

Principle marine fishing areas on and around the Cape Peninsula: Beach-seine netting (trek netting), Rock lobster and Spearfishing



Principal marine fishing areas on and around the Cape Peninsula: Abalone, boat angling and linefishing, intertidal harvesting, kelp harvesting and shore angling



Proposed Marine Protected Area with no-take zones  
Detailed boundaries and co-ordinates of the proposed MPA are listed in the Legal Notice. This can be obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism or downloaded from www.environment.gov.za



Table 2: COMPARE scores for new sanctuary zones

MARINE PROTECTED AREA	Conservation (%)	Fisheries Management (%)	Human Utilization (%)	Overall Score (%)
1. Karbonkelberg Marine Reserve	61	61	84	74
2. Cape of Good Hope Marine Reserve	64	58	79	72
3. Paulsberg Marine Reserve	61	68	82	75
4. Castle Rocks Marine Reserve	61	68	82	75
5. Boulders Marine Reserve	68	73	78	74
6. St. James Marine Reserve	30	39	53	45

## HOW WILL THE NEW MARINE PROTECTED AREA BE MANAGED?

The MPA around the Cape Peninsula will be managed in partnership by Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) and TMNP with biodiversity conservation being the key focus.

The entire area will be managed in accordance with the Marine Living Resources Act as a MPA however fishing will be allowed in all areas other than the sanctuary zones described above. Where fishing is permitted, no additional restrictions will be imposed, other than those that apply to the rest of South Africa. No fishing of any sort will be permitted in the sanctuary zones.

Fishing refers to the removal of any marine species. This includes any activity which could lead to the disturbance or harvesting of any marine species.

The new MPA will be managed together with the existing terrestrial parts of the TMNP in accordance with the MPA's management plan.

## HOW CAN I COMMENT?

Written comment to be received by 16h00 on Tuesday 18 May can be directed to:

Deputy Director-General  
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
Branch: Marine and Coastal Management  
Private Bag X2, Roggebaai 8012

or

7th Floor, Foretrust Building  
Martin Hammerschlag Way  
Foreshore, Cape Town

regulations (such as bag limits and minimum size limits) throughout the entire Park, as well as regulations controlling the disturbance of marine life, pollution, shipping etc.

## THE BENEFITS

These proposed changes are likely to result in a huge improvement in the protection of marine habitats and species, fisheries management, and education and research. The COMPARE system was

used to evaluate the no-take areas in this new Marine Park as though they were each individual MPAs. Scores allocated to the new sanctuary zones were all greater than 70%, except for the St. James Sanctuary Zone (see Table 2 below). Average score for the no-take zones was 74%, which far exceeds that for existing set of MPAs (42%). The new sanctuary zones incorporate virtually all the environmentally significant sections of coastline on the Peninsula, hardly any

significantly disturbed areas and few of the major fishing areas.

The proposed MPA is also much simpler than the existing combination of sanctuaries, partial marine reserves and fishery reserves. Under the new system the MPA will be included in the Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) and, like Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, will be an important draw card for tourists



# A MARINE PROTECTED AREA FOR TABLE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

## YOUR LAST CHANCE TO COMMENT

The Cape Peninsula is an area of exceptional marine and coastal biodiversity. It is home to the greatest number of species for an area of its size anywhere in South Africa – about 43% of all marine species recorded in the country.

Fishing activities, pollution, coastal development and recreation have a heavy impact on the unique and fragile marine communities surrounding the Peninsula. To improve the conservation and management of the marine environment on a sustainable basis, it is proposed that the existing network of fragmented Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) be replaced by an uninterrupted Marine Protected Area managed by Table Mountain National Park (TMNP).

There has already been extensive public consultation around this process. Now the Minister of Environmental Affairs & Tourism has declared his intent to proclaim the new Marine Protected Area. This is the last step in the public participation process, giving people a final chance to comment on the proposed proclamation. You have until 18 May 2004 to respond, details of how you can comment can be found at the back of this brochure.

**HOW DO THE EXISTING MPA's RATE?**

Some of the existing MPAs have little to offer in terms of protecting marine habitats and species, fisheries management or education and research. Overall, scores allocated ranged between 5% and 68%, with an average score of 42%. The lowest scoring areas need to be replaced with more effective MPAs if marine communities are to be conserved for future generations. See table 1.

The three marine sanctuaries (Cape of Good Hope - northern portion, Kalk Bay - southern portion, and Castle Rocks Marine Reserves) generally received the highest scores and are clearly the most valuable. The marine reserves (Cape of Good Hope - southern portion, Kalk Bay - northern portion, and Glencairn Marine Reserves) received intermediate scores; while the fishery reserves (Table Bay and Kommetjie Rock Lobster Sanctuaries) received the lowest scores. Fishery reserves meet very few of the MPA objectives because they target so few species and are of little conservation value.

**HOW WERE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROPOSED NEW MPA SELECTED?**

The process of identifying areas potentially suitable for new MPAs was undertaken in three phases.

Table 1: Overall effectiveness of existing MPAs

MARINE PROTECTED AREA	Conservation (%)	Fisheries Management (%)	Human Utilization (%)	Overall Score (%)
1. Table Bay Rock Lobster Santuary	0	10	24	34
2. Kommetjie Rock Lobster Santuary	0	11	5	5
3. Cape of Good Hope Marine Reserve (northern portion)	61	55	74	68
4. Cape of Good Hope Marine Reserve (southern portion)	55	50	58	56
5. Castle Rocks Marine Reserve	55	55	71	64
6. Glencairn Marine Reserve	7	13	40	27
7. Kalk Bay Marine Reserve (southern portion)	30	39	53	45
8. Kalk Bay Marine Reserve (northern portion)	23	34	48	40

Existing Marine Protected Areas on the Cape Peninsula



**Phase 1**

This was a broad area selection exercise in which all conservation worthy marine areas were identified. All sections of the coastline were rated as being of high, medium or low significance in terms of criteria, including the presence of breeding, nursery and feeding sites for important species, the presence of undisturbed ecosystems and rare or endangered species. See Figure 2. Sections rated as being of high significance were prioritised for reserve status, while those of medium or low significance were given lower priority.

**Phase 2**

This involved the identification of existing and possible future threats to the proclamation of a new MPA. These were then marked on detailed maps of the Peninsula. See Figures 3-5. Threats include sources of pollution and disturbance and the location of major fishing grounds. These details were obtained from fishing sector representatives, fisheries scientists and managers. A series of public meetings was held to verify the accuracy of data. Participants at these meetings and follow-up workshops were given the opportunity to correct any inaccuracies or inconsistencies. The issue of future safety is very important.

For example, proclaiming an MPA in an area marked for heavy industry is unlikely to be as effective as selecting an equivalent site where such impacts are not foreseen. Similarly, placing a new MPA in an area that is heavily fished has the potential to create conflict or could simply make the proclamation futile. Placing a new MPA in an area used for intensive recreation, or one that is currently subject to, or may in the future be subject to heavy pollution, is likely to yield a similar result. Sensitive organisms are easily disturbed and can be prevented from nesting, mating, feeding or breeding as a result of certain forms of recreation and

Environmental significance rating (High/Medium/Low) for the coastline of the Cape Peninsula



other human activities.

**Phase 3**

This involved overlaying areas of environmental significance, recreational use intensity, major sources of pollution and principal fishing grounds. Areas that rated highly in terms of the

environmental significance, were not principal fishing grounds and were not likely to be subject to high levels of disturbance were identified. These areas offer the greatest potential for marine conservation initiatives and were earmarked as potential sanctuary zones. At the same time, all possible options

for adjusting the boundaries of the existing MPAs were investigated so as to increase their efficiency. Where possible, attempts were made to place new boundaries or adjust existing boundaries along lines of longitude (north-south) and latitude (east-west). Historically, the seaward boundaries of MPAs have typically been defined as being a certain distance offshore (measured from the high water mark). This is a problem as these lines are often ambiguous and therefore legally difficult to define or enforce.

**WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED?**

- The proclamation of a single Marine Protected Area around the Peninsula from Mouille Point to Muizenberg (Baileys Cottage). The proposed boundaries of the new MPA and sanctuary zones are shown in Figure 5.
- That fishing will be allowed in most parts of this MPA, except in certain areas which will be zoned as sanctuary zones where no fishing of any kind will be permitted. Some of the sanctuary zones will correspond to existing MPAs while others will be in the new areas identified in the prioritisation process.

Two no-take zones will be established on the Atlantic coast:

- Karbonkelberg Sanctuary Zone - from Oudekraal to the southern tip of the Sentinel (Hout Bay), seawards to 018°17'.797E
- Cape of Good Hope Sanctuary Zone, from Scarborough to Hoek van Bobbejaan, seawards to longitude 018°21'.800E (between Scarborough and Olifantsbos) and 018°22'.300E (between Olifantsbos and Hoek van Bobbejaan);

- Four no-take zones will be established on the False Bay coast:
- Paulsberg Sanctuary Zone, from Venus

Major sources of pollution and disturbances (harbours, slipways, sewage and stormwater outflows) and recreational use intensity (High/Medium/Low)



Pool (Bordjiesdrif) to Smitswinkle Bay Point, seawards to longitude 018°29'.000E

- Castle Rocks Sanctuary Zone, from Whale Rock (Smitswinkle Bay) to Boat
- Boulders Sanctuary Zone, from the

A-frame (Murdock Valley) to Seaforth (Simon's Town), seawards (northwards) to latitude 34°10'.581S; and

- St. James Sanctuary Zone, between Kalk Bay station and St. James station, seawards to a position 34°07'.567S; 018°27'.568E.
- The stringent enforcement of fisheries