

# Repair and maintenance work to the existing Struisbaai harbour infrastructure, dredging of sand in the harbour basin and the development of an access road.

Our Ref:



an agency of the  
Department of Arts and Culture

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Date: Tuesday May 30, 2017  
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CaseID: 11094

## Interim Comment

**In terms of Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act (Act 25 of 1999)**

Attention: National Department of Public Works

**The proposed development entails repair and maintenance work to existing harbour infrastructure, dredging of sand in the harbour basin and the development of an access road (approximately 7m wide and 105 m in length) through an area containing indigenous vegetation with a development footprint of approximately 735m<sup>2</sup>. The repair and maintenance work is not listed in terms of the EIA Regulations. The dredging activities will only require a maintenance management plan. The proposed access road requires environmental authorisation. The aforementioned activities will be taking place at Struisbaai harbour, Western Cape.**

Mott Macdonald Consulting Engineers have been appointed by the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) on the behalf of the Department of Public Works to undertake the coastal engineering infrastructure activities Work Package 4 of the Proclaimed Fishing Harbours Western Cape Development Programme, also known as the small harbours programme. This work package includes the harbour at Struisbaai.

Struisbaai Harbour was built in 1959 and expanded in 1990. The harbour consists of a 185m long breakwater, with 2 smaller quays, 3 slipways and a jetty. The proposed works will entail the repair and maintenance of existing harbour structures, no expansion of the existing footprint will occur as a result of these works.

The project involves the following aspects:

- Repairs to concrete structures and the rehabilitation of rock revetments on the breakwater;
- Repair and replace precast concrete slabs on quays 1 and 2;
- Localised concrete repair and patching on slipways 1, 2 and 3;
- Maintenance and repair to timber sections and bollards on the jetty;
- Rehabilitation of rock revetment between slipway 2 and the breakwater;
- Dredging of the harbour basin and of the beach to the east of the harbour;

The South African Heritage Resources Agency would like to thank you for submitting the project description for the proposed repair, maintenance and upgrade of existing infrastructure and the dredging of the harbour basin at Struisbaai Fishing Harbour, Western Cape.

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## **Harbour Basin**

SAHRA has reviewed the submitted documents and would like to advise that in regard to the harbour structures no work is required under the National Heritage Resources Act (No 25 of 1999) as the harbour infrastructure was developed in 1959 and is therefore less than 60 years of age. It therefore currently falls outside of the remit of the NHRA.

That said, SAHRA would like to advise that should any structures or shipwreck remains older than 60 years be uncovered during the proposed works, we must be notified immediately so that further advice can be given regarding complying with heritage legislation.

## **Proposed Dredging activity**

While the proposed dredging activity in the harbour basin exceeds an area of 5000m<sup>2</sup> and thus requires input from SAHRA in terms of Section 38(1) of the NHRA, it does not extend beyond the area or depth that has been previously dredged.

It has been noted that the dredging taking place to the east of the harbour is adjacent to stone walled fish traps which lie further to the east of the beach. These fish traps are of an undetermined age and provenance but have been built, used and maintained by fisherman and farmers in the past and there is a possibility that they are still in use today. It is possible that they are pre-colonial in origin and are therefore an important historical feature which should be protected and preserved.

In the Application for Environmental Authorisation provided via SAHRIS, Figure 3 illustrates the proposed disposal sites for the dredged material. SAHRA has noted that there are fish traps visible on aerial photos that lie at the east end of the beach between the beach and the harbour, this is the location proposed for the disposal of 12000m<sup>3</sup> of material. As the fish traps are an important cultural and historical feature they must not be disturbed, covered over or destroyed.

Due to the sensitivity of the area regarding the fish traps that are located on either side of the harbour SAHRA requires that a basic assessment and an HIA must be carried out in terms of Section 38 (2)a of the NHRA to assess the nature and extent of these historical features.

Should you have any further queries, please contact the designated official using the case number quoted above in the case header.

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Yours faithfully

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Briege Williams  
Heritage Officer  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

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John Gribble  
Manager: Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Unit / Acting Manager: Archaeology, Palaeontology and Meteorites Unit  
South African Heritage Resources Agency

**ADMIN:**

Direct URL to case: <http://www.sahra.org.za/node/398793>  
(DEA, Ref: 14/12/16/3/3/1/1766)

**Terms & Conditions:**

1. This approval does not exonerate the applicant from obtaining local authority approval or any other necessary approval for proposed work.
2. If any heritage resources, including graves or human remains, are encountered they must be reported to SAHRA immediately.
3. SAHRA reserves the right to request additional information as required.