

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NO. 2456

2 September 2022

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: BIODIVERSITY ACT, 2004 (ACT NO. 10 OF 2004)
MARINE THREATENED OR PROTECTED SPECIES REGULATIONS (GN R. 477 OF 30 MAY 2017)****PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING AND COMMENTS INVITED ON THE PROPOSED EXTENSION OF FALSE
BAY WHITE SHARK CAGE DIVING OPERATING AREA – INSHORE AREA NEAR STRANDFONTEIN
BEACH, WESTERN CAPE**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby invite the public to the various public meetings indicated below, and to provide comments on the proposal to temporarily extend the False Bay White Shark Cage Diving (**WSCD**) operating area from its current area around Seal Island to the inshore area adjacent to Strandfontein Beach.

The reason for the proposed extended area is to provide support to the White Shark Cage Diving business sector in False Bay which has seen a significant decline in their business operations resulting from the current disappearance of Great White Shark sightings at Seal Island and the increased presence of other shark species (such as the Bronze Whaler) in inshore areas near Strandfontein Beach. The decrease in WSCD business operations has also negatively affected the tourism sector in Cape Town as tourism businesses which are inherently linked to WSCD tourism activities have also been greatly impacted upon, such as B&Bs, hotels, restaurants and tourism businesses. The proposal is therefore to temporarily mitigate the negative impacts to the tourism sector in Cape Town, by extending the WSCD area of operation closer to the inshore area where other shark species are found, thus allowing the WSCD operators to continue operating by diving with other shark species.

The proposal is to allow WSCD operators to attract sharks in the new extended area using chum and other methods in order to attract other shark species still present in the bay, such as Bronze Whaler Sharks. If Great White Sharks return to the bay in numbers previously recorded during the 2010/2011 seasons, the new area will be closed and the WSCD operators would be required to return to their normal area of operation around Seal Island.

A map and coordinates depicting the current area of operation and new proposed temporary extension is included in the Schedule to this notice as well as on the department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices.

Members of the public are invited to submit written representations regarding the proposed extension of the White Shark Cage Diving Area within 30 calendar days from the date of publication of this notice in the *Gazette* to any of the following addresses:

By post to: The Deputy Director-General: Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment
Attention: Mr Gcobani Popose
Private Bag X4390
Cape Town
8002

By hand at: East Pier Shed (Building 1); East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront

By email: WSCD@environment.gov.za


For telephone queries, contact Ms Malatji at Tel.: 012 399 8816, or Cell no. 060 834 2477.

The department will also be hosting public meetings at various locations near the area. The public meetings will be held as follows:

DATE	TIME	VENUE
Tuesday, 06 September 2022 Tuesday, 20 September 2022	14H00- 16H00	Strandfontein Community Hall, Strandfontein
Thursday, 08 September 2022 Thursday, 22 September 2022	14H00- 16H00	Pelican Park Hall, Pelican Park
Friday, 16 September 2022 Friday, 30 September 2022	14H00- 16H00	Strandfontein Pavilion

Electronic copies of this notice and its Schedule can be downloaded from the department's website at https://www.environment.gov.za/legislation/gazetted_notices.

All representations must be submitted in writing. Representations received after the closing date may not be considered.



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE**Current designated White Shark Cage Diving Area**

Marker on map	Degree Decimal (DD)		Degrees, minutes, and seconds (DMS)	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
A	-34,111899999999935	18,566386111000043	34° 06'42.84"S	18°33'58.99"E
B	-34,111494443999959	18,600311111000053	34° 06'41.38"S	18°36'1.12"E
C	-34,150088888999960	18,600066667000078	34°09'0.32"S	18°36'0.24"E
D	-34,150088888999960	18,550202778000028	34° 09'0.32"S	18°33'0.73"E

Proposed extension of White Shark Cage Diving Area

Marker on map	Degree Decimal (DD)		Degrees, minutes, and seconds (DMS)	
	Latitude	Longitude	Latitude	Longitude
E	-34,104315	18,52905	34° 06'02.8188"S	18°35'19.7808"E
F	-34,101983	18,561145	34° 06'07.1388"S	18°33'40.1220"E
G	-34,100783	18,588828	34° 06'15.5340"S	18°31'44.5800"E

