

# WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

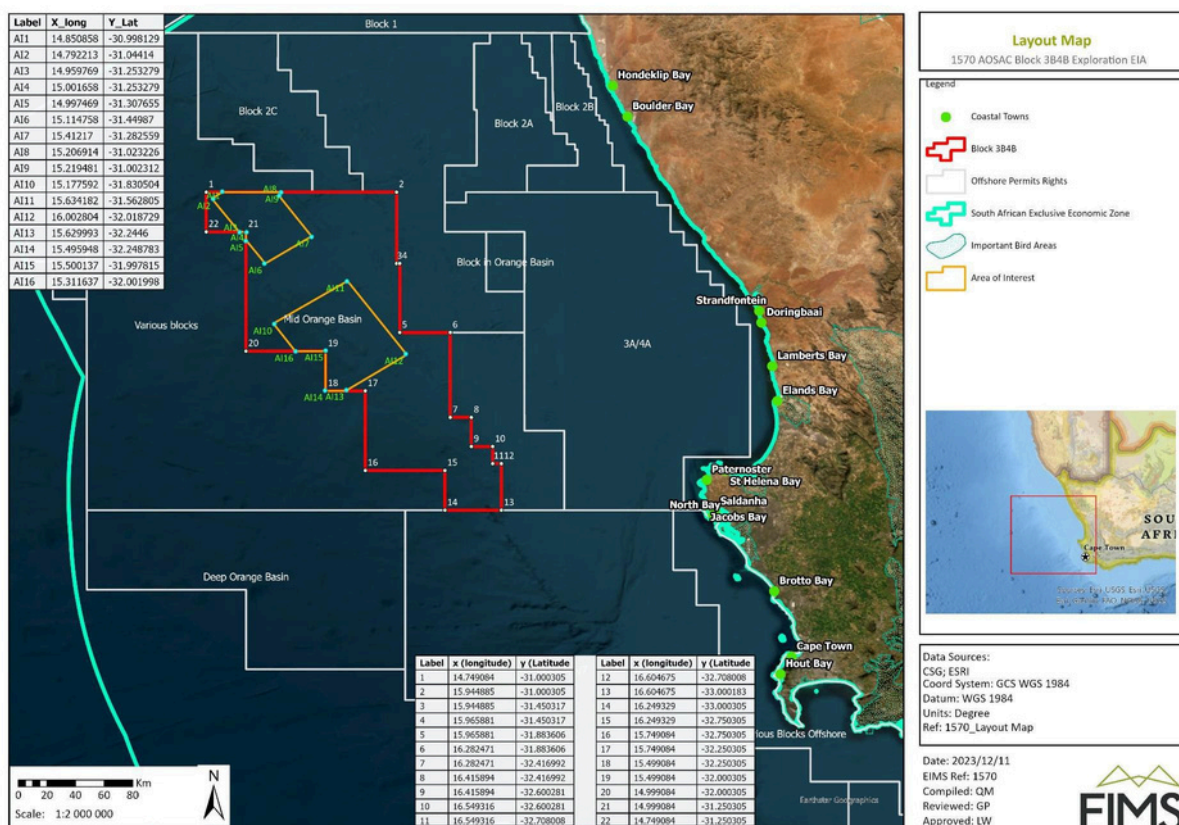
## Africa Oil South Africa Corp (AOSAC) **REVISED** EIA on the West Coast of South Africa **BLOCK 3B/4B**

**REVISED EIA REPORT AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT**

Developed in May 2024

IN LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE EIA REPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES (EIMS) HAVE NOW COMPILED A REVISED EIA REPORT WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT UNTIL 10 MAY 2024.

### AREA OF INTEREST



**BLOCK 3B/4B IS AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 17 581 KM2 AND IS SITUATED OFF THE WEST COAST OF SOUTH AFRICA. THE BLOCK IS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 120KM WEST OF ST HELENA BAY AND APPROXIMATELY 145KM SOUTH-WEST OF HONDEKLIP BAY. DRILLING IS PROPOSED TO TAKE PLACE IN THE NORTH AND CENTRAL AREA OF THE BLOCK (SEEN IN YELLOW ABOVE).**



**AFRICA OIL SA CORP, RICOURE (PTY) LTD AND AZINAM LIMITED (JOINT VENTURE (JV) PARTNERS) HOLD AN EXPLORATION RIGHT (ER) FOR BLOCK 3B/4B.\* TOTALENERGIES PLAN TO BECOME THE OPERATOR WHEN OPERATIONS START. TO EXERCISE THE ER, THE JV PARTNERS FIRST NEEDED TO CONDUCT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA). THE JV PARTNERS APPOINTED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT MANAGEMENT SERVICES (EIMS) TO COMPILE THE EIA REPORT. THE EIA REPORT COMPILED BY EIMS WAS FIRST MADE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT FROM 8 JANUARY 2024 TO 8 FEBRUARY 2024. IN LIGHT OF THE COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE EIA REPORT, EIMS HAVE NOW COMPILED A REVISED EIA REPORT WHICH IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT UNTIL 10 MAY 2024.**

**\*TotalEnergies has announced that it, together with its partner QatarEnergy, have signed an agreement to participating interests in Block 3B/4B, where TotalEnergies will hold a 33% participating interest in Block 3B/4B and assume operatorship, while QatarEnergy will hold a 24% interest.**

See: <https://totalenergies.com/media/news/press-releases/south-africa-totalenergies-expands-its-presence-orange-basin-new-offshore>



**Hondeklip Bay**

**St Helena Bay**

**Cape Town**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOUND IN THE INITIAL EIA REPORT, YOU CAN ACCESS OUR PAMPHLET [HERE](#).**

# What is new in the Revised EIA Report?

THE CHANGES TO THE EIA REPORT AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTATION RELATE TO THE FOLLOWING MAIN ADDITIONS:

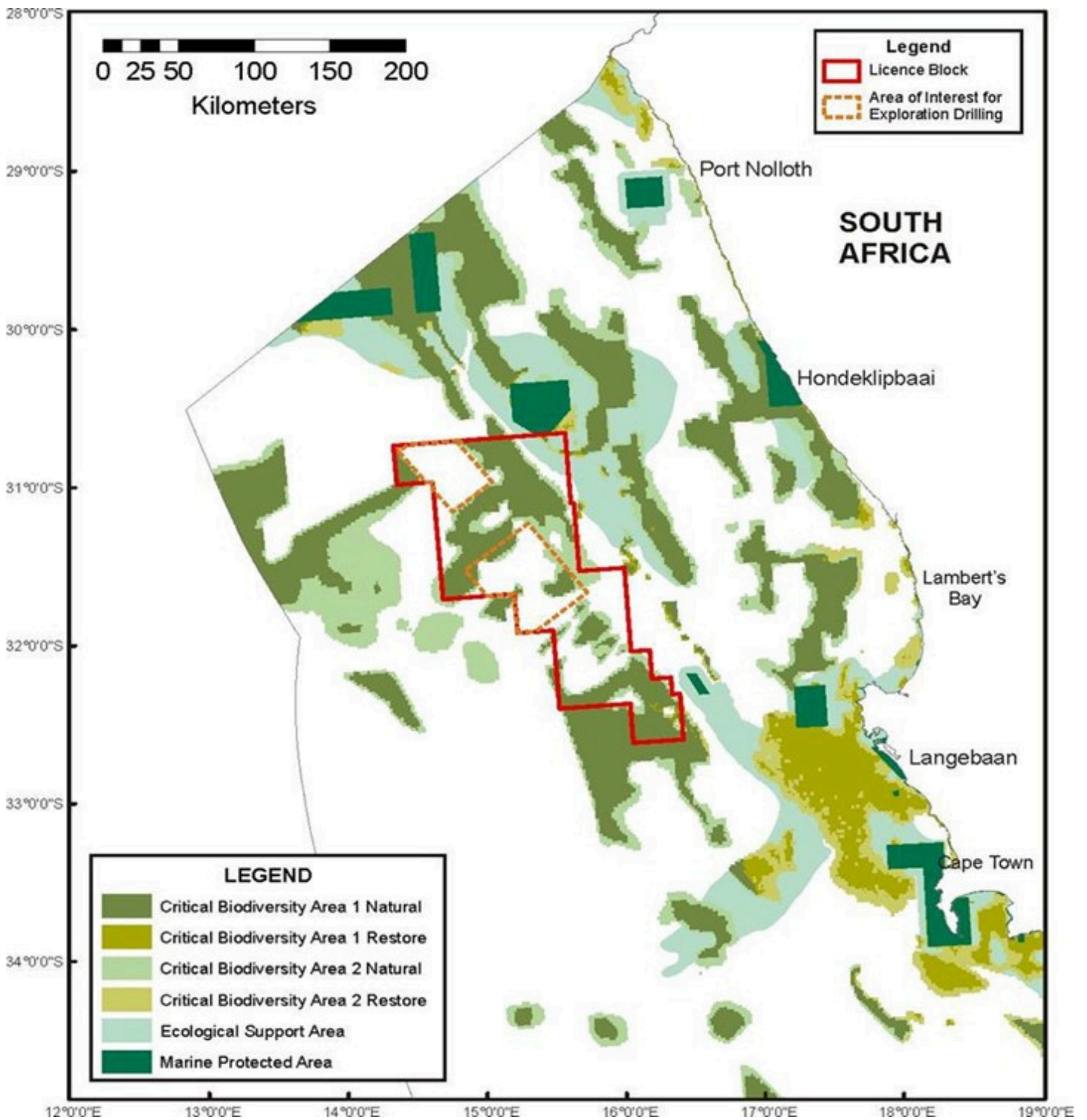
- UPDATED AND AMENDED OIL SPILL DRIFT MODELLING REPORT, WHICH NOW MODELS BOTH A CONDENSATE BLOW OUT SCENARIO AS WELL AS A CRUDE OIL BLOW OUT SCENARIO AS A WORST CASE.
- UPDATED AND AMENDED DRILLING DISCHARGE MODELLING REPORT, WHICH NOW CONSIDERS THE OPTION OF UTILISING NON-AQUEOUS DRILLING FLUIDS (NADF'S) AS WELL AS WATER BASED MUDS (WBM'S).
- WHERE RELEVANT, UPDATED SPECIALIST STUDIES TO CONSIDER THE OUTCOMES OF THE UPDATED MODELLING REPORTS REFERRED TO ABOVE.
- VARIOUS AMENDMENTS AND UPDATES TO THE EIA REPORT AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (EMPR) TO INCORPORATE THE AMENDED SPECIALIST STUDIES AND MODELLING REPORT.

## What information is set out in this pamphlet?

THIS PAMPHLET WILL FOCUS ONLY ON THE IMPACTS OF A CONDENSATE BLOW OUT SCENARIO AND A CRUDE OIL BLOW OUT SCENARIO.



Examples of drilling equipment.



**THIS IMAGE SHOWS THE PROXIMITY OF BLOCK 3B/4B TO CRITICAL BIODIVERSITY AREAS, ECOLOGICAL SUPPORT AREAS AND MARINE PROTECTED AREAS.**



# THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS

## EXPLORATION RIGHT (ER)

This is obtained from the DMRE, once an Environmental Authorisation (EA) has been granted. For this Block, a previous EA was obtained for data reprocessing when the ER was granted.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA):

This assessment aims to predict the environmental and social impacts of the project. This is placed in a report and based on this, the DMRE may grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation.

A DRAFT EIA report was made available for public review and comment.

## PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Registered Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) submitted comments on the draft EIA

The REVISED EIA report, which has taken into consideration the comments on the draft EIA, is now available on EIMS' website [HERE](#)

All I&APs are provided with an opportunity to comment on the REVISED EIA.

## We are here

## FINAL EIA REPORT PUBLISHED:

This incorporates all comments received on the draft and revised EIA Report. This is submitted to the Petroleum Agency of South Africa (PASA) for consideration and review.

## PASA RECOMMENDATION:

After its review, PASA will provide a recommendation to the DMRE on whether to grant or refuse Environmental Authorisation.

## ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION:

This is granted by an official from the DMRE and, if given, will allow the JV Partners to go ahead with their exploration.

## WHAT NEXT?

After the Department issues its decision, all I&APs registered on the project database will be notified of the outcome of the application and the reasons for the decision within 14 days of the date of the decision.

If anyone disagrees with the decision made by the Department, an appeal against the decision may be submitted to the Department of Forestry Fisheries and Environment (DFFE) within 20 days from the date the decision is communicated to I&APs.

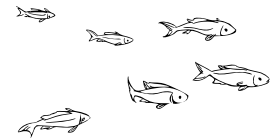


# POTENTIAL CONCERNING IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT

**\*\*These impacts have been highlighted in specialist reports with regard to a worst-case scenario (i.e. oil spill). This is a summary and therefore not all of the impacts have been included. Refer to the previous pamphlet [HERE](#) for information on some of the other impacts.**

## IMPACTS ON FISH AND MARINE SPECIES

There are several possible direct and secondary impacts of oil spills on fish and other marine species. Oil spilled in the marine environment would have an immediate detrimental effect on water quality, with the toxic effects from the oil potentially resulting in the death of marine species. Oil contamination of fish species could result in the displacement of species from normal feeding and protective areas as well as possible physical contamination such as clogging of gills which would lead to the death of fish species.



### Condensate spill

Condensate is a released product (liquid hydrocarbon) that rises to the surface and is sometimes called 'light oil'. Based on the possible extent of surface oiling, the impact could affect large pelagic species (e.g. tuna and sword fish) and demersal species (e.g. kingklip and hake). The likelihood of the impact materialising differs according to the extent of the contamination in relation to the location of fishing grounds. The likelihood of contamination is 100% for large pelagic longline species, 50% for tuna pole-line species, 30% for demersal trawl species and 20% for demersal longline species.

### Crude spill

An assessment was done on four scenarios of an oil-spill probability (3.3%, 10%, 50% and 90% possibility of an oil spill occurring). The 90% probability outline overlaps with fishing grounds of the large pelagic longline species (e.g. tuna and sword fish). The 50% probability outline overlaps with fishing grounds of demersal species (e.g. kingklip and hake), and large pelagic longline and tuna pole-line species. The 10% probability outline overlaps with demersal fishing grounds, small pelagic purse-seine (e.g. herring, sardines, mackerel, anchovies), large pelagic longline, tuna pole-line, linefish and west coast rock lobster grounds. The 3% probability contour extends across demersal fishing grounds, small pelagic purse-seine, large pelagic longline, tuna pole-line, linefish and inshore and offshore west coast rock lobster grounds.



## IMPACTS ON LIVELIHOODS

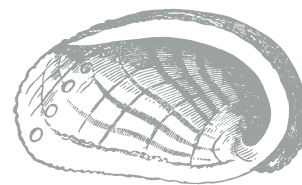
Impacts on fisheries livelihoods from oil spills would include the periodic closure of fishing grounds for clean-up and rejuvenation, long-term displacement from fishing areas to minimize pollution effects, lost jobs and unemployment, and losses to seafood markets and revenues. Following an oil spill, fishing vessels may avoid areas affected by contamination to prevent the capture of contaminated fish and ensure product safety. This avoidance behaviour can disrupt fishing operations, as vessels may need to relocate to alternative fishing grounds, resulting in increased fuel costs and reduced catch efficiency. Avoidance of contaminated areas may also lead to competition among fishing vessels for access to unaffected fishing grounds, exacerbating resource conflicts and management challenges. In cases where fish are exposed to oil spills and subsequently captured by fishing operations, there is a risk of product rejection due to contamination. Fish contaminated with oil residues may fail to meet quality standards set by regulatory agencies and seafood markets, resulting in the rejection of entire catch batches. This rejection not only leads to financial losses for fishing operations but also undermines consumer confidence in seafood products sourced from affected regions. Studies have shown that seafood market demand can decline significantly in the aftermath of oil spills, particularly in regions directly impacted by contamination. Loss of market access can have long-term economic consequences for fishing communities reliant on seafood trade.

## IMPACTS ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Any impact on the integrity of the coastal and marine ecosystem through an accidental oil spill could have an immediate detrimental effect on the marine environment and thus in turn could impact various aspects which make up people's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

### Spirituality

Ritual practice and spiritual engagement with the sea requires a healthy ocean. Although the specialist reports note that only minor oil spills are likely to take place, and is unlikely to reach the shore, for communities who have a symbolic and spiritual relationship with the ocean and coast, the perceived impacts would be considered high.

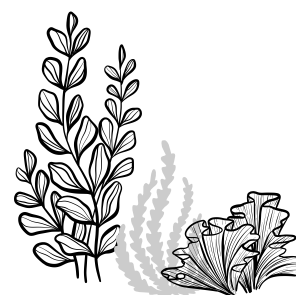


### Sense of place

Valuable heritage towns and locations depend on the sense of place to attract visitors, researchers and investors. If the place is negatively impacted by an oil spill, people may not come to visit these towns and locations, thereby, destroying the sense of place.

### Natural Heritage

Natural heritage and cultural heritage are interdependent, and any impact on the ocean, as natural heritage, will have a negative impact on cultural heritage. Communities that rely on a wide range of life cycle and healing rituals that involve the use of nature (i.e. fynbos and medicines from the sea) for cultural practices, will be most impacted.



### Health

People use the sea in cultural ways to improve, sustain and restore physical and mental health. Access to a healthy ocean is critical as any impact on the ocean, such as oil spills, may affect the health of coastal communities who drink ocean water for cultural purposes.



## Why should I get involved?

The proposed project may impact communities residing close to the project area and communities relying on the ocean. It is, therefore, important to share your views of the proposed project. However, even if you do not live close to the area of interest, you can get involved.

## How to get involved

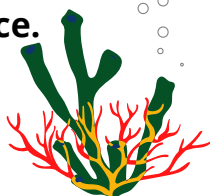
Gather as much information about the project. All project documents can be accessed online [HERE](#) or physically at the following locations:

Description of event:	Availability of Scoping Report (SR) for Public Review and Comment
Where	The Hout Bay Public Library (Melkhout Crescent, Hout Bay, Cape Town)
	The Sea Point Public Library (Civic Centre, Cnr Three Anchor Bay and Main Roads, Sea Point, Cape Town)
	Yzerfontein Tourism Office (50 Main Road, Yzerfontein)
	The Vredenburg Public Library (2 Academy Street (close to West Coast College), Vredenburg)
	St Helena Bay Library (2 Albertros Street, St Helena Bay)
	Elandsbaai Public Library (Main Road, Elandsbaai)
	The Lamberts Bay Public Library (Church Street, Lamberts Bay)
	Kamiesburg Local Municipality in Hondeklip Bay (Wag Way street)
	A. J Bekeur Library (Robson Street, Port Nolloth, Richtersveld)

To comment on the report, members of the public must register as I&APs and can do so via email: [block3b4b@eims.co.za](mailto:block3b4b@eims.co.za) or telephonically: 011 789 7170. If you have already registered as an I&AP for this project, you do not need to do so again.

Any comments which members of the public make, must be submitted by 10 May 2024. Comments or queries can be submitted via post: **P.O. Box 2083, Pinegowrie, 2123; fax: 086 571 9047; phone call: 011 789 7170; WhatsApp: 076 281 3326 or email: [block3b4b@eims.co.za](mailto:block3b4b@eims.co.za)**

Please include the project reference number '1570' in all correspondence.



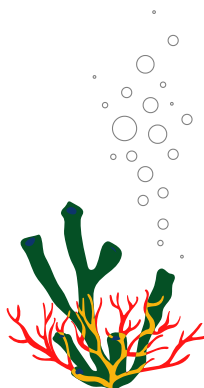


# WHAT SHOULD YOU BE THINKING ABOUT?



Exploration and production projects have direct and indirect effects on communities, and it is important to think about what these effects could be. The questions below will help you identify and think about the influence of the project on your community.

- **How will this project impact my livelihood?**
- **Will I be able to access the beach and ocean as I have before?**
- **Will the project activity affect how fish and bird species move in the area and will this impact our livelihoods?**
- **Do I normally fish in the project area or travel through the project area to access my usual fishing grounds?**
- **What effect would an oil/gas spill have on our community?**
- **Will the project provide our community with employment, what kinds of skills are required to be employed and will it be long-term employment?**
- **Once the project is complete, what benefits will the community enjoy?**
- **If you work in the aquaculture sector, will the project impact the businesses and jobs in this sector?**
- **If you are from the tourism sector, will the project have a positive or negative impact on tourism?**
- **How will this project impact my cultural and spiritual practices?**



# HOW TO STRUCTURE YOUR COMMENT



There are no templates or requirements of how you need to structure your comment. Below is an example of how you can structure your comment.

**1. List your main concerns with the project and speak about whether these concerns were addressed or dealt with at the public consultations.**

**2. State how you believe this Project will affect your livelihood and the livelihood of your community?**

**3. State how you believe the Project will impact your access to and use of the ocean, and how it will impact the movement of animal species (birds, fish, etc.).**

**4. State whether you think the Project will benefit you or your community, and what those benefits will be.**

**5. State whether the positive and negative impacts of the Project were discussed with you prior to or at the public consultations.**

**6. State how you believe the Project will impact your cultural and spiritual heritage if it goes ahead.**

**7. State whether the public consultations were done in a language you understand and whether it helped you understand what the project was about.**

**8. Any other comments**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Community/Area: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

