the specific areas and where sampling will be done within the concession area?	This has not yet been confirmed. The acoustic survey, coring and drilling sampling will inform the exact locations of sampling.
community member	How will the fishermen in the area where sampling will be done, be taken into account or accommodated, because if the fish runs, they cannot wait for prospecting and sampling to take place, it affects the fishermen's livelihood.	According to the geologist, sampling is usually not conducted where the fish runs. They have instructions that if there are any fish or animals there, then they may not go there. They do not want to interfere, there will be no conflict. They and the community can work together. A fishing liaison officer will be appointed to liaise between the community and applicant to ensure that fishing activities are not affected.

<p>community member</p>	<p>Will this type of information be communicated to the community.</p> <p>And, will someone from the Department monitor the process. Will local fishermen will be part of the process or investigation?</p>	<p>The Scientific Officer, geologist and MMSO on board, must compile a complete list of everything that they observe, every day. They must count whales, birds and seals, indicate the direction of the ocean currents and report everything. They have specific instructions that if there is even just an oil leak on the ship, they will be closed.</p> <p>There will be a fishing liaison, an intermediary, a community member, a fisherman who is appointed to liaise between the company and the community. A scientific officer must also be appointed. They work on the ship and assess and monitor activities. It must be an 'independent' person. The state department also monitors the activities and the monitoring reports from the scientific officer. In other words, there is 'internal monitoring' by a scientific officer on board and 'external monitoring' by a government official</p>
<p>community member</p>	<p>How did it come about that concession area 14C and Doringbaai was selected as a prospecting area.</p>	<p>The (previous) DMR divided the area into blocks many years ago. The applicant did not choose the area, it was advertised by the government. They were informed that they may do prospecting in the area, they do not know if there is anything and if there is nothing, then they will not mine there. Even if prospecting proves that there is a viable mining resource, mining will only occur much later in the future.</p>
<p>community member</p>	<p>Fish lay their eggs on the rocks and reefs in the area and the small fish stay there until they are big enough to leave the area. Prospecting might destroy this nursery area.</p>	<p>Prospecting will not occur on reefs or rocks and therefore, fish nursery ground will not be affected. Sediment plumes and disturbance will be far from the shore. Furthermore, plumes will settle quickly, and ocean currents will carry it deeper into the ocean away from the shore. The specialists have recommended that sediment not just be discarded anywhere and at any time, but that designated areas and times be selected to ensure that sediment plumes settle quickly and do not end up on reefs or sensitive areas.</p> <p>The prospecting activities are temporary and of short duration. The geologist further said that the community will not believe how many dolphins and other animals paly in the sediment plumes because of food that is unearthed.</p>

community member	<p>The comments area clear. We do not want mines, but fisheries. Their children say that they do not want mines, but fisheries. They cannot speak against the children, it's their future. They need to make sure that they protect their children's future. The community says no to mining. It is mentioned that the man who has just spoken has over fifty years of experience. His experience is that if you put a machine in the water and do drilling, then there are vibrations, which has an effect on life and life is disturbed. There is talk of only a percentage of life that will be disturbed, but any life that is disturbed is a life too many.</p>	This is noted.
community member	<p>The "message" is "loud and clear". The information does them no good. They speak from experience of what mining has meant to them. There has been mining activities all these years and there was plenty of fish here. Today there are still mining activities here, but the fish is 'gone'. The fishermen have to pay thousands of rands to search for fish. By this time, they were usually finished catching fish, 'snoek'. Now there are no fish, they have now been sitting here for two days. It is the result of these activities that disturbs life here. That is the issue that they are sitting with, many people say that they can give them jobs, but they do not want 'jobs', because the jobs are only for a day or two and then it's gone. The fishermen are suffering today. They say that mining is a 'no-no' to them. They do not agree, for many reasons, but largely because of the 'environmental impact'.</p>	<p>We take note of this. We still need to present the community with all the information, facts and impacts, regardless of their feeling towards the project so that you can make an informed comment. There are many negative impacts, yes, but these can all be mitigated to reduce or even prevent adverse negative impacts on fish, the environment and fisherman. There will be a fishing liaison, an intermediary, a community member, a fisherman who is appointed to liaise between the company and the community. A scientific officer must also be appointed. They work on the ship and assess and monitor activities. It must be an 'independent' person. The state department also monitors the activities and the monitoring reports from the scientific officer. In other words, there is 'internal monitoring' by a scientific officer on board and 'external monitoring' by a government official. They are strictly audited. An environmental monitoring program has been set up, which they must follow by law. That's why they're looking for input. They incorporated many of the comments from one of the previous sessions, to determine what may and may not be done. That's why they want the meeting. They cannot say that there are positive impacts. There will be a small amount of data from the acoustic survey, scientific data, job creation. In SA as a whole people will be hired, people have to build the ship, engineering and so on. It is said that the community is right, that there will be some prospecting jobs on the ship, but they are not trying to fool each other or the community. They are aware of the impacts and ask that the bigger picture be looked at.</p>
community member	<p>It appears that the gentlemen who are going to mine are serious about the laws of the country, but expresses concern about black empowerment. It is reported that most people here are black, including the coloured people, but that those who have now come to them here, the people who mine, the geologist and those who do the</p>	<p>The geologist replies that of the 20 geologists in their company, only three are white. They trained a lot of people at UCT and the Western Cape, empowered them and paid for their studies. When asked why they were not brought along, the geologist answers that they are</p>

	assessment, are all white. The community member is worried that their people are just going to be cleaners and wants to know if their people are cared for. The member continues that it is said that there will only be a little mud, that the mines will only be here in ten years and then maybe they may also be told that there are no diamonds and in the meantime the fish will gone in the next year. The community member wants to know how the community can be expected to trust them.	currently working up north. The consultant also replied that her colleague who assists with these projects could not come as she does not understand Afrikaans.
community member	They did not say yes at all, but enquires about the 'social labour plan (SLP), does it exist and how the community will benefit from it. The member also states with shock that it has been read that their community is referred to as kind of 'illiterate'!	The consultant has in the mean-time confirmed that nowhere is this stated in their reports. The community member is probably referring to another report from another company.
community member	There is concern about what had been said in a previous session. She knows that there will be no work for their people, that their people are not educated, it was repeated tonight, and that if there is nothing for the community, the people are not welcome in their community. She mentions that Oceana left them an empty shell. The member states that not everyone is an engineer, but there are young people who are going to matriculate and if the SLP does not provide for them, there is no place for the people in their community.	The Transatlantic Diamond-representative (TAD) thanked everyone. He mentioned that the stage they are now in, is to prospect and to get the community's permission to allow them to prospect. It is hoped and prayed that it is successful. Their proposal is to come back to the community if there are enough diamonds to make it economically viable, but that they are open to hear from the community. TAD said that there are two ways to do it, namely, to give the community a royalty on the sales on whatever is sold. They have community-people put on the ship, people from Doringbaai, to watch the sales and everything. They will do what the norm is, namely 15%. If they mine a R100 million, R15 million must go the community. The community must set up a Doringbaai committee and they will transfer R15 million to the committee. TAD will also insist that the committee has an audit by an independent auditor, like DeLoittes/PWC, to make sure that money that comes from the sales, is being used correctly. Alternatively, TAD mentioned that the community might not accept this, they might want to share profit with TAD. That might be another proposal. However, they will get to that stage when they start mining. First, they hope that prospecting is successful, but if they are stopped from prospecting, they will not get anywhere or to the stage of mining.
community member	Why should the community wait until TAD is successful with their application and why they cannot be taken through the process from its inception?	TAD responded that this is what they are doing now.

	The community is concerned about the social and labour issue and wants a prior agreement.	TAD responded that once they get to the mining-stage they will be happy to do that. TAD will only be too happy to employ on a full-time basis people of the Doringbaai community.
community member	TA community member asked why they cannot be a shareholder	TAD replied that the community is welcome, that TAD will list the company, but that the process has not gotten to that stage yet.
community member	TAD always talks about employment, employment.	TAD responded that the community is already at the stage where they assume that TAD is going to mine, however, they hope that prospecting will be successful whereafter they will have to come back to the community.
community member	Is this the type of development the community wants and wanted to know how prospecting will be done. The livelihood of the community is their priority and when prospecting/mining is done the livelihood of the community is not to be affected. It is questioned whether it is a sustainable way for this community to live, mining done is for a short period, and, once done, the question is how this community is going to survive. They know that everywhere mining is done, nature is destroyed, TAD promises they are going to rehabilitate, but what they know is that Africa is full of holes/dongas, mining companies never rehabilitate and they wanted to know how TAD will do rehabilitation	TAD responded that if rehabilitation is not done, their application will not be approved.
community member	The community responded that TAD's application will be approved, that the Department approves every licence for mining and that no licences are rejected. The member wanted to know how TAD is going to ensure the livelihood of the community that will working in mining, that is why SA is so poor, stating that mining is all the same if one looks at North-West and Mpumalanga.	TAD responded that the community member is generalising and that TAD's record is different.
community member	The member wanted to know what is different.	TAD responded that if they prospect successfully, they will revert to the community, discuss how to share and work and come to terms with the community. The community must set up a committee of 10/12 people that they will negotiate with and if they don't come to terms, they will not get a licence and not mine.
community member	The community mentioned that committees don't work in their communities and that they will be happy if TAD can bring something new to the community.	TAD asked what the alternative is, mentioning that one member suggested something.

community member	The community responded that there are legal entities that can be focused on, besides committees. A question is raised about what those committee members, acting on behalf of the community, may be offered, because the community may still suffer.	TAD responded that alternatives can be discussed.
community member	Amongst themselves the community responded that they are not supporting mining, but if that route is followed, they want to be clear on how those entities are set up. A community member responded that once those so-called committees, called BEE's, are set up, they enrich themselves and leave the communities poor.	TAD responded that the community might come up with something different which they all might accept.
community member	The community mentioned to TAD that the previous member was actually asking TAD why they did not have the respect to come to the community first before they arranged with government to come and speak on behalf of this committee.	TAD responded that they did not invite government and continued to respond that government invited them, upon a comment made by the community member that TAD must tell government to come to the community first.
community member	The community continued by asking how they can trust TAD now that TAD has gone behind their backs, stating that the children have said that they do not want mining and that government had to come themselves.	TAD explained that the Department of Minerals had informed them of the availability of Concession 14C and that they had applied for the prospecting licence after government had informed them to apply, continuing that other companies would have applied if they did not.
community member	In response a community member mentioned that the same Department that requested TAD apply is the Department that will issue TAD the prospecting licence.	TAD responded that they and many others were invited by government, but that it is also subject to what the environmentalists may say.
community member	The community continued that government bypassed them inviting by TAD, whereupon TAD responded that the community must take that up with government. The community member informed TAD that that is why they do not want mines and that TAD must go and tell government that.	The Environmental Consultant explained that TAD would not know to come to the community to ask permission first if the concession was not available. If a concession is available, it must be applied for immediately and only then can the applicant, in this case, TAD, get in touch with the community. To do it the other way around may mean that others may apply and that the concession may lapse.
community member	The community members states that this is just a normal discussion and that it doesn't mean anything, because a decision has been taken not to allow this.	TAD responded that the community should write to the Dept. of Mineral and Energy and inform them of this.

community member	A community member clarified that, if he understands it correctly, 14C was vacant, each and every one could have applied for it. He mentioned that they did not know about it, because the community could also sort of have applied for it. He further stated that the report was sent, but that the community is illiterate, whereupon the Environmental Consultant mentioned that that (statement) was contained in the Matzikama Municipality report.	The Environmental Consultant responded that this is why this process is now in place, stating that the concession must be applied for first before public participation can take place.
community member	A community member stated that government should make sure/audit that this project is viable for the beneficiaries, stating that the people/beneficiaries are not aware of it as they are not part of the process, which is unconstitutional.	Noted
community member	A community member mentioned that they did not see this process through, stating that there are more concerns, asking what will be happening now and what they as a community must now do.	The Environmental Consultant explained that there is a phone number, e-mail and a postal address in the document. Comments can be left at the Doringbaai library if it cannot be posted, e-mailed or phoned. Comments can be on a normal letter, recorded, somebody else may write the comments or it can be faxed or scanned.
community member	A community member stated that they know that SA is amending quite a lot of laws that must be in favour of the private companies against the communities, wanting to know if their comments are going to be worth it. It is stated that the public in whose interest this is, is the private sector and not the community. It is further stated that their comments are not getting any attention, whatever the community writes, is just thrown into the dustbin, until the community gets out from their houses and defend themselves.	The Environmental Consultant responded that the community's comments are recorded in the Comments and Responses Table. If anything is found to be lacking, their comments will be incorporated into the report and as far as is known, and hoped, the Department and the specialists read the report. The Comments and Responses Table is thought of as most important.
community member	A community member requested about the whereabouts of the minutes of the last meeting, as well as the recording of the meeting.	The Environmental Consultant responded that the minutes was typed up and that it was sent to all those of whom she had e-mail addresses/the stakeholders. The minutes are also contained in the Background document that was typed up. It was further mentioned that the transmission of the minutes will be rechecked again and resend. Unfortunately she could not provide a recording, because the old devices were incompatible, but was stated that they have now acquired new devices. It is stated that the minutes of this meeting will also be send to all.

	11 April Cape Town Meeting	
	<p>Organization: Deep Sea Angling Association</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a plethora of applications on the west coast, and this is the second on that I am aware of for this year. 2. The seabed's 2030 programme is currently ongoing, and they are trying to map the whole ocean right around the world. Are you aware of that? 3. Would you (the applicant) be willing to submit the geological data that you acquire, should the project go ahead to the 2030 programme? 4. It would be nice to know that you are cooperating and contributing the data to the seabed 2030 programme (and other scientific programmes). I want my data to be open and accessed by everyone because, especially if you are a research scientist and you publish data. You pay a fee to these publishing houses and then it's often restricted and you can't get access to the data or paper unless you are a subscriber. Open access data is important. And it's a big issue but if you can show that you genuinely are contributing and it is accessible, that would be a positive contribution. 5. There are a lot of minerals in that area. Are there any of these minerals besides diamonds that you would want to prospect/ mine? 6. I looked at Anchor's State of St Helena Bay and it's not a happy reading. It's a bit concerning with the amount of sediments already being discharged by the fish factories. If you are processing samples and not controlling sediments, it could end up in St Helena Bay and contribute to the problems there. 7. This might be, but there is a counter current, its just a misconception that everything goes North. Some currents an sediment does come back, depending how far off the sea you are. For this study its small but if you take other studies, it becomes cumulative. 8. When they say troll do they mean hake? For future reference, be specific if this is deep water hake and what longline are you talking about. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. AEC: The application for prospecting are not all from Trans Atlantic Diamonds, other companies are also trying to get mining rights. For Trans-Atlantic Diamonds its 14C and two others that we just submitted, but those are still being assessed by the Department of Mineral Resources. 2. Geologist: Yes, I am aware and I do have data to contribute, but currently, it's very low resolution data. About half a meter resolution. 3. Geologist: I would love to do that. I work very closely with Professor Eddie Green from Natal University, and he often sends his student to us. They are actually on a survey at the moment. He shares his data with me and vise verse. 4. AEC: That's one of the things that we have been discussing with a whole lot of Departments as to why everyone is holding on to their own data. I don't know if there is a collaborating approach, but data sharing is important. It's something that has been discussed but it's not happening now although it's something that a lot of people need to push for. But al ot of data we acquire from monitoring we share with organisations such as the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and they share data with us. It's nice to have data and to share it. Our company is quite open to share. 5. TAD: Due to the costs of prospecting and analysing samples, we are at this stage only interested in looking for diamonds. It is very expensive to analyse even one sample for one mineral. At this stage we cannot test for multiple minerals. 6. Geologist: St Helena Bay would not be affected. There are no diamonds there so we will not prospect in that area. In addition, the plumes from the discharges would be fine sediment plumes. AEC: Tailings won't be processed and discharged overboard anywhere. After the acoustic surveys, designated areas for

	<p>9. But there's no idea or any indication of the volume in the amount of tailings?</p> <p>10. Impact 21 local households. This has a high probability, very probable and consequently very high, how is this going to affect local households?</p> <p>11. Trans-Atlantic Diamonds, will be paying for and getting all the data?</p> <p>12. Your business is Diamonds? All the other material would you sell the data collected to prospectors who would want to develop mining for other minerals that you don't want? Because you are going to find stuff there, maybe its Diamonds and other materials.</p> <p>13. We often hear that the mines move in, and all the wealth goes to the mines and local people get nothing. How do you address that?</p> <p>14. To make the job easy, you need to distinguish between oil and gas, seismic surveys and what you are doing because that was a big issue with a seismic size ship.</p> <p>15. Where are you operating.</p> <p>16. Do you have contenders to do the job?</p>	<p>discharging sediment will be identified by specialists and conditions of discharge will be stipulated in the EMPr.</p> <p>Geologist: Plume direction gets monitored daily. I've been very active in that same area; the plume always goes North. The specialist study did say that the sediment is supposed to settle quickly so it's not supposed to have a very big impact and not supposed to be carried with the current. The prospecting is in a small area and for a short time, the bigger impact is relatively low.</p> <p>7. AEC: Cumulative impacts have been assessed, but it is very difficult to assess due to the lack of data and as there are many factors that might influence the significance of an impact.</p> <p>8. AEC: This would have to be confirmed with the specialist. Point Noted</p> <p>9. AEC: This is indicated in the BID and will also be stipulated in the BAR.</p> <p>10. AEC: This impact relates to the person that goes out to fish to put food on the table. If that person can't go fish, the negative consequence will be High for that person and household. However, as it is Improbable that prospecting will exclude a person from their fishing grounds or be the cause of them not catching fish. The Significance of this impact was rated as Very Low. The cumulative impact, on the other hand, was rated as being of a High Significance as now one must consider that several mining related activities are occurring and over a longer timeframe. Again, this impact is improbable to occur. We urge departments to collaborate and to commission a strategic environmental impact assessment to enable consultants to conduct an accurate cumulative impact assessments.</p> <p>11. TAD: Yes</p> <p>12. TAD: We don't have an interest and we won't prospect for other materials. Our interest is in Diamonds, the rest we throw back into the sea. We have no idea if there's even market to sell the data and that's not our mission. Due to the costs of prospecting and analysing samples, we are at this stage only interested in</p>
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		<p>looking for diamonds. It is very expensive to analyse even one sample for one mineral. At this stage we cannot test for multiple minerals.</p> <p>13. Geologist: In Alexander Bay, annually we employ a lot of locals on the vessels. Paying a lot of money to schools and communities and inform the kids about what exactly we are doing, so they can change their career path e.g., Geologist.</p> <p>TAD: What would work for both Trans-Atlantic and the community is a royalty. If our sales for the month is for example 10million, then we figure out a scale of maybe 10%, for example, going to the community. There must be a structure in place. That money must go into a development of the community, not someone's pocket.</p> <p>14. TAD: We will reinforce that point because we are not here to survey for oil and gas.</p> <p>15. We haven't stated mining yet, we've got 14A and 11C. We have applied and still waiting for DMRE on the prospecting rights.</p> <p>Yes, IMDH are very much involved in the mining.</p>
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