

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 93

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE BENGUELA BANK 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 Benguela Bank 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 Benguela Bank Marine Protected Area on the West Coast is an offshore Marine Protected Area lying in the 250m to 400m depth range approximately 80 nautical miles west of Papendorp. The Benguela Bank Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 31° 10' S, 16° 15' E; (B) 31° 10' S, 16° 25' E; (C) 32° 0' S, 16° 45' E; and (D) 32° 0' S, 16° 35' 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 benthic ecosystems on the outer shelf and shelf edge in this region;
- (b) to protect remnants of threatened seabed ecosystems particularly untrawled rocky habitat;
- (c) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring.

Annexure 1:

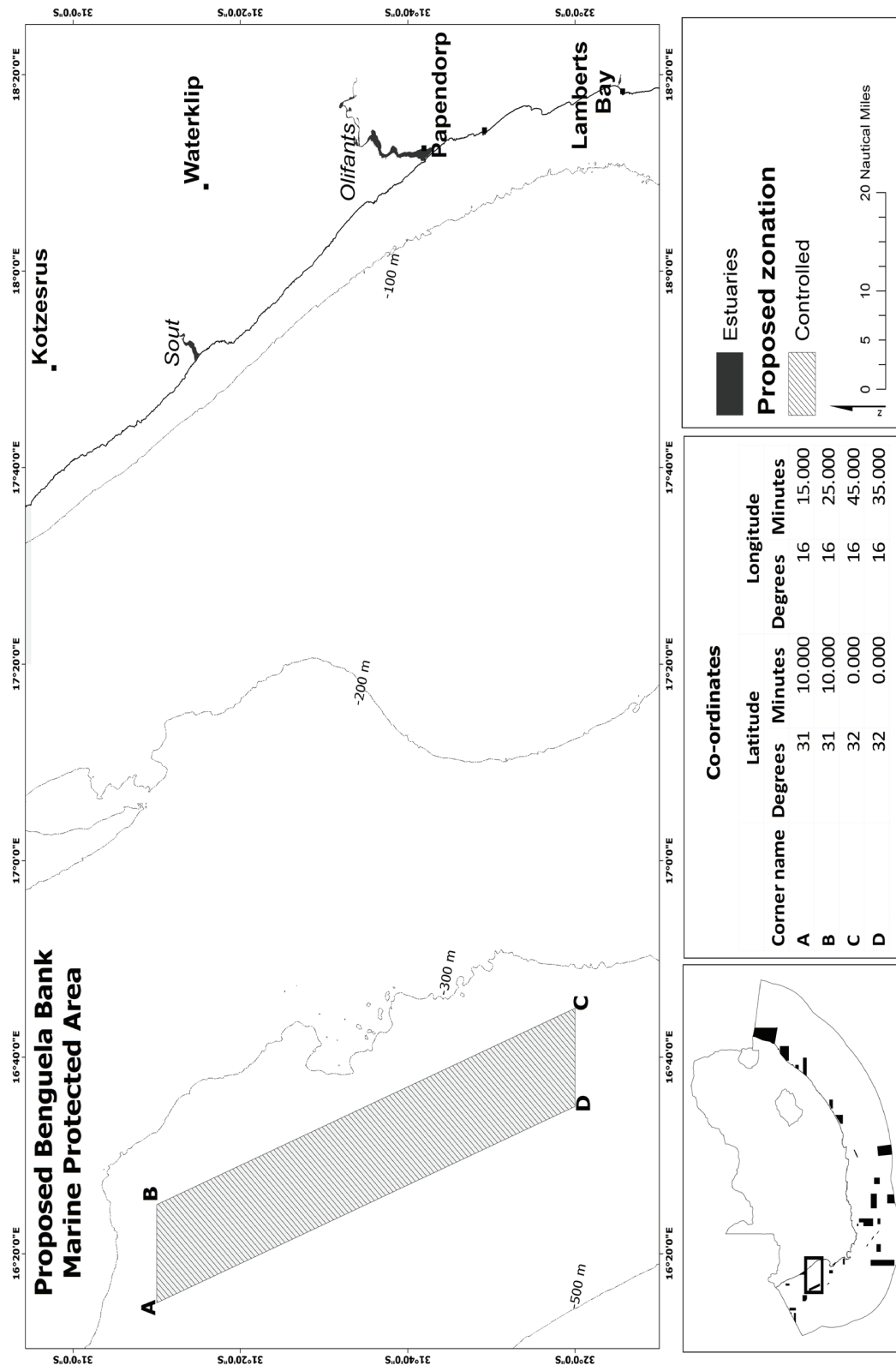


Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Benguela Bank Marine Protected Area

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	16.2500	-31.1667	16	15.000	31	10.000
B	16.4167	-31.1667	16	25.000	31	10.000
C	16.7500	-32.0000	16	45.000	32	0.000
D	16.5833	-32.0000	16	35.000	32	0.000