

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 135

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE CAPE CANYON 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 Cape Canyon 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 Cape Canyon Marine Protected Area in the Western Cape is an offshore marine protected area within the 200m to 400m depth range lying approximately 12 nautical miles southwest of Saldanha. The Cape Canyon Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 32° 42.480' S, 17° 25' E; (B) 32° 42.480' S, 17° 38' E; (C) 33° 0' S, 17° 38' E; (D); and 33° 0' S, 17° 25' 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 offshore benthic and pelagic ecosystems of this region;
- (b) to conserve and protect a submarine canyon ecosystem and other deep rocky habitats in the Benguela region;
- (c) to conserve and protect threatened ecosystems;
- (d) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems;
- (e) to facilitate species management by protecting a feeding area for marine mammals and seabirds;
- (f) to protect and regulate a scenic area which contributes to eco-tourism; and
- (g) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on ecosystem impacts and recovery, ecological function and marine mammals.

Annexure 1:

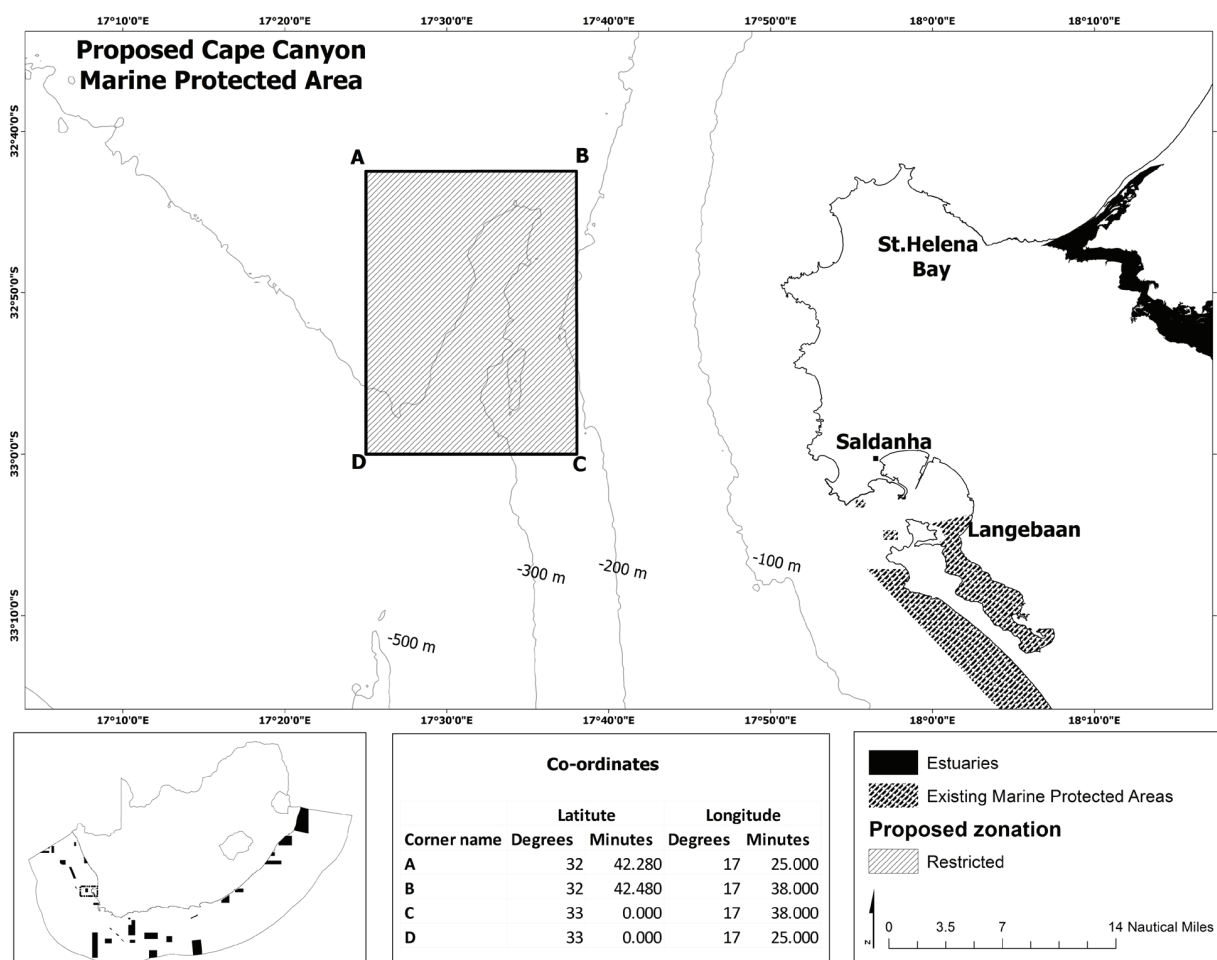


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Cape Canyon Marine Protected Area.

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	17.4167	-32.7080	17	25.000	32	42.480
B	17.6333	-32.7080	17	38.000	32	42.480
C	17.6333	-33.0000	17	38.000	33	0.000
D	17.4167	-33.0000	17	25.000	33	0.000