

# OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION: THE WEST COAST

## TEEPSA DWOB South

Total Energies (TEEPSA) plans to conduct offshore exploration drilling in the **southern** part of block **Deep Water Orange Basin (DWOB)**: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment process underway.

In 2023, TEEPSA received environmental authorisation (EA) to undertake various exploration activities within the **northern** part of the DWOB Block. Fishers and environmental organisations will challenge the EA at the Cape Town High Court in October 2025.

DWOB North

DWOB South

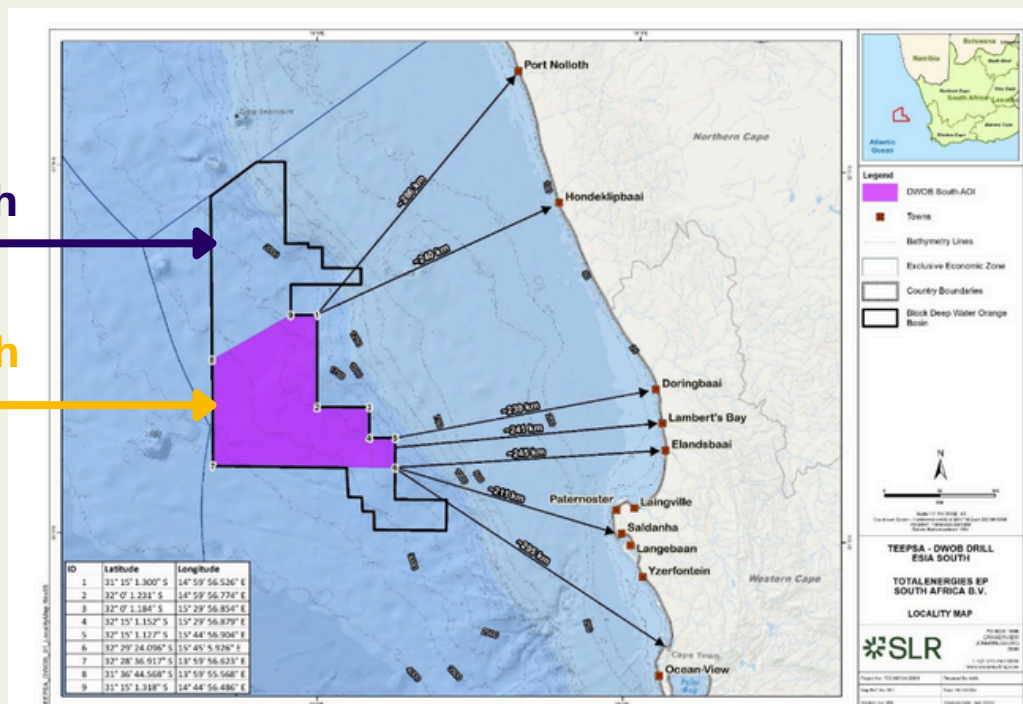


Figure 1: Locality map of Licence Block DWOB off the South African coast.



**Comments are due 10 September 2025**

## Where are we now

Now, TEEPSA plans to conduct exploration drilling for oil and gas in the **southern** part of Block DWOB. This could affect sea life, seawater, and the way coastal communities live and earn a living. The law gives all interested and affected persons (I&APs), including communities, the right to have a say and share their views about how this project could affect them.

TEEPSA must obtain an Environmental Authorisation (EA). This process includes an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)**, sometimes called an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

The EIA consists of two phases and we are currently at the second phase.

1. the Scoping Phase and
2. the Impact Assessment Phase.

## What are the planned activities?

For more information read the [publication](#) developed during the Scoping Phase. Visit [www.naturaljustice.org/publication/teepsa-deep-water-orange-basin-comments-on-scoping-report](http://www.naturaljustice.org/publication/teepsa-deep-water-orange-basin-comments-on-scoping-report)

### Looking for oil and gas

# 7

New wells  
expected to  
be drilled

## 3900 m

Potential deepest  
drilling point

## 211km

offshore

- Up to 7 wells will be drilled in the ocean, with each well taking between 3-4 months to drill.
- Drilling will happen 211 km from the shore, in very deep water between 500m to 3 900m. This could be the deepest offshore drilling.
- Drilling-related equipment and supply vessels will be used, and an onshore logistics base will be established.
- During drilling, waste materials such as cuttings, drilling fluids and left over cement will be discharged onto the seabed.
- Tests of the wells will include include Vertical Seismic Profiling (VSP), an evaluation tool using airgun arrays to create seismic images of the geology around the well.
- Wells will be tested for oil and gas and then sealed with cement.

## How could communities be impacted?

*There are potential impacts on local communities identified in the draft ESIA Report, including social and economic concerns, and environmental risks. These include:*

**Impacts on Fish and Marine Life:** Migratory species such as tunas, billfish, sharks, whales and dolphin, leatherback turtle, and seabirds such as the African penguin may be found in the DWOB area which could be harmed by noise, pollution and waste from drilling. If there is an oil spill, it could contaminate fishing areas, damage marine life, and affect both the ocean and coastal environments.

**Impacts on Livelihoods:** The proposed project may have impacts on fishing activities due to changes in fish behaviour. If the total catch is reduced, this could reduce fishing income.

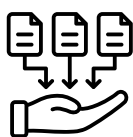
**Impacts on Culture and Heritage:** The coastline from Port Nolloth to Cape Town has deep cultural and spiritual importance for Indigenous peoples and small-scale fishing communities, who see the whole ocean as sacred and connected to their way of life.

## Getting involved



### Attend public meetings

Attend public meetings about developments in your area and voice concerns directly.



### Gather information

Read the **Draft** Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (**ESIA**) Report, [available from 11 August to 10 September 2025](#).

Use these online links to access the Report: SLR Website or the Data-free site: [www.slrpublicdocs.datafree.co/public-documents/teepsa-dwobsouth/](http://www.slrpublicdocs.datafree.co/public-documents/teepsa-dwobsouth/)

Hard copies should be available at Port Nolloth, Lambers Bay, Saldanha and Hout Bay Public Libraries.



### Add your voice

Register as Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) by sending an email to [TEEPSA-DWOB@slrconsulting.com](mailto:TEEPSA-DWOB@slrconsulting.com) SMS/WhatsApp: [078 226 0801](tel:0782260801)

Prepare and submit your comment about the exploration by [10 September 2025 \(before midnight\)](#).

# The Environmental Impact Assessment

The **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process** ensures that potential impacts of the project are thoroughly evaluated before any exploration begins. Below is an overview of the key steps involved and where we are in this process.

