

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 115

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE BROWNS BANK CORALS 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 Browns Bank Corals 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 Browns Bank Corals Marine Protected Area in the Western Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area in the 250m to 400m depth range lying approximately 70 nautical miles south of Cape Agulhas. The Browns Bank Corals Marine Protected Area is comprised of three separate areas, indicated as BBC1, BBC2 and BBC3 detailed in Annexure 1 as follows:

- (a) BBC1 is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 35° 33' S, 19° 11'E; (B) 35° 38.460' S, 19° 20' E; (C) 35° 42.780' S, 19° 20' E; and (D) 35° 38' S, 19° 11'E;
- (b) BBC2 is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 35° 58' S, 19° 35' E; (B) 35° 58' S, 19° 41' E; (C) 36° 8' S, 19° 53' E; and (D) 36°8' S, 19° 46.50'E; and
- (c) BBC 3 is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following five coordinates (A) 36° 22' S, 20° 0' E; (B) 36° 22' S, 20° 2' E; (C) 36° 32' S, 20° 13' E; (D) 36° 32' S, 20° 10' E; and (E) 36° 24' S, 20° 0' E.

The areas include 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 benthic ecosystems of the shelf edge;
- (b) to conserve and protect cold water corals and associated ecosystems;
- (c) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate reference environment for research and monitoring particularly research on ecosystem description and assessment and fisheries impacts and recovery.

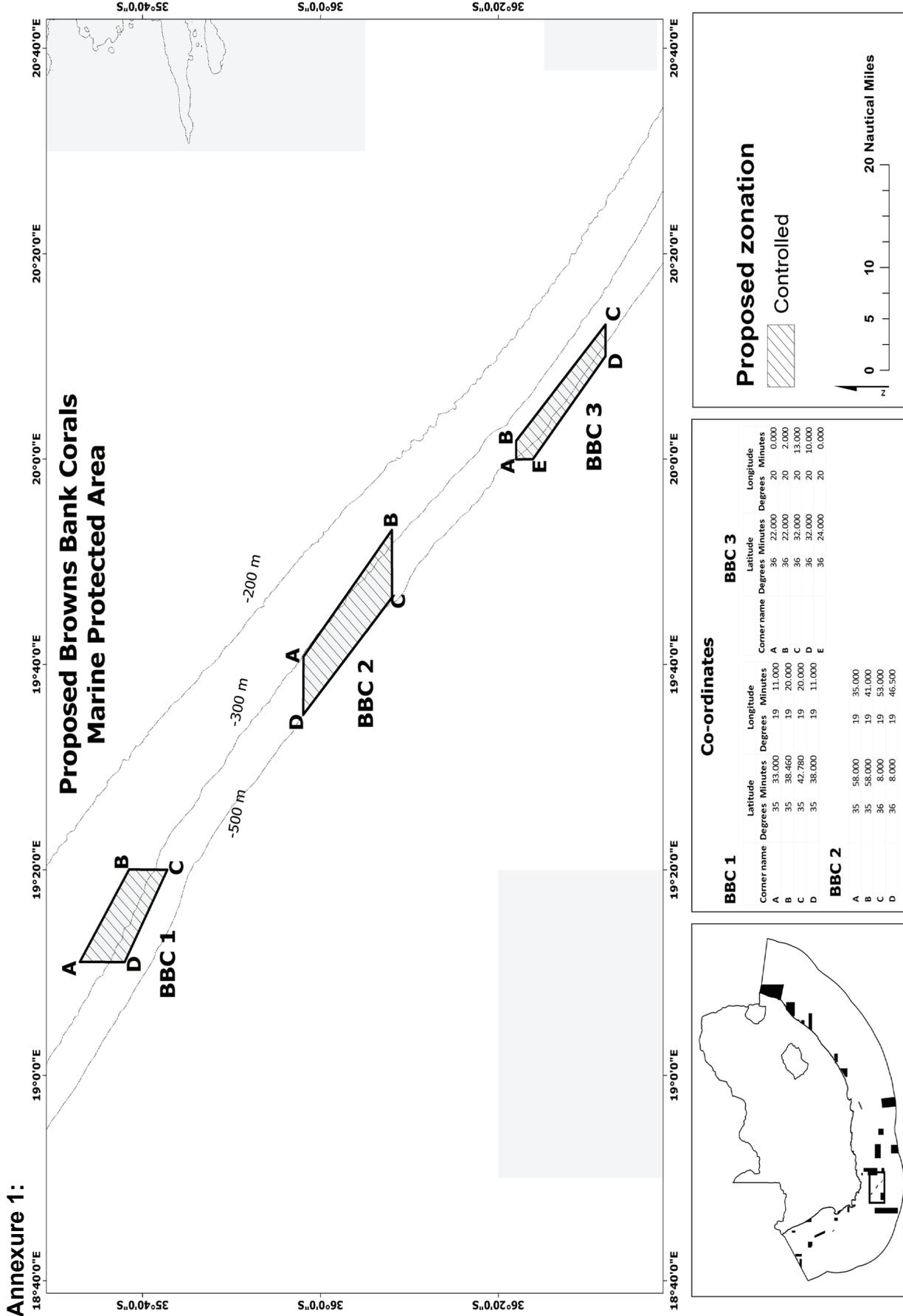


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Browns Bank Corals Marine Protected Area.

Table 1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points BBC 1 A-D, BBC 2 A-D and BBC 3 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
Browns Bank Corals 1 (BBC 1)	A	19.1833	-35.5500	19	11.000	35	33.000
	B	19.3333	-35.6410	19	20.000	35	38.460
	C	19.3333	-35.7130	19	20.000	35	42.780
	D	19.1833	-35.6333	19	11.000	35	38.000
Browns Bank Corals 2 (BBC 2)	A	19.5833	-35.9667	19	35.000	35	58.000
	B	19.6833	-35.9667	19	41.000	35	58.000
	C	19.8833	-36.1333	19	53.000	36	8.000
	D	19.7750	-36.1333	19	46.500	36	8.000
Browns Bank Corals 3 (BBC 3)	A	20.0000	-36.3667	20	0.000	36	22.000
	B	20.0333	-36.3667	20	2.000	36	22.000
	C	20.2167	-36.5333	20	13.000	36	32.000
	D	20.1667	-36.5333	20	10.000	36	32.000
	E	20.0000	-36.4000	20	0.000	36	24.000