

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 758

23 MAY 2019

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)****NOTICE DECLARING THE AGULHAS BANK COMPLEX MARINE PROTECTED
AREA IN TERMS OF SECTION 22A OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)**

I, Nomvula Paula Mokonyane, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby declare, in terms of section 22A of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), the Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**NOMVULA PAULA MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

SCHEDULE

All geographic co-ordinates are determined in accordance with the WGS 84 datum.

Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

The Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area in the Western Cape is an offshore marine protected area in the 50m to 150m depth range lying approximately 30 nautical miles south of Cape Infanta. The Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates A, B, C, D, E and F, as detailed in Annexure 1. The area includes the substrata, sea bed, subsoil and water column within these boundaries.

Purpose

The purpose for declaring this marine protected area is:

- (a) To contribute to a national, regional and global representative system of marine protected areas by conserving and protecting offshore benthic and pelagic shelf ecosystems of the Agulhas Bank, including rocky, gravel, sandy and pelagic habitats; the Alphonse Banks, parts of the 45 Mile Bank and parts of the 72 Mile Bank, and including threatened ecosystem types;
- (b) to conserve and protect ecological processes and ecologically sensitive biodiversity associated with these ecosystems thereby facilitating seabed management and supporting eco-certification and its associated economic benefits;
- (c) to support the recovery of linefish by protecting important nursery, spawning, foraging, aggregation and refuge areas for overexploited linefish including the red steenbras, geelbek, silver kob and seventy four;
- (d) to facilitate species management and sustainable use of linefish and south coast rock lobster by supporting fisheries recovery and enhanced species abundance in fished areas;
- (e) to support sustainable nature-based tourism opportunities in the area through the protection of marine wildlife; and
- (f) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on ecosystem impacts and recovery, habitat requirements of south coast rock lobster and recovery of linefish, and also to promote and contribute to environmental education.

Commencement

This notice takes effect on 1 August 2019.

Annexure

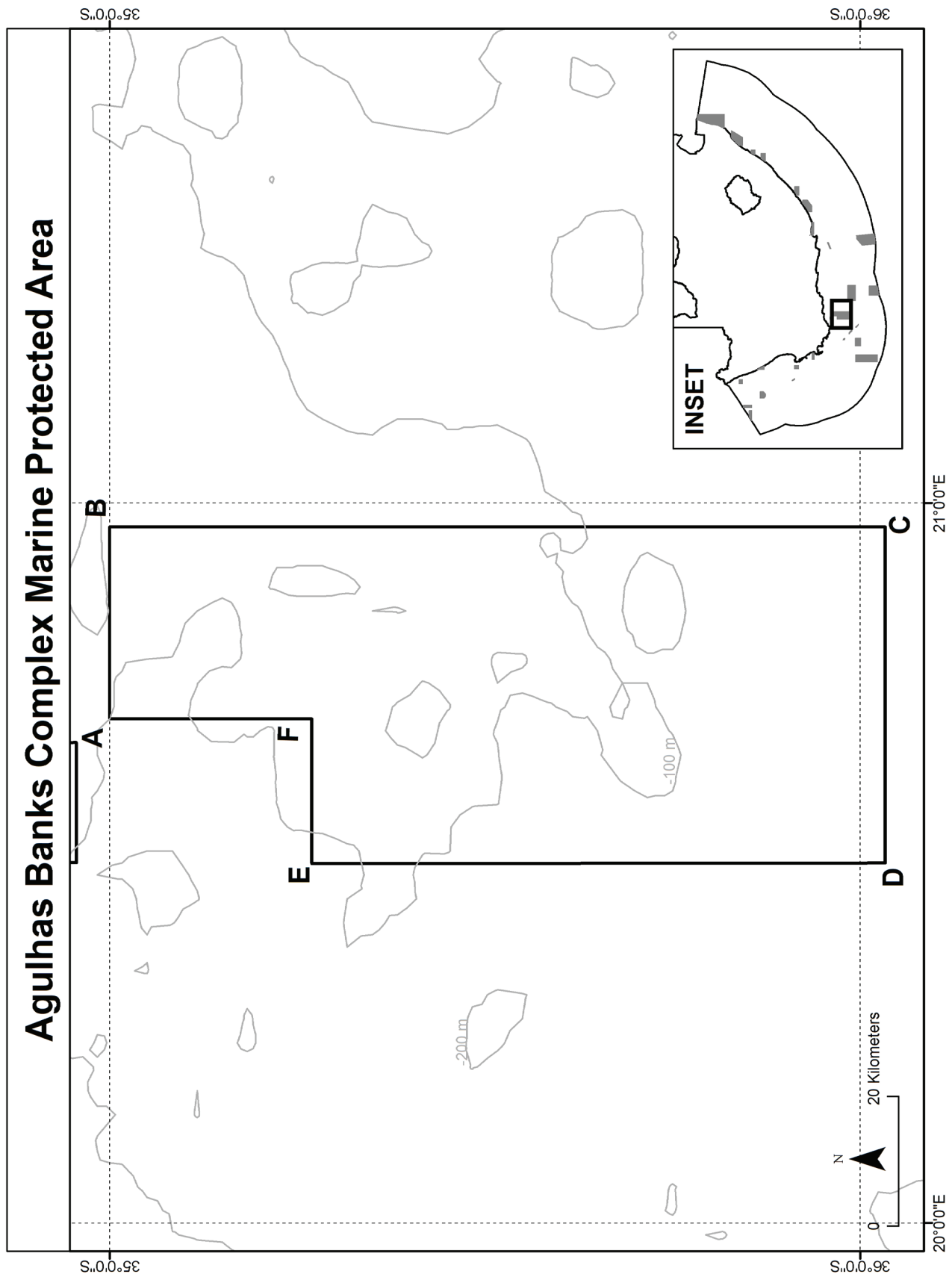


Figure1. The boundaries for the Agulhas Bank Complex Marine Protected Area

Table1. The exact geographic coordinates (WGS 84) of points in Fig 1.

	Point	X	Y
Agulhas Bank Complex	A	20.7	-35
Agulhas Bank Complex	B	20.966667	-35.00003
Agulhas Bank Complex	C	20.966667	-36.033409
Agulhas Bank Complex	D	20.5	-36.033333
Agulhas Bank Complex	E	20.498833	-35.269333
Agulhas Bank Complex	F	20.7	-35.269296