

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT**NO. 3132****10 March 2023****MARINE SPATIAL PLANNING ACT, 2018 (ACT NO. 16 OF 2018)****THE PUBLICATION OF DRAFT MARINE SECTOR PLANS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

I, Barbara Dallas Creecy, Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, hereby in terms of sections 7(1)(c) and 8 of the Marine Spatial Planning Act, 2018 (Act No. 16 of 2018) invite the public to comment on ten (10) draft Marine Sector Plans.

The draft Marine Sector Plans have been prepared by sector national government departments to support the development of Marine Area Plans as part of the Marine Spatial Planning process. The Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, supported by the National Working Group on Marine Spatial Planning, will lead and guide the public participation process for Marine Sector Plans development as envisaged in the Marine Spatial Planning Act.

Marine Sector Plans specify the overall developmental objectives and priorities of each sector from a national point of view and the extent of its spatial presence and interests. They specify and outline the spatial claims and interests of each sector in the South African marine environment.

The published draft Marine Sector Plans are therefore not the integrated Marine Area Plans but are critical inputs for the next step of developing integrated cross-sectoral Marine Area Plans and as such, they serve as the sectors' proposals that will need to be considered during the development of Marine Area Plans.

The following draft Marine Sector Plans are being released for public comment:

- 1) Marine Biodiversity Sector Plan
- 2) Coastal and Marine Tourism Sector Plan
- 3) Marine Transport and Ports Sector Plan
- 4) Maritime and Underwater Cultural Heritage Sector Plan
- 5) Marine Defence (Navy) Sector Plan
- 6) Marine Science and Innovation Sector Plan
- 7) Marine Aquaculture Sector Plan
- 8) Marine offshore Oil and Gas Sector Plan
- 9) Marine Underwater Infrastructure Sector Plan
- 10) Wild Fisheries Sector Plan

The content of all the draft Marine Sector Plans follows a similar structure which comprises of the following sections:

- Part 1: Background and context
- Part 2: Sector development objectives
- Part 3: Sector development guidelines
- Part 4: Proposed marine zones and spatial regulations
- Part 5: Maps
- Part 6: Future outlook

Each Marine Sector Plan is developed based on the spatial management system approach that applies to Marine Spatial Planning. This uniform approach to area-based management will provide for coherence and consistency across all Marine Sector Plans and, eventually, all Marine Area Plans. This approach foresees a spatial management system that consists of:

- a) general development guidelines
- b) sector development guidelines, and
- c) a zoning scheme with spatial regulations.

A internet-based Marine Spatial Planning Decision Support Tool (MSP DEST) has been developed to support the development of Marine Sector Plans and the forthcoming process of developing Marine Area Plans under the Marine Spatial Planning Act. The MSP DEST currently provides digital access to maps under Part 5 of the draft Marine Sector Plans. The MSP DEST can be accessed via the following link:

<https://portal.environment.gov.za/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=daa888e624aa498a89b8884f14e3850d>

Members of the public who wish to comment on the draft Marine Sector Plans may access them in the following manner:

- Downloading the draft Marine Sector Plans from the Marine Spatial Planning webpage at: **www.dffe.gov.za/projectsprogrammes/msp/documents**
- Request for a copy via telephone: **021 493 7353** or via email: **msp@dffe.gov.za**
- Obtaining hard copies at the Department's offices at **220 East Pier Building 1, East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town**

The public is invited to submit written representations on the draft Marine Sector Plans within 60 calendar days from the date of publication of this notice in the *Government Gazette* to any of the following addresses:

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

By hand at: Reception, East Pier Shed (Building 1); East Pier Road, V&A Waterfront, Cape
Town
By email: msp@ddfe.gov.za

For telephone queries, contact Mr Moses Ramakulukusha at Tel: 021 493 7353.

All representations must be submitted in writing. Representations received after the closing date may be disregarded.



BARBARA DALLAS CREECY
MINISTER OF FORESTRY, FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT