

## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 112

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003  
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE AGULHAS MUDS 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 Muds 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 Muds Marine Protected Area in the Western Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area in the 80 to 100 m depth range lying approximately 22 nautical miles east of Cape Agulhas. The Agulhas Muds Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates (A) 34° 50' S, 20° 30' E; (B) 34° 50' S, 20° 40' E; (C) 34° 57' S, 20° 40' E; (D) 34° 57' S, 20° 30' E. 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 offshore benthic ecosystems on the shelf in this region;
- (b) to protect a threatened mud ecosystem;
- (c) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with this ecosystem; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate reference environment for research and monitoring particularly research on habitat impacts and recovery.

Annexure 1:

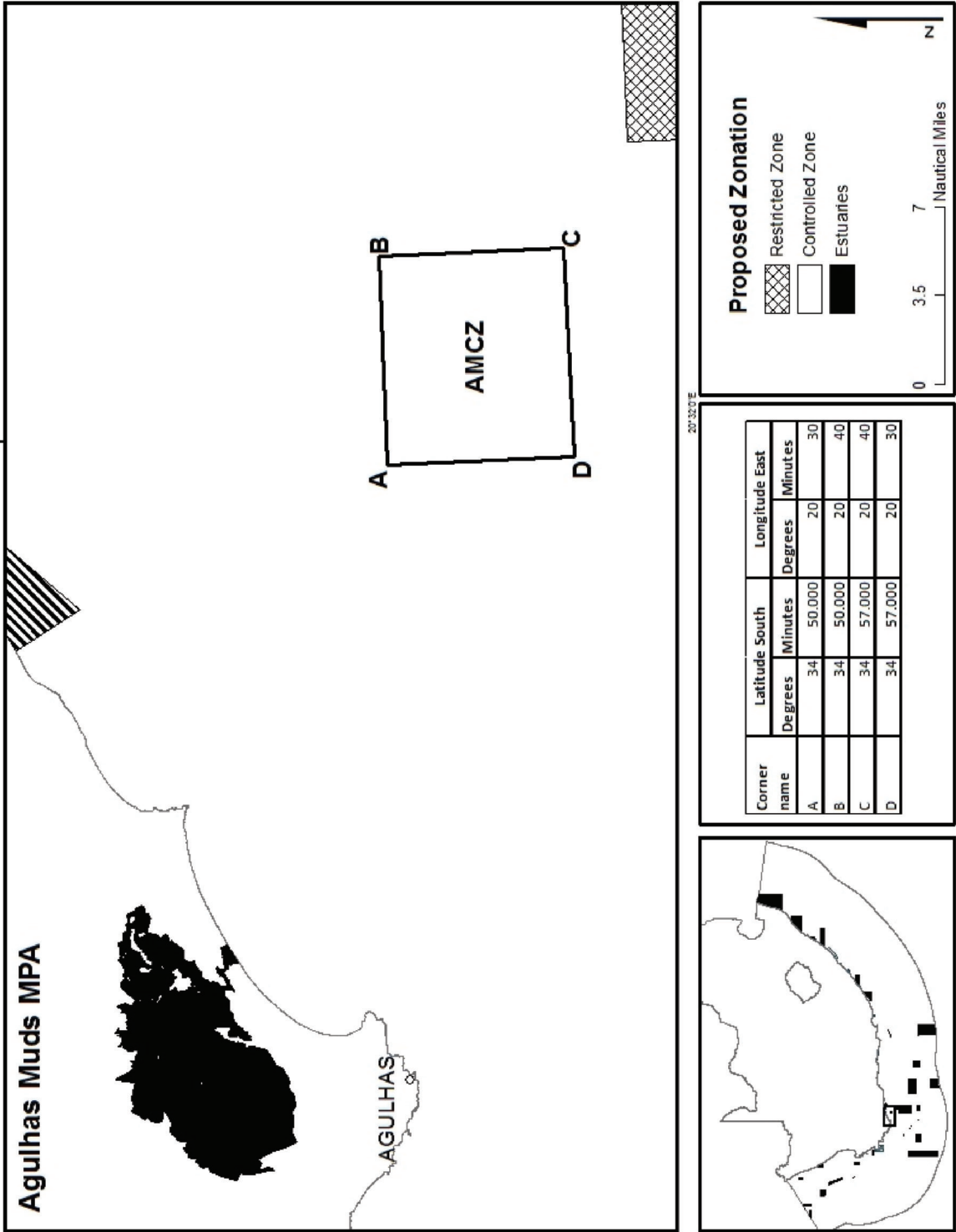


Figure1. The proposed boundaries for the Agulhas Muds Marine Protected Area

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

<b>Corner name</b>	<b>X (East) Decimal Degrees</b>	<b>Y (South) Decimal Degrees</b>	<b>X (East) Degrees</b>	<b>X (East) Minutes</b>	<b>Y (South) Degrees</b>	<b>Y (South) Minutes</b>
A	20.5000	-34.8333	20	30.000	34	50.000
B	20.6667	-34.8333	20	40.000	34	50.000
C	20.6667	-34.9500	20	40.000	34	57.000
D	20.5000	-34.9500	20	30.000	34	57.000