

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 5925

28 February 2025

MARINE LIVING RESOURCES ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 18 OF 2008)

CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSED IDENTIFICATION OF A NEW SEA-BASED ABALONE RANCHING CONCESSION AREA IN PAPENDORP, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE

I, Dr Dion Travers George, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby give notice of my intention to identify a new sea-based abalone ranching concession area in Papendorp, Western Cape Province.

Abalone ranching has been identified as a potentially feasible and economically viable alternative source of livelihood to be explored in light of the drastically declined wild abalone stocks. Accordingly a notice of intention to allocate rights to engage in abalone ranching and stock enhancement pilot projects was published in Government Notices 352 and 353 in *Government Gazette* 34241 of 21 April 2011, in terms of section 18 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998), together with criteria for such allocations.

In the above-mentioned notice, proposed concession areas for abalone ranching pilot projects were identified in the Northern Cape (four areas), Eastern Cape (three areas), and Western Cape (three areas). Several marine aquaculture rights to engage in abalone ranching within the identified concession areas were subsequently granted. In 2022, an additional concession area in Doring Bay, Western Cape was identified following a public consultation process after a marine aquaculture right application was received to engage in abalone ranching outside of the identified 2011 concession areas. A ranching right was awarded subsequent to the public participation process.

In April 2024, the Department received an application to engage in an abalone ranching pilot project in the Western Cape. This preferred area falls outside of the three original concession areas identified in the Western Cape and outside the Doring Bay area identified in 2022, and is situated North-West of Doring Bay, extending from a point south of MSR Tormin mine (31°35'20.00"S, 18°6'49.00"E) to a point 17 km North-West of Strandfontein (31°37'25.00"S; 18°7'50.00"E). The Department required an environmental risk assessment (ERA) to be undertaken prior to the consideration of this application, which was submitted on 20 September 2024. This ERA is accessible at the following link: <https://www.dffe.gov.za/FisheriesManagementPublications>

Members of the public are invited to submit written comments, within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice in the *Government Gazette* or notice in a newspaper, whichever date is later, to any of the following addresses:

Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Attention: Mr. M Majangaza

By hand: Foretrust Building, Martin Hammerschlag Way, Foreshore, Cape Town

By email: MMajangaza@dffe.gov.za

By mail: Private Bag X2, Vlaeberg, 8018

Telephone queries – 066 471 1480 or 021 402 3116

Comments or inputs received after the closing date may be disregarded.

The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment complies with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act No. 4 of 2013). Comments received from the public and the departmental responses to those comments are collated into a comments and response report which will be made available to the public as part of the consultation process. If a commenting party has any objection to their name, or the name of the represented company/ organisation, being made publicly available in the comments and responses report, that objection should be highlighted in bold as part of the comments submitted in response to this notice.



DR DION TRAVERS GEORGE

MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT