

## **MEDIA RELEASE - Saturday, 27 March 2004**

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### **A Marine Protected Area for Table Mountain National Park - Public invited to comment**

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism wishes to proclaim the waters around the Cape Peninsula a Marine Protected Area. This will help conserve the marine environment, but will affect the use of some areas. The public have until Tuesday, 18 May 2004 to comment.

The Cape Peninsula is an area of exceptional marine and coastal biodiversity which is negatively impacted by fishing activities, pollution, coastal development and recreational use. 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 a single MPA managed in partnership by Table Mountain National Park (TMNP) and Marine and Coastal Management (MCM).

There has already been extensive consultation with the public and fishing stakeholders as well as a lengthy, scientific process to determine the most suitable boundaries for the new MPA. This is the final chance to comment on the proposed proclamation.

The proposal is for a single MPA around the Peninsula from Mouille Point to Muizenberg (Baileys Cottage). Fishing to be allowed except in certain Sanctuary Zones where no fishing of any kind will be permitted. These new no-take zones include:

#### **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)

#### **On the False Bay Coast**

- Paulsberg Sanctuary Zone, from Venus Pool (Bordjiesrif) to Smitswinkle Bay Point, seawards to longitude 018° 29'.000E
- Castle Rocks Sanctuary Zone, from Whale Rock (Smitswinkle Bay) to Boat Rock (Millers Point), seawards to longitude 018°29'.300E
- Boulders Sanctuary Zone, from the A-frame (Murdock Valley) to Seaforth (Simonstown), 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

There will be strict enforcement of fisheries regulations (such as bag limits and minimum size limits) throughout the MPA, as well as regulations controlling the disturbance of marine life, pollution, shipping etc.

"We expect many benefits to flow out of this," says Paul Sieben, [Area Manager: Marine](#) for the Table Mountain National Park. "These include greatly improved protection of marine habitats and species, fisheries management, and education and research.

"The new Sanctuary Zones will protect almost all the environmentally significant sections of coastline and will

affect few of the major fishing areas. It is also simpler than the existing combination of sanctuaries, partial marine reserves and fishery reserves. The MPA will be part of the Table Mountain National Park and, like Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, will be an important draw card for tourists."

The proposal is for the new MPA will be managed in partnership by Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) and TMNP with biodiversity conservation as the key focus, in accordance with the Marine Living Resources Act. 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. This includes removal of any marine species and any activity that could lead to the disturbance or harvesting of any marine species. The MPA will be managed together with the existing terrestrial parts of the Table Mountain National Park in accordance with its management plan.

Written comments, to be received by 16:00 on 18 May 2004, can be directed to:

Deputy Director General  
Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism  
Branch: Marine and Coastal Management  
Private Bag X2  
Rogge Bay 8012

or

7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Foretrust Building  
Martin Hammerschlag Way  
Foreshore  
Cape Town

Note: detailed boundaries and co-ordinates of the proposed MPA are listed in the Notice of Intention to Declare the Cape Peninsula Marine Protected Area Under Section 43 of the Marine Living Resources Act, 18 of 1998. This can be obtained from the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism or downloaded from [www.environment.gov.za](http://www.environment.gov.za), select coastal management and scroll down to General Policy. A technical brochure is also available from the offices of the Table Mountain National Park at Westlake, or call 701-8692 or see the web site [www.tmnp.co.za](http://www.tmnp.co.za)

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