

MARINE PROTECTED AREA

Gazetted Name: Agulhas Front MPA

Action as Gazetted	Gazette no.	Notice no. & date	Page no.
Draft notice declaring the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area	no: 39646	Notice No. R. 95 date: 3 February 2016	16-18
Notice to declare the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area	no: 42478	Notice 761 date: 23 May 2019	20-23
Correction notice amending the notice declaring the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area.	no: 43528	Notice 781 and 782 date: 17 July 2020	586-289
Regulations for the management of the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area	no: 42479	Notice No. R. 779 date: 23 May 2019	41-51
Correction notice amending the regulations for the management of the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area	no: 43534	Notice No. R. 779 date: 17 July 2020	3-4



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.

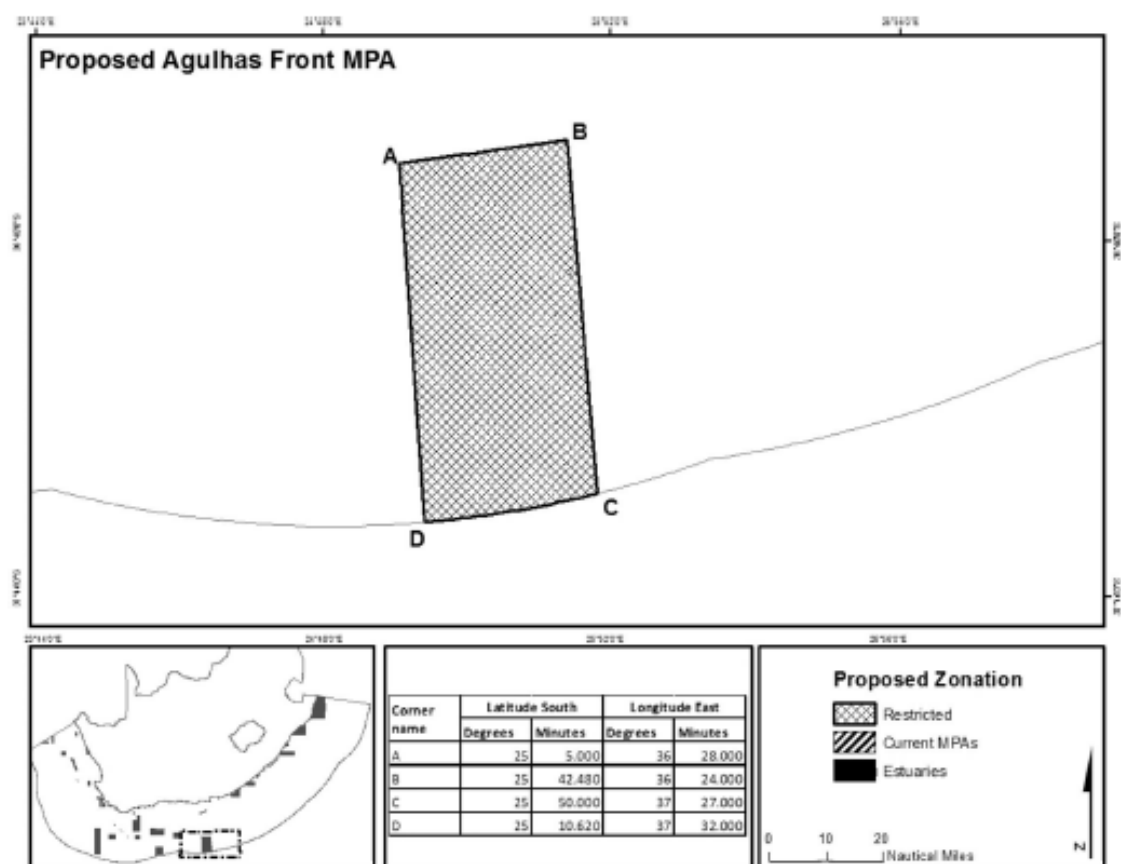
Boundaries of the Marine Protected Area

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



Government Gazette Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUIDAFRIKA

Vol. 647

23 May
Mei 2019

No. 42478

20 No. 42478

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 23 MAY 2019

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. 761

23 MAY 2019

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)

NOTICE DECLARING THE AGULHAS FRONT 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 Front 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 Front Marine Protected Area in the Eastern Cape is an offshore Marine Protected Area on the Agulhas Plateau lying approximately 130 nautical miles south of Cape St Francis. The Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area is bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates: A, B, C, D, and D to E, which runs along South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone boundary. The area includes the substrata, sea bed, subsoil and water column within these boundaries.

Purpose

The purpose for declaring this Marine Protected Area is:

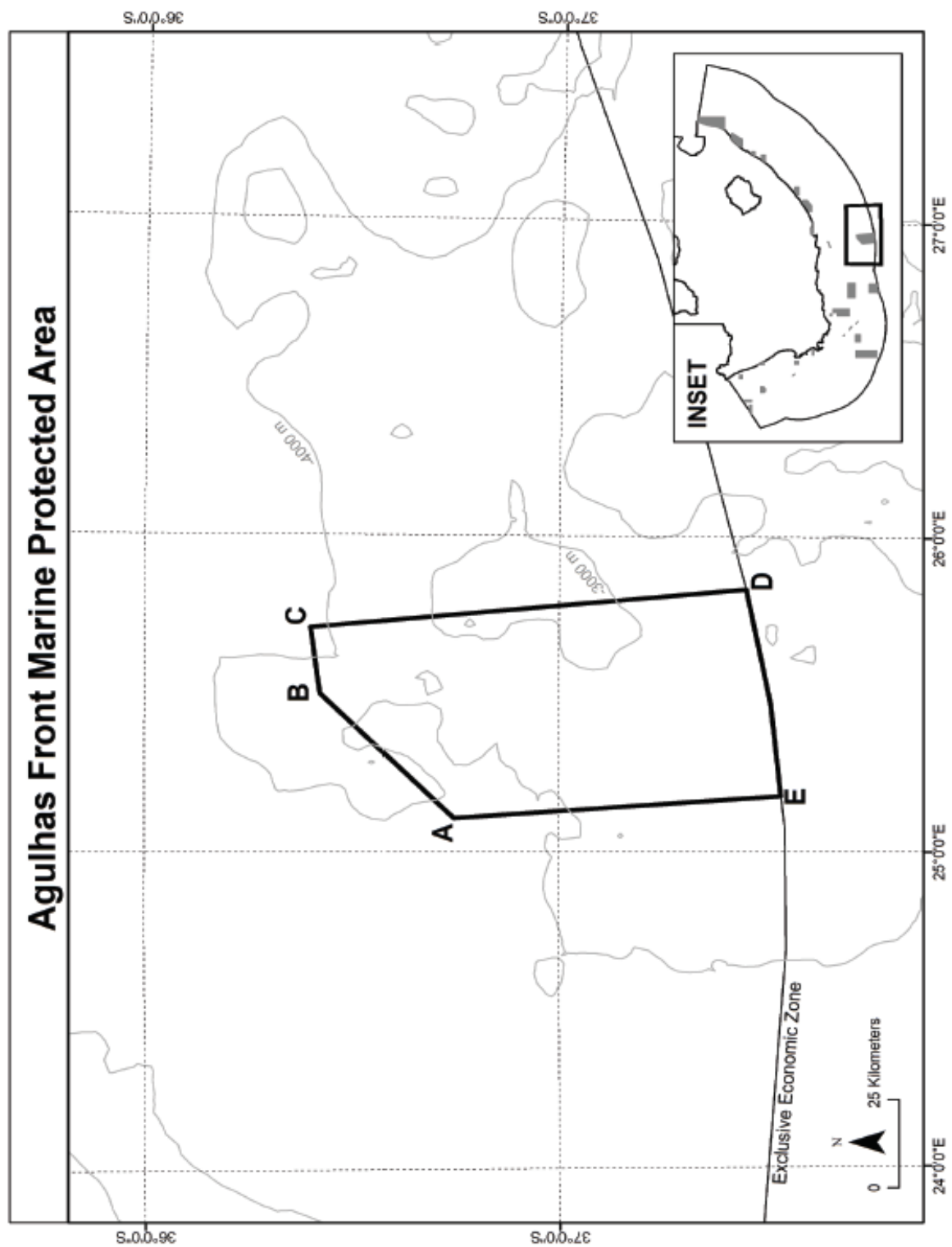
- (a) To contribute to a national, regional and global representative system of marine protected areas by conserving and protecting benthic and pelagic ecosystems of the area including frontal areas, parts of the lower slope, plateau and abyssal habitats;
- (b) to conserve and protect the biodiversity and ecological processes associated with these ecosystems;
- (c) to facilitate species management by protecting an area of life history importance for migratory species including turtles, seabirds and large pelagic fish; and
- (d) to protect and provide an appropriate environment for research and monitoring particularly research on habitat description, resilience and climate change and to promote and contribute to environmental education.

Commencement

This notice takes effect on 1 August 2019.

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

	POINT	X	Y
Agulhas Front	A	25.107586	-36.747359
Agulhas Front	B	25.499392	-36.42263
Agulhas Front	C	25.708	-36.4
Agulhas Front	D	25.833496	-37.45163
Agulhas Front	E	25.176663	-37.537372

Annexure:**Fig. 1. The boundaries for the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area.**



Government Gazette Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID AFRIKA

Vol. 661

17 July
Julie 2020

No. 43528

586 No. 43528

GOVERNMENT GAZETTE, 17 JULY 2020

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 781

17 JULY 2020

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003 (ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)

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

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby amend the notice declaring the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area, published in Government Notice No. 761, in *Government Gazette* 42478 of 23 May 2019, as set out in the Schedule hereto.

BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT

SCHEDULE

The amendment is to correct a minor error in the coordinates along the exclusive economic zone, namely points D and E.

The declaration notice is amended by the substitution of Table 1 in Annexure 1 with the following Table of coordinates:

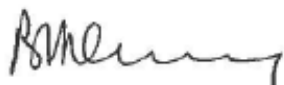
	Point	X	Y
Agulhas Front MPA	A	25,107586	-36,747359
Agulhas Front MPA	B	25,499392	-36,422630
Agulhas Front MPA	C	25,708000	-36,400000
Agulhas Front MPA	D	25,833498	-37,451651
Agulhas Front MPA	E	25,176663	-37,537368

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES**NO. 782****17 JULY 2020**

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)**

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

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby amend the notice declaring the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area, published in Government Notice No. 761, in *Government Gazette* 42478 of 23 May 2019, as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

SCHEDULE

The amendment is to correct a minor error in the coordinates along the exclusive economic zone, namely points D and E.

The declaration notice is amended by the substitution of Table 1 in Annexure 1 with the following Table of coordinates:

	Point	X	Y
Agulhas Front MPA	A	25,107586	-36,747359
Agulhas Front MPA	B	25,499392	-36,422630
Agulhas Front MPA	C	25,708000	-36,400000
Agulhas Front MPA	D	25,833498	-37,451651
Agulhas Front MPA	E	25,176663	-37,537368

REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AGULHAS FRONT MARINE PROTECTED AREA



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

NO. R. 779

23 MAY 2019

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT,
2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)**

**REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE AGULHAS FRONT
MARINE PROTECTED AREA**

I, Nomvula Paula Mokonyane, Minister of Environmental Affairs, hereby make the Regulations for the Management of the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area in terms of sections 48A(2) and 86(1)(a), (b), (c) and (d) of the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003), as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**NOMVULA PAULA MOKONYANE
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS**

SCHEDULE

1. Definitions

In these regulations, unless the context indicates otherwise, a word or expression that is defined in the Act bears the same meaning in these regulations, and in addition—

“Act” means the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act, 2003 (Act No. 57 of 2003);

“certificate of competence” means a certificate of competence as defined in the National Small Vessel Safety Regulations, 2007;

“certificate of fitness” means a certificate of fitness as defined in the National Small Vessel Safety Regulations, 2007;

“environment” has the meaning assigned to it in section 1 of the National Environmental Management Act;

“fish” means any aquatic plant or animal whether piscine or not, and any mollusc, crustacean, coral, sponge, holothurian or other echinoderm, reptile and includes their eggs, larvae and all juvenile stages, but does not include sea birds, seals or any marine mammal;

“fishing” or to **“fish”** means—

- (a) searching for, catching, taking or harvesting fish or an attempt to undertake any such activity;
- (b) engaging in any other activity which can reasonably be expected to result in the locating, catching, taking or harvesting of fish;
- (c) placing, searching for or recovering any fish aggregating device or associated gear, including radio or tracking beacons;
- (d) any operation in support or in preparation of any activity described in this definition; or
- (e) the use of an aircraft in relation to any activity described in this definition;

“hovercraft” means a craft that floats on a cushion of air and is capable of traversing water;

“Integrated Coastal Management Act” means the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management Act, 2008 (Act No. 24 of 2008);

"Marine Living Resources Act" means the Marine Living Resources Act, 1998 (Act No. 18 of 1998);

"Marine Protected Area" means the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area as declared by the Minister in terms of section 22A of the Act;

"National Small Vessel Safety Regulations" means the Merchant Shipping (National Small Vessel Safety) Regulations, 2007, published in terms of section 356 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 (Act No. 57 of 1951) and promulgated in Government Notice No. R. 705 of 8 August 2007;

"personal watercraft" means a vessel that uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion, and is designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling on rather than within the confines of a hull;

"operate" in respect of a vessel, includes mooring in the water, drifting in the water and ascending or descending from its mooring, the shore, launch site, a buoy or a jetty;

"Restricted Zone" means an area within a marine protected area where no fishing may take place, but where any other activity in terms of section 48A(1) of the Act may take place if authorised in terms of these regulations as contemplated in terms of section 48A(2) of the Act;

"specific environmental management Act" has the meaning assigned to it in the National Environmental Management Act;

"vessel" means a waterborne craft of any kind whether a surface craft or submarine, and whether self-propelled or not, and includes any moored floating structure that can be used as a means of transport by water and includes a personal watercraft and hovercraft; and

"WGS 84" means the World Geodetic System of 1984 (G730), which is a geographic co-ordinate system.

2. Zonation within the Marine Protected Area

The entire Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area is zoned as a single Restricted Zone which is determined by using WGS 84 as detailed in Annexure 1.

3. Scientific research permit

- (1) No person may undertake any scientific research within the Marine Protected Area, except on the authority of a scientific research permit issued by the Minister.
- (2) Application for a scientific research permit in terms of sub-regulation (1) must be made to the Minister in accordance with the provisions of section 83 of the Marine Living Resources Act or any regulations published under the Integrated Coastal Management Act.

4. General restrictions within the Marine Protected Area

- (1) The owner, skipper or operator of a vessel shall not enter or operate a vessel in the Marine Protected Area without a valid certificate of competence and a certificate of fitness issued in respect of such vessel, and such original certificates must be available for inspection at all times.
- (2) A vessel shall not enter the Marine Protected Area unless the marking approved for that vessel in accordance with the provisions of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 (Act No. 57 of 1951), is displayed on the vessel at all times while the vessel is inside the Marine Protected Area.
- (3) The owner, skipper or operator of a vessel shall not enter or operate a vessel in the Marine Protected Area unless such vessel and any other equipment or contents of such vessel, comply with the safety and other requirements specified in the Merchant Shipping Act, 1951 (Act No. 57 of 1951) for such vessel.
- (4) No person may litter or leave any waste including fishing gear, hooks, bait packaging and fishing line within the Marine Protected Area.

5. Use of vessels

- (1) No person may moor or anchor any vessel in the Marine Protected Area except—
 - (a) under conditions of *force majeure*;

- (b) for the use of a vessel by an employee of the Department or any other organ of state acting in the course and scope of their employment or mandate; or
 - (c) for any vessel which has a permit in terms of these regulations for any activity which requires anchoring or mooring.
- (2) Despite sub-regulation (1), the Minister may, on application and on such conditions as he or she may deem appropriate, authorise the anchoring or mooring of a vessel in the following circumstances:
 - (a) in an emergency; or
 - (b) where the Minister may deem it to be necessary in order to ensure the proper management of the Marine Protected Area.
- (3) The Minister may verbally authorise a vessel to moor or anchor within the Marine Protected Area as contemplated in sub-regulation (2), which verbal authorisation must be confirmed in writing within 3 working days.
- (4) Any motorised vessel that enters or traverses the Marine Protected Area may not stop for more than 3 minutes or move at less than 5 knots at any time while in the Marine Protected Area, unless authorised in terms of these regulations.
- (5) A motorised vessel, prior to entering or while traversing the Marine Protected Area with fishing gear on board must have a Global Positioning System (GPS) Mapping Device with an active trail operational on the vessel, and such GPS data may not be deleted from this device for 7 calendar days after passing through a Restricted Zone.
- (6) A motorised vessel required by law to have a Vessel Monitoring System must, when entering or traversing the Marine Protected Area with fishing gear on board, ensure that the Vessel Monitoring System is active.

6. Restriction of activities

No person may undertake any activity listed in section 48A(1) of the Act in the Marine Protected Area, unless authorised to do so in terms of these regulations.

7. Control of activities in the Marine Protected Area

- (1) No person may fish, or attempt to fish, in the Marine Protected Area.
- (2) No fishing gear including lines, hooks, lures, nets, trawl doors, warps, spearguns, buoys, traps or any other gear or equipment used for fishing, may be deployed overboard from any vessel within the Marine Protected Area.
- (3) Fishing gear onboard a vessel or in possession of any person that enters or is present in the Marine Protected Area must be stowed in the following manner:
 - (a) In the case of line fishing from a vessel, all hooks, lures, sinkers and weights are disconnected from the line, all the line is reeled onto the reel or rolled up, and that rolled up line, hooks, lures, bait and weights on the vessel are packed away in a cabin, locker, hatch, wheel house or console of the vessel, or where that is not possible, place such gear on the deck of the vessel;
 - (b) in the case of purse-seine fishing, no gear may be in the water;
 - (c) in the case of trawl fishing, all nets, trawl boards and weights shall be stowed below deck or securely lashed to some part of the superstructure of the fishing vessel;
 - (d) in the case of rock lobster fishing, all traps, nets and ropes shall be on board and tied down; and all dinghies shall be on board and lashed to the fishing vessel;
 - (e) in the case of fishing with traps, other than rock lobster traps, all traps shall be on board and tied down;
 - (f) in the case of any other nets including gillnets, cast nets and throw nets, nets shall be on board and packed away in a console, locker or any other container.
 - (g) in the case of pole fishing, all poles will be secured above deck;

- (h) in the case of longline fishing, no branchline may be attached to the mainline and the entire mainline shall remain on the spool; and
- (i) in respect of all types of fishing where bait is used, such bait must remain packed away or be placed into a bait well, where available.

8. Suspension, amendment and cancellation of permits

- (1) Subject to sub-regulations (2) and (3), a permit issued under these regulations may be suspended, cancelled or amended at any time.
- (2) A permit issued in terms of these regulations may be suspended, cancelled or amended, if—
 - (a) the Minister is satisfied on the basis of information that was not considered when the permit was issued, that it is necessary or desirable to suspend, cancel or amend the permit to prevent deterioration or further deterioration of the environment within the Marine Protected Area;
 - (b) other similar permits held by other persons have also been reviewed and the suspension, cancellation or amendment does not unfairly discriminate against the holder in relation to other holders of similar permits;
 - (c) the permit holder is in breach of a condition contained in the permit;
 - (d) the permit holder provided incorrect or false information in the application for the permit;
 - (e) the holder of a permit has been convicted of an offence in terms of the Act, the National Environmental Management Act or a specific environmental management Act or any regulations issued thereunder; or
 - (f) the reason for the issuing of the permit no longer exists.
- (3) A permit issued in terms of these regulations may be amended—
 - (a) if an error needs to be corrected or rectified;
 - (b) at the request of the applicant;

- (c) for the proper management and implementation of these regulations; or
- (d) where the conditions or circumstances have changed since the original permit was issued.

9. Offences and penalties

In addition to any offence in terms of section 89 of the Act, any person who contravenes or fails to comply with—

- (a) regulations 3(1), 4, 5(1), 5(4) to 5(6), 6 or 7;
- (b) a condition mentioned in a permit issued in terms of these regulations; or
- (c) a prohibition, instruction, rule or order imposed, given or issued under these regulations,

is guilty of an offence and is liable in the case of a first conviction to a fine not exceeding R5 million or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five years and in the case of a second or subsequent conviction to a fine not exceeding R10 million or imprisonment for a period not exceeding 10 years or in both instances to both a fine and such imprisonment.

10. Short title and commencement

These regulations are called the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area Regulations and shall commence on 1 August 2019.

Annexure 1 (Zonation of Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area)

The Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area is zoned as a single Restricted Zone, bounded by a series of straight lines sequentially joining the following coordinates E, A, B, C, D and D joining E following the outer boundary of South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone.

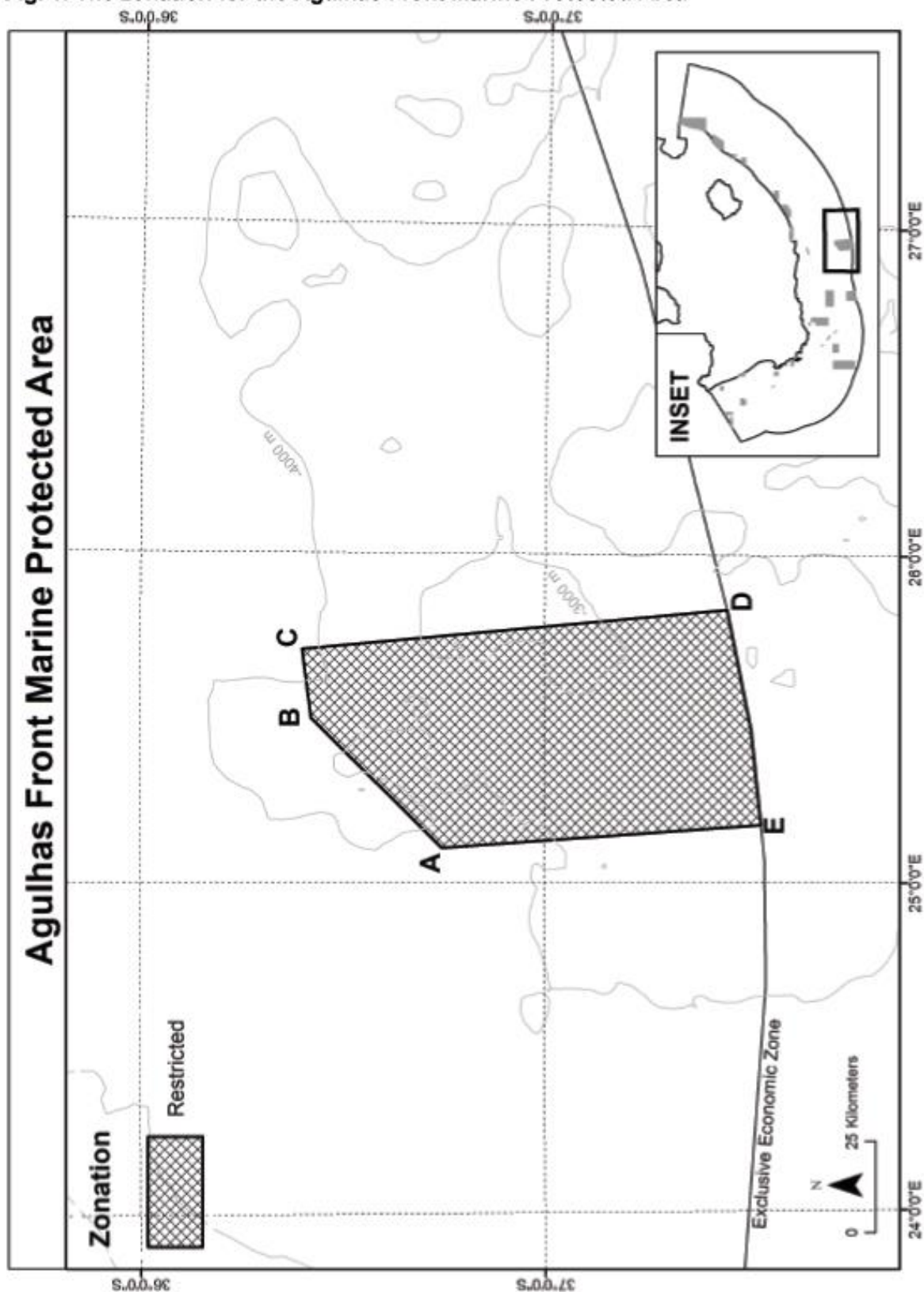
Fig. 1. The zonation for the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area

Table 1: The table of co-ordinates for the Agulhas Front MPA

	POINT	X	Y
Agulhas Front MPA	A	25.107586	-36.747359
Agulhas Front MPA	B	25.499392	-36.42263
Agulhas Front MPA	C	25.708	-36.4
Agulhas Front MPA	D	25.833496	-37.45163
Agulhas Front MPA	E	25.176663	-37.537372

**CORRECTION NOTICE AMENDING THE REGULATIONS
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
AGULHAS FRONT MARINE PROTECTED AREA**



GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES

NO. 797

17 JULY 2020

**NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT: PROTECTED AREAS ACT, 2003
(ACT NO. 57 OF 2003)**

**CORRECTION NOTICE AMENDING THE REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
AGULHAS FRONT MARINE PROTECTED AREA**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby amend the Regulations for the Management of the Agulhas Front Marine Protected Area, published in Government Notice No. R. 779, in *Government Gazette* 42479 of 23 May 2019, as set out in the Schedule hereto.



**BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**

SCHEDULE

The amendment is to correct a minor error in the coordinates along the exclusive economic zone, namely points D and E.

The regulation notice is amended by the substitution of Table 1 in Annexure 1 with the following Table of coordinates:

	Point	X	Y
Agulhas Front MPA	A	25.107586	-36.747359
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