

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 106

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003  
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE AGULHAS BANK COMPLEX MARINE  
PROTECTED AREA UNDER SECTION 22A OF THE NATIONAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO.  
57 OF 2003)**

I, Bomo Edith Edna Molewa, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby publish for public comment, the intention to declare under section 22A of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area as set out in the Schedule hereto.

Any person who wishes to submit representations or comments in connection with the proposed declaration is invited to do so within 90 days from the date of publication in the *Government Gazette* and by no later than 16h00 on the last day. Comments received after this time may not be considered. All representations and comments must be submitted in writing to the Deputy Director-General of the Department of Environmental Affairs, Branch Oceans and Coasts:

**By post to:** The Deputy Director-General  
Environmental Affairs  
Oceans and Coasts  
Attention: Xola Mkefe  
P.O Box 52126  
V and A Waterfront, Cape Town  
8002

**By hand:** East Pier Building 2, East Pier Road, V&A  
Waterfront, Cape Town

**By e-mail to:** MPAREgs@environment.gov.za  
**Enquiries:** Xola Mkefe 021 819 2466



**BOMO EDITH EDNA MOLEWA  
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

## SCHEDULE

All geographic co-ordinates are determined in accordance with the *WGS 84* datum, and all bearings are true bearings as detailed in Annexure 1 hereto.

### Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area in the Western Cape is an offshore marine protected area in the 50m to 150m depth range lying approximately 39 nautical miles southeast of Cape Agulhas. The Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following seven coordinates: (A) 35° 0' S, 20° 45' E; (B) 35° 0' S, 21° 0' E; (C) 36° 5' S, 21° 0' E; (D) 36° 5' S, 20° 45' E; (E) 36° 5' S, 20° 30' E; (F) 35° 20' S, 20° 30' E; and (G) 35° 20' S, 20° 45' E, as detailed in Annexure 1. The area includes the sea bed, water column and subsoil within these boundaries.

### Purpose

The purpose for declaring this marine protected area is:

- (a) To contribute to a national and global representative system of marine protected areas by providing protection to the offshore benthic and pelagic shelf ecosystems of the Agulhas Bank;
- (b) to conserve and protect rocky, gravel, sandy and pelagic habitats of the Agulhas Bank, which includes the Alphonse Banks, parts of the 45 Mile Bank and parts of the 72 Mile Bank;
- (c) to conserve and protect threatened ecosystems and fish species;
- (d) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with the ecosystems in this area, which includes the nursery function of the Agulhas Bank;
- (e) to support the recovery of linefish by protecting important nursery, spawning, foraging, aggregation and refuge areas for overexploited linefish;
- (f) to facilitate species management and sustainable use of linefish and south coast rock lobster to enhance species abundance in adjacent areas; and
- (g) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on ecosystem impacts and recovery, habitat requirements of south coast rock lobster and recovery of linefish.

## Annexure 1:

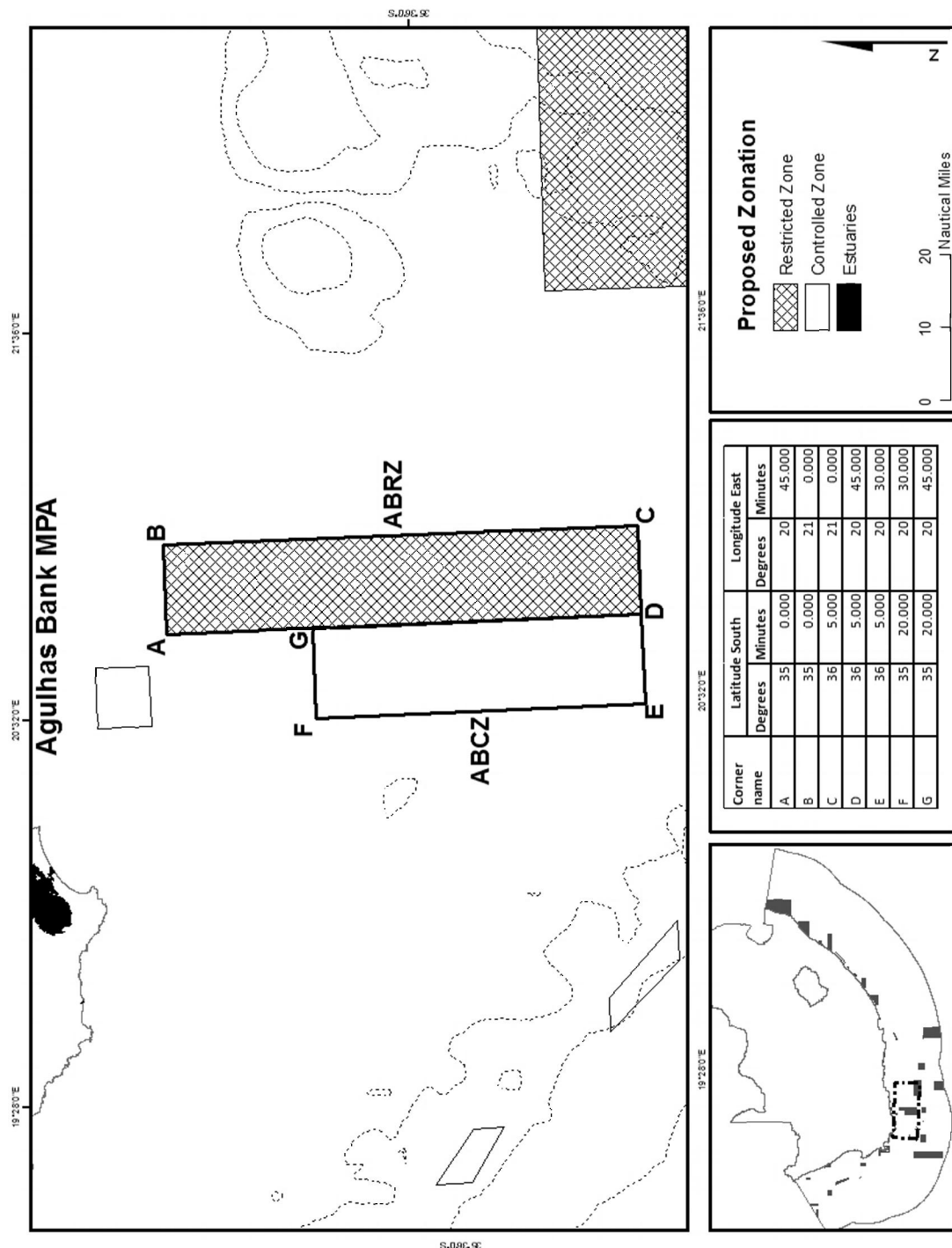


Figure1. The proposed boundaries for the Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area

**Table1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points A-G in Fig 1.**

<b>Corner name</b>	<b>X (East) Decimal Degrees</b>	<b>Y (South) Decimal Degrees</b>	<b>X (East) Degree s</b>	<b>X (East) Minutes</b>	<b>Y (South) Degree s</b>	<b>Y (South) Minutes</b>
A	20.7500	-35.0000	20	45.000	35	0.000
B	21.0000	-35.0000	21	0.000	35	0.000
C	21.0000	-36.0833	21	0.000	36	5.000
D	20.7500	-36.0833	20	45.000	36	5.000
E	20.5000	-36.0833	20	30.000	36	5.000
F	20.5000	-35.3333	20	30.000	35	20.000
G	20.7500	-35.3333	20	45.000	35	20.000