



1 AUGUST 2021

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Protect an important food source

1.1 million km² is the total area of South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone

The fish and invertebrates in MPAs increase in size and abundance leading to spill-over into adjacent fished areas.

Less than 8% of estuaries are protected in MPAs

>2000
fish species found in South African waters

700
marine species are harvested

No-take MPAs provide safe spaces in which fish can breed undisturbed. Young fish mature into adulthood, without the pressure of fishing.



Photo: Steve Benjamin



Photo: Judy Mann

MPAs protect spawning and nursery areas of many species of fish.



Photo: Dennis King

Resident older, larger female fish that are protected in MPAs produce more and healthier eggs than the smaller fish found in fished areas.



Photo: Judy Mann

In an increasingly industrialised ocean, MPAs help maintain food and job security provided by the fisheries sector.



70 years of helping people to care for our ocean

<https://www.saambr.org.za/marine-protected-areas-mpas/>

