

**To:** Department of Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Environment Forestry and Tourism

**Date:** 10 November 2020

**Subject:** Consent Letter Request: Application of an Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) required for Tunacor Fisheries Ltd.'s Industrial effluent - Waste seawater discharge into the sea at Walvis Bay, Erongo Region.

## Introduction

Tunacor Fisheries Ltd. has an existent Seawater abstraction permit no. 11 166 issued by the Ministry of Agriculture Water and Forestry now Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform (MAWLR) due for renewal and currently abstracts about  $\pm 407\ 000\ \text{m}^3$  of seawater per annum that is used in the fish processing factor for cleaning purposes only. About  $101\ 200\ \text{m}^3$  of potable water per annum supplied by the municipality is also used in the fish processing factory and other facilities. The abstracted seawater is treated through the already installed Water Treatment Facility prior to usage in the factory. An effluent's discharge filtering and screening system has been installed to ensure further screening of the resultant waste seawater from the fish processing factory to enable the collection of fish solid waste that is used as part of the fishmeal processing. This avoids further discharging of the solid material into the sea. Tunacor further undertakes qualitative monitoring (through sampling) of the abstracted and treated seawater and further the discharged waste seawater. The qualitative samples are analysed through a certified Lab Namibia Standards Institute (NSI). However, there is potential impacts that may be associated with the marine ecology that Tunacor has not identified yet as an EIA process was not previously undertaken.

The existing Monitoring programme needs revising and updating as per the proposed EIA process. Tunacor further intends to apply for a Seawater Discharge permit through MAWLR. The MAWLR has requested an EIA process should be undertaken and EIA report submitted to MEFT for an ECC consideration prior to issuing the Discharge permit.

MAWLR will review the EIA report as the competent authority and forward their comments to DEA- MEFT for final review as part of the ECC application process. With this process, MAWLR will relay their comments regarding Tunacor's existing Seawater abstraction and Waste Water Discharge activities.

Kind Regards



M. Sanzila