

Technical data disclaimer and use of resource figures

Noolays Salt Producer Cooperative — Habulay Saline River Basin salt project, Dihun Woreda, Nogob Zone, Somali Regional State, Ethiopia

This note accompanies the cooperative's website and investor information. It explains where the technical figures come from, what they mean, what they do not mean, and how they should and should not be described in conversations with investors, buyers and government offices. Please read it before publishing or quoting any figure.

1. Source of the figures

All resource figures published on the website come from the cooperative's own report: **“Noolays Salt Cooperative — Geological & Saline-Brine Survey Analysis Report, Habulay River Basin, Somali Region, Ethiopia”**, prepared for the Salt Cooperative Development & Investment Initiative, using remote sensing (satellite) and stratigraphic correlation with the Korahe Basin.

Figure published	Value	Status
Brine salinity (TDS)	>250,000 mg/L	Field/lab indication — confirm by repeat sampling
Na ⁺ /Cl ⁻ ratio	0.9 - 1.1	Laboratory indication (near-marine composition)
Sulphate (SO ₄)	High	Indicates gypsum/anhydrite dissolution
pH	6.5 - 7.5	Neutral to slightly saline
Evaporation rate	approx. 7 - 9 mm/day	Climatic indicator, not a measured pond yield
Evaporation-pond areas	15 - 20 ha identified	Remote-sensing identification, not designed ponds
Surface salt crusts	approx. 2.5 km ² ; 20,000 - 25,000 t NaCl	In-situ preliminary estimate
Shallow brine zone	3 - 5 m depth; 45,000 - 60,000 m ³ brine	Preliminary estimate
Gypsum / anhydrite beds	10 - 15 m; 500,000 - 700,000 t gypsum equivalent	Preliminary estimate (not salt)
Resource life	>10 years at planned abstraction	Preliminary; depends on abstraction rate

2. What these figures are not

- They are **not** a certified or code-compliant mineral resource statement (for example under JORC, NI 43-101 or an equivalent Ethiopian standard).
- They have **not** been signed off by an independent competent person or a licensed consulting firm.
- They are **not** a reserve estimate, and they are **not** a production forecast or a financial projection of any kind.
- They do **not** establish that salt can be produced at any particular quantity, quality or cost. That is precisely what the pilot stage is intended to demonstrate.

3. Figure-by-figure cautions

- **Tonnes in the ground are not tonnes you can sell.** The 20,000-25,000 t NaCl figure describes salt estimated to be present in surface crusts. Recoverable output is smaller, and how much smaller is unknown until pilot harvesting and processing are measured.
- **Do not add the figures together.** Surface crust tonnage, dissolved brine volume and gypsum bed tonnage are three different things measured in three different ways. Adding them produces a number that is meaningless and, if challenged, damaging.
- **Gypsum is not salt.** The 500,000-700,000 t figure is gypsum equivalent from the sulphate beds. It is not edible or industrial salt, and it should always be described as gypsum.
- **Brine volume is small and must be managed.** 45,000-60,000 m³ of brine across a shallow zone is modest. Sustainable abstraction, recharge behaviour and pond management need to be established during the pilot; over-pumping a shallow aquifer is the most likely way to damage the resource.
- **Evaporation rate is a climate number.** 7-9 mm/day describes the weather, not a pond. Real pond yield depends on pond design, brine depth, wind, leakage and management.
- **“Resource life greater than 10 years” is conditional** on the abstraction rate assumed, which itself has to be verified.
- **Pond areas are identified, not built.** 15-20 ha of favourable areas still need geotechnical work, lining decisions, water control and environmental clearance.

4. How to describe the project in public

Use this language	Avoid this language
“Preliminary resource indications from our own survey work”	“Proven reserves”, “confirmed deposits”
“Indicative potential of up to approx. 20,000-25,000 t of salt in surface crusts”	“We have 25,000 tonnes of salt ready”
“We are testing before scaling”	“Production will begin in [month]”
“Subject to pilot results and independent due diligence”	“Guaranteed returns”, “risk-free investment”
“Figures to be verified by boreholes and lab testing”	“Independently certified” (until it actually is)

Investors respond well to a cooperative that says “here is what we know, here is what we are still testing”. They walk away from one that cannot tell the difference. The disciplined language above is a commercial asset, not a weakness.

5. Verification plan (from the survey report's recommendations)

- Geo-electrical resistivity surveys to define brine depth and extent.
- Three to five shallow exploratory boreholes (50 m or less) to map the brine aquifer.
- Pilot solar evaporation ponds, approximately 1 ha each, for production testing.
- GIS-based mapping of gypsum and salt-crust zones for sustainable extraction planning.
- Environmental and Community Impact Assessments for cooperative development.
- Encourage and cooperate with independent technical, legal, environmental and financial due diligence commissioned by any prospective partner.

6. Confidentiality and document release

The full survey report, laboratory data, field records, coordinates beyond the published central point, and financial estimates are released to qualified partners under a confidentiality and due-diligence arrangement. The public website deliberately carries only the summary figures listed in section 1, each marked as

preliminary.

7. Responsibility

The cooperative committee is responsible for the accuracy of anything it publishes or states to a partner. Any new figure should be confirmed against the underlying report or measurement, and the website updated only when the committee can stand behind the number. A figure that is not yet verified is not published at all; it is added once the evidence supports it.

This note is a communication aid, not legal or investment advice. Before signing any investment agreement, both parties should obtain their own legal and technical advice.