

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 126

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE NAMAQUA FOSSIL FOREST 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 Namaqua Fossil Forest 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 Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area in the Northern Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area in the 120 m to 150 m depth range lying approximately 15 nautical miles offshore of the coastal area between Port Nolloth and Kleinsee. The Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 29° 23' S, 16° 36.6'E; (B) 29° 23' S, 16° 45' E; (C) 29° 40' S, 16° 45' E; and (D) 29° 40' S, 16° 36.6'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 the benthic ecosystems of the inner shelf in this region;
- (b) to conserve and protect an in-situ fossilised forest and its associated cold water corals; and
- (c) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these features.

Annexure 1:

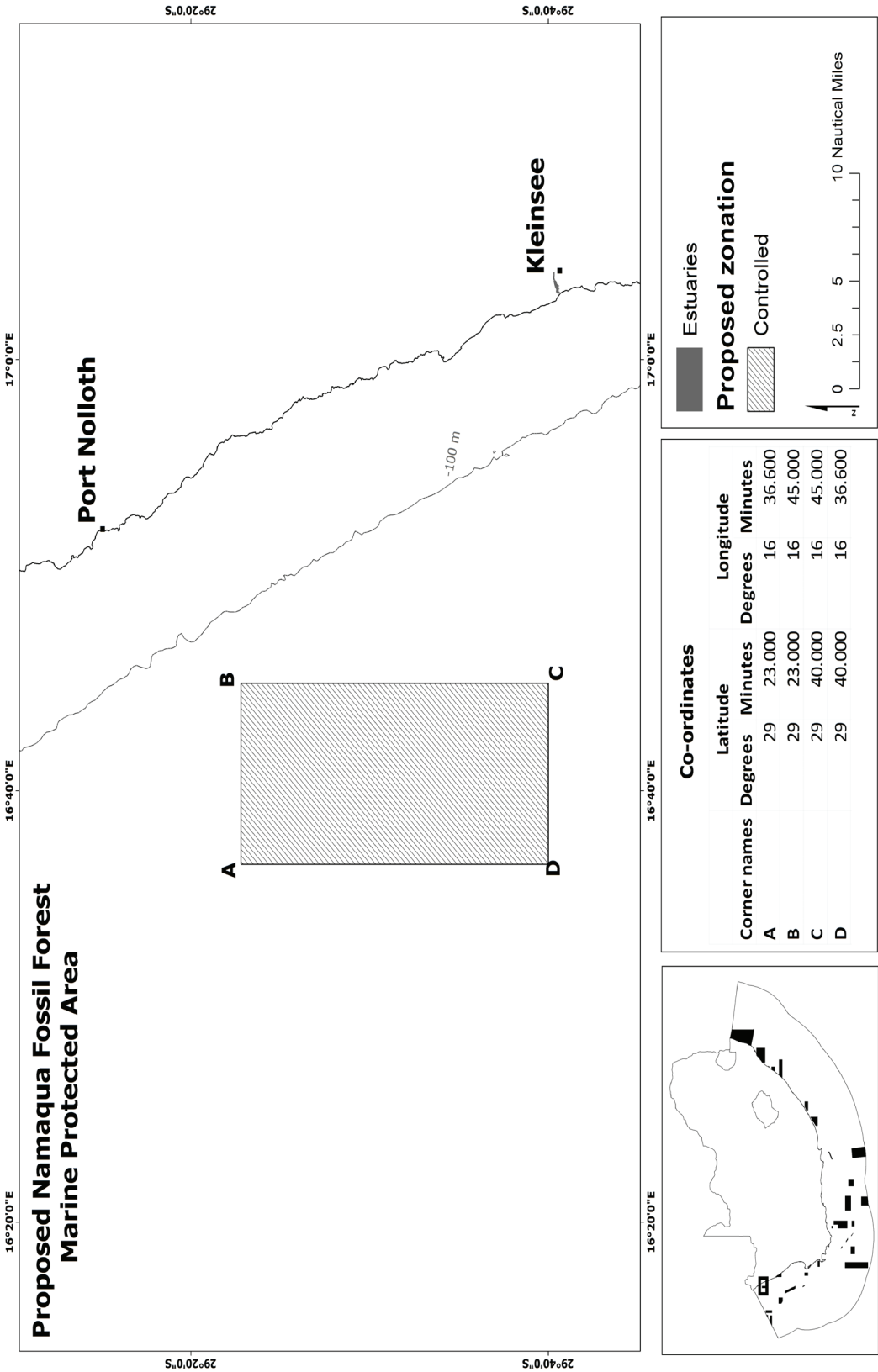


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Namaqua Fossil Forest Marine Protected Area

Table 1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points A-D 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	16.6100	-29.3833	16	36.600	29	23.000
B	16.7500	-29.3833	16	45.000	29	23.000
C	16.7500	-29.6667	16	45.000	29	40.000
D	16.6100	-29.6667	16	36.600	29	40.000