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In-Transition to MSC (ITM) Program - Pilot
Marine Stewardship Council

Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) In-Transition to MSC (ITM) 2nd Progress Verification Report

South Africa hake longline
on behalf of

prepared by
Control Union (UK) Limited

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ITM start date: 01 April 2022



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QA

Role	Signature	Date
Originator:	HJ	27/06/2024
Reviewer:	HN	02/07/2024
Approver:	CT	10/07/2024

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1 Report overview

1.1 Unit(s) of Assessment (UoAs)

Table 1. Unit(s) of Assessment (UoA) from Pre-Assessment Report or Full Assessment Report

UoA 1	Description
Target Stock	UoA1: Deep water cape hake (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i>);
Geographical area	SAF EEZ (FAO 47)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal longline
Client group (optional)	SAHLLA members
Other eligible fishers	Yes as members of SAHLLA
UoA 2	Description
Target Stock	UoA 2: Species Shallow water cape hake (<i>Merluccius capensis</i>)
Geographical area	SAF EEZ (FAO 47)
Fishing gear type(s) and, if relevant, vessel type(s)	Demersal longline
Client group (optional)	SAHLLA members
Other eligible fishers	Yes as members of SAHLLA

1.2 Progress Verification summary

Table 2. Entry and Progress Verification summary

Event	Date (actual/planned date)	Onsite/ Offsite	Name/s of CAB and assessor/s
Pre-Assessment Report	28/10/2021		CapMarine – Stewart Norman
Eligibility verification	03/12/2021	offsite	CU UK Team leader Beverley O’Kane
1st Progress Verification	03/02/2023	offsite	CU UK Team leader Hugh Jones
2nd Progress Verification	27/06/2024	offsite	CU UK Team leader Hugh Jones
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			

1.3 Record of Progress Verification decisions

Table 3. Progress Verification and other decisions

Verification/decision point	Decision or determination by CAB
1st Progress Verification	<i>Adequate</i>
2nd Progress Verification	<i>Adequate</i>

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3rd Progress Verification	
4th Progress Verification	
Fishery withdrawn from ITM?	
Date of withdrawal	

2 Progress Verification

2.1 Overall progress status

Table 4. Overall progress status for verifications

	1st progress verification	2nd progress verification	3rd progress verification	4th progress verification
Type of progress verification	Offsite	Offsite	Onsite / Offsite	Onsite / Offsite
Justification for type of verification used	Information for each IAP item can be verified remotely	Information for each IAP item can be verified remotely		
ITM Progress Report received from ITM Project Manager and verified	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	Yes / No
Were any stakeholders consulted during Progress Verification?	No	No	Yes / No	Yes / No
Fishery in Scope of the MSC Fisheries Standard as per the relevant version of the MSC Fisheries Standard and Fisheries Certification Process. (See Section 1.2 of ITM Program Requirements v2.0)	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	Yes / No
Definition of Unit(s) of Assessment (UoAs) meets MSC requirements outlined in the relevant version of the MSC Fisheries Certification Process?	Yes	Yes		
Number of PIs with an improved draft scoring range due	1	2		
Number of PIs that are on target	8	6		
Number of PIs that are behind target	1	0		
Number of PIs completed	1	2		

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	1st progress verification	2nd progress verification	3rd progress verification	4th progress verification
Did exceptional circumstances apply?	No	No	Yes / No	Yes / No
If exceptional circumstances apply, specify to which PIs this was/is applicable?				
Updated Improvement Action Plan received and verified? (If IAP not updated state N/A)	Yes	N/A	Yes / No/ N/A	Yes / No / N/A
The timeframe for actions to be completed do not exceed 5 years from the entry date	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	Yes / No
Updated BMT received and verified (if BMT not updated state N/A)	Yes	Yes	Yes / No/ N/A	Yes / No / N/A
Actual BMT index	paradoxus UoA 1 -0.81. capensis UoA 2 -0.83.	paradoxus UoA 1 - 0.87 capensis UoA 2 - 0.89		
Expected BMT index	0.83	0.83		
Overall progress determination	Adequate	Adequate	Adequate / Inadequate	Adequate / Inadequate
Next scheduled Progress Verification	June 2024	June 2025	mm/yyyy	mm/yyyy

2.2 Verification of key updates or changes in the fishery

2.2.1 Key updates or changes in the fishery

Table 5. Key updates or changes in the fishery

UoA(s)	Key updates or changes to the UoA, fleet or vessels	References	Is evidence verifiable?
1 and 2	<p>None. The UoAs comprises of the entire hake longline fleet. The UoC will be SAHLLA members which agree to the Terms and Conditions of membership. At present 40 of the ~ 55 total vessels are SAHLLA members. All data analysis considers the entire fleet.</p> <p>The MSC Scope Declaration Template and MSC At Sea Labour Eligibility Requirements Reporting Template were checked at this audit</p>	<p>MSC Scope Declaration Template MSC At Sea Labour Eligibility Requirements Reporting Template</p>	Yes
Principle	Key updates or changes	References	Is evidence verifiable?
Principle 1			
1st Progress Verification	<p>The most recent stock assessments for the target species (<i>Merluccius paradoxus</i> and <i>M. capensis</i>) indicate that both stocks are above MSY levels. There is evidence that the <i>Merluccius paradoxus</i> stock may be shared to some extent with Namibia. South African scientists have conducted robustness tests which confirm that the stock assessment model is robust to the exclusion of Namibian data. The Namibian certified fishery has agreed a contract for an independent scientist to carry out a review of their stock assessment, including robustness testing. Good progress is being made by DFFE and associated stock assessment scientists to incorporate Namibian fishery catch and effort and survey data in the stock assessment for <i>M. paradoxus</i> and to include contingencies in the Hake Operational Management Procedure (currently being updated).</p> <p>Discrepancies between the observed longline hake CPUE estimates and Reference Case (RC) outputs of predicted longline CPUE were noted, and further investigation of this should be conducted as soon as possible in the context of updating the OMP. The position of the SA Hake Longline Association</p>	<p>FISHERIES_2022_AUG_SWG-DEM/12 FISHERIES/2022/OCT/SWG-DEM/28 FISHERIES/2022/OCT/SWG-DEM/29 FISHERIES/2022/OCT/SWG-DSWG/31 FISHERIES/2022/OCT/SWG-DEM/32 FISHERIES_2022_OCT_SWG-DEM/34 FISHERIES_2022_OCT_SWG-DEM/35</p>	Yes – stock assessment documents provided

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	<p>regarding the OMP (documented in FISHERIES/2022/OCT/SWG-DSWG/31), and particularly the suggestion that OMP-2022 be taken on review during 2023 before the 2024 TAC was noted by the DSWG. It was agreed at the DSWG, held 17 October 2022, that a Task Team would be established to evaluate the hake longline data inputs, and that the first meeting of this task team would be convened as soon as the Chair has completed his error check of the longline catch and effort data (early 2023).</p>		
2nd Progress Verification	<p>In accordance with the agreed OMP revision schedule, a revised OMP (OMP-2022) was developed and finalised during 2022. It was this OMP that was been used to calculate the hake TAC for the 2023 and 2024 fishing seasons. Application of the hake OMP indicated a 5% increase in the hake TAC for 2024 to 145 698t.</p> <p>The question was raised whether Exceptional Circumstances (EC) should be declared, and with that a TAC which is less than the 5% increase indicated by the OMP formulae. However, given that eight most recent abundance indices, two were below the 90% predicted PI intervals and a third only marginally above this (Figure 1) and if these low index values were maintained for the following season, a further slight increase in the TAC for 2025 would still result, it was suggested that EC NOT be declared in 2022/23 (any case for that would be marginal anyway) and the TAC for 2024 indicated by the OMP was upheld. However, the situation should be kept under review over the 2024 year, with an EC declaration to again come under consideration then, particularly if the values of a number of abundance indices drop further.</p>	<p>FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/18</p> <p>FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/17</p> <p>FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/15</p>	<p>Yes – stock assessment documents provided. Evidence of HCR method inn Namibia referenced in NAMIBIA Year 3 audit report published by same CAB representative</p>

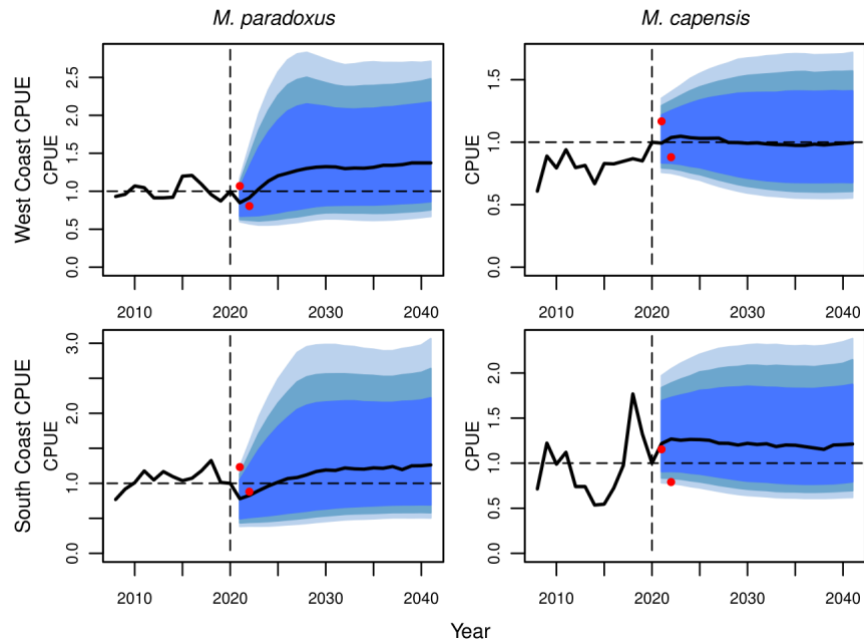


Figure 1: 95, 90, 80% PE and median for the projected GLM-standardised CPUE for *M. paradoxus* and *M. capensis* for the updated RS under OMP-2022. The red dots show the 2021 and 2022 CPUE indices, standardised relative to the 2020 value in the updated GLM series (FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/17).

Table 6 lists key assessment outputs for the 2022 and 2023 Reference Cases (RCs). The results for the RC run with the updated data are consistent with those from before the update. The updated B^{SP}/B_{MSY} estimate for 2023 is slightly lower for *M. paradoxus* than that for 2022 (1.59 compared to 1.65, see Table 6) and slightly higher for *M. capensis* (2.82 compared to 2.68). The 2023 estimates suggest that the *M. paradoxus* stock continues the downward trend which it has shown since 2020. This downward trajectory could still be considered reasonably compatible with fluctuations evident for preceding years, but concern could be raised if indices continue to decline in the next few years. The *M. capensis* resource is estimated to be continuing on an upward trajectory.

Table 6: Key assessment outputs for the two OMs. Biomass units are thousand mt (FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/18).

<i>M. paradoxus</i>	Run1	Run2	<i>M. capensis</i>	Run1	Run2
K^{sp}	458	470	K^{sp}	239	237
B_{MSY}	74	72	B_{MSY}	70	70
B_{MSY} / K^{sp}	0.16	0.15	B_{MSY} / K^{sp}	0.29	0.30
MSY	136	135	MSY	83	83
B_{2022}^{sp}	111	119	B_{2022}^{sp}	196	188
B_{2022}^{sp} / K^{sp}	0.24	0.25	B_{2022}^{sp} / K^{sp}	0.82	0.79
B_{2022}^{sp} / B_{MSY}	1.50	1.65	B_{2022}^{sp} / B_{MSY}	2.80	2.68
B_{2023}^{sp}	-	115	B_{2023}^{sp}	-	197
B_{2023}^{sp} / K^{sp}	-	0.24	B_{2023}^{sp} / K^{sp}	-	0.83
B_{2023}^{sp} / B_{MSY}	-	1.59	B_{2023}^{sp} / B_{MSY}	-	2.82

Currently the hake longline commercial catch and effort data are being revised and validated by DFFE senior scientists with the support of CapMarine. A Hake Longline Task Team was convened during 2023 on 12 September and was again referred for scientific advice prior to the Hake Longline Stakeholder Workshop held on 05 June 2024, at which DFFE presented. Senior research scientist at DFFE working on validating catch and effort for hake longline (work in progress). In the meantime logbook being updated to request catch per set rather than per day. Skipper training etc. Key issues that have been identified:

- Incorrect reporting/capturing of set start and end positions.
- Depths reported in fathoms rather than meters (can usually be detected by comparing reported depth with the depth estimated from the set position using the de Wet bathymetry)
- A poor relationship between estimated line length (calculated from the start and end set positions) and the number of hooks deployed.

Industry representatives confirmed that this latter issue is a direct result of skippers recording the start and end positions of an entire day's fishing operations, which could encompass the deployment of multiple (2 – 4) lines, rather than the individual lines set during the course of the day. In response a

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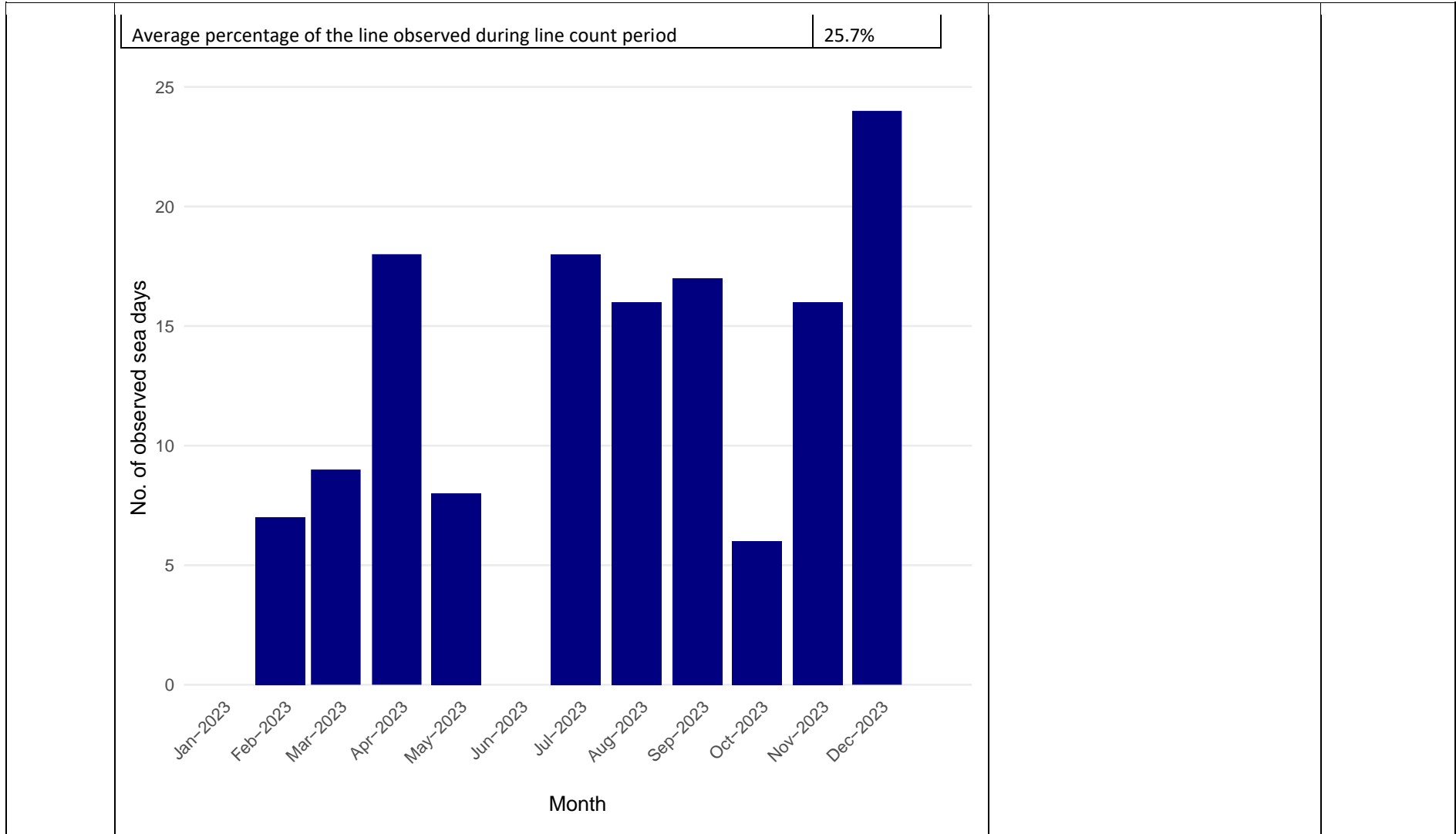
	revised commercial catch statistics logbook has been developed by the hake longline task team for roll out in 2025 with revised permit conditions alongside.		
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			
Principle 2			
1st Progress Verification	<p>The CapMarine at-sea observer program funded by SAHLLA members has continued throughout 2022 with eight deployments between January and December. This amounts to approximately 3% coverage of fishing effort which falls below the target of 5%. Data for 2021 (11 trips) and 2022 are reported through an update to the previous observer program report (for the period April 2019-December 2020). The report includes statistics on the use of bird-bycatch mitigation measures and the fate of discarded species and their life status which will inform a review of bird-bycatch mitigation measures and safe handling and release protocols for chondrichthyans respectively. Letters of support for the FIP have been received from BirdLife South Africa and WILDTRUST to address seabird bycatch mitigation measures and safe handling and release of chondrichthyans respectively. The Albatross Task Force has also continued to engage with vessel operators in the sector through their own seabird specialist observations and harbour visits.</p> <p>Updated habitat/ecosystem type maps and offshore MPA boundaries are available from the South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) and will be used to determine the level of threat or protection to ecosystem types known to host VMEs pending receipt of commercial catch statistics from DFFE for 2020 – 2022. VME move-on rules are available for the hake trawl fleet and neighbouring Namibian longline fleet and can easily be adapted/adopted to the longline sector. Observed interactions with benthic habitats (reported by observers) are negligible and consideration should be given to the need or applicability of move-on rules and use of the MSC Benthic Impacts Tool to derive MSC scores for encountered habitats.</p>	<p>CapMarine 2023 Letter of support BLSA_SAHLLA_FIP Dec.2022 Letter of Support_WILDTRUST_CAPMARINE_SA Hake Longline FIP FIP SAHLLA 2022 ATF-Progress Report_AAngel.Jan.2023</p>	<p>Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed</p>

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2nd Progress Verification	<p>During Year 2 CapMarine attempted to apply the Benthic Impacts Tool (BIT) to the sector effort footprint overlaid with the benthic ecosystem type maps. The BIT unfortunately is not designed to reflect the impact of static demersal longline gear. Nevertheless the investigation of benthic impacts has progressed significantly by addressing validation of commercial catch statistics, design of a revised logbook, and investigation of available move-on rules (though it is unlikely these will be necessary) in light of MSC interpretation on the applicability of MORs for gears that are poor samplers of benthic invertebrates¹.</p> <p>If VME move on rules (MOR's) are required for the fishery, South African Hake Longline could adopt the same procedures and paths that Namibian Hake Association (NHA) have adopted, which is the same as South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO).</p> <p>For the 2023 period, a total of 17 observer deployments were conducted onboard 12 unique vessels. This totalled 159 days deployed onboard, and 118 observed sea days. The difference between the number of days deployed and observed can be attributed to mechanical delays and weather prior to sailing.</p> <p>Table 7: Summary of operational observer coverage statistics during the 2023 observer program.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 815 1400 1212"> <tr> <td>Number of unique vessels covered</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of trips covered</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of observers deployed during this period</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of days with fishing effort observed</td> <td>118</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Number of fishing sets monitored</td> <td>146</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total number of hooks set</td> <td>1 529 040</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total number of hooks observed during biological sampling</td> <td>544 902</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Average percentage of the line observed during biological sampling</td> <td>35.6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total number of hooks observed during line count period</td> <td>392 528</td> </tr> </table>	Number of unique vessels covered	12	Number of trips covered	17	Number of observers deployed during this period	8	Number of days with fishing effort observed	118	Number of fishing sets monitored	146	Total number of hooks set	1 529 040	Total number of hooks observed during biological sampling	544 902	Average percentage of the line observed during biological sampling	35.6%	Total number of hooks observed during line count period	392 528	<p>CapMarine 2024</p> <p>Angel, A and Nyengera, R. (2023). Stakeholder Progress Report: Assessment of seabird bycatch management measures on Demersal Hake Longline Vessels. Albatross Task Force, BirdLife South Africa, December 2023.</p> <p>Philip Augustyn. Action 2.3.2 – 3. Proposal for Safe Handling and Release of Chondrichthyans for Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) Fisheries Improvement Project (FIP) - May 2024.</p>	<p>Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed</p>
Number of unique vessels covered	12																				
Number of trips covered	17																				
Number of observers deployed during this period	8																				
Number of days with fishing effort observed	118																				
Number of fishing sets monitored	146																				
Total number of hooks set	1 529 040																				
Total number of hooks observed during biological sampling	544 902																				
Average percentage of the line observed during biological sampling	35.6%																				
Total number of hooks observed during line count period	392 528																				

¹ <https://mscstandards.my.site.com/interpret/s/interpretation/a01N200000E4iftIAF/int0050>

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	<p>Figure 2: Number of sea days observed from January 2023 to December 2023.</p> <p>Bird Life South Africa (BLSA) specialists started their assessment of the mitigation measures used by vessels by either visiting the vessel in port or deploying one of their specialists onboard the vessel for a fishing trip. Out of the 30 vessels inspected, 18 (60 %) had Bird Scaring Lines (BSLs), seven vessels (23 %) did not have BSLs and for five vessels (17 %) it was unconfirmed if BSLs were present or absent. None of the vessels carry a spare BSL. BLSA also assessed BSL condition and attachment height. BLSA found that all vessels are equipped to discard offal on the opposite side from hauling via a discard chute (as per permit conditions).</p> <p>On the 5th of June 2024, CapMarine hosted a Hake Longline MSC Pathway Stakeholder Workshop at the Hout Bay Yacht Club, Cape Town. The workshop was well attended with representatives from the fishing industry (31), SAHLLA (3), DFFE Monitoring Control and Surveillance (7), DFFE Fisheries Research and Development (4), BirdLife South Africa (2), WWF South Africa (1), MSC South Africa (1) and CapMarine (3) present.</p> <p>One change relating to Principle 1 and 2 is the involvement of a new vessel in the fleet that deploys gear using an Autoline set up. As of yet this vessel has not been observed and catch rates, bycatch interaction rates and gear description are required during year 3 of the FIP.</p>		
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			
Principle 3			
1st Progress Verification	<p>A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed between the South African hake trawl and Namibian hake trawl & longline fisheries in February 2022 that represents a framework for providing the level of cooperation required by the MSC with respect to shared stock governance. The South African hake longline fishery benefits from the progress made in the overlapping MSC certified SA Hake Trawl and Namibian hake trawl & longline fisheries.</p>	<p>MOU SADSTIA NHA HLL GPR Addendum to the HLL GPR DFFE MCS 2023</p>	<p>Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment</p>

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	<p>The Fishing Rights Allocation Process (FRAP) was officially concluded for the sector on 28/02/2022 through the publication of successful, unsuccessful, excluded and reserved applicants (HLL GPR). The appeals process started 09 September 2022 and remains to be finalized in 2023. It is likely that all unsuccessful Category 1 appellants will appeal the decision and 30-40% of unsuccessful Category 2 and 3 appellants will do likewise. Following the appeals process it is likely that certain unsuccessful applicants will challenge the Departments decision in court. Court proceedings do not form part of the FRAP process per se.</p> <p>Some evidence of an effective MCS System, including Inspections (land and sea), VMS plots, transgressions and fines has been provided by the DFFE Monitoring Control and Surveillance Chief Directorate for 2021 and 2022. Good progress is being made by the SAHLLA executive to coordinate with DFFE MCS to provide further evidence in relation to catch statistics documentation and offload monitoring.</p>	<p>MCS inspections and crime statistics (confidential) VMS plots (confidential)</p>	<p>team and reviewed</p>
<p>2nd Progress Verification</p>	<p>SAHLLA has made good progress to be included in the SADSTIA – NHA MoU regarding the sharing of information pertaining to the shared deepwater cape hake (<i>M. paradoxus</i>) stock. There is a firm commitment from SADTSIA SADSTIA and the NHA to amend the MoU to include an additional party, SAHLLA. Interestingly it was uncovered during the course of negotiations that DFFE is not party to the MoU whilst the Namibian Fisheries Department is (as they are partly the client in Namibia). DFFE rely on secondary communication from industry, but this is not perceived as an issue as industry in South Africa regularly meet with the DFFE during scientific and management working group meetings.</p> <p>The Fishing Rights Allocation Process (FRAP), which began in 2021, was officially concluded for the hake longline sector on 28/02/2022 through the publication of successful, unsuccessful, excluded and reserved applicants (HLL GPR, 2022). The appeals process started 09 September 2022 and was finalised in November 2023 (HLL Appeals GPR, 2023). There were a total of two hundred and eighty (280) appeals in this sector.</p> <p>Following the appeals process it is likely that certain unsuccessful applicants will challenge the Departments decision in court. Court proceedings do not form part of the FRAP process per se and Action 3.2.2-1 is deemed complete ahead of schedule.</p> <p>SAHLLA has made good ground towards defining the ultimate Unit of Certification for the fishery. Eligibility for inclusion requires Rights Holders to be paid up members of SAHLLA and to have signed the FIP Agreement with SAHLLA specifying vessel responsibilities during the FIP and subsequent certification period. Of the approximately 40 registered vessels in the fleet, of which 32 are SAHLLA members, 14 have signed the FIP agreement.</p>	<p>DFFE. 2024 FRAP 2021: Hake Long Line Category A, B &C – Appeals approved on 04 Nov 2023 by Minister. HAKE LONGLINE CRIME STATS 2023 HAKE LONGLINE INSPECTIONS 2023</p>	<p>Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed</p>

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	<p>During 2023 the VMS operations unit lost the ability to visualize vessel tracking do due to server issues. The center was still able to record vessel movements and review compliance with spatial boundaries but unable to provide VMS plots per month for 2023. The server problems have reportedly been resolved since and it is anticipated that plots will be available for 2024. The MCS portfolio of evidence has otherwise been received for 2023 including evidence of land and sea based inspections and transgressions where they were recorded.</p>		
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			

2.3 Verification of Progress of Actions and Performance Indicator level draft scores changes

PI	Actions to be verified	Evidence of completion	Is evidence verifiable?
1.2.4	Action item : A1.2.4 – 1 Support the re-assessment if the M. paradoxus stock in South Africa (if required) taking into account the consideration of demographic panmixia with Namibia.	DFFE 2022 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEMERSAL SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF HAKE RESOURCES FOR 2023. DFFE 2023 DEMERSAL SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP HAKE LONGLINE TASK TEAM MEETING BRANCH: FISHERIES, FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/15 DFFE 2023 Hake longline logbook . HK/II 2 2023 – pilot logbook with comments Ross-Gillespie A., and Butterworth D. 2023 OMP formula output for the 2024 hake TAC, and the inclusion of the 2022 commercial and 2023 survey data in the OMP projection plots. FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/17. Ross-Gillespie A., and Butterworth D. 2023 OMP formula output for the 2024 hake TAC, and the inclusion of the 2022 commercial and 2023 survey data in the OMP projection plots. FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/17rev Ross-Gillespie A., and Butterworth D. 2023 Update to the hake Reference Case Operating Model with the 2022 commercial and 2023 survey data. FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/18. Email between SADSTIA, SAHLLA and the NHA end date June 20th 2024.	Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P1 reference list.
2.3.2	Action item A2.3.2 – 1 Collate available existing information from historical and current observer programs (OROP, FCP, CapMarine) on the use of bird bycatch mitigation measures (tori line, discard chute, offal	Burls, A., Norman S. and Reed J. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report Action 2.3.2-1 Historical Data Analysis of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Use. CAPMARINE.	Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.

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PI	Actions to be verified	Evidence of completion	Is evidence verifiable?
	discarding, night setting, deck lighting) for each vessel in the hake longline fleet.	CapMarine (2024) PROPOSAL FOR SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CHONDRICHTHYANS FOR MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC) FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FIP) - MAY 2024.	
2.3.2	<p>Action item A2.3.2 – 2</p> <p>Propose vessel bird bycatch mitigation plans for vessel categories and vessels that have been visited by BLSA and CapMarine Observers. State/presence absence of BSL, height of attachment point, need for additional infrastructure for BSL attachment, presence of offal management mechanisms, informal interview process with crew to have baseline information of crew awareness of bird bycatch mitigation Propose recommendations to maintain or update permit conditions with respect to gear material and configuration to reduce seabird interactions.</p>	<p>DFFE 2024 – Permit conditions of the Hake Longline sector. Section B and C. Norman S., Reed, J., Gumede Z. and Burls, A. 2024 SAHLLA Observer Programme Report for the period January 2023 - December 2023, CAPRICORN MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PTY LTD</p> <p>Nyengera R. and Angel, A. 2023 Assessment of seabird bycatch management measures on Demersal Hake Longline Vessels. Prepared for the implementation of the South Africa Hake Longline Fishery Improvement Project. Albatross Task Force, BirdLife South Africa June 2024.</p> <p>Nyengera R. and Angel, A. 2024 UPDATED Assessment of seabird bycatch management measures on Demersal Hake Longline Vessels. Prepared for the implementation of the South Africa Hake Longline Fishery Improvement Project. Albatross Task Force, BirdLife South Africa June 2024.</p> <p>SAHLLA – Vessel Participation Agreement Fisheries improvement Project - MoU</p>	Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.3.2	<p>Action item A2.3.2 – 3</p> <p>Propose safe handling and release procedures for vessel crew for chondrichthyans (and seabirds)</p> <p>Develop self-Training materials for crew in safe-handling techniques.</p> <p>Train observers in safe handling and release of sharks. Observers to monitor uptake of self-training by crew and provide support training where needed.</p>		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.

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PI	Actions to be verified	Evidence of completion	Is evidence verifiable?
2.3.3	Action item A.2.3.3 – 1 Continue collecting at sea observer data to monitor interaction rates with ETP species		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.3.3	Action item A2.3.3 – 2 Statistically estimate catch rates of ETP species based on observer data (historical and current)		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.4.1	Action item A2.4.1-1 Engage relevant stakeholders to facilitate mapping the longline footprint and existing MPAs to the ecosystem types identified in the updated 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment	Burls, A. and Norman S. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report Action 2.4.2-1 VME Move On Rules (MOR's). CAPMARINE DFFE 2024 – Permit conditions of the Hake Longline sector. Section B and C. Norman S., Reed, J., Gumede Z. and Burls, A. 2024 SAHLLA Observer Programme Report for the period January 2023 - December 2023, CAPRICORN MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PTY LTD Reed, J. and Norman S. and Burls A. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report. Action 2.4.1 – 1 – Mapping the longline footprint and existing Marine Protected Areas to the ecosystem types identified in the updated 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment. Action 2.4.1 – 2 – Analysis of protection levels for each ecosystem type and recommendations of priority areas for additional management, where required, based on the results of the mapping exercise. CAPMARINE.	Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.4.1	Action item A2.4.1-2 Analysis of protection levels for each ecosystem type recommendations for additional management, where required, based on the results of the mapping exercise.		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.4.2	Action item A2.4.2-1 Review of available literature on VME move-on rules and Indicator species thresholds. Trial MSC Benthic Impacts Tool (https://rstudio.bangor.ac.uk/shiny/benthic/).		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.

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PI	Actions to be verified	Evidence of completion	Is evidence verifiable?
2.4.2	Action item A2.4.2-2 Formal adoption of MORs by vessels and Right Holders (if required)		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.4.2	Action item A2.4.2-3 Development of VME sub-sampling strategy and monitoring of adoption of and compliance with MORs and evaluation of MOR appropriateness		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.4.2	Action item A2.4.2-4 Investigation of alternative precautionary approaches to avoidance and potential VMEs and VME habitats		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed, please see P2 reference list.
2.4.3	Action item A2.4.3-1 Implementation of invertebrate sub-sampling strategy through at-sea observer program		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed
2.4.3	Action item A2.4.3 – 2 Determination of VME indicator species catch rates		Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed
2.4.3	Action item A2.4.3 – 3		Yes – all files identified were provided to the

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PI	Actions to be verified	Evidence of completion	Is evidence verifiable?
	Spatial mapping of the hake longline footprint to the South African National Biodiversity Ecosystem types updated in 2019		assessment team and reviewed
3.1.1	Action item A3.1.1-1 Interactions with Namibian client and South African hake trawl executive towards the development of the requisite protocol.	Email between SADSTIA, SAHLLA and the NHA end date June 20th 2024.	Yes – email evidence provided and discussion on timings held at audit meeting.
3.2.2	Action Item A3.2.2-1 Conclusion of FRAP	Burls, A., Norman S. and Reed J. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report Action 3.2.2 – 1 FRAP – Fishing Rights Allocation Process. CAPMARINE DFFE 2023 GENERAL PUBLISHED REASONS FOR DECISIONS ON APPEAL IN THE HAKE LONGLINE SECTOR FISHING RIGHT ALLOCATION PROCESS 2021/2022.	Yes, see reference list under Principle 3 for HLL Appeals GPR, 2023 and Burls et al., 2024.
3.2.3	Action Item A3.2.3-1 Evidence of a MCS System, including Inspections (land and sea), VMS, Transgressions, Fines, Sanctions	DFFE 2024 – Hake longline Crime stats 2023 – spreadsheet DFFE 2024 – Hake longline inspections 2023 – spreadsheet DFFE 2024. MCS At sea hake longline Monthly inspection 2023 report DFFE 2024 MCS At sea Hake longline vessels inspected with permits 2023 report	Yes – all files identified were provided to the assessment team and reviewed.
3.2.3	Action Item A3.2.3-2 Assessment of the methodology and sampling procedures used to estimate hake catches of the South African Hake Longline Fishery. Comparison of factory offload weights with Skipper logbooks.		Yes – workshop summary was provided to the assessment team and reviewed

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PI	Actions to be verified	Evidence of completion	Is evidence verifiable?
	Recommendations to Skippers with respect to accurate completion of logbooks		

2.4 Status at Performance Indicator level

2.4.1 Principle 1 Performance Indicator level score changes and rationales

Principle 1 – Performance Indicator level score changes and rationales		
1.2.4 – Assessment of stock status	Progress status	Justification
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>The CAB notes that this action is harmonized with a condition for the two larger fisheries already certified in the MSC program and therefore the actions and outcomes of this action plan is dependent on the actions of those entities as much as it is on the client here. The assessment team have been provided with the following documentation as evidence that the action plan here is on track.</p> <p>MOU between SADSTIA and the NHA the certified fisheries which dictates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Item 3.1 co-operation and exchange of data between the parties to enable studies and calculation the condition (PI1.2.4) to be investigated and satisfied. The exact exchange of data is dictated in section 7. Provision of Data of the MoU. 2. Item 4.1 establish and maintain a system of organized and effective co-operation to deliver management outcomes consistent with P1 and P2. 3. Item 5.1 establishment of a Fisheries Liaison Committee to oversee the MoU and ensure it is complied with. 4. Section 6 if a TAC in either State is set outside of scientific advice or if there is overcatch by either party there is a requirement to inform the other party within 25 business days and a meeting will be held with responses developed depending on the severity of the issue. <p>Eight Fisheries demersal group papers and outcome from the International Fisheries Stock Assessment Workshop (MARAM/IWS/2022/General/6) - which progress the issue of robustness testing of the current South African OMP for the stocks and include updated testing of robustness against Namibian overcatch up to 40,000 t and development of plans to test intermediate levels of stock mixing between the assumed separate stocks complete mixing over the range as recommended by the panel. The ITM lead informs the CAB Namibian data is being incorporated into the assessment model and contingencies are being sought in the Hake Operational Management Procedure (currently being updated).</p> <p>The CAB was also briefed from external work to this ITM program on the development of an HCR in Namibia for the protection of the paradoxus stock against overexploitation within the management plan there. The draft HCR uses</p>

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		<p>the relative biomass of paradoxus from the survey as a trigger to adjust the TAC to reduce the risk on paradoxus if needed, with the threshold for reduction and the rate of reduction set by the trigger adjustment level (a % of the long-term mean %) and the Point of recruitment impairment.</p> <p>Year 1 action item was to consider the appropriateness of the stock assessment applied to M. paradoxus in Namibia and South Africa (A1.2.4-1). There appears to have been significant progress in 2022 in this regard and action plan item is considered on track.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>Action item : A1.2.4 – 1 Support the re-assessment if the M. paradoxus stock in South Africa (if required) taking into account the consideration of demographic panmixia with Namibia.</p>	<p>The audit team were presented with the latest stock assessment information from South Africa which concludes that the stock of paradoxus is above MSY. Files reviewed include demersal working group papers and DWG hake recommendations on TAC and stock assessment reports from Namibia. There is evidence of improved co-ordination of information between South Africa and Namibia with respect to data sharing (through the MoU) which will aid the international review panels recommendations (part of South Africa review process) of exploring alternative stock assumptions for the stock (between isolation in each country and panmixia). Evidenced from the certified fishery in Namibia and the latest report (year 3) there was development of an appropriate HCR in 2023 from external collaboration (by J. lanelli - external contractor). This sought to provide a suitable HCR for the paradoxus stock in Namibia and close the current condition on this PI. The implementation plan was issued via a report to MFMR in early 2023. However, at the Year 3 audit for the Namibian fishery (2024) this was found not to be actioned for the 2024 fishing season and the condition on 1.2.4 placed behind target with a revised plan to resolve this by mid 2024. Email submissions at this audit identify that the MFMR lead scientist is due to be trained on the proposed HCR in July 2024 and the HCR should be applied in August 2024 for the 2025 fishing season in Namibia. In South Africa the view is still that the OMP is robust to over catch in Namibia (should this occur), as per the previous year’s information and taking into account the consideration of demographic panmixia with Namibia. Action item is on Target.</p>

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3rd Progress Verification		
4th Progress Verification		

2.4.2 Principle 2 Performance Indicator level score changes and rationales – Fisheries Standard v2.01

Principle 2 – Performance Indicator level score changes and rationales			
2.3.2 – ETP species management	Progress status	Justification	
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>The assessment team have been provided with the following documentation as evidence that the action plan here is on track. Two CapMarine Observer reports which detail the ongoing observer program, the species, catch rates and fate of key ETP species. The ITM manager confirmed that the proportional increase in observer coverage in 2021 2022 is not what was planned (it remains at approximately 3% coverage of fishing effort which falls below the target of 5%.) but this is expected to increase with the TAF project funding application (if successful). Whilst the proportional coverage is low the annual reports show that the methodology being used and the data being collected is appropriate for the SG80 level of management requirements for the fishery.</p> <p>ATF progress letter – which shows that from 2017 – 2020 on board 12 vessels, a total of two seabird mortalities were observed during this period. This includes a risk assessment and information that improved seabird mitigation measures were to be assessed and that new BSLs were added to the permit conditions in 2020, and research into sink rates of hooks was underway. Vessel characterization (use of BSL, appropriateness of the lines, condition of the lines) is underway.</p> <p>Support letters from Key ENGOS (Birdlife, WILDOCEANS) for the TAF funding project from MSC</p> <p>Year 1 action item was to complete a risk assessment survey (A2.3.2). There appears to have made progress in 2022 in this regard (ATF report, CAPMARINE reports) and action plan item is considered on track.</p> <p>At interview the ITM manager confirmed the client funding application to the TAF project and the need for revised timelines for the action plan based on this application. A revised Action Plan timeline was submitted as part of the year 1 evidence. The advancement of the timelines by 6 months in the action plan to account for the TAF project requires the advancement of the ITM end point by 6 months also. It is the CABs opinion on review of the revised action plan that this does not significantly impact the appropriateness of the action plan and appears a justified approach given the benefits the project will have to the overall outcome of the actions for this PI and PI2.3.3.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action item A2.3.2 – 1 Collate available existing information from historical and current	The assessment team were presented with a paper analysing the historical and current observer data for use of mitigation measures in the LL fishery (see P2 references) by the ITM management team. The fishery is viewed as having adopted best practice (tori lines, weighted hooklines, night setting and offal dumping) however confirmation of implementation through

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		<p>observer programs (OROP, FCP, CapMarine) on the use of bird bycatch mitigation measures (tori line, discard chute, offal discarding, night setting, deck lighting) for each vessel in the hake longline fleet.</p>	<p>the fleet is required to ensure SG80 is met. Analysis of the four observer programs to date confirms that of two key mitigation measures (night setting and Bird Scare Lines (BSL)) night setting is adhered to but BSL use is not present on all sets. The reasoning for this is unknown but may be linked to safety/BSL condition or other reasons unknown. Further work undertaken by Birdlife SA in their 2024 report (see P2 references) indicates that only 60 % of the vessels inspected (total n = 30) had BSLs onboard at the time of inspection and only 67 % of those BSLs were in good condition (BSL condition is not a part of the permit conditions to date). BSLs use, scale/size and position are well described and required in the permit conditions for the fishery therefore the results of both the observer report and the birdlife report indicate that there is potentially a level of non-compliance with permit conditions for BSLs which may or may not be systematic. As yet there is no MCS record of sanctions being applied for the non-use of BSLs and there may need to be further work to understand how these permit conditions are verified by DFFE. Further the rationales for non-use and the nature of the issue may warrant evaluation across the UoA fleet. Notwithstanding the above, the team conclude that Action item 1 is complete as the collation of existing information and evidence implementation through the production of a report detailing use of mitigation measures has been completed.</p>
		<p>Action item A2.3.2 – 2 Propose vessel bird bycatch mitigation plans for vessel categories and vessels that have been visited by BLSA and CapMarine Observers. State/presence absence of BSL, height of attachment point, need for additional infrastructure for BSL</p>	<p>As per Action 1 above, vessels have been visited by BLSA and CapMarine Observers in 2023/4. There was 8.0% observer coverage in 2023 based on trips (17 observed from 212 total – source SAHLLA CapMarine Observer Program Report January-December 2023). All observed sets were at night in conformity with Permit conditions but only 70 % of all observed sets had tori lines deployed (source table 4 SAHLLA CapMarine Observer Program Report January-December 2023) and the BLSA report also highlights the lack of BSLs onboard some vessels (at the time of inspection). Permit conditions for 2024 are clear in regard to the tori lines. Thus there is still an issue with BSL use as reported in the PA. The Birdlife progress report (visiting the vessels - action item 2, see P2 references) recognizes the issues and has identified the next steps in the project (as per Section 2.2.3.3 of this report). These steps include a training program on safe handling for birds and sharks. The progress report provides feedback on crew knowledge on handling techniques which shows a range of</p>

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		<p>attachment, presence of offal management mechanisms, informal interview process with crew to have baseline information of crew awareness of bird bycatch mitigation. Propose recommendations to maintain or update permit conditions with respect to gear material and configuration to reduce seabird interactions.</p>	<p>knowledge in crew (<i>one fisherman demonstrating excellent understanding, seven had a good understanding, nine fair, and three showing little or no interest.</i>)</p> <p>The report details a vessel categorisation on three key factors that influence seabird bycatch risk and mitigation effectiveness: <i>BSL height at attachment, use of BSL poles and vessel size.</i></p> <p>Also noted is that the fleet is transitioning from traditional bottom line made of 6mm polypropylene rope to a multistrand monofilament bottom line. This new gear is considered more durable and theoretically sinks faster, potentially affecting seabird bycatch rates. The BLSA also reports on other bird mitigation measures and considers discard offal on the opposite side from hauling via a discard chute (as per permit conditions) is complied with, and the night setting requirement is also complied with.</p> <p>Action item is on target.</p> <p>The next step in the plan appears to be Proposing recommendations to maintain or update permit conditions.</p>
		<p>Action item A2.3.2 – 3 Propose safe handling and release procedures for vessel crew for chondrichthyans (and seabirds)</p> <p>Develop self-Training materials for crew in safe-handling techniques.</p> <p>Train observers in safe handling and release of sharks. Observers to</p>	<p>As per item 2 above the Birdlife program report (visiting the vessels action item 2) summary recognizes the issues in bird mitigation measures and has identified the next steps in the project (as per Section 2.2.3 of this report), including a training program on safe handling for birds.</p> <p>Section 2.2.3.4 provides an ITM manager account on a recent workshop held as part of the FIP program and how the ITM manager is educating the vessels on shark handling. The team were presented with a PowerPoint used in the workshop which shows best practice in this regard. Workshop attendance records were also provided to the team. CAPMARINE has also produced a paper detailing the proposal for safe handling and release of chondrichthyans (see P2 reference list).</p> <p>As reported by the ITM manager all observers are fully trained in the handling of seabirds and sharks and these observers can and do train crew (per. Comm ITM manager at site visit).</p>

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		monitor uptake of self-training by crew and provide support training where needed.	The information above thus maintains Action item 3 on target.
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			
2.3.3 – ETP species information	Progress status	Justification	
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>The key issue in this PI was that there was not enough information to measure trends in seabird populations. This was caused by the lack of results from the hake longline sector in recent years and an inability to determine catch rates for the vessels. As reported for PI 2.3.2 the key documents submitted for this verification audit are the CapMarine annual reports and the ATF progress report. These are the ‘evidence of completion’ action points in the action plan for Year 1 . Both reports build on the information base for the issue identified and whilst still limited in completeness at this year 1 stage (3% coverage of observers) during the FIP the target coverage rate will be increasing annually to a target of 10% supported by TAF funding if the application is successful.</p> <p>Year 1 action item was to Continue data collection (A2.3.3). There appears to have been progress in 2022 in this regard (ATF report, CAPMARINE reports) and action plan item is considered on track.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action item A.2.3.3 – 1 Continue collecting at sea observer data to monitor interaction rates with ETP species	Monthly coverage of observer program in 2023 is good with all months having at least some level of coverage. Spatially the majority of observer effort was on the Western Cape which reflects the majority of fishing effort. There was 8.0% observer coverage in 2023 based on trips (17 observed from 212 total – source SAHLLA CapMarine Observer Program Report January-December 2023). Observer data for 2023 provides the best catch profile for the fishery seen to date, with retained and discard composition. The target stocks comprise ~95% of retained catch (Figure 9 source SAHLLA CapMarine Observer Program Report January-December 2023) with discards <2% total. Fate information is also evident (Figure 10 in the

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			<p>report). At interview it was discussed that 2024 observer trips are on target (20 already) and there is an aim to have more diverse coverage of vessels to provide adequate representation of the fleet. Thus maintaining Action item 1 on target.</p>
		<p>Action item A2.3.3 – 2 Statistically estimate catch rates of ETP species based on observer data (historical and current)</p>	<p>Majority interactions with ETP / shark species are discard eating and not caught. A total of five white-chinned petrels (<i>P. aequinoctialis</i>) were caught and all died. Evidence of thresher shark (<i>Alopias spp</i>), and silky sharks (<i>C. falciformis</i>) capture and release. Only 5.47% of the sets observed had ETP catches which includes some sharks which are not ETP thresher shark (<i>Alopias spp</i>). The assessment team note that for sharks a detailed list of ETP sharks under FS v2.0 versus bycatch sharks and the reason for designation would assist in allocating species within the standard.</p> <p>At present there is no estimation of catch rates /mortality rates of ETP interactions at the UoA level e.g. data raised to fleet level, however this may not be needed. The Birdlife progress report (2024) provides a summary of bycatch rates in seabirds per 1000 hooks (below), which provides a suitable mechanism to estimate UoA impact at the fleet level, provided all bird species are covered. At the audit there was discussion on the validity of the methods used in the studies within the Birdlife report (not all hooks deployed are observed, but total hooks are used as the denominator), overall this work does provide a useful baseline to adequately determine UoA risk. Further a discussion on a standardised approach to bycatch rate may become part of the NPOA for birds currently in review in SA, was had. Both the ITM manager and BLSA are involved in this NPOA engagement process. Further the assessment team note that recently published papers on the comparative LL fishery in Namibia have recently been published, providing further evidence of bycatch rate with similar mitigation measures.</p> <p>Paterson, J.R.B. et al., 2017. Seabird mortality in the Namibian demersal longline fishery and recommendations for best practice mitigation measures. <i>Oryx</i>, 53(2), pp.300–309.</p> <p>Rocha, N.D. et al., 2021. Reduction in seabird mortality in Namibian fisheries following the introduction of bycatch regulation. <i>Biological Conservation</i>, 253, p.108915. Available at: https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0006320720309733.</p>

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		<p>Action item 2 on target.</p> <p>A 2009 study by Petersen et al. (2009) estimated an observed annual bycatch rate of 0.0075 seabirds per 1,000 hooks, representing 6.8% of the reported annual fishing effort. This lower rate compared to previous studies could be attributed to the introduction of seabird bycatch mitigation measures in the late 1990s, such as mandatory night setting, and the larger sample size used in the study. Between 2013 and 2014, a seven-month observer program reported a bycatch rate of 0.0017 seabirds per 1,000 hooks, based on data collected from 1,185,180 hooks deployed (Greenstone et al., 2016). However, a 2019 observed trip documented 121 seabirds caught during 10 sets while fishing under a full moon, highlighting the potential for higher bycatch under certain conditions (Japp & Droste, 2021). White-chinned Petrels (<i>Procellaria aequinoctialis</i>) are consistently identified as one of the most frequently caught species in this fishery, as reported by various studies (Petersen et al., 2009). Other species caught include Yellow-nosed Albatrosses (<i>Thalassarche spp.</i>), Great Shearwaters (<i>Ardenna gravis</i>), and Cape Petrels (<i>Daption capense</i>), with the latter two also experiencing mortality during the hauling process (Barnes et al., 1997; Petersen et al., 2009).</p>
3rd Progress Verification		
4th Progress Verification		
2.4.1 – Habitats outcome	Progress status	Justification
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>The initial concern in this PI was the uncertainty around the overlap of the UoA with VMEs and the potential for negative impacts of demersal longline fishing on VMEs outside of MPAs, despite the known low overall impacts of static gear. Evidence of action by the fisheries included at this audit include data showing fishing set location and daily skipper catch estimates per species and product type and a recent request for the updated commercial catch statistics for the period 2017-2022. The observer annual reports (detailing catches of VMEs) serve as primary source of information on the ‘catchability of VMEs’ and potential overlap.</p> <p>The ITM manager has confirmed the plan to overlay fishing data (once received from DFFE) with the ecosystem types and location of the offshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) using existing shape files and an assessment will be made of the degree of threat/protection of each ecosystem type. The publication of the MSC V3.0 with Tool C MSC Benthic Impacts Tool</p>

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		<p>(https://rstudio.bangor.ac.uk/shiny/benthic/) will also be used to determine risk of the gear and remove the uncertainty which exists in the fishery.</p> <p>Year 1 action item was to Map longline footprint to ecosystems types (A2.4.1). There appears to have been progress in 2022 in this regard and whilst the maps have not yet been produced the new action plan shows the intent to use the MSCs BIT which will improve the overall outcome of the action plan item and the subsequent certainty in the PI scoring. The CAB therefore consider the approach to be an improvement on the previous action plan and that the fishery should be considered on track on the basis that the outcomes of the BIT and the mapping project will be available by Year 2.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action item A2.4.1-1 Engage relevant stakeholders to facilitate mapping the longline footprint and existing MPAs to the ecosystem types identified in the updated 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment	<p>Between years 1 and 2 the ITM management organization attempted to apply the MSC BIT tool to the fishery but found it non-functional as the tool is only configured for trawl gear not demersal LL. As an alternative the ITM management team have applied an alternative method with overlay of the fishery spatial footprint and ecosystem types regrouping on work previous conducted to 2012. This new work is presented at this audit in the form of a comprehensive report that accounts for the updated national ecosystem type developed in 2023. The work utilises SANBI National Biodiversity Assessment 2018 and MPA data within the layers of the projections (see Section 2.2.3.2 for example figures). The work is a significant improvement on previously available information on fishing location with respect to habitats and identifies the next steps in quantifying overlap with sensitive ecosystem types and VME habitats through further analysis of overlaying the hake longline footprint with locations of known and potential VMEs (Franken PhD, unpublished). The outputs from this work will inform action items A2.4.2 below.</p> <p>The audit team reviewed the observer program report for 2023. The observer program is an important process in the strategy to observe compliance with MPAs to validate vessel positions and to capture and record VME species capture (if any, none recorded to date). Temporal coverage of observer program in 2023 is good with all months having a level of coverage, and with further vessels planning to take observers in 2024. Spatially the majority of observer effort was on the Western Cape which reflects the majority of fishing effort.</p> <p>This action item is on target.</p>
		Action item A2.4.1-2	As per A2.4.1-1 above the Reed et al., 2024 report overlays the MPAs present in the SA EEZ with the fishery footprint and effort. Further it analyses the 25 marine ecosystems potentially affected by

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		<p>Analysis of protection levels for each ecosystem type recommendations for additional management, where required, based on the results of the mapping exercise.</p>	<p>longline fishing in South Africa and assesses proportional overlap with the fishery. Eight of the ecosystem types within the hake longline buffered footprint received protection in 2019, and the extent of overlap with these is presented. Further work direction is discussed with assessment of vulnerability to longline to come.</p> <p>This action item is on target.</p>
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			
2.4.2 – Habitats management strategy	Progress status	Justification	
1st Progress Verification	<i>Behind Target</i>	<p>The determination at the pre-assessment was that the fishery was not deemed to have taken consideration of VMEs outside of MPAs with which it likely overlaps and there was not a precautionary partial management strategy in place for these areas. The MSC derogation on this PI was accounted for at the PA and whilst the partial strategy didn't include Move on Rules (MOR) it did have spatial measures for the protection of VME's in MPAs as well as other measures (gear type).</p> <p>At this audit the ITM manager reports that current VME threshold levels to trigger move-on rules are available for the hake trawl sector and serve as a baseline to identify precautionary MORs for the hake longline fishery that could be adopted if deemed necessary. Further the neighbouring Namibian hake longline fishery has adopted SEAFO and BCC MORs and these too could be easily adopted as the MOR for the fishery if required. The key development at this year's audit is the observer annual reports (detailing catches of VMEs for the past few years). Whilst these samples represent only 3% of the overall effort, negligible VME indicator species have been caught. This dataset serve as primary source of information on the 'catchability of VMEs' and the applicability of MORs for this gear type. With VME's not being caught (detected) by the fishing gear the applicability of MORs to this fishery and the need for the action plan is being questioned by the ITM manager. However, full consideration of this cannot be comprehensively assessed without further data from the observer program which will not occur until towards the end of this</p>	

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		<p>ITM program (and with increased coverage from the TAF funding cycle). The Year 1 action item for this PI was to Develop and adopt move on rules (A2.4.2). There is evidence that the fishery has researched which MORs could easily be adapted to the fishery and would be ‘appropriate’ if they are required (as stated above). In that regard the ‘develop’ part of the action item can be said to have been met. That the fishery is yet to adopt the MORs means the action item is not ‘on target’ but in reviewing the available evidence the CAB agrees that the evidence base (observer reports which were not previously available) suggest that the appropriateness of MORs for the gear and habitats concerned is inconclusive. The CAB agree that further information is required to confirm the appropriateness of MORs for the fishery before they are developed without justification and this will be available through the observer program (Industry and TAF funded). Once this work is completed (along with the proposed implementation of the BIT) it can be assessed as to whether the partial strategy is complete enough without MORs. The revised action plan for this PI accounts for these changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess need for MORs (observer data/effort-ecosystem mapping/Benthic Impacts Tool) • Implement MORs if required or alternative management • reporting and conclusion of actions <p>Under the specifications of the ITM program the CAB must conclude the fishery is behind target on this PI, but acknowledge that this is unlikely to hinder certification at full assessment given a. that MORs are available and can be applied if required once the evidence base improves, and b. Evidence continues to show that MORs are not appropriate and the work on the BIT by the fishery provides quantitative risk assessment of the fishery to the benthic habitats.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action item A2.4.2-1 Review of available literature on VME move-on rules and Indicator species thresholds. Trial MSC Benthic Impacts Tool	<p>Significant work has been carried out ahead of year 2. CAPMARINE have produced a report detailing the current status of the MSC move on rule as applicable to the UoAs for this audit.</p> <p>An analysis of benthic interactions from 10 years of observer data was presented, which show zero VME indicator species being recovered in hauls. This is an indication that Move on rules are not applicable to this fishery with the overlapping VMEs under consideration.</p> <p>The MSC derogation on move on rules is an important consideration for this fishery as it allows for the scoring of SG80 prior to SG60 for 2.4.2. under FS v2.01 if SA3.14.2.2 is satisfied (score SG80) then application of SA3.14.2.3b is not required (score SG60). SA3.14.2.3b (score SG60) requires move on rules whilst SA3.14.2.2 (score SG80) has them as an optional measure when considered a valid approach for the gear habitat combination. In review of the work undertaken it would appear that ‘move on rules’ for longline and the range of VMEs encountered is not a valid approach. VMEs identified in the footprint of the fishery (and surrounding area) principally consist of coral and sponge</p>

		<p>dominated communities. Table 7 and figure 6 of the Progress report provides the complete list of VMEs based on external research and overlaid with LL footprint by Reed et al., 2024.</p> <p>With none of the VME indicators being returned in hauled back gear (based on 10 years of observer data) the need for move on rules to the fishery is likely dismissed. There are two potential route in this fishery for scoring this SI.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There can be an argument that SA3.14.2.3b is not applied (no commonly accepted move one rules required as per the MSC interpretation). 2. Alternatively, if based on the latest evidence the fishery may well fulfil the partial strategy required in SA3.14.2.2. SG80 can be reached through a partial strategy based on the following MSC definition without move on rule and thus score using the MSC derogation on move on rules and if SA3.14.2.2 is satisfied move on rules would not be required. MSC partial strategy definition is given below: <p><i>A “partial strategy” represents a cohesive arrangement which may comprise one or more measures, an understanding of how it/they work to achieve an outcome and an awareness of the need to change the measures should they cease to be effective. It may not have been designed to manage the impact on that component specifically.</i></p> <p>At present the fishery has the following measures in place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed areas MPAs protecting VMEs monitored by VMS. 2. Observers in place monitoring any benthic species returned on the lines 3. A recent review of the overlap of the fishery with known VMEs, with continued monitoring by VMS. 4. Continuing work on the sensitivity of VMEs <p>This item is on target</p>	<p>dominated communities. Table 7 and figure 6 of the Progress report provides the complete list of VMEs based on external research and overlaid with LL footprint by Reed et al., 2024.</p> <p>With none of the VME indicators being returned in hauled back gear (based on 10 years of observer data) the need for move on rules to the fishery is likely dismissed. There are two potential route in this fishery for scoring this SI.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There can be an argument that SA3.14.2.3b is not applied (no commonly accepted move one rules required as per the MSC interpretation). 2. Alternatively, if based on the latest evidence the fishery may well fulfil the partial strategy required in SA3.14.2.2. SG80 can be reached through a partial strategy based on the following MSC definition without move on rule and thus score using the MSC derogation on move on rules and if SA3.14.2.2 is satisfied move on rules would not be required. MSC partial strategy definition is given below: <p><i>A “partial strategy” represents a cohesive arrangement which may comprise one or more measures, an understanding of how it/they work to achieve an outcome and an awareness of the need to change the measures should they cease to be effective. It may not have been designed to manage the impact on that component specifically.</i></p> <p>At present the fishery has the following measures in place:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Closed areas MPAs protecting VMEs monitored by VMS. 2. Observers in place monitoring any benthic species returned on the lines 3. A recent review of the overlap of the fishery with known VMEs, with continued monitoring by VMS. 4. Continuing work on the sensitivity of VMEs <p>This item is on target</p>
		<p>Action item A2.4.2-2 Formal adoption of MORs by vessels and Right Holders (if required)</p>	<p>As per A2.4.2-1 above likely not required</p>

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		<p>Action item A2.4.2-3 Development of VME sub-sampling strategy and monitoring of adoption of and compliance with MORs and evaluation of MOR appropriateness</p>	<p>As per A2.4.2-1 above the information base in Year 2 has grown substantially and the need for move on rules has been all but ruled out provided continued data collection from the observer program maintains the current accepted appearance that the gear / VME habitat combination does not result in VME indicators being brought to the surface. This item is on target</p>
		<p>Action item A2.4.2-4 Investigation of alternative precautionary approaches to avoidance and potential VMEs and VME habitats</p>	<p>For action item 4 - the next step in quantifying overlap with sensitive ecosystem types following the Reed et al., 2024 report is through further analysis of overlaying the hake longline footprint with locations of known and potential VMEs (Franken PhD, unpublished). There is also acknowledgement in the ITM manager record that should the hake trawl fishery be required to adopt voluntary move on rules then the UoAs in this assessment would then need to consider if those were applicable to them. 2.4.2d at SG80 contains a '<i>where relevant</i>' condition which could only be assessed once the exact boundaries and VMEs involved are known. Based on current knowledge and the information presented at this audit there are no VMEs which would have an applicable move on rule. This item is on target</p>
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			
2.4.3 – Habitats information	Progress status	Justification	

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1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>The determination at the pre-assessment was that the fishery was not deemed to meet SG80 because catch and catch rates of VME-indicator organisms and information to support the scientific definition of precautionary trigger levels, where these are used (not available) are not available for the UoA vessels.</p> <p>At this year’s audit the ITM program manager confirms the data collection protocol developed in the observer program for the identification of VMEs in catches. Namely: Invertebrates are recorded by observers during a dedicated line-count sampling period covering 40% of the haul. The observer annual reports (detailing catches of VMEs for the past few years) reveal that negligible VME indicator species have been caught. Furthermore, the observer VME sub-sampling strategy has been updated to be in line with CCAMLR protocols – the updated strategy will be implemented starting 2023.</p> <p>The ITM manager is in possession of shapefiles from SANBI to map the spatial effort of the fishery to the updated benthic ecosystem types and spatial mapping will commence upon receipt of the commercial effort data from DFFE (PAIA request submitted).</p> <p>Year 1 action item was to adopt data collection protocols (A2.4.3). There is evidence that this has been achieved in 2022 in this regard and action plan item is considered on track.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action item A2.4.3-1 Implementation of invertebrate sub-sampling strategy through at-sea observer program	Action item 1 is met as discussed in PI2.4.2. above. The observer agency has focused on benthic invertebrate recording and ensured trained observers are used and giving specific instructions to observer to record benthic species interactions. Since the start of the FIP, specific sampling and recording instructions are given to the observers to record all interactions with invertebrate species, the intention being to mirror sampling requirements applied by the CCAMLR observers. An analysis of benthic interactions from 10 years of observer data was presented, which show zero VME indicator species being hauled.
		Action item A2.4.3 – 2 Determination of VME indicator species catch rates	Action item 2 above is met as discussed in PI2.4.2. above. An analysis of benthic interactions from 10 years of observer data was presented, which show zero VME indicator species being hauled.
		Action item A2.4.3 – 3 Spatial mapping of the hake longline footprint to the South	Action item 3 – As reported in 2.4.2.a this is presented at this audit in the form of a comprehensive report. The work is a significant improvement on previously available information on fishing location with respect to habitats the next step in quantifying overlap with sensitive ecosystem types and VME

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		African National Biodiversity Ecosystem types updated in 2019	<p>habitats through further analysis of overlaying the hake longline footprint with locations of known and potential VMEs (Franken PhD, unpublished).</p> <p>Taken as a whole PI and against all action items, it would appear on the evidence gathered at this audit that PI2.4.3. may now reach SG80 on all SIs. The only questionable area is in SIa and the need for 'vulnerability' assessment and SA3.15.4.2. - <i>The likelihood that the habitat would be altered if an encounter between the gear and the habitat did occur</i></p> <p>SA3.15.6 now appears met.</p>
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			

2.4.3 Principle 3 Performance Indicator level score changes and rationales – Fisheries Standard v2.01

Principle 3 – Performance Indicator level score changes and rationales		
3.1.1 – Legal and customary framework	Progress status	Justification
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>SAHLLAs key evidence requirement at each audit is to provide an Annual summary record of progress in interactions with Namibian and SA trawl clients. The information provided in PI1.2.4 confirms this has taken place and the actions taken by the harmonized fisheries in 2022. The key development is the MOU between SADSTIA and the NHA the certified fisheries which dictates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 3.1 co-operation and exchange of data between the parties to enable studies and calculation the condition (PI1.2.4) to be investigated and satisfied. The exact exchange of data is dictated in section 7. Provision of Data. Item 4.1 establish and maintain a system of organized and effective co-operation to deliver management outcomes consistent with P1 and P2.

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		<p>3. Item 5.1 establishment of a Fisheries Liaison Committee to oversee the MoU and ensure it is complied with</p> <p>4. Section 6 if a TAC in either State is set outside of scientific advice or if there is overcatch by either party there is a requirement to inform the other party within 25 business days and a meeting will be held with responses developed depending on the severity of the issue.</p> <p>Year 1 action item was to engage with existing MSC fisheries (A3.1.1). There appears to have made progress in 2022 in this regard and action plan item is considered on track.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action item A3.1.1-1 Interactions with Namibian client and South African hake trawl executive towards the development of the requisite protocol.	The assessment team were provided with email evidence of MFMR, NHA and SADSTIA agreement to their inclusion in the MoU for paradoxus which underpins the information exchange between the two countries for the management of the stock. The MoU has been in place for two years and includes a minimum of two meetings per annum and data updates to inform stock assessments form part of the agreement. The next stage of the process is that lawyers will redraft the MoU to include SAHLLA (anticipated in July 2024) thus once complete the action should be closed.
3rd Progress Verification			
4th Progress Verification			
3.2.2 – Decision making processes	Progress status	Justification	
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>The ITM manager has provided evidence via documentation and the appendix 1 in this audit report, that the FRAP process for hake was concluded in February 2022. Whilst some appeals, outside of the FRAP process, are yet to be concluded (indicated date is October 2023), the Year 1 action item was to finalise the FRAP (A3.2.2) and this can be said to be met.</p> <p>The ITM manager and client have noted that two emerging issues which will test decision making process are underway related to the re-apportionment of Hake TAC between the trawl and longline sectors and subsequently resolving potential impacts on trawl CPUE through increased longline effort if the TAC apportionment is granted (see SAHLLA IWS 25.11.22). Evidence of a process for this exists and was discussed</p>	

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		<p>at the site visit and detailed in section 2 with respect to the DFFE task team investigating the data quality issues in the sector which impact the current view of the sustainability of the stock. The completion of the FRAP process may well mean this action plan is completed but whilst the emergent issue of TAC reallocation is open it is precautionary to consider this as on target only.</p>	
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	Action Item A3.2.2-1 Conclusion of FRAP	<p>At the site visit, the client confirmed that the new 15 year term hake longline rights which were granted on 28 February 2022 resulted in permit allocation delays which impacted the 2022 catches and the overall quota caught in that year. New entrants were required to apply for permits to fish, whilst existing right holders had to return their permits and apply for the new ones. Quota allocations for the new permits were held up by the need for recalculations of in-year catches. The assessment team were also provided with evidence of the decision on allocations by the DFFE. This was provided in two DFFE reports from the period please see P3 references.</p> <p>Current rights holders, quota allocations and SAHLLA nominated members are shown in Appendix 1</p> <p>It was also reported that 2023 quota allocations via permits were much improved, and noted that at the time of the audit total catch from the UoA in 2023 was unavailable.</p> <p>Finally, the appeals process started 09 September 2022 and was finalised in November 2023. As evidence the team was provided with the general published reasons for acceptance/rejection on appeal (HLL Appeals GPR, 2023). There was a total of two hundred and eighty (280) appeals in this sector. The team also received a CAPMARINE report on this action item which shows 22 new entrants in the Hake Long line sector and the categories from which they were accepted. The ITM manager notes possible court hearing resulting from the closure of the FRAP process but these are outside of the formal process.</p> <p>This action item is reported as completed by the ITM manager and the CAB agrees</p>

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3rd Progress Verification				
4th Progress Verification				
3.2.3 – Compliance and enforcement	Progress status	Justification		
1st Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<p>Year 1 action item was to develop a data request to DFFE (A3.2.3). Evidence of compliance monitoring has been provided by DFFE in the form of the number and details of land and sea-based inspections for 2021 and 2022. Transgressions and fines are also reported indicating good compliance generally. As noted through section 2 of this report there are still some discrepancies in the offloading data between that held by the DFFE and the client. This is suggested to be linked to the different systems in place between client records and the DFFE records. The client is seeking to align the requirements of the landings records with that of the trawl fishery through the demersal working group. SAHLLA are also instigating updates to their database system as part of the improvement for tracking landings records.</p> <p>Good communication with DFFE and subsequent receipt of MCS and VMS data indicates progress in 2022 and this action plan item is considered on track.</p>		
2nd Progress Verification	<i>On target</i>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> Action Item A3.2.3-1 Evidence of a MCS System, including Inspections (land and sea), VMS, Transgressions, Fines, Sanctions </td> <td> Evidence was provided of 359 landing inspections and 34 inspections at sea in 2023 with only 5 accounts of non-compliance (all MLRA 18/1998 - Sec 58 Not complying with permit conditions). The evidence came in the form of reports from each of the DFFE resourced areas (Port monitoring, VMS, and at sea monitoring) and accompanying spreadsheets with details of infractions and inspections (see P3 References). The VMS outage aside (noted in the ITM manager comments) the MCS system appears to be functional across the three DFFE resourced areas (Port monitoring, VMS, and at sea monitoring). The client report on this PI highlights that 100% of offloads must be monitored (either an FCO or offload monitor), but not all offloads are inspected. This information clarifies why there are differences in the number of inspection reports and landing declaration which otherwise may be considered an issue in the MCS system. As the ITM manager report in section 2.2.3.4, there is </td> </tr> </table>	Action Item A3.2.3-1 Evidence of a MCS System, including Inspections (land and sea), VMS, Transgressions, Fines, Sanctions	Evidence was provided of 359 landing inspections and 34 inspections at sea in 2023 with only 5 accounts of non-compliance (all MLRA 18/1998 - Sec 58 Not complying with permit conditions). The evidence came in the form of reports from each of the DFFE resourced areas (Port monitoring, VMS, and at sea monitoring) and accompanying spreadsheets with details of infractions and inspections (see P3 References). The VMS outage aside (noted in the ITM manager comments) the MCS system appears to be functional across the three DFFE resourced areas (Port monitoring, VMS, and at sea monitoring). The client report on this PI highlights that 100% of offloads must be monitored (either an FCO or offload monitor), but not all offloads are inspected. This information clarifies why there are differences in the number of inspection reports and landing declaration which otherwise may be considered an issue in the MCS system. As the ITM manager report in section 2.2.3.4, there is
Action Item A3.2.3-1 Evidence of a MCS System, including Inspections (land and sea), VMS, Transgressions, Fines, Sanctions	Evidence was provided of 359 landing inspections and 34 inspections at sea in 2023 with only 5 accounts of non-compliance (all MLRA 18/1998 - Sec 58 Not complying with permit conditions). The evidence came in the form of reports from each of the DFFE resourced areas (Port monitoring, VMS, and at sea monitoring) and accompanying spreadsheets with details of infractions and inspections (see P3 References). The VMS outage aside (noted in the ITM manager comments) the MCS system appears to be functional across the three DFFE resourced areas (Port monitoring, VMS, and at sea monitoring). The client report on this PI highlights that 100% of offloads must be monitored (either an FCO or offload monitor), but not all offloads are inspected. This information clarifies why there are differences in the number of inspection reports and landing declaration which otherwise may be considered an issue in the MCS system. As the ITM manager report in section 2.2.3.4, there is			

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			<p>ongoing work from the client and DFFE to improve data quality from the fishery. Section 2.2.3.4 provides a ITM manager account on a recent workshop held as part of the FIP program and how the ITM manager is educating the vessels on the roles of FCO's and monitors and their responsibility in data recording. The assessment team were provided with a powerpoint used in the workshop which details the permit condition requirements, landings procedure (which forms need to be completed), monitoring procedure and conversion factors (C.F.) for records e.g headed and gutted hake C.F. to whole weight of 1.46.</p> <p>At present what is not quite so clear in the MCS system is whether observer data and reports, collected by CAPMARINE and available to DFFE are used by MCS to ensure / investigate / risk assess permit conditions. It does not appear that observer data is currently part of the MCS system. CAP MARINE analysis of the four observer programs to date (Figure 5) confirms that tori lines use as required by the permits are not always adhered to, yet there is no MCS record of sanctions being applied for the non-use, further consideration on permit condition monitoring may be warranted.</p> <p>Action item on target</p>
		<p>Action Item A3.2.3-2 Assessment of the methodology and sampling procedures used to estimate hake catches of the South African</p>	<p>Section 2.2.3.4 provides a ITM manager account on a recent workshop held as part of the FIP program and how the ITM manager is educating the vessels on the roles of FCO's and monitors as part of the MCS system but also ensuring clarity on all parties on the record keeping. The assessment team were provided with a PowerPoint used in the workshop which details the permit condition requirements, landings procedure (which forms need to be completed), monitoring procedure and conversion factors for records e.g headed and gutted hake C.F. to whole weight of 1.46. This workshop was used to educate both industry representatives and DFFE officers and ensure consistency in approach.</p>

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		<p>Hake Longline Fishery. Comparison of factory offload weights with Skipper logbooks. Recommendations to Skippers with respect to accurate completion of logbooks</p>	<p>A second PowerPoint from the workshop details the changes in the logbooks to seek to address issues identified in previous records from the fishery. These amount to errors in location and depth in the logbook data (often from use of different unit types – e.g. use of fathoms or metres or different lat. Long. Formats) which cause issue in the use of the longline data in the stock assessment and require extensive filtering /recalculation. Trials of the new logbooks are underway through the ITM manager with aims to secure use of improved formats in the next permit year. Further work is planned through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assessment of the methodology and sampling procedures used to estimate hake catches of the South African Hake Longline Fishery; • Comparison of factory offload weights with Skipper logbooks; • Recommendations to Skippers with respect to accurate completion of logbooks; <p>Paper logbooks are required by law in South Africa but there is consideration of how elogs may be made permissible.</p> <p>The ITM manager is assisting SAHLLA to take responsibility on validating landing declarations through logbooks and factory weights to help improve data quality for DFFE. The assessment team were provided with an updated list of records now kept in the upgraded SAHLLA database for the fishery. This includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quayside Landing Declaration 2. Factory Declaration 3. Hake Longline Logbook <p>Daily Set Details including.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Date, time, depth, latitude (degree, minute), longitude (degree, minute) – Start setting, end setting, start hauling, end hauling - Number of tubs/baskets - Number of Hooks per tub/basket
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total number of hooks - Number of floats - Bait Type - Number of Seals - Fish Lost to Seals - Number of Birds Caught - Line Lost - Daily Catch (Bins and weight, processed methods i.e PQ or H&G) - Observed Daily Discards - Observed Daily Losses (lost off the line or seal predation) - Observed Daily Seabird Mortality - Comments (I.E other vessels in the Area) <p>From the Daily set data, Quayside and Factory Declarations the Database creates reports which allows for multiple Right Holders averages to be shown.</p> <p>Action item on target</p>
3 rd Progress Verification		
4 th Progress Verification		

3 References

Principle 1 files:

DFFE 2022 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DEMERSAL SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP FOR THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF HAKE RESOURCES FOR 2023.

DFFE 2023 DEMERSAL SCIENTIFIC WORKING GROUP HAKE LONGLINE TASK TEAM MEETING BRANCH: FISHERIES, FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/15

DFFE 2023 Hake longline logbook . HK/II 2 2023 – pilot logbook with comments

Ross-Gillespie A., and Butterworth D. 2023 OMP formula output for the 2024 hake TAC, and the inclusion of the 2022 commercial and 2023 survey data in the OMP projection plots. FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/17.

Ross-Gillespie A., and Butterworth D. 2023 OMP formula output for the 2024 hake TAC, and the inclusion of the 2022 commercial and 2023 survey data in the OMP projection plots. FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/17rev

Ross-Gillespie A., and Butterworth D. 2023 Update to the hake Reference Case Operating Model with the 2022 commercial and 2023 survey data. FISHERIES/2023/OCT/SWG-DEM/18.

Email between SADSTIA, SAHLLA and the NHA end date June 20th 2024.

Principle 2 files:

Burls, A., Norman S. and Reed J. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report Action 2.3.2-1 *Historical Data Analysis of Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Use*. CAPMARINE.

Burls, A. and Norman S. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report Action 2.4.2-1 *VME Move On Rules (MOR's)*. CAPMARINE

CapMarine (2024) PROPOSAL FOR SAFE HANDLING AND RELEASE OF CHONDRICHTHYANS FOR MARINE STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (MSC) FISHERIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FIP) - MAY 2024.

CAPMARINE 2024 Demersal Hake Longline - Safe Handling and Release of Chondrichthyans. Presented at Stakeholder workshop June 2024.

CAPMARINE 2024 Marine Resource Monitors - Recording Commercial Fish Landings. Presented at Stakeholder workshop June 2024.

DFFE 2024 – Permit conditions of the Hake Longline sector. Section B and C.

Norman S., Reed, J., Gumede Z. and Burls, A. 2024 SAHLLA Observer Programme Report for the period January 2023 - December 2023, CAPRICORN MARINE ENVIRONMENTAL PTY LTD

Nyengera R. and Angel, A. 2023 Assessment of seabird bycatch management measures on Demersal Hake Longline Vessels. Prepared for the implementation of the South Africa Hake Longline Fishery Improvement Project. Albatross Task Force, BirdLife South Africa June 2024.

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Nyengera R. and Angel, A. 2024 UPDATED Assessment of seabird bycatch management measures on Demersal Hake Longline Vessels. Prepared for the implementation of the South Africa Hake Longline Fishery Improvement Project. Albatross Task Force, BirdLife South Africa June 2024.

Reed, J. and Norman S. and Burls A. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report. Action 2.4.1 – 1 – *Mapping the longline footprint and existing Marine Protected Areas to the ecosystem types identified in the updated 2018 National Biodiversity Assessment*. Action 2.4.1 – 2 – *Analysis of protection levels for each ecosystem type and recommendations of priority areas for additional management, where required, based on the results of the mapping exercise*. CAPMARINE.

SAHLLA – Vessel Participation Agreement Fisheries improvement Project -MoU

Principle 3

Burls, A., Norman S. and Reed J. 2024 South African Hake Longline Fisheries Improvement Project Technical Report Action 3.2.2 – 1 FRAP – Fishing Rights Allocation Process. CAPMARINE

CAPMARINE 2024 Marine Resource Monitors - Recording Commercial Fish Landings. Presented at Stakeholder workshop June 2024.

CAPMARINE 2024 Hake Longline MSC Pathway Stakeholder Workshop 2024. Presented at Stakeholder workshop June 2024.

DFFE 2022 General published reasons for the decisions on the allocation of 2021/2022 fishing rights and quantum in the hake longline fishery.

DFFE 2022 Addendum to the general published reasons for the decisions on the allocation of 2021/2022 fishing rights and quantum in the hake longline fishery.

DFFE 2023 GENERAL PUBLISHED REASONS FOR DECISIONS ON APPEAL IN THE HAKE LONGLINE SECTOR FISHING RIGHT ALLOCATION PROCESS 2021/2022.

DFFE 2024 – Hake longline Crime stats 2023 – spreadsheet.

DFFE 2024 – Hake longline inspections 2023 – spreadsheet.

DFFE 2024. MCS At sea hake longline Monthly inspection 2023 report

DFFE 2024 MCS At sea Hake longline vessels inspected with permits 2023 report

Email between SADSTIA, SAHLLA and the NHA end date June 20th 2024.

4 Appendix 1 – SAHLLA RHs, proportion and tonnage of TAC allocated and vessel nominations following conclusion of the FRAP process.

Table 8. SAHLLA members 2023

SAHLLA members 2023			2023 LL TAC = 9053914 kg
No.	Member name (Right Holder)	% allocation	Vessel TAC allocation (kg)
1	Balobi Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	1.2716	115126
2	LM Fisheries (Pty) Ltd	1.4968	135516
3	Balobi Processors (Pty) Ltd	1.2603	114110
4	Trawl Investments CC	0.6521	59043
5	Interfish (Pty) Ltd	2.4178	218902
6	Malibongwe Fisheries (Pty) Ltd	0.7166	64877
7	Premier Fishing SA (Pty) Ltd	0.8927	80827
8	Biz Afrika 131 (Pty) Ltd	2.1668	196183
9	Combined Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	1.0927	98932
10	Dyer Eiland Visserye (Edms) Bpk	1.2158	110081
11	Hentiq 1173 (Pty) Ltd	0.8595	77821
12	Impala Fishing (Pty) Ltd	1.3983	126604
13	Open Circle Projects 1 CC	0.7051	63840
14	Amaqobela Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.6722	60858
15	FERRO FISHING (Pty) Ltd	0.8446	76472
16	Soundprops 1167 Investments (Pty) Ltd	0.7049	63821
17	Nalitha Fishing Group (Pty) Ltd	5.1244	463959
18	Westfort Fishing CC	0.5316	48134
19	Sizabantu Fishing Corporation (Pty) Ltd	0.9351	84665
20	Ithemba Labantu Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.7181	65016
21	Saul Cloete & Vennote (Pty) Ltd	2.5829	233850
22	Deus Te Ajude Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.8456	76561
23	TTM Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.8624	78082
24	AFD Fishing CC	0.7645	69215

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SAHLLA members 2023			2023 LL TAC = 9053914 kg
No.	Member name (Right Holder)	% allocation	Vessel TAC allocation (kg)
25	Heatwave Fishing Corporation (Pty) Ltd	0.8467	76657
26	Faulkner Fishing Enterprises CC	0.7799	70613
27	Ocean Ukhozi Fishing (Pty) Ltd	1.5045	136219
28	Genuine Fisheries CC	0.6266	56730
29	Masikhule Fishing CC	1.0979	99405
30	Activest Twenty (Pty) Ltd	0.7562	68467
31	Valortrade 1143 CC	0.7403	67025
32	Intlanzi Fishing (Pty) Ltd	1.4229	128830
33	African Star Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.6553	59333
34	The Tuna Hake Fishing Corporation Ltd	6.7322	609525
35	Joenardo Fishing CC	0.9624	87134
36	Humansdorp Community Factory Workers (Pty) Ltd Workers (Pty) Ltd	1.0850	98236
37	Versatex Trading 249 (Pty) Ltd	1.2283	111207
38	Algoa Marine Exporters(Pty) Ltd	0.8704	78802
39	J&J Visserye BK	0.5504	49833
40	Unathi-Wena Fishing CC	1.0567	95672
41	Zimele Fishing Enterprises CC	0.8478	76760
42	Al-Aman Fishing CC	0.8514	77086
43	Ukloba Fishing (Pty) Ltd	2.6888	243443
44	Ulwandle Fishing (Pty) Ltd	3.7581	340252
45	Pakamani Fishing (Pty) Ltd	2.3236	210377
46	Mast Fishing (Pty) Ltd	1.0463	94727
47	JFP Fishing CC	0.9212	83402
48	Eyethu Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.6010	54414
49	The Jenny Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	0.1071	9701
50	MTV Fishing St Francis Bay (Pty) Ltd	0.2143	19401

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SAHLLA members 2023			2023 LL TAC = 9053914 kg
No.	Member name (Right Holder)	% allocation	Vessel TAC allocation (kg)
51	GGA Fishing Enterprizes (Pty) Ltd	0.3214	29102
52	West Point Fishing Corporation (Pty) Ltd	0.4286	38802
53	SeaVuna Fishing Co (Pty) Ltd	0.7500	67904
54	Atlantis Seafood Products (Pty) Ltd	0.6429	58204
55	Merca Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.8750	79222
56	Khanyisile Fishing (Pty) Ltd	1.7500	158443
57	Silva Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	0.1250	11317
58	Ukuqala Trading CC	1.3750	124491
59	Mossel Bay Fishing (Pty) Ltd	0.3750	33952
60	Live Fish Tanks (East Coast) (Pty) Ltd	1.5000	135809
61	Blue Wave Fish Traders (Pty) Ltd	1.6250	147126
62	Izembe Trading 78 CC	0.2500	22635
63	Imperial Crown Trading 398 (Pty) Ltd	0.7500	67904
64	Afro Fishing (Pty) Ltd	1.8750	169761
65	Kaytrad Commodities (Pty) Ltd	1.2500	113174
66	Atlantic Choice Trading (Pty) Ltd	0.6250	56587
	Total proportion and tonnage of longline TAC to SAHLLA members	79.5256	7200179

Table 9. SAHLLA Member Vessel Nominations

SAHLLA Member Vessel Nominations		
No.	Member name (Vessel Owner)	Name of Vessel
1	Abraham T (Pty) Ltd	Abraham T
2	Transat Company (Pty) Ltd	Alpha
3	Soliprops 1083 (Pty) Ltd	Abe Shapiro
4	MFV Augusta Vessel Company (Pty) Ltd	Augusta 1
5	Boloko Trading and Investments (Pty) Ltd	Boloko 1
6	Pescaluna East Coast (Pty) Ltd	Olivia Marie
7	Nacimiento Fishing CC	Leontina Marie

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SAHLLA Member Vessel Nominations		
No.	Member name (Vessel Owner)	Name of Vessel
8	Hentiq 1173 (Pty) Ltd	Intini
9	Caprivi Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Karin 1
10	Imperial Crown Trading 398 (Pty) Ltd	Nicolette
11	MFB Highland Queen Bellegings (Pty) Ltd	Highland Queen
12	Mosgus Fishing & Exporters No. 1 CC	RRR
13	South East Atlantic Sea Products (Pty) Ltd	Scomber
14	Rocket Trading 35 CC	SW Lapwing
15	Kentucky Fishing CC	Kentucky
16	Compass Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	Emerald
17	J&AV Mostert Grasveld Visserye BK	Amoria
18	SW Condor Vessel Company (Pty) Ltd	SW Condor
19	Bayana Bayana Fishing CC	Southern Tiger
20	Dyer Eiland Visserye (Edms) Bpk	I do
21	Valhalla Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	Valhalla
22	Shivon Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	Shivon
23	Intlanzi Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Arizona
24	Ferro Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Armando
25	Blue Venture Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Monickendam
26	Dewmist Investments CC	Capt De Sousa
27	Virissimo Fishing CC	Ouma
28	MFV Westerdam CC	Staalkop
29	Rooiberg Bay Fishing CC	Tiger Fish
30	Joenardo Fishing CC	Tina
31	Al-Aman Fishing CC	Cape Padrone
32	Ukloba Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Estrella Do Mar
33	Christie Leonie Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Hai Lim no.38
34	Impala Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Herman S
35	Nalitha Fishing Group (Pty) Ltd	Cape Frio
36	Pakamani Fishing (Pty) Ltd	Pakamani
37	Silva Fishing Enterprises (Pty) Ltd	Kariba
38	Amazing Aspects Trading 112 CC	Silver Fern
39	Izembe Trading 78 CC	Radiant Star
40	Cyrel Burrel Fishing CC	Christo Rei



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