

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 95

03 FEBRUARY 2016

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****DRAFT NOTICE DECLARING THE AGULHAS FRONT 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 Front 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.

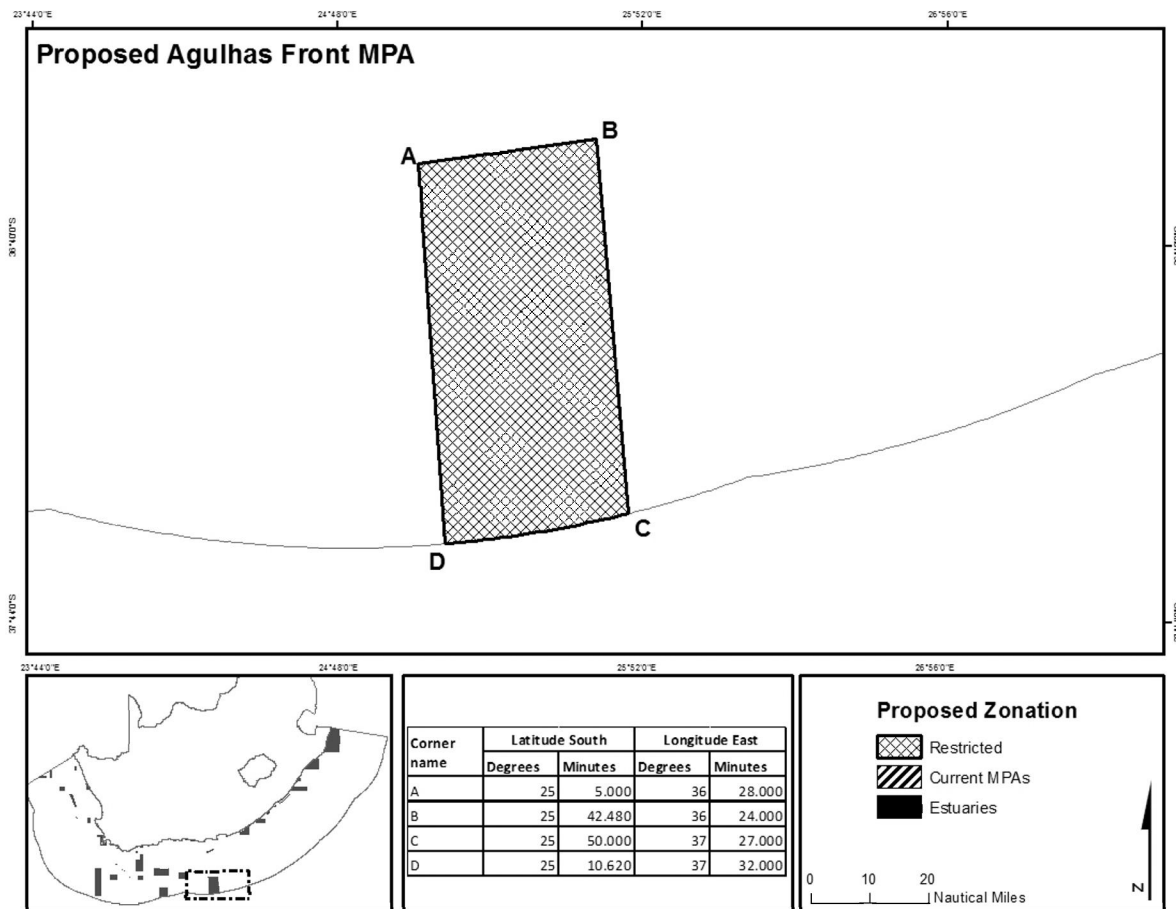
Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area in the Eastern Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area beyond the 1800m depth contour lying approximately 143 nautical miles south of Jeffreys Bay. The Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following four coordinates: (A) 36° 28' S, 25° 5' E; (B) 36° 24' S, 25° 42.480' E; (C) 37° 27' S, 25° 50' E; and (D) 37° 32' S, 25° 10.620' 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 and pelagic ecosystems of the lower slope and abyss of this region;
- (b) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems;
- (c) to facilitate species management by protecting an area of life history importance to large pelagic fish; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on habitat description, habitat resilience and climate change.

Annexure 1:**Fig. 1. The proposed boundaries for the Agulhas Front 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	25.0833	-36.4667	25	5.000	36	28.000
B	25.7080	-36.4000	25	42.480	36	24.000
C	25.8333	-37.4500	25	50.000	37	27.000
D	25.1770	-37.5333	25	10.620	37	32.000