

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Main Street 1549 (Pty) Ltd Proposed Survey Activities in Blocks 9 and 11B/12B South Coast, South Africa

Prepare and submit your comments on the Draft Scoping Report by Thursday, 3 April 2025

AREA OF INTEREST

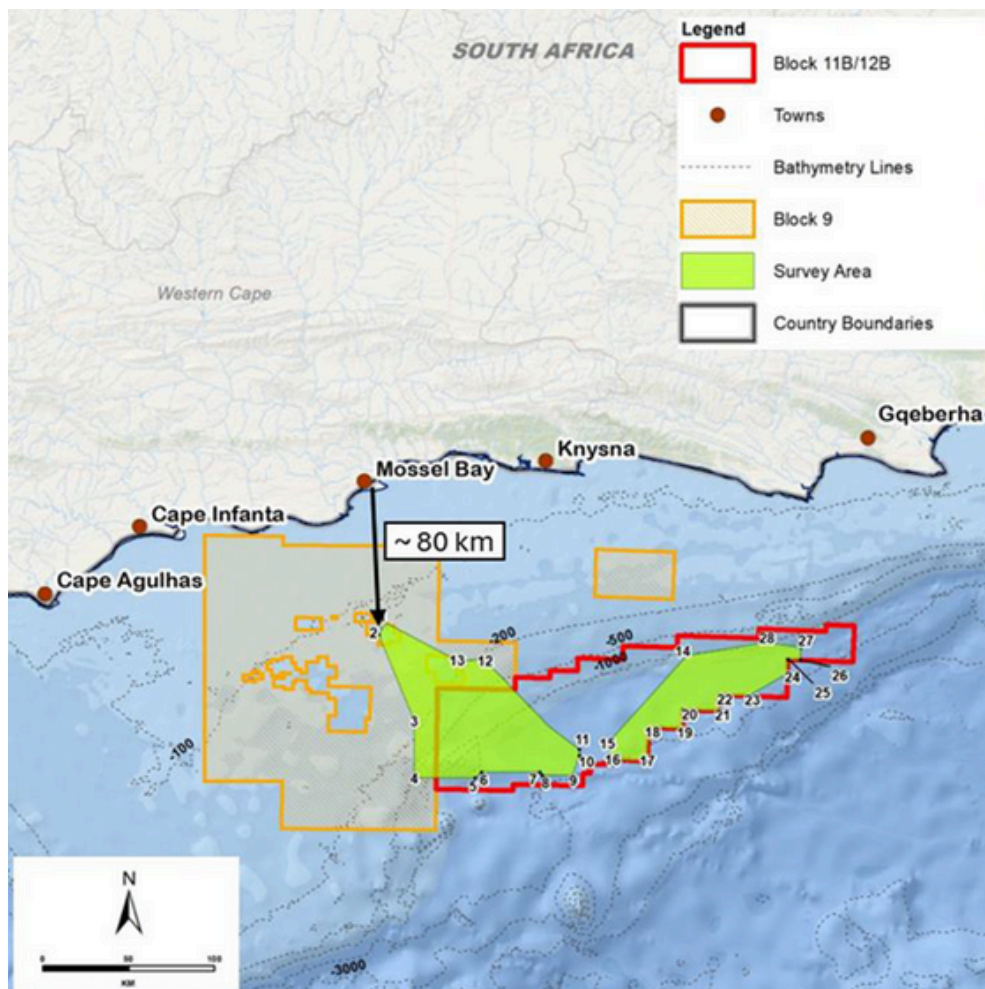


Figure 1: Locality Map of the Proposed Survey Areas off the South African Coast. Source: 3 March 2025 Draft Scoping Report, Appendix D2

Main Street 1549 (Pty) Ltd (“Main Street”) is proposing survey activities in Licence Blocks 9 and 11B/12B, located off the southern coast of South Africa. These surveys are part of the ongoing exploration and potential development of oil and gas in the Outeniqua Basin.

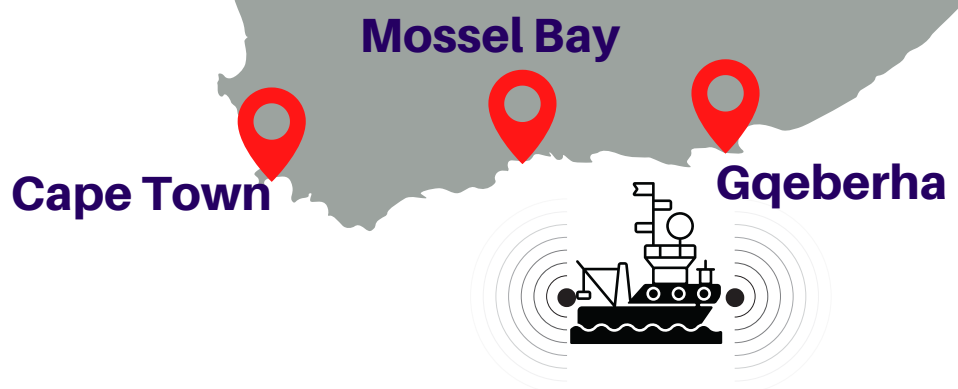
Natural gas pockets were discovered in Block 11B/12B at the Brulpadda and Luiperd wells. The joint venture partners at the time initiated the process to secure a Production Right (“PR”), 12/4/013 PR, and the necessary Environmental Authorisation (“EA”) for developing these resources. This was led by TotalEnergies EP South Africa (“TEEPSA”), who commissioned an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (“ESIA”) process. This process included public participation conducted throughout 2022 and 2023.

The original joint venture included TEEPSA, QatarEnergy, Canadian Natural Resources International (South Africa) Limited and Main Street. TEEPSA, QatarEnergy and Canadian Natural Resources have since withdrawn from the Block 11B/12B project entirely.



Main Street currently holds Exploration Right 12/3/067 over Block 11B/12B and is now leading the project after the other companies withdrew. Main Street plan to conduct ‘downscaled and non-invasive’ surveys in Block 11B/12B and the adjacent Block 9. Block 9 is held by PetroSA under Exploration Right 12/4/061.

The survey area is located off the southern coast, stretching between Mossel Bay and Gqeberha. It covers parts of two blocks in the ocean known as Blocks 9 and 11B/12B. It starts 65 km offshore from the coast at its closest point, about 80 km from Mossel Bay and covers 8620 km² of the ocean, with water depths from 100m to 2200m. The planned surveys will gather information about the seafloor, sea life and ocean conditions before the potential future extraction of oil and gas in the area. Activities will include mapping the seafloor, collecting samples and measuring ocean conditions.





Coastal towns and settlements, such as Mossel Bay, Knysna and Gqeberha, may be affected.

Surveys and other proposed activities

What are surveys?

Surveys in offshore oil and gas exploration involve studying the ocean floor to locate potential oil and gas reserves. These surveys use sound waves to produce images of the ocean floor.



Figure 2: Example of a survey vessel used for seabed sampling. Source: (Fugro, 2022)

The surveys aim to assess the metocean, benthic, geotechnical and geophysical conditions in the area to inform the design and alignment of potential future production infrastructure such as wells, pipelines and subsea facilities.



Proposed survey activities include:

Mapping of the seafloor



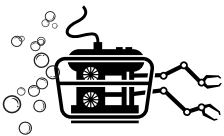
Bathymetry and sonar surveys map the seafloor to identify underwater hills, valleys and rocks. A ship uses special equipment to send sound waves to the seafloor. The bouncing sound waves are recorded to create detailed maps of the bottom of the ocean.

Collecting seafloor samples



Samples of the seafloor are collected and the conditions of the ocean like waves, currents and temperature are measured. A ship uses tools to grab sediment samples. Then instruments are placed in the water to record more data.

Using underwater robots (ROVs)



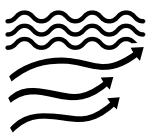
Remote Operated Vehicles (ROV) are used to take photos and videos of the sea floor.

Environmental Baseline Surveys



Environmental surveys are used to study the sea environment. A ship collects water, sediments and sea life samples and uses sensors to measure things like water quality and temperature. This helps to understand the health of the ocean before any work can begin.

Ocean climate surveys

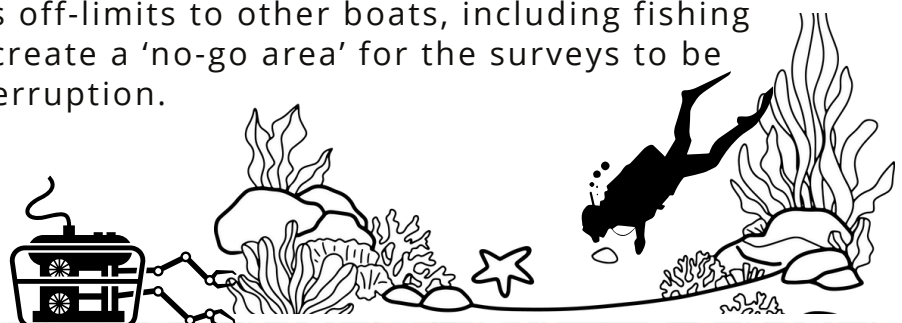


Metocean Surveys collect data about the marine environment, including meteorological and oceanographic conditions. These surveys will measure wave heights, wave periods, tidal currents, sea water temperatures, wind speeds, and directions.

Survey Vessel Exclusion Zone



A Survey Vessel Exclusion Zone of 500-metre area around the survey ship is off-limits to other boats, including fishing boats. This is to create a 'no-go area' for the surveys to be done without interruption.



THE TIMELINE OF EVENTS

EXPLORATION RIGHT

Main Street 1549 (Pty) Ltd holds an Exploration Right over Block 11B/12B.

THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

SCOPING PHASE:

This phase aims to set out what needs to be assessed in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), how to approach the assessment and what information may be needed to identify the likely impacts of the activity. This information is placed in a draft Scoping report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: The public is provided with an opportunity to comment on the draft Scoping report.

We are here

FINAL SCOPING REPORT PUBLISHED

This incorporates all comments received on the draft Scoping Report and is submitted for approval.

SLR Consulting (South Africa) has been appointed as the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) to conduct the assessment process.

WHAT NEXT?

Once the Scoping Report is accepted, all registered Interested and Affected Parties will be notified of the outcome and the reasons for the decision within 14 days of the date of the decision. If the Scoping Report is accepted, the project will move on to the EIA phase.

EIA PHASE

Specialist studies: the EAP will undertake an EIA and commission specialist studies. Public comments: I&APs will have another opportunity to comment on the draft EIA report. Final EIA report published: This incorporates all comments received on the draft EIA report. This is submitted to the 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

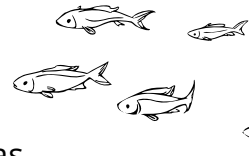
This is obtained from the DMRE and, if given, will allow Main Street to go ahead with their surveys.

APPEAL: After the Department issues its decision, all Interested and Affected Parties (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 was communicated to I&APs.






POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION



IMPACTS TO FISH AND MARINE ANIMALS

Oil and gas exploration can disturb marine life including fish, cetaceans such as whales and dolphin and sea birds, affecting established breeding grounds. The area is part of the migratory route for animals such as tuna, billfish, sharks and whales. Other animals that pass through the area are long-finned pilot whales, common dolphins, sperm whales, humpback whales and Southern right whales. The area is also home to certain birds and their breeding islands.


IMPACTS ON LIVELIHOODS



The region experiences very high levels of unemployment and poverty. The key coastal economic activities in the region are fishing, tourism, cargo ship traffic. Fishing, including commercial, small-scale and recreational fisheries provide jobs, ways to earn a living and provide food for communities in the area. As part of the Garden Route, the region is a popular local and international tourist destination, including for cruise ships. Due to its key location, thousands of cargo ships stop by ports in the region for refilling, maintenance and repairs. These activities offer significant opportunities to local communities in several sectors in the region. The survey activities may have direct impacts on these sectors if the marine animals and activities are disturbed.

The survey activities are also unlikely to result in increased employment opportunities for local people near the project site. While this work is linked to future oil and gas activities, this current phase of the project is short-term and will create only a few local job and business opportunities, and it is likely that only a few jobs for highly skilled people will be created.

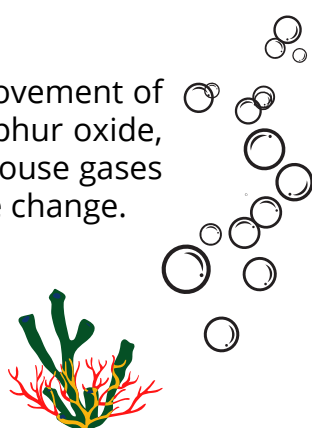
NOISE AND WATER POLLUTION



The survey ships may cause underwater noise which could temporarily affect marine life. The project will have an onshore logistics base at the Port of Cape Town, Mossel Bay or Gqeberha, possibly causing more ship traffic. The area of interest itself may also be a site of additional noise and water pollution. The activities will include the discharge and dumping of liquids like grey water, treated sewage water and engine water which may have a devastating impact on the local environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The proposed survey activities could affect local air quality through the movement of ships and boats, which release greenhouse gases into the air, such as sulphur oxide, nitrogen oxide, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. Some of the greenhouse gases could also contribute to global warming and to the effects of global climate change.




IMPACTS ON CULTURE AND HERITAGE

For any site that is coastal or where people make use of the sea, there is need to consider cultural tangible and intangible heritage since these areas may include sites of spiritual significance to the local communities. The waters noted by community members encountered in the project area describe these areas as 'living' waters. These living waters are believed to play a critical role in spiritual and health management for indigenous groups specifically.

Key findings from the study done for the Block 11B/12B Production Right EIA in 2023 are as follows:

1. There is a greater interconnection between land and sea in the south cape coast;
2. There are cultural worlds apparent in the lives of small-scale fishers and their families;
3. A racial dynamic in the South Cape Coast coastal communities makes it difficult for local communities to access the ocean and other related cultural sites, even though apartheid legislation is no longer in place.



Survey activities, such as those in Block 9 and 11B/12B can have significant impacts on community heritage and social wellbeing, particularly for coastal communities in the area.

WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

Survey projects can have direct and indirect effects on communities. It is important to think about how this project will have an impact on you and your community.

- How will this project impact my livelihood?
- Will I be able to access the beach and ocean as I could before?
- Will the project activity affect how fish and bird animals move in the area, and will this impact our fishing community?
- Do I normally fish in or travel through the project area?
- What effect would a change in the movement of fish animals have on our fishing community?
- Will the project provide employment opportunities for local people?
- How will this project impact my cultural and spiritual practices?
- Are my ancestors or heritage sites impacted by the project?



GETTING INVOLVED

Why should I get involved?

The proposed project and survey activities will impact communities along the southern coastline, affecting those relying on the ocean for their livelihoods. Your input is very important to ensure that the project considers the needs and concerns of all those who may be affected.

***Remember! Even if you do not live close to the area of interest, anyone can get involved.**

How to get involved



Gather Information

Read the Draft Scoping Report and other project documents available online at SLR's website: <https://www.slrconsulting.com/public-documents/11b12bsurveys/>

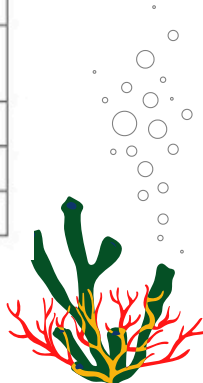
Or visit the data free website: <https://slrpublicdocs.datafree.co/public-documents/11b12bsurveys/>

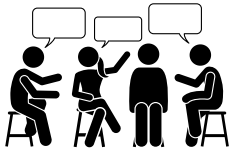
Or

You can collect the non-technical summary available in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa as hard copies or audio file at the following locations:

Location	Name of Facility	Physical Address
Full Report and Non-Technical Summary are available at:		
Mossel Bay	Kwanonqaba Library	Adriaan Street, Asla Park, Kwanonqaba
Knysna	Knysna Tourism Offices	40 Main Road, Knysna Central
Plettenberg Bay	Plettenberg Bay Public Library	Shop 29, Mervills Shopping Centre, Sewell Street
St. Francis Bay	St. Francis Tourism & Municipal Offices	Municipal Offices
Non-Technical Summary is available at:		
Stilbaai	Still Bay Library	Main Road, Still Bay
Mossel Bay	Mossel Bay Library	4th Floor Montagu Building , 99 Marsh St, Mossel Bay Central
Mossel Bay	Transnet Port of Mossel Bay	55 Bland Street, Mossel Bay, Main Port Administration Building, 2nd Floor
George	George Public Library	4 Caledon St, Campher's Drift
Jeffreys Bay	Jeffreys Bay Public Library	43 Diaz Rd
Gqeberha	Newtown Park Library	Hurd Street, Newtown Park

Source: Draft Scoping Report, 3 March 2025





Attend in-person Public Participation Open Days and Meetings

The table below is the schedule of all in-person public participation open days and meetings. Look for the details of your local meeting.

Register to Participate

Registration to attend Public Participation Open Days is required.

Use this link: (<https://forms.office.com/e/ECpD2ZLTU2>) to complete the required form to register to attend any of the listed public meetings below.

Location	Venue	Date & Time
1. Mossel Bay	D'Almeida Community Hall	10 March 2025 15:00-19:00
2. George	Conville Community Hall	11 March 2025 15:00-19:00
3. Knysna	Hornlee Community Hall	12 March 2025 15:00-19:00
4. Plettenberg Bay	New Horizons Community Hall	13 March 2025 15:00-19:00
5. Storms River Village	Tsitsikamma Village Inn	14 March 2025 15:00-19:00
6. Kareedouw	Kagiso Heights Hall	15 March 2025 10:00-13:00
7. Jeffreys Bay	Pellsrus Community Hall	17 March 2025 15:00-19:00
8. St Francis Bay	Sea Vista Community Hall	18 March 2025 15:00-19:00

Source: Draft Scoping Report, 3 March 2025





Attend Virtual Public Meetings

A virtual public meeting, via an online platform (MS TEAMS), will be convened on **20 March 2025, 09h00-12h00.**

To register to attend the online meeting and for further details, visit this link and complete the form:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=U-ycEHeo60KT6Ln1woK6OF-xy3CxpV1Ptm9CfE0o141UQktKUjM0QzRNRfdUTiy1U1JKM1pMQlgyQS4u&route=shorturl>

***Please Note! Only people who register for the online meeting will receive a link to the meeting.**

Register as an I&AP to receive information about the project via



Email: 11b12bsurveys@slrconsulting.com or



SMS/WhatsApp: 071 586 5881 or



Telephone: 021 461 1118/9

Submit Your Comments: Prepare and submit your comments by **3 April 2025.** Comments can be submitted via email, SMS, WhatsApp or post using:



Email: 11b12bsurveys@slrconsulting.com



Telephone: (021) 461 1118/9



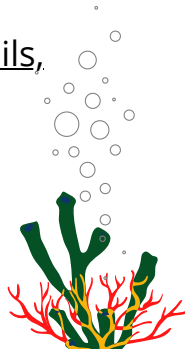
SMS/WhatsApp: 071 586 5881



Post: Project Team SLR Consulting
5th Floor, Grove Exchange
Claremont
Cape Town
7700

Written submission of comments should include your name, contact details, and any affiliation/organisation/ community or interest in the project.

Once submitted, monitor feedback on your comments. All comments received should be incorporated and responded to in a Comments and Responses Report, which will be attached to the final Scoping Report.



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. Who are you?

- a. Why is the project important/relevant to you?
- b. Who are you acting on behalf of?

2. What are the flaws with the Draft Scoping Report?

- a. What is not clear or is missing?
- b. What requires further investigation?

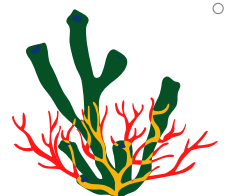
3. Group your concerns

- a. One issue per paragraph
- b. Give a heading to each paragraph
- c. Put your strongest argument/main concern first

4. Be specific and avoid generalising

- a. Use facts as far as possible
- b. Reference the sources you are using
- c. Emotions are okay

5. Conclude by saying what you want



See an example of a comment below:

EXAMPLE SUBMISSION

Submitted by: Mossel Bay Voorbeeld Community
Represented by: Ms. Eggy van Beispiel (Community Leader)
Address: 12 Trompies Road, Mossel Bay, 6506
Date: 1 April 2025

To: SLR Consulting (South Africa) Proprietary Limited
 5th Floor, Grove Exchange
 Claremont
 Cape Town
 7700

SUBMISSION ON PROPOSED SURVEY ACTIVITIES IN BLOCKS 9 AND 11B/12B, SOUTH AFRICA, DRAFT SCOPING REPORT COMPLIED BY SLR

Introduction

We, the Mossel Bay Voorbeeld Community are a historically and culturally significant group that has relied on the ocean for generations in the Outeniqua area. Our community, comprising approximately 500 families, depends on fishing for livelihoods, cultural practices, and spiritual connection to the sea. The ocean is not just a resource for us, it is central to our identity, heritage, and way of life. We are deeply concerned about the proposed seismic surveys in Blocks 9 and 11B/12B and their potential impacts on our community.

General Comments

We strongly oppose the proposed survey activities without further, meaningful consultation with our community. The potential impacts on our livelihoods, heritage, spirituality, and marine life are too great to ignore. We call for a thorough assessment of these impacts and the development of clear mitigation measures before any activities proceed. Our community must be included in decision-making processes to ensure that our rights and traditions are respected.

Main Concerns

Our primary concerns with the project include the potential disruption of marine life, which could severely impact fish populations and, in turn, our livelihoods. During the public consultations, these concerns were not adequately addressed. We were not provided with clear, actionable plans to mitigate the impacts on marine ecosystems or our fishing activities.

Impact on Livelihood and Community

Fishing is the backbone of our community. If fish populations are disturbed or displaced by seismic surveys, our ability to catch fish will be directly affected. This will lead to economic hardship for our families, many of whom already struggle to make ends meet. The project threatens not only our income but also our food security, as many of us rely on fish as a primary source of nutrition.

Access to the Beach and Ocean

We are concerned that the project may restrict our access to the beach and ocean, either directly or indirectly. If marine life is disturbed, traditional fishing spots may become unproductive, forcing us to travel further or abandon fishing altogether. This would disrupt our daily lives and cultural practices.

Impact on Fish and Bird Species

The movement of fish and bird species is likely to be affected by the seismic surveys. Fish may migrate away from the noise, and birds that rely on fish for food may also be impacted. This will directly affect our fisherfolk, who depend on these species for their catch. The long-term consequences for marine biodiversity are also a significant concern.

Benefits to the Community

We do not see clear benefits for our community from this project. While there may be economic benefits at a national level, these are unlikely to trickle down to us. Instead, we fear that the project will harm our livelihoods and cultural practices without providing meaningful compensation or alternatives.

Negative Impacts Discussed

The negative impacts of the project were briefly mentioned during the public consultations, but no detailed mitigation plans were shared. We were not adequately informed about how the project would address issues such as noise pollution, marine life disruption, or the potential long-term damage to our fishing grounds.

Impact on Cultural and Spiritual Practices

The negative impacts of the project were briefly mentioned during the public consultations, but no detailed mitigation plans were shared. We were not adequately informed about how the project would address issues such as noise pollution, marine life disruption, or the potential long-term damage to our fishing grounds.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we do not approve of the proposed survey activities in Blocks 9 and 11B/12B. The potential harm to our livelihoods, cultural practices, and marine ecosystems far outweighs any perceived benefits. We urge Main Street and the relevant authorities to engage in further consultations with our community and to prioritize the protection of our heritage and wellbeing.

Signed,

Signed Here

Ms. Eggy van Beispiel

Community Leader, Mossel Bay Voorbeeld Community
 Contact: 082 123 0000 | eg.beispiel@gamil.com

Date

1 April 2025

