

Aqaba City

Within Aqaba Governorate, a disclosure session was conducted in Aqaba City on 16 December 2025 at the Princess Basma Center Building.

The meeting was conducted with representatives of the Fishermen Community and Diving Centres, which was attended by 4 participants aiming to present the project and the ESIA process and to provide stakeholders with an opportunity to raise questions, share concerns, and provide feedback regarding potential environmental and social impacts in Aqaba, including issues related to marine life, coastal ecosystems, fisheries activities, and the protection of the marine environment. The following provides a summary of the discussion key points.

Table 1: Record of Disclosure Session with Fishermen Community and Diving Centres - December 2025

Aqaba – Fishermen Community and Diving Centres		
Location: Princess Basma Center Building		
No. of Participants: 4		
Participants:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fishermen ▪ Diving Center Owners 		
Topic	Question	Answer
Employment Opportunities and Local Procurement	Fishermen requested that specific employment opportunities be allocated to fishermen groups, as they consider themselves among the most affected stakeholders	It was clarified that residents of Aqaba Governorate will be given priority in employment during construction. Employment opportunities will remain open and not restricted to a single group, and recruitment will be conducted through the Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority (ASEZA) and national employment program
	Will there be training programs for local communities, including fishermen?	Local Community Support Plan will be prepared which will include training programs for interested groups, including fishermen if interested and in coordination with relevant authorities and institutions
Environmental, Social, Health, Safety, and Security	Participants emphasized the importance of applying occupational health and safety measures throughout all phases of project implementation	It was confirmed that occupational health and safety measures will be implemented during construction and operation phases in accordance with national regulations and international best practices
	Participants proposed forming a joint committee comprising environmental experts, representatives of the marine reserve, and fishermen representatives to support environmental oversight	The proposal was noted and documented. Coordination with relevant authorities and environmental bodies will continue in accordance with institutional frameworks and environmental management requirements
	Fishermen requested a dedicated technical session to present and discuss the full project design in detail with fishermen and divers	The request was noted and documented for further coordination
Biodiversity and Marine Environment	Fishermen stressed concerns regarding potential increases in salinity levels due to brine discharge, elevated water temperature, and potential impacts on	Detailed marine environmental studies have been conducted as part of the ESIA, including assessment of brine dispersion, salinity levels, and thermal impacts.

ESIA Disclosures Log

	marine ecosystems, fish stocks, and coral reefs	Mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize potential adverse impacts on the marine environment or avoid them entirely
	Participants requested preparation of a clear environmental monitoring plan, including baseline studies and water sampling before construction, with continued monitoring during construction and operation	Baseline marine studies have been undertaken and an environmental monitoring program will be implemented during construction and operation to monitor marine water quality and ecological conditions in accordance with regulatory requirements
	What mitigation measures will be implemented to minimize potential impacts on the marine environment, coral reefs, and fishing areas?	Mitigation measures are defined within the ESIA and Environmental and Social Management Plans, including technical design controls and monitoring to minimize impacts on marine ecosystems and fishing activities
	What is the depth and location of the marine return (outfall) pipeline?	The marine outfall pipeline depth is approximately 100 meters, with an offshore setback distance of approximately 100 meters



Figure 1: Photo from the Disclosure Session with Fishermen Community and Diving Centres - December 2025