



Get involved

We need your support

To ensure we have a clean, healthy environment for all, we need to demonstrate a collective voice in our community. We know there are a lot of issues that Hout Bay faces but all of these are linked and clean, fresh air, and a healthy environment, is central to this. Here are some things you can do to get involved:

- Register on our website to receive accurate and regular information
- Sign an official affidavit for how the smell has affected you
- Sign our petition
- Register a complaint with the fish factory every time there is a smell
- Join our social media groups and listen to our song by talented local musicians 'Lucky Star Ain't What You Are'

All this and more can be found on our website: www.smellsfishy.co.za



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Everyone has the right to:
An environment which is not
harmful to their health or
well-being.

Section 24
South African Constitution

Your Rights

You have the right to live in a healthy environment

Article 24 of the South African Constitution states “all citizens have the right to live in an environment that is conducive to their health and well-being.” FAHB believes the rancid smell from the Oceana fish factory is in direct contradiction to this.

Clean, fresh air to breathe is not something we think would be nice, it is a **basic and fundamental right for all citizens**. We need to ensure the authorities are protecting our fundamental rights and that the residents of Hout Bay know what their rights are and are prepared to stand up for them.

Visit our FAHB website for more information:

www.smellsfishy.co.za

Fresh Air for Hout Bay



www.smellsfishy.co.za

Working together for a cleaner, fresher Hout Bay

Fresh Air for Hout Bay (FAHB) is a community organisation aimed at eliminating the rancid smell from the Oceana fishmeal processing plant in Hout Bay. FAHB believes the smell negatively impacts life in the community and does not contribute to creating a positive environment for all to thrive.

FAHB has no intention of shutting down the fish factory, but rather aims to work with residents and the City of Cape Town to create a cleaner, fresher environment for the people of Hout Bay.



What has FAHB done so far?

Since its formation in 2014, FAHB has communicated concerns and engaged with the City of Cape Town (CoCT) and Oceana to understand and resolve the situation, including:

- Participated in a stakeholder meeting with the CEO and managing directors of Oceana in August 2014.
 - Submitted a formal letter of complaint and call for investigation to the CoCT.
 - Submitted contributions to the draft Air Quality Management By-Law.
 - Launched FAHB website and various social media sites that are supported by 2000 concerned residents.
 - Tabled concerns at the June 2015 Sub-Council 16 meeting and held a meeting with the Mayoral Committee Member for Health.
 - Ongoing engagement with technical experts to conduct a fish factory tour and review emissions and air quality reports from Oceana. All technical reports requested from the CoCT.
 - Engaged extensively with media including the Cape Times, the Argus, Die Burger and Sentinel newspapers.
- More details can be found on the FAHB website. While a lot has been achieved, a lot more still needs to be done and FAHB will continue to work until the people of Hout Bay have a clean, healthy environment to live in.

Understanding the situation

There are a lot of questions about the fish factory so please visit our website for detailed information. Here are some key questions to understand the situation better.

Does FAHB want to shut down the fish factory?

No. FAHB recognises the important role of the factory in providing jobs, making social contributions and adding to the 'fishing village' atmosphere of Hout Bay. FAHB has no intention of shutting down the factory, but rather, aims to find ways the factory can operate without the rancid smell.

How many people work at the fish factory?

According to Oceana, there are 102 full-time employees and 124 seasonal, sea-faring employees. 60% of these people come from Hangberg, representing less than 1% of the estimated population.

Are there health concerns?

Yes. The smell can cause nausea, headaches, irritation to the throat and eyes and worsens existing health concerns, such as asthma. No serious illnesses have been reported but to date, no health studies have been conducted.

Why can't better technology be used to reduce the smell?

Oceana claims to use the best smell-reducing technology available and insists that no technology exists that will eliminate the smell. FAHB is trying to verify this independently but even if the best technology is being used, we don't believe the smell is acceptable.

Is Oceana operating illegally?

No. Oceana is a listed activity for fishmeal production under Category 10: Animal Matter Processing of the National Environmental Management: Air Quality Act. This means the City of Cape Town recognises them as a known pollutant and gives them a special license to operate, known as the Atmospheric Emissions License (AEL). While Oceana is compliant with the conditions of the AEL, there are no limits set for air emissions, and thus there are no legal limits for the smell they produce. According to the CEO of Oceana, the smell is acceptable. FAHB believes the smell is not acceptable and compromises the health and well-being of the people of Hout Bay.