

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 108

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE UTHUKELA BANKS 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 uThukela Banks 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 set out in Annexure 1 hereto.

Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The uThukela Banks Marine Protected Area in KwaZulu-Natal is a coastal and offshore Marine Protected Area lying between the Mlalazi and Seteni estuary, with the outer boundary being a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following five coordinates: (A) 28° 56' S, 31° 51' E; (B) 28° 56' S, 32° 15' E; (C) 29° 37' S, 32° 15' S E; (D) 29° 37' S, 31° 18' E; and (E) 29° 25' S, 31° 18' E and linking the first to the last using the high water mark. 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 coastal and offshore benthic and pelagic ecosystems of the Kwazulu-Natal Bight;
- (b) to conserve and protect coastal habitats including sandy beaches, rocky shores and estuaries as well as offshore habitats including the soft sediment and reef systems, submarine canyons, the shelf edge and slope ecosystems;
- (c) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems. This includes the connectivity, spawning area and nursery function of this area and the role of fresh water riverine input in these processes;
- (d) to conserve and protect threatened ecosystems and species;
- (e) to protect and regulate a scenic area which contributes to eco-tourism;
- (f) to facilitate species management by supporting fisheries recovery and enhanced species abundance in adjacent areas for linefish and sharks;
- (g) to facilitate marine and coastal species management by protecting spawning and other aggregations of marine fish species; and
- (h) to contribute to sustainable marine and coastal ecotourism through the zonation for activities which yield socio-economic benefits on the local and national scales.

Annexure 1:

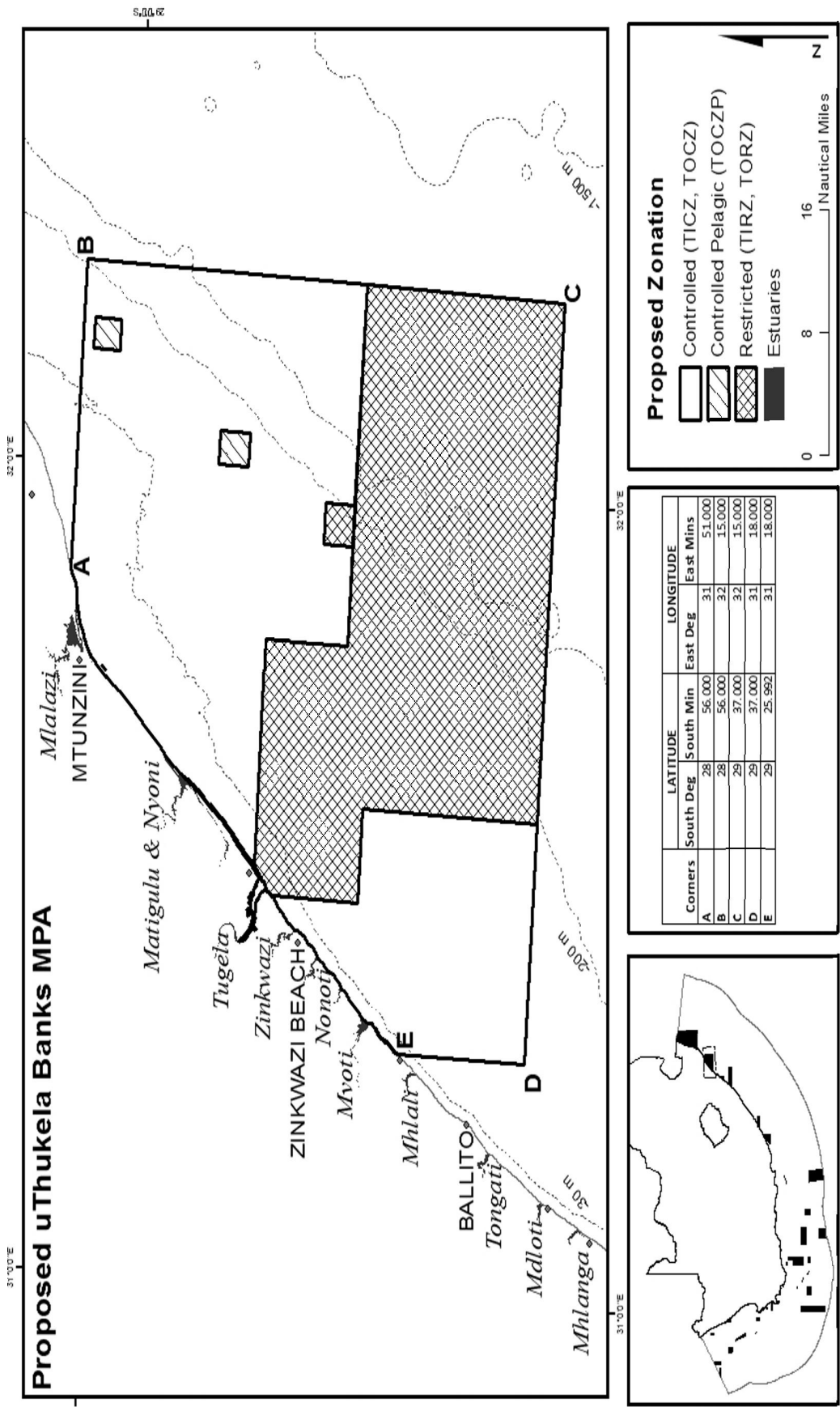


Figure 1: The proposed boundaries for the uThukela Banks Proposed MPA

Table 1: The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points A-E in Fig 1.

Corner name	X (East) Decimal Degrees	Y (South) Decimal Degrees	X (East) Degrees	X (East) Minutes	Y (South) Degrees	Y (South) Minutes
A	31.866	-28.933	31	51.985	28	56.000
B	32.250	-28.933	32	15.000	28	56.000
C	32.250	-29.616	32	15.000	29	37.000
D	31.300	-29.616	31	18.000	29	37.000
E	31.300	-29.433	31	18.000	29	25.992