

uTHUKELA MARINE PROTECTED AREA

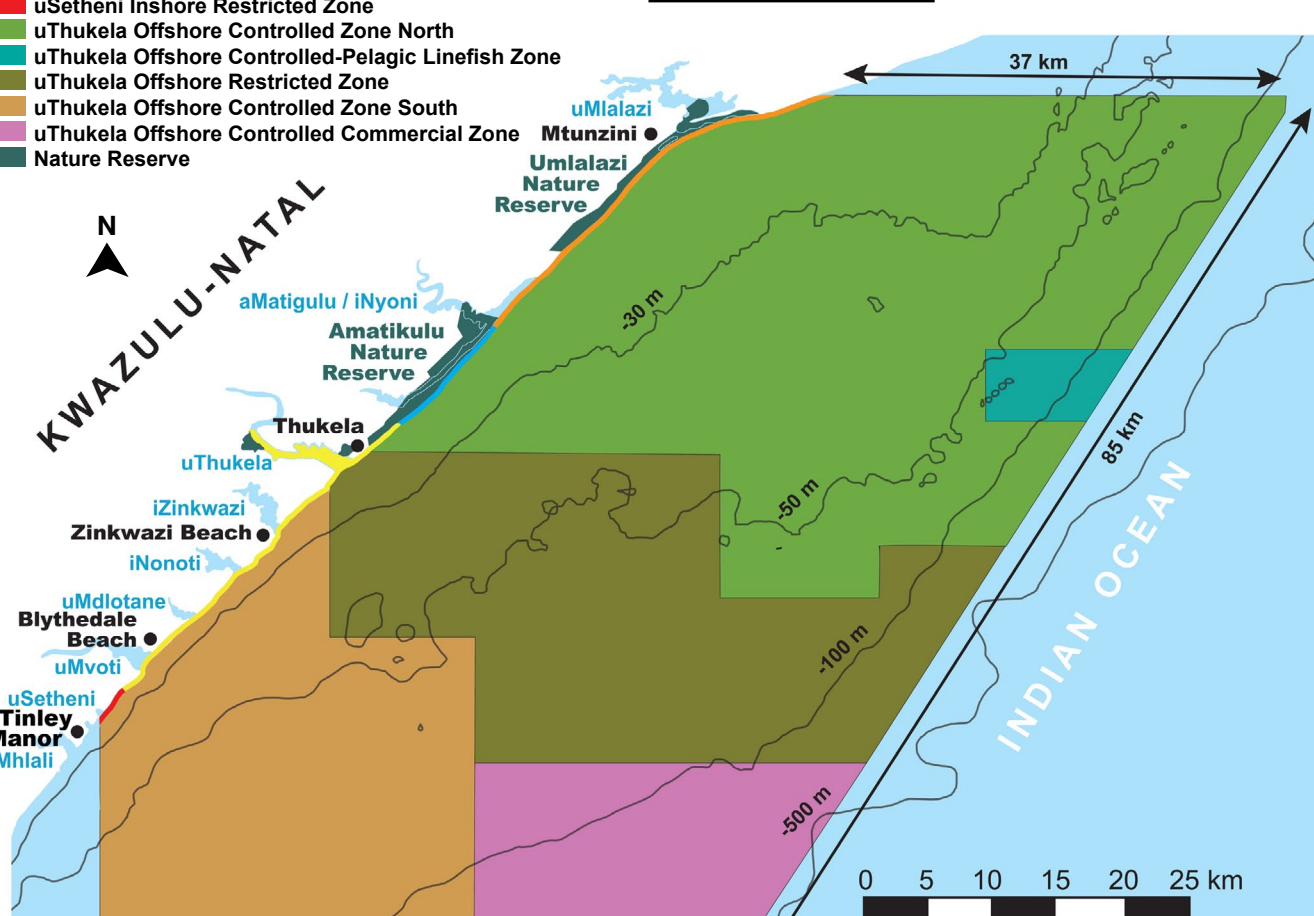


Photo: Dennis King

KEY TO uTHUKELA MPA ZONES

- Mtunzini Inshore Controlled Zone
- Amatikulu Inshore Restricted Zone
- uThukela Inshore Restricted Zone
- uSetheni Inshore Restricted Zone
- uThukela Offshore Controlled Zone North
- uThukela Offshore Controlled-Pelagic Linefish Zone
- uThukela Offshore Restricted Zone
- uThukela Offshore Controlled Zone South
- uThukela Offshore Controlled Commercial Zone
- Nature Reserve

INSHORE ZONE WIDTH = 200 m seawards from High Tide Mark



GPS Coordinates

Inshore:

- uThukela MPA Northern Boundary (~4 km north of estuary):
28° 55' 58.12" S ; 31° 52' 6.62" E (-28.9328° ; 31.8685°)
- uThukela MPA Southern Boundary (~2 km north of Tinley Manor Rocks):
29° 25' 58.15" S ; 31° 18' 1.08" E (-29.4328° ; 31.3003°)
- uThukela Estuary Inland Boundary
29° 11' 59.07" S ; 31° 25' 27.09" E (-29.1997° ; 31.4241°)
- Amatikulu Inshore Restricted Zone
Northern Boundary:
29° 06' 58.16" S ; 31° 37' 0.16" E (-29.1162° ; 31.6167°)
Southern Boundary:
29° 11' 37.64" S ; 31° 32' 26.15" E (-29.1938° ; 31.5406°)
- uSetheni Inshore Restricted Zone
Northern Boundary:
29° 24' 27.22" S ; 31° 19' 13.94" E (-29.4076° ; 31.3205°)
Southern Boundary:
29° 25' 58.15" S ; 31° 18' 1.08" E (-29.4328° ; 31.3003°)

<https://www.saambr.org.za/new-mpas-for-anglers/>

For more information and additional boundary co-ordinates please refer to the Government Gazette:

http://www.gpwonline.co.za/Gazettes/Gazettes/42479_23-5_EnvironAff.pdf

General Marine Protected Area Rules

- No littering or discarding fishing waste including fishing gear, hooks, bait packaging or fishing line.
- No fishing / spearfishing / invertebrate harvesting without a permit.
- No shark, shark cage or scuba diving without a permit.
- No chumming for, or attracting sharks without a permit.
- No fishing competitions allowed without authorisation.
- All fishing gear (rods, hooks, lures, line or traps) are required to be stowed away when travelling through a restricted zone.
- No anchoring of vessels.
- No shark repelling / exclusion / protection devices.
- No gillnetting in any estuary.
- No radio / remote controlled drones or boats are permitted, including for fishing activities.
- No person may collect broodstock for aquaculture, ornamental fish, aquarium fish or live rock without a permit.
- All fishing is subject to the fishing regulations in terms of the Marine Living Resources Act (MLRA) (Act No. 18 of 1998).
- This includes possession of a fishing permit and all species-specific daily bag limits, size limits and closed seasons.
- Only pelagic fish species of these families may be caught or used as bait for the uThukela Marine Protected Area Controlled-Pelagic Linefish Zone.

Fish List as per Government Gazette - Annexure 2

- Atherinidae - silversides
- Belonidae - garfish
- Carangidae - kingfish, garrick, yellowtail, queenfish, etc.
- Chirocentridae - wolf herring / slimy
- Clupeidae - red-eyes, sardines, etc.
- Coryphaenidae - dorado
- Engraulidae - anchovies, glass-noses / bonies, etc.
- Exocoetidae - flying fishes
- Hemiramphidae - halfbeaks
- Istiophoridae - sailfish and marlin
- Pomatomidae - shad / elf
- Rachycentridae - prodigal son / cobia
- Scomberesocidae - sauries
- Scombridae - tunas, mackerels, wahoo, etc.
- Sphyraenidae - barracudas.

Fish list (as per Annexure 2 in National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 57 of 2003, on 23 May 2019, No. 42479; Regulations for the management of the uThukela Marine Protected Area).

Vessels

All motorised vessels within the uThukela Offshore Restricted Zone:

- Must have a GPS¹ (with active trail and storage capabilities) and a VMS² active prior to entering and while inside a restricted zone.
- May not stop for more than three minutes or move at less than 5 knots (vessel: 10 meters or more) or 3 knots (vessel: is less than 10 meters) unless authorised to do so.

¹ GPS: Global Positioning System. ² VMS: Vessel Monitoring System.

Restricted Activities:

Mtunzini Inshore Controlled Zone ■

uThukela Inshore Controlled Zone ■

uThukela Offshore Controlled Zone North ■

uThukela Offshore Controlled Zone South ■

- Catch and release of shark species from the shore only.
- All sharks and rays caught from the shore must be released unharmed.
- No chumming inshore.
- No fishing for sharks or rays in the offshore zone.
- No chumming or fishing for sharks and rays (offshore only).
- No offshore night fishing (except for permitted commercial linefishing vessels).

uThukela Offshore Controlled-Pelagic Linefish Zone ■

- No bottom-fishing allowed (only species listed in Annexure 2).
- No anchoring (unless in an emergency).
- No chumming or fishing for sharks and rays.
- No night fishing (between sunset and sunrise).

Amatikulu Inshore Restricted Zone ■

uSetheni Inshore Restricted Zone ■

uThukela Offshore Restricted Zone ■

- No fishing, spearfishing or invertebrate harvesting allowed.
- No stopping or anchoring of vessel (unless in an emergency).
- No landing of fish.
- All fishing gear must be stowed away.

uThukela Offshore Controlled Commercial Zone ■

- Only registered commercial linefishing allowed.
- No chumming or fishing for sharks and rays.
- Night fishing only allowed by permitted commercial fishers.

<https://www.marineprotectedareas.org.za/uthukela-banks-mpa>