



South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA)

Department of Transport

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Date 7th of April 2005

To whom this may concern

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

With the present letter, I would like to register a complaint about a maritime navigation hazard off the coast of Gansbaai. I hope that sanctions will be undertaken by SAMSA without delays as the risk for the many ocean users will be increased with the growing winter nights. The fish pens are located at the following coordinates: 34° 38' 41.0" South / 19° 21' 35.6" East.

A salmon aquaculture farm was established during December 2004 east of Danger Point near Gansbaai. At present, three open ocean pens have been anchored to the sea floor. These three nets are surrounded by two parallel lines of eight large red buoys (refer to images below). Two small white floats are also anchored to the sea floor less than 100 meters from the nets. A network of thick ropes have been used to secure the placements of the fish pens and sea anchors.

I am not entirely convinced that this hazardous network of ropes and buoys is legal, but I am convinced that the absolute lack of any navigation lights is absolutely not conforming to the maritime legislations. The Kleinbaai boat launching area is used by fishermen and tourist boats on a daily basis, and it is only a matter of time until a serious accident will happen.

We hope that you will look into the matter without delays, and that penalties for this maritime danger will be severe. Since this new aquaculture pilot farm has already gotten the attention of the Cape Times on the April 5th, and more journalists are looking into the matter from a conservation point of view, we would really appreciate a response from SAMSA with regards to this matter.

I thank you very much for your attention and comprehension, and I hope to hear from you in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Michael C. SCHOLL

Photograph of the three open ocean fish pens and surrounding floats:



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Photograph of the three open ocean fish pens and surrounding floats, and the small white float with drifting rope:

