

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 109

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003  
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****NOTICE DECLARING THE AMATHOLE OFFSHORE 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 Amathole Offshore 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 Amathole Offshore Marine Protected Area in the Eastern Cape comprises two areas lying offshore between Kei Mouth and Port Alfred. The Offshore Kei area comprises of straight lines sequentially joining the following six coordinates: (A) 32° 42.840' S, 28° 25.260' E; (B) 32° 43' S, 28° 46'E; (C) 33° 0' S, 28° 46' E; (D) 33° 0' S, 28° 11'E; (E) 32° 50.717' S, 28° 11.154'E; and (F) 32° 49.464' S, 28° 12.9'E with the first and last point joining the existing inshore Kei area of the existing Amathole Marine Protected Area. The offshore Gxulu area comprises of straight lines sequentially joining the following five coordinates: (A) 33° 9.513' S, 27° 45.913' E; (B) 33° 45' S, 27° 46' E; (C) 33° 45' S, 27° 11' E; (D) 33° 35' S, 27° 11'E; and (E) 33° 14.018' S, 27° 40.422' E with the first and last point joining the existing inshore Gxulu area of the existing Amathole Marine Protected Area. 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 outer shelf and slope ecosystems of the region;
- (b) to conserve and protect canyon, deep reef, cold water coral, sandy and pelagic habitats of this area;
- (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;
- (e) to support the recovery of linefish by protecting spawning, nursery, foraging, aggregation and refuge areas for overexploited species;
- (f) to facilitate species management and sustainable use of linefish and south coast rock lobster and enhance species abundance in adjacent areas; and
- (g) to protect and provide an appropriate reference environment for research and monitoring particularly with regard to habitat recovery, fisheries recovery of linefish and habitat requirements of south coast rock lobster.

## Annexure 1:

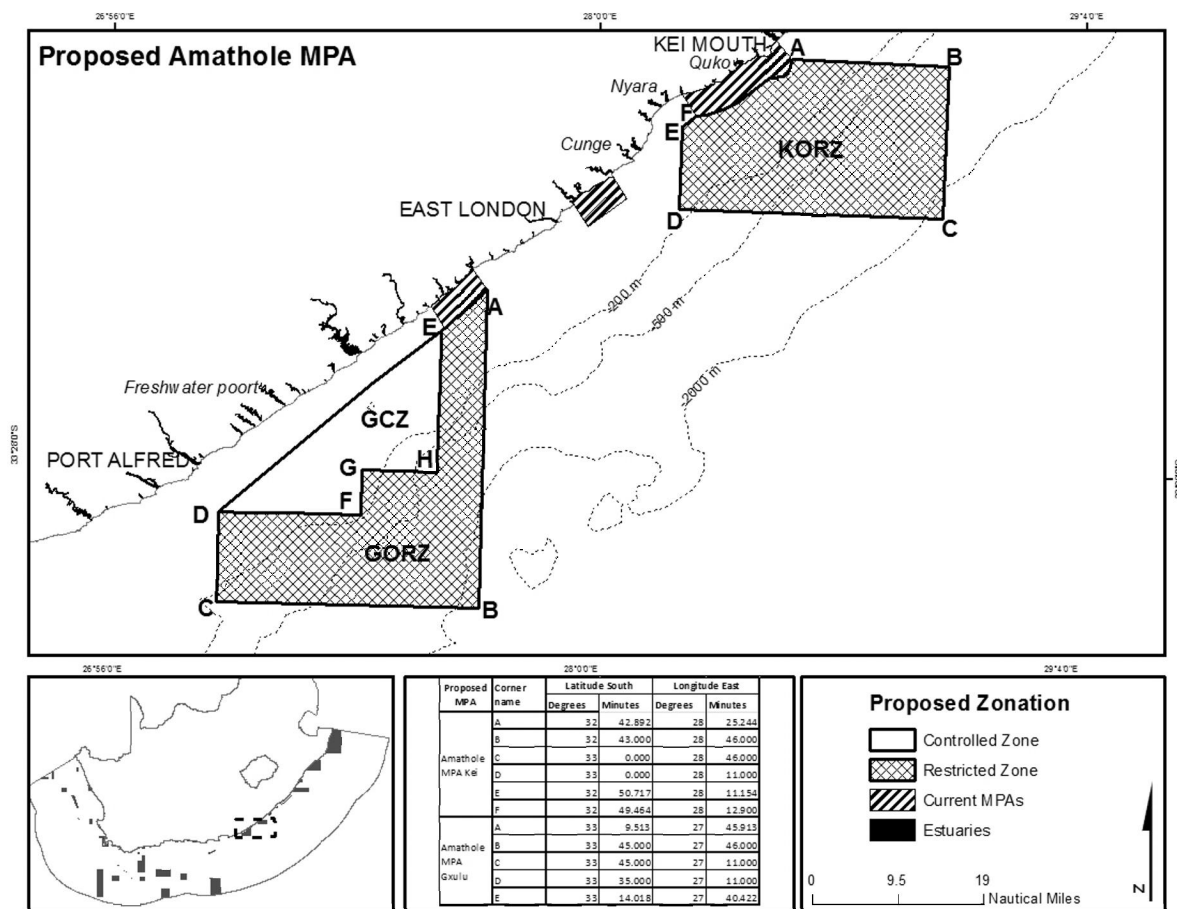


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Amathole Offshore Marine Protected Area.

**Table 1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of the Kei Offshore Area points A-F and the Gxulu Offshore Area points A-E.**

Proposed MPA	Corner name	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude South		Longitude East	
		Decimal Degrees	Decimal Degrees	Degrees	Minutes	Degrees	Minutes
Amathole offshore Kei area	A	-32.715	28.421	32	42.892	28	25.244
	B	-32.717	28.767	32	43.000	28	46.000
	C	-33.000	28.767	33	0.000	28	46.000
	D	-33.000	28.183	33	0.000	28	11.000
	E	-32.845	28.186	32	50.717	28	11.154
	F	-32.824	28.215	32	49.464	28	12.900
Amathole offshore Gxulu area	A	-33.159	27.765	33	9.513	27	45.913
	B	-33.750	27.767	33	45.000	27	46.000
	C	-33.750	27.183	33	45.000	27	11.000
	D	-33.583	27.183	33	35.000	27	11.000
	E	-33.234	27.674	33	14.018	27	40.422