

South African Kelp Farming Project Close-out Event Programme

The **South African Kelp Farming Project (SA KFP) close-out event** took place on **12 August 2025** (10am-2pm) at the **Blue Bay Lodge**, 48 Gracilaria Crescent, Bluewater Bay, Saldanha Bay, 7395.

The Bivalve Shellfish Farmers Association of South Africa (BSASA) is the delivery partner responsible for the implementation of this multi-stakeholder project which was funded by UK International Development via the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and supported by the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFPE).

The aim of the event was to celebrate the hard work of the entire team, and to acknowledge the achievements of **Phase 2** of the SA KFP which include:

- ✓ successfully advocating for legislative changes to include indigenous seaweed species (Amendment of Environmental Authorisation for the Saldanha Bay Aquaculture Development Zone),
- ✓ tailoring available hatchery and nursery culturing methods for all three local kelp species,
- ✓ trialling various grow-out production systems and obtaining yields on vertical droppers comparable to that obtained in countries such as the USA where kelps are farmed profitably,
- ✓ compiling Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the kelp production cycle (hatchery, nursery, weaning, and grow-out methods),
- ✓ determining which biofouling species occur on the three species that could possibly affect blade quality and ultimately the price when sold, and the seasonality of biofouling in local kelp aquaculture,
- ✓ determining the season most suitable for these kelps to be grown in Small Bay of Saldanha Bay by monitoring and comparing environmental parameters, kelp growth and phytoplankton,
- ✓ analysing all three local kelps to assist with food safety standards and certification,
- ✓ conducting preliminary pre-processing trials to establish if two methods of blanching (i.e. boiling and/or steaming) could reduce content of potentially harmful heavy metals, arsenic and iodine,
- ✓ developing a Business Planning Guide for Kelp Farming in South Africa and an associated Financial Forecasting Model with worksheets to assist with financial planning,
- ✓ and producing a comprehensive kelp market assessment, value chain analysis and roadmap for the expansion and strengthening of the kelp value chain in South Africa to enable the development of an environmentally and financially sustainable kelp farming industry in South Africa.

Final Program & recording time stamps

Activity	Video time stamp	Person/organisation
1. Tea/coffee on arrival		Registration
2. Introducing proceedings for the day	00:00:04	Proceedings Facilitator: Ms Kristin Klose (FCDO: Technical Advisor)
3. Welcome and opening	00:01:30	Mr Matthew Halksworth (British Consulate General: Acting Consul General)
4. SA KFP background & introducing project team	00:05:48	Ms Andrea Bernatzeder (DFPE: Director of Aquaculture Research and Technology Development)
5. Overview of SA KFP (Phase 2) achievements & outcomes	00:16:36	Dr Lizeth Botes (BSASA/Sound Interactions- Project Manager)
6. Acknowledgements on behalf of the SA KFP	01:11:00	Dr L Botes on behalf of BSASA Chairperson
7. From trials to trade: A UK perspective on Seaweed Aquaculture	01:13:28	Dr Adrian Macleod (Atlantic Mariculture: UK Industry representative)
8. Closure	01:39:49	Ms Andrea Bernatzeder (DFPE: Director of Aquaculture Research and Technology Development)
9. Lunch		Networking