



# agriculture, forestry & fisheries

Department:  
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## Memo

DATE:	10 January 2017	FILE NO.:	
TO:	Ms S Middleton	FROM:	Rob Leslie
SUBJECT:	<b>THE PROPOSED MARINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM TO BE LANDED AT VAN RIEBECKSTRAND</b>		

MTN is proposing to install a submarine telecommunications cable, referred to as the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) Cable System, to link South Africa and, the West Coast of Africa with key international telecommunication hubs in Europe. This cable will enhance transport of voice, data, Internet and television services between South Africa and Europe.

MTN appointed ACER (Africa) Environmental Consultants to undertake an environmental assessment for the project. A requirement of the process is to request comment for all Interested and Affected Parties. I was approached by ACER for comment, probably because I was part of the team representing DEAT on the West Africa Cable System alignment (WACS).

Appendix 2 of the Draft Scoping Report for the proposed ACE Cable System provides a list of Registered Interested and Affected Parties. This list records the following DAFF staff as registered interested parties

Ms Nadine Rhodes	District Officer: Fisheries
Mr MA Ngadlela	International Relations Fisheries
Dr Rob Leslie	
Mr Saasa Pheeha	Director: Offshore and High seas Fisheries
Ms S. Ndundane	DDG: Fisheries Management

Although the period for comment on the Draft Scoping Report closed in December 2016, the Consultants would still greatly value comment from DAFF.

As shown in the attached map, the proposed routing for the new cable is to cross the continental shelf within the existing undersea cable corridor following the existing South Atlantic

No. 2 cable between the South Africa Far East alignment and South Atlantic No. 3 cables. Therefore the proposed new cable will cross the shelf in an area that is already closed to fishing and will thus have no additional impact on the fishing industry. Consequently the Demersal Scientific Working Group has no objection to the routing proposed for the new cable.

Regards



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Dr Rob Leslie

Specialist Scientist: Demersal Research