

CLIMATE CHANGE

Searcher Geodata returns to South Africa to pursue seismic surveys off the West Coast

July 26, 2022 5 Min Read

By [Onke Ngcuka](#)original article [here](#)

25 Jul 2022

Following a court ruling that halted its operations off the West Coast and saw Searcher Geodata leave South African waters, the company has returned for another attempt to complete its seismic surveys. Small-scale fishers, however, are still opposed to such activity.

The geoscience and tech exploration company Searcher Geodata has returned to South Africa in the hopes of conducting seismic surveys off the West Coast, just months after the company was chased off South African waters by an [urgent interdict](#) in March.

In a circulated announcement, the UK company said it was inviting participants as it sought to conduct seismic surveys about 256km offshore of St Helena Bay to 220km offshore of Hondekliip Bay. The company had previously stated it would not return to South Africa should the interdict be granted.

The company had hired SLR Consulting to conduct the halted survey but has now obtained the services of Environmental Impact Management Services as the environmental assessment practitioner.

Alan Hopping, the general manager at Searcher Seismic, told *Daily Maverick* that the second attempt at the surveying was to answer the question: "Does South Africa have its own natural resources that could provide safe, reliable and affordable energy for all South Africans?"

He added: "We have taken on board the learnings from our last attempt and are planning to address

